

THE GENEVA GEMS

FINAL ISSUE = YOU GET TO GO BACK TO YOUR REGULAR #FAKENEWS

COFFEEHOUSE

They may have better tennis courts, but camps Tecumseh and Robindel cannot possibly have more talent than what resides here at Winni. So, we give thanks to those who made the night special: Kevin Weston (like always), Bill Milford, Allie Bruch, Lindy Hearne, Chris Peters, Renaldo Cruz, Julia Ganley, Kelsey Stewart, Luanne Wilczynski, Trevor Tre and Parker Davis, Jerry Christman, Monica Seaman, Rachel Gundersen, Stacie Finlayson, John Hoda, Stefan Livsey, Jared Goldman, Derrick Hal, Q and Sean, Courtney Stewart, and Blythe Bentley. It was an impressive display of talent, unique instruments, and original works. Plus, where else is even the clean up afterwards that much fun?



FROM THE EVENING COORDINATORS...

Last night:

Coffee House

We are so thankful for the talents of everyone sharing their treasures with us. What a gift to have a community where we feel safe, supported, and encouraged to be vulnerable and try new things. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible. Special thanks to Kevin Weston and Jared Goldman.

Today:

Seed Spitting Contest

Prepare your lungs and personal technique developed through the years to launch watermelon seeds the length of the inn porch. We'll see who's truly full of air.

Shabbat Service

Join the Shabbat service led by Bari before our closing ceremony. You don't need to be of a particular religion to join in and experience a spiritual tradition. All are welcome.

Closing Ceremony

A beautiful conclusion to another week. This always adds an intentional bookend to our year, while inviting the next chapter for the coming year. Hear reflections and songs from other campers & allow their treasure and light to ignite yours. Take this light and disperse it to your home community. Live Winni.

Tomorrow:

We recommend you all start practicing your Hoot act for next year!

We feel honored and privileged to have been your evening coordinators this year. We continue to learn that preparation can only take you so far and flexibility is truly key to each night being a success. Thankfully we have an understanding and supportive community where we continue to grow and learn how we can improve for each following year. We will be the coordinators again next year. We welcome constructive feedback and creative ideas for the coming year on the evaluation survey. Thank you!

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS...

6:30-7:15 – Watermelon Seed Spitting (Inn porch)
 7:30-8:00 – Shabbat service (Chapel)
 8:15-9:15 – Closing Ceremony (Barn)
 9:30-11:00 – Barn Dancing (Chapel)

And tomorrow (Saturday)...

7:30-7:55 – Morning Watch (Inn)

YOUR WINNI WEATHER...



Tonight: Scattered thunderstorms (60%)
 80°/63°

Saturday: Thunderstorms likely. Gusty winds and small hail are possible. UV Index 4 of 10 (though we're guessing there

won't be much sunbathing)

Sunrise: 5:37 AM • Sunset: 8:02 PM

SATURDAY'S MENU...



Breakfast: Belgian Waffles

Lunch: Whatever you can find on your way home

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEANS...

As we wind up Winni 2017, it feels like our theme of “Sharing Our Treasures” has been a really useful one. In a year where many of us have felt the winds of change blowing cold and fierce – the sharing and exploration of our personal resources (emotional, spiritual, physical) has brought to mind for me – a sense of reassurance and personal power. I believe what we experience at Winni is real, not la-la-land (although we are a particularly musical bunch) – or a fictional representation of ourselves that we can pull off for one week in the summer. For me this week is an open invitation of opportunity – and exploration of “what if”. What if we brought our best selves to one another day after day? What if we had friends, old and new, who are willing to help us shoulder life’s challenges? What if we truly practiced the idea to “take time in life” to be with one another – and to be a witness to our respective growth as humans within this marvelous mystery of life.

As Deans, we are privileged to be the hosts for the week and to be privy to some of the challenges that getting 300 people together for a week can entail. We are so proud of this community in the way that it takes care of one another, especially of our young people. Each year, I feel like we build upon a tradition of care – meeting people where they are – and using a compassionate compass to guide us in problem solving. I have no doubt that this has been and will continue to be, a challenging week for those who lives intersect Winni week with a plethora of personal challenges. However, my hope is that through our continued connections with this place, with one another, and the spirit that enables our better selves to emerge – we build a resilience and confidence that “yes, not only here but there...” – that we can bring this presence of being to other parts in our life. “From this place, go and build a better world...” After a week of seeing the awesome talents, the social activist commitment, and heart and soul of this community – it is easy to imagine the small changes we all can make to create a more Winni like world.

We are so thankful to all of the staff at NNESRE and GPC for the collaborative efforts that have made this week go so smoothly. And we thank all of you in advance, in the hopeful expectation that you will provide useful feedback in your Winni Week evaluation, and be involved in the planning process for our Winni Week – July 28, 2018 to August 4, 2018. Thank you and see you next year!

Bill and Joann Milford
 Co-Deans

WE TREASURE YOUR EVALUATIONS...

