

Da Week's Last GEMS

Winni 2007 Concludes

Choir Robes Must Be Returned Cleaned and Pressed

With "Voices In the Choir" being the week's theme, this year's Winni reflected the opportunity for us to sing in 297 part harmony. Thursday's busy activity schedule reflected the diversity of interests, talents, skills and opportunities in "Our Town".

Starting off with our Winni Swimmi, ably coordinated by Ed Cunningham and Bob Ganley. First time swimmer, 11 year old Stefan Livsey was the first to fingertouch the raft in the delightful afternoon swim. Dennis Courtney, carefully followed by one kayak, two canoes, three paramedic speedboats, and four rescue helicopters – glided in his traditional feet first repose just moments later (measured in Hoot time) .

Vespers banged the gong in many ways with a great diversity of music, liturgy, and participation. From Heather Houghtaling's "I Hope", the Hawthorne Choral Chorale performance, to our wonderful concluding liturgical round – the walls were alive with the sound of music.

At the Family Dance with Barb Siftar, a keen eye to the barn door noted a *spectacular* blazing red sunset that took one's breath away as we paused to see the large gaggle of children in the middle of a circle as families danced together around them. Thanks, Barb!

Remarkably enough, that same incredible sunset bathed a most incredible Labyrinth experience with additional beauty and drama. Adorned in tea candles, tents and fragrant

herbal scents, Cynthia Campbell and friends coordinated a journey for the senses. As one ventured the path of the Labyrinth to sounds of light acoustic music, your eye caught the flowing garments of wandering spirits and those seeking insight (or cheese) at the center.

Competing late night events demonstrated that there is truly something at Winni for everyone as the boogilicious beats of the Teen Dance in the barn competed with oratory proclamations made at the Winni Coffeehouse. Quickly becoming the thinking camper's 2nd Hoot (*Eds.Note: As per obvious, few Chapel Liners were noted in attendance*), the coffeehouse offered thoughtful songs, prose, delicious jazz stylings by Larry Kern and Bernadette Golden, and at least one modest proclamation by Bethany Lord about how her endearing charm enabled her to garner a free latte in Minnesota. (*Eds. Note: When this GEMS Editor attempted the same said charm at the Scoop Shop in order to procure additional ice creamery favor, the only surly response received was "Would you like your nuts chopped?" We thought best to leave well enough alone.*)

As throngs gathered at late night fires and mid-green gatherings for stargazing and midnight conversations, one must conclude that our places in the choir are to be with one another as we live out the song. Thanks to all for a wonderful week.

Friday Night Schedule

6:30PM	Watermelon seed spitting contest
	In front of the Inn/Inn Porch
7:30PM	Vespers & Closing Candlelight Circle
	Barn and Green
9:00PM	Barn Dancing Barn
9:00PM	Fireside chat Dock Road
11PMish	Joke-off Dock Road

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In days of antiquity, Roman senators who regretted their poor oratory performance in debate would later rewrite their speeches into the permanent record, in order to improve their legacy. "Rock hard abs?" "Beautiful men in motion?" You have rewritten the entire Hoot to suit your nefarious purposes.

You readers should know that according to internet sites too eccentric to be revealed, unscrupulous Dock Roaders kidnapped and brainwashed the genius choreographer Hamish Blackman (who is in fact a tenter, and not a Dock Roder, obvious to anyone who saw either his body or his dancing.)

Sincerely,
The Chapel Line Dancers

PS: Note to Hamish – Next summer, we can offer you a signing bonus that includes a company car/lounge car, 7 % of Winni registration fees, half a bag of Fritos and the remains of a two day old rain soaked birthday cake, including the hungry little squirrel who has made his home there. Come on over. Work with a troupe worthy of your artistry. We can throw in a broken flip flop to sweeten the deal.

