

Thy Geneva GEMS

Dean Weston Makes His Welcome Known

Off The Dean's Bean

Welcome!

Well, we have made it. For as long as I can remember, I have set my calendar around the first week of August. This is my new year. And while I am only here one week out of every 52, not one week of the other 51 goes by without me thinking about this place at least once. Friends met here, times with my family, morning swims at the far beach, sunsets at the tryst, the smell of sweet cinnamon ferns, loon calls, barn dances, ginger ice cream, games on the green and of course, singing. Always singing.

We come here for recreation and education and worship. And while for many it is simply a vacation and a place to rest, I urge you all to think about our spiritual community and to become more involved in the events that turn our times together here into traditions. Get involved by taking a class or two and sharing your thoughts with one other. Make an effort to attend morning watch and vespers with your family. Volunteer some time with an Ed school class. The times we spend together as families in community in this special place allow us to forge friendships, learn from one another and come away from here with thoughts

and ideas to share in our home communities at church, at school, at the office, and in our cities and towns.

And as always, if you find ways or have ideas how to make this experience more welcoming, more informative, more enjoyable, please share them with your dean, your chaplain, the GEMS editors, staff members, teachers and instructors and the Board of Directors. We are always looking for ways to improve our program.

Welcome to all of you! Be safe out there and take care of each other.

Your Dean,

Tom Weston

Today's Schedule

3-4 PM Store Open

3-5 PM Waterfront Open

5:30-6:30 Dinner!

**7:00 Ed. School Meeting
Parents! Take your children to their
assigned classroom meeting space!**

**7:30 Vespers in the Meeting House
8:00 Camp Program Orientation in
the Meeting House**

**8:30-10 Scoop Shop is Open!
9:00 Newcomer Orientation at the
Dock Road Campfire**

**9:00 Dancing and Games in the
Barn with Barb Siftar**

Tomorrow's Schedule

12:01 AM Restless turning in your bed, cot, bunk, sleeping bag, car, or tree
 3:00 AM Contemplate a trip to the bathroom
 3:05 AM Might as well, you sat there for 5 minutes thinking about it.
 3:06 AM Exactly where are the bathrooms?
 3:08 AM Hardly worth the trip. Should you flush? Risk waking your neighbors, the cabin, or the bears?
 3:13 AM For the love of Mike, flush. Nobody likes a surprise in the morning.
 3:20 AM Nestled back in your bed, sweet relief, now you can focus on sleeping.
 3:33 AM About to drift off to sleep.
 3:33:30AM Somebody else flushes.
 Payback is SO sweet.
Repeat hourly till 7:00 AM
 7:00 AM Generally a good time to wake in anticipation of a great day.
 7 – 7:45 Morning Swim – Located for your convenience at the beach.
 7:45 AM MORNING WATCH – In the Outdoor Chapel near the Inn
 8:00 to 8:45 AM BREAKFAST
 8:30 to 8:45 Kid's (Pre-K and Older)
 Sing-a-long at the Outdoor Chapel
 9:00 - 12:00 Adult Ed. School
 9:00 – 11:00 Kid's Ed. School
 11 to 11:45 AM – Kid's Swim at the Beach
 12:00 Kid Pick-Up at the Flagpole
 12:15 – 1:15 PM LUNCH
 1 – 2 PM QUIET TIME (your digestion is going to need all the help it can get)
 2 – 5 PM Free swim at the beach!
 3 – 4:30 Scoop Shop is open!
 5:30 – 6:30 PM DINNER
Time to get a fresh new copy of your Geneva GEMS to swat them flies with!
 7:00 to 7:30 PM VESPER
 See your GEMS for a listing of Evening Activities and their location.
 12:00 Go to bed.
 12:01 Restless etc.- See top of page, repeat

Short Takes

Do the Can-Can

Please do what you can-can to only bring cans on campus. Bottles not only bust up but can bust up little feet and the people who are kind enough to empty our trash. So please keep your cools filled with cans or plan on taking your bottles home with you so you can recycle them at your leisure.

Defeat of the De Feet

We are NOT the nurse or your mother but nonetheless and heed our warning, Sonny. Tis best to keep your feet covered and watch where you step. Hidden treasures such as rocks, glass, wasps, and digestional remnants of Bambi may await your barefoot at any moment so why not keep your sandals on 24/7.

