

Four Vineyard lives lost over the holidays.  
Special coverage begins on **A7**

# TIDE OF TRAGEDY, WAVES OF GRIEF



A shrine of flowers on Edgartown Harbor in honor of beloved Islanders Patricia Bergeron and Roy Scheffer.

NICHOLAS VUKOTA

## The Island comes together at P.A. Club to honor past president

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

After the loss of two pillars of the Vineyard community, Islanders came together at the Portuguese-American Club in Oak Bluffs to remember a past president of the association who lived a life of service, and who touched so many lives on the Vineyard: Patricia Bergeron.

More than 700 Islanders gathered on Tuesday evening in the sprawling establishment to celebrate the life of Bergeron, known as Tricia, or simply Trish. The evening was filled with a warm atmosphere fueled by socialization, food, and drinks, but a

palpable grief hung among those who came to both celebrate and mourn the couple lost on New Year's Day. Hugs and soft words of consolation were exchanged by friends and family over the sudden deaths of Bergeron, who spent decades serving at Martha's Vineyard Hospital, and as president of the Portuguese-American Club, and Roy Scheffer, an Island fishing legend and her partner. Bergeron was 69, and Scheffer was 77.

Attendance at the event at the Portuguese-American (P.A.) Club, where Bergeron spent

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## Fishing community rocked by capsizing of scallop boat

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

As the Martha's Vineyard community continues to mourn the death of Roy Scheffer, 77, and Patricia Bergeron, 69, last week, bouquets of flowers, rubber boots, as well as scallop and oyster shells



accumulated on an Edgartown Harbor finger pier in remembrance of the couple who enjoyed hauling shellfish together.

The Edgartown Harbor finger pier located between the Edgartown Yacht Club and the Ice Cream and Candy Bazaar, had colorful flowers adorning the boardwalk and every dock piling. At the end of the dock, a shrine that reads "love," is surrounded by pink, purple, and yellow bouquets of lilies, chrysanthemums, and echinaceas. A pair of black rubber boots stand beside the shrine with a single rose, a scallop shell, and an oyster shell resting on the foot with a black and white photo of Scheffer

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## Submarine cable installations make landfall

After almost a decade, Eversource's project for clean and reliable power to the Island is almost complete. **BY HAYLEY DUFFY**

After years of work — from civic engagement and environmental discussions to construction and underwater drilling — a two-part cable installation project to deliver more power to the Island is almost complete.

Installation of the cables was finished this week, though the new cables aren't expected to come into service for a few months.

Called the Martha's Vineyard Reliability

*Continued on A6*



Construction for the project started in Falmouth in December 2023.

COURTESY EVERSOURCE



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# Island nonprofits resuscitate First Night after a 25-year hiatus

Visit Vineyard Haven and MV Youth Task Force partner to bring back an Island New Year's tradition. **BY SARA CREATO**

In 2000, Islanders of all ages flocked to Vineyard Haven for Martha's Vineyard's First Night. From children conducting electrical trains to watching a fireworks display, about 1,000 attendees rang in the new year as part of this community tradition.

Twenty-five years later, Visit Vineyard Haven and the MV Youth Task Force (YTF) teamed up to revive the New Year's Eve celebration and create another activity for young Islanders to enjoy.

Although attendance wasn't as big as decades ago, about 40 people of all ages gathered at the Martha's Vineyard Playhouse in Vineyard Haven last Wednesday for various arts and craft stations, a DJ set, and complimentary clam chowder and doughnuts. The evening concluded with a "ball drop" outside the playhouse.

Taylor Stone, clerk of the Vineyard Haven Harbor Cultural District, one of the partner organizations of Visit Vineyard Haven alongside the Vineyard Haven Business Association, said that the idea of bringing back First Night came from community members at open meetings the group hosts during the off-season.

"The community was wanting it, and they were asking for it," said Stone.

Although scaled down compared with past years, Stone said that this year's early evening First Night was a sober and family-oriented option to typical New Year's Eve festivities.

"This is definitely not the same as the First Nights that people know, but it's at least something that's happening in Tisbury that's not focused around alcohol, available to all ages, and that's on the earlier side," she said. "People could still do their fancy dinner nights or go out to the bar afterward if they want."

Lingering at the headband-making table with her two children, Giocchima Kuester, an artist from Oak Bluffs, joked about how her family stayed until the end of the night.

"Our favorite part has been decorating our headbands. That is one of the reasons why [the organizers] haven't been able to put the stuff away yet," she said. "We've managed to hit up every single craft table here, so I would call it a great success."

Stone, who also plans the First Friday celebrations during the summer, sees First Night as another way to continue generating activity in Vineyard Haven during the off-season.

"I love the energy that Tisbury has been getting lately. It's revitalizing and gathering interest, and more people are thinking about coming here," Stone said. "The First Fridays are in the summertime, and we have a December one, too."

Stone, an Island artist who specializes in cut-paper projects, painted an old mooring ball from the Tisbury harbor master for the ball drop. She executed the drop after hoisting the ball to the playhouse's upper window



Taylor Stone leads the ball drop at the end of the night.

SARA CREATO

with a pulley system used for changing sets during theater productions.

"As an artist who has been doing more event stuff, it was fun to make something. It was a good merge between the two things I do," she said. "[The ball] could be something that they could use years in the future."

YTF Executive Director Angela Knapp said she became involved with the event because of her own memories of First Night.

"I remember going to First Night as a teenager, and it was something to do instead of being stuck home or waiting to be invited to a party," she said.

Knapp, who was responsible for forming the event's sponsorships, hopes that future First Night celebrations will balloon to the scale of years past. "A lot of community partners came together to make something fun for the community, and we're hoping that that will expand and grow to be all throughout the town of Vineyard Haven," Knapp said.

## news in brief

### Tisbury lands \$25,000 to improve boat launch

Improvements are on the way for Tisbury's section of Lagoon Pond with a financial boost from the state.

Tisbury received a \$25,000 grant in December from the state Division of Marine Fisheries to install solar-powered lighting and monitoring cameras at the Lagoon Pond boat launch. According to a press release from the state, the upgrades will "improve the experience for

visitors and enhance public safety for boaters. This relatively small investment will provide benefits for years to come."

The grant was part of \$45,485 awarded by the state Marine Recreational Fisheries Development Fund, which is funded through the sale of saltwater fishing permits. The release states that the funding "supports fisheries research, management, and public access programs." In the December awards package, \$20,485 was also given to Fairhaven to enlarge its trailer parking space at the Peases Park Boat Launch.

"These projects will not only improve fishing opportunities for anglers who utilize the facilities in Tisbury and Fairhaven, but also support the state's blue economy," Dan McKiernan, director of the Division of Marine Fisheries, said in the release. "We are excited to maintain this state-local partnership for the good of recreational anglers and preserving our state's unique coastal culture."

### Dead trees close West Chop Woods

Citing dangers posed by dead trees, the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation has closed trails in West Chop Woods in Vineyard Haven to public use.

The trails have been closed since Christmas Eve, and Adam Moore, executive director of the foundation, said the closure will be in place for about a month. He said the "hazard trees" near the trail posed a risk to visitors. A hazard tree is defined by the U.S. Forest Service as a tree with "a structural defect that makes it likely to fail in whole or in part."

"The trees that have died have all been killed by the Southern pine beetle," he said.

West Chop Woods, a 90-acre property that is largely a pitch pine forest, has been hard-hit by Southern pine beetles, insects that have become a scourge on Vineyard woodlands. The females of the species chew into pine trees and carve tunnels inside to lay eggs and release pheromones to attract males, a process

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This year's First Night was sponsored by Vineyard Haven Public Library, Queerhub MV, M.V. Community Services, Quitsa Kitchen, and Dip 02539.

Knapp, who grew up in New Jersey, emphasized how a lack of available gathering places for the Island's youth during the winter months can lead some to partake in drug use.

"We had malls and roller rinks and all these different places you could go to connect with your peers outside school hours. We really don't have a lot of that [on the Island]," she said. "It's during those quiet and boring times that risky behavior and substance use [occur]."

Knapp thinks that the involvement of Island organizations in the revival of First Night will inspire other local groups to plan more community events.

"I like to imagine that those nonprofits coming together will extend the energy to the community as a whole to come together more in community events, and to continue to keep our Island a really safe, happy, and positive place for many people," she said. **MVT**

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# Offshore wind projects fight suspension orders

Vineyard Wind 1 allowed to continue producing power. **BY HAYLEY DUFFY**

Just before Christmas, the administration of Donald Trump halted work on all large-scale offshore wind projects under construction. The order shut down two fully permitted projects visible off the coast of the Island for at least three months. Some developers of the offshore wind projects plan decided to take the matter to court, as the orders suggest possible suspension extensions, and even the chance of lease termination.

The suspensions, issued Monday, Dec. 22, paused construction for at least 90 days on Vineyard Wind 1, which was near completion and already sent power to the grid, and Revolution Wind, another project that was close to completion. The orders not only force stakeholders to continue to battle the federal government in court, but also indefinitely delay benefits promised to the Island by the developer, including jobs and funds for onshore energy projects.

The suspension order handed out to Vineyard Wind 1, however, still allows the project to produce power. "In addition, given that this project is partially generating power, you may continue any activities from those wind turbines that are necessary for the current level of power generation," the order said. Vineyard Wind 1 is 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard, and produces power for Massachusetts.

The pause, which went into effect at the end of December, is attributed to undisclosed national security concerns identified in clas-

sified reports by the Department of Defense, which the administration now refers to as the Department of War. A spokesperson for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which manages resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, didn't respond for comment by the print deadline on why Vineyard Wind 1 can continue to produce energy amid national security concerns.

The orders said that the Department of the Interior received classified information from the Department of Defense that included "the rapid evolution of relevant adversary technologies and the resulting direct impacts to na-

tional security from offshore wind projects."

Federal officials also indicate that within the 90-day suspension period, which is subject to subsequent extensions, developers can respond to emergency situations or incidents that could have impacts on health, safety, and the environment.

The orders also threatened cancellation of the projects. Given the construction status of the projects, with most well underway, the order said, officials "will consider all feasible mitigation measures before making a decision as to whether the project must be canceled."

Offshore wind projects aren't new to suspensions from the Trump administration. In fact, several of the five projects now suspended were issued stop-work orders last year.

Revolution Wind, 12 miles off Aquinnah and set to power homes in Rhode Island and Connecticut, was forced to halt construction in late August, and was only allowed to resume a month later when a federal judge granted a stay and injunction on the order.

Now, Revolution Wind plans to handle the

matter in court. A press release issued last Thursday by the owners of Revolution Wind, Global Infrastructure Partners' Skyborn Renewables, and the Danish energy company Ørsted, said the developers filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia that challenges the suspension order. It is to be "followed by a motion for a preliminary injunction," the press release said.

"While Revolution Wind continues to seek to work constructively with the administration and other stakeholders towards an expeditious and durable resolution of this matter, it believes that the lease suspension order violates applicable law," the press release said. "As was the case with the August 2025 stop-work order, the Revolution Wind Project faces substantial harm from a continuation of the lease suspension order. As a result, litigation is a necessary step to protect the rights of the project."

Empire Wind 1, a project off the coast of New York owned by the Norwegian energy company Equinor's U.S.-based subsidiary, and Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind, owned by U.S.-based Dominion Energy off the coast of Virginia, were also suspended, and took the matter to court. Developers of Vineyard Wind 1 have yet to announce or take legal action. Officials for the project didn't respond for comment.

Developers of Empire Wind 1 announced on Dec. 2 that they had filed a civil suit in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia asking for construction to be allowed to proceed while litigation continued.

"The preliminary injunction filing is necessary to allow the project to continue as planned during this critical period of execution and avoid additional commercial and financing impacts that are likely to occur should the order remain effective," a statement from the company said. **MVT**



Vineyard Wind 1 turbine.

JENNETTE BARNES CAI

Continued from A2

## news in brief

that ultimately overwhelms the plant. These beetles have encroached on other parts of the Island, and have even been found in some residential areas.

Moore said the property will be reopened to public use after the conservation organization has had time to fell the undetermined number of hazard trees, which will be cut with a forestry skid steer, a machine used to clear vegetation.

Anyone with further questions should reach out to the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation at 508-693-5207 or info@sheriffsmeadow.org.

### Informational sessions on high school building project scheduled

School officials are planning community outreach regarding the high school building process after this holiday season with informational sessions that are open to the public.

The public gatherings will be held at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) beginning Jan. 8. The school building committee announced the plans in a press release on Tuesday. An informal example of the educational sessions was held in Aquinnah last month. The meeting sparked both controversy and support from residents of the up-Island town who attended.

"These sessions are open to community members, families, and stakeholders who want to learn more about the MVRHS building project and the planning process underway to create a modern, safe, and functional school facility," the press release stated.

The sessions will be run by representatives from MVRHS, the building project team, and school building committee members. They plan to share updates and answer questions before an Island-wide vote on the funding aspect of the high school, which has been tentatively scheduled for June 2.

The full schedule for the informational sessions is as follows:

- **Thursday, Jan. 8, at 4:30 pm**  
West Tisbury library, 191 Edgartown-West Tisbury Road, West Tisbury

- **Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 8:30 am**  
Edgartown School, 35 Robinson Road, Edgartown
- **Thursday, Jan. 22, at 7 pm**  
Tisbury School, 40 West William St., Vineyard Haven
- **Saturday, Jan. 24, at 4:30 pm**  
Oak Bluffs library, 56R School St., Oak Bluffs

More information on the high school building project can be found on the MVRHS project website.

### High school to host its first wrestling meet in 44 years

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's (MVRHS) varsity wrestling team competed against Falmouth and Mashpee high schools on Wednesday, marking the team's first home meet in 44 years.

The meet was held at the Vineyard high school around 3:30 pm, according to Head Coach Jerry Kadien.

After a 40-year hiatus, wrestling returned to the high school as a club program in 2022. The following year, the team gained varsity status.

During last year's season, the team enjoyed victories, such as winning the Cape and Islands Dual Meet Championship and qualifying its first wrestler for the Division Three State Championships, Kadien said.

The wrestling team will compete in a second home meet on Wednesday, Jan. 21, against Sandwich High School.

### Shipwreck on Christmas Eve in Aquinnah waters

On a beach in Aquinnah, waves crashed over splintered, light teal pieces of a sailboat that rested by the shore last Tuesday.

The shipwreck apparently washed ashore from an incident on Christmas Eve when the captain of the vessel called the U.S. Coast Guard for assistance, but had to leave the ship behind during the rescue.

"A decision was made just to protect life rather than property," said Executive Petty Officer Tyler Vanderhaden of Coast Guard Station Menemsha in an interview with The Times last Tuesday. Vanderhaden added that there were four small dogs on the sailboat along with the captain.

Vanderhaden said the Coast Guard received a call about a captain in distress, and they responded immediately to the scene. Once on the scene, they started to slowly tow the boat to safety, but the captain reported that his ship was taking on water rapidly.

The Coast Guard officers loaded the captain and his dogs safely onto their vessel, and released the sailboat into the open water. It later crashed on the shore of a beach in Aquinnah off Pilot's Landing Road, Vanderhaden confirmed.

The wreckage was still visible on the beach last Tuesday afternoon. Fuel containers, a sneaker, tools, and various other supplies were piled on the sand, and wooden pieces of the ship's exterior were strewn nearby.

In the aftermath of the shipwreck, some Island community members decided not to rely solely on a scheduled cleanup of the boat and items left behind. Over the past week, locals went out with ATVs and homemade sleds to excavate the wreckage and ensure it didn't further litter the area.

Isaac Taylor, one of the Islanders who helped lead the community cleanup efforts, said a few people worked each day, occasionally alongside the captain of the ship and a construction crew the captain hired, to remove debris from the stone-strewn beach. Taylor was joined by Juli Vanderhoop, her brother Chip Vanderhoop, and a few others.

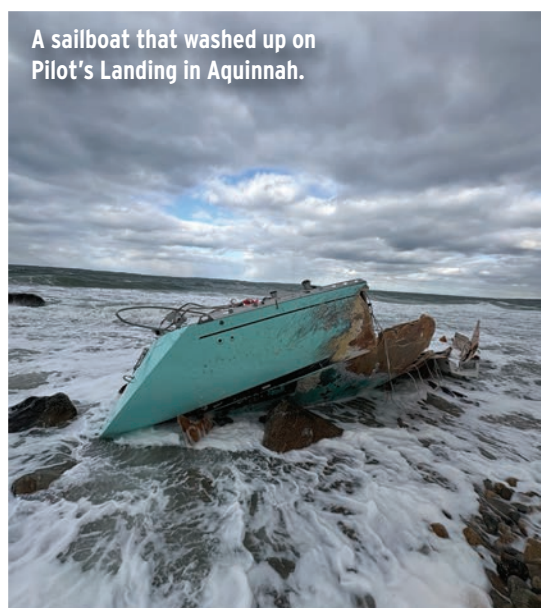
Chilmark Harbormaster Ryan Rossi said the captain of the ship was James Gorman, who declined a full interview with The Times, but did give some details about the incident over email. Rossi said Gorman informed him that his sail had failed on Dec. 24 while he was out on the water, and he requested to enter Menemsha Harbor.

"By the time I spoke with him on the phone, the Coast Guard was already responding from Station Menemsha in one of their motor lifeboats to provide assistance," Rossi said, adding that "operational command" was under the Coast Guard's authority at that point since it was conducting the search and rescue operation.

According to Lieut. Jon Hommen from the Sector Southeastern New England Coast Guard, the captain of the sailboat recruited the help of a local construction company to clean up the remains. They were scheduled to arrive last Wednesday to collect the fuel containers, and were expected to remove the boat itself a few days later. The community aided that effort, and collected much of the debris.

Hommen also said the ship's fuel tanks were checked by the Coast Guard from Menemsha last week so that no oil could leak into the ocean, a practice to ensure a safe maritime environment even if a crew takes proactive steps to secure the vessel.

"They ensured that the fuel tanks were watertight and closed," Hommen said in an interview with The Times. **MVT**



A sailboat that washed up on Pilot's Landing in Aquinnah.

COURTESY TOM SMITH

# ESSAYS

## What I've learned in my first six months

BY JEFF LEVY

I'm not a doctor. I'm a serial entrepreneur, with my share of losses and wins. I've spent summers on the Vineyard my entire life. In 2024, my wife and I became full-time residents. Like so many, we still headed off-Island to see our doctors. And then, last February, I read that the Island's only independent primary care practice was on the verge of closing.

I knew exactly what that would mean. Access to healthcare here is already fragile, and if the practice shuttered, another 1,000 Islanders would lose their primary care provider overnight, and thousands more would have only the emergency room for their urgent care needs.

The consequences for the Island would be severe if someone didn't step up. So I did.

Across the country, independent rural medical practices are disappearing, undermined by federal funding cuts, corporate consolidation, and relentless financial pressure. Between 2019 and 2024, more than 3,300 rural practices closed.

That erosion of care isn't abstract. It's personal. Access to healthcare, like a living wage and affordable housing, is foundational to any community.

This practice has been around for more than 40 years, but I approached it like a startup. When I took it over, what was then known as Vineyard Medical Care was losing nearly \$200 an hour every hour it was open. That reality required serious restructuring, but not by cutting back.

With so many Islanders in need of healthcare, the right move was to grow our way out of the hole.

As I dug in, I learned that the practice was built on the shoulders of two remarkable men. The original founder, Michael Jacobs, cared for Island families for more than three decades. Michael Loberg carried that mission forward for the next decade, and created the Martha's Vineyard Tick-Borne Illness Reduction Initiative, now recognized nationally as a model for community-driven public health.

This wasn't just a business. It was a community institution.

Early on, my wife said something that really resonated: To have a healthy Island, we needed a healthy practice. So we started by investing in our people. For the first time, we offered health insurance. We en-

sured everyone earned a living wage. We offered part-time work, flexible schedules, and remote options.

The result? We retained every single member of our team — all of our providers and all of our staff. And then we began to grow. We expanded hours. We hired additional providers and staff. With a larger team, we cleared our waitlist. Over the next six months, we added more than 400 new primary care patients, and we are actively accepting more. With all that upfront investment, we're still losing money, but we're close to break-even. That matters, because the goal isn't to survive on government funding or charitable donations. The goal is to operate sustainably by being paid fairly for the care we provide.

Another hard truth: Small, independent practices have very little leverage with insurance companies. Even as part of a larger physician organization on the Cape, we cannot negotiate favorable reimbursement rates. In some cases, providing care to insured patients actually means losing money. That's a difficult reality, but it's the one we're operating in.

Yes, we're busy in the summer. We treat everything from tick bites to poison ivy, and relieve significant pressure on the hospital's emergency room. Roughly half of our visits come from people who are not our

primary care patients.

Healthcare costs are already a burden for many families. But here's the reality: For those walk-in visits, we charge a modest convenient-care fee to help cover costs and keep the doors open.

Without it, we simply cannot sustain the level of access the Island needs, especially during peak season, when demand can overwhelm our capacity.

If you need a provider and want to avoid the convenient-care fee, becoming a primary care patient is the best option.

The most consistent thing I hear from patients is how surprised they are by the level of care our team provides. They talk about how they listen, ask thoughtful questions, and spend real time.

In a corporate medical system, time is money — and patients feel that pressure. Being small and independent allows us to give our patients the comprehensive care they deserve. And it gives our providers the space to honor the oath they took when they entered this profession.

That's the work.

And that's why it matters — for the health of our Island, now and for the years ahead.

*Jeff Levy is the CEO of Martha's Vineyard Medical.*

## A note from the retired hospital president

BY DENISE SCHEPICI

The week of Dec. 29 was my last as president of Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH) and Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (WNR), and I wanted to say thank you — thank you to our Island community, which has supported MVH and WNR, as well as our incredible team. On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for the support and grace the entire community has shown to me.

Eight years have passed so quickly. It is hard to leave a place as special as MVH and WNR, with our ex-

ceptional staff of doctors, nurses, the frontline teams, who come to work every day to help care for our patients and their families. It will always take my breath away when I think of the love and dedication that create the foundation for the compassion all receive who walk through our doors.

When someone steps away from a role like this one, the hope is that the place you are leaving is better and stronger than when you first arrived. I am proud to say that MVH, thanks to our hospital team and the backing of the Mass General Brigham family, is thriving and more devoted than ever to our patients. And, as I pass the baton to my successor, Claire Seguin, I know deeply that trajectory will continue under her leadership.

When I reflect on my time in this position, I am thrilled that together we have expanded our services to best address the health of our community, keep care here on the Island as often as we can, and to the extent we do, so patients and their families don't have to travel to receive top-notch medical services.

Collectively we took on the issue of improving care for our seniors and housing for our staff. Thanks to the donors who believed in the project, the neighbors who understood the importance, and the local and state officials who supported the plan. As a result, we now will have a state-of-the-art skilled nursing facility and 48 new units of housing for healthcare workers and their families to call home.

Together we have made a difference for the better. My hope is that this commitment to each other will only strengthen over time. I look forward to seeing what's possible for MVH and our community. I will not be far away. Tony and I are staying on the Island we are proud to call home. So this is not really a goodbye — more of a "see ya around the neighborhood."

Sending you best wishes for the new year, and most of all, the best of health always.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

*Denise Schepici is the retired president of Martha's Vineyard Hospital and Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.*

## LETTERS

### Hold the SSA accountable

To the Editor:

The MV Times' recent article ("Inspector general: SSA website 'doomed from the start,'" Dec. 18) covering the Office of Inspector General report on the Steamship Authority says it all, and we agree!

We applaud Sen. Julian Cyr [and] Reps. Dylan Fernandes and Thomas Moakley for their strong admonishment of the SSA management team and board members in light of the alarming revelations in the inspector general's report. We encourage the Massachusetts legislature to further evaluate the SSA's governance and identify ways to improve oversight of a significant public resource. We implore our legislators to follow the IG recommendation of establishing a special legislative commission, comprising the Authority's Cape and Islands and New Bedford delegations, the transportation committee co-chairs, and others based on the findings of the report, to review the Enabling Act of the Authority, and determine whether the governance structure needs to be overhauled.

**Amy Cody, Margaret Hannemann, Alysha Norbury, Beth O'Connor,**

**Nathaniel Trumbull  
Steering Committee of  
SSA Citizens' Action Group**

### Will we learn anything from the failed Steamship Authority website?

To the Editor:

The whole fiasco was unnecessary. It's infuriating to read that \$2 million to \$3 million was wasted, especially in light of the decision to raise ferry rates. We, the people, are paying for this mistake, although we had nothing to do with creating it. In fact, we tried to be heard, but our voices fell on deaf ears.

There is absolutely no accountability for this debacle. In fact, the general manager is being rewarded for his ineptitude by staying on as "senior advisor"? A man who ignored advice is now *giving advice*? How absurd.

Unless those involved learn not only what happened, but more importantly how and why it happened, costly errors will continue. We are too quick to point the finger at a single person, when many people and an entire system are involved.

I hope there is a thorough process to understand, and correct, the factors that enabled this fiasco, and an examination of what could have been done to avoid or stop it, but wasn't.

If I learn only how to correct an error, but not what led to it, I am doomed to make additional errors until I understand the underlying causes — be they wrong assumptions, faulty thinking, etc.

Ray Dalio, founder of Bridgewater Associates, one of the world's most successful and influential hedge funds, lost his own and his investors' money early in his career by a single move. When the money was gone, he set out to understand not what happened — the answer to that was obvious — but how it happened. Only then could this flaw and all its subsequent errors be avoided going forward. Dalio concluded hubris was the flaw — believing in his own abilities above all else, and not hearing from other experts, especially those who would challenge and correct his assumptions, his thinking and conclusions. He has since addressed this underlying factor by surrounding himself with experts who challenge his thinking. Better yet,

they have ideas of their own, and the collective intelligence is more than the sum of the parts.

**Anne Perschel  
Chilmark**

PS.: After writing this letter, I realized that I too failed to be aware, vocal, and accountable for vital services in my own community. Why did I not know Massachusetts has an inspector general who serves as a watchdog for taxpayers, and investigates mismanagement of funds, among other things?

The answer: Because I rely on those with official responsibilities, in this case the board of governors, to be accountable. I failed to live up to my own responsibility to understand the board's bylaws, and to be an aware active citizen in my own community. I attended one public meeting. Was dissatisfied with what I saw. Went home and did nothing more.

