

THE PRE-GEMS

A Warm Winni Welcome from the Dean

Welcome, and thank you for accepting our invitation to Take Time In Life. Yes, we have called you in, and we are so pleased that you have chosen to be with us as we begin this 93rd session of the Northern New England School of Religious Education. This is a time to reacquaint ourselves with old friends and enjoy a most unique community of families and individuals that share a rich history of fellowship. It is a time to welcome new campers and new additions to some camp families. And, it is a time to grieve the loss, and celebrate the lives of family and friends that passed on during the year. It is a time to learn and play and rest and recover from those other 51 non-Winni weeks.

As you enter camp this year, take time to notice the loss of something (the old staff house) and the gain of something (four new staff cabins). Many of you helped to bring about that change during the year so it may not seem quite so dramatic to you, but if you remember when we left camp last year (I believe it may have been raining that day), there was a sad, old brown building down the path on your right that has served Geneva Point for all of its 90 year history. Now GPC has a very exciting, new look in this area near the softball diamond, and a vision for the next 90 years.

We also have a new Executive Director at GPC named Peter Claypoole. I am very excited and enthusiastic about the experience he brings to Geneva Point Center, and his willingness to take on the many challenges we face as GPC enters its 91st year. Please take time this week to introduce yourselves to Peter and welcome him.

Most importantly, take time to simply enjoy the spirituality of this special place. The laughter of children in the lake, the star show on the green, the singing, the dancing, the hospitality of GPC and the friends and families that have

gathered here to take time in our lives to celebrate, recreate and renew ourselves in service to God.

Take time in life, and take care of each other out there.

Your Dean,
- Tom Weston

News from the Ed School

Opportunities for fun, creating new friendships and renewing old friendships are just around the corner! The Ed School staff is top notch as we welcome a few new teachers this year. Ed School registrations were sent out via email on June 19th so if you have not completed the on-line form please do so by June 30th. If you have not received the email, please call Joann Milford at 850-766-0502. The information we receive on each child is extremely helpful for class assignments and planning.

Based on feedback and lower enrollment this year, a few changes in the program have been made. Instead of eight classes as we've had the past few years, we have reduced down to five. The classes are Toddler, Pre-K, Primary, Pre-teen and Teen. Each has a lead and assistant teacher with the exception of the Teen class which has three lead teachers. The teens will meet as a large group at the beginning of second period, then break into smaller groups or "interest" groups. A variety of activities will be offered each day such as active games, art projects, teen talk, music appreciation, etc.

Ed School Open House will be held after dinner on August 1st. This is a great opportunity for children/youth and teachers to meet each other. Look for us at the Registration table when you arrive at Winni for more information. See you soon!

Joann Milford and Joe Morrissey,
Ed School Coordinators

Pre-Gems Greetings from Chaplain Jim!

As I reach for yet another tissue, I try to remember that the one redeeming consequence of the sneeze-inducing pollen-fest that is Southern New England right now is the fact that with the blooming trees and grasses comes the summer and, soon, our beloved Winni week!

This year's theme is "Take Time in Life."

It goes without saying that the months since our closing circle last August have witnessed more than their share of economic and political change. I think it's safe to conclude that we have all been affected in some way by those changes. If your year has been anything like mine, there have been some amazing high moments as well as some serious and enduring challenges.

Now, more than ever, it seems to me, we need an opportunity to take time and reflect, to re-connect with our friends, and our selves, and with the transcendent Spirit that feels so much more tangible and present among the pines of Geneva Point. During the week in Vespers we'll reflect on the idea of retreat: a time **out** of our "normal" routines and perspectives and a time **into** an intentional, thoughtful, prayerful, present space. As always, I hope that we can gather in a spirit of open-hearted, multi-denominational worship which includes us all, with our beliefs and certitudes and even more importantly with our questions and doubts.

I would also like to ask any in the community who would like to participate in a Vespers choir to know that we're getting really organized this year, with music and everything! If you have some music that you'd like to share in choir please bring it along. Tom Weston is helping with this, so please feel free to contact him, or me, if you have any ideas -- or just bring 'em to camp in August!

