



January, 2021

What's Happening

vipmv.org

P. O. Box 1204
West Tisbury, MA 02575

Monday Zoom Schedule, 5:00 pm

February 1 Martha with her sister Maggie

February 15 Tony

March 1 Erin cooking carrot soup

March 15 Ida and Ally team up



VIP Board Meeting

The Board plus some guests met on January 12. Tessa updated us on the work of the Island Disability Coalition (IDC), which is producing some informational brochures. Dick Cohen from the IDC discussed a questionnaire regarding employment. VIP members will be using a phone tree to help the VIP respond to the survey. VIP raised \$400 for the two groups we chose in November—Island Food Pantry and Harbor Homes, which helps the homeless on MV. Thanks to Judi and Carolyn for the drop-off sites. VIP matched the money raised. VIP will be getting a Zoom account which will allow more people to host our Zooms. If you are interested in co-hosting or being a guest, contact Tessa or Julie via the website vipmv.org.

The next board meeting is Feb. 9 at 6:30.



Erin on her horse Cumberland. Her niece Emma also enjoys riding her horse Sassy Lady.

**DJ Dance with Ben
via Zoom**

**Friday, January 29
7:30 — 8:30 pm**



"Warm, cozy kitten drinking tea and enjoying the view"
by Laura Jahn,
part of Andy's art project

Onnie's Skillful Sewing by Rhiannon Maher

VIP has started a guest speaker series for our Monday Zoom hangouts. It gives members a chance to talk about things that they enjoy and answer questions from friends. Onnie Palmer was brave enough to go first. I jumped at the chance to see her even if it was virtually. We love hearing Onnie's stories.

Onnie spoke about designing gowns to help people in the 80s and 90s drag scene feel wonderful about themselves. She showed us some pictures of the drawings and the gowns she designed and sewed. I could tell that she put a lot of time and energy into them. She also gave us a tour of her studio. It was so nice hearing about her life before I knew her. Onnie truly enriches every community that she's a part of. I am so lucky to know her. We are all so lucky to know each other.



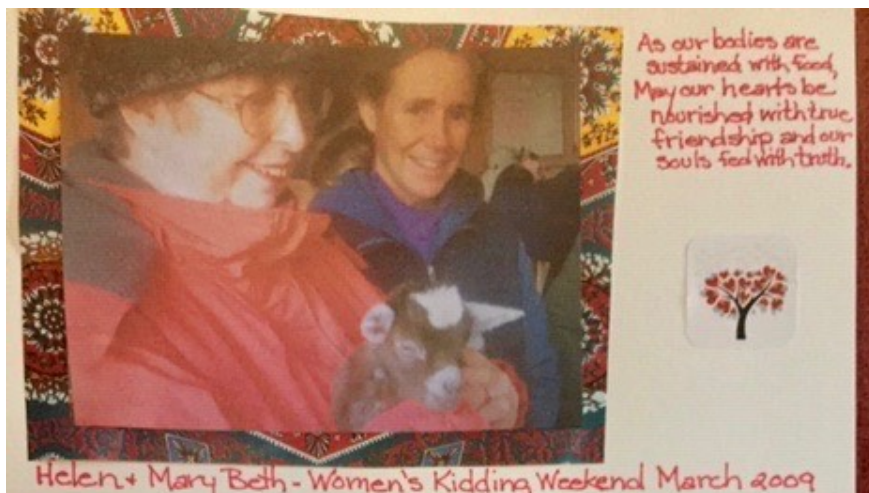
Diamond's shells



Alexander's underwater scene

Andy Inspires Art

Andy's art project has generated many positive comments. Laura enjoyed the invitation to be creative. She noted the quality of the paper, which made many options available. VIP hopes to do a similar project to celebrate Spring.



Helen is featured in the heartfelt piece Marney created for Helen's sister Ann. This is one part of it.

Send a Birthday Card

Along with Judi's idea about celebrating birthdays, perhaps those of us who haven't ventured into fan-making could send a birthday card. Armen and Vicky Hanjian sent a very generous donation to VIP in honor of Elain Christensen. Elain lives at Windemere. Her birthday is February 28. If you'd like to send her a card, her address is:

Elain Christensen
Windemere
P.O. Box 1747
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Martha misses seeing Elain on Tuesdays. Martha and Amanda volunteered for several years, assisting residents to the recreation room for Lisa Amols's chair exercise class. Elain was a regular participant.

Elain is well known for her flower cards. McCaul and Alexander, polished salespeople, sold many of her cards at the VIP pop-ups last year. Elain has been active with members of the VIP community. Elain introduced photography classes to Camp Jabberwocky in the 1980's. She later worked at Vineyard Employment Options (now Vineyard Supports). Then she moved on to MV Community Services working with Project Able. Next, she lived with guest workers at the big house at Chilmark Chocolates and was a chocolate holiday worker. She was Diamond's first housemate at Tribal Housing. Elain later lived at Hillside Village with Hummus, her cat. Elain has lived at Windemere for many years. With pandemic precautions limiting visitors, it seems like an especially nice time to receive mail.



Monkey Business by Mary Beth Grady

In August 2006, Jane Goodall, the scientist and conservationist, gave a talk at the Tabernacle. The next day, Carla, Berta's sister, brought Jane to Chilmark Chocolates. When Jane spoke to us in the kitchen, Martha told her that she had seen an IMAX movie about her at the Boston Museum of Science. Martha talked about the jungle and the chimps. She noted the chimps fought. Jane said it is distressing to watch,

and so similar to people. Yet there is hope when we work together. We gave Jane some chocolates and some of Elain's flower cards, as she was captured by their beauty.

A couple of months later, when I was visiting Elain at Windemere, I noticed a card with a chimp on it. Elain excitedly told me that Jane Goodale had written to her. Jane wrote that Elain's photos of flowers were stunning and that she was touched by Elain's story.



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



McCaul's Cooking Zooms Every other Thursday, 4 pm

Jan. 28

Feb. 11

Feb. 25

March 11

March 25



Vision Update by JP Hitesman

Julie, Beth, and I continue to progress with the Vision project. We have recently been focusing on person-centered planning. We are appreciating seeing the benefit of the work on the participants. If you know someone who might want to participate, please feel free to be in touch with one of us.

Update from Colin

Here I am with a couple of Christmas gifts from my sister Jackie. She lives in Minnesota and mailed them to me. On the left is a dye cast Batmobile and below a TV snack bowl made out of a record album. I actually use it for my remote control. Jackie also gave me the pin on my shirt. It says "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea" which was a TV show in the 60s, based on a movie. I have the series on a DVD set. My mom gave me a bicycle clock since she knows how much I love to ride. I still like to ride to Oak Bluffs and Edgartown. Linda Jean's is my usual spot for Friday supper and Sunday lunch. They are closed now until May, so I am going to the Oceanview. I have dinner at my mom's on Thursdays. In Edgartown, I like to take walks at South Beach.

Virginia's Drama Club

via Zoom

Wednesdays,
5:00-6:00 pm

contact:mj@mvplayhouse.org



Thank you from the Food Pantry

VIP received a card which Debbi, wearing the clerk and treasurer's hats these days, read at the board meeting. It said in part "You are all so kind to continue to support the Pantry with your November Thanks and Giving Meeting. In the past, you have been so thoughtful to collect non-perishable food and to make bags of nuts and raisins. In this unusual year, thank you for giving the Pantry part of the change you collected. This gift will provide healthy groceries for our neighbors. Thanks too, to Alexander for his work on the envelopes."

**WOW! Over 35
generous donors
contributed \$6600
to VIP in the past
several months.**



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.