



Martha's Vineyard Museum Annual Report 2013



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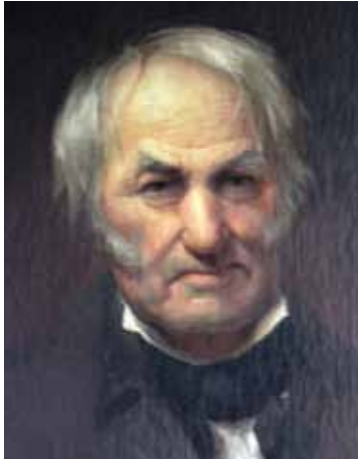
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2013 Year in Review

Success, in 2013, meant finding a comfortable balance between managing current operations and planning for the future. We accomplished this not-so-simple task on many fronts. There was stability in certain areas and growth in others, and there were significant changes. Some changes were planned, others unplanned, but we continued to build a solid foundation that promises a bright future. Once again we relied on many people and on the teamwork and cooperation of Board, staff and volunteers.

The curatorial staff, with collaborative leadership from the Collections and Programming Committees, maintained its high level of progress on collections management and a healthy diversity in exhibitions. Supported by a combination of multi-year Community Preservation Act grants, as well as a nearly \$300,000 grant in late December 2012 from the Andrew W. Mellon-funded Council on Library and Information Resources, the critical cataloging and re-housing of objects and archives in the collection moved forward, reaching nearly the half-way point by year's end. While adding to our knowledge base of collections owned, we also were fortunate, primarily through gifts, to add to what we have. To highlight just a couple, we acquired four sea charts found in the Mitchell house at Quansoo in a gift from the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation. With limited acquisition funds, we purchased Edward Dalton Marchant's 1840s portrait of the somewhat notorious Vineyard financier Ichabod Norton. (See 2013 Accessions on p.16-17, including a list of 34 new oral histories.)



*Ichabod Norton by
Edward Dalton Marchant.*

Our active exhibition calendar in 2013 illustrates our continued interest in using our collections as starting points to tell a variety of Vineyard stories. Shows on carved decoys and vintage toys were very popular, as was an exhibit on the origins and traditions of the Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. Our long-running *A Taste for the Exotic* exhibition featured those often strange artifacts brought home by Vineyarders from voyages and travels around the world. *A Taste for the Exotic* was also the theme for the food and decoration at the Museum's late June 2013 *Evening of Discovery* benefit, where we established a new record for attendance at more than 340.

Quantitatively, 2013 was a mixed year. Admissions were relatively level on a combined basis for lighthouses and Edgartown campus visits. Our membership census declined slightly as did education visits and library inquiries. Nevertheless, volunteer hours were up dramatically as was attendance at events, the latter driven in part by a collaborative winter series of Pecha Kucha nights (an hour of six-minute cultural interest presentations) in collaboration with the Harbor View Hotel.

Staff turnover in a small organization like ours is always a challenge. Two key positions changed in the second half of 2013. Dan Waters joined as Development Director when his predecessor resigned to relocate. A more than 30-year Vineyard resident, Waters came with local knowledge and an established reputation. These, added to his communication and people skills, are helping in countless ways to lead our stewardship efforts that are so important at this critical time in the Museum's history. In November, Ann DuCharme joined as Education Director when her predecessor moved to a position at the Edgartown School. Having recently moved to the Vineyard full time after a couple of decades of summer visits, DuCharme has bridged the gap in the base program with the schools, while adding pre-school and aging populations initiatives, and a docent program, all of which will reap benefits for the Museum in 2014 and for many years to come.

