

# The Grapevine

News and information from  
Vineyard Village at Home (VVAH)

## Our Mission:

Our mission is to help older Vineyarders continue to live in their own homes by providing them access to a wide range of volunteer, household, health, social, and professional services that will ensure their safety and comfort. We work cooperatively with other health and social services on the Island and supplement their services as needed.

## Our members enjoy these benefits and more!

- ❖ FREE escorted transportation by volunteer drivers
- ❖ One number to call for services
- ❖ Prompt service from screened service providers
- ❖ Discounts on many services
- ❖ Personal assistance
- ❖ Home & Health Services
- ❖ Social events/companionship
- ❖ In-home safety survey
- ❖ Medication review by pharmacist
- ❖ Custom household information notebook
- ❖ Polly Hill Arboretum membership



The economy notwithstanding, 2008 was a great year for Vineyard Village at Home.

Thanks to our Charter Membership promotion, we met our goal of 50 memberships, eleven of which are household memberships, for a total of 61 members.

Last spring, we received a \$2,000 grant to establish a scholarship fund and an additional \$1,000 for the fund from an Island couple.

We have held an open house reception, two holiday parties, and one informational seminar on medication. We had a booth at the Agricultural Fair, where we spread the word about V.V.A.H. and recruited an impressive number of volunteer drivers. We also

participated in this year's Health Fair at the hospital.

V.V.A.H. President Polly Brown and Program Coordinator Jane Hawkes were twice interviewed by Denys Wortman on MVTV. Most recently, Jane was heard on WCAI/NAN talking with Mindy Todd about Vineyard Village at Home.

Our volunteer drivers exceeded our expectations by fulfilling all transportation requests this past year (92 in total). In addition, several wonderful friendships were established between members and drivers.

"We expect this year to be even better," stated Jane enthusiastically. "I'm sure we can do more. We count on our members to keep telling us how we're doing and what they need."

## Workshop is the first step in the search for funds for V.V.A.H

Jane Hawkes recently attended a grant writing workshop sponsored by the MV Donors Collaborative, a group of Island donors who work together to strengthen the non-profit organizations of Martha's Vineyard.

The workshop, made possible by a grant from the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation, was held at the Hebrew Center and attended by well over 50 participants from the Island.

The class covered the nuts and bolts of finding funding as well as an introduction to the grant maker databases

that are now available at the Grant Resource Network: Martha's Vineyard housed at the Oak Bluffs Public Library.

In the days to come, we expect there will be an even greater need for our scholarship fund. Vineyard Village at Home is determined to find other funding sources besides our annual fees to continue our service to the Island community.

Please note that gifts to Vineyard Village at Home are tax-deductible. Call 508-693-3038 for more information.



# In between snow storms, V.V.A.H. members and volunteers hold a holiday party

On December 15th, the holiday party got off to a lovely start with the Island Consort performing a selection of baroque music in the West Tisbury Congregational Church sanctuary. Cellist Ann Fielder, pianist Linda Berg, and Ray Hillman on the alto recorder were gracious enough to give our members a free holiday concert.

As soon as the music finished, it was off to the parish hall for liquid



From left, Ray Hillman, Linda Berg, and Ann Fielder.

refreshment, nibbles, and chatting. Although unable to attend, Polly Brown sent a delicious lemon cheese spread for us all to enjoy. (see recipe below!) Other gastronomic delights were generously donated by Dee Smith of Tea Lane Catering. Anne Marie Brightman brought plates of colorful Italian cookies, and Jane Hawkes offered her mini sausage rolls.



Rhoda Diamond, at left, and Barbara Dutton have become friends through V.V.A.H.



Clara Kennedy has the rapt attention of Riley Deeble (left) and Bill Lidgerwood.



From left, Phil Fleischman, Rafe Teller, and Phyllis Meras.



Below, Betty Eddy (standing) and Mari Harman are in deep discussion.



Whatever Marian Mohr (left) is pointing out, it seems to amaze Miki Badnek. Marian's husband Don listens in.



### Polly Brown's Lemon Cheese Dip

- 1/2 lemon
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 3/4 cup golden raisins

Take all seeds out of lemon & cut into small pieces, including rind. Process all ingredients in food processor until smooth. Serve with whole wheat crackers.

