

# Explore New England

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE AUGUST 19, 2007

## MARTHA'S VINEYARD



PHOTOS BY NECEE REGIS/FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

STARRING AT MANY A DINNER PARTY: HOME-GROWN BOK CHOY, MIZUNA GREENS, LAMB, EGGS, POULTRY . . .

BY NECEE REGIS • GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

**H**ot summer day. Cloudless sapphire sky. Bumping down a sandy road in an open Jeep, sun beating down, dust rising in our wake, fields of green crops stretching to the horizon. The only sense I had of being on Martha's Vineyard was a salty edge to the breeze and the knowledge I had stepped off the ferry that morning. Otherwise, I found myself in the heart of a working farm, in another realm entirely from the celebrated beaches, shops, and restaurants on this island seven miles off the mainland.



Nora Kennedy feels her greens at The Farm Institute at Katama Farm, where there are all sorts of little lambs. Spinach flourishes at Morning Glory Farm.

Joshua Hollinger, my guide for the day, shouted over the engine's hum. I shook my head, no. I had come prepared.

A square green map had inspired this trip. "From Farm to Table," produced by the Island

Grown Initiative (referred to locally as IGI) catalogs 28 Vineyard farms and encourages the user to "buy local." Certainly familiar buzzwords in the culinary world, buying local is gaining exposure and acceptance in a wider public arena.

IGI was born from a series of "salons" hosted by Ali Berlow, a food writer and radio essayist, where "grocers, growers, and anyone interested in food" were invited to her home to discuss sustainable agriculture.

Berlow, who says she "doesn't grow anything," explained that the initiative and its map were created to educate the consumer about the agricultural community on the island as well as to support local farmers.

"We're not farmers for farmers, we're eaters for farmers," she said.

I arrived as an eater and was escorted to several farms by Berlow, and also by Hollinger, the executive chef at the Harbor View Hotel and Resort here, and a fervent believer in cooking with local products and supporting

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## FROM FIELD TO FORK



## Pulling strings in his Northeast Kingdom

By Patricia Harris and David Lyon  
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

GLOVER, Vt. — You gotta love the villains. After all, what's a protest without them?

Over the years, Bread & Puppet Theater has created more than its share of evil adversaries. These props in the company's artful fight for social justice crowd the stalls of the Bread & Puppet Museum, located on two floors of a 19th-century dairy barn.

"This is Uncle Fatso. He was our original bad-guy puppet," says Elka Schumann, pausing by a sculpted figure whose giant head and exaggerated features make him the classic bloated villain. His cheeks bulge above his shirt and tie and one

outsized hand holds a glowing cigar.

"He started out as a Harlem slumlord during the rent protests. Then he was a greedy capitalist during the Vietnam War," Schumann explains. "He's retired — but we still have plenty of bad guys."

Schumann's husband, Peter, founded Bread & Puppet Theater in the early 1960s on New York's Lower East Side. Drawing on a background in modern dance and sculpture, he inflated the concept of puppetry to life-size figures wearing giant papier-mâché masks. The company earned its artistic and political stripes protesting the Vietnam War, and Bread & Puppet's expressionist performance art has taken to the barricades in nearly every social-justice movement since.

Now in his early 70s, Peter Schumann remains the artistic director and driving force. Bread & Puppet moved to Vermont in 1970 and since 1974 has been based in Glover. Its former dairy farm seems to inhabit a time warp, as venerable VW microbuses with fading peace symbols still huff up the hills in this corner of the Northeast Kingdom, and hand-lettered signs direct visitors to outhouses in a hayfield. But the facilities are wheelchair-accessible and the parking lot has its share of biodiesel and gas-electric hybrid cars.

The company tours most of the year, but when it retreats to the farm for the summer, Schumann schedules performances on Friday nights and Sunday after-

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DAVID LYON FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A puppet of human rights advocate Archbishop Óscar Romero presides at the Bread & Puppet Museum in Glover, Vt.

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