



Martha's Vineyard Museum Annual Report 2014



Front Cover Images:

1. Gay Head Lighthouse
2. MV Museum Education Director Ann DuCharme working with the local Boy Scout Tiger Cubs chapter. The boys visited the Museum to learn about whaling and harpoons.
3. Mechanical painted tin bank, manufactured by the Chein Company, c. 1950. Featured in the 2014 exhibition *Toys*. MV Museum Collections.

Back Cover Images:

1. Cover of the 2014 pictorial history book *Martha's Vineyard* published by Arcadia containing over 220 images from the MV Museum collections and authored by Chief Curator Bonnie Stacy.
2. Nis Kildegaard presenting a book talk on the 2014 coffee table book *Harbor View: The Hotel that Saved a Town* in the Museum Library.
3. Front of the 1895 Marine Hospital in Vineyard Haven.
4. Assistant Curator Anna Carringer working with Education Intern Devin Mara to install an exhibition showcasing the interns' favorite objects from the collection.

Table of Contents

Year In Review.....Page 4

Financial Report.....Page 6

Treasurer’s Report.....Page 7

Contributors.....Page 8

Accessions..... Page 16

Volunteers..... Page 18

Board & Staff..... Page 19



2014 Year in Review

Transformation was the watchword of the year at the Martha's Vineyard Museum in 2014. We are building a new future while further developing the best of the traditions of the past. Exhibitions and collections remain the bread-and-butter of who we are and what we do, but we continue to recognize the need to do things in a very different way in order to meet our important goals for service to community, and for growth and change.

In one of our *Messenger* newsletters last year, we quoted the March 2014 *New York Times* (Museum section): "... in recent decades, all over the country, traditional historical societies have been elaborately re-configured. History has broadened and often deepened; museums have become more adventurous and often more ambitious." We continue to follow this model and see that it is working for us.

In 2014 we saw record numbers in areas that are meaningful in our on-going transformation, both in people served or benefitted and in financial performance. Membership reached nearly 1,000 and for the first time since 2003, and only the second time in institutional history, member dues surpassed \$100,000. For the first time ever, our combined admissions of lighthouses—Gay Head and Edgartown primarily—and Edgartown campus topped 40,000 visitors and \$150,000 in revenue. In Library admissions and inquiries, and in volunteer hours, we saw 10% or more increases; and while our number of events decreased by about 20%, our event attendance increased by almost 20%. We are indeed moving forward on our quest to be a more community-centric and a more contemporary-minded institution: being "more things to more people, more of the time."

2014 Museum Exhibitions

Nancy Luce: Madonna of the Hens

Sea Change: Martha's Vineyard in the 1960s

Moore and Moore and Moore

Martha's Vineyard in Photographs

The Art of Advertising

Toys

Hands-On History

Enchanted Isle: The Story of MV

Spotlight Gallery



Harpooning 101, one of our newly created Discovery Days summer kids programs.

These statistics demonstrate that the strategic plan that we put in place in 2012 is working. The Board and staff recognized then, and continue to re-affirm each year, that to undertake the transformation represented by the Marine Hospital project demands that we attract new audiences, make new friends and demonstrate new energy. We are doing this and need to remain patient. It will take time. We need to stay the course in order to reap the benefits. The comprehensive capital campaign moved ahead in 2014, admittedly at a slower pace than we would have liked or planned. At the same time significant progress was made on four critical fronts.

First, the cataloging of our collections, a task whose completion is critical before we relocate, was brought into the home stretch. With grants from many Vineyard Community Preservation Committees and the Mellon Foundation's funding via the Council on Information and Library Resources (CLIR), we will finish before mid-year 2015. This will allow greater access and immediate use of our collections for research and for use in exhibitions. In fact, some of the shows listed here were literally made possible or greatly enhanced by this progress.

Second, the education programs at the Museum are growing by leaps and bounds. Under the direction of Education Director Ann DuCharme, who celebrated her first anniversary with us in Nov. 2014, our Vineyard schools programs provided nearly 150 classes in academic year 2013-14. In addition, the Museum collaborated with the local chapter of Head Start to promote readiness of pre-school children from low income families. Another program, reaching out to elders at various senior gathering centers and called

“Museum Conversations,” is also attracting a core of docents to leverage the department’s limited human resources. These innovations in education were funded by mostly internal resources, but they did attract support from the Permanent Endowment for Martha’s Vineyard and from the Martha’s Vineyard Savings Bank Charitable Fund.

