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MARTHA'S VINEYARD MUSEUM

MESSENGER

Summer 2010

A Newsletter For Our Members And Friends

A Spectacular Summer

Season of Programs And New Exhibits Opens at Museum

With movies and music, lectures and exhibits, family outings and community celebrations, the Martha's Vineyard Museum has planned the most ambitious summer of programs in its history.

This summer's Museum events will present classic sea chanteys and programs exploring the Island's archaeological riches. Museum exhibits will tell the story of Vineyarders who served in World War II and chronicle the heyday of New England whaling as never before.

And a parade of community events, stretching from the season's grand opening on June 18 to the popular progressive art dinner in September, will fill the summer with celebrations of Island culture and history.

At the center of the Museum's programs this summer is a newly expanded exhibit, "Those Who Serve," which puts a compellingly personal face on the history of World War II. Along with photographs and artifacts, the exhibit presents audio recordings of Vineyarders recounting, in their own words, their adventures in the war years.

The generation of Americans who grew up during the Depression, then went to war and saved the world for democracy, isn't known for being talkative about its experiences. But Linsey Lee, curator of the Museum's Oral History Center, has a gift for drawing people out. The

Museum's collection of Vineyard stories was simply too large to contain in the main gallery space — so this summer, the exhibit has expanded into the Gangway Gallery.

Through this summer, the Museum has planned several events that connect with this community's wartime experience. In collaboration with the MV Film Society, the Museum is presenting a series of classic war films that capture the mood of the era. And in a special event on Saturday, July 17, several pilots are flying onto the grass airfield at Karama with vintage World War II airplanes. Everyone is welcome to drop by from noon to 3 p.m. for a free — and memorable — brush with aviation history.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMER

Another centerpiece of the 2010 season is a series of Thursday lectures on archaeology conceived and organized by Jim Richardson, a member of the Museum board and a longtime curator and professor of anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Richardson anchors the lecture series on August 19 with a program entitled "Whaling Disasters: Moby-Dick, Gold Rush, Confederates and Arctic Ice."

In his talk, he promises to trace the history of whaling disasters from the legends of Moby-Dick through the years of the California gold rush and the Civil War, to the industry's decline after the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania.

In all, on six Thursdays in July, August, September and October, noted authors and archaeologists will speak on subjects ranging from the Vinland Sagas of Leif Erikson to the cave art of Europe, the role of wampum in Native American currency, the exploration of historic shipping lanes in the Mediterranean

Sea and the Basque whalers of the 1500s.

If all this talk of archaeology piques your curiosity about the possible treasure you have at your house, you'll want to save the date of August 28. From 9 a.m. to noon that Saturday, experts Jill Bouck, Dick Burr, Duncan Caldwell, Bill Moody and Jim



A highlight of summer: The Evening of Discovery dinner and auction is set for Thursday, July 15.