

Behind the band:
Red Night Delight **B6**

Warm colors year-round
in Cottage City **B14**

MY Times

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THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD TIMES

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Vineyard Wind takes federal government to court

The offshore wind project, now 95 percent complete, remained relatively unscathed all year.

BY HAYLEY DUFFY

Officials behind the \$4.5 billion Vineyard Wind 1 offshore wind project kept their heads down last year, silently installing turbines 15 miles off the coast of the Island.

They made a point of not attracting any attention, good or bad. And that seemed to work for a majority of the year, as other projects under the microscope became targets of the Trump administration in his war on the industry. But that all changed last month.

And now, in the latest turn of the legal saga for offshore wind, the developers of Vineyard Wind 1 announced last Thursday that they issued a legal challenge against the federal government over a suspension order that has paused construction on the project for almost a month already. A federal judge is scheduled to hear the case on Friday.

The company announced that it filed for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction, which would allow construction to resume as litigation continues, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, to stand against the suspension issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Dec. 22. A similar tactic was used by the four other suspended projects, and has already proven successful. The pause is attributed to publicly undisclosed national security concerns identified in classified reports by the Department of Defense (DoD), which the administration now refers to as the Department of War (DoW).

The matter is scheduled to be heard in Boston on Friday, Jan. 23, at 11 am by Judge Patti B. Saris, who previously ruled

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DENA PORTER

Island NAACP President Shawn Ramoutar spoke to a packed audience on MLK Day.

Island NAACP honors MLK Day

A new president's call for unity and youth involvement. BY EUNKI SEONWOO

In a rising tide of societal and economic uncertainty nationwide, leaders of the most established civil rights organizations on the Island made calls for a united front against fears of a country stepping back from gains made during the civil

rights movement, and a call for the next generation of activists to step up.

More than 100 people gathered at the Portuguese-American Club in Oak Bluffs on Monday to join the Martha's Vineyard branch of the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for its annual membership luncheon in honor of the slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. At the packed club, guests were nourished by

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Steamship GM faces rough seas as he takes the helm

Alex Kryska vows to address the findings of a scathing state report on the SSA. BY EUNKI SEONWOO

The new general manager of the Steamship Authority navigated some rough waters during his first public appearance since taking the job.

Alex Kryska, the newly hired general manager of the Steamship Authority, vowed this week to tackle the issues raised in a scathing December report from the state inspector general's office that highlighted the ferry line's website project as a failure.

At the Tuesday morning Steamship board meeting, which was the first for the new general manager, Kryska highlighted that many of the findings in the inspector general's report reinforce concerns identified in

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Coffee to go: Mocha Mott's leaves Vineyard Haven

The building is set to be purchased by the owner of Toccopuro. BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The beloved coffee shop Mocha Mott's, which has been an institution and meeting place for Islanders for more than 20 years, officially closed its Vineyard Haven location last Sunday, then hosted a free coffee and baked goods event to thank the Island community for its support the following day.

The coffee shop is joining the ranks of Island Music and Leslie's Pharmacy — all decades-long businesses in Vineyard Haven that have shuttered in recent memory. Other businesses have cited their reason for closure as the increases, seen Island-wide, in rent prices for a downtown storefront, with the cost to buy breaching a couple of million dollars. Some businesses have downsized, closed altogether, or switched to seasonal hours due to the high costs.



Meredith Aldrich and Hallie MacCormack hug behind the counter.

SARAH SHAW DAWSON

Mocha Mott's, though part of the trend of recent closures, is moving on for another common reason: retirement.

Mocha Mott's in Oak Bluffs will stay in business and reopen in April, but people from across the Island showed up to the "customer appreciation day" on Monday to say goodbye to the coffee shop in Vineyard Haven. Many hollered "See you next April!" tidings to the staff. Tears were shed, and hugs were held for longer than usual. Songs were sung and poems were read. Dogs waited outside for a free bone, while owners got their "usual" for the last time. The staff,

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CORPORATION

State officials begin bid process for State Forest project

A contractor is expected to be chosen in the next month. **BY HAYLEY DUFFY**

A plan to eventually cut almost 200 acres in the State Forest is full steam ahead as the state department that oversees the area recently issued a request to vendors for the price of the work to be done.

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) issued a request for quotes Monday for Phase 1 of the Manuel Correllus State Forest (MCSF) Plantation Removal and Restoration Project. This comes a few weeks after the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office, which conducts reviews of environmental impacts of development projects, restarted progress on the plan that was under scrutiny, after some Islanders noticed a required environmental impact report had never been completed.

Assistant Secretary Tori Kim issued a six-page advisory opinion on the matter on Dec. 26, stating that earlier processes and other documents were sufficient to stand in the place of the mandatory environmental impact report.

After Islanders brought attention to the absent environment impact report, the DCR pushed the issue toward MEPA. The DCR said in early December that it planned to issue bids to choose a vendor for the project over the winter, and a spokesperson for the DCR said in early January that the department would update the timeline based on the advisory opinion.

The advisory opinion also said the state department must submit a forest management plan, which is not a new requirement, that describes operations and maintenance activities as well as habitat management activities, such

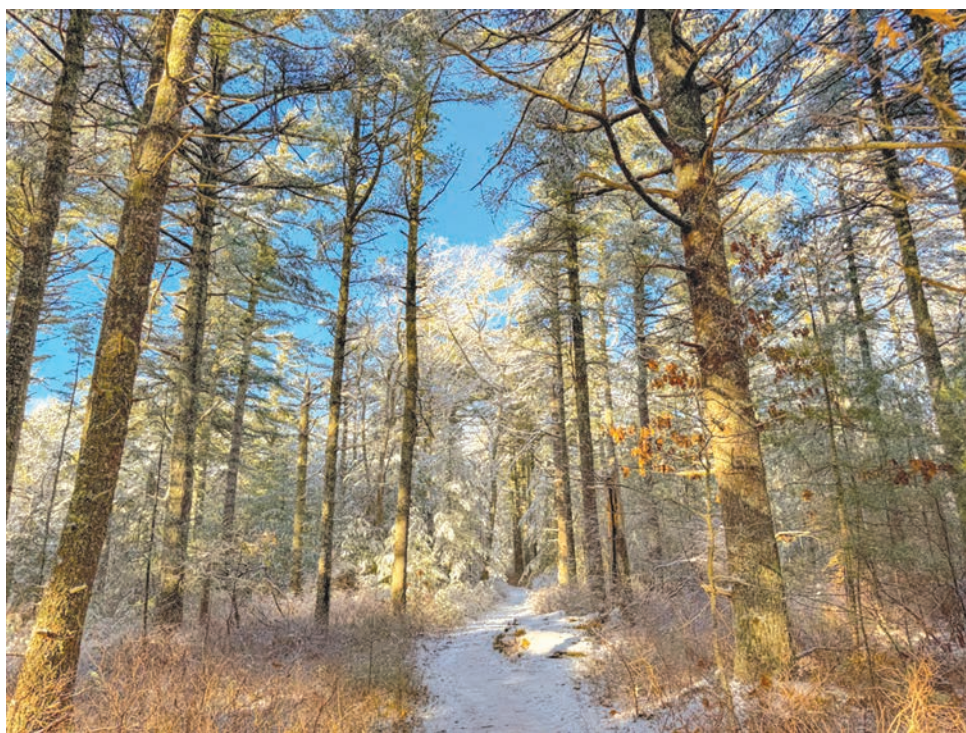
as plantation removal, invasive species control, and prescribed fire, by Dec. 31, 2026. The DCR was also told to make that plan available for public comment through a public notice in the Environmental Monitor, a publication that provides notice of projects under review.

The department said that it plans to issue the notice to proceed, which is granted to a contractor when they are awarded the bid, next month, and that work will be completed later this spring. The request for quotes was posted on the state's procurement website, COMMBUYS. Responses are due by Friday, Jan. 30, and the request for quotes indicates that the estimated duration of the project is two months and the estimated cost for labor is \$50,000. The anticipated completion date is April 30, 2026. The request also requires that the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) receive a predetermined amount of sawlogs (not to exceed 5,000 board feet) from the contractor.

Phase 1 of the plan, which hopes to restore native species to the forest, focuses on 52 acres out of the total 175 acres of white pine plantations slated to be cut by 2035. The work for Phase 1, which will be monitored to inform future forest management, includes four three-acre areas and another 40-acre area.

The DCR and the Martha's Vineyard Commission's MCSF Task Force plan to explore ways to repurpose the harvested wood products locally. The request for quotes also requires at least 25 percent of the felled wood remain on the Island.

"Today, DCR has issued the bid for our plan



MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Pine trees this winter in the Manuel Correllus State Forest. The trees are part of a plan to be cut by the state.

to create a healthier ecosystem and reduce wildfire risk in Manuel Correllus State Forest by removing a portion of the white pine plantation and restoring the forest's native barrens oak woodland communities," a DCR spokesperson said in a statement. "This work will improve the long-term health of the forest that is home to one of the highest concentrations of rare species in the state. We look forward to continuing to work with the task force and local community as this work progresses."

However, some Islanders aren't satisfied by Kim's opinion, and have written to her about it. This group of Islanders wants more transparency in the project's approval process, and feels that the environmental impact report is paramount. They said they may consider a legal review of the matter. **MVT**

news in brief

Vineyard welcomes first baby of the year



COURTESY MARTHA'S VINEYARD HOSPITAL

Taciana Dasilva and Eigon DeOliveira welcomed Gael Palhares DeOliveira, the first baby of the year, into their family.

Welcome to the Island, little one.

In a winter that experienced a number of tragic losses in the Island community early in the new year, Martha's Vineyard Hospital announced the joyous birth of Gael Palhares DeOliveira, the Vineyard's first baby of 2026.

Gael was born to Taciana Dasilva and Eigon DeOliveira of Vineyard Haven on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 5:15 am. Gael was born with a weight of 6 pounds, 2.2 ounces.

"We welcome little Gael to our Island community," the hospital wrote in a press release.

State to host listening sessions for hunting

State officials plan to hold a series of public listening sessions over the next few weeks to receive input on various matters that could permanently affect hunting on Martha's Vineyard.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (MassWildlife) scheduled five sessions, two of which can be attended on Zoom, either on Jan. 27 at 7 pm or Feb. 3 at 1 pm. The rest are off-Island.

A press release from MassWildlife said that the sessions include discussion on opportunities to expand hunting access across the state, such as Sunday hunting, hunting with crossbows, and minimum setback distances for hunting. The sessions expand upon regulatory changes that expanded the hunting season on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket late last year.

"Hunting has always been woven into Massachusetts' history — supporting families, boosting local economies, and helping keep our deer populations healthy," Gov. Maura Healey said in a press release. "Expanding opportunities for hunters will carry that tradition forward while protecting public health and ensuring we're maintaining balance in our wildlife populations."

In light of reports that the islands host the highest deer densities in Massachusetts, state officials came to the Island in December to discuss the prevalence of ticks and tick-borne conditions, such as Lyme disease and alpha-gal syndrome, on Martha's Vineyard. In a press release after the meeting, the state announced its decision to extend the winter bowhunting and primitive firearm hunting season by two weeks, following a monthlong extension, in an effort to make a dent in the deer population and subsequently the tick population. The season is running from Jan. 1 through Feb. 14, and an additional hunting season for primitive firearms and archery was

added for next fall, from Sept. 21 through Oct. 1.

High densities of deer can also contribute to increased deer and vehicle collisions, habitat damage, and coastal erosion.

There are several statutory limitations on hunting equipment, times, and locations, all of which would need legislative action to change. Prohibition on Sunday hunting, for example, began more than 200 years ago; Massachusetts is one of only two states that ban it.

The use of crossbows, which is currently limited only to hunters with a permanent disability, is also up for discussion, as well as reducing the setback limit that is regulated at 500 feet from a dwelling or building, and 150 feet from a road. Other states in New England have less restrictive setback limits, and also changed laws on crossbows.

"We encourage the public to take part in these upcoming listening sessions and share their perspectives about Sunday hunting, hunting with a crossbow, and opening additional areas," said Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Tom O'Shea in the press release. "By expanding access, we can ensure that people have more opportunities to participate in this tradition, connect with the outdoors and each other, and put food on the table."

The public can either attend one of the sessions below or provide feedback through an online form or by mail to Attn: Hunting Laws, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581 by 5 pm on Friday, Feb. 6.

- Jan. 27 at 6 pm on Zoom. Go to bit.ly/MA_Listening1_27 to register.
- Jan. 28 at 6 pm at MassWildlife Field Headquarters (1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough)
- Jan. 29 at 6 pm at Berkshire Community College (Robert Boland Theatre,

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Duxbury man sues Edgartown

Paul Mellen claims the harbor's water taxi is retaliating against him with a ban.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

A longtime mooring holder in Edgartown Harbor is seeking nearly \$10 million in punitive damages from the town of Edgartown, alleging in a federal lawsuit that the harbor's only water taxi, the Oldport Launch, is retaliating against him by banning his access to the service, after he successfully prosecuted a felony assault case against one of their employees in 2022.

Paul Mellen, 69, from Duxbury, filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts in Boston in November, claiming the ban against his access to the water taxi violates his First Amendment rights as well as Massachusetts conflict-of-interest laws, and is an example of tortious interference and breach of contract. According to the civil action summons Mellen sent the town, he is requesting compensatory damages be determined at trial, including \$9,999,999 in punitive damages for the alleged distress, humiliation, anxiety, and diminished use and enjoyment of his boat that the ban caused him, plus court fees.

The issue started in July 2022, when Oldport employee Kris Edwards pushed Mellen into the water off a finger pier near the Edgartown Yacht Club. Mellen took legal action. His recent complaint, filed against Edgartown, claimed Edwards was convicted of felony assault, and was sentenced to probation, and ordered to stay away from Mellen.

However, Robert Moriarty, who represented Edwards in 2022 and 2023 in this case, told The Times that Edwards, who passed away in 2024, received no conviction.

"Kris Edwards received pretrial probation. Kris did not admit to any crime with respect to what so deservedly occurred to Mr. Mellen on July 1, 2022. The reason for this is that the prosecutor, in speaking with Mr. Mellen, saw what Kris Edwards saw on July 1, 2022: 'a difficult jerk who probably needed to cool off by taking a dip in Edgartown Harbor,'" Moriarty said in a statement. "Kris Edwards passed away before his time due to autoimmune disease on Sept. 5, 2024, so he cannot defend himself or his reputation from the spurious



MV TIMES

Edgartown is being sued over an incident that occurred at the town's harbor.

"This action, orchestrated by a municipal law enforcement official, was a deliberate misuse of public office to enforce a private entity's retaliatory ban."

—Paul Mellen in his civil action lawsuit

According to Mellen's complaint, the town of Edgartown contracts Oldport Marine Services to provide the harbor's only full-time commercial water taxi service, granting Oldport a monopolistic position. The lawsuit also describes Ryan Bottary's dual employment as deputy harbormaster and Oldport's general manager as a "severe and known conflict of interest."

allegations in Mr. Mellen's ridiculous lawsuit. Kris was a true gentleman loved by almost everyone who came into contact with him, except for people like Paul Mellen. That's how Kris Edwards should be remembered."

The most recent suit said Bottary rehired Edward at Oldport in July 2023, despite his alleged conviction. Mellen alleges in his lawsuit that a permanent "launch service ban" was

issued against him as well as his family and associates after he objected to Edwards' rehiring. Mellen's seasonal launch pass was also allegedly revoked. Mellen argues this was retaliation for the successful prosecution of Edwards.

Mellen, in a message to The Times, said he objected to Moriarty's statement that he deserved to be pushed in the harbor, and said he never spoke with a prosecutor, only a representative from the prosecutor's office, about the previous incident with Edwards. Mellen called Moriarty's statement "egregiously false."

"I did not file suit against Mr. Edwards, the commonwealth of Massachusetts did," he said in the message. "I have no ill feelings toward Edwards. I'm sure we could have put the negative incident behind us, if not for the terrible decision made by Oldport Launch owner Mike Muessel and now Deputy Harbormaster Ryan Bottary."

In lawsuit documents, Mellen recalled the incident that sparked his decision to sue the town. The documents state the incident occurred in the beginning of August, while he was attempting to catch a ferry off the Island. Mellen said he hailed the Oldport launch to get back to dry land, and Bottary, acting as deputy harbormaster, allegedly responded by telephoning launch captain Michael Hathaway and instructing him to ignore Mellen's hails and deny him service, resulting in Mellen's

almost missing his ferry, according to the lawsuit document.

Mellen said that the town, the harbor-master, and Oldport have given him no reason for his ban.

"This action, orchestrated by a municipal law enforcement official, was a deliberate misuse of public office to enforce a private entity's retaliatory ban," wrote Mellen in his civil action lawsuit submitted to Edgartown.

Mellen, who is known in the Edgartown Harbor for his boat with a large, inflatable pink flamingo, said the process has been emotional for everybody.

"My position in the harbor is a position of positivity, trying to spread joy and happiness through the flamingo and what I do in the form of being generous to the kids in the harbor and the boaters in the harbor," he told The Times. "I really did not want to file a lawsuit to the town, because it creates negativity, but this case was so egregious and outrageous, and demonstrated such an extreme conflict of interest, that I felt it necessary to file the complaint in federal court. That's the only reason I did it."

Edgartown Town Administrator James Hagerty said the town has until Jan. 23 to respond to Mellen's civil action summons.

"The town has a policy to not comment on pending litigation," said Hagerty. **MVT**

news in brief

- 1350 West St., Pittsfield)
- Feb. 2 at 6 pm at Massachusetts Maritime Academy (Admiral's Hall, 101 Academy Drive, Bourne)
- Feb. 3 at 1 pm on Zoom. Go to bit.ly/MA_Listening2_3 to register.

Steamship to host more reservation-system open houses

Islanders will have another chance to tell ferry officials their thoughts on the new reservation system under development.

The Steamship Authority is holding its second series of open houses for its True North initiative to replace the ferry line's reservation system. The Martha's Vineyard session will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 5:30 to 7 pm, at the Tisbury Emergency Services Facility.

According to a press release from the ferry line, the True North project team will be available at the workshops to "discuss reservation policy changes that are under review as part of the change to the new system." Attendees will also be able to ask questions and share feedback on the policies and the project.

The replacement of the outdated reservation systems has been a much-anticipated project for Islanders, as current operations have been heavily scrutinized by locals who have often experienced glitches when trying to make reservations. This scrutiny was exacerbated after the cost of a new website the Steamship had been working on ballooned to nearly \$3 million. The project was ultimately tabled, but a recent report from the Office of the Inspector General found that the shelved website development shouldn't have happened without a new reservation system in place.

The Steamship Authority previously held sessions about the project, including in Tisbury last month, where ferry representatives revealed plans to include a new website with a revamped reservation system, utilizing a program already used by other ferry lines.

Those who cannot make the Tisbury session can join virtually on Jan. 23, when a hybrid meeting with the Falmouth community will be hosted at the Steamship Authority Administrative Offices from noon to 2 pm. The Zoom link can be accessed at bit.ly/TrueNorthtownhall.

Questions about the open houses can be sent to truenorth@steamshipauthority.com.

Manny Rose selected as Chilmark fire chief

Chilmark has chosen from within its own ranks to lead the town's fire department.

The Chilmark Select Board announced its unanimous decision to hire Chilmark Deputy Fire Chief Manuel ("Manny") Rose as the new fire chief during a select board meeting last Thursday. Rose will replace retiring Chilmark Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw.

The decision follows the finalist interviews on Tuesday with Rose and Tisbury Deputy Fire Chief Marques Rivers. After the interviews, the select board agreed that both candidates were capable of successfully leading the department.

Select board member Matthew Poole explained that Rose was selected because of his extensive knowledge of the Chilmark Fire Department and recommendations for its future.

"Manny was minimally dependent on his written submittal, and expanded on all his topics and themes during the actual interview," Poole said on Thursday. "He was able to pull nearly all the information from his

head that he submitted in writing, and showed a depth of knowledge and a clear direction of how he liked to lead the department, if chosen."

During his interview, Rose highlighted the need for training both within the fire department and with other groups, such as with the beach departments, to better prepare for emergencies.

"If we train together, we get familiar with each other. You put a name to a face," he said. "They want to work together more, and the rest of it kind of plays on itself."

Outside of Chilmark, Rose has also served as the Oak Bluffs deputy fire chief in his 32-year firefighting career. Rose also temporarily led the Oak Bluffs department after the 2020 resignation of former Fire Chief John Rose following allegations of sexual harassment within the department — a case that was settled out of court. John Rose, who is Manny Rose's brother, currently faces charges for attempting to conduct "electronic surveillance" on a "nude or partially nude persons," and attempting to pose or exhibit a "child in state of nudity or sexual conduct."

Following the select board's decision, Manny Rose will begin salary negotiations and undergo the necessary physical, psychiatric, and background checks.

Rose told The Times that he felt "very excited" about becoming Chilmark's next fire chief.

"I feel that I've done a good job at foreseeing the department's needs in order to move forward," he said.

Community Foundation scholarship season underway

Scholarship season is underway for the Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation. The foundation announced in a press

release that its 2026 scholarship season began on Jan. 16. Applications are due by midnight on March 13.

Students of all ages are invited to apply for scholarships that can help fund college classes, graduate-level programs, certificates, professional development, or career training programs.

Elizabeth Bennett, program manager at Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation, said she couldn't say how money will be awarded this year yet.

"We'll have that information in late April, closer to the time that the review committee meets," Bennett said in an email. "We have 32 scholarship funds to pull from!"

Applications can be submitted online at marthasvineyardcf.org/scholarships, where a "list of funds for specialized fields of study" can also be found. A Brazilian-Portuguese translation, provided by the Community Ambassador Partnership, is available upon request. For questions or to request translation assistance, email Bennett at elizabethbennett@marthasvineyardcf.org.

According to the foundation's release, it is one of the largest providers of scholarships on the Vineyard, and is "one of the few that support students at every level of education."

The foundation has awarded more than 2,310 scholarships since 1984, totalling more than \$5.3 million. A record-breaking \$375,000 in scholarships was awarded last year "through its annual spring cycle alone, marking the largest total in the foundation's history." That total allowed 128 Islanders to pursue "college and graduate degrees, certification and vocational training, and professional development programs."

MVT

EDITORIAL

A new year's resolution we can share

How are your new year's resolutions holding up? This is right about the time when we might need to be reminded of the grand promises we made to ourselves and loved ones. So are you sticking to that well-intentioned plan to get more exercise and adjust your diet? OK, you don't have to answer that question.

But we do want to let you know we are in that process of evaluating our own new year's resolutions to you, our community, as well as promises that we are trying to keep up on some realistic goals for ourselves as an understaffed and underfunded newsroom that struggles to do its best.

We want you to know that we always strive to enlighten and inform you in our news and community coverage, and to approach the big challenges to the Island with a spirit of fairness and accuracy. We don't always succeed, but we want to assure you that we are always trying our best.

The new year started off with an extraordinary challenge in this regard. As you have no doubt been reading in our news coverage, a spate of tragic deaths took the lives of five prominent leaders from very different corners of the Island, and it has challenged us as a newsroom to do our best. Our coverage was not perfect, not by a long shot. But we have tried to honor these lives lost, and we hope our efforts offer a way to bind us all together around the facts of what happened and the stories around what made these lives special.

We want to be sure we do that every time we

write an obituary — not only after a sudden and tragic death and not only about well-known or prominent people, but also about the losses that happen in families across the Island every day. A death that may go unnoticed by the public is still powerfully important to the family impacted by that loss. We will keep trying to write these stories and to record these deaths, and to understand that is a public service we provide as a community news organization. The service is to honor those in our community who pass away by sharing their story. We recognize that this part of our job is particularly in demand by communities when they feel gutted by tragedy, and the Island certainly does seem to be reeling from a gut punch. Actually, a series of gut punches, one blow after another. We are left struggling to catch our breath.

But the even harder part of our job, and the area where we have focused our new year's resolution, has to do with serving as moderators of a civil dialogue in this deeply divided time in which we live. These days seem to come with a daily pummeling that is local, national, and global and can leave us all feeling breathless and distressed. So I hope the local tragedies we have experienced can give us the perspective that we need to step back and collectively take a pause and reflect on how the relentless pace of news, misinformation and disinformation, and the general culture of disrespectful dialogue are impacting us all. We need to vow to stop and try harder to listen to each other.

To accomplish this new year's resolution as a news organization, to try to balance opinions and listen to each other, we need your help. This is a resolution that requires you to be committed to

the same goal of improving civil dialogue on our Island. We need to see this as a shared goal.

