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2017 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

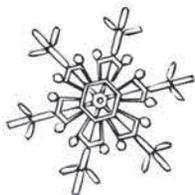
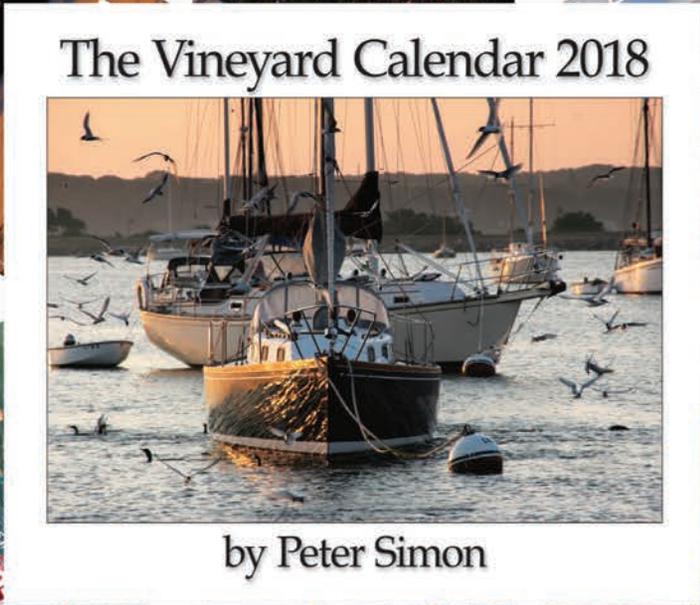
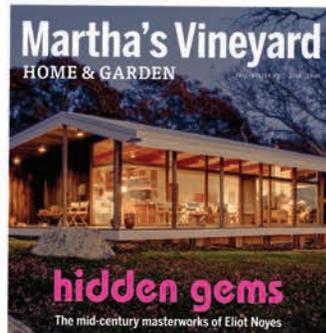
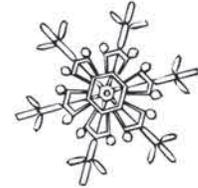
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Rez Williams, *Beaver Cuts, Maine*, 2017, oil on canvas, 52 x 66"

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THE VINE

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Cover photo: Mariko Kawaguchi of Donaroma's Nursery and her handmade wreath. Photo by Jeanna Shepard. Story on p. 20

From the Editor

It's a Wonderful Island

This issue of the Vine should fall into your lap the day after Thanksgiving. We hope you will be reclining on the sofa, hot cocoa or hot toddy in hand, before (or after) heading out for a brisk walk or some ice skating, of course. You might be making your holiday shopping list or beginning to think about putting the decorations up. Or maybe you're watching *A Wonderful Life*.

Wherever this finds you, we hope you'll take a minute to read about some of the Islanders (Heidi Feldman, p. 5; Mariko Kawaguchi, p. 20; Betty Burton, p. 24;) who make life so wonderful here. Then take a few minutes to peruse our Holiday Gift Guide before you enter the land of internet shopping. Not only would local businesses love your support, but the variety of truly delightful Island-made and Island-sourced gifts makes the act of giving much more satisfying.

Keep an eye out for angels.

—Susie Middleton

THE VINE

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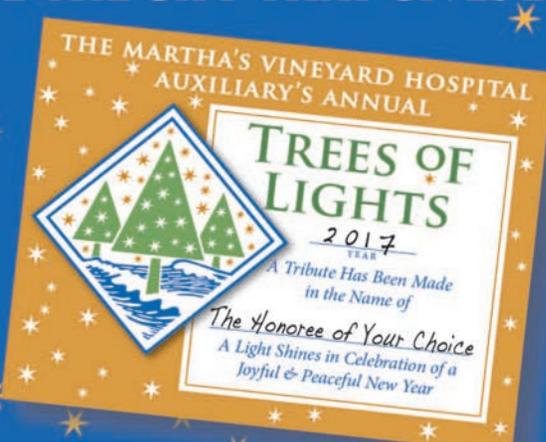
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Alison L. Mead

The Salt-y Farmer

AN INTERVIEW WITH HEIDI FELDMAN

BY PAULA LYONS

NAME: Heidi Feldman

NICKNAME(S): “Red” and “Salty”

PROFESSION: Farmer and Techie

WASHED ASHORE FROM: Boston

YEARS AGO: 17

JOB IN A FORMER LIFE: Websphere Project Manager for IBM (official); fundraiser for homeless women and children at Pine Street Inn (most meaningful)

FAVORITE SPOT ON THE ISLAND:

Anywhere her toes are in the sand

FAVORITE WAY TO EAT SEA SALT:

Some “Naughty” sea salt on half an avocado stuffed with diced peaches, sprinkled with a tad of Meyer Lemon balsamic vinegar.

We all know how easy it is to fall in love with the Vineyard. You want to stay, but then what? This isn't the easiest place to earn a year-round living.

Somehow, this Island attracts the most imaginative people who answer this question in endlessly creative ways.

Heidi Feldman is one of those. She and her husband, Curtis Friedman, bought land here, built a house, started a small farm, raised mushrooms to sell and found day jobs—she as an IT consultant, and Curtis as a carpenter/owner with South Mountain Company.

But after the mushroom business was destroyed by three consecutive years of damaging caterpillars, Heidi and Curtis turned to farming something completely different—sea salt. They built a solar evaporator and founded the Martha's Vineyard Sea Salt Company.

Q. So you came summers and explored as many do. Why did you move here?

A. I fell in love with the fact that you could have the best of all worlds on this nice, little island. I realized there were downsides to living here, but it was beautiful, it was diverse, it had a farming community, but mostly there was access to beaches and conservation land.

Q. So why sea salt?

A. Sea salt started when mushrooms failed. We took a couple of years off and went to our day jobs only. Then we became interested in sea salt because it's from here, it's abundant, it is universally appealing, it's shelf stable when dried properly, and I just felt it was something we could bring to the market and everyone could understand.

Q. Is it easy to make?

A. It's challenging because of the tech-

nical aspects. You need to provide the ocean water with a platform on which to dry. We had to build a building that encased the salt water and then develop a system that would air out all the condensation. Then it was just a matter of coming up with all of the physics of moving water in a sanitary way. Happily, now it is all pretty much rote, and this year we increased our capacity.

Q. Who buys your product? What do they love about it?

A. I have, generally speaking, two markets: One group is foodies, about 28 to 50 years old; the other group is sensible people who see the value in buying a gift for people that will be used, that won't go bad. We are fortunate in that we get a kind of international crowd here and that crowd loves to buy and taste a bit of the Vineyard while they are here and then take it home and say, ‘Oh that tastes so great.’ That's when they contact us and say, ‘Hey, we need more.’



On Down Island Farm, Heidi Feldman produces sea salt and keeps peacocks, hens and miniature horses

Alison L. Mead

Q. Is sea salt more exotic for those who do not live near an ocean?

A. That's a good question! I do have folks who buy it here and then ship it to friends in Indiana, but also to other states, including California, Texas and Arkansas. We've shipped to 30 or 40 states so far and a couple of countries.

