

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
ANNUAL APPEAL 2019

*Emily and Tim at
Arches National Park*

Connections

The beauty of the Innisfree fabric starts with the patchwork of individuals, each of whom brings a unique personality, background, and set of talents. They are woven together, though, through the individual connections between those people, bonds which strengthen with time and shared experience. For this edition of the Village Voice, we highlight some special connections formed at Innisfree that have blossomed in beautiful ways over time.

Robert and Carol

Our story starts in August 2005 when I first arrived to volunteer in the “Old Meadow.” My new family was Jim, like an uncle, Matt and Katie, the younger siblings I had never had, Judith and Robert. Judith was our light and she remains an important figure in our friendship. Caring for Judith in her final year and grieving her—each in our own way—this is how our bond began. (Of course, me having long hair helped too.)



Robert and Carol share a smile.

Robert is a special friend to me because we connect in play. Our physical fitness exercises were more fun with a ball or when we waged mock sword play together—he always won!



Emily and Tim

The big day!

We met as volunteers in Laurel and Meadow, and would call each other on the land-line to hang out in the evening and on days off (pre-internet days!). Innisfree is a great place to build a relationship because you know you have similar values. Five years later, we got married next door at Montfair surrounded by family near and far and friends from Innisfree!

His grumpiness getting out of bed was made fun when the tigers roared and clawed at each other. These games turned into “Elephant Acts” performed for talent shows—my favorite was for Arvin, Robert on stage with the Clay kids. I feel I really understand him—he is not the elephant man—he is the elephant and he

Robert and Carol continues on next page

Robert and Carol, continued

remembers his friends! His greatest compliment to me was "You're the best elephant girl ever!"

Recently Amity volunteer Sean commented on how well we get along and said, "In a previous life, you must have been in the circus together." Perhaps, but I'm glad to know him in this life. It's good to have someone to care for and who cares for you back.



Robert and Carol perform their famous elephant act in 2008.



Dipping toes in the Atlantic in 2006

Jean and Philip

Can you tell me how you became friends?

Jean: Okay, the first time I met Philip was when I lived at Halcyon, but I liked coming down to drop in and say hello every time I went to work.

Philip: Yeah, we were just talking and we became friends. She was in the other house and we just hit it right off. And that was ... that was it.

Are there things that you both like that you like to talk about?

Philip: Well, I talk about jazz or music. Sometimes she talks about that

Jean: I, like Philip, like music, and jazz isn't a bad one at all. In fact, I've learned to appreciate jazz more since I've known Philip. We've gone to a couple of concerts together.

Philip: Oh yeah! She went to a lot of concerts with me before the inflation hit.

Anything else you want to say about your friendship?

Jean: I have not

been here as

long as Philip, but I have

been at Innisfree knowing

Philip ever since 2000 or so.

Philip: Yeah, we're good friends.



Jean and Philip enjoy the views of the Blue Ridge.

Tell me about your friend Corinne.

Kelsea: She's really nice. I really like to hang out with her. She's really cool.

Corinne, can you tell me about your friendship with Kelsea?

Corinne: I like hanging out with Kelsea because she's very nice.

What do you think is the best thing about your friend Corinne?

Kelsea: I like to hang out with her to do craft stuff like puzzles and do like paint by numbers on our tablets together!



Kelsea and Corinne enjoy breakfast on Trillium's porch.

Corinne, what's your favorite thing to do with Kelsea?

Corinne: Go to Michael's and buy crafts with Kelsea because she likes to do arts and crafts like I do.

How long do you guys think you'll be friends?

Corinne: Forever!

Kelsea: Forever!



Friends stick together for the 2019 Innisfree 5K.



Jean and Philip chat at a recent community dinner.



Paige and Sian have perfected the selfie.

Paige and Sian

Can you tell me about your friend Paige?

Sian: My friend Paige is nice and she loves me.

And what do you guys like to do together?

Dance and ride in the car and read a book.

Paige:

I've been at Innisfree going on two years, and in that time I've always lived at Sunflower. I felt like I was really lucky in that it felt like a right fit from the first day. I care for all of the coworkers in Sunflower so much, and feel so grateful for the opportunity to work and live alongside them. They all in individual ways have shaped the person I am today.

