

98th Annual Meeting of the
Martha's Vineyard Museum

July 27, 2020 ~ 5:00 pm
Held Virtually via Zoom



Call to Order: Stever Aubrey, Chairman
Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
Report of the Chairman

Report of the Interim Executive Director: Heather Seger

Report of the Treasurer: Dale Garth

Questions

Report of the Governance Committee: Cathy Weiss
Election of New Directors
Vote on Proposed Bylaw Changes

2020 Board Member Up For First Term Election:

Gordon Cromwell

Gordon Cromwell is the Director of Strategic Finance and Operations at Empower Schools in Boston, Massachusetts. After receiving his Bachelors from Denison University and Masters of Business Administration from Vanderbilt, Cromwell held positions in equity analysis and sales at Canaccord Genuity, Turner Investment Partners, and The Boston Company Asset Management. Cromwell is involved in a variety of non-profits including the Brookline Food Pantry, and serves on the Advisory Boards of Citizen Schools, Boston Prep Charter School, and Rehearsal for Life. Cromwell resides in Chestnut Hill and West Chop with his wife Wendy and their two children.

2020 Board Members Up For Second Term Election:

Nat Benjamin

Nat Benjamin is the founder and co-owner of Gannon and Benjamin Marine Railway in Vineyard Haven. He came to the island in 1972 with his wife, Pam, and young daughter, Jessica, looking to settle down and work at a boatyard after various sailing expeditions to locations such as Spain, Morocco, and islands in the Caribbean. In 1968, Benjamin was hired to sail a nearly

forty-foot schooner from Malta to Newport, RI, a journey that took over one year to complete. In 2014, Benjamin sailed his fifty-foot, auxiliary schooner to Haiti to deliver books, craft materials, clothes, games and other supplies to a local orphanage; a journey Benjamin documented in his two-part booklet, *Passage to Haiti*. This story earned him the Charles H. Vilas Literary Prize member award from the Cruising Club of America in March of 2017. Today, Benjamin resides in Vineyard Haven with his wife, Pam.

Jeb Blatt

Jeb Blatt is Senior Vice President of Integrated Marketing at Jack Morton Worldwide where he oversees Account Services, New Business, and the agency's global Integrated Marketing practice. Over his career, he has worked with Fortune 100 companies including Subway Restaurants, Liberty Mutual, CVS, Walmart, Reebok, and the American Heart Association. He is particularly proud of his work with pro-bono organizations such as Thompson Island Outward Bound and Metro Lacrosse, both of which help to bridge the opportunity gap facing underprivileged students. Additionally, Blatt is a visiting Faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University's Brandcenter. He has also been a guest speaker at a variety of national marketing and advertising conferences. He's a passionate writer, loves golf and it occasionally loves him back. Blatt and his wife Elena have three daughters, live in Weston and Edgartown, and are members of the Edgartown Yacht Club and Chappaquiddick Beach Club.

David R. Foster

David Foster has been a Harvard faculty member in biology since 1983 and the Director of the Harvard Forest since 1990. Foster graduated from Connecticut College in 1977 with a focus in Botany and Religious Studies and then continued on to the University of Minnesota to earn his M.S. and Ph.D. in Ecology. He is the author of six books including his most recent, *A Meeting of Land and Sea: Nature and the Future of Martha's Vineyard* (2017) that explores the island's history, ecology, and conservation. Foster serves on various boards for foundations and organizations and is also a research associate at the Polly Hill Arboretum, the Principal Investigator at the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research Program, as well as the Chairman and President at the Highstead Foundation. Foster splits his time on his properties in Cambridge and West Tisbury with his wife, Marianne Jorgensen, and their two children.

John E. McDonald, Jr.

John McDonald is a partner and cofounder at Beacon Hill Capital which he started in 1986. Since 1987, BHC has been focused on the institutional tax credit investment and has helped corporations invest over \$10 billion in the Affordable Housing Tax Credit industry. McDonald and his wife Melissa McCullough have built a home in Vineyard Haven and are building another house in Aquinnah. McDonald has been coming to the Vineyard for over 40 years. In his semi-retirement, he enjoys sailing and has previously sailed to the Vineyard from Haiti.

