

# The Semi-Precious Geneva GEMS

## Hoot 2009

***Blessed with talent, energy, and strong tail bones.***

There should be no doubt that the switch in recent years from the solid metal chairs in the chapel to the ones with the faux white padding on the seat would portend that our endurance for the Hoot would be extended by 20 minutes or so. However, it is the truth that one's bottom will not definitively discern the difference between a 3 ½ hour Hoot or, as was the case last night, a 2 ¼ hour Hoot. Either way, you are full of amazement, joy, and a nagging feeling that you may have seen that act before but in the case of this GEMS reviewer – turns out it was 30 years ago and it was that kid's parents doing the same act.

MC Misha Nisham got the Hoot off to a strong start with promises he couldn't keep (keeping the show to less than 2 hours) which everyone but his wife seemed surprised by.

Nonetheless, the show did flow and go and go and go and go. Twenty-seven acts but in many ways, it just felt like one long one.

**Jon Arnold and the Ed School** – Chocolate Ice Cream Cone: This Winni classic was picture perfect. Kids aligned both in seating, stature, and tone. Way to go, kids! Sweet in every way.

**Stefan Livsey, Tre Davis** – You Don't Know Me: We sure do, now. Great Winniesque interpretation of the popular rock tune. Fluid roll on the piano, Tre, and flawless acoustic strumming and singing by Stefan. Great job, guys.

*(continued ... and continued, and continued...on page 4,5,6.....)*

## Thursday Night Schedule

6:45 Vespers

7:00-8:00 Walk the Labyrinth

7:30 Family Dance

9:00 Coffeehouse - *Chapel*

9:00 Family Movie (TBD) –  
*Meeting House*

## FAMILY DANCE TONIGHT

Tonight's early evening dancing is absolutely for **everyone** with the dances specifically targeted to our youngest campers. Parents, please come **with** your children 10 years old and younger. It is wonderful to dance together as families. The dancing for youngers will end at 8:30 and the dancing will then continue for middles, elders, and elders.

- Barb Siftar

## NEW CABIN COMMUNITY

Thank you again to all who have donated. Watch the 'cabin' thermometer go up as we fill the boxes in order to get to name a cabin for the NNESRE conference. Filling a box is \$100 but any donation of any amount from \$1 to \$1000 (anyone?) is very appreciated. To have everyone contribute even a little will make it a NNESRE cabin. Donations (or pledges of a donation to be made later) can be given or mailed to the office. Be sure to note NNESRE on your donation or pledge. Then pick up a pin from the Dean's table.

By the way, the New Hampshire UCC is a little ahead of NNESRE on their naming campaign?

## WEATHER

**Today: High 79°** Partly sunny with a shower or thunderstorm around this afternoon

**Tonight: Low 54°** Clearing

**Friday: High 78°** Partly sunny

**Friday Night: Low 50°** Mainly clear

## Our "Regular" Thursday Feature By Style Editor Faye Hess

Things can really slow down by Friday. (*Note: today is Thursday, but Faye is very right-brained.* - Ed) It's easy to forget you ever used a phone. Lulls in conversation are the perfect opportunity to breathe. In case it's all slowing down for you, take this week's theme to the toilet. If you don't make time for this particular activity because of fear of FOMO, it will never happen. And no matter what people have been saying, there is no seagull watching you from his perch. Can I suggest a day of oatmeal, salad greens, beans and apples. (If there were a grater available to grate the apples (releasing the pectin), and if we could have the oatmeal raw, it would be even better. Learn for next year, and grab those prunes at a reception while you can.

What to wear on an occasion like this: a skirt. (kilt's are available for rental attire shops, if not everywhere, in Glasgow and possibly even the Blackman tent.)

