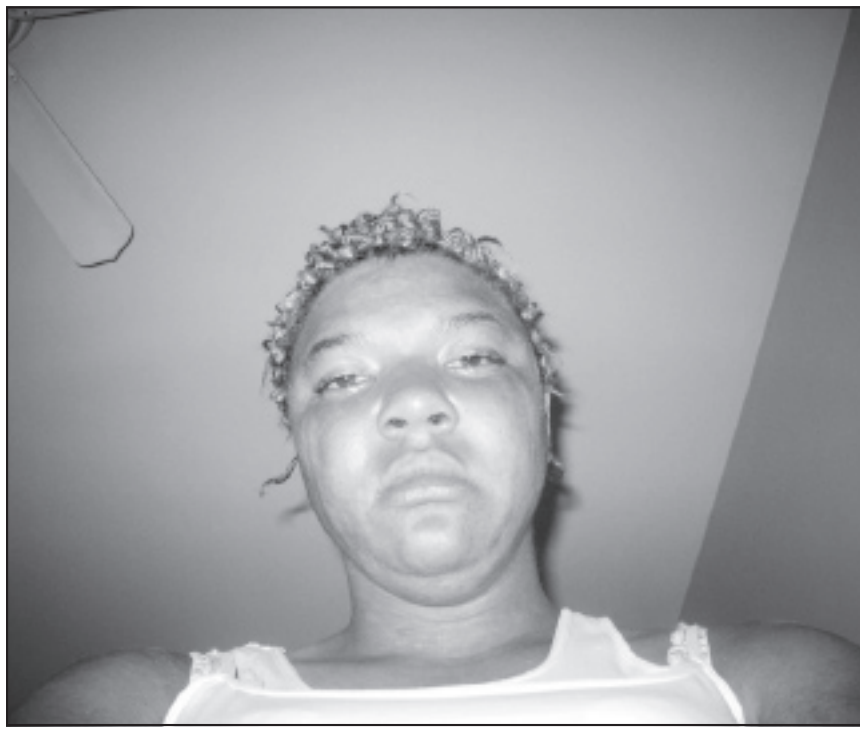


MARIANA CHILTON aims not to just show the problem of hunger through her photographs, but solve it.



DEPRESSION: "The depression and the sadness really just come from my harsh life. It's discouraging and it's hard."



LIBRARIES: "They don't see a lot of different things. They don't run into a lot of different cultures or a lot of different people from different backgrounds."



NEIGHBORS' KITCHENS: "You never know what goes on behind closed doors. Some people need to know exactly how we're living being single moms, being that we're on our own and we don't have that many opportunities."

So Well-Hidden, Words Can't Show It: Photos Tell Story of Hunger in America

By IVY ASHE

CHILDREN MAKING S'MORES, picking strawberries and eating ice cream cones. Families sitting down to baskets of fried clams and sizzling burgers hot off the grill. Farmers' market stalls brimming over with freshly-picked vegetables and fruits.

The portrait of summer food is vivid, comforting and photogenic. This Tuesday, Mariana Chilton wants to paint an image of food that is at once more subtle and less pretty — but certainly no less important. Ms. Chilton, formerly of Vineyard Haven and currently an assistant professor at the Drexel

University School of Public Health in Philadelphia, is the founder and director of Witnesses to Hunger, a combination research-documentary-advocacy project seeking to increase awareness of child hunger.

And instead of relying on data crunching and statistics to meet this end, Ms. Chilton and her team go straight to the experts. In 2008, they gave small Canon PowerShots to 40 Philadelphia-area mothers of low-income families and asked them to photograph their own experiences. Since then the program has expanded to other cities in the Northeast, been a guest of Pennsylvania

Sen. Robert Casey at the Senate Rotunda, and embarked on a photo exhibition tour.

On Tuesday, Ms. Chilton and two of the witnesses (one from Philadelphia, one from Providence) will visit the Vineyard Haven Public Library to share their stories and present a collection of photographs.

"I realized that not enough people were paying attention to child hunger in America and had no concept of the magnitude of the problem," Ms. Chilton said in a Tuesday interview with the Gazette. Many people, she continued, associate hunger with swollen bellies

and hunting for food in trash bins, although in reality, the issue "is much more subtle than that."

"People who are hungry hide it very well," she continued. "They don't want [others] to think they're struggling."

The hidden aspect of hunger is part of what prompted Ms. Chilton to bring the exhibition to Martha's Vineyard. Having grown up on the Island, she was already aware of the scope of hunger here, and after volunteering last summer with Betty Burton of Serving Hands, she became more convinced that the Vineyard "would be a really important place for people to reveal what's truly happening . . . I want everybody to see that hunger exists everywhere."

Hunger in America takes many forms — according to the USDA, 17.1 million households were "food insecure" in 2008, meaning they lacked access to enough food for an active and healthy life — and is largely marked by tradeoffs. Families often find themselves in the position of choosing between paying for rent and utilities or paying for food (the "heat or eat" phenomenon, as Ms. Chilton describes

it). In some instances, such as that of Philadelphia Witness to Hunger Imani Sullivan, who will speak on Tuesday, choices must be made between working a few extra hours and earning more money — and risking being over the poverty line and no longer receiving food stamps.

Witnesses to Hunger hopes to "break down the barriers between those who have and those who have not," said Ms. Chilton. By using photography as the main medium — and the first-person experience as the main narrative — the project is able to offer access to the lives of low-income families that is otherwise not possible.

But the real goal of the project is not simply to show the problem of hunger; rather, it is to solve it. "It's not 'Look at me, look at this problem,'" said Ms. Chilton, "but what can we do about it?"