I can't wait for August. Safe journeys, everyone!

- Chaplain Jim

Survey Says....

And the winner of the drawing for the free camp registration for filling out an evaluation form is **Detra MacDougall**. Way to evaluate, Detra!

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!

MEMORIAL PLAQUES

If you have any names that you would like to have added to the Memorial at Winni, now is the best time to submit them to me. I need the name you wish to have on the plaque, their year of birth, their first year at Winni, and their year of death. Please remember that anyone who has passed away and attended Winni can be added to the memorial. The cost for the plaque is \$25 and payable to NNESRE (you can pay for it when you get up to camp).

BRING YOUR BIBLE

If you are taking Lillian Daniel's course on Bible stories, or even if you are not, why not pack your favorite version of the Bible? If you would like to buy a Bible, I recommend the NRSV translation, which is always reliable. And if you want a version that reads as easily as a novel, with clear, modern language, try The Message translation. It is done well and many say that it has changed the way they read scripture. And if you show up at camp and don't have a Bible, don't worry, we can loan you one in the class.

Turn your personal photos into marketing gold

GPC and NNESRE are trying to collect great photos that have been taken up at Camp to use for promotion. If you have some great photos that you think capture the essence of Winni, send them along to Deb Eskra at Skra56@comcast.net <mailto:Skra56@comcast.net>

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.

Sneak Preview from the Evening Coordinators

Hi Everyone,
We hope you all have had a good year and we are thrilled to be back as your evening coordinators.

We realize that every one comes to camp to relax and spend quality time with people they don't see all year. So we decided that for a change this year we would adjust the HOOT to fulfill everyone's need to spend as much time together as possible. We are only going to have one act and one giant clap this year!

Anyone who would like to submit and audition tape or an application to be the one act picked can send it to www.buybeerforChapelline.com

More on the serious side: We had numerous request last year for MOVIES! We personally do not have many movies so I am asking campers to let me know if they have movies that they would like to bring up and share with everyone and i will list them to be played. Please e-mail me at SusanNisson@yahoo.com.

Start Getting to know your partner a bit better , we are going to have the Not so Newlywed game Part Two and you might be one of our lucky couples to win the Grand Prize.

Travel safe and we will see you in a few Weeks.

Love,
Michael and Susan

Barb Siftar Reports on Work Weekends

Much fun and progress happening at GPC this spring! We had a very successful NNEBRE work weekend the last weekend in May. We had a great turn-out of 13 workers and 3 kids (who also contributed). Here are some of the things that went on in that short weekend:

- A ton of wood chipping was done to dispose of the trees that to be removed for the septic for the new staff cabins.
- The moldy and wet carpeting was removed from the fireside dining room and the old glue scraped with a weird machine to prepare the concrete floor for painting. (At this time the carpeting will not be replaced in that dining room.)
- The rafts at three beaches were prepped for launching.
- Many truckloads of branch and leaf debris were loaded and hauled for chipping or composting. Wood chips distributed to playgrounds and trails for spreading.
- The Meeting House was prepped for a banquet for 200 and other smaller tasks were accomplished.

All these unskilled labors freed up the GPC staff to concentrate on the continued building of the staff cabins. Hans Seitz was one of those skilled workers and reports that the roof and trim were completed on cabin 1 and started on cabin 2. The plumbers and electricians were making good progress. He also sent photos.

We had a chance to meet, eat, work and hang out with Peter Claypool the new GPC executive director. I like him a lot and believe this is a wonderful fit. I encourage you all to reach out to him with your ideas, thoughts, stories, and support (financial and otherwise). By way of support, they are always in need of stuff like low flow toilets, working mowers, washing machines, dryers, gardeners, lamps, sturdy chairs for cabins, a piano for the barn and chapel, lamp shades, plungers. Just imagine, you could be the person thanked in a newsletter for donating 50 plungers to GPC! Check with GPC first if you have any of these items or if you want to "target" your giving. Our work and donations are veeeeerrrrrryyy much appreciated.