YOU make the difference when it comes to us creating a vision and shaping our Winni Week for 2018! Please take a moment to fill out this online evaluation about your experience this week. You can quickly rate items and you will have the opportunity to write out compliments, concerns, etc. that the Program Committee and Trustees will thoughtfully discuss. We know the Gems can't get much better, but the rest of your comments will be used in detail!

<https://surveygoldcloud.com/s/5D2A5E69B42B4082/204.htm>

ERRORS DU JOUR...

Today's episode of How-the-Gems-Got-It-Wrong includes:

- Corrections to the corrections (we've really outdone ourselves this time): Email for Ken Cheek is kennethcheek@gmail.com; email for Jane Cheek is janecheek@gmail.com. (To make up for this, both will get the Gems emailed personally to them today!)
- Hillary Irvine + Andrew "Andy" Slezak, 1960 Commonwealth Ave. #52, Boston, MA 02135
- Ginny Houghtaling email: ginnyhoughtaling@gmail.com
- Our apologies to Jo Bentley's Mindfulness class for the frequent disturbances we caused during your times of reflection. We try to keep it down but sometimes we forget that we're sharing space in the Chapel and that it's not always all about us. It should be, but it's not always.

WINNI SWIMMI RESULTS

The 2017 Edition of the Dennis Courtney Memorial Swimmi saw 27 swimmers enjoy the open waters of Lake Winnepesaukee! The weather was picture-perfect as the swimmers set out at 2:30pm for the ¼, ½ and 1 mile swims. First year camper Regan Hoftenstein had never swum in open water, yet she touched the buoy first this year! There were many debut mile swimmers this year including Juliana Davis, Conna Porcari, Daniel Kamin, Sean Brosious and Rachel Brosious. Several other swimmers turned in their personal bests yesterday including Kate Milford, Alexa Davis, Julia Ganley and Bari Prince. Barb Siftar did her first Swimmi in 11 years as first place finisher in the one-half mile Semi-Swimmi. Debut swimmer Jason Davis along with Ruth James inaugurated our one-quarter mile "Demi-Swimmi" – yes folks there is an option available for all who would like to participate in this annual act of lake appreciation! Perennial participant Leslie Ganley gets the spirit award for the most starts on the books with 17 swims so far. Many swimmers honored the event's namesake by wrapping up the Swimmi with a classic Dennis Courtney feet-first finish. Special thanks go out to Din Stevens and Ed Cunningham, Allie DiTucci and Will Abbot who staffed the canoes at the turnarounds, as well as Diane Smith who was our timer. A big thanks also goes out to all the campers who boated alongside the swimmers – we couldn't have done it without you!

First	Last	# times in Swimmi	Best time	2017 time
Regan	Hoftenstein	1	0:37:26	0:37:26
Cameron	Brosious	4	0:38:52	0:41:53
Joann	Milford	14	0:37:44	0:42:53
Kate	Milford	2	0:42:57	0:42:57
Shannon	Smith	4	0:37:33	0:43:27
Helen	Fox	2	0:43:48	0:46:19
Celia	Nicholson	5	0:42:59	0:46:23
Myriam	Siftar	3	0:45:27	0:47:50
Julie	Siftar-Nicholson	13	0:41:12	0:48:15
Daniel	Kamin	1	0:48:17	0:48:17
Sean	Brosious	1	0:48:52	0:48:52
Mikayla	Smith	3	0:42:38	0:49:27
Alexa	Davis	4	0:49:31	0:49:31
Sonja	Nicholson	3	0:49:11	0:49:54
Julia	Ganley	2	0:49:59	0:49:59
Leslie	Ganley	17	0:46:48	0:50:44
Bari	Prince	4	0:51:44	0:51:44
Conna	Porcari	1	0:55:52	0:55:52
Justin	George	2	0:49:00	0:59:21
Lisetta	Silvestri	5	0:59:28	1:02:22
Juliana	Davis	1	1:08:14	1:08:14
Abby	Davis	7	0:42:45	1:08:18
Jason	Brosious	9	0:59:00	1:15:57
Rachel	Brosious	1	1:15:59	1:15:59

Semi-Swimmi:

Barb Siftar, 0:28:13

Demi-Swimmi:

Jason David, 0:20:35

Ruth James, 0:21:00



Note: the Gems editors have never participated in the Swimmi, but might be tempted if there was Häagen-Dazs set up at each turn...



Like father, like son

PROM OUR CHAPLAIN'S...

Much gratitude to Amy Bruch for yesterday's Morning Watch leadership. She shared beautiful and thought provoking poetry with interludes of drumming by Renaldo. Having the drums play was a creative pause that gave our mind the time to dwell on the spoken words of poetry and to process individually.

Yesterday's Evening Watch was focused on the sharing of Winni Treasures. Many shared aloud a Treasure that they take with them from Winni to enrich their lives and the lives of others in the remaining 51 weeks of the year. We are so fortunate to have this community of people with diverse gifts, talents, passions, knowledge, and skills, that are caring and intentional with their relationships. We are thankful to Lynn & Lindy who opened our EW with "Send them Love" and concluded with "Do Justice, Seek Mercy, and Walk Humbly with Your God." May we all take these lyrics to heart, and live them all year long.