Next step: Call the inspector general to request a thorough postmortem and recommendations to be shared with the general public and elected officials for the purpose of addressing underlying problems with the Steamship Authority. **MVT**

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Charles M. Sennott • Publisher

### Note to Readers

The Times welcomes Letters to the Editor on subjects of interest to Islanders. Each letter must include the name, address, and phone number of the writer. No exceptions, no anonymous letters, no pen names. All letters are subject to editing for style, taste, sense, and conciseness. A thousand words is the outer limit. We publish most letters, but not all. The editor chooses. Letters will normally be published in the week they are received, but not always. The Times accepts letters by mail, e-mail, and posted online at [mvtimes.com](http://mvtimes.com) (click on Submissions link). **MVT**

obituaries

David Brian Rossi



David Brian Rossi (“Joe”) passed away on Nov. 29, 2025, at the Henrietta Brewer House in Vineyard Haven, surrounded by the love of his family and friends, after a struggle with dementia. Born to Joan and William Rossi on Dec. 21, 1959, in New Bedford, David lived a life marked by deep affection for his family, dedication to public service, and an enduring sense of joy and positivity that touched all who knew him.

David moved from New Bedford to Martha’s Vineyard in 1973, a move that he believed changed the course of his life. David earned his bachelor’s degree from Springfield College, and went on to earn his master’s degree from Curry College. His academic achievements laid the foundation for a distinguished career in law enforcement.

In 1990, David joined the Edgartown Police, and he was named chief of police in 2015, a role he held until his retirement in 2018. Throughout his career he brought integrity, leadership, and compassion to the community he served. His commitment to public safety and his ability to connect with people made lasting impacts on colleagues and residents alike.

David believed in giving back to his community, and he served on many boards: the Edgartown School committee, the Dukes County Retirement Board, and the YMCA board. He was the first school resource officer at the Edgartown School, and enthusiastically chaperoned trips to Camp Alton Jones, skiing at Gunstock, the fifth-grade Shenandoah voyages, and the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. David also coached several sports, in which his children participated.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, David was known for his infectious laugh and smile — highlights of a personality that could light up any room. He found great joy in spending time with his family, and embraced every opportunity to be present in their lives.

Throughout his life, David especially enjoyed traveling. He visited many islands in the Caribbean, including repeat

trips to his favorite destination, Anguilla. He was able to travel to the Azores and Italy after his retirement. He enjoyed golfing with friends, biking, taking peaceful nature walks, and cheering on the New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox. These simple pleasures reflected the way he approached life — with enthusiasm, gratitude, and heart.

David was predeceased by his mother, Joan Renahan; stepfather, Michael Renahan; father, William Rossi; and brother, Michael Rossi. He will be dearly missed by his beloved wife of 42 years, Ann Rossi; his children, Meagan Rossi and her husband Brett Lazer, Alex Rossi and his wife Cassie, and Matthew Rossi and his wife Aline. The role David cherished most in life was being a proud grandfather (“Vovo”) to Amelie, Blake, Ian, Dylan, and Felix. He also leaves behind his siblings, Bill Rossi, Patty Rossi, and Danny (Jane) Rossi; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held in Edgartown to honor David’s life and legacy. Please consider donating to the Martha’s Vineyard Center for Living in his memory, online at [bit.ly/MVCL\\_donate](http://bit.ly/MVCL_donate), or by mail at Martha’s Vineyard Center for Living, P.O. Box 1729, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

Visit [chapmanfuneral.com](http://chapmanfuneral.com) for online guestbook and information.

Services Saturday for Shanta Gabriel



Born in San Diego as Sharyn Kelly on July 6, 1945, **Shanta Gabriel**, 80, passed away peacefully on Dec. 11, 2025, in Falmouth, after a series of strokes.

She moved to Martha’s Vineyard in 2020 during the upheaval of the pandemic and found here a beautiful island and a vibrant community that made her want to settle down and stay forever.

The daughter of Betty and Jack Kelly, a Navy commander stationed on Coronado Island, Calif., she grew up moving with her father’s relocations to the Philippines and then back to San Diego. Shanta continued

moving a number of times to new places: Mexico, Hawaii, Michigan, Santa Cruz, and Mount Shasta in California, and finally to Martha’s Vineyard.

In 1978, Sharyn embraced the spiritual name Shanta, derived from the Sanskrit word *shanti*, meaning peace. This was given to her by her beloved spiritual teacher Dhyanyogi Madhusudandas, fondly known as Guruji — an Indian yoga and meditation teacher who began teaching students in the U.S. in the 1970s. From when she met Guruji, his teachings gave her a new guiding light — one of meditation, spiritual practice, and personal transformation.

She spent her career in the then-cutting-edge New Age movement, studying with various wisdom teachers, but always with Guruji’s gentle guidance. She worked as a massage therapist when it was still very new in the U.S., as a yoga teacher, and later as a lecturer and spiritual counselor.

She was the author of the book “The Gabriel Messages: Compassionate Wisdom for the 21st Century from the Archangel Gabriel,” following an experience she had of connecting to the angelic frequency in her meditations, most specifically with the Archangel Gabriel. She later legally changed her name to Gabriel. Her teachings remain available at [ShantaGabriel.com](http://ShantaGabriel.com).

Shanta loved to travel, and taught in many parts of the country. She started the Compassionate Wisdom Circle, an online group dedicated to the evolution of consciousness on Earth. Her online spiritual classes and workshops attracted many students over the years, helping them to find ways to release fear and find peace within. She wrote her Sunday blog up until six months before she died.

While on the Vineyard, Shanta led nature walks at Polly Hill Arboretum called “forest bathing,” based on the Japanese practice called *shin-rin yoku*. She also taught various health and wellness classes through the West Tisbury library and Council on Aging.

She was a committed member of the Federated Church choir in Edgartown, and she briefly worked at the M.V. Hospital in the nutrition department, a job she enjoyed.

Shanta is survived by her son, Erik Stauber, his wife, Rosie, and their children, Makoy Stauber and Cydni Whittington, of Phoenix, Ariz., as well as her brother, Pat Kelly, his wife Christine, and their daughter, Brenna Frost of Temecula, Calif.

A memorial service will be held in her honor on Jan. 10 at 2 pm at the Federated Church in Edgartown.

Mary Wolverton



Mary Wolverton, 59, passed away on Dec. 24, 2025, at her home and surrounded by family in Vineyard Haven, after battling breast cancer for several years.

Mary was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1966, to Ann and Ben Wolverton Jr., and grew up on the family’s sustainable farm in Troy Mills, Iowa. She attended North Linn High School, and graduated with a B.A. in the theater arts from the University of Iowa in Iowa City. After working in fashion fabric design in Miami, Fla., she returned to Iowa, where she worked as a costume designer for Riverside Theatre in Iowa City and Theatre Cedar Rapids. In 1993, she relocated to Martha’s Vineyard, where she worked at Essence in Edgartown. She later started her own line of clothing called Wild Iris, and made custom textile furnishings. A resident on the Vineyard for more than 30 years, she also worked as a cabinetmaker, a teacher’s aide, and a musician, eventually building her own home here.

Mary enjoyed traveling to Ireland to hone her musical skills, and she taught fiddle lessons to young students for many years on the Vineyard. As a concert promoter, she helped foster performances by some of the world’s biggest and most respected names in traditional music at the Katharine Cornell Theatre in Vineyard Haven. Some Vineyarders will remember Mary from Wednesday night fiddle sessions, an Offshore Ale staple. Mary also enjoyed spending time in her garden and going on hikes.

She is survived by two sons, Mattie Harcourt Wolverton and Sunny Wolverton Harcourt; and their father, Gregg Harcourt. She is also survived by three siblings and their spouses, Susan Wolverton and Heberth Obando, Nan Wolverton and Ed Hood, and Tom and Seher Wolverton; as well as five nephews and one niece.

Mary will be greatly missed by her family, as well as by the

artisan and agrarian community she was so connected to on Martha’s Vineyard. Please help honor her memory by enjoying some good fiddle music. A celebration of her life will be held on the Vineyard in the spring.

Mary’s family wishes to thank her caregivers at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and Martha’s Vineyard Hospital (Mass General Brigham) and the VNA of Cape Cod–Martha’s Vineyard Hospice. Their care of Mary in her final days was extraordinary, for which we will be eternally grateful. In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to facilitate the compassionate efforts of such caregivers, or a donation in her honor to the Polly Hill Arboretum ([pollyhillarboretum.org](http://pollyhillarboretum.org)), which Mary loved, or to your favorite nonprofit, would be welcome.

Visit [chapmanfuneral.com](http://chapmanfuneral.com) for online guestbook and information.

Margaret Dykes Whitehouse



We celebrate the life of **Margaret Dykes Whitehouse** (“Meg”), who passed away peacefully in her Chilmark home on Dec. 9, 2025, at the age of 68.

Born in Mount Kisco, N.Y., on Sept. 9, 1957, Meg brought passion, joy, and warmth to every part of her life — qualities that endured even as she faced the degenerative neurological disease that ultimately ended her life.

An interior designer by trade, Meg poured her creativity into her work and formed lasting relationships through it. Her artistic roots trace to her days at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where she earned her bachelor of fine arts degree in industrial design in 1980.

Over the years, Meg became deeply connected to communities across southern New Hampshire and Martha’s Vineyard, places where her generosity and humor were instantly recognizable. Always active, Meg loved walking, playing tennis, and skiing. She found a particular

sense of comfort in reading and gathering with community members at the First Congregational Church of West Tisbury.

She is survived by her loving husband of 34 years, Philip F. Curtin (“Phil”) of Chilmark; her daughter, Abigail W. Curtin (“Abbey”) of Boston; her son, Maxwell W. Curtin (“Max”) of Chicago; her brother, Harold J. Whitehouse (“Hal”) of Holden; and her sister, Dorothy S. Whitehouse Hathorne (“Dari”); her brother-in-law, Edward L. Hathorne (“Shred”) of Carolina Shores, N.C.

A celebration of Meg’s life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 1 pm at the First Congregational Church of West Tisbury in West Tisbury.

Shirley J. Craig



**Shirley J. Craig** of Edgartown died peacefully on Jan. 5, 2025, at the age of 90.

A full obituary will follow in another edition of this paper.

Roy Timfre Scheffer

**Roy Timfre Scheffer**, 77, of Edgartown died accidentally on Jan. 1, 2026, at the Martha’s Vineyard Hospital.

His funeral service will be held at a later date, and a complete obituary will follow in another edition of this paper. Please visit [chapmanfuneral.com](http://chapmanfuneral.com) for an online guestbook and information.

OBITUARIES

The Martha’s Vineyard Times publishes obituary information and photos at no charge for current and former residents of Martha’s Vineyard and for persons with significant ties to the Island community. The submission deadline for full obituaries is 5 pm Tuesday, for publication on the following Thursday. The Times reserves the right to edit as needed.

If you have questions or need assistance writing an obituary, please call (508) 693-6100 and ask to speak to the Community editor. Obituary information may be submitted by

**e-mail:** [community@mvtimes.com](mailto:community@mvtimes.com)

**mail:** PO Box 518  
Vineyard Haven, MA  
02568

**by hand:** The Times office on  
Beach Road in Vineyard Haven  
(opposite the ArtCliff Diner).

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# State pushes through plan to cut acres of pines

A group of Islanders, who pointed out missing environmental report, may pursue legal action. **BY HAYLEY DUFFY**

State officials endorsed a plan to cut almost 200 acres of white pines in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest, without an environmental impact report that was sought by some Islanders opposed to the plan.

The Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office, which conducts reviews of environmental impacts of development projects, under Assistant Secretary Tori Kim found that earlier processes and other documents were sufficient to stand in the place of a report, and issued a six-page advisory opinion on the matter on Dec. 26.

The goal is to remove 175 acres of white pine plantations by 2035, but phase one of the project, approved by MassWildlife's Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program in July, includes a 52-acre cut of white pine plantations, in an effort to restore native species in the State Forest. The effort is led by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), as landowners of the 5,300-acre forest.

David Foster, director emeritus of the Harvard Forest, and Megan Ottens-

Sargent, a former Martha's Vineyard commissioner, asked the state in October to review what they said were documents that show that in 2001, Bob Durand, then Massachusetts secretary of the environment, required an environmental impact report for a previous project in the State Forest that was intended to widen fire lines. There isn't a record that a report was submitted or made subject to public comment.

Foster argued that the current plan is a continuation of that project, and should require the report, which is a more comprehensive review of the forest project and could enlist the state to draft a firebreak management plan, conduct a study on impacts of management techniques, and create protocols for an annual survey. Their request virtually stalled progress on the project for months.

But that's no longer the case. Though further review from MEPA isn't required, Kim's advisory opinion instead directs the state department to submit a forest management plan that describes operations and maintenance activities as

well as habitat management activities, such as plantation removal, invasive species control, and prescribed fire, by Dec. 31, 2026, and then make that plan available for public comment through a public notice in the environmental monitor.

The state department previously stated that they didn't believe they needed to do an environmental impact report, but pushed the issue toward MEPA to be sure. The habitat management project was slated to begin in December, but DCR said in early December that the plan is to issue bids for vendor selection for the project over the winter. A spokesperson for DCR said Wednesday it plans to continue work, and will update its timeline based on the advisory opinion.

Islanders opposed to the project have raised concerns since the issuance of Kim's advisory opinion. In fact, a few of them wrote to Kim about her decision.

Michael Blanchard, a photographer, gallery owner, and daily patron of the forest, shared his letter to Kim, which said the area is the most accessible and utilized public forest on Martha's



MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Vineyard. "People walk there, grieve there, recover there, bring their children there, and depend on it as a rare and shared public space," he wrote.

Blanchard also reiterated his and others' thoughts on the importance of an environmental impact report. "That kind of analysis has never been done here, despite being formally required. After more than two decades, asking that it finally be completed does not feel unreasonable. It feels like the minimum necessary step to restore trust, clarity, and legitimacy to a decision of this magnitude," he wrote.

Blanchard is part of a group of Islanders who are opposed to the plan as is, and want more transparency in the approval process.

"Neither I nor others I am working with are attempting

to stop forest management, restoration, or responsible stewardship. We are asking that decisions of this scale, permanence, and sensitivity be made through the process the commonwealth itself established for precisely these circumstances — one that is transparent, contemporaneous, and grounded in current science, current conditions, and full public disclosure," he added.

Katherine Scott, an Islander against the plan, also wrote to Kim and said that the "current scientific concept of 'environmental impacts'" is larger than was understood more than two decades ago.

Toward the end of his letter, Blanchard also said the group against the plan may take this matter through legal review: "I want to be transparent that if these concerns cannot be ad-

ressed through a collegial and corrective process, we are seeking the advice of an environmental attorney regarding potential next steps. We believe the procedural issues identified are significant and warrant careful reconsideration before further implementation proceeds." He told The Times that legal action isn't what any of them wanted to have to do.

A letter out to more than 1,500 people that signed a petition called "Stop the Clear-cut Update" on charge.org over a year ago also said the group plans to "pursue every appropriate path — including legal review if necessary — to ensure this process is done carefully, transparently, and with respect for the Island community." The group also asked that previous petitioners write to Kim about their concerns. **MVF**

## Submarine cable installations make landfall

Continued from A1

Project and 91 Replacement Cable Project, the initiatives promise to deliver cleaner energy and substitute on-Island diesel generators, as well as increase resiliency and reliability in the Island's energy service. Advancement of the work was encouraged by faults in one of four submarine cables that run from Falmouth to the Island and power Martha's Vineyard, as well as by a countrywide increase in energy demand.

The two separate projects for the Island are being carried out by Eversource, Martha's Vineyard's utility company, and barges at work to lay new cables on the sea floor have been visible off Tisbury Harbor over the past few weeks. The Island is currently powered by four submarine cables, but through this project, Eversource replaced the 91 Line, which was built in 1986 and experienced multiple faults over the years — one as recently as July 2021 — and added a fifth, 23-kilovolt cable to meet forecast demand.

"It's a major step toward a modern, resilient, and sustainable energy future on the

Island," Matthew Biron, director of transmission project management and construction at Eversource, said.

Between the two new cables, there's an additional 37 megawatts of energy for the Island; the new cable adds 25 megawatts of new capacity, and the replacement cable, which also has a 25-megawatt capacity, is an upgrade from the old 13-megawatt cable.

Part of the goal of the project is to deliver clean power to the Island, and so the ad-

dition of the fifth cable also allowed Eversource to decommission diesel generators in Oak Bluffs, which were more than 80 years old, and were used to supplant increased energy demand in the summer months. The contract for the diesel generators, which use fossil fuels, was terminated on Sept. 31, and enabled the utility company to transition the Island away from old fossil fuel equipment. The Island instead can be further supported by the regional grid

and the energy purchased by Eversource from the grid.

"Those are completely shut off," Biron said about the generators. "All five have been fully retired, removed, and sold, and the sites have been remediated."

And not only do the new 23-kilovolt cables equalize the loss of the diesel generators, but Biron said the project promises to increase capacity based on forecast energy needs, such as from an increase in electric vehicles, heat pumps, and people.

The project is part of a larger effort by Eversource, buoyed by the energy goals of both states and communities like Martha's Vineyard, to increase energy capacity and reliability as well as utilize clean sources. "We've also made significant upgrades across the Island to support this transition, including reconductoring and pole replacements, particularly in Oak Bluffs," Olessa Stepanova, communication director for Eversource, said in July in an email to The Times.

"Additionally, a new underground cable supply is being installed from Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road to State Road," she added at the time.

Plans took years to develop

— eight years, in fact. Onshore construction started in 2023, and further underwater work and drilling took place last winter, but the actual cable-lay between Falmouth and Martha's Vineyard took only about two days. Physical installation of the new 6.1-mile cable across the seabed from Falmouth to East Chop in Oak Bluffs was completed Dec. 9, and the plan was to have the 5.5-mile replacement cable, connected at Eversource facilities in West Chop in Tisbury, also installed a week later. Weather delays, however, hampered their efforts for a few weeks, and installation was planned for this past Tuesday. Around midday Tuesday, Eversource started to pull the old 91 Line, and the final landing in Falmouth is set to take place on Jan. 9, Stepanova said on Tuesday.

Though barges were offshore for the past few weeks, there wasn't much to see from the land, as most of the work takes place underwater. A jet is used to blast water and dig a trench about six feet in the sea floor, which Biron said is the most environmentally efficient method. Then the cables are laid in the trench and buried below the sea floor to protect marine life and fishing

gear. And to get the cables to shore, since the barges can't go that close to land, the Eversource team uses horizontal directional drilling — which Biron said is a method that protects shorelines and coastal ecosystems — to install pipes that they pull the cables through. The cables onshore then can carry power to various substations or end-user locations.

This project was not an easy feat, nor a quick one, and required coordination at the federal, state, and local level to ensure minimal environmental impacts. Biron said this is eight years' worth of civic engagement, environmental studies, and sign-offs from state and federal agencies, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, the Island towns, the Martha's Vineyard Commission, environmental groups, and local fishermen.

To have the physical infrastructure laid is a major milestone, but there are still a number of steps to take before Eversource can "make an interconnection" and feed this additional energy to the Island, Biron said. That is expected to be done in the first few months of the year. If they do the job right, Biron said, there won't be impact to any Islander's day-to-day life. **MVF**



The project includes installing a submarine cable across Vineyard Sound from the mainland to East Chop in Oak Bluffs.

COURTESY EVERSOURCE

# TIDE OF TRAGEDY, WAVES OF GRIEF

The rising moon between Christmas and New Year ushered in what felt like a king tide of three separate tragedies, ushering waves of grief across four prominent families who have all given so much to the Island.

These families — the Scheffers, the Bergerons, the Bramhalls and the Kennedys — are all different, and they are all struggling with their individual losses in different ways, but there was a collective spirit of community that came together around them, offering love and support from some very different corners of the Island.

The expressions of love were there in the makeshift shrine of flowers, rubber fishing boots, and scallop and oyster shells placed on one of the finger docks in Edgartown, where the legendary boat captain and fisherman Roy Scheffer could often be seen heading out to harvest bay scallops. That is what he was doing on New Year's Day with his partner, Patricia Bergeron,

His partner of the past 15 years, "Tricia" Bergeron was a head nurse in the emergency room at the Martha's Vineyard Hospital who led a life of service to others, and who was proud to be a past president of the Portuguese-American Club. The club was packed Tuesday night with at least 700 people, according to police estimates, who came together with a bounty of potluck dishes. There was a mural of photographs and memorabilia that told the story of Bergeron's great passion for the Cribbage Club, and her role as a scribe who wrote a much-loved column about cribbage for The Times for many years. It was a passion she shared with Roy, and based on the scorecards that were featured in the mural, they were fierce competitors. Looking across a packed room, there were many families who had intersected with Bergeron through the love of their Portuguese heritage and the game of cribbage, but also across the worst moments of life, when

also lost her 18-year-old son, Eric, in a car accident in 2001.

"We were very close. We will miss her forever," said

the Amiraults, out of Oak Bluffs. So gathered there on Tuesday was a cross-section of everybody on the Island. A way for all of us to show

missed. They talked about his mother, Nina Bramhall, who led the girls tennis team to state championships, and the legendary status of his grandfather, Kip Bramhall, as a world-class fly-fisherman and painter of aquatic life. The Bramhalls have always been stalwarts of the Island, and are well-known for their support for and work in conservation. Natty's grandparents, Kib and Tess, will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary this week, an event that will bring the close-knit family together here on the Island.

Joined by a deep love for fishing, tennis and skiing, the Bramhalls are on hand to support Nina and Natty's father, Paul Schneider, who was the longtime editor of the Martha's Vineyard Magazine. Paul also gave back to the Island as a mentor to many talented young writers, and is very close to Natty's friends on the Island, and had recently taken up bow-hunting with him. He was out in Wyoming with that close circle who loved backcountry skiing, and was traveling back to the Island with Nina yesterday, where a heartbroken community is poised and waiting to help them navigate a long road of their own grief that lies ahead.

Among those family friends who are closely connected to the Island is Caroline Kennedy and the extended Kennedy family, who recently donated a vast stretch of beautiful shoreline to the Island in Aquinnah. They suffered their own, most recent tragedy in the death of summer resident Tatiana Schlossberg, who was the daughter of Caroline, and the grand-

daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy. A journalist who began her career as an intern at the Vineyard Gazette, Schlossberg wrote powerfully and eloquently about her battle with cancer. She died at the age of 35. While Paul and Nina were traveling to the Island, the Kennedy family was gathering in New York City for the funeral for Tatiana at St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church on Park Avenue, which has always been a centerpiece of faith for countless milestones of the Kennedys' lives, from baptisms to funerals.

Alexandra Styron, who is close friends with Paul and Nina as well as Caroline Kennedy, came of age in a circle of friends on Martha's Vineyard. Both Natty and Tatiana served as attendants in Al's wedding.

In connecting all four of these tragedies and lives cut short, Al Styron put it well, saying, "The through line in these deaths is that they are all within families that have made enormous contributions to the Island as a whole. These families, who in their own ways and in very different ways, have just given so much."

Styron, the daughter of William and Rose Styron, hails from a family that is closely connected through generations to the Kennedys and the Bramhalls, and added, "There are lots of different kinds of Vineyarders, and people like to qualify them: natives and washashores and summer people. But these losses kind of cut through all that. All these families have an important place in our community. And we grieve for them all." **MVT**



A United States Coast Guard helicopter responds at Cow Bay to the capsized scalloping boat.

PETER KIRN

**"Gathered there on Tuesday was a cross-section of everybody on the Island. A way for all of us to show respect and compassion for the horrible tragedy that occurred on New Year's Day, this is all very close to home for a close-knit community." - Bob Mone**

when his skiff capsized in frigid waters just off Cow Bay amid a sudden squall that kicked up dangerous gusts of wind and four- to six-foot swells. Scheffer was 77. Bergeron was 69.

Scheffer, who was a pioneer in the Island's fishing industry as a swordfish boat captain, and a key innovator in the aquaculture industry, was a patriarch of three generations who earned their living in the fishing industry. For all who knew him in the industry, Bergeron was a giving soul who was always ready to help others.

they were in the emergency room and desperately afraid. For many families attending the event, they remember that she was always there to offer a comforting and practical hand on what needed to be done.

In that crowd Tuesday night were Bob and Gayle Mone. They were dear friends of Bergeron, and they became closer than ever when they lost their 17-year-old son Ryan in a car accident on New Year's Day in 1998. It was a tragic bond that was forged even more deeply when Bergeron

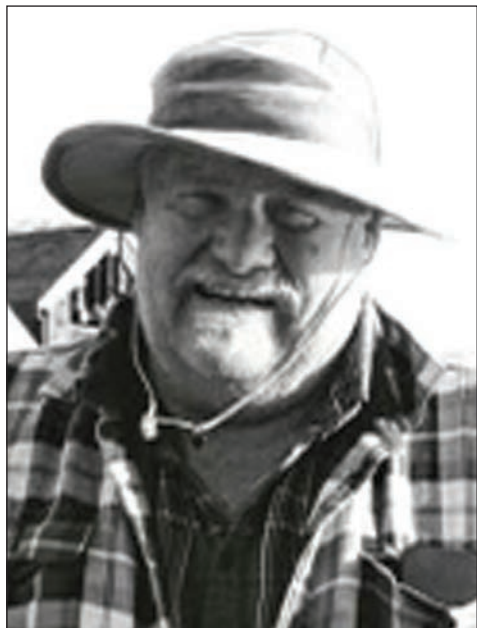
Bob, who runs Mone Insurance, but who worked for years in the wholesale side of the fishing industry. He also worked closely through the years with Roy Scheffer. He was looking out across the packed P.A. Club, where he is a member, saying, "This kind of gathering can only happen here at the P.A. Club, an affordable place for families to come together to celebrate weddings and graduations and tragedies."

"This place was founded in the 1930s by many families, including Tricia's extended family, like

respect and compassion for the horrible tragedy that occurred on New Year's Day," said Bob. "This is all very close to home for a close-knit community."

Folding tables at the P.A. Club were straining under the mountains of scalloped potatoes, fried chicken, and fish fillets that attendees brought. There in line for food were Islanders who went to high school with Nathaniel ("Natty") Schneider, 31. They formed small knots of grief discussing his tragic death in a skiing accident in Wyoming, and how sorely he will be

**"The through line in these deaths is that they are all within families that have made enormous contributions to the Island as a whole. These families, who in their own ways and in very different ways, have just given so much." - Al Styron**



Roy Scheffer



Patricia ("Tricia") Bergeron



Nathaniel ("Natty") Schneider. (See obituary A14).



Tatiana Schlossberg. (See obituary A14).

## The Island comes together at P.A. Club to honor past president

Continued from A1

many years as a volunteer and leader, proved how many lives she and Scheffer touched on the Island. From P.A. Club members to hockey players to commercial fishermen to hospital workers, it showcased how important the two were to the Island community. At the gathering, two posterboards were on display that showed various P.A. Club functions they attended together, as well as their time spent playing at the Martha's Vineyard Cribbage Club. The posters even memorialized neck-and-neck scorecards between the two.