In order to achieve a more healthy dialogue, in order to actually listen to one other and hear what we are saying, we need both a culture of respect and some appropriate guardrails. These guardrails are particularly needed around how we moderate comments, and we had some particularly nasty ones that landed at the end of last year.

We consider this an evolving process; it began in earnest almost exactly one year ago, when we asked for input on how best to handle comments. They seem to get even nastier when they spill over to public forums like Islanders Talk on Facebook. That platform can be beneficial, for example, in highlighting a fundraiser. And it can be useful if you have lost a pet. But it is a flawed and fraught forum for dialogue on controversial issues, and ends up filled with offensive comments and hidden agendas, which all too often are anonymous — although the page's moderators have made a recent effort to get rid of accounts belonging to people not associated with the Vineyard. Islanders Talk too quickly descends into vitriol, ad hominem attacks, and outright falsehoods. Our news organization and some of our staff have been victims of these false and defamatory attacks on Islanders Talk. We often find ourselves wondering why there is not a new online forum that could serve as an alternative to Islanders Talk, and we have a name we'd like to recommend: Islanders, Listen!

And so this is the one new year's resolution that we believe we can all share. Let's make a promise to ourselves and to each other to truly listen to each other.

The proposed resolution

The resolve to listen is what motivated us to reach out to you, our readers, all last year about our comment policy. After your input, for which we were grateful, as well as input from our staff and Island leaders in the faith, civil rights, nonprofit, and education communities, we developed a set of guidelines that we believe will help us ensure there is a place for free speech, free of hate and vitriol. Our new year's resolution is to do better to live up to these guidelines, and to be sure we encourage our readers and commenters to do the same. One thing we are working on is making sure this process is easier to see on The Times website, and we are still working on that. Thanks for your patience.

For now, we thought we would put in print once again what our policies are. Of course, as part of this ongoing effort to improve our comments and step up the civility with which we discuss important issues on our webpages, we always want to hear from you. You can send suggestions directly to one of our moderators and news editors, Eunki Seonwoo. Many of you know Seonwoo as a reporter, but Eunki and fellow reporter Hayley Duffy have both stepped up into

the role of news editors, and they are doing a great job. Seonwoo is handling the comments, while Duffy is on point to help us publish "The Minute" every day. The Times approaches moderating comments as a team effort, and we all want to be sure we make clear to the community what exactly our policies for comments are, so here is the list we published in January last year:

- All comments will be submitted for review by our moderator.
- To comment, we ask that you are a paid member of The Times, and we are setting a limit of one post per member, per day.
- Comments will be capped at 200 words.
- Verifiable names and email addresses are required to post.
- All comments will need to be grounded in the matter at hand, pertaining to the story the subscriber wishes to comment on.
- There should be absolutely no threats of violence, and we will not tolerate ad hominem attacks or profanity.
- There will be no attacking or criticism of someone for their race, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Differences of

opinion on matters of politics, policy, or approaches to big Island issues, including housing, climate change, immigration, and education, will have to be civil and thoughtful to be posted.

- We are implementing a three-strike policy for commenters who violate these rules. If a poster insistently strikes a tone of disrespect or incivility, or attacks others, he or she will be banned after three warnings.
- Comments will be shut down on each story after seven days, as has been the policy for many years.
- If you want to make a comment that is longer than 200 words, or if you are not a member, please feel free to write a letter to the editor. You can do so via email at editor@mvtimes.com, and we will review it for publication.

You can also mail us a letter via the Postal Service: MV Times, Letter to the Editor, 30 Beach Road, P.O. Box 518, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568.

If you wish to reach Eunki Seonwoo directly, email him at eunki@mvtimes.com, or call 508-693-6100, ext. 118.

obituaries

Roy Timfre Scheffer



Roy Timfre Scheffer 77, passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 1, 2026, in a tragic boating accident in Edgartown. He and

his beloved partner, Patricia Bergeron, were taken too soon by the sea.

He was born at Martha's Vineyard Hospital on Oct. 24, 1948, to Frances Lowner Drake Scheffer of Edgartown and Frederick Sieba Scheffer of the Netherlands. In his early years, he and his mother lived in the Drake family home on Cottage Street in Edgartown, surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. When he was a young child, his mother remarried, and they relocated to Dexter, Maine. Sadly, she died shortly after. At age

12, Roy returned to Cottage Street to live with his loving aunt, Edith Drake Bennett, his uncle, Dudley Bennett, and cousins Dexter, Tom, Dudley, and Jonathan.

Edgartown was his true home. He belonged to a neighborhood of families called the East Side Gang, including the Bassetts, Bettencourts, Colters, Mellos, O'Neils, and Wards. Together, they formed an extended family whose friendships shaped his youth and lasted a lifetime.

He graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional

High School in 1966. He tried different jobs, but nothing could keep him from his true passion, which was fishing.

Even though he was known most recently as a successful oyster farmer, Roy was a master of all things commercial fishing: swordfishing, sea scalloping, dragging for groundfish, lobsters, oysters, and bay scallops. As fishing regulations tightened, he exchanged offshore fishing for local shellfishing. He transitioned to aquaculture in 1999. He and longtime friend Jack Blake, with

the help of the M.V. Shellfish Group, forged the beginnings of what has become a successful oyster farming industry on Martha's Vineyard.

Off the ocean, Roy spent endless hours in his thriving garden. He had the greenest thumb, and grew vegetables for all of his children and grandchildren and still had plenty to share. He grew rows and rows of dahlias that took your breath away, and always won ribbons at the Agricultural Fair. He loved to coach his children in sports, was a diehard New

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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 (click on Submissions link). **MVT**

ESSAY

Thank you and see you soon

BY MEREDITH ALDRICH

Well, I broke my own rule ... If you've ever worked at Mocha Mott's, you know the first rule of Mott's is there's no crying at Mocha Mott's. I expected the closing of our Vineyard Haven location to be emotional, but I did not expect the overwhelming reaction from the community that followed! It was a great weekend of memories, love, and support that really humbled and touched me to my core. To all the people who reached out in person, via text, email, social media, etc.: Thank you!

The only thing missing was Tim. (He was off getting a jump on retirement, on a preplanned vacation.) He's been trying to retire since the end of 2019, and we all know how everything got derailed after that! To Tim: We haven't always agreed, but that is part of what has made us such a great team. We have trusted each other's instincts and shared vision for our business. Thank you for being the very best friend and partner I could have asked for. It's been quite a ride, and I'm proud of what we turned Mott's into. I'm looking forward to seeing you all tanned up and sandy, stopping

in with your grandsons to O.B. for a bagel post-beach outing!

To all our loyal Vineyard Haven customers: I'll miss you all so much, and hope you'll come see us in O.B. this spring. The place has felt like a home away from home, and seeing you all every morning has brought me such joy. Malcom, Matt M., Matt C., Amanda, Sue and Eric, Monty and Carol, Saint!!!, Mitch, Robby, Yarka, Mark, Gretchen, Jackie, Dave, and yes, even you, Paul ... and of course Alexander! You're a part of what makes Mott's special, too!

I've had the incredible fortune to work with some amazing folks over the years ... To all the crew/staff I've had the pleasure of working alongside all these years: Thank you! There are far too many to name you all, but you've been what makes it all happen, and we couldn't have done it without you! I've seen you grow up, move on, get married, have kids, and stop in to say hello when you're visiting. I love this so much. To our current roster, I'm so grateful! To James, Scott, Hallie, Olivia, Abby, Mac, Ian, Eli, Bella, and Xavier: I know these last few months have been very hard, and I thank you for sticking it out! Mama Mer loves you!

At the end of the day, 15 Main St. is just a building. I remember as a teenager going to meet my friend Elisa Barron (who lived in one of the apartments upstairs) for coffee at the Get a Life

café on our way to wait tables for Tim and Mac at the Tisbury Inn Cafe. (Rachel Baumrin was the barista back in those days!) This was back when the coffee shop was in the part where Puff & Pass is now. Then they expanded to take over Diodati's space (where the coffee shop now resides). Then the space became Bongo. Boy, were people sad when they closed — and Tim and I brought Mocha Mott's in there! This was back in 2004. Being in there yesterday, cleaning up, it felt very much like it did at that time. Not like an ending, but like a beginning. Like the start of something new. Which it is. While I can't speak as to what the new owners will do, as it's not my news to share, I suspect there will be coffee!

After a break, while Tim and I "consciously uncouple" our business, O.B. Mott's will reopen. The things that make Mocha Mott's Mocha Mott's will live on in our O.B. location. I suspect you'll see familiar faces behind the counter, music (yes, at times loud), Cape Cod bagels, organic fair-trade coffee, fresh baked goods, M.V. Barkery bones, high-fives, and laughter. You might see Tim bumming around, but me ... I'll be back at the helm of the mother-ship, in my subterranean kitchen. Please stop by and say hello! Peace, Love, Coffee.

Meredith Aldrich is the co-owner of Mocha Mott's.

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obituaries

England sports fan, and loved to cook. He was an avid cribbage player, and a proud member of the Martha's Vineyard Cribbage Club.

He had a great sense of humor, the widest smile, and always a twinkle in his eye.

Above all else, Roy loved his beautiful partner of many years, Tricia, and his children. With Kristine Larsen Scheffer, he shared Kimberly, Isaiah, and Jeremy. Years later, he welcomed Noah and Martha with Jessica Burnham. He adored being with his children and grandchildren.

Words cannot describe how much Roy meant to his children. He was an amazing father. His children felt his strength and unconditional love every day, and have lost not only their dad, but their best friend.

Roy will forever be loved and missed by his five children: Kimberly Rogers (Daniel Rogers), Isaiah Scheffer (Emma Green-Beach), Jeremy Scheffer (Isabelle Lew), Noah Scheffer, and Martha Scheffer (Anthony ["Lamar"] Morris). He is survived by six grandchildren who were everything to him: Matteus (Grace), Brayden (Nellie), Odin, Isaac, Vera, and Maya. He leaves behind his brothers, Thomas Bennett, Dudley Bennett, and Jonathan Bennett, as well as his half-brother, Frederick Scheffer, and half-sister, Lilly Scheffer, both of the Netherlands. His brother, Dexter Mello, predeceased him. He leaves many cherished nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends, including Neale Bassett and Albert Whittier.

A private graveside service will be held at a later date. A celebration of Roy's life will take place at the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Hall on Saturday, May 2. All are wel-

come. Further details will be shared closer to the date.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Roy's honor to the M.V. Shellfish Group, an organization that was near and dear to him, online at mvshellfish-group.org/donate-now.

To read the complete obituary, go to mvtimes.com.

Martha Child



Martha Mosher Child was born in Oak Bluffs. She was the daughter of Gary S. Mosher and Helen (Medeiros) Mosher, formerly of Vineyard Haven. Martha grew up in Vineyard Haven and attended Island schools; she was a 13th-generation Island native.

She graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in 1974. Educated as a musician, she studied several instruments, including piano, pipe organ, violin, and flute.

At the age of 15, she began playing as organist at the Old Whaling Church, then began her career as an organist and choir director at the United Methodist Church and the First Baptist Church. She also sang in musical groups around the Island.

Continuing a family tradition as a member of the Vineyard Haven Band, she played flute for

more than 54 years. Beginning in 2011, Martha led a ukelele group that brought joy to countless Islanders.

She had a love of photography, another Mosher family legacy. She enjoyed art and writing, as well as music.

Martha was predeceased by her beloved husband, John W. Child. She is survived by her stepdaughter, Lori-Ann Child of Spring City, Tenn.; stepdaughter, Amy and her husband Ray Goodwin of Onset; and stepson, Thomas F. Child and his wife Celene Wong of Brookline. She is also survived by five step-grandchildren, many cousins, and dear friends.

A graveside service will be held for Martha on May 16 at 11 am at Oak Grove Cemetery in Vineyard Haven.

Susan Spalding Silva



On Jan. 9, 2026, Susan Spalding Silva passed away peacefully at her home in West Tisbury. She was 83.

Born in Oak Bluffs to Philip and Mildred Spalding, Susan was raised in a house on Main Street in Vineyard Haven, nicking the occasional flower from neighbors' yards, an early sign of what would become her life's work. Her family spent summers on a farm off Tiah's Cove Road in West Tisbury, where her deep connection to the land

took root.

After attending Abbott Academy (class of '60) and spending a brief time at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Susan returned to the Island and married Ronald D. Silva in 1963. Together, they became farmers, purchasing Arrowhead Farm in North Tisbury and establishing its popular farmstand in 1968. In addition to growing prizewinning vegetables, Susan and Ron raised chickens and pigs, and milked a small herd of Jersey cows. To help feed their growing family, Susan quickly became adept at canning, freezing, and preserving the farm's bounty for the winter months.

In the early 1970s, Susan helped found the West Tisbury Farmers Market with Susan ("Soo") Whiting and Prudy Whiting. Susan remained a fixture there for 30 years, first selling her vegetables and, later, her flower bouquets from racks of green-painted cans beneath a silver tent.

After selling Arrowhead Farm in 1977, Susan and Ron went on to create Briar Rose Farm on the same land where Susan spent her childhood summers. From this soil, she skillfully and with great success tended the cut-flower garden from which she arranged and sold her renowned bouquets and dried flower wreaths.

While immersed in the rhythms and demands of farm life, Susan and Ron also raised four children among rows of vegetables, livestock pens, and flower fields.

Susan's love for the Island extended beyond the edges of her own garden to the broader community. Susan served for nearly 20 years on the West Tisbury planning board, and volunteered at Felix Neck Sanctuary and the Polly Hill Arboretum. She also propagated plants for the Martha's Vineyard Garden Club, and for many summers treated

the staff and patrons of the West Tisbury library, Howes House, and Town Hall to fresh flowers on a regular basis.

In the colder months, after the garden had been put to bed and before the arrival of seed catalogs in early spring, Susan enjoyed capturing local plants and animals in watercolor, knitting hats, gloves, and sweaters for loved ones, watching birds at the feeders, and reading crime thrillers on the couch.

Susan was creative, resourceful, practical, and generous. She made beautiful things with ease, loved sharing her knowledge of farming and flower arranging with those who wanted to learn, and grew a fantastic tomato. She believed flowers fed the soul as much as food fed the body, and through her work, she nourished many.

Susan is survived by her husband of 63 years, Ronald; sons Timothy and his wife Andrea Freeman, Michael and his wife Cecilia Mao, and Daniel and his wife Nancy; daughter Andrea and her husband Bas Louter; three grandchildren, Chapin, Emmett, and Lee; and her brother Philip Spalding Jr., and nephew Philip ("PJ") Spalding III.

If you would like to honor Susan in some way, take a walk in nature, smell a flower, hug a friend, or make a donation to one of the organizations mentioned above. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Lewis Edmond Waring II

Lewis Waring passed away shortly before Christmas at his West Tisbury home. He was 74.

A full obituary will be published in a future edition of this paper, and a memorial gathering will be held at a future date.

Anne Sharlun DeBettencourt



Anne Sharlun DeBettencourt, 80, of Oak Bluffs, went home to Jesus, surrounded by family and friends, on Jan. 10, 2026.

Anne was a beacon of light to all who knew her. Her hard-working spirit, generous heart, and adventurous nature left a lasting impression on everyone she met. Above all, she was a deeply loving and caring person with an unflinching desire to serve others. Anne's love for Jesus was evident every day, guiding her actions and decisions throughout her life.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Andrew Theodore Sharlun and Vivian Victoria (Olson), Anne learned the value of caring for and serving others from her parents. After a few years in Brooklyn, the family moved to Hempstead. After two years of heart trouble resulting from a childhood illness, her father Andrew passed away of heart failure on New Year's Eve when she was 11. This was heartbreaking for Anne, as she was very close to her father. He had loved to read and shared that love with Anne. Eventually, her family moved to Patchogue, where she attended Patchogue High School, graduating in 1963, and later pursued higher education at Buffalo State University, where

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Vineyard Wind takes federal government to court

Continued from A1

that President Donald Trump's "Wind Memo" from last January and a subsequent order from federal officials that barred approval for new wind projects was "arbitrary and capricious, and contrary to law." She ruled in favor of the lawsuit brought by 18 attorneys general, including Massachusetts' AG, and overturned the indefinite pause on new leases, which should encourage further development. However, the decision didn't protect approved leases. And more than a week later, federal officials issued suspension orders to five offshore wind projects in the midst of construction.

In court documents, Vineyard Wind 1 LLC said the Interior, BOEM, and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement were "abusing their authority" in their issuance of the suspension. They said the project is 95 percent complete, and already has the capacity to produce 572 megawatts.

The project, which started construction in 2021, is planned to have a 806-megawatt capacity, or nameplate production potential, which is the amount of energy produced under optimal conditions (all turbines spin constantly at optimal wind speeds). A 2020 construction and operations (COP) plan (pg. 7) for the project said the wind turbine generators have an annual capacity factor that exceeds 45 percent, which is the ratio of the project's annual power production to the nameplate production potential, as previously reported by the New Bedford Light.

"As of Dec. 21, 2025, the date before BOEM's order, the project was on schedule to be completed by March 31, 2026, bringing the project to its planned 800 [megawatts] capacity from 62 wind turbine generators," the company's complaint reads.

The suspension also delays benefits promised to the Island through a community benefits agreement (CBA) with the nonprofit Vineyard Power. Part of the CBA is the resiliency and affordability plan (RAP), which allocates \$7.5 million to the Island over 15 years for onshore energy projects. Funds, which will be paid in installments of \$500,000 to the Island on

an annual basis, from the project won't start until right after the project reaches commercial operation, which was expected to occur at the end of 2025, and now remains undetermined.

Vineyard Wind 1 was the only project of the five to be allowed to continue to produce power amid the suspension and despite national security concerns, though there's been no new construction permitted for almost a month now. "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

suspension order said.

The developers referenced their work over the past decade to get federal approvals, and said that federal agencies even defended the legality of the permits and authorizations against four lawsuits over the past couple of years. But they said that attitude changed last January when Trump came to office.

After the suspension order was issued, Vineyard Wind's CEO Klaus Skoust Møller emailed Matthew Giacona, acting director of BOEM, who issued the suspension, to ask to meet in order to mitigate the national security concerns cited in the order. "Director Giacona and other officials from BOEM and Interior agreed to meet with Vineyard Wind on Dec. 30, but they refused to either

identify the supposed national-security threat posed by the project or discuss possible mitigation measures," court documents said.

And not only is national security hard to fight, but the developers don't know what the concerns are, and might not ever know. Jacob Tyner, deputy assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management within the Interior, submitted to the court a declaration for a lawsuit by another suspended offshore wind project that said, "BOEM is coordinating with DoW on whether access to the classified material with a secret designation by developers is possible, and/or whether certain information can be declassified, or an unclassified summary could be created."

Vineyard Wind 1 LLC asked the court to set aside the order as "arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and contrary to law" in court documents filed last Thursday. "Upon information and belief, the order's invocation of 'national security' is a pretext for halting offshore wind development, rather than a response to any identified, project-specific threat," court documents said. They added that the suspension means they incur costs of \$2 million per day, and said they risk access to a specialized installation vessel that is only under contract until March 31.

"The inability to timely complete construction of the project in turn jeopardizes the revenues and financing necessary for the project to remain viable, with resulting financial consequences that

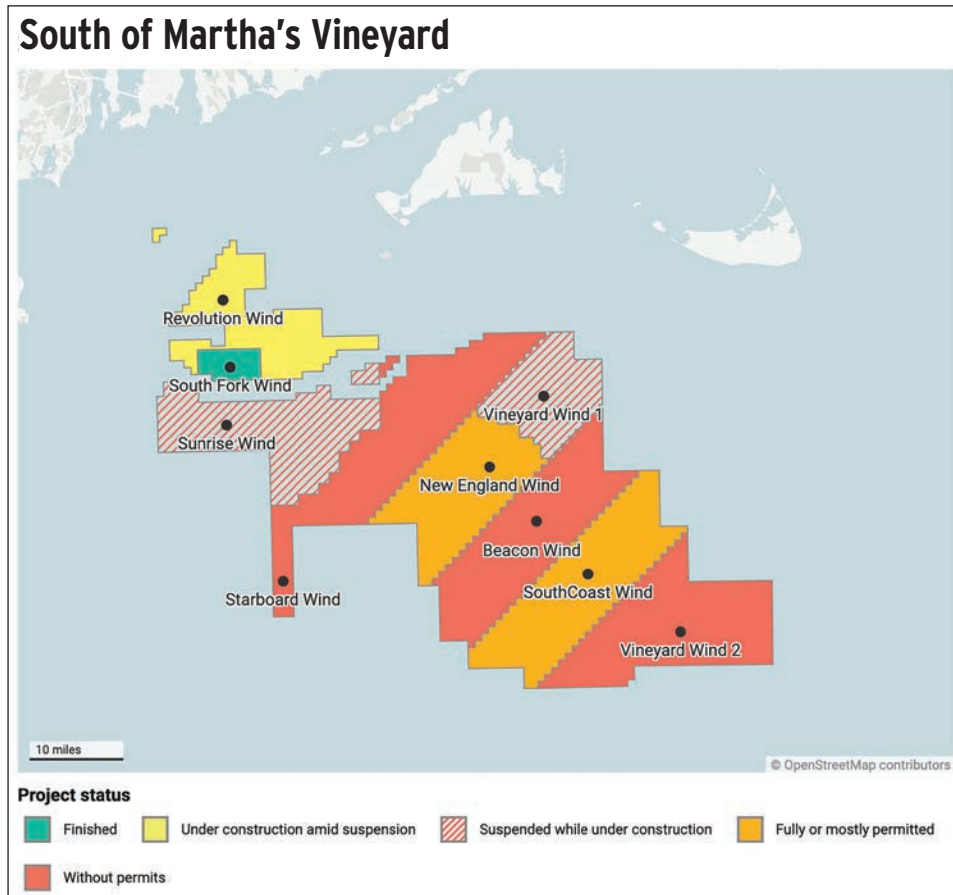
would threaten the financial viability of the entire project and, consequently, Vineyard Wind's ability to survive," court documents said.

The suspension order suggests permanent cancellation of the project as a possibility, but if construction doesn't finish soon, the developers suggest the end might come anyway.

"Vineyard Wind continues to work with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and other relevant stakeholders and authorities in the administration to understand the matters raised in the order," a statement from the company said. "However, Vineyard Wind believes the order violates applicable law and, if not promptly enjoined, will lead to immediate and irreparable harm to the project, and to the communities who will benefit from this critical source of new power for the New England region."

Revolution Wind, also off the coast of the Island, Empire Offshore Wind, a New York project, and the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project were all granted preliminary injunctions in the past two weeks. Empire Offshore Wind was granted the injunction in the U.S. District Court for D.C. the same day Vineyard Wind filed for its own.

"Empire Wind will now focus on safely restarting construction activities that were halted during the suspension period. In addition, the project will continue to engage with the U.S. government to ensure the safe, secure, and responsible execution of its operations," a statement from that developer reads. **MVT**



COURTESY THE NEW BEDFORD LIGHT

Offshore wind lease status map south Martha's Vineyard.

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obituaries

she earned her B.S. in education in 1967. Anne furthered her studies at New York University, obtaining her master's in education. Her dedication to education was seen in her career as a teacher at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

Anne was not just a dedicated educator; she was also an entrepreneur with a sense of service. She helped start and run five businesses on Martha's Vineyard, the most recent and long-lasting being DeBettencourt's Bike Shop. Later, she also was a Creative Memories and Ecoquest consultant.

Anne was preceded in death by her brother, Albert Sharlun, and stepson, Keith DeBettencourt. She is survived by her ex-husband, Lawrence DeBettencourt, and their daughters, Laura Irby and Leslie DeBettencourt; son-in-law, Seth Irby; grandchildren, Vivian, Ezra, Silas, and Dorothy Irby, and Chloe DeBettencourt; her stepdaughter Kim Enos, and her sisters, Dorothy Breslin and Virginia Lewin.

Her life will be celebrated on Martha's Vineyard and in New

York in early June, with detailed arrangements to be provided at a later date.

Anne's legacy is of a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, and one of love, generosity, and service, epitomizing the values she held dear. Her life was a testament to her faith and her dedication to serving others. She was always hosting people in her home, from women's Bible studies to Christmas Eve and birthday parties, to scrapbooking events, and everything in between, and was very involved with her church. Whether it was a helping hand or a listening ear, she was always quick to fill a need, and her heart for people was evident. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

In remembering Anne, let us remember God's love for her and her walk with Jesus, her service to her church and community, and her unwavering love for her family. Her faith and life will continue to inspire us, and her memory will forever be cherished in our hearts.

