

The Week's Last GEMS

Friday Night (High)Lights

- 6:30** Watermelon seed spitting contest
- *Front of Inn*
- 7:15** Shabbat Celebration in the Pines
- 7:45** Closing Ceremony
- *Barn and Green*
- 9:00** Dancing in the Barn with Barb.

Greetings from the New Dean

***Lou Weeks Takes the Helm,
Our Advice.... Hang on!***

Our family has been coming here for twelve years or so. We were first invited by Ken and Jane Cheek, and we thank them so much for thinking of us. We had a blast the first year and got hooked. Over the years this community has meant so much to our family. To me personally, this place is unique in my life.

Here are a few images from the week that I will hold in my heart for the upcoming year until we are all together again:

Sixteen year-old boys Barn Dancing with each other

50 year-old women hula-hooping,

Kids and teens huddled in circles for hours talking and talking

Eenar rocking out to "Funky Town" with his son

Campfire flames leaping up into the sky

Getting hennaed with my daughter

Seeing a bald eagle

Talking with Monica Seamen on our front porch while the rain poured down

Sitting under a tree listening to my son Calvin and Joe Morrissey

Learning from my wife in the 7 Deadly Sins class

Adam Gundersen yelling with happiness that we had pizza for lunch

Jumping all around the Barn during the new Polish Folk Dance

Walking down to the lake at 1 in the morning and being stunned by its beauty.

Seeing Jim, Bill and Din working their tails off in the GEMS office has just left me awestruck with their skill, talent, and dedication to camp and country. Knowing I can leave articles in their hands for cleaning up and editing has been one of the great reliefs of my week and is one reason I feel like I can confidently go forward as Dean. I look forward to our continued collaboration next year.

(Ed. Note: Please refer to us as Mr. Peters, Dr. Stevens, or Prof. Milford – or only refer to us in the 3rd person – and if you please, no eye contact...)

Tensions abound in the world. People lose jobs, then hopefully find new ones. People get really sick, then hopefully get better. Families have hard times, then hopefully work them out. For me this community is a light against the darkness. A beacon. A ray of sunshine.

I am really excited for next year. I hope its not presumptuous, but I would like to invite us all of us to think about a couple of things as we plan for next year:

How do we consciously nurture the inter-generational aspect of this camp, so that people of all ages can learn from and teach each other and have fun together?

Can or should we experiment next year with a couple of new workshops outside the normal class times?

And, most importantly, how do we get this week's weather back again?

See you next year,

Lou Weeks

In Praise of the New Dean

Here in the GEMS office, we consider ourselves a principled lot. Our core values incorporate inclusion which one of the reasons we have to tried to use as many pictures as possible this week so that Chapel Line campers would have something to color. That something or someone from their ranks has risen to the prestigious office of the Dean of NNESRE is both awe-inspiring and deeply disturbing. We can only note the stock market yesterday lost 4% of its value, as people throughout the world saw signs of the Apocalypse.

Let us be clear here – we like Lou Weeks. In fact now, we love Lou Weeks. We have known his family to be honorable people. We have traded shiny objects with them for things from their cabin. His daughter has been a stalwart contributor of great intellect to the GEMS and has shown the spine and tenacity to speak the truth with love to her father. As his deanly duties pull him away from his family, we promise to raise her with our wolfpack loyalty to guide her through her formative years.

Lou, himself, has been a steady presence in the GEMS office this week, contributing numerous intellectual tomes whilst seeking reassurance on spelling, grammar, and family dynamics.

We pledge our enduring allegiance until the first minor misunderstanding when we can begin our grudges in full. We welcome you, Lou Weeks. Good luck. God Bless You. And..bring it on...

Mr. Peters, Dr. Stevens, Prof. Milford

WINNI WEATHER

*Isolated thunderstorms in the evening,
mostly cloudy tonight, isolated
thunderstorms tomorrow. 20-30% chance
of rain today and tomorrow.*

STALLING FOR TIME

GPC increases port-a-potty "head-count"

Geneva Point Center yesterday introduced a strategy of elimination diversification by depositing two industrial strength portable commodes on the upper campus. One anchors the southwest end of the inn, while its twin occupies a space between the Siftar Cottage and the Barn.