Third, and clearly related to our education department expansion and success in the past few years, was the incredible news that the Museum received from The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): NEH awarded us the largest challenge grant possible of \$500,000—you can’t ask for more—to support an education endowment fund. When announced in December 2014, the amount represented more than 60% of all funding given to Massachusetts institutions. We now have up to five years to attract \$1.5 million, as the challenge is 3-to-1. This total \$2 million education endowment represents slightly less than 50% of the \$4.5 million of endowment funds designated in our capital campaign plans. It simply means that the income from this portion will be restricted for education, always an integral part of our primary mission. In terms of transformation, this can be compared to our current endowment funds of just over \$100,000; clearly major progress.

Fourth, and finally, we dramatically increased our number of relationships. Membership totals noted earlier are only one measure of this. The increased number of members coming to our events suggests that we have more frequent users, making the Museum a more significant part of their routine. Our *Evening of Discovery* annual benefit in late June 2014 was a record sell-out and we had to provide a bigger tent to accommodate the 380 old and new patrons—in June 2015 we pushed that record still further and were over 410.

While taking great strides on programming and patronage last year, we continued to collect, seeking out art, objects, and manuscripts that enrich our mission. As is the norm, almost all of these accessions are generous gifts from individuals (see p. 16-17 for a complete list, including 46 oral histories). One of the more visually compelling of these gifts—a series of 1970-90s posters from the Edgartown



Poster from the store “Tashtego,” which operated on Main Street, Edgartown from the 1970s through the 1990s. Gift of Rodney Farrow.

store “Tashtego”—will be the basis of an exhibition in the fall of 2015. We cannot thank our donors enough for trusting us to steward their treasures.

2014 was both a challenging year and a year of progress. Many operating advances noted above will translate into our keeping pace with the progress of cash and pledges needed for the Marine Hospital relocation and transformation. We have the incentives in place—through private gifts and public funding—to have substantive conversations. Our Board, volunteers, staff, members and friends are the constituencies that are most dear to us and form the foundation of our future. Thank you in advance for your help in moving forward to a bright future.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Beim
Chair, Board of Directors

David Nathans
Executive Director



The *Evening of Discovery* had over 380 people in attendance celebrating Martha’s Vineyard in the 1960s.

2014 Financial Report

Statement of Operating, Restricted, and Capital Activities

	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2013</u>
Operating Activities-Income		
Membership Dues	102,746	73,242
Admissions & Fees	62,048	54,943
Lighthouse Admissions & Fees	149,826	143,910
Sales	32,279	27,858
Special Events	188,970	151,005
Grant and Restricted Funds Applied	310,384	355,004
Interest Income	572	38
Pledge Payments Received	59,092	144,350
Contributions	228,988	204,338
Transfer from Comprehensive Capital Campaign	430,000	330,000
Total Operating Income	<u>1,564,905</u>	<u>1,484,688</u>
Operating Activities-Expenses		
Programs, Collections & Exhibits	842,084	803,632
Lighthouse Operations	52,916	55,332
Cost of Sales	20,399	12,981
General & Administrative	297,609	305,492
Membership & Fundraising	346,707	270,849
Total Operating Expenses before Depreciation	<u>1,559,715</u>	<u>1,448,286</u>
Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities	5,190	36,402
Depreciation	(52,411)	(52,393)
Restricted Revenue Activity		
Grants, Restricted Gifts & Future Pledges	144,290	247,686
Interest	1,294	2,152
Releases of Restricted Funds	<u>(369,476)</u>	<u>(499,354)</u>
Change in Net Assets from Restricted Activities	(223,892)	(249,516)
Comprehensive Capital Campaign Activities		
Contributions and Pledges (1)	858,853	1,843,251
Interest	1,968	2,653
Expenses Related to Fundraising and Site Improvement	(296,541)	(456,930)
Transfer for Operations	<u>(430,000)</u>	<u>(330,000)</u>
Change in Net Assets from Campaign Activities	134,280	1,058,974
Purchase of Collection Items	(515)	(10,498)
Change in Net Assets	<u>(137,348)</u>	<u>782,969</u>
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	6,513,645	5,730,676
Net Assets, End of Year	6,376,297	6,513,645

- (1) The Museum received intentions to give through Letters of Intent or pledges with certain conditions of \$541,298 in 2014, and \$1,814,292 in 2013, in addition to the contributions and pledges raised in the Comprehensive Capital Campaign as shown in the schedule.