To read the complete obituary, go to mvtimes.com.

Patricia Bergeron



Patricia Bergeron, 69, of Martha's Vineyard, passed away on Jan. 1, 2026, while on the water with her beloved partner, Roy Scheffer, scalloping as they welcomed the New Year doing what they loved most.

She was the strongest, most selfless person you could have known, with the biggest heart and an unforgettable smile. When you saw her face light up, you knew that everything was going to be OK.

Tricia devoted her life to caring for others. She worked at Martha's Vineyard Hospital for more than 40 years, where she considered everyone who walked through the doors not just patients or coworkers, but family. Her compassion, generosity, and unwavering sense of duty made her a cornerstone of both the hospital and the Island community she loved so deeply.

Tricia was deeply proud of her Portuguese heritage, and carried that pride into every part of her life. She had a lifelong love for and devotion to the P.A. Club, where she found community, tradition, and a sense of belonging that meant the world to her. In recognition of her dedication and service, Tricia was named Portuguese Woman of the Year, following in her Aunt Cathy's footsteps — an honor she cherished deeply.

Above all else, Tricia cherished her family. She was a devoted mother to Kristen Fitzpatrick and her husband Shaun, and Thomas Wilkins and his partner Meghan. She carried the love and memory of her son Eric MacLean, who

predeceased her, in her heart every day. She found her greatest joy in her grandchildren, Benjamin Eric MacLean Peters, lovingly known as her "Benny," and his partner Shelby. She was also a proud and loving grandmother to her granddaughter, Finley Patlin Wilkins. They were the lights of her life. Tricia is also survived by her brothers, Peter Bergeron and Patrick Bergeron, as well as her many beloved nephews, all of whom she loved deeply and supported wholeheartedly.

Later in life, Tricia found her soulmate in Roy, and experienced a happiness she so deeply deserved. Along with their love for the water — scalloping, oystering, and spending their days side by side — they shared a love of cribbage. As proud members of the Martha's Vineyard Cribbage Club, Tricia and Roy often traveled off-Island to play in tournaments, enjoying both the game and the adventure together. Their bond was one of true partnership, laughter, and joy. Tricia and Roy passed away together, reflecting a

love that was inseparable and enduring.

Tricia was the rock of her family and a steady presence on the Island — someone people leaned on, trusted, and felt safe with. She gave endlessly of herself, always putting others first, and leaves behind a legacy of kindness, strength, and unconditional love.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. This spring, Tricia's ashes will be laid to rest alongside her beloved son, Eric, honoring the unbreakable bond they shared.

In lieu of flowers, the family has established a GoFundMe [bit.ly/GFM_BergeronFamily] to assist with expenses, help the family regain their footing, and most importantly, to preserve the family property that Tricia worked her entire life for — ensuring it remains a place of love, gathering, and memories for her children and grandchildren.

She will be deeply missed, forever loved, and always remembered for the way she made people feel — safe, cared for, and never alone. **MVT**

Island NAACP honors MLK Day

Continued from A1

the cooking of the Roxbury-based caterer Seasoned with Soul and accompanied by strains of jazz played by local pianist Jeremy Berlin.

And, fittingly, the MLK Day event also featured a red, white, and blue poster near the podium portraying another legendary civil rights leader, Congressman John Lewis, alongside his famous phrase “Get in trouble, good trouble, necessary trouble.”

Lewis, who lived in Atlanta and represented Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District from 1986 until he died in 2020 at the age of 80, was one of the original Freedom Riders, part of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, and helped organize the March on Washington in August 1963, where King made his famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

But amid reflections on King’s dream, and how far Americans had to go to make it come true, trouble was one of the themes of the day. Speakers highlighted the rise of white nationalism and the ongoing use of force by the Trump administration — from the strike in Venezuela to clashes around U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations in Minneapolis — and made calls to action, especially to inspire a younger generation of activists.

“As a Black Native American woman in an interracial marriage ... I worry about the future of this country,” said Grace Robinson, chair of the Vineyard NAACP’s MLK committee. “We face persistent racial injustice, economic inequality, and erosion of trusted democracy in our government.”

Robinson highlighted the “constant exposure to hate” that social media platforms and artificial intelligence help facilitate, and said she felt that if King were alive today, he would “remind the nation that progress requires both laws that protect justice and a collective conscience that values human dignity over fear and division.”

Kyle Williams, the guest speaker, who founded the antiracism program A Long

Talk, offered a quote from Dr. King: “There is nothing more tragic than to sleep through a revolution.”

But he highlighted that the current revolution may not be the one people at the luncheon wanted to see, and may have begun with the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol and the re-election of Donald Trump and what Williams described as a rise in white nationalism.

“There is a revolution going on in our country right now, and it’s not the one we were hoping for,” Williams said.

Williams also underscored



1. Creator and chief empowerment officer of A Long Talk Kyle R. Williams was guest speaker at the luncheon. 2. T. George Davis swore in the NAACP Martha’s Vineyard Branch President Shawn Ramoutar and the executive board. 3. More than 100 guests attended the MLK Day Luncheon at the P.A. Club.



PHOTOS: DENA PORTER

“There is a revolution going on in our country right now, and it’s not the one we were hoping for.”

—KYLE R. WILLIAMS

that issues need to be addressed by people outside the Black community; he noted the fact that the celebrated Underground Railroad moved Black people out of slavery into safer states in the North, but that it is important to remember that white people risked their lives to break the law by hid-

ing people along the way.

“If Black people could end white supremacy, we would have done it by now,” Williams said.

Williams also said it was time for younger advocates to be called upon, and urged current leaders to find ways to energize a new generation who may have grown

disconnected from the struggles for equality fought by older generations.

The NAACP’s Vineyard branch’s new president, Shawn Ramoutar, shared this sentiment, and said that it was time to develop a new batch of civil rights advocates on the Island and across the country.

Ramoutar said the organization has worked to “advance civil rights” with other organizations like churches, schools, and advocacy groups. He recalled the Taste of Juneteenth event the NAACP of Martha’s Vineyard held that “uplifted Black history and culture,” and when NAACP members joined hundreds of Islanders at a No Kings rally in Tisbury against the Trump administration in October. The organization had established a partnership with the advocacy group Indivisible to bring the Fourth Amendment Project to Islanders and residents, to “educate our community on their civil rights in the face of ICE kidnappings and protect themselves and their employees.”

“Dr. King once reminded us we can all come on different ships, but we are in the same boat now,” Ramoutar said. “No matter our backgrounds or work in life, we are one community. Our destiny is tied together in that single boat. We call it the ferry, calling us to steer it toward justice and equality for all.”

Looking ahead, Ramoutar said he wanted to grow the Vineyard NAACP’s membership and “build truly representative Island freedom fighters,” especially by engaging with young residents. He said the organization will “safeguard democracy whenever it is threatened” by “showing up, speaking out, and getting into good trouble to protect the rights and dignity of all.”

“Our community is our strength, and no force can stop a determined community fighting for justice. No force,” Ramoutar said. “We are in the same boat, so let’s row forth together to a more brighter and justful future.”

Following Ramoutar’s reading of a land acknowl-

edgement, which honored the Wampanoag Tribe as the “original stewards” of the Island for more than 10,000 years, and recognized the “painful history of genocide and occupation on their territory,” and a mission statement reading, Rev. Joanne Huss, pastor at the United Methodist Church of Martha’s Vineyard, led a prayer of thanksgiving with a prayer King had given decades ago that includes a message she said was still “distressingly appropriate.”

“Dearest Jesus, come and sit with us today. Show us the lies that are still embedded in the soul of America’s consciousness. Unmask the untruths that we have made our best friends, for they seek our destruction, and we are being destroyed,” a portion of the prayer reads. The prayer also asks Jesus to “give us the courage to embrace the truth about ourselves and you and our world,” and faith to “renounce the lies and tear down the walls that separate us with our hands, with our feet, and with our votes.”

Williams stated that Martin Luther King Jr. Day was not just a holiday but a day of service. He said that if people are wondering where change should begin, it should “start in the mirror.”

“We have to decide that whatever space we’re in is a place ignorance can’t exist,” Williams said. “When you push back against ignorance, it pushes back on all of that stuff — racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism — just dumb stuff.”

At the gathering, there was also a swearing-in ceremony for NAACP of Martha’s Vineyard officers led by T. George Davis, Dukes County Superior Court clerk. A moment of silence was also held in memory of NAACP members who died in 2025.

As the luncheon wound down, the program concluded with a sing-along, led by Cayhana Williams, of “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” a hymn by James Weldon Johnson that is often referred to as “the Black National Anthem.”

“Lift every voice and sing, ’til earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty,” the song’s first verse reads. **MVT**

MVTimes mvtimes.com

{ ISLANDERS WRITE } Immersives

Islanders Write Immersives are online writing workshops taught by Vineyard authors that will be offered over the winter.



James W. Jennings



Elisa M. Speranza



Nicole Galland



Elizabeth Benedict



Kate Feiffer

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

ALL CLASSES 20% OFF FOR MV TIMES MEMBERS



Coffee to go: Mocha Mott's leaves Vineyard Haven

Continued from A1



Tears, hugs, and lots of love on the last day at Mocha Mott's.

SARAH SHAW DAWSON

many of whom have been employed by Mott's for more than a decade, expressed gratitude for their regulars. "I did not think that the community was going to react the way that they did," co-owner of Mocha Mott's Meredith Aldrich said. Aldrich is buying co-owner Tim Dobel out of the business in Oak Bluffs by selling the Vineyard Haven location so that Dobel, who is now 76, can retire. She said the last day was bittersweet, and a mix of emotions was on display from customers, staff, and

herself, but that there was an "outpouring of love." "At the end of the day, it's just the building," Aldrich pointed out. "What makes Mocha Mott's, Mocha Mott's, is the people who work there and the customers who come in, and that's not changing. Our vibe is still going to be our vibe. Our people are still going to be our people. And so that's not really like an end-

ing, it's a new beginning, and I'm really excited for that." On Monday, coffee was given as freely as the embraces and long conversations. "Coming to work is not like going to work," barista Olivia Sipperly said from across the counter. "It's like going to hang out with your friends and see your family ... I'll miss it." Matthew Mara and Barba-

ra Lampson sat in one of the red-cushioned booths with their last Vineyard Haven coffee and reminisced about 20 years of service.

"I've been coming here since they opened — and the two coffee shops before that," Mara said. "So hopefully the next one will be just as good, but you never know. It's always different."



M.V.TIMES

and they haven't publicly announced their plans for the Mocha Mott's location. Although the official sale for the building is scheduled for Jan. 30, the shop is closing early to clean out the space and have it ready for the new owners by that time.

"I can't really speak to what's happening in the future, because I don't really know what the new owner's plans are, but I'm assuming it's going to involve coffee," Aldrich said.

The transition for Mocha Mott's was announced in September, when co-owner Dobel said he planned to



Hallie MacCormack and Olivia Sipperly hug as Xavier Powers makes coffee behind them.

SARAH SHAW DAWSON

The proposed buyer of the building, which includes a basement and upstairs apartments, and the smoke shop next door, is Toccopuro, a coffee shop with locations in Edgartown and Oak Bluffs. At their other locations, they serve specialty coffee, breakfast and lunch, and bubble tea. A representative of Toccopuro couldn't be reached for comment,

retire from the business and sell it entirely to his business partner, Aldrich.

15 Main St. went on the market this fall after Aldrich chose the Oak Bluffs location, at 10 Circuit Ave., as the coffee shop's only permanent space going forward.

In an interview with The Times, Hallie MacCormack, a longtime employee of Mocha Mott's, spoke about the com-

munity of Island residents and visitors who she and other employees have served for many years and said she was looking forward to the next chapter.

"We love everyone very, very much," MacCormack expressed. "We will see everyone in April. Thank you everyone for being loyal and amazing, and making us who we are as a coffee shop."

Aldrich said they will keep Mocha Mott's in Oak Bluffs open for longer, extending their season from April to January instead of closing fully in the off-season. With recent year-round business closures in Oak Bluffs such as Philip's Hardware and Linda Jean's, the coffee shop will be one of the few open locations in the winter months for the down-Island town.

Aldrich said the changes to the towns aren't necessarily unusual — she's seen a lot of businesses open and close through the past few decades — but the reasons this time around seem more financially driven than before. It's unsurprisingly expensive to run a business on the Vineyard, but renting makes that even more unsustainable for many entrepreneurs.

"You have to really own the property," Aldrich said as she compared the year she purchased Mott's to this year, when she's seen storefronts come and go. But although change is happening at the coffee shop, Aldrich said a lot is staying the same.

"I'm planning on continuing that same vibe where there'll be music; and you'll see the same familiar faces; you'll still be able to get Cape Cod bagels; I'll still do organic, fair trade coffee. We're not changing that at all. I'm keeping my same purveyors and everything, and increasing my season a little bit. I think this will be good for the community. **MVT**

"What makes Mocha Mott's, Mocha Mott's, is the people who work there and the customers who come in, and that's not changing." — MEREDITH ALDRICH

Steamship GM faces rough seas as he takes the helm

Continued from A1

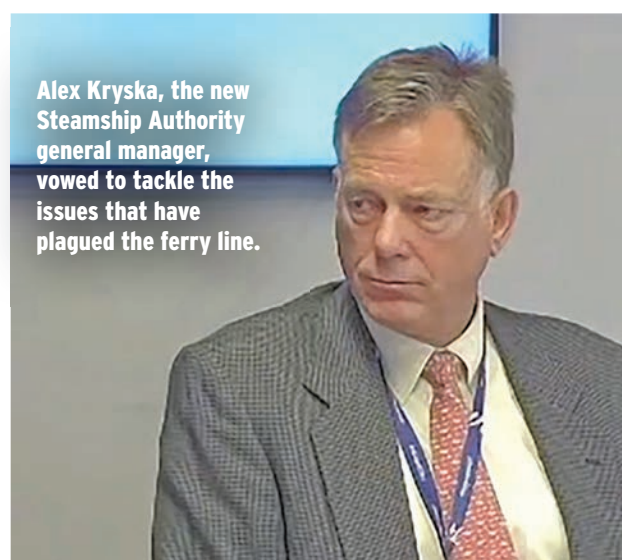
the 2018 HMS report, which reviewed operations at the ferry line and identified the antiquated reservation system as a major risk.

"The December 2025 inspector general report and the 2018 HMS report provide a consistent and credible roadmap for improvement," Kryska said. "My focus will be to partner with the board and the Port Council on turning these findings into concrete actions, measurable results, and lasting change."

Kryska was offered the top Steamship Authority position in November ahead of internal finalist Steamship Chief Operating Officer Mark Amundsen, and finalized a contract last month. Kryska enters the role with various challenges to tackle left behind by his predecessor, former General Manager Bob Davis, who

has been retained by the ferry line as a temporary senior advisor to the board. The problems were spotlighted by an investigation conducted by the Office of the Inspector General in a report last month, which called the Steamship Authority's now shelved website project a "cascade of failures." The website project was being pursued before a new reservation system was made. It was described as "ill-conceived, poorly executed, and a waste of public funds." The report also highlighted that the board had failed to conduct proper oversight of the ferry line's spending throughout the project.

Kryska highlighted several focus areas he wants to work on with the board and the Port Council, based on the report from the Office of the Inspector General,



Alex Kryska, the new Steamship Authority general manager, vowed to tackle the issues that have plagued the ferry line.

which were also highlighted in the 2018 report.

The first, Kryska said, was "governance, oversight, and role clarity." Kryska said the ferry line had inconsistent oversight and unclear role distribution within the organization. He said he plans to hold

one-on-one meetings with senior and midlevel managers to review the ferry line's decisionmaking process and clarify roles with departments. Additionally, "operational and strategic reviews" will be conducted regularly to "strengthen accountability while avoid-

ing micromanagement." He also said a reporting standard and performance dashboards will be made so the board receives "timely, consistent, and decision-ready information."

Kryska added that there was a need to address the "weaknesses in financial controls, long-range planning, and documentation supporting key decisions." He said improvements will be made to financial "approval thresholds," documentation standards, and reconciliation practices through all departments. He also said a multiyear financial plan that aligns with the ferry line's capital plan will be made. Kryska promised to improve transparency through regular financial forecasts, variance reporting, and clear reporting of financial risks and assumptions.

Additionally, Kryska highlighted a need to improve the ferry line's long-term strategic plan to improve

services, fleet investments, workforce planning, and financial planning. As a part of this, he said a comprehensive plan will be made for the board to approve that has "clear priorities, timelines, and performance metrics." While the Steamship Authority did adopt a strategic plan in 2024, Kryska said he wanted to treat it as a "living document," to be reviewed annually and to adjust as conditions change for the ferry line.

"I'm committed to addressing these issues promptly, transparently, and with accountability," Kryska said.

Peter Jeffrey, Steamship board chair and Falmouth representative, suggested the board continue the conversation during the next board meeting to better determine the direction it should follow in the following year.

"I think that's the most positive way for us to move forward constructively," Jeffrey said. **MVT**



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You must have own transportation. Housing may be available upon request. Early June to mid-August. Visit <https://greatpondfoundation.org/jobs/> for application details. Application closes Friday, Feb. 27, 2026.

INTERN - VINEYARD PRESERVATION TRUST

May-Aug at the Carnegie Heritage Center & Vincent House (Edgartown). Work with the steward of Martha's Vineyard historic buildings, supporting programs, tours, exhibitions, and events. Students in history, museum studies, arts administration, or communications. Competitive pay. No housing. Join a vibrant summer community. Contact: thecarnegie@mvpreservation.org

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visiting our website at: www.mvyps.org under "Employment" new jobs or by submitting an Application of Support Staff found at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 4 Pine Street, Vineyard Haven, 02568 508-693-2009
Return completed application to the Superintendent's Office
No person shall be excluded or discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. EOE.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TOWN OF OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of Oak Bluffs is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Town Administrator to serve as its Chief Administrative Officer. The successful candidate will possess exceptional oral and written communication skills, a thorough understanding of municipal finances, budgets, procurement, Massachusetts general laws, collective bargaining in Massachusetts, personnel management, and planning, as well as the ability to establish strong working relationships with the Select Board, community, Town committees, and staff. The successful candidate will understand that connecting with and communicating with Oak Bluffs' various constituencies is crucial to success as a Town Administrator. Candidates must possess the requisite education, training, or previous public administration experience to perform the office's powers and duties. The professional experience shall include at least five years of prior full-time compensated executive service in public or business administration.

HELP WANTED

Alternatively, at least two years of prior full-time, compensated executive service in public or business administration, along with a master's degree in an appropriate discipline. The ideal candidate will be a seasoned, fiscally responsible leader and a collaborative team builder capable of leading a community with an active, engaged, deliberate citizenry.
The Town Administrator must be able to develop and maintain a proven track record of establishing strong, productive working relationships with various constituencies in the communities and/or organizations in which they have worked.
The current salary range maximum is \$200,000 to 215,000. Final salary is negotiable, commensurate with qualifications and experience. An attractive benefits package, including health and retirement plans, is part of the Town Administrator's total compensation. Preliminary interviews are targeted for the end of February.

For further information, please contact Groux-White Consulting, LLC at rickwhite58@verizon.net
All replies will be kept confidential until finalists are identified. Please submit a cover letter and resume in a single PDF file to: Richard J White, Groux-White Consulting, LLC, 1 Pelham Road, Lexington, Massachusetts 02421 or to rickwhite58@verizon.net

SHELDON HACKNEY FELLOWSHIP

The Martha's Vineyard Museum seeks summer fellows across multiple departments. For complete description and to apply, please visit mvmuseum.org/fellowships. Hours and stipend vary by position.
Application closing date: March 1, 2026

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Real Estate



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

\$2,100,000 MARILYN MOSES
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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!



\$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!



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.



\$500,000 SOLD
BY MARILYN MOSES
617-462-0381 .. **WONDERING**
WHAT YOU COTTAGE IS WORTH?
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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.



\$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.



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

BEING OFFERED BY RENE' BEN
DAVID, REALTOR @ AT 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 \$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 Sengkontacket 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.

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THE minute

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Welcome to Lagoon Ridge....Oak Bluffs' newest and most sought-after neighborhood! Build your 3-bedroom dream home with M Duffy 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.



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!



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.



HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS

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.

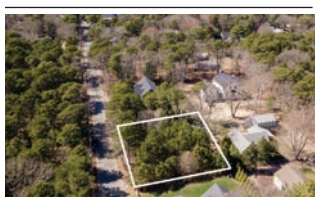


PRICE IMPROVEMENT
46 KENNEBEC AVENUE
OAK BLUFFS, MA
\$1,495,000
CALL OR TEXT ALAN SCHWEIKERT
508-221-1708 OR MICHAEL
SCHWEIKERT 774-563-9112
OCEAN PARK REALTY

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 Sengkontacket 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.



SOLD \$500,000 by Rene Ben David/
Ocean Park Realty Inc
CELL 508-847-4864.

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.

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SCAN

YOU CAN AFFORD TO BUILD ON
MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Save 1/3 off convention building methods. New homes and additions. High-end home shells are custom designed, constructed in a controlled environment, and delivered to your MV site for about \$135/sq.ft. (Estimated price for finished house: \$550/sq.ft.) Packages include: Custom design, post and beams, roof and walls, doors and windows, siding and trim, insulation and floors. The pre-construction wall and roof panels go up in about 3 weeks. View model in Aquinnah by appointment. (508) 645-3572. Broker participation invited
Posner@MVPostAndBeam.com



Real Estate

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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



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 wrap-around 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.



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.

HOUSES-OAK BLUFFS



SOLD OAK BLUFFS SENGEKONTACKET \$1,995,000 CALL OR TEXT JAYNE ISFORD 203-962-4317
 This delightful home is on a scenic lot nestled within the Sengekontacket Association. Every room in the home is filled with natural light and beautiful views. It is a very short walking distance to the community boat dock and kayaking, as well as the walking trails of Sengekontacket. Updated in 2008 by the architect owner, this home has 3 bedrooms in the main house and a lovely bedroom and bathroom in the studio that is attached to the main home by a stunning overhead trumpet walkway. Cathedral ceilings in the main family room and kitchen with light from every angle. The renovated kitchen, living room and addition of a screened porch complete the main floor of the home. The lower level of the home has 3 sets of sliding glass doors that walk out to the gardens. There are 2 large bedrooms, one full bathroom and a separate washer and dryer room. The top floor has a completely updated and very large master and ensuite with lovely views of the property and surrounding woodlands. This property has an intimate feel because of the care taken with the design but also allows for everyone to have their own private space for relaxation due to the large square footage and open floor plan. There is also an outdoor fire pit and large wrap around deck off of the main floor. Solar panels on the main home. Family members and friends leave after their visits to 26 Box Turtle each year saying, "When can we come back". A special home in a special location. The Sengekontacket Association has an active group of pickleball and tennis residents who will welcome you on the courts. Owners will offer a 1997 Island Jeep Wrangler to be included in the sale of this property with roughly 55,000 mileages.

HOUSES-WEST TISBURY

INCREDIBLE COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR SALE IN WEST TISBURY OFF THE ROAD ACROSS FROM CRONIGS
 \$3 million - nothing else like it on the market - take a look. Ready to move in. Beautiful 2 bedroom apartment above. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.



WEST TISBURY \$1,485,000 CALL OR TEXT MARILYN MOSES 617-462-0381
 This coastal contemporary residence is located on a private 1.60-acre lot in WestTisbury, with convenient access to Long Point Wildlife Refuge. The home features four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. On the first floor, you'll find two bright bedrooms, a modernized bathroom, and sliders from the living area that lead to a new AZEK deck and an enclosed fenced gardens, perfect for outdoor enjoyment. The open floor plan includes attractive beadboard ceilings that create a sense of space and light. Recent upgrades feature a remodeled kitchen with a tiled backsplash, granite countertops, and an LG induction stove along with matching stainless-steel appliances. The first-floor bathroom has been fully renovated with a tiled shower and glass door, tiled floor, new toilet, vanity/mirror, rainfall showerhead and all new hardware. Additional updates include a newer roof, Azek window trim, an outdoor shower enclosure, and gutters with leaf guards. The basement has a 9-foot ceiling with four windows, providing potential for further finishing with town approval. Other improvements include updated plumbing and electrical systems, a new well pressure tank, new Culligan Water Filtration and Conditioning system, and a Generac whole-house generator installed in 2022. Partially furnished and with additional updates available in the documents, this property is well cared for and ready for new owners. Potential to be a STRONG RENTAL PROPERTY.