Center officials insist that the water problems are becoming increasingly clearly understood, and that conclusive repairs should be completed not long after 10:00 AM on Saturday. Meanwhile, the installation of these two units should help to allay congestion, especially during the late-night hours when the water is shut off to now-familiar areas of the campus. "This is a game of thrones," one official asserted off the record. "And when one plays a game of thrones, one plays to win."

Top Ten Things to Remember While Packing for Winni Next Year

10. State issued ID.
9. Personal Chef
8. Lillian's suitcase (this goes on the list every year since the unmentionable incident eight years ago)
7. Sue Nisson's homemade salad dressing
6. Defense Attorney
5. Water Tower from a small town
4. Foam Top Mattress.
3. A plumber
2. Talent
1. To bring less stuff

Haiku

Lying motionless
Lovely water lilies smile
From their water beds
Linda Sacco

Thank-Yous from The Evening Coordinators

Hearty thanks to:

- To Barb for hosting a host of children and families for family dance.
- To Marilyn Kendrix for hosting our one and only Fireside Chat
- A huge thank you to Kevin Weston for executing a great Coffee House flying solo – Sheldon was missed.
- All the acts that performed at the Coffee House – such talent!

- *Susan and Michael*

Thank You TO the Evening Coordinators

2-4-6-8. Time that we eval-u-ate **Be the first to get the dirt...and the gold**

Please fill out the Winni general evaluation forms that are floating around camp – or at least would be floating if there were water. This is your chance to let us know what worked, what didn't work (hint: the water), and what you think might work better (hint: the water). And, as Dean Tom Weston mentioned, filling out your evaluation also qualifies you to win a free ice cream, immediate head-of-the-line placement in the Scoop Shop, and a 10-piece Ginzu knife set. Enter early and enter often!

Of course, of course

Evaluate your courses, too. Please try to submit evals before you leave camp. There is a box on the Inn Porch for completed forms. It also has blank forms for you eager evaluators who have even more to say. No prizes are offered beyond the satisfaction of knowing that you have provided much welcome feedback and helped to guide the Program Planning process for next year.

Haiku Not

Unable to count syllables
I write
And that is enough.

Coffee Talk

Dock Roaders have Denise Livsey to thank for another year of relative alertness due to her very generous and buzzy morning coffee, served up seemingly by magic every morning. If you brew it, we will come. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

- *Your fellow Dock Road Campers*



Swimmi Shocker II

Unable to cope with stiff competition from his younger brother Garrett and female nemesis Sonia Whipp, Stefan Livsey mounted an aerial attack yesterday in an attempt to regain his dominance in the Winni Swimmi. Whilst using a body double to maintain an alibi that he was playing softball Thursday afternoon, Livsey was in fact mounting a "strafing run" attack on the unsuspecting swimmers. As the younger Livsey and Sonja Whipp were pulling ahead in the finishing stretch of the swim, Stefan attempted to impale the pair on the front ends of his landing pontoons. Fortunately, the nefarious plot was thwarted by surface-to-air missile fire from the attentive lifeguard, which caused Stefan to veer off at the last minute.

Orientation for Parents of Teens

The Ed School coordinators and the incoming Dean invite all parents of teens to meet and greet each other at the beginning of camp next year. We will coordinate the time to match up with the Ed School orientation just before the camp-wide orientation. All of our kids will certainly be spending time together next year, and we want to make that we are talking to each other. This new aspect of orientation is arose from discussions earlier this week where parents of teens spoke with each other about how to make this week as positive as we can. New input and ideas welcome. If you have ideas about this and/or suggestions, please find Marie Baker, Stephen Kaye, or Cynthia Campbell.

Diary of a New Camper: The Last Day

Sat with Mean Lady for breakfast, turned out she was really funny and nice. Her kids are cute, too. Took folk-dancing class in the barn to learn new steps for tonight.

