

Dear Friends,

The Martha's Vineyard Museum is in business to provide services that people need and want. Our mission is to inspire interest and encourage greater understanding about all things Vineyard...history, art, environment, industry, poetry, architecture and much more. We can be more things to more people.

As we finalize our 2010 planning we challenge ourselves to ask these two critical questions: how many can we serve and how can we enrich each person's experience? Success on either question is dependent upon the resources we are able to allocate. We want to have more people visit our exhibits on World War II and artist Stanley Murphy opening this fall and early next year, respectively. We are creating programs that allow people to emotionally connect with what it was like to live on this island, exposed and vulnerable, in a time of war. Our goal with the Murphy show is to help people discover and relate their own creative experiences to that of a working artist.

Next year we'll launch a web-based exhibit on Laura Jernegan, a diary-writing daughter of a Vineyard whaling captain. The project, two years in the making, is funded primarily from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from matching funds from contributions to appeals such as this one.

Doing more and doing it better is both our challenge and our opportunity. Great momentum began a few years ago with the changing of our name from Historical Society to Museum.

Maintaining momentum takes money.

We are operating leaner and smarter in response to the current economic environment and we have been able to produce more and serve more. Financial support this fall helps us stay open year-round and present programs throughout the winter, and it encourages us to pro-actively plan for an exciting 2010.

We ask for your support so that we are able to serve more of you and do it very well! Thank you.

Best regards,



David Nathans
Executive Director

P.S. As you write your check, please remember that contributions to our year-end appeal are 100% tax deductible.