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Real Estate Transactions Jan. 12 - 16, 2026

Edgartown

Jan. 13, Ralston K. Francis and Mavis M. Francis sold 48 West Tisbury Road to Ryon Peart for \$1,000,000.
Jan. 15, MSK LLC sold 1 Wilsons Lane to Wilson Lane One MV LLC for \$4,200,000.
Jan. 16, Jane L. Bradbury, trustee of Lot 35 Boldwater Nominee Trust, sold 4 Boldwater Road to Lisa Lawson Young and Robert A. Young Jr., trustees of Lisa Lawson-Young Revocable Trust and Robert A. Young Jr. Revocable Trust, for \$3,950,000.
Jan. 16, Nicholas Lewitz Jr. and Patricia M. Lewitz, trustees of Nicholas Lewitz Jr. and Patricia M. Lewitz Revocable Trust, sold 12 Duarte Circle to Beach Rose LLC for \$2,500,000.

Oak Bluffs

Jan. 13, Terrence P. Rooney and the Estate of Charles Glover Canfield Jr. sold 26 Hampson Ave. to Fairley

Buxton-Punch Enterprises LLC for \$999,000.
Jan. 13, Ronald L. Conte Jr., trustee of Ronald L. Conte Revocable Trust, sold 48 Vineyard Ave. Extension to Jeffrey Sabel and Darcy Sabel for \$1,530,000.
Jan. 15, U.S. Bank Trust Co. NA, trustee of Velocity Commercial Capital Loan Trust 2023-2, sold 28 Grovedale Road to Linear Property Group 1 LLC for \$1,450,000.
Jan. 15, Segun Eubanks, Shyrelle Eubanks, Ronald Mitchell, and Lisa Mitchell sold 1 Winemack St. to Mitchell Winemack LLC for \$405,286.99.
Jan. 16, John C. O'Donnell and Shawna L. O'Donnell sold 9 Bay View Ave. to David Giannattasio and Brooke Giannattasio for \$1,090,000.

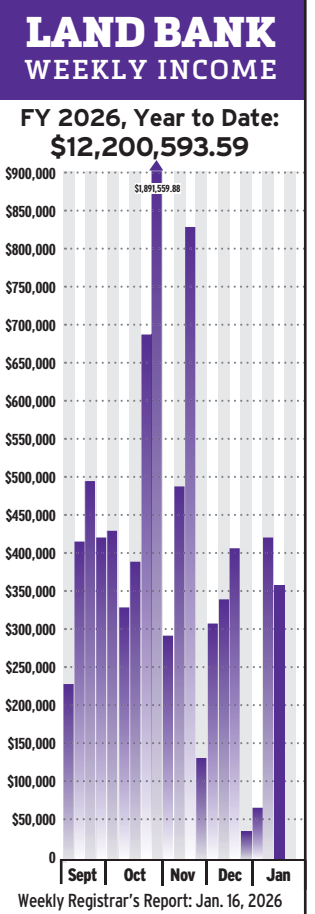
Tisbury

Jan. 15, Bernadette Deirdre Ponte and Lee Peter Bruni sold 36 Ferro Way to Segun Eubanks and Shyrelle Eubanks for \$1,560,000.

HOUSES-VINEYARD HAVEN



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:
 • Access to fresh & saltwater ponds
 • Ocean access dock + boat ramp
 • Clubhouse, tennis/pickleball courts
 • Kayak storage + potential mooring
 • Minutes to Farm Neck, bike paths & beaches
Offered \$1,149,000 Exclusively by: Marilyn Moses | REALTOR®
 617-462-0381 | marilyn@oceanparkmv.com



TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD EMAIL VALERIE@MVTIMES.COM.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Adam Robinson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EverBank, dated January 26, 2007 and recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1109, Page 671, as modified by a certain modification agreement recorded on April 13, 2018, and recorded with said Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1465, Page 395, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for EverBank its successors and assigns to Citibank, N.A., as successor Trustee to U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for MASTR Adjustable Rate Mortgages Trust 2007-HF1, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-HF1, recorded on May 20, 2011, in Book No. 1246, at Page 99 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on February 24, 2026, on the mortgaged premises located at 83 North William Street, Vineyard Haven (Tisbury), Dukes County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereto situated in the Town of Tisbury, County of Dukes County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, being Lot No. 1 as shown on a plan entitled, "Plan of Land in Tisbury, Mass., prepared for Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. November 15, 1984, Scale 1"= 40', Dean R. Swift, Registered Land Surveyor, Vineyard Haven, Mass.," the said plan being recorded with the Dukes County Registry of Deeds, Book 423, page 67, and the said Lot No. 1 being bounded as follows: On the west by North Williams Street, 80 feet; On the north by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 150.94 feet; On the east by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 51.85 feet; On the south by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of

LEGAL NOTICES

Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 70 feet; On the east by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 28.21 feet; On the south by land now or formerly of The Nathan Mayhew Seminars of Martha's Vineyard, Inc., 80 feet; Containing about 10,048 square feet. For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 1078, Page 1034. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

CITIBANK, N.A., AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR MASTR ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES TRUST 2007-HF1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-HF1
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26583

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Tisbury Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, February 2, 2026, at 5:15 pm, on an application from the Martha's Vineyard Hospital for a special permit under Section 8.4 of the zoning bylaws to install a free-standing sign and a building mounted sign on the property located on Assessor's Map 16, Lot 86, 20 Indian Hill Road, MB District**

For more information and/or to review the application please contact or visit the Planning Board office on the second floor of the Town Hall. Please address any comments to: Leah Smith
Planning Board
P.O. Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575
Topic: Planning Board
Time: Feb 2, 2026 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84553501630?pwd=335gCSX2zaeRPhx4Ta2khaaTAA2X.1>
Meeting ID: 845 5350 1630
Passcode: 786840
+1 309 205 3325 US
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

TOWN OF WEST TISBURY OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER SERVICES REQUEST FOR SERVICES

Overview
The Town of West Tisbury or "Town" is seeking the services of qualified Owner's Project Managers ("OPMs") as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A½ and as further defined by the provisions of this RFS, to provide On-Call Project Management Services for the Town. To receive instructions to bidders and a detailed description of requested services please register here: <https://www.westtisbury-ma.gov/bids.aspx>
Jennifer Rand, Chief Procurement Officer (hereinafter "CPO")
Town of West Tisbury
PO Box 278, 1059 State Road
West Tisbury, MA 02575
Telephone: 508-696-0102
FAX: 508-696-0103
townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov

LEGAL NOTICES W. TISBURY

WEST TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Anam Cara Hospitality LLC
The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing in the Selectmen's Meeting Room (2nd floor Town Hall 1059 State Rd) and on zoom on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 4:30 pm to act on the application of Anam Cara Hospitality LLC 90 Manaquayak Road, West Tisbury for a transfer of a Seasonal Wine and Malt Beverages license for the retail sale of wine and malt beverages from LCI Hospitality, LLC. Contact the Board of Selectmen at 508-696-0102 or townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov. Written comments will be accepted into the record upon receipt by Friday, January 23, 2026 2:00 pm at the Board of Selectmen's Office 1059 State Road, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575.
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85766108793>
Meeting ID: 857 6610 8793
Dial by your location 1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Join instructions <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/85766108793/invitations?signature=ZUXJ2X8Emx7rmQY8vqy5TJhRw6iIMWLMhB4GnL6fDA>

WEST TISBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On **Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 5:15pm** the ZBA will hold a public hearing at the TOWN HALL-2nd floor meeting room on an application for a Special Permit from **Michael Urias**, to allow the construction / installation of a 10'x25' in-ground saltwater pool, under Section 8.5-4C of the West Tisbury Zoning Bylaw at **35 Skiffs Ln., Map 17 Lot 3.44**, in the RU district. **Interested parties are invited to send comments via email to: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov or mail comments to: Zoning Board of Appeals, PO Box 278, West Tisbury, MA 02575. Please call 508-696-0107 for information on the application.**

LEGAL NOTICES OAK BLUFFS

Public Hearing Martha's Vineyard Commission

The public is invited to a public hearing concerning the following Development of Regional Impact **#663-M3 Oakwood Mixed Use**
Applicant: 30 Circuit Ave LLC; Michael Fletcher, Agent
Location: 30 Circuit Ave, Oak Bluffs. Map 8, Lot 272 (approximately 0.15 acres)
Proposal: Demolition of a building once known as the Oakwood Hotel (later Phillips Hardware) for the purpose of creating a new, Victorian-style structure with ground floor commercial space and upper story residential units.
Date & Time: Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.
Place: Hybrid Meeting **MVC Office - 1st Floor**, 33 New York Ave, Oak Bluffs, MA and Zoom **Meeting ID: 879 2045 5542; Password: 070451**
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.

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a **Notice of Intent** filed by **Chris Alley (SBH)** on behalf of **Kingfish Dunham LLC** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for the reduction and reconstruction of an existing driveway, removal of previously placed fill, regrading and filling of the disturbed area with screened sand and beach sand, and installation of plantings to reestablish a coastal heathland within a dune and buffer zones to wetlands.
The property is located at **17 Dunham Road (AP 29B-34)**.
For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

LEGAL NOTICES EDGARTOWN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EDGARTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

On **Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 4:35 p.m.** the Edgartown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the second floor of Edgartown Town Hall at 70 Main St, Edgartown on a **Notice of Intent** filed by **Doug Hoehn (SBH)** on behalf of the **Susan C. Freeman Revocable Trust** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for the construction and maintenance of a swimming pool, pool equipment, patio, drywell, landscaping, and related site activities within the FEMA flood zone.
The property is located at **16 Bay Lot Circle (AP 51-34)**.
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 28, 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 St, Edgartown on a **Notice of Intent** filed by **Doug Hoehn (SBH)** on behalf of **AKTI ELIA LLC** under the Edgartown Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The applicant is seeking permission for the construction of a deck extension with a partial roof, installation of two trellises and an awning, landscaping, and related site activities within the 100-foot buffer zone to a coastal bank.
The property is located at **30 Litchfield Road (AP 30-234)**.
For a copy of the application or for questions related to observing the meeting via Zoom, please contact: conservation@edgartown-ma.us

Please be advised all Christmas and Holiday decorations/ broken items/ glass & artificial flowers will be removed from the Edgartown Town Cemeteries starting February 1st, 2026.

Classifieds

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE VINEYARD HAVEN

11 A Evelyn Way. 675 square foot unit, bathroom, back deck, plenty of parking. Year-round lease. All electric heat and utilities. \$3500 a month, available November 1. First and last month rent & security deposit required. Contact Chris 508-627-2895 for appointment.

STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE

- Near Edgartown Triangle
- Multiple Configurations
- 24 Hour Access
- Secure Location
- Professionally Managed
Text or call: 617-659-2417

WEST TISBURY RIGHT ACROSS FROM CRONIGS

Winter Rental huge clean 2 bedroom with laundry - 1 bath can sleep 5. Month to month available. Immediately - 3,000 which included utilities, cable, trash - a steal
Text Lisa 310 213 5472
Possible year round thereafter.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

WOOD

seasoned and split 13"-16" length; \$350 P/Cord, you load and unload 508-639-1205.

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2004 ALPENLITE LIMITED, EXCELLENT CONDITION.

Just professionally cleaned. 4 seasons, solar panels, bump outs, tons of included accessories. \$11,000 OBO. Email 9goodest@gmail.com for inquiries.

WINTER RENTALS

ROOM FOR RENT VINEYARD HAVEN

\$1500 winter includes utilities, internet and trash. New laundry,

APARTMENTS/ROOMS

tub shower - for one or two people. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.

INCREDIBLE COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR SALE IN WEST TISBURY OFF THE ROAD ACROSS FROM CRONIGS

\$3 million - nothing else like it on the market - take a look. Ready to move in. Beautiful 2 bedroom apartment above. Text Lisa 310 213 5472.

YEAR ROUND RENTALS

YEAR-ROUND HIGH END EDGARTOWN APARTMENT, COMPLETELY FURNISHED.

2 BR, 1 BA. Available Feb. 15th. \$4800/month. 978-852-1270.

YARD SALES

ESTATE SALE

Antiques, vintage, collectibles, furniture, art, tools, shop equipment, china, holiday decorations, something for everyone, T-shirt press & decals.. Sat/Sun 1/31 & 2/1 10a-2p 17 Mariners Rd - Vineyard Haven No early birds please 850-293-4345

BargainBox

BLUE VELVET COUCH WITH CLEAN FULL SIZE PULL OUT SEALY MATTRESS

Solid couch for \$70. You pick up. 508-939-0746.

FREE HARMON ACCENTRA PELLET STOVE

Works fine but it's old so may need parts in the future. Text or call 774-563-0162

JIGSAW PUZZLES SCRABBLE, PARCHEESI, ETC.

Good/Excellent condition. \$3-\$12. 508-693-7472 -Call anytime, 7:30am-12:30pm is best.

SUNNY HEALTH & FITNESS AIR WALK TRAINER

Provides an aerobic workout, giving you all the benefits of stretching, walking, running, and aerobic dancing. \$100. 508-693-6221.

TWO FREE FOOT PEDALS FOR ATTACHMENT TO COMPUTERS.

They've serve me well; now time to pass them on. For transcriptionists. 508-693-2381.

3 TWIN BEDS

With box springs and mattresses. 20 years old. 774-277-7953.

Bargain Box ads are free; call and renew after 2 weeks • 24 words maximum.

Maximum sale price is \$100. • Prices must be listed with each item.

BUSINESSES MAY LIST FREE ITEMS ONLY. NO LISTINGS FOR ANIMALS.

LISTED FLOWERS, GARDEN PLANTS, FIREWOOD, AND MANURE MUST BE FREE.

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MVTimes mvtimes.com

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PUBLISHING FEBRUARY 5 + MARCH 5

DEADLINE 1/30

DEADLINE 2/26

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Vineyard sees uptick in flu cases

A new flu variant has hit patients nationwide, and health officials urge people to get vaccinated. **BY EUNKI SEONWOO**



MV TIMES

Data from the Vineyard hospital show a rise in flu cases.

It can start with a sneeze. Influenza, more commonly called the flu, is in full swing this winter, and Islanders have felt the impact of the infectious virus. This flu season has also been exacerbated nationwide by the circulation of a new flu variant known as subclade K, a version of flu A, one of the main strains that infect people annually. While it's uncertain precisely how many people on the Island have caught the new flu variant, Dr. Karen Casper, Martha's Vineyard Hospital emergency medical department director, noted there are a rising number of influenza cases this winter. "From an emergency department perspective, we have seen an uptick in influenza cases, which is consistent with statewide seasonal trends we typically see each year," Casper said. Martha's Vineyard, along-

side the rest of the Cape and Islands, has been designated by the state Department of Public Health (DPH) as having "very high" levels of "influenza-like illness" since the week of Dec. 7. According to the most recently available data from Martha's Vineyard Hospital, of the 262 individuals who were tested for the flu in the first two weeks of January, 37.4 percent tested positive — 73 with strain A and 25 with strain B. While these are not the only flu strains, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identify A and B as the strains that "cause seasonal epidemics of disease in people (known as flu season) almost every winter" across the country. Hundreds of Islanders have been tested for the flu at the hospital since the fall, but cases shot up in December. In December, 29.7 percent of

438 tested individuals were diagnosed with the flu, 124 with strain A and six with strain B. Meanwhile, only a small handful of individuals tested positive for the flu — specifically strain A — in the fall. Four of 386 individuals, or 1 percent, tested positive September through October, and four of 279 individuals, or 1.4 percent, tested positive in November. The hospital's data do not show how many of the strain A cases were subclade K, although they do show a higher rate of people who've caught strain A compared to B so far. According to the CDC, only two of the over 130 variations of influenza A subtypes, H1N1 and H3N2, "routinely circulate" among humans. Subclade K is a variant of H3N2 and has been dubbed by many as a so-called "super flu" for having more severe symptoms and cases than the typical flu.

Dr. Larry Madoff, medical director at the Massachusetts DPH, said 80 to 90 percent of flu cases across the country and the state are subclade K, and the newness of the variant made more people susceptible to the flu this year. He also noted that this flu season had an early start with a sharp rise in cases in mid-December. "It could mean we hit the peak already, or it could be a lull," he said. "We can't really predict what happens next." Still, Madoff urged anyone six months or older to get vaccinated. People are protected from the flu through a combination of natural immunity and vaccination, but Madoff said this season's batch of vaccines was made based on last year's flu strain and what health officials expected to see based on the previous season. "So far, indicators are [that] the vaccine is effective against this strain. But it is possible it will be less effective," Madoff said. He also said it'll take weeks to see when natural immunity kicks in, since people's immune systems currently have "more difficulty recognizing the strain." Madoff said a higher vaccination rate would help to "control the influenza we're seeing." But only 35 percent of eligible Massachusetts

residents have received the flu vaccine so far. "That's also disturbing," Madoff said. Although most people who catch the flu can fight it through rest and medicine, it can still be a fatal virus. The Massachusetts DPH's weekly influenza update shows 112 people have died in the state this flu season as of Jan. 4, including five children. Madoff said that while the death rate is comparable to other years — an exception being the 2024–2025 flu season, which had a particularly high death rate of 470 — he underscored subclade K's ability to spread rapidly. "Flu is and can be a severe illness," Madoff said. "People get hospitalized and die from influenza every year." Gregory Mathis, communications program manager at Martha's Vineyard Hospital, said "no one at the hospital I reached out to knew of any deaths related to the flu that have come through the hospital's doors." Madoff underscored that preventative measures against the flu are especially important to protect those in higher-risk groups, such as immunocompromised individuals, those with chronic diseases, senior residents, and children. Areas where people mingle can help facilitate the spread of the flu. While the Vine-

yard's schools don't have data on flu cases among students, school officials have been keeping an eye out. Following a meeting among Vineyard school nurses on Jan. 14, Mike Savoy, the nurse at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, said a rise in student absenteeism and students showing symptoms of illness has been noted by Island school nurses. "We are definitely seeing an uptick of kids being sent home," Savoy said. He noted that many people who get sick are managing their sickness at home, so data sets are likely showing a smaller number than the true flu infection rates. "Only those ill enough to go to the hospital are being tested," Savoy said. Outside of vaccinations and staying home when feeling sick, Casper said there are other ways for people to be vigilant of the flu this season. "This is the time of year when reinforcing basic infection-prevention measures is especially important," Casper said. "Wear a mask if you're symptomatic. Masks are available at the hospital at all entry points. Washing your hands and staying home when ill remain key strategies to help limit the spread of respiratory and gastrointestinal viruses in the community." **MVT**

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Vineyard places second in Island tournament

The Vineyarders held a skills competition at the Island rink on Saturday.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

The Martha's Vineyard girls' varsity hockey team hosted the 2026 Nan Rheault Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, welcoming the Milton High School Wildcats, the Burrillville High School Yetis, and the South County Storm to face off at the Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena.

The Vineyard girls finished as runner-ups in the annual Island tournament, defeating Burrillville 5-2 on Saturday before falling to a skilled Milton team on Sunday in the championship, 4-2.

At the Vineyard girls' game against Burrillville High School on Saturday, the girls came back from a 1-0 deficit in the first period to earn the win.

Senior captain Elle Mone (No. 16) opened the Vineyard scoring early in the second period, receiving a pass in the slot from Abby Geary (No. 15) before taking a quick shot to tie it up 1-1. Mone scored from the slot again with four minutes, 43 seconds left in the second period, shooting the puck past the goalkeeper's shoulder. She was assisted by Geary and Mackenna Metell (No. 9).

The Vineyarders held onto their one-goal lead throughout the third period, until Mone completed her hat trick with seven minutes remaining. A shot from the point rebounded to the front of Burrillville's net, where Mone was positioned to bury it for a 3-1 lead.

The Vineyarders scored again minutes later. Reese Malowski (No. 7) got ahold of the puck during a scrum in front of Burrillville's net, taking the lead to 4-1. With overwhelming momentum in the Vineyard's favor and 38 seconds left in the game, Burrillville found the back of the net, but Mone wanted one more goal as assurance. She scored with 13 seconds left, again in the slot, to earn the Vineyard the 5-2 win and a chance at the championship on Sunday.

Head Coach Mallory Watts said she was happy that the Vineyard team played the higher-tempo hockey they have been aiming for against Burrillville on Saturday.

"Our effort was off the charts," she said. "They played like they wanted to win today ... Our biggest thing — our hurdle right now —

has been coming out flat, and so we needed to come out hot, and I feel like we've been on the road a lot; being home gave us that edge."

Milton High School took down South County 4-0 at 4 pm on Saturday to move on to the championship and face off against Martha's Vineyard on Sunday.

While the Vineyarders ultimately lost to Milton 4-2 in the championship game, the game wasn't just about winning for the Island team. It was also a rematch against one of the strongest teams on the Vineyard's schedule, and was a good gauge for how the Vineyard girls have grown since facing them in December, when they lost 4-1.

The championship game started at 1 pm on Sunday, and Milton opened the scoring in the first period, taking the lead on a power play with six minutes left in the period, before scoring again minutes later for a 2-0 lead. The Vineyard's Metell responded with two goals, one with two minutes and 41 seconds left in the period and another with 54 seconds left. She was assisted by Mone. But Milton was able to squeeze one more goal in with 2.3 seconds left in the period to take the lead 3-2 going into the second period.

Milton scored again with 10 minutes left in the second to bring the lead to 4-2. After multiple calls by the referees against the Vineyarders throughout the second and third periods, the Vineyarders finally earned themselves a two-minute power play with one minute and 45 seconds left in the third. Down two goals, it felt like a golden opportunity to bring the deficit to one, which would've opened the door to a last-second goal to tie the game. But Milton's penalty kill was disciplined, holding off the Vineyard power play successfully to win the 2026 Nan Rheault Tournament, 4-2 over the Vineyard.

Watts said the team was frustrated with some of the calls made by referees throughout the game. The Vineyard saw three tripping calls through the second and third period, and one where a Vineyard skater was even ahead of the player she was penalized for tripping.

"It was really frustrating for me," she said.



NICHOLAS VUKOTA

Abby Geary (No. 14) enters the offensive zone against Milton in the championship game of the 2026 Nan Rheault Tournament.

"It's hard for us to keep momentum on the bench in those situations."

Still, Watts commended the Vineyard team's performance and said overall, "It was a great weekend."

"They were grinding," Watts said. "[Milton's] got three lines deep. We were tired, but we grinded through it, so I'm proud of them regardless of the score."

Watts said that based on the Vineyard's performance in the rematch against Milton on Sunday, she felt the Vineyard team showed improvement in its conditioning, mental strength, offensive creativity, and defense in front of the net.

"We've been conditioning pretty routinely, so our girls coming through the third period aren't as tired. They still got gas. That's a big one," she said. "We've been working a lot on picking our heads up in the neutral zone or anywhere on the ice, and then our defense is being really aggressive in front of the net, tying players up, getting the puck out."

She added that the Vineyard's forwards "continue to impress."

"They're creative with the puck. They are finding the back of the net. They're getting in the rebounds and being creative in the neutral zone," she said. "Overall, as a team, I think we've gotten mentally stronger. If we get scored on, we're able to recover from it and reset."

The Vineyarders also hosted a skills competition at 7:30 pm on Saturday at the Island rink, welcoming each team to nominate its six most skilled players plus its goalies. The remainder of the players took to the stands in costumes and team colors, flying banners and cheering for their teammates who were competing. Competitions included fastest skater, hardest

shot, shot accuracy, a relay, and team spirit.

The fastest skater event kicked things off, where skaters started at the blue line and skated in a loop around the ice, going behind each net before finishing back at the same spot. Milton High School's Gracy Kenney took first place with a time of 15.89 seconds. In the hardest shot event, skaters started in the neutral zone and skated up to a puck set up 15 feet in front of the net before unloading their hardest slap shot at a speed gun positioned behind the net. Burrillville's Victoria Steele shot the hardest, with a speed of 63 miles per hour. Geary took the win in the accuracy competition for the Vineyard, hitting three of four targets with puck shots in under 30 seconds. In the relay, teams skated around a series of cones before picking up a puck and skating back to tag the next in line. Milton's relay team, made up of Noelle Gorham, Maeve Lovett, Sabrina Stone, and Caera Hart, won the event with a time of one minute and 8.82 seconds. And in the team spirit category, the Burrillville's vocal and animated fan section took first place.

Prior to the tournament this weekend, the Vineyard girls were on a four-game losing streak. Their current record is 3-7-0, and their next game is scheduled against Barnstable High School on Saturday at 2 pm at the Martha's Vineyard Ice Arena.

