



## **Youth Summit for Sustainable Development Our Team**

### **Vineyard Project Coordinators**



**Adrian Aristide**

Being raised on an island is something many of us hold as a very special characteristic of our being and the sense of community here on the Vineyard is a feature I value in my life. I was born here at our hospital, raised in Edgartown and attended elementary school there. When the Charter School opened my parents entered my sister and I in the lottery and we were able to have a great educational experience there. I chose to attend the MV Regional High School and graduated with people who are still some of my closest friends in 2005. Taking some time off in between my graduation and applying to college was a choice that I still attribute to my success the environment of higher education. Being accepted to Salem State in the winter of 2006-07 was thrilling for me and I was able to thrive at this liberal arts school while studying child psychology and sociology. With just one semester left before I graduate my view of the world has become more rooted in the social sciences and I hope to continue my education in this field by applying to graduate programs next fall. My perspective is constantly reflecting the importance of children and youth; becoming a more educated child advocate is one dream I have but interacting globally with families is something that I hope I am able to do in my career. Another dream of mine is for the Vineyard to be preserved for future generations and this is a view that is shared by many others here. The importance of preserving this location is a multifaceted one, the concerns regarding the environment is one priority but the people here have other responsibilities as well, and this is where the role of young people can really come into play. Being involved in the annual Youth Summit here on the Vineyard is something that I was thrilled to be a part of, not only because it is relevant to my college studies, but also because this is home for so many amazing people and families who have the ability to

really make a difference. Having been a part of this close knit community for my whole life I have been able to interact with some of these capable youth and their families, giving me a unique perspective on sustainability and even affecting my developing views on humanity in general.



**Isabelle Lew**

Isabelle Lew was born and raised on Martha's Vineyard. She graduated from MVRHS in 2005. She kept busy with sports (Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse) and dance. She graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown CT in 2009 where she majored in Economics and Spanish but cherished the liberal arts education which allowed her the flexibility to try a panorama of topics (including West African Dance which she fell in love with there!). Isabelle has an insatiable passion to travel and experience other cultures first hand. She lived with a family in Spain for six months during college, and has spent extended periods of time in Ecuador, Ghana and Paris doing various types of volunteer work. She has been exposed to the worlds' inequities and unjust poverty but simultaneously, has witnessed the efforts that are constantly creating change. After graduating and a year of working abroad and traveling, she enjoys being on the Vineyard, a community that compares to no other place she's ever been (however, coming back after years off island helps you appreciate the beauty, peacefulness and relationships that the island fosters). She is currently working in the school system with Project Headway (preschool for kids with disabilities), just finished a great season coaching MVHS Lax, and will work at the Oceans Club in Oak Bluffs. She plans on returning to grad school in the near future- most likely Law School. She hopes to work with civil liberties, non profits, or explore international law.

**Martha's Vineyard Youth Leadership Initiative**  
[www.mvyli.org](http://www.mvyli.org)

## Our Vineyard Faculty



**Liz Baldwin**

Elizabeth Baldwin grew up on Martha's Vineyard and is currently working for the Mass Audubon Coastal Waterbird Program monitoring and protecting our island's shore nesting birds and their ecosystem. She is also attending graduate school at Antioch University New England in Keene, NH and getting a degree in Conservation Biology. Her thesis is on using trail cameras to look at behavior and population characteristics of the North American River Otter here on the Vineyard. This is part of a larger community-based project that is looking at river otters' role as indicators for habitat and water quality. When I finish I hope to be able to create a program here on the Vineyard where young people can get hands-on experience in the science and biology field while at the same time allowing us to learn about the unique natural resources of the Vineyard. The more we know about our resources they better we can protect and manage them and the sooner we get youth involved in this process the better! Liz is a speaker at the Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development and is leading a Sustainable Vineyard Adventure with kayaks to Cape Poge.