Today's Morning Watch was lead by Bob Fellows. We are grateful for his message about art and nature and scripture. All are timeless, a pathway to reality, and has different perspectives. We experienced looking at nature through a 4X6 frame. Having the focus on what is only inside the frame really changes its intensity, its composition, its meaning. How, then, shall we live our lives?

We hope to see many at the Shabbat EW tonight lead by Bari in the Chapel at 6:45. It is open to all, and will be a wonderful start to an evening of ceremony and closure.

*Blessings,
Diane & Kevin*

CONGRATS?

Congratulations (we think) to Trevor Morrissey and Jamie Wilcox Smith on being elected as the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Board of Trustees. They immediately began hatching plans to get themselves impeached by stating that their motto will be "Make Winni Great Again".

THANKS FROM ED SCHOOL CHAIRS

A HUGE thank you to all of the wonderful Children's Ed School teachers! For all of their time, effort, planning, and enthusiasm, we owe a huge round of applause. These individuals play a majorly important role in our community, inspiring Winni's youngest during the best week of the year! The 2017 Ed School staff has been incredibly generous and giving of their time, working extremely hard to develop and plan for their classes--the result has been a week of extreme fun and creative learning for our camp's youngest constituent. This year each class provided a fabulous array of activities to engage their students which will, no doubt, echo throughout their year.

It was our pleasure to work with these amazing people. Our most heartfelt thanks goes out to our wonderful teachers! Bravo!

Nursery: Kathy Pike + Alex St. Louis

Pre-K: Robbie + Katie Wilcox-Smith

K-2: Rachel Gundersen + Blythe Bentley

3-5: Cierra "CC" Whitlock + Kate Milford
featuring Tré Davis

6-8: Ali DiTucci + Melissa DiTucci + Will Abbot

High School: Allison Milford + Tré Davis

Beach Duty: Julia + Rose Ganley

3rd Period Playground duty: Myriam Siftar

With sincere gratitude,

Your 2017 Ed School Co-chairs Hillary + Andy



Beaver and Minion, Camping area Co-mascots, hanging by the fire ring

CURIOUS ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY FOR YOUR HOME?

Do you have solar panels now? Or have you considered getting them? Several Winni folks have experience with this issue and can help share informal advice if you find yourself in need. Church communities can get involved as well, with audits of church buildings, helping members considering green investments as well as advocating for good policies at the local, state and federal levels. Check out <http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/> for more info. And for connecting with supportive Winni green energy geeks, email siftar@gmail.com

JOE'S OBSERVATIONS FROM A GOLF CART...

- I never thought about it, but it's tough to see the stars through the roof these things.
- I'm still waiting for Cathy Smith to accept my challenge of a drag race.
- How is Chapel Line going to get along without the use of this thing to fetch ice next year?
- Just like automobiles, there are good golf cart drivers, and there are bad golf cart drivers. I'm just grateful that these things don't go above 5 miles per hour or so.
- People seem to give me bigger smiles than normal when I drive by. I think they're hoping that I'll give them a ride.

It was a pleasant surprise to have Hamish Blackman show up at camp with his bagpipes even if it was only for a day. Thanks for sharing your treasure!

MESSAGE FROM A TRUSTEE

(No, not a NNESRE trustee. A Trustee of GPC.)

Having recently accepted a position on Geneva Point's Board of Trustees I am more aware than ever that our experience here as NNESRE is as much about the location as it is about our conference experience. I am not sure I could ever imagine one without the other. I believe most of us would agree that when we arrive we immediately start to notice the positive changes, most times small, sometimes quite obvious, that have taken place while we have been off to "build a better world". It could be noticing a new screen door or freshly

painted building that I would hope leads to the realization that our other home is being cared for and, whenever possible, improved while we are out going about living the greater part of our lives.

I also know that when we leave this place we start counting the days and weeks until we shall return. But you should know also that while you are gone all the staff, volunteers and board members here are doing their very best to make sure they are tending to this sacred place with all its needs and sometimes unexpected demands that cry for attention. This place is a living place and it requires nurturing and attention almost as does any person. It demands attention and a sense of direction as it continues to follow a mission to be there for, not just NNESRE, but for the dozen other groups who also feel that very same sense of home and deep spirit in the very grounds to which we return each and every year with great expectation.

I would ask now that you remain curious throughout the year about our host Geneva Point Center and what is happening at your home on the lake while you are away. I know any curious person may at anytime tune into the goings on here at GPC simply by going onto Face book or the GPC website and a certain amount of filtered information gets told through the NNESRE/Winni grapevine but do not assume that you are on any direct Geneva Point's contact list. I am reaching out to all so that you may understand that as much as our experience here at NNESRE is deeply intertwined with the facility that hosts us, as a matter of rule, none of your personal information is shared with GPC.

I would wish for you all to consider our relationship with our host and all that this place means to us. I would ask that you take a moment to volunteer your contact info with the conference center and to stay abreast of the goings on of this living place and to help nurture these living grounds in any way you can, either by becoming a sustaining member or by volunteering time or by simply telling others about this wonderful place. This place is more than just the host of your conference; it is the home of your memorable experiences and memories. Could you possibly even imagine the one without the other? This property that is GPC must remain our own and not fall as a victim of inattentiveness. There are unfortunately many sad stories of people's childhood camps being wiped from the face of the earth by developers or neglect and that we must work to protect that which we hold so dear.

