



# The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

## Minnesingers return triumphant

BY SARAH ORTLIP-SOMMERS

The MVRHS Minnesingers returned Friday from a concert tour of Croatia. During the trip, the 35 students and chaperones explored the culture, food, and sights while also preparing for their annual spring show.

The Minnesingers traveled to Europe on Wednesday, April 10. After spending four days in Split, the second-largest city in Croatia, the group journeyed along the Adriatic coast to the historic town of Dubrovnik. The weather was sunny for the entire trip, with temperatures reaching close to 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The group was accompanied by tour guide Iain Frater, who had previously traveled with the Minnesingers to Prague and Paris in 2011.

"It couldn't have gone any better – the performances, the venues, the sightseeing, but most importantly the kids," said director Jan Wightman. "We really grew as a cohesive team and became closer as a group." Day-trip destinations included the small towns of Šibenik and Trogir, the island of Korčula, and the famous



PHOTO BY JEFF CARUTHERS

The Minnesingers prepare for a concert as they explore the old city walls of Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Krka waterfalls.

The singers were not in Croatia just to sightsee. During the nine-day long trip, the group gave five concerts. Two of the five were performed at music schools, and the group had the chance to speak with a few Croatian music students. While singing and dancing in the remaining three concerts, the Minnesingers enjoyed both views of the Adriatic Sea and the acoustics of an-

cient cathedrals.

"Singing in the cathedrals was amazing," said junior Galen Mayhew. "The resonance and tone that these historic structures gave us were incredible."

"They are a great group of kids," said choreographer Lianna Loughman. "Getting to see them perform in another country is a great experience."

"The fact that we can give a better image of Americans

to the world is pretty great, especially now," said sophomore Katherine Reid.

One of the great things about traveling with a group of singers is the opportunity to sing anywhere at anytime. Many members' favorite parts of the trip were the impromptu outbursts of music. They recall an especially moving moment when they sang to a woman in Dubrovnik on the last night

of the trip. Earlier in the day, a small group of Minnesingers had performed for her, and she told them how beautiful they sounded. They promised her that they would return later with the whole group. When that moment came, it was emotional for the woman as well as many singers.

"This experience has made me realize how much singing affects other people," said junior Emelia Cappelli.

"It was the greatest experience I've ever had," said Katherine. "Bringing a little bit of happiness to people was the best part."

This year's show is entitled "Roots." It honors the contributions and influences of African-American composers, singers, and songwriters in American music. The Minnesingers' repertoire includes gospels, spirituals, rock n' roll, and other genres that have been influenced by African-American culture and people.

Performances of the Minnesingers' spring show, "Roots," will be given on May 4 and 5 at 7 PM and 3 PM respectively in the high school's Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. **MSV**

## Island meets city

BY BRADLEY ANASTACIO

Thirteen students, accompanied by history department head Elaine Weintraub, returned recently from cultural exchange to New York City called One World.

They visited the High School of Economics and Finance, a public school located on Wall Street on a re-purposed bank. The students from the high school shadowed the students of the other, visiting classes. Along with that, they visited Chinatown and saw a Broadway play with students of the New York school. The whole purpose of the trip was to learn how to live in the world. "Every language on earth is spoken in the streets of New York," said Ms. Weintraub. "Truly you get an idea of the changing demographic of America."

This is the second year in a row that the students went to New York. Senior Alice Greene, who went on the trip last year, said, "It was an awesome experience for kids who live on an Island to connect with city kids in a totally different atmosphere. It was great to build relationships. We got to get exposed to all the kids that went to the New York high school and got to be treated as fellow teenage New Yorkers."

One of the more moving

aspects of their trip was a visit to the African Burial Grounds. The presentation was dynamic, as it involved students in the story. Ms. Weintraub said, "It was learning from the inside out, rather than the outside in."

Student involvement in the One World Program is important. Ms. Weintraub said, "I thought that there was a burning need to talk to each other within our community. The program is aimed at providing a means for understanding each others' cultures, rather than judging them."

This is the second time the One World group has gone to New York--and have students come and visit from New York as well. Students from New York will be here on June 8. Ms. Weintraub said, "We want to show them what our lives are like here." **MSV**

## Young photographer earns recognition for her passion

BY ADDISON GEIGER

Freshman Oshantay Waite earned a prestigious second place award from the Massachusetts Photography Challenge for her photo, "She Finds Adventure in the Air." With her camera she walked around the house snapping pictures of her family and daily life. She submitted a photo of her sister, Tahirah Waite, to the judges. Oshantay said, "I had no intention to win this contest. When the results came out I was surprised."

The Massachusetts Photo Challenge was created by the Photography Center of Cape Cod. The competition is open



Oshantay Waite's winning photograph, "She Finds Adventure in the Air."

to all students in Massachusetts in grades 9-12. Winners and honorable mentions re-

ceived cash prizes. Oshantay won \$100, a Gorilla tripod, and the publication of her

photo in a book of all winners and on an online exhibit. Judging is based on creativity and artistic expression, originality, and technical skill. Judges include photographers for the Boston Globe and Boston University and Rhode Island School of Design photography professors.

Oshantay has been taking photos since she was 7, when she got her first camera. She said, "Photography makes me feel as if there are so many things out there that have meaning, and I like to bring out the meaning of those things with pictures. The purpose of being in this world is to find yourself and not lose yourself in the process." **MSV**

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