Sian is one of those such coworkers that I live and work with. She is an extremely bright, detailed, and sweet person living with Autism. She has taught me so much about what it means to be a part of humanity, and all of the beautiful moments that come with that. We have shared many laughs, many rounds of questions, countless minutes of excitement over food, and even a few tears.

I can remember when Sunflower house went to the Baltimore aquarium last year, I really knew then how much Sian and I had bonded. She was anxious about the trip because it was outside of our normal routine. When we arrived at the aquarium, her eyes were darting around and she had a pretty unsure look on her face. I went over to her, and she immediately grabbed both my hands tightly. She then started to look straight into my eyes as if she was searching for reassurance there. After about ten seconds or so she looked away, let go of my hands, and began staring at some fish. She was visibly much calmer, and the moment was a powerful one for me. It may seem so simple to others, but for Sian to look to me for her comfort, was a huge deal. For me to be able to successfully reassure her just by being there was even more surreal, and I'll never forget it.

After that, she began to seek me out for reassurance more and more, and I feel honored to have won over her trust to the point that she allows me to be that for her. I wouldn't trade our bond for anything in the world, and I'm so grateful for the many lessons that she has taught me over these past couple years.

Connie and Jamie

Connie:

Jamie pushed right through my shyness when I came to the village. We discovered ways to build connections to each other and other volunteers. Settlers Of Catan (a boardgame) at Meadow and late night roller skating in the CC dining room in our first year of knowing each other have evolved to Ticket to Ride (a boardgame) at an ice cream shop and Pickleball at the YMCA in our 18th year of friendship. These are also ways we have found connections to the greater community as well as to new volunteers at Innisfree.

Jamie: When I first met Connie we called her "Punk Rock Connie" straight from Philly! I was probably "Hippy Jamie". Then over the years

our roles changed she became "Chicken Connie" and I became "Mom Jamie". But our connection has never wavered. Looking forward to many more years to come together.



Laughter is central to Jamie and Connie's friendship.



Jamie and Connie at Connie's bachelorette celebration

Wes and Willie

Wes:

I have known Willie since 1985. I have always admired his enthusiasm and desire to be the best person he can. Willie is a great role model to me and others, showing us that, with commitment, determination, hard work and a positive attitude, you can achieve many things! Also, he is just a great guy!

Good friends take in the beauty of Lake Lucerne in Switzerland.



Come to the Innisfree Village Holiday Open House

**Saturday, December 7, 2019
10am-5pm**

There will be crafts for sale from our weavery, bakery, woodshop, pottery, art studio, 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.



Wes and Willie pause for a selfie in Paris.

Willie:

I first met Wes when he came to Laurel when I was living there in 1985. He made cakes in the bakery. He is really a friendly guy. He is really helpful and knows a lot of things. Over time he lived with me at the Walden house 2 times. He is my friend for a long time. We have gone out for tea and for dinner at restaurants. It's fun to be with him and do fun things with him.

One thing was we went on a big trip to Europe in May 2018. We went to 4 countries, three days in each city. We were away 16 days. We rode on all modes of transportation—airplanes, trains, buses, and boats. We saw all different places and ate all kinds of meals. It was all nice weather when we were there.

It was a wonderful time, a special trip that was a success. We met some former volunteers there.

Now I live with Wes at the Oxford House. He is really nice to live with.



The happy travelers smile with the majestic Swiss Alps as a backdrop.

Photos by:

Wes Andrews, Jamie Dahlhausen, Carol Evans, Julie Freeman-Mullins, Amanda Gabriel, Jeena Grütter, Rorie Hutter, Sebastian Koch, Paige Lomax, Suzanne Price, Jenna Slawson, Various Volunteers and Friends of Innisfree

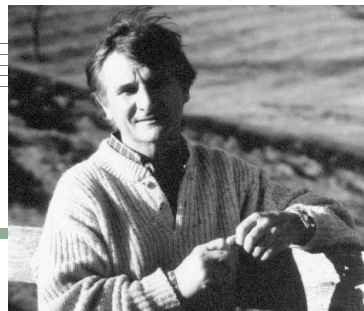
Layout by:

Becky Frith Garrity

Remembering Heinz Kramp

November 21, 1929 – October 6, 2019

Founding parent Barbara Fried remembers Heinz



Founding Director
Heinz at Innisfree



Heinz and Joanie enjoy
Innisfree's 40th Anniversary.

