

THE GENEVA GEMS

HOME OF THE WHITE HOUSE'S NEXT COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORS

LIVE FROM THE CAMPFIRE

The Westons once again brought us all together as one big family that laughs, sings, shoots walrus, and enjoys each other's company immensely. Winnites young, old, and medium were on hand to capture the event in their memories (and/or their portable devices). CNN was going to have a live feed broadcast worldwide but since a sizeable portion of the populace would think that CNN was once again reporting "fake news" and since it couldn't be possible that so many people could say "Piccolomini" so fast, cub reporter Kate ("Where's my husband? Is he off with Lorraine Morrissey again?") Fioravanti stepped up to the plate with a live feed of her own. This feed can be accessed on our Facebook group.



Photo Credit 1. Joann Milford

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

- ☆ **Wednesday – 1:00,**
Memorial Service
- ☆ **Also on Wednesday -**
Winni Swimmi &
Softball game will take
place after the
memorial service...
then later is the Hoot!
(Make sure you sign
up on the Inn Porch)



Photo Credit 3. Charley Smith



Photo Credit 2. Nina Fioravanti (of a tense moment during the Walrus Hunt)

TODAY'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4:00 – Knitting (Meetinghouse Porch)
 6:45 – Evening Watch (Chapel)
 7:30 – Family Feud (Meetinghouse)
 9:30 – Bonfire Sing (Tenting)

TOMORROW'S ALLEGED MENU



Breakfast: Belgian waffles, assorted toppings, bacon, oatmeal
Lunch: BBQ chicken, mashed potato, green beans
Dinner: Pasta du jour

** All meals include vegetarian and gluten-free options*

YOUR WINNI WEATHER FOR WEDNESDAY



Mostly cloudy, 83°/64°
 Scattered thunderstorms in the evening
 Sunrise: 5:36 AM, Sunset: 8:07 PM

HEAR YE * HEAR YE

YOU ARE HEREBY SERVED YOUR NOTICE OF THE
 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE &
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

The Executive Committee will have its annual meeting on Wednesday at 1:00 at the Well House. The Board of Trustees will have its annual meeting on Thursday at 1:00. All Trustees are expected as well as staff who have reports, but anyone and everyone is welcome to attend either meeting.
Meredith Smith, Chairman, Board of Trustees

TOWEL EXCHANGE

Hi folks! Tomorrow (Wednesday) is Towel Exchange Wednesday. Here's how it works... So, you can have fresh towels for the rest of your stay, just put your towels outside your door as you go to breakfast (or before 9:00 AM). We will magically come by and pick them up, wash them, and return them to you by the end of the day. That's all there is to it. Happy Towel Exchange Wednesday!

FROM OUR EVENING COORDINATORS:

Last Night!

Weston Campfire

Sticky fingers. Marshmallows. Sticks. Goopy chocolate. Cracking fire. Harmonious vocals. Sunsets for memorable nights. Summer wouldn't be complete without s'mores. Thanks to all for carrying on this special tradition. Special thanks to our s'mores volunteers: Kelsey Morrissey, Scott Gatto, Chris Morrison, Meredith Smith, Kyle McNeill, Rachel Gunderson and our adventurous stick-gatherer Trevor David!

Fireside Chat

Three heads are better than one! With all the knowledge and experience within this camp we can always find fresh ideas and inspiration around relevant topics in our communities, here at Winni and abroad.

Another fireside chat will be held on Thursday at 7:30pm, keep an eye out for further posting in the GEMS for more info. If you are interested in holding a fireside chat yourself, please come find us, it's not too late!

Tonight!

Family Feud

Tonight's the night! Come experience the ultimate feuding of families tonight in the Chapel at 7:30! Who will have the quickest reflexes? ...who knows their Winni community the best? There's nothing wrong with a little *friendly* competition...

Tenting Area Bonfire

It's in our human nature to be called to sit around a fire. All are welcome to get comfortable around a bonfire in the tenting area at 9:30pm. If you have a guitar, here's another chance to vibe with other musical minds. Bring a chair and blanket, get comfortable and hang for a while.

No barn dancing tonight! Barb has requested a night to rest her dancing feet to come back Wednesday night rejuvenated, expecting our biggest crowd yet!

Tomorrow!Memorial Service:

If you are in need of assistance to get to the Council Ring tomorrow for the Memorial Service, please meet all golf carting folks in front of the Inn at the flagpole. The Memorial Service will start at 1:30pm.

