Volume 05. Issue 2 *"Contributing to the trash overload since 1950"* Sunday, August 7th 2005

The Geneva Gems

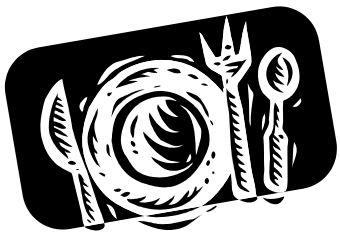
Winni 2005 – "Healing Our Divisions"

Winni 2005 opened amidst brilliant weather and great spirits as the camp begins its week exploring the theme of "Healing Our Divisions". Dean Ginny Houghtaling and Program Chair Kevin Weston introduced the camp Leadership Team, NNESRE faculty who are teaching classes this week and GPC staff. Random facts of importance include:

- GPC is encouraging all campers to reuse, recycle and remove their own trash (see the GEMS for creative disposal ideas)
- Be wary to wear sandals, sunscreen and visit the nurse after mealtimes for any upsets which cannot be directly to your spouse, children or the business manager
- Winni 2005 campers number around 260 – we hope to finish the week with as many so do try to keep track of your children.
- A large "Hail to Hamish" was cleverly achieved as he instigated a human wave that went all directions in the room and was a timely reminded of the beauty of the human spirit and the power of good deodorant.
- Our own Katie Rowe is following in the great tradition (Julie Siftar Nickerson, Bob and Dotti Siftar, Kevin Weston, Marie Horbal) of NNESRE members becoming camp staff.
- The campus has gone wireless!!! A computer is available in the meeting house for checking email. The wireless service extends to the green if your extension cord can reach that far.
- If you wish to a take an early swim, lifeguards will be on duty from 7 to 7:45 am. Zinc oxide optional.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

3:00–4:00 Camp Store open
3:00–5:00 Waterfront open
5:30–6:30 Dinner
6:45 Vespers - Chapel
7:30 Bill 'n Barb 'n Lynn 'n Lindy Concert - Chapel
8:30–10:00 Camp Store open
9:00 Dancing in the Barn with Dotti and Barb



MONDAY (or possibly Tuesday or Wednesday) **MENU**

The menu is still somewhat in transition, but near as we can tell, here's what to expect tomorrow:

Breakfast: Scrambled eggs with cheese
Lunch: Beef stew or veggie stew with noodles
Dinner: Meat lasagna or veggie lasagna, Italian vegetables

Dining hall hours:
Breakfast 7:45 - 8:45
Lunch 11:45 - 1:00
Dinner 5:15 – 6:45

Choir Call

Chaplain Ruth LeBar would like to have a choir at each Vespers service. If you would like to sing on any given evening, just report to the chapel at 6:15 (30 min prior to the service) and tune up with the other singers. Thanks!

Morning Watch Watch

Morning Watch started off on a lovely note this morning. Cynthia Russett led the service, which included the Shaker Song "'Tis the Gift to be Simple," the Peace Prayer, a reading from Anne Morrow Lindbergh's "Gifts From the Sea," and this especially relevant verse from Isaiah: "All you who are thirsty, come to the water!" Amen, Isaiah.

This from Tom Weston, who will lead tomorrow's service: *Get Down and Get Cool at Morning Watch* – Come and experience first hand, the G.P.C. seasonal cooling system, 7:30am in the outdoor chapel. Good seats still available. Standing room if needed. Join us please. It's breakfast for the soul.

GEMS Trivia Question

Nobody even ventured a guess at yesterday's question, *Who were the winners of the 2004 Watermelon Seed Spit?*

Winners were John Dockendorff in the under-18 division and Matt Greaney in the adult division. All hail to the defending champs!

Order on the Courts?

Tennis, anyone? Don Quinlan would like to know who would want to play tennis if the courts would be made useable. Please contact Don in
F-3 if you're interested.