## FRIDAY MENU

**Breakfast:** (nothing to help you out)  
Pancakes with sap, plain and flavored, hard boiled eggs, bacon and corn muffin(s)

**Lunch:** Mac and Cheese, Hot dog on bun (didn't we have those last night?), cold broccoli salad (the broccoli is the winner and only contestant today, for Smooth Assistance) , peanut butter cookies

**Dinner:** It's "Baked" Bread today—I'm waiting for boiled, or the kind that you slap onto the inside wall of a stone lined barrel.

Baked Fish (never try the slapping-it-on-the-wall trick with fish), crumb topping

Seasoned Rice Zucchini and Summer Squash  
Saute, Redhead Brownies

## Thursday Greetings from Chaplain Jim!

Thanks to everyone who attended yesterday's memorial service, including our unexpected guest of honor--a windstorm arriving to tell us to stop talking and get sailing! After hearing about Fred Gunderson's sense of humor and love of waterborne adventure, it was heartening to have had the service close with appropriate drama.

Those who, understandably, departed in haste yesterday afternoon, may have missed an interesting tableau that unfolded about the council ring as the storm reached its full fury. The Chaplain and Barb Siftar held a towel in front of the fire to block the wind to allow needles to be tossed in, while Cathy Smith bravely sat at the back end of the ring to experience fully the force of the wind. Slightly above and to the left of Cathy, the Dean and several friends protected themselves behind a wall of umbrellas held so tightly that crowbars were reportedly required to loosen their grip once the storm passed and safety returned to the waterfront.

## Reflections on the service in Haiku Or Dean Cowers as Chaplain Glowens

Winds across the lake  
Chaplain, Barb mind the fire  
Dean can not be found

Storm pelts down on heads  
Raindrops (or tears) stream down cheeks  
Dean shields self and friends.

Cathy Smith, arms splayed  
Dares the flames as wind howls on  
Dean can not be found

Twelve deans on campus  
Eleven brave elements  
One can not be found.

Courage shown through deeds  
Hope is that thing with feathers  
Dean, perchance, was plucked.

[The GEMS office welcomes further submissions along these lines.]

## LABYRINTH WALK

There will be a labyrinth walk accompanied by live music this evening from 7-8 PM (guess where). Those who would prefer to walk by the almost-full moon light will find the labyrinth beautifully illuminated starting around 11:30 PM.

The Winnie Labyrinth is modeled on the labyrinth in Chartres cathedral, built in the 12th century. Our Winnie labyrinth was built in 4 days 10 years ago by about 250 of our conference participants. Written information on the purpose of the many 12th-13th century church labyrinths is sparse. Below are some ideas for walking our labyrinth.

There is no need to run outside  
For better seeing,  
Nor to peer from a window. Rather abide  
At the center of your being...  
Search your heart and see...  
The way to do is to be.

- Lao Tze

### Walking the Labyrinth

Unlike a maze, which has dead ends and false turns, the labyrinth has one continuous path that will lead you to the center of the circle. When you arrive at the center you may want to pause there awhile before you make the return journey, in which you will retrace your steps until you reach the entrance/exit point again. You may choose to walk without any plan and just notice what thoughts, feelings and sensations you experience. If you want to try one of the focusing suggestions for walking, read on:

1. Before walking, formulate a question you would like to have answered. While walking in, repeat the question to yourself. When you arrive at the center, allow yourself to be still and listen to yourself for an answer. On your return walk, consider what came to you and how to incorporate it into your everyday life.

2. The Threefold Path to Enlightenment can be applied to the three sections of the labyrinth. Walking in represents 'purgation', or letting go of the concerns of everyday life and making room internally for 'union' with the spiritual, found at the center. Walking back out represents 'integration', or putting anything you received into practice in your everyday life.

3. Repeat a mantra, prayer, or short affirmation while you walk.

4. Focus on your breath as you walk.

5. Notice all the sensations of walking.

6. As you walk, think about your past, where you are now, and where you want to be in the future.

## ED SCHOOL NOTES

- Ed school teacher meeting tomorrow at 1PM in Shaw Cottage. Let's reflect and wrap up the year.
- Thanks to Luanne for teaching the teen class today!

