

Innisfree

VILLAGE VOICE
SUMMER 2008

Our New Cabana



The grand opening of the new Cabana was celebrated on June 28th. What a festive gathering spot. Together under the honey colored arch, the community found this new shelter is the perfect location for a summer party. The swimming pool was filled with shrieks of laughter as games of tag and volleyball and general splashing cooled down the party goes on the hot summer afternoon. Grill chefs, Eric and Arvin barbequed chicken, hot-dogs and tofu to add to the generous servings of potato and fruit salad plus pesto pasta. Even a short-lived wind and 10 minute horizontal rain didn't dampen the spirits of the community protected under this wonderful shelter.

Thanks to the hard work of Tom Clay the outdoor kitchen was ready just in time for the fete. Twinkling lights marked the perimeter of the Cabana. Creative decorating by Melanie and the tireless clean up of Laura and crew, plus the masterminding of Carol assured a proper maiden voyage for the Cabana. With salsa music DJ, Butch Bailey teaching and leading the dancing, the party slated to end at 8 o'clock continued until near midnight.

The stage is the focal point of the Cabana, ready for bands to entertain and plays to be performed. And the Cabana has many uses besides. It may become the summer home of our new free range egg business, where eggs will

be washed and sorted and placed in cartons. Located next to the pool and the Walnut Level garden, gardeners too, will enjoy the extra space for washing and packaging vegetables for our CSA subscribers.

We are so grateful to the Fried family for their generous gift making our Cabana possible. We will enjoy our Innisfree summers even more with this special gathering place to shelter us from sudden showers or blazing sun. Thank you Mark and Barbara!



Siblings Bring Sustainability

by Craig Dreilinger

During my tenure as President of Innisfree's Board, one goal emerges above all others - to engage in initiatives that will help ensure Innisfree's sustainability for years to come. Thus far, that has included initiatives to help ensure our financial sustainability (e.g., the 2010 campaign, etc.), our physical sustainability (e.g., renovation of existing houses and looking to the future building a new one, all with an eye toward ensuring accessibility, particularly for aging co-workers, etc.), and the sustainability of our volunteer model. But there is a fourth aspect to Innisfree's sustainability, which is absolutely essential – the continued active involvement of our co-workers' parents, siblings and others. Historically, only a very small percentage of our coworkers' siblings have been involved in the life of our community. This fact will become increasingly consequential as our co-workers age – and as their parents do.

We, the members of the Board, have been increasingly concerned about this issue and decided to reach out to siblings and invite them to join us in a Sibling Workshop during Mayfair. The event was spectacular. More than 35 siblings joined us. To a person, they all thanked Innisfree for convening them and urged us to help them become more actively involved.

But, even more important, they raised issues which concern them and about which they seek counsel. They asked, "How do I speak to my parents about what plans they have made to look after their child, and my brother/sister?" They sought answers to such questions as, "What are my obligations as a sibling," "How can I stay connected to my sister even though I live far away," "Why/when would my brother have to leave Innisfree," "How do I plan for my sibling's care after my own death?" The siblings who joined us asked important and,



*Philip
and brother,
Craig
Dreilinger*

at times sobering, questions – but they were the right questions.

We are now in the process of setting up an interactive website to enable siblings to interact with one another and with staff and Board members at Innisfree about issues of common concern. We will plan to reconvene in person, perhaps at next year's Mayfair. But more important, we have put sibling involvement "on the screen" of sustainability for Innisfree Village.

*Check out our website for siblings.
www.forum.innisfreevillage.org*



NOW & THEN

A motley Innisfree community gathered in Summer 2008 in the exact same place the stylish Apple Grading & Packing Crew gathered circa 1935. Our thanks to Phil James for sharing this wonderful vintage photo taken on our farm.



More Than Maintenance

by Tom Clay

Tom Clay is our new Maintenance Superintendent, arriving last August just in time for the new school year. Tom and Monika, plus their three children, Zoe, Noah and Josie (ages eight, six, and four) moved to Innisfree from atop the Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina. We are thrilled this wonderful family has joined our community, living in Walnut Level. The children are happy for our newly paved lower village road, a great place for bikes and scooters. This summer they are even happier about living in the house closest to the swimming pool.

Of course it's more efficient to know what your destination is when you set out on a journey, but a mistake I made was to think that life leads us to a final destination. It confused

me, since I didn't know what I was supposed to be steering towards. What I've since realized is that life is the destination. If life is a journey, how do we know where to go? How do we know when we get there?



Photograph by Tom Cogill



Courtesy of Phil James Historical Images.

Think of the places you've been to, the people you've met; if we didn't appreciate the role they've played in life, what was the point of our going there or meeting them? Embracing today and the people that come with it makes every turn of events a wonderful surprise.

Monika and I met in 1997 on a blind date. She was training to be a professional kick boxer, I was an ornamental blacksmith. Somehow, we ended up moving to Innisfree ten years later with three kids, two horses, and a blue tick coonhound. The meandering trail that led us here is an oddly connected series of stories involving sinking sailboats, international intrigue, substantial sums of money, and the Matterhorn. That these experiences would lead us to Innisfree is pretty amazing.

I have to tell you: don't look at where you are and wonder where you should be or will be; love where you are right now with all your heart because quite probably we're all where we're supposed to be at this moment, and none of us know where we're going.

Enjoying where we are makes it a much more pleasurable experience.



Innisfree Village Voice
a newsletter of

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*Cabell and Trisha
would like to
introduce you
to Lucy Mae,
who joined their
family on March
21st. Older sister
Clara shares their
enthusiasm.*

**Don't Forget Important
Dates in 2008**

**Family Day
November 8**

**Winter Vacation
December 18 - January 2**

*Hard worker Chris Gosnell moved to
Laurel late last fall. He keeps long hours
during the gardening and growing season.
You often see him mowing grass on his
favorite machine, his Kubota or whacking
weeds, driving the small tractor between
gardens, or working with Cabell in our
compost piles. Thanks to Chris and all our
outdoor crews for our wonderful vegetables
and neatly trimmed landscape.*