PLAN YOUR EVENINGS

We are giving you a brief outline of what is planned for the week's evenings activities. Each day we will have a more detailed description which you may or may not find more helpful. Posted in various locations will be colorful sheets promoting the evening's events. Not included in the schedule but are parts of our evening include a trip to the scoop shop, conversation and song, the doctor, star gazing, walk to the beach, games in the inn, reminiscing, …

Sunday
7:30 Bill & Barb
9:00 Barn Dancing, Movie, Dock Road Campfire

Monday
7:30 Weston sing-along campfire, classic movie
9:00 Barn Dancing , Drum Circle

Tuesday
7:30 Nostalgia
9:00 Bonfire, Movie

Wednesday
6:30 Hoot
9:00 Barn Dancing

Thursday
7:30 Science Center, Porch Singing
9:00 Coffee House

Friday
6:30 Watermelon Contest
7:30 Closing Vespers
9:00 Barn Dancing

- Sheldon & Charlie Soper

Water Carnival Planned for Tomorrow Afternoon

The annual Winni Water Carnival is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon at 3:30. This is a change from the usual evening carnival – we hope the afternoon time will allow even more campers to come and join in the fun!

Jerry Christman's Sad Journey

Please keep long time NNESRE camper Jerry Christman in your thoughts and prayers as he hopefully will join us mid-week after making a sad trip back from Tallahassee, Florida. Jerry and his partner, Gary Graves, had intended on spending last week seeing Gary's mother in Tallahassee and then having a vacation in Hawaii and Provincetown. Tragically, Gary died of an apparent aneurysm while visiting his mother. As you can well imagine, Jerry is stunned and heartbroken. Bill Milford spoke with him a couple of days ago and Jerry said that he really wanted to be up here at Winni with his friends to help him through this time and hoped to be here mid-week. The Milfords knew Gary and his mother through their church in Tallahassee and know how heartbroken that community is over Gary's untimely death. Much like Jerry, Gary was a sparkling personality, a great cook and he loved to sing. Both Jerry and Gary are members of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus. So please keep Jerry and Gary's family in your thoughts as they struggle to deal with the loss of a beloved friend.

Yo! Yoga To Go!!!

Freshly minted, certified and registered yoga teacher Jennifer Brosious would like to share the gift of yoga with any and all. You are welcome to join her in her early morning practice—7:00 am somewhere in the meeting house—or if that time doesn't work for you, let's find another time that does. Individual sessions available as well. If you haven't tried yoga—stretch a little.

Watch Movies & Lose Weight

This year at the Seattle International Film Festival, Jimmy Holcomb watched 150 movies. Ask him what it was like to see 5 movies a day for three weeks and about the "eat popcorn and sprint between theatres" diet.

BarbnBillbLindynLynn A'gin!

The Winni stage will once again be graced by the folksy wit, wisdom and music of Barb Siftar, Bill Milford, Lindy Hearne and Lynn Adler. Although it is difficult to imagine them even counting that high, this may be the 20th year that Barb and Bill have provided the annual Sunday concert and this is the second year that they have been joined Lynn and Lindy.

Lynn and Lindy (professionally known as "Adler and Hearne") have been touring the North Country (also known as Michigan) with a series of very successful "house concerts" in promotion of their new CD "Opposites Attract". This is a superb recording of a house concert that Lynn and Lindy did in Texas that was professionally produced. Copies of this CD, Lynn's "Bird On The Wing", Lindy's "Lifetime Supply", along with other vintage masters of previous Barb and Bill recordings will be available tonight for less money than you would paid for other high quality CDs by far less attractive persons. Come buy and listen!

Welcome to Our New Winnites!