## EVENING COORDINATOR THANK-YOUS

Thanks as always to Barb for another night of max capacity dancing. Last couple stoop nearly sent a number of people to the hospital, but they obviously enjoyed themselves in the process.

## ANNIVERSARY TRIFECTA

**15 + 21 + 31 = 57**

Today marks the anniversaries of three Winni couples: Doug and Susie Hawthorne (31 years), Din Stevens and Ed Cunningham (21 years), Heather and Jay Weinland (15 years). It all adds up to 57 years of bicoastal connubial bliss, not to mention many Winni lunches interrupted by choruses of "Happy Anniversary." All couples have survived an appearance in the Winni Not So Newlywed Game, so we know they can take a lickin' and keep on tickin'. Congratulations to all three.

**Haiku Madness**

The haiku craze has clearly swept across campus. Today's submissions, from various sources:

Look, up in the sky  
Haiku-man approacheth nigh  
Get your napkins out  
- *Arthur Unknown*

Who is in a name  
Pine Water Music Mountain  
A Name in a Tag  
- *By Dominic Paolillo*

**Support Wednesday**

Embarrassed yet pleased  
Feeling support expected  
"Hey, how good you look"  
- *By Len Raymond in collaboration with Dennis Courtney*

Morning has broken  
Lukewarm oatmeal is waiting  
For WINNI's sixth day  
- *Mystic bards*

Georgie sings the blues  
Ubiquitous green melon  
Cantaloupe me please  
- *A. Nonnie Muss*

**From this Place**

From this place I take  
A song of loons on the lake  
From this place I love

**Morning skies**

Upon wakening  
I open my eyes to view  
Mountain skies of blue

**Mr. Moon**

Mr. Moon hiding  
Behind dark indigo shades  
Come brighten the sky  
- *Linda Sacco*

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

*Thursday August 5, 1999*

The DiTuccis and Ganleys led us to a tropical paradise with their Hawaiian extravaganza. Bob Ganley in a grass skirt was almost worth the price of admission. Thanks, also, Bob for the gym shorts.

The Full Winni Two – after scaring us into believing that more clothes would be shed, these teens one upped themselves by delving in precision choreography and a spirited movement of teen energy. Doubled our pleasure, doubled our fun.

The Fuller-Winni – The Parent's Revenge: With one quick removal of a garment, the "sigh of pleasure" that was so easily exhaled was sucked back in and held for a count of ten. With one sweeping motion, good taste was abandoned, integrity discarded and small children were frightened by the bouncing waves of undulating spirit that were displayed. Thank you for sharing your mid-life crises.

*Thursday August 7, 1997*

**It's Official: IT WAS A HOOT!**

Although many folks expressed fear and trepidation that this year's hootenanny just wouldn't feel right in the Chapel, even the hard-core resistance had to admit that last night was a pretty fabulous show! The raised stage, and Kevin Weston's light and sound system lent a professional air to the proceedings (some of these guys \*DO\* have agents, 'ya know, and the GEMS could scarcely believe the lengths people will go to put themselves in the best light!) Was there a corresponding upsurge of stage fright? Not that we could tell!

**From the Archive...**

Thank you to all those who have donated pictures and video to be scanned into the Archive! That being said, there are thousands of

photos and hours upon hours of video footage that still remain a part of personal collections at home. If you or someone you know has pictures or video of our conference, PLEASE consider submitting copies to the Archive (think of The NNESRE Archive as your own personal backup service!). The creation of Nostalgia Night II is already underway, but the coffers of video footage especially are running quite low. There are several options for submitting media to the archive:

You can mail them:  
Sheldon Soper  
105 Woodhollow Drive  
Marlton, NJ 08053

You can email them:  
[email address removed for Internet version – find Sheldon on Facebook]

You can even transfer your 2009 footage/pictures in person! See Sheldon Soper to schedule a time to do so on Friday. It will only take a few minutes, and your memories will help preserve the 2009 session's memories for years to come (and who knows...year in review video anyone?)

