

## for the ARTS record

### Theatre Workshop of Nantucket: "Lone Star Grace"

Directed by Giovanna Sardelli, Theatre Workshop of Nantucket's season opener, "Lone Star Grace," stars Susan McGinnis as Barbie Ann, a lingerie saleswoman who begins the New Year — and a new life — in a diner off Texas Highway 59. There, Barbie Ann waits on the cusp of her transformation with a bottomless cup of personal revelations, warmed up by the diner's mild-mannered, sweet proprietor, Persephone (played by Laurel Devaney) and Kenneth (Ciaran Byrne), an Irishman in a cowboy hat, on his own "quest for self-discovery." Susan Beaumont plays the sister who brings Barbie Anne a plate of reality from home.

Sardelli, who gets regular work as director in Manhattan and also serves on the dance faculty at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, met the show's playwright, Suzanne Bradbeer, three years ago at the Lark Play Development Center in Manhattan, where the two are both members. "Since then, I've seen every play she's written that's had a production, and she's seen every one I've directed," Sardelli said. "I've been wanting to do something with Suzanne's work for a while now. Her writing has a charm, an intelligence, a gentleness to it — even though her characters tend to be larger than life. ... There is always a lot of heart in her plays. ... She'll kill me for saying this, but I'd compare her to a new Beth Henley."

When: Wed. - Sat., June 20-23, 27-30;  
Sun., June 24, 3 p.m.

Where: TWN Main Stage, downstairs at the United Methodist Church, 2 Centre St.

Cost: \$25

For more information, please call 228-4305 or go to [theatreworkshop.org](http://theatreworkshop.org), where you can also buy tickets.

### Spiritual Heritage speaker: Joni Eareckson Tada

Joni (pronounced "Johnny") Eareckson Tada has passionate fans and friends on this island — that much is evident to anyone who has seen the devoted way in which they have canvassed the island to spread word on Tada's visit to Nantucket, where she will speak on her experiences in spreading a Christian ministry to the disability community through her organization, the Joni and Friends International Disability Center. The organization provides its followers with a daily, 5-minute radio broadcast, 19 family retreats per year, a wheelchair donation program called Wheels for the World and training and resources for allies who are also ministering to the disabled community.

"Disability usually is something that rips a family apart, presses you and pushes you over the edge into despair — whether it's a family with elderly grandparents with Alzheimer's, or a baby born with spina bifida. But we at the ministry try to ascribe the same positive perspective of a disability as was ascribed to me when I was injured," Tada said. "In Romans 8:28, the Bible says, 'All things fit together in a pattern of good to them who love God.' We try to encourage people to see that there are more important things in life than walking. And that is the transformation of the heart, mind and soul through the fruits of the spirit."

Tada has also worked to influence the church on disability-related issues and, in 2005, was appointed to the Disability Advisory Committee of the U.S. State Department.

Tada became a quadriplegic after a diving accident in 1967. She was 17 years old.

"I dove in shallow water, broke my neck and landed in the hospital, suicidally despairing," Tada said. "I'm glad it happened then and not now, when there are Jack Kevorkian doctors who think you're



Joni Eareckson Tada

better off dead."

Tada's faith played a large role in her rehabilitation. "My church made a huge difference in my family's life as they demonstrated the love of God in practical ways," said Tada, who published an account of her experiences in her autobiography, "Joni." "They helped me to find meaning in my hardship."

In addition to speaking worldwide on issues of faith and medicine, Tada has written over 35 books and has a quiver full of awards from Christian organizations, including, in 2003, the Gold Medallion Lifetime Achievement Award from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

"We all have handicaps, they just manifest in different shapes and sizes, things we wish we could change and can't," said Tada, who added that she cried when she first arrived on Nantucket, because it brought back childhood memories of camping in the sand dunes along the Delaware shore. "I will be speaking in the hopes that people who feel crippled by anxiety, or paralyzed by doubt and discouragement, can be uplifted. Rather than feel that it's a dead end street with no hope, I want to help people find the hope that I found."

When: Thu., June 21, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Where: NHS Mary P. Walker

Memorial Auditorium, 10 Surfside Rd.

