

What's Happening

News of the VIP
August, 2019

Vineyard Independence Partnership
P.O. Box 1204, West Tisbury, MA 02575
www.vipmv.org



Arranging a Trip on the Catamaran (Im)possible Dream by JP Hitesman



JP, front left, Amanda, Greg, Alexander, Laura G. and Tessa (red shirt) relaxing on the tramp (net).

This past winter, Donna, a family friend, excitedly told me about her recent tour of the (Im)Possible Dream, a boat based in Miami, Florida. Donna suggested that I find some way to check it out in person. Later on, I looked at the boat's website and learned they had a visit to the Vineyard planned for this summer. Some further research revealed that they'd actually been coming here for the last couple of years, which I was not aware of. I reached out through their website and learned the boat had availability for group sails in late July. It seemed to be the perfect opportunity for a VIP summer gathering. Once the date rolled around, I was especially pleased to see a strong turnout of group members and witness the positive effect of the sail on everyone involved.

Interview of Alexander Campbell by Laura Jahn

You've been on the (Im)Possible Dream before. When and where was that? How was that trip different from this one?

That trip was last summer, also from Menemsha. The first time, I'd just met the captain, and I didn't go on the net.

What is the boat like?

There is a net on the front of the boat with water under you. There is an outdoor area behind where the captain sits, and a balcony all around. The whole boat is wheelchair accessible. You can take a lift between decks, or go up and down a ladder.

What did you do on the boat? Where did you sit?

I got to sail the boat from the captain's seat. I also sat on the net and talked to Wynne. I donated \$25.

Did anything surprise you about the (Im)Possible Dream?

Learning to turn the wheel was surprising. I learned what the odometer is.

Have you sailed on any other boat like this before?

I've also sailed on Chris Murphy's boat, The Vanity, which is much older and has a traditional spoked ship's wheel. The captain's seat on the Possible Dream is higher and has a more modern wheel like a car's steering wheel.



Dan is ready to sail!



Greg at the helm

**Our next board meeting is Wed. Sept 11 at 6:30 at the Y.
The next general meeting is Sept. 18 at 6:30 at the high school.
We will plan fall activities and then see a presentation
of Debbi and Stanley's trip to the Special Olympics.**

VIP received wonderful news that our grant request to the Vineyard Golf Club Foundation was fully funded. This will help cover art classes at Featherstone, keep bowling at \$10.00/ session and provide funding for 3 dances!



Save the Dates!

**Dine to Donate
at The Wharf
Monday, Oct. 21
5—9 pm**

**VIP Potluck Dinner and Dance
Saturday, Nov. 9th
6—9 pm
Chilmark Community Center**

News from Greg Marshall

On Monday, July 8th, I went to the Tisbury Street Fair with Sonya and Robb. There were lots of people there. We had cheeseburgers and fries. I saw Laura from Chilmark Chocolates there.

On July 20th, I went with Sonya and Martha to the Holy Ghost Festival at the P. A. Club. There was music, dancing, an auction, and lots of good food. A lot of my friends were there, too.

Greg is turning 50 this month. Happy Birthday from all of us!

Martha's Adventures

San Diego

In April, I went to San Diego with my mother and sister Emily. The flights were delayed each way--first due to runway work and then because of wind in Boston. But it was worth it! First we went to this place where my aunt and uncle's ashes are interred. Then we went to Balboa Park and walked through the botanical gardens. The next day we went to the San Diego Safari Park. We got on a tram and saw lots of animals including zebra, rhinos, giraffes and water buffalo. It was like you were in Africa. I had a really good time visiting my California cousins.

Fun on the Cape

My sister Emily and my mother Jane gave me a whale watch for my birthday which is June 26. We went out of Barnstable Harbor on Monday July 22. We saw humpback and minke whales. It was a really good time. We also enjoyed the beach while I was on the Cape.





Former co-President's Pursuit by Alexander Campbell

Every Saturday, I like to go play Mini golf at Island Cove and it is a lot of fun. If anyone would like to go play with me, please give me a call at (508) 693-1138. I like to go on Saturday at 10 am, right when it is open as it is usually a quiet time there.



An Interview with Ava Vigneault about Best Buddies

Can you tell us about Best Buddies?

Best Buddies is a club in many high schools, and some colleges and middle schools, making a total of 2,526 chapters throughout the world! The mission of Best Buddies is to create a more inclusive environment between people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their peers in schools everywhere. The organization's hope is to eventually have such an inclusive and accepting world that Best Buddies won't have to exist.

How long have you been involved with Best Buddies?

I have been involved with Best Buddies since freshman year. Both Freshman and Sophomore year I was just in the club and involved in all the activities. My Junior year I became the Buddy coordinator. My job was to check in with the one-on-one buddy pairs to see if they were a good match and help if there were any problems. This upcoming year I will be the Vice President, helping to plan the events, activities and fundraisers, and making sure the club as a whole is running smoothly.

What do you do at the High School with Best Buddies?

At the MVRHS chapter of Best Buddies we do weekly meetings on Fridays during our free period of 40 minutes. We meet up in the library and do fun things like play board games, watch movies, decorate cookies, and so much more. This year we hope to do much more outside of school like dances, movie nights, community walks, and more to raise more awareness about this amazing club.

Tell us about the national convention you attended.

Being one of the leaders of our chapter, our school was able to send me, and the president Molly Baldino to the National Conference at the University of Indiana which was July 19--22. This conference hosted over 2,000 students from all over the country and even outside the country! This conference incorporated many fun activities like concerts, dances, and movies along with guest speakers and celebrity influencers speaking to all 2,000+ of us, and smaller group discussions where we learned/ shared different ideas on how to make our chapters the best they can be.

Can the general public (like VIP members) attend any BB events?

During school hours when we have some activities, the general public usually doesn't come just because it's a time for the club members to spend time together in a closer environment. But, this year, since we hope to be doing more community involved activities, anyone will be welcome to come and support the cause and the club! We would love to do fun things like take the club to the movies or bowling. To do this we would love the support of any local businesses and community members .

Keen Eyes Keenan Movie Reviews

The Lion King live action version ****

The Biggest Little Farm ****

Rocket Man ***



The Special Olympics Summer World Games by Debbi Zetterberg and Stanley Startzell

In March 2019, we traveled to Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates, in the Middle East, to attend and participate in The Special Olympics Summer World Games to "Meet the Determined." Since 1968, winter and summer Special Olympic games have been held around the world every four years. This year, 7500 athletes from 195 countries competed in 24 officially sanctioned Olympic-style sports with the help of 20,000 volunteers. It was the largest humanitarian event of any kind in

2019 and the largest sporting event to come to the Middle East. We were so lucky to share the special spirit and new culture created by athletes, special people of determination.

During the week-long visit, Stanley played in two 'unified' soccer games with athletes and celebrities from all over the world. For 5 years, Stanley worked for Special Olympics in Washington, DC, as the Director of Coaching and Training and was the Soccer Coordinator highlighting 'unified soccer' for the 1995 summer games in New Haven, CT. We attended several medal ceremonies and Stanley presented gold, silver, and bronze medals to gymnastics competitors. We were lucky to also catch golf, unified basketball, tennis, and dance competitions. We also saw Ken Richter, the oldest US team member and a summer visitor to MV, compete in bocce. We met other volunteers and special families from the Middle East.

At the end of the week, over 25,000 spectators and more national teams filled Zayed Stadium for closing ceremonies. As the Olympic torch was extinguished and passed on to travel to the next games in Berlin, Germany, in 2023, Special Olympics President, Dr. Tim Shriver, proclaimed, "carry this flame of hope and set the world on fire." As Sheikh Zayed said, "show the world how determination makes anything possible." 2019 was declared the "Year of Tolerance" in the United Arab Emirates to focus the world's attention on the power of sport to transform lives and open minds to provide a global stage from which to promote acceptance for all people.

VIP thanks the

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