## CAT AND MOUSE GAME

### *Cat 0, Mouse 1*

In a late breaking story brought to the GEMS by Junior Reporters Courtney Mason and Kathy Pike, it was revealed that the Primary School Class saved a wayward mouse from a certain fate this morning. The day began innocently enough until *corpus moribund* of a mouse that was playfully sheparded from this world to the next – allegedly by the friendly camp cat named Tyra. Perhaps having seen his brethren's fate, another mouse saved his own fate by jumping into a plastic storage container. Whilst this sealed his protection from the cat, he also became destined to a life of boredom, starvation, and sub-standard cable access.

That is, until the Primary School came to his rescue. Rather than react with the typical shrill

of eeks and yucks to the mouse's presence, the class acted with compassion and heart. They carried the container out to the woods behind the pines and released the mouse well out of the purview of the aforementioned cat. The mouse cheerfully acknowledged his appreciation by scurrying away without looking back and the class returned to business as usual with a great green activity of collecting things one can find in the woods for parental show and tell.

The GEMS would like to acknowledge and the mouse would especially like to thank the following brave rescuers:

Shea and Skye Fox  
Hannah Hill  
Ferd Stirling  
Tessa Weinland  
Emily Kaye  
McKelvey Courtney-Collins  
Amanda Kittel  
Eva Alciere  
Jimmy Shoemaker  
Carmen Siftar  
Celia Nicholson

### (HOOT REVIEW continued....)

**Alexis Kittel**– Ode to Joy on Recorder: Anytime anyone plays the recorder without a squeak, it is truly an Ode to Joy! Way to go, Alexis! Excellent performance.

**Ferdinand Stirling** – Interpretative Dance: Ferd danced the way most of us experience our day -- periods of calm interrupted by chaos. Ferd kicked it out with incredible moves and dexterity. He's got his momma's genes for creative dance! Do not try this at home.

**Linda Sacco and Jonathan Leaf** – Piano and Violin: The originator of the Joke Off showed that he isn't kidding when it comes to serious violin performance. Mom was a master of the keyboard. Nice job!

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders** - Doughnut Song: Explaining the big ol' hole in the dough that we love. Nice job you gals!

**Stacie Finlayson** – A capella: Stacie, year in and out –you step up and knock us out! You put your total self into your voice and move us every time – excellent job.

**Dan, Julie, Sonia, and Celia Nicholson –**

The Cat Song: What kind of cat are you? You iz some cool catz to get us groovin' on them feline themes. Never knew we had so many cats around us. Your energy spared us from a cat nap and be coming catatonic. Tyra, the camp cat, opined that it was "purrrrrrr-fect".

**The Chapel Line Kids – Skit:** Emulating the dance moves of Joe Morrissey, Mike Nissan, Bill Milford, Wes Gundersen, and Barb Siftar. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery so Milford, for one, was pleased with the way he moved on the stage. Wes Gundersen was pleased with the way he napped. And we all were pleased with the way that Mike Nistham was told to shut up.

**Laine Harris and Jennifer Brosious –** Dance from Norway. Good to see some people dress for the occasion. Beautiful costumes accented by smooth moves with more spinning than the average Joe could handle. Great job, Laine and Jennifer.

**Marianna Campbell –** Dance: A solid gold dancer, with expressive, fluid moves. She got her mama's dance genes with a new millennium groove.

**Dom Paollilo and Carrie Hawthorne:** Vocal – In a Very Unusual Way: Great job, Dom – we are so glad to have your NYC Broadway pipes singing here at Winni. Are you sure you are in the right camp? Nice hat, too. Kudos to Carrie for being the go-to gal for complex music for the Hoot!

