

The Geneva GEMS

Was a Sunny Day Campers enjoy Bazaar, beach, pie, S'mores, and more

Good energy and good cheer suffused the camp yesterday as NNESRE-ites woke to unaccustomed sunshine. The persistent shower of photons gave rise to high spirits campus wide.

The annual bazaar featured an array of music, jewelry, cards, crafts, and of course, Dan Nicholson's 97% sweat-shop free hula hoops being demoed by unpaid barefooted children. Money and goods changed hands and also flowed into the coffers of the Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all for sharing their gifts of craft and art with the community.

Crowds then thronged the beach for a blessed afternoon of basking, bathing, and boating. Sunscreen and conversation flowed freely.

Vespers was a reflection on the many ways up the mountain. This was followed by a demonstration of the many ways down the gullet. In a spectacle that brought to mind Ross Perot's remarks about the effects of NAFTA ("a huge sucking sound"), slices of pie were devoured and/or distributed across the faces of contestants in this year's Winni pie-eating contest. Thomas Young emerged as the winner of the under-13 category. (Clues to his identity have yet to emerge.) Defending champ Jeremy St. Louis once again dominated in the 13 and over division. Onlookers made short work of the remaining uncontested pie.

Not sufficiently sugared-up by pie, the crowd then moved to the Council Ring for the Weston

Campfire and S'mores. This was the usual joyful songfest, followed by the usual frenzy of stick-wielding children miraculously avoiding injury. Pie champ St. Louis was seen with a two-tined barbecue fork loaded with four marshmallows, headed for the graham cracker table. The GEMS suggests that St. Louis may have gone pro on the competitive eating circuit and may be ineligible for next year's contest.

Leaving a fine film of high fructose corn syrup on the lake behind them from many hand-washings, campers then moved on to another night of dancing and fun led by Barb in the Barn. The stars twinkled and the campfires crackled, and it was a lovely day all around.

Tuesday Night Schedule

6:45 Vespers – Chapel

7:15-8:00 – Sunset swim for teen class

7:30 Not-so-Newlywed Newlywed Game – Chapel

9:00 Drumming circle – Chapel

9:00 Bonfire singing - Tenting Area

9:00 Family Movie – "Nims Island"
Meetinghouse Main Room

Thank-Youz

From Your Evening Coordinators!

- Thank you Laine for the Fireside Chat
- Thank you to the Weston Family for the gift of music around the campfire – fun for all!
- Thank you Joann Milford, Tucker Hemphill, Kate Milford, and Hannah Terrazinos for helping keep everyone in s'more heaven.
- Thanks Barb for the dancing – enjoy your night off tonight!

Ed School Thank-yous

- Thanks to Melissa DiTucci for volunteering with the toddler class yesterday!
- Thanks to GPC for supporting our various Ed School requests and needs. You've been great!
- Thanks to Heather Rhodes for providing art opportunities to the teen class.

Accu-GEMS Weather

Tonight: Low of 61.

Partly cloudy and humid with a shower or thunderstorm in the area, mainly early

Tomorrow: High of 83

Clouds and sun with a shower or thunderstorm

Tomorrow Night: Low of 54

A moonlit sky and less humid

Tuesday Greetings from Chaplain Jim!

Thanks to Karin Hemphill and Jen Hanrahan for reading at Vespers last evening, and to Tad Brennan for helping to lead our concluding song. The choir continues to perform brilliantly. Thanks also to everyone for coming to Vespers with a wonderful Winni-esque spirit of open-heartedness and willingness to engage!

Here's today's timely poem, by Emily Dickenson:

Look back on time with kindly eyes,
He doubtless did his best;
How softly sinks his trembling sun
In human nature's west!

***REMEMBER-Wednesday is our annual Memorial Service at the Council Ring at 1:30 PM**

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Don't get skunked

Mike and Ron Kittel were surprised to find two skunks nibbling on leftovers inside their (Mike and Ron's) screen house in the Tenting Area. Don't get skunked!! Secure your leftovers!