Editor's Response: Leave it to Chapel Line to subcontract to a PhD to articulate their caustic rambling of "We mad, ugh!" into some sort of cheesy historical diatribe. Lest we also note that in yonder days of Roman antiquity, people rarely bathed, imbibed to excess, soiled their own streets, and mated with their own for convenience rather than to diversify their DNA (or perhaps from lack of outside opportunity) – so we indeed note that how little times have changed at Chapel Line. So might we share our own little cheesy historical Latin phrase with you at this time, Biteus Usus Maximus.

From the Web committee

(Len Raymond, Robert Campbell, Tim Siftar)

This years GEMS 2007 collection is available for download at the Winni web site: www.campwinni.org -- go to the "GEMS Newsletter" page. Over the coming year we will be setting up place for our Winni history. We also have plans for a Winni blog and we expect to expand the photo album at the site. These will come online sometime next spring, if not sooner. Thanks to Wes Gundrersen (history) and Gail Turgeon (photos) for graciously agreeing to help the committee.

We are also looking for a volunteer to become the first Winni Blog editor. This person will find campers willing to write posts and also perform other other blog related tasks -- see any committee member or Len Raymond (longRiver56-winni2@yahoo.com). Note: Our Winni community will be able to comment on these posts.

Pre-K Heroes to the Resue!

Joann Milford says that Pre-K program has had a wonderful week with a full class of active and engaging children thanks to the spectacular volunteer assistance offered by the following Winni campers:

Hayley Nisson
Allison Milford
Bethany Lord
Ross Thomas (The Milkman)
Emily Seamen
Meredith Smith
Jonathan Leaf

Special thanks to ALL our Ed. School staff and all those who assisted them. Our kids are so fortunate to enjoy this inter-generational community where helping out is the norm rather than the exception!

Joke Off Tradition to Continue?

It was the final night of conversation around the Dock Road Campfire last year, when, at around 11 PM, a bell toned voice rang through the night- one Jonathan Leaf mustered the gumption and confidence to posit the question "Excuse me, does anyone mind if I tell a joke?"

Dock Road Elders were aghast that their final evening should be disrupted by such frivolity. However, within moments a competitive tone was set as participants from every corner of the camp proffered their best material to the delight and laughter of the crowd (mostly!)

Should this become a tradition and raise its humoresque head again from the fire, we strongly suggest the following parameters for consideration and enforcement:

1. That Jonathan Leaf or his proxy should be the first to begin the Joke Off with the line "Excuse me, does anyone mind if I tell a joke?" and that it should be a good one.
2. That foul language should be avoided at all costs.
3. That allusions and references are forbidden to any ethnic group, lifestyle, race, economic class, age, or marital connection. We have no right to make light of others situations, history, or their untrue stereotypes. However, we have a perfect right to make fun of our own. So the above said types of jokes are acceptable if phrased in the context of "How many Chapel Liners does it take to change a lightbulb?" or "Mike and Sue Nisson were talking and...."
4. As this begins at 11 PM, when should feel free to assume that this is an event for adults.

So hone your best material and bring laughter to the camp tonight. And please note that this should not be confused with other nefarious competitions that are alleged to occur at Chapel Line.

Thank-Yous from the Evening Coordinators

Thanks to the many folks who made our multifaceted Thursday evening such a success.

- Kevin Weston for set-up and masterful sound (as usual) at the Coffeehouse and the Dance Party
- Joe Morrissey for the awesome lights and effects at the dance party. Thanks also to Lorraine, and Kelsey Morrissey, Jon Rowe, and Chapel Line folks for help with the Dance Party.
- Sheldon and Charlie Soper, Bernadette Golden, Deb Eskra, and Trevor Davis for helping with Coffeehouse setup.
- Cynthia and Robert Campbell, Larry Kern, Bernadette Golden, and Sean Wedig for setting the scene and providing the music for the Labyrinth walk.
- Barb for another outstanding evening of Barn Dancing.
- Bob Ganley for keeping the campfire roaring at Dock Road.

