

The Geneva GEMS

Feng Shwhat?

GPC Changes Directions with New Director

Meeting House and Dining Hall Channel

Beyonce: "To the left, to the left,"

To everything turn, turn, turn – or at least rotate 180 degrees. Signs (literally, "Men's Room") are everywhere that there is a new sheriff in town, or what they call in the camp world, a new "executive director." Meet Peter Claypoole, who is the lucky candidate to have topped 70 others in a national search process to fill the sizeable shoes of retired GPC director Jess Schload.

Peter greeted the NNESRE crowd with a strong voice, polished appearance, and a very thorough understanding of how we can best participate in a disaster. We were puzzled to hear that the optimum place to go during a fire is on to the center green for it seemed like the water front might be refreshing in such circumstances. However, once we recalled his strict orders not to step a toe in the water without a lifeguard there, the dilemma came clear and the green seems like a much better choice. Especially considering you might be able to get an ice cream at the Scoop Shop (if it's not burning), which is always refreshing when watching a fire.

Barb Siftar started the evening off with a tradition, not seen in years, of dancing on the green before the opening meeting. In her clever, hypnotic fashion, she danced the group into a frenzy to transform Ningunatikers (people dancing to Ningunatik) into Ningunalemmings (people dancing Ningunatik and following her wherever she goes). (*The GEMS suggests she do the same with YMCA tonight and see if she can lead people into the bathhouse for a quick

disinfecting – either the people or the bathhouse, doesn't matter to us.)

Chaplain Jim Peters opened the week with his usual humor and crafts-petership by offering homemade, handsewn, handstamped, and just plain handy "intention bags." These bags contained a paper whereby we may each focus on what we need to "Take Time In Life" for and then live that value out as an intention.

Dean Tom Weston then opened up the 93rd session of NNESRE with a grand welcome and introduced Ron Offutt, the new incoming Business Manager. A moment of silence, applause and gratitude was provided for the absent Jon Rowe for his 9 years of service as the previous Business Manager. If you have not registered yet or paid, Ron or Jon, or any members of their immediate families will track you down.

Joann Milford and Joe Morrissey championed the Ed School, which has 77 kids this year, 33 of whom are teenagers who are currently being fitted for GPS sensors and hormone regulators.

Cynthia Wilcox, the Program Chair, then introduced all of the instructors for the week. Least present but most humorous was Lillian Daniel, whose biblical scholarship comes with the guarantee that studying "families" in the Bible will only help you to feel better about your own as they put the "fun" in dysfunction.

Continuing a short term tradition, if you are actually reading this article right now – please take a moment to stand up, wherever you are, and shout out joyfully – "bubbles!" This will prove the high volume readership we claim the GEMS to have.

Tom Weston closed the evening with a call to ice cream and barn dancing and the crowd voted with their feet.

Tonight's Schedule

- 6:45 Vespers in the Chapel**
7:15 Barb Siftar & Bill Milford
In Concert in the Chapel
8:00-10:00 Scoop Shop Open
9:00 Dancing in the Barn with Barb
9:00 Meet with Peter Claypoole on
Meeting House Porch – Q&A on
status of GPC
9:30-11:00 Teen class campfire at the
campground. BRING YOUR
INSTRUMENTS. Rain date is Wed
9:30-11:00.

From the Evening Coordinators

Thanks-Yous

- Thanks to Barb for leading the dancing in the Barn and for bringing dance to the Green last night as well. It was awesome!

BORN IN '59?

If you were born in 1959, please fess up and declare yourselves to the Evening Coordinators so that other campers may scavenge-hunt you.

Monday Menu

Breakfast: Hand-poured griddle cakes made from a batter of steel cut Scottish oats, fresh buttermilk, and eggs from happy go lucky hens, sizzled in hand-churned butter and served with a splash of pure maple syrup from our own climate controlled cellars in Vermont. Every January we sadly usher a pig -- fed only chestnuts and organic corn cobs -- into a better life; and we look forward with gusto to the bounty he will provide—including fresh pork sausages. Our resident baker, who demands butter that is churned within the first 3 minutes

after milking (from a yak with good teeth) will be using her own family's Belgian chocolate to create a tender crumbed muffin.