Enjoy!

## Two new providers with unique services join V.V.A.H. referral list

**Margot Parrot** is an Island attorney who specializes in senior law. In her practice, she helps seniors with their legal issues or refers them on to the appropriate person if an attorney is not needed.

Issues may include estate planning, alternative decision making, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Veterans benefits, housing options, powers of attorney, pensions, health care proxies, guardianships and more.

Ms. Parrot is generously offering our members a 10 percent discount on her fees.

**Peggy Thayer's** service is called "Everything Under the Sun." Her flyer asks, "Do you ever wish you had a double to do all those things you don't have time for?"

Seems Peggy does it all including administrative tasks, organization, filing, phone calls, correspondence, light bookkeeping, errands, housekeeping, house painting, and companion services. (Wow!) Peggy's rate includes a 15% discount for our members.

Please call V.V.A.H. at 508-693-3038 for contact information.



**Everything Under the Sun** logo  
"Sunflower" by Peggy Thayer

## Graduate student is chosen to be summer intern for V.V.A.H

Vineyard Village at Home is pleased to announce that Bess Child has been selected to work as an intern for us this summer. Bess is working on her Master's Degree in Social Work at Simmons College. She is also a fellow of the Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship, an organization dedicated to promoting sustainability of the Island.

We first met Bess last summer at adjacent booths at the Agricultural Fair. Bess explained that the notion of sustainability pertains not just to resources like food and energy but also to the human element of the local community. As we talked, it became clear that our goals in

striving to maintain the best about our community were very similar.

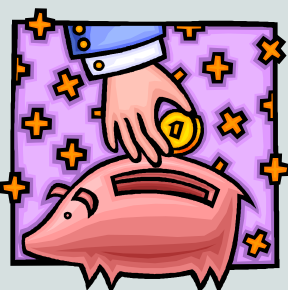
Each year the Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship sponsors internships for its fellows with local non-profit organizations to work on projects that benefit the community.

Bess's enthusiasm and sincere interest in the Island's older population made her an obvious choice to be our intern. Under the mentorship of Jane Hawkes, Bess will be involved in all aspects of V.V.A.H. We all look forward to having Bess join us in June.



Bess Child, our first summer intern

## Good news in hard times – Vineyard Village at Home is lowering membership rates!



In the spirit of trying to make things easier for people in these challenging economic times, the V.V.A.H. Board has approved a reduction in membership fees for all new members. The annual fee for an individual membership is reduced to \$750 (from \$900) and the household membership fee is now \$1000 (down from \$1200).

We try to be flexible with payments so please call to inquire about arrangements. Also, we continue to offer lowered fees and scholarships to those people who may not be able to manage the full annual fee. Call Jane at 508-693-3038 for more information.



Please pass this newsletter on to a friend!

Vineyard Village at Home  
P.O. Box 1356  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

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Phone: 508-693-3038  
Fax: 508-693-3038  
E-mail: [vineyardvillage@gmail.com](mailto:vineyardvillage@gmail.com)  
[www.vineyardvillage.org](http://www.vineyardvillage.org)

## High school student is ready to help V.V.A.H. members

Vineyard Village at Home has recently been offered the volunteer services of Andres Silva, a junior at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School.

Sherrri Church, the Career and Work Study Coordinator at the school, made the initial contact to vouch for Andres's reliability and good character. Our office then received a call from Andres, a very polite and sincere young man, who said he would like to help his community in any way he could.

Members interested in having Andres help them around the house or yard are asked to call the V.V.A.H. office at 508-693-3038.



You are invited to

## IS YOUR MONEY SAFE?

A presentation by Jill Hansen,  
Senior Financial Advisor at Hansen Financial MV

- Topics:
- ❖ What safeguards exist currently?
  - ❖ How do you evaluate financial companies?
  - ❖ What can you do now?
  - ❖ Questions from the audience

Please join us for a most interesting talk and light refreshments

Tuesday, March 31st

2:00 pm

At the Vineyard Haven Library

Please let us know you're coming  
or if you need transportation  
by calling 508-693-3038

FREE