Q. Is there something special about this sea salt as opposed to Cape Cod sea salt or sea salt from anywhere else?

A. Well, it's a little bit about the lure of the Island, but it's also taste. You can taste the differences in sea salt depend-

ing on where they are procured. You can taste a difference in how they are dried. You've also got texture, you've got "mer-roir," the taste of the sea. And we also flavor our salts. So that brings a whole new crowd in.

Q. So what flavors do you have?

A. Smoked Oak is one. We use our natural hardwood, and we smoke our salt over the oak. So it gives it that big smoky flavor that helps round out the flavors on a plate. So if you take an egg and put a little of our smoked salt on it, it is going to change the complexity of the flavor of the egg.

We also have Lemon-Dill, Blueberry-Honey, and Naugthy (with activated

charcoal). And we are coming out with new varieties soon.

Q. So what do you see for the future of MV Sea Salt?

A. Our goal is *not* to be a national sea salt company. We are looking at maximizing saturation locally and moving out into New England and ultimately to the whole eastern seaboard. We are in about 50 retail stores now, most on-Island but also on the Cape. Sea salt is almost to the point where it can financially support me, but I would love to get it to the point where it can financially support both Curtis and me.

Q. What do you enjoy most about what you do?



A. I was born and raised in retail. So I love meeting people. I love representing a product that I have a lot of faith in, that I know I am doing my very best to procure in a sustainable, manageable, healthy way. That's what I really love. And sea salt is of this place and I feel like I am putting the best of the Vineyard forward.

Q. Lastly, I hear you still keep some animals and raise a few vegetables on Down Island Farm.

A. We raise a mixed flock of egg chickens (versus a straight run of heavy producers) because we appreciate the nuances in the hens and their eggs. The resident peacocks are a noisy whimsy, but with a job to do; they protect the chickens from overhead hawk attacks. The miniature horses— Sir Speed A Lot (aka Speedy) and No Doubt (aka Gwen, as in Gwen Stefani)—allow us to keep horses, just with a lower feed bill than a full-sized horse. And the neighbors love walking and jogging with them! And the resident goat, Bucky (aka "fence tester"), is an Islander with an attitude. We grow herbs and garlic to use in our sea salt blends.

For more information or retail outlets, visit mvseasalt.com.

Paula Lyons is a former ABC and CBS television consumer journalist who is now semi-retired. She lives in Vineyard Haven.

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—Dor N. Brady

VINEYARD GAZETTE

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Volume 71, Number 27
Established 1846
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VINEYARD GAZETTE, MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MASS., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016
Sixteen Pages
\$5 a Copy

Do Unto Others, And Then Do Some More

By LOUISA HUBBARD
When Armin and Vicky Hamilton moved to Oak Bluffs from New York in 1994, a working profession was their main goal.

Writing history.

Tribe Election Highlights Experience

By ALEX EYVIN
The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) is to see a leadership change in the re-election this week.

As Ocean Wind Farms Near Reality, the Plot Thickens

By ALEX EYVIN
With offshore wind developers including the federal permitting process, government and company representatives stepped by the Vineyard this week to gather feedback and provide an update on their work.

Probate Case Is Legal Tangle

Continued Will of Louise Site Includes Claims Against Dukes County Manager Martin Thorton

By STEVE MURPHY
Dukes County manager Martin Thorton is involved in a tangled probate case in which the estate inherits much of the estate of a longtime Edgartown resident who died 11 months ago.

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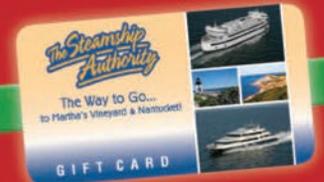
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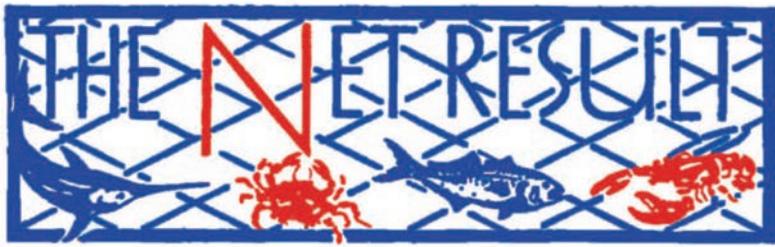
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Vineyard Markets & Events

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Susie Middleton

'Tis the Soup Season

One hearty repertoire soup can make all the difference between cranky holidays and family bliss.

BY CATHERINE WALTHERS

A bowl of soup's got it all: Simplicity, comfort, joy, nourishment and togetherness.

Yes, it's togetherness season. With family coming to visit for the holidays—not to mention those hockey games and holiday parties that eat in to dinner-making time—one soup recipe can go a long way towards feeding a lot of people, or your own family over a couple of nights.

A soup can be made ahead, you can scale it to the number of people sitting around the table, and, best of all, picky eaters will almost always eat soup. Soup can be lunch or dinner, and it's the easiest meal to serve and clean up. And I find making soup to be relaxing; think of it as I do, as an antidote to the stress of the season.

For this time of year, one of my favorites is this Beef, Farro and Vegetable Soup—a healthier riff on the classic beef and barley. It's definitely a meal-in-one with slow-cooked chuck beef, cut into small melt-in-your-mouth cubes, whole grain farro and lots of vegetables.

The secret to tender beef—the heart of this soup—starts with the cut. From exhaustive tests done by *Cook's Illustrated* magazine, I learned long ago this means using a chuck roast not only for the best flavor but for the way it tenderizes with cooking. (Reliable and Shiretown Meats are good sources for chuck roast.) This means avoiding the pre-cut “stew” meat, which is often a mix of different cuts that produce uneven, sometimes tougher results. It's a bit more



Alison Shaw

time-consuming to cut up a chuck roast, but definitely worth the effort. Browning the meat at the start ultimately gives the soup a deeper flavor.

The grain, farro, is a type of wheat with a nice, chewy texture and earthy flavor. Farro originates from Italy where it is used most often in soups. Farro is available locally (look for farro labeled “semi-pearled”), but barley makes a fine substitute.

The bulk of the soup comes from a nice list of vegetables: onions, leeks, carrots, celery, green beans and corn. I usually buy these locally at farms like Morning Glory in Edgartown or Ghost Island in West Tisbury because I love the flavor of freshly picked. Like any soup, you can add or substitute any of your other favorite veggies, such as mushrooms or kale, or seasonal root vegetables like Cape turnips or rutabagas. Check out the winter farmers' market for veggie options, as well.

The soup calls for chicken stock, but a nice turkey stock at this time of year

would also work perfectly. (And you can certainly use store-bought chicken broth as well.) The beef flavor ends up dominating, but the underlying stock makes a contribution.

A final tip for this soup, and any other soup, is to make sure it is seasoned with the right amount of salt. Most soups need more salt than you think. Salt coaxes out and heightens the flavors of the various ingredients. Sometimes a soup will taste bland even though it has a pile of ingredients, and all that's missing is a little additional salt to make it a flavorful bowl. Add it in stages as you're cooking, and then at the end, taste, season with just a little salt, and taste again. By adding a bit at a time and tasting as you go, you'll begin to understand the simple transformation salt can make.