Please give a warm welcome to the last to remain standing at last night's orientation, our Winni First-Timers. They are:

Deb Blood — Newly ordained pastor and leader of the course on Colombia.
Kate Hearne – daughter of Lindy Hearne
The Livsey family: Chuck, Denise, Stefan, Garrett, and Nolan (friends of the Milfords)
Ron and Judy Offutt with Adam & Mary (friends of Jennifer Hanrahan)
Lucian Parker (friend of Bonnie & Ed James)
Carolyn Young - pastor of Whitneyville UCC in Hamden, CT
Please be sure to give them an extra-welcoming hello.

THE NEWCOMERS GUIDE TO WINNI

Hi and welcome to Winni! We are thrilled that you are with us and hope you will have a wonderful week. Please remember that we have all been in your shoes or sandals and been "first timers" here and appreciate that it can be awkward and a bit challenging. However, we think you will find the natives to be friendly, the atmosphere relaxing, and everyone to be inviting so join on in! As a public service to our friends joining us for the first time here at "Winni", here is our brief guide to some of the landmarks, jargon, and customs that you may experience:

"Hi" - Often what people may say to you as an initial greeting. If they know you are new, they may instead substitute "Hi!" with the additional emphasis and enthusiasm and *they mean it.* "Winni" is a great community because of people like **you** coming to join us so thanks! -- and have a great week.

"Winni" - A little confusing, but it actually refers to NNESRE (see below), our conference and our week here. The actual reference of course is to the rather large pool of water on our beach (no, not the spot by the port-a-let, but our magnificent Lake Winnipesaukee).

"NNESRE" (pronounced *NEZ-ree*)- 'Tis the Northern New England School of Religious Education, the formal name for the conference you are attending. It started out as a leadership training school for lay people working in the church and has evolved into an ecumenical community gathering for folks who know folks who have known folks who have come here.

"The Dean" - Seeing as the conference you are attending is indeed an educational conference (to which you used to pay tuition rather than registration), it is only right that the figurative head of the community should be our Dean. Rather than rising to power through obscure PhDs and political maneuvering, the Dean is a beloved member of the community who sacrifices a good deal of time and mental health to making sure that the week goes smoothly. Enjoying her 3rd year of excellent leadership as Dean is the lovely and talented Ginny Houghtaling.

"The Business Manager" - All things that involve a dollar sign are the business of this manager. If you do not see him by the end of the week, he will find you. He made the housing roster, he knows where you live, you cannot run, you cannot hide, and you cannot bounce checks more than a couple of times without him noticing. Good thing he is wonderful guy named Jon Rowe to whom the GEMS office gives praise as long as we continue to receive our luxurious 5 star accommodations.

"The Chaplain" – Your spiritual guide through the religious melting pot of Winni is your chaplain, the wonderful Reverend Ruth LeBar. The Chaplain is the spiritual tour de force behind the organization of the evening's vespers programs and attending to the spiritual growth and concerns of the community. If you have lost your spirit, she not only knows where it is but probably can help you cut a deal to get it back.

"The Evening Coordinators" – Sheldon and Charlie Soper are your Evening Coordinators this year. They are responsible for planning and putting on the evening programs, such as the Sunday Concert, Barn Dancing, the Winni Nostalgia Extravaganza, the Campfire Songfest, The Hoot, Movies, etc. They are fun people who work hard to spread the fun around!

"The GEMS" - The name of the esteemed daily newspaper you are reading. Next to the New York Times, the GEMS is the second most requested newspaper here at Winni to clean up spills in the cabin. The GEMS editors (yours truly-Din Stevens, Bill Milford) are people to be feared for the power of the press is awesome.

However, they are people who are often in the most need - of help, coffee, and mostly, integrity. You have what we most need, copy… and the fingers to type it. Come by and visit and watch us turn your most trivial characteristic into front page news.

"Morning Watch" - A lovely service held around 7:30 am in the outdoor chapel (just down from the Inn). This is the first organized spiritual awakening to the day unless you awoke to discover something in your sleeping bag that is traditionally not supposed to be there. It is a wonderful time to have a quiet gentle worship service with a magnificent backdrop of the lake catching the morning light. Try to go at least once during the week. (Also known as "Morning What?") The organizer of Morning Watch this year is Lelly Smith.