(NOTE: Simple things like attending any of the numerous other conferences and programs available throughout the season or just being a guest and using this as a base of operations for a vacation also help.)

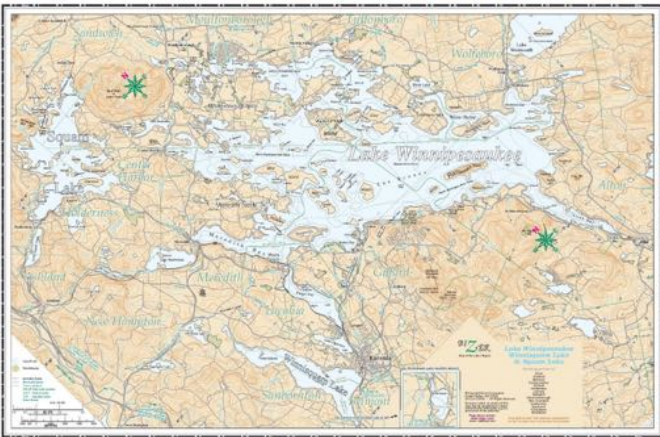
So please take a moment before you leave this place and volunteer your contact information to GPC.

Thank You,
Kevin Weston

Trustee, Geneva Point Conference Center

It's been reported that President Trump referred to the White House as "a dump". Obviously, the man has never had to stay at Pasture Line.

ALTERNATIVE FACTS RE: THE LAKE



If the center area of Lake Winnepesaukee is called "The Broads", is there another area of the lake called "The Dudes"? Pondering such mysteries inspired us to research some of the history of our beloved lake. Therefore, in yet another thought provoking segment that you've come to expect from us, we share with you some (alternative) facts about the lake:

- Meredith Bay at the western edge of Winnepesaukee is named after the future Mrs. Chris Morrison. The northeastern shore of the bay is known as Meredith Neck. Evidently, the southern shore is named Meredith Toenails.
- Early settlers south of Meredith Bay got lost attempting to find a nice place to swim and relax. Hence the name *Weirs Beach*.
- The town of Wolfeboro at the eastern end of The Broads was named after Mike Nisson for obvious reasons. Wolfeboro is connected to Lake Wentworth which derives its name from the bygone years of when it was home to numerous floating casinos.

- Stonedam Island in Meredith was named by Wes Gunderson after he sailed into a particularly unforgiving rock.
- Ben and Jerry came up with the local town name of Laconia Bay because Lacherrygarcia Bay sounded stupid.
- Moultonborough Bay is connected to The Broads by some narrow straits running between a cluster of islands including Long Island (named after Wes Gunderson's Hoot act), Cow Island (an udderly ridiculous name), Sandy Island (evidently the name Koufax Island was already taken), and Little Bear Island (named by Goldilocks because its marina was just right).

And as a bonus, our research on the lake unearthed some history about our camp:

- Tents here at camp are descendants of mountain men and women who lived off the land and loved the great outdoors. Dock Road campers are descendants of European immigrants who worked in the boatyards. Lakeview Lodge residents are descendants of the Rockefellers.
- The Barn was built on an ancient bat burial ground. Which explains everything.

IN LIEU OF MY MORNING WATCH:

Treasured Moments (for what they're worth)

Right now I have a mom who asks the same questions, over and over, and I answer them over and over. Mom no longer recognizes Charlie, her husband of 50 years, nor the house in which she raised her family. And though she says, "Jen Jen!" when I arrive, I force a smile when I remind her I'm her daughter and she smiles in surprise, saying, "You'd think I would have remembered that!"

Driving the roads where she has lived her whole life, Mom will ask, astounded at my navigational aptitude, "How do you know where to go? I'd get lost!" And when I get her an ice cream cone, she'll proclaim, like it's the first time she's ever tasted ice cream, "this is delicious!", as I remind her to keep eating before it melts all over her hand.

314 Court Street, however, the home where mom grew up, remains an anchor, tethering some part of her to the world --the world that I desire to keep her in. So, I try to drive by 314 Court Street every time we go out, slowing down

so she can see the stucco sides and brown roof, and so I can feel her joy, as she exclaims, “that’s my house!”

Right now I have a golden retriever, Jesse, who was just diagnosed with cancer. It’s in his leg and in his lungs, on his spleen and who knows where else. He is dying, but as a friend kindly reminded me, he doesn’t know it. He revels in tummy rubs and chicken chews, and every time I come home, he still wiggles his tail and brings me his latest, greatest, squeaky toy.

When I paddle him across “our” lake, in kayak or on paddle-board, he sits with golden-dog joy, ears perking, body struggling to contain excitement at flapping wings of seagulls, or statue still blue herons who come to life, lifting off before us. He marvels as fish swirl the calm water in front of him, and rides the waves with me, with seemingly no fear of falling in.

