Volume 05. Issue 1 "We're B-a-a-a-a-ck" Saturday, August 6th 2005

The Geneva Gems

Hurry Up and *Relax*…

Your stressed out GEMS Editors' Guide to Enlightenment

Ummmmmm…….. Perhaps this is a familiar mantra to us all – used as a prelude to a state of bliss during a prayer or meditational moment. Unfortunately, it is too often followed by "Ummmmmm…. Wait a minute, make that a *double* cheeseburger instead, with onions." If life since Winni 2004 has flown by like a speed bump under your tires while high-tailing it here today, it is no wonder. Leaving Winni is a little like taking that deep breath before going under water. Well, you made it back, you can breathe again. This is the land of getting the batteries re-charged, the spirit re-spirited, and the glass that was once half-empty, filled again with a maraschino cherry on top for good measure. However, how does one speed the process toward truly "being here" and letting there "stay there?"

Well, to start with – *convince* yourself that you are truly here. This GEMS artifact is indeed the proof of that. No matter how hard you try or how well you look (you can even Google us), this is the only place in the universe that you will find your Geneva GEMS. While the rest of the world is forever grateful about that, you can use it as concrete evidence that you have, indeed, arrived and you can now stick it under your drink at dinner.

However, for a more ethereal experience – might we suggest a 20-minute foray that will enhance your senses and prove to yourself that you are truly back. *(Continued on page 5)*

Greetings From the Dean

WELCOME TO WINNI 2005! It's so nice to be back – to connect with friends, take in the beauty, laugh, love, learn, worship, and sing again during this wonderful week apart. Let's all look for newcomers and help them to feel a part of the community, too.

If you have any concerns about the week, please feel free to talk with me (before or after meals is a good time – whenever is OK!). I will help if I can and/or put you in touch with the correct person. If it is a business concern, of course, Jon Rowe is your man!

The leadership team is working hard to be in close touch this year to make the week go smoothly, so let's all support them. Come on out to the orientation and evening Vespers tonight to meet everyone and hear about this year's outstanding courses. I thank all the leaders for their preparation (many, many hours…) and their faithful presence.

Godspeed to all and many happy WINNI hours!
-- Ginny Houghtaling

Start Your Day Off Right!

Come to the outdoor chapel first thing in the morning each day for a short worship service before our breakfast meal at the Inn. Like breakfast, it is good and good for you!

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

3:00–4:00 Camp Store open
3:00–5:00 Waterfront open
5:30–6:30 Dinner
7:00 Ed School teachers meet in the Barn
7:15 Ed School Registration in the Barn
Mandatory -- parents and students
7:15–7:45 Vespers in the Meeting House
7:45- 8:45 Camp Orientation in the Meeting House
8:30–10:00 Camp Store open
9:00 Dancing in the Barn with Dotti and Barb Siftar

Trustees Meet Tomorrow

A Trustees meeting has been called for Sunday, August 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the Meeting House.

This will be brief but important. Job descriptions of all leadership positions will be distributed along with Minutes of our April meeting. Len Raymond will update us on our new Winni website. Alerts and advisories for the week will be introduced. Our official summer meeting will be Thursday afternoon.

SUNDAY MENU*

Breakfast: Belgian waffles with fresh strawberries, whipped cream, pure maple syrup. Eggs Benedict. Fresh-squeezed orange juice
Lunch: Fresh mozzarella, tomato, and basil sandwich on home-baked focaccia bread
Dinner: Wild-caught Coho salmon with mango-chutney salsa, asparagus spears, broiled new potatoes with rosemary and garlic. Choice of tiramisu or crème brulee.

*This is the Sunday menu for the Boston Parker House Hotel. The GPC menu was not available at press time.

News from the Ed School

Our first year as Ed School coordinators has been a real eye opener. Our teaching staff from last year has been hit by a number of incidents which prevent many of them from repeating the outstanding jobs they did last year. However, in the true Winni spirit, others have stepped up to the plate and volunteered (well sort of, they are getting paid) to educate the future presidents/ astronauts/CEO's/artists/rock gods and divas of our nation. Those teachers and assistants are Gordie and Kim Holstrom, Katie Rowe, Deb Eskra, Beth Siftar, Danielle Moehring, Robin Ogden, Wes Gundersen, and Joe Morrissey. They will be joining our returning staff of Tracy Hall, Michele Despres, Leslie Ganley, Luanne Wilczynski, Ben Bates, and Joann Milford. Perhaps Gordie can teach his class how he was able to become a firefighter in Boston without even being Irish, or how to build one of his bonfires that can be seen from space. That's the good news. The bad news is that Wes Gundersen and Joe will be with the kids during 3rd period at the beach. Heaven help us all.

