

L'Arche Irenicon



Fall 2006

In this issue:

- *Swanna's Fall greeting*
- *23rd Anniversary of Irenicon*
- *Highlights from the Pipiras wedding*
- *Why London can't get enough of L'Arche*
- *Core Members*
- *Fall Donor List*
- *Christine's trip to Mexico*

Turning Over a New Leaf

By Swanna Champlin



How quickly the months and year go by. We have just celebrated our 23rd anniversary. We had a beautiful day to commemorate the event. It was especially memorable since Virginia Fortuna and her son John came with Barbara Stevens and her son Paul. Virginia was the one who had the original dream of

L'Arche and saw it through to become Irenicon. Elizabeth Buckley, the first director/community leader was also here with her brother Dennis. I enjoyed meeting these very important people from our past who are still very much present in our heart. (Continued on Page 3)

L'Arche Irenicon 2006

Community Core Members

Gandhi House
15 Johnson Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-556-5392

Nazorean House
73 Lamoille Avenue
Bradford, MA 01835
978-374-9162

Peace House
55-57 9th Avenue
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-373-8779
978-521-4426
978-373-4292

Gandhi House

Devin Boekenkroeger
Daniel Gallant
James Sawyer
Thomas DeGan

Peace House

Christine d'Amonville
Debbie Essler
Donald Nason
Philip Godbout

Nazorean House

Judith Longval
Amy English
Carole Dupray
Fran Marchesini



Christine's Mexican Adventure

By Christine d'Amonville

I went to Hartford the night before my flight because it left so early in the morning. On the way we stopped at my favorite restaurant, the Rainforest Café, to have dinner with my mom



and Susie. I flew with Stephanie Bower and we arrived in Mexico City. I was delighted to find a golden retriever puppy at the L'Arche home on that first evening. It was friendly and could roll over. We were welcomed into community by Cynthia. By this time there were quite a few of us, Dick and Stephanie Bower from Vermont, Beth from Washington DC, Katie from L'Arche Blue Ridge Mountains and two guys from

Toronto. I liked taking the fast metro train and the Mexican food was good but I did not like jalapeno peppers.

The high point of the trip was mass at the town of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There was a service there with all of us, the local L'Arche community and many others. The assistants were so nice. We all became friends and I heard their sacred stories. I miss my friends in Mexico and think about them often. All I can say is the trip was "Awesome."



Across the pond and back again... [What is it about Irenicon that keeps them coming back?](#)

Well why wouldn't we want to come back? When you first meet a member of Irenicon you are greeted with a warm hug and a big smile, the second time you meet them you are greeted in exactly the same way and the third and the fourth, nothing changes. Irenicon becomes a family and the houses become homes. We have found that it is this attitude and sense of community, which ensures that Irenicon will always be a place where you not only feel welcome, but also want to return to as often as possible.



Since making a connection with Irenicon, we have found it impossible to separate ourselves from them, and knowing that we are seven hours away by plane can be difficult. Fortunately whenever we get the urge (and have saved up enough money) to return, we are always greeted with a smile and "welcome home" sign. Where else can you go and receive this kind of treatment, time and time again? In a world where there is unrest, we find that Irenicon is a place where your faith in humanity is restored. This is why we keep coming back and will hopefully continue to do so. Until then, keep smiling!!



Lots of Love!
Hannah and Steph

Turning over a new leaf (continued from pg.1)

Our summer was busy and exhausting from Special Olympics to Regional Gathering to vacations and all the other activities we try to pack into the warm months of the year. Somehow it seems the fall doesn't slow down much either. We certainly never have time to get bored. This fall we are beginning regular "art days" with our resident (almost) artist, Bill Lambert. He will be spending 2 hours in each house on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon each month facilitating the creative process in core members and assistants. Perhaps we will share some of the fruits of their labor in a upcoming newsletter.

Since last year we are enjoying new siding and porches at Peace house and a facelift at Gandhi as well with new windows, siding, paint and gutters. What a difference! Our partnership with DMR as well as grants from the Wadleigh Foundation, Jefferson Lee Ford III Memorial Foundation, GE donor matching funds, LaSalette Faith Community, and the Agnes Lindsey Trust made these big improvements possible. Be sure to look over our donor list and see all the generous individuals as well who contribute to our community so faithfully. God is good to Irenicon. I am lucky to be asked and able to say yes to a mandate extending until December 2008. Have a wonderful autumn season.

Congratulations Darius and Daniela Pipiras !!!!

Everyone at L'Arche Irenicon would like to congratulate Darius and Daniela on their nuptials that took place at Gandhi House on a beautiful day last spring. The entire community came together to celebrate the marriage of two very active members in our flourishing community.



Bride and Groom with Phil



Core members Fran and Jimmy with Heather

Irenicon is a Greek word, meaning a proposal or message of peace. We are a community inspired by God and the Beatitudes. We are part of the International Federation of L'Arche founded in 1964 by Jean Vanier. L'Arche is founded on the idea of "living with" and not just "doing for" persons with developmental disabilities. Established 23 years ago, Irenicon now has 3 homes where we live very much as family and friends.

Assistants

Gandhi House
Thomas Murphy-Head of House
Daniela Dicks- Pipiras
Heather Jones
Steven Byers

Nazorean House
Irek Kaczmarczyk- Head of House
Marius Zakarauskas
Sara Fisher

Peace House 1st floor
Br. Julian Miller
Lucia Conti
Phil Petts

Peace House 2nd Floor
Ewa Krawczyk- Head of House
Jane Dominic
Bill Lambert

Administrative Staff

Swanna Champlin - Community Leader
Sr. Pat Murphy- Pastoral minister
Lori Ahearn- Program Coordinator



We are grateful for our faithful donors since May 2006. Where would we be without you?

Dennis Buckley
Mark Champlin
LaSalette Faith Community
John and Rita Linehan
Epsousal Prayer Community
William Hale
Beryl Brown
Emmanuel d'Amonville
Sr. Mary Elizabeth Leonard
John Mollica
Marit Pyle
Ed Seaver
Barbara and Paul Stevens

Shirley Dupray
Stephen and Paula Fournier
Virgina and John Fortuna
Cynthia and Clifford Gallant
Norman and Evelyn Gaudrault
Linda Marcotte
Alfred Januszewski
Jean Jennings
Luci and Judi Longval
Morris Piccolo
Marcia Savory
St. Edwards Parish
Richard and Carol Wysopal*

IN MEMORY OF BOB O' SHEA

Elizabeth Buckley
Elizabeth Fahey
Margaret Larnerd
Jane McGrath
Richard and Carol Wysopal

* GE Foundation Matching Funds

We would also like to thank those whom have given to the community through an "in kind" donation.

Brian Zaneski - Donation of many hours of hard work and labor

Rina and Dan Watne- Donation of a brand new digital camera

Lucinda Daly - Donation of towels

Sr. Mary Elizabeth Leonard - Donation of much needed patio furniture, slide projector and slides

Diane Hill- Donation of computer paper and face cloths

Sally DeGan - Donation of Books

Irenicon would also like to thank the assistants who have given to our community this last year. All donations, whether monetary or in kind, keep us L'Arche.

L'Arche Irenicon
P.O. Box 5034
Bradford, MA 01835

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