

THE PRE-GEMS

Welcome from the Dean

Greetings and welcome to our 95th session of the Northern New England School of Religious Education. That is quite a claim. We are part of a community whose roots extend back almost 100 years. And this year, our theme is "Celebrating Differences."

As a community that will this year number around 300 campers, and whose extended numbers range in the thousands over our history, we certainly have a lot of differences to celebrate! Yes, we are a community, and sure, we are all different, and that doesn't always have us in existing in perfect harmony with one another. But we do come together each year for this week and we love it and we just keep coming back.

Remember songwriter Tom Lehrer who, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, wrote the song "National Brotherhood Week"? The last two lines go, "It's only for one week, so have no fear, be grateful that it doesn't last all year!" Many of us have expressed the desire to have camp last all year, if we only had the stamina.

So, while at first blush, the theme sort of has an "I'm OK, You're OK" implied acknowledgment, tolerance and acceptance of the differences that set us apart, there is to me, an even more profound underlying statement - that of celebrating the differences that unite us as individuals when we leave Geneva Point Center to "Go forth, and build a better world." Just look at the collective knowledge base, the skill base, the technical base, the educational base,

the artistic base and the spiritual base to name just a few of the innumerable talents and abilities with which we have been blessed to share, both with each other during our week of community and with the wider world in which we live. That's the difference that lights my fire. Take just one such life for example, that of Dotti Siftar. "And if two and two and fifty make a million....." Can you even imagine that!

So, come and bring all that you are and all that you have as we celebrate our differences so that we may continue to make a difference. I so look forward to seeing you soon.

Your Dean,
Tom Weston

WINNI By Numbers

Official tallies in...

Our Business Manager Ron Offutt has been busy with the abacus. He reports a grand total of 295 campers signed up at last count. With our "Big Bucks for Bad Bunks" recruitment campaign in full swing, he estimates the final total will top 300.

Price Waterhouse has also analyzed the data. They report that we have 69 children age 3-15, six who are two and under, and 28 in the over 65 category (aka Masters of the Winniverse).

Now THAT's what we call multi-generational!

Evening Coordinators Offer “Sneak Preview”

*“Bring Telescopes,” Nysyns say
“Bring Bathrobes,” GEMS advises*

Hello Everyone,

Once again Michael and I will be entertaining you for your evening fun. We will have some of our old favorites like the Weston family campfire (S'mores included, and we will bill you later), the Barb and Bill show with additional special guests, Dancing in the Barn with Barb, the Drumming Circle, a walk in the Labyrinth with live music, the coffee house (performances for the over 18 crowd). And don't forget to bring your act for the HOOT, which we have renamed "Winni's got Talent, or not." Also don't forget to bring your 3-minute egg timer. We won't forget our very large gong.

Something new? Why yes: we are having an Astronomer coming for a Star Gazing party so bring your telescopes and blankets to lay on the Green so we can Ohhhh and Ahhh at our universe above. *(So that's what we've been hearing on the Green...)*

If anyone would like to host a fireside Chat please e-mail me at [deleted for web] or see me at camp.

The Not so Newlywed game has been canceled because of the baby boom it has created! All 3 of our winners were pregnant soon after. Who needs a fertility clinic?

Travel safe everyone and see you soon,

- Michael and Susan

News from the Ed School

Opportunities for fun, creating new friendships and renewing old friendships are just around the corner! The Ed School staff is top notch and busy planning for a fun-filled week for infants through 12 graders. A warm welcome to all of the Winni first timers! We are thrilled that we have over 90 Ed School participants so far. Proudly presenting:

2011 Ed School Staff

Infants: Barbara Gatto & Kathy Pike
Pre-K: Liz St. Louis & Courtney Mason
K/1: Carrie Leap & Catherine Jones
2nd-3rd: Alycia (née Soper) & Matt Kauffman
4th-6th: Sue DiTucci & Ellyn Siftar
7th-9th: Sonja Whipp & Emily Whipp
10th-12th: Faye Hess & Katie Rowe

Beach: Wes Gunderson & Jon Turgeon
Third period supervision for Pre-K: Cindy Campbell

Ed School Open House will be held after dinner from 6:30 – 7:15 on Saturday, July 30th. This is a great opportunity for children/youth and teachers to meet each other their teachers and see their classroom. Look for us at the Registration table when you arrive at Winni for more information on Ed School. If you would like to speak with either one of us, please feel free to call or email.

See you soon!

Leslie Ganley
Joann Milford
Co-coordinators, Ed School

Work Weekends Continue

NNESRE campers , armed with paintbrushes, swarm campus

Hello NNESRE friends! Your fellow campers have been very active volunteering at GPC since last August, participating in THREE work weekends: two last Autumn and one over Memorial Day! You'll notice new paint jobs on the exterior and some of the porches of Lake View Cabins; new curtains in Malden, Peat, & Repeat; a beautifully cleared Borderline trail; woodchips throughout College Row, Dock Road, Beach trail, Outdoor Chapel; underbrush clearing to open up the lake view near Lake View Cabins and Lodge; painting the Inn kitchen floor and staff dining room; stripping and waxing the lakeside dining room floor; roofing work on several cabins; painting the exterior of Chapel Line cabins; digging a drainage ditch around the Scoop Shop porch; construction of bunk beds in cabins Apple and Birch; plus lots and lots of other hours on regular seasonal work. Special kudos to Hans Seitz for spending several WEEKS at GPC this year on his own performing very skilled tasks and Kate Fioravanti who continues to bring 30 kids from her middle school choir even while she was "heavy with child."

These weekends are a win-win-win. GPC gets much needed work done, everyone works hard, has fun and gets to be together at camp at beautiful times of the year, and NNESRE gets credit for volunteer hours which help reduce some conference fees. Following is a list of the volunteers since last August with many of these people participating more than once. You all make it fun and meaningful for me. Thank you for your willingness, your skill, your good humor and your love of GPC and NNESRE.

- Barb Siftar

Our Work Weekend Volunteers

Hans Seitz
Cathy Smith
Leslie Ganley
Julia Ganley
Rose Ganley
Sue DiTucci
Allie DiTucci
Susie Hawthorne
Doug Hawthorne
Sue Hartley
Jonathan Leaf
Jen Leaf
Linda Sacco
Jon Arnold
John Hoda
Kevin Weston
Tom Weston
Holly Weston
Linda Regan
Rich Koh
Julie Siftar
Dan Nicholson
Gail Turgeon
Jon Turgeon
Katie Rowe
Matt Rowe
Doby Hall
Meredith Smith
Courtney Burns
Kelsey Morrissey
Trevor Morrissey
Lillian Daniel
Lou Weeks
Abigail Weeks
Calvin Weeks
Beth Siftar
Din Stevens
Ed Cunningham
Tracy Hall
Amy Bruch
Annie Kimock
Diane Soper
Charlie Soper
Kate Fioravanti
Deb Eskra

Safety Concerns Lead to Winter Tree Project

(Reprinted from the GPC Spring Newsletter)

Trees are high on the list of GPC's great assets, but they are also something that have to be periodically cared for to assure a safe and healthy environment for all of Geneva Point. Over the years, a great many trees have become diseased, rotted, weakened by harsh weather or become overly mature. Some trees have been allowed to grow too close to buildings and now cause serious harm to their exteriors and foundations. This is a long standing problem for GPC, and in recent years more and more trees or limbs have fallen and caused damage to buildings, cars, roadways, electrical and phone wires and other property.

To address this safety and general property concern, the Property Committee and Staff worked with foresters and developed a plan to selectively remove trees in a few areas around our campus including, and most notably, Dock Road, The Inn and the Staff Housing areas. Work began early in the winter and will be complete before this summer's camps and conferences begin. It will be very obvious to anyone returning to GPC this summer that many trees have been removed. Great care has been taken to minimize the anticipated negative esthetic impact that usually goes with the cutting of trees. Even with that care, we know some people will lament the loss of any tree and be unhappy with this project.

We hope everyone will appreciate the extreme importance of eliminating the safety significant risk represented by these particular trees. While it will take some time to adjust to what these areas look like with some of their trees gone, it is also true that the careful selection of the trees removed

actually enhances the appearance and functionality of these areas as well as their safety. In addition to making things safer, the tree project will also benefit GPC by helping cabin roofs last longer and reducing the mold and mildew that can plague buildings that are heavily tree shaded. Sight lines across the campus and to the lake are also enhanced and the opportunity for new growth and even selected tree planting is now created. This project is consistent with an overall forest management plan maintained by GPC.

About the Trees

Dear NNESRE Friends and Family,

If you're like me, one of the images that comes most easily and quickly to mind during the year when you think about camp is your "neighborhood". We get to know every rock, every tree, even the knots in the cabin walls. This year many of us will need to take new mental pictures of some spots on campus to carry home with us since more than a few trees have been removed from Dock Road and near the back of the Inn. The reprinted article from GPC explains the safety concerns regarding the trees and the reasons for their removal. We just wanted to let folks know ahead of time so that you will be ready for what you will see (or not see!) because it may be shocking. Rest assured that those of us who participated in the Memorial Day Work Weekend did our best to create new vistas and helpful woodchip paths even as we grieved the loss of some of our giant, longtime friends. Enjoy Wendell Berry's poem below as he captures some of the feelings we all have about the woods of Winni!

- Amy Bruch

Woods

I part the out thrusting branches
and come in beneath
the blessed and the blessing trees.

Though I am silent
there is singing around me.

Though I am dark
there is vision around me.

Though I am heavy
there is flight around me.

- by Wendell Berry

Seven Deadly Sins Examples Requested

Lillian Daniel invites you to seek sin

We will no doubt have plenty of evidence of the seven sins exhibited in our all too human behavior during Winni week. But if you are planning to take the class, here's a fun way to prepare.

In the weeks leading up to Winni, watch the newspaper, magazines, and even advertisements for examples of any of the seven deadly sins. Then bring the examples with you to camp to share with the class.

In case you need to be reminded what to look for, they are: Pride, Greed, Lust, Anger, Sloth, Gluttony and Envy. You shouldn't have to look too hard these days!

- *Lillian Daniel*

Buy, Sell, See and Be Seen at the Annual WINNI Bazaar

Once again crafters, artists, musicians, and all other creative types are invited to offer their wares for sale at the annual Winni Bazaar, traditionally held on Monday afternoon after lunch. Table fee (\$25 the last we knew) to benefit the NNESRE scholarship fund is required for all vendors.

Come, enjoy the creativity of your fellow campers, benefit the scholarship fund, stimulate the economy, and contribute to the national recovery.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

If you have any names that you would like to have added to the Memorial at Winni, now is the best time to submit them to me. I need the name you wish to have on the plaque, their year of birth, their first year at Winni, and their year of death. Please remember that anyone who has passed away and attended Winni can be added to the memorial. The cost for the plaque is \$25 and payable to NNESRE (you can pay for it when you get up to camp).

- *Bill Milford*

Adler n Hearne n New England!

Winnites Lynn Adler and Lindy Hearne will be touring New England doing House Concerts during the early part of November, 2011. If you would be interested in hosting them and/or a house concert - they would love to bring their beautiful music to wherever you are. Contact them at [deleted for web].

Advance notice: Lynn and Lindy will be appearing at Din Stevens and Ed Cunningham's house in Newton, MA on Saturday, November 5th. Mark your calendars!

Latest Camper Arrives Early

Winni Water Level Low and Cloudy....

The latest product of the Not-so-newlywed Game, Kate and Tim Fioravanti's daughter Emilia Marie, arrived on June 15th, a full month ahead of schedule. There were some complications toward the end of the pregnancy (as those at the work weekend in May heard), but the baby arrived safely. On June 17th Kate wrote:

Emilia Marie's unexpected early birthday was June 15, 2011 (due date was July 15), and weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz. and 17.5" long. We are still in the hospital due to my low platelets and her low birth weight, but are targeted to go home tomorrow, provided we can find a car seat she fits into. The amniotic fluid they said was low the weekend we were at Winni just got lower the past few weeks. At my appointment on Wednesday, they realized that it was going to be more dangerous to keep her in there than to deliver her prematurely. However, for a "preemie" she is doing beautifully! She was 5 lbs. 2 oz. but came out screaming, so she never had to go to the NICU. She is doing everything a regular newborn should, save her size. It definitely threw off the end of my school year, but it puts things in perspective when all I considered critically important was able to take a back seat to the life of this little one!

The early arrival means Emilia Marie will be 7 weeks old at Winni instead of 3 weeks. Deb Eskra reports that "All are doing well, including Nina, 6-1/2, chief mother's helper, and Sofia, 4, chief sister's helper. Proud cousins, the St. Louis grandparents, the Eskras, and great-grandparent, Allen Raymond take some credit, even if only for genetics and bragging. Sofia says, "Congradulations!" (Emilia was born during graduation season so Kate and Tim both missed the graduations at their schools.) "

Meanwhile, the Not-so-newlywed Game has been pulled by the evening coordinators, fearing overcrowding on campus.

Congratulations Kate and Tim and welcome Emilia Marie!

Ben Hawthorne Ties the Knot

Bells ring, hankies wrung

New couple showered with luck

Susie Hawthorne writes to tell us that son Ben and his fiancée Julie Pellegrini were married on June 11th in a beautiful ceremony that was blessed with the good luck omen of pouring rain. Siblings played key roles, with Leslie serving as bridesmaid and Chris (formerly known as Shonny) as groomsman. Carrie offered a reading, but made it only part way through a poem before being overcome with tears. Susie stepped in to the rescue and reportedly brought the rest of the congregation to tears as well. A good time was had by all and Kleenex was up a point on the S&P 500.

Per Susie, "one guest offered to run The Newlywed Game one more time to ensure a local grandchild which sounds good to me." Alas, no Newlywed Game this year. Ben and Julie will have to get by with stargazing on the Green...probably not a bad substitute.

Congratulations and best wishes to the bride and groom!

Rich Koh Walking for Jimmy Fund

Congrats to Rich Koh who once again completed the Jimmy Fund Marathon walk this past fall. This is a great event in which thousands of walkers trek the entire 26.2 mile Boston Marathon route to raise money for cancer treatment. Thanks for walking, Rich!

The GEMS

Your chance to get into journalism in the sub-basement

Here it is at last, your long-awaited (like a root canal) pre-GEMS, a portent of other GEMS issues to follow.

For those of you new to camp, let us introduce you to the GEMS. First of all, we don't know what "GEMS" stands for, so don't ask. Secondly, during Winni week we are your daily source for NNESRE news, information, misinformation, hearsay, occasional moments of inspiration, and more or less whatever you come into the office and ask us to print. We depend on your input and we have proven time and time again that if you don't bring it, we'll make stuff up ourselves. (If you DO bring it we will probably still make some stuff up ourselves, but less of it.) So we invite you to join us in the GEMS office – for a few moments, a class period, or the whole morning. Bring your ideas, your news from around campus, your haiku, your lowku, your chi, your mojo, your cup of joe, your keyboard, and your best journalistic game and help us put this thing together. As the old adage goes: many hands make many typos. Or something like that. So we hope you'll come in and contribute, typos and all.

- Din Stevens and Bill Milford
Your GEMS Editors

And on that note...

Share your WINNI News from the past year. Go to

<<http://surveygoldplus.com/s/5D2A5E69B42B4082/85.htm>> and share the highlights of your Winni Off-season 2010-11.

A Most Unlikely Hero

Special to the Geneva GEMS

David Barnard of Geneva Point Road in Moultonborough, NH did not wake up on Monday morning expecting to become a hero.

No, he just began his day like everybody else - with a cup of black coffee, a smile on his face and a list of chores to do. But while executing those chores, lives were unanswerably altered.

David was operating a power mower when he looked up and noticed a camper walking unaware and dangerously close to a rare eastern ruby-backed rattlesnake. Knowing he had but moments, and without apparent regard for his own safety, David power-shifted his mower, hit the gas and sped in the direction of the hapless victim. As he neared the unsuspecting camper and the coiling viper, David leapt from the speeding machine. While flying through the air, with his left hand he turned off the ignition and with his right he firmly, but gently, pushed the camper out of harms way. Executing a near perfect barrel roll, he grabbed both ends of the now coiled snake and tied it in an Eagle Scout approved bowline knot, thus rendering the venomous reptile immobile, harmless yet unharmed. The Science Center in Holderness NH was immediately called in to remove and care for the rare but deadly reptile.

When GPC Executive Director Peter Claypoole heard of David's heroics, he asked him, "What were you thinking?" David said that at first he thought about simply running the snake over with the mower. This would have certainly pleased the manager of "Café Services", who has been charged with providing "more local goods and produce" at the bequest of GPC campers as determined through the camper evaluations gathered over the past year.

Breakfast sausage is always such a delicious and welcome treat. However, David knew that harming the snake was simply not the "Winni Way", and besides, he knew his girls would

want to both see and name the snake.

And while this story has a happy ending for both the lucky camper and the now captured snake, David, in his flight from the mower to the deadly viper pit, managed to severely sprain his ankle. We can only hope that the swelling of our hearts in gratitude of David's heroic actions matches the un-swelling of David's ankle as he recuperates.

Godspeed in your recovery, David.

Editors note - At press time, only the use of the mower and the swollen ankle could be verified. Some editorial license may have been exercised by the author in the reporting of this event.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Weston, Jr.
Recording Secretary GPC BOD

T'Was The Night Before Winni 2011

(Or My Favorite Things to Bring)

Twas the night before Winni 2011,
And before I departed to GPC heaven,
I thought of those things without which I perish,
And beloved objects that I treasure and cherish,
I imagine them packed in my tiny ol Prius,
And covered my bets praying Buddha, Moses n'
Jesus,
That all could arrive, still whole and intact,
And that any empty spaces would get filled with
snacks,
But I reconsidered and decided to downsize,
So here are the things that I needed to thrive....
So I brought stuff for the cabin:
Clean sheets and a blanket,
A nicely filled cooler,
Coffee pot, beans or Sanka.

Chips, dip and Cheetos,
And other things that are crunchy,

Cause best friends are made,
Over cold drinks and munchies,

Flashlights and raingear,
Extensions and fans,
And lest we forget,
No glass bottles, just cans.
Bug spray and sunscreen,
'Gainst varmints and sun,
Imodium and Pepto,
'Gainst things served on a bun,

Sunglasses and swimsuits,
And my ol' dancing shoes,
Toothpaste and Lysol,
Should I battle mildew,

The plans for my Hoot act,
And the props I use in it,
As I remember the mantra,
"Make it less than 3 minutes!"

Spare change for laundry,
And cash for the store,
A stick I have nurtured all year,
For S'mores,

A digital camera,
To capture the bliss,
Of the Winni Swimmi swimmers,
Coming out of the mist,

And then a clothesline to dry,
The suits when they're wet,
A baseball glove and a cap,
Be you Yankee or Met,

Poetry for the Coffee House,
Or a nice dramatic reading,
Some personal spices,
To make palatable what you're eating,

And BYOP, (Bring Your Own Pillow that's
soft,)
And a humorous joke for the Friday Joke Off,

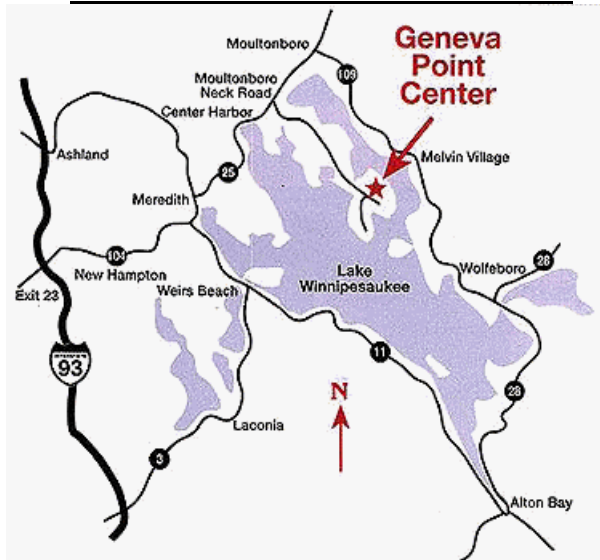
And as many things as there are I must find,
I also have a list for what to leave behind,

My work and my cell phone, To avoid real world stress,
If I must work then relax, Cause the camp's wireless,

Erase from my mind all unpleasant relations,
All "should" attitudes and high expectations,

And most important of all as I travel the miles,
Bring a heart full of friendship & even more smiles!

How Do I Get Thar From Here?



Map and Directions

From the south, take I-93 North to exit 23 and turn right onto route 104 for 9 miles. At the junction of Route 104 and U.S. Route 3, take a left onto Route 3 for approximately 1 mile. At the traffic lights in Meredith, bear right onto Route 25 (stay on Route 25) for 8 miles. Take a right onto Moultonboro Neck Road at the traffic lights (just beyond the Service Station) and travel for 5.7 miles. Bear left at fork in the road. Turn left onto Geneva Point Road and follow to the Geneva Point Center entrance sign.

BIBLICAL FAR SIDE

(Courtesy of Cynthia Wilcox)