One of us will be here in the early afternoon on Saturday so the teachers can pick up additional supplies that they may need over at Shaw Cottage. You can find us both at our cottage on Chapel Line until bedtime (that's when Joe gets kicked out to the camping area because his snoring could wake Elvis).

After dinner on Saturday, we will meet briefly with the teachers in the barn at 7:00. Kids and parents should meet us in the barn at 7:15 to fill out the Ed School Registration forms and to meet the teachers. Please note that these forms **must** be filled out before each student attends class.

This will be our fourth year at Winni and every year we make more friends. Here's to another year of friendship, good times, and laughter. May God smile on us all, this week and every week.

-- Joe and Lorraine Morrissey

Greetings from Jess Schload, GPC Executive Director

Welcome Back!!!!!

I want to welcome all the wonderful folks of the Northern New England School of Religious Education back to Winni for another great week. Our staff will do all we can to make your week one to remember. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any issues you may have during your stay. It has been a good summer so far, and our staff always look forward to seeing you return. A couple of items for your information:

1. Thank you for sharing Kate Rowe with us this summer. Kate has been here since May working in our housekeeping department, and helping with Ropes Courses and other program activities. She has been doing a super job, and has been counting the hours till you all arrived. I hope she is the first of many NNESRE youth who work here in the future. Anyone interested??? Let me know.

2. Thanks to the wonderful donation by NNESRE, we are the proud owners of not one, but two new ice machines. The guest ice machine and the one in the kitchen are new and working great. The total cost was a bit more that your gift, but well worth it. THANKS!!!!

3. There have been some minor improvements to the site. I hope you notice. We have tried to take our food service to a new level. Let me know how we are doing. There are all new beds in Gibbes (but still the old curtains and bed spreads). Our new housekeeping supervisor has been doing a great job. I hope you notice and enjoy the improvements.

4. We are experimenting with some new services this year. One new service we are offering is the opportunity for a professional massage while you are here. There is an extra charge, but if any of you are interested in this service, you may schedule an appointment at the office. She offers, among other options, Deep Tissue therapy, Basic Swedish Massage and Relaxation Techniques. See the office for fees and information.

5. Garbage and recycling: New Hampshire and Moultonborough are not as recycle friendly to small businesses as many states and communities. As a result, we are not recycling glass, cans, paper and plastic like we have in the past. You have heard us talk about the amount of garbage NNESRE produces each year. You produce nearly twice as much garbage as any other week during the summer. It is costly for us to remove, and sad that much of it will not be recycled. Therefore, we ask that you pack out what you can. If you are able to take your recyclables home, please do so. This alone will reduce the trash a great deal. If you need trash bags to carry trash or recyclables home, please see us in the office. Thanks for your help.

Have a wonderful week.
Jess Schload, Executive Director

Crafters, Musicians, Shoppers: Get Ready

The third annual Winni Expo will be Monday after lunch in the Meeting House – time to be decided (announcement tomorrow). A $20 fee to sell will be collected from sellers to go to the WINNI scholarship fund. Gail Turgeon, famous for her wonderful Winni calendars, will be coordinating the expo this year. Gail will sign you up in the dining hall Sunday all day and Monday AM.

Shoppers and sellers prepare!!

Rules & Regs

A few reminders from the GPC staff:

- The speed limit on the grounds is 5 m.p.h. For the safety of all, please keep the use of cars on the grounds to an absolute minimum, and park cars in the lot behind the registration building after they are unloaded
- Swimming is absolutely forbidden except when there is a lifeguard on duty, and then only in the designated swimming area. Parents, please discuss this with your kids.
- Please wear shoes or sandals at all times on the grounds.
- Phone messages received by GPC for our campers will be announced at mealtimes and will be available at the Dean's table. After the meal, if they have not been picked up, they will be attached to the white board on the porch of the Inn (the one where the evening's schedule is posted.) Of course, emergency calls will be delivered as quickly as possible, in person. The GPC office phone number is (603) 253-4366.

Committees for $100, Alex

Answer: Robert Campbell, Chair, Ken Cheek, Linda Higgins, Victor Olsen, Courtney Kendrix-Mason, Ron Kittel.
Correct response: Who are the Winni 2005 Nominating Committee? These folks are charged with finding NNESRE Trustees and filling leadership positions including Dean, Program Chair, and Gems Editor. The Winni community is remarkable for involving a broad range of people in what I call "horizontal leadership." Who will guide our camp team? Talk to your Nominating Committee!

