Volume 05, Issue 4 "Twenty bucks gets your message here" August 9th, 2005

THE GENEVA GEMS

ALL EYES ACCOUNTED FOR

Despite dozens of stick-wielding children, no blindings occur at Weston Campfire

The Weston family proved their mettle yesterday as they managed to hold the attention of a quorum of camper-singers in the face of fierce competition from an arrestingly beautiful sunset. The miraculous absence of eye injuries was offset by a spike in neck strains and sprains as distracted attendees craned to see the spectacular colors blazing in the west. The Westons soldiered on as whole families slipped off to snap their Christmas card photos against the dramatic twilight backdrop, heedless of the elephants' thunderous approach. Nothing but the charisma of the Weston family and the promise of s'mores could have kept us in our seats. Thanks for a magnificently melodious evening!

Today is Tuesday!

Despite the confusion spread by the Weston Family Campfire Sing-A-Long, the GEMS has carefully researched the issue and it is our editorial opinion that Today is Tuesday. At the campfire, some of the Weston Family were insisting that "Today is Monday," while others were exclaiming "Today is Wednesday." A small, barely vocal contingent felt that "Today is Friday," perhaps a few persons were insisting "Today is Saturday," and one Dick Shank was spied insisting that "Today is Sunday" and furthermore that one should not only eat fish but act like one.

TUESDAY EVENING EVENTS

5:30 Barbecue dinner
6:45-7:15 VESPERS – *Chapel*
7:30 Winni Nostalgia Night
8:30 – 10:00 CAMP STORE OPEN
9:00 Movie: *Racing Stripes* – Meeting House
9:00 Bonfire sing-a-long – Tenting Area
9:00 Fireside chat with Lou Weeks on "The Future of the Labor Movement" – Dock Road

TUESDAY TWILIGHT THRILLS

Tonight's smorgasbord of activities begins with a trip down memory lane as we gather in the Meeting House at 7:30 for Nostalgia Night. We will spend some time looking over various items that campers have brought which will surely bring back some memories of Winnis gone by. As part of the journey we will share a video that offers a glimpse into our past and those who have shaped NNSRE. If you have brought something to display, we ask that you bring it to the Meeting House immediately following dinner.

At 9:00 your choices are many. Some may wish to exercise their voices and share a song around the fire in the camping area. Bring a guitar, a song, a chair and/or come enjoy the fellowship. Some of the younger set may enjoy the movie "Racing Stripes" in the Meeting House. And for those who prefer a more thought-provoking fare, Lou Weeks is offering a discussion around the Dock Row campfire on the status of today's labor movement. This is great opportunity to hear first hand his insight into what is going on in and around the labor front in our country.

MIDWEEK APPRECIATION

Just a note of appreciation to those who make this week so special: thank you for leading singing, for helping with the young ones on the green, for leading activities, for pitching in with s'more making, for leading discussions, helping us dance and play, for sharing songs, for offering rides and sharing love. Being together, working together, sharing together is what makes this a special place.

Top Eleven Reasons to Know Your Family Tree

From 3rd and 4th Grade Class (+ or – a year) with Leslie Ganley

The 3rd and 4th graders have been studying family trees this year. Look for a stellar performance at the Hoot by this class of the Tom Chapin classic "Family Tree.

1. So you know where to send Christmas Cards.
2. So you are not rude to your relatives.
3. So you know who loves, feeds you and takes care of you.
4. So you know where you got your big ears.
5. So you know why you look like Elvis.
6. To learn about your cultural heritage.
7. To know who to sing "Happy Birthday" to!
8. So you don't accidentally marry your cousin.
9. So you know who not to throw acorns at!
10. So you know why have a strange middle name.
11. So you remember your family!

WEDNESDAY MENU

Breakfast: Pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon.

Lunch: (Russian) meatball subs (guaranteed to sink to the bottom of your stomach and remain there for days).

Dinner: Meatload with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn bread.

Annual Memorial Service Tomorrow at 1:15 PM

The Annual Winni Memorial Service will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at 1:15 PM at the Council Ring by the waterfront. Those persons who wish to request transportation to the service should let the Chaplain, Ruth LeBar, know as soon as possible. This brief service is held in lieu of Vesper's which creates more time for the Wednesday evening Hootenanny.

The memorial service is a time during the week when we remember those members of our community who have passed away during the past year or those who remain strong in our hearts and memory that we wish to speak about regardless of when they passed away or if they attended Winni.