"With them both leaving the Island, because they're such patriarchs of the Island in every aspect ... this is not just friends or families changing," Gina Bettencourt, president of the P.A. Club, told *The Times*. "This is the Island changing ... there isn't a place I can go that they haven't touched."

The Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office stated that the couple's vessel was found overturned, and officials saw the propeller was entangled in a polypropylene line. The tragic accident is still under investigation, but state officials said the couple had been caught by a sudden blow of snowy winds, sleet, and powerful waves while scalloping in waters off Edgartown. Even before state officials confirmed the deaths of Bergeron and Scheffer, a ripple of sorrow and shock cascaded across the Island from those who had found out beforehand of the Island's loss of two community pillars. Before the remembrance at the P.A. Club, some people placed flowers, seashells, a pair of fisherman's boots, and a sign that reads "Love" in their memory at a dock in Edgartown.

Members of Bergeron's family spoke of her warmth, and said she was a beacon of light for their family through good times and also untimely deaths of loved ones. Through fond memories that were shared, emotions welled up from each speaker.

Kristen MacLean described her mother as "my first heartbeat, my first safe place," and while the tragedy would be difficult to tread through, she knew how to be a strong woman from Bergeron's "shining example." MacLean said her mother's spirit will be with her.

"I miss you more than words can say," MacLean said. "Your kindness, your unwavering support are all etched in my heart. I'll keep making memories, but they'll never be the same without you ... your legacy of kindness and generosity will live on through me and all the people you have touched."

Ben Peters tenderly recalled the words he heard

from his grandmother mere days before the accident. "To my grandson: I can't promise I'll be here for your whole life, but I can promise that I'll love you for the rest of mine," Peters said. He said Bergeron told him to be strong and vigilant whatever path life might lead him down.

Paula O'Connor said her aunt was always her first contact for whatever happened, good and bad. O'Connor said she and her siblings adored Bergeron, sometimes hiding her nursing shoes when they were younger so she couldn't leave.

She recalled Bergeron's love for her children. Bergeron, who tragically lost her son Eric McLean in an automobile accident in 2001, established the Eric Bergeron McLean Memorial Boys Varsity Hockey Scholarships, and made an annual plea to Island high schoolers to wear seat belts when the scholarships were awarded.

"I feel like our family has dealt with more than our fair share of untimely deaths and tragedies," O'Connor said.

"And what does this family do in the wake of tragedy? We all pull together, and somehow miraculously we get through," she added. "But I've got to tell you, this one hurts. This one hurts really bad."

A celebration of life and memorial for both Bergeron and Scheffer is planned for a later date.

Bergeron and Scheffer met each other at a Little League game, and their years together were intertwined ever since.

Bergeron and Scheffer were mainstays in various parts of Island life.

Scheffer, commonly known as "the Royster," graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in 1966, and fishing ran in his blood. Roy began working on fishing boats after graduating high school, and ventured as far as the Grand Banks in pursuit of swordfish. He commanded a generation of fishermen that came to define the Menemsha waterfront through the 1970s, and in the 1990s. He later started the Roysters oyster farm in Katama Bay and instilled a love for the fishing trade in his sons. Jeremy Scheffer, owner of Spearpoint Oysters, farms oysters in Katama Bay and Menemsha Pond. Noah Scheffer started Little Minnow Oyster Co. in Katama Bay. Isaiah Scheffer is Chilmark's shellfish constable, and his son, Matteus, is among the next generation of fishermen, and is well-known on the Menemsha pier where he works alongside his extended family, including the Larsens.

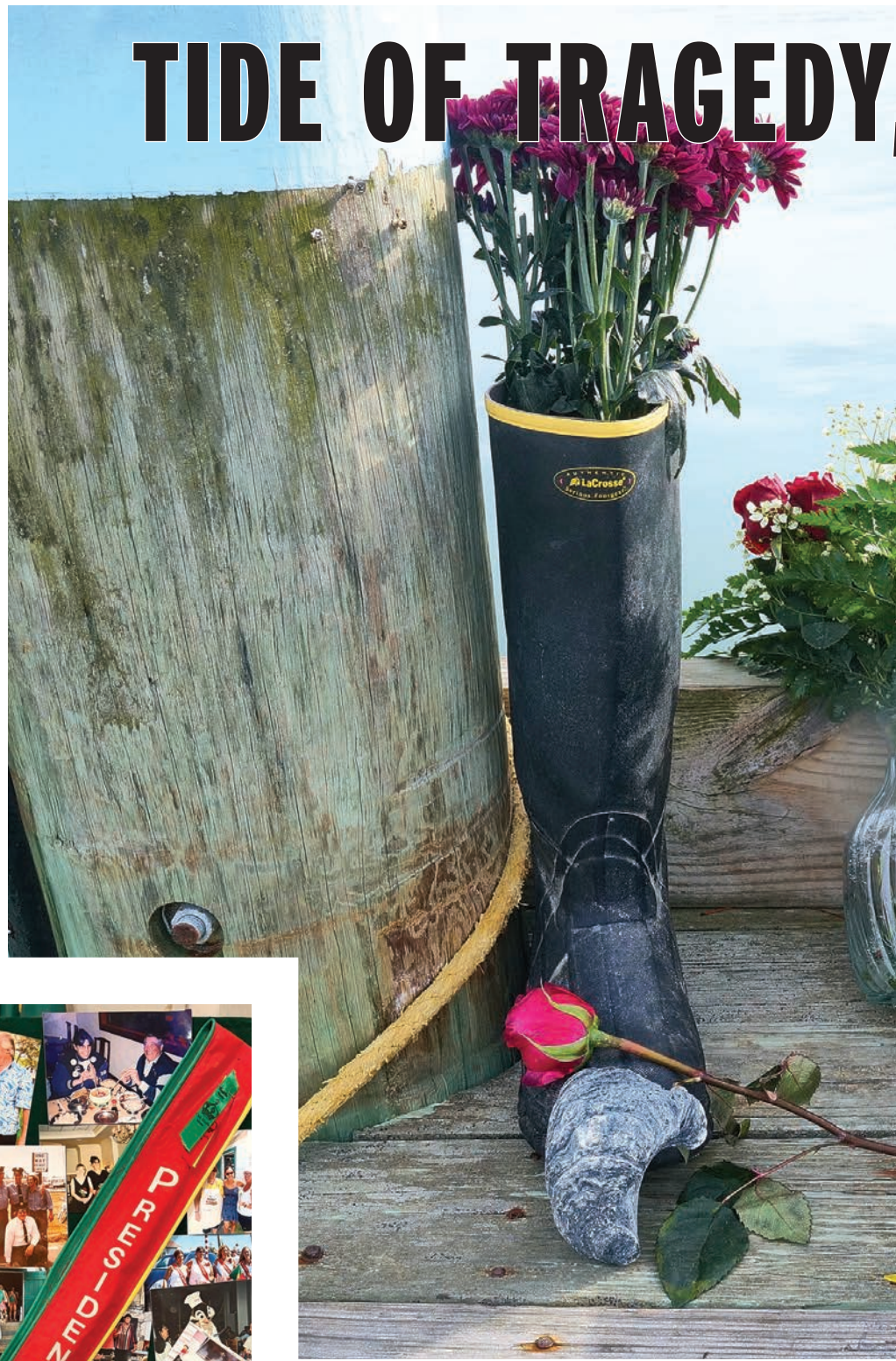
The loss of Roy Scheffer rattled the commercial fish-

ing community on the Vineyard. Buddy Vanderhoop, a Menemsha fishing boat captain who knew Scheffer since high school and worked with him in the fishing industry on the Island for virtually all their adult lives, described him as "a huge presence." He was a pioneer in the Island's shellfishing scene, which has helped spur a number of young, entrepre- neuring aquaculturists in the local industry.

"A great guy, just a great guy," he said, explaining, "The Scheffers are at the heart of the shellfish industry on the Island, and that all began with Roy ... This is just a huge loss for the fishing community, and for the whole Island."

Jason Gale, an Island commercial fisherman, said he heard of Scheffer growing up.

"He was an unbelievably accomplished fisherman with a world of experience. If an accident like this could happen to him, then it could happen to anyone. I know some of his children and grandchildren; I feel so sad



A collage of photos of Tricia Bergeron and Roy Scheffer, friends, family, and fond memories at Bergeron's celebration of life at the Portuguese-American Club.



for their loss," Gale said in a text to *The Times*.

He also called Bergeron an amazing woman, a sentiment shared across the Vineyard.

Bergeron was born on the Island, and at one point left for Florida, but returned to be closer to family. She worked for 47 years at Martha's Vineyard Hospital, more than 20 of which were spent as the unit coordinator in the emergency room — the place she and Scheffer were transported to after the accident.

The loss of Bergeron was a deep cut for the hospital community, where she was "a longtime and highly respect-

ed member," a hospital statement reads.

"Our hearts go out to the loved ones of Tricia and Roy, and to the many colleagues and friends who are grieving," Claire Seguin, hospital president and chief operating officer, said in a statement. "We are committed to supporting the family and our staff during this difficult time."

Helen Green, who had worked with Bergeron in the emergency department for years, said at the remembrance that Bergeron was a kind and supportive team member who worked tirelessly to help others and develop

**"Your kindness, your unwavering support in my heart. I'll keep making memories, I'll be the same without you ... your legacy of generosity will live on through me and all who have touched."**

—Kristen MacLean, daughter of Patricia Bergeron

community in the hospital.

"As a nurse, I always felt complete confidence in you, and I knew that we were in good hands, and I knew you had my back," Green said, reading from the statements she read for Bergeron at her

retirement party.

Bettencourt said Bergeron, through her spirit and her own trauma of losing a child, was able to truly connect to patients. And if anybody needed assistance getting care, she was ready to help



Rubber boots filled with flowers and adorned by seashells honor Scheffer and Bergeron at the Edgartown Harbor docks.

PHOTOS: NICHOLAS VUKOTA



rt are all etched but they'll never of kindness and I the people you

bergeron

someone get to the Island hospital, or find a way to help the person to Boston. Outside the hospital, Bergeron held the mantle of president at the P.A. Club for a decade, and served on its board of directors for 40

years. It only made sense to host her celebration of life at the local establishment. Her leadership in the club continued a family legacy, as her grandfather was one of the men who founded the club in the 1930s, and her cousin, Pamela Gibson Silvia, will become president in two weeks. Bergeron's generous spirit was also recognized over the years, from being awarded the Spirit of the Vineyard Award in 2015 from Vineyard Village at Home and to the Heritage Day of Portugal Award in 2023 for her contributions to the Portuguese American community.

State Sen. Dylan Fernandes, who formerly represented the Vineyard while in the State House of Representatives and had presented the Heritage Day of Portugal Award to Bergeron, said in an online statement that he was "deeply saddened by the tragic passing" of Bergeron and Scheffer.

"Patricia was a friend and, as president of the Portuguese-American Club and through her work at the hospital, did so much in the community," Fernandes said. "When I was in the House, I had the honor of presenting her with the Portuguese Heritage Day award. She and her husband will be dearly missed."

As they were on the fateful scalloping trip, Bergeron and Scheffer were also together frequently, and shared a joy in playing cribbage. They were both avid players in the Vineyard's Cribbage Club, their scorecards showing that they came neck-and-neck in skill. Bergeron, with club co-founder Mary Alice Russell, also wrote a column on game results for The Times for years. Bergeron's last entry before her death was on Dec. 17.

Russell said Bergeron and Scheffer were some of the top players at the club, making it to the top 50 players in the Eastern region. The pair rarely missed a meeting, and Russell recalled how beloved they were to their families and within the club.

"I can't imagine coming into this hall and seeing an empty chair," Russell said. "But I will keep this club alive."

On Tuesday evening, Bettencourt asked everyone to remember Bergeron and Scheffer, and to live by their examples of generosity and giving to the Island community.

"We know how much Patricia and Roy meant to everybody," Bettencourt said. "Every time you saw them, there were smiles on their faces, and they loved to share with everybody. So keep their good works up." **MVT**

## Fishing community rocked by capsizing of scallop boat

Continued from A1

taped to a piling above.

The beloved Island couple died on Jan. 1 when their scalloping skiff capsized a half-mile off Cow Bay in Edgartown, after a sudden squall of heavy snow and winds around 20 knots, and waves between four and six feet, struck the Island at 11 am on New Year's Day, according to United States Coast Guard and local officials.

A celebration of life was held for Bergeron at the Portuguese American Club Tuesday at 4 pm. Bergeron was a longtime president of the local establishment. She was also honored at the Martha's Vineyard varsity hockey game on Saturday against Nantucket with a moment of silence prior to puck drop. A celebration of life for both Scheffer and Bergeron will take place at a later undetermined date, according to a Facebook post by the Portuguese American Club.

At the Portuguese American Club on Tuesday, more than 700 people attended Bergeron's celebration of life, cars were parked up and down Vineyard Ave., overflowing onto County Road. The local establishment, filled with the Island community from all walks of life, highlighted Bergeron's enormous impact in various Island communities. Locals from the hockey and cribbage circles, the Portuguese American Club, the hospital, friends and family of both Bergeron and Scheffer, and the broader Island community came together for the celebration. Posterboard collages with photographs of Bergeron and Scheffer stood at the front of the room, and speeches by close relatives and friends shared fond memories and lessons taught by Bergeron, as the community rejoiced in her memory and the positive impact she left behind.

Coast Guard officials reported that they received a call for help shortly after 11 am on New Year's Day. Rescue teams were dispatched from Air Station Cape Cod and Station Woods Hole before recovering Scheffer and Bergeron from the water unresponsive near the overturned 25-26-foot flat red hull skiff. The couple was transported to Oak Bluffs Harbor via boat before being brought to the Martha's Vineyard Hospital where they were both pronounced dead after extensive resuscitation efforts.

A resident in the area and eyewitness to the emergency response said they saw police officers and individuals wearing life preservers near their home on Eel Pond, and shortly after, low-flying he-

licopters and boats deep in the water off Cow Bay, but the emergency response was too far away to make out any further details.

Recovery operations for the vessel started Saturday. The Edgartown harbormaster, Massachusetts Environmental Police, and local boats were on scene a half-mile off Cow Bay, attaching tow lines to the inverted vessel before hauling it to the Edgartown Harbor. The boat was tied up to a piling next to the yacht club.

Photos of the inverted boat reveal a thick, new

the boat, family members of Scheffer and Bergeron towed the afloat skiff away.

As is standard practice, the incident is currently under investigation by Massachusetts State Police.

Shortly after the incident the names of the deceased were not initially released by the Coast Guard or any responding officials, and concern and confusion within the Island's tight-knit community began to swirl. Social media posts from family members that day identified the couple who lost their lives in the incident.

The Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office confirmed their identities and deaths on Friday morning, describing the incident as "a horrible accident,"



polypropylene line entangled in the propeller, supporting theories made by local fisherman, first responders, and investigators that amid rough weather conditions, the boat's drag line used to haul up bushels of bay scallops tangled in the boat's propeller. The entanglement would have likely killed the engine and left the couple without power as the skiff, which has a low transom, started taking on water before it capsized.

On Tuesday morning, the boat was re-righted inside the Edgartown Harbor, the Edgartown Harbormaster Gary Kovack said. The process included a barge and crane owned and operated by Aquamarine Dockbuilders in Edgartown, assisted and overseen by the Edgartown Harbormaster, state police, environmental police, and family members of the deceased.

Kovack said after righting

with initial investigations ruling out foul play.

"The preliminary investigation does not suggest foul play, and it appears at this time that the weather played a role in this tragedy. The investigation is ongoing at this time," said Danielle Whitney, director of community programs and public relations at the district attorney's office, in his initial email to the Times.

The couple's death aboard the scalloping boat marked the first fatal incident for the Island fishing fleet since June 2016 when Luke Gurney of Oak Bluffs died while setting pots for conch off of Nantucket.

"Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with the families and loved ones during this difficult time," said the district attorney's office in a press release. "Martha's Vineyard has lost two pillars of their community which will be deeply felt." **MVT**

# Real Estate



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**\$1,790,000 CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112**

Oak Bluffs: Waterfront Property at Vineyard Haven Outer Harbor\*\* This is an exceptional opportunity to acquire a stunning white sandy beach property on Vineyard Haven Harbor. This charming Island cottage boasts breathtaking panoramic views of the harbor and sound, showcasing magnificent sunsets each evening over the West Chop Peninsula. You can enjoy the lively boating scene, with yachts from around the globe and ferries arriving at port, all in the company of your favorite guests. This picturesque setting is enhanced by the delightful scent of vibrant rugosa roses that adorn the sandy landscape. Experience the unique convenience of storing your paddleboard, kayak, windsurfer, and other watercraft right in your backyard, allowing you to indulge in refreshing swims at your leisure. There is potential for mooring a motor or sailboat, pending approval from the Harbormaster. This property epitomizes the classic Martha's Vineyard experience—creating timeless memories. Additionally, it has a solid rental history. Please note, our information suggests that the adjacent lot is unbuildable; however, we recommend verifying this with the town.



**\$2,100,000 MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381**

**OCEAN PARK REALTY**

ESTEEMED BUILDER READY to BREAK GROUND! Purchase this exceptional lot in Lagoon Ridge and start building your dream home today! Execute a BUILDING CONTRACT or choose your own builder... Call for details and schedule a tour! Welcome to Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood, where you can construct your 3-bedroom home on a lofty setting, 95 feet above Lagoon Pond. Enjoy sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing salty sea breezes. This outstanding building lot is among the last remaining opportunities in this thriving community. Utilities are already at the site, including town water, electric, and a private Amphidrome wastewater system, saving you the cost and inconvenience of a septic system. Lagoon Ridge borders acres of pristine conservation land, with easy access to scenic biking and hiking trails, providing the perfect blend of privacy and outdoor adventure. Located in desirable Oak Bluffs and central to all down-Island towns, this active and vibrant community is experiencing significant construction momentum. Don't miss the chance to be part of this attractive neighborhood! Call for details and to schedule a tour of existing homes in Lagoon Ridge. Price is for the lot only; the home pictured is a sample of what can be built. Contact us today for a private tour of this exceptional offering!



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**\$2,250,000 MARILYN MOSES OCEAN PARK REALTY 617-462-0381**

**NEW CONSTRUCTION**

Welcome to Lagoon Ridge, Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood. Build your 3-bedroom dream home in this elevated enclave, set 95 feet above Lagoon Pond and capturing sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing sea breezes. This exceptional home site represents one of the final opportunities in this thriving new community. To be built — The Naushon — features 3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, and over 2,400 square feet of thoughtfully designed living space. A grand wrap-around covered porch provides a welcoming entry and the perfect place to enjoy morning coffee or cool evening breezes. Inside, the open-concept floor plan connects the chef's kitchen with spacious living and dining areas, ideal for entertaining family and friends. Each bedroom suite includes a tiled en-suite bath with customizable fixtures and finishes, and the second-floor suites may offer private balconies for added relaxation. Classic Oak Bluffs cottage architecture meets modern comfort and energy efficiency, making The Naushon an ideal year-round or seasonal retreat. Lagoon Ridge offers direct access to conservation lands with walking and biking trails, and nearby Lagoon Pond invites kayaking, sailing, and shell fishing. All utilities—electric, town water, and a private, state-of-the-art Amphidrome wastewater system—are located at the street. This innovative system serves the entire neighborhood, providing convenience and peace of mind. Lagoon Ridge is a covenant-protected community with architectural review and professional management by First Property Management Co. This beautiful home site is ready for the construction of your Vineyard dream home. Eleven lots have sold—only two remain available. Call for details!



**\$500,000 SOLD BY MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381**

**.. WONDERING WHAT YOU COTTAGE IS WORTH? CALL OR TEXT ANYTIME!**

Experience the charm of 21 Rock Avenue, nestled in the Historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. This year-round cottage features 1 bedroom and 1 bath, and is just moments away from Oak Bluffs Harbor, ferry ports, sandy beaches, art galleries, and delightful restaurants. Recent exterior enhancements include cedar fencing, refreshed house trim, new paint, and an upgraded roof. Please note that the heating system is currently not functioning. Enjoy the convenience of on-site parking. This cottage is also featured in both the Eisenstaedt and Painter Ladies books, adding to its unique appeal.



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**\$699,000 EXCLUSIVE CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381**

Presenting a unique opportunity to acquire a wooded level lot located on Holmes Hole Road in Oak Bluffs, encompassing a .49-acre parcel situated within a Residential Urban (RU) zoning district. This property offers a serene environment ideal for constructing a home while remaining conveniently close to the town's amenities. There is potential for developing a 3-bedroom residence utilizing either an Enhanced Septic System or Advanced Treatment System, or alternatively, a 2-bedroom home equipped with a Title 5 septic system. Prospective buyers are encouraged to confirm building options and requirements with the Town of Oak Bluffs. Preliminary engineering assessments have been carried out by Schofield Barbini and Hoehn.



**BEING OFFERED BY RENE' BEN DAVID, REALTOR @ OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. CALL OR TEXT 508-847-4864. \$999,999.00**

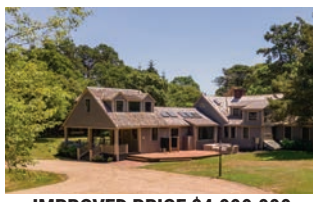
Location, Location, Location! This unique property on the beautiful island of Martha's Vineyard presents an incredible opportunity for the buyer with vision to complete and personalize a home full of potential. The original residence, built in 1920, offers 2 bedrooms and 1 bath and has been expanded with a substantial newer addition, creating increased living space and a finished garage area suitable for storage or future use. Above the garage, another 2 bedrooms and a full bath await final town approvals — providing the perfect framework for an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) or additional living quarters. With creativity and planning, this property could be transformed into a spacious single-family home or a multifamily residence. Set on a large corner lot within walking distance to town, the ferries, and the harbor, the location alone makes this a must-see. The property also features a newer 4-bedroom septic system installed in 2006, which has already been inspected and passed. After being lovingly cared for by the same family, the three siblings who inherited the home are now ready to pass it along to new owners who can bring their own vision to life. This year-round residence is truly a property you need to visit in person to fully appreciate its possibilities. Seller is offering buyer's broker compensation.



**IMPROVED PRICE: \$1,795,000\*\* CONTACT MARILYN MOSES AT 617-462-0381 FOR MORE DETAILS!**

**OCEAN PARK REALTY**

Discover the beauty of \*\*THE PRESERVE at THE WOODLANDS\*\* in the highly coveted Oak Bluffs community! This is your chance to own one of the last remaining building lots in this prime location, just moments away from town, beaches, harbor, ferry ports, and the Farm Neck Golf & Tennis Club. Underground utilities are already in place, making this rare offering perfect for developing your dream family compound. Enjoy a peaceful and private setting, surrounded by conservation land and trails ideal for hiking, walking, and biking. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to embrace the Oak Bluffs lifestyle!



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**IMPROVED PRICE \$4,999,000 CALL ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112**

FARM NECK GOLF & TENNIS CLUB : The original 1780 Farmhouse was tastefully restored in 1985 to honor the land and legacy of Farm Neck. This serene 3.7-acre oasis of rolling greenery with a variety of mature trees and lots of natural privacy has an up Island feel with the down Island convenience to fine dining, shopping, ferry, airport, bike paths and includes Stockholder Membership in the popular Farm Neck Golf Club. This exceptional property is situated between the 7th and 8th fairways and is just a short walk to the clubhouse restaurant, tennis courts and pro shop. For water enthusiasts there is the opportunity to have a mooring, with Harbor Master approval, off the private beach on Sengekocket Pond giving you direct boating access to Nantucket Sound. Although this historic home features 5 bedrooms with 4.5 bathrooms and lots of intimate spaces, there is still plenty of room on the property for expansion of the main residence..... with the existing detached garage/ apartment, this country estate is truly an Island treasure that will provide lots of recreational enjoyment for family and friends throughout the years.



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**IMPROVED PRICE \$700,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381**

**OCEAN PARK REALTY**

Welcome to Lagoon Ridge.....Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood! Build your 3-bedroom dream home with M Duffany Builders on this lofty setting, 95 feet above Lagoon Pond, featuring sweeping sky views, colorful sunsets, and refreshing salty sea breezes. This exceptional building lot is among the last of the remaining opportunities in this thriving new community. Utilities are already at the site, including town water, electric; and a private Amphidrome wastewater system that will save you the cost and inconvenience of a septic system. Lagoon Ridge borders acres of pristine conservation land with abutting access to scenic biking and hiking trails providing the perfect blend of privacy and outdoor adventure. Located in desirable Oak Bluffs, and central to all down Island towns, this is an active and vibrant community with plenty of construction momentum—don't miss the opportunity to become part of this attractive neighborhood! Easy to show — contact us today for a private tour of this exceptional offering! Price is for lot only, home pictured is a sample of home to be built...call for details.



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**NEW LISTING IN OAK BLUFFS \$999,000**

**ALAN SCHWEIKERT OCEAN PARK REALTY 508-221-1708**

Oak Bluffs: Home Sweet Home Situated on over a quarter acre of beautifully landscaped, level grounds with colorful perennial plantings and mature trees, this sun-filled ranch offers a perfect blend of comfort and charm. The open kitchen, dining, and living areas feature cathedral ceilings, classic vertical knotty pine walls, and a cozy brick fireplace. Enjoy a convenient first-floor bedroom and a spacious second-floor primary bedroom with a private deck. The finished basement provides additional living or hobby space. Updates include a 2017 oil burner and Roth oil tank. An inviting outdoor shower completes this well-maintained home, offered furnished and ready for your personal touches. Located in a quiet residential neighborhood close to all that Oak Bluffs has to offer.



## Real Estate Transactions

**Dec. 2, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026**

### Aquinnah

**Dec. 5,** Michele Lee sold property off 0 Moshup Trail to Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission for \$1,305.  
**Dec. 30,** Brenda Martin sold property off 0 Moshup Trail to the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission for \$1,305.

### Chilmark

**Dec. 5,** Homeward Way LLC sold 18 Homeward Way to Noel Gersona and Peter Reinecke for \$4,325,000.  
**Dec. 5,** Walter Epstein and Susan L. Epstein sold 49 Gosnolds Way to Robert Higgins, trustee of 369 Shanthi Road Trust, for \$4,850,000.

