

THE PRE-GEMS

Dizzy Dean Makes The Perfect Pitch For 2007 Winni Theme: Voices In A Choir

Off The Dean's Bean

Don't you just love this year's theme? Kudos to our chaplain, Jim Peters, who came up with this inspirational choice.

Many years ago, our church choir met on its usual Thursday night to prepare the upcoming Sunday anthems. As one particularly challenging piece of music was handed out, I recall a fellow bass, who was also a beloved college professor, remarked that it looked like we were being handed, "a piece of high quality, grade A fly paper". There were just way too many notes on that page.

However, after we heard the organist play it through once and we each got to hear our own parts plinked out on the piano, we began to learn our lines and eventually blended it with the other parts to make music happen. Perhaps not exactly as the composer intended, but out of the initial fear and chaos, something beautiful emerged.

As voices in a choir, we work together to create something bigger, something better, something more than we could ever be alone. Try as we might, one lone voice will never make a chord.

And in that choir, we all bring something of ourselves to make the choir better. Some people have extensive vocal range, while others may sight read music well or are particularly adept at bringing out the dynamics

of a piece of music. And while others may not be gifted with perfect pitch or timing, they may possess a positive attitude, a light humor, a deep conviction or a simple presence that makes the choir better, fuller, more complete, simply in their belonging.

Our week together at Winni is a chorus of community. We come together to relax and rejoice, and to sing and dance and play and to learn and to worship and to reunite again as families and friends. In doing so, we make a joyful noise. A bagpipe calls the gathering of the clans. The sound of a loon call across the water stirs wonder in us. The squeals of laughter on the raft, the shuffle of feet across the barn floor, the clank of silverware on plates, the welcoming hellos and hugs as we catch up with each other on the events of the past year. This creates our symphony. Our community is a collection of voices in a choir, and our songs reflect our willingness to join in and celebrate together.

It will be so good to see you all back here in August!

Your Dean,

Tom Weston

Short takes:

REMINDER: GPC will not be ready for us to arrive until 3 PM on Saturday, August 4th. Please plan to arrive no earlier than 3:00.

Remember to bring beverages in cans when possible to help with the recycling burden. If you bring bottles, be prepared to bring them home with you!

Could it be him? It's Chaplain Jim!

Warm greetings from Chaplain Jim! I am really looking forward to a wonderful week of re-creation and re-connection and-reawakening of body and spirit--under the pines, on the raft, in the barn, and, of course, during Vespers! This year's theme is "Voices in the Choir," a phrase which to me carries the idea that each of us brings a unique and irreplaceable perspective to our community. Our voices matter. Our presence matters. WE matter -- EACH of us and ALL of us. We are the choir, and we are the choristers -- and that doesn't have a thing to do with what we think of our singing ability!

Every day at camp, after lunch, there will be a gathering of anyone who would like to have a hand in creating the evening's Vespers service. I'm hoping that each service will reflect the many faces of our diverse community, that we will be able to celebrate and sing and dance and share the special joy that being, together, at Winni, can bring. I welcome everyone to any or all of those planning sessions, and especially to Vespers itself, as we bring our voices to the choir.

Please have a wonderfully fun and safe early summer. See you in August!

Jim Peters, 2007 Camp Chaplain

Morning Watch Leaders Needed

Welcome each new day of Winni at Morning Watch. This short worship service can be an experience of God's creation in the beauty of lake and mountains as well as the gift of God's Holy Spirit in the gathered community. If you can imagine yourself, moved by the spirit and inspired -- we would love for you to lead Morning Watch. All it takes is an alarm clock, a few readings and/or reflections and the beauty of the outdoor chapel will take care of the rest for you. If you are interested in leading morning watch, drop an email to the Dean or Chaplain and remember to bring your readings and ideas to Winni with you!

A note from Lou Weeks on his Immigration in America course...

As we all prepare for a great week in August, we are in the middle of a raging national debate on immigration. I am teaching on that subject this summer, and I have been an active proponent of immigration reform. That said, there are definitely more than two sides in this debate (even in the English-speaking press). If people could clip articles now from whatever they are reading, I think it would inform our class discussion. Also, if anyone has old pictures or stories of their forbears and how they came to this country, please also bring those to camp this summer. See you soon!

Lou Weeks

In Appreciation of the Life and Service of Barbara Raymond

The late Barbara Raymond contributed significantly to the organization of NNESRE Archives for which we are most grateful. Barbara contributed her time and skill during our Winni week while others attended classes. And at one time, she traveled with her husband to Winni so that she could work on it while her husband attended the Geneva Point Center Camp board meeting.

I very much regret that I will not be able to come to Winni this August due to an unavoidable conflict in my schedule. Since I cannot convey my sincere gratitude in person at our Wednesday afternoon memorial service as I have been hoping to do so, please convey my heartfelt gratitude for Barbara's selfless dedication for the development of NNESRE archives. In this way, she also helped the beginning of the development of WINNI Historical Society envisioned in the *Kwang Lim Koh and Hesung Chun Koh Family Room* housed in the second floor of the Meeting House. Please join me in honoring Barbara for her selfless contributions to NNESRE and WINNI.

Hesung Koh

**World Peace, Global Warming or
The GEMS.... The Choice is Yours**

While the first two items are certainly worthy of your attention, we can assure you that *nothing* is more satisfying than writing for the GEMS. Literally, nothing. While world peace would certainly brighten everyone's demeanor and perhaps make our economy zoom, we would quickly tire of all the good news being reported on the nightly news. And while global warming certainly has its merits, if successful at stopping it, would you like to be the one responsible for the complaints that the lake water is too cool?

However, writing for the GEMS, well that gives us a reason to wake up in the morning because we KNOW we are impacting our part of the world in a meaningful way. Imagine having the power to make people amass at the Scoop Shop at any given hour just because you printed it in the GEMS. Reputations are built and torn apart by the incisive editorial wit coming from our office. Hoot acts return year after year (after year after year after year...) despite our reviews. We seek excellence, we seek insight, we seek the story behind the story, but mostly we seek coffee.

So if you are a coffee achiever or even if you are in caffeine rehab, we seek your services to tell the stories of the week. Let us know what's going on in the Ed School, in the classes, around the campfires, down on the beach and in your corner of the camp. Submit poetry, prayers, jokes, creative writing, news of your past year, what you want to do next year, and your brushes with fame and glory. We are one large community and the GEMS is just one other way of us all coming together.

So remember that any literary act will be honored whether scrawled on a dinner napkin or etched into a brick thrown through our window. Do not underestimate the impact you will have in the GEMS office by keystroking your way to fame or gaining the one *sincere* thank you will receive during the week for fetching us some java to get us motivated. YOU will make a *difference* in the lives of your lonely GEMS editors.

See you at the keyboard....
Din Stevens
Bill Milford

Your GEMS Editors

**THANK YOU STAFF AND NNESRE
Pre-appreciations are always welcomed!**

Thank you for the great job you have done and are doing. I feel this is not said enough and being this is my 37th year I thought I would tell you I think you all are terrific.

Well done good and faithful servants.

Thanks for another great year.

Donna Dawes

Seeking Grace at The Table

I love the gifts of caring and sharing that families bring to Winni. These become our traditions. Many folks enjoy sharing with our community, the various ways they worship at meals. Over the years we have heard prayers, poems, scripture, songs, verses and even silent prayer.

If you and/or your family would like to lead grace for a meal, or for a day of meals, please drop me an e-mail at **thomas.weston@ins.nh.gov**
Amen.

**Your Dean & Guy at the Head of the Table,
Tom Weston**

Greetings from Coleman/Greaneys

Dear Friends, we are sad to be missing Winni week this year. Matthew graduated from UCONN in June, Laura is attending Champlain College in the fall. They are moving into their apartment in Burlington, VT the week of Winni. It is an exciting time in Matt and Laura's lives. It is difficult for them to miss Winni this year and we have agreed with one another we will try to pitch a tent for an overnight to visit everyone if at all possible.

If any of Leslie and my Reiki students wants anything from us I can be reached at **LMColeman@aol.com**.

All our best, Lisa Coleman, Matt and Laura
Greaney
(860) 501-2467 Lisa
(860) 501-2468 Matt
(860) 501-2469 Laura

Be the Bazaar and Bring It!

We are lucky to have the Winni Bazaar planned again this year. All crafty types are welcome to bring their wares with a percentage of your profits going to the Winni scholarship fund. Those not bringing crafts should bring cash so you can leave with crafts (it is the true circle of life!) Look for the bazaar to be held early in the week before you have a chance to blow your dough at the Ice Cream Shop. Contact Gail Turgeon for questions and/or comments at gjono91@highstream.net.

Yabadaba doo – Yoga for You!

Dear Winni Community,

In alignment with the Geneva Point motto—“From this place go forth and build a better world”, as of January 1, Laine and I have taken over a yoga center in Hamden. Formerly The Connecticut Yoga Center, we renamed it Your Community Yoga Center and we are building a community based on the universal spiritual connectedness that is yoga. I look forward to sharing some of the wonderful bits of serendipity that have come out of this venture.

Looking to serve the needs and develop the strengths of the community, we would like to invite you to attend one of our first Friday of the month Free Community Classes at 7:00pm—the next one is on July 6. For directions or further information, visit our website at:

www.yourcommunityyoga.com

...and I will be happy to teach an early morning yoga class at Winni after I've arrived (I should be there by very late Sunday night—so early Monday morning) or join one if there's one in progress.

Peace,
Jennifer Brosious

News from the Ed School

Where does the time go? It seems that we were all together just a short time ago and here we are approaching another Winni week. Yet another year of laughing, singing, dancing, and Lorraine apologizing for Joe's behavior. Anyway, on with business. Needless to say, the Ed School Coordinator positions are made so much easier when we're blessed with a quality teaching staff. Once again we are fortunate to have begged and groveled our way into a position of not only having many staff returning from last year (Bethie Wilcox-Smith, Tracy Hall, Katie Rowe, Joann Milford, Carrie Hawthorne, Sue Hartley, Leslie Ganley, Kim and Gordie Holstrom, Luanne Wilczynski, Adam Brosious, and Sara Wedig), but also having an exciting group of newcomers in Liz St. Louis, Denise Livsey, and Debbie Steward. In addition, Wes Gunderson and Courtney Mason will once again be leading the kids during 3rd period at the beach.

Since we're on the subject of begging and groveling, please remember that all Ed School participants need to complete a registration form prior to camp. This is essential so that our teachers can have their plans and supplies already in place before they arrive at camp. **PLEASE** do not make any of our teachers spend their first day at camp running out and buying additional supplies for more kids than they had expected (been there, done that). If you do not receive a registration form with your bill, please contact Joe at joseph.r.morrissey@snet.net or call him at (203) 272-7089 and he'll e-mail / snail mail / fax / carrier pigeon a copy to you.

Instead of the traditional Ed School Orientation in the barn, we will have one or both teachers available in their classrooms from 7:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. on Saturday evening. This is a great opportunity for parents and kids to meet with the teachers and get accustomed to where the classes are located. Locations of classes are as follows: Nursery school in the Meeting House Breakout room. Toddlers will be in a location that has yet to be determined. Pre-school/Pre-Kindergarten at the Bob Siftar

Cottage. Kindergarten thru 2nd grade at the Shaw Cottage, Roxmont Room. Third and fourth grades at the Shaw Cottage, Greene room. Fifth and sixth grades at the Meeting House upstairs, Seventh and eighth grades at Pine Haven, and High School at the Lakeview Lodge Common.

That's all for now. Please remember to get those registration forms in or else Joann will send the Florida sharks to your house.

Joe Morrissey
Joann Milford
Ed School Coordinators

Note from Joe: This will be my last year as Ed School Coordinator. I've gone from "assistant" (translation: Lorraine did all of the work), to Lead Coordinator with Lorraine as my assistant (translation: payback time), and finally to Lead Coordinator with Joann Milford as assistant (translation: I once again found somebody else to do most of the work). Joann will be taking over as Lead Coordinator beginning next year. Get excited because she will do a fantastic job.

Knit Wits Sought!

I would like to offer 1 or 2 afternoon classes in basic knitting. I belong to a prayer shawl ministry at St. Thomas Becket Church in Cheshire. They have a small group of knitters that produce many prayer shawls, lap blankets and baby blankets for their parishioners. I have made several prayer shawls for my own church. Most of the yarn is donated so the cost is minimal. I also started a knitting and handicraft group at the library. They have made hundreds of preemie caps for the local hospitals and also hats and blankets for homeless shelters.

If anyone would like to join me in this adventure they will need size 13 needles, preferably wooden needles and 2 skeins of worsted yarn. Michael's craft store usually has a coupon for 40% off one item. I recommend the book ***Knitting Into the Mystery: A guide to the shawl knitting*** ministry by Susan

Jorgensen. In our library the call number is 247/Jorgensen.

Many libraries own this book. Please join me in this amazing ministry. To quote the inside cover of ***Knitting into the Mystery*** - "With needles clicking, "people" weave together not just garments to warm the body but also comfort and companionship to nurture the soul."

Can't wait to see everyone in August.

Sue Hartley
Sneak Preview from the Evening Coordinators

Greetings from the Evening Coordinators! The Evening Program grid is filling up quickly. We've got all sorts of fun events planned including the Hoot, the Barb and Bill Concert, the Weston Family Campfire, the Bonfire, the Coffee House, lots of barn dancing, the Watermelon Seed-spitting Contest, plus tons of other surprises.

If you have a suggestion for a terrific movie or an interesting Dock Road Campfire discussion topic, we would love to hear from you via e-mail (ditucci@comcast.net), telephone (1-978-887-9026), or snail mail (15 Honor Place, Topsfield, MA, 01983). We can't wait to see you all!

Your 2007 Evening Coordinators,
 Allie, LiLi, Paul and Sue DiTucci

T'Was The Night Before Winni 2007**(Or My Favorite Things to Bring)**

I pledge for this Winni,
 I will follow my bliss,
 But until it appears,
 I follow my ol' packing list.
 It was filled with promises,
 Tho' made from regret,
 Of things I forgot,
 And swore not to forget.
 Once the list was located,
 And carefully unfolded,
 I noted the contents,
 The important ones **bolded**.
 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,

baseball glove and a cap,

Be you Yankee or Met,

And as many things as there are that I find,

I also have a list for **what to leave behind**,

My **work** and my **cell phone**,

To avoid real world **stress**,

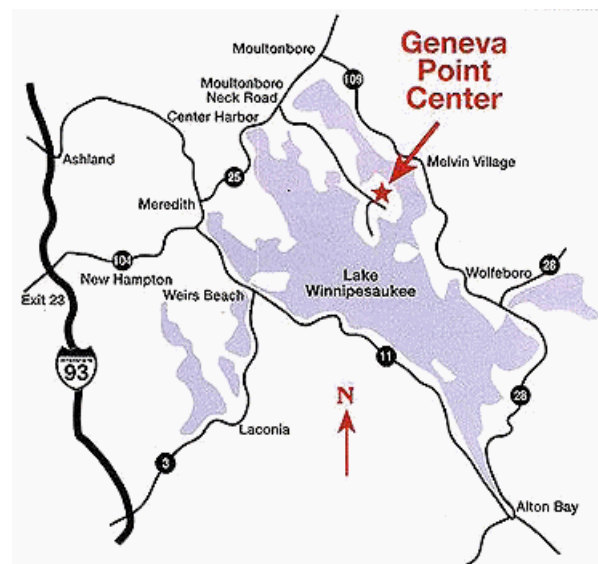
If I can't then relax cause the camp's **wireless**,

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 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.