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THE GENEVA GEMS

Coffee House Debut A Success

The first Winni Coffee House drew a crowd in the Chapel last night for an evening of music, stories, and, yes, coffee. The atmosphere was relaxed with an undertone of caffeine buzz as members of the Winni community stepped up to the mike to perform. Frightening as this is to consider, the coffeehouse venue was billed as ideal for those who didn't have the gumption to polish their acts to Hoot standards. Need we say that it was with some trepidation that your reporter ventured in? It's well known, however, that GEMS staff will do nearly anything for a hit of legitimately brewed coffee: one breath of that 100% Arabica aroma and our fears dissolved. Luckily, the loosened standards and repealed time limits for acts on stage were extended also to the audience, who felt free to move about the Chapel and come in and out as the spirit (or the coffee) moved them.

With no fixed program, performers followed one another to the stage impromptu, proving that an open mike at Winni can remain untouched for no more than 15 seconds before someone with a guitar leaps up and starts singing. We were treated to *Streets of London* performed by Andy Schwartz, a piano interlude by Abigail Weeks, Luanne Wilczinski and Beth LeBar doing the Indigo Girls' *Galileo*, and a knockout a cappella vocal of *Amazing Grace* from Alycia Soper. Chuck Bates delivered a Keilloresque story of firefighting in Minnesota. Bernadette Golden (accompanied by Steve Gildardi, in colorful blue shirt as advertised) performed her answer to Joni Mitchell's *My Analyst Told Me:* a number which managed to set the DSM IV to music and make it into a come-on at the same time, and followed it up with another Golden composition, *Unless*. Kevin Weston performed a beautiful rendition of *The Reason I Left Mullengar* and Andy came on for an encore with *Roaming Buffalo.*

Right about then the coffee kicked in and we moved on, but all in all, it was a delightful night. Kudos to the evening coordinators for bringing us this new addition to our Winni week and to all the performers who made it such a delight.

Prestigious Winni Spitti To Be Held Tonight

Greaney and Dockendorff to Defend Titles

Hold your hats and cover your faces because tonight is the highly competitive, non-athletic and mostly sloppy Winni Watermelon Seed spitting contest. Contestants will be invited to toe the line and put their best projectile forward at 6:30 PM by the front porch of the Inn. Seeds that go great distances but venture too far east or west or not only disqualified but are often returned to their owners by angry spectators who have just had their mascara assaulted. Children are encouraged to participate as the GEMS notes the important social skills learned in this competition will be invaluable in school and should anyone ever become a professional baseball player. Observers are guaranteed that this event will meet or exceed all their expectorations.

Softball Game Astounds Crowd of Four

Perhaps the most exciting see saw game in Winni history ended with a 12-10 score, with captain Mike Nisson leading his team into trash-talking victory. Defeated captain, Joe "You know, I've never been on a winning softball team at Winni" Morrissey, could only sum up his disappointment with these poignant words: "You know, I've never been on a winning softball team at Winni."

Highlights of the game included Matt Greaney with a great diving catch in short left field, that nearly dislodged his eye glasses from his cute nose but did not ruffle his hairstyle.

With his stellar defensive play in the outfield, elder statesman Salvatore Pancorbo (age 61) showed us that you'll never get a hit if you keep hitting it to a Cuban. At the other end of the age scale, John Turgeon caught out Mike Nisson, and Calvin Weeks caught out his own father, leaving both grown men tearful, bitter and oddly diminished.

The Dockendorff family made it a bonding day to remember with Chris hitting some long outs in left field, John playing a strong third base and dad Jim hurting his back in the first inning. Ah, the sweet odor of Ben Gay and his wife's Reiki are bringing him back.

The two Kyle's distinguished themselves not only with their ball skills but with this insightful conversation:
Kyle McNeal: "Hey, dude, where are the teenagers?"
Kyle Nisson: "Dude, we *are* the teenagers."

