Dear Friend,

Welcome to the MVMuseum Quarterly, the publication formerly known as the Dukes County Intelligencer. Despite its changed appearance and masthead, the volume in your hands remains very much the Martha’s Vineyard Museum's journal of Island history. Significantly, like so much about the Museum, the new name and design are rooted in important fundamentals.

We have deep respect for tradition and are not quick to embrace change, yet over the past decade or so our organization has completely redefined its role in the community. After considerable debate and reflection, the Dukes County Historical Society became the Martha’s Vineyard Museum. The Museum will soon move from a quiet neighborhood in Edgartown to a prominent hilltop in Vineyard Haven. And perhaps most important, as educators we have recognized the Museum’s singular duty to give Island history the urgency and relevance it deserves when talking about the Island’s future.

As I write, construction is speeding along at the 1895 Marine Hospital in Vineyard Haven, the new home of the Martha’s Vineyard Museum. Exhibits there will be fresh and eloquent, speaking in a language that incorporates vibrant visuals and uses every advantage offered by today's technology. Even so, we’re being careful to preserve what we do best — our collection, nearly a century old, with its irreplaceable artifacts, documents, and original oral histories — striving to become even more accessible to the community and the contemporary student of Island history.

The Museum has been overhauled from stem to stern. It was high time the Dukes County Intelligencer got the same thoughtful treatment, the same recommitment to a bright future. The redesigned MVMuseum Quarterly will deliver the Intelligencer’s time-honored scholarship and insight in an attractive graphic style, with a clear new eye to typography and presentation, and — most importantly, perhaps — four times a year. The Quarterly will add to our growing written record of what makes Martha's Vineyard unlike any other place.

In its journey to the present day, the Martha's Vineyard Museum has adopted a new mission: To inspire all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections to this Island and its diverse heritage. We do that by telling stories through our exhibits, through programs for all ages including outreach to the Island schools, and through publications. Even if you’re a life-long Vineyarder, we hope the stories in the new MVMuseum Quarterly will surprise and inspire you to learn more about our Island — and perhaps to contribute your own story, in your own way!

Sincerely,

Phil Wallis
Executive Director