**Emma Green Beach**

Emma Green Beach works with the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group Inc. Her dream is to one day be its director. They produce shellfish seed to augment the natural populations of bay scallop, oysters and quahogs on the island. The great deal of time, effort and love they put into those millions of juvenile shellfish help to continue the traditions of family and commercial shellfish harvest. Emma believes strongly in the economic, ecological and cultural value of shellfish and enjoys every aspect of aquaculture and restoration. As a masters student at Rutgers University she is studying the natural oyster populations on the Island, their genetic differences and disease patterns in the different ponds. She is learning as much as possible about shellfish and shellfish habitat restoration so that she can work to restore our coastal ponds to a healthy state that will

allow them to support shellfish populations at sustainable levels. Emma's family ties are based around the ocean, fishing and harvesting of different sorts, so she is headed in the perfect direction to continue these traditions, as well as help others to do the same. Emma is a MV Vision Fellow. She is a speaker at the Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development and is part of a Sustainable Vineyard Adventure with kayaks on the Lagoon to the Shellfish Hatchery.



**Mark Martin**

Mark Martin's dogs' suffering was the catalyst to creating his business, Eco MV. "If you're a dog lover you can understand a man's fury when he realized contaminated dog food was the culprit of two of his dogs' kidney failure. Martin's goal was simple and refreshing: begin a responsible company as a CEO with nothing but good intentions. Eco MV is a small business located on Martha's Vineyard that addresses environmental concerns with market solutions. Mr. Martin's company promotes the transition to smarter purchasing of environmentally friendly cleaners and biodegradable alternatives. Eco MV researches, tests, and offers the most sustainable products on the market. They investigate the conditions in which all of their products are made, the ingredients and materials used to make them, and the packaging and the reuse options for each." Mark is a speaker at the Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development. During the Youth Summit's Sustainability-In-Action planning sessions he will help facilitate the design of an island-wide community project with youth delegates in fall, 2010.



**Sidney Morris**

Sidney Morris spent the first six years of his life on a farm in Pennsylvania. He is now spending his sixties as a farm educator on Martha's Vineyard. In between, he

ate sheep in Russia, rescued a chimpanzee in the Congo, taught sailing in Zambia, learned Spanish in Mexico, made a movie in Ecuador, meditated in India, and started two schools on the Vineyard. He has lived on Chappaquiddick for 34 years, raising a family and working as carpenter, photographer, coffee house manager, tractor driver, film editor, community center coordinator, sailboat captain and teacher. As Education Director of the FARM Institute, he is devoted to helping people figure out how to grow good food - happily, efficiently and sustainably. Sidney is on the Advisory Council for the Youth Summit for Sustainable Development and is the facilitator of the Sustainable Vineyard Map work sessions.



**Noli Hoyer Taylor**

Noli coordinates the Island Grown Schools program for Island Grown Initiative, and is a Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship alum. Noli and her team have put in learning gardens at all seven schools on the island and an inter-generational garden at Woodside Village, an Island Elderly Housing complex for low-income seniors right across the street from the Regional High School. They also run three after school gardening and nutrition programs. They have worked with food service directors at the four island schools with independent cafeterias to facilitate regular purchasing from island farms for school meals and snacks. They have led dozens of field trips to our island family farms, and have used the food they've harvested to make soups, stir fries, cheese and more; and they've worked with more than 80 teachers at all of our schools and at every grade level to help them develop and integrate curriculum-based lessons on food, farms, and agriculture. In the fall of 2009, they also launched a "gleaning" program to harvest food from island farms that would not otherwise be harvested (either due to lack of labor or time) and delivered more than 2000 pounds of fresh produce free to our school cafeterias. The program is helping raise a new generation of Vineyarders with the skills to create food security for themselves, their families and our community; with an appreciation for an understanding of the importance of local food systems; and an awareness about the power of eating fresh foods for their health, the environment, and our local farming community. Noli is a speaker at the Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development and is part of a Sustainable Vineyard Adventure featuring the IGS flagship garden at the Edgartown School.



**Andrew Woodruff**

Andrew Woodruff has been growing vegetables, herbs and fruit in a sustainable manner on Martha's Vineyard for over 30 years. A strong advocate of preserving and protecting the Island's environment and ways of life, he has served several terms on the Martha's Vineyard Commission and championed a number of open space and agricultural land preservation initiatives. He is a long-standing member of the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society, serves on its board, and was a leader in creating the present Agricultural Hall. He is currently involved in a project to insure that one property he farms remains an affordable farm in perpetuity.