"I thought it was a great weekend," said Watts. "Our girls were having a blast. That's what it's all about, having fun, of course. Of course I want to win, but we were competitive all weekend, and we broke the curse of our losing streak, so that felt really good."

Following the Vineyarders' games this weekend, senior captain Mone is also one point away from 100 career points. **MVT**

Martha's Vineyard tide table **MVTimes**

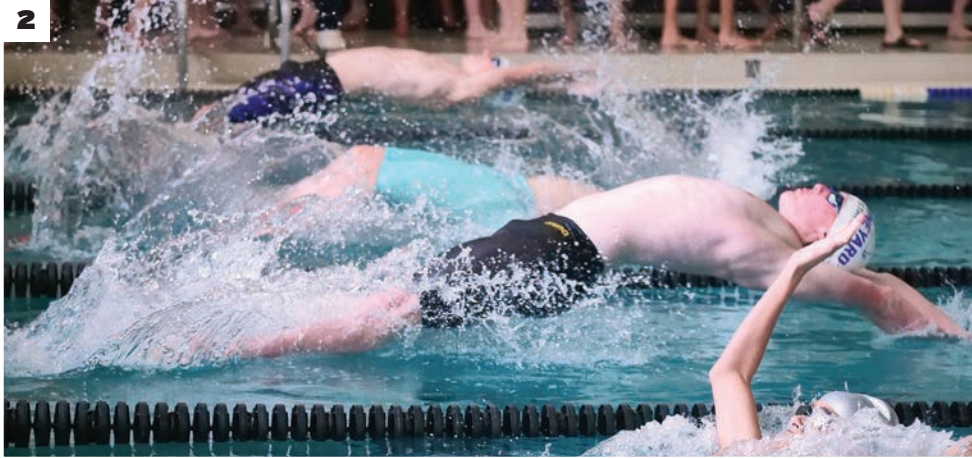
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Island swim captain breaks longstanding school record



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1. Ronan Mullin, 2025, competes in the butterfly leg of a medley relay. 2. Grady Stalgren's powerful backstroke start. 3. Maybelline Brown competing in the butterfly event.

Vineyard defeats Sandwich with an eye on sectionals.

BY NICHOLAS VUKOTA

With another successful meet under the Island's high school swim team's belt, they have another accomplishment to add to the résumé: a new school record.

At the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) varsity swim meet against Sandwich High School last Wednesday, senior and captain Ronan Mullin broke the Vineyard High School's longest-standing record, which was for the 500-yard freestyle, with a time of 5:17.54. Mullin's race time beat Patrick Best's time of 5:34.73, which was set in 2014, by more than 17 seconds.

Mullin's record-breaking performance stemmed from a fall practice. Jen Passafiume, the Vineyard's head swim coach, said she had suggested Mullin try the 500-yard freestyle during swim practice in the fall. Mullin swam the practice race that day, and to Passafiume's surprise, came within seconds of the school record.

"He did it off the wall in the middle of practice, and swam like a 5:40-something, which wasn't that far off the school record, so I said, 'Let's pick one meet this season and run it hard, and see where you are,' so we picked this one, and he hit it perfectly," said Passafiume. "I was pretty sure he would hit the sectional time. I was very hopeful that he could hit the state's time. I was very happily surprised at 5:17, because that is faster than I thought he was gonna go."

For Mullin, that moment in practice with Passafiume was when he realized competing in the event at the sectional and state level was possible, but taking down the record set by Best was still a surprise.

"It felt amazing," said Mullin in a message to The Times. "Once I got that time before the season, I really started to go for it."

"I didn't have my pacing down yet. I went almost my fastest pace for the whole race," added

Mullin. "I was insanely surprised when I saw that time on the board. I thought I was barely going to be near the record."

The Martha's Vineyard YMCA's swimming pools were filled with competition last Wednesday, when the Island's varsity swim team split wins against Sandwich High School. The Vineyard boys defeated Sandwich 100-62, and the girls lost to a strong Sandwich program 104-64.

Despite the boys' win, a somber undercurrent washed over the Vineyard swim meet. For 13 Vineyard seniors, this was also their last home meet as MVRHS swimmers. For seniors Nora Motahari, Mullin, and Grady Stalgren, their connection with the program runs deep, as they are also YMCA lifeguards and swim instructors, and have been competing at the YMCA since they were in elementary school. Seniors Claus Smith, Philip Pruciano, William Simmons, and Nicholas Merriam have been with the program for a few seasons. Tatiani Marcelino, Chris Marcal, Joao Nunes, Syius Rivera Rigali, and Caleb Miller swam with the team for the first time this season.

"The team this year is electric with the amount of people that we have on it ... it's really awesome to see the sport of swimming on the Island really kind of turn around and get a lot more popular than it has been in the past. And I really hope that we can keep this rolling," said Passafiume.

"I am especially impressed with how quickly these swimmers have picked up a very difficult sport and are showing such growth and improvement in such a short period of time," added Passafiume of her first-time seniors in an email to The Times. "This is the largest senior class I have had on the swim team, and they all will be very missed next season."

At the meet on Jan. 14 against Sandwich, the Vineyard boys dominated and earned some

sectional and state qualifiers, and the girls saw some massive improvements to race times.

For the boys, in the 50-yard freestyle, Mullin took first and qualified for sectionals with a time of 23.71 seconds, while Moses Thomson was only a couple of seconds off with a third-place finish at 25.50 seconds. In the boys' 200-yard medley relay, Stalgren, Michael Calheta, Mullin, and Smith swam a new personal best and sectional-qualifying time for first place at 1:50.54, and in the 200-yard inter-medley, Stalgren, who had not swum the race since last season, also dropped almost 15 seconds, cruising to first at 2:16.23, one second away from qualifying for sectionals. The boys' 400-yard relay, made up of Mullin, Smith, Stalgren, and Thomson, were only two seconds away from qualifying for South Sectionals.

"Our boys continue to be on fire," said Passafiume after the swim meet. "I was probably the most nervous about this season in making sure that we won, and they did everything that they needed to do today."

With one league match left, the Cape and Islands League Championship on Jan. 31, the Vineyarders are trying to qualify as many swimmers as possible for South Sectional championships and the Division 2 state meet.

Passafiume said the Vineyarders were hoping to qualify their 200-yard freestyle relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay for sectionals and states too.

At the meet against Nauset on Friday, the boys' 400-yard relay and 200-yard relay both qualified for Division 2 states, earlier than expected.

"It's always been at the championships that we've qualified our 200 free relay, so we're hoping to hit that all the way to states," said Passafiume. "We'll be pushing some strength and some endurance, and really trying to hit [those times]."

The team traveled to its last dual meet at Nauset on Friday, Jan. 16. Then the team has two weeks to train for the Cape and Island League Championship meet on Jan. 31.

"I guess the blessing and the curse of having two weeks from Friday before the next meet, which is championships, is we have two solid weeks to train, but then we also don't have any other meets to get a chance to try to do something," said Passafiume.

The Vineyard boys — Stalgren, Calheta, Mullin, Thomson, and Smith, with alternates — have qualified for sectionals in the 200-yard medley relay. Mullin also qualified for the 200-yard inter-medley, 50-yard freestyle, 500-yard freestyle, and 100-yard butterfly; Stalgren qualified for the 100-yard butterfly and the 100-yard backstroke.

For state qualifiers, Mullin is the only one who qualified, and he will compete in the 200-yard inter-medley, the 100-yard butterfly, and the 500-yard freestyle.

"We had tons of new personal best times, and I think even if we don't qualify any girls for postseason this year, I think we have a number of girls who will qualify next year."

So they're building it up this year to hit it hard next year," said Passafiume of the girls' team after the meet on Jan. 14. **MVT**



3

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

MY Times

community & calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026



WINTER IN COTTAGE CITY

Family roots run deep in gingerbread houses. **SEE B14**



Hadley Myers, Hazel Lucia, and Eloise.

COURTESY THE WEST TISBURY LIBRARY

A win-win for people of all ages

Intergenerational programming at the West Tisbury library.

BY ABBY REMER

As we go through our daily lives, it's easy to stay in the circle of people we usually interact with, who are generally close to our own age. But a 2025 article in MedCity News states, "Research has consistently shown that strong intergenerational ties can mitigate stress, enhance psychological well-being, and promote purpose in life." The West Tisbury library offers many rich opportunities for people of different ages to interact through a diverse array of programs.

Library director Alexander Pratt says, "The multigenerational programs are some of my personal favorites, because you get to see so many different members from the community. It's a great way to connect people, for families to meet other families, and for older folks to hang out with younger folks. It's what people want to do, be in a community, regardless of age."

The children's library, Hannah Burbidge, and YogiJay developed family yoga classes two years ago for caregivers and their children ages 0 to 5. These happen every Thursday at 11 am. YogiJay explains, "It's a little person and their big person, whether Mom, Dad, babysitter, or grandparent. [The class] is a container for me to hold space to help people get back to playing and moving their bodies and breathing." There is no pressure to

participate in a particular way, as participating mother Meghan Rosa notes: "At the start of each class, YogiJay typically says something about how there are many different ways a child can show up, and how all those different ways are great. This is a helpful reminder that I often find myself coming back to throughout the week in my parenting."

YogiJay might start by reading a storybook with a tale that inspires movement, or by bringing out props such as gauzy scarves to toss in the air. "It's using tactile things, because it's very hard for little ones to sit in a space with nothing there. With the objects, you pull them in, and in that action, you find presence. It's also about teaching self-regulation. So, we'll have moments where we'll get a little crazy, and then we'll come down and relax."

At the end, there is a brief five-minute relaxation. "I might have the big person burrito up the little

Meghan Rosa says, "During the class, my child does a lot of observation, and when we get home, she talks about things she heard and saw." Rosa also enjoys the class for her own sake. "I get to stretch my body in a way that feels really nice; especially as a parent to a young child, I can often forget to do that. Since YogiJay is good at making people feel comfortable to be themselves, the adults tend to open in ways they otherwise might not, which results in some good conversation."

Three generations take part in the "Work from Home from the Library" program. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School early education program students, under the guidance of trained mentors and supervisors, interact with children. Meanwhile, the children's usual caregivers are nearby, accessing quiet workspaces in the library with Wi-Fi and all the resources they need to stay productive. The program runs on alternating Tuesdays

one on the yoga mat, which is always fun for them. Or they might just cuddle with their big person."

Emily Goonan adds that the class provided time to create a meaningful connection in her role as an aunt: "I love going to family yoga! I used to bring my niece, and it was a fun way to bond."

from 11 am to noon, with the next one on Feb. 3.

Burbidge started the program, explaining, "I watch a lot of caregivers who are playing with their kids and trying to get a little bit of work done. As a working mom myself, this is just a need that is prevalent in our day and age." Burbidge



YogiJay (Jason Mazar), Emily Goonan, and Rayna Burbidge-Turner.

COURTESY THE WEST TISBURY LIBRARY



High school student taking care of a child as her parent works at the library during their Library Work from Home program.

JOSHUA ROBINSON-WHITE

reached out to Leslie Frizzell, who teaches an early childhood education course on child growth and development at the high school. In addition to academic coursework, students observe and

work in child-centered environments. Frizzell says,

"I have seen more awareness and connection to the classroom content through the program. [The students] can easily identify developmental stages in motor, language, and social areas."

Students Reed Cabot and Ruby Glynn adore work-

ing with the children, and seeing what they learn in school come to life. Glynn says, "Watching them grow through different stages in development brings me joy. Being able to see them do things they couldn't do two weeks ago and now can is so interesting to me."

Cabot concurs: "Being able to help with the developmental stages is great. When they're first learning how to build relationships, it's nice to be part of that."

The caregivers treasure the program. Casey Blum explains, "I use the time to focus on work that requires sustained attention, such as emails, planning, and administrative tasks. Knowing

the teenagers play: "They were absolutely wonderful with my son and every child there. There is such an age range of children attending (typically an infant to 3 or 4 years old), and each teen gravitates toward a different age range. I think it's great that they see how each age differs from one another, and that they can get hands-on experience in the real world."

Blum adds, "The high school students who look after the infants are truly amazing. They are caring, attentive, and genuinely interested in learning about early childhood education. I see my child respond positively to their energy and care. There's a sense of trust and curiosity that feels really healthy and reassuring. As someone without family living on the Island, and with childcare being both expensive and hard to find, this program makes me feel deeply connected to my community and supported during a particularly challenging chapter of my life."

High school students also play an essential role in the Book Buddies reading program. On the second and fourth Thursday of the month, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, they read to "little ears." The program is the brainchild of Hadley Myers, a junior at the high school who hopes to promote literacy and a love for reading. Myers, who had taken the early childhood class, and her friend Hydee Turner started the club. "It's fun to talk to young children, and reading books we loved when we were younger brings us back to when we were little, which is also cool."

Burbidge has likewise organized some onetime programs. On Thursday, Feb. 26, from 9:30 to 10:30 am, there is "Pancakes and Cartoons," where families gather for breakfast with the option to wear pajamas. In mid-April, there will be a Mario Kart Tournament, for experienced players from the original N-64 days or young pros on the Mario Kart 8 Deluxe circuit. The friendly competition will bring different ages together through the universal language of gaming. (Registration required; email hburbridge@clamsnet.org.)

Pratt notes that the Soup and Bread Lunches, weekdays from 11:30 am to 1 pm during the Feb. 23-27 and April 20-24 school breaks, are another wonderful intergenerational experience. "This is always one of my favorites," Pratt says. "Everybody is just sitting down and eating together."

She concludes about all the library's multigenerational offerings, "I think people want to meet new folks regardless of age, and intergenerational programs are a great way to do that." **MVR**

For more information, visit bit.ly/WTPL_ChildrensRoom or email hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

that my child is nearby, safe, and engaged makes a huge difference in how productive and present I can be."

Izadora Coutinho agrees: "The benefits for both of us were clear. I was able to

concentrate, be productive, and feel less overwhelmed. Charlotte thrived in a safe, enriching environment, surrounded by books, learning, and caring people. She was happy and engaged, and I felt at ease knowing she was well cared for."

Grace Gothard feels strongly about the vital role

"Being able to help with the developmental stages is great. When they're first learning how to build relationships, it's nice to be part of that." -MVRHS student Reed Cabot

D I N E

Fish is a lovely thing, isn't it? Healthy, tasty, plus you can catch it on your own. I won't be doing too much catching anytime soon with this weather, though.

I was headed to Aquinnah when I noticed a little white sign placed for people to see at Beetlebung Corner, right before the Chilmark Post Office. This sign means that Stanley's is open, and I would be making my wife very happy with some delicious treasures from the big blue.

For all you washashores out there, when I say Stanley's, I obviously mean Menemsha Fish Market. My wife and I have been in the mood for some good ol' cod. Stanley's is always so warm. The genuine human interaction there made me feel so warm that I forgot it was winter for a few minutes. After a gander at the Godzilla-size lobster, it was my turn to place my order. I got my one pound of cod and a couple of fillets of grouper, then headed home.

I took the fish out of the bag, patted it dry, and seasoned both sides with a chili-lime seasoning blend I'd found. Feel free to use any seasoning you prefer, even just salt and pepper. I



Fish Cakes and Eggs ready to eat.



Seasoned fish cooking.

I boiled five small to medium yellow potatoes. Once they cooled a bit, I removed the skin by hand, then placed them in a bowl. I took out the leftover fish from the fridge, mixed it together with the potatoes, and seasoned it with a dash of celery salt. Next, I formed the mixture into patties, making sure they weren't too thick. I grabbed a pan, added

enough oil to cover the bottom completely, and fried them on each side till they were golden brown (cook to your liking). As they cool on the plate, you can fry up a couple eggs however you like — scrambled, over hard, medium, or easy.

Fish Cakes and Eggs, baby, and don't forget the hot sauce. Oh, one more thing: Any of those new to the Island or who haven't had this dish yet, get to it, you're missing out! **MVT**

Don't forget the hot sauce

Fish Cakes and Eggs. **BY JEFFREY DUARTE**

so often I basted it with the butter from the pan.

Cook the fish to an internal temp of 145°, and

enjoy it with any sides you see fit. Fortunately for me, there were leftovers. Leftover whitefish ... hmm

... all of sudden, a distant memory popped into my brain like a freight truck: Fish Cakes and Eggs! One of my favorite dishes from my missed and deeply loved Aquinnah Shop.

Writing from the Heart

BY NANCY SLONIM ARONIE



Vineyard bereavement

Good grief 101.

There have been so many deaths on the Island in the past few years. Kids are reeling, adults are weeping, and many of us dread opening the paper knowing there will be another tour-

ist who died on a motorbike, or a neighbor's kid who got killed in a car accident.

When I was 15, my father died in front of me. One minute he was pulling the rope on the lawn mower and joking, and the next minute he was dead. Alive then dead. In less than 60 seconds.

I'm 84, and when I think about my loss so many years ago, it blows my mind that there was no grief counselor, no therapist, no bastion of aunties who came and fed me and held me and talked to me, no books on grief, no rabbi visits. There was the traditional shiva, eight days of mourning where a minyan (10 men) sat on hard stools and prayed. People brought food, but because it was Passover, you couldn't eat anything with leavening, so the food was ... well, in a word, horrible.

I have two memories. I remember thinking, "What a bunch of bad luck that this couldn't have landed on a regular day so there could have been maybe a lemon meringue pie or a platter of double chocolate brownies, or even garlic bread and pizza." Instead, nothing with yeast. Nothing that rises. (There's a metaphor there somewhere.) Matzoh has been described as crispy cardboard.

The other memory is of picking out the suit my father would be buried in, arguing with my sister about which photograph of the

four of us we would put in his breast pocket. She won. It was the one where she looked good and I looked gawky. (There actually wasn't a picture in captivity where I didn't look gawky, so I don't know what I was arguing over.)

I went to school that Monday, and it was business as usual except the teachers knew and they were very nice to me, and the kids knew and they were also especially

dealing with grief.

It's still a conundrum in many families and communities, but our precious Island acts quickly and with so much compassion. When people not from the Island ask what it's like to live here full-time, I say our social life takes place at the Post Office, or when someone has cancer everyone rallies. There's either a fundraiser or a GoFundMe. And when someone young dies, the grief

You don't have to wait till Yom Kippur or making amends to say 'I'm sorry,' and you don't have to wait till Valentine's Day to say 'I love you.'

nice to me. No one mentioned it. In the '50s (and maybe still today), death and sex and money were all taboo topics. You would never say to a kid who'd lost a parent, "I'm sorry for your loss."

As a culture, we certainly have made progress in

counselors go into overdrive.

I'm lucky that I was able to cry, and still do, when I see fathers and daughters. I'm lucky I've gotten to share the story, write the words, and feel the pain that I wasn't able to feel then.

These days, between so

many wars internationally and the environment dying and losing Island icons like Patricia Bergeron and Roy Scheffer and Nathaniel ("Natty") Schneider and John Forté and Gus Ben David and Bob Moore and Ron Rappaport and so many young ones, we are feeling a collective sorrow in a way deeper than ever.

So let's hold each other tighter than usual, greet each other with more warmth than ever, and reach out to someone whom we've maybe lost touch with or had a falling-out with.

You don't have to wait till Yom Kippur or making amends to say "I'm sorry," and you don't have to wait till Valentine's Day to say "I love you." And you don't have to wait for the next tragedy in your town to send a loving message.

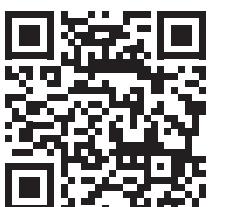
My teacher, Ram Dass, said it best: We have to figure out a way to keep our hearts open in hell. And if your heart is open in hell, it becomes a natural grief counselor 24/7. **MVT**

ISLANDERS WRITE

A monthly newsletter for people interested in writing and the writing life on Martha's Vineyard.

MVTimes mytimes.com

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

Tisbury



By Kay Mayhew
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Heard on Main Street: Why do they call it the Department of the Interior when they are in charge of everything outdoors?

I am currently reading a book called "Thanksgiving Blessing: An Amish Holiday Novel," by Marta Perry. I enjoy Amish stories; though pure fiction, their lives seem so full of attention to the details of the simple things we enjoy in all our lives.

I only recently discovered that my nephew is suffer-

ing from a condition called aphasia. A person may have challenges talking, understanding others, reading, writing, and using numbers. It has also affected him physically, and he requires considerable health care. I am so very sorry, especially because I cannot think of anything more awful. He worked as a coach and athletic director for his local high school, and was always very active.

He and his wife came to see me during COVID.

I had trouble recognizing him — we both wore masks. We sat out on the deck and had a lovely visit. When he was very young, I was there while his parents were ill. One morning he sweetly made me peanut butter toast for breakfast. These memories are very painful now.

For any suffering this way on the Island, you can help. The Center for Living will host a Bingo Night at

the P.A. Club on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 pm, to benefit their programs to support dementia and caregiver services. There will be prizes and a cash raffle. The cost is \$25. For more, email annb@mvcenter4living.org or call Ann Baird at 508-287-2847.

The Vineyard Haven library has virtual writing workshops scheduled with Caroline Joy Adams. They will be held via Zoom on

the first Thursday of each month from 2 to 3:30 pm, Feb. 5 to June 4; register with the library.

The Vineyard Haven library is pleased to welcome back traditional storyteller Nancy Binzen for another wildcrafted evening of folk-tale and myth from around the world, especially for adults. This event will be held at 6 pm on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, located at 51 Spring

St. in Vineyard Haven (above Tisbury Town Hall). Free and open to the public. No registration required.

On Thursday, Jan. 29, from noon to 1 pm, Healthy Aging M.V. is having an appreciation luncheon for M.V. Connect volunteers who drive older adults in our community. Any resident interested in becoming a volunteer driver is also invited. Healthy Aging M.V. is at 29 Breakdown Lane. Please RSVP to Diane by text or call at 508-560-4514.

Big bunches of birthday balloon wishes go out to Caroline Davey on Tuesday.

Heard on Main Street: These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter ... I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm here after. **MVT**

The Center for Living will host a Bingo Night at the P.A. Club on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 pm, to benefit their programs to support dementia and caregiver services. There will be prizes and a cash raffle.

Edgartown



By Marnely Murray
marnely@gmail.com

This Edgartown column is meant to be a community effort, and I'm calling on the community this month to work together alongside me. By the time you read this, I'll be off on my winter road trip that will take my husband and me to places far and wide. I won't be sipping coffee at Rosewater Market, praying in the pews at St. Elizabeth, or shopping for sushi at Edgartown Meat and Fish. What does that mean? That I am counting on YOU to keep me informed on what's happening in town — emailing me

at marnely@gmail.com is the best way to do so. Send me your birthdays, your news, and your business updates, as it truly helps me write a column worth reading. I want you to be doing this whether or not I'm on a road trip, but

I decided to put the call out now that I truly need it.

On Saturday, Jan. 24, at the FARM Institute, join Teri Culletto of Vineyard Baker, author of "Beautiful Bread: Create and Bake Artful Masterpieces for Any Occasion," for a hands-on focaccia class. Teri will walk participants through the steps to making their very own focaccia from start to finish. All participants will take home a freshly made loaf with a beautiful design of their own creation. Focaccia is one of my favorite

versions of bread, so I definitely recommend doing this class with Teri — she's an absolute expert on the subject of yeast! Sign up online at thetrustees.org/event/443200.

Also happening that same Saturday, the Edgartown Library is hosting a 2026 Vision Board Workshop with Jelisa Difo. Join them as you explore aspirations for personal growth and transform them into a visually engaging collage using magazines, printed images, quotes, and art supplies. You will leave the

workshop with a personalized board that can be displayed as a daily reminder of the goals you want to pursue. All materials will be provided.

Registration is required online at bit.ly/EL_26VisionBoard.

On Wednesday, Jan. 28 at the Carnegie: "Reimagining Higher Education: Learning, Work, and Community," presented by Ana Keilson and Justin Reynolds, co-directors of the Gull Island Institute. Join in for a conversation about the mission and work of the Gull Island Institute, a Falmouth-based education nonprofit that reimagines liberal arts education through academics, physical labor, and student self-governance. The Institute will bring a small cohort of undergraduates from across the country to Martha's

Vineyard for a monthlong program in May and June 2026. Register at bit.ly/GII_HigherEducation.

On Thursday, Jan. 29, from noon to 1pm, Healthy Aging M.V. is having an appreciation luncheon for M.V. Connect volunteers who drive older adults in our community. Any resident who is interested in becoming a volunteer driver is also invited to attend. Healthy Aging M.V. is located at 29 Breakdown Lane, Vineyard Haven. Please RSVP to Diane by text or call at 508-560-4514.