In another bizarre snippet of dialogue, Joe Morrissey in what would turn out to be one of many ranting monologues from the pitcher's mound, declared, "The is only one rule here: It's all about me. Everything at this Camp Winni is all about me." With slavish devotion, Charlie Soper declared, "And if you forget all the other rules, refer to rule number one," as he brought Joe some ice water and a rose.

Trevor Morrissey, who is in the process of changing his last name, smoked line drives. Emily "Look, Mom, I can slide" Seaman thrilled the crowds, and Monica "I am smiling, Mike, now leave me alone" Seaman played well despite intense heckling from her own coach. Joel Hemphill controlled first base, cheered on by ball boy son Tucker, and Jason represented the Brosious clan well.

Spirited fans included Chuck Bates, who encouraged his ankle-injured son Ben Bates with the pet name, "Gimpy," while he and other fan Michele ate all the team's trail mix.

Deanna Finlayson played catcher and also ran valiantly for Ben Bates, Scott Gatto represented well in the field, and Meredith Smith, who was traded mid game, sparked rallies for both teams.

The game ended with Calvin Weeks catching his own dad out, defeating team Morrissey. Observers heard the elder Weeks muttering during the handshake "College fund, what college fund? I'm going to Vegas."

Remember sports fans - It's never too early to get ready for next year and Winni's most highly competitive, tendon-popping, co-ed alpha male event - same time next summer. Take me out to the ball field!

FRIDAY EVENING EVENTS

6:30 The Official 2004 Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest at the Inn Porch
7:30 Vespers Closing – *Barn/Field*
9:00 Barn Dancing

All good things…

We suspect we're not the only ones wondering if it can already be Friday evening at Winni. A week of abundant sunshine, gentle breezes, and comfortable nights wrapped us all in a loving nature-inspired embrace, and it's hard to believe the time is coming for us to let go. Each of us has our own philosophy regarding how, (or if) to "bring Winni home"; we at the GEMS take the view that every act of kindness and connection and insight changes us. We carry with us the choices we've made here, the energy we've generated here, the friends we've loved here. It's up to us to decide how to open and share those gifts upon our return home—never doubt, though, that the gifts are as real and potent as the needs of the world we re-enter.

Our work this week has been helped immeasurably by the contributions of many volunteers who shared their time, talent, and creativity over the week. Lillian Daniel joined the staff every day during second period to help keep us on schedule as well as theologically correct. Joe Morrissey was a regular (anonymous) contributor; less secretive but no less appreciated providers of content included Jennifer Brosious, Jim Holcolm, Hesung Koh, Mary Corbett, and Sue Hartley.

We are also grateful for the visits and contributions of ed-school classes, especially Leslie Ganley's 3rd and 4th graders, and Gordie and Kim Holstrom's 5th and 6th graders—(we're still pulling bits of marshmallow from our keyboards).

So as we take a grateful leave from the Conference we cherish, we thank you, gentle readers, for bearing with us through jokes both bad and worse, and for skipping the familiar torch-wielding mob scene for yet another year. We enjoy what we do, and we look forward to seeing you all again next August!
--Co-Editors: Bill Milford, Diane Stevens
Stringer extraordinaire: Jim Peters

What are Lynn and Lindy up to in YOUR living room…?

…a HOUSE CONCERT if you're interested in hosting one for upcoming Adler & Hearne tours!

Adler & Hearne (that's "Lynn & Lindy" to our Winni family) would love to hear from you if you're interested in hosting a house concert sometime this next year. We're on a mission to plant as many house concerts as we can from now on. It's our FAVORITE way to play.

You can do an online search on the subject of house concerts and come up with a gazillion articles and links about this growing phenomenon. OR just ask or email us and we'll send you all the information you need to host a concert in your home for your friends.

We'd LOVE to hear from you ALL. What a thrill it would be to sing and stay in the homes of our newly adopted Winni family as our tour schedule continues to grow and evolve in the coming days with the release of our new duo CD "Opposites Attract"

Keep us in mind. Our web site is easy to remember: www.adlerandhearne.com.

We've LOVED being here with you all again this year. Each songwriting class has been a soulful experience. "From this place…" we will go out and do our part to build a better world – through friendship and music. (And we'll work on luring more folks to experience Winni in the days and years to come.)

You'll all be in our hearts as we travel back to our Spring Hollow Organic Song Farm in the piney woods of East Texas.

Love,
Lynn Adler, Lindy & Kate Hearne

Winni Songs

Here are a few choruses to songs you might hear in our closing circle tonight. Practice and sing your heart out!

Take Time in Life: Take time in life, Brother. Take time in life, brother. Take time in life cause you've a long way to go.
Today: Today while the blossoms still cling to the vine, I'll taste your strawberries, I'll drink your sweet wine, A million tomorrows will all pass away. Ere' I forget all the joys that are mine today.
Bring Me A Rose: Bring me a rose in the winter time, When it's hard to find. Bring me a rose in the winter time, I've got roses on my mind. For a rose is sweet, most anytime and yet, Bring me a rose in the winter time, How quickly we forget.
Jacob's Ladder: We are climbing Jacob's ladder, We are climbing Jacob's ladder, We are climbing Jacob's ladder, Soldiers of the cross.
Down By The Riverside: I'm gonna lay all my burdens down, down by riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside. I'm gonna lay all my burders down, down by the riverside, study war no more. I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more.
Light Your Way: May the light that shines within us, Lead us safely thorough this day, Till we meet again, I wish for you my friend, Love to light your way.

Hordes of Undead Ravage Beachside

(submitted anonymously by Trevor Morrisey)
Wednesday night between approximately 11:00-Midnight, several humanlike life forms were spotted down at the GPC beach by several eyewitnesses. One eyewitness tells "I went to the beach because I heard screaming but when I arrived several undead scared me away and shouted "You darn teenagers! One of them sounded like my mom!" Mothers were unavailable for questioning about this event.

****Editors Note: The Winni Skinny is a sport often participated in by persons in various states of dress, deadness, and their natural human life cycle. Nakedness is not a privilege preserved for the young. Isn't it bad enough that older women have to wear clothing by a company called "Sag Harbor" - you will soon want to abandon your Fruit of the Loom "Little Green Sprout" fashionwear for a cool and refreshing dip someday. When you do, we will be there and the photos will be printed promptly with no digital enhancements so you best hope the water is warm.

What Day is Today?

The GEMS respectfully suggests the modification of a Winni favorite to reflect our week's activities:

Today is Saturday, today is Saturday, Saturday – Name Tags!
Is everybody happy? Well I should say.

Sunday-Barn Dance
Monday-S'Mores
Tuesday-Star Gaze
Wednesday-Hoot
Thursday-Swimmi
Friday-Spit

Program & Evaluations Report, or "6 of one half dozen of the other"

A great time was has by all (6) attending yesterdays Program & Evaluations meeting. It was decided that next years adult morning program will be canceled due to lack of interest….
…OH! You **like** the morning program??? Then, **please**, send us course suggestions or offer a course that you would like to teach by submitting a proposal before our October 1st

meeting or ……Come to the annual Fall Program and Evaluations Meeting. Come be a part of the planning for next years Adult Morning Program. Our gathering will again be held at the First Congregational Church in Middletown Connecticut on Saturday, October 1st starting at 9:00 AM with coffee and refreshments. The meeting will start at 9:30AM. There will be a pot luck lunch with the meeting ending around 2PM. Those wishing to attend (ALL ARE WELCOME) are encouraged to call or E-mail Kevin Weston: (508) 212-5143 E-Mail: klwestontcb@juno.com

Really, we had a good meeting and some great ideas have been put forth for courses, but we need more. **We need you**.

Immersed in the Winni Spirit

The Place: The waterfront
The Day: Thursday
The Time: Morning
The Event: No, Not the Swimmi! A Baptism!

God's love and grace embraces us in so many ways here at Winni and this week our community has one more reason to give thanks and praise to our creator.

On Thursday morning, surrounded by his family and friends. Ivan Rhodes Carija was baptized into new life within the Church. We celebrate and rejoice with Ivan as he begins this newest chapter of his journey with God.