Board turnover, especially senior Board leadership, is also a challenge. 2013 started with Chair Emeritus Elizabeth Beim, already serving as Chair of the comprehensive

2013 Museum Exhibitions

Toys from the Museum Collections

One on the Line: The MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby

Ladies of the Sea: Tull, Treat, and Jernegan

MV Art Association: Selected Works

A Taste for the Exotic: Mementos from Around the Globe

Showtime: 100 Years of Theater

Hands-On History

Enchanted Isle: The Story of MV

Spotlight Gallery

capital campaign, coming back as Chair of the Board of Directors. Sheldon Hackney was forced to step back from the position due to illness. Beim was his immediate predecessor, so not a single beat was missed in the transition. Until his death in September, Hackney, a retired professor of history, university president and national humanities leader, continued to serve on the Board where his colleagues had quickly become his friends, and his devotion and spirit provided energy and enthusiasm to all. Indeed, two of the year's greatest memories are associated with Hackney: a surprise celebration video shown at the Museum's June benefit and the Martha's Vineyard Museum Medal ceremony at our annual meeting last August. His words delivered then still inspire: "...we need to understand who we are so that we can become who we want to be. History is about the future. Onward."

Successful planning for the Museum's future was a primary focus in 2013. Two first-term Board members stepped forward into major leadership positions to help support Chair Beim. Dale Garth added Chair of the Planning Committee to his title of Treasurer and Chair of Finance. And Marcia Cini, Chair of the Committee on Directors, joined Garth and Beim as leaders of a planned comprehensive campaign to create a 21st century professional museum organization that is worthy of protecting the Island's long-term cultural health in its new location in Vineyard Haven.



New Education Director Ann DuCharme working with a class from the West Tisbury school.

On the facility side, the Planning Committee, in a competitive review, selected Oudens Ello Architecture of Boston to develop concept designs and drawings that meet our needs at an affordable budget. Over a nearly six-month, highly interactive process, an inspired design was developed and then shared with the community for feedback in five public meetings.

On the fundraising side, Board leadership worked closely with Demont Associates to finalize a comprehensive funding plan. Good news came in early summer that the Massachusetts Cultural Council awarded the Museum a \$191,000 Cultural Facilities Fund grant to support the architectural work. This grant provided endorsement and likely some additional momentum for the "silent phase" of fundraising: looking for those closest to the institution to make their pledges as a means to chart success for the outside and more public phase to be launched in 2015. More positive news came in mid-December when a donor gave the campaign, under a challenge matching basis, a \$1.5 million gift.

Although we have much work to do in 2014 to capture the challenge as we transform to a new museum, while keeping our operations positive, we feel encouraged by members and friends alike that we can and will get to the finish line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Beim".

Elizabeth Beim
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Nathans".

David Nathans
Executive Director



Over 340 friends of the Museum gathered for the 15th annual Evening of Discovery in June 2013.

2013 Financial Report

Statement of Operating, Restricted, and Capital Activities

	<u>FY 2013</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>
Operating Activities-Income		
Membership Dues	73,242	82,659
Admissions & Fees	54,943	56,036
Lighthouse Admissions & Fees	143,910	132,829
Sales	27,858	27,978
Special Events	151,005	136,830
Grant and Restricted Funds Applied	355,004	207,882
Interest Income	38	56
Pledge Payments Received	144,350	219,850
Contributions	204,338	224,735
Transfer from Comprehensive Capital Campaign	330,000	157,615
Total Operating Income	<u>1,484,688</u>	<u>1,246,470</u>
Operating Activities-Expenses		
Programs, Collections & Exhibits	662,009	515,984
General & Administrative	414,877	314,753
Membership & Fundraising	303,087	314,688
Lighthouse Operations	55,332	48,809
Cost of Sales	12,981	11,330
Total Operating Expenses before Depreciation	<u>1,448,286</u>	<u>1,205,564</u>
Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities	36,402	40,906
Depreciation	(52,393)	(53,399)
Restricted Revenue Activity		
Grants, Restricted Gifts & Future Pledges	247,686	578,587
Interest	2,152	1,544
Releases of Restricted Funds	<u>(499,354)</u>	<u>(427,732)</u>
Change in Net Assets from Restricted Activities	(249,516)	152,399
Comprehensive Capital Campaign Activities		
Contributions and Pledges (1)	1,843,251	115,829
Interest	2,653	3,591
Expenses Related to Fundraising and Site Improvement	(456,930)	(141,953)
Transfer for Operations	<u>(330,000)</u>	<u>(157,615)</u>
Change in Net Assets from Campaign Activities	1,058,974	(180,148)
Purchase of Collection Items	(10,498)	(14,800)
Change in Net Assets	<u><u>782,969</u></u>	<u><u>(55,042)</u></u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	5,730,676	5,785,718
Net Assets, End of Year	6,513,645	5,730,676

- (1) In addition to the \$1,843,251 in contributions and pledges raised in the Comprehensive Capital Campaign, the Museum received intentions to give of \$1,814,292 through letters of intent or pledges with certain specified conditions.

