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MUSEUM AWARDS ANNUAL MARTHA'S VINEYARD MEDAL

Recipients: the Athearn Family, Geraldine Brooks, Tony Horwitz, Hugh Knipmeyer
Monday, August 13th ~ 5pm ~ Federated Church, Edgartown

Edgartown, MA – August 3, 2012 – The Martha's Vineyard Museum is holding its annual meeting highlighted by the 2012 Martha's Vineyard Medal award ceremony. This year's recipients are the Athearn Family presented to Jim and Debbie Athearn who will be introduced by Tom Dunlop and Alison Shaw, Geraldine Brooks and Tony Horwitz introduced by Sheldon Hackney, and Hugh Knipmeyer introduced by Warren Hollinshead.

Since 1923 the Martha's Vineyard Museum has been the "safety deposit box" for the images, stories, objects, and voices of Martha's Vineyard. The stories we tell are thorough and vivid because our collection is acquired from people who relish their connection to the Vineyard and trust we will preserve it for generations. As the premier storyteller of the Island, the Martha's Vineyard Museum introduced the Martha's Vineyard Medal in 2009. The Medal is awarded annually to leaders in the community in recognition of their outstanding commitment to preserving the history, arts, and culture of Martha's Vineyard.

James and Deborah Athearn started Morning Glory Farm in 1975 on family land in Edgartown. The farm name grew from the vision of the sun rising over lush, green fields, and cows with udders full of milk ambling past bountiful gardens. Jim and Debbie raised three children, who have all been involved with the farm as they've grown. The farm family is a large one. Many extended Athearn relatives have been part of farm operations for years. With the younger generation involved, Morning Glory continues to provide quality fruits and vegetables, meaningful employment, and a memorable Island experience to the community.

Australian-born Geraldine Brooks is an author and journalist who discovered the Island through a pen pal who summered in Menemsha. She moved here permanently with her family in 2006. That same year, Geraldine was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in fiction for her novel *March*. Her first novel, *Year of Wonders*, is an international bestseller, and *People of the Book* is a *New York Times* bestseller translated into twenty languages. The amount of research that Geraldine puts into all of her novels is astounding, and *Caleb's Crossing* is no exception. Readers are educated about the daily life of the Puritan settlers of Martha's Vineyard and the strained relationships between the Wampanoags and Puritans. At the same time, she calls to life the Island's beautiful scenery that we all know and love uniting Island history with the present.

Tony Horwitz is a native of Washington, D.C., but vacationed on the Island throughout his childhood. He worked for many years as a reporter covering wars and conflicts as a foreign correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*. He won the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting and worked as a staff writer for *The New Yorker* before becoming a full-time author and moving to the Island. Four of his books have been national and *New York Times* bestsellers: *A Voyage Long and Strange*, *Blue Latitudes*, *Confederates in the Attic*, and *Baghdad Without A Map*. Tony and Geraldine live on the Island year round with their two children and are actively involved in the community.

Hugh Knipmeyer served on the Martha's Vineyard Museum Board of Directors as President from 2001-2004, and Executive Vice President from 1995-2009. He has remained a dedicated volunteer to the Museum by welcoming visitors in the 18th Century Cooke House for many years. Knip worked for DuPont chemical

company for over thirty-five years before retiring to the Island in 1992. In addition to his work at the Museum, he has served as President of the Mink Meadows Association, President of the West Chop Club, and was an active member in the Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard.

The Museum's annual meeting precedes the Martha's Vineyard Medal ceremony and will be held on Monday, August 13th at 5pm at the Federated Church, 45 South Summer Street, Edgartown. There will be a reception to follow in the Pease House Galleries back at the Museum around the corner. The event is open to all Museum members and the general public.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum is dedicated to furthering an interest in, experience of, and appreciation for the history and culture of the Island and its environs. The Museum is open year round, 10am to 5pm Monday through Saturday. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for children 6 to 15 and free for children under the age of 6.