A Siftarian Observation:

Barb Siftar noted to the GEMS editorial board during their annual "State of the Winni Musical Union" breakfast, that in our camp, where virtually every song is eventually harmonized upon (Happy Birthday is a ready example) a notable exception is "Georgie" which seems always to be performed in unison. Discuss amongst yourselves, and share any salient conclusions with Ms. Siftar at your earliest convenience.

Weather Report Addendum Sunday August 12th

Moonless, with meteors – really.

The year's Perseid Meteor shower peaks Sunday night, and with no moon in the evening sky, it is expected to be quite a show. So get out there – as far from civilization as possible – and enjoy nature's fireworks! Or, maybe we should all just stay here a few more days to see it.

Annual Swimmi Results

Livsey Captures Crown!

After much debate about the relative merits of returning to a traditional near-dawn start time (meditative stillness on the lake) or emulating last year's mid-afternoon event (higher level of swimmer, boater, and audience participation), nineteen swimmers, including a record 9 first-time participants, hit the water under beautiful conditions shortly after 2:30. In a surprise finish, the Swimmi championship mantle was passed to a new generation, as eleven year-old rookie Stefan Livsey cruised to victory in a time of 40:20.06. Things might have been different with a 6:30 start time, as it has been reported that the Livsey family has not seen *Georgie*, let alone 6:30 AM yet this week. Livsey is believed to be the youngest swimmer ever to participate in, let alone win the Swimmi, though legend holds that mythical former champ Sonja Whipp may have won the event before even uttering her first words, "Kick butt." Stefan has now set his sights on the official Whipp record time of 25:27.

The youth cohort was also well represented by fourteen year-old Mary Offutt who finished third with a time of 41:55, an improvement over her stunning inaugural performance of a year ago, when she finished fifth.

The baby-boomer showing was weakened when two perennial champions, Joann Milford and Din Stevens, burdened by the responsibilities of trusteeship in the former case and laziness in the latter did not compete. Four-time winner Ed Cunningham finished second, unable to preserve his generation's supremacy against the onslaught of Livsey and Offutt. Representing the old guard, honorary boomer Comeback Kid Dennis Courtney was back after taking last year off for medical reasons and came within 3 seconds of his personal best time of 48:59, which he set in 2003. Dennis could have set his personal best if he hadn't prematurely gone into his exuberant, high style, foot-first finish. His time was 49:02, good for eighth.

The come-from-behind story of the day goes to Julie Siftar who was still napping dreamily in her tent at the designated start time when she was awakened by her husband Dan. Stumbling sleepily to the waterfront, she started almost 4 minutes late only to swim past most of the competition to finish in 4th. A potentially touching scene of a simultaneous finish for first time father-daughter team Hamish and Madeleine Blackman and seasoned mother-daughter team Leslie and Rose Ganley was marred when the progeny kicked water in the face of their progenitors to sprint ahead and touch the raft together after a showy synchronized lake-bottom handstand. Other first timers were Sam Kern, Jon Turgeon, Myriam Siftar, Sandy Laub, John Fellows, and Jonathan Leaf, who were cheered home by an enthusiastic beach crowd.

Thanks goes to the large supporting cast who made this possible including accurate timing by Sue Hawthorne and Jen Leaf, and many boaters including Jaime Terrazzino, Abby Weeks, Jey Rice, Ali Rice, Gordie Holstrom, Sal Pancorbo, Ken Cheek, Chuck Livsey, Bob Ganley, Alan Kendrix, Graeme Blackman, Hannah Terrazzino, and Trevor Davis. Official results are as follows:

Stefan	Livsey	00:40:20:06
Ed	Cunningham	00:41:38:00
Mary	Offutt	00:41:55:00
Julie	Siftar	00:43:01:00
Myriam	Siftar	00:46:34:00
Jen	Hanrahan	00:47:28:00
Liz	Peters	00:48:32:00
Dennis	Courtney	00:49:02:00
John	Fellows	00:51:55:00
Rose	Ganley	00:56:47:00
Madeleine	Blackman	00:56:48:00
Hamish	Blackman	00:56:49:00
Leslie	Ganley	00:56:50:00
Sandy	Laub	00:57:31:00
Sam	Kern	00:59:13:00
Sue	Ditucci	00:59:17:00
Jon	Turgeon	1:09:02:00
Jean	Peters	1:23:21:00
Jonathan	Leaf	1:25:12:00

Chaplain Chat

Last night's Vespers was a wonderful illustration of the many talented voices which make up our choir. Kate Poole's quietly powerful gong ringing made for a stirring entrance to the chapel last night; Heather Hawkins and Alicia Soper's singing of "I Hope" was one of the week's highlights for me. Trevor Morrissey and Chuck Bates combined to make the Lord's Prayer come alive, and Sue Hawthorne and her chorus were astounding—especially Carrie's solo performance.

All week, I have been amazed and deeply moved by the spirit that has surrounded our Vespers services. We've heard from many sources, from Thich Nhat Hanh to Henri Nouwen to Anne Frank to Mary Oliver to Henry David Thoreau and more. We've laughed and sung and questioned and reflected, all in a spirit of open-heartedness and genuine community. My hope was to help create an open, inclusive space where people could come together and spend a few minutes engaging important questions; your collective enthusiasm, energy, and spirit combined to actualize that intention.

I am so very grateful to all of you for bringing your voices this week, and adding them to our wonderful Winni choir. May God be with all of us until we meet again.

- Chaplain Jim

Next Year's Meditation Room

Special thanks to all persons who contributed to the care and creation of this year's Meditation Room in the Chapel. Please keep in mind how we can continue this tradition for next year. Please feel free to bring items that you believe will help to enhance the beauty and *chi* of the room.

- Cynthia Campbell

POLITE CONVERSATION

Here are a few more selections from the game that gives new meaning to the term "Chum bucket." Match these little-known facts about your friends to the correct identities. Answers to today's selections, as well as those from yesterday and Wednesday, appear elsewhere in the GEMS.

I am the Masonic Organist for St. John's Lodge #2

My picture was in *Vogue* magazine

I can't keep secrets – I like to talk

I live in Minnesota, work in South Carolina.

I lived for a year in Costa Rica.

I'm a private pilot.

I was in the submarine service.

I took up the violin last year.

I am a PET chaplain.

I would like to do more horseback riding.

Jonathan Leaf

Debbie Rowe

Robbie Wilcox-Smith

Sarah Gerritz

Joel Hemphill

Alan Kendrix

Cynthia Russett

Jon Arnold

Victor Olsen

Tim Siftar

A Thank You

We would like to thank **all** the wonderful people at Winnie for the prayers, cards and emails during Leslie's year-long battle with cancer. Specifically, words of compassion from Trevor, phone calls from Debbie, dinners from Susan and Bobbie, Reiki from Cindy and Cathy, and wonderful words of encouragement from Bill. If we forgot anyone, we apologize and thank you.

It has been a long year of surgery, chemo and radiation ending in a healing week at Winnie. We couldn't have culminated our therapy at a better place for healing; with prayer, laughter and friends!

Surviving cancer is a long process and as such, please keep us in your prayers often.

Thank you again.

- Leslie and Jim Dockendorff

Off the Dean's Bean

My thanks to all of you who made this week happen. Chaplain Jim for your spiritual guidance. Sue and Paul for our great evening programs. Joe, Joann, Lorraine for our children's care. Kevin and Cynthia for the wonderful courses. Jon for taking care of business. Chuck for our financial soundness. Bill and Din for recording our time spent together. Renate and the Trustees who lead us. Barb, who brings a world of play and dance to share. Our teachers, aides, and course leaders who provide the substance of our school. Thanks to all who arranged Morning Watch, Vespers, softball games, swims, labyrinth walks, and games, music offerings, poetry, stories, and more. Thank you to my family for being here. And thank you to your family for being here. The voices in this choir have been heard and it is a joyful sound we make.

