

# Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE  
WINTER 2021

*Making cider is a long-time fall tradition at Innisfree. In this shot from 2009, Elizabeth, James, Cabell, and Kim all work together to load some fresh Innisfree grown apples into the press.*



## Remembering Fondly, Looking Forward

We can all likely agree that 2020 was a challenging year. We now celebrate the arrival of 2021, Innisfree's 50th Anniversary year! As we take time to look back at Innisfree's rich history, we thought we would start the year off by featuring some articles from past newsletters. We love hearing the voices of our coworkers, sharing how this community has enriched their lives over the years.

## "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other's gold."

### Summer 1999

A frequently voiced desire when talking with the parents of people with disabilities is the hope that their sons and daughters will have friends.

Friends enrich our lives in countless ways. They are there to support us when we are low, to laugh with us when we are happy and to encourage us when we need a push in the right direction. A friend is someone who likes the you-ness of you.

One of the blessings of Innisfree is friendship. We have relationships that last a few months and some that



*Longtime friends Tom, Paul, and Nancy share a laugh in 2011.*



*Heyward and Sandy deliver fresh bread in the Village in the early 1990's.*

last many years. We experience the gifts of friendship, smiles, hugs, listening ears and helping hands throughout our years of growing older together.

Here are a few comments from some of the friendly folk at Innisfree.

**Philip:** *Friendship is like I know you and you know me. Malcolm and I sit on the porch, talk and drink coffee. He's my friend and so is Jon who helps me out. Ellie, Marny and Todd are my friends.*



*Marny, Willie, Andy, and Angelica enjoy the final days of summer of 2005.*

*Continues on back page*

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## Sign Language Class Visits Gallaudet

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Summer 2003

by Trisha Costello and Chris Busse



Each year, Chris Busse helps me teach some basic sign language to the new volunteers in the village. This year, Chris wanted the class to visit Gallaudet University, the only university in the world for deaf people. So, as a special trip to finish up our class, a group of 13 volunteers and coworkers piled in the big gray van and headed up to D.C. one Sunday in April. Sebastian, Connie, Katie, Chris L., Ilona, Jenny, Andrea, Freddy, Anna, Chris B., Kathleen and I spent the day wandering the campus, and putting our new sign language skills to use, as we asked for directions and information. After eating in the campus dining hall, we found the campus library where we got a very special introduction to the university from one of the librarians there. We told her about Innisfree too, and she was very intrigued! Her sign language skills were amazing, inspiration for us to practice, practice, practice!!!! Chris got to ask her about “TTY”, and asked her to show and explain it to us. TTY is a phone adaptation that transcribes verbal sounds over the phone into

written form for a deaf person to read, and then can work the same in reverse. Our librarian and stand-in tour guide showed us several versions—even one set up on their pay phones in the library. Chris was most enthusiastic about seeing TTY.

We also enjoyed browsing the shelves in the library to find endless resources on sign language education. Chris found one book that he especially liked called “Signing in 14 Different Languages”, and asked to buy one. The Gallaudet Bookstore was closed that day, but we have been able to obtain a copy through a Charlottesville store, so Chris has his own copy now, as does the sign language class. We are excited to have this new and valuable resource for our multi-lingual group of volunteers!

We all had a great trip and Chris is wanting to go back again. Sometimes they have special events going on over the weekend that might make for another fun trip. Thanks to Chris for the idea, we are so glad we went!



## Robert Smith

February 10, 1928 - November 11, 2020

Robert Smith moved to Innisfree in June 1980. He was a good friend to many and a hard worker, who loved adventure, the circus, bagpipes, fire trucks, and disassembling electronics. He often referred to himself as “the elephant” and had a playful sense of humor and an infectious smile. He had

a special relationship with late coworker Judith from 1982 until her death in 2006. Robert entered hospice care in September 2019 and died peacefully at Amity, his Innisfree home, at the age of 92.

*On the following page we share an article Robert wrote for Innisfree’s Annual Appeal in 1995.*

*Robert celebrates victory after a successful treasure hunt at the dump!*



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# Times They are a Changing!

**Annual Appeal 1995**

—by Robert Smith

**Y**ou know I like to work on mechanical things — erector sets and old radios and TVs or telephones. I like the machines in the woodshop. I work in the weavery, too. And I really like parades and bands.

At Christmas time I go to see Ginny and Marshall. This summer I went to visit the Satos. We saw a space movie. I especially liked The Greatest Show on Earth. I used to go

down to Ocean House. We went to a dairy farm and made home-made ice cream. Once in a

while we'd go to the ocean, but the bands were best of all. I'm getting a little tired of Innisfree. I'd like to go by the ocean to stay, but I want Judith to come with me.

Nancy Juergens and I went to Disney World in 1993. Carolyn took us to the airport to go to

Florida. We travelled on a tour and went on all the rides. It

was like paradise.

During the summer, the work-

camp took me over to the other side of the mountain to ride on a steam train. But every Wednesday I go to Senior Citizens and sometimes we see Laurel and Hardy movies.

I like Halcyon where I live. I like Joan and Julie. I help carry the compost out and clean my room. I look at the Dateline News everyday at 6 0'clock. I used to live with Grandma. She and I would talk about things way back in the years been past. We'd sit

on the lawn chairs together. I'm 67 years old. I remember when the Second World War started. We had an old-fashioned radio. We heard about the Japanese attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. I remember President Roosevelt told us about it! Then I remember VJ Day when we won the war in 1945.

I came to Innisfree in 1980. And every year on my birthday, I like to go to the toy store and go out to eat once in a while. I don't have much fun here at all.

*A young Robert looks out from behind his loom.*



*Robert and Judith enjoy a spring day.*



*A smiling Robert is happy to show off his placemats.*



*Robert balances work and conversation in the CC kitchen.*



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a newsletter of  
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*Make New Friends, continued from page 1*

**Bridget:** Friends are people who you do things with. You can hang out with Mitch, Philip, Jon, Moritz and Malcolm and have a good time and that's really good. Friends stand by you when you have problems. Gill did that for me.

**Heyward:** Friends are people I say Hi to in the CC.

**Brett:** Jenny does favors for me and helps me in the weavery.

**Debra:** Friends go out together and help each other. Anna, Bob and my parents are my friends.



*Dynamic duo Chris and Bob join volunteer Ousmane in a drumming performance at the 2002 Village Talent Show.*

**Bob N:** Friends like each other. Stephen is my friend and Kim and Debra and Anna and Chris.

**Mitch:** Friendship is getting along with one another and helping each other when help is needed. I have friends here, at church and at home.

**Jake:** A friend is someone who listens.

*Kevin, Cabell, and Katie hang out during the annual veggie bucket painting party in 2014.*



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