Right now, the treasure I have received through this time with mom and Jesse dog, has been this: bearing witness to how to live when NOW is all you have. For “now,” through mom’s wondering blue eyes and Jesse’s curious brown eyes, is a space where *even if* yesterday’s love is forgotten, its regret and pain can be forgotten too. “Now” is the place where the joy of the moment that IS can never be taken away, *even if* tomorrow’s hopes and dreams go unrealized.

Much as the intellectual me knew “now” held great riches, the path that led me here is not a path I would have chosen, and what I have found upon arriving is not what I thought I needed. Now is not about hope; it is not a “hope it will get better” kind-of-place — the kind of place that so often has kept me going. “Now” is not what I am prone to do. It is appreciation rather than seeking “more.” It is letting go of “if only” and breathing in all that IS, rather than holding my breath for “what if.” I dare say it may even be the serenity of acceptance I have so often prayed for.

Right now I *not* at Winni. I am not dancing out of step, not waving to Georgie at half past eight, and not laughing by the campfire.

Right now I am not seeing precious faces I hold so dear, nor sharing invaluable conversations.

Yet, I can hear the harmony in the chapel, and I can feel the spirit-feeding, life-giving, grace-filled treasure that is surely overflowing the banks of GPC, as I find myself so grateful to be where I am.

For in my “Now” with mom and Jesse, I am not letting my moments of joy be pirated by all the “shoulds” I often shoulder.

Instead, I am finding moments that are
Sweet and smooth as ice-cream,
Cool as Winni water lapping over my feet,
Stunning as the sun setting over the western hills,
Satisfying as an itch that gets scratched,
Safe as the company of one who loves you,
and Joyful as the one who is glad you are there —just as
you are —
Even if just
for now.

— Jennifer Hanrahan 08.01.2017

CALLING ALL MOMS • PIPER KENDRIX WILLIAMS

(and Dads, if ever so frustrated) who are ever mad or exasperated at your child(ren) losing things... after hearing one more mom complain about this—a four-stanza song/spoken word rap broke through along with the inspiration for a Hoot act for next year. See me if you can or email at piperkwilliams@gmail.com (and there will be redemption at the end).

“The Quantum Physics of Parenting” by Piper Kendrix Williams (Draft 2)

My three classes this week have fueled my breakthrough song; a song Lynn and Lindy told us could be seen as a song for ourselves, a song we need. So, here is iteration 2 of my song (thanks also to Einstein and Bill Roberts for some words and inspiration):

*I can see the baby, the toddler, the four-year-old
You see instead 13, 16, 21, if truth be told*

CHORUS: *Time and space are an optical illusion
Time and space are an optical delusion*

*I look back as you move forward;
I’ll hold on and you can’t wait
Illusion and Delusion crash in on me;
My children’s growth is a story I get **too** late.*

CHORUS

Bridge: *Am I on the precipice of loss?
Is it the ‘wailing wall’ for me?
Is this what I fear that you’ll no longer be
near?*

*‘Limited in space by the envelop of our skin’
‘We all must face the life we’re in’*

FINAL CHORUS:

*If time and space are an optical illusion
I must side with your future instead of your now*

MY TREASURES FROM WINNI...

By Kelly Garrett

Although I spend only one week a year at camp, my “Winni treasures” are with me wherever I go: When I see a barn, I think of dancing with friends! When I hear children playing and laughing in the distance, I imagine the Green and fun times spent at the lake. When it rains in the trees, I am filled with the sound, smell, and feel of rain in the forest. When I hear bagpipes, I remember the sound of Hamish’s bagpipes drifting to me on the wind across camp. When I sit in a rocker, I hear snippets of beautiful harmonies in my mind. When I see Winni friends on Facebook or in person, I look forward to making more memories with them. When we say the words “black socks” at home, it leads into the song. When my heart and soul are in need of renewal, I long for a week of Vespers. All year long, Winni feeds my soul.

WHAT IS IT? • DIN STEVENS

Winni in two sentences or less

When someone who has never been here asks you “What’s Winni?”, what do you tell them?

I asked this to a bunch of people today. The first response was usually a tenuous sort of “Oohhhh.....”, the translation of which seemed to fall somewhere between “It’s complicated” and “I was hoping they wouldn’t ask this one on the test.”

With encouragement, people could say more – but sometimes not *much* more. I got a few answers like this:

- “As little as possible.”
- “It’s a camp on a lake.”
- “I want an attorney.”

Some had an easier time saying what Winni isn’t: “You don’t come for the food.” And along the same lines: “Well, it’s not for the accommodations.” OK, we got that. So far, we understand that a) it is not a luxury resort with fabulous food and b) anything you say about it may be used against you.

Some emphasized one aspect or another: “It’s a beautiful place on a lake,” “A place to connect with nature,” “A great place to meet interesting people.” “A week unplugged from the outside world.” It’s about “body, mind, and soul”, “community”, and “forging deep connections”. Others avoided getting tangled in detail and tried to paint it in broad strokes: “It’s a

summer camp for whole families.” “It’s a summer camp for all ages.”