### Edgartown

**Dec. 2,** Janet O'Brien sold 16 Schoolhouse Road to Frances Mateo Longo and Paul Longo for \$1,800,000.  
**Dec. 3,** Louise Ryan and Christopher Ryan sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 502 Week 39 to Nancy Jean Decato Revocable Trust for \$5,500.  
**Dec. 22,** Karen J. Parker, Robert J. Petras, and the Estate of Cheryl L. Petras sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 512 Week 35 to James F. Brady and Colleen

A. Brady for \$11,000.

**Dec. 23,** Stephen J. Imbriglia and Nancy Robinson Imbriglia sold 19 Katama Drive to Jonathan Kelley and Tara-Jen Ambrosio-Kelly for \$1,800,000.

**Dec. 23,** Mark George Rolfsema, Monica Faria Rolfsema, Jennifer Ann Rolfsema, and Melanie Rolfsema Giglietti sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 409 Week 41 to Oliver W. Larkosh for \$2,100.

**Dec. 26,** Eugene Bradford and Jacqueline Derpins-Bradford sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 461 Week 37 to Steven Pelcar for \$12,000.

**Dec. 31,** Kenneth H. Chaffee and Sherry J. Chaffee sold 0 Harborside Inn Condo Unit 203 Week 38 to Margaret H. Mercier for \$5,750.

### Oak Bluffs

**Dec. 3,** Jean L. Bjork Tatelbaum and the Estate of Sarah E. Williams sold 69 Summit Ave. to Rachel Serwa for \$825,000.

**Dec. 4,** ALJ Realty Corp. sold 71 Netock Ave. to Danielle Austen and Benjamin Austen for \$1,865,000.

**Dec. 5,** David G. Berube and Ellen R. Berube, trustees of David & Ellen

Berube Realty Trust, sold 35 Stevens Ave. to Dwayne M. Middleton and Rore M. Middleton for \$1,290,020.

**Dec. 22,** Martha Smith and Charles Smith, trustees of Eagle Revocable Trust, sold 72 Washington Ave. to Xuelin Jin and Chunyeon Ko for \$992,500.

**Dec. 29,** 200 EVH Road LLC sold 200 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road to NSTAR Electric Co., doing business as Eversource Energy, for \$1,100,000.

**Dec. 30,** Christopher M. Grosso sold 22 Wind Road to Jordan K. Wallace for \$1,100,000.

**Dec. 31,** Timothy S. McNamara Sr. and Vickie Lynn McNamara sold 44 Iron Hill Road to Augusto Sergio Alves Nunes for \$1,100,000.

### Tisbury

**Dec. 3,** Clifford Estrella sold a portion of 0 Lyle Lane to Ben David & Sons LLC for \$625,000.

**Dec. 3,** Jennifer Bates sold 324 Greenwood Ave. to Katherine C. Naylor for \$1,112,500.

**Dec. 26,** Joanne Getchell and Frederick Getchell sold 0 MV Harbor Landing Condo Unit 65 Week 20 to Alexander N. Belanger for \$500.

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# Real Estate



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**OFFERED BY RENE BEN DAVID, REALTOR® AT OCEAN PARK REALTY CELL 508-847-4864. PENDING SALE**

Location, Location, Location. Rare Opportunity to own a 10,000 sq ft South facing level corner lot on a paved road that may accommodate up to 3 bedrooms with Board of Health approval. A sandy beach on Lagoon Pond is just a short stroll (about 1500 ft.) .....enjoy the beach, walk your pet, watch the stunning sunsets, and GREAT shell fishing. How nice would little necks on the half shell or baked scallops sound for dinner! Have a boat? With permission from the Oak Bluffs Harbormaster, you could be steps away from your own private mooring. A convenient bike path nearby links your access to miles of safe paved trails leading to downtown Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, Vineyard Haven, West Tisbury and 6000 acres of the State Forest. Martha's Vineyard Hospital and Oak Bluffs Elementary School are a 5-minute drive away. This established neighborhood is perfect for both vacation or year round living. The seller is working on securing an engineer to begin the process for a survey, perc test and septic design.



**OFFERED BY RENE BEN DAVID/ REALTOR®, OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. 23 Circuit Ave Extension Cell 508-847-4864**

3 bedrooms/1 bathroom, Rare Opportunity with Endless Possibilities – Unmatched Harbor & Vineyard Sound Views. Location, Location, Location! A truly rare offering in the heart of Oak Bluffs, where properties like this seldom become available. Positioned directly across from the iconic Oak Bluffs Harbor, this property boasts unobstructed harbor views and sweeping vistas of Vineyard Sound – a setting that captures the very best of island living. From your front yard, watch ferries come and go, boats drift through the harbor, and enjoy the stunning backdrop of open water stretching toward Vineyard Sound. This is a property that puts you right in the middle of everything, while still offering the charm and character of a classic island home. Zoned B-2 Commercial, the opportunities are truly endless. Continue the legacy of a successful tourist-oriented business like the longtime Anderson Bike Rentals, create a new commercial venture, or reimagine the property as your personal dream home. Whether you renovate the existing structure or build from the ground up, you'll benefit from one of the most visible and vibrant locations in Oak Bluffs. Walk to everything—ferries, beaches, the marina, restaurants, movies, shopping, Ocean Park concerts, the OB fishing pier, and the beloved Oak Bluffs Fireworks. This is a must-see, legacy property with rare potential in a location that can't be beat. Very easy to show. Pre-approval or proof of funds required with all offers.



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**PRICE IMPROVEMENT 46 KENNEBEC AVENUE OAK BLUFFS, MA \$1,495,000**

**CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT 508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112 OCEAN PARK REALTY**

This exquisite Victorian home, lovingly preserved by the same family for over a generation, stands in outstanding condition and is perfectly situated in the vibrant heart of Oak Bluffs Center. Enjoy the convenience of being just steps away from the Public Beach, Steamship Authority, Oak Bluffs Harbor, a supermarket, and a variety of charming restaurants and shops that contribute to Oak Bluffs' allure as a premier summer destination on Martha's Vineyard. This delightful three-season cottage has been carefully modernized over the years, offering a rare investment opportunity. Located within the highly sought-after B1 Zone, this residence has been cherished as a family home while also providing the potential for commercial endeavors. The property features a well-designed floor plan that includes four bedrooms-one conveniently located on the first floor-along with a full bathroom, two half bathrooms, a laundry storage area, an eat-in kitchen, and a cozy living room. The home is adorned with stunning wood flooring throughout, bright and airy rooms with original windows, a new hot water on demand system, and a charming front porch, perfect for leisurely afternoons. With its four bedrooms and prime in-town location, this property offers substantial rental potential, making it an exceptional opportunity for both personal enjoyment and investment.

**SOLD \$4,075,000 CALL OR TEXT JAYNE ISFORD 203-962-4317**

Spectacular waterfront home with stunning water views from every room. Situated in a private location in the Sengekontacket Association, this is an exceptional property in a rare setting. In addition to the breathtaking water view of Major's Cove and of Felix Neck throughout the home, the front of the property faces serene pastoral views. This home offers four bedrooms with a main floor master and ensuite, exquisite craftsmanship throughout and a unique setting on the water. Great care was taken in the planning of this home to ensure maximum enjoyment of the tranquil surroundings and views. Each of three bedrooms on the second floor has a water view. The quality of materials used in the construction of this home is outstanding. As you walk through the property, the landscaping and gardens are impeccable and have been featured in MV Magazine. The back yard gently slopes down to the water. Carefully planned by the owners, this home was constructed to follow net zero design principles which provide an energy-efficient retreat. Completely renovated in 2014 and lovingly maintained, this property is a true one-of-a-kind sanctuary on the Vineyard.



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**SOLD \$815,000 AND CLOSED IN LESS THAN 30 DAYS MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381**

Welcome to 17 Siloam Avenue, a delightful cottage nestled in the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association, offering spectacular sunset views of Sunset Lake and the distant harbor from its inviting porches. The current owners have cherished this home year-round for 13 years, and it's easy to see why. This spacious residence features an open living and dining area that seamlessly flows into a beautifully renovated kitchen, perfect for both family gatherings and entertaining. The first floor also includes a delightful partially renovated bathroom adorned with attractive painted wood beam ceilings, adding a touch of elegance to the space. Venture to the second floor, where you'll find three comfortable bedrooms filled with natural light thanks to the abundant windows. Located just steps away from the harbor, beaches, ferry ports, and all the vibrant attractions that Oak Bluffs has to offer, this cottage is the perfect retreat for those seeking both tranquility and adventure. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of this picturesque location! Most of the furniture is included and personal items will be removed prior to closing.



**SOLD \$839,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 OCEAN PARK REALTY**

Just steps from the iconic Tabernacle and Trinity Park, this charming cottage is nestled in the heart of the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association - a designated National Historic Landmark District. Surrounded by colorful gardens and picturesque pedestrian walkways, it offers an easy stroll to Oak Bluffs Harbor, beaches, ferries, art galleries, restaurants, and all the vibrant charm of town. This delightful two-bedroom, one full bathroom cottage blends historic character with thoughtful updates, making it an ideal 3-season or extended seasonal retreat. With additional insulation under the house, a buyer could potentially make it suitable for year-round use. An expansive wraparound farmer's porch with classic gingerbread trim invites you to relax and soak in the community's unique atmosphere. Inside, painted wood-beam ceilings, arched windows, and timeless built-in details enhance the welcoming living spaces. A versatile bump-out area offers flexible use as a guest sleeping nook or office, with direct access to the porch for summer breezes. The dining room provides an inviting space for dinner parties and entertaining, while the kitchen with adjoining laundry and pantry adds convenience and charm. The cottage comfortably sleeps seven, including two bedrooms, a single bed in the bump-out, and a sleep sofa in the living room. The property is partially insulated and features propane forced hot-air heat in the kitchen, bathroom, dining room, and one bedroom, with a new furnace installed in 2019. Additional features include an electric stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, garbage disposal, 50-gallon propane hot water heater, and approximately 200 sq. ft. of storage. Mature gardens and lawn with irrigation further enhance this special offering. Best of all, the cottage is offered TURNKEY and FULLY FURNISHED, ready for you to enjoy from day one.



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**SOLD \$899,000 NEW SPRING LISTING CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381**

Experience the charm of this exquisitely renovated Victorian Gingerbread Cottage, nestled within the historic Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting Association. Just moments away from Oak Bluffs Harbor, ferry terminals, art galleries, restaurants, public beaches, and vibrant shopping areas, this cottage offers an unparalleled location next to all of Oak Bluffs' picturesque parks. This rare gem features two side yards adorned with vibrant landscaping, enhancing its curb appeal. Step inside to discover a breathtaking chef's kitchen, designed with chic shiplap walls and custom cabinetry. Recent updates include a brand-new roof, modern electrical and plumbing systems, a state-of-the-art HVAC system, and energy-efficient, high-quality Blomberg appliances. The cottage showcases gleaming hardwood floors throughout, complemented by a fresh coat of paint and designer finishes that add a touch of elegance. This three-season home is move-in ready, making it the perfect place to enjoy a fantastic location where everything is within walking distance.

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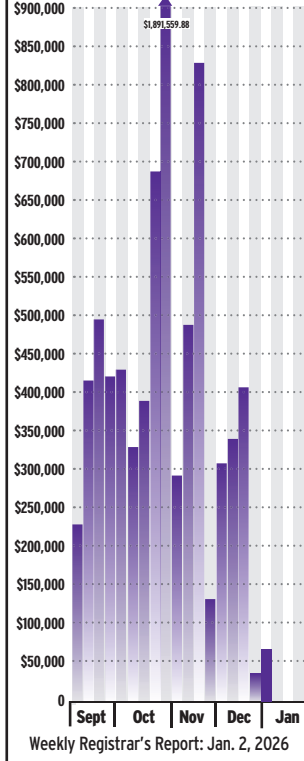
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**LAND BANK WEEKLY INCOME**

**FY 2026, Year to Date: \$11,429,077.85**



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**SOLD & CLOSED IN 30 DAYS \$1,995,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381 HOUSE & STUDIO ABOVE GARAGE~**

Welcome to 26 Tia Anna Lane! This exquisite residence is immaculate, stylish, and fully renovated, ready to welcome its new owners! Situated on a beautifully landscaped 0.30-acre lot adorned with vibrant plantings, the home boasts pristine conditions both inside and out, featuring newer Hardi Plank siding. The inviting farmer's porch, complete with Mahogany decking, sets the tone for this charming property, while a lovely pergola graces the back of the house. Upon entering, you are welcomed by a whitewashed wood with high ceiling that enhances the warm ambiance. The flooring throughout the home is first-growth Southern Pine, meticulously crafted with pegged and bunged details. The expansive entrance leads into the living and kitchen areas, which are bathed in natural light, creating an airy atmosphere. Uncover the charm of the wood-burning stove nestled in the family room, equipped with a circulating fan adds warmth, efficiency and focal point for gatherings. Culinary enthusiasts will appreciate the kitchen, which is outfitted with stainless steel GE Cafe Series appliances, attractive quartz countertops, walk in pantry and ample cabinet space to store all your cooking essentials. The screened porch offers an ideal setting for entertaining guests or enjoying a peaceful morning coffee amidst the lush surroundings. All bathrooms in the home have been meticulously renovated, ensuring modern elegance and functionality, while custom window treatments elevate the aesthetic. Additional updates include, a hot water heater (installed in 2020), pull-down stairs to a fully insulated attic (upgraded in 2021), energy-efficient heat and air conditioning with mini-splits, in ground sprinkler system for easy maintenance and a forced hot water boiler for optimal comfort throughout the year. The beautifully landscaped yard provides ample space for outdoor enjoyment, and deeded access to the Lagoon from Gull Landing opens up opportunities for kayaking, swimming, fishing, boating, clamming or simply savoring the picturesque waterfront scenery. Call now for your private tour!



**HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS**

**SOLD BEING OFFERED BY RENE BEN DAVID/OCEAN PARK REALTY INC. CELL 508-847-4864 \$1,250,000**

**11 ONONDAGA AVE, OAK BLUFFS OPEN HOUSE**

Comfortable Island Home on a Quiet Dead-End Road in Oak Bluffs: Welcome to 11 Onondaga Avenue, the second home on the left on a short, quiet dead-end road in a well-established Oak Bluffs neighborhood enjoyed by both year-round and seasonal residents. This well-cared-for 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home offers space, comfort, and a truly inviting island lifestyle—just a short walk to the Oak Bluffs Sailing Camp Park and beach, where beautiful sunsets over the water await. Inside, the open-concept layout connects the kitchen and dining area to the living room, creating a bright and functional space perfect for both entertaining and relaxed daily living. An inviting deck off the dining room extends your living space outdoors into a serene landscaped setting ideal for enjoying meals in the fresh Vineyard air. The home is set on a peaceful lot with both front and back yards offering a sense of seclusion and space to enjoy. Upstairs, the primary bedroom features an en suite with a shower, providing a comfortable and quiet retreat. Two additional bedrooms and a full bath complete the upper level, and a half bath with washer /dryer is conveniently located on the main floor. The full basement includes both indoor and outdoor access, offering flexibility and additional potential. A finished room in the basement is ready for your creative touch—whether as a media room, home office, playroom, or guest overflow. The property also includes a spacious storage shed and a driveway that easily fits three to four cars. A new roof installed in 2023 adds peace of mind and value. Located minutes from downtown Oak Bluffs, local beaches, ferries, and all the charm the Vineyard has to offer, this home is ready to be your island getaway, year-round residence, or next investment.



**SOLD COASTAL CHIC CONDO PRICE IMPROVEMENT \$1,149,000 SENGEKONTACKET WATERFRONT COMMUNITY | MARTHA'S VINEYARD**

Stylish, sunlit, and superbly located — this architecturally designed end-unit townhouse offers 2 bedrooms, a flexible third-floor loft, and 1.5 baths across 1,323 sq. ft. Enjoy a sleek chef's kitchen with stone countertops, custom built-ins, and a 288 sq. ft. private deck ideal for entertaining. With upgraded flooring, windows, systems, and a successful rental history, this property is perfect for year-round living or as a strong investment.

**Community amenities include:**

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- Clubhouse, tennis/pickleball courts
- Kayak storage + potential mooring
- Minutes to Farm Neck, bike paths & beaches

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# Beloved Vineyard man perishes in avalanche

Avid outdoorsman Natty Schneider was backcountry skiing in Wyoming.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO AND SARAH SHAW DAWSON

A Vineyard man known for his adventurous spirit and love of the outdoors succumbed to injuries sustained from an avalanche last month.

Nathaniel (“Natty”) Schneider, 31, died on Dec. 26, 2025, at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls after he was buried in an avalanche on Dec. 20 while skiing The Claw, a challenging backcountry area on a mountain area known as Teton Pass in Wyoming.

A local news site, the Jackson Hole News and Guide, reported that Schneider, who was living in Jackson Hole, Wyo., was airlifted to the Idaho hospital following a rescue operation led by his skiing partner and the Teton County Sheriff’s Office. The person skiing with Schneider reportedly spent hours finding him in the snow, and digging him out so that emergency personnel could reach him.

Schneider was the son of Paul Schneider, former editor of Martha’s Vineyard Magazine, and Nina Bramhall, a photographer and tennis coach. Schneider hails from the Bramhall family, who have a long-

standing passion for the outdoors through several generations. He is survived by his parents, his community on the Island and in Jackson, and a loving, extended family that includes grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

“Along with all of his

flats at Dogfish, albies blitzing at Tarps, redfish tailing in Louisiana, deer in the woods, or friends gathered at the end of today’s adventure, enjoying a beer and making plans for tomorrow’s.”

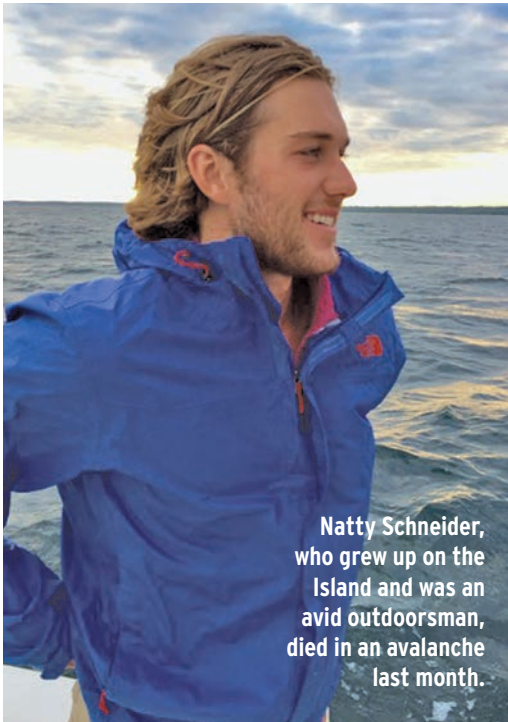
A 2013 graduate of Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, Schneider was an avid

fisherman and a skilled skier, and made a career out of his passions. Those who knew him often recall his adventurous, thrill-seeking spirit, and were put at ease by his even-keeled charm.

“Natty loved growing up on the Vineyard, in whose waters and woods he developed his passion for all things outdoors,” his father said. “After college, however, he and an Island friend piled into a small

car and set off to explore the western stretches of the mainland, where Natty found his heartland in the mountains and forests around Jackson Hole. There he collected an astonishing legion of friends from all

Continued on A15



Natty Schneider, who grew up on the Island and was an avid outdoorsman, died in an avalanche last month.

COURTESY NINA BRAMHALL

friends and family, we will miss Natty forever,” his father, Paul Schneider, said to The Times. “But wherever he is now, he would not want us to linger indoors mourning. Not when there may be fresh snow falling on the Tetons, clean swell building at Squibby, bass prowling the

# Tatiana Schlossberg dies at 35

The environmental writer battled a rare form of leukemia for more than a year.

BY EUNKI SEONWOO

Tatiana Schlossberg, a lifelong seasonal Aquinnah resident and an environmental journalist who garnered global attention for her essay about the distressing reality of being diagnosed with and battling against an aggressive blood cancer, died on Dec. 30 at the age of 35.

The death of Schlossberg, who was the daughter of Caroline Kennedy and the granddaughter of President John F. Kennedy, was announced on Instagram by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in Boston. The simple message was signed by her family members, and did not state where she died.

“Our beautiful Tatiana passed away this morning. She will always be in our hearts,” the post reads.

Schlossberg’s death came a little over a month after the New Yorker published her essay, “A Battle With My Blood,” which chronicles her diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia — which the American Cancer So-

ciety states accounts for about a third of leukemia patients, and only 1 percent of all cancers — after the birth of her daughter in 2024. The piece is powerfully written, and begins with her disbelief of the situation, and the struggles that followed during the

ing about me. I had swum a mile in the pool the day before, nine months pregnant. I wasn’t sick. I didn’t feel sick. I was actually one of the healthiest people I knew. I regularly ran five to 10 miles in Central Park. I once swam three miles across the Hudson River — eerily,

to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society,” Schlossberg wrote. “I work as an environmental journalist, and for one article I skied the Birkebeiner, a fifty-kilometer cross-country race in Wisconsin, which took me 7½ hours. I loved to have people over for dinner and to make cakes for my friends’ birthdays. I went to museums and plays, and got to jump in a cranberry bog for my job. I had a son whom I loved more than anything, and a newborn I needed to take care of. This could not possibly be my life.”

Schlossberg was born and raised

in New York, but spent a significant amount of time on the Vineyard, which is also where she married her college sweetheart, George Moran, whom she met at Yale University. She was editor in chief of the Yale

Continued on A15



A 2019 profile photo of Tatiana Schlossberg, who was a part of an Islanders Write panel about writing on science that year.

ELIZABETH CECIL

various attempts at treatment and her reconciling with a level of guilt she felt in burdening her mother and her family with her illness after all the family has experienced through so much tragedy.

“I did not — could not — believe that they were talk-

## Legal Notices

### LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

to raise the grade on site to match 9 Pierce Lane, install a drainage system around a historic structure, demolish newer additions, lift the structure and construct a full basement, construct a rear porch roof and patio with new landscaping and a new driveway, and remove and replace an existing retaining wall serving both 9 and 13 Pierce Lane.

The property is located at 9 Pierce Lane and 13 Pierce Lane (Assessor’s Map and Lot numbers as on file). For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 4:40 p.m., the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Harrison Kisiel on behalf of the Martha’s Vineyard Land Bank under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission to construct approximately 1,523 feet of new trail, including raised boardwalk with light-penetrating decking, perform invasive species removal

### LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

and maintenance along Sweetened Water Pond, with portions of the work located within Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

The property is located at 8 Mindoro Lane and 31 Llewellyn Way (Assessor’s Map 28, Lot 5.22 and Map 5, Lot 243).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 4:45 p.m., the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Request for an Amended Order of Conditions filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Vineyard Vibes under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking an amended Order of Conditions to adjust the approved location of an accessory dwelling unit/guest house.

The property is located at 9 Lensesen Way (Assessor’s Map 13, Lot 22). For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the

### LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 4:50 p.m., the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of O’Brien/Walsh under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The applicant is seeking permission to remove an existing dwelling and garage with a detached bedroom and construct a new main dwelling, detached garage with guest house above, and an accessory dwelling unit within the local 100-foot buffer zone to a FEMA flood zone.

The property is located at 56 Green Pasture Road (Assessor’s Map 35, Lot 20.17).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 4:55 p.m., the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public

### LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Chappy Back Nine LLC under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission to remove an existing golf clubhouse, construct and maintain a new clubhouse, install a septic tank and pump chamber, and perform associated site work and landscaping within FEMA Flood Zone AE (EL 12).

The property is located at 36 North Neck Road (Assessor’s Map 18, Lot 28.3).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m., the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Kumpitch under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection

### LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

Act. The applicant is seeking permission to construct and maintain an addition to an existing dwelling located within buffer zones to a bordering vegetated wetland and a coastal bank.

The property is located at 52 Beach Road Avenue (Assessor’s Map 47, Lot 57).

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 5:05 p.m., the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main Street, Edgartown, on a Notice of Intent filed by Reid Silva (VLSE) on behalf of Brush under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission to perform maintenance dredging of approximately 95 cubic yards adjacent to an existing private pier, with dredged material removed by barge and used for offsite beach nourishment.

The property is located at 40 Green Hollow Road (Assessor’s Map 29, Lot 132).

### LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

#### Public Hearing

Martha’s Vineyard Commission  
The public is invited to a public hearing concerning the following Development of Regional Impact #780 Katama Meadows  
Applicant: Meeting House Way, LLC; Doug Hoehn & Rob Moriarty (Agents)  
Location: 30, 40, 50, 60 & 70 Division Road, Edgartown. Map 37, Lots 47.1, 47.2 & 47.3 and Map 28, Lots 47.4 & 47, respectively (approximately 54.36 acres).  
Proposal: Subdivision to create 14 Affordable housing lots gifted to the Town of Edgartown, 12 Community/Attainable housing lots, 26 market rate lots, open space, and a private way.  
Date & Time: Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:45 p.m.  
Place: Hybrid Meeting MVC Office - 1st Floor, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom Meeting ID: 834 1838 8478; Password: 231737  
The application and plans are available on the MVC website. Written testimony may be submitted prior to or during the hearing. Check for updates on the online calendar.

## Beloved Vineyard man perishes in avalanche

Continued from A14

over the country, including one young woman from Mississippi who made him as happy and in love as is humanly possible.”

Schneider was known as a multifaceted individual and kept busy; he was a sales manager at an insurance company that focused on coverage for outdoor sports called Cross Current Insurance, and a fishing guide with Kismet Outfitters on the Vineyard. He spent much of his time engaging in sports like skiing and fishing, along with white-water rafting and other outdoor adventures.

“His passion was contagious,” Abbie Schuster, owner of Kismet Outfitters, told the Times. “We were really lucky to have him.”

As a young man, Schneider was a star tennis player, leading the Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School varsity team to back-to-back state championships

in 2012 and 2013.

After graduating high school, Schneider studied at the University of Vermont and earned a bachelor’s degree in English in 2017. Then, he moved to Wyoming, where he built a community and life in the years following.

His passions brought him across the country and the world. Tarpon Caye Lodge, a fly-fishing lodge in Belize, made a social media post on Dec. 30 honoring Schneider.

“We lost a good friend and fellow fly-fisherman last week to a tragic [skiing] accident in an avalanche. He was part of [the Cross Current Insurance] family and a fly-fishing guide as well. Rest in peace, Natty,” the post reads. The lodge had a working relationship with Cross Current Insurance, where Schneider was a sales manager.

The younger Schneider’s love of fishing was evident in a 2018 Martha’s Vineyard Magazine article titled “For

the Love of Tog,” in which he goes into detail about the intricacies of spearfishing tautog in Vineyard waters and then cooking them up into delectable dishes.

