

LUNA-SEA

Timothy Kroll

Fifteen hundred square feet, thirteen people, three dogs, one bathroom, two drawers, and three generations created the best eighteen summers at "Luna-Sea." As our three pooches greet each passerby with yaps and our shared driveway is filled with rusty bikes, beach chairs, surfboards, and giggly kids, there isn't a person in Stone Harbor who doesn't understand the name Luna-Sea. When people first learn of our tight quarters and chaos, they question why we would spend our summers like that. Soon though, they seek our secret to making it work.

Thanks to my Mommom and Poppop, I have been fortunate to spend every summer vacationing at Luna-Sea in Stone Harbor with my family. As hard-working early forty-somethings with no college education, they purchased our cottage, now considered a vintage house, in 1988 hoping it would bring our family together year after year as it has ever since.

Although Luna-Sea is by the beach, that's not what makes it extraordinary. It's about spending time with my Mom-mom as she reads stories like *Of Mice and Men* and *Lord of the Flies* to my cousins and me, or walking to 96th street with her to visit our favorite stores and grab the most delicious homemade Springer's ice cream or Douglass Fudge. It's about joking with my Pop-pop as he peruses the Stone Harbor spout offs in the Herald, or fighting him for the best napping spot in the house, the couches on our screened-in front porch. It's about early morning and late evening surf sessions with my uncles, siblings, and cousins at 102nd street beach, or battling the crowds at 110th when the waves are decent all day. It's about bike rides to see the sunset over the bay at the end of 99th street and long walks along the beach with my mom and aunt or helping them make delicious dinners that get devoured in minutes by our brood of thirteen. It's about Pickleball at 80th and working out with my dad at Chelsea Park. It's about being licked and trampled on before the sun rises by three rambunctious miniature schnauzers with unique personalities. It's about first jobs that are a bike ride away, waiting to use the outdoor shower in our magazine worthy garden, meeting friends at the courts to watch summer league basketball games all night, fourth of July parties with neighbors, corn hole tournaments in our driveway and many other moments.

Without Luna-Sea, and Mom-mom and Pop-pop's generosity, I would never have made these bonds with my relatives or had these experiences that shaped my personality and interests in life. Summers in Stone Harbor have motivated me to want the same for my future children. One day, I will provide a Luna-Sea for my family just like my grandparents have done for me. To random individuals who stroll by Luna-Sea, it is lunacy. To us, it makes perfect sense. At Luna-Sea in Stone Harbor, it's not the size of the home or the things in it but the memories made and the people I share them with that matter.