Winni Swimmi:

After the Memorial, time to jump in the lake (or a boat) for the Dennis Courtney Memorial Swimmi!

Hoot:

The owls are calling and, dare I say, *hooting* for you! One of the really unique parts of this camp is the opportunity for the intergenerational interaction we get to experience here, and the Hoot should not be the exception! If you have not seen our flyers posted earlier this summer inviting participants, we are calling on you now to use your imagination and creativity to bring in some diverse acts to the show. Sign ups on our the Inn Porch and will be taken down by 3pm on Wednesday. *All acts must be limited to 3 minutes or less. We look forward to seeing you there!*

MEMORIAL SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY

Per Winni tradition, Wednesday's service will be the annual Memorial Service, held at 1:30 at the Council Ring. Interested people can gather at 1:15 to gather pine needles for the service. Please see Kevin or Diane for more service information. If you are in need of assistance to get to the Council Ring tomorrow for the Memorial Service, please meet all golf carting folks in front of the Inn at the flagpole. The Memorial Service will start at 1:30pm.

ERRORS DU JOURS

What will likely become a daily column (blame it on the new kid), we bring to you today's corrections from past Gems!

The "firefly" picture from yesterday was actually taken by Chris Peters, NOT Bill Milford. Bill attempted to take credit, but the Gems should

have recognized this would have been unusually impressive multi-tasking on the part of the Dean.

Addresses:

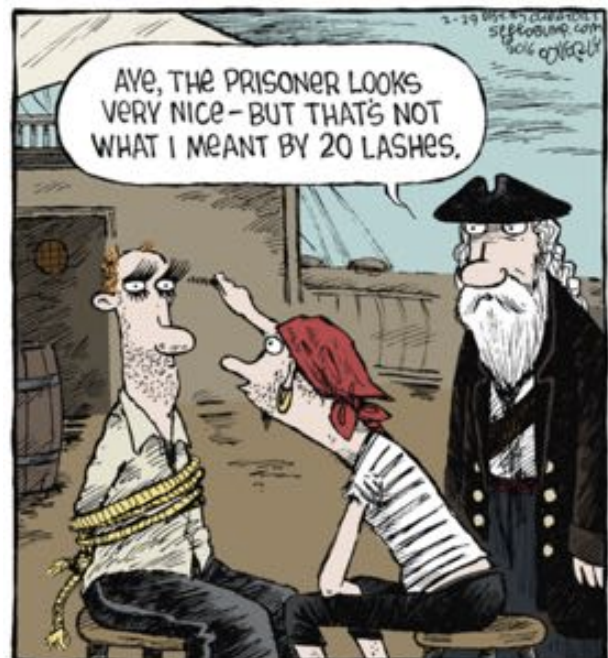
- Emerson, Amy / 21 Central Blvd. Bellingham, MA 02019 / & Sara
- Manfredi, Martha / 57 Hill St. Hopedale, MA 01747
- Finlayson, Deanna / 1243 35th Ave. San Francisco, CA 94122
- Smith, Meredith & Morrison, Chris / 55 Armory St. Apt. 2, Quincy, MA 02169

And the piece de resistance, the Gems Editors missed the rant about misspelling the Kendrix last name from 2016. So, to invoke such, they misspelled/misprinted Marilyn Kendrix's name while thanking her for stepping up to serve communion on Sunday.

So here it is: It is not "Hendrix" (that was Jimi who could light up his guitar), it is not "Kendricks" (that was Eddie of the Temptations). They are the KENDRIX family.

Editor's Note: We've now added "Kendrix" to our Microsoft Word dictionary. They'll never be misspelled again! Not to worry-- we'll misspell plenty of other people's names.

With sincere apologies,
Joe Morriseee & Kate Fear-of-auntie



CONFLICT ESCALATES BETWEEN MEXICO AND ITALY

Tensions stirred throughout camp around 5:31 PM yesterday. Voices fell to hushed tones when campers approached the buffet, prepared for pasta, only to find tortillas and taco shells. *"What is this?"* parents cried. *"I promised my child spaghetti and meatballs!"* Boycotts ensued, and the press scrambled to find answers. Whatever would become of the rest of the week's alleged menu?? An extensive FBI inquiry was launched to discover the source of this conflict, and to ensure the remainder of the week's meals did not result in bloodshed. Alas, a tweet from Peter Claypoole on Twitter revealed a secret agreement had been reached between Mexico and Italy to swap nights, but that the truce had been proprietary information withheld from the media. We are assured that Wednesday will NOT be tacos again, but will have plenty of pasta to gear up for the marathon Hoot later that night. A confidential source suggested the conspiracy originated from an insider at Jo Jo's, but this could not be verified.

