



Jim Grapek, MMH, Pavilion Founder

Jim Grapek is someone who knows we can do better; better than ranking 37th in the world in terms of our health; better than boasting the shortest life expectancies of any industrialized nation; better than having kids who match those in developing nations in terms of drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and education; and better when it comes to living sustainably and harmoniously with our environment. Grapek's twenty five plus years as an award winning documentary and educational producer, father, and martial artist (Black Belt), gave him many of the understandings needed to birth a *Pavilion*. Yet, his critical thinking and business skills -- with degrees from Syracuse University's Newhouse School and Cornell's renowned Hotel School, figure in, too. Other relevant experience includes managing multi-million dollar restaurant operations (including at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts), Harrisburg Hospital's dietary department, and having to go through his own health crises, as well.

From Health Programs... to Healthy Living Pavilions

Grapek opened Associated Producers, Inc. in 1986, a few blocks from the White House in The National Press Building. As senior producer, over the next 20 years he wrote, produced, and directed hundreds of award winning programs, including one of The Discovery Channel's highest rated specials, *The Secrets of the Warrior's Power*, a film about Chinese Kung Fu. Grapek also developed a slate of 3D IMAX™ films with Academy Award® winning filmmaker Kieth Merrill. *REVOLUTION*, an IMAX™ giant screen motorcycle adventure -- a new take on the seminal classic, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* -- is expected to begin production in 2020.

With much of Grapek's production work coming from the health industry, from such organizations as The National Cancer Institute, SAMHSA, NAADAC, The National Institute of Mental Health, and the Centers for Disease Control, Jim had plenty of exposure to the institutional side of modern medicine. At the same time, he was hired to produce programs on "alternative health" topics -- such as acupuncture, nutritional remedies, and various sorts of *energy medicine* and healing devices. Wearing his 'news hat', he covered numerous congressional, FDA, and EPA hearings, mostly dealing with safety concerns surrounding the use of mercury-based silver amalgam dental fillings, vaccine adjuvants and additives, SSRI antidepressants, and water fluoridation.

Ultimately, Grapek's exposure to all of this became a big part of his inspiration for *The Pavilion*; especially when a drug company Vice President, after his camera was shut off, confessed, "We've had the cure for cancer for fifty years. It will never be released, though. There's simply too much money in it." After seeing his mom and a number of friends die from cancer, Grapek firmed up his resolve to help improve things. *"We really need to shift the whole paradigm and begin focusing on health and prevention. Our bodies have the innate ability to heal themselves. Our job, which each of us need to learn, is to figure out how to give them the right support."*

In 2009, Grapek, along with Mark Wiley -- an author, martial artist, and medical doctor who shared the same views -- began developing a wellness concept that ultimately morphed into today's Pavilion: A 21st century facility that addresses more than just physical health, and combines high tech and holistic (whole) mind-body-spirit-planet approaches to enable people to live healthier, happier, more capable lives. Another inspiration for Grapek -- Buckminster Fuller, who said, *"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change things, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."* "That," says Jim, "is precisely the idea behind The Pavilion. It's a delivery system designed to bring forward the new ideas, new thinking, and new solutions, needed for that new and better model; and a more utopian vision of what tomorrow should look like."

Jim Grapek was born outside of the United States...in New Jersey, and has a deep respect for life and all cultural heritages. He has two Danish-American daughters -- his 'best productions to date' -- and resides in Bethesda, Maryland, with his fiancé, Alexi, who hails from Turkey. Jim enjoys cooking, gardening, lecturing, playing guitar, motorcycling, and sometimes just soaking up the sun.