2014 Treasurer's Report

In 2014 the Museum had strong growth of almost 19% in revenues from operating activities, including a 40% increase in membership dues. As in recent years, operating expenses were managed well to budget objectives, and overall expenses grew by 7% over 2013. Included in these expenses was a 2.5% increase in payroll, benefits and taxes which is the largest expense category. The only expense area of significant growth was spending to support the rapid membership increase and fundraising efforts. With this support from fundraising, and the portion of the comprehensive campaign planned for operations, the Museum achieved a surplus of \$5,190 for the year.

The comprehensive campaign to support the Museum's strategic plan moved steadily forward in 2014. As described in prior years, the campaign is comprehensive because it is targeted to fund 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. During 2014 the Museum raised almost \$0.9 million in contributions and pledges and received intentions to give of an additional \$0.5 million through letters of intent or pledges with certain specified conditions (such as matching). 2014 was the first year that annual giving efforts were fully combined with the comprehensive campaign, and one of the key expenditures for the year was operational support normally provided by this annual giving.

In 2014 the Museum continued to make some investments in the Marine Hospital at the planned new site to maintain the structural integrity of the building during this period of transition and planning -- a number of windows were rebuilt in an historically appropriate way and approximately two-thirds of the roof of the frame building was replaced. Also, with receipt of a \$500,000 grant for endowment over five years from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the associated 3-to-1 match for these funds, the Museum's endowment will grow sooner than expected, and the Museum has started its planning to manage and take advantage of the increased endowment.

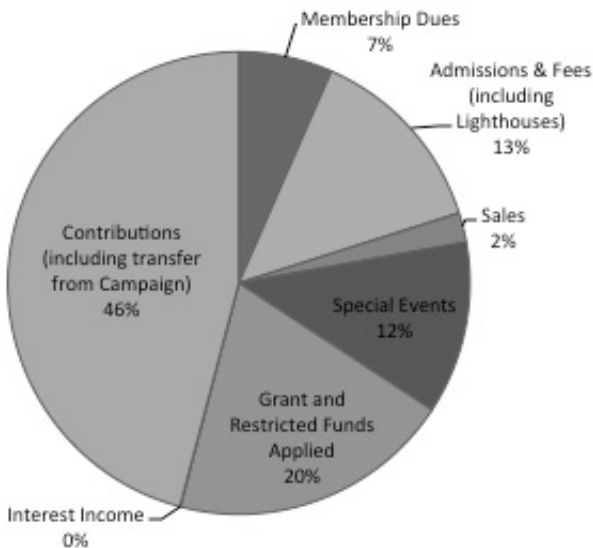
As stated before, the Museum is undertaking these transformative steps with key financial strengths. In addition to our invaluable collections, we have no debt and we own two campuses -- one in Edgartown and the other in Vineyard Haven -- each with substantial real estate value.

It is an exciting and challenging period for the Museum, and 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

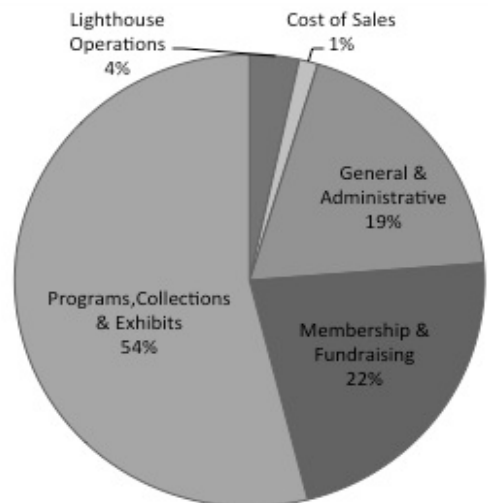
Dale N. Garth, Treasurer

2014 Total Operating Income



2014 Total Operating Expenses

(Before Depreciation)



2014 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 fundraising events, and other charitable gifts from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2014 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.

