

Meet Your Neighbors: Paul Faraone and Maria DeCandia

By Jacquie Pipkin



Pine Knoll Shores residents Maria DeCandia and Paul Faraone

I entered Paul Faraone and Maria DeCandia's home to a lighted Christmas tree and the heavenly scent of cookies baking. Among other (many other) passions, Maria loves baking. Sharing hot tea and a plate of cookies, we chatted.

Maria and her husband, Paul, relocated to Pine Knoll Shores from Mount Kisco in Westchester County, New York, this past July when Maria retired from her teaching career. After earning her biology and chemistry degree from Wagner College in Staten Island, NY, Maria obtained a position at New York University Medical Center conducting medical and brain research. She later earned a master's degree

in education from Manhattanville College and spent 24 years at Edgemont High School in Scarsdale, New York, where, in addition to serving as science department chair, she taught a gifted population of students in the areas of 7th grade science and the science research program.

During her tenure at Edgemont High School, Maria and her students traveled to compete with much success in national and international science competitions. In fact, one of Maria's students developed an algorithm for developing a chemotherapy cocktail based on genetics. So impressed was the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center that they accepted the student's offer to donate the algorithm to the center. The center declared the algorithm more advanced than what they had presently researched. As a result of the success of the students in Maria's research program, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) honored Maria by having a minor planet named after her in 2014. Somewhere in our galaxy, a specifically designated minor planet, DeCandia, revolves. In addition, Maria traveled to Japan with her students as part of an exchange program, and chaperoned trips to Italy. Last summer she participated in the Global Learning Alliance in Singapore with other school administrators, sharing best practices with other educators from high performing international schools.

During the summer months, Maria worked at New York Medical College where she had been conducting grant-funded research on Alzheimer's disease and stroke since 2006. She began and concluded her career working in brain research, her first love.

Paul continues to work out of their home as the manager of national and corporate clients for a food manufacturing company, Bake'n Joy Foods, in the Boston area. Paul looks forward to his retirement so that, in addition to traveling internationally, the couple can more often take advantage of opportunities to visit

their children on both coasts.

Paul and Maria have three grown children: Michael in Connecticut, Amanda in California, and Gregory in Boston. The extended family is looking forward to being together in New York and Connecticut over the Christmas holiday—the reason for all that cookie baking.

While waiting for Paul to retire, Maria has been very busy these past five months. She is a member of the Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club, plays pickleball and bridge and has applied to be a volunteer at the Duke Marine Lab. During her quieter times, Maria enjoys kayaking and walking the beach with Maggie, the couple's two-year-old Maltese/Shih Tzu. She is also a certified group fitness instructor and aqua-aerobics teacher, and conducts classes in water aerobics for The Country Club of the Crystal Coast (CCCC). The couple belongs to the country club, and Maria is also presently taking golf lessons.

Paul and Maria are enthusiastic sailors; being close to the water figured prominently in the couple's decision to retire to Pine Knoll Shores. Several years ago Maria and some of her colleagues visited Pine Knoll Shores resident Cindy Moeller for a "girls' vacation." With retirement on the horizon, the couple began researching the availability of homes in the area and found the house they wanted. Coincidentally, that house where the couple presently resides was owned by Tom and Cindy Moeller.

Trite but true; I do believe it's a small world.

CERT Seeking Volunteers

By Tom King, CERT Civilian Leader

The Pine Knoll Shores Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is seeking part-time volunteers. This is a great opportunity to help your community before and after we experience a hurricane. Members of the team are trained to augment the town's fire and police departments as needed.

The CERT program is nationwide, operating under the auspices of FEMA. After a three-day initial training program in basic disaster response skills (fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical operations, etc.), team members are prepared to help in emergency situations.

In Pine Knoll Shores the Community Emergency Response Team focuses primarily on the hurricane season. A CERT program in town, the Hurricane Good Neighbor Program, provides a way for the town's public safety departments and the CERT to be aware of those citizens who remain in town during a hurricane—and render aid if needed.

In late May through early July each year we conduct refresher training so that we can safely and effectively help our town when needed during the hurricane season, which runs June 1 through November 30. Training is conducted every two weeks in the late afternoon or early evening, with sessions lasting from one to one-and-a-half hours.

If you are interested in volunteering for the town's CERT, please contact Tom King at waldoking@aol.com or 336-416-5184. We look forward to working with you.

BHA Annual Membership Meeting

Members and prospective members are invited to join the Beaufort Historical Association for the annual membership meeting and potluck dinner on Tuesday, January 23, at 6 p.m. in the Ann Street Methodist Church Eure Building, 500 Ann Street in Beaufort.

Following a potluck dinner, there will be a very brief business meeting to recap 2017 and present the 2018 budget for approval. A special program about the Foundation for Shackelford Horses will be given by Carolyn Mason. The foundation was founded in 1997 with a mission to protect and preserve the

(Continued on page 23)