Sang songs before lunch on the porch.

Swam a mile for the first time in my life and was cheered at the finish.

Sat by a nice lady at the beach and learned about Tanzania.

Got invited to a happy hour by my new friends from boating yesterday.

Enjoyed dinner under the tent.

Heard some lovely ballads at the coffee house. Slept like a Baby.

Definitely coming back next year. May bring my Accordion as well as my Didgeridoo.

Good Night, Diary.

PS thanks for getting me through the first couple of days.

Haiku Not II

Unbelieving there is more space to fill,
I violate haiku law,
Recklessly –e-i-e-i-o...

Thanks Be To

The Dean holds the conference in many ways, some seen, most invisible. The job is so much more than coordinating grace at meals and leading the opening and closing ceremonies. The dean is a liaison between GPC and the Conference, the "go-to" person when problems arise, and is in many ways the most public face of NNESRE. Poorly applied makeup aside, it's difficult to imagine anyone performing those roles with more grace, good humor, and gentleness than **Tom Weston, Jr.** His steady, kind, intelligent leadership over the last six years (the longest tenure in our memory) is sincerely and deeply appreciated. Thank you, Tom for not only being the Cal Ripkin of deans, but also the Babe Ruth. Junior birdpeople all, we salute you.

Thanks also to **Ron Offutt**, for tireless service helping further to regularize and update NNESRE'S books, and to create a system of compensation and reimbursement that better reflects what the camp is able to afford. Up to now, the business manager has also taken on the fairly thankless role of being the NNESRE'S sorting hat, matching our ever-evolving lodging needs with the available facilities. Ron managed it all with a steady hand and a considerate demeanor.

Cynthia Wilcox-Smith has provided years of service in the crucial role of Program Planning Chair. Those workshops you enjoy each August are the product of many meetings, many choices, and a great deal of attention to make sure the program is diverse and responsive to the community's needs and interests.

Last, but certainly not least, we tip our hats to **Mike and Sue Nisson**, Evening Coordinators extraordinaire, who for the last three years (and for, we believe, six of the last eight years) have orchestrated evenings with laughter and song and wild animals and theoretical astronomers and movies and campfires and so much more. Here's one big clap for Sue, the organizational mastermind, and another for Mike, an emcee for the ages.

GEMS Signs Off for the Week

Thanks from the GEMS Editors

Time once again to thank the many folks who pitched in at the GEMS this year. Many hands made light work, and making light is more or less what we're about here.

Our thanks as always to our de facto third editor Jim Peters who logged fully as many hours in the office as the two of us -- more hours, in fact, than Din once she started commuting to Boston every other day. Thanks, Jim, for stepping up so seamlessly.

Thanks to Lou and Abigail Weeks, who infiltrated the office and starting pitching in with Chapel Line and Mike Nisson jokes before we even offered them the Kool-Aid. It was nice to have some new voices here. (We can well imagine readers' thoughts: "You're telling *us*?")

And thanks to our many other contributors: Faye Hess, Joe Morrissey, Lillian Daniel, Linda Sacco, Tom Weston, and all the other folks who came in to say hello, type, or contribute a line or two. We look forward to doing it all again next year.

- Bill Milford and Din Stevens

Goodbye Winni: Thank God!

Winni is a hard place to leave and ends with the last night is full of tears and songs at the candlelight service. Winni is a special place to everyone who attends whether it's their first year or 10th because no matter what you're with friends you will never forget. You can visit people during the year or try and keep talking but nothing is the same as being with them everyday for a week straight. In everyway social way Winni is perfect, maybe not in every maintenance way. As we leave we all look forward to the next year, which never seems to come quick enough, we attempt to say our heartfelt goodbyes.

By Abby Weeks

Things to look forward to at home

1. Water
2. Edible food
3. T.V.
4. Soap
5. Water
6. Sleep
7. Your mattress
8. Water
9. Friends
10. Water
11. Drinking Water
12. Bathing in Water
13. Toilets
14. School... sort of
15. WATER

By Abby Weeks

Yoga in South Central Connecticut

If you live near or pass through Hamden, CT and are yearning for a slice of Winni in your daily life, consider Jennifer Brosious's and Laine Harris's "Your Community Yoga Center", 39 Putnam Avenue, Hamden, CT, in the old brick firehouse building with the Yoga banner over the door, near Books & Company and across from The Playwright Restaurant. Phone: [\(203\) 287-2277](tel:2032872277);

website: www.yourcommunityyoga.com. They offer multiple daily classes, from beginners, to advanced, to dance, contemplative art, meditation, tai ch'i, beer and yoga, and much much more. All of it takes place in two lovely classrooms with hard wood floors, and a fantastic bookstore to meet all your yoga and meditation needs.

A sweet and gentle Winni-like spirit pervades everything at YCYC, thanks to Jennifer and Laine's oversight. Give it a try next time you're near Hamden!

The Man Behind the Barn Dance

You may not have noticed that like “Mary-Y” Barb Siftar has a third hand! Jon Arnold is Barb’s third hand in the Barn. Jon is a steadfast roadie and has had all my equipment set up for me when I arrive at the Barn. He is also the DJ, getting those tunes switched and started just at the right time. He then morphs into the role of “mood manager” as he quietly walks around turning off the lights during our final dance. Thank you, Jon, from the bottom of my heart. You’re a gift!

Wool Felt Quilt Makers

Amy Bruch would like to thank the following young people for helping to create the felt quilt that will grace the Barn wall during this evening’s closing ceremony.

Sonia, Celia, Skye, Eva, Alexa, Hannah, Shea, Skylar, Eland, Catherine, Lillian, Dan, Anna, Sienna, Cate (Brian-dad), Shannon (Diane).



The Felt Quilt!

TOMORROW’S GOD

From Trevor Davis’s Class:

- 1) Tomorrow's God does not require anyone to believe in God.
- 2) Tomorrow's God is without gender, size, shape, colour, or any characteristics of an individual living being.
- 3) Tomorrow's God talks to everyone, all the time.
- 4) Tomorrow's God is separate from nothing, but is Everywhere Present, the All in All, the End, the Sum Total of Everything that ever was, is now, and ever shall be.
- 5) Tomorrow's God is not a singular Super Being, but the extraordinary process called Life.
- 6) Tomorrow's God is ever changing.
- 7) Tomorrow's God is needless.
- 8) Tomorrow's God does not ask to be served, but is the Servant of all of Life.
- 9) Tomorrow's God will be unconditionally loving, nonjudgemental, noncondemning, and nonpunishing.

Answer to Quiz

What do Bill Milford, Jim Peters, Ken Cheek, and Robert Campbell have in common? Give up?

It’s a Tilley hat.

International Mail

Not included in the roster was the address of our new friend:

Camille Duvivier
88 impasse des vignes
69490 Saint-Loup France

SEVENTH ANNUAL COFFEE HOUSE ROCKS THE CHAPEL

Kevin Weston worked his amplification and master-of-ceremonies magic as 17 acts graced the Chapel stage last evening. The quality and variety of offerings was simply stunning. Thanks to Kevin and all who performed:

1. Adam and Sarah Brosious
2. Dominic Paolillo (with Chris Peters)
3. Tre Davis
4. Beth LeBar
5. Liz and Chris Peters
6. Allie Bruch (with Chris Loughlin)
7. Putt Smith
8. Barb Siftar
9. Fred, Gail, Chris, Trevor, and Larry
10. Sam Kern (with Chris Peters)
11. Larry Kern, Bernadette Goldin, Sam Kern and Trevor Davis
12. Linda Meyer
13. Stacie Finlayson and Monica Seaman
14. Bill Milford
15. Laine Harris
16. Wes Gunderson
17. Kevin Weston

So Says Joe...

Softball Results Somewhere in Here

Wasn't the Coffee House last night great? If you haven't attended one of these you really need to make it a priority next year. Bill Milford may sing about Chapel Line drinking "rot gut" but I prefer to think of it as "budget friendly spirits".

Many thanks to those who participated in this year's softball game. This year's game was a low scoring affair. It's tough to have any other kind of a game when each team has 10 outfielders. It also went 11 innings and was quite possibly the best game we've had since I've been coming here. We had it all from head first slides to boneheaded base running plays. From diving catches to embarrassing my-grandmother-could-have-made-that-catch miscues (we won't say who that was but his name begins in an "Eric" and ends in a "Nisson"). And of course we had my yearly injury (thanks Calvin).

The one thing that we didn't have was one of our yearly vein popping arguments (I'm sure that has nothing to do with you-know-who leaving camp early this year). If you younger guys (and gals - we believe in equal opportunity shouting matches) want to keep the spirit of this game alive you need to learn how to argue (perhaps Charlie Soper can teach a class in that next year).

Congratulations to Cathy Smith for setting the modern day record for miles put on a golf cart. Cathy also hit the exacta by setting the record for most passengers driven around in said cart. As far as I can tell, if you haven't yet had a ride from Cathy then you're one of the few.

Ken Cheeks says that the Hoot has so many good acts that it's almost getting professional. Well, Chapel Line will need to be sure to put a stop to that next year. ☺
Safe journeys everybody!

Joe Morrissey

Thank You from the Ed. School

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful Ed. School Teachers for providing a fun, safe, and engaging week for our Winni children, youth, and young adults. The challenges of running a camp youth program are numerous and the flexibility and generous nature of our Ed. School staff has been outstanding. From the last minute replacements (thank you Laura Ondre!) to the patient and enthusiastic nature of all of our teachers - we thank as Ed. School Directors and on behalf of our Winni Community!

Leslie Ganley and Joann Milford

Not Haiku III

Like space between my ears,
Empty, without meaning,
Yet I still need to shave.

2011 Winni Swimmi Results

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Best</u>	<u>2011 Time</u>
Sonja	Whipp	0:25:27	0:29:39
Garrett	Livsey	debut	0:32:01
Pete	Pfluke	debut	0:32:47
Emily	Whipp	debut	0:33:12
Roger	Johnson	debut	0:38:05
Bobbi	Davis	0:37:09	0:40:28
Ruth	James	debut	0:40:28
Kathleen	LaCamera Loughlin	0:41:40	0:42:27
Abby	Davis	debut	0:42:45
Julie	Siftar	0:41:12	0:44:15
Mary	Hunt	debut	0:46:40
Liz	Peters	0:43:14	0:47:15
Leslie	Ganley	0:46:48	0:48:10
Art	Hunt	debut	0:51:12
Tori	Yeager	best	0:52:45
Lou	Weeks	0:48:12	1:00:38
Bill	Jagle	debut	1:01:40
Larry	Kern	debut	1:02:14
Ilana	Houten	debut	1:08:40
Jason	Brosius	0:59:00	1:11:09
Adam	Brosius	debut	Half way

We had a beautiful afternoon for the 1 mile open water swim yesterday afternoon, the lake was calm and at our start time of 2:36pm, there was a light rain falling. As the 21 swimmers started, the rain slowed and then stopped leaving an overcast day that eventually yielded sunshine. True to form, Julie Siftar arrived a little late, and jumped in the lake at 2:37 to join the swim. Last year our swim was interrupted by a thunderstorm that caused most of the swimmers to head to the nearest shore, with the exception of Sonja Whipp, who was the only finisher with an unofficial time of 33:03.

Our excitement this year was provided by an amphibious airplane that attempted to land in the cove during the swim! Fortunately the pilot observed the boats and swimmers and gave us all

a thrill by making a low pass over the cove, flying between the islands to land further down the lake.

We now have records dating back to 1999, and the times below represent the best times of repeat swimmers, our records now show that 91 different campers have participated in the Swimmi over the last 12 years! Among the notable finishes was first-time participant Bill Jagle, who at 82 years young is the most senior finisher we can remember, congratulations Bill.