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2014 Accessions

Friendship quilt with names of Martha's Vineyard women.
Gift of Patricia Kirwin, West Tisbury



Photographs collected or taken by Basil Welch dating from the 1980s through 2010.

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

Three scrapbooks (c. 1918-2000) assembled by Julia and Emily Poole.
Gift of Harriet Poole Otteson, Chilmark

Minutes of Meetings of the Dukes County Fire Chiefs' Club/Dukes County Fire Chiefs' Association, 1954-1966.

Gift in memory of John J. Varkonda from the Department of Conservation and Recreation Archives, Office of Cultural Resources, Boston

Eight 35mm color slides taken on the Island during the 1960s by the donor.
Gift of Peter Dreyer, Edgartown

Historical photographs and stereo views of Vineyard scenes; 19th-century account books and ledgers.
Gift of Kim Cottrill, West Tisbury

Photograph of members of the Pitman and Vincent family, c. 1945.
Gift of Peg Kelley, Edgartown

Letter dated Sept. 13, 1851 from S. C. Norton Jr., Edgartown.
Gift of James B. Richardson III, Pittsburgh, PA

Deeds and correspondence relating to property on Chappaquiddick, late 18th – early 20th century.
Gift of Dorothy Morse, Pelham, MA

Ephemera from late 19th-century – early 20th-century Island businesses, events, and activities.
Gift of Charles Kernick, West Tisbury

Records and memorabilia from the Lamberts Cove Church, 1896 - 2000.
Gift of Margaret Maida, Chilmark

Photograph of Cobbin Cottage, Oak Bluffs.
Gift of Dorothy Howard, Shrewsbury, MA

Letter dated Oct. 31, 1860 from F. W. Tilton, Chilmark.
Gift of David and Arleen McGlade, Vero Beach, FL

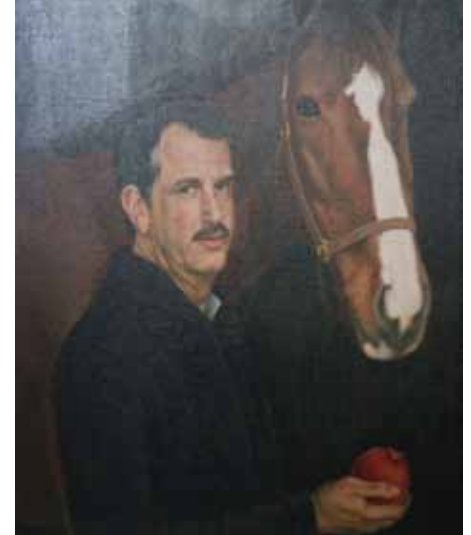
Archival materials relating to donor's publications, books, and activities.
Gift of Norman Bridwell, Edgartown



Slides of Vineyard scenes taken by W. Creighton Reed 1959-82.
Gift of W. Creighton Reed, Greenwich, CT

Collection of slides purchased at the St. Pierre School sale in 2012.
Gift of William Straw, Vineyard Haven

Portraits of Bob Rosenwald (1959) and Tony Fisher (2002) by Stanley Murphy.
Gift of the estate of Polly W. Murphy, West Tisbury



T-shirt for the Island Lesbian and Gay Association designed by donor in 1987. Valentine cards, block prints, and poems by donor.
Gift of Daniel Waters, West Tisbury

Scraper and projectile point found on Martha's Vineyard.
Gift of Barbara Willis, Plum Branch, SC

Archival materials and photographs relating to Madison Edwards and the Seaman's Bethel in Vineyard Haven.
Gift of Kenneth W. Edwards Sr., New London, CT

Vineyard Haven Yacht Club Papers, 1995 - 1997; 2002 – 2003.
Gift of Alice Goyert, Edgartown

Booklet by Nancy Luce inscribed to Jared Vincent, 1866; Photographs of Granville Manter and Cyrus Manter.
Gift of Patricia Lynch, West Tisbury

Records pertaining to the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society.
Gift of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, West Tisbury

Slides taken by Steamship Authority Captain Walter Kszystyniak c. 1955 – 1961 showing Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Cape Cod Canal, and Steamship Authority.

Gift in memory of Walter and Barbara Kszystyniak by their son, Peter Kszystyniak, Fairhaven, MA

Historical photographs and documents.

