

The Post Winni Geneva GEMS

Youth Dominate Winni Spitti

**Fellows and Weston Reign
Adults Discouraged and Protesting Ask**
"Will These Kids Grow Up Already?"

In the Winni Watermelon Seed Spit Off, this year described by deposed dictators world-wide as the "Mother of All Watermelon Seed Spit Off Contests", the Hormones and Tennis Shoes set dominated over the Lipitor n' Loafers group that has long sought to dominate the sport of creating projectiles out of over-sized fruit refuse. (Eds. Note: This sentence just nominated for longest sentence of the issue. Considering it is the first sentence, it could be a horse race...)

Holly Weston shocked the assembled crowd by dominating the youth division with a seed spit that appeared not only to have legs, but a walker, wheel chair and stretcher – as the seed continued to accrue mileage as it loped its way down the measuring strip. While the tradition of having the Dean's kid win the Winni Spitti is a long and illustrious one, the proud papa was strip searched shortly before the proceedings to avoid any nefarious seeds from "accidentally" making their way onto the tarmac.

Asked for a comment on his daughter's performance, Dean Tom Weston, noted "it's in the genes", perhaps referring to his past years of glory at the Spitti.

This should not be confused with controversial Spitti Winner Justin similar statement of "it's in the jeans" referring to the fact in his Levi's that he had stashed artificially enhanced, aerodynamically perfect, and Malayasian manufactured seeds to the Spitti that not only won the competition, but a stray seed is alleged to have injured the cheekbone of a tennis player at Camp Robindale, miles away.

Slight of hand was also suspect when John Fellows proved the seed velocity and PSI had nothing to do with an imbalanced BMI. The slender Fellows flew a seed on a horizontal course that had cruise missile like determination, far out lasting the nearest competitors.

Mr. Fellows had just completed his first Winni Swimmi the day before and it is obvious that the year of conditioning work that he put in for that, paid off in spades in the Spitti. While Fellows' father looked on in pride and astonishment, he noted that "no prestidigitation was involved – just old fashioned spit n' sweat."

The GEMS is extremely excited in anticipation of next year's Spitti, which will be hosted by returning Evening Coordinators, Mike and Susan Nissman. The big excitement at Spitti's previously run by the Nisshuns is not only who will win, but if the watermelon will actually show up.

Tonight's Evening Activities

7:00 Read GEMS

7:05 Put dinner plate with Pot Roast on top of GEMS

7:35 Plate and GEMS go into dishwasher

7:45 Watch cable

10:30 Empty dishwasher, enjoy cleaner GEMS

11:00 Think of Winni, wish you were there

11:05 You get into bed, feel the clean fresh sheets and all of a sudden being back at Winni seems like a better activity for the morning.

Today's Winni's Buddhist Weather

1. Open your window.
2. Stick your head out the window.
3. It is what it is.
4. Don't get too attached to it, it will only change and bring you suffering.

Return of the Jewk Ooof

***Last Year's Poor Taste in Jokes
Replaced By This Year's
Poor Taste in Jokes n' Scottish Accents***

This year's 2nd Annual Winni Joke Off, now aptly called the Winni Jewki, started off riddled by confusion and miscommunication. Joke Off founder, Jonathan Leaf, apparently tested his material out at a myriad of other fire gatherings before wandering to Dock Road in the wee hours and finally delivering his finally honed set.

In the mean time, dozens of Joke Off aficionados gathered in keen anticipation of Leaf's appearance to kick off the evening – only to wait despairingly.

Finally, a voice cut through the night like a bagpipe at a Quaker Meeting. It was Hamish "Bucket O' Laughs" Blackman as he began what turned out to be an endless stream of great jokes made bad by a rogue, Scottish accent. Perhaps it was the material or the single malt, but whatever the inspiration, Blackman dominated the campfire with jokes that proved the old adage "it was perhaps better than sitting in silence".

Bill Milford, readily armed with material (none of which he could tell because of his desire to have some of the youth there respect him in the morning), resorted to his "B" material. Watching those jokes fall flat, Milford quickly regrouped and presented them in a Scottish accent (which was closely akin to his award winning Pirate accent from last year) and had campers peeing in their pants from laughter (not to be confused with the self-soiling behavior of some Chapel Liners).

For example:

Attempt 1: After 10 years of seeing my therapist, he said three little words that made me immediately quit therapy: "No hablo ingles".

Crowd Reaction: Huh? What?

Attempt 2: Dit eye tewl ye ahbout mi frend McGregor? E hat ew wee preblum n wunt fer da psychologically terapy. Eeet wer tin yurs befur e finnaly kwit it. Ah sed, McGregor, wut yu gu n doo dat fur? N McGregor sid thee therapoost sid 3 wee werds that changedup thee hole thing fur 'em. E set "no habloooo thee ingles..."

Crowd Reaction: Howls of laughter! Loon like hoots!