**Graeme and Hamish Blackman –** Dueling Bagpipes – Babies were rushed from the room for fear of the unfamiliar sound and Camp Director Peter Claypoole reports the first complaint coming from animals in the woods to him about noise. Despite this – I think for the first time I heard bagpipes in harmony and in unison. While it is impossible to tell if they are in tune, it is possible to tell that there was master class skill in each of their performance chops. Pint o' Guinness for the Blackman boys – fantastic! Now if somebody could just get rid of that annoying buzz in the room... (Complimentary ENT consultant will be available in the nurse's office today.)

**Kelvin, Stefan, and Tre –** All the songs sound the same -- you're telling us? Whaddya think

we have been telling you kids? Try folk music where there are only 3 chords!

**Allie Bruch –** Beginning to See The Light: Jazz standard performed flawlessly by this breathy San Franciscan. The applause was supplemented by the sound of one seagull wing flapping.

**Eva, Celia, Carman, Sonia – Skit/Reading:** Cuteness in a 4-some says "They've Still Got It!"

**Amanda Kittel on Piano:** Alouette – Tres perfect! Merci pax u pianissimo butiful!

**The Offut Family –** The Offutt Clearwater Revival – Down On The Corner - The family that plays together stays together and makes beautiful music. Nicely done Offutts!

**Silly Human Talent Show –** Patty LaCamera: One of our favorite acts – she blew the whistle and the act was clocked at 15 seconds with no encore.

**Alycia Soper** is getting engaged! That is an act that will be hard to follow. We look forward to your participation at the next Newlywed Game.

**Auction of Blanket and Two Sweatshirts:**

\$120 auctioned off for the scholarship fund. Thanks to Joel for running up the price and the Eskras for beating Ferd to the punch in the final bid!

**Abigail Weeks and Tre Davis:** Don't bring me down.... Original tune by Abigail – really, really cool tune about independence and making it your own – don't let other people quash those dreams. Tre's "Delight" was simply that with Tre kicking out some amazing expressive vocals! Great job, guys.

**Lost Lizard Quartet, er Trio –** Bernadette Golden, Larry Kern, and Trevor Davis: Bernadette brings professional jazz chops to Winni every year. Creative tunes with a major 7<sup>th</sup> flair and clever lyrics to delight. Fantastic job.

**Stefan, Chris, Sam, and Tre –** How to Save A Life: These guys are doing at 15 what these rock bands are doing in their 20s and making millions. Let's figure out how to can this sound and start making some Millions for Winni!

**Mark Brady and Chuck Bates –** Who's On First? – Who Wudda Thunk It? This could be the reason the Red Sox are in second place. Polished and no wonder. These guys is smooth like buttah....

**Eskra Family:** Thanks for doing one of our favorite hits from the 1400's! While it all

sounded like Greek to us – we thinketh it might have been Latin. Performum Superbum.

**Mary Offutt** - I would walk a thousand miles;. Great piano and vocal ability with a challenging tune. We loved her smooth way of negotiating tricky vocal jumps, excellent job and we would walk 1,000 miles to hear you – as long as the Scoop Shop was on the way!

**Serbian Folk Tune:** Laine Harris – An embouchure to write home about – Congrats to Laine for his stellar performance and the release of his CD of his Balkan Band with his brother!

**Kevin Weston** – Westering Home: Kevin's rich voice is like a balm to old time Winnites – a calm and beautiful journey into music from old England. His rich twelve string guitar kept the journey afloat with a full luxurious sound.

**Jerry Christman and Chris Peters** on jazz guitar– Nothing' Going to Harm You – Pure Broadway and jazz delight. Jerry brings class and sass to whatever he touches and never fails to impress. Great guitar chops by Chris Peters.

**Meredith Smith and Monica Seaman** – Lucky - No, "lucky" would be us to have had the stage graced with these beautiful young ladies and their harmonies. Thanks for dressing for the occasion and lifting our spirits with your voices.