WHATS UP, DOC?

Chapel Line welcomes new residents Chuck and Denise Livsey to the neighborhood. Chuck (who has acquired the name "Doctor Bombay" after the character from the 1960's sitcom "Bewitched") may be having second thoughts already as Mike Nisson keeps drawing him like a gun during his many soapbox pontifications. "I'm telling you, sleep apnea is serious and can even kill you. Isn't that right, Doctor Bombay?" "Hey Doctor Bombay, is the DNA code that's written on those shirts correct?" "Yo, Doctor Bombay, take a look at this lump on my butt." And that's just after the first day! Don't be surprised if Chuck disappears into the federal witness protection program before the week is out.

TOP 10 WINNI INJURIES

(adapted from the same list published in 1997)

- #10. Self-inflicted facial piercings from reading the Gems at dinner
- #9. Neck cramps from checking rafters for falling "Bat Movements" (or BM)
- #8. "Cheek chafing" from "Big Wind Blows"
- #7. Mosquito bites on unmentionables from "Nature calls" in the woods
- #6. Sore muscles from Sue & Melissa's class, yoga, swimming, and dancing with Barb
- #5. Impalement on Marshmallow sticks at the Weston campfire
- #4. Overdose of carbohydrates
- #3. Emotional distress following the Hoot
- #2. Disc injuries trying to imitate the "Winni Solid Gold Dancers" and
- the #1 injury results from: Cutthroat games of "Upset the Fruit Basket"



Is this...

- A) High schoolers wearing "relaxation masks"?
- B) Navy Seal training?
- C) Henna gone wrong?
- D) Proof that Winni is a cult?

IT WAS A GOOD WINNI DAY ✨

PIPER KENDRIX-WILLIAMS

When a paraphrased Einstein quote in Bill Robert's class and his description of the adolescent rite of passage fuel the words to a would-be song in the 3rd period Breakthrough Songwriting class:

"Time and space are an optical illusion' so I can be caught being late to the story of my children's growth. I can see the baby, the toddler, the 4-year-old they once were—how possibly could you be 8, 11, and 13!?!? So it is true: I look back as you move forward—Time and Space are an illusion; so here I am on the precipice of loss, it's the 'wailing wall' for me—the children grow and separate. Is this really what I fear, that you will no longer be near."

Other highlights of a good day at Winni:

- Getting to know better the Swarthmore '94 and all their families
- Talking to Jo Bentley about how deep the 1st world Empire's wealth depended on slavery
- Leaning into my husband's strong chest on a bench looking over the field as the Kaye's play Frisbee
- Meditation with Monica as we called God's spirit to call on us afresh

- Hunting whales, saving rabbits, piccolo-ing, campfires and s'mores, memories past, memories formed, tradition lived one day a week at a time: Thursday, ROAST BEEF
- Meeting (for real this time) Sara's mom Amy who I only knew last year as Sara's mom
- Amy and my mom talking deeply about faith, Trump, and the deep gulfs that we all are in danger of falling in
- Playing Apple to Apples with Olivia, Avery, Neal, Nina and Marina – trying to serve as objective judge only to be met on all sides with complaints and lobbying, but most of all, laughter
- Sitting close enough to Neal Mohapatra to see how his sweet face is dotted with freckles
- On the dock with Trevor and Denise – linking the long years at Winni to the first year
- Finally seeing Myriam, Kate and Tracy
- Lamenting with Abby Davis that our husbands can nap, fall asleep in a second
- Teaching Lee Eriksen to play Bananagrams and still beating my mom 1 out of 2 games

This was truly a good day at Winni.

SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE SIGNS

The sign-making station is open! More materials are needed, so if you have brought things (or happen to come across boards, cardboard, flat stones, etc.), you are welcome to bring them over to the playground side of the barn.

MEETING OF THE MIKE

How are you responding to the 11/9/16 election? If you want to talk about it, Mike Kelley is facilitating a group on Thursday at 7:30 pm on the Meeting House porch. We will discuss ways we are trying to resist the destruction of so many things we hold dear. This will be a time for all of us to share what is calling us to action and how we are trying to affect positive change in our government. All activists, armchair activists and folks who just want to help, but don't know how, are welcome.