Community members who have lost loved ones during the past year are invited to meet in the Pines (behind the Chapel) for the ritual gathering of pine needles to be burned in remembrance during the service.

Trivia About the Winni Memorial

Where is it?

Head on down to the beach and go slightly past the Council Ring. It is there to the left and up. If you sit down by the trees and look at the Memorial, you will see the water and islands behind it. If you are lucky, there is a nice breeze making the plaques move gently in the breeze.

Is that a canoe on top of the sign?

Well, it sure can be if you want it to – however – the design of the memorial was such that the top piece represents a roof in an eastern design that hangs over and protects the names and memories of those listed.

How many plaques are there hanging?
As of 2005, there are now 39 plaques hanging in the memorial.

Who can be listed at the memorial?
Anyone who has attended NNESRE, at any time. All you have to do is submit the person's name, relevant dates and $25.00 to cover the cost of the plaque.

Who makes the plaques?
A local woodworker named Doug Mertz. He is also the person who built the Memorial based on design ideas from Hesung Koh and Bill Milford.

What are the dates listed under each name?
The dates represent the person's year of birth, their first year at Winni, and the year of their death.

What is the earliest and latest year of birth for a person listed at the Memorial?
Millie Lind was born in 1906 and Joseph Lopes was born in 1975.

Which person lived the longest?
Millie Lind. She died this year and was 98 ½ years old!

Which persons listed first attended NNESRE?
Bob Arnold first attended Winni in 1950, Charlie Pitt in 1952 and Les Rowe, Bob Siftar, and Tom and Rose Weston began in 1953.

Who were the youngest persons to pass away who have attended Winni?
Joseph Lopes was only 22 years old and Ben LeBar was only 29 years old.

What are the earliest years of death listed?
The earliest years of death listed are 1982 (Ben LeBar), 1983 (Isabel Arnold) and 1984 (Les Rowe).

Does the Memorial have complete information about all the persons listed?
No (!) and we need your help. Additional information is needed about **Esther Charron, Marie Horbal, Fred Anderson, Mavis Avery, and Ruth Whittemore** Please see Bill Milford if you have any information about these persons! Even guesses or estimates are better than nothing! And we want to start collecting biographical information about ALL of the persons listed in the Memorial for our NNESRE website, including pictures. Stayed tuned for more information about this!

Today's Limerick Entries

Joe Morrissey submitted the following three entries for the GEMS limerick contest.

There once was a man named Nisson
Who all the girls were kissin'
'Til one day his Susan
Got sick of his shmoozin'
And now all his teeth are missin'.

…and speaking of Susan:

There once was a girl on "The Line"
Who loved her beer and her wine.
Her neighbors all mocked her
'Til she introduced them to "The Doctor"
And now they all think she's divine.

…while elsewhere on Chapel Line:

There once was a young girl named Weeks
Who complained that her minivan reeks
When asked what to think
What made the stink
She calmly replied: "Calvin's sneaks."

"Wazzat In Da Sky?" Department

Look! Up in the Sky! Is it a bird? Is it a flock of birds? Is it a plane? Is it the blue angels? Is it Ben Franklin's experiment gone terribly, terribly wrong? Only time will tell….

Room at the (Days) Inn

Lillian Daniel was overheard telling some friends that they should visit her and her family in Chicago. She even offered to recommend a nice hotel to stay at during the visit. The ministerial nature of that woman is awe inspiring. Just watch that she doesn't use your bowl of ice cream as a trashcan.

Getting to the Point

Michele Dupres needed to sharpen some pencils for her Senior High Ed Class. She therefore went to the GPC office where she promptly broke their only pencil sharpener. The staff was very understanding. Just don't ask to use their restroom..

In The News

Hesung Koh featured in April 2005 New Haven Register for 50th Anniversary Conference of the East Rock Institute. Hesung has, for most of her adult life worked very hard to promote East-West, Korean-American relations, not just for her family, but families of the world—the work of the East Rock Institute. Bob LaCamera, a WINNI alumni and friend, sent us a copy of the wonderful article about the Institute's celebration, and specifically Hesung's matriarchal contributions to its work. It is posted on the Inn porch bulletin board. Be sure to read it!