“Sure, you could catch a tautog from a boat with a rod and reel, and the fish would taste just as good, but what you are missing out on by staying dry and above water is the opportunity to become a fish yourself, and to get a glimpse of a world that knows nothing of you or your intentions,” Schneider wrote at the time.

He continued, “When spearfishing, you are out of your element as a human being; you are a visitor in another world that doesn’t belong to you, a world that is potentially dangerous and completely mesmerizing all at once. The sport’s allure is in the aspect of the unknown, the implicit possibilities that each dive brings.” **MVT**

## Tatiana Schlossberg dies at 35

Continued from A14

Herald while studying history. She was an intern for the Vineyard Gazette, and joined the Record in New Jersey as a reporter, where she was named Rookie of the Year by the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists in 2012. She graduated in 2014 from the University of Oxford with a master’s degree in history, and then first joined the New York Times as a part of its metropolitan desk, and transitioned to be a science and climate reporter.

Schlossberg left the New York paper in 2017 and published her first book, “Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don’t Know You Have,” in 2019. The following year, the book won first place at the Society of Environmental Journalists’ Rachel Carson Environment Book Awards. Before her leukemia diagnosis, she worked as a freelance environmental journalist, and had planned to write a book about the oceans.

Schlossberg was also a part of the prominent Kennedy family, which has had a long history with the Vineyard, and suffered a series of familial tragedies over the decades, including the death of her uncle, John F. Kennedy Jr., in a 1999 plane crash in waters off Martha’s Vineyard.

In the November essay, Schlossberg also described trying to preserve the memory of herself for her young son as she died, the environmental reporting she wouldn’t be able to do, and

only being able to watch as her cousin, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kenwnedy Jr. slashed federal funds meant for health research.

Through the difficulties, she expressed gratitude to her family who stayed by her side and searched for a way to cure her.

“My parents and my brother and sister, too, have been raising my children and sitting in my various hospital rooms almost every day for the last year and a half,” she wrote at the time. “They have held my hand unflinchingly while I have suffered, trying not to show their pain and

sadness in order to protect me from it. This has been a great gift, even though I feel their pain every day. For my whole life, I have tried to be good, to be a good student and a good sister and a good daughter, and to protect my mother and never make her upset or angry. Now I have added a new tragedy to her life, to our family’s life, and there’s nothing I can do to stop it.”

She is survived by her parents, Edwin Schlossberg and Caroline Kennedy; her siblings, Rose and Jack Schlossberg; her husband, George Moran; and their two young children, Edwin and Josephine. **MVT**

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*The Steamship Authority*

## 2026 Reservation Opening Dates

For travel May 14, 2026 - October 22, 2026

### Head Start\*

#### Martha’s Vineyard & Nantucket

**JAN 13** **January 13 - 19, 2026**  
The first week of Head Start will be exclusively for qualified Preferred or Excursion customers to book reservations in their name only. These reservations are non-transferable and may be made online or via the U.S. mail.

**JAN 20** **January 20 - 26, 2026**  
Head Start customers may make reservations online or via U.S. mail, including up to 5 that can be booked for another person.

\*Must have valid Excursion or Preferred account.

### General Reservation Opening

**FEB 3** **Martha’s Vineyard**  
**February 3, 2026**  
Beginning at 8 a.m. Tuesday, February 3, 2026, reservations for travel from May 14, 2026, through October 22, 2026, to Martha’s Vineyard may be made online or via the U.S. mail.

### Telephone Opening

**FEB 10** **Martha’s Vineyard & Nantucket**  
**February 10, 2026**  
Beginning at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, reservations for travel to Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket from May 14, 2026, through October 22, 2026, may be made by phone, internet, mail or in person.

### Online Reservation Tips

1. The virtual waiting room will be in use to help manage website traffic.
2. Have your account number and password ready to go, and practice logging in before opening day.
3. Have your vehicle info ready, including make, model, and license plate number. If you’re renting a car, choose that option during the reservation process.

For more details, visit [SteamshipAuthority.com/reservationtips](https://SteamshipAuthority.com/reservationtips)

## Vineyard hockey takes down the Whalers

The Vineyarders scored three goals in the third period to take the win. **BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA**

The Martha's Vineyard-Nantucket game is always a big one, and Saturday afternoon's bout didn't disappoint. The Vineyarders collected yet another dominant win on the Whalers with the legendary matchup finishing 5-1 in the Vineyard's favor, at home no less.

A sophomore for the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School boys varsity hockey team, Donnie Gregory (No. 12), put up a hat trick and assisted on two goals to help pull out the win, but while the final score leaned heavily in the Vineyard's favor, the score was close until late in the third period.

Scoring opened on Saturday with Gregory. After an offensive Vineyard rush was broken up in Nantucket's zone, Gregory regained control of the puck, and fired it through traffic and into the back of the net, giving the Vineyard a 1-0 lead to end the period.

The Vineyarders extended their lead with a minute left in the second period when Gregory again lit up the scoreboard, shooting the puck short-side high from just inside the right face-off circle, assisted by senior Joseph Medeiros (No. 15), bringing the lead to 2-0.

The Vineyarders started the third period on a pen-



Joseph Medeiros and Donnie Gregory celebrate after a goal against Nantucket.

JZSPORTSIMAGES

alty kill, but seconds after getting back to full five-on-five strength, Nantucket scored a wraparound goal with 13:29 remaining in the

period to cut the lead to 2-1. The Vineyarders responded with a goal of their own minutes later, though, quelling Nantucket's potential

momentum. With 11:04 left on the scoreboard before the end of the game, a battle deep in Nantucket's offensive corner sent the puck

into the Whalers' slot. After a scramble for possession, Medeiros was able to bury it to bring the lead to 3-1.

Then with six minutes left

in the game, the Vineyard's sophomore Rowan Huffam (No. 19) capitalized in spectacular fashion.

Huffam collected a pass as he cut across Nantucket's crease, switching to his backhand with pressure on him. In a move reminiscent of the legendary Bobby Orr goal that secured the Boston Bruins the 1970 Stanley Cup, Huffam tripped over the Whalers' goaltender as he flew across the crease, and tucked the puck into the net to give the Vineyard a 4-1 lead.

With a minute to go, the Vineyarders found themselves on the penalty kill again, and this time, Nantucket pulled their goalie to make it six-on-five in an effort to make a last-second comeback. After a battle in the neutral zone earned the Vineyarders puck control, Gregory was able to cap off his hat trick, walking the puck into Nantucket's zone with space and sliding it into the Whalers' empty net to earn the Vineyard the 5-1 win.

The Vineyarders also defeated the Nantucket Whalers in December, 9-1. The next matchup on the Vineyard boys varsity hockey team's schedule is at Falmouth High School in Falmouth at 5 pm on Jan. 9.

MVT



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| Unit Type  | Count | Sq. Ft  | Income Restriction | Rent         |
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| 1 Bedroom  | 2     | 597     | 30% AMI            | Income-Based |
| 2 Bedrooms | 2     | 825-829 | 30% AMI            | Income-Based |
| 3 Bedrooms | 1     | 1,403   | 30% AMI            | Income-Based |
| 1 Bedroom  | 1     | 1,886   | 50% AMI            | Income-Based |
| 2 Bedrooms | 2     | 825-829 | 50% AMI            | Income-Based |
| 1 Bedroom  | 4     | 588-597 | 60% AMI            | \$1,607      |
| 1 Bedroom  | 1     | 588     | 80% AMI            | \$2,170      |
| 2 Bedroom  | 17    | 825-829 | 60% AMI            | \$1,910      |
| 2 Bedroom  | 3     | 825-829 | 80% AMI            | \$2,586      |
| 3 Bedroom  | 2     | 1,403   | 60% AMI            | \$2,193      |
| 3 Bedroom  | 1     | 1,403   | 80% AMI            | \$2,974      |

Meshacket Commons is an affordable housing community serving households in the Edgartown area.

### Community Amenities

- Property management office and 24-hour emergency maintenance
- On-site laundry facilities; Parking; Wheelchair Access; Accessible Apartments; Air Conditioning
- Easy access to Public Transportation, Covered Bike Parking, Secured Storage

### Community Information

- Maximum Income is based on the number of persons in the household and total gross household income. Contact us for more details.

### Applying

- **Applications open on November 18th, 2025.** You may obtain an application by giving us a call at (508) 418-4050 TTY: 711, visiting our website at [www.MeshacketCommons.com](http://www.MeshacketCommons.com), or emailing us at [meshacket.common@tcbin.org](mailto:meshacket.common@tcbin.org).
- Applications received will be entered into a lottery.

**Deadline:** Applications must be submitted online or postmarked no later than January 18, 2026 Mailed to Attn: Meshacket Commons, Morgan Woods, 7 Morgan Way, Edgartown, MA 02539.

### Informational Sessions

- Saturday, December 6, 2025, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Edgartown Public Library 26 West Tisbury Rd, The Program Room, Edgartown, MA 02539
  - Join virtually: <https://tcbin-org.zoom.us/j/85289354078>
- Wednesday, January 7, 2026, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Edgartown Public Library 26 West Tisbury Rd, The Program Room, Edgartown, MA 02539
  - Join virtually: <https://tcbin-org.zoom.us/j/81550295508>

**The lottery will be held virtually and recorded, Edgartown Public Library 26 West Tisbury Rd, The Program Room, Edgartown, MA 02539 will host a viewing to watch the drawing, on Monday January 26, 2026, at 11:00 AM. Join virtually: <https://tcbin-org.zoom.us/j/82624991884>**



THE PEOPLE, TOWNS, AND STORIES OF ISLAND LIFE + RESTAURANTS, GALLERIES & ENTERTAINMENT

MV Times

# Community & calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026



# HEART TO HEART

OLIVIA HART

Island heart transplant patient begins nursing school. **SEE B14**

{ ISLANDERS WRITE }

The Roman god Janus gazes — or glares, depending on one’s interpretation — into the past with one face and looks toward the future with another. January was

named for this double-faced deity, who has been called the god of “beginnings, endings, transitions, doorways, and time” (thank you, AI, for putting it so succinctly).

A lot of writers I know, myself included, put on the mask of Janus this month by reviving projects that have sfinish during the fall of 2024 — whoops.

Looking ahead, the new year is prime time to find inspiration, get motivated, and make new writer friends by taking a writing workshop, which is why we decided to launch Islanders Write Immersives early in 2026. For the first time, The MV Times will be offering a slate of online writing courses through Islanders Write. You can see the full list of classes and register online at islanderswrite.com.

Then in March, Islanders Write will be back at Featherstone Center for the Arts for in-person workshops over the weekend on March 14 and 15. We will also be partnering with Edgartown Books for our second Vine-



FUBAR OBFUSCO

# The two faces of Janus

Writing classes for the new year. BY KATE FEIFFER

have run into a deadline conundrum for this column. This essay will be running in the Jan. 8th edition of The MV Times, but due to the paper’s holiday production schedule, my editor, Nicole Galland, asked me to have this to her by Dec.

Times editor who believes in early deadlines, is likely better known on the Vineyard for her writing — she’s a best-selling novelist — than she is as an editor at The MV Times, where she’s been working only since June 2025. Galland’s books run

temporary, Vineyard-based novel about a reporter who is surreptitiously writing for two Vineyard newspapers. I’m not suggesting that life is imitating art, but it is interesting to note that Galland is now writing and editing for The MV Times — although not for the

Harry Potter doesn’t wear plaid. Mr. Darcy is not a Buddhist. These examples are low-hanging fruit to make a point: Characters are most believable in a context that makes sense for them. This workshop will help you make sure your characters are true to their fictional setting. Participants are welcome to arrive with a particular character/story/setting in mind, but the workshop also accommodates writers without specific projects, who are simply interested in adding character-building tools to their writers’ toolbox. Beginning with the creation of a List of Contexts, we’ll get precise about how our characters dress, speak, eat, work, relax, travel, and treat their families, neighbors, and strangers. We’ll consider what they dream about, and

what they daydream about; their health, their daily habits and obligations, their conscious belief system, and their unconscious beliefs as well. By the end of the workshop, we’ll have each finessed a character (or have learned the skills to finesse a character) who’s in sync with the world of their story.

I hope to see some of you at her workshop in February. And then again at Islanders Write in March — in person. Full disclosure: As of this writing, I haven’t yet asked her to teach a workshop at the March Islanders Write. So here goes.

Nicole responds: I can never say no to Kate Feiffer, so I’ll be offering a 90-minute workshop on playwriting during the March Islanders Write, with an emphasis on dialogue. Details to come, but I anticipate we’ll call it something like, “Creating Dialogue that Actors Love to Speak.”

The other Islanders Write online immersive workshops being offered this winter include:

- The Architecture of the Essay, and the Art of the Lead, with Charles Sennott
- Workshop Wednesdays — Writing from Where You Are: An Exploration of Journals, Literature, and Truth in a Digital Age, with James W. Jennings
- Writing the Story Only You Can Tell: A 30-Day Reflective Challenge for the New Year, with Sharisse Scott-Rawlins
- Planning and Executing a Book Publicity Strategy, with Elisa M. Speranza
- The Joy of Learning to Write Sex Scenes in Fiction and Memoir, with Elizabeth Benedict
- Fictionalizing Your Life, with Kate Feiffer **MVT**

Kate Feiffer is the director of Islanders Write. Visit [islanderswrite.com](http://islanderswrite.com) for more information.

**We will be partnering with Edgartown Books for our second Vineyard Authors Book Fair. This is open to all published, Vineyard-connected authors who are here in March.**

yard Authors Book Fair. This is open to all published, Vineyard-connected authors who are here in March. If you are interested in taking part, please reach out to either me at [kate@mvtimes.com](mailto:kate@mvtimes.com) or Mathew Tombers at Edgartown Books, at [mtombers@edgartownbooks.com](mailto:mtombers@edgartownbooks.com).

I should mention that I

23. I expect to have more information available about the March workshops by January 8 than I do as of this writing, and so I recommend signing up for the Islanders Write newsletter for an update. The next newsletter will arrive in your inbox on Jan. 10.

Nicole Galland, my MV

the gamut from historical fiction to speculative fiction. Her most recent novel, “Boy,” takes place in Elizabethan England. “Master of the Revels” and “The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O.,” which she co-authored with Neal Stephenson, are time-travel novels. And her 2018 book, “On the Same Page,” is a con-

Gazette, as far as we know. Galland will be teaching an online workshop on character building called “Characters in Context: Creating Characters Who Belong Where You Put Them,” on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 21 and 22. She describes the class this way: Jay Gatsby doesn’t talk like a Valley girl.

## { ISLANDERS WRITE } Immersives

Take online writing workshops this winter with Islanders Write authors.



**Elisa M. Speranza**  
Planning and Executing a Book Publicity Strategy



**Charles Sennott**  
The Architecture of the Essay, and The Art of the Lead



**Nicole Galland**  
Characters in Context: Creating Characters Who Belong Where You Put Them



**James W. Jennings**  
Writing from Where You Are: An Exploration of Journals, Literature, & Truth in a Digital Age



**Elizabeth Benedict**  
The Joy of Learning to Write Sex Scenes in Fiction & Memoir



**Sharisse Scott-Rawlins**  
Writing the Story Only You Can Tell: A 30-Day Reflective Challenge for the New Year



**Kate Feiffer**  
Fictionalizing Your Life



FOR CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND TO REGISTER SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT ISLANDERSWRITE.COM.



**ALL CLASSES 20% OFF FOR MV TIMES MEMBERS**

# Writing from the Heart

BY NANCY SLONIM ARONIE



Of AFib, CT scans, and other holiday fun.

## Speaking of the heart ...

This is a story about how, if you live long enough, some things (like your health) will likely get worse; but if you pay attention, you'll realize that other things have gotten way better with time. A few Sundays ago, I had four AFib incidents in a row. I've had atrial fibrillation for about five years, but I've almost never actually felt it.

However, on the Sunday in question, the "episodes" (or whatever you call them) were severe. My heart felt like it was jumping out of my chest. The next day, it happened again, twice. Then on Tuesday, when I was just sitting quietly reading, my heart suddenly went nuts again, and I thought, "OK, enough. I'm going to see a heart doctor." So I called the hospital and asked for the cardiologist, Dr. Brown,

who, by the way, is a woman. Somehow I got connected to the triage nurse (another woman), who heard my symptoms and told me to go to the ER. I said "No, actually, I'm fine. I've had this before. I'm OK. I just want to make an appointment with the heart doctor."

And she said, "No, Nancy, go to the ER." I said, "You're adorable to be so insistent, but I'm OK, really." And we hung up.

Then she called me back! The triage nurse, Susan, actually called me back! She said, "Nancy, go to the ER, I mean it." I said, "OK, OK." I hung up, and Joel and I looked at each other and said, "OK, let's go."

So off we went, at noon, to our beautiful hospital. They took me right away.

The first doctor I met was a young woman. She was lovely, warm, and accessible. She took my vitals, hooked

me up to an EKG monitor, and set me up to have my blood pressure taken every 20 minutes. An hour after seeing her, I met another doctor, an even lovelier woman (I say that only because she was tan, and it's so gray outside),

who sent me down for a CT scan and then back up for an echocardiogram. While I was waiting for the results, I thought about how cool it was that these two doctors, as well as Dr. Brown, plus the triage gal, were all women. You, dear reader, may be used to such a thing, but I am old, and in the olden days, girls like me went to work as secretaries, nurses, or teachers, period. You never saw doctors who weren't men. In 1959, when I graduated high school, only 6 percent of doctors were women.

I remembered a popular riddle from the early '70s. Here's how it goes:

A doctor and his son are traveling, and they're in an horrific car accident. The doctor dies instantly, and they take the boy to the nearest emergency room. The doctor on call comes out, sees the boy, and says, "I cannot operate; this is my son." What

room was his stepfather. Or they were gay, and there were two fathers. No one, and I mean no one, in those early days of women going to med school, said the doctor in the emergency room was his mother.

And now here I was with not one but two women docs, and as weird as it might seem (since I should have been worrying about my heart), I was smiling, so happy that now 36 percent of all doctors are women.

Anyway, long story short (I know, too late for that), they found an aneurysm on my aorta, and they sent me in a helicopter to Mass General for next-day open-heart surgery. Long story even longer, that surgery got canceled, because the doctor (OMG, another woman! Yayyy!) had a very long surgery scheduled, so they had to bump me. So I returned to the sanctity of my

(!!!). A hundred attendants got me prepped and ready to go, laid out on an uncomfortable gurney in my unattractive johnny (but not caring how I looked since I was about to go under the knife). A doc (this time a guy) (but a lovely guy) came in to say, "Your doctor had an emergency last night, and she's still working on this patient, and even if she finishes early, we probably can't do your operation since it's Christmas, and there won't be enough staff to do it."

So back home, again, Joel and I went. I was tempted to be angry or irritated, but as we were leaving, it began to snow, and I love fat snowflakes even more than I love surgery that happens when it's supposed to.

My new surgery date is Jan. 8, the day this piece is published.

Just imagine, in the two weeks I have to wait, how many more young women might be applying to med school.

I know I should be Googling YouTube videos about my aorta, but all I can think of is, in the two weeks I have to wait, how many more young women might be applying to med school.

So instead of information or fear in anticipation, I'm celebrating my sisters and the future brilliant doctors they will all become. **MVT**

*As we were leaving, it began to snow, and I love fat snowflakes even more than I love surgery that happens when it's supposed to.*

## COMMUNITY NOTES



COURTESY MVAS

Caroline Joy Adams, M.Ed., has been leading workshops for the Vineyard Haven library since 2019. She is the author of several books, including "Great Travel Questions for Fun Conversations." Dividing her time between the sunny Southwest and coastal New England, she has taught college-level writing, and led hundreds of art and writing workshops across the country.

Interested patrons may register for one or more workshops via the library event calendar, or by emailing [vhpl\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org).

### An evening of music with Jeremy Berlin and Eric Johnson

The Vineyard Haven library will present an evening of music and community with local piano-guitar duo Jeremy Berlin and Eric Johnson. The duo will play a mix of original songs, music from the Great American Songbook, and jazz treatments of some more modern fare. In the 25 years Berlin and Johnson have been playing jazz together, the two have figured out the advantages and challenges of a piano/guitar duo, learning how to accompany and complement one another, to create a full sound with dynamic interplay. This event will be held at

6 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, 51 Spring St. in Vineyard Haven (above Tisbury Town Hall). Free and open to the public. No registration required. For more information, please contact the library at [vhpl\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org) or 508-696-4211.

### How to help a pet in need

Sandy Paws Rescue is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the well-being of pets in need. It provides assistance to families in financial distress as well as aid in connecting them with spay and neuter services. If a family's need is greater than what Sandy Paws can provide, it will assist with finding the pet or pets a new home.

Sandy Paws Rescue also helps pets at risk of euthanasia in high-kill shelters.

You do not need to adopt a pet to make a real difference. Here are ways to help:

#### Share adoptable dogs on social media

Share posts from the Sandy Paws page on social media and local community pages.

Include a short note about why a dog caught your eye, why you think they matter, and/or why someone should stop scrolling and pay attention.

#### Help spread the word about fostering in your community

Sandy Paws is always in need of foster homes in its service areas. People can help by asking local businesses if they will hang a

flier up. Sandy Paws will provide the fliers and cover the cost of printing.

#### Be a donations hub, or help with pickups

Become a temporary donation drop-off location in your area, and/or help pick up donated items and bring them to a Sandy Paws isolation facility, or to foster supply locations. If you have space, time, or access to a vehicle, this makes a direct, tangible impact on dogs currently in foster care.

You do not need to foster, adopt, or make a monetary contribution. You just need to be willing to help in ways you can. If you would like more information, please visit [sandypawsmv.com](http://sandypawsmv.com), or on Facebook [facebook.com/SandyPawsRescue](https://www.facebook.com/SandyPawsRescue). **MVT**

### Local community potluck

The Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society's first of three winter community dinners will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 13, from 5:30 to 7 pm. Enjoy a warm meal and spend time with friends old and new at the Ag Hall. Please BYOB and a dish highlighting local food to share. Free and open to all, no registration required.

### Birth story sharing circle

Whether it was two days or 25 years ago, join in a safe space to share and reflect on the joys and difficulties of your birth story, and to listen to the birth stories of others. Lunch and small crafts will be provided. Pre-crawling babies are welcome. Email [hbur-bidge@clamsnet.org](mailto:hbur-bidge@clamsnet.org) with any questions. Sunday, Jan. 11, 1 to 3 pm. Martha's Vineyard Family Center, 35 Greenwood Ave., Vineyard Haven.

### Virtual: Personal writing series

The Vineyard Haven library will offer a series of personal writing workshops with writing instructor Caroline Joy Adams, via Zoom, on the first Thursday of each month from 2 to 3:30 pm, February through June. Topics will include: "Writing about Love" (Feb. 5), "Writing a Mini-Memoir" (March 5), "The Mindful Art of Haiku" (April 2), "Writing about Nature" (May 7), and "Travel Workshop" (June 4).

Writers of all experience levels, backgrounds, and interests are invited to attend and explore various topics and creative writing pathways in a supportive writing community. Writing may take the form of memoir, poetry, fiction, essays, or creative nonfiction; all forms are worthy of exploration. Participants may attend all five sessions, or only one or two.



EMILY CROSSLAND

Sandy Paws Rescue foster Emily Crossland and Edie, who was found as a stray and fostered by the Crosslands.

OWN COMMUNITY

## Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew  
tashmoorock@gmail.com

Heard on Main Street: Start the year right. Take time to relax and enjoy the little things. How can our president suggest he deserves a peace prize as he declares he will capture Greenland, now causing Denmark to demand that our country needs to respect its sovereignty.

Christmas at my son's house was a miracle in itself. Their younger daughter had a painful sore throat, making a few of us feel a bit cautious. Happily for all,

two days before Christmas, the doctor declared it to be mono, not a scary version of flu. Then the older daughter who had promised to get up midmorning on the 23rd to

put up the Christmas tree slept in till after noon. Her dad took care of that.

Then all was well, because the mom managed to not only produce a delicious holiday feast, but also entertained her mother-in-law and a sister-in-law as well as her sister, her father, and his friend, as well as her brother and his wife. A festive time was had by all.

I was rather useless, but I did enjoy reading a new

book, "The Heir Apparent," by Rebecca Armitage. The story is about a young woman whose grandmother is the Queen of England. The girl is third down the line to inherit the role. She has moved to Australia, where she has been studying medicine. She is brought back home because her father and brother had a terrible ski accident in Switzerland.

Recently I read "Last Days of Marilyn Monroe:

A True Crime Thriller" by James Patterson and Imogen Edwards-Jones. Questions are definitely raised. It is the carefully researched story of a beautiful but very vulnerable young woman. Yes, she married and divorced, but she never lost the devotion of one husband, baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. I must admit that as a kid I thought he was just the best of baseball. Now I have to say, I think he still is.

Winter seems to have truly settled in, but we did have a pretty Christmas.

You must try to get to the Community Climate Discussion this weekend. It is important to learn about "M.V. Solid Waste Stream, Recycling, and Food Waste." There are some opportunities for action. It is on Satur-

day, Jan 10, 1:30 to 3 pm at the Oak Bluffs library. You will be surprised by what you did not know.

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 6 pm, the Vineyard Haven library presents an evening of music with the local duo of Jeremy Berlin on piano and Eric Johnson on guitar at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, upstairs at 51 Spring St. Free.

Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go out Thursday to Allyson Wajda. Saturday belongs to David Burt. Happy birthday on Tuesday to Donna Paulson, and then on Wednesday to Tyler Paulson.

Heard on Main Street: If your New Year's resolution is already gone, try a new one. Make peace with your past so it won't mess up the present. **MVT**

**Monroe never lost the devotion of one husband, baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. I must admit that as a kid, I thought he was just the best of baseball. Now I have to say, I think he still is.**

## Edgartown



By Marnely Murray  
marnely@gmail.com

Our Island community is dealing with grief, as the news of the passing of Tricia Bergeron and Roy Scheffer devastated friends and family members at the start of 2026. Even for those who may not have known them personally, their presence, kindness, and contributions to the Island were and always will be deeply embedded into this life. Losses like these remind me of how small yet connected this community truly is, and how deeply two humans can touch so many lives. I extend heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and all

who will feel their absence. If you're looking for ways to feel more connected as we go through this grief, consider having a community supper at St. Andrew's, which started this week. They are every Monday at 5:30 pm at the Parish Hall. All are welcome, and in my opinion, being in community while being fed is just one of the best ways to grieve — in community and with nourishment, which we all need an extra bit of now.

Something that might help this time of year as well, and timely, as I noticed that Donaroma's Nursery has its big winter sale happening now, is sur-

rounding yourself with plants. At Donaroma's, all the houseplants, orchids, and more are 40 percent off. Hear me out: I know this might sound like a stretch, but I do believe that plants offer a significant benefit during a grieving period, as they provide routine and connection to life, and act as a grounding activity that scientifically reduces stress and anxiety.

