



May, 2021

Submissions welcome! Send to [chilhoc85@verizon.net](mailto:chilhoc85@verizon.net) or text to (508) 627-0143.

# What's Happening

VIP is a 501-c3 and our Fed ID # is: 04-2867826

[vipmv.org](http://vipmv.org)

P. O. Box 1204  
West Tisbury, MA 02575



## Signs of Spring by Martha & Marney

The Earth Day snow flurries prompted us to search for signs of spring the next day. First stop, Polly Hill Arboretum where we found blossoms galore!!! You can pick up brochures at the entrance, next to the visitor center. One has a map and a gnome search. We managed to spot a few of them. The other brochure has a map and photos identifying spring blooms. The grass path around the perimeter made for easy walking. The bathrooms were open too, always appreciated!



Next we went to check the two osprey nests we are monitoring for Felix Neck. We are happy to report both nests have females incubating eggs!

Finally, we met up with Martha's mom, Jane, for a walk along North Water Street in Edgartown and out to the lighthouse where we saw a flock of returning tourists! Spring has arrived!



*Martha enjoying the spring colors at Polly Hill in these two photos on left.*

**VIP General Meeting**  
**Tuesday June 1, 5:00 pm**  
**In Person at Island Grown Initiative,**  
**Stoney Hill Road, Vineyard Haven**  
more information coming via email

## A Helen Update by her friend Laura

Helen is in good spirits. She is using a walker now and it is hard for her to write. In April, we started going out again. We like to go the beach and find a pavilion so we are out of the sun. Helen colors while I read a magazine. Recently, we went to Wild Florida. It was like being on safari—driving by a lot of animals which appeared very well care for. It was really good fun.

## Helen's address:

Helen Blasi  
Discovery Village  
3260 N. Harbor Blvd. # S-121  
Melbourne, FL 32935



## News from Alexander

Alexander had a great time in South Carolina. His aunt and uncle's condominium was very comfortable, with four bedrooms and a "Carolina" room (like a porch) overlooking a golf course. Deer and rabbits frequent the area. "You can walk to the beach from there, but it was too cold to swim." Not surprisingly, Alex's favorite things to do were playing mini-golf and eating Mexican food. Alex and his mom golfed three times, including at Pirates Cove. "We ate Mexican food twice, featuring delicious rolled tacos."



Alexander is swimming at the Y with Erin, and walking into town with a stop at Mocha Mott's. His cards are selling well at the Beach House. Alexander and his mom have planted sunflower seeds. Look for the 12 foot tall plants in front of his house this summer!



*JP and his travel Zoom audience and below, skydiving in Switzerland, 2007.*

## Thankful for Island Life by JP Hitesman

It has been a gratefully busy spring. I began a new part-time position working with the Daybreak program at MV Community Services. I continue to work on the Vision grant with Julie and Beth. I also remain in my core staff position at MV Playhouse, where we are planning outdoor performances for this summer and have reviewed diversity, equity and inclusion topics.

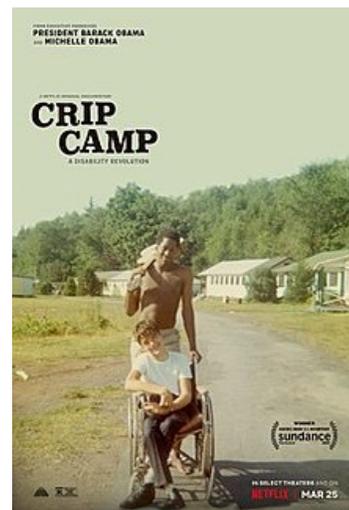
The Vineyard community continues to be supportive as I begin my 5th year of year-round residency, including having conversations with the Animal Shelter of MV about possibly adopting a cat, and maintaining connections with our VIP group, as seen in my Zoom presentation on May 10 that drew a generous audience.



## CRIP CAMP—Must See! by Sundy Smith

Jon and I recently hosted Andy, Onnie and Tony for dinner and to watch the wonderful documentary *Crip Camp*. The movie was Oscar-nominated for best documentary, losing out to an octopus. Really! We all agreed this is a must-see for all our VIP friends. It is educational, funny, and inspiring.