On the other end of the spectrum was Garret Livsey, our youngest swimmer this year who finished second overall! First time finisher Pete Pfluke came in third followed shortly by Emily Whipp. Congratulations go to Tori Yeager for finishing with a personal best this year. Style points were maxxed out by Larry Kern who completed his swim in a torn-up pair of cut off blue jean shorts doing the back stroke the entire way!. He was one of many swimmers who honored Dennis Courtney with the feet-first finish. Thanks to the many boaters who braved the showers to accompany the swimmers.

TRUSTEES MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

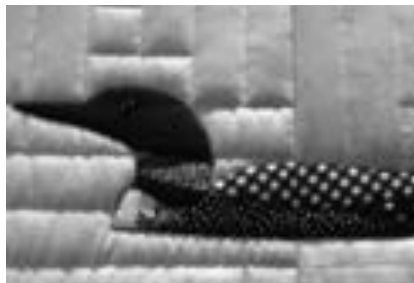
Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012

Location: Connecticut

Address: T.B.A.

For information contact Kate Fioravanti

2nd & 3rd Graders.... Where Can It Be?



NNESRE 2011 NOMINATED STAFF AND COMMITTEES

DEAN LOU WEEKS

CHAPLAIN ERIC DUPEE

PROGRAM & EVALUATION ART HUNT

BUSINESS MANAGER LESLIE DOCKENDORF

BUSINESS COMM. CHAIR ROBERT CAMPBELL

EVENING COORDINATORS DAN NICHOLSON & JULIE SIFTAR

ED SCHOOL CHAIRS JOANN MILFORD & LESLIE GANLEY (FINAL YEAR)

GEMS EDITORS BILL MILFORD & DIN STEVENS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE *CHARLIE SOPER, DEB ESKRA, ROBIN OGDEN – TRUSTEES *CONVEENER
 MARY COURTNEY, JONATHAN LEAF, BERNADETTE GOLDEN – CONFERENCE

TRUSTEES**PRESIDENT: KATE FIORAVANTI**

2012

AL FONTANA 2ndKATE FIORAVANTI 1STHANS SEITZ 1STJOHN HODA 1STCHARLES SMITH 1ST

ANN COURTNEY FINISH OTHER

VP: AL FONTANA

2013

ROBERT CAMPBELL 2NDJEN HANRAHAN 1STED THOMPSON 1STROBIN OGDEN 1STSTEVE KAYE 1STALLIE BRUCH 1ST**TREASURER: HANS SEITZ**

2014

CHARLIE SOPER 2NDDEBBIE ESKRA 2NDBARB SIFTAR 2NDMARIANNE FONTANA 2NDJOE MORRISEY 1STTRAVIS LEAP 1ST











First night? Last night? Which is it?

Something that has always plagued me at NNESRE is the first day and night. The one when we arrive. It's a little bit GPC warnings, a little bit worship, a little bit classes, etc., etc. No role or persons are really in charge to consider the flow and coordination from the time we arrive until the time we go to sleep on the Saturday we arrive. The trustees are looking for some people-any people-who would like to talk about this through email and phone during the year, and make recommendations to the trustees in April. There are already some people interested: Allie Bruch, Mark Brady, Bill Milford, and myself. If you would like to join us in this discussion, please contact me, Barb Siftar, while we're here or after camp. bsiftar@partners.org. Thanks! Barb

Joke Off at Dock Road – Late Night

With the absence of Jonathan Leaf this year from Camp, the Joke Off has a shot at actually being funny. So bring your best jokes to Dock Road for a late night humor fest. Please keep it clean when young ears are present.

Has Your Congregation Been Through the Open and Affirming Process?

Sue DiTucci is interested in talking with folks whose congregation has experienced the Open and Affirming Process of discussing sexual orientation within their church. Please see Sue or email her if you have some feedback or suggestions.

Make Winni Work For You By Sharing What You Do and Who You Know!

Bill Milford is interested in making a Mini-Winni network where we share our occupations and associates to assist folks who are looking for work to get additional ideas and contacts. If you have suggestions about this process, please see Bill.