

GENEVA GEMS

WE VIEWED THE FEUD AND WE CONCLUDE: THE ESKRAS GOT SCREWED.

Survey says, Winni Wins!

By our Evening Coordinators, with a little editorial license from Gems Editors

Laughter filled the chapel for *Family Feud: the Winni version*. Four families were challenged to use their greatest Winni knowledge in order to win the jackpot family prize pack and, more importantly, the honor of being named a winning family. Though we did end the night with 2 winning families, there were definitely some questionable answers given to our various Winni-related questions. The evening got off to a rocky start as the sound system decided that Barb wasn't going to be the only one taking the night off. A posse (well, Debbie Eskra) was sent out to find Kevin Weston who arrived and quickly saved the day. That man should wear a cape. We suspect he was actually cloned given we hear he was in 3 other places at the same time.



The first contest of the evening matched the Dockendorffs versus the Siftars. The Docks made quick

work of the Siftars and their all-women team. (They should have followed the lead of Team Brosious. Lots of testosterone over there.) In the final tally, the Docks got 52 points (2 points extra credit for matching t-shirts) when 50 were needed to snatch one of the valuable

cash prizes awarded. However, the audience is a bit confused as to why John Dockendorff goes all the way to Jo Jo's for ice cream. Really? Does he go to Italy and order a corned beef sandwich? Or to Ireland for spaghetti and meatballs? Though many of us were a bit shocked with this reply, it didn't hold the team back from a Family Feud victory against the Siftar family. The Siftar's put up a fantastic fight, though, and reigned the evening in a colorfully patterned wardrobe.

Speaking of wardrobes, the Dockendorffs didn't let down either. They showed up with matching team t-shirts reading, "The Double D's", a play on their team names

Dockendorff and Davis. However, some of you may recall the additional connection to answers given during
(cont'd on pg. 6)

Today's Schedule of Events

1:00 – Memorial Service (Council Ring)
 1:00 – Executive Committee of Trustees
 After that – Winni Swimmi
 2:00 – Softball game (field behind Inn)
 2:59 – Last call to sign up for Hoot
 4:00 – Knitting (Meetinghouse Porch)
 6:30 – The Hoot (Chapel)
 9:00 – Dancing with Barb (Barn)

Your Winni Weather

Tonight: PM Thunderstorms (50%) 84°/63°



Tomorrow: A mix of clouds and sun with the chance of an isolated thunderstorm in the afternoon. High 84F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.
 UV Index: 8 of 10

Sunrise: 5:36 AM • Sunset: 8:07 PM

Thursday's Alleged Menu



Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, ham steak, oatmeal

Lunch: Assorted pizza, Caesar salad, salad bar

Dinner: Salmon (optional: w/mango chutney), vegetable lasagna, rice pilaf, macaroni & cheese, salad bar

From the Evening Coordinators

Scavenger Hunt: Teams of all ages took to the day to complete the not-so-leisurely scavenger hunt. Teams were challenged to meet people they may not have known, to find items of nature, and use their inner creativity. To complete the extensive list, campers reported that it took them all day. The tootsie pops they received in return did not compensate. What can I say, we lived and we learned. Needless to say, the scavenger hunt participants will be receiving a more just reward. On a positive note, the hunt for Winni folk touched on the theme of finding people's treasures, as those who were being sought out felt special and treasured in the camp.

Today

The Hoot: It's here! It's happening! It's hump day and it's the Hoot day...can't wait to see all of you hooters on the Chapel stage. If you've decided you aren't a hooter, join us in the audience to HOOT all of our performers on. See you at 6:30 in the Chapel!

Barn Dancing resumes tonight in the Barn with Barb at 9pm. After a night off we expect a high turnout, so bring your dancing feet!

Tomorrow

Labyrinth: There will be a labyrinth walk at 7:15 for folks to spend some time as a community being present in their steps walking through a maze representing various parts of life.

Family Movie Night: We will be showing Zootopia in the Meeting House at 8:45pm. Drop off your kids and enjoy your night.

Coffeehouse: Starting at 9pm, join us in the Chapel for our annual expression of camp creativity through music, spoken word and such things.

Board of Trustees

Reminder – meeting tomorrow (Thursday) at 1:00 in the wellhouse for Meredith “shortest-meetings-on-record” Smith's last meeting as President!

Family Dance – Thursday, 7:30 to 8:30 PM

The Thursday night barn dance is held at an early hour so that families with younger children can attend. And YES, it's wonderful to have people of ALL ages attend to create that intergenerational Winni family. Parents and grandparents, please come WITH your children.

France vs. Belgium

(We knew Andre was up to no good)

All were relieved about the truce between Mexico and Italy, but our peace was short-lived. In yet another international food incident, the breakfast menu for today called for Belgian waffles but instead consisted of French toast. A junior high student (who preferred not to be named) was roused from his slumber early with the promise of said cuisine and, in a fit of rage, has joined the Belgian resistance vowing to fight until the last drop of syrup. The Belgians countered the totally unprovoked attack by kidnapping Andre's wife Lisa and holding her hostage until their demands for 27 cans of whipped cream and 2 cases of strawberries are met. Campers from both sides once again stormed the Gems office looking for answers but were eventually satisfied with this totally believable response from the Gems staff: “We don't know anything.” Stay tuned for more updates (which will, in all probably, be inaccurate).