Happiest of days to Meaghan Robinson celebrating on Jan. 23, Jeff Donaroma on Jan. 25, Allison Hines and Melissa Clay on Jan. 26, and Tara Reynolds on Jan. 28! May your birthdays be filled with health, joy, and your favorite birthday-cake flavor! **MVT**

On Thursday, Jan. 29, from noon to 1pm, Healthy Aging M.V. is having an appreciation luncheon for M.V. Connect volunteers who drive older adults in our community.

Oak Bluffs



By Joanne Lambert
joannelamber@gmail.com

"If you eat right, and you work out daily, and you get lots of sleep ... you will die anyway. Now open the wine and cut the cake!"

—Hallmark card received for my birthday

Good reminder that every day is a gift!

Gina Patti and Rob Oslyn traveled to the West Coast over Christmas break to meet the newest family member, Lucy Elizabeth Oslyn, who was born on Nov. 17. Parents Jus-

tin and Hannah are doing well, as Lucy patiently teaches them about parenting. Gina and Rob were ecstatic to hold their first grandbaby, and also had the opportunity to visit Gina's sister and other West Coast family.

Heartfelt sympathies to the family and friends of Island recording artist, producer, poet, husband, father, and friend John Forte, who died suddenly and too young on Jan. 12 at his home in Chilmark.

Save the date for a fun

night of Bingo at the P.A. Club on Thursday, Jan. 29, to support the M.V. Center for Living. The wonderful people there provide support services for people dealing with dementia and their caregivers. It is just \$25 at the door for your Bingo cards to compete for prizes; there will be food and drink to purchase and a raffle with more prizes.

Save another date for a very popular event at the Oak Bluffs library. "Putts and Pints" is coming back on Saturday, Feb. 7. Play mini-golf throughout the li-

brary from 6 to 9 pm. Compete for prizes and enjoy light refreshments and beverages. Tickets are available at the library, just \$18 each, or \$30 for two. I would advise you to get your tickets ahead of time, as this event sells out. The evening is for adults 21-plus, but there will be mini-golf family time from 10 am to noon, and teen time from 3 to 5 pm. Proceeds benefit library programs, so come out for a great evening.

The library is offering a fun program at the YMCA

for little ones. On Thursdays, bring kids ages 2-5 to the pool at the Y from 10 to 10:30 am for "Mermaid Tales: Story and Swim." Enjoy stories and songs with Luna Tide, the O.B. mermaid.

The M.V. Family Center is also collaborating with the Y Aquatic Center to offer "Swim With Me" on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am. This is a great opportunity to get in the water with your little one, especially on a cold January morning! No registration needed, just sign in

with the Family Center staff in the lobby.

Karen Tewhey from Healthy Aging M.V. let us know that on Jan. 29, it is hosting a luncheon for the volunteers who drive older adults in our community. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is also welcome to attend. It's located at 29 Breakdown Lane, Vineyard Haven. RSVP to Diane at 508-560-4514. Happy birthday to Holly Nadler on Jan. 23. Mary Leddy will celebrate on Jan. 26. Caroline Davey Hannah shares Jan. 27 with "Alice In Wonderland" author Lewis Carroll. Birthday hugs to Jenny Marlin on the 28th. Julie Gaffey celebrates with Oprah Winfrey on the 29th.

Send me your news! **MVT**

On Thursdays, bring kids ages 2-5 to the pool at the Y from 10 to 10:30 am for "Mermaid Tales: Story and Swim."

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

Aquinnah



By Kathie Olsen

aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com

Ruth Folchman writes that her husband, Richard Wagner (our own Santa), is recovering from total knee replacement. Send him some healing thoughts. She also wants you to know that there will be no meditation practice at Town Hall on Jan. 28 or Feb. 5. I'm sure she would encourage you to proceed with your practice on your own.

With almost everything closed and the ocean too danged cold, you might be beginning to get bored. If so, you aren't taking advantage of the wide range of things still available. Here's a quick reminder. First, check out the library. In addition to great

reads, and free coffee, with your library card you can read more news than you ever wanted. There's free online, at-home access to the Washington Post, the New York Times, and/or the Boston Globe. That library card also gives you free access to Mango Languages, an easy-to-use online and app-based program for learning more than 70 languages (yes, you can), and access to Libby, an app that gives you free access to magazines, audiobooks, and best-selling e-books. Contact the library for help in getting tuned in to any of these, and more. Your mind awaits.

If you don't want to cook, there are alternatives. Juli still

has the Orange Peel open, and a peek inside often finds goodies to tickle your fancy. I'm delighted that State Road in West Tisbury is holding special winter hours. They're hosting burger nights every Thursday, dinners on Fridays and Saturdays, and, on Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 to 2 they are offering up soup, sandwiches, salads, coffee, and delicious pastries. Menemsha and the West Tis. center both have possibilities as well. The Up-Island Council on Aging, together with the VTA and HAMV, is hosting a free shuttle service to their older adults' weekly luncheon at Howes House. The shuttle will pick you up

at your bus-accessible home, bring you to the 12:30 lunch, and return you home afterward. And, of course, the Up-Island Council is also holding its free monthly luncheon for seniors at the Aquinnah Town Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 28. Call the COA to register at 508-693-2896.

I'm most excited to tell you that on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 4 to 6 pm, the M.V. Museum is opening an exhibition about something that had a brief, but unforgettable, Aquinnah run. Held each fall from 1979 to 1982, what was known as the Crunch transformed the lands around what is now the Outermost Inn into a

roaring, crashing, hilarious spectacle. People stripped out glass, relocated fuel tanks, and made last-minute cosmetic insults to old cars before smashing them into one another until only one remained running. Through photographs, artifacts, and firsthand stories, "The Crunch" promises to capture both the mayhem and the community spirit that made this event a legend. Go to the exhibit and see if you can find your parents or your aunties and uncles in the photos. If they were young then, and local, they were probably there. The exhibit is free, and the museum is always a good stop.

On Jan. 14, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz gave a beautiful, Churchill-worthy speech to the people of his state. He spoke of the need to defend law and order, justice, and humanity. He praised his fellow citizens for helping their neighbors, for recording the truth of what was happening there, for staying nonviolent. He said that it would not be like this forever. He described his state as an "island of decency, of justice, of community, of peace," and asked that the people protect each other and not let anyone take away the goodness of who they are. I stand with them. My heart breaks that this is happening in my country. If you get a chance to listen to that speech, do so. It is history in the making.

Jan. 25 is the birthday of Ivan Vanderhoop, and on Jan. 28 we will remember Carl Widdis. Let me know your news by writing aquinnahcolumn@gmail.com. **MVT**

Held each fall from 1979 to 1982, what was known as the Crunch transformed the lands around what is now the Outermost Inn into a roaring, crashing, hilarious spectacle.

Chilmark



By Claire Ganz

cganz@live.com

My dog and I walk up, over, and around hills to the mailbox every morning and evening. This past week we paused after cresting a hill, and noticed a large, wide, furry creature lumbering toward us. At first I wondered if it could be a racoon, but they seem to still be snoozing. It was getting closer, was clearly much bigger than my dog and super-strong, and I didn't want to surprise it or have it lumber up behind us, so I called out, "Hey!" It

stopped, raised its little head above a white belly, making it clear it was an otter, and turned to lumbering back down the hill.

On Thursday, Jan. 29, from noon to 1pm, Healthy Aging M.V., at 29 Breakdown Lane

in Vineyard Haven, is having an appreciation luncheon for volunteers who drive older adults in our community. Any resident interested in becoming a driver is also invited to attend. Please RSVP to Diane by text or call at 508-560-4514.

In response to the sudden loss of John Forté, so many in so many ways are honoring his legacy while showing up for his young children, and their mother, Lara Fuller.

The town has grown, our connections to one another

have broadened, many of us have aged into new roles — former children are now the parents, parents are grandparents, along with new faces who quickly become familiar, and Abel's Hill is filled with friends.

Thank you, Charles Sennot, for your compassionate essay "Tides of Tragedy, Waves of Grief," and heartfelt and beautifully written tribute to John Forté and his friendship in this paper. Thanks to you and your wife Julie for the many ways and

places you step in.

The snowfall that turned to slush with a crust seems fitting for the closing of Mocha Mott's Vineyard Haven location. It is hard to see the always welcoming gathering places close.

Thank you, North Tabor Farm, for continuing to pick. There is nothing like the sweet taste of freshly picked winter veggies.

Looking forward to the upcoming writers open mic on Tuesday night, Jan. 27, at Pathways; the topic is food.

Fridays and Saturdays, the dancing and music at Pathways continues. On the days the space is overflowing, Scott reminds me, "You know, we always record our events."

So I can nod in recognition, and say words of admiration and encouragement as

I head for the door, because I, and those who live with me, need protection from illnesses that are mild for many.

Illnesses are going around. And for families with young kids in school, this time of year can be super-hard, often extending the experience as each family member's system reacts. Rarely do all the children have the same illness at the same time.

I am grateful that families in our Sunday school are recovering, and that they protect us by staying home and cannot be what someone used to call "spreaders."

Congratulations, Manny Rose, on your well-deserved promotion from Chilmark deputy fire chief to chief. And many thanks to retiring Chief Jeremy Bradshaw for his years of service. **MVT**

Thank you, North Tabor Farm, for continuing to pick. There is nothing like the sweet taste of freshly picked winter veggies.

West Tisbury



By Hermine Hull

hrmhull@comcast.net

Just outside our dining room door are my earliest-blooming snowdrops, bravely making a show despite the snow we are expecting later. Some have been there 40 years or so, gifts from Hallie Mentzel's and Louise Bessire's gardens. Louise's may have originally been planted by Mabel Johnson, who owned the house more than a hundred years ago.

Mike told me stories of himself, his cousins, and other neighborhood kids having to weed her garden during their childhood summers. She was a memorable taskmaster. To this day,

Mike hates gardening. He said his father weeded Mrs. Johnson's garden when he was young, too. Both Mrs. Johnson and her garden were widely admired. Make sure to notice the snowdrops and lavender crocuses that bloom under the Bessires' euonymus hedge at the corner of Edgartown and Old County roads.

Earlier, I was transported back to the old Ridgefield Playhouse, where my father often took me to see the movies he loved, especially musicals. Looking through the television offerings, I found an obscure channel showing Rogers and Ham-

merstein's "Carousel" and "The King and I." What wonderful memories. The stories. The music. The choreography. The costumes. Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones. Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr. Tearjerkers both, filled with memories, as art can be.

The Ridgefield library had a book of all the Rogers and Hammerstein plays. I took it out more times than I could count. That, along with books of Greek, Roman, and Norse myths, was my favorite. The library and movie theater were both close to my

parents' store, so they were places I spent a lot of time.

It has been my hope that all of our children will have the same happy memories of discovering favorite books and interesting adventures at the West Tisbury library. I love seeing children who are excited to get their own library cards when they turn 8.

David McCullough made a speech once about libraries representing our most democratic values. It is a place where anyone can borrow and request any materials, then return them for use by others. Libraries require and

expect the best of us.

Our library is offering some special programs this week. Kids' Magic: The Gathering Club for kids 8-plus years old will meet Friday, Jan. 23, at 3:30 pm. Beginners are encouraged to attend, and cards will be provided. Saturday at 3:30, an Emergency Management discussion will focus on winter fire safety and preparedness for cold weather. A concert by Trio Eris will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 pm, performed by violinist K.J. McDonald, cellist Annie SeEun Hyung, and

pianist Andrew Jun Chen.

One of the services provided by Healthy Aging M.V. is providing rides for seniors. HAMV will host an appreciation luncheon for those volunteers next Thursday, Jan. 29, noon to 1 o'clock. Any residents interested in becoming volunteer drivers are welcome, too. HAMV is located at 29 Breakdown Lane in Vineyard Haven. Enter at the rear of the building and go up the stairs. Text or call your RSVP to Diane at 508-560-4514.

Wet snow has begun falling. It is expected to switch back and forth between rain and snow. It's a good day to be inside. As always, a pile of books and the New York Times await.

Coda: Paul Karasik sent a cartoon he drew for Martin Luther King Jr. Day to appear in Monday's Boston Globe. It gave me hope, at least reminded me of hope. **MVT**

David McCullough made a speech once about libraries representing our most democratic values. It is a place where anyone can borrow and request any materials, then return them for use by others.

Inside an unassuming apartment in Vineyard Haven, seven friends have met regularly to rehearse funk, jazz, and blues covers for the past two years. The rehearsal space is soundproof, so passersby are largely unaware of the jam sessions. But inside, on a recent weeknight, the group practiced a new song they're performing soon, filling the studio with layered notes.

Islanders may have seen the band, called Red Night Delight, gigging at bars, private events, and even the occasional wedding. The story behind their music is much deeper: one of friendship, collaboration, and most of all, joy.

Their musical kinship blossomed from casual jam sessions three years ago and quickly turned into a full-fledged band. They're led by vocalist Allison Roberts, a 36-year-old, born-and-raised Islander and full-time social worker with unforgettably resonant vocals that sound plucked from another era.

Roberts came up with their name, which is from a nautical adage: "Red sky at night, sailor's delight, red sky in morning, sailors take warning."

The name was a way of paying tribute to Martha's Vineyard — a place where home is more than a word, and friends are more like family.

"I wanted the band name to feel like something that was about all of us," Roberts said. "We all grew up as Island kids with a deep love and respect for the Island, the ocean, and the community here. So I was looking for something that paid homage while still hinting at fun."

Roberts and her partner, Perry Dripps, the lead guitarist in the band, began their relationship through the formation of the group. Dripps, now 38, grew up on the Island too, but left for high school before returning a few years ago. He now teaches fifth through seventh graders science at the Charter School, and shreds the electric guitar — an unconventional yet endearing combination.

"I always wanted to be in a big band with keys, a rock-solid drummer who listens, a bassist who drives the music, horns, and a powerhouse female vocalist," Dripps said.

Dripps said he never expected to meet Roberts and start a band together with a group of their friends, but that the "stars aligned."

"My hope is that people can really feel that interconnectedness when we all play together," Dripps said. "We want it to feel like you're going to a party and a whole bunch of your friends are invited."

Their story started when Dripps became close with Luke Lefeber, who moved to the Island after graduating from Vassar. Lefeber, 26, is the renewable development manager and controller at Vineyard Power.

One winter day in 2023, the pair attended a jazz show at Pathways, the arts venue that takes up residency at the Chilmark Tavern in the off-season. There, they heard Roberts sing for the first time.

"Allison blew the roof off the place," Lefeber said with a knowing smile. The band is now accustomed to the power of Roberts' vocals. "That night at Pathways, I looked at [Perry] and he was like, 'We should play with her.'"

The three of them started playing together; figuring out their sound, styles, and how they blended together along the way. All of them were drawn to powerful ballads, funk, and '70s and '80s



The band Red Night Delight.

COURTESY PERRY DRIPPS

Behind the Band: Red Night Delight

Friends perform upbeat covers of songs at venues around the Island.

BY SARAH SHAW DAWSON



Red Night Delight performing at the Ritz Cafe in Oak Bluffs.

COURTESY ALLISON ROBERTS

hits. They knew they wanted more members, so they brought in their friend, Mike Alberice, who works as the lead operator at the Tisbury wastewater treatment plant, to drum with them.

Dripps grew up with Alberice and remembered him as a "killer drummer."

Alberice, who is now 36, recently married his partner, Alley McConnell, who creates posters and stickers for the band that are bright blue and red, with '70s lettering as their signature.

The group took off from there. They started by performing at some of the Chilmark Potlucks, an open-mic event run by Alex Karalekes

in the off-season at the Chilmark Community Center.

The three locals then brought in Andy Herr to play the keyboard. Herr, 38, is a Pennsylvania native, longtime Island resident, and a music teacher and sound engineer. He's known as a musical jack-of-all-trades on the Vineyard, and plays different instruments in a few local bands.

"We just have fun," Herr said, as he looked around at the group as they practiced their next song for an upcoming show. "That's one of the best things about the band."

Wanting a more robust sound, they sought a horn section using some of their comrades. 38-year-old David Bouck, the research manager at the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, was invited as their trumpet player. Bouck said he'd been looking for a way to get back into trumpet playing.

"I felt like I was missing that outlet," Bouck said.

Mason Fischer, 37, started playing the tenor saxophone again just to join the fun.

Fischer, a farmer and software engineer, hadn't played in years, but purchased the instrument when he was asked to join, and relearned it quickly.

"I remember everyone being very encouraging for me to get a saxophone so I could join them," Fischer said.

"I feel like we've grown a lot musically," Dripps added as he reminisced about their first few performances as a full band. Over the past few years, they've also grown as individuals and in creative bonds with one another.

"The band is like family," Lefeber said. "It's rare to have a group of musicians working together that actually look forward to spending time with each other while putting in the work to improve collectively. These are some of my closest friends — it's incredibly special to collaborate, groove, and have fun with them."

During most rehearsals, the group gets together to polish familiar tunes and work on new material.

The studio where they meet, which is owned by Herr, is a music lover's dream. Half of the space is for production, and the rest of the room has an array of instruments set up. There's a drum set, acoustic and electric guitars lining one wall, a bright white upright piano, and a shelf full of small percussive tools. Every aspect of the decor is utilized for music — from dragonfly hooks for headphones to shelving for recording equipment.

In that room, part by part, the group creates arrangements of songs like "Pink Pony Club" by Chapel Roan and "Something's Got a Hold on Me" by Etta James, the instruments weaving between one another like a conversation,

Continued on B11

calendar

Event spotlight for the week of 1-23 - 1-28

FRI 1/23

Music bingo at Black Dog Bakery Cafe

Do you consider yourself a music aficionado? Then head over to the Black Dog Cafe, each Friday, for weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime. Prizes are awarded to the winner of each round. Email bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com to secure your spot. 6 to



8 pm. Black Dog Bakery Cafe, Vineyard Haven.

SAT 1/24

'Farm to Focaccia' with Vineyard Baker

Teri Culetto of Vineyard Baker and author of "Beautiful Bread: Create and Bake Artful Masterpieces for Any Occasion," is offering a focaccia class. Teri will show participants how to make their own focaccia from start to finish, and participants will get to take home a freshly made loaf with a beautiful design of their own creation. 10 am to noon. \$40. Preregistration is required for all FARM Institute cooking classes

at thetrustees.org/event/443200. Please contact Lindsay with any allergy or food restriction questions at lbrown@thetrustees.org, or if you'd like to join as a member and receive discounted programming. The FARM Institute, 14 Aero Ave., Edgartown.



SUN 1/25

Cup of Karma Cafe at Stillpoint

Interspiritual minister, ceremonialist, and the founder of Petal Sky, which provides spiritual care for all stages of life, including death, Polly Simpkins is a fourth-generation islander, story gatherer, and DJ at MVY Radio. Simpkins founded the Cup of Karma Project in 2010 as a vehicle to celebrate life and the people and relationships in our cup that inspire us and the trajectory of our lives. During the off-season,

folks gather one Sunday afternoon a month, enjoy hot tea, snacks, and listen to and honor a community member's story. All are welcome. 2 to 3:30 pm. RSVP to stillpointmv.org. Free, with a suggested donation of \$10. 20 Stillpoint Meadows Road, West Tisbury.



MON 1/26

Pint-size Picassos

Do you have a budding artist? Bring them each week to Edgartown library to use their collection of paints so they can create a masterpiece. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. 10:30 to 11:30 am. Edgartown library. programs@edgartownlibrary.org.



TUES 1/27

Squad Fitness with Triva Emery

Enjoy an invigorating, supportive fitness class designed to help participants move with confidence and strength at any age. Using bodyweight exercises, light hand weights, and resistance bands,

participants will focus on improving balance, flexibility, and overall stability. 11 am to noon. Delivered in-person at Oak Bluffs library, or via Zoom. oakbluffslibrary.org/events. Oak Bluffs library, 56R School St. #R.



WED 1/28

Community in Conversation at the Carnegie

Community in Conversation at the Carnegie is an early evening speaker series around timely topics rooted in Martha's Vineyard life. Join in a conversation with the co-directors of the Gull Island Institute, a Falmouth-based education nonprofit whose liberal arts programs for young adults incorporate academics, physical labor, and student

self-governance. Ana Keilson and Justin Reynolds will speak about the mission and work of the Institute, which will be running a monthlong program for a select group of undergraduates from across the country on Martha's Vineyard this summer. 5 to 6:30 pm. The Carnegie, 58 North Water St., Edgartown. Suggested donation: \$10. Register at bit.ly/GII_HigherEducation.

Events

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin
7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.
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, Aquinnah.
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, 508-693-2896, coa-staff@westtisbury-ma.gov.
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, Edgartown. 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. For children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. Supportive and fun. hburbridge@clamsnet.org, 508-693-3366.

Creative Movement for Birth
12-1:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn creative movements to help create a positive birth experience at the WT Library 1/22/26 12:00-1:30pm 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.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-jong 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.
Chef Look Cooks - Patron Favorites: Swedish Meatballs
2-3:30 pm, Edgartown Library. Patron Favorites: Swedish Meatballs 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Slow Stitching Circle: Rebecca & Claire Gantz
2-4 pm, Pathways Arts at Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. 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.
YOU and Your World
3:15-5:30 pm, Ms.Lanis Art Studio, Vineyard Haven. Art class for children ages 9/10, and 11, studying Picasso, Matisse, van Gogh, Degas, Renoir, Pissarro, as young artists with Ms. Lani. 774-563-3069.
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, hburbridge@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.
Prime Rib Night
4-9 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. On Thursday nights, The Black Dog Tavern will be serving oven roasted prime rib served with au jus, mashed potatoes, and Chef's choice of vegetables.
"Father Mother Sister Brother" at the MV Film Center
4 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MOTHER FATHER SISTER BROTHER at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.
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.
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.
Table Tennis
5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobmv@gmail.com.
Cheese 101 + Guided Tasting with Morgen Schroeder (MV Cheesery)
5-6:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Cheese 101 + Guided Tasting with Morgen Schroeder (MV Cheesery) 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

Continued on B8

'The Choral' at the M.V. Film Center

BY ABBY REMER



"The Choral" starts at the M.V. Film Center on Jan. 23. For more information, visit mvfilmsociety.com.

The leitmotifs of music, love, and war intertwine in Nicholas Hytner's "The Choral," which screens at the Martha's Vineyard Film Center starting Jan. 23. The story, by Alan Bennett, follows the lives of residents of the small mill town of Ramsden in Yorkshire, England, set against the backdrop of World War I.

The film begins in 1916, with two teenage pals trekking through the countryside alongside men carrying guns. But they're not on the battlefield. Instead, they complain about their task of helping to scare up the fowl for a hunting party that kills what they claim is an excessive 200 birds. Afterward, the two jokingly admit they've at least been given a fowl as a thank-you. Although the friends then go off to deliver dreaded telegrams to relatives, carrying news of loved ones killed in battle, they're cheekily more interested in girls than in the presence of death all around them. Finished with their tasks, the young men, on a lark, decide to try out for the choral society when they follow a pretty young woman on her way in for an audition.

It turns out that the choral society is in difficult straits. It has lost most of its men to the war. Even more dire, the chorus

master has just enlisted, leaving the choral committee out of ideas about who will replace him. Reluctantly, the elder men hit upon Henry Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes). Although acclaimed,

he comes with a host of problems. First and foremost, he recently returned from a career in Germany, where he preferred to live because, we are told, it has better choirs. Then we hear

from a committee member who opposes hiring him, saying, "There's talk of other things." When asked what, he replies, "Let's just say I prefer a family man." Nonetheless, eventually, the committee ultimately determines that Guthrie is its best option.

Guthrie is taciturn at best, and unapologetic about his decision to live in Germany. Asked why, he replies, "Wouldn't you stay in a country of cultured, civilized people? People who put music and beauty, art, at the center of everything they do? The English think music is just social life carried on by other means." He reluctantly agrees to lead the society, provided he retains complete artistic control.

After a brick is thrown through the window during a rehearsal of Bach's "St. Matthew Passion," prejudice against all things German alters the society's musical selections. Assuming the anonymous protester hated the choice because of Bach's nationality, they run through the great composers of choral music — Beethoven, Handel, Mendelssohn, and Brahms — only to have Guthrie continually inform them that, nope, sorry, they are all Huns. He finally lights upon a renowned oratorio by the English composer Edward Elgar, "The Dream

of Gerontius," based on John Henry Newman's poem depicting the soul's journey from death through judgment to Purgatory.