Photo Credit 4. Catherine Jones

RESTORING COMMUNITY

3rd period rogue class -- Wednesday only

Tomorrow, 3rd period.

Meeting House screened in porch.

Len is doing a "circle" in the tradition of restorative practices.

The Theory in Soundbites

from iirp.edu

- "doing things *with* people, rather than *to* them or *for* them"
- "shift the balance of power using social emotional tools"
- "combines both high control and high support"

from Len

- *A mission:* "to support individuals to grow from plain life to community life, where plain life is about protecting oneself and community life is about satisfying oneself. One has the smarts to protect oneself without others, but not the smarts to satisfy oneself without community."
- "What's the smartest thing in the room? *easy:* "All of us together."
- "micro-community is a powerful engine for positive civil change"
- "think big, move slowly"

WITH THANKS

Yesterday, we set the day apart to have a contemplative nature. We wanted to give the framework time and space to hear and feel the Spirit whisper. We are very grateful to Miriam Siftar and Dan & Julie Nicholson for leading us in a quiet Quaker style worship at Morning Watch.

At Evening Watch yesterday, we had an experience of meditation lead by Monica Seaman, which allowed us to focus on Our Treasure. We each are given Light that manifests in our distinct and special personalities, our talents, our gifts. We did a quick journaling exercise to record what we heard in the quietness of meditation. This was the

Treasure that we celebrated last night. Thank you, Monica, for your leadership.

Today, we will be focusing on the Treasure in others. Many thanks to Marilyn! At Morning Watch, Marilyn Kendrix gave a very meaningful message about the power of words. The words we choose to speak can be a Treasure or they can be damaging and destructive. Marilyn's message this morning brought to my mind a similar theme from a book, *The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz, that says to be impeccable with your word. "Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love."

Tonight, Evening Watch will be in the Chapel at 6:45. We hope to see many friends gather as we experience the Treasure in others.

Blessings,
Diane and Kevin



Photo Credit 5. Lindy Hearne (of Lisa & Andre at the Bazaar)

DON'T CRY OVER SPILLED MINESTRONE ✨

JUSTIN GEORGE

Concerning yesterday's article about my recent minestrone incident (See the "A little birdie tells us" article - pouring a ladle of soup into a saucer, not a bowl.) Some facts were left out that I think are important to share for two reasons (1) even though sad, it's part of life and having pets, and (2) this is why we came to Winni - to try to laugh.

Now the sad...Just this past Saturday while we should have been on our way to Winni we needed to say goodbye to our dog Monty of 13 years. One day he's just a happy dog and the next he's looking you in the eye and wondering what is happening. Not something any pet owner wants to face. It was not a great day for Alison and I. Monty passed at 1:56pm Saturday.

Do we stay at home or come to Winni? It seemed obvious to us that Winni was the place we

belonged this week. Everyone's support has been so uplifting.

Actually, right before lunch I was talking to my mom about Monty. She was especially close to him since she was really his home-away-from-home. I was trying my best to help her through dealing with this. After the call, the smell of minestrone hung in the air but I also had my mom on my mind. I wanted to grab a saucer and bowl but just forgot the bowl. Sorry, GPC staff! Minestrone all over the place. I looked up and there was [person to remain nameless] laughing at me. What could I do but laugh?

That's Winni; Friends, laughter, caring and Minestrone will never be the same. Just call me Campbell's.

Thankfully, for those at the Weston Campfire.
MONDAY IS WASHDAY!



Photo Credit 6. Charley Smith (of the Barb & Bill & Co. concert)

ALTERNATIVE NEWS FACTS...

- In her previous life, Barb Siftar was the Energizer bunny.
- The Inn has a proud history of being host to presidents, kings, and captains of industry. It's now host to us. This has to be a huge blow to said pride and perhaps that's why the Inn now sags.
- Lakeview Lodge has been voted the nicest place to stay. The Barn has been voted as the place where most memories are made. Chapel Line has been voted off the island.
- Simon Cowell will be judging Wednesday night's Hoot. Mark Brady and Chuck Bates couldn't handle the pressure and have decided to cancel this year's version of "Who's on First?"
- Waving to Georgie is actually a reference to Mount Washington in Coos County. Georgie would need a space telescope to see us as Coos County is approximately 125 miles away.
- The lake is filled with ducks that like to come onshore and peck at your toenails (especially if they're painted). You don't believe us? Ask Sue Hartley!
- That was indeed spaghetti and meatballs you were eating last night. It was just cleverly disguised as Mexican food because the staff was getting an early start on Cinco de Mayo.
- The Brosious clan is growing at an exponential rate and intends a hostile takeover in the near future. Winni will be renamed "Ohio State: Northeast Campus".
- Robert and Cynthia Campbell plan to fight Justin George's new nickname in court.
- Ken and Jane Cheek are still apologizing for introducing the Morrisseys to camp.
- No matter how much they try to deny it, Bill Milford and Din Stevens miss the Gems office.
- Paul DiTucci is the mythical "5th Beetle".
- Colorado is getting a bit annoyed by the influx of campers that have taken up residence there. A collection is being taken up because the residents of said state are convinced that the campers must have originally been heading to California but ran out of gas money.

... AND THEN THERES JUST FAKE NEWS:

- I don't need to shower, I smell just fine.
- That's a **meatball**.
- The GEMS is a good read.
- The water is so warm.
- Those bears don't scare me.
- I was just meditating.
- I don't have any problem getting out to the far raft.
- Maybe I'll have just one s'more.
- I can show you how to make the Junior Birdman glasses without hurting yourself.
- Oh, I know this dance!

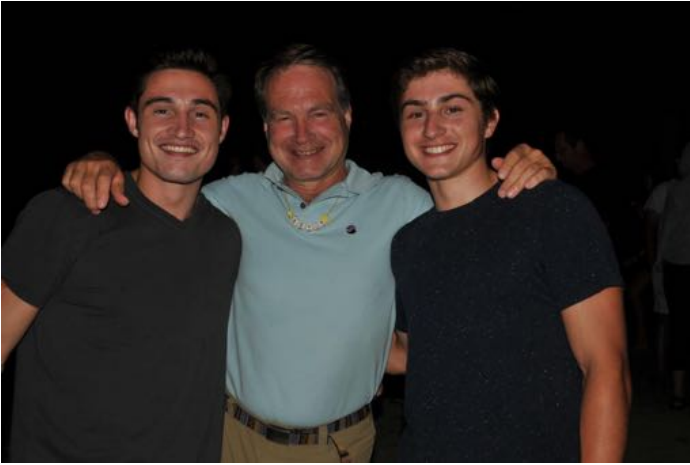
WEVE BEEN THINKING...

(AND THAT'S BAD NEWS FOR THE CAMP)

Sitting in the Gems office listening to the gentle chorus of "Ommmm" of Jennifer Brosious' yoga class coming from one direction, and then the sound of Sue Nisson screaming "Come on, get uncomfortable!" to her exercise class coming from the other direction. Such is life here at Winni. Our illustrious co-dean Joann Milford needs to be reminded that you need to open the window before you pop out your head when waving to Georgie in the morning. Otherwise, medical attention will be in her near future. Calling Doctor Bombay!



While we slave away in the Gems office, the Gems "widows" are working out and going to classes. They're lucky someone in these families brings home the bacon.



JEW WITH A VIEW ☆ BARI PRINCE

• Lifecycle Events •

Wait a minute – death? Didn't we just do birth? Did the bris go badly?

Here's the thing. I couldn't bear the thought of ending our week together writing about death, so I'm sneaking

it in now to get it over with, so to speak. All will be right with the world tomorrow when we talk about B'nai Mitzvot (that's Bar Mitzvahs in grammatically correct Hebrew).

I'll start by describing a few of the traditional rituals and beliefs surrounding death in Judaism, followed by discussing modern practices and what you might expect at a Jewish funeral today.

Some Traditional Rituals and Beliefs

A Jewish body is never left alone before burial as a sign of deep respect. People called shomerim (guards or keepers) sit with the body around the clock. After the 9/11 attacks in New York, Jews in the area coordinated and sat with the remains of the victims 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the 7 months it took for those remains to be identified and buried.

In a traditional Jewish burial, the unembalmed body is wrapped in a simple linen shroud and placed in a plain wood coffin which is completely biodegradable. This supports two beliefs - that all deceased, whether rich or poor, should be treated with an equal amount of respect and dignity, and that the natural process of death and decay should be honored.