Catherine Walters is the author of several cookbooks, including Kale, Glorious Kale, Soups and Sides, and Raising the Salad Bar. Visit her at catherinewalters.com.

Beef, Farro and Vegetable Soup

With a loaf of crusty local bread, this hearty soup from Catherine Walthers is all you need for a weeknight or Sunday supper.

Serves 8 to 10

1 (2½- to 3½-pound) piece of chuck roast, cut into (roughly) ¾-inch pieces, cutting around and discarding any solid fat

Salt and pepper

1½ tablespoons flour, for dredging

2 tablespoons olive oil

½ cup red wine

8 cups homemade or store-bought chicken or turkey stock or broth

4 cups water

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

1 large onion, diced

1 whole leek, trimmed, cut lengthwise, rinsed and sliced ¼-inch thick

4 carrots, peeled and diced

2 celery stalks, diced

2 teaspoons chopped fresh thyme or 1 teaspoon dried thyme

1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes, with juices

¾ cup farro*, rinsed

½ cup minced fresh parsley

1 cup green beans, diced small

Kernels from 2 ears fresh corn (approximately 1 cup)

1. Season the beef cubes with salt and pepper and dust lightly with the flour.
2. In a large soup pot, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil over medium-high heat and brown half of the beef, using a spatula to turn the pieces to brown on several sides, about 5-6 minutes. Set aside the first batch and brown the second. (I often use a second skillet to brown half the beef to save time and to capture the additional flavor.)
3. Add the first batch of meat back into the pot, and add the wine, using a wooden spoon to scrape up flavorful brown bits, and bring to a boil. Stir in the stock or broth, water, Worcestershire sauce and onion. Bring to a boil, skimming any impurities (foam) that rise to the top. (Continue to skim occasionally as soup cooks; it results in a clearer broth.)
4. Reduce the heat to medium-low, partially cover, and cook at a bubbling simmer (not a boil) for 40 minutes. While the beef is cooking, you can cut and add (at any point) the leeks, carrots, celery and thyme.
5. After 40 minutes, add the tomato, farro, half of the parsley and 1 teaspoon of salt. Bring to a boil again, reduce heat, partially cover, and simmer 15 minutes. Add the green beans and corn and continue cooking until the farro, which has a similar texture to barley, is cooked and the meat is very tender, another 10 to 15 minutes. (The soup typically cooks a total of approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes to yield tender beef.)
6. Add the remainder of the parsley and season to taste with additional salt, and a few grinds of fresh pepper.

*If farro is unavailable, substitute ½ cup barley and add when you add the carrots and celery and cook for a longer cooking time, 45-50 minutes, or until the barley is tender.

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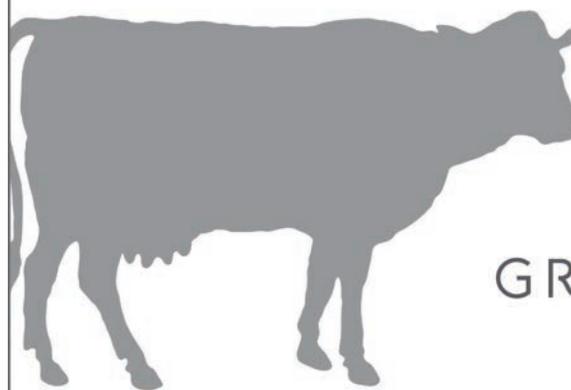
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DONAROMA'S Has a Lot In Store for the Holidays

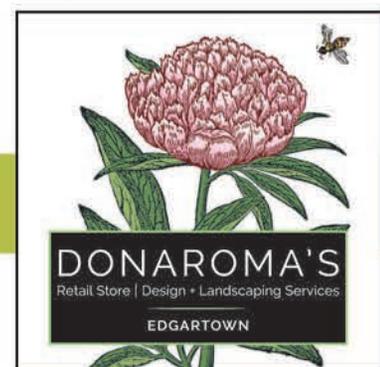


Holiday shopping is just around the corner at DONAROMA'S. Literally.

Whether you live in **Edgartown, Vineyard Haven** or **Up-Island**, it's worth the short drive to the Island's largest selection of accessories, holiday plants, decorative pots, and one-of-a-kind gift ideas.

TIP: It's never too early to begin to plan your spring landscaping project. Start the discussion now with Michael and his designers.

Donaromas.com | Call Us 508.627.3036 | "Our Vineyard Roots Run Deep"



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.



Jeanna Shepard

THE VINE'S HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2017

**We've got 30 gifts under \$30, and a few splurges too.
But here's the deal: you've got to shop local!**

BY LOUISA HUFSTADER & SUSIE MIDDLETON

Holiday shopping over in America can be pretty harrowing. Cranky people in crowded malls—not the best combination. But on the Island, holiday shopping is actually fun. (No, this is not an oxymoron, we promise.) Between gift shows and pop-up shops, special events and welcoming retailers, and treats around every corner (heck there's even eggnog at Bunch of Grapes on Christmas Eve!), it really is a pleasure to go hunting for the perfect gift for friends and family.

By now, you've probably figured out where this little Island pep talk is heading—not very subtle perhaps, but we do think it's truly important to get behind our local businesses this time of year. Supporting each other is one of the acts

we cherish most in this small community, and holiday time is a make-or-break situation for many retailers and Island artisans. So this year if you're in your PJs in front of the computer getting ready to press the order button, consider whether it's possible to find something for that friend or family member that may even be more personal (and possibly unique) by shopping locally.

To get you warmed up for your shopping adventures, we've got some inspiration—30 ideas for gifts under \$30, plus a handful of splurges and special gifts. But this is just a small sample; with so many gift shows this season (see our list of Holiday Pop-Ups and Fairs at right), there's no telling what treasures you'll find.

HOLIDAY POP-UPS AND FAIRS

Island-Made Artisanal Gifts

Holiday Gift Show, Featherstone Center for the Arts, Oak Bluffs. November 17 – December 17, noon to 4 p.m.

Vineyard Holiday Shop at Island Copper Gallery, 15 Mechanic Street, Vineyard Haven. November 20 – December 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

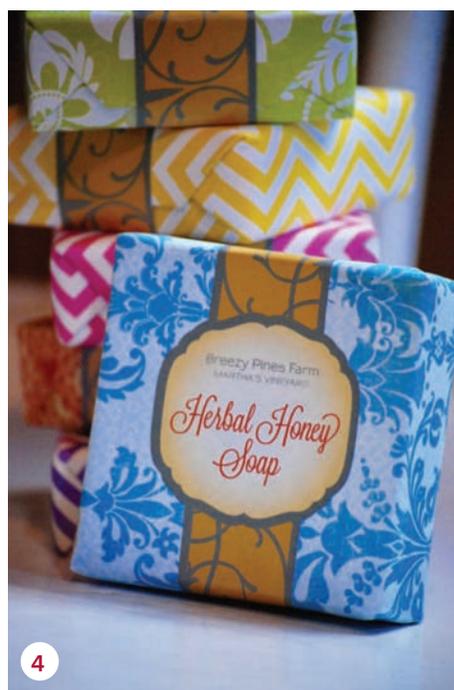
Island Made Holidays at Alley's Farmstand, West Tisbury. November 20 – December 24.