Some people described it by analogy. One said “I think it’s like an adult college”. This puzzled me at first but it made sense when I thought about it. Adults (of all ages) pay a lot of money, hang out on a campus, go to classes (or don’t), party and dance together, stay up all night, engage in bizarre rituals of group identification, and come back for reunions every year. (Hmmm, but what about all those kids running around?) Another said “... it’s like this little New England village, where everybody knows everybody, but the thing about this village is – the villagers sleep 51 weeks a year.” This is akin to Dotti Siftar’s description of Winni as Brigadoon -- complete with bagpipes, as it happens.

Then there’s the “church camp” question. Is Winni a weeklong church camp where partying breaks out, or is it a weeklong party where churchy things break out?

Well, both, and all the above, and more. It’s like the blind men describing the elephant – all our descriptions are accurate but insufficient.

Live Winni, bring friends. And when they ask you “What’s Winni?”, maybe just say “Well, it’s kinda like an elephant.”



ECRS...

Fall and Winter Play-cations for the whole family!

How can it be the last day of Winni already? Why wait a whole year for another dose of camp singing, dancing, crafts and play? Then consider another opportunity for community at the recreation cooperative "ECRS" - an all ages getaway to connect, create, and play. The Fall Weekend Getaway is Labor Day Weekend in the Pocono Mountains of NE PA, and the Winter Adventure runs December 27 - January 1st near Corning New York, a

magical way to start the new year with renewal and community. Check out our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/yay4ecrs/> and our website: <http://www.ecrs.org/> or ask any [Siftar](#) for details!

POISON IVY? OR NOT...?

Have you ever been on a poison ivy hunt? It has some similarity to a walrus hunt: from a distance you might not have any idea what's happening. Cindy Campbell is our EXPERT (sorry- inside joke for New Politics class). Wanting Morgan (age 4) to know what to watch out for on walks in the woods her parents, Ben and Tracy Eskra, enlisted Aunt Cindy to provide the lesson. First of all it would seem a better lesson would be how to avoid mama bear and cubs, Right!? but do we have such an expert? Grandma Debbie Eskra came along as educational consultant. Cousins Elia and Emmy came along to rescue Morgan if need be, although Elia had no shoes on and her parents have to answer for that (Liz and Jeremy St. Louis) and Emmy was pretty busy searching for new pets. Morgan quickly caught Cindy trying to trick her by removing a leaf from a bunch, then asking if there were 3 leaves. Morgan saw through her and remarked, "There were 4 until you picked one!" Morgan does not need looking after, in case you haven't noticed. After noting and approving of the socratic method (Does this plant have 3 leaves? Are there any pricklers? Is the triad of leaves symmetrical? Is the petiole - that is 'stem'- to the middle leaf longer? Does the next group of leaves going down the vine have 2 leaves? Is there just one shade of green to the leaves? Is the edge of the leaves saw-tooth or smooth?) Debbie had some concern about the length and depth of the lesson and suggested Cindy cut to the chase. Cindy is used to doing what her bossy older sister tells her. Real poison ivy was found easily, just off the path, 5 feet away. (Suspicious of a set-up!) Cindy put on her blue nitrile gloves for the real drama of the lesson. Morgan was right with her now! Cindy uncovered the fiendish vine beneath some unsuspecting weeds, and there it was: (Reference Socratic questions above) *All groups of leaves* were symmetrical groups of 3, with smooth edges, at least 3 different shades of green leaves, no pricklers, center stem is longer. And not a shiny leaf to be seen (answer to bonus question: Does poison ivy always have shiny leaves)!

And in answer to your next question, How is a person an expert on poison ivy? Cindy's business is removing

poison ivy : weedpoisonivy@theglovedhand.com. GPC will need to consider travel expenses for Cindy as she is located in CT, alas.

And your last question, Where was this poisonous treasure found? Near the golf-cart path used mostly by GPC staff from Lake view cabins to back of Inn. The Gems is not liable for poison ivy found elsewhere on the campus- You go off the path at your own peril! At the least- wear shoes!

GREETINGS FROM AFAR...

Glad to hear that everyone is having fun. We miss not being there.

Love, More Poppa and Gigi Shank - cshank5@cox.net

Want to share a cute story:

Working as a pediatric nurse, I had the difficult assignment of giving immunization shots to children. One day I entered the examining room to give four-year-Lizzie her injection. "No, no, no" she screamed. "Lizzie," scolded her mother, "that's not polite behavior." With that, the girl yelled even louder, "No, thank you! No, thank you!"

P.S. We will be thinking of you all under the shooting stars.

JEW WITH A VIEW **BARI PRINCE** • *Lifecycle Events: Marriage* •

You have survived your bris, been named, become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, and look at you now, all grown up and getting married! Oy! We are so proud.

Here are some of the customs and rituals of Jewish weddings, both traditional and modern.

A note: Today in most of the Reform Jewish movement, of which I am a member, same sex marriages are recognized and welcomed in the community. For simplicity I will be using bride/groom and man/woman throughout this article.

In traditional Judaism, marriage is considered to be a contractual bond commanded by G-d, and G-d is directly involved in the marriage itself. Sounds a bit too crowded for me! The primary purpose of marriage is love and companionship, although it would be nice if I could have a grandchild, I'm just saying.