Jumble Queen

Robin Brosious once again has donned the triumphant tiara of word wizardry and completed yesterday's word jumble in 17 minutes. The hidden bonus word was RESULTS and the hidden GEMS bonus word was HELPWENEEDCONTENT or POLENTA, we forget which. If anybody else is doing these Jumbles, please get with the competitive spirit and let Robin know she isn't the only one in camp with a marker and too much time on her hands.

News From The Gate

Whilst we are hesitant to absorb you in too much news of the outside world, we are happy to pass along good news, some of which is actually true – you decide:

1. The Russian sub was safely rescued from the bottom of the sea and all the crew is fine. The British get the credit for being the true "fishers of men".
2. The Space Shuttle returned safely from outer space and is now at Jiffy Lube.
3. Sadly, longtime ABC anchorman Peter Jennings died of lung cancer this week.
4. Tom Cruise and Jennifer Aniston? Say it ain't so!
5. Martha Stewart to present an attractive new line of designer Anklet Locater Bracelets. Once you put them on, you just won't want to take them off.
6. The Red Sox continue to inspire and disappoint.

Night Beat

The GEMS is pleased to report that one of our crack reporters attend the drum circle last night only to find a bunch of people sitting around in a circle, beating on drums! However, after a while the beat grew on him and indeed he was drawn in the hypnotic beat and energy of the circle. The percussion and spirit increased as people began dancing, chanting and, according to our intrepid reporter, dusting. Thanks to all who participated in such a magical event, you couldn't beat it or actually, perhaps you could.

Pale Moon at Sunrise?

Hearing that perennial Swimmi medallist Ed Cunningham arrived *sans* trunks this year, coordinator Jeanne Mockard is encouraging other swimmers to follow suit, so to speak. This year's event is being billed as the "Skinny Swimmi." Jeanne explained that "Goggles may be worn, but only on your eyes."

We Need YOU!

The NNESRE Nominating Committee is responsible for filling open trustee positions and for making staff recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee is comprised of 3 VOLUNTEERS from the community and 3 Trustees appointed by the Chair. The responsibility is huge but the time commitment is small. If You are willing to serve on the Nominating Committee, please see Lelly Smith, Don Quinlan, Chuck Bates or Debbie Rowe.

Softball Anyone?

There will be 2 softball games this year. The 1st game will be Wednesday and will be for all ages. The emphasis on this game will be for elementary and junior high students but we welcome any adults who would like to help round out the rosters. The 2nd game is on Thursday and is for high schoolers and older. A pool is being organized for guesses as to when the first argument starts. Both games will be at the GPC Cingular Wireless International Softball Field with pre-game warm-ups at 1:30 and game time at 2:00. A capacity crowd is expected but rumor has it that Lou Weeks is scalping tickets with proceeds going to benefit the United Federation of Bad Guitar Players (Lou Weeks president).

"Base" Instincts Available – Cheap

Willing bass player available for Hoot. Has fret-less electric bass and amp. Doesn't read music but has good ear and colorful blue shirt. Contact Stefano @ Gibbes 4.

Super Heroes of Winni

The Laundry Folding Kid – Hot and disgruntled, this teen folds as an alternative community service option to being grounded at camp.

S'More Man – Able to handle sharp sticks with burning marshmallows flying toward them and capture them in between graham crackers and chocolate.
The Mole – Able to sniff out a missing sock in a filthy room in the dark of night.
The Beer Cap Kid – Able to find Mommy's bottle opener at the bottom of the cooler or devise endless ways of opening bottles.
The Salad Navigatrix – She takes an ordinary salad bar and turns it into a colorful meal that you envy. Packs her own salad dressing.
Buns of Steel Man: Attends every event that involves sitting in a folded chair. Uses bottom as chi "gong."
The Chronometer Kid – He always knows what time it is, what period it is, and how many minutes late you are
The Pharmacologist- Produces Band-Aids, Children's Motrin, laxatives (it is Tuesday, do you know where your fiber is?) and the thermometer that dares not speak its name. Her sidekick is the Sleep Fairy with the large prescription of Ambien.
The Stumble Down Kid – Trips every time they get to that rise in the flooring in the barn, taking others down with them, only to rise again like an annoying Phoenix.
Schnapps Boy –Endlessly engages others with minty fresh breath and jokes only understood by self. (Lifetime achievement award for this was previously granted to Chapel Line, every dang one of 'em.)
The JoJo Flash – Willing to speed to JoJo's at a moment's notice for critical items such as real brewed coffee, dental floss, or ChapStik.

The GEMS invites your own nominations of Winni Superheroes!