Without Heinz, there would be no Innisfree.

Of course, there were founding parents. Who can forget the exuberance and persuasiveness of Hank Luria?

But Heinz had the vision, the leadership, and the charisma to get Innisfree off the ground and attract parents and volunteers. With Heinz came Alice: and no small feat, she moved with her children into Walnut Level, which then as now, is more renowned as a historical building than a house. Heinz discovered a cock-fighting pit and a bunch of cocks in the basement. Ever practical, he had the cocks killed and made into soup, and the basement became the bakery. It was Alice who came up with Innisfree as our name.

The property came with cows, a farm manager's house, and most importantly, Joe Coleman, the farm manager, and a lot of rocky soil. Heinz, as optimistic as practical, planted grapes – the one Innisfree venture that did not make it. But, under his tutelage, we built the first Meadow, acquired looms for a weavery, then a woodshop, more co-workers, and more volunteers.

Under Heinz, we were charting new territory. We believed in the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner as Heinz explained him (though none of us to my

knowledge ever read him). The other American Steiner model, Camphill, proved too heirarchical for us, and with Heinz's ability to improvise, we loosened up the model. So, instead of a top dog volunteer in each house, we have the Innisfree model.

It has not been a smooth upward slope, but we have learned, and with Heinz's inspiration, endured.

Former Director Lee Walters remembers Heinz

When I arrived at Innisfree in December 1981 I was in the middle of writing an application for seminary. I told Heinz that I wanted to stay but that if accepted to graduate school, which I highly doubted, I would only be able to stay for 9 months, not the regular year commitment. He laughed and said, "You will be back. I will build a chapel for you!" That was the kind of over the top, optimistic, sometimes out of line enthusiasm that Heinz had for Innisfree, for many volunteers and most certainly for coworkers. He promoted the idea that Innisfree was an egalitarian, self supporting community. It was not and could never

possibly be but that ideal, along with a desire to serve brought many interesting, hard working, creative people to Innisfree. It also was often at the root of serious disappointment and disagreement. This creative mix, that included parents and board members as well, brought Heinz's seminal idea into

fruition, a place of acceptance where each one

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Michael, Annie, Heinz, and Alice
at Innisfree in the 1970's.



Directors Lee, Carolyn, Phyllis, Heinz

was a contributing member of a large, loving, extended family like community. Hard work was the norm, necessary closeness in an almost magical setting produced and continues to produce a kind of intimacy and interdependence that I've not seen anywhere else. It is often the case that creative communities have difficulty in the transition from an original leader to the next phase of development. This was true at Innisfree but it does not diminish my admiration for the powerful and positive influence Heinz had in laying the foundation and setting out boldly in the pursuit of a radically inclusive community where so many people have experienced and continue to experience lives of belonging, tremendous growth and joy.

Willie speaks about Heinz



Heinz admires Willie's model of the soon-to-be-constructed community center

me... There are a couple of times he has taken me to Deltaville ...and that's where his boat was, a sailboat called *Salud*. And it's fun to spend the weekend there. Sometimes it's on the boat and sometimes it's in the motel and the last time was in a house next to the ocean.

And another time he took me to Germany for



Heinz on the go

three weeks ... The Service Civil International coordinator who used to be here [at Innisfree] ...

coordinated to see the ten facilities in Germany and I think there's one in the Netherlands, as well as seeing the points of interest... That was a very special trip. I can't forget that. I had a good time...

My first model I ever made was about 1986 when we were building the office and the community center and he was showing me the drawings and elevations, which I was really interested in. And that was really fun, he showed me and he and I sat together...

In 1992, when he said he was retiring from Innisfree and then the next place he went he started another organization called the Rainbow Bridges with a couple of houses and then the house was on Park St. So, on Sunday on the weekends I stopped by and visit him and keep up the relationship and Ken was there.

[Heinz] was really friendly to be around... He tried to get Innisfree started [as] a place for handicapped people to go, and be the opposite of institutions or state hospitals or state schools. This is more friendly and more homey and feeling you're at home... And he said, "Live the best life as you can."



Heinz and Ken at Innisfree



Linda and Heinz in Fall 2018 reminisce about dancing together in Innisfree's early years.



Carolyn, Heinz, Annie, and Lori reunite at Innisfree's 40th Anniversary celebration.