There is a concept in Judaism called “bashert”. The word means fate or destiny, and in this case refers to a soul mate. If you look at Jewish personal ads, you will likely find someone “Looking for my bashert”. Once you find him or her, however, Jews acknowledge that things could still go wrong, and divorce and remarriage are allowed.

On a more practical note, Jewish marriage requires a marriage contract, or “ketubah”. Traditionally this document spelled out the husband’s obligations to his wife during the marriage, the conditions of inheritance upon his death, and his obligations for child support and alimony. In other words, it’s a prenuptial agreement. Hardly romantic, and hardly egalitarian. These days the ketubah is usually written to reflect the commitment the couple is making to each other, and is more spiritual than legal. The document itself is usually a beautiful piece of art created by an artist or calligrapher that is displayed in the couple’s home. It is signed with witnesses prior to the wedding ceremony.

On the Shabbat before the ceremony, in some congregations, the couple are called to the bima for a special blessing in a ritual called “Aufruf” (pronounced “oof roof”). After the blessing, the congregation showers the couple with candy to wish them a sweet and fulfilling marriage. In my congregation, young people pass baskets full of wrapped sweets, preferably soft vs. hard candy in order to minimize potential injury, and these are hurled at the couple as they walk back to their seats. The same young people then scramble to scoop up the candy from the floor and proceed to eat it all and get a sugar buzz that keeps them awake all night. Fun!

On the day of the wedding in some traditions the bride and groom fast, similar to the fast observed on Yom Kippur, because the wedding day is a similar day of forgiveness, and fasting may enhance the spirituality of the occasion. Another ritual is the Veiling of the Bride. In the Bible Jacob worked for 7 years in order to earn Rachel’s hand, only to end up marrying her sister Leah because Rachel’s father substituted her in. In order to avoid a bait and switch, the groom is allowed to look at his bride’s face before her veil is lowered to make sure that he is getting the right woman.

There are 2 parts to the wedding ceremony, the kiddushin (betrothal) and nisuin (marriage or nuptials). In olden days these two events might take place as much as a year apart, but nowadays they are both incorporated into the wedding ceremony. The

betrothal is where all of the legal business of marriage is addressed, including the formal betrothal blessing and the ring ceremony. The nisuin contains the more spiritual aspects of the ritual.

During the ceremony, the couple stands under a chuppah, or canopy, which symbolizes the home they will build together. During the kiddushin, it is customary for the bride to circle the groom 7 times. There are multiple interpretations of the 7 circles, and these days couples may opt for variations such as each spouse circling the other, and perhaps ending by making a circle together.

The key element of the second part of the wedding, the nisuin, is the seven blessings. These begin with another blessing over wine and build in intensity with themes of creation, paradise, and the longing to return to Jerusalem. The final blessing refers to the entire community singing and celebrating with the couple, reminding everyone that the bride and groom are a link in the chain of the Jewish people.

At the end of the ceremony it is customary for the groom to break a glass (a light bulb may be substituted) by stamping on it. There are many interpretations of this ritual as well – it may symbolize the fragility of love and the importance of nurturing it, that in life there is sadness mixed with joy, etc. These days both members of the couple may perform this ritual.

And another hearty Mazel Tov!

After the wedding...

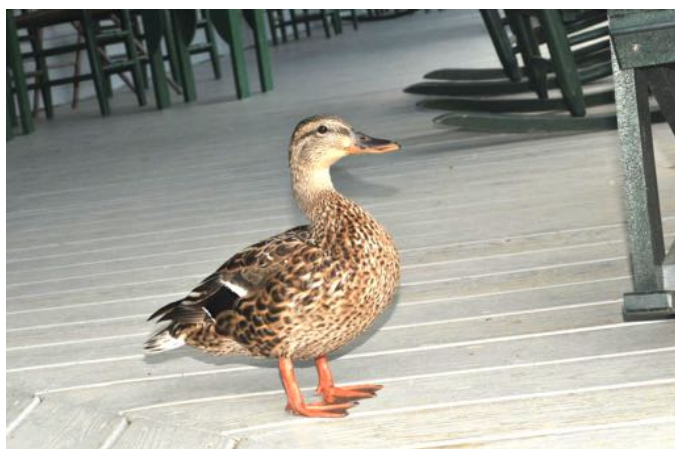
Miriam gets married and a year later goes into the hospital and gives birth to triplets. Her family and friends are shocked when they hear the news – they don’t know anyone else who has had triplets.

As soon as she hears the news, Miriam’s mother-in-law, Fay, rushes to the hospital. She says, “What a surprise, Miriam! No one on our side of the family has ever had twins before, let alone triplets.”

“Yes, it was a bit of a shock,” replies Miriam. “My doctor tells me that triplets only happen once every hundred thousand times.”

“Oy vey, Miriam!” exclaims Fay, “how on earth did you find time for the housework?”

And so, my dear Winni friends, ends *Jew With a View* 2017. I hope you have enjoyed reading these articles as much as I enjoyed writing them. It has been a pleasure sharing my treasures with you in this way. L’shalom.



Hey Leslie! Did this guy send in his registration?