The challenge is recruiting more young men to meet the required numbers for the choir. They go to the pub, bakery, and soldiers' convalescent home to entice the youth to come sing the holy oratorio. But as the film progresses, these same men begin to receive their conscription notices, and many are to leave just days after the performance.

Guthrie, who carries a deep, unspoken sorrow from his time in Germany, is at the heart of the tale. He is relentless in his pursuit of creating a superior piece of art, but gradually changes as he connects with the chorus members — young amorous men and women, and older members, some of whom are grieving the loss of their children.

Although Guthrie has the leading role, Fiennes plays him with a restraint that allows the entire ensemble to shine. In doing so, he supports the film's central thrust — the poignant coming together of a community that finds strength in singing to confront the cruelty and chaos of war — a heartening message for the strife in our own times.

MVT

Continued from B7

Events

Trivia Night at The Black Dog Bakery Café

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly trivia night hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Thursdays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams. bdbbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.
MVRHS Building Committee Building Project Information Sessions
 7 pm, Tisbury School, Vineyard Haven. MVRHS Building Project Committee Information Sessions. Sam.Hart@mvyps.org.

'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HAMNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

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.

Pumped Up Intervals with Maria McFarland

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class alternating cardio intervals and weight work intervals using heavier weights, body bars, loops bands, and weighted balls. 508-696-8000, 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.

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, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Fri-YAY Crafts

10:30 am-2 pm, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. DIY craft station in the Children's Room. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

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 508-645-3360.

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.

Kid's Magic: The Gathering Club

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn to play Magic: The Gathering for ages 8+. Cards provided, drop-in's welcome. 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HAMNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Inside 19th-Century Whaling Logbooks

5-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. A behind-the-scenes look at 19th-century

whaling logbooks, revealing the personal stories and artistry hidden within daily records at sea. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

Teen Movie Night

5:30-7:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Meet friends and watch a free movie at the Oak Bluffs Public Library. Fresh popcorn and refreshments will be served. For teens, ages 12-18. 508-693-9433, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Music Bingo at The Black Dog Bakery Café

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. Prizes are awarded to the winner of each round. bdbbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Pub Night & Live Music

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. On Friday nights, our special Pub Night menu will be available from 4-9 pm, and live music will be from 6-8 pm.

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.

WE DANCE: Country Line Dance Class & DJ Vince Patricola Spins Disco

7-11 pm, Pathways Arts at The Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. 7pm - 8pm: Country Line Dance Class /no experience necessary. 8pm onwards: Spinning vinyl, DJ Vince Patricola spins throw-back R&B, Disco and Funk. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

'The Choral' at the Film Center

7:30 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE CHORAL at the MV Film Center. Peter Boak former director of the Island Community Chorus for a discussion afterwards on Jan 25. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Dance Fitness with Kris Martin

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Vinyasa Power Yoga

9-10 am, Edgartown Library. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. 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, vsonnenthal@gmail.com

Farm to Focaccia: Bread Art with Vineyard Baker

10 am-12 pm, Farm Institute, Edgartown. (508) 627-7007, (978) 921-1944, 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, mlynch@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, 508-693-3366.

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, 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Chain Reaction: Kid's Building Activity

1-3 pm, West Tisbury Library. Build and create to make a Rube Goldbergesque-

contraption! All ages welcome. 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

'Met Opera Live' at the MV Film Center

1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MET OPERA LIVE: THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY at the MV Film Center. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.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, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Demystifying Literary Journal Submissions with Elissa Lash

1-3 pm, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. This workshop is designed for writers who are interested in submitting to literary journals but are not sure how to get started! 508-693-1850, featherstone@featherstoneart.org.

Get Ready for Tax Season w/ Thomas L. Porter, PhD, CPA

1-2:30 pm, Chilmark Library, Dr. Porter will provide info about free tax prep resources and highlight changes in tax code for 2025. Register by emailing: chil.programs@gmail.com 508-645-3360.

All Ages Chess Club

2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us in a fun and welcoming environment. oakb_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Author Talk - Don Hinkle

2-3 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Don Hinkle will speak about his lifelong career as a writer, sharing a few misadventures along the way. 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

2026 Vision Board Workshop with Jelisa Difo

2-4 pm, Edgartown Library. We will explore aspirations for personal growth and transform them into a visually engaging collage. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Continued on B9


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

Thurs 1/22	FATHER MOTHER SISTER BROTHER HAMNET	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Fri 1/23	HAMNET THE CHORAL	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Sat 1/24	MET OPERA LIVE: THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY THE CHORAL MARTY SUPREME	1:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM
Sun 1/25	HAMNET THE CHORAL Q&A with Choir Director Emeritus Peter Boak. MARTY SUPREME	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:30 PM
MON & TUES, JAN., 26 & 27 - FILM CENTER IS CLOSED -		
Wed 1/28	HAMNET MARTY SUPREME	4:00 PM 7:30 PM
Thurs 1/29	THE CHORAL HAMNET	4:00 PM 7:30 PM

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 508.696.9369

Continued from B8

Events

Music Video Series

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Music Video Series 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Ready Together: Community Preparedness - Winter Fire Safety

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Join West Tisbury Emergency Management for an informative and practical session focused on winter fire safety. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Live Music, Roman Pinsa Pizza, & \$3 PBR Night

4-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. An evening featuring Roman pinsa pizza and \$3 PBRs from 4-8 pm, with live music scheduled from 6-8 pm. bdbbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Exhibition Opening Reception for The Crunch

4-6 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. Coming soon: The Crunch explores Aquinah's demolition derby of the early 1980s—mayhem, community, and Island history. Opens January 24. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

'The Choral' at the Film Center

4:30 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE CHORAL at the MV Film Center. Peter Boak former director of the Island Community Chorus for a discussion afterwards on Jan 25. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

MVRHS Building Project Information Sessions

4:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. MVRHS Building Project Information Sessions 508-693-9433, Sam.Hart@mrvps.org.

Community Supper

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

MUSIC SERIES: Blue Yonder Country Music

7-9 pm, Pathways Arts at the Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. Soulful country Music, heavy on harmonies, and sweet guitars. Rick O'Gorman, George Davis, Jim Orr, and Jessie Leaman. PathwaysMV.org for more info. 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com.

'Marty Supreme' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MARTY SUPREME at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Drawing Nature

Chilmark Library. Come draw with nature as your inspiration. Enjoy the forgiving nature of drawing organic objects. Registration required. Email chil.programs@gmail.com 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

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, brentbrown81@gmail.com.

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.

Live Music Brunch at Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center

11 am-1 pm, Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, Vineyard Haven. Live Music Brunch at MVHC! Featuring local band, "The Big Kids" playing folk and rock classics. Brunch is catered by local legend Chef Ting. 508-693-0745, info@mvhvhebrewcenter.org.

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.

'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center

1 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HAMNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Cup of Karma Cafe

2-3:30 pm, Stillpoint, West Tisbury. All are welcome to these gatherings, which are stress-free, peaceful, and for those who are interested in celebrating the journey of life. info@stillpointmv.org.

Trio Eris Free Concert

2:30-4 pm, West Tisbury Library. Free chamber music concert featuring Trio Eris performing works by Haydn and Brahms 508-426-9825, mvcms@vineyard.net.

'The Choral' at the Film Center

4 pm, The MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. THE CHORAL at the MV Film Center. Peter Boak former director of the Island Community Chorus for a discussion afterwards on Jan 25. 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

Radio show - Eclectic #2

7:30-9:15 pm, WVVY - MV Community Radio, Vineyard Haven. Radio show "It's a Big World, Open Yer Ears". This week: Eclectic #2, a very interesting mix of stuff. 967.1pfm or www.wvvy.org 508-693-9379, egjk.egak.egoogimak@yahoo.com.

'Marty Supreme' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MARTY SUPREME at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin

7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

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@tisburyma.gov.

Core Stability, Strength and Balance with Alyson Parker

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class featuring core stabilization, strength and balance; we target all major muscle groups and include some intermittent cardio. All levels welcome.

Pint-Sized Picassos

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library, Edgartown. 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 3-5pm in the Community Room 508-693-3366, lheart@clamsnet.org.

SketchUp Basics Class

5:30-7:30 pm, Haven, Vineyard Haven. Learn how to use SketchUp, a 3D modeling tool 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

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.

Jewish Meditation Circle

9-9:45 am, Vineyard Haven. Jewish Meditation Circle Prayers, chants & spiritual teachings w/Batya Diamond, last Tues each month 9-9:45am. Please register; info@batyadiamond. info@batyadiamond.com.

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. vhp_lchildren@clamsnet.org, 508-696-4210.

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.

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 for weekly readings together! 508-693-9433, hydee.turner@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, lheart@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.

Staff Picks Book Club

4-5 pm, Edgartown Library. January's featured staff pick is The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt. 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

kundilini Yoga

4:30-5:30 pm, The Red House PRSC, Oak Bluffs. Awaken energy, clarity, and inner balance through, movement, and meditation. 508-693-2900, jtau@mvccommunityservices.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.

Table Tennis

5 pm, Tisbury Senior Center, Vineyard Haven. Table tennis for all ages and skill levels. 508-728-5898, raeobmv@gmail.com.

American Sign Language Practice Group

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

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

Poetry, Prose & Dessert : OPEN MIC

7:30-9 pm, Pathways Arts at The Chilmark Tavern, Chilmark. Writing about Food: Cooking, Eating, Growing, Serving, Shopping etc. Bring a dessert to Share. PathwaysMV.org to Sign Up or Chilmark Tavern from 7pm 508-645-9098, tanya4pathways@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Barre Fusion with Maria McFarland

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. Ballet styled flows, barre work, balance and weights using disks, loop bands and Bender balls. Come with sneakers, barre sox, or bare feet 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

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, monahennessy1@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.

Creature Feature with Felix Neck

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Come learn what creatures call Martha's Vineyard home 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Creature Feature

10:30-11:30 am, Edgartown Library. Learn about the animals of Martha's Vineyard and their seasonal activities through stories, biofacts, and crafts. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Mah Jong

1-3 pm, Up Island Council on Aging, West Tisbury. Come join us for Mah Jong 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.

Kids Card Club

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

Virtual Reality for Tweens & Teens

3-5 pm, West Tisbury Library. For ages 10-18. Each participant's time depends on the turn-out. lheart@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 - Tumblers

3:30-5 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Decorate a tumbler with custom vinyl stickers! rjrapuano@clamsnet.org.

Construction Supervisor License (CSL) Prep

3:30-7 pm, MVRHS, Oak Bluffs. Seven week course will prepare students for MA CSL Exam. 508-693-9222, sonja@acemv.org.

Annual Meeting

4-5 pm, Act Two, Vineyard Haven. Annual Meeting. Open to the public 508-338-2124, vineyardtenor@gmail.com.

'Hamnet' at the MV Film Center

4 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. HAMNET at the MV Film Center starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com.

COMMUNITY IN CONVERSATION at the CARNEGIE: Gull Island Institute

5-6:30 pm, The Carnegie, Edgartown. Learn about Gull Island Institute, a nonprofit that reimagines liberal arts education through academics, physical labor, student self-governance. 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.

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. brentbrown81@gmail.com.

'Marty Supreme' at the MV Film Center

7:30 pm, MV Film Center, Vineyard Haven. MARTY SUPREME at the MV Film Center 508-696-9369, mvfilmsociety.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Dance Fitness and Strength Training with Kris Martin

7-8 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

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, Aquinnah. 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 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.

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, Oak Bluffs. Come join us for a fun weekly Mah-jong 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

Continued from B9

Events

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

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.

Pumped Up Intervals with Maria McFarland

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A class alternating cardio intervals and weight work intervals using heavier weights, body bars, loops bands, and weighted balls. 508-696-8000, 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

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, mlynch@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.

Toddler Time

11-11:30 am, Chilmark Library. We'll read classic and current children's literature, sing, move, and play.

Ideal for preschool ages. chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com 508-645-3360.

Online Balance with Kanta Lipsky

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

Kid's Magic: The Gathering Club

3:30-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library. Learn to play Magic: The Gathering for ages 8+. Cards provided, drop-in's welcome 508-693-3366, hburbridge@clamsnet.org.

Music Bingo at The Black Dog Bakery Café

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. Weekly music bingo hosted by Johnny Showtime, held Fridays from 6-8 pm at The Black Dog Bakery Café. Prizes are awarded to the winner of each round. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Pub Night & Live Music

6-8 pm, The Black Dog Tavern, Vineyard Haven. On Friday nights, our special Pub Night menu will be available from 4-9 pm, and live music will be from 6-8 pm.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Dance Fitness with Kris Martin

8:30-9:30 am, Airport Fitness, West Tisbury. A creative blend of rhythmic resistance, cardio conditioning, manageable mobility and core strength exercises all set to crazy-FUN music. 508-696-8000, info@airportfitnessmv.com.

Vinyasa Power Yoga

9-10 am, Edgartown Library. Therapeutic and creative, with elements of strength building. 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.

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, mlynch@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, 508-693-3366.

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, 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Introduction to Clay: Creating Small Animals with Washington Ledesma

12-3 pm, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Vineyard Haven. A hands-on clay workshop with artist Washington Ledesma, guiding participants in creating small animal sculptures—no experience needed. 508-627-4441, rpierce@mvmuseum.org.

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, mlynch@clamsnet.org.

Remember the 90s Bingo

1-2 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Disappointing Prizes awarded to 2 RAD winners! 508-693-9433, cphelan@clamsnet.org.

The Making of The Sea Table w/ Shelley Edmundson & Catherine Walthers

1-2:30 pm, Chilmark Library. Shelley Edmundson and Catherine Walthers, discuss the process of creating The Sea Table, a collaboration of island photographers, chefs and fishermen! 508-645-3360, chil.programs@gmail.com.

All Ages Chess Club

2-3:30 pm, Oak Bluffs Library. Join us in a fun and welcoming environment. oakb_mail@clamsnet.org, 508-693-9433.

Alpha-Gal Syndrome: A Talk with Aubrey Stimola Ryan

3-4:30 pm, West Tisbury Library, with Aubrey Stimola Ryan. Join us as we discuss the current science-based understanding of Alpha-Gal Syndrome. 508-693-3366, wt_mail@clamsnet.org.

Music Video Series

3-4 pm, Chilmark Library. Music Video Series 508-645-3360, chilmarklibrarykids@gmail.com.

Live Music, Roman Pinsa Pizza, & \$3 PBR Night

4-8 pm, The Black Dog Bakery Café, Vineyard Haven. An evening featuring Roman pinsa pizza and \$3 PBRs from 4-8 pm, with live music scheduled from 6-8 pm. bdbakerycafe@theblackdog.com.

Herb Foster's Birthday Fundraiser

4-6 pm, Edgartown Library. There will be refreshments and hot dogs with coleslaw 508-627-4221, programs@edgartownlibrary.org.

Community Supper

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

Drawing Nature

Chilmark Library. Come draw with nature as your inspiration. Enjoy the forgiving nature of drawing organic objects. Registration required. Email chil.programs@gmail.com 508-645-3360.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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. brentbrown81@gmail.com.

Sunday DROP IN PLAY

10 am-1 pm, the Play + Learn at Little Milestones, East Falmouth. 508-388-7802.

littlemilestonesfalmouth@gmail.com

Adult Craft - Heart Shaped Hand Warmers

11 am-1:01 pm, EMS Building, Vineyard Haven. Make these sweet little handwarmers to keep or gift. 508-696-4211, jrapuano@clamsnet.org.

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.

Local Off-Season Dancing & Music with Barbara & Jessie, Jaywalkers duo

4 pm, Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard, Vineyard Haven. Join the MV Ballroom Dancers for an afternoon of off-season music and dancing. Come to dance, or just to listen. Everyone is welcome! 508-696-4211, vphl_programs@clamsnet.org.

Full Moon Owl Prowl

4:45-5:45 pm, Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Edgartown. Hoo's out there? Come to Felix Neck for a bright moon stroll, to look, listen, and learn about these nocturnal birds. 508-627-4850, felixneck@massaudubon.org.

Offerings of Light and Music

5-6 pm, Chilmark Community Church. Music and other offerings by local performers 508-645-3100, pclarkgoff@comcast.net.

MVTimes mvtimes.com

{ ISLANDERS WRITE } Immersives

Islanders Write Immersives are online writing workshops taught by Vineyard authors that will be offered over the winter. Each of these workshops will give you an opportunity to do a deeper dive into some of the topics that have been discussed at our live events.



James W. Jennings

Writing from Where You Are: An Exploration of Journals, Literature, & Truth in a Digital Age



Elisa M. Speranza

Planning and Executing a Book Publicity Strategy



Nicole Galland

Characters In Context: Creating Characters Who Belong Where You Put Them



Elizabeth Benedict

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



Kate Feiffer

Fictionalizing Your Life

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BOOKS

Marshall Hight and Bird Jones transport us back to the Prohibition era on our beloved Island in their new book, “The Washashore.” The compelling tale for young adults and adults is a seamless blend of historical fiction, coming-of-age drama, and murder mystery set on Martha’s Vineyard in 1929.

Sixteen-year-old Emily has just come ashore after her mother’s recent death to live with her Aunt Isabel in an elegant, awe-inspiringly modern house equipped with luxuries such as indoor toilets and telephones. Life on this seafaring Island is a far cry from that in Emily’s Nebraska home. Exhausted after her long journey and fresh off the boat, Emily is unsteady on her feet: “She was a farm girl, and she could handle herself around foaling mares and dust storms. Crossing a storm-wracked Buzzards Bay on a ferry alone was another matter altogether.”

Bridget and Pat, who work at the house, warmly welcome Emily, but Aunt Isabel certainly does not at their first meeting. “Trailing into the room after Bridget, Emily snapped her eyes ahead of her, and into the steel-trap gaze of Mrs. Isabel Hewett. Emily

closed her slightly gaping mouth and brought her shoulders back. Aunt Isabel appraised her unflinchingly, immobile as a statue in a museum.”

Isabel announces that she will call Emily by her middle name, Frances, which Emily says she dislikes. “I’m not particularly invested in which name you are fond of,” is Isabel’s retort. We later learn that Emily was Isabel’s deceased daughter, who went out to sea and never returned.

Echoes of this tragedy surface almost immediately when, during the first meeting, Isabel receives a call informing her that her old friend Ann Simpson is lost at sea, despite being an expert sailor. When Ann turns up dead, Isabel firmly believes that it’s foul play.

This, then, is where the Prohibition-era setting comes into play, introducing possible suspects. Jones, who conducts extensive historical research for the writing partners’ endeavors, explains in an interview,

“The Vineyard, an island seven miles off Massachusetts, was only accessible by boat during the 1920s Prohibition. The Vineyard’s mariners were some of the

best boat handlers in New England, which also made them the best rumrunners.” We learn in the book’s preface that life as a fisherman in the 1920s was not easy

or lucrative, and thus many turned to illegal activity. “Rumrunners, at least at the start in the Elizabeth Islands, were the good guys. They were not highwaymen or gangsters, but fishermen, extraordinary boat handlers, and superb navigators. Their exploits demonstrated nerves of steel and enough daring and righteous indignation to satisfy the likes of Han Solo.”

But as the story progresses, we meet plenty of not-so-benign characters involved in organized crime. With Emily’s no-nonsense grit and smarts, Isabel soon recruits her niece to help solve the mystery of Ann’s death, leading to a rip-roaring adventure that will likely keep you guessing until the end.

Hight and Jones write vividly. For those familiar with the Vineyard, “The Washashore” offers a charming glimpse into the past, allowing us to see landmarks through Emily’s eyes nearly a century ago, including Edgartown Harbor and the exclusive

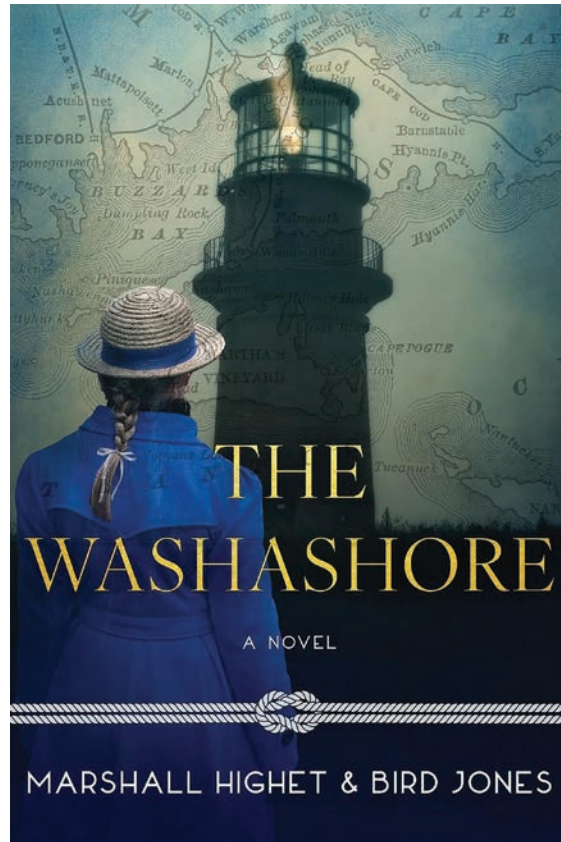
Starbuck Neck peninsula. The authors also populate the tale with evocative facts that play an essential role in the story. There’s Thankful Downs, a Vineyard telephone operator; Dreamland, a large building that housed a movie theater and dancehall, and also hosted boxing matches; and the first barn owl sighting on the Island.

Both Jones and Hight have Vineyard connections. Hight graduated from the Edgartown School and Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School, and Jones, with her deep New England roots, is a sailor and says, “The Vineyard harbor is one of my favorites.”

Jones explains about the initial research for the novel, “We cast a very wide net in the beginning, to learn as much as possible and see what bits and pieces are worth drilling down. What struck both of us was the unintended consequences of Prohibition, especially in places like the Vineyard. It didn’t take us very long to get a wonderful cast of real characters. Rumrunning produced some charismatic and extraordinary folks.”

Hight adds, “[‘The Washashore’] is my love letter to the Island, one of my favorite places on the planet. I hope we did all right.”

“The Washashore,” by Marshall Hight and Bird Jones, is available at Edgartown Books.



The Island during Prohibition: 'The Washashore'

Historical murder mystery. BY ABBY REMER

Behind the Band: Red Night Delight

Continued from B6



Standing, from left, Luke Lefeber, Andy Herr, Allison Roberts, Mike Alberice, and Perry Dripps; kneeling, from left, Mason Fischer and David Bouck, on the pier.

just a little bit louder.

“We can rip Chappel Roan to a crowd yelling along with us late at night at the Ritz, or play a sweet love song in someone’s backyard on Music Street. The timing and energy comes through because we fundamentally care about each other and the Island community as a whole. We can feel it in our bones, and we love sharing that with our audiences,” Fischer said.

As Bouck and Fischer in the horn section hit harmonies during their rehearsal, the song they learned played in the background.

“This chord for you is a D flat 7th,” one called out to the other from across the room. Roberts hummed along to the track and watched as the group figured out the instrumental parts before she sidled up to the mic.

During practices, Roberts keeps the group focused, grounded, and ready for their shows. But on stage, she shines. Her intention, she said, is for people to feel better leaving their set than when they walked in the door, just like their nautical namesake prophesizes.

“To me, [the adage]

signifies good things are coming,” Roberts added. “Which is how I hope we make people feel when they watch us, and what I hope they carry with them after they leave a show.”

UPCOMING SHOWS:

8-10 pm on Jan. 31 at the Portuguese-American Club

7-9 pm on Feb. 7 at Pathways, the winter arts residency at the Chilmark Tavern

COMMUNITY NOTES

'Putts and Pints': mini-golf fundraiser

Tee up for a good cause. The Library Friends of Oak Bluffs invite the entire community to grab a putter, raise a pint, and putt your heart into supporting the library at its “Putts & Pints” mini-golf fundraiser. This all-day event transforms the library into a playful 18-hole mini-golf course while supporting vital library programs and services. Free: family time, 10 am to noon, and teen

time, 3 to 5 pm. Ticketed play time: 6 to 9 pm, \$18 per person, or two tickets for \$30, including one round of mini-golf, a beverage, and light refreshments. Feb. 7 at the Oak Bluffs Public Library. The library recommends pre-purchasing tickets by calling or stopping by the library, 508-693-9433, oakbluffslibrary.org, 56R School St., Oak Bluffs.

Winter walks

Yes, it’s cold, but one way to beat the winter blues is to get outside and get

moving. From November to March, the Vineyard Conservation Society offers a series of educational explorations of some of the most beautiful locations on the Island. Get outdoors, take in the Island’s scenic beauty, and learn the conservation history of some of our local ecological treasures. Winter walks are free and open to the public, but space is limited and registration is required. Visit vineyardconservation.org for more information.

