



October, 2020

# What's Happening

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

P. O. Box 1204  
West Tisbury, MA 02575



**DJ Ben Zoom Dance**

**Saturday, Oct. 31**

**7:30 pm—8:30 or so**

**Halloween Costumes encouraged**

check your inbox that week  
for the Zoom link

## **Rolling Along** by Andy Palmer

We 3 Palmers just returned from a VIP beach walk on Lucy Vincent. It was simply a beautiful day and we had a good turnout. When the Hoyer lift failed, four strong people easily lifted Mr. Gale into the beach buggy and off we went with Martha, Greg, Robby's two assistants Nathan and Brian, Debbi, Julie, Ally, Beth, Diamond, Roxy, Mark, Ann, Palmers. We stretched out over a large distance as some (Robby pushers-young) were moving right along ahead, then the middle groups, and finally Roxy and the Bairds. Being a middle child I often find myself in the MIDDLE, trying to keep the herd together and that is where I was, almost to the collapse site of the giant gargoyle when the forward brigade suddenly did a 180 and headed back toward us post haste, with the Big Bouncing Bobby Vehicle in line to mow down Mark. It turned out the only disaster was the striking apparition of a— should I say it?— NUDE bather and someone had made the call to about face.

So we did and headed back to the private (not privates) beach and enjoyed sparkling surf, warm sand and sun. One of the cool things was Diamond, who started off marching to the beach before we all got organized and eventually was found walking with Mark and Ann and Roxy and smiling.



*Onnie, Debbi and Tony on  
Lucy Vincent Beach*

*VIP received the following letter to include with our grant request to the Permanent Endowment of MV. It is so moving we thought we should share it with you. The anniversary of Timmy's death is November 9th. Tim died as a result of the Lift accident in September, 1995 on the way to Chilmark Chocolates. Martha, Jennifer, Dale, Greg and Timmy were all injured.*

I'm writing to offer a letter of support to my favorite Island non profit VIP, which has applied for a grant for assistance with their Newsletter and McCaul's cooking classes.

I moved to MV in 1984 with my son Timmy Cantwell to join my husband David Ayres, whom I had recently married. I became a member of the predecessor organization, MV Special Parents Association (MVSPA), to connect with others whose children were differently abled. As I became more involved and my son became older, we as a group became more focused on the lack of housing and work opportunities when our children completed high school and for those who already had. I have great stories to tell of great accomplishments by collaborations available in those days but this letter is not about those days.

I no longer live on Martha's Vineyard having moved away a year ago. My son Timmy died 25 years ago yet I remained active for about another 5 years in MVSPA. That group evolved into VIP, a vibrant expanded group where my son's friends now lead the group alongside friends and family members working "to ensure that opportunities for a full life are available to all".

A very important way this connection and community is done is through their newsletter. Have you read it? It is so impressive. Filled with photos of people with brief stories about what they have been doing. Important notices about projects and dreams they have been focused on and the status of the work on that. Articles from the Gazette or Times that have significance or importance for its members. Upcoming social activities. Incredible graphics. And probably most important a way for every one to stay connected. I was so impressed by the ways they did this during Covid times.

It fills me with joy to see how this organization has grown, to still see some of my son's old friends, and those that would have been, and know of all the continuing efforts to provide connection and community to everyone who needs this on the island. I also believe this newsletter is most effective in the paper format rather than the digital one. I know that my son would not be able to read it on a computer or a phone. My husband and I love reading this newsletter.

This is an organization most worthy of a generous grant.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Fitzgibbon



*Erin and Tony walking near Erin's house*

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





*Stoney, Greg and Jen check out the VIP art which Tessa (behind the table) wonderfully arranged.*

The second VIP Arts, Crafts and More Sale was enjoyed by many on a glorious October day. In addition to the pictured art work, beeswax wraps, t-shirts and cards, customers purchased Shelly's jewelry and a quilt, mugs and face masks. Thanks to all the contributors to the sale, as well as volunteers!



*Mr. Peaches, aka Robert Freed, entertained with his juggling prowess.*



*Marney and Martha had made 60 re-usable beeswax wraps to sell, and few were left at the end of the day! Thank you for your efforts.*

## **VIP Meetings**

Wednesday Nov. 18 for both

Board at 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom. Please check your mailbox for the link that week.

We have one opening on the Board. This is for a 3 year term. The Board meets 4 times per year. Help us plan for the next year! If you are interested, please text / call Julie at (508) 274-6840 or Tony at (508) 560-3272.



*Alexander, Wynne and McCaull where Alexander sold 55 cards along with dozens of Elaine Christensen's and Greg's cards.*

Tessa organized an art session held on a beautiful afternoon in September. The art was exhibited (and some sold) at the Yard Sale. Colin, Martha, Onnie, Erin, Allison, Alexander and Julie joined those pictured, guided by Tessa's artistic flair.



*Greg awaits inspiration while Robb paints with Sonya's assistance.*

*Mark paints a tree, as Ann is mesmerized.*

## **MAKE A CHOICE—BE A VOICE** by Sundy Smith

One person, one vote. In our country, voting can be the great equalizer if we make sure to do it. Voting is one of the most important things you can do as an advocate for people with disabilities. The people you vote for will make decisions about your health care, your employment options, your social security, your education, your environment and the strength of your community.

People with physical and intellectual disabilities can vote in all elections. The only exception is if there is a guardianship decree that specifically says a person can't vote. There is sometimes a misunderstanding that people with disabilities may not understand the choices on the ballot. If needed, it is totally fine for people to get assistance in registering or reviewing the ballot, and they can even have someone go to the polls with them. People can fill out a sample ballot ahead of time and take it to the polls with them and take extra time to submit the ballot.

**BUT TIME IS RUNNING OUT!** If you aren't registered to vote already, **you must register by October 24.** You can register on line or by mail or in person at your town clerk's office. Your town clerks are there to help with registering and understanding the different ways you can vote. Contacts are provided on our website—vipmv.org.

Ally and Julie host a "Hangout Zoom" on **Mondays at 5:00.** Tune in to McCaull's cooking classes **every other Thursday.** Check out our website for some of his recipes!  
[www.vipmv.org](http://www.vipmv.org)

VIP is grateful to the following organizations for their support:

*The Joy Fund of the*



*MV Vision Foundation*