Thank You From the Chaplain!

-To all the choir members this week who graced our vesper services with their voices.
-To all the musicians who supported our singing and helped us to soar!
-To the readers and the dancers whose voices and bodies stirred the air and stirred our voices.
Many thank to you all!
-- Ruth LeBar – Chaplain

A Nature Movie Minute With Jimmy Holcomb

If seeing the animals in the Barn last night got you interested in nature, there are three great nature documentaries. "The March of the Penguins," in theaters now, is a wonderful portrayal of the mating, hatching of eggs, and raising of chicks of the Emperor Penguin. "Earthling" is a tribute to wildlife photographer Wolfgang Baye by his son Tristen. After a near-fatal heart attack, Wolfgang took his family on a two year adventure to his favorite places around the world. "Earthling," while being a little over-philosophical, has cinematography that is outstanding. And last is "Deep Blue," shot by the BBC for the show "Blue Planet." While it is similar to other undersea films, they use a submersible craft to shoot deeper in the ocean than anyone has gone before. The creatures that live at that depth were astonishing and alien. None of these films would be for young children. But pre-teens and up who understand that death is a part of life should enjoy these films.
-- Jimmy Holcomb

You can do anything if you want it bad enough.
That is why we see so many people who can fly.

(Elden Carnahan, Laurel)

From Our Winni Songwriters

Lynn and Lindy's songwriting class, as usual, has produced some great new songs and lyrics from budding composers. We offer a sampling.

From Robin Brosius:

An Ode to Bud

(from his loving wife Robin)

I was lost and all alone, when you came to me,
You told me that you loved me, and we would always be,
Then you held me up above myself and turned me towards the light,
For the first time, in a long time,
my heart was given sight.

Sometimes I laugh, sometimes I cry, when looking back at years gone by,
Yes there's been pain, and sorrow too,
But I've found great joy in loving you.

You know more of me than I know myself, and yet your love still flows,
A beautiful garden, planted with love,
those were the seeds you chose,
The path that we are wandering now,
we walk it hand in hand,
Joined together, souls and hearts, with a simple wedding band.

Sometimes I laugh, sometimes I cry,
when looking back at years gone by,
Yes there's been pain, and sorrow too,
But I've found great joy in loving you.

The vows we spoke so long ago,
they came straight from the heart,
You and I, will breathe love's sigh,
until death makes us part,
In each new day we'll find our way,
through this maze we know as life,
Thank you my darling, for wanting me,
and making me your wife.

Sometimes I laugh, sometimes I cry,
when looking back at years gone by,
Yes there's been pain, and sorrow too,
But I've found great joy in loving you,
Oh I've found great joy, in loving you.

And, for dessert:

Ice Cream Blues

By Paul DiTucci

Ice cream's got a hold on me
I can't seem to get enough,
Ice cream's got a hold on me
I'm addicted to that stuff

When night time comes I'm thinkin' 'bout getting' me some .... Ice cream.

Ice cream's got a hold on me
I can't seem to get enough,
Ice cream's got a hold on me
I'm addicted to that stuff

It's the highlight of my night
It's how to end it right ..... ice cream.

Chocolate's my favorite, love vanilla too,
Got so many choices, how am I gonna choose?
Wish I could resist but look what I'd miss
Hey…there are worse things I could do!!!

Ice cream's got a hold on me
I can't seem to get enough.
Ice cream's got a hold on me
I'm addicted to that stuff

My baby says "Take a little," but I'm
Gonna take a lot….ice cream.
My baby says "Take a little," but I'm
Gonna take a lot….ice cream.

Spam? A lot!

Last afternoon, commodities traders at Dock Road were busy bidding up the value of a freshly-opened tin of genuine SPAM® meat-like product. Speculators on both sides of the question offered hard currency to entice Kate Hearne either to eat, or not to eat, a substantial chunk of the quasi-nutritive substance. After several rounds of spirited auctioning, Ms. Hearne consumed the debatably consumable material and was duly rewarded with a bit of cash and a larger helping of indigestion.