"GEORGIE" - Every morning, at more or less half-past eight, we go *ooo-ooo-ooh to Georgie.* Or at least so goes the song that we traditionally sing every morning. You will catch onto it quickly and then wonder how you ever woke up without it, due to the skill of our fabulous song leader, Tom Weston Jr. Whilst it is nice to imagine that the tune was written about a little tyke going to cabin to cabin, historians have burst that little bubble by alleging that Georgie is actually Mt. Washington (Georgie Washington – get it?) and the song is about waving to a pile of rocks with trees on it. This interpretation makes perfect sense, except that Mt. Washington is not in fact visible from Geneva Point Center.

"The Inn" - Our gathering place for meals and home to the few, the proud and sweaty Inn residents. The Inn Porch is the mecca for the pre-meal singing and schmoozing. The Dining Hall in the lower part of the Inn is the actual place where we eat. The heat and humidity are often quite high in the dining hall in order to keep the food hot. You can eat inside, on the picnic tables, Inn Porch, or wherever you are most comfortable so you can digest peacefully. While some campers believe that place is somewhere in a restaurant in Center Harbor, we staunchly maintain the rumor that the camp food is a delicious and nutritious wonderland.

"Porch Potatoes" – Life forms found on the Inn Porch. These native creatures are intensely focused on having a relaxing week at Winni, and thus are a model for the entire community. Their activities include chatting, greeting passersby, and a demanding regimen of almost non-stop rocking.

"The Labyrinth" - A human maze designed to create a walking meditation. Follow the path and it will lead you into the center of the Labyrinth, follow it out and you are not in it anymore. Get the picture? Rats get cheese for doing something similar however your reward is a spiritual insight or inner peace. Walking the Labyrinth, may lead you to a "aha" moment about your life or just an acute awareness that you are standing in the middle of a large drain field. Your journey to the Labyrinth may be deeply personal however we might suggest simply following the marked path that's on the road to the Lake past Gibbes House.

"The Barn" - This is the wonderful gathering place for intergenerational dancing and games led by our recreational leaders extraordinaire, Dotti and Barb Siftar. It is also a great place just to hang out and sing, talk, or see what a little bat poo can do for the luster of your hair. The barn is located for your convenience at the end of the green.

The Bats In the Barn - Here at Winni, we like the bats. They are the ones keeping the mosquito population down and dropping reminders on our shirts that they probably need to be washed. They rarely if ever mingle with the humans except to remove an occasional mosquito from your hair.

"Vespers" - Our evening worship service. This is often held at different sites during the week -- the chapel, the pines behind the chapel, etc. This is a wonderful time to reflect on the beauty of our surroundings and community. On Wednesday afternoon, we hold a traditional Memorial Service by the lake at the Council Ring. Our Chaplain, Ruth LeBar organizes Vespers and welcomes your input (readings, ideas, music, etc.) and participation.

"The Hoot" - The Hoot, or Hootenanny, is our annual talent show where everything and anything goes as long as it is in reasonable good taste (negotiable) and less than 3 minutes long (non-negotiable). If you are in the Hoot, prepare your act with focus, care and a stopwatch. If you are not in the Hoot, prepare yourself with a good chair and a cushion for your derrière.

"The Watermelon Seed Spit Off" - This annual event is held on Friday just before our final Vespers service (go figure). If you see people spitting during the week, just tell your kids that they are practicing for the big game. If people tell you this is a light-hearted old-timey contest, don't believe 'em. The grudges and hard feelings formed here last the whole year through and participants come back prepared to "spit to win". If a seed flies your way you should not take it personally unless you are five feet or more away from the spitting platform paper.