My father would often leave camp and on the way home would think aloud "How can we convince a family to spend perhaps their only week of vacation at a church camp?" Well, Ron Kittel shared with us this week the Gospel of Thomas: "The disciples said to Jesus, 'Tell us how our end will be.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you discovered, then, the beginning, that you look for the end? For where the beginning is, there will the end be.'"

As we bring to a close our 91st session of NNESRE and we begin preparations for our 92nd, I look around our community and I find that one in three of us is a child. I have to believe that these children are here because, like me, there is no other place they would rather be. In this, I see the beginning.

Weather

Tonight: 30% chance of rain
Tomorrow: Cloudy, then clearing.

Programming Committee News

Thank you to all who came (or sent messages) to the Program meeting. A wild variety of classes has been proposed for NNESRE 2008. Please have written proposals to Cynthia Wilcox by 15 September. Snail mail address: PO Box 492, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0492; email address i-love-winni@cox.net.

There will be a meeting on 22 September at Linda Higgins', 7 Roberts Rd, Marlborough, CT (off route 66) to review proposals received. A continental breakfast and fellowship time will start at 9 AM. The meeting will begin at 10 AM. Childcare will be available. We will break somewhere near noon for a potluck lunch. All are welcome.

Anyone interested in helping consolidate evaluations should see Kevin Weston or Cynthia Wilcox. We need trustees to help with the general evaluation.

Katie & Robbie Wilcox-Smith say thank you to Kim, Gordie, and Joe for being their teachers. Jamie and Bethie Wilcox-Smith say thank you to Adam, Sara, and Sean for being their teachers.

- **Cynthia Wilcox**

Quotes around campus

Overheard: I hate taking my pills in the morning –the pill box just shows me that another day is gone.

Bill Milford (to dining hall worker at breakfast): Is there any syrup to have with the oatmeal?"
Dining hall worker (cheerily): No syrup. Just ketchup.

Pete LeBar (to Bill Milford): Hey Bill. How are you doing?

Bill (raising eyebrows): Ugh.

Pete: Yeah, I've got that "crappy/happy" feeling, too.

Barb Siftar (teaching the sheep shearing dance in the Barn): What do we get from sheep?

Din Stevens: Anthrax!

Doug Hawthorne: Pork chops!

Tonight is All About The Scholarship Fund

Please note that the bowls on the table tonight are to help bolster NNESRE's Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund provides financial support to campers who would not otherwise be able to afford to attend Winni. Your support will help to keep old and new friends coming to NNESRE for years to come.

Special thanks to Barb Siftar, Bill Milford, and Kevin Weston for their donation of \$220 from the proceeds of the sale of the 2006 Barb and Bill concert. Kevin Weston very generously brings a ton (almost literally) of his sound equipment to Winni so we can hear the concert, Hoot, and other events. He also brings his recording equipment which enables the concert recordings.

There are a handful of the 2006 Barb and Bill Concert still available for a suggested donation of \$10. Please see Bill Milford if you would like a copy.

GEMS Editors Appreciate You

It has been another banner week for the GEMS office. Lots of people in and out of the door and many great minds helping us and even a few people from Chapel Line. This year, we were graced with the presence of Joanne Hammil's class singing outside of our doors which helped us to keep a spiritual center or at least from yelling during computer crashes. Your class and music doth soothe the savage souls, indeed.

First and foremost, to Chaplain Jim Peters and all compassionate souls who brought us coffee to get us and keep us going, thank you! And to Jim and Dean Tom Weston and all who brought us their copy on jump drives to be quickly added to the day's copy, thank you. And most especially, all of the other able bodies who brought us art, prose, pictures and stories – thank you for your views of the camp are the heart of the GEMS.