As founder and owner of Whippoorwill Farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, Andrew provides local, sustainably grown produce to over 400 Island year round and seasonal families. Islanders and visitors also enjoy Whippoorwill Farm produce through the Farmers' Market and local groceries, restaurants and caterers. Andrew was chosen by the Martha's Vineyard community to be the one (with Rick Anderson) to be featured in *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*.

Andrew is a speaker at the Institute's Youth Summit for Sustainable Development and is part of a Sustainable Vineyard Adventure featuring the Whippoorwill Farm. During the Youth Summit's Sustainability-In-Action planning sessions he will help facilitate the design of a community service project with youth delegates to build a greenhouse to grow year-round greens in fall, 2010.



## Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Faculty



**Nane Alejandrez**

Daniel 'Nane' Alejandrez is a Chicano/Apache Vietnam veteran community activist for social change. He is the founder and Executive Director of Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos and chairman of the National Coalition of Barrios Unidos. Barrio Unidos is acknowledged as one of the nation's most impressive grassroots organizations addressing issues of youth violence in the U.S. Nane is the coordinator for the Warrior's Circle Rights of Passage for youth, a week-long retreat focusing on traditional teachings. He has spread his message, which combines analysis of the root causes of crime and violence with concrete programs that offer youth positive alternatives. Nane believes a spiritual and cultural movement must take place to Rescue (their gifts), Release (their potential), and Restore (their promise). He follows his Native traditional ways and is involved with the International Indian Treaty Council on Indigenous affairs supporting cultural and ceremonial rights. Nane also works in collaboration with the Fair Trade Movement for Indigenous coffee growers in Central America and African Countries to help educate the public on Fair Trade and farmer's sustainability. Nane has been recognized for his inspiring efforts. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the National Fellowship Reconciliation, the Martin Luther King Jr. Award, SANCOFA Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Fellowship from the California Wellness Foundation and a Sabbatical from the Vanguard Foundation. Mr. Alejandrez has been featured on talk shows and as a radio guest on many stations. He has been on the A&E Biography Series, Danny Glover's TV Program "Courage" and the Christina Show. Nane is featured in the book *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes* and is a founding board member of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute and is featured on the Institute's video with Walter Cronkite. Nane is the leader of the Institute's Cultural Sustainability Quest at the Youth Summit for Sustainable Development on Martha's Vineyard.



**Arianna Caplan**

Arianna Caplan is a dual Masters student at the University of California Berkeley School of Social Welfare and School of Public Health. Arianna graduated from Dominican University of California. She is currently working with the Center for Health Leadership in Berkeley's School of Public Health. Previously, she worked as a school social work intern at a middle school in Marin. She also worked a Case Manager at Conard House working with homeless mentally ill adults and served as the site health and safety representative and SEIU President. She chaired the board of directors for the Community Access Ticket Service. In 2007 she spent a year in Puerto Rico to explore her heritage and improve her Spanish while studying for her GRE's.

As the Institute's Project Coordinator in training, Arianna had site visits to the Institute's board members to Barrios Unidos in Santa Cruz and Cesar Chavez in La Paz. Arianna represented the Institute at the strategic meetings, developed a partnership with Dominican University of California's Institute for Leadership Studies and coordinated an event that featured people in the book and educational curriculum, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. She served as the Project Director for the Institute's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit for Sustainable Development in Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands. Arianna is the Director of the Institute's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit for Sustainable Development on Martha's Vineyard.

### **Stone Soup Leadership Institute**

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### **Judith Kurland**

Judith Kurland is the architect of Healthy Boston and featured in the book, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. A founding board member of the Stone Soup Leadership Institute, Judith presented awards to Vineyard leaders at the Celebration of Heroes with Walter Cronkite. She served as faculty for the Institute's first training on Martha's Vineyard in 1999 at the West Tisbury School. Judith has a special connection with the Vineyard – as an aide to Congressman Tip O'Neal, she assisted with the process of the Wampanoag Tribe becoming a federally registered tribe. She also helped develop the self-insurance plan for the fishermen. Judith is currently the Director of Partnerships for the City of Boston.



**Marianne Larned**

**Marianne Larned** is the author of educational series, *Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. In 1997 she founded the Stone Soup Leadership Institute on Martha's Vineyard. She feels privileged to work along-side great people featured in her books and young people who working together to build a more sustainable world.