



FIELD NOTES FROM THE FARM – APRIL 2021

OPENING LETTER

It has begun! The labor pains of a new beginning. The fresh new start of SPRING! We have all had a year that will not soon be forgotten. The knowledge that there are visible signs of a familiar but different year ahead brings hope of growth, like the growth we see popping out of the ground and forming at the tips of branches. We are gratefully surrounded with newness and progress, as is Inn Along the Way.

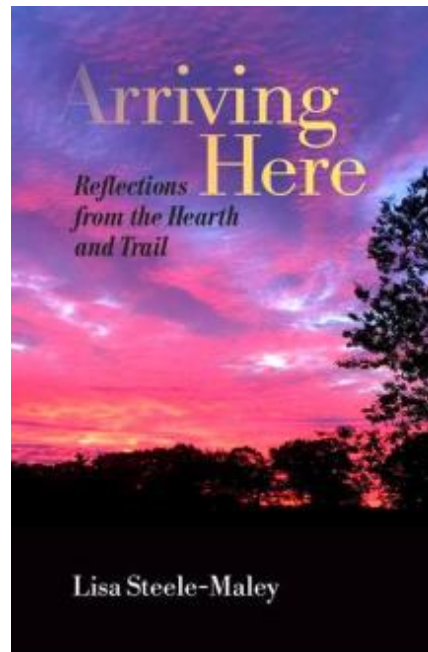
We continue to grow and develop, at IAW, but with the cold of winter and illness around us, this past winter did slow our growth a bit. We now welcome the warmth of the spring sun and the freshness in the air. Our seed is well planted in the community and we hope to share more of our growth with you this year than we could last.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE FIELD

Recognizing volunteers – The volunteers at IAW are the seeds, the sun, the earth, the water, and the workers that harvest and share the crop with all of you. Between 2014 and 2019 we have had over 100 volunteers who have donated approximately 13,267 hours of their time. According to the Independent Sector, this is equivalent to \$360,869 in contributions! And this does not include the “In kind” donations that some of these skilled and talented volunteers have made as well. We are exceedingly grateful for the sustenance and development that these hours have provided.

There are always many to thank, and we are fortunate to be able to say that. Lisa Steele-Maley is a talent that we are so lucky to have as a friend and volunteer. She has, shared her time, talent, and spirit with many in the community. Most recently she has provided food for growth with her newest book ARRIVING HERE. She has

nourished many and we encourage all of you to enjoy what she offers – and to perhaps grow.



Without our dedicated group who work together as The Board of Directors, IAW would certainly not be where it is today. They are loyal and varied in what they bring to the table. Their opinions and ideas are the fertilizer that allows for decisions to be made and growth to continue.

Below is a short autobiography written by one of our board members. He shares the growth he has

experienced in life and why he is dedicated to IAW. Thank you, Tim!!

Timothy Kimpton (Director and Treasurer) -

I was born in Montana and grew up in Colorado. My parents instilled in me a lifelong love of the outdoors and, especially, winter. In my multi-faceted career, I spent nearly thirteen years in the Army, worked for eleven years as a machinist and production supervisor, five years in retail men's wear, and nearly two years as a goldsmith. In 2002, I graduated from the University of Maine School of Law. I am an attorney with Gallagher, Villeneuve and DeGeer, in Damariscotta, where I focus on family law and other civil litigation, nonprofit and business planning, and

estate planning and preservation. I now live in Portland, where I look forward to enjoying the city, spending time with grandchildren, hiking, bicycle riding, and playing in the snow.

I was put in contact with a fledgling Inn Along the Way in 2013, to assist the organization with obtaining its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. I was immediately struck by the simplicity, and the goodness, of the mission that is Inn Along the Way. It resonated with many of the ideas I had been developing about how I want to grow old, as part of a community that is more like an extended family, young and old, nurturing each other.

When Chapman Farm became a possible home for Inn Along the Way, the Board met to walk the land. THIS was the property I had envisioned in my mind's eye – from the farmhouse to the pond to the fields to the barn. This was a space where caregivers could get respite, where wisdom and care could pass between generations, and where a community could be created as part of a larger community, as part of a still larger community. This is still what I see, for Chapman Farm and Inn Along the Way.

WHERE THE SEED IS PLANTED

A seed from the past – Spring is a time of beautiful surprises and the recognition that life continues –even when we try to change or improve it.

By John Gallagher

In the late 1940's horses were being replaced by the iron horse, but a love of these large farm partners always remained in David Chapman's blood. When his younger daughter, Mary, was old enough to learn horseback riding she was required to take lessons, learning how to ride, care for and properly dismount and in an emergency, get off her horse.

Once these skills were mastered a large pony named Starlight took up residence in the barn. A few months later Starlight gave birth to Twinkles. Now back to a two-horse farm.

Seeds of today – Seeds come in many forms, shapes, and sizes. With any luck they are planted in the spring and are then watched as their different shapes produce different results. Some seeds will never sprout, and some will take over the entire garden!