2013 Treasurer's Report

2013 was a year of maintaining the level of use and enjoyment of the Museum after the rapid growth of recent years. Operating expenses continued to be well-controlled to budget goals, with the primary increases being in areas funded by specific grants to strengthen education and preservation (these grant expenses are presented in the Programs, Collections & Exhibits line and corresponding offsetting amounts are shown in revenue). Included in the operating expenses for 2013 is a 7% increase in payroll and benefits after 3 years of no salary increases. Through support from fundraising and the portion of the comprehensive campaign planned for operations, the Museum achieved a surplus of \$36,402 for 2013.

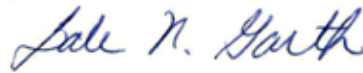
The comprehensive campaign to support the Museum's strategic plan described in last year's annual report got actively underway in 2013 with its primary focus on the silent phase of working with past and current Board and Committee members. As stated last year, the campaign is comprehensive because its funding targets include a range of needs -- funds to develop and relocate to the Marine Hospital site; funds to support operations and transition costs during the years leading to relocation; and funds to build an endowment as a source of operational funding in future years.

Beyond the amount raised prior to 2013 primarily to purchase the Marine Hospital property, in 2013 the Museum raised over \$1.8 million in contributions and pledges and

received intentions to give of an additional \$1.8 million through letters of intent or pledges with certain specified conditions (such as matching). The key expenditures from these funds in 2013 were for the ongoing maintenance and improvements to the Marine Hospital property, architectural and related consulting costs to develop the detailed plan for the site, and various costs of planning and executing the comprehensive campaign.

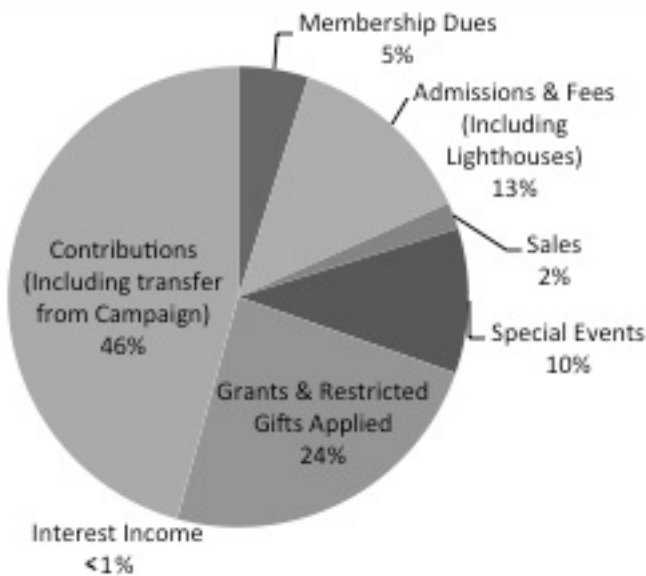
The Museum is undertaking these transformative steps with a number of financial strengths. In addition to our invaluable collections, we have no debt and we own two campuses – one in Edgartown and the other in Vineyard Haven – each with substantial real estate value.

With a high level of activity on a day-to-day basis as well as all of the components of the comprehensive campaign, it is an exciting and challenging period for the Museum. We have great belief in the value a relocated, stronger Museum can bring to the island community. Working together – members, Board, patrons, volunteers, staff – we strongly believe we will be able to make it happen. Many thanks for your continued support.