Lunch: The weather has been perfect for wild mushroom gathering; the chef has given them a quick sauté in olive oil, with shallot, fresh thyme and paper thin slivers of garlic, and made them into a soup garnished with an aged Parmigiano Reggiano. (The stock for the soup is of retired butter yak--thank you fifth graders for your top notch recycling ideas!) This will be served with seared paillard of chicken, organic baby gem lettuce and deep, red, heirloom tomatoes from our garden, tossed in a lovely fresh herb vinaigrette, and, on the side, hand cut croutons. For dessert, collect your all-butter, Belgian chocolate (chipped) cookies. Be sure to use your mitts!

Dinner: Garlic bread with a gremolata of flat leaf parsley, minced fresh garlic and (soft shoe sheep) butter, choice of penne al dente with a San Marzano tomato, fresh basil, marinara, or bringoli (each strand of pasta individually rolled by no one younger than 85 years, wearing sensible dress) al ragu, or farfalle alfredo with an Umbrian Pecorino, fresh garden peas and pea shoots. Be sure to eat your vegetables! A caponata of individually oven roasted eggplant, zucchini, baby onion, red pepper, olives and capers, as well as a selection of wilted tender garden fresh spinach leaves, garlic and pepperoncino.

For dessert, fresh from Denver, the WINNER of the esteemed Winni Culinary Competition—Mr. Snow!

Plates of sumptuous lemon cake will be delivered to every camper with a small mountain of cream, and then the newly installed "snow" machines on the ceiling of the dining hall will create a blizzard of lightly toasted, sugared coconut to fall with the amazing precision of a well practiced machine, onto our waiting plates. (Hair combs are available in baskets by the dining hall door.)

Bon Appetit!

Winni Weather**Sunday Night, Aug 2****Low: 59 °F RealFeel®: 64 °F**

Mostly cloudy with a shower or thunderstorm around the area

Monday, Aug 3**High: 85 °F RealFeel®: 91 °F**

Humid and warmer with sun and some clouds

Monday Night, Aug 3**Low: 57 °F RealFeel®: 60 °F**

Patchy clouds and delightful

Sunday Greetings from Chaplain Jim!

It was great to see so many new and familiar faces last evening as we first gathered!

If anyone didn't get their intention-holding pouch last night I'll have plenty more available at Vespers. (Thanks again to Chris Peters, Kate Milford, and Nolan Livsey for pre-conference assembly assistance, and to Jean Peters for design input. Of course, major kudos go to Isaac Merritt Singer and his wonderful machine without which the entire enterprise would have been merely conceptual.

Tonight we'll explore our theme "Take Time in Life" a bit more as we gather in the chapel at 6:30. There will be an opportunity before the service closes for individuals to share their intentions with the community. Please feel maximally invited and minimally coerced to do so!

* * * * *

In preparation for this week, I came across a lot of time-inspired poetry, some of which seemed quite inspiring but not a perfect fit for Vespers. So I thought I'd include some of them in the GEMS. To begin, here's an offering from John Milton:

On Time

FLY envious Time, till thou run out thy race,
 Call on the lazy leaden-stepping hours,
 Whose speed is but the heavy Plummets pace;
 And glut thy self with what thy womb devours,
 Which is no more then what is false and vain,
 And meerly mortal dross;
 So little is our loss,
 So little is thy gain.
 For when as each thing bad thou hast
 entomb'd,
 And last of all, thy greedy self consum'd,
 Then long Eternity shall greet our bliss
 With an individual kiss;
 And Joy shall overtake us as a flood,
 When every thing that is sincerely good
 And perfectly divine,
 With Truth, and Peace, and Love shall ever
 shine
 About the supreme Throne
 Of him, t'whose happy-making sight alone,
 When once our heav'nly-guided soul shall
 clime,
 Then all this Earthy grosnes quit,
 Attir'd with Stars, we shall for ever sit,
 Triumphant over Death, and Chance, and thee
 O Time.

The Bazaar is Back!!!!

Your talented fellow NNESRE craftspersons, artists, and musicians will offer crafts and other items for sale tomorrow in the meeting house from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at the annual Bazaar. Participants who wish to sell their wares should sign up at the Dean's table so we know how many craft booths should be created for the event. There is a \$20 table fee for artists to benefit the Scholarship Fund.

Take Time to Stitch

Join us on the Meeting House Porch with your knitting, crocheting, or handicraft any time after 1:30 PM. Share a "yarn" or a pattern with your fellow crafters.

- Sue Hartley

In Memoriam: Doug Mertz

The GEMS is sad to report the passing of Doug Mertz (80) last November. Doug was never a formal member of the NNESRE community, however he had a great impact on Winni through his construction of the Winni Memorial and his annual trip to GPC when he would install it, add the plaques, and then remove it at the end of the week. Doug always felt a special connection to NNESRE through his friendship with Charlie and Sophie Pitts. Doug was able to take a rough sketch of a vision of the memorial put together by Hesung Koh and Bill Milford, and turn it into a physical reality of finely crafted wood. Each year, he would receive a phone call with more names to be added to the memorial and would prepare the plaques. We are grateful to GPC for the assistance in hanging the memorial this year and are hoping to find another person who would be interested in overseeing the memorial and the creation of new plaques during the year. If you would like to learn more about this, please speak with Bill Milford.

Walking 26 Miles in His Shoes

Richie Koh is at Winni this year training for the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk. Sept. 13th, 2009 will be his 8th walk in ten years! He is doing this year's walk in memory of his late father who passed away in Sept 1989. If you want to make a small donation to Dana Farber Cancer Institute, there's a photo and pledge sheet on the bulletin board on the Inn Porch. Richie's contact information:

[address & phone removed for Internet published version]

See Richie this week or contact him at the above address.

Which Type are You?

Some people pack well for Winni – treat that list with respect! They are afraid to rely on others.

Some people remind *others* of what to bring and then forget that important thing themselves (Lilliam). They like to appear as people to be relied on.

Some people bring extras for those who forgot something important. They are truly reliable.

Can you help?

Lilliam needs a toothbrush.
Char needs a fan. (She flew.)
Pat needs a flashlight.
Jim needs a bathing suit.

Any other needs?

Thanks in advance.

- **Deb Eskra**

A Plea from one of the Tenters to the Others

Please leave your cars/SUVs in the parking lot. One of the things many of us love about tenting is looking out at the trees, playground, campfire, and other tenters. Now we're seeing your cars. As lovely as they may be, Winni is so much more attractive without them – and it happens only once a year. I would really appreciate not seeing cars in the field this week. - **A tenter**

Visit the Labyrinth at Geneva Point Center

The Labyrinth is a NNESRE project. It was designed and built several years ago by Bernadette Golden and Len Raymond, and is maintained, year after year, by contributions from NNESRE. Visit it on your way to the beach. Walk it and be inspired. Meditate as you walk, and be comforted, connected and at peace.

The GEMS Interviews Barb N' Bill on the 25th Anniversary of their Annual Winni Concert

Probing Questions Reveal Devastating Insights

Q. – THE GEMS: So 25 years, that's a long time to be doing concerts, eh?

A. – BARB N' BILL: Yes, sure is. When you think of it in dog years, it's like forever.

How did this all start?

I think in 1982, I (Bill) did a concert reflecting a number of songs I had written over the years and Barb sat in and supported me with harmonies. By 1984, we had done a recording together with Fran McKendree (formerly of McKendree Spring) and had material already prepared for the national Episcopal Church Event. After it was switched to Sunday night of our Winni week, it became a nice tradition of starting the week by singing together and having some fun.

And you have never missed a year?

Bill: I think we both missed one year during an Episcopal Youth Event and I missed one year in 1993 when my lovely wife Joann gave birth to my daughter Allison on July 20th. I have resented them both ever since. I wanted to go but my publicity manager advised against it – he thought I might get bad press in the GEMS for abandoning my wife and child.