UP AND COMING EVENTS

- Adult (high school and up) softball game – tomorrow (Wed) at 1:00 on the softball field.
- The HOOT! Signup sheet is on the Inn Porch. Remember: **3-minute limit for acts.**
- The SWIMMI. WWF (Winni Watersport Federation) announces the 2009 Swimmi to be held on Thursday afternoon at 2:30 PM. Sign-up sheet for swimmers and boaters will be on the Inn Porch in the next day or two. See Bob Ganley or Ed Cunningham if you have questions.
- Religious leaders (ordained or not): your help is requested. Come view a video of Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish clergy speaking out on the war on drugs. Your comments will be recorded for a future production. 7:00 PM Thursday, Aug 6th, Meeting House Room 4 (on the lower level).

“A” FOR CONDUCT

Dean acknowledges camper efforts

Dean Tom Weston would like to thank campers for abiding by the Winni code of conduct. It has been smooth sailing so far with no out-of bounds behavior. People have also been cleaning up after themselves and the campus looks tidier than usual.

One small request is that people respect quiet times after lunch and after 10:30. Cries of “FERDINAND!!!!” rent the otherwise peaceful afternoon quiet hour yesterday, and there was word of a heavy-footed entry to Lakeview Lodge at 1:30 AM the other night. The Dean slipped a note under someone's door to bring the incident gently to their attention, but he may have gotten the wrong door. So anyway, good job everyone, for the most part, and just be mindful of the noise level at quiet times.

The Wednesday Menu, and What to Wear

Breakfast: Feast on French Toast fashionably—in a trench coat. Available at Le camp store in Breakfast Tan with a wide collar and above the knee length. Keep your toast company with syrup, sausage, hard-boiled eggs and blueberry muffins.

Lunch: Pizza is always better in Prada Pumps—yours for the taking in patent leather and a rainbow of colors. (Try to accommodate the limited sizes available at Le Camp—tight shoes are the perfect gear for a suffering servant.) If you don't care for cucumber salad, you can always use the crisp, cool slices on puffy eyes after a long night of s'mores in smoke. And for dessert, the way to keep things moving, which is vital to the figures of Prada Paparazzi: oatmeal cookies.

Dinner: An all time favorite fashion item for any event is a good 10 gallon hat. You can keep extra food in it. Or eat on location; tasty BBQ'd Chicken, Burgers, or Dogs. Veggie Patties make swanky purses, especially when they come with a dried pea clip and a corn chain. Or eat 'em for dinner. On the side, green salad, pasta salad and (nearly vegetarian with minimal pork) baked beans. Restock the hat for snacking with corn bread and watermelon, but frosting can get messy. Happy 90th Birthday GPC!

Old Gems from the N.N.E.S.R.E. Archive

Tuesday August 9, 1983

EVENING PROGRAM NOTES:

Faculty members from Row College made a pompous and circumstantial mortar board entrance to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance" at the Mad Hatter's Ball. Following a cheer for their mascot, a folding banana (Tom Burgett-Leutner) the President (Lelly Smith) and Dean (Paul Kropp) made the following awards and commendations:

Honorary Doctorate: D.U.M.B. degree, Doctor of Unusually Mobile Brains, presented to George Blackman, who was smart enough not to be present to accept the degree, MAAFM - Music Appreciation of American Folklore through Music to Stu Elliott. Rookie of the Year Award to Ron Kittel, Proverbs 31 Award for burning the lamp at both ends all through the night to Bernie DiGuilian.

Marathon on a Krutch Award to Richie Koh,

Certificate of Commendation for making it possible for so many to be here--to Ronald Reagan. Receiving the award: Craig Baumer.

D.U.T.M. degree, a doctorate in Upward Territorial Mobility to Bruce Johnson, granted with distinction, for not only making it to Lake View Lodge, but to the second floor thereof.

Adjunct members of the faculty retired from the solemnities to College Row for Baccalaureate and Bacchanalian ceremonies.

Other Distinguished graduates in the procession included Loma Kropp, Bonnie and Ed James, Bonnie Kittel, Bernie DiGuilian, Tom and Col Ageson, Candy Varga, and George Happe.

