

From Brinsley Burbidge and Julie Loquidis
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To: Jeffrey Epstein, Little St. James

Dear Jeffrey,

It is now close to eight years since we worked for you and we still have fond memories about our time on LSJ. It was a great job for both of us and we owe you a debt of thanks for trusting us to steer your garden for a couple of years. However frustrating and difficult some of the staff we supervised were, we developed a considerable affection for so many of them. They, on the whole, did a good job for you and they were often a great source of amusement, probably to you also.

As you know we decided to head for the Pacific Northwest and settled in a little town called Cottage Grove. We bought a home and lots of furniture and worked on creating a great garden. Then we rented a downtown property in an old hotel, renovated to space to serve as a studio and set up a photographic business doing everything from portraits and weddings to selling prints for interior decoration. It was not an easy time to create a photography business with the downturn from the 2008 "crisis" cutting back on everyone's disposable income compounded with the rise of cellphone cameras eliminating so much photographic work.

After four years of hardly making any money we closed the business in 2012 and decided to concentrate on our own creative output. Julie had some considerable success painting and selling the work privately and through juried shows in Oregon (getting "Best of Show" in the Mayors Art Show in Eugene) and selling for up to \$1600 per painting. Brinsley continued to do what he thinks were interesting works but hardly anyone buys photography. As a wise friend of ours once said "work is not art until it sells, otherwise it is a storage problem". If you ever get the chance you can check out both of our work on our website (www.julieandbrinsley.com).

So, a year ago we decided to join the current fashionable trend to "downsize". We sold everything - including our house which we had taken 5 years to make attractive with an exciting garden - and planned to make a move to the UK. At the moment we are living, temporarily in a tiny rented apartment in Eugene (which is actually a really nice liberal city with many services and is hosting to Olympic Trails the week - many beautiful bodies) and are heading for Britain in September.

As you know Britain has taken the most regressive and ill-considered vote to leave the EEC and this gave us some pause in our decision but we are going ahead anyway. I remember, as a young man, vigorously fighting for Britain to become a member of the EEC and am very saddened that "Brexit" (a really nasty word that I try never to say) appears to be happening.

For some time we thought of making a pilgrimage to the US Virgin Islands and then asking if we could come over to see you and review what had happened to your LSJ island gardens. Now it looks as though we will leave the US without this. For our future it will be really exciting to check in with some fine English gardens again and, for Julie, a chance to live in England – still rather a nice place despite its current economic waywardness. We will probably live on the south coast where the temperature and sunshine are only slightly better than the rest of the Island.

So with our very best wishes for whatever is good in your life, we promise to write to you in a couple of years from now. We would really happy to hear from you via email.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julie & Brinsley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Julie" is on the left, followed by an ampersand, and "Brinsley" is on the right. There is a horizontal line under the word "Brinsley".

Julie and Brinsley