



GRANT MEACHAM AND MS. SIMPSON TOOK TURNS AT PODIUM.

## From Network Anchor to Slave And Back to Celebrate Freedom

By IVY ASHE

Former ABC news anchor Carole Simpson has made, in her words, thousands and thousands of speeches, so she knew she wanted to do something special on Saturday to really engage those Vineyarders and visitors gathered at Deon's Restaurant in Oak Bluffs to commemorate Juneteenth, the 145th anniversary of the end of slavery in the United States.

So as Ms. Simpson spoke of the holiday's roots and importance, she went through three costume changes.

"I thought my transformation from a modern African-American woman to a slave and then to a freed slave would make it interesting," she said of her decision to dress in different period clothes.

Ms. Simpson is currently journalist-in-residence with the Museum of African-American History in Boston.

"I'd never done anything like this before," she said, "but I'm really pleased with the reaction. People said it was really enjoyable."

In between Ms. Simpson's final metamorphosis, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School student Grant Meacham delivered Frederick Douglass's 1852 Fourth of July remarks, to thunderous applause. Event organizer Ardell Otten asked Mr. Meacham to read the speech, in which Mr. Douglass addresses the hypocrisy of asking a former slave to speak about the American independence movement.

"I thought it would be perfect for a young person to speak the words of Frederick Douglass," Mrs. Otten said after the event, noting that Juneteenth is a "celebration of the success that has been achieved in spite of the past."

Ms. Simpson agreed. "Our history is important, and we should celebrate it — we should not be ashamed of the days of slavery. We overcame and we survived, and we're here today standing toe-to-toe with white Americans who did not have the disadvantages we had, so I'm proud of it."

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, two and a half years after

the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, when word was brought to the residents of Galveston, Tex., that the Civil War had come to an end and the slaves had been freed. Texas was the last Confederate state to learn of the Proclamation, and observation of the Juneteenth events began in the state the next year. Now 36 states, including Massachusetts, mark Juneteenth as a state holiday or observance, although the day is perhaps best known in the area where it began.

"I'm writing a letter to Obama — this should be a national holiday," said Mary Louise Koch of Vineyard Haven. "I think we should honor everybody in



DANCING AT DEON'S FOR JUNETEENTH, COMMEMORATING END OF SLAVERY.

Pictures by Ivy Ashe

this country."

Proceeds raised during the Juneteenth event benefitted the Bradley Square Project, a collaboration between the Vineyard NAACP chapter and the Island Affordable Housing Fund.

The project seeks to restore Bradley Memorial Church, the Island's first African-American place of worship. A portion of Saturday revenues from Circuit avenue merchants, including host venue Deon's Restaurant, C'est La Vie and Cousen Rose Gallery, were also donated to the cause.



CAROLE SIMPSON IN ONE OF HER THREE GUISES.



JOSHUA, TOLU, CHARLES AND JULIA BRADLEY OF OAK BLUFFS.

### INTRODUCING MARIE-LOUISE ROUFF combining inner landscape with outward vision



JULY 2-14  
artist reception friday july 2 6-8

shaw cramer gallery

56 main street vineyard haven 508-696-7323



IN ATTENDANCE: Olive Tomlinson and Barbara Alleyne.

### SIMON GALLERY



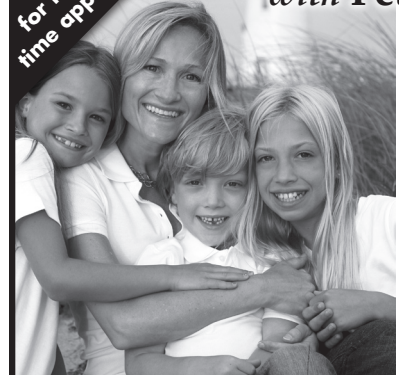
Large selection of PETER SIMON'S photography of Island Landscapes, Iconic Musical Legends and Historic Events.