So next year's participants are warned to pack both good material and a brogue.

Remembering the Final Circle

At least one Winni Camper has warmly recalled our final candlelight service and has pondered about the songs sung on the green afterwards.

To refresh and recall, they were:

Jacob's Ladder: *We are climbing Jacob's ladder (3x), soldiers of the cross...*

Seek and Ye Shall Find: *Seek and ye shall find, knock and the door shall be opened, ask, and it shall be given and the love comes trickling down.*

Peace Like A River: *I've got Peace Like A River (3x) in my soul, (2x)*

Today: *Today while the blossoms still cling to the vine, I'll taste your strawberries, I'll drink your sweet wine. A million tomorrows shall all pass away, Ere' I forget, all the joy that is mine, today.*

Alleluia Anyhow: *Alleluia Anyhow! Never ever ever let your troubles bring you down, When life's troubles come your way, Hold your head up high and say, Alleluia Anyhow!*

Bring Me A Rose: *Bring me a rose in the winter time, When its hard to find, Bring me a rose in the wintertime, I've got roses on my mind, For a rose is sweet, Most anytime and yet, Bring me a rose in the wintertime, How easy we forget!*

No One Walks Alone: *For no one walks alone (2x), Just let your faith abide, Somebody's on your side, For no one walks alone (2x) No one can make it on their own!*

Amen! Amen! (5x)

Light Your Way: *May the light that shines within us, Lead us safely through this day, Till we meet again, I wish for you my friend, Love, To Light Your Way....*

Lost and – Found?

Cynthia Wilcox reports that her family came home from camp minus one gray, front-zip hoodie with “Glastonbury YMCA Gymnastics” in blue lettering. If it ended up making its way home with you, please let Cynthia know. One sibling will enjoy a happy reunion and another will be released from the doghouse.

Plan Now For Winni 2008

NNESRE conference dates for next year are Saturday, August 3rd through Saturday August 10th. There, you can write that on your 2008 calendar now. We just did, and it felt darned good. Only 48 weeks left 'til we return to GPC.

Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, It's Off to Work We Go

Mark Brady is working with GPC management to set up a Winni work weekend, most likely some time in the spring of 2008. The idea is that NNESRE folks would volunteer their time to go up to GPC for a weekend and do some work painting, fixing windows, or making other repairs for the greater good of the facility: sort of like an Amish barn raising, except without the Amish...er...and we already have a barn. But you get the picture. It would also be a great opportunity a to enjoy the surroundings and the company of fellow campers. The Board of Trustees has voted to allocate \$1500 for this purpose. If individual families campers are willing to make further monetary contributions, we would be able to accomplish that much more. Please consider making a \$10 contribution to the Friends Of Winni through NNESRE for this purpose. Planning is still in the works. Stay tuned for further details.

Top Ten Things Your GEMS Editors are Looking Forward to For Winni 2008

1. Relaxing in the jacuzzis installed by hard-working volunteers during Winni Work Weekend.
2. The 3rd annual joke-off, to be conducted exclusively in the accent used by Andy Kaufman on "Taxi."
3. Chaplain Jim's controversial follow-up to his "Voices In the Choir" Theme: "Silence is Golden"
4. Winni fitness program: double-time rocking on the Inn porch.
5. Eager GEMS interns turning out copy and brewing us fresh coffee while we sit in a back room with our feet up, watching Oprah, and occasionally barking out: "Hey, we have a deadline here!"
6. Business Manager declares to all: "Room and board – my treat!"
7. New field game: labyrinth sprint relay. Free maps provided.
8. Hoot broadcast via satellite TV to compete with footage of empty Senate chamber on C-Span.
9. Dreaming up another fifty ways to spell "Nisson."
10. Chapel Line spelling bee: winner can correctly spell "bee."

Program and Evaluation Committee Meeting

The fall meeting of the Program and Evaluation Committee will take place on 22 Sep. 2007 at Linda Higgins/Doug Yeager's house, located at 7 Roberts Rd., Marlborough CT. Their telephone number is 860-467-6010. It is scheduled for 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

It is not too late to submit course proposals. We have 10 slots to fill and as of today, only 3 proposals.

In particular, we need a Rabbi to teach a course. If you have thought of something you would like to teach or know someone who would like to teach, please get the proposal to me by 15 Sept. My snail mail address is PO Box 492, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0492. My email address is i-love-winni@cox.net. It is not case sensitive.

Fellowship starts at 9:00 AM to say hello, read evaluations, etc.

The review of evaluations for NNESRE 2007 will begin at 10:00 AM.

We will break for a **potluck** lunch and then review course proposals for NNESRE 2008. If possible, we will have the 10 slots filled by mid-afternoon. If we don't, a second meeting will need to be scheduled.

Child care will be provided. If you are planning to bring a child, please let me know the age of your child(ren) so I may have the appropriate number of sitters on hand.