**Jerry Christman, Dom Paolillo, and Winni Choir with Carrie Hawthorne on piano, Chris Peters on bass, Bill Milford on guitar, and Trevor Davis on drums:** The Song of Purple Summer - Whilst Broadway tunes come and go on the Hoot stage, rarely do they get their due with the full vocal and instrumental prowess that make Broadway show stoppers the tear eliciting, jaw dropping, "I got to see that again...", incredible experience that is the great white way. Kudos to Jerry and Dom for having the vision, the skilled members of the choir for having the leadership and stamina for rehearsal, and the band members for actually figuring out the accompanying score for this Hooterific finale. This song from the hit Broadway show "Spring Awakening," featured flawless solos by Jerry and Dom, powerful Winni gospel vocal power from the choir, and a vibrant musical accompaniment from the band. Normally the

standing ovation for the last act is largely from relief – this year it was for gratitude and inspiration.

Once again it was a stellar evening of a variety of talents kept well paced by the MC Evening Coordinators and skillfully staged by mic techs Trevor Davis and Kevin Weston. Thanks to all for another great Winni Hoot!

PS - It is reported that Barb Siftar was so impressed by the Hoot Talent that she integrated into barn dancing some Norwegian Folk Dancing and some self destructive Ferd moves to enthrall the crowd, especially when she went crashing into a table.

*[The GEMS is wont to remind performers that changing one's name in the order of the participants does not thereby produce a different act. Remember that the gift of the Hoot is not only displaying the talents you have, but keeping secret the talent you don't and not repeating the talent you do.]*

#### FATHER WE THANK THEE

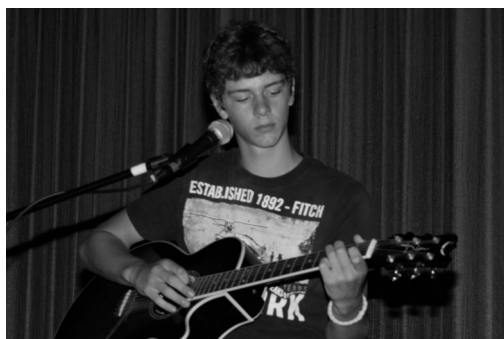
Father we thank thee for the night  
And for the blessed morning light  
For rest and food and loving care  
And all that makes the world so fair

Help us to do the things we should  
To be to others kind and good  
In all we do at work or play  
To grow more loving every day Amen

#### Swinging Along

Swing along the open road under sky that's clear.  
Swing along the open road in the fall of the year.  
Swing along, swing along, swing along the open road,  
All in the fall of the year.

Swinging along the open road, swinging along under  
sky that's clear,  
Swinging along the open road, all in the fall, in the fall  
of the year,  
Swinging along, swinging along the open road all in  
the fall of the year.



Stefan Livsey jams on a tune



Ferd Demonstrates his dance technique



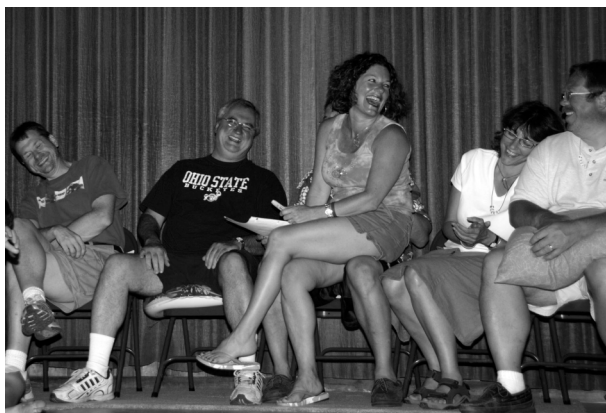
Amanda, Celia, and Carmen bust out a tune



Dom croons and we swoon.



Marianna Campbell rocks out!



Camp Role Models Honored!



Blackmans finger each others' pipes....