EMAIL ROSTER POSTED! MAKE YOUR CORRECTIONS NOW!

If you have not been receiving e-news from your beloved GEMS editors during the year, then it is probably because your email address has changed or is not correct in our exclusive Accu-Winni Email File. A print out of the file is on the Inn Porch bulletin board so now is your chance to add, delete, or edit. Also, if your address is missing or incorrect in the roster, you can add it to this list. The final copy of the email list will be emailed out to all camp participants (with an email address) a week or so after camp. Thanks!

From the Archive...

One of the most exciting and powerful additions to the N.N.E.S.R.E. Archive effort has been the use of Facebook. Earlier this summer, Wes Gunderson created a group page (visible to Facebook members and non-members alike) that has become a great tool for collecting and sharing photographs, videos, and memories from our conference. More importantly, Facebook has been a powerful tool in networking and connecting N.N.E.S.R.E. Members past and present. Much of the archive's efforts are being displayed on the site as well. Overall it has become a great medium for showcasing the beauty of this place and the love and character of our conference!

Wednesday afternoon (time and location TBA), Robin Ogden and Kate Eskra Fioravanti will be hosting a "Facebook for Adults" session to showcase not only how to access and maneuver through the N.N.E.S.R.E. Facebook page, but also the ways that Facebook can be fun and useful for "Grown Ups

I-Cha-Ching

Cathy Smith (MD) has left Kimberly Clark as a medical director for the industrial giant and is now back to the clinical life of being an admitting physician at Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital. The move enabled Kathy not to have to move so we are glad for her new position! She also purports a new interest in the eastern art of I-Ching. As a previous Master or Mistress of Reiki (have feather, will travel) and Feng Shui, she is now practices the ancient art of I-Ching. The GEMS took a moment to grill the good doctor over her mix of eastern/western thought:

What spurred your interest in I Ching?

I have been interested in and practicing I Ching for years. I practice it with a Feng Shui influence, which has a suggestion within it that Feng Shui provides cures.

So I have strep throat, confirmed by swabs and a culture. What is the first thing you reach for – Penicillin or the coins?
Both.

How has I Ching changed or enhanced your understanding of Eastern thought?

Daily guidance opens up ways of thinking and focusing throughout the day.

I Ching – The Test

To test out the validity of the I Ching, participants in the GEMS office decided to give the coins a chance. Six Chinese coins were shaken and rubbed as they were passed from person to person to person. A question was asked for guidance: "Which direction should the content of the GEMS focus on – writing facts about NNEGRE life or should we pursue more creative writing?"

As the coins were moved from the final hand, they were flipped over and laid upon a table. Having recently had a disappointing trip to Mohegan Sun, I waited in anticipation of a proclamation of "craps!" However, Cathy's gentle voice read the coins as they were laid down:

Our results were: yang, yang, yin, yang, yin, yang.

Then Cathy went to a book entitled "The Code." In the GEMS office, we have similar books including Strunk's Elements of Style, Robert's Rules, and CIA Guide to Good Manners. However, this book was different. The first two things that struck us were that it had pictures and large print. This meant I could actually look at it. It had a softer tone, an inviting spirit, and a strangely familiar ISBN code.

Cathy stated that the codes are grouped into threes, so the first code of yang, yang, yin, indicated the symbol of Lake and the second three of yang, yin, yang represented Fire. Whereupon I gave an immediate confession that I had skipped the Weston Campfire down by the lake last night in favor of a nap.

Cathy sighed, rolled her eyes, and rubbed them. While for me that indicated that we were not “getting” the true spirit of the reading, I think it meant for Cathy that the GEMS office has not been vacuumed in literally dozens of years.

Cathy then noted that the true intent of the reading comes from understanding the interactive nature of the two symbols with one another – “Fire Above, Lake Below.” After a brief consultation with an I Ching chart and a call to a guy named Mickey at a 900 number in Des Moines, we were able to discern the true nature of reading And our question.