We hope to have another work weekend in the Autumn. It's beautiful and crisp up there in October and no mosquitoes!

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**

The GEMS.... We'll Quit Begging When You Start Writing

This year's plea is nothing new so tell me if you have heard this one before: Two GEMS editors walk into a bar and ask the bartender "what's new?" Bartender says "what would it matter, you write whatever you want anyway."

Well, my friends, that is the opportunity that awaits you in the GEMS office. Lots of blank screen and fun little keys to push in order to fill them up. We've tried outsourcing, we've tried monkeys, we've tried drinking so much coffee that our brains and bladders simultaneously burst from the stimulation. But nothing beats the fresh blood and copy from our "junior" editors who step up and pitch in.

The GEMS is the literary source – i.e. the source of most litter, on campus. Wouldn't you like to have your name on it so when you walk by a trash can you will know you have contributed to the cycle of life. (There is a garbage in, garbage out, metaphor here.)

In any case, we are friendly people and are desperate for friends so please consider coming and writing for the GEMS. It is the gift that keeps on giving – right up until somebody puts their iced tea on it....

Take care,

Din Stevens
Bill Milford

Your GEMS Editors

Matt Brady Sound of Heart

Matt writes to share the following: "just a little good news to report to the Winni family. I had a heart biopsy last Friday, and the results came back really good. It seems that the minor rejection that I've had for about two years has finally passed. Thought that the Winni family could use some good news these days."

Amen, Matt. Great news!

Dennis Courtney Sound of Mind

...and Dennis Courtney writes with the following update on his ongoing treatment for astrocytoma:

"I believe the last installment was when I was winding down to the edge of my chemotherapy. I passed through the gauntlet and got a nice reprieve from trips to Philadelphia, so I could work approximately full-time.

They took a scan of my brain and found - probably to their surprise - that it was still functioning. Even more significantly, we were told that the treatment had done what they had intended to do - Praise the Lord for their skill and His great grace!

Basically, I understand it to mean that the remaining cancer cells were sufficiently bombarded to be put out of commission; and the cells about a millimeter beyond were also destroyed, reducing the prospects for new tumor growth. If I have it right, this is a Good Thing. Again, praise the Lord and great praise for my caregivers - Mary, the doctors, the technicians, the other families going through similar problems, and on down to the researchers, support and prayer chains.

I am now in a new stage, with a single week of at-home treatment (consisting of taking a few pills each day) each month. The first week involved an increase in the dose strength, and I expect this to be ratcheted up to the point of my tolerance limits. The side effects are greater tiredness and weakness in my legs, an occasional lack of interest in food and a continuation of difficulty in reading and in short-term memory - I think the reading is affected by the memory problem. We will be meeting with the doctors in about a week, and will get some better idea of the direction the treatments will go.

Well, that's about all the news from Lask Gilman, where every day is sunny, unless it's rainy, my care is wonderful and my opportunities for joy are manifold. Thank you all for your concern, your prayers are wonderful and your notes are greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to seeing you at WINNI.

In grateful praise of the Lord and all whom He has sent into my life, beginning with Mary and all you wonderful people and including all who have helped me through this journey. “

(Note: Dennis sent a photo of his post-surgical head but the GEMS felt the reproduction would not do it justice. See Dennis for a private showing.)

Rules n' Stuff

This wouldn't have to be specified unless there were problems so let's fix'em this year. Because we love you, we will summarize them for you.

1. Don't wreck anything.

Property Damage

Contracting groups are responsible for damage to Geneva Point Center property, equipment, and facilities (beyond normal wear and tear). A breakage charge will be assessed to cover repair or replacement. However, if upon entering a building there is a damage or disrepair, please report this to the Geneva Point office so that its repair by Geneva Point staff may be arranged. Your cooperation is requested to help avoid unnecessary costs.