Vineyard Artisans Thanksgiving Weekend Show, West Tisbury Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, November 24 – 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Holiday wreaths and other greenery:

West Tisbury Congregational Church Christmas Faire, December 2, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Federated Church of Edgartown, Festival of Wreaths, November 30, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



30 under \$30

1. SWEDISH HAND TOWEL (\$18) | THE BEACH HOUSE

The Beach House is the place to go for beautiful linens, especially an incredible selection of the hand woven Swedish dishtowels from Ekelund, like this sheepish one. The Beach House, 30 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.

2. ZIP-TOP POUCHES (\$22 TO \$26) | AUSTIN DESIGNS

Who can't use one of these versatile and beautifully lined zip-top pouches? Handmade by Vineyard designer Rachel Austin Baumrin in her West Tisbury studio, these are available at all holiday pop-up markets and austindesignsmv.com.

3. ANTIQUE FRENCH LINEN HAND TOWELS (\$30) | BRICKYARD

Before they disappear, grab one of these beautiful antique linen tea towels that literally just came in from France. Brickyard, 19 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.

4. HERBAL HONEY SOAP (\$7 OR 5 FOR \$30) | BREEZY PINES FARM

Peppermint, Lemon Zest with Sea Salt, Cherry Almond, Island Cranberry, Lavender—these wonderful smelling herbal soaps from long time West Tisbury farmer Heather Thurber are great on their own as stocking stuffers, or you can buy a package of five, available at the West Tisbury Farmers' Market and at breezypinesfarm.com.

5. ALPACA PERFORMANCE SOCKS (\$20) | ISLAND ALPACA

Soft, breathable alpaca socks are warm in winter, comfortable in spring too. They're unisex, so a great gift for just about anyone. Island Alpaca, 1 Head of the Pond Road, Oak Bluffs.

6. KNIT VINEYARD "HOME" HAT (\$28) | THE BONEYARD

From pond hockey to winter beach walks, here's a go-to winter (unisex) hat for the outdoorsy folks on your list. The Boneyard, 47 Main Street, Edgartown.

7. BOOKS FROM ISLAND AUTHORS (\$25 TO \$40) | BUNCH OF GRAPES BOOKSTORE

From our talented pool of Island (and part-time Island) authors comes a diverse and fascinating collection of new books, with something for everyone on your holiday list, all available at Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, 23 Main Street, Vineyard Haven: Paul Karasik's *How to Read Nancy: The Elements of Comics in Three Easy Panels* (\$29.99); Gabriela Herman's *The Kids: The Children of LGBTQ Parents in the USA* (\$21.95); Emma Young's new poetry chapbook, *Adamantine* (\$40); *MV White* by Giorgio Stefano Rocco (\$29.95); *A Meeting of Land and Sea*, by David R. Foster (\$40); *Woman Walk the Line: How the Women In Country Music Changed Our Lives*, edited by Holly Gleason (\$24.95); *The Passion of Woo and Isolde* by Jennifer Tseng (\$12); *Would Everybody Please Stop? Reflections on Life and Other Bad Ideas* by Jenny Allen (\$25).

8. ANKLE SOCKS (\$15) | CITRINE

Made in the U.S. (Fort Wayne, Alabama, in fact) by a family company, these sweet socks in many patterns and colors are made from organic cotton. Pick up a pair or two while you're shopping for hand-made toys, clothes, hats, shoes and more. Citrine, 9 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.



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Courtesy of The Grey Barn and Farm



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9. HAND PAINTED VINEYARD LIGHTHOUSE ORNAMENT (\$16.95) | HANDWORKS CHRISTMAS COTTAGE

Tucked away in the Dockside Marketplace in Oak Bluffs is a shop with all the Vineyard Christmas memorabilia you could hope for. Pick up this hand-painted ball ornament that features each of the Vineyard lighthouses faithfully rendered.

10. MESH ZIPPER BAGS (\$23, SMALL; \$28 LARGE) | KATYDID

For the super-organized friend, see-through mesh bags (with a jaunty buoy motif, no less) are the perfect practical gift. Finding a pen, a power cord, or lipstick just got easier. Plus browse for women's clothes, accessories and more. Katydid, 38 Main Street, Edgartown.

11. VICKI SAWYER APPETIZER PLATES (\$12.50) | DONAROMA'S NURSERY

This time of year, the gift and floral shop at Donaroma's is worth a visit just to see the decorations, but there are endless small gift ideas as well, including these bone china plates featuring the whimsical designs of artist Vicki Sawyer. Donaroma's, 271 Upper Main Street, Edgartown.

12. ALMOND BUTTER CRUNCH (\$13) | ENCHANTED CHOCOLATES OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Toffee + dark chocolate + roasted almonds = all-time bestselling candy (and MV favorite) for this company. Find it at holiday shops and the winter farmers' market. New Moon Magik, 4 Chapman Avenue, Oak Bluffs.

13. GAMES FOR KIDS AND ADULTS (UNDER \$30) | LAZY FROG

You will definitely find something for everyone to play with at the Lazy Frog in Oak Bluffs. We grabbed five totally fun games, each under \$30, to recommend. Cards Against Humanity (best adult card game ever) joins Exploding Kittens, Fastrack, Rubik's Race and Kan Jam Mini. Lazy Frog, 42 Circuit Avenue, Oak Bluffs.

14. EIDOLON COW'S MILK CHEESE (\$16 TO \$25) | THE GREY BARN AND FARM

A young, bloomy rind cow's milk cheese with a cakey center and a creamy layer, Eidelon is Grey Barn's versatile and elegant cheese, perfect for gift-giving or holiday entertaining. The grassy flavor makes it a perfect pairing with roasted walnuts and dark fruit. The Grey Barn and Farm, 22 South Road, Chilmark.

15. HONEY TASTING TOWERS (\$18) | ISLAND BEE COMPANY

A sampler of three honeys harvested in different seasons—including Island Bee's award winning Clethra (sweet pepper bush) honey—is a great way to get to know how season and location affect the flavor of honey. Visit the winter farmers' market to pick up this perfect holiday gift, or a 1-pound or 4-ounce jar of any of Island Bee's Island-harvested honey.

16. GOURMET CHOCOLATE BARS (\$3.99 TO \$8.99) | LEROUX GOURMET

If you're a stocking-stuffing elf, you need to know about LeRoux Gourmet, across the street from LeRoux at Home. There lies the best selection of chocolate bars on the Island, from our own Not Your Sugar Mamas, State Road restaurant, and Enchanted Chocolates to Cape Cod- and Massachusetts-made bars and more. LeRoux Gourmet, 13 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.



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17. JARRED TOMATOES AND PICKLES (\$7.50 TO \$9.95) | MORNING GLORY FARM

New this year to the Morning Glory larder (after a late season of excess field tomatoes) is their own marinara sauce and their own crushed tomatoes (as well as bread and butter pickles). Buy them in gift boxes this holiday season. Morning Glory Farm, 120 Meshacket Road, Edgartown.