Mariana Chilton and the Witnesses to Hunger program will present a talk about the exhibition Photographs by 40 Mothers from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10 at the Vineyard Haven Public Library. For more information, visit witnesseshunger.org.

KAREN M. OVERTOOM
Real Estate

STUNNING ANTIQUE FOUR BEDROOM IN-TOWN!

Lovely Classic MV home situated on almost 3 acres, very private yard with room for a barn and horses! \$895,000.

Scotchman's Bridge Lane, West Tisbury, MA 02575
(508) 693-7832 • WWW.OVERTOOMMV.COM

Harborside Realty

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary
SALES & RENTALS

All Vineyard Properties online at www.harborsiderealtymv.com

256 Edgartown Road
Edgartown, MA 02539

(508) 627-3721 • (800) 537-3721

Large Lot in Bold Meadow - Edgartown

Ready to build; just under one acre. The lot has common land on two sides and 5,000 acres of state forest behind the common land. Property is two minutes from the Vineyard Golf Course. Quiet, private retreat, paved road, association tennis, common meadows, split rail fences, beautiful homes. \$448,500.

PRIESTLEY SMADBECK & MONE REAL ESTATE
508-627-7320
238 Upper Main Street, P.O. Box 265, Edgartown, MA 02539

TEA LANE ASSOCIATES
Chilmark: 508-645-2628 West Tisbury: 508-696-9999

AMAZING OCEAN VIEWS

Set overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, Squibnocket Pond, Zach's Cliff Beach and Noman's Island is this beautiful 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in Aquinnah. Exclusive. \$2,200,000.
504 State Road, West Tisbury, MA 02575 • Beetlebung Corner, Chilmark, MA 02535
www.tealaneassociates.com

Runways Merge: a Fashion Opera Extravaganza starring the designs of Stina Sayre
Thursday, August 12, 5:30 at the Big Hangar at the MV Airport

Yard Arts!
DANCE THEATER MUSIC OPERA
Guest director Wendy Taucher & Claudia Weill

Friday, August 6 & 13, 8:00
Saturday, August 7 & 14, 4:00 (free family matinees)
Saturday, August 7 & 14, 8:00
Sunday, August 8 & 15, 6:00

Reservations & Information: (508) 645-9662 • www.dancetheyard.org • Chilmark

AQUINNAH LAND

WALK TO BEACH

\$100,000 below assessment.
\$450,000 Exclusive.

FEINER REAL ESTATE
Specializing in Distinctive Island Properties

508-645-2658
See our website! www.mvre.com

Island Real Estate
BROKERAGE OF PROPERTY ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD

VINEYARD HAVEN CLOSE TO LAGOON

Large well maintained ranch style home in a great location that is a short distance to everything: shopping, boat, restaurants, etc. Home features four bedrooms, two baths, living room, open kitchen and enclosed back porch, one car garage, large back yard. \$459,000

This is an older home in great condition. Large yard w/ gardens sits this three bedroom, one bath, kitchen and living room home. Large garage w/ direct entrance into the house. May have the possibility to expand or add a second 800 sq. ft. dwelling. \$539,000

WEST TISBURY NICE CONTEMPORARY

Lots of privacy go w/ this newly renovated ranch style home. Three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, open kitchen, dining area, living room & sunken den. Large basement, nicely landscaped on 1.45 acres. \$555,000

Sited on half acre wooded lot this home has easy access to all down island towns as well as the bike path. Features include main living area with open floor plan with cathedral ceiling, screened in porch and deck, three bedroom, two baths and family room. \$695,000

"Helping others to share the Vineyard experience"
107 Beach Rd., Suite 203-P.O. Box 746, Vineyard Haven, MA
(508) 693-4800 • (800) 287-4801 • E-mail: islandre@vineyard.net
Check us on our web site at www.islandrealestatemv.com

SANDPIPER REALTY, INC.

DOWN HARBOR ~ A very special community offering sandy beach, dock and mooring...a delightful 4 bedroom contemporary with an en suite master and 3 additional guest bedrooms...open kitchen, dining room, living room with fireplace and separate den/study...expansive deck...fenced yard provides an enclosed space for children and pets...an ideal location just 1.5 miles from Edgartown Village and 1.5 miles to South Beach...\$1,650,000

60 WINTER STREET, EDGARTOWN • 508 627-3737
WWW.SANDPIPERREALTY.COM
Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate ~ Board of Regents

COLDWELL BANKER LANDMARKS REAL ESTATE

MAKE IT YOURS
www.mvlandmarks.com/yours

Set on a knoll offering magnificent views of the active Vineyard Haven Harbor, this charming four bedroom, 4 1/2 bath cottage is privately located within walking distance of town, the library and yacht club. A sandy beach, established plantings, and mature trees add to the enjoyment of this property. Exclusive \$4,495,000

COLDWELL BANKER LANDMARKS
Experience, when you need it most.

15 Church Street, Vineyard Haven (508) 693-6866
To see all listings Island-wide, visit www.mvlandmarks.com

©2009 Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation. Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated.

THE ISLAND GROUP
P.O. Box 1263
Edgartown, MA 02539
islegrp@comcast.net
info@theislandgroup.com
www.theislandgroup.com

508-627-9907 • 1-800-323-9907

ON THE WATER
Classic 3 bedroom, 1 bath Cape Cod style home with gorgeous views of Tashmoo. Almost an acre and a half of land with a canopy of large trees plus an expansive garage, plus an outbuilding down by the water, plus a mooring, lots of pluses. Inquire.

OPPORTUNITY: See all the listings on the island by reviewing our website at: www.theislandgroup.com