What are the highlights that you recall over the years?

Every year is special just like a child, just like 25 out of control unpredictable children. Certainly having special performers join us like Lindy Hearne, Lynn Adler, Joann Hammil, Trevor Davis, and most recently Chris Peters is great fun. And also being able to do songs dedicated to unique people in our community is an honor, such as Dotti Siftar, Al Milford, George and Maeve Blackman, Tom Weston, and for all the wrong reasons, Mike Nishman.

How do you choose songs for the show?

We normally look for songs that are either sing-a-longs, funny, relevant to the times or in our own personal lives, or just plain beautiful to

the ear. We usually try to sneak in some folk standards every year to make sure that the young people at Winni are consistently exposed to tunes in the folk tradition.

How do you both stay so darn youthful looking?

Bill: I live a vegan lifestyle, meditate twice a day, I am an avid runner, and try to spend at least a couple hours a day helping others less fortunate than me.

Barb: I've had @ two million dollars worth of plastic surgery.

Both: Folk music keeps you young because there usually is somebody older than you singing it.

What do you see as the keys to your success in doing this concert every year?

Well, it used to be rehearsal – we'd sing over the phone to one another and then practice, practice, practice. However, now it is being flexible and open so we rehearse less but more intensely. But a large part of it comes from faith in knowing that it all falls together no matter how busy or chaotic our lives might be at the time and that the thing that makes the concert a success is not us – but being part of the entire Winni Community.

So the community building aspect is important?

Yes, but not nearly as crucial as the CD sales.

Speaking of self-promotion, do you have product to promote this year?

Of course we would never promote ourselves – but....the very talented Chris Peters has a great new 5 song CD entitled "California Someday Soon" and Lindy Hearne and Lynn Adler have a CD recorded in Nashville that is superb entitled "From The Heart". We also have a CD recording of last year's concert that is available with the hit tune "Go Blame Mike Nishin" on it – and those sales benefit the scholarship fund.

Anything else you would like us to know?

Bill has size 12 feet with one size 13 toe, Barb is the final word on all fashion decisions regarding performance apparel, we receive

neither money or accommodation upgrades for doing the show, however we often receive blueberries and M&Ms backstage, and if it wasn't for Kevin Weston and his sound tech experience – we would never be heard.

Thank you very much!

Thank you. What issue of People did you say this would be in?

Uh, this is for the Geneva GEMS.

Oh.....

Milestones and Highlights:

Bill Milford and Barb Siftar celebrated their 50th birthdays in May by holding a concert in Tallahassee with their friends **Lindy Hearne (who is turning 60) and Lynn Adler**. The concert was organized by Joann Milford who is turning 50 the day after Winni!

Din Stevens and Ed Cunningham moved out of Boston and back in again in one year. They lived for a year in Dartmouth, NH while Din did her intern year in psychiatry at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. They have just bought a house in Waban (you silly wabbit) – a village of Newton, MA while Din continues her residency at the Longwood Medical Complex.

Harold and Howard Koh were both tapped for service in the Obama administration. They have each had their nominations confirmed and have taken up digs in Washington. Harold is serving as an Assistant Secretary of State and Howard is an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Please note the GEMS is looking for a few good secretaries, too.

You could be featured in this space! Tell us about your year, occupation, hobbies, things you'd like to learn more about, stuff you are proud about, name drop some celebs. The space is yours for the filling!

Somebody Call 911

***It's Rumored Shorty's Burning on the Dance Floor – oh oh
Emergency Numbers for YOU!***

You are at Geneva Point Center.

It is at 108 Geneva Point Road.

You sick – you call 911.

You not so sick, call nurse at 603-630-8803.

You need after hours GPC help, call 603-630-7984.

You want somebody to call you here and leave a message, they can call 603-253-4366.

You want somebody to tell you what to do with your life, call my mama.

You want to be a rock star? Go to the corner of "Get A Grip" avenue and "Fugedaboutit" street and wait for an agent.