18. SHARON CAPEN SEA GLASS ORNAMENT (\$14) | OFF MAIN

For your friends far away from the shores of MV, longing to be back on a beach walk, here's a pretty sea-glass inspired holiday ornament by artist Sharon Capen. Off Main, 76 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.

19. REFILLABLE FLAT POINT FARM GOAT MILK SOAP (\$24 FOR BOTTLE AND SOAP, \$16 REFILL) | MORRICE FLORIST

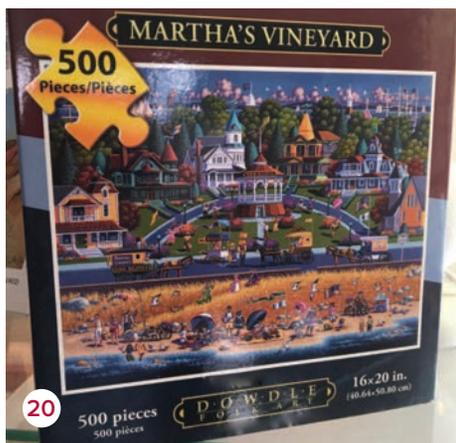
Handmade at Flat Point Farm in West Tisbury, liquid goat milk in fragrances like Tangerine Vanilla and Rose Geranium is available in refillable bottles. Morrice Florist, 149 State Road, Vineyard Haven.

20. 500-PIECE VINEYARD PUZZLE (\$17) | MARTHA'S VINEYARD MUSEUM

A colorful nostalgic view of Ocean Park and Inkwell Beach by traveling artist Eric Dow-



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dle covers this 16" x 20" 500-piece puzzle, available at the Museum's shop. Martha's Vineyard Museum, 59 School Street, Edgartown.

21. CARNEGIE BLAIR COMPASS ROSE ORNAMENT (\$20) | PAST AND PRESENTS

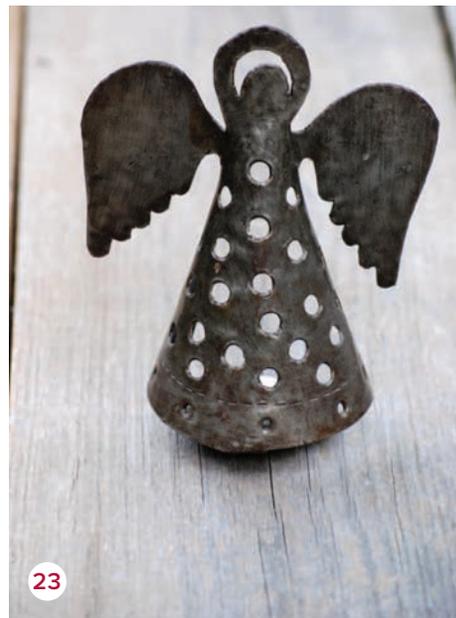
Not just for Christmas, these keepsake ornaments—a compass rose, the ferry *Islander*, and a Vineyard map designed by Linda Carnegie—will please anyone who loves the Vineyard. Past and Presents, 37 Main Street, Edgartown.

22. MERMAID ORNAMENT (\$14.95) | RAINY DAY

Some of the prettiest Christmas ornaments are at Rainy Day. They have one of the biggest selections too. And they also happen to be mermaid fans; we love this sparkly mermaid ornament but there are mermaid notebooks, mermaid hooks, mermaid pillows and mer-more! Rainy Day, 66 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.



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23. PEACEQUILTS STEEL DRUM ANGEL (\$25) | CHILMARK CHOCOLATES

PeaceQuilts is a nonprofit dedicated to helping Haitian women build their own businesses. A selection of their crafts, including angels made from recycled steel oil drums in a variety of sizes (including this one, which holds a votive candle) is available at Chilmark Chocolates, 19 State Road, Chilmark.



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24. MV COOKIE CUTTER (\$6.95) AND GINGERBREAD HOUSE SOY CANDLE (\$12.95) | ROSEWATER MARKET & TAKE AWAY

Rosewater will be decked out for the holidays with plenty of gifts to go along with their great food. These MV cookie cutters are perfect stocking stuffers, and Vineyard Wick & Bath's Gingerbread-scented soy candle is a natural choice too. Rosewater Market & Take Away, 20 South Summer Street, Edgartown.

25. MARTHA'S VINEYARD SEA SALT (\$25)

This collection of Martha's Vineyard Sea Salt's five flavors—Premium, Lemon-Dill, Naughty, Smoked Oak, and Blueberry Honey—is a great gift for the gourmet traveler. Available at holiday pop-up shops and dozens of retailers, or find more information at mvseasalt.com.

26. GOURMET GODDESS HOT COCOA AND CHILMARK CHAI (\$16.95) | VINEYARD HERBS

While you'll find a great variety of herbal teas and healing potions at Melissa Larsen's vineyardherbs.com (and at her stand at the winter farmers' market), there's no arguing with the fact that her Gourmet Goddess hot cocoa mix (with two types of organic chocolate and vanilla) and her nice and peppery Chilmark Chai are two of the most popular around the holidays.



And Something A Little Special...

...to look at

A. ABE PIECIAK PRINT (\$75 TO \$150) | VINEYARD DECORATORS

You can't go wrong with an Island-inspired print from Vineyard artist Abraham Pieciak, whether it's a fish, a lighthouse, the Island or a chicken. See some of his prints on display (and for sale) at Vineyard Decorators, 35 Airport Road, Edgartown, or visit lure-fish.com.

...to eat

B. GIFT BASKET (\$50 TO \$125) | THE BACK PORCH

Chef Jan Buhrman and her crew will put together an Island gift basket of goodies from both the Back Porch and from Island artisans at just about any price point. This one has a breakfast theme and includes Chilmark Coffee, Back Porch's granola, and egg-shaped candles. The Back Porch, 14 A Street, Suite 3, Edgartown.

C. CARAMEL CORN (\$33.95 FOR 1 GALLON TIN) | MURDICK'S FUDGE

For some people, the holidays aren't the same without caramel corn. Murdick's is here to make sure that no one goes without. Adventuresome types can go for caramel and cheese corn instead. Both are available at 21 North Water Street, Edgartown, and at murdicks.com



...to wear

D. FILIGREE OR LACE EARRINGS (\$49 - \$98) | CLAUDIA

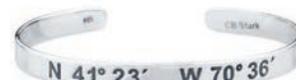
Pretty and feminine earrings are always a good choice; from Claudia, choose filigree and crystal earrings (\$49 - \$98) or earrings made of French tatted lace (\$95). Claudia, 51 Main Street, Edgartown.

E. COORDINATES BRACELETS (\$95 AND \$125) | CB STARK JEWELERS

The Coordinates Tie Bracelet and Coordinates Cuff Bracelet (pictured) record the latitude and longitude of Martha's Vineyard in Sterling silver. CB Stark Jewelers, 53A Main Street, Vineyard Haven and 10 Main Street, Edgartown.

F. ASIAN CRANE HEM TOP (\$136) | LAUGHING BEAR

An elegant and colorful top is a holiday party essential; give this one, decorated with cranes and colorful blooms, as an early holiday present. It would be just as nice with jeans as with black pants. From Connie's Moonlight, sold at Laughing Bear, 33 Circuit Avenue, Oak Bluffs.