The crazy thing about grief is that life keeps going, even in your darkest moments. Because there's no great segue from talking about losing beloved Islanders to

sharing upcoming events, consider this the respectful intermission.

On Jan. 8 at 10:30 am, Navigator Homes (490 Edgartown-Vineyard Haven Road) invites us to a social gathering over hot cocoa and cookies, and to tour one of their small homes. Explore a home while staff will be onsite to guide the tour and answer any questions you might have. A new kind of skilled nursing community that features warm, home-like cottages and 24/7 care, it's worth exploring these options even before you or someone you love might need them!

On Jan. 10 at 10 am, register for a bagel-making class with Teri Culetto, also known as the Vineyard Baker. This hands-on class will guide you on how to make delicious bagels, and participants will each take home a half-dozen bagels. The price is \$40, and you can sign up online at [thetrustees.org/event/443199](https://thetrustees.org/event/443199).

On that same day, at 11:30 am, Trish Ginter will be guiding a sound bath at the Edgartown library. This hourlong experience is deeply nourishing, calming, and relaxing. Registration is required, as these are sought-

out experiences. Go to [bit.ly/EPL\\_SoundBath](https://bit.ly/EPL_SoundBath).

Last but certainly not least, on Jan. 14 at 5pm, Adam Moore of Sheriff's Meadow will be presenting in the first "Community in Conversation at the Carnegie" of the year. The topic of conversation will be about the Southern pine beetle, an insect that I've never in my own 40 years of life even thought about, but one that Adam Moore has had years of experience with as forester and president of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. Suggested donation is \$10. More details online at [bit.ly/VT\\_CarnegieConversations](https://bit.ly/VT_CarnegieConversations).

Birthday congratulations go out to Maranda Post on Jan. 2, Elizabeth Cecil and Rebecca Kim Bartlett on Jan. 3, Katie Kidder on Jan. 10, and Jenna Sylvia on Jan. 14. May your days be filled with joy! **MVT**

**I do believe that plants offer a significant benefit during a grieving period, as they provide routine and connection to life, and act as a grounding activity that scientifically reduces stress and anxiety.**

## Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert  
joannelamber@gmail.com

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The Island has lost two great humans. As I write this, my thoughts are with the families of Tricia Bergeron and Roy Scheffer, who lost their lives on New Year's Day in a tragic accident on the water. Roy and Tricia grew up here, and between the two, I think it is safe to say, they touched

the life of every person who lives here. I knew them individually as decent, generous humans — true Islanders who loved their families and their community. They each had their share of heartbreak

and hardship in their lives, and when I knew them as a couple, they were so happy, and it just seemed perfect.

This is a shock wave across our Island. It brings back memories of losing Luke Gurney in 2016, and Richie Madeiras in 1999, both also seasoned fishermen, fathers, and beloved by the community. It reminds us that the sea does not discriminate or forgive.

I haven't moved beyond shock and tears yet, but I

will like to think that Tricia and Roy were doing something they loved, and they were together. People will gather over the next weeks to comfort the families and one another, as Islanders do. I hope that their families and close loved ones can feel the love, and I hope it helps them to find peace in their hearts.

The Island also lost a young man in a skiing accident in Wyoming. My heart goes out to the family

of Natty Schneider, who was a MVRHS graduate, tennis star, fisherman, and avid skier. Natty was only 31 years old.

I like to make note as we begin a new year that we now have 12 months, 52 weeks, and 365 days spread before us. That totals approximately 525,600 minutes. If we take each minute as an opportunity to be kind, and each day as an opportunity to give back to our community, I think we'll make it through just fine!

Happy birthday and happy retirement to Mel Ben David! Mel retired from M.V. Insurance on Dec. 31, and she can now celebrate her Jan. 8 birthday in style! Jan. 9 is the day to celebrate Sue Curley and Kristin Warriner. Sue's

granddaughter, Annie Combra, celebrates on Jan. 10, along with Brenda Leonard and David Burt. Annie's dad, Richie Combra, has his day on Jan. 11. Happy birthday to Judy Thomas on the 11th also! Kim D'Arcy will party on Jan. 12.

Jan. 14 is the special day for Jenna Lambert Sylvia. Her birthday was a special day for me also, back in 1993, when Jenna arrived one day ahead of my birthday! Jan. 14 is also the day to celebrate Joe Diodati and Lianne deBettencourt. I share Jan. 15 with Debbie Whitney, Kate Foley, and Hazel McCracken.

Stay safe and hug your loved ones.

Send me your news! **MVT**

**I haven't moved beyond shock and tears yet, but I will like to think that Tricia and Roy were doing something they loved, and they were together.**

O W N C O M M U N I T Y

## Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen

aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

I have spent the last month plagued by a nasty cough and the fatigue that comes with a body fighting against illness. It meant that I couldn't attend our annual Aquinnah holiday party, missed being there to cheer for our crazy family Boxing Day Run at Lobsterville, and missed being at the lighthouse for the New Year's fireworks. Luckily family members took great photos, and are all great storytellers, so I got to live vicariously. This meant that I know that Santa did arrive via fire truck at the town party, nine family members ran and survived the Boxing Day run, and that the fireworks were spectacular. None of these

things happen without the drive and commitment of many people. Much thanks to the Folchmans, Jamie Vanderhoop, Isaac and Alex Taylor, the town staff, Curtis Langer, and all who worked to make one or another of these various events happen. My list is short only because I wasn't there. In fact, dozens of people did the myriad tasks involved in these things, and they all deserve our thanks.

January is a great month for deep thinking and problem-solving. Have you ever wondered what happens to our waste on the Vineyard? Where does our trash actually go? How does it get there? Does our recycling actually get

recycled? Who pays for it, and how much does it cost? On Saturday, Jan. 10, from 1:30 to 3 pm, you can get some answers to these questions from a panel of folks working hard on these issues. It is hosted by the Oak Bluffs climate and energy advisory committee, in collaboration with the M.V. Commission and the Oak Bluffs library, where it will be held. You can attend by Zoom if you aren't able to go to O.B. on that day. The Zoom link is on the O.B. Library's calendar of events, or you can call the library for help if you aren't sure how to Zoom.

The number is 508-693-9433. I've heard that a food recycler may be discussed at our next town meeting, so here is a chance to get informed ahead of time.

The Aquinnah Library Book Group is also meeting on Saturday the 10th, at 2:30 pm. They will be discussing Kiran Desai's book, "The Inheritance of Loss." I have to say that, with that title, I rather dreaded reading it, but found that in spite of its title, while sadness is surely often present, that's not what it is about. It is a book that is often hilarious, filled with lush descriptions, curious and tender characters, and stories

that reflect humanity living with the consequences of historic conflicts and modern life. It's a good read. Go pick up a copy at the library, and then go to the meeting to talk about it with thoughtful, quirky, intelligent, and friendly neighbors.

I want to remind our older adults that Up-Island Council on Aging has two bus shuttle services available to you. A free shuttle is available every Thursday to pick you up at your bus-accessible home, bring you to the 12:30 lunch, and return you home afterward. You can also get your Saturday

errands done without the headache of traffic or parking by registering to have a van pick you up at your door between 9 and 10 am and return you between 2 and 3 pm. There are two alternating routes for this, one that goes to Vineyard Haven (Cronig's, Conroy's, and the V.H. Stop & Shop), and the next Saturday to Edgartown (Stop & Shop Pharmacy, Edgartown Stop & Shop, and Morning Glory Farm). Register at the Up-Island COA for either of these services. Call the Up-Island COA at 508-693-2896 for more information.

If you are as upset as I am by the threat of yet another invasion of another country in pursuit of oil, take heed of this. On Thursday, Jan. 8, Indivisible MV is sponsoring a peaceful No Wars/No Kings rally at 5 Corners, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

Happy birthday on Thursday, Jan. 15, to both Faith Vanderhoop and Carol Maynard.

***If you are as upset as I am by the threat of yet another invasion of another country in pursuit of oil: On Thursday, Jan. 8, Indivisible MV is sponsoring a peaceful No Wars/No Kings rally at 5 Corners, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.***

## Chilmark



By Claire Ganz

cganz@live.com

Disbelief and grief and anger at the losses of life in accidents. Those who touch our hearts are there forever.

Thank you to everyone who performed and came to the Chilmark Community Church last Sunday for our Offering of Music and Light and supper. It warms our hearts to gather, hear music and poetry, Violet Southwick on cello, Warren Doty and the Loon Lane Players, Mrs. Biskis, Dan Waters, and

others. Thank you to Marjorie Peirce for helping me in the kitchen, and so appreciate not rushing. I am sorry we missed the performances, and so grateful for all who came to share the meal.

Life has thrown us a lot

of curves, and my wish for 2026 is to have more joy and resilience facing whatever 2026 brings.

Can scars become badges of honor representing survival that can be put in a drawer? Can we hone actions that support another's becoming — discovering who they are — and delight in the process?

Condolences to the Schneider and Bramhall families, and to Nina Bramhall and Paul Schneider on the death of their son, Nathaniel ("Natty") Schneider, in a

skiing accident in the Tetons. He was beloved, and inspired many with his passionate love for fly-fishing island waters and skiing the mountains around Jackson Hole.

May the memory of the exquisite joy that skiing the backcountry brings those who love it lessen the pain.

There is nothing good about losing people in accidents, and when it happens while they are doing things they are experts at and adore doing, it adds an extra twist.

News that we lost Patricia ("Tricia") Bergeron and Roy Scheffer, when an unexpected squall blew in while they were out in the skiff scalloping on New Year's Day hit everyone. They leave a big hole. Tricia gave so much to so many, and leaves a huge void.

Our hearts go out to the families. To Roy's sons, Isaiah Scheffer, Chilmark's shellfish constable; Roy and Jeremy Scheffer, Spearpoint Oyster; and Noah Scheffer, Little Minnow Oyster Co.

Grief is harsh.

Joan LeLacheur and her family need our help. We've seen beloved Joan's increasing struggles with her balance and thinking. She has been diagnosed with normal pressure hydrocephalus, and there is a surgical procedure that

can help, but she will need to not work and just rest for two months.

Surgery is scheduled for Jan. 21 at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. We can help by donating to the Go Fund Me: [gofund.me/ebc50c877](https://gofund.me/ebc50c877).

Rebecca Gilbert and I are looking forward to "Slow Stitching" projects, or mending and visiting, on Thursdays at Pathways in the Chilmark Tavern.

Music at Pathways this Friday includes Rees Shad, a musician and storyteller, followed by Peter Halperin's Group Therapy. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the show starts at 7.

May we find ways to be gentle with one another this week. **MVT**

***Life has thrown us a lot of curves, and my wish for 2026 is to have more joy and resilience facing whatever 2026 brings.***

## West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull

hrmhull@comcast.net

2026 has certainly begun with a bang. Literally. America invading another country. Just when I felt grateful for the end of 2025, thinking the state of the world couldn't get any worse, it did. What happened to the world peace that I asked Santa for last month at the firehouse?

I am of the generation who lived through Vietnam, Abu Ghraib, regime changes in Iraq and Afghanistan, years of tax cuts and unfunded wars. What is the matter with our country?

Now that I have gotten that out of my system, on to

the snowy beginning to our New Year here in West Tisbury. It looks and feels like a real winter. I am getting spoiled waking up to snow covering the ground and branches, and blowing past our windows. On the nights when it isn't snowing, we have the huge and brilliant Wolf Moon shining in.

I am grateful for the beauty outside my window, as I am progressively more enfeebled by my dratted left knee. Much as I enjoy reading on my sofa with Abby and Nelson, I hate being in pain, and I hate hardly being able to walk,

even using a cane, across the floor to our kitchen.

Still, there are lovely moments. Mike and I celebrated our 41st anniversary on New Year's Day. Ginger Norton and Doug Ruskin also were married on New Year's Day. Claudia Canerdy and Richard Lee were married on New Year's Eve years ago, just before we were. Chris and Sheila Morse chose New Year's Eve, too, as did my in-laws. In years past, I would make rack of lamb for an anniversary dinner with Bobby and Richard. It is a lovely time of year for one more special occasion, something to look

forward to after the bustle of Hanukkah and Christmas.

Another happy occasion coming up is Ann Burt's birthday on Jan. 9. I was told by a bird that Ann will turn 90, and that receiving lots of birthday cards would be a special treat. I have already mailed mine, and hope her other friends and admirers will, too. An extra Happy Birthday wish for you, Ann, here in the column.

The library has several events planned for the coming week. Kanta Lipsky's balance class is back on Zoom, Mondays and Fridays at 11:30. Sign up: wt\_

mail@clamsnet.org. There will be ballroom dancing on Saturday at 11:30. Three programs on Sunday: Birthright Story Sharing Circle will meet at the M.V. Family Center at 1; at the library, a jazz concert at 2, and the Climate Book Club, which will discuss "The Book of Hope" by Jane Goodall at 4. On Wednesday, kids ages 8 and up are invited to "Paint and Sip" (water and juice) at 1:30. Young adults and teens can learn the basics of needle felting with YA librarian Laura Hearn at 3 on Friday afternoon. Materials will be provided. Sign

up: [lhearn@clamsnet.org](mailto:lhearn@clamsnet.org).

I will end by addressing too many losses. Marshall Seagall was an active library patron, an active fundraiser for our last addition. Shanta Gabriel was a writer and a spiritual presence to all who knew her. Natty Schneider, who died in a skiing accident, and Tatiana Schlossberg, who wrote about her rare illness in the New Yorker, were both way too young. Longtime scalloper Roy Scheffer and Tricia Bergeron died in a boating accident on New Year's Day. My condolences to their families and to all who knew them. **MVT**

***It looks and feels like a real winter. I am getting spoiled waking up to snow covering the ground and branches, and blowing past our windows.***



The free daily MV Times newsletter, delivered straight to your inbox every weekday. Sign up today at [mvtimes.com/newsletter](https://mvtimes.com/newsletter)

Visitors often ask, “You live here full-time? What’s there to do in the winter?” Little do they know that there aren’t enough days in the week or hours in the day to do everything our quiet Island offers once the hordes go home.

contemporary theater. New members are welcome to drop in, along with anyone who just wants to watch and enjoy that week’s cast bring the characters to life.

The TBD Improv Company performs roughly once a month at either the Barn, Bowl & Bistro or through Circuit Arts at the Grange. Improvisers compete for your laughs by us-

media, and printmaking (featherstoneart.org).

ACE MV is sure to engage your mind with its courses, including Brazilian Portuguese language classes for English speakers, through its School for Offseason Survival (SOS). They will also be offering a new career exploration series featuring guest speakers, and workshops designed

org), MV Connect (hamv.org/transportation-workgroup), and Meals on Wheels (508-394-4630).

Island Grown Initiative welcomes volunteers to assist with the Island Food Pantry, its gleaning initiative, and meal preparations. If you have a green thumb, need some soil therapy, or simply enjoy plants and gardening, the

Year-round and seasonal volunteers are always welcome (508-693-7900).

There’s no excuse not to stay active on the Island during the winter. For water enthusiasts, there is the Martha’s Vineyard Rowing Club, operated through Sail M.V., which goes out six days a week, weather permitting, leaving from Owen Park. With six

of all ages, abilities, and interests (ymcamv.org). The Martha’s Vineyard Ice Arena is part of the Y, and skating is a fun, healthy activity you can enjoy with family and friends, or alone. Public skating sessions are free for Y members, and “Stick & Puck” is available for hockey players of all ages and skill levels to practice



DAVE PLATH



COURTESY OF THE YMCA



COURTESY THE WEST TISBURY LIBRARY



DENA PORTER

If you’re looking to stay active and social, try Trivia Night at the Black Dog Bakery Café, every Thursday at 6 pm (email BDBakeryCafe@theblackdog.com). The Barn, Bowl & Bistro hosts Trivia Night on Mondays at 6:30. For some arm activity, there are also bowling leagues, or tossing beanbags with the MV Cornhole group (text 508-696-9800).

The Peter Luce Play Readers group consists of people who love to read, listen to, and discuss plays. They meet every Wednesday at the Tisbury Senior Center from 9 am to noon to read a play centered around that month’s theme. Members take on different roles, a director gives a short intro, and the group has a post-performance discussion. Selections range from the classics to cutting-edge

ing their wit and audience suggestions to create scenes on the spot. TBD also offers a six-week improv class for adults, and another for children, through Circuit Arts, each culminating in a live showcase (tbdimprov.com).

If you want to share short, original prose you’ve written, it’s time to sign up for Writers Read. The group meets live on the second Monday of every month at the West Tisbury library at 7 pm, and on Zoom for the rest of the month. Readers can request an optional critique after the reading. (Email nikipatton@verizon.net for more information.)

Featherstone Center for the Arts, located on the beautiful, historic Featherstone Farm in Oak Bluffs, offers multiweek and single-session classes throughout the winter in ceramics, drawing, painting, fiber arts, jewelry, literary arts, mixed

for young professionals and other career explorers. There will be a Construction Supervisor License (CSL) prep course on Wednesdays starting on Jan. 28 (acemv.org).

Pathways Arts’ “Gray Matters” on Zoom, with Genevieve Abbot, meets biweekly on Fridays from 10 to 11 am. Anyone 65 years or older is invited to join for a lively discussion about the joys and tribulations of aging. (Email mvgengen@gmail.com or keren4pathways@gmail.com for the link and more information.)

Volunteers are essential to Island life. Volunteering also helps you get out of the house and in contact with others during the colder months. There is a significant need for volunteer drivers in various programs for older adults, including Vineyard Village at Home (vineyardvillage.

Community Greenhouse of Martha’s Vineyard is seeking volunteers to start in February. That’s when help is needed to transplant thousands of plant plugs into pots, germinate seeds, propagate cuttings, prepare soil beds for the warm season, and water plants regularly (marthasvineyardgreenhouse.org).

Chicken Alley Thrift Shop is one of the largest sources of ongoing financial support for Martha’s Vineyard Community Services, and is a cherished spot by Islanders and visitors. Staffed partly by a dedicated army of volunteers, the store is always looking for new recruits to help prepare donations for sale, provide excellent service, and assist with Chicken Alley’s daily operations, including pricing, merchandising, and other retail tasks.

rowers and one coxswain per boat, it’s a wonderful way to enjoy both exercise on the water and warm camaraderie (sailmv.org).

The Mansion House Hotel in Vineyard Haven features a health club with exercise equipment, a pool, a whirlpool, a cycling room, and fitness classes available for members and walk-in passholders (mvmansionhouse.com/marthas-vineyard-health-club). Airport Fitness provides facilities for tennis, pickleball, soccer, and basketball, along with fitness training (airportfitnessmv.com).

Whether you’re visiting for a day or are a year-round member, the YMCA of Martha’s Vineyard offers a wide range of classes and personal training, a fully equipped gym, a cycle studio, and an Olympic-size pool to serve people

shooting and stick-handling on their own, or scrimmage with others (ymcamv.org/mv-ice-arena).

Strong Martha Boxing Gym offers boxing and strength-training classes and private sessions at its facility in West Tisbury (strongmartha.com); Vineyard Pilates & Body Work has Pilates, Gyrotonics, personal training, and off-season dance parties in its Vineyard Haven studio (vineyardpilates.com); and the Hot Yoga MV studio in Edgartown does year-round group classes, private sessions, and teacher trainings (hotyogamv.com).

Each town’s Council on Aging is also a treasure trove of classes, many of which are fitness-related. So be sure to check these out — if you can find the time in your now very busy daily schedule.

MVT

## Say goodbye to your recliner

How not to lose your mind in winter.  
BY ABBY REMER

*There’s no excuse not to stay active on the Island during the winter.*

1. Chicken Alley Thrift Shop has something for everyone.
2. Island Food Pantry is open year-round.
3. The YMCA offers year-round fitness opportunities.
4. Featherstone Center for the Arts exhibits and classes are held throughout the year.
5. Second Sunday Jazz at the West Tisbury library helps shake off the winter blues.
6. The Peter Luce Playreaders perform for the public throughout the year.



NICHOLAS VUKOTA



COURTESY FEATHERSTONE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

# calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 1-9 - 1-14

## FRI 1/9

### Friday Night Forum

**F**riday Night Forums explore topics of the day in a public-square setting. Each forum is led by a facilitator who will keep the conversation moving and make room for everyone who wants to speak. In this session, Ian Douglas will facilitate an exploration of "The

High School Project." Two speakers offering differing perspectives will start off the night, and then anyone is free to join in the conversation. Free, but donations are welcome. 7 to 8:30 pm. Stillpoint. 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury. stillpoint.thundertix.com.



MVTIMES

## SAT 1/10

### Homemade bagels with Vineyard Baker



MVTIMES

**W**ho doesn't love a good bagel? Teri Culetto, the Vineyard Baker, will hold a hands-on workshop to learn the art of bagel-making.

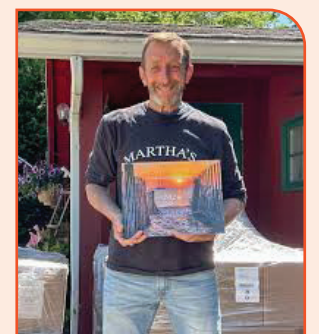
Each participant will take home a half-dozen bagels. 10 am to 12 pm, FARM Institute 14 Aero Ave., Edgartown. \$40. Tickets at thetrustees.org/event/443199.

## SUN 1/11

### "The bottom is not the end; it's where we begin"

**M**ichael Blanchard is a photographer, writer, and gallery owner on Martha's Vineyard whose work is rooted in recovery, hope, and the healing power of art. After getting sober in 2010, he discovered photography not as a career plan, but through an unexpected moment of inspiration that changed the direction of his life — a reminder that sometimes the most important paths begin when we listen. 10

pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, 238 Main St., Vineyard Haven. 508-693-8982.



MICHAEL BLANCHARD

## MON 1/12

### Tai Chi with Shaka

**A**n avid practitioner of the martial art Tai Chi, Shaka Georges leads this series. Tai Chi combines the three treasures, mind, energy and spirit, to help move

the body as one unit in a relaxed and fluid manner. Free. 8:15 to 9:15 am, Tisbury COA, 34 Pine Tree Road, Vineyard Haven. amcdonough@tisbury.ma.gov. 508-696-4205.



## TUES 1/13

### Environmental Explorers after school

**E**nvironmental Explorers is a weekly afterschool offering that connects students to nature at Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. Each week students explore a new topic while building science practices and naturalist skills. As much as possible, lessons will bring students outside,

so dress accordingly. This is a drop-off program. Felix Wildlife Sanctuary, 100 Felix Neck Drive, Edgartown. 508-627-4850.



Felix Neck

## WED 1/14

### Play reading at Tisbury COA



MVTIMES

**E**njoy a different play every week. From the classics to the modern, from hits to buried treasures, these plays are read by seasoned actors as well as readers

new to the art form. A special way to spend a Wednesday morning. Free, 9 am to noon. Tisbury Council on Aging, 34 Pine Tree Road, Vineyard Haven. 508-696-4205.

## Events

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

**Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga**  
7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with Yogijay. Sign up at <https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule> 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org

**Kaiut Yoga**  
8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.

**Mindfulness & Meditation Open Practice Offering**  
9-10 am, Aquinnah Town Hall. Drop in Mindfulness & Meditation Practice Group 413-575-0110, ruth@drruthfolchman.com

**Balletics**  
9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov. 508-693-2896.

**Fit for Flow with Maggie Bucci**  
9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Bucci, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life info@stillpointmv.org.

**Mermaid Tales: Story and Swim at YMCA**  
10-10:30 am, Martha's Vineyard YMCA, Oak Bluffs. Enjoy stories and songs with Luna Tide, the Oak Bluffs Mermaid. For kids ages 2 through 5. Adults must be with their children at all times. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

**Wiggle with the Words Storytime**  
10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org. 508-627-4221.

**Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard Hot Cocoa and Cookies**  
10:30 am-12:30 pm, Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Edgartown. Navigator Homes is hosting an event for cocoa, cookies, conversation, and a tour of one of the small homes where skilled nursing care is offered. DDean@AllianceHms.Org.

**Holiday Book Sale**  
10:30 am-5 pm, Chilmark Library. Annual book sale All hardcovers are \$2.00, paperbacks & DVD's, \$1.00. Sponsored by the Friends' of Chilmark Library. 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

**The Friends' Book Give Away**  
10:30 am-5 pm, Chilmark Library. Free Public Library is wrapping up it's annual book sale! The library is giving away the remaining items for FREE! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

**Family Yoga**  
11-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Supportive and fun. hbur-bidge@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

**NO WARS NO KINGS RALLY**  
12:30-1:30 pm, 5 Corners, Vineyard Haven. Peaceful protest of the illegal invasion of Venezuela by the Trump regime. carlacoop@comcast.net.

**Mah Jongg for Beginners (or a Refresher) Course**  
12:30-2:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Classes will take place on January 6th, 8th, 13th, and 15th 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

**Needlework Group**  
1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging. Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

**Red Dragon Mah-Jong**  
1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jongg meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

**Community Knitting Circle**  
1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's

Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

**Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca & Claire Gantz**  
2-4 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern. Hands on with fabrics & trims for small projects. Bring materials or use those provided. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

**Lego and Magna-tile Club**  
3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. When playing, children develop creativity, problem solving, spatial reasoning and teamwork. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

**Book Buddies**  
3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. High Schoolers reading to elementary-aged children Thursdays 3:30-4:30 at the West Tisbury Library 508-693-3366, hbur-bidge@clamsnet.org.

**Naptime with David Stanwood**  
3:30-4:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Experience the calming effect of harmonic vibration, with pianist and acclaimed piano technician David Stanwood. info@stillpointmv.org.

**String Games Club!**  
3:30-5 pm, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven. Remember playing Cat's Cradle with friends? Kids

& nostalgic adults, learn classic solo figures like Cup and Saucer, Eiffel Tower and Jacob's Ladder! 508-696-4210, vhpL\_programs@clamsnet.org.

**Stitch Society Crafting Group**  
5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lheart@clamsnet.org.

**When Ships Failed, Lifesavers Answered**  
5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. An online talk with author Charles McGrath on New England shipwrecks, lifesavers, and the maritime history shared with Martha's Vineyard. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

**Good Shepherd Parish Community Suppers (Dine-in or Take-out)**  
5-6 pm, St. Augustine's Church Hall (handicap accessible), Vineyard Haven. GSP Community Supper, Thurs Jan thru Mar, 5-6pm. St. Augustine's Church 56 Franklin St. VH call 508-684-6270 by 6pm on Monday to record your request 860-992-7012, burkewg@comcast.net.