2. Make your mark on Winni with your giving spirit, not a marker.

Graffiti

Geneva Point has embarked on a campaign to remove graffiti from its buildings. New graffiti will not be tolerated.

A charge will be made for the removal of any new graffiti based on the area to be cleaned. The minimum charge is \$25.00.

3. Thou shalt tidy thy quarters upon departure.

Departure Clean-Up

To ensure the beauty of Geneva Point, it is expected that, prior to departure, each group will conduct a general clean up of those buildings and areas used by the group. For

example, picking up litter is helpful, as is tidying up meeting spaces.

This effort assists the Center staff's preparation for the next group and identifies areas in need of repair or replacement. Guidelines and expectations for use of the housing will be posted near the entrance to each guest accommodation. Groups are expected to vacate their rooms by 10:00 a.m. on departure day. The last meal served before departure will be breakfast unless prior arrangements have been made.

4. No matches needed.

Fire Safety

Due to the many wood frame buildings and wooded areas, caution should be exercised when using electrical equipment, building wood fires, or smoking.

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN ANY OF THE BUILDINGS OR ON THE BUILDING PORCHES, DECKS, ETC., not only for fire protection reasons, but also because many find residual smoke offensive. *Smoking is only allowed in designated outdoor areas. CANDLES and INCENSE may be used only during worship services and with the Center's permission.*

5. No hunting.

FIREARMS and AMMUNITION are NOT PERMITTED on the grounds.

6. No blowing stuff up.

For your safety and in accordance with New Hampshire State Law, **FIREWORKS**, including firecrackers and all explosives are **PROHIBITED** at Geneva Point Center.

7. Keep your substances to yourself and out of the public purview so (especially) underage person do not have easy access to it.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking

The use of alcoholic beverages by persons twenty-one (21) years of age and over may be permitted at Geneva Point Center only in non-public, unorganized situations, as in private or in living units. Contact Geneva Point Center about the requirements for serving alcohol at your event.

Use of drugs, unless prescribed by a physician, is not permitted. Geneva Point

guests must abide by New Hampshire state law that does not allow children under 18 years of age to purchase, possess, or use tobacco related products."

Parents are expected to discuss these items with their age appropriate children.

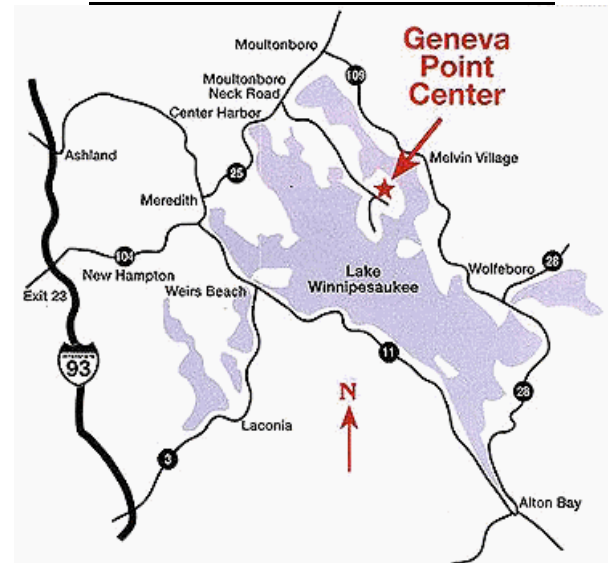
T'Was The Night Before Winni 2009 **(Or My Favorite Things to Bring)**

T'was the night before Winni – 2009,
And I thought I was just about out of my mind,
Trying to arrange all my comings and goings,
So I could leave for Winni just knowing,
Things that I needed were packed in the car,
And what I forgot could be got at CVS or a bar,
So I brought 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,
A **baseball glove** and a **cap**,

Be you Yankee or Met,
Poetry for the coffee house,
Or a nice dramatic reading,
Some personal spices,
BYOP – that's a pillow that's soft,
And a humorous joke for the Friday Joke Off,

To make palatable what you're eating,
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.