GEMS Trivia Question

Who were the winners of the 2004 Watermelon Seed Spit?

As dedicated journalists, we at the GEMS made a careful note of last year's winners in the Kid and Adult divisions. If you think you know both winners, give your answer to Din Stevens or Bill Milford in person. The person who submits the first correct answer will win a complementary cone at the scoop shop courtesy of the GEMS and will almost certainly be drafted as junior editor for the year. All correct answers will be acknowledged in the Sunday GEMS.

Top Ten Reasons You Should Consider Joining the GEMS staff

1. You know how to use Spell Check.
2. It can be your first step in amassing an empire to rival Rupert Murdoch.
3. You can finally get your kid's name in the paper.
4. You can finally keep your own name OUT of the paper.
5. There is a decent chance you will miss lunch.
6. You can find out whether the rumor about the body-piercing initiation rite is true.
7. You can become editor and write whatever you want about your predecessors.
8. You owe it to the community to be a voice of decency and integrity in the den of muckraking and corruption that is the Geneva GEMS office.
9. Enough with the Top 10 lists!!!!
10. SOMEONE has to do it.

Tempted? Come on in to the GEMS office and help us out. You'll be welcome even if you don't come bearing coffee.

(**"Hurry Up and Relax"** – continued from p. 1)

1. Let's start our adventure with a walk behind the chapel into the "Pines." If it is a warm day, you will get that dry, piney humid sense whilst your feet enjoy the gentle crunch of pine needles. If you are really into it, gaze deeply into the woods, reach gently to your side, grab your cell phone and chuck it in as far as you can.
2. Go around front and go into the Chapel. As you enter you will immediately feel a head rush. Fear not, you are just soaking in some of the intellectual intensity leaking out of the GEMS office, which is your first door on the left. Why not stop in, say hi and volunteer to write a couple of issues?
3. Continue on into the Chapel. With any luck you are there alone. Have a seat and just imagine…. The life that has gone on in that space and will occur again this year. Classes, concerts, the Hoot, late night discussions, musical jam sessions….
4. Walk past Chapel Line (very quickly, we might suggest) lest you get drawn into the community that never sleeps and where party is spelled paruty cause u are always welcome.
5. Continue past the Nurses headquarters. Pause a moment and reflect: Did I bring Imodium?
6. Continue on to the Siftar Cottage and spy the young children's play area. Think for a moment about what a gift Winni is for small kids to be in such a safe and supportive community and the graciousness of the Siftars to have sponsored that area.
7. Walk on into the barn and take a deep breath of the wood n' dust n' sweat n' bat ambience that fills that sacred area. Do a quick shuffle across the floor and do that most Zen thang of listening to the sound of one person dancing. Then close your eyes and try to imagine the shuffling of hundreds of feet. Hear the frantic chaos of the intergenerational splendor of kids, teens, adults and elders whipping across the floor to find a seat during "Upset the Fruit Basket". Take a moment to see the silhouettes dancing to Trygnala Rumjana.
8. Walk past the large playground area generously donated by the McGalliard family and think of the impact that Winni has had on countless families of every type and make-up. It is a place where families come together as (ironically) individuals find themselves. Go figure.
9. Talk a brief and we mean *brief* trip into the bathhouse. Take a shallow and we mean *shallow* breath in and note to yourself "Remember bleach, lots of it…..".
10. Walk quickly past Dock Road through College Row and go down the path to the Labyrinth. Ponder the spiritual dedication of our community to have built such a magnificent structure years ago and the number of individuals who have "walked the walk" since. Imagine the life decisions made in such moments and how Winni as a spiritual community has touched so many lives.
11. Continue down from the Labyrinth to the path to the waterfront. Take a moment to sit on the beach and catch a few waves. Imagine the thousands of people who have enjoyed this beautiful, cool water over the years and the majesty of nature – mountains, trees, sky and earth.
12. Walk the shoreline path to the Council Ring and as you approach it, see if you can hear the crackle of the fire and hear the throngs singing during the Weston Family Campfire. *Today is Monday, today is Monday…* hey, what day is it right now anyway? Catch the aroma of burnt marshmallows wafting through the air before they reach their destiny in a s'more.
13. Venture just a little further down to the Memorial and gaze at the names swaying in the beach. Sit down and take a deep breath. They're here, you're here – congratulations, you have arrived.