NNESRE 2018 STAFF & TRUSTEES

Thank you, Nominating Committee for this roster of 2018 staff and trustees:

Trustees: Jim Dockendorff, Haley Nisson and Robbie Wilcox-Smith*

Conference: Leslie Ganley, Mike Nisson and Kathy Pike

* Chair of committee chosen by and from the 6 members.

• NNESRE STAFF •

(Nominated by the Nominating Committee; appointed by Executive Committee)

STAFF POSITION	2018
Dean	Bill and Joanne Milford (4th year)
Chaplain	Kevin and Diane Smith (2nd year)
Business Manager	Leslie Dockendorff (7th year)
Business Committee Chair	Charley Smith (1st year)
Program & Evaluation	Bobbie Davis (1st year)
Ed School Director	Allie DiTucci (1st year)
Ed School Ass't. Director	Alex St. Louis (1st year)
Evening Coordinator(s)	Stacie Finlayson (4th year) & Monica Seaman (2nd year)
GEMS Editor(s)	Joe Morrissey (5th year) & Kate Fioravanti (2nd year)
Archives	Kate Fioravanti (5th year)

• NNESRE TRUSTEES •

(Nominated by the Nominating Committee; elected by Trustees)

OFFICER POSITION	2018
Chairperson	Trevor Morrissey
Vice Chairperson	James Wilcox-Smith
Secretary	Amy Bruch
Treasurer	Susan Nisson

(Years below indicates when trustee's term ends; trustees may serve up to two terms)

2018	2019	2020
Robbie Wilcox-Smith – last year	Trevor Davis – last year	Melody Fellows – last year
Meredith Smith – last year	Trevor Morrissey – last year	Haley Nisson – last year
Chris Morrison – last year	Scott Gatto – last year	Amy Bruch – last year
Susan Nisson – 1 st term	Jim Dockendorff – 1 st term	Kyle Nisson – 1 st term
Jamie Wilcox-Smith – 1 st term	Allie DiTucci – 1 st term	Hans Seitz – 1 st term
Paul Fitzpatrick-Nager – 1 st term	Kate Milford – 1 st term	Jason Brosious – 1 st term

*Chris Morrison is finishing Calvin Week's last year of his term. Chris cannot be re-nominated by the nominating committee - because he cannot serve more than 6 consecutive years.

PROM OUR PROGRAM CHAIR...

A huge thank you to all adult ed teachers this year. We have received so many positive comments about all the classes and the variety of this year. Thank you all for your hard work and for all the love and passion you brought this year.

Bobbie Cecere, Program & Evaluation Committee Chair

FAREWELL & THANKS

FROM YOUR GEMS EDITORS...

While archivist, it became clear that the Gems are more than just some light reading over dinner (then a coaster for your beverage later). The Gems have—for many decades—truly captured the history of our camp from how our conference was responding to current events, to fun traditions, to families who have come for generations. Having this realization made taking on the Gems job rather intimidating! (Not to mention attempting to fill Din's shoes. *Spoiler alert:* there's no way to fill Din's shoes.) Creating what will become the archives on which generations from now will look back has been a cumbersome, yet enormously fun experience. It helps that Joe is an easygoing, hysterically funny guy and the "backbone" of the Gems (for that matter, he's also the "heart," the "nervous system" the "funny bone"... He's definitely NOT the "foot," of the Gems this week, though. Geez.)

The best part of this job, hands down, is getting to connect with so many people who share with the Gems:

From submissions of articles, to people popping in with notes on a piece of scrap paper, to the number of wonderful souls who visited this office just to say “hello” (bonus to those who also brought us *chocolate*)! Because we get immersed in everything that’s happening, I felt much more connected to who, what, when, where... and I’m keenly aware of how many people it takes to make this place move. There are those who have very official positions who we couldn’t function without! We also know there are others who do quite a bit behind the scenes. Not because they are in an official job with a stipend, but just because they know it’s important. Kevin Weston needs to clone himself or we’ll never hear anything! Jon Arnold turns tables for Barb, sings on the porch, and even jumps in to back up the Deans in a pinch. Tom Weston Sr. keeps music alive every morning with the Ed school. In addition, the spouses of people in various official positions (particularly those with children) take on more work while their spouse is doing a Winni job, and/or they have less time to spend with their spouse on vacation. I know my own husband had to be single parent to our 3 kids a lot this week (though I tend to always take on jobs at Winni, so he’s used to it... plus this week he had Lorraine Morrissey to commiserate with). There’s many other unsung heroes here at camp because *that*, I propose, is “the Winni way.” We take care of each other. It’s been an honor this week to document as much of Winni as possible so that “way” is carried on for decades to come.

- Kate Eskra Fioravanti

I would like to thank all of those who have come to my aid this week. There truly are so many of you that I cannot possibly list you all for fear of mistakenly leaving some names out. You know who you are and, believe me, I know who you are. From helping me hobble around, fetching my food, pretty much being at my beckon call, I give thanks for you all. I would also like to thank the entire camp for once again entrusting me to be your Gems editor. It’s a blast and I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Special thanks (ok, here I am going to actually name somebody) to Kate Fioravanti. You came through when I couldn’t and I want the entire camp to know that.

- Joe Morrissey