We are required to have at least five trustees at the meeting. The following trustees volunteered to come to the meeting: Robert Campbell, Tim Fioravanti, Al Fontana, Bernadette Golden, Doug Hawthorne, and Courtney Mason. If you will not be able to attend, please find another trustee to take your place.

Peace and Winni love,
Cynthia Wilcox

Off The Dean's Bean

Well, according to the calendar, it has been one month since our week at Geneva Point. How can a month feel like a year, and a week pass so quickly? That's camp I guess. I have found this year's re-entry most challenging as I shift toward other responsibilities. Our larger communities bring many new Voices in our Choir, and it is often a challenge to be as open and welcoming as we strive to be.

Still, I have such a great store of memories that will carry me through until the next time we meet. What a wonderful week of singing and dancing and learning. I feel truly amazed and entertained and enlightened when I think of all the gifts and talents shared by you all during our week together.

It was so nice to see several old friends return to Winni this year. I encourage you to think of friends and families that perhaps haven't joined us for some time and invite them to return next summer.

I am so excited about the leadership team that we have assembled, and look forward to the planning session on September 22, as we review the proposed courses that are being submitted for our 92nd session of NNESRE. Please come to CT on that Saturday and help us plan the new session.

There has been some discussion about a working party of NNESRE folks to gather at GPC and spend a weekend roofing, building and painting. Mark Brady is working with Jess Schload and Greg Widman to pull this effort together. As GPC has such a full fall planned, it may have to wait until the spring to set a weekend however. The NNESRE Board of Trustees pledged to cover the cost of

materials and supplies up to \$1,500. If you are interested in adding to this gift to GPC from NNESRE, please contact Mark Brady with your offer of physical assistance and/or an additional monetary pledge to the Friends of Winni.

It looks as though the sale of two land lots is well on its way to being completed before the end of the year. While it is difficult to see the Tryst property sold, it is encouraging to know that some GPC debt will be retired, long overdue maintenance issues will be addressed and the center will be in a much healthier financial situation.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you for your support, encouragement, hard work and ideas that keep our NNESRE conference so vital. It is a statement of faith that we are entering our 92nd session, and a testament of your efforts that keep our programming strong and keep families returning to continue the good work we accomplish.

With love in my heart and a song in my head (always), I remain, your Dean.

Bless you and keep you,

Tom Weston

GEMS Don't Get Old, They Get Better!!!!

Let's say you've misplaced your old GEMS and you're panicking because you need something to cover the bottom of the birdcage. No need to worry when you can simply go to the net and download enough GEMS to keep your bird happy for years. Simply go to:

<http://www.campwinni.org/gems.html> and download to your heart's delight!

Bernadette Releases Her First CD – “Unless” Goes “Golden” Overnight! You’re Invited to the CD Release Party!

Bernadette Golden has just put out her first CD called “Unless” with her musical compadres Larry Kern, Glenn Ashton, and Michael Ozenich. Reviewers at the GEMS can’t get wait to get their hands on it for we pine for those Golden jazz stylings and the lyrical masterpieces that keep us thinking, laughing, and thumbing through our dictionary.

There will be a CD party celebrating the blessed event and you are invited! There will be food! There will be drink! There will be merriment! There will be a live performance of the CD! Here are the vital stats:

What: CD Release Party for “Unless”

Who: Bernadette Golden, Larry Kern, Glenn Ashton, Michael Ozenich

When: Sept. 28. 2007 - 7-10 PM

Where: Hygenic Art Gallery
79 Bank Street
New London, CT

RSVP: 860-599-4722

Planting the Seeds for a Winni Silent Auction Next Year... Are You Game?

It has been proposed that NNESRE create its own big time fund raiser by having a silent auction when we are up at camp next year. This would mean that a variety of objects, offerings, and opportunities are laid out on a table with a sheet below them and campers would bid throughout a given time period for them by listing their offering price.

The GEMS office has generously donated the paper for the event so all we need is stuff to auction off and people to buy it. That’s where you come in!

So we are looking for people who are willing to donate:

- Quality items that you think other people will pay outrageous sums for and be glad they did it. Stuff such as:
 - Artwork
 - Music
 - Knick-Knacks
 - Paddywhacks
 - Things you plug in
 - Things you can’t live without but just decided you could.
- Services such as:
 - Massage
 - Reiki
 - Shiatsu
 - Babysitting at Winni
 - Consulting on matters of value such as how to make a quality s’more
- Opportunities such as:
 - Tickets to events
 - Letting people stay in your vacation house
 - Taking people for a spin on your yacht or in your VW.
- Organize the event by:
 - Volunteering to run the thing
 - Collect and organize the donations.
 - Make silent auction sheets for each item
 - Collect the cash for the stuff when it is over

If you are interested in helping with this event in any way, please contact Bill Milford at bmilford@thomasu.edu .
Thanks!