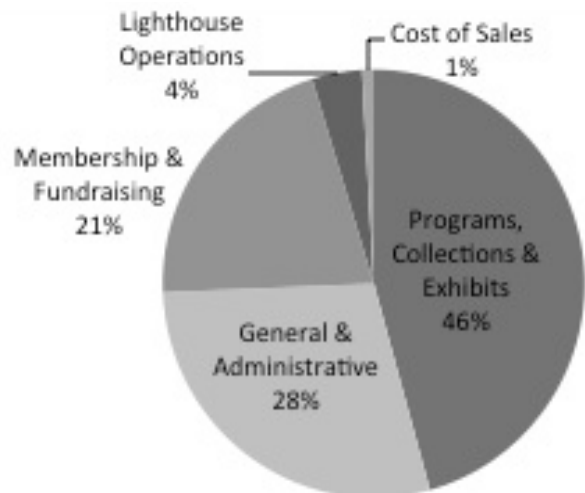
Dale N. Garth, Treasurer

2013 Total Operating Income



2013 Total Operating Expenses

(Before Depreciation)



2013 Contributors

In an effort to acknowledge the ways in which our contributors support the Museum, donors are listed according to their total giving. Gifts included are membership dues, Annual Fund contributions, Capital Campaign contributions, grants, employer matching gifts, endowment gifts, donations to the collection, donations to fundraising events, and other charitable gifts from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2013 regardless of tax treatment. The Museum is grateful for every gift. We have respected the wishes of those donors who have expressed a desire to be anonymous. All photos are from the MVM Collections.

\$100,000 & up

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2013 Accessions

Four sea charts from the Hancock-Mitchell House.

Quansoo Farm, Chilmark. Gift of Sheriff's Meadow Foundation.



Five account books dated 1883 – 1905 relating to the William C. Adams furniture store, Cottage City and West Tisbury. Correspondence and business receipts dating from the 1860s through the 1940s relating to the Gifford family and store.

Gift of Catherine and Donald Mayhew, Vineyard Haven.

Collection of political and Red Cross buttons. Ten copies of Martha's Minions magazine.

Gift of Nancy Nitchie, Vineyard Haven.

Twenty binders and seven boxes of photographs of Martha's Vineyard subjects collected by Basil Welch dating from the 1800s through the 1980s.

Gift in memory of Basil Welch, Linda M. Voluckas and Laurie C. Clements, Vineyard Haven.

Fifteen photographs of Vineyard ferries from Papa's Pizza, Oak Bluffs.

Gift of Primo Lombardi, Oak Bluffs.

Objects and archives from the Vincent/Manter house, Chilmark.

Gift of the estate of Marjorie Manter Rogers, Chilmark.

Fifteen photographs of Vineyard ferries from Papa's Pizza, Oak Bluffs.

Gift of Primo Lombardi, Oak Bluffs.

Oil painting of Ichabod Norton by Edward Dalton Marchant.

Museum purchase.

Objects and archives from the Vincent/Manter house, Chilmark.

Gift of the estate of Marjorie Manter Rogers, Chilmark.

Objects and photographs of Marjorie Manter Rogers's House and farm.

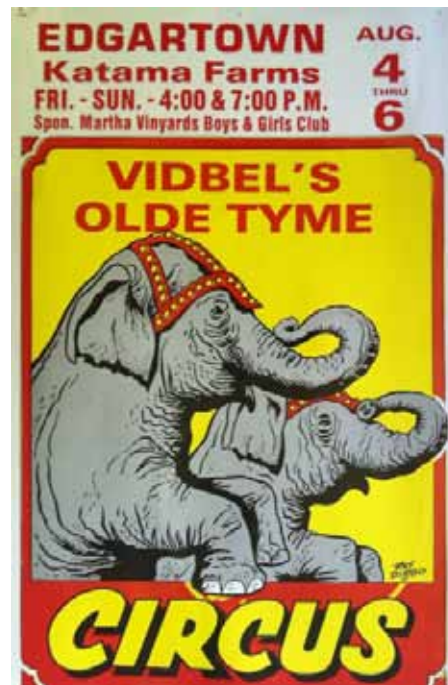
Museum purchase.

Slides and audio from 1960s presentation about Oak Bluffs.

Gift of Carl Siktberg, West Springfield, MA.

Belisle family home movies from the 1960s that feature Island scenes and events; Circus poster; Vineyard-themed board games.

