

The Neverending story of the Geneva gems as told by their editors in greater Detail than you ever needed or expected or wanted but provided nonetheless put forth is such a fashion that it would appear disrespectful not to have read it

Opening Day Winni 2011

When Less is More....

In an orientation session which emulated the annual Academy awards in terms of pace if not glamour, campers were addressed by the Dean, the GEMS editors (for once mercifully brief), the Evening Coordinators (NOT) and the instructors of the nine courses offered this year. Executive Director of GPC Peter Claypoole trumped all as he took the podium to enumerate the many hazards that confront us here at GPC: fires, storms that require taking shelter in the basement, bug bites and stings, runaway golf carts, disappearances, drownings, water erupting from the earth, medical emergencies, and – last but not least -- clogged toilets. His advice re plumbing in general was “flush early, flush often,” and he assured us that should this strategem fail the staff will dispatch Sir Plunge-a-lot (clad in wetsuit rather than chain mail) to the rescue. In the spirit of that talk, we give you....

Top 10 things NOT warned about by Peter Claypoole (and what to do about them):

10. Volcanic eruption
(*Gather on the Green; bring marshmallows to roast in the lava flow*)
9. Meteor strike
(*Gather on the Green, feel less romantic about the shooting stars*)
8. Global financial collapse (actually not so unlikely)
(*Gather on the Green, cut up your credit cards*)
7. Lake tsunami
(*Gather on the Green with swim gear, wait for the lake to come to you.*)
6. Plague of locusts
(*Gather on the Green, bring your Raid*)
5. Hostile takeover by Camp Robindell

(*Gather on the Green, surrender willingly, hope for menu upgrade*)

4. Moose attack (though to be fair, he did mention attack by a stick-wielding bear)

(*Gather at the Green. Await Natasha and Squirrel*)

3. Sudden loss of gravity

(*Hover over the Green, become one with the Perseids*)

2. Death of the sun

(*Proceed to Labyrinth, take whatever path you want – remember, don't bring children*)

1. Aftermath of bean supper at Chapel Line

(*Gather at the Green. Candlelight ceremony cancelled*)

Tonight's Schedule

6:30-7:00 Communion in the Pines (the Pines is behind the Chapel)

7:15 Barb n Bill n Chris n Gail n Fred n You n the Audience show

8:00-10:00 Scoop Shop Open

9:00 Dancing in the Barn with Barb

Anyone who would like to host a Fireside Chat, please come see Sue Nisson

Thanks-You

- Thanks to Ron Offutt for getting us all registered and accounted for, and for all the work over the past months to make that happen!
- Thanks to Chris Peters, Jean Peters, and Bill Milford for leading the singing last night!
- Thanks to Barb for leading the dancing on the Green and in the Barn last night.

Set Your Morning Watch Watch

Thank you to Charlie Soper – ably assisted by Diane Soper and Kevin Weston – for leading Morning Watch this morning and starting our first full day at Winni with song and reflections. Tom Weston will lead tomorrow's Morning Watch at (7:30 in the outdoor chapel – weather provided).

Excellent News Story Sabotaged By Joann Milford's Uncanny Ability to Find Stuff *Before we had a chance to make big news out of Ken Cheek losing his hearing aid – Joann Milford found it. Grrrrr.....*

Celebrating our ability to make “news.... Out of nothing at all...” we are proud to tell the tale of Ken Cheek's lost hearing aid. It either dropped out of his ear sometime yesterday or there is really no possibility that he was attacked by a wayward woodchuck in search of a small battery to power an even smaller electric chainsaw.

Whatever the case, the declaration was made at breakfast that it was lost – and by the time the coffee had slightly warmed in the GEMS office, a glowing Joann came in and declared “I'm so good – I found it!”.

When inquired about her technique, Joann states that her first innovative question is to ask the complainant where they think it is and where they know it isn't. (We do this at the GEMS office, first we write everything down that we know isn't news and then see what is leftover...).

However, in what is turning out to be a thematic place to look (ie, for Lou Weeks wedding ring, along with most of Chapel Line per se) Joann found the hearing aid near an ice chest at Lake View Lodge. Kudos to Joann and congratulations to Ken! Now he has something he can turn off during the concert tonight!

Bill N' Barb N' Chris – Upgraded with a Gail N' Fred

Barb Siftar and Bill Milford, Winnites from infancy or at least teen infancy, will be joined again by Winni lifer and folk savant, Chris Peters for their annual 'let's get busy singing' concert. This year they will be joined by Winni newbies Gail Nickse and Fred Griffeth – who may be new to camp but are seasoned performers in every genre from blues to gospel to R&B.

The Bazaar is Back!!!!

Your talented fellow NNESRE craftspersons, artists, and musicians will offer crafts and other items for sale tomorrow in the meeting house from 1:30 to 3:00 PM on Monday at the annual Bazaar. Participants who wish to sell their wares should sign up at the Dean's table so we know how many craft booths should be created for the event. There is a \$20 table fee for artists to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Artists are welcome to contribute more to support the fund, (assuming they have made back their \$20. All proceeds from these cards will go directly to the Scholarship Fund.

We got cards, we got cookies, we got things you never thought you'd ever wear but after being sweet-talked by the Bruchs you are convinced it is high fashion. Come one, come all, and see the beautiful things created by your fellow campers.

Your WINNI Weather

Tonight: mainly clear, low 54.

Tomorrow: High 88, “Real feel” 95 (ugh!), strong afternoon thunderstorms. Low 57.

Communion in the Pines Tonight at 6:30

Last year we did not have Communion in the Closing Ceremony. To participate in Communion at Winni, please be sure to attend Communion in the Pines tonight at 6:30. Susie Hawthorne will direct the Winni Choir, and Jean Koh will lead some singing during the serving of the elements. All are welcome to participate in or observe this Christian service at your level of comfort.

WORSHIP PLANNING

To participate in planning Evening Watch at Winni and the spiritual portion of the Closing Ceremony, please meet with Chaplain Bob Fellows on the Inn Porch right after lunch on Monday.

CHOIR PRACTICE

Winni Choir meets 3rd period to rehearse. See Susie Hawthorne for details.

Seek and Ye Shall Find

Another Installment for 2nd & 3rd Graders



A little harder, as promised before,
So here is your hint to help with your chore:

"Back and forth, to and fro,"
Off for the hunt now you all go!

Good Luck!

Yesterday's Answer: Fireplace in the Barn

A Quote for the Day

Sue Hartley asked us to share this beautiful quote from Marcus Aurelius, which she came across recently. Sue says "I thought it was very appropriate for every day, but especially for Winni:"

When you arise in the morning, think of what a privilege it is to be alive: to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

(It doesn't hurt to be Emperor as well).

On First Arriving at Camp

Random thoughts from Joe Morrissey

Well, here we are. Back for another year of singing, dancing, laughing, and eating food we wish we hadn't. (Speaking of the food, I think Kyle McNeill set a new record by hitting JoJo's for a sub before the first meal here was even served.) What's new this year? Yes, we have a few less trees but it's not as if Dock Road looks like Chernobyl. The Chapel Line cabins have received a fresh coat of paint but the beds still squeak so loud that the noise could wake Elvis. Wes Gunderson hasn't driven his boat over any rocks yet but the week's still young (give him time). In other words, it's still the place we've grown to love. The weather is beautiful, we're on vacation, and Mike Nisson is leaving camp two days early this year. How can you beat that?

So the bottom line is enjoy your time here. Sit with friends, laugh hard and often, and make a fool of yourself dancing in the barn (don't worry about being the first one because I already blazed that trail last night).

On a different note, if you happen to be driving down the road in the early morning hours and see what looks like a pregnant man jogging, that's me. And don't be afraid to offer me a ride back to camp because depending on how long I've been out there, I just may accept.

- Joe

Diary of a new Camper: Day 1

Dear Diary,

Well I think my first evening at "Camp Winni" went ok, all things considered. I got through registration, though for some reason I had to meet with an FBI agent to verify that I had paid my fees. This seemed a little extreme, but I didn't take it personally.

Then I checked into my cabin. I have to say-- I was a little disappointed that there were so many bats living there. If I had known that the Geneva Point Center allowed pets I would have brought my dog.

Anyway, someone had told me there was a labyrinth / maze thing that was really cool so I wandered around until I found it. This is when things really went south. I got stuck in that thing for hours. I just couldn't escape. By the time I got back to the Inn, I had missed dinner. When I complained to my neighbors about this, they just said how lucky I was!! (I didn't think this was very nice).

So, hungry and feeling sorry for myself, I then saw something that really scared me. My friends had assured me that this place was not a cult—but then I saw all these children holding hands and dancing in a circle outside on the grass, and I had flashbacks to the Children of the Corn. That really shook me up.

Luckily, I attended the 4-hour mandatory camp orientation just after I saw the dancing psycho children. I have to say—that meeting was so reassuringly normal and boring, that I became convinced this place is not a cult. But then right after the orientation I walked up to the barn and there again were the dancing Children of the Corn—I don't think they saw me. Phew! I decided to rapidly walk back to my cabin and pretend I hadn't seen anything.

After the near miss with the dancing thing, I looked up, saw how the stars had come out, and let out a deep sigh. The sky looked really beautiful.

Ok Diary, Good night. Wish me luck tomorrow. Really looking forward to breakfast, I'm starving.

Le Menu

Tonight's Dinner: Spice rubbed turkey with a nuanced cognac gravy; gently scalloped potatoes nested in crème du ooh-la-la butter cheese sauce nuanced with a light dusting of paprika; French-cut green legumes in a butter wash with peppercorn croutons nuanced with curried chestnuts; bread.

The Power of Seven

The GEMS has noted a spooky preponderance of the number seven this week: seven deadly sins, seven habits of happy kids, seven deadly sins of happy teens, seven habits of happy sinners, etc. Other sevens to ponder:

- 7 mysterious smells at Winni.
- 7 weird people that you see only one week a year.
- 7 causes of insomnia at Winni.
- 7 excuses for skipping class.
- 7 types of junk food that you wish you hadn't eaten last night.
- 7 things you forgot to bring and have to borrow from other people.
- 7 ways to get Deb Gundersen to yell at you!!!

Volunteers Sought

Siftar Playground Rocks 3rd Period

Come hang out with some of the most interesting people at camp! Every day from 10:50 until 12:00, Cindy Campbell supervises eight 3- and 4-year-olds at the Siftar playground. She needs some help. Come help Cindy play with these budding campers, because as we all have seen from years past, next week they turn into adults who we barely recognize.

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NEWS flash - Due to popular request. Yoga in the Chapel with Jen Sun-Thur 3:30 – 4:45.

Winni's Fashion Tips

All items can be found in your attic

1. Remember those old Hawaiian shirts you only wore for themed parties? Hawaiian shirts were originally meant for those dads taking their family to the beach on a mission to embarrass them as much as possible. At Winni they are socially acceptable and can be worn for any occasion whether it be a watermelon seed spitting contest, barn dancing, or happy hour.
2. Necklaces meant for two year-olds. When we first arrive at Winni we have to go get our key and make a necklace. This necklace can include any beads from aliens to soccer balls to yin and yang. The only downside is the lack of lettered beads available. Because of this here are some alternative spelling options using other beads. If your name is Beatrice then try "b3@+r!c3". Necklaces are meant to welcome newcomers who don't know your name. Little do they know that most likely your necklace isn't your name but what your name would've been had your parents been dyslexic.
3. Coconut bra. Usually when you think of a coconut bra you think of a fit person from Hawaii doing the hula. You don't tend to think of an out of shape middle-aged man who may have had a little too much to drink. If you haven't seen this then you will this week. Bet you're glad you came to Winni.
4. Your grandma's sundress. Although this may reek of mothballs and be faded to the point where you're getting a headache trying to figure out what color it might have been when it was made. At Winni this is a new fashion trend.
5. All denim. The all denim outfit is usually denim bellbottoms with a denim shirt and jean jacket. This has not been seen since the 60's but displays itself this week. Add a denim hat with a strap if you feel the need to accessorize. For those very young or very old jean diapers are also an option.
6. Shorts belted around your chest. Should your potbelly be put under or over your belt? These shorts easily answer that question.

7. Tube socks. If you are a person deathly afraid of the sun then this is a good solution for you. Tube Socks can be worn and pulled high enough so you can't even see any skin on your legs. It is as safe as a Burka.

If you feel the need to combine more than one of these options then consult Bill Milford.

Throughout this week he will be modeling the Hawaiian shirt, cache shorts, tube socks, sandals, hat with a strap, and possibly a sundress.

As you spot outfits accepted here but glared at in the real world, send them in to "+h3f@\$h!0n!\$+@"

By Abby Weeks

GOOD NEWS

Campers share their highlights of the year

Many of you took us up on our invitation to share your personal highlights of the past year. Here's a little of what we heard:

Adam Gundersen

Adam's painting was entered into the VSA/CVS Caremarks "All Kids can Create" competition by his art teacher and his painting won! Over 4700 applicants, 2 finalists per state, and out of the 100 finalists, 10 winners got an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. and Adam was chosen to go to D.C.!! His painting was displayed in Union Station for 3 weeks and starting this September, it spends the next 2 years traveling around the country to Children's Museums all over the country!

Jim Nolan

Making it through the bone marrow transplant thanks to God, my family and dear friends. It's allowed me to see the world in a new light and to appreciate life for the wonderful gift it is.

To add your own highlights, come see us in the GEMS office or go to

<http://surveygoldplus.com/s/5D2A5E69B42B4082/85.htm>>

In honor of the miraculous discovery of the needle in the haystack (aka the hearing aid lost at Winni) – we have compiled a fun list of things that people have lost at Chapel Line.... See if you can find them all!

Things Lost At Chapel Line

Can you find: keys, camera, hat, sunglasses, towel

s e m n p j n h u m a n i t y
 e t y y e s o t l v m x y g x
 u s g p t s v v e y c e s n p
 l a r i u i i c d e n x e i e
 a t a l k k r o n o t v u a r
 v d n l d d g g m y d h d r s
 n o d s r f i g e v e p n b p
 d o m p l r n g q t k q o s e
 b g a u v i s y n f n b i m c
 s o f n l e h o t i z i n u t
 j f t b n n e s i i t c u s i
 y h m t u d r b c z n y z s v
 z a y q l s e a r e m a c i e
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