E

Courtesy of C. B. Stark Jewelers

...to carry

G. NOEPE DESIGNS ISLAND-MADE HANDBAGS (\$86 - \$150) | DRIFTWOOD JEWELRY

Island artist Kate Fournier's original silk-screen designs and hand-cut Italian leather bags are beautifully made and in high demand these days. Choose the perfect one at Driftwood Jewelry at 42 Circuit Avenue in Oak Bluffs.

...to drink from

H. HYDRO FLASKS (\$44.95 AND \$29.95) | THE GREEN ROOM

Double-walled vacuum insulation and pro-grade stainless (non odor-absorbing) lining make this wine flask (which holds an entire bottle of wine) and tumbler the best accessories for hikes and picnics. The Green Room, 71 Main Street, Vineyard Haven.



I. STONWARE BEE MUGS (\$34 EACH) | LESLIE FREEMAN DESIGNS

We've long been fans of Island artist Leslie Freeman's colorful stoneware pottery, and her signature bee mugs in a beautiful sea-blue color are a classic. Sold individually, order from etsy.com/shop/lesliefreemandesigns.

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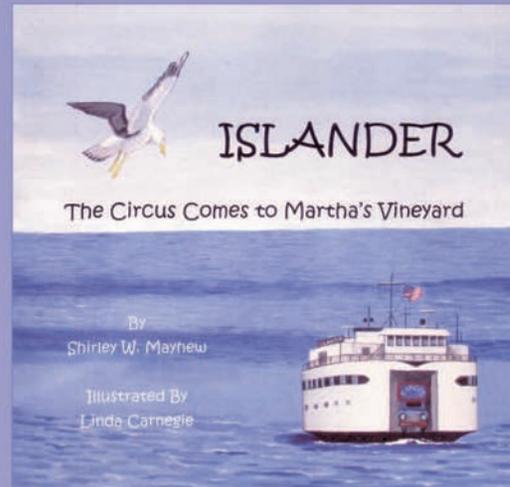


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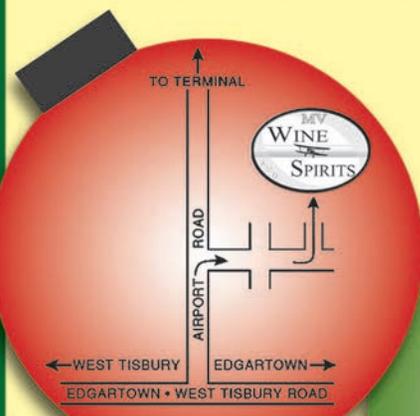
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Mariko's Magic

How to make a holiday wreath like a pro

BY SUSIE MIDDLETON • PHOTOS BY JEANNA SHEPARD

Years ago, as a young commercial and fine art photographer living on Dupont Circle in Washington, D.C., Mariko Kawaguchi had a problem.

"I was killing house plants, right, left and sideways. And this was the era when, you know, houseplants were your friends...everybody had houseplants," she remembers. "So I went to the library and got a book to learn about houseplants."

And then, evidently, she filed the entire contents of the book in some part of her brain she knew she could get back to someday.

Then came the 105-degree August day in Washington when she decided she needed to just get out of Dodge (or D.C., more accurately). She wound up on a bike pedaling around Martha's Vineyard—and decided to stay.

"I thought, well, I'll just do something basic. I looked around for jobs and wound up talking to the manager of the nursery, who asked me if I knew anything about houseplants. I resourced the young brain and came up with that information I had stashed."

But clearly this was meant to be. With the exception of a few years in Boston writing a book on rare orchids, Mariko

has been crafting beauty out of nature for Donaroma's for more than 35 years.

"I always knew somehow that art and nature and plants would all be in my basket," she says now.

Mariko (pictured on the cover) prefers to credit everyone around her, saying, "I'm just a set of hands." And there is indeed a talented (and friendly) crew working in the floral department of Donaroma's. But it's Mariko's warm and wise disposition—in addition to her sharp eye and her graceful familiarity with the plants—that makes her the perfect teacher.

And this time of year, that means Donaroma's wreath making workshop—a day-long event held during Christmas in Edgartown (this year, Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Participants can make a "wet" wreath (the base is moistened sphagnum moss, so the wreath will last) or a small boxwood tree.

But it's a busy season and not everyone can make the workshop, so we asked Mariko if she would go over the basics with us and let us take a few photos. She kindly obliged, taking the time to make us a complete wreath for the final "beauty" shot ahead of time, and then gathering all the materials to walk us through putting one of our own together.

How to Make a Holiday Wreath

For a holiday wreath that will stay looking good for weeks, make a "wet" wreath that begins with moistened sphagnum moss. Craft stores will carry the supplies you need, but as a shortcut, you can also get the stuffed and wrapped wire frame from Donaroma's this year.

Supplies Needed

- Wire wreath frame
- Sphagnum moss
- Florist's plastic tape (or other strips of plastic)
- Small sticks or small pointed scissors for poking holes
- Greens: sprigs of white pine, boxwood, cypress, andromeda
- Accessories: pine cones, sea shells, ribbons, glass balls, lichen, ornaments



1. Begin by gathering your supplies and arranging them on an ample work surface. Moisten the sphagnum moss thoroughly in warm water.



2. Pack the moss into and around the wreath frame. Wrap the moss and frame tightly with the tape (or even strips of plastic garbage bag will do, Mariko says.) Secure the tape with a pin.



3. Using a stick or the point of a small, sharp pair of scissors, poke holes along the “equator” all the way around the wreath.



4. Insert sprigs of greens into that first row of holes. Use all of one type of basic green (white pine or cypress) for this row.



5. Moving toward the center of the ring, poke more holes to insert specialty greens and accessories. You can use greens like cypress or andromeda or boxwood to make a snowflake pattern on the wreath, spacing the greens out equally.



Or you can create a cluster design, where each green is grouped together next to another different green. (If easier, you can put your wreath on an upturned pot while you're working.)



6. Ribbons, fruit and roses are the last to go on this beautiful wreath, but you can customize your own a million different ways.



Red roses, andromeda, pomegranates and cypress make a stunning combination.



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VINEYARD GAZETTE

— MEDIA  GROUP —



A former molecular geneticist, Betty Burton volunteered to organize events for the Vineyard Haven library when she moved here, and wound up with a new job.

Betty Burton, From the Stacks to the Shelves

Whether you're seeking knowledge or nourishment, Betty Burton is at your service

BY LOUISA HUFSTADER • PHOTOS BY JEANNA SHEPARD

The holidays are crunch time for Betty Burton, chief organizer for the Vineyard Committee on Hunger's monthly Serving Hands and holiday Family to Family food service programs.

Not only must she coordinate providing Thanksgiving and Christmas meal ingredients to scores of needy Island families, but this is also when she must find the funding for Easter meals as well.

"People don't give much for Easter. I have to raise the money for all three, pretty much, in November," Betty told the Vine during a wide-ranging conversation at the Vineyard Haven Public Library, where she has been the adult program coordinator for 17 years.

On top of her 30-hour-a-week library job organizing lectures, panel discussions and cultural events, Betty pours another 20 hours a month — and much more in November and December — into Committee on Hunger work.