Gift of Janice Belisle, Edgartown.



Archival materials relating to East Chop.

Gift of Lal Dowley, Oak Bluffs.

Photographs and documents relating to John Pierce McDonough, employee at the Marine Hospital.

Gift of Martha Sullivan, Oak Bluffs.

Holy Ghost Association banner made in the 1930s or 40s by Teresa Fontes.

Gift of Harvey Garneau, Jr., West Tisbury.



Gale Huntington Archaeological Collection excavated in the mid 1950s from the head of Lagoon Pond, Vineyard Haven. Ephemera associated with Martha's Vineyard.

Gift of James and Judy Richardson, Pittsburgh, PA.

Twenty Martha's Vineyard postcards, from around the 1980s.

Gift of Barry Carroll, Lake Forest, IL.

Archival materials relating to the West Tisbury Historical Pageant of 1912 from the files of Barbara Look, coordinator of the pageant.

Gift of Sloan Hart, Stoughton, MA.

Photographs of Henry Beetle Hough.

Gift of the Harvard Historical Society, Harvard, MA.

Outline of Title of Goldthwait property, West Chop.

Gift of W. Creighton Reed, Jr., Greenwich, CT.

Slides and movies relating to Martha's Vineyard.

Gift of Jeff Chapman, Edgartown.

Selections from the archives of Carol Kolodny Graphic Design, Kolodny Design Group, Kolodny & Rentschler, KDMD (Kolodny (Clifford) Dorr Media Group) dating from the early 1980s through 2012.
Gift of Carol Kolodny, Vineyard Haven.

Cassette of interview with Julie Chittenden, March 29, 2000, speaking about her life. Interviewer William Stewart.
Gift of William Stewart, San Francisco, CA.

Ten black and white photographs by Gretchen Van Tassel showing the launch of the catboat "Old Sculpin," September 20, 1946.
Gift of Nicholas W. Nerney, Greenville, RI.

T-shirts from the MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby Kids' Day, 1996 – 2012.
Gift of the MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby Corporation, Edgartown.

Models, plans, papers, and equipment from the boat-building shop of Erford Burt.
Bequest of Henry Burt, Vineyard Haven.



Collection of t-shirts from Martha's Vineyard organizations and events; poetry books and cards by Daniel Waters; Advertising materials from Martha's Vineyard businesses.
Gift of Daniel Waters, West Tisbury.

Reference material relating to Noman's Land.
Gift of William Waterway, Edgartown.

Late 19th-century woman's bathing costume.
Gift of Anne Lewis, Glen View, IL.

Three sea journals of Charles Cleaveland (c.1842-1903) from his time as a cabin boy on a whaleship at the age of 15, his service during the Civil War, and his time in the Navy after the war.
Gift in memory of Richard Charles Cleaveland by his wife, Gwendolyn Kloeber, Lubec ME.



Judy Miller's collection of Martha's Vineyard rocks and fossils.
Gift of David Miller, Westmont, Quebec.

Commendation of Raymond F. Duart from the town of Oak Bluffs upon his enlistment in the Armed Forces of the U.S.; photograph of L. S. Eldridge fish market.
Gift of Patricia Correia, Edgartown.

Color photographs of the Island Home ferry dated March 2007.
Gift of Barbara Whitmore, Byfield, MA.

Historical photographs of Martha's Vineyard subjects.
Gift of an Anonymous donor.

Photos and other materials re Rudi Feibich's time at Vineyard teaching strings and orchestra.
Gift of Sylvia Rogers, Oak Bluffs.

Oral Histories

Gus Ben David
Jessie Benton
Alden Besse
Norman Bridwell
Dorothy Burnham
Ayn Chase
Emily Hotchkiss Coggins
Herbert Combra
Elizabeth and Edward Cowley
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Lela and Cooper Gilkes
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Over 140 volunteers dedicated over 3,400 hours to assist with the library, visitor services, curatorial projects, education projects, oral history, special events, lighthouses, and other areas of Museum activities. Our Museum, like so many others, depends on volunteers to fulfill our mission. They can be justly proud of what they accomplished in 2013. We thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

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