Rare Stress Disorder Spotted Among Campers

It has come to our attention that many campers are suffering from a rare psychological condition: "Post Long Car Ride Stress Syndrome." The symptoms, mostly apparent in the driver, include wandering around the green, tearfully mumbling, "But you said at the last stop that you really didn't have to go to the bathroom. You promised…" and swatting away imaginary children. Some have been spotted in the dining room shouting into thin air, "Who has their shoes off? Whose feet are those?" When seated in adult education classrooms, they have been known to develop a glazed look and begin to accost the teacher with comments unrelated to the class material such as, "I know you are but what am I?"

If you see someone suffering from this condition, please refer them to the chaplain, who will be holding a radical tough love therapy session in which patients will be strapped into a mildew scented mini van with a broken DVD player, pelted with hamburger wrappers and not be allowed to go the bathroom until we get there.

Your Winni Forecast

(thanks to AccuWeather.com)

Currently at 9:35 AM

sunny

Sunday, Aug 7

Sunny to partly cloudy and warm. Winds from the SW at 5 mph.

Sunday Night: Clear to partly cloudy. Winds from the N at 1 mph.

Monday, Aug 8

Partly sunny, very warm and humid. Winds from the SW at 3 mph.

Winni Craft Expo

Crafters and Artists sign up for the Winni Craft Expo a.k.a. Craft Bazaar at the Dean's table. $20 will get you a table at the expo. Campers reserve Monday 1:30 – 3:00 to attend this expo & clear the tables of the crafts! Expo is in the main room of the Meeting Hall.

One camper's trash…

A quick survey of residents revealed a range of reactions to the camp administration's request that we haul out trash at week's end, most along the lines of "I'll take THEIR trash if they take MY kids!" In the spirit of creative and helpful brainstorming, the GEMS offer the following:

Top Ten Ideas for Managing our Trash Output

10. Garbage-smoked s'mores ---mmm, toasty!
9. Have Dock Road rezoned as landfill (Wait—hasn't that one already been done?)
8. Bottles, we're told **do,** compost in geological time, so feel free to heave same in any direction, set your stopwatch, relax and watch nature run its course.
7. Beer-bottle bowling at the labyrinth?
6. Encourage teens to begin a new on-field gaming routine: Capture the Diaper
5. Update our evening programming by asking Ranger Phil to feed banana peels to rats.
4. Replace the quarter-ply toilet paper in the bathhouse with sixteenth-ply.
3. On a related note, please feel free creatively to recycle the GEMS any way you see fit.
2. Have Chapel line denizens don their well-worn DWI orange jumpsuits and begin policing the grounds.

AND THE NUMBER ONE IDEA FOR MANAGING OUR TRASH OUTPUT…

1. Construct a giant equine-shaped hollow sculpture out of used beverage containers and use it to facilitate a sneak attack on Camp Robindell.

NNESRE Mourns The Passing of Anne Widman

The GEMS is sad to report the passing of Anne Widman, longtime friend and member of the Winni Community, on July 12, 2005. She worked as the director of administration and elderhostel coordinator at Geneva Point Center and was director of Christian education for several churches in Ohio. She was the first woman elected to first vice-president of the International Association of Conference Center Administrators, and she served on the board of N.H. Camp Directors Association and New England Chapter of the American Camping Association. She was also a founding member of the Worthington Ohio United Church. For 30 years she and her husband led study trips abroad.

Survivors include her husband (and past GPC Executive Director) of 53 years, Rev. Harry Widman of Wolfeboro; a son and daughter-in-law, Gregory and Cheryl Widman of Moultonboro; three daughters and their husbands, Jean and Charles Vargas of Pittsford, Vt., Sara and Kevin Worthington of Wilmington, Mass., and Kristianne and Glenn Johnson of Marlboro, Mass.; and eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Donations in her name may be made to the First Congregational Church , Wolfeboro, N.H. (for support of women's scholarships Ghana), Brewster Academy Widman Family Scholarship or the Geneva Point Center Widman Family Endowment for buildings and grounds.