Gift of William Milakeve, Edgartown

Archival materials relating to Rice Playhouse, Katharine Cornell, Busy Suppes and friends.

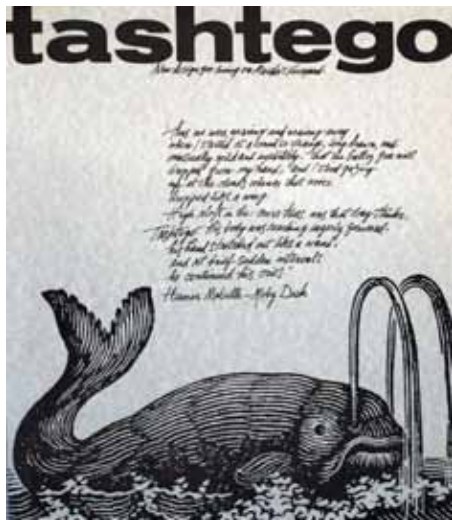
Gift of the Estate of Elizabeth Suppes, Vineyard Haven

Lace sample book.

Gift of Carol Christensen, West Tisbury

Posters from the store "Tashtego," which operated on Main Street in Edgartown from the 1970s through the 1990s.

Gift of Rodney Farrow, Chilmark



Photographs of the rebuilding of the Nobska ferry, 1989.

Gift of Tom Dunlop, Edgartown

Emily Post etiquette books inscribed to donor by the author.

Gift of Yvonne Sylvia, Edgartown

Photograph of a man identified as a Ritz employee standing in a doorway.

Gift of Alison Shaw, Oak Bluffs

Published materials relating to Norman Bridwell, Marc Brown Arthur, Cyril Richards, and Nancy Hamilton.

Gift of Nancy Nitchie, Vineyard Haven

Sampler referring to Dunham and Norton families.

Gift of Dianne Friedman, West Hartford, CT

Archival materials and friendship quilt collected by Ted Meinelt.

Gift of Walter Meinelt, Topsfield, MA

Drawings, glazed pottery, cut-paper, Christmas cards, and ephemera from the estate of Ted Meinelt.

Museum purchase

Chinese silk shawl owned by Mrs. Harold Baker Mayhew.

Gift of Nancy Thompson, Dover, MA

Painting by Virginia Berresford and archival materials relating to Martha's Vineyard.

Gift of Sally Cook, Chilmark

Framed memorial print with calligraphy inscription honoring the Rev. Joseph Thaxter and his grandson, Leavitt Thaxter. Summer Institute Herald newspaper, August 14, 1882.

Gift of Carol Williamson, Edgartown

Martha's Vineyard Co-op Dairy milk bottle.

Gift of Constance Messmer, Chilmark

Photograph of Captain John Ivory by his boat 'Dry Tortugas' in Tisbury.

Gift of Larry Thomas, Edgartown

Kids Day Derby t-shirts (2013).

Gift of the MV Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby Corp., Edgartown

Archives and objects relating to the Norton family, including anvil of Orin Norton.

Gift of Harrison Flynn

Oral Histories

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Gus Ben David
Thomas Bennett
Norman Bridwell
Bobbi Baker Burrows
Russell Burrows
Ted Cammann
Barbara Cottle Child
Deanne Denniston Clark
Mark Colohan
Phronsie Conlin
Joseph Costa
Frank Fenner
Merrily Fenner
Robert Ganz
Harvey W. Garneau Jr.
Rebecca Gilbert
Mary Goethals
Stella Ryan Hopkins
William Kingsbury
Richard Leahy
Sally Leahy
Joyce Maxner
Gregory Mayhew
Abigail McGrath
Margery Meltzer
James Morgan
Roberta Morgan
Barbara Ronchetti
David Seward
Douglas Seward
Carly Simon
Joseph Sollitto
Cheryl Stark
William Stewart
Rose Styron
Audrea Tankard
Patricia Tankard
Kate Taylor
George Thibault
Robert F. Tilton
Cora Weiss
Peter West
Robert Woodruff
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Over 165 volunteers dedicated over 3,800 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 2014. We thank them for all their hard work and dedication.

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Susan Collinson	Lia Kahler	John Pearson	Liam Wallace
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MARTHA'S VINEYARD