Charlie Smith, thank you for your consistent contribution of quality photos which for some reason do not crash our computers when we add them. Sherry Brady, thank you so much for your consistent dedication to quality folding and the wonderful disposition you bring to the task. And especially, Ed Cunningham for his last minute ventures into the GEMS office which ultimately lead into 45 minute proof reading (*yes, we do proof read!*) sessions.

To my co-editor Din Stevens, who managed to schedule her medical school rotation *around* coming to Winni – thank you for your skill, humor, and patience. The sooner you get prescription privileges, the better. It may be the *only* way that we will get this thing finished before noon.

As for me, this year has been nuanced the awareness of our distinct generations here. After my father's passing last year and seeing my own children (and SO many others) develop into young adults-blessed with so many skills and talents-I am reassured of how fortunate we all are as camp community. We have good and strong hands of all ages cradling this fragile and vibrant Winni heart.

Blessings to all for a healthy, happy year.

Bill Milford

Din Stevens

Your Geneva GEMS Editors

Polite conversation answers

Wednesday:

Truck driver - Carol Shank; Love song/India – Lelly Smith; Island in the East River (Manhattan, NY) – Marilyn Kendrix; "Hear" better – Mary Corbett; 4H – Lou Weeks; Read too much – Nicholas Yeager.

Thursday:

No middle name – Tom Weston; Friday the 13th – Liz Peters, Hamish Blackman; Flight attendant – Robin Ogden; Boston Marathon – Deb Gundersen; South Africa/Tunisia – Barb Siftar; 1969 Volvo P-1800 – Erwin Steward; Middle name "Busch" – Fred Gundersen; B-ball Garden parquet – Ed Cunningham; John Tyler – Joann Milford; Raviolis– Julie Siftar

Today:

Masonic Organist - Jon Arnold; *Vogue* – Sarah Gerritz; Can't keep secrets– Robbie Wilcox-Smith; MN/SC – Debbie Rowe; Costa Rica – Tim Siftar; Pilot – Victor Olsen; Submarine service – Joel Hemphill;

I took up the violin last year – Jonathan Leaf
PET chaplain – Alan Kendrix; Horseback riding – Cynthia Russett

Do Lord

Chorus: Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Look away beyond the blue.

In the beginning was the word and the word was
with God

In the beginning was the word and the word was
with God

In the beginning was the word and the word was
with God

Look away beyond the blue.

I've got a heavenly father who hears and answers
prayers

I've got a heavenly father who hears and answers
prayers

I've got a heavenly father who hears and answers
prayers

Look away beyond the blue.

I've got a home in glory land that out-shines the
sun.

I've got a home in glory land that out-shines the
sun.

I've got a home in glory land that out-shines the
sun.

Look away beyond the blue.

I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.

I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too.

I took Jesus as my Savior, You take Him too,

Look away beyond the blue.

Chorus: Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Do Lord, O, Do Lord, O do remember me,
Way beyond the blue.

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.



THE HAPPY WANDERER

I love to go a-wandering,
Along a mountain track,
And as I go I love to sing,
My knapsack on my back.

Chorus:
Val-der-ri, Val-der-ra,
Val-der-ri, Val-der-ra ha, ha, ha, ha
Val-der-ri, Val-der-ra
My knapsack on my back.

I love to wander by the stream
That dances in the sun.
So joyously it calls to me,
"Come join my happy song!"

Chorus
Come join my happy song!

I wave my hat to all I meet
And they wave back to me,
And blackbirds call so loud and sweet
From every greenwood tree.

Chorus
From every greenwood tree.

High overhead the skylark wing,
They never rest at home.
But just like me they love to sing
As o'er the world we roam.

Chorus
As o'er the world we roam.

O may I go a-wandering
Until the day I die,
And may I always laugh and sing
Beneath God's clear blue sky.

Chorus
Beneath God's clear blue sky.