**Create Your 2026 Vision Board**  
5-6:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a fun and inspiring vision board workshop at the library. Explore your goals, spark creativity and design a personalized board! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

**Vinyasa Flow with Camille Beauzile**  
5:30-7 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This 90-minute practice offers the space to move with intention, depth, and presence. info@stillpointmv.org.

**Mending for Beginners with Caroline Drogin**  
5:30-7 pm, Edgartown Library. All materials will be provided; please bring a maximum of three items for mending. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

**'3D Avatar: Fire and Ash' at the Edgartown Cinema**  
6 pm, Edgartown Cinema. In the wake of the devastating war against the RDA and the loss of their eldest son, Jake Sully and Neytiri face a new threat on Pandora 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

**'Marty Supreme' at the Edgartown Cinema**  
6 pm, Edgartown Cinema. Marty Mauser, a young man with a dream no one respects, goes to hell and back in pursuit of greatness. 508-627-8008, yourneighborhoodtheatre.com.

**Vinyasa Yoga with Sian Williams**  
6-7 pm, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. This is a flowing, mixed-level class using breath work and

Continued on B8

# Family silences

'Father Mother Sister Brother' playing at M.V. Film Center. **BY ABBY REMER**

A great deal of awkward silence reigns in Jim Jarmusch's new film, "Father Mother Sister Brother," playing at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center starting on Jan. 9. The silences heighten the unease between the generations in the film's three vignettes, each reflecting estranged family relationships in a different country.

Jarmusch has assembled a stellar ensemble cast. Tom Waits is the sole parent in the first story, "Father." His son Jeff (Adam Driver) and daughter Emily (Mayim Bialik) drive through the cold countryside to visit their father, whom we see quickly rearranging his cabin situated on a poorly maintained back road. During the ride, we learn that Jeff has been sending money to their father for one household calamity after another — a problem with the well, a septic-system issue, and a collapsed wall. When they walk into the home, we notice, as the children do, that the father's surroundings appear a bit run-down. He offers them something to drink, but seems to have only tap water to serve, in mismatched glasses. However, there are anomalies. The couch under the spread appears quite nice. The father wears what he insists is a fake Rolex. As the three desperately try to connect, every conversation falls painfully flat. Jarmusch adds a twist at the end, leaving us curious about what the next segment, "Mother," will bring.

We meet the elegant, cool-tempered Charlotte Rampling as the mother, a famous writer, as she gets off the phone after telling her therapist about the upcoming visit with her two adult daughters, Timothea (Cate Blanchett) and Lilith (Vicky Krieps). She says, "I'm happy to see them, but have to keep them from stirring things up." The mother succeeds, starting by arranging everything "just so" in her elegant home, preparing the high tea for the single annual visit when the three women get together, even though they all live in Dublin.

Jarmusch brings back the car motif. This time, the siblings are apart. Conservatively dressed, strait-laced Timothea is stranded when her car breaks down, but reassures her mother on the phone not to worry; she has called for help, and the mother seems quite unperturbed. Lilith, on the other hand, dressed in a fuzzy light pink jacket that matches her wildly pink hair, is being driven to her mother's house by a friend. However, wanting to hide her lack of a car, Lilith tells her friend to pull over so she can get in the back and pretend she is being dropped off by Uber, since her Lexus is in the shop. During the grand tea, Jarmusch repeatedly shoots the scene from above, emphasizing the elegance of the pastries and the golden-colored tea that everyone plays with as they try to make small talk. The family members are like ships passing in the night. We feel for the mouse-

like Timothea and the brash, yearning-to-be-recognized Lilith.

Although the parents in the final scene, "Sister and Brother," have just died in a small plane crash, we feel their presence intensely. Twins Skye (Indya Moore) and Billy (Luka Sabbat) drive through Paris on the way to their mother and father's apartment. Billy has emptied it, but Skye wants one last look through the cavernous, old-style, ornate French building. The siblings are deeply connected, so the silences are comfortable. However, the disconnect with their parents arises when Billy shares multiple fake IDs and a fake marriage certificate he has found, revealing they have no idea who these two individuals who raised them truly were.

While each story is fairly simple, Jarmusch keeps us interested not just through the skillful direction of his cast and the minimal dialogue, but also through motifs that recur throughout. Besides the repetition of driving scenes, there are mysterious Hitchcockian moments involving male skateboarders on the road, old family photos, the color red, and someone in each scene saying some variation of the quirky line "Bob's your uncle," a British idiom meaning "and there you have it." Dropping these clues keeps us engaged as we try to make sense of the enigmatic film, which premiered at the 82nd Venice International Film Festival, where it won a Golden Lion. **MVT**



"Father Mother Sister Brother" screens at the M.V. Film Center starting Jan. 9. For tickets and information, visit [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com).

Continued from B7

## Events

props to enhance the practice. Accompanied by a great playlist and healing vibrations. 508-696-8000, [info@airportfitnessmv.com](mailto:info@airportfitnessmv.com). **'76 Days Adrift' at the MV Film Center** 7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. 76 DAYS ADRIFT, followed by a Q & A with Execu-

tive Producer Robert Sennott at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com). **Introduction to Martha's Vineyard History Lecture Series** Martha's Vineyard Museum. A six-week lecture series with Bow Van Riper offering a clear introduction to Martha's Vineyard

history, from first contact to today. 508-627-4441, [rpierce@mvmuseum.org](mailto:rpierce@mvmuseum.org).

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 9

**Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker** 7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, [info@airportfitnessmv.com](mailto:info@airportfitnessmv.com).

**Kid's Music Class** 10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Sing fun songs and play instruments with friends! Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, [hburbridge@clamsnet.org](mailto:hburbridge@clamsnet.org).

**Friday Crafting** 10:30 am-4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Craft projects for ages 3-11. New craft each week. Drop in. 508-693-9433, [mlynych@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlynych@clamsnet.org).

**Fri-YAY Crafts** 10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library. DIY craft station in the Children's Room. 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org).

**Holiday Book Sale** 10:30 am-1:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Annual book sale All hardcovers are \$2.00, paperbacks & DVD's, \$1.00. Sponsored by the Friends' of Chilmark Library. 508-645-3360, [chil.programs@gmail.com](mailto:chil.programs@gmail.com).

**The Friends' Book Give Away** 10:30 am-1:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Free Public Library is wrapping up it's annual book sale! The library is giving away the remaining items for FREE! 508-645-3360, [chil.programs@gmail.com](mailto:chil.programs@gmail.com).

**Toddler Time** 11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for preschool ages. [chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com](mailto:chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com) 508-645-3360, [chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com](mailto:chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com). **Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky**

11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. To strengthen our connection to Earth and maintain balance. To sign up, email [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org). 508-693-3366.

**Drop-in Tech Help at the Anchors** 12-1 pm, Edgartown Council on Aging (The Anchors), Edgartown. Drop-in tech help sessions at The Anchors during their Friday cafe. Offered in partnership with the Edgartown Library. 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org).

**Kid's Magic: The Gathering Club** 3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. Learn to play Magic: The Gathering for ages 8+. Cards provided, drop-ins welcome 508-693-3366, [hburbridge@clamsnet.org](mailto:hburbridge@clamsnet.org).

**'Rental Family' at the MV Film Center** 4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. RENTAL FAMILY at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com).

**'The Secret Agent' at the Film Center** 4 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE SECRET AGENT at the MV Film Center. Nominated for three Golden Globes, Best Picture. 508-696-9369, [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com).

**Friday-Night Forum: The High School Project** 7-8:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. In this edition of Friday Night Forums, Ian Douglas will facilitate an exploration of the topic "The High School Project." [info@stillpointmv.org](mailto:info@stillpointmv.org).

**MUSIC SERIES: Rees Shad, Peter Halperin, Jim Orr, Hudson Bausman** 7-9 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern, Rees Chad with Americana Roots. Group Therapy is Peter Halperin, Jim Orr and Hudson Bausman with Jazz. 508-645-9098, [tanya4pathways@gmail.com](mailto:tanya4pathways@gmail.com).

**'Mother Father Sister Brother' at the MV Film Center** 7:30 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven.

MOTHER FATHER SISTER BROTHER at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com).

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

**Vinyasa Power Yoga** 9-10 am, Edgartown Library. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org), 508-627-4221.

**Kaiut Yoga** 9-10 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga is works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, [vsonenthal@gmail.com](mailto:vsonenthal@gmail.com).

**MV Dems Monthly Meeting** 9:30-10:30 am, Democratic Council of MV, West Tisbury. Guest speakers, discussion, outreach for national, state and local Democratic leaders and issues. Email [dems\\_mv@gmail.com](mailto:dems_mv@gmail.com) for Zoom link. 774-563-0467, [dems\\_mv@gmail.com](mailto:dems_mv@gmail.com).

**Homemade Bagels with Vineyard Baker** 10 am-12 pm, Farm Institute, Edgartown. (508) 627-7007, (978) 921-1944, [information@ttor.org](mailto:information@ttor.org).

**Baby and Toddler Storytime** 10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us for a fun-filled storytime with stories, songs, and shakers! Play-based! Tummy time for our smallest pals! 508-693-9433, [mlynych@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlynych@clamsnet.org).

**Adult Community Dance with Jesse Keller Jason** 10:30-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library. For adults and seniors of all levels. No sign-up. [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org), 508-693-3366.

**Vinyasa Flow with Camille Beauzile** 10:30 am-12 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury.

This 90-minute practice offers the space to move with intention, depth, and presence. [info@stillpointmv.org](mailto:info@stillpointmv.org).

**Storytime** 11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, and sing, move, and play together. Ideal for ages 3-6. [adubno@clamsnet.org](mailto:adubno@clamsnet.org), 508-645-3360.

**Ballroom/Partner Dance Class** 11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. On the second Saturday of the month, from 11:30am-12:30pm, come to a free Ballroom/Partner Dance Class led by Tom Carberry, from MV Ballroom Dancers 508-693-3366, [wt\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:wt_mail@clamsnet.org).

**Sound Bath with Trish Ginter** 11:30 am-12:30 pm, Edgartown Library. A sound bath creates an environment that allows you to pause and deeply listen 508-627-4221, [programs@edgartownlibrary.org](mailto:programs@edgartownlibrary.org).

**Art Class for Kids w/Miss Lani** 12:30-2:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Art class for kids w/Miss Lani 508-645-3360, [chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com](mailto:chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com).

**Pokemon Club** 1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a club to talk about Pokémon, look at cards, and draw! To keep things positive for everyone, there is no trading allowed. Ages 5-11. 508-693-9438, [mlynych@clamsnet.org](mailto:mlynych@clamsnet.org).

**Solid Waste Stream, Recycling, Food Waste (reduction, recovery, composting)** 1:30-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Solid Waste Stream on MV Recycling, Food Waste, Composting. What happens to our trash? Food waste? Recycling? Can we reduce waste & costs? 508-693-9433, [Energy@oakbluffsma.gov](mailto:Energy@oakbluffsma.gov).

**All Ages Chess Club** 2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us in a fun and welcoming environment. [oakb\\_mail@clamsnet.org](mailto:oakb_mail@clamsnet.org), 508-693-9433.

**MARtha's VINEYARD film society**  
The MV Film Society • Now celebrating 28 years • 1999-2026

|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| <b>Thurs 1/8</b> | <b>RENTAL FAMILY</b><br><b>76 DAYS ADRIFT</b><br>Followed by Q & A with Executive Producer Robert Sennott | <b>4:00 PM</b><br><b>7:30 PM</b>                   |
| <b>Fri 1/9</b>   | <b>THE SECRET AGENT</b><br><b>FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER</b>  | <b>4:00 PM</b><br><b>7:30 PM</b>                   |
| <b>Sat 1/10</b>  | <b>MET OPERA LIVE: I PURITANI</b><br><b>RENTAL FAMILY</b><br><b>FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER</b>          | <b>1:00 PM</b><br><b>5:00 PM</b><br><b>7:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Sun 1/11</b>  | <b>SENTIMENTAL VALUE</b><br><b>FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER</b><br><b>THE SECRET AGENT</b>                | <b>1:00 PM</b><br><b>4:00 PM</b><br><b>7:30 PM</b> |

**MON & TUES, JAN., 12 & 13 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -**

|                   |   |                                  |
|-------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Wed 1/14</b>   | <b>FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER</b><br><b>SCIENCE ON SCREEN: TWISTERS</b><br>with Guest Speaker Dr. Yi Ming <b>FREE ADMISSION</b> | <b>4:00 PM</b><br><b>7:30 PM</b> |
| <b>Thurs 1/15</b> | <b>THE SECRET AGENT</b><br><b>FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER</b>  | <b>4:00 PM</b><br><b>7:30 PM</b> |

**WINNER BEST ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATION 2025**  
Voted by the Vineyard Community

The MV Film Center is open to the public and masks are optional for all individuals. Please join us for an in-person movie experience soon!

scan code for complete schedule

Information & Schedules [mvfilmsociety.com](http://mvfilmsociety.com) 508.696.9369

Continued from B8

# Events

## Sound Bath with Trish Ginter

3:30-4:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Come to the library to experience Trish Ginter's immersive and relaxing sound bath. To register email: chil.programs@gmail.com. Space is limited. Free 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

## Community Supper

5:30-7 pm, Trinity Parish House, Oak Bluffs. Community Supper 508-693-4424, umcmv@outlook.com.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

### Free English Classes

8-9 am, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Vineyard Haven. Free English Classes offered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Basic conversational classes offered. To register text 774-563-0460.

### Meditating With The Body

11 am-12:15 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. Through a series of guided practices, you'll learn to relax habitual tension, and cultivate embodiment that supports you on and off the cushion. AwakeningTheWildHeart@gmail.com.

### Sunday B-Side Brunch

11 am-2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Sunday B Side Brunch: 11-2 at First Light Café. Great food, views, and soulful vinyl by DJ Vincent Patricola. Free and open to all. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

### Birth Story Sharing Circle

1-3 pm, MV Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Join us in circle to safely share your birth experience or listen to others. Lunch and small crafts will be provided. Pre-crawling babies are welcome. acastro@mvccommunityservices.org.

### Second Sunday Jazz Concert

2 pm, West Tisbury Library. Featuring pianist Joe "Sonny" Barbato, with Eric Johnson on bass and Taurus Biskis on drums. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

### A Play Reading of THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO by Alfred Uhry

2 pm, Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, Vineyard Haven. In memory of Myra Stark, join readers in an afternoon of theater. Laugh and maybe cry as we present and then discuss this Tony Award-winning play. 508-524-6371, toybox@vineyard.net.

### Climate Book Club

4 pm, West Tisbury Library. We will be reading and discussing The Book of Hope, by Jane Goodall. Email the library at wt\_mail@clamsnet.org to sign up. 508-693-3366.

### Radio show - Eclectic #1

7:30-9:15 pm, WVVY - MV Community Radio, Vineyard Haven. Radio show "It's a Big World, Open Yer Ears", This week: an interesting mix of music from everywhere. 96.7 Jpfm or www.wvvy.org 617-676-8160, egik\_egak\_eoogimak@yahoo.com.

### "The bottom is not the end; it's where we begin" with Michael Blanchard

10 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. We hope you can join us this Sunday at 10 am in person or online. 508-693-8982, uu.society.mv@gmail.com.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 12

### Virtual Chair Yoga with YogiJay

7:30-8:30 am, West Tisbury Library. Accessible to all levels and ages. Sign up for free at wholesomemv.com/classschedule. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

### Tai Chi with Shaka

8:15 am-9:15 pm, Tisbury COA, Vineyard Haven. Tai Chi starting Monday, Jan 5th at 8:15AM 508-696-4205, amcdonough@tisbury.gov.

### Pint-Sized Picassos

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Drop-in painting. Children under 8 must have adult present. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

### Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky

11:30 am-12:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. To strengthen our connection to Earth and maintain balance. To sign up, email wt\_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366.

### Drop-in Mah Jongg

1-3 pm, Edgartown Library. Mats, tiles, and cards provided. No formal instruction. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

### Switch Games for kids and teens

3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. Switch club Mondays from 3-5 pm in the Community Room 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

### Cardio and Conditioning with Alyson Parker

7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Cardio and strength work with weights and conditioning using your own body weight for resistance. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

### Kaiut Yoga

8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.

### Vinyasa Flow with Camille Beauzile

9-10:30 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This 90-minute practice offers the space to move with intention, depth, and presence. info@stillpointmv.org.

### Little Naturalists

9:30-11:30 am, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Spark your child's curiosity at Felix Neck's Education barn with hands-on free play-water play, sensory bins, experiments, and more. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

### Play Kitchen and Store

10 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Come enjoy watching your kids be creative and solve problems! For ages 2-6. Drop in between 10am-noon. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

### Free Range Fun

10:15-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Enjoy a room filled with parachutes, scarves, bubbles, music and more to explore! Recommended for ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburidge@clamsnet.org.

### Drop-in Play-Doh Group

10:30 am-12 pm, Edgartown Library. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

### Vineyard Haven Library Story Circle with Aria

10:45-11:30 am, Martha's Vineyard Family Center, Vineyard Haven. Library storytime on Mondays 10:15 at Grace Church, Tuesdays 10:45 at MV Family Center. vhpl\_children@clamsnet.org, 508-696-4210.

### Work From Home, From The Library

11 am-12 pm, West Tisbury Library. Support for Caregivers Working From Home. Come to the library and get supported child care from High School Child Ed students 508-693-3366, hburidge@clamsnet.org.

### SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV

11 am-12 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. SQUAD FITNESS with Triva Emery • BeWell-MV 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

### Writing Workshop Series with Moira Silva

11:30 am-1 pm, West Tisbury Library. Sign up required by emailing wt\_mail@clamsnet.org. 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org

### Mah Jongg for Beginners (or .a Refresher) Course

12:30-2:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Classes will take place on January 6th, 8th, 13th, and 15th 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

### Mah Jongg

2-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Multiple tables for all levels and ages. Instruction on first Tuesday of the month. chil.programs@gmail.com, 508-645-3360.

### Lego Club

2:45-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids Lego Club 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

### Book Buddies

3-4 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. K-4th! Join the MVRHS Book Buddies Club on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:00 at the Oak Bluffs Library for weekly readings together! 508-693-9433, hydee.tumer@mvrhs.org.

### Environmental Explorers Afterschool

3-5 pm, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Environmental Explorers is a weekly drop-off program, that connects students to nature at Felix Neck. Each week students dig into a new topic. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

### Drop in for our Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury. Teen and Tween Art & Craft Class at the library-meets every Tuesday, from 3:30-4:30pm. ages 10-18, supplies provided. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

### Writer's Workshop with Amy Reece

3:30-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. All levels of writers are welcome to join in a weekly writer's workshop with local author, Amy Reece. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

### Knitting Group

5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Creativity and conversation. Use supplies provided or bring your own. Adults and teens. No sign-up. wt\_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

### Ticks on the Vineyard: What We Know

5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. An online series bringing together local experts to explain tick behavior, disease risk, and prevention on Martha's Vineyard. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

### American Sign Language Practice Group

5-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in on our conversational practice group. No experience necessary. anelson@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

### Local Food Community Potluck

5:30-7 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Local Food Community Potluck at the Agricultural Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvsoc.org.

### Climate Change, Sea Level Rise, and Martha's Vineyard with Tim Hall

6 pm, Katharine Cornell Theatre, Vineyard Haven. Learn about the risk of coastal flooding on Martha's Vineyard from Tim Hall, Senior Scientist in S&P Global's Sustainable division. 508-696-4211, vhpl.programs@clamsnet.org.

### Spanish Beyond the Basics

6-8 pm, MVRHS, Oak Bluffs. Designed for learners who know the fundamentals. Build confidence in real conversations. 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

### Chilmark Church Free Community Suppers

6 pm, Chilmark Church Fellowship Hall. Church members and friends provide a homemade potluck meal, free for the community. 508-645-3100, pclarkgoff@comcast.net.

### Poetry & Prose Tuesday: Poet Ellen Story reads Live + OPEN MIC

7:30-9 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern. Poet, Ellen Story reads live from her debut collection, Corner Pocket. Open Mic follows for all writers. In-person and on Zoom. PathwaysMV.org Free 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

### Play Reading at Tisbury Senior Center

9 am-12 pm, Tisbury Council on Aging, Vineyard Haven. Play Reading for Artistic, Literary and Dramatic Pleasure 201-207-7568, monahennessyl@gmail.com.

### Storytime

10:15-10:45 am, Oak Bluffs Library. Fun-filled story time with stories, songs, scarves, and a parachute. Geared toward kids ages 1.5 to 5 years old, but all ages are welcome. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

### Children's Storytime

10:30-11 am, West Tisbury Library. Join Hannah for silly songs and stories. Ages 0-5 508-693-3366, hburidge@clamsnet.org.

### Tumble Bugs

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Drop-in movement program geared toward ages 1-5. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

### Kids Card Club

12-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Kids Card Club at the Chilmark Library 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

### Mah Jongg

1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Come join us for Mah Jongg every Wednesday from 1-3:00 @ The Up Island Council on Aging . 1042 State Rd West Tisbury 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

### Kid's Paint and Sip Party

1:30-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Create a masterpiece with friends, snacks and sips. For kids 8+ Registration is required email hburidge@clamsnet.org 508-693-3366, hburidge@clamsnet.org.

### Virtual Reality for Tweens & Teens

3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. For ages 10-18. Each participant's time depends on the turn-out. lhearn@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

### Drop-in Knitting Group with Cindy Bonnell

3-5 pm, Edgartown Library. All levels are welcome to bring their projects for support and inspiration. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

### Make & Eat

3:15-4:15 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. This is a hands-on afterschool activity where kids prepare a simple, healthy snack and then enjoy eating it as a group. Allergy-free recipes. Ages 8+ 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org

### Kids Crafts - Beanie Decorating .

3:30-5 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Decorate a winter beanie! vineyard@clamsnet.org

### Home Grown Club

5-6 pm, Agricultural Hall, West Tisbury. Home Grown Club at the Agricultural Hall 508-693-9549, programs@mvsoc.org.

### COMMUNITY IN CONVERSATION AT THE CARNEGIE: Adam Moore, Sheriff's Meadow

5-6:30 pm, Carnegie Heritage Center, Edgartown. Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, Adam Moore, will share his experiences dealing with the beetle outbreak and what to expect in the future. 774-549-9107, leslie@mvpreservation.org

### Financial Foundations for the New Year

5:30-6:15 pm, Zoom, Vineyard Haven. Learn steps to build healthy budgeting and personal finance habits. 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

### Restorative Reset with Jelisa Difo

5:30-6:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Postures close to the ground for deep rest and relaxation. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

### Quilting Circle

6-7:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. All are welcome. For details, email Wendy at wgnierenberg@yahoo.com or call the library at 508-693-3366.

### Brazilian Dance Fitness

6-7 pm, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. An energetic cardio workout - explore styles like Samba, Forró, Pagode, Bachata, Axé, and more in a relaxed and fun environment. Beginner friendly! 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

### Virtual Book Talk: "Poisoning The Well"

7 pm, Vineyard Haven Public Library. Presented by environmental journalist and author Sharon Udasin. Register on VH library event calendar. 508-696-4211, vhpl.programs@clamsnet.org.

### Free English Classes

7-8 pm, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day saints, Vineyard Haven. Free English Classes offered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Basic conversational classes offered. To register text 774-563-0460.

### Island Community Chorus Informational Welcome Sessions

7-8 pm, Edgartown Library. Island Community Chorus Informational Welcome Sessions for New Members 516-816-8945, islandchorus@gmail.com.

### [Online] Author Talk: "Poisoning the Well"

7-8 pm, Edgartown Library. Author and environmental reporter Sharon Udasin will discuss her new book 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

### Virtual Kripalu Flow Yoga

7:30 am, West Tisbury Library. On Zoom with YogiJay. Sign up at https://www.wholesomemv.com/classschedule 508-693-3366, wt\_mail@clamsnet.org.

### Kaiut Yoga

8:30-9:30 am, Peaked Hill Studio, Chilmark. Kaiut Yoga works through chronic pain and injuries, general aches and stiffness, and is good for the inflexible, hyper flexible and the aging body. 774-563-8282, valerie@peakedhillstudio.com.

### Mindfulness & Meditation

9-10 am, Aquinnah Town Hall. Drop in Mindfulness & Meditation Practice Group 413-575-0110, ruth@druthfolchman.com.

### Balletics

9-10 am, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Total body conditioning, learning body's strengths & weaknesses, how to prevent injury. coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov, 508-693-2896.

### Fit for Flow with Maggie Buccì

9-10 am, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. This fitness class, led by Maggie Buccì, is designed to get you fit to flow with the journey of life info@stillpointmv.org.

### Wiggle with the Words Storytime

10:30-11 am, Edgartown Library. Fun props and interactive stories. Geared for ages 1-5, but all are welcome. No sign-up. programs@edgartownlibrary.org, 508-627-4221.

### Family Yoga

11-11:30 am, West Tisbury Library, West Tisbury. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Supportive and fun. hburidge@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

### Creative Movement for Birth

12-1:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn & practice proven techniques to build your confidence going into labor for you & your partner. Free! More Info? Email birthwithjesse@gmail.com 508-693-3366, hburidge@clamsnet.org.

### Mah Jongg for Beginners (or a Refresher) Course

12:30-2:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Classes will take place on January 6th, 8th, 13th, and 15th 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

### Needlework Group

1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging . West Tisbury. Needlework Group @ Up Island Council on Aging . Thursdays 1-3:00 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.

### Red Dragon Mah-Jongg

1-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jongg meetup! Bring your board or use one of ours, subject to availability. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

### Community Knitting Circle

1-3 pm, Chilmark Library. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of knitting in the Martha's Vineyard Room. Our knitters love to share their knowledge and beginners are welcome! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

### VHPL Book Club Reads "Stone Yard Devotional: A Novel" by Charlotte Wood

2 pm, Tisbury EMS Facility, Vineyard Haven. Enjoy a lively discussion in a casual "hybrid" format. Send an email to lshick@clamsnet.org to be added to the list. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vhpl\_programs@clamsnet.org.

### Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca & Claire Gantz

2-4 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern. Hands on with fabrics & trims for small projects. Bring materials or use those provided. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

### Lego and Magna-tile Club

3-5 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Drop in anytime between 3 to 5pm. For kids ages 5-11. When playing, children develop creativity, problem solving, spatial reasoning and teamwork. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

### Ukulele Jam

3:30-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. All ages and abilities. The library has ukuleles to borrow, or bring a guitar or banjo, or come to sing. wt\_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

### Jane's Journey - A Tribute to Jane Goodall's accomplishments

4-6 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. It would be hard to name anyone who has had more of an impact in the realm of animal research and wildlife conservation than Jane Goodall. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org

### Book Discussion - History Matters by David McCullough

4:30-5:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Come join a small group discussing David McCullough's book "History Matters". Of all times in our history, it surely does matter! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

### Stitch Society Crafting Group

5-6 pm, West Tisbury Library. Drop-in and work on your project. Needle felting, embroidery, needlework, and more. 508-693-3366, lhearn@clamsnet.org.

### When the Island Burned: Fires that Shaped the Vineyard

5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. An online talk with Bow Van Ripper examining catastrophic fires that shaped Vineyard history, from 19th-century blazes to the fires of 1965. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

### Book Club

5-6 pm, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Vineyard Haven. Join us for an informal discussion of National Book Award Finalist, The Antidote by Karen Russell. 508-693-2291, m

# Rosemary and Adriana Stimola

Mother and daughter literary agents.

BY ABBY REMER



Rosemary and Adriana Stimola in front of a selection of their published books.

MICHAEL STIMOLA

The Vineyard has a long history of multigenerational family businesses. Allen Farm, Larsen's Fish Market, Giordano's Restaurant, and Morning Glory Farm are just a few. Stimola Literary Studio became a recent addition to this tradition when Rosemary Stimola brought her daughter, Adri-

ana, on board in 2015. Rosemary and Adriana infuse their passion for books into the business, based in West Tisbury. While they represent different genres, they are equally devoted to making a difference in the literary world and serving as strong advocates for their authors, including Islanders Julia Blanter, who wrote "The Martha's Vineyard Cookbook," and Kate Fei-

ffer, who wrote and illustrated the upcoming "How to Draw a Dog." Neither Rosemary nor Adriana started her career with the goal of becoming a literary agent, or with the idea of working together. But both loved stories from a very young age. Rosemary says, "Children's books saved my life. I grew up in an immigrant neighborhood within an immigrant

family, and attended a very strict Catholic school. And I was a girl. That was three challenges, and the only salvation I found was in books. I discovered characters who could vanquish giants and ogres with their wits and smarts, without using magic. I found my power in children's books."

With a Ph.D. in linguistics, Rosemary began her career as a professor of language and literature at City University of New York, specializing in children's literature: "I loved teaching, but I did not love academia." Even though she was tenured, Rosemary took a leap in 1987 and opened A Child's Story in Teaneck, N.J., which became an award-winning, nationally recognized independent children's bookstore. She thrived for eight years: "I thought I would be a children's bookseller for the rest of my life." In 1995, Barnes & Noble opened several nearby superstores. With the conglomerate discounting books by 30 percent and Rosemary's landlord raising the rent, it was time to move on.

"It was a bit of an existential crisis. It was, 'Who am I now?'" Rosemary recalls. While she was freelancing as an adjunct teacher and editor and working in marketing, an editorial colleague suggested she become an agent.

"My response was, 'Oh, no. I've met them. I don't like them.'" But the idea stuck, and after some investigation, Rosemary launched Stimola Literary Studio in 1997. "For quite a while, it was just me as the chief cook and bottle washer. Then I reached a point where I was successful enough to think I could use a little help." Her first hire was Peter Ryan, her son-in-law, and then a director of operations, followed by additional agents, including Adriana.

Not surprisingly, Adriana grew up steeped in stories, first sitting in Rosemary's classroom and then spending countless hours at the store, which, she says, "was formative in my relationship to books and to book selling." But Adriana simultaneously had a connection to food and restaurants. Her father and his cousin opened the Standby Café in Oak Bluffs, and Adriana spent summers,

long weekends, and school breaks hanging out in the kitchen. "I didn't realize how much it impacted me until later," she says.

Adriana was drawn to storytelling across media at Emerson College, where she majored in performance and media production, and minored in poetry. (She is currently the poet laureate of West Tisbury.) Early in her career, she worked with Shambhala Publications and Little, Brown in various roles, including as an editorial assistant. With an interest in telling stories about food, she became content manager at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, N.Y., where she produced written and visual content to engage visitors, and worked with Dan Barber's Blue Hill Restaurant on farmer-chef story collaborations.

Interested in ghostwriting or co-writing cookbooks, Adriana met with an agent who encouraged her to become an agent herself. She took the leap, working independently until she joined Stimola Literary Studio, bringing her interest in adult nonfiction books.

Over time, Adriana's list has expanded: "All the books I work with are rooted

needed as before, we decided to shift home and office here full-time. Both daughters and their families followed, and we now enjoy an extended-family life here with children and grandchildren. Thanks to Zoom and other such apps, geography is not an issue. We travel when we must, and we enjoy our Island life."

Relationships are vital for everyone working at the studio. "We are a boutique agency," says Rosemary. "We work as a collective, meeting once a week, so everyone stays connected. This company is about contributing to the body of literature. There's a shared set of core values, and one of them is the kind of authors and books we want to work with."

The Stimolas cultivate genuine relationships with their authors. The process of choosing whom to work with begins with the query letter that accompanies a submission. Adriana states, "I want to read a letter where there is an authenticity of self that shines through. If the content is good enough, then there's usually a conversation. It has to feel like a match, because if our communication styles or expectations are different, it might not be a fit, or at the right time." Rosemary emphasizes, "You have to feel a certain amount of passion."

Once an author becomes a client, Adriana explains, "I tell them, 'I am your usher throughout the entire publishing process,' which includes content, working on the proposal, making the pitch to publishers, negotiating the terms of the deal, including rights. That's where people might think it ends. But I'm going through edits with your editor, and discussing design, marketing, and publicity. I'm contextualizing what's happening, and helping clients look two steps ahead."

Asked what fuels their passion for the business, Adriana says, "At the studio, it is untold stories, and that every voice has a core value."

Rosemary adds, "We love it because it's important, especially now that schools and libraries are having books banned. It makes us fight harder. We're here to validate the human experience. And if we can make a small impact, then that's what we do. And the fact that I get to do that with my daughter is very special." **MVT**

*"I discovered characters who could vanquish giants and ogres with their wits and smarts, without using magic. I found my power in children's books."*

—ROSEMARY STIMOLA

in coping with the human experience through food, wellness, art, creativity, and lifestyle. I hope they nourish in one way or another, connecting people to others through stories."

Rosemary says about Adriana's contribution to the studio, "I may be 'the elder,' and in many cases have served as a mentor, but I also learn a great deal from Adriana, as she has enriched and expanded the agency, our presence, and our reputation in literary realms."

Rosemary continues about choosing to locate the studio on Island: "We had a seasonal home here since 1989, and my daughters spent summers here since they were children. Adriana married an Island boy, and after the pandemic, when people were no longer in their offices, and proximity to N.Y. or L.A. was no longer

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

**Enzo Cardoso Pimenta**

Beatriz and Edison of Oak Bluffs announce the birth of a son, Enzo Cardoso Pimenta, on Dec. 21, 2025, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Enzo weighed 8 pounds, 15.4 ounces.

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When a colleague recently suggested we go together to an “elders retreat” in Arizona, I started contemplating what being an elder might mean. The people I think of as elders — my parents, my godfather, some of my grandparents, teachers, older friends, and colleagues — are those who offered me wisdom, time, and kindness, expecting little in return.

Now nearly 70, I’m surprised to find that I’m increasingly hopeful about becoming more like those elders who gave so much to me. Maybe, I thought, my friend’s retreat might help me continue moving in this direction. I signed up.

At the end of October, I joined a group of 13 people at a small, remote Buddhist retreat center in a valley embraced by mountains strewn with gigantic boulders. My cohorts ranged in age from 59 to 83. The 83-year-old, one of two guides, had a mind as youthful and alive as that of anyone I’ve met.

In preparation for the retreat, I’d read a book called “Soulcraft” by Bill Plotkin, who had trained both of our guides at the Animas Valley Institute, which offers guided immersions into the mysteries of nature and psyche in Colorado. Plotkin writes that soul exploration is often painful, and sometimes accompanied or precipitated by loneliness, loss, and life crises. All indigenous cultures have rituals and tools to explore our souls and help us transition from one stage of life to another — drumming, mind-altering plant medicine, solo journeys into the wilderness, fasting, holotropic breathing, chanting, prayer, meditation, and more. These rituals are often performed in nature, to enhance the soul’s connection with the natural world. Modern Western cultures have largely abandoned such rituals in exchange for the pursuit of material acquisitions, power, prestige, and youthfulness. Plotkin suggests that our Western communities would be better served by finding our own ways to explore our souls, and that such exploration is a prerequisite to achieving elderhood (as opposed to just growing older).

At the retreat, our days started at 7 am with an hourlong guided meditation. At 8 am, we had breakfast and discussed our dreams from the previous night. Then we met outdoors and learned about such topics as the importance of ceremonies, grief, the meaning of becoming an elder, and preparation for our own deaths. After that, we went off alone into the desert for three hours to commune with nature and contemplate our souls or themes of the day. Because many cultures view sharing stories as an important role for elders, we followed our solo sessions by telling the group about our individual experiences. After dinner, we drummed together in the dark, paired off to stargaze, or, one evening, had in-depth discussions with an elder of the Chiricahua Apache tribe that had once inhabited the land where we were visiting.

Being thrown together with a dozen strangers for a week is, in itself, powerful. But for me, the retreat’s most transformative moments were those I spent alone. The center had a room shrouded in complete darkness. Most of the center’s residents spent five days alone in the dark. I spent one afternoon there, moving around entirely by feel. I’d expected to be bored, and

possibly to sleep, but neither happened. As this was on a day when we’d discussed grief, I found myself talking out loud, visiting my life’s losses. This brought up intense emotions. Such feelings are an important part of understanding one’s soul.

Becoming an elder, our instructors asserted, involves acknowledging the losses, traumas, and disappointments of our lives,

grieving is always something we have loved, or at least hoped to love (hence something that may have brought us joy). Francis Weller’s “gates of grief” (bit.ly/Weller\_WildEdge) include the awareness that everything we love will be lost, that there were times in our lives when we needed but did not receive love, and that some hoped-for possibilities will remain unfulfilled.

alive and dead, that we might want to have before leaving this life. I found a good spot for this, and just as I lay down and was about to close my eyes, I heard shrieking from the other side of a small hill. A large black raven appeared, its wings whooshing right over my head, and then it disappeared back over the knoll. I hadn’t previously seen much life in the desert at all, no less a raven. The Western rationalist in me tells me that the symbol of death appearing just as I was beginning to contemplate death was just coincidence. But was it? Certainly, there are forces in the universe that we don’t begin to understand.

One of the most important experiences I had during one of my outdoor solos was a ceremony I created on a mountainside between two boulders — one warm and in the light, the other cold and shaded. During the ceremony, I went through a list of resentments that I have carried for years. With each, I acknowledged my part in the events that caused my resentful feelings and came to a kinder understanding of what had created my grudges. Leaning into the light, I released a wisp of grass into the wind for each one. Afterward, amazingly, I felt resentment-free.

What a relief. Research suggests that forgiveness of ourselves and others makes us happier. And other studies show that people over 65 are on average happier, have more positive emotions, and are more satisfied with their social networks. We seem to have an easier time accepting things that we cannot control, and as a result, are more open to

**As we age, we can enrich our lives by making room for grief, focusing on what and whom we cherish, and exploring our inner selves.**

accepting ourselves and others just as we are.

Cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker has suggested that our culture overinvests in denying death by overemphasizing youth, productivity, and distraction from grief, and that doing so can obscure self-knowledge and leave little room for spirituality, communal involvement, and compassion for ourselves and others. As we age, we can enrich our lives by making room for grief, focusing on what and whom we cherish, and exploring our inner selves. In doing so, we find that things that once seemed paramount (money, prestige, constant productivity, being included in social events) fade in importance, and we naturally become more open to love, kindness, and compassion — the cornerstones of elderhood. **MVT**

*Dr. Charles Silberstein is a psychiatrist on staff at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital and at Island Counseling Center, where he is the medical director. He is board-certified in general, addiction, and geriatric psychiatry. He writes regularly about issues Islanders have with mental health.*

*Laura D. Roosevelt is a poet, journalist, and editor who writes regularly for Bluedot Living and other local publications.*



A mountain near Cochise Stronghold/Dharma Treasure Retreat Center.

# Becoming an elder

BY CHARLES SILBERSTEIN WITH LAURA ROOSEVELT

grieving them and finding our way to an open heart toward others and the world. We need to do what one of our guides called an “apprenticeship in grief and gratitude.” Grief, I realized, involves joy as well as sorrow, because what we’ve lost and are

In many cultures, rituals that herald life transitions often involve confronting death. Our guides suggested creating a “death lodge” — a place in the wilderness where we could imagine our deaths and any conversations with friends and family,

## COMMUNITY NOTE

### ‘Climate Change, Sea Level Rise, and Martha’s Vineyard,’ with Tim Hall

The Vineyard Haven library welcomes climate scientist Tim Hall for a discussion on climate change, sea level rise, and their impact on Martha’s

Vineyard. This event will be held at 6 pm on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, 51 Spring St. in Vineyard Haven (above Tisbury Town Hall).

Hall will address the basic factors driving climate change, the impacts on sea level, and the tools we use to

predict future climate. As a coastal community, Martha’s Vineyard is particularly vulnerable. Tim will show examples of current flood risk on Martha’s Vineyard, and forecasts of its evolution over the next several decades.

Tim Hall is a senior scientist in S&P Global’s Sustain-

able1 division. His work focuses on developing hazard and risk models of extreme weather and climate. Prior to S&P Global, he was a staff scientist at NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies for nearly 20 years, working in climate modeling. Hall has written more

than 60 academic research publications, and was a lead author on the 2017 National Climate Assessment Report. He has also served as a consultant to the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund, and several-risk modeling companies, reinsurers, and ILS investors. Hall holds a Ph.D.

in physics from Cornell University. Since 2021, he and his wife have lived full-time on Martha’s Vineyard.

Free and open to the public. No registration required. For more information, please contact the library at [vhpl\\_programs@clamsnet.org](mailto:vhpl_programs@clamsnet.org) or 508-696-4211. **MVT**

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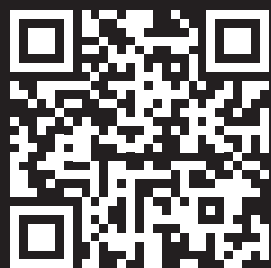
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Olivia Hart listening to the heart of her organ donor, Nora Blake, beat in her chest for the first time.

TAYLOR CHISHOLM

# HEART TO HART

Island heart transplant patient begins nursing school. **BY ALLISON ROBERTS**

Organ donation is often referred to as a “gift of life” for good reason. A single donor can save up to eight lives through organ transplants (heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, pancreas, intestine), and a tissue donor can improve the lives of as many as 75 people by restoring sight and mobility, and helping burn victims.

Olivia Hart, a Martha’s Vineyard resident and paramedic, is one of the lucky ones. This December marked nine years since she received her heart transplant. Despite having a healthy and active lifestyle, shortly after graduating from college she began experiencing fatigue, shortness of breath, and pain with eating or exertion.

She hadn’t been feeling well for a while, but didn’t take it seriously at first. “I was working a lot of hours at the Seafood Shanty, so it was easy to say that I wasn’t feeling well because of work,” she says. “One day, I went to work, not feeling well, and about halfway through my shift, my coworkers — who really saved my life — looked at me and said, ‘You’re going to the hospital.’ I guess my face was gray and drooping. It happened really quickly.”

Due to a genetic mutation, TTN, Hart was told she’d need a heart transplant to survive. A TTN mutation affects the titin gene, which codes for titin, a massive protein essential for muscle structure and elasticity; the mutation causes primarily cardiomyopathies and muscular dystrophies, leading to symptoms like shortness of breath, fatigue, and heart failure.

Luckily, Hart listened to her coworkers, and at about 7 pm, went to Martha’s Vineyard Hospital. By 8 pm, she was on a ferry to Boston. “I went in thinking I was 22 years

old and tired, to 22 years old and dying, which is crazy,” she says.

Hart was put on the transplant list, and received a left ventricular assist device (LVAD), which she warmly nicknamed “Chad the Vad.” “I loved it, because I felt so much better. I don’t think I even realized how bad I felt until I felt better.”

After having the LVAD heart pump for more than a year, Hart had her ultimate holiday wish come true on Dec. 1, 2016, when she received a call that a heart was available due to the selfless act of an organ donor who had recently passed.

With the help of the New England Donor Services (NEDS) team, Hart was able to connect with her donor’s family earlier this year, and learned that the donor was a 23-year-old woman named Nora Blake, who had been kind, intelligent, compassionate, and deeply devoted to children and animals.

“I hadn’t heard from Nora’s family since the

*Continued on B15*

Continued from B14 transplant, and didn't know if they wanted to hear from me," she says. "It took nine years, but I thought, 'Maybe they're feeling the same way I am — hesitant to reach out.'"

Hart says taking that risk and connecting with Nora's family has been wonderful, but also painful. "Someone I know said, 'It's like a gift wrapped in sorrow.' This year it hit me hard. December 2016 was my transplant, and January 2024 is when I talked to Nora's family. I struggle with survivor's guilt sometimes, like if I hadn't needed Nora's heart, she'd still be here. I know it's not rational, but ... I carry immense gratitude for Nora, and for her family. While they insist that Nora made the decision to be a donor on her own, they raised a woman who thought of others before herself. That kind of compassion doesn't happen by accident. Their strength, generosity, and willingness to honor her wishes in the midst of unimaginable grief changed the course of

my life. I got to talk to Nora's mom a few months before she passed away, and I still talk to her dad like once a month."

Hart's gratitude toward NEDS led her to become a volunteer. "NEDS impacted my life so profoundly that I wanted to be a part of doing that for others," she says. "They support donor families, honor donors' legacies, and

ultimate gift." In her post-transplant life, Hart says, she has come to acknowledge that bad things happen to everyone. "It's an unavoidable fact of life. What isn't unavoidable is how you respond. Strength becomes something you don't get to opt out of, but optimism is always a choice. You have to choose hope. The bad days are inevitable, but you have to con-

a blessing," she says. "The blessing is associated with finding my passion. I want to stay in emergency medicine, and eventually get into pediatric cardiology."

The saying "It takes a village" certainly rings true for Hart: "I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the endless gratitude I have for this incredible community. The Vineyard has carried me through this journey, rallying around me with emotional and financial support, and an unwavering sense of belonging. Beyond the community as a whole, my personal support group showed up in ways both loud and quiet, and helped me hold myself together when things felt overwhelming. These are the people I don't deserve, but who would stop the world for me if they could. I truly would not be here without those who love me or the people of this Island." **MVF**

To learn more about New England Donor Services, visit [neds.org](http://neds.org).

***"You have to choose hope. The bad days are inevitable, but you have to continue to choose life, again and again, for every bonus day you're given." -OLIVIA HART***

ensure that every opportunity to save a life is handled with dignity, compassion, and care. I want people to know just how profound and selfless organ donation truly is. Whether as a living donor or through the decision to donate after death, choosing to give someone else life when you have nothing to gain in return is the

tinue to choose life, again and again, for every bonus day you're given."

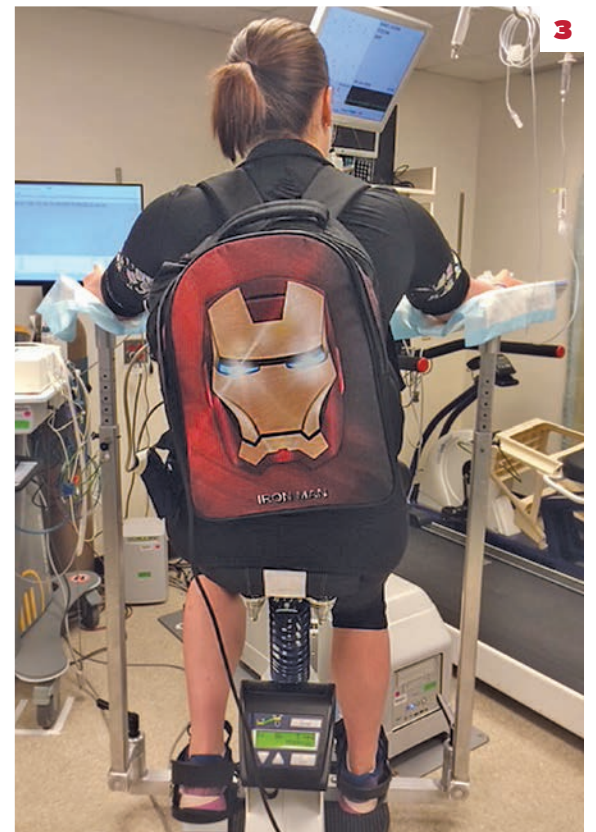
Hart heeds her own advice well, and doesn't take a single day for granted. Recently, she was accepted into a nursing program. "The program starts Jan. 12, and I'm very excited. This journey has been a curse and



TAYLOR CHISHOLM



OLIVIA HART



HALARY PATCH



BILL BLAKE AND THE LATE ANN TWOMBLY



MOLLY NICKOWAL



TRACEY OLSEN



CAITLYN FRANCIS

- 1.** The day Olivia Hart was encouraged to go to the Martha's Vineyard Hospital by her employer at the Seafood Shanty.
- 2.** December 2016, Olivia Hart post-heart transplant.
- 3.** Hart completing a stress test in 2016 while using an Iron Man backpack to hold Chad the LVAD.
- 4.** Hart's donor, Nora Blake.
- 5.** Olivia carries Nora with her every day.
- 6.** Hart pictured with her LVAD and transplant surgeon, Dr. David D'Alessandro, right, surgical director of heart transplantation and ventricular assist devices, and one of her cardiologists, Dr. Gregory Lewis, medical director of the heart transplant program.
- 7.** Thanksgiving 2016, Hart riding the perfect Queen Reina with Chad the LVAD.
- 8.** Hart in December 2025, almost nine years to the day after her transplant, celebrating the marriage of chosen sister Shannon Shimada (O'Connor).
- 9.** Hart in 2025, working as an emergency department technician, revisiting the room she was admitted to in M.V. Hospital.



OLIVIA HART

# Wild Side

BY MATT PELIKAN



The winter great blue heron population has steadily increased.

## Knowing how to play the game

The sight, as I'll explain, is hardly an unusual one. But seeing a great blue heron in winter on Martha's Vineyard always jars my mind.

These gawky birds invariably look miserable in cold weather, and you'd think that their elongated legs and neck would be vulnerable to frostbite.

And yet, there they are. This large, powerful, and versatile bird of shores and marshes is a firmly established part of the Island's winter avifauna.

They wouldn't be here if they didn't have their reasons. Great blue herons, with broad wings spanning five or six feet, labor to get airborne, but once in flight row along with a buoyant directness. Any healthy member of this species is certainly capable of bailing out for warmer climates at any time.

I recently watched one of these stately gray birds as it soaked up the sun and waited for minnows to come into range along the shoreline of Tiah's Cove. It stood perfectly still until I had nearly lost patience. Then it abruptly darted its pointed bill into the water and nonchalantly extracted, then swallowed, a small fish. The bird may have looked wretched, but it knew exactly how to play the game.

The great blue heron shows

one of the more curious historical patterns that I've come across in Vineyard Christmas Bird Count data. For the first 11 years the count was held — 1960 through 1971 — the species was scarce, with numbers barely breaking into double digits only in 1967 (10 individuals) and 1968 (11 individuals).

But then, abruptly, numbers skyrocketed, with the 1972 count producing 59. Since then, numbers have fluctuated, occasionally dipping into the 20s, but have generally been well up in double digits. The highest count appears to have come in 1986, with a remarkable tally of 130 birds.

I'm at a loss to explain the abrupt change in status; my guess is that it reflects a sudden improvement in how effectively the species was counted, rather than an actual explosion in abundance. But multiple sources of

information do suggest that wintering great blue herons have steadily increased in Massachusetts, mainly along the coast, in recent decades. My own experience, now stretching back more than half a century, is consistent with that impression.

The 1963 great blue heron



Blue heron standing in garden.

MICHAL POKORNY



Great blue heron.

MAX FOMIN

species account in Arthur Cleveland Bent's volume on North American waterbirds treats the species as scarce in winter in New England, suggesting few records at all, and none north of Boston. Even in 1993, Wayne Peterson and Richard Veit, writing in "Birds of Massachusetts," described the great blue as "an uncommon and erratic winter resident" in the state. And

pattern of sparse but regular winter occurrence up into the Maritime Provinces. In coastal Massachusetts, especially in mild seasons, encountering a great blue heron in winter is no longer at all surprising.

Climate change, with its associated warmer winters in our region, undoubtedly explains part of this change. But I suspect that part of the reason may also be that the

often associated with beaver ponds, with colonies of herons nesting, sometimes for many years running, in dead trees drowned by the beaver's impoundment. As the beaver population has rebounded, more and more suitable nesting habitat for great blues has become available. Massachusetts Audubon's breeding bird atlas project documents startling growth in both numbers and distribution in the Bay State's breeding population of this species.

Adding to all these reasons for its flourishing, the great blue heron undoubtedly

snakes if they're available, and the species occasionally hunts for rodents or even grasshoppers in dry habitat.

Wintering birds on the Vineyard almost invariably turn up on shorelines, adjacent to open water, and I expect they feed almost exclusively on fish. But anything that will fit down that long, surprisingly elastic neck is fair game for this heron.

Evidence for breeding by great blue herons, even historically, on Martha's Vineyard is sketchy at best. Griscom thinks that "cranes" reported nesting on the Vineyard by Gosnold in 1602 were probably this species. Otherwise, nesting by great blues anywhere in the Cape and Islands region is at best a rare and surprising occurrence.

But as a migrant and, increasingly, as a winter resident, this species is easy to find on the Vineyard. If you spot one, take a moment to reflect on how things can change in the natural world. **MVT**

***In coastal Massachusetts, especially in mild seasons, encountering a great blue heron in winter is no longer at all surprising.***

the great Ludlow Griscom, in his 1959 "Birds of Martha's Vineyard," considered a Vineyard count of 11 birds in 1953 to be notable.

But current field guides and birding websites generally show this heron well-established in much of coastal New England, with a

great blue heron is growing more common. Like many other heron species, this bird was hunted heavily for plumes in the 19th century, and the end of that persecution has allowed a steady recovery in numbers.

Also, nesting by great blue herons in New England is

benefits from its versatility as a hunter. Wetlands, ranging from saltmarsh to pond shores to, occasionally, backyard water features, stand out as preferred foraging habitat, and fish make up the majority of this bird's diet. But great blue herons happily feed on frogs and

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