You want a life of lots of coffee, little gratitude, and aroma of ink and perspiration, its da GEMS office baby.

Disclaimer for Winni

I am horrible with names, but I am so glad to see you!

We may not talk, but

how you walk and hold your head, your eyes, your smile...

are all so important for this picture.

From so long ago you are a part of

my most favorite memories—a part of so much of who I am,

though you most likely don't know it and I am unlikely to say.

I thank you

--for holding part of my loved ones gone and remembering with me,

And doing the dances together and the songs, And passing it all on.

So if we do not talk—forgive me

and know I am so glad you are here.

- Anonymous

An Ode to Getting Your Georgie Loving Duff Into the GEMS Office

Come write for the GEMS,
 There ain't nothing to it,
 All you got to do is just,
 Walk in and do it,
 Write up poetry,
 Or a story or two,
 Interview your kids,
 Any copy will do.
 News about your neighbors,
 Who live in College Row,
 Or gossip about Chapel Line,
 That people want to know.
 All is fodder for production,
 For the GEMS daily rag,
 We finish by 11 am,
 When all the copy's in the bag.
 Then we cut n paste,
 And do a spill chick or two,
 To create a quality paper,
 Thit ish rittin jess fer yew,
 So join us in the office,
 For some laughs and cups of joe,
 The stakes could not be higher,
 Nor the bar set so low.

From the Archive...

There will be a reception and presentation by the N.N.E.S.R.E. Archive Committee **Monday at 1:30** in the main room of the **Meeting House**. Stop by, take a look through some memories, and hear how the Archive has come to life. If you have materials you would like to donate or submit for scanning this will be a perfect time to do that. We will also be showing off some of the digitization efforts as well as our recent foray into Facebook. Rumor has it, the Nostalgia Night II trailer may be shown for the first time as well! We look forward to seeing you there.

Old Gems

Throughout the week, the N.N.E.S.R.E. Archive will be bringing you "Old Gems." These are short pieces that have been stumbled upon that will inspire, amuse, or otherwise bring

about that warm, fuzzy feeling of Winni weeks past. For instance...

Wednesday August 8, 1973

Some people have asked what NNESRE is all about. It is any things to many people; it is a place where a family can bring their children for a beautiful time, without denying their own adulthood. A place where one can met other people who are consciously trying to learn o be better people, inside, in the family, and back at the Church or Synagogue. The course set is not easy. We have a faculty and staff who give a great deal of themselves to do this. Selection is made in hopes of balancing tradition with the radical new. It would be a shame if you came and met only people who thought like yourself. NNESRE has succeeded if you leave shaken in some of your beliefs (but not repelled), if you leave with a sense of love, and a new reality; with a sense of urgency, a sense of trying, and a sense of rest! We'll never achieve all of this, but this is what we are trying hard to do. We pray that you feel it, accept it joyously, and join it.

Monday August 5, 1974

Tom Weston Complains that the rules at the tennis courts are not being observed. There is a sign that clearly states:
 "WEAR SNEAKERS ONLY"
 Tom says many, especially girls, have been wearing shirts and shorts also.

MOMENTS OF HISTORICAL NOTE: Lou Frishman standing majestically on a knoll this morning like MOSES, announcing in stentorian tones: "MY people will be in the well-house"

Watch for further tidbits from the achive throughout the week.

Rolling Over the Billows

It's cheese, it's cheese, it's cheese that makes the mice go
It's cheese, it's cheese, it's cheese that makes the mice go
It's cheese, it's cheese, it's cheese that makes the mice go
IT'S CHEESE THAT MAKES THE MICE GO 'ROUND.



CHORUS:

Oh, rolling over the billows, rolling over the sea.
Rolling over the billows in the deep blue sea.
Oh, rolling over the billows, rolling over the sea.
Rolling over the billows in the deep blue sea.

2. mice, cats
3. cats, dogs
4. dogs, boys
5. boys, girls
6. love, world

[Sing first verse and chorus, then sing the verse, replacing underlined words with new ones provided. Sing through chorus after each verse]

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.