In Memory of Ed

From Beth LeBar:

A “remembrance journal” for Ed Thompson will be left on the table on the Inn front porch for the rest of the week. Please contribute stories, memories, words, pictures, etc. Anything that evokes your shared experiences with Ed. He is here with us this week in spirit – your shared memories will help keep him in our hearts and minds for years to come.

All: Please remind Chuck to bring the journal home with him on Saturday so we can send it along to Ed’s daughter Susan.

The Hills are Alive with the Smell of Septic

College Road was treated to the wonderful natural organic smell of human waste as the septic system backed up and an outside contractor (no campers would volunteer) arrived to clean out the mess. It needs to be noted that this system stretches all the way to the Labyrinth proving again that the Labyrinth is a great place to work out your crap.



Photo Credit 1. Bill Milford (taking photos, NOT helping)

Rowe Family Update

This is the first in many, many years that a Rowe is not at Winni. Jon has recuperated from his 2016 work-related injury after much PT and finally surgery. He began his new job about 3 weeks ago and they just did not find it in their hearts to give him this week off (Only joking...He didn’t ask). Katie & Blake have sold their townhome and have purchased their first house in Anoka, MN...the Halloween Capitol of the World (not joking). They will be moving on Aug 11th. Katie still loves working at Caribou Corporate and Blake has

started a new career with Verizon. Matt and Kristi, his significant other who we had hoped to introduce to Winni this year, are living with us for now. Kristi unexpectedly lost her mom in February. She lived with her mom so our garage is now apartment storage. Matt started a new job in June. He is becoming very proficient fixing equipment used in digital printing. Me? I’m still doing travel which I love. Helping people schedule vacations is awesome. I’m still dealing with my countless medical issues but I consider myself lucky. While I live with chronic pain, none of my illnesses are terminal. I do need surgery again to fix my GERD which I hope to have done this month. I’m thankful for every day I have with my family!

We miss you, our Winni family, but are with you in our hearts. Have a wonderful week! We hope to be with you next year!

Fidget Quilts

I’m Jan Whittemore White, my folks (Bruce and Peggy Whittemore), as well as my aunt (Dr. Ruth W) attended Winni for years. I live in England and brought my son to Winni six or seven times so he knew something of being an American kid. Anyhow, I have designed and started a project over here that has taken off big time.

My WI (Women’s Institute) makes Fidget Quilts for late stage dementia sufferers. They are specifically designed to give sensory stimulation and seem to have a calming effect on patients. They are very easy to make, only requiring straight stitching. We give them to hospitals, care homes and individuals asking only for a small donation or a donation of materials. The instructions are all written up, with pictures, which I can e-mail to anyone who might be interested (contact: janwwhite@btinternet.com). Any sewing circles looking for something to do? (We also have a variation for the knitters among you!)



Evening Watch

Congratulations to Henry and Lydia on your recent baptisms here at our chapel. I was fortunate to witness the event and noted that Henry seemed fine with having Amy Bruch anoint him with water but Lydia didn't seem too sure. And speaking of which, I'm not proud saying that I'm an infrequent attendee of morning and evening watches. But when I do attend, I just feel better about myself. Just saying (for all of my fellow non-attendees).

— Joe Morrissey

From Evening Watch:

Blessing When the World is Ending

Look, the world
is always ending
somewhere.
Somewhere
the sun has come
crashing down.
Somewhere
it has gone
completely dark.
Somewhere
it has ended
with the gun,
the knife,
the fist.
Somewhere
it has ended
with the slammed door,
the shattered hope.
Somewhere
it has ended
with the utter quiet
that follows the news
from the phone,
the television,
the hospital room.
Somewhere
it has ended
with a tenderness
that will break
your heart.
But, listen,
this blessing means
to be anything
but morose.
It has not come
to cause despair.
It is simply here
because there is nothing

a blessing
is better suited for
than an ending,
nothing that cries out more
for a blessing
than when a world
is falling apart.
This blessing
will not fix you,
will not mend you,
will not give you
false comfort;
it will not talk to you
about one door opening
when another one closes.
It will simply
sit itself beside you
among the shards
and gently turn your face
toward the direction
from which the light
will come,
gathering itself
about you
as the world begins
again.

—Jan Richardson, Janrichardson.com



Photo Credit 2. Jennifer Brosious (of today's Morning Watch)

With Thanks

The Spirit is surely moving among all of us! As Chaplains, we are truly amazed by the love and generosity that is shared in this beautiful community.

Last night's Evening Watch was called together with the ringing of our chime and Jennifer Brosious lighting our candle. We are so grateful for the musical talents that were shared. Lynn and Lindy lead us to sing "Send them Love". Susie and Carrie lead an anthem sung beautifully by the Winni choir, and Carrie played the piano for our closing hymn, "I was there to hear your borning cry".

We were blessed to witness the baptism of Henry and Lydia Brosious by Amy Bruch. Their parents, Adam and Rachel, were thrilled to be surrounded and supported by