Philip Regan

Philip Regan received his bachelor of architecture from the University of Miami in 1988. When he returned to the island, he began a three-year internship that blossomed into a lifelong career and in 2004; Regan was named Managing Principal of Hutker Architects' Martha's Vineyard office where he continues to work today. Regan has served on the board of Sherriff's Meadow Foundation since 2011 and is a founding member of the Cottage City Historic District Commission and has been the commissioner since 2003. He is passionate about island sports and was the lead design consultant and fundraiser on both the Shark Tank and Penn field. Regan and his wife Debbie reside in Oak Bluffs with their three children.

Cathy Weiss

With more than thirty years of service in the public and philanthropic sectors, Cathy Weiss brings experience in family foundation management, program development and strategic

planning. Weiss came to the philanthropic sector after a distinguished career in government. She was the Assistant to Philadelphia Mayor W. Wilson Goode (1985-1991) and New York Mayor Edward I. Koch (1982-1984). Cathy and her family have a home in Chilmark and she serves on the Emerson College, Martha's Vineyard Museum, and MANNA boards of directors, as well as the advisory council for the Greenlight Fund, Philadelphia.

Vote on Election of New Directors

Farewell and with thanks to:

Elizabeth Beim
Julianna Flanders
Chris Murphy
Juliana Rogers

Vote on Proposed Bylaw Changes

Please see our [website](#) for a full description of the proposed changes to the bylaws.

Presentation of the 2020 Martha's Vineyard Medal

As the premier storyteller of the history, arts, and culture of Martha's Vineyard, the Martha's Vineyard Museum created the Martha's Vineyard Medal in 2009. The Medal is awarded to leaders in the community to recognize their outstanding commitment to preserving the history, arts, and culture of Martha's Vineyard. Recipients demonstrate leadership on Martha's Vineyard in at least one of the following areas:

Historic preservation
Fine and performing arts
Literature
Community activism
Education

2020 Martha's Vineyard Medal Recipients

Steve Bernier

Presented by Matthew Stackpole

Steve Bernier has owned and operated Cronig's Market since February 1985. Though always passionate about his community, it was Steve's move to the Vineyard that spurred him to think seriously about the environment and giving back. Despite the financial consequences, Steve has stopped selling cigarettes, styrofoam products, and even certain sizes of bottles and cans because they have extra plastic packaging. Through feedback from the community and a partnership with South Mountain Company and Vineyard Power, Steve has continuously sought to improve the environmental footprint of Cronig's and address the Island's concerns. Steve is not boastful about his involvement in the community. He's been quietly involved in over 250 community projects, makes environmentally-conscious improvements to his store with little fanfare, and

(despite anger from seasonal residents), created a program to give year-round Islanders 20% off at his stores. Through his partnership with the Museum and Cape Cod Five to sponsor free Tuesday nights at the Museum, Steve has been instrumental in allowing thousands of people access to the Museum who may not otherwise be able to visit. Steve and his family are tireless advocates for the Island and its community, touching the life of practically every Islander.

Skip Finley

Presented by Jane Seagrave

Skip Finley is a former broadcasting executive who, over the course of his career, was responsible for over forty U.S. radio stations across the country. He created WYOB radio here on Martha's Vineyard to teach local high school students about future careers in the radio industry and give them real world experience. Attempting retirement since age 50, Skip keeps returning to communications, currently in marketing at the *Vineyard Gazette* Media Group. He has summered on the Island since 1955, and now lives here year-round. Skip is an important link who brings together our diverse Vineyard population and gives his time and talents to make the Island a better place. For five years, Finley wrote the weekly Oak Bluffs Town Column for the *Gazette*. His knowledge of everything Oak Bluffs led to him authoring *Historic Tales of Oak Bluffs*. He is a gifted researcher and contributes to several publications in the areas of whaling and history. Skip recently released a book, *Whaling Captains of Color: America's First Meritocracy*, which tells the story of over fifty Black whaling captains throughout U.S. history including here on the Island. Skip has volunteered his time and boundless energy to help many Vineyarders and visitors alike. He served on the Museum board for two terms, chaired its marketing committee for many years, and contributes scholarly articles to the *Museum Quarterly* (formerly the *Dukes County Intelligencer*).

