

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
ANNUAL APPEAL 2016

Celebration

noun: The action of marking one's pleasure at an important event or occasion by engaging in an enjoyable, typically social, activity.

As many people know, celebrations are a big part of life at Innisfree. From learning a new recipe and finishing weaving a placemat to birthday parties and Special Olympics ribbons, we always find plenty of reasons to celebrate. This past year has been no exception!

Stephen points out his painting on display at the VSA art show.



Individual accomplishments like learning a new art skill are celebrated in the Innisfree art studio.



Kim, Brooke, Corinne, and Chris celebrate their achievements at the 2016 Special Olympics bocce tournament in Fishersville, VA.

Celebrating our Talents

by Chris G.

[Special Olympics is] fun and it's very interesting. You get a lot of exercise out of it. It's active and I like keeping busy. I can't do skiing or ice skating so I do other sports. When I do well in it I feel really good about it, but it's still okay when I don't do well and it's still fun for me to do. I just did bocce yesterday—it went really well, I got third place. It's very active and it's something I really like to learn how to do. I like

Jean admires Andy's artwork at an Innisfree art show in Crozet.

seeing other people doing the same thing but not at Innisfree. I was nervous to see if I still remembered how to do [bocce] but it was fun.



Sally, Paul, Stephen, and Bob Nelson together in art class in 1997

Celebrating as a Village

by Trisha Costello

Every year we bear witness to the birthing of new and creative ideas. The endless and varied talents, cultures, and imaginations that come and make their home at Innisfree regularly breathe new life into our daily rhythms.

While this energy keeps life sharing at Innisfree vibrant and alive, our recurring seasonal celebrations offer something equally as important; they root us to that which is constant. Every year, we come together honoring seasonal traditions.

We began a tradition for the Autumn Equinox back in the early 1990's borrowing from the Jewish celebration of Sukkot. Each year the Vegetable Garden workers erect a temporary structure (a "sukkah") that honors their year's harvest. Houses join in the celebration by taking turns to stand together under the sukkot sharing their "house harvest." People share about new friends, new activities, new ideas. Sometimes creativity flourishes—a house may sing a song or present an offering that symbolizes their year. Beautiful collages and other collective works of art may be created and brought to the sukkot. As the colors of dusk settle around us, we share cider and apple crisp and then walk home in the waning light of fall.



Question:

What is your favorite holiday to celebrate?

Jean: I like the winter solstice because it reminds me of a Christmas Eve service. I look forward to when they turn off all the lights and the people go around and light all the candles.

Mitch: I think the celebration of bringing all the families together and having Family Day where we can all talk to each other.

Philip: Yeah it would probably be Hanukkah because of the potato pancakes and charoset. We don't celebrate Hanukkah anymore but I did as a kid.

Brooke R: The Christmas one when someone fakes being Santa Clause

Ellie G: Christmas is usually my favorite holiday. I guess what I like the best is looking at the decorations and memories of being with my parents.



Andy and Adrienne talk about the comings and goings of Amity at the Fall Equinox celebration.

The Sunflower household in 1998 under the Sukkot.



Gardeners Kyle, Meagan, and Sage share their household changes.

Magnolia and Walde



Rorie and Emma goof off together at the May birthday party.



Heyward holds his favorite Halloween candy: peanut m&ms!

Wendy: My favorite holiday is Christmas because I like to spend two nights at the Omni Hotel with Rob and James Wieboldt. Another reason is that I like to get things.



Linda and Santa share a moment on Christmas morning.

n houses celebrate the 4th of July.



At Family Day, our families gather to share a meal and learn about happenings at Innisfree over the past year.



A balloon release at an early Mayfair

Celebrating with our Community

by Marvin and Arlyne Snyder

We attended our first Family Day in 2013, when our daughter was on her trial period, and our first impression was WOW, if only she could be a part of this beautiful farm community. During that November day and subsequent Family Days (and Mayfairs), we gained insight into why Innisfree is so successful: the affectionate relationships not only between the coworkers and volunteers in a particular house but between ALL of the coworkers, volunteers, and staff; the display of

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Participants make miniature wreaths at the Open House workshops.



Continued
the wonderful things created by the coworkers in the weavery, pottery, woodshop, bakery, and gardens; the entertainment provided by coworkers, showcasing their unseen talents; and the slideshow, introducing us to the dedicated staff and the amazing

diversity of the volunteers, coming from a multiplicity of U.S. states and foreign countries. We especially enjoyed meeting the families of our daughter's housemates and sharing experiences in raising our special children. It is reassuring and comforting to know that our daughter has found her place and a good life, both now and in the future.

An early Family Day performance



*Photos by
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**Come to the
Innisfree Village
Holiday Open House**

DECEMBER 3RD

10AM—5PM

There will be crafts for sale from our weavery, bakery, woodshop, pottery, art class, and gardens. Plus children's activities, tours of the village, refreshments, workshops, and more!

Register for our Wreath-making Workshop!

1:30 Pm - \$40 (Includes all materials) - Advance Registration Required! E-mail Trisha@innisfreevillage.org to register or for more information or directions.



Innisfree family members and friends gather to make their own Holiday wreaths.

Katie and her Mom Melinda enjoy Family Day.



*Layout by
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