Nominating committee

Sunday at 1pm the nominating committee will have its first meeting in the porch area of the meeting house. Thanks!
 Linda Higgins

Watch For Morning Watch Leaders

Between 7:45 and 8:00 each morning, at the Outdoor Chapel down the hill from the Inn, campers gather to hear a message, or sing, or simply to sit in stillness and welcome the new day. The Morning Watch service is a special part of our collective life during the week, and one which requires some generous souls to step forward and offer themselves as leaders. Renate Sietz is the Morning Watch coordinators this week; if anyone, or any group of people are interested in leading Morning Watch one day this week, please see either her at your earliest convenience.

Chaplain Jim Checks In

Greetings from your Chaplain, Jim! I am really looking forward to a great week together!

As we begin, you should know that your chaplain holds the view that authentic worship emerges from the needs and the talents and the spirit of the gathered community. In the words of the famous Dutch hymn, "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing." It's the "together" piece that speaks to me--we here at Winni this week are a choir of such wonderfully varied voices, all enriched by one another's perspectives, values, and truths. It is my hope this week to create a space during Vespers where our many voices can be heard and celebrated, where we can joyfully and prayerfully and thoughtfully gather, together.

With all that in mind, I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to one and all to come up to the Inn Porch for a little while just after lunch. Each day at that time, we will complete the planning of that evening's Vespers service. If you have a reading, or a song, or a dance, or activity, or anything that you would like to see included in that evening's service, this is your opportunity to make that known. If you don't have a specific suggestion, but would like to participate in Vespers planning, or in some aspect of the service, please come as well. Being a true believer in the idea that the Spirit moves among us in unpredictable and wonderful ways, I've found that Vespers planning is itself a form of worship, as we shape many ideas into a coherent whole. It can be a very rewarding process.

Of course, I can already hear the presses rolling over at the GEMS office, as the staff

prepares to editorialize that Chaplain Jim is simply foisting his duties upon the rest of us. "Whaddya mean, WE plan, Chaplain Jim?" Well, that critique might have more bite but for the fact that Chaplain Jim has, in fact, laid out a framework for the week, in order that we may, during our planning, be adding meat to the bones rather than starting from scratch. (Now THAT's a lot of metaphors in one sentence, even for me!) *(Eds. Note: GEMS editors only criticize based on convenience, not content.)*

To wit, and remembering our overarching theme of "Voices in the Choir," here are the messages for each evening's service:

***Tonight: Arriving in body and Spirit**

How are we bringing *our* voice to *this* choir?

***Sunday: "Fixed" vs. "malleable" views of our relationship with God**

Who sings, who conducts...and does it really matter?

***Monday: What's urgent and what's important**

Do we choose the songs in our lives...or do they choose us?

***Tuesday: Connecting Winni with the world**

Near and distant choristers: How large is our Choir?

***Wednesday: The Memorial Service**

***Thursday: Reflections on Vocation**

Which choir is for me?

***Friday: The Candlelight Service**

I'm hoping that together we can design worship that includes children and adults, committed believers and committed questioners, those who love to sing and to move and those who prefer periods of peaceful reflection. It's a tall order, but we're an extraordinary community, and with God's help, nothing is impossible!

Chaplain Jim Peters

Dean Requests You Grace Him with Your Presence and Present Him with Your Grace!

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 see me during week at the head table to the right of the door as you enter the dining room. Amen.

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

Dean Requests You Provide Insider Information to Get Your 15 Seconds of Fame in the Dining Hall

Our Dean, Tom Weston, is wondering who among you might have a birthday, anniversary, or other significant milestone coming up (or recently passed) that you would like acknowledged this week. Have you always wistfully sung along with "Happy Birthday" or "Happy Anniversary" in the dining hall wishing that somehow, SOME day, it might be YOU? Cheer up! Here's your chance. Just let Tom know what the occasion is and he will be happy to rain public acknowledgement down upon you. (I'm fairly certain he can be flexible about dates. You had a birthday in February? Well, then. It's time you were sung to -- if you so desire.) Feel free to speak up for friends and family members, too.

GEMS Editors Request You Get Off Your Lazy Duff and Start Making the News, Writing About It, or Maybe Perhaps, Folding It!

We've said it before, we'll say it again, you know you have the talent to write for the GEMS, we know you have the talent to write for the GEMS, so what is the problem. All you need to do is bring your brain full of ideas and your tapping, typing fingers into our conveniently located GEMS office and you will find your name in print and reputation smeared just like we do. Your GEMS writing experience includes lots of coffee, lots of laughs, and an occasional unreasonable amount of artificial pressure. Despite our years of effort, we have been unable to improve upon ourselves so the burden now is yours. Come, write, laugh and especially, fold.

**Din Stevens and Bill Milford
Your GEMS Editors**

GPC Provides NNEsRE with Enough Rope To Hang Ourselves With And Just the Course To Do It On

GPC states that they will be happy to provide interested NNEsRE Campers with an opportunity to endure their infamous ropes course. Program Director Abbie Parker stated that she will be more than happy to create numerous uncomfortable challenges to your balance and self-esteem (and surplus business for the nurse). The GPC charge for running you through this plethora of painful stuff is only \$15.00. Please contact Dean Weston or the GPC staff if you or a group of your fellow campers are interested in this opportunity.

Houghtailing It Down the Road to Manchester Night Owl Wanted to Ride Shotgun

Ginny Houghtaling is looking for a night owl to accompany her to Manchester Airport on Monday night to pick up Heather and kids, who are scheduled to arrive at 11 PM. If you're willing and able to make the trip, help Ginny ward off drowsiness, and possibly share the driving (in Ginny's car), please let her know. Thanks! Note: MapQuest estimates the driving time as one hour, 42 minutes, distance is 77 miles.

Ginny Houghtaling

Ed School News

We are doing something new this year regarding the Ed. School Orientation. Instead of holding a large meeting in the barn, each classroom will be open for meeting and greeting the teachers TONIGHT between 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Please come by with your child to their assigned classroom space (see the Ed School map provided at registration) and visit with his/her teacher. We look forward to a wonderful week of friendship, laughter and fun!

Joe Morrissey and Joann Milford
Ed School Coordinators

From the Board of Trustees:

A warm welcome to all members of the Winni community! If you have items that you would like to bring to the attention of the Winni Board of Trustees, please let me know. The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees will meet on Sunday after lunch at 1:30 PM on the Meeting House porch.

The Board of Trustees will meet at 2:00 PM on Thursday, August 9, in the large hall of the Meeting House.

Let's enjoy the beauty that surrounds us and the good company of each other!

Renate Seitz
Chair, Board of Trustees

Top Eleven Signs You Are A Newcomer at Winni

1. You've put your real name on your name tag.
2. You dare to give the business manager Jon Rowe direct eye contact.
3. You walk past Chapel Line on your way to your housing on Dock Road and mutter "our housing is worse than this?"
4. When coming upon your cabin in Dock Road, you steady yourself on a trash can trying to avoid that rising feeling of nausea as you see Dock Road inhabitants breaking out cans of Lysol, Raid and Budweiser.
5. Uncontrollable weeping upon entering the bathhouse. (Actually, this is the mark of a Winni veteran, as well.)
6. A sense of nostalgia when you enter the barn followed by a sense of something dripping on your hair – and then you notice the bats.
7. A sense of nausea when you enter the dining hall followed by a sense of something dripping off your plate – and then you notice you are sweating on your own food.
8. You assume that singing "Ohhh Ohhh Ohhhh Ohhhh to Georgie" in the morning is a right wing gesture of patriotism to our current President and you figure that if you are going to go to a right wing church camp, you should've gone ahead and went to that Jimmy Swaggart camp down the road. They have AC, Barbara Mandrell, and a complimentary "hour of sin" where you can generate things to repent for the next day.
9. You fall for the Chaplain Jim Peters' "clothing optional" vespers service invitation
10. You assume that the title "GEMS" implies something of value.
11. You are shocked when what you thought was a courtesy chocolate on your pillow turns out to be er,... let's just say, not a courtesy chocolate.

Saturday's Musical Morsels

Songs to be sung at mealtime!

Tell Me Why

Tell me why the stars do shine,
Tell me why the ivy twines,
Tell me why the skies so blue,
And I will tell you just why I love you.

Because God made the stars to shine,
Because God made the ivy twine,
Because God made the sky so blue,
Because God made you, that's why I love you.

I do believe that God above
Created you just for me to love;
He picked you out from all the rest
Because He knew that I'd love you the best.

Rolling Over the Billows

It's cheese, it's cheese, it's cheese that makes the mice go 'round.
It's cheese, it's cheese, it's cheese that makes the mice go 'round.
It's cheese, it's cheese, it's cheese that makes the mice go 'round.
IT'S CHEESE THAT MAKES THE MICE GO 'ROUND.

CHORUS:

Oh, rolling over the billows, rolling over the sea.
Rolling over the billows in the deep blue sea.
Oh, rolling over the billows, rolling over the sea.
Rolling over the billows in the deep blue sea.

2. mice, cats
3. cats, dogs
4. dogs, boys
5. boys, girls
6. love, world

[Sing first verse and chorus, then sing the verse, replacing underlined words with new ones provided. Sing through chorus after each verse]