The movie takes us through an important period in the disability rights movement, from the experience of young people with disabilities at Camp Jened in the Catskills in 1971, to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. Camp Jened had been a summer camp for children and adults with disabilities since the 1950's, but changed with the influence of the counterculture and civil rights movements in the late 60's and 70's. The black and white footage from that period shows a wild and woolly atmosphere of sports, music, cooking, and discussions into the night. As one camper says "The counselors were not our babysitters." That is obvious in the film!



Many of the Jened campers went on to become leaders in efforts to pass laws that would give equal rights—and access—to people with disabilities in our country, including the passage of Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. One of those young leaders was Judith Heumann. "She was a powerful woman," Tony said. "During the demonstrations people looked to her. She said 'Don't leave!' and they didn't leave."



Andy was touched by both the campers and their later activities. "I was impressed with how honest and open people were with each other in their lives." Onnie agreed. "It reminded me of the atmosphere when I worked at Chilmark Chocolates, people recognizing each other's strengths and supporting each other."

In the footage of the famous Capitol Crawl, people got out of their wheelchairs and crawled up the steps of the U.S. Capitol. They wanted to show how people with disabilities did not even have access to the center of their own government. Their action helped the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"So much courage," Jon commented "Courage and organization."

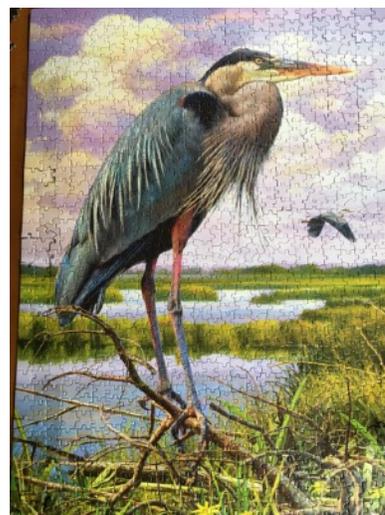
"It isn't over," Onnie added, and we all agreed.

The movie is available on Netflix. Until we are really back in the movie theaters, watch it with vaccinated friends. A special thanks to our Edgartown friends Michelle and Barack Obama who supported *Crip Camp* through their production company Higher Ground.

**VIP Beach Brigade Clean-Up June 5th. Details later via email.**

## The Missing Peace! by Marney Toole

Allison has been enjoying putting jigsaw puzzles together. She just completed one of a Great Blue Heron, that is, completed except for one missing piece! The puzzle was new. Should she write the company and give them a piece of her mind? She decided to wait until morning. In the morning, she put her hand in her pajama pocket and found the missing piece. Moral of the story: When you are puzzled, it is always good to sleep on it to find peace of mind!



The completed puzzle



**News from Greg** Greg is happy to be back to some of his old routines. Wednesdays are sweet at Murdick's Fudge and seeing Stoney on Friday night for dinner and an overnight are such a special tradition. His household has undertaken lots of spring cleaning, and they are finding things to donate to the thrift store. In his free time, painting is a main pastime with Heather's guidance and encouragement. Greg enjoys seeing folks in Vineyard Haven but is not looking forward to the crowds that the 4th of July brings. He has enjoyed planting seeds at Vineyard Supports and looks forward to seeing the flowers and strawberries this summer.



## MUSIC RETURNS TO OAK BLUFFS!

Sundays in the Park concerts will be returning to Ocean Park in Oak Bluffs this summer. Ann Baird thinks it would be a fun spot to meet up and enjoy some great music! The concerts start on May 30th at 6:30, kicking off with The Black Eyed Susans (Mark's brother's band). After that the concerts will continue every Sunday from 6-8 pm until October 10th and include Don Groover and Friends and others.



*Masks may be required. The concerts will follow Massachusetts protocols for Covid-19. For more information call 508-939-1076.*

VIP is very appreciative to the following for their support:



The Joy Fund and Island Fund of the MV Community Foundation (formerly PEMV)



and the Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship.