



Upcoming Events:

November 2--Board Meeting, 6:30 pm

November 5--Potluck Dinner and Dance at the
Chilmark Community Center, 6--9 pm

November 12 maybe--First Bowling of the
season

November 16--General Meeting, 6:30
Thanks and Giving theme. Bring money
to count and donate, an item for the
Island Food Pantry and art supplies!



Alexander displaying a place mat he made to give to someone with their "Meals on Wheels". Debbi suggested this as an activity at our Thanks and Giving meeting. If you want to make a place mat, bring colored pencils or markers, stickers, glue and whatever else you would like to use. We will have the plain mats, and Marney and Alex will laminate them before we give them to the Meals on Wheels delivery person.

On the back of Alexander's mat, he wrote "We visited Kylemore Abbey in Ireland last October. My drawing reminds me of it and what a fantastic time we had."



More details to follow on
meeting locations & bowling

Rising Tide

Diamond, Amanda and Celeste filled us in with changes at Rising Tide at the general meeting. They reported that Chrissy and horse Sedona have moved to New York. Linda, a new teacher, is very nice, a fun instructor and good with the horses including Kelsy and Sunny.

Rising Tide's Fun-Raiser on Oct. 7 was a lively gathering at the Sailing Camp. Andy reported: "Cynthia was cutting the rug in good fashion with the likes of the mysterious black Amanda from Montana, and Gunslinger Greg with his camouflage army hat."



Erin and Ida. Story on page 3



VIP Pizza Night at Orange Peel

A hungry group gathered in Aquinnah for make you own pizza night. Helen and Sydney (on the right here with Diamond) arrived early so they had time to peruse the shops at the cliffs on a beautiful afternoon. Helen was contemplating going back for the sales which were beginning the next day!

Julie, above, piles on the toppings of her first pizza. Her dessert pizza was loaded with raspberries, brownie bits and marshmallows. Julie did not say how many pizzas she had in total...Freshly picked apples were available for dessert as well, thanks to Martha, Mary Beth, Alex and Allison.

The evening was very pleasant and delicious!!



VIP Members express gratitude to Wendy

Appreciation for Wendy was in the forefront of the general meeting on Sept. 28. She will be leaving her job at Vineyard Supports at the end of October. Wendy's husband Mario and their children came to the meeting. Dale read a card of thanks from the group. Amanda presented flowers and Martha gave Wendy a gift card from LeRoux from VIP. Sierra, Cynthia and Heather--members of her staff--spoke very highly of working under Wendy. Greg and Nathan also expressed their gratitude for her caring approach over many years.



Getting our instructions

Alex and Mary Beth



Kayaking at Felix Neck on October 8 by Andy Palmer

A group of 10 intrepid VIP paddlers met at the Audubon Center at Felix Neck on Saturday to brave the waters of Sengecontacket Pond. The weather was quite different from our last such adventure; instead of very gusty, choppy and almost rainy, Judi had arranged for a beautiful Fall day with a light breeze . Thanks Judi, sorry you couldn't join us!



Andy and Martha above

Savannah, our guide

After our very knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide Savannah had the group choose life vests and paddles we hiked through the meadow on a winding path to the launch site. The crew list for the five double kayaks are pictured except for Roxanne/Allison. After some zigging and zagging as the crews found their rhythms, we headed out to Sarson's Island to see what wild fowl we could find. We found mostly cormorants, gulls, and a few oyster-catchers but not of the winged variety! They were human beings standing up to

their armpits in the water with their heads in square boxes peering into the water! They were using these glass-bottomed peep-sights to spy the oysters (or scallops) to net. After cruising back to shore to view an anti-erosion project, we headed back toward our launch site, but not until we had a snaking loop through the marsh channels, watching fiddler crabs in their lairs, with a few bumping of boats and paddling competitions.

After all the gear was packed away the group enjoyed almonds and delicious apples. A great outing!



Onnie and Diamond





Martha, Alex and Allison near Shelburne Falls, MA



Don't forget--fall is a great time to pick and eat local apples!



Camden writes "Ruby, David, Nathan, Michele, Carden and I had a great time at Keith's Farm in Acushnet MA, apple, corn and pumpkin picking. And eating apple cider donuts of course!"



The Art of Chocolate By Laura Jahn

Featherstone Center for the Arts had its annual Art of Chocolate Festival on October 8th and 9th. Despite the rain coming down outside, my dad and I were excited to visit and see what treats they had in store. When we arrived, we bought 5 tickets each, which could be spent on our choice of all manner of handcrafted chocolate dessert samples donated by Vineyard businesses.

Some tables had bite-size chocolates like buttercrunch or mint creams, while others had small slices of cake or chocolate mousse. The most spectacular part of the exhibit was a little chocolate fountain, where for one ticket you could pick two snacks to dip in the melted chocolate such as strawberries, marshmallows, or pretzels. As for me, my favorite treat was the mini ice cream sundae topped with rich dark chocolate sauce.

While I was there, I asked the ticket sellers what the chances are of there being more chocolate festivals in the years to come. They told me it's doubtful that there'll be another next year, but for now they're still hoping to keep the festival running. Either way, the Art of Chocolate Festival has always been a great chance for local chocolate makers to share their craft and for chocolate fans to get a "taste" of what they have to offer.

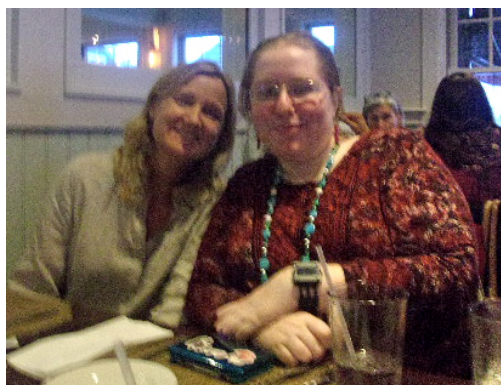
Fun Gathering at the Seafood Shanty by Laura Jahn

Thanks to the Seafood Shanty, VIP enjoyed another scrumptious dinner together Monday, September 19th featuring dishes like fish and chips, shrimp and grits, and the Shanty's famously huge lobster rolls. The atmosphere was lively, the waitstaff were friendly and attentive, and of course the food was super yummy. What did *you* have for dinner?



Judi and Laura

Steve and Dale



Donald and Celeste



photos submitted by Dale