There is no doubt that random responses can elicit meaning in almost any context. Amongst the many interpretations we could have received with different flips of the coins were: Peachy Contentment, Spiritual Power, Tracing the Steps, Movement, Sensuality, etc. And believe you me, a few of those could have really spoken to where we are as group here writing the GEMS in the morning. However, the truth revealed to us garnered a collective gasp. Our guidance was #53: “Creative Brilliance.”

We wept with joy that our skills had finally been acknowledged by a group of coins that at the current exchange rate would garner us about 3 cents and a snicker from the guy at the bureau du change.

As we read through the 3 page description of what “creative brilliance” meant, we were struck by the motto inscribed at the bottom of the title page: *“My creative brilliance sets me apart from the crowd.*”* We didn’t notice till later that the asterisk referenced a page 33 statement of *“My egotistical nature is bound to make someone want to steal my ice cream cone.”*

The three pages of anecdotes included such luscious descriptions of the GEMS writers being like “flowing dream, inner dwelling, sprouting tree, budding flower, passionate flame, nourishing bowl, luminous lake, community, and putting intention in your

space.” After a thorough discussion of the meaning of these symbols, we decided a number of things:

- A pause that refreshes was deserved.
- We’re good enough, we’re smart enough, and by golly – people read the GEMS.
- Perhaps we could make the GEMS office a more inviting space, if we actually put a sign on the door.

We wanted to toss the coins to see who should be in charge of making the sign but Cathy had already left with a blessing and grumble. Our final thoughts: ☺=☺

Chart Your Way to Winni

A sociological experiment will be presented on the porch or nearby soon. A large yellow roll with some dates posted on it will be laid out. What we would like to see is who came to Winni, when, and who got them here. So if you find the sheet, go to the year when you first came to Winni and write down your name (or names of everyone in your family that came). Then draw a line from your name (or your family) to the person(s) who encouraged you to come. If you are someone who has always (or mostly) come to Winni since you were born, enter your name on the year you were born and circle it. This way we will be able to see all the Winni kids and the families from whence they came! Be sure to write small enough to leave space for other people! Pen or sharpie markers should work just fine. Thanks! Bill Milford

BRUSH PAINTING: “Take Time in Life”

By Hesung Koh (Color version on Inn Porch)



A POEM

Cynthia Russett submits this poem by Mary Oliver....

The Summer Day

By Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
 Who made the swan, and the black bear?
 Who made the grasshopper?
 This grasshopper, I mean--
 the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
 the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
 who is moving her jaws back and forth instead
 of up and down--
 who is gazing around with her enormous and
 complicated eyes.
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly
 washes her face.
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats
 away.
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall
 down into the grass, how to kneel in the
 grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll
 through the fields,
 which is what I have been doing all day.
 Tell me, what else should I have done?
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do With your one
 wild and precious life?

Daily Haiku**Forgotten Monday**

Pale not-Winni world
 Softly... beyond sound and sight
 As a loon fading

*- By Len Raymond with assist from Steve
 Fontana, Hans Seitz and Bernadette Golden.*

SARASPONDA

(boys) Boom-da, Boom-da, Boom-da, Boom-
 da, etc.
 (girls) Sarasponda, Sarasponda, Sarasponda
 Ret-set-set
 Sarasponda, Sarasponda, Sarasponda
 Ret-set-set
 (all) Ah-do-ray-oh, Ah-do-ray boom-day-oh
 Ah-do-ray boom-day ret-set-set, Aw-
 say paw-say-oh!

Home On The Range

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam
 Where the deer and the antelope play
 Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
 And the skies are not cloudy all day
 Home, home on the range
 Where the deer and the antelope play
 Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
 And the skies are not cloudy all day

How often at night where the heavens are
 bright
 With the light of the glittering stars
 Have I stood there amazed and asked as I
 gazed
 If their glory exceeds that of ours

Home, home on the range
 Where the deer and the antelope play
 Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
 And the skies are not cloudy all day

Then give me a land where the bright diamond
 sand
 Flows leisurely down to the stream
 Where the graceful white swan goes gliding
 along
 Like a maid in a heavenly dream

Oh I would not exchange my old home on the
 range
 Where the deer and the antelope play
 Where the seldom is heard a discouraging
 word
 And the skies are not cloudy all day