Cost: Free

### African-American cemetery honored

On Saturday, Town Clerk Catherine Flanagan Stover and other town representatives, clergy, friends, and families will gather to unveil an informational marker at the cemetery behind Mill Hill Park. A bronze plaque mounted on a large boulder in the cemetery will replace a small wooden sign on Prospect Street. The placement of the new marker is the fruition of a project that began several years ago and has involved a local bi-racial, multi-ethnic committee and several Cyrus Peirce Middle School students. The text on the plaque reads: "Historic Cemetery; The earliest known burial was in 1798; In 1805 the Nantucket Proprietors 'voted that the Black People may fence one acre of land where their Burying Place is'; In 1807 this place was described as 'the Burying Ground that belongs to the Black People or People of Color'; Among those who have found their last rest here are members of the Boston, Pompey, Ross, Porte, Grant, Wheeler and Carter families; the families of churchmen Arthur Cooper, James Crawford and John W. Robinson; and four Civil War veterans; Marker placed in 2007 by families and friends with the support of the Nantucket Historical Association."

The question of the "official" name of the old

cemetery remains to be determined. In Nantucket Town records, it has been the "Coloured Cemetery" since the 19th century, but in recent years it has been designated "Mill Hill Cemetery." In order to get the sense of public opinion on what the official name should be, Town Clerk Catherine Stover plans to place the question as a warrant article before the next Town Meeting. Whatever the decision, the designation "Historic Cemetery" will remain correct for what is expected to be the very long life of the bronze plaque and the solid Nantucket boulder. Among the notable people interred in the cemetery are Black Whaling Captain Absalom Boston's family; Eunice Ross, the girl who led the campaign to integrate the Nantucket Public Schools; Black abolitionist and businessman Captain Edward Pompey; and Civil War veterans Sampson D. Pompey and Hiram Reed, both charter members of the Nantucket chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 2002 Cyrus Peirce Middle School students under the direction of teacher Barbara White photographed every stone in the cemetery, numbered them, and deciphered the names, dates, and inscriptions. A copy of their report is available as a Research Paper in the Nantucket Historical Association Research Library on Fair Street.

When: Sat., June 23 10 a.m.

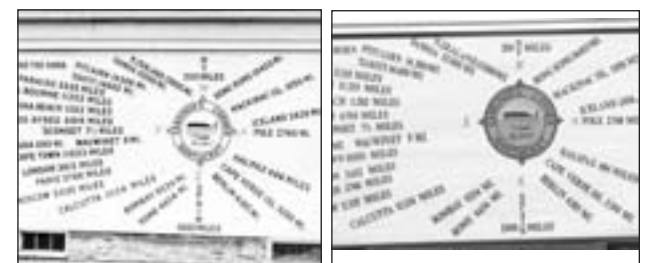
Where: Behind Mill Hill park

Cost: Free

### Plum partners with *The Atlantic*

PlumTV has announced a literary partnership with *The Atlantic* magazine. The two are teaming up to bring literary salons and other writerly events around 10 books, with some big names attached, to the island this summer. On July 14, the whole show will be dedicated to the series, called Bookmark. "We are tremendously excited," said Plum's Kate Brosnan.

The literary partnership is having its test-run in Nantucket this summer. If all goes well, Plum hopes to expand the program to its other markets.



Left: the Compass in the 1950s; Right: the Compass now

### Ralph Lauren honors the Compass Rose

This summer, Nantucket's Ralph Lauren store at 16 Main Street is selling a line of Compass Rose-themed clothing to honor the local landmark on the side of their store's location. All of the proceeds from these items go to the Nantucket Historical Association.

In 1936, photographer H. Marshall Gardiner created the Compass Rose mural of locations around the globe, based on the design of the compass rose used by mariners and navigators. At the time, his photography studio and gift shop was housed in the building where Ralph Lauren is currently located.

"Gardiner's Compass Rose mural is uniquely 'Nantucket'," said William Tramosch, NHA executive director. "We are deeply appreciative of Ralph Lauren's generous support of our mission of education and preservation, and we hope that visitors will be inspired to explore island history at the Whaling Museum and develop an appreciation of Nantucket's remarkable past."

In addition to Compass apparel, Ralph Lauren assisted local documentary filmmaker John Stanton in chronicling the history of the image. The short film, "Not Just Another Sign," screened at the Nantucket Film Festival last week. ■