As I write this newsletter and as planting season approaches there are three different seedlings that are forming tiny roots at IAW – we are grateful for each one!

1) A Discussion Group Committee has been meeting, via Zoom, for the past few months, to fertilize ideas and topics for discussions that might be important to the community that IAW will harvest. More information

will follow as these roots take hold. Many thanks to the volunteers that form this Committee.

- 2) The Garden Committee is starting to think about tilling the earth and digging the holes in our very own garden spot! The seeds are purchased, and the plans have been drawn. The warming of the soil will bring our team of volunteers to poke the holes and plant the seeds.
- 3) For years IAW has been able to watch the seed of song be planted, take root, and be harvested by the soul. A fabulous group of Damariscotta performers, musicians, songwriters, and friends will be planting that seed again on April 11th at 7pm on LCTV. Our thanks go to John Schindler, Kat Logan, Jud Caswell, Jamie Peghiny, Charles Bernier, the 32 North Band, Julie Anne Lovely Thompson, Stan Davis, Scott Woodruff, Sylvia Tavares & Finntown Road, and our MC, John Couch. Please join the group and receive a

little "Miracle Grow" for your spirit.

SPROUTINGS AND GROWTH

Building progress & news –There have been small signs of new life and change even during the cooler months of spring. In Zoom meetings with Mid-Coast Solar,

IT'S A VIRTUAL SPRING THING
A MUSICAL FUNDRAISER PREMIERING

Sunday, April 11, 2021
At 7:00 P.M.
Watch On
Lincoln County TV Channel 7
or Live Streamed at LCTV.org

Hosted by Inn Along the Way and
LCTV-7 with performances by Damariscotta
Open Mic musicians, songwriters and
storytellers

LCTV
LINCOLN COUNTY TELEVISION

INN ALONG THE WAY
CHAPMAN FARM

Revision Energy, Uprising Solar, Electric Sunshine, and volunteers, we gathered an abundance of information about solar energy, it's uses at IAW as well as costs associated with it. More information to follow.

Damariscotta Historical Society and IAW are excited as they work together finding the perfect location for DHS' historical displays in the barn at Chapman Farm. DHS will rotate displays of local history, host functions and offer volunteer time in our barn as the days warm up. Our hope is that their continued enthusiasm and interest in this project will be sources of nourishment and growth for us both!

With the help of Nikolas Cole (a local web designer) the Communication Committee is working to update our website. Please go to innalongtheway.org and watch as changes are being made. Many thanks to Nik for his

patience and guidance as we sprout new tabs and ideas every week.

Though the volunteer work on the deck for the new entrance was momentarily stalled, the planting of that



seed inspired the development and installation of two new, front doors!! We thank the crew from JF Scott, who continue to make changes inside the house as well. These small buds give us hope for the petals opening at IAW.

IAW is exceedingly grateful to have received a \$2500 donor-advised grant. These funds are designated for the purchase of WIFI extenders for our barn. We are grateful to be able to feed the community with this new technology.

Nourishment for Growth – The growth of IAW is fed by the people in our greater community. There are those that feed us with their questions and interest, there are those who enable our growth with their hours of commitment and hard work and there are those who offer us financial nourishment. Each are the friends and the food of IAW. Recently these friends have offered a dollar-for-dollar match, up to **\$50,000**, to help with our fundraising efforts. These funds will help spur the completion of our respite rooms! As of this writing, we have met **\$13,347** of the match. Please help nourish and grow these funds by donating online, in person, or by mail. Thank you!

As we all know – seeds are required for life to continue and the best time for planting those seeds is in the spring. With that in mind I present you with the Wish List of seeds for IAW.

- Volunteers who are interested in forming / leading a Landscape Committee
- A Shop Vac

- A house vacuum
- Donations to be designated for the purchase of mature River Birch, Balsam, Frazier, and Red or Sugar Maple trees
- Donations to be designated for the purchase of exterior door light fixtures as well as lighting fixtures for the bathrooms in the respite rooms
- Good health and continued growth!!

CULTIVATING THE FARM

Information & Dates – Inn Along the Way offers on going Grief and Care Giver support groups. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, please send an email to info@innalongtheway.org or call (207) 751-6261.

WAYS OF GIVING – Inn Along the Way is grateful to have received offerings from the surrounding area and its people. As the year has gone by, all of you continued to feed and sustain us. In this season of spring and fresh growth we do not feel the need to remind you of ways to nourish us. It is abundantly clear that you already know how to “give”. Our hope is that because of your help our Mission in the community, continues to sprout and give back.

CLOSING THE BARN DOOR

The signs of spring are subtle and slow. Spring is a time of patience, as growth and change do not happen overnight. Sometimes there is a little magic in the slowness of change. Sharon Abair (our Garden Committee Chair) writes about one of her favorite signs of change in the spring. Please go to our website, innalongtheway.org and read her article titled **SPRING SIGHTINGS AT INN ALONG THE WAY**. You may want to click on the below link while reading.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TXlrXiyW6o>

*"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."
Martin Luther*

Respectfully submitted.
Alida Zimmerman