"I can't give either one of them up," she confessed.

Where did this seemingly tireless woman come from? The answer is not an everyday story.

Before moving to the Vineyard in the 1990s, Betty was a molecular geneticist at Tufts Medical School, owned a children's book and toy store in Gardner, Mass. and raised a family with her husband, John Sundman.

The Vineyard then was simply a vacation spot for the couple. On one visit, they discovered the Nathan Mayhew Seminars, a now-defunct lecture series founded in Vineyard Haven in 1976. Betty's experiences there would directly inspire the work she does at the library.

"Every Thursday, John would take the kids and I would trot down to the Nathan Mayhew Seminars," Betty recalled. "I thought it was the most wonderful thing, that you could live here and go and hear these wonderful lectures from world-class experts in their fields.

"We moved here, and they promptly stopped it."

But Betty didn't forget about the lectures and in 2000, when the Vineyard Haven Public Library was renovated and community members were invited to say what they'd like to see at the refurbished facility, she put up her hand to suggest a programming series.

Almost immediately, she found herself also volunteering to organize it. The first event, shortly after 9/11, featured Islander and South Asian scholar Jim

Norton talking about his experiences in Afghanistan to a standing-room-only crowd of more than 100 people, she said.

After organizing a few more library talks, Betty was hired — part-time at first, with a 10-hour work week.

"And then it progressed and now I have a permanent position that they created," she said.

Betty's bookings tend to draw capacity crowds, whether held in the library's program room (60-70 people) or in the main library (about 120 people, with much effort involved in moving furniture).

This year's talk with paleontologist and seasonal Oak Bluffs resident Dr. Henry Kriegstein — one of many science-oriented events she's planned — packed the latter room to the gills, Betty said. "You couldn't get another person in there."

Her most popular programs, such as retired Swarthmore professor Philip Weinstein's literary seminars, often take place at the Katharine Cornell Theatre to accommodate even larger audiences. His



As the tireless leader of the Vineyard Committee on Hunger, Betty generates a maximum of meals out of a minimum of space.

talks, as well as a summer 2017 series of lectures on bioethics, genetic engineering and other science-oriented topics, are available to view on demand at the mvtv.org website.

Doubling down

The same year she started programming at the library, 2000, Betty joined the Vineyard Committee on Hunger, whose aging members were seeking a younger president to carry on the work of supporting Islanders at risk of going without food.

At the time, the food available to hungry Islanders consisted mostly of generic staples such as peanut butter, canned meat and no-brand oat cereal, Betty said. “It wasn’t particularly wonderful food.”

Over her Committee on Hunger tenure, Betty has overseen a shift toward healthier foods with an emphasis on fresh, locally-grown produce, often donated by Island growers and grocers.

“We really give out great food,” she said. “The farmers have been wonderful.”

Demand for food relief, which traditionally went to fishing families during lean winter months, has increased significantly over the years, Betty said — particularly since the 2008 financial crisis. “That’s when we started staying open in the summer,” she said.

Today, it takes a small army of volunteers, including high school students and Daybreak Clubhouse members, to hand out the monthly and holiday grocery bags. “Without them, we couldn’t run this program any more,” Betty said.

Betty’s husband, John, a retiring volunteer firefighter and an author, is another faithful volunteer — both with the Committee on Hunger and the library, where he “does a lot of schlepping,” she said.

“He helps me set up at the Katharine Cornell,” where an audience member recently thanked both of them, she said. “I thought, ‘that’s nice.’”

And we can expect to see the two of them continue their work in 2018.

“I’m past retirement age, but it’s wonderful to get up in the morning and say,



Ramen noodles are fine, but the Island Food Pantry loves fresh, local produce when possible.

“There’s something I want to do today that I love,” Betty said.

The Serving Hands/Family to Family Thanksgiving grocery bags will be distributed Nov. 17 and the Christmas meal ingredients Dec. 22, from 2 p.m. to 3

p.m. at the parish hall of the First Baptist Church, 66 William Street in Vineyard Haven.

Louisa Hufstader is a freelancer writer and cheesemonger living in Edgartown.

BY THE NUMBERS

Count Us In

BY NICOLE GRACE MERCIER
ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRIS BURRELL

18,841

WOOO GOES THERE? Last year's annual Christmas Bird Count saw 49 Islanders brave chilly temperatures to tally up 18,841 individuals of 120 species.

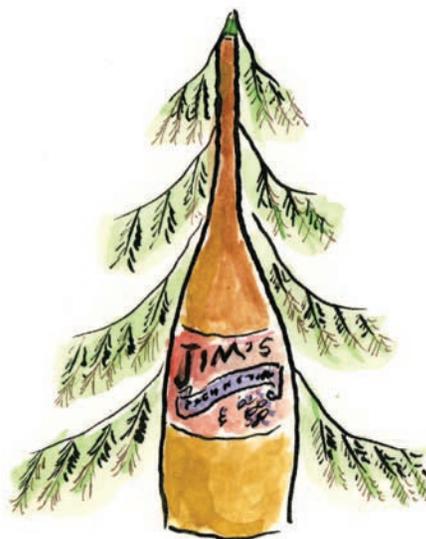


360 CHILDREN

IT TAKES AN ISLAND. Thanks to the generosity of Islanders, last year the Red Stocking Fund helped make Christmas possible for more than 360 children from birth through eighth grade.