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A Little Humor: A bored adult is a dangerous adult

Off-season tips for keeping boredom at bay.

BY ALLISON ROBERTS

Although most adults on the Island are far too busy to feel bored, there are times when boredom can still rear its ugly head. Right after the holidays comes to mind. Sitting in the waiting room at the blood lab without a phone, book, or snacks is like watching paint dry, and long car rides can turn torturous once you've reached podcast exhaustion.

Children learn very quickly not to share the fact that they're bored out loud. "Oh, you're bored?" one of their parents might quip. "I'll give you something to do." And the next thing little Henry knows, he's sorting socks, helping Grandma clean out the refrigerator, or handing tools to his dad while he builds a shed and shares each step of the process along the way. "No! Not the screwdriver — the wrench. Now, where was I?"

Adults sometimes forget the lessons they learned as children, and innocently announce their boredom to their partner. "Oh, you're bored?" their beloved says. "I'll give you something to do." And suddenly they're on a ladder cleaning out gutters, painstakingly putting all their and their partner's passwords into a password manager app, or installing a new toilet.

Bored adults are more dangerous than bored children. For one thing, adults have more freedom and therefore more opportunities to cause damage. Adults are also so accustomed to sprinting on the hamster wheel of life that when they step off and their cortisol levels drop, it feels so foreign, they panic, and start jonesing for a shot of adrenaline. Next thing you know, they're doing doughnuts in the Stop & Shop parking lot in their minivans, scrolling through social media looking for an argument, or

dragging an old sofa out of their basement and setting it on fire. I'm sure if we were to ask Island police to share a few stories about incidents linked to bored adults, we'd get an earful.

So what's an adult to do when boredom strikes? Well, as a kid who spent many days in school detention, and an adult who has been called out in meetings for being disruptive, I've come up with a few strategies that have saved me from inadvertently destroying a

building or losing my job.

First and foremost, keep your apathy to yourself. If this means you have to shove a handful of gummy worms, or a sock, into your mouth to keep from sighing, moaning, or complaining, do it. Next, immediately take some kind of action, like calling a friend, taking a walk, or starting a Bored Adults support group. If none of these activities sounds appealing, I've found that in a pinch, making up random song titles

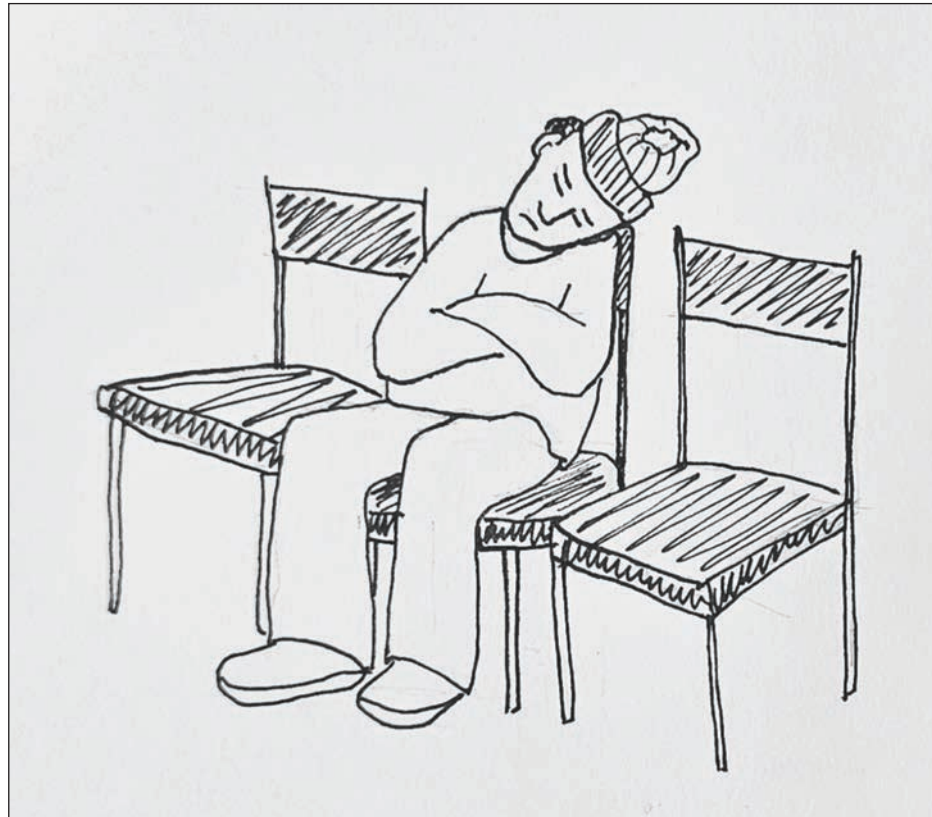
has saved me from mouthing off, missing enormous chunks of conversations, and repeatedly banging my head on the dashboard while driving the eight hours to visit family.

No worries if you aren't musical. You're not going for Joni Mitchell-level songwriting skills, you're simply trying to stay awake. Here are some examples of song titles I came up with around the five-hour mark on my last road trip: "Why Does My Dog Smell When I Just Gave Her a Bath?," "Slow Your Roll or You'll Drill Your Finger," and "Saggy Underwear Suck."

If you feel like song titles alone don't quite cut it, challenge yourself by writing lyrics to accompany your titles. For example, "Did you roll in something dead? Is there poop on your head? Ew ... get off the bed." Chorus: "Why does my dog smell when I just gave her a bath?" and so on.

Here are some song title suggestions to get you started: "Dirty Turnips on My Counter"; "Another Trip to the Bathroom"; and "Toenails Grow Super-Fast."

You get the picture. Give it a try. It's better than building a raft out of driftwood and realizing you didn't bring paddles, peering in your neighbor's window to assess their kitchen cabinets, or slamming your minivan into a garbage truck in the Stop & Shop parking lot, getting arrested, and having your name published in *The MV Times* court report. **MVT**



CARTOON BY ERIC CADY

Adults sometimes forget the lessons they learned as children and innocently announce their boredom to their partner. "Oh, you're bored?" their beloved says. "I'll give you something to do."

ACADEMIC HONORS

PRESIDENT'S LIST

Jacob Sylvia of Vineyard Haven, at Southern New Hampshire University.

DEAN'S LIST

Kayleigh Bollin of West Tisbury, at Lasell University.

Hanna Santos of Vineyard Haven, at Southern New Hampshire University.

Ophiellia Bernard of Oak Bluffs, at Lindsey Wilson University.

Cali Giglio of Oak Bluffs, at the College of Charleston.

Felicity Lepine of West Tisbury, at Nazareth University.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arthur William Wertz

Shelby Wertz and Charles Wertz of Oak Bluffs announce the birth of a son, Arthur William Wertz, on Jan. 14, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Arthur weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

Olivia Bianca Roider

Daniele Bianca and Carlos Roider of Edgartown announce the birth of a daughter, Olivia Bianca Roider, on Jan. 14, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Olivia weighed 5 pounds, 14.5 ounces.

Madelyn Hazel Otoni Ribeiro

Maria Ribeiro Otoni and Nicholas Ribeiro of East Falmouth announce the birth of a daughter, Madelyn Hazel Otoni Ribeiro, on Jan. 27, 2026, at Martha's Vineyard Hospital. Madelyn weighed 7 pounds, 0.4 ounces.

Cribbage Club results

♦ ♠ ♥ ♣

BY MARY ALICE RUSSELL

Twenty-two members of the **Vineyard Cribbage Club** met on Wednesday night to play our favorite game of cribbage. We welcomed four new players, and had a great time! They knew everyone :)

The result of the night are as follows:

First, Collin Evanson with a 12/5 +133 card

Second, Jack Silvia with a 12/5 + 82 card

Third, David Pothier with a 10/5 +45 card

Fourth, Samantha Burns with a 9/4 +30 card

Fifth, Andria Jason with a 9/4 +26 card

Only two 24-point hands were dealt, to Albion Alley

and David Pothier. There were a total of nine skunks, a game lost by more than 30 points. We also had two flush cribs (very rare), by Jack Silvia and Doug Werther.

Three of us are headed off-Island this weekend to compete in a national tournament to represent Roy and Tricia (Jack Silvia, Collin Evanson, and myself).

We meet on Wednesdays at the American Legion in Katama. If you like cribbage, we have a potluck every week at 5:30 pm, and we start playing at 6 pm SHARP. **MVT**

If you'd like more info, feel free to email or call/text! maonmv@mac.com, 508-524-1220, Mary Alice Russell.

COMMUNITY NOTE

Brazilian Portuguese: Conversation and Culture'

Build confidence, connection, and cultural fluency in this conversation-based Brazilian Portuguese course. Designed for students with a foundational understanding of the language, this class helps

participants deepen their speaking skills through dialogue, cultural exploration, and community engagement. Each session includes interactive conversation practice, culturally rich activities, and visits from Brazilian guest speakers who bring authentic stories and lived experiences to the classroom.

Instructor Maria Angela Moreira has decades of experience in the field of education, holding a B.A. in pedagogy and a postgraduate degree in teaching in the field of higher education. A native of Brazil, Moreira has been teaching Brazilian Portuguese on Martha's Vineyard since 2015. She is also the founder of Moreira Educa-

tion Solution, where she continues her dedication to high-quality, community-centered language education. **MVT**

Thursday, Jan. 29, 6 to 8 pm. Additional dates: Thursdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19. \$189. Haven, 517 State Road, Vineyard Haven. acemv.org/upcoming-courses/?eid=12662.

Up to the minute



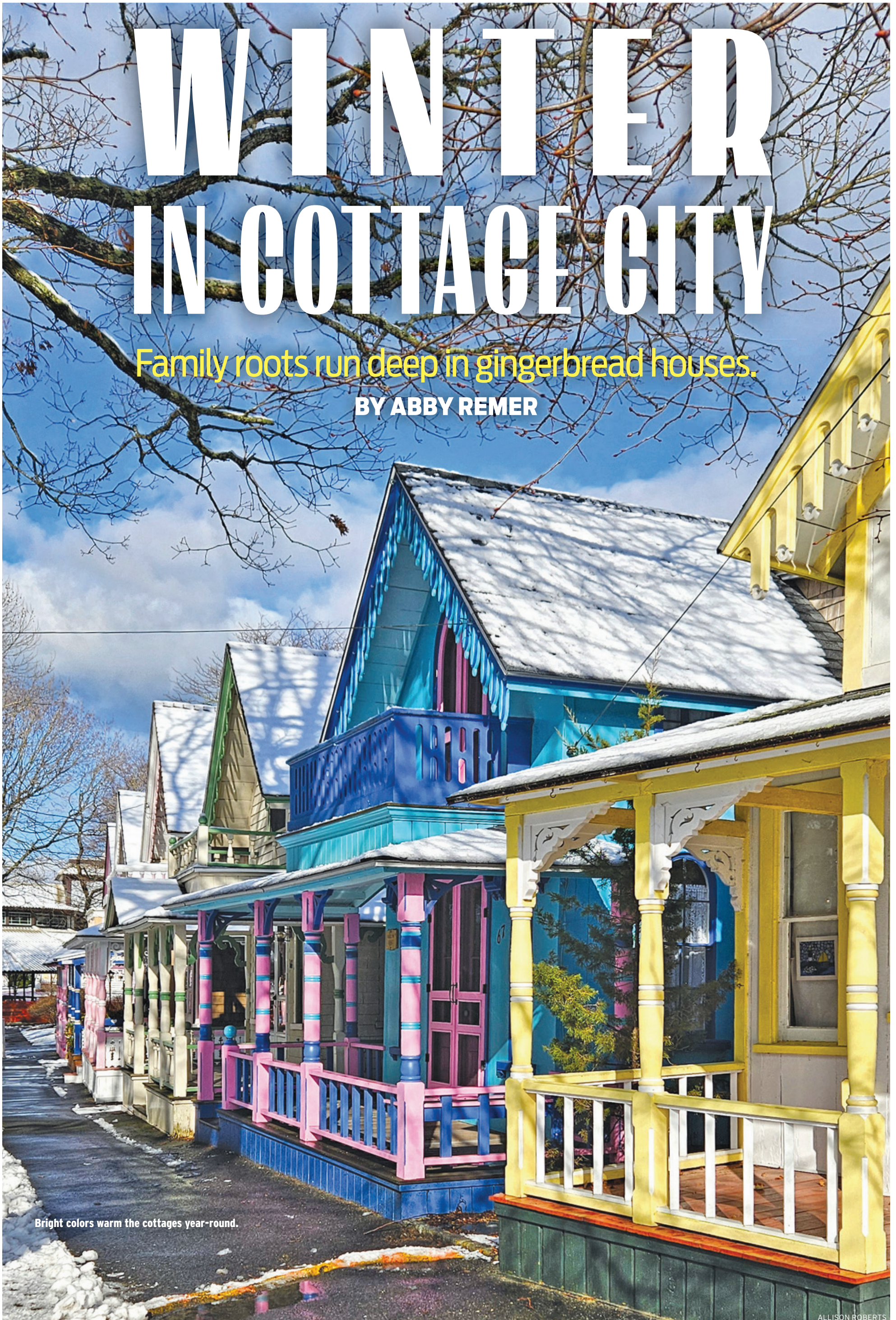
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WINTER IN COTTAGE CITY

Family roots run deep in gingerbread houses.

BY ABBY REMER



Bright colors warm the cottages year-round.



A community of colorful cottages dot the paths as far as the eye can see.

ALLISON ROBERTS

Think about the Martha's Vineyard Campground, and perhaps the delightful colors of the gingerbread cottages, the cool shade under the iconic Tabernacle, and the sparkling sunlight bouncing off the leaves of the green trees come to mind. During the summer, life is bustling amid the 300-plus cottages. But what about the winter, when only some 40 or so of these homes in Cottage City are inhabited? Speaking with various year-round Campgrounders, what repeatedly comes across is a love for their cottages and the quiet sanctuary of this place they call home.

Vici Surr's connection to the Vineyard began four generations ago. Her grandmother, though, was the first to buy a cottage in 1966. "For the first few years, she rented it out, because she couldn't afford to purchase the cottage and live here until she paid it off."

"Living here is quirky," says Surr. "You have to be a certain kind of person to be year-round. You must be happy within yourself, living on your own, and not looking for people to be constantly around. You have to be a little bit of a hermit and a little bit of a social butterfly."

Asked about her desire to live in the Campground, Surr responds, "First of all, this was my grandmother's, and when I'm in here, I can feel her presence. I can feel my parents' presence. It's my home. I feel very connected to it. I wake up and feel very fortunate. I can look out over a park. It's just beautiful. I can walk to the beach. And I love the people here. They are just wonderful. I walk out, and I go, 'Oh, my God. I live here.' It's so exciting. This is fabulous. Growing up, I always wanted to live in a little Victorian house near the ocean, and then one day I realized, that's what I've got."

Lyn Freeman's family roots in the Campground date back to the mid-19th century. The first of the family's three houses was built in the late 1860s. "The story goes that they built the kitchen first, and they sold pies out of the back to earn the money to build the rest."

When Freeman's husband initially suggested moving here full-time about 13 years ago, she thought it was a horrible idea, wondering what she would do here in the middle of the winter. "Then one day in the summer, I was driving around East Chop, and I was struck by the sheer beauty of the Island. I just stopped at the side of the road and thought, 'I do want to live here year-round.' It was a big decision, but our kids were both grown, and it seemed like the right time.

"I used to think summer was the only



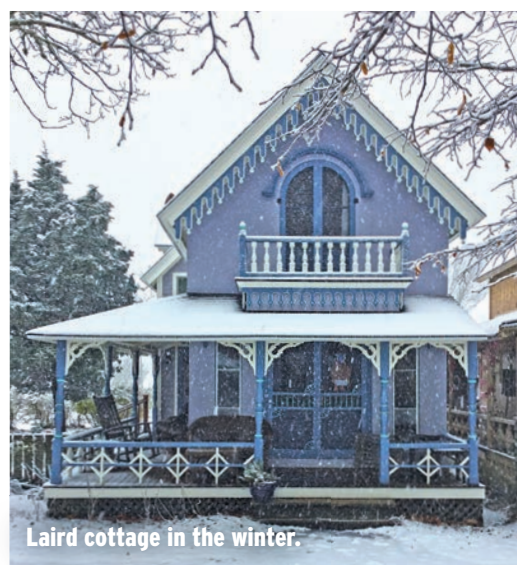
The MVCMA welcomes visitors and residents year-round.

ALLISON ROBERTS

"Growing up, I always wanted to live in a little Victorian house near the ocean, and then one day I realized, that's what I've got." -VICI SURR

time to be here, but the rest of the year is just magical," Freeman continues. "It's peaceful, and I'm at that point in my life when peace and quiet are good. I wasn't sure what I was going to do, having worked for 37 years as an educator." Freeman has found a community of folks who have similar interests, such as music and her church: "I'm at the point where I'm having to force myself to say no, because I have a lot going on."

Freeman reflects, "The sense of history with my family is really what's important. I remember sitting on the porch with my mother, sister, my grandmother, and me, all of us listening to the chimes and remember-



Laird cottage in the winter.

COURTESY VICI SURR



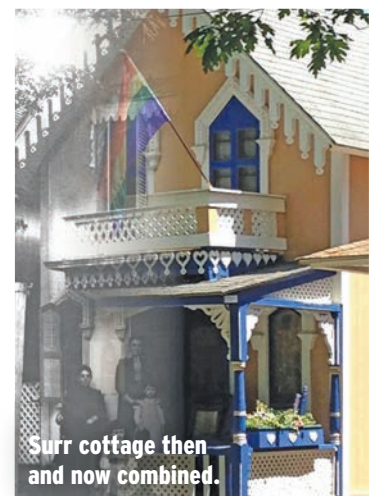
From left, Elise, Byron, and Avian Laird trim the tree.

REBECCA LAIRD



Suiting up for Halloween: From left, Elise, Byron, and Avian.

REBECCA LAIRD



Surr cottage then and now combined.

COURTESY VICI SURR

ing the people who went before us. Now it's my cousin and me, and, of course, knowing my grandson will be doing what I did as a kid. That's really special."

Rebecca Laird also has a multigenerational connection to the Campground. "The cottage was a wedding present from my great-grandparents in the 1940s to their son, my grandfather. I heard it was about \$400. It was adjacent to the original cottage, which is the one beside ours. That one had been in the family since the 1880s."

The Lairds are unusual because they are raising their three children year-round in the cottage, after leaving Baltimore due to dissatisfaction with the school system. "Living in the Campground is very strange, especially when it's snowing. Sometimes I think of the other cottages, which are all boarded up, like trees in the woods. It's very peaceful."

Asked if the kids like it, Laird responds, "They don't know any different. I remember when we took our son to visit family off-Island, and he said, 'Look, Mom. It's so sad. Those people forgot to paint their houses.'" Laird continues, "We try to emphasize all the positives. I don't know where else you can so easily have this quiet and yet walk out your door and go to the library, the beach, the bowling alley, get ice cream, and walk to school. They can literally walk anywhere a kid can want to go and then come home, and it's quiet and doesn't feel like you're in

the middle of a big bustling area.

"The thing I find the strangest is that in the fall, the tour groups are at their max. I think they assume all the houses are empty. They're staring in your windows. They're sitting on your porch. Even the comments are funny. It's weird having someone stand outside criticizing your home, saying, 'Well, I don't like the colors.' The kids have fun with it, photobombing when they take pictures."

Jack Sipperly is relatively new to the Vineyard, coming annually with his family since 1998, when he was less than a year old. "We were born and raised in Rhode Island, but we came to love this place, renting in the Campgrounds." His family bought a cottage in 2008. He moved into the cottage after graduating from college, wondering what the winter would be like. "I made the jump, and have been here since. It's been such an amazing ride."

The cottage has insulation and heat, but Sipperly and his fiancée also wear extra-warm clothes. "It's a little rough, but it's special. It makes the cottage what it is. We're not scared of a little draft. It was a bit of an experiment, but it's such a joy to find ourselves as part of this community. To have the time to slow down, time to reflect, and time to digest. When you see lights on and people around, you go chat and see what they are up to. It has this kind of quaint, quiet, slow breath of fresh air." **MVT**

Wild Side

BY MATT PELIKAN



The puzzling rise and fall of the mockingbird population.

Songs from the trees



Mockingbird

MATT PELIKAN

It may sound strange to refer to one of our most conspicuous songbirds as “enigmatic,” but there you have it: There is a lot about the Northern mockingbird that just doesn’t make sense to me.

When present, especially during the breeding season, the species is impossible to miss. Males, famous for the sustained and varied vocalizations that give this species its name, sing incessantly from prominent perches such as treetops, wires, and rooflines. Mockers are also notoriously territorial: Both sexes will relentlessly harass hawks, cats, and even people too close to a mockingbird nest, flying into the face of the perceived threat while giving a harsh, grating alarm call.

Even in winter, mockingbirds are generally easy to find, since their preference seems to be for suburban housing developments — a plentiful, accessible, and easily surveyed habitat type. Mockers thrive on the semi-open conditions in this setting, and relish the fruits and berries produced by many popular landscaping plants. It is probably this affinity for modern human land-use patterns that drove the initial expansion of mockingbirds into New England, which was noticed by ornithologists well before

the end of the 1800s.

But while many such instances of Northward range expansion seem linked at least in part to climate change, mockingbirds colonized much of our region before the effects of climate change had become evident. And puzzlingly, in recent years, at least in the Southeastern portion of Massachusetts, it appears that the species has grown somewhat less common despite generally milder winters and the steady march, or more accurately full-throttle charge, of suburbanization. My sense is that the downward drift of mockingbird numbers has been especially evident on the Vineyard, although the

picture is a complicated one.

Our winter population, at least as measured by Christmas Bird Count results, has behaved strangely. In the early years of the Vineyard count, which was launched in 1960, mockingbirds were scarce — recorded every year, but usually in very low numbers. Numbers skyrocketed, though, from 10 individuals on the 1979 count to 93 the following year. Over the next quarter-

century or so, scores of mockingbirds were counted consistently, and tallies often exceeded 100. After that window, though, numbers dropped sharply again, and have hung mainly in low double digits (with a particularly pitiful count of just three in 2013).

To be sure, one would expect mockingbird numbers

But the vagaries of our winter weather would not account for that fairly consistent, long-term rise and fall of mockingbird numbers. What the bird-count data show is not the pattern one would expect for a species that benefits from milder winters and increasing suburbanization, both of which have progressed

While the thickets were productive that day once the sun warmed things up, and the birding generally quite good, I managed only three mockingbirds. All three were in dependable locations for this species, one mocker contentedly eating privet berries at Menemsha, the other two in thickets around the cir-

ber of dependable, often intensively developed locations. I rarely find this species in a truly natural setting.

While drab in appearance, the mockingbird is easily recognized. Adults of both sexes, and immatures once they have fully fledged, all look similar: gray on the back, white underneath, long-tailed, and sporting flashy white tail edges and rectangles on the outer portion of each wing. Really the only thing you could confuse with a mockingbird would be a Northern shrike (a very rare winter visitor on the Island) or a loggerhead shrike (even rarer). So it isn’t like mockingbirds are being overlooked.

The species is local here, but not truly rare, and overall mockingbird numbers in the region remain solid. So there is no cause for concern over the status of this bird. But the mockingbird is a puzzling example of a species that doesn’t respond to ecological changes in the way you’d expect. **MVP**

It has been several years since mockingbirds were regular in my Oak Bluffs neighborhood, where once this bird was common enough and noisy enough to verge on being annoying.

to fluctuate with the severity of the season. Though the species is not strongly migratory, individual birds will make seasonal movements in response to the onset of winter (such movements do not necessarily follow the expected North-to-South pattern, however). And of course, being at heart a Southern species, the mockingbird is vulnerable to freezing or starving during prolonged snow cover or extreme cold.

steadily in recent decades.

It has been several years since mockingbirds were regular in my Oak Bluffs neighborhood, where once this bird was common enough and noisy enough to verge on being annoying. Having managed only one mockingbird in my Vineyard Haven territory on this winter’s Christmas Bird Count, I headed up-Island on an early January day to see how many mockers I could find.

cle at the Gay Head Cliffs (where I almost never fail to find this species).

But vast amounts of habitat seemingly suitable for this species failed to produce any mockers. Broader sources, such as iNaturalist records of this species, paint a similar picture: Despite their one-time abundance, mockingbirds have become rather local on the Vineyard, with most recent records coming from a relatively small num-

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