Jewish law forbids open caskets for several reasons. It is considered to be disrespectful to look at a dead person, and on the practical side, since bodies are not embalmed, it would not be a pleasant experience. You will never see an open casket at a Jewish funeral.

In general, Jews are not cremated. Again, there are multiple reasons for this. One is the belief that the soul doesn't leave the body immediately after death, and the natural process of decay in the earth allows a gradual separation of the soul from the body. In addition, the body is considered to be the property of G-d, and it is forbidden to defile it. In modern times, the cremation of Jews during the Holocaust reinforced the taboo against cremation.

Traditionally burial takes place within 24 hours of death. Today with families and friends spread out around the country and the world, allowances are made so that everyone can gather. Funerals do not take place on Shabbat or on most Jewish holidays.

The official mourners are the parent, child, spouse or sibling of the deceased, and they have specific responsibilities and prohibitions.

Judaism defines several distinct phases of mourning of decreasing intensity, starting from the moment of death

and moving through the first and subsequent anniversaries of a death. During the first, most intense phase, it was customary to tear one's clothing, usually over the heart. Today this is symbolized by tearing a black ribbon, which is worn over the heart. You will notice mourners wearing this ribbon at the funeral and during the period of shiva (more below).

Attending a Jewish Funeral

You may be hesitant about attending a Jewish funeral because it is different from what you are used to and you are worried about doing the wrong thing. Here are some tips to put you at ease.

The most important thing is to attend. Judaism places tremendous value on attending funerals and comforting mourners. Attend if you are able. It means a great deal to the family of the deceased to be surrounded by community.

Dress appropriately. For men, this means a suit or jacket and a tie. For women, wear clothing that would be appropriate in a business setting, not party attire. This is not the time for halter tops or short skirts. And wear comfortable shoes for the graveside service – you will be walking on grass and heels are difficult to manage.

Be respectful in every way. When you are greeting people, speak quietly. Turn off your phone or, better yet, leave it in the car. Don't speak during the service unless you are joining in a prayer or otherwise participating at the prompting of the rabbi.

Follow directions. The funeral director will be very specific about where to park, where to enter the building, directions for forming a procession if there is one, etc.

At the graveside – There will be seating designated for the official mourners. Find a place to stand or sit if directed by the funeral director.

Some prayers will be said, and the casket will be lowered. It is customary for the mourners and attendees to shovel earth onto the grave. This is a symbolic way to care for the body. Generally the mourners will be the first to do this and others will follow. You don't need to participate. If you do, notice that you do not hand the shovel to the next person – pick up the shovel, place the dirt on the grave, and then put the shovel back. You may feel uncomfortable about this ritual, but it is very powerful and participating may feel meaningful to you.

After the funeral - The funeral director will announce the location and directions to the meal of condolence which follows the funeral. Generally this will be held at the mourners' home and is the beginning of the time of sitting shiva.

When you arrive at this meal, it is traditional to wash your hands with water from a pitcher placed outside of the door. This custom is based on the idea that contact with a corpse causes ritual impurity.

There are numerous customs for sitting shiva, and you might see evidence of some or all of these when visiting the mourners' home. Mirrors may be covered; mourners may not shave, bathe or change their clothes; they may sit on low stools or the floor instead of chairs. The mood is generally solemn and respectful.

It is customary to serve foods that are round to symbolize the cyclical nature of life. You will most commonly see hardboiled eggs, lentils, chickpeas and of course the ubiquitous bagel.

Again, what is most important is showing up in support of the bereaved. Stay as long as you are comfortable or able; be sure to spend a moment with the mourners. You may bring some food or dessert but this isn't required, and if you aren't sure about the mourners' preferences, bring something Kosher to be safe.

No flowers! Jewish traditions around death and funerals do not include flowers. Don't send flowers to the funeral home or the home of the mourners. The best ways to show your support are to attend the funeral and shiva, send a condolence card, send a gift of Kosher food (a fruit basket or similar), or plant a tree in Israel in honor of the deceased.

Okay, good, we've gotten that out of the way! On to happier times tomorrow. In the meantime, today's joke:

*On his deathbed, an old Jewish man says to his wife:
Oh, Sarah, when the shop burned down you were right beside me, no?
Sure I was, Moshe.
When the Nazis drove us out of our beloved homeland you were beside me again, no?
I was, Moshe.
And now you're at my death bed, aren't you?
I am, darling.
I'm starting to think you're bad luck, Sarah.*