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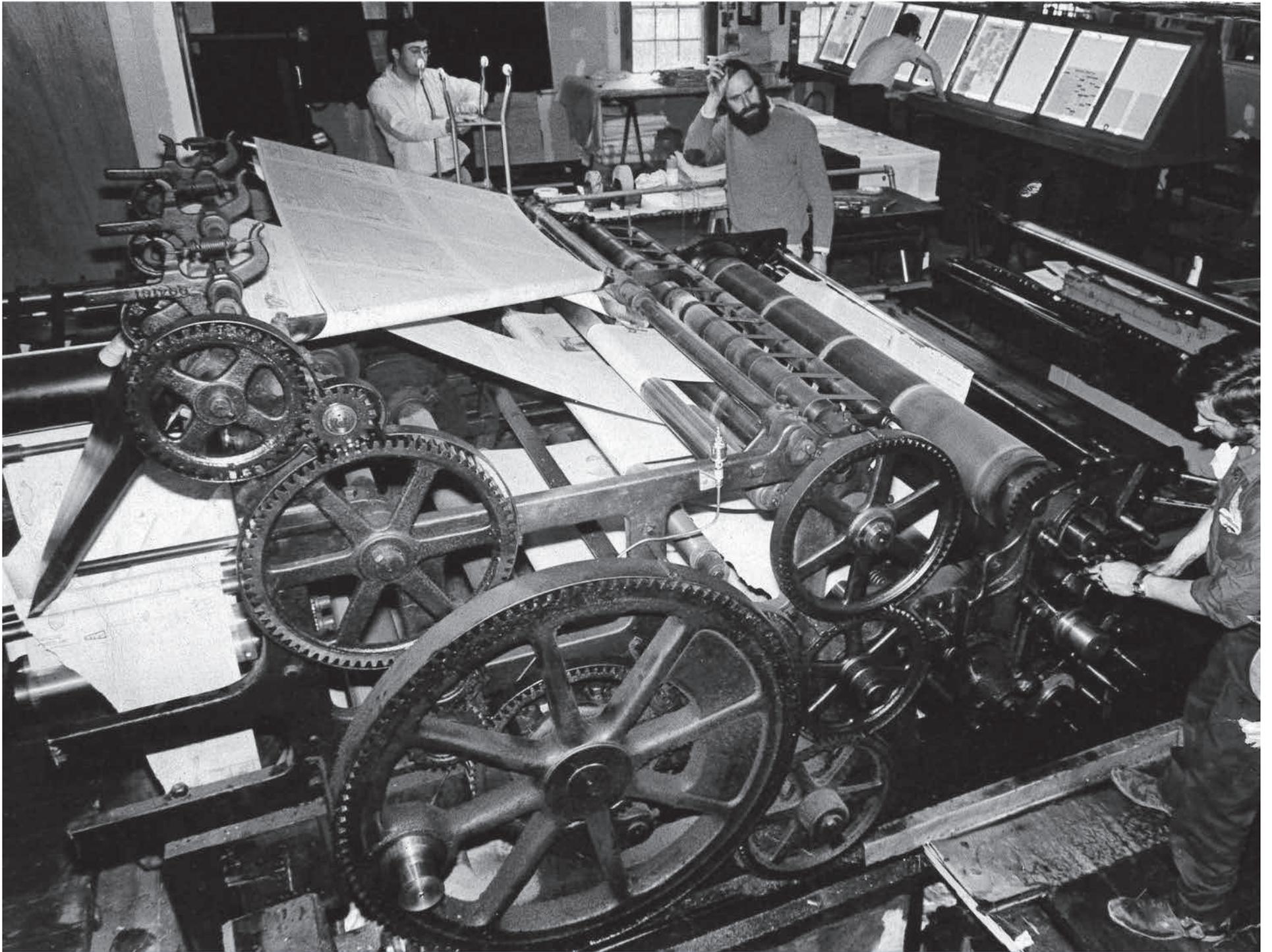
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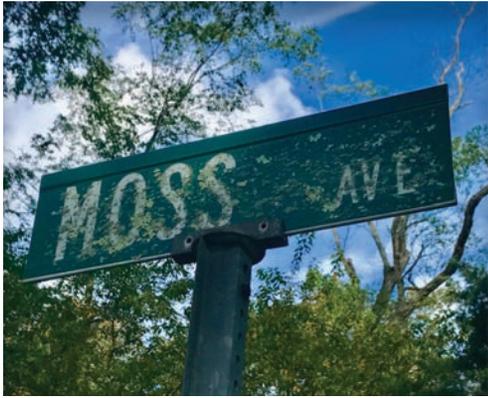
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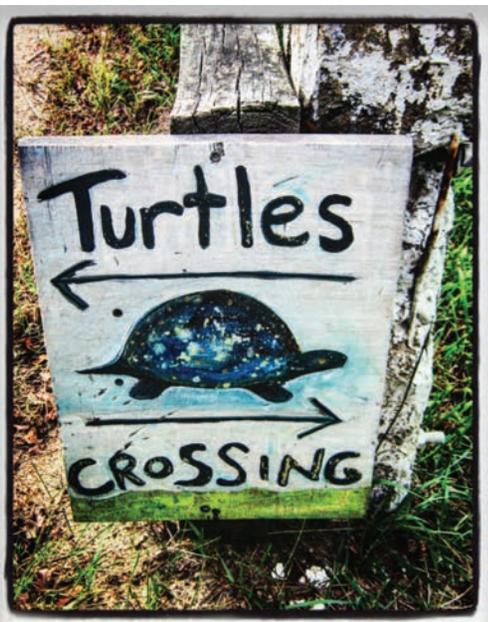
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LARRY GLICK

Sign Language

Getting to know your way around this Island takes a little time and patience. The older villages like Vineyard Haven and Edgartown have a lot of one way streets, and Oak Bluffs, well, come summertime, you could go around in circles forever. Up-Island, hand-painted signs at the intersection of three dirt roads can point in a million directions. Maybe a sign is obscured by a few fishing buoys, or it is painted on to the side of a birdhouse.

But one thing's for sure, our signs have character, and sooner or later they all begin to make sense. For this issue of the Vine, we celebrate the Instagrammers helping us find our way. In the next issue of the Vine, we'll look for Instagram pictures of classic Vineyard winter landscapes.

Sign/Sahyn/noun

1. Any object that conveys a meaning, even if that meaning is unclear
2. A hand-painted directive, with colorful arrows
3. A message from the universe
4. A message from the DPW
5. A command, to be ignored

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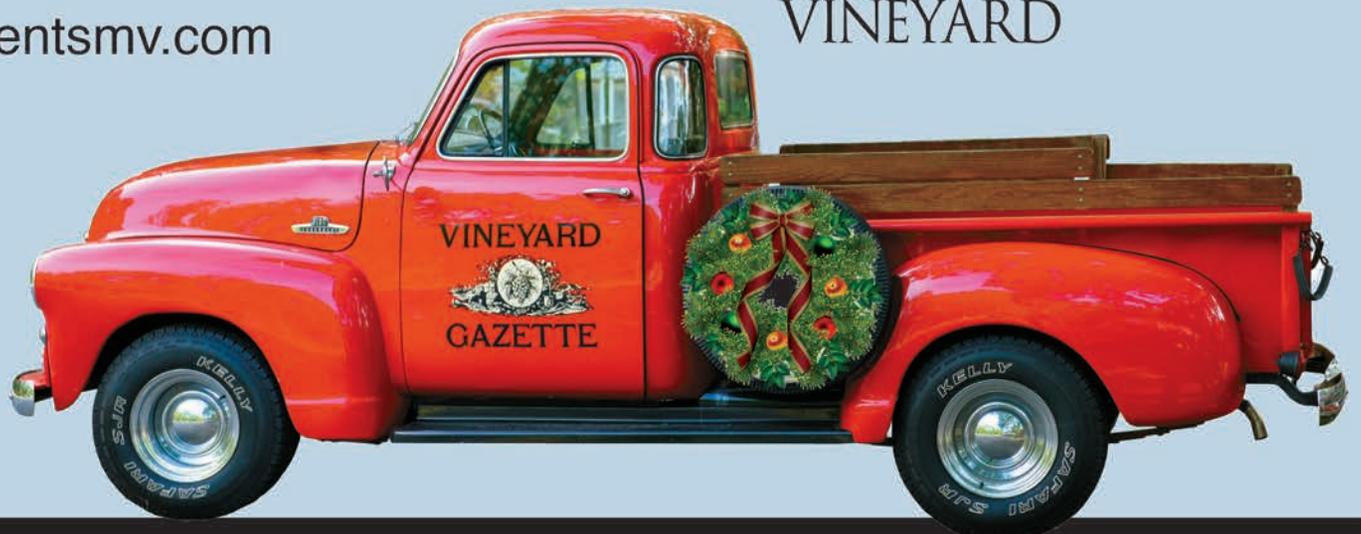
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