Juliana Germani

Presented by Jane Sampaio

Juliana Germani moved to this Island five years ago and realized that, despite the large presence of Brazilian-nationals, there was little to no information about them. With determination and curiosity, she sought out a way to begin writing about the community via the *Martha's Vineyard Times* in a new bilingual column, which helped her build connections and honor the importance of Brazilians on-Island. Her leadership was unprecedented as she navigated through many complex and uncharted waters. Through it all, Juliana maintained her vision for sharing the historical importance, culture, and traditions of a group on the Vineyard many knew very little about. Her work will allow future generations to understand and learn from the experiences of their forebears. In addition to writing for the *Times*, Juliana was also a teacher of Portuguese as a Heritage Language at MVRHS for three years and was always finding new ways to bridge communities and make relevant connections for her students and their families. She continues to participate in a number of programs with the Museum, and volunteers her time working with children in the MVM education department strongly believing that empowering people through education can solve many of the world's most divisive issues.

Martha's Vineyard Medal Past Recipients

2019:

Mary Beth Grady, Allison Burger, and the team at Chilmark Chocolates,
Elaine Cawley Weintraub, Allen D. & Lynne E. Whiting

2018:

Ann Smith, Rose Styron, Denys Wortman

2017:

Kate Hancock, James B. Richardson, III, S. Christopher Scott

2016:

Len Butler, Robert S. Douglas, Catherine Mayhew

2015:

Pat Gregory, Patricia Morgan, Cynthia Riggs

2014:

Renee Balter, Dorothy Bangs, Richard Paradise

2013:

Sheldon Hackney, Olga Hirshhorn, The Murphy Family

2012:

The Athearn Family, Geraldine Brooks, Tony Horwitz, Hugh Knipmeyer

2011:

Marian Halperin, Francine Kelly, S. Bailey Norton, Jr.

2010:

David McCullough, Arthur R. Railton, Tobias Jonathan Vanderhoop

2009:

Ray Ellis, Tom Hale, Della Hardman, John Walter

Martha's Vineyard Museum Staff

Anna Barber, *Manager of Exhibitions & Programs*

Savannah Berryman-Moore, *Programming & Events Coordinator*

Carol Carroll, *Director of Finance & Administration*

Ann DuCharme, *Education Teacher*

Katy Fuller, *Director of Operations & Business Development*

Khalid Jackson, *Visitor Services Coordinator*

Lea Kaeka, *Visitor Services Associate*

Vitoria Krasa, *Visitor Services Associate*

Linsey Lee, *Oral History Curator*

Kate Logue, *Exhibitions Assistant*

Betsey Mayhew, *Finance Administrator*

Sam Morris, *Digital Services Manager*

Laura Noonan, *Oral History Assistant*

Dawna Phaneuf, *Housekeeper Extraordinaire*

Beth Seabourne, *Education Director*

Heather Seger, *Interim Executive Director*

Bonnie Stacy, *Chief Curator*

Bow Van Riper, *Research Librarian & Editor of the MVM Quarterly*

Board of Directors 2020

Stever Aubrey, *Chair*

Barbara Alleyne, *Vice-Chair*

Julianna Flanders, *Secretary*

Dale Garth, *Treasurer*

Heather Seger, *Ex Officio*

Elizabeth Beim, Nat Benjamin, Robert Blacklow, Jeb Blatt, Marcia Mulford Cini, Meredith Degen, David R. Foster, Deirdre Frank, Peter Gearhart, David Grain, S. Fain Hackney, Fred Jackson, David Lewis, Calvin Linnemann, June Manning, John E. McDonald, Jr., Christopher Morse, Chris Murphy, Jim Newman, Philip Regan, James B. Richardson, III, Juliana Rogers, Paul Schneider, Alison Shaw, Shelley Stewart, Elizabeth Hawes Weinstock, Cathy Weiss, Lana Woods, Denys Wortman



*The Martha's Vineyard Museum inspires all people
to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections
to this Island and its diverse heritage.*