RONNI SIMON'S hand-crafted jewelry, beaded driftwood sculptures and a unique selection of yarn.

OPEN DAILY 11 - 5

petersimon.com • ronnisimon.com  
54 Main Street, Vineyard Haven • (508)693-1701

25% OFF for non-prime time appointments



### Make this a memorable summer with Peter Simon Photography

Now taking bookings for the upcoming season.

First come, first served for prime time light.

For appointments, call: 508-645-9575

For family photo examples and other products visit: www.petersimon.com

### Learn to take better pictures this summer!

Join Peter Simon's 4 day photography workshops. For more information & monthly dates, please call (508)645-9575 and/or visit www.petersimon.com.



Peter Simon

### Go Through the Lens With Peter Simon

Island nostalgics, rock'n'roll and reggae music fans alike know his iconic images. Now photographer Peter Simon goes multimedia — for a presentation about his 40-year career documenting historic events from the protests of the 1960s, the hippie communes, nude beaches and the New Age movement, to the greatest names in pop music, the action of major league baseball, and the majesty of Martha's Vineyard.

His talk, Peter Simon: Through the Lens, is on Wednesday, June 30, 7 p.m. at the Vineyard Haven Public Library.

Through his multimedia presentation, Mr. Simon will speak honestly about his photographic art, privileged background, alternative lifestyle explorations, and an addictive personality that finally got the better of him and affected his relationships with family and friends.

### Artwork by Martha's Vineyard Artist Claudio Gasparini



### Art Show

275 South Road

Chilmark, MA

Saturday, 26 June

1 to 4 pm

Artwork Direct

from the Artist

www.art-direct.fotki.com

### Martha's Vineyard Art Association OLD SCULPIN GALLERY & STUDIO SCHOOL



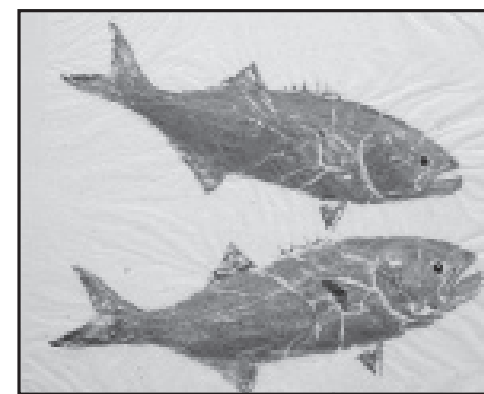
Exhibiting Artists: June 26th - July 2

Opening Reception: Sunday, June 27, 6 - 8:00 PM

Steve London & Ovid Ward



"Brown Sails" Acrylic by Ovid Ward



"Two Fish" Acrylic by Steve London

Children, Teen & Adult Art Classes • Mon - Sat 9am - 9pm, Sun 10 - 8pm  
Dock Street, Edgartown, Next to Chappy Ferry  
508-627-4881 • mvaa@verizon.net • www.oldsculpinalgallery.org

### Edgartown Scrimshaw Gallery

FINE NAUTICAL ART AND JEWELRY

JOIN US on Saturday, June 26th at the Gallery for the release of the Third Plate in our series of the five Vineyard Lighthouses.



Michael Protiva's depiction of the West Chop Lighthouse is the theme of the third fine Pickard China collectors plate in our series. The image is taken from the original painting by this award winning artist.

A few of the original Edgartown and East Chop Lighthouse plates are still available for purchase.

43 MAIN STREET, EDGARTOWN • 508.627.9439 • T.DEMONT@YAHOO.NET

### THE GRANARY GALLERY at the red barn

Artists' Reception Sunday, June 27th 5-7pm

David Fokos  
Wendy Lichtensteiger  
& Preston McAdoo



www.granarygallery.com

636 Old County Rd ~ PO Box 790 ~ West Tisbury, MA 02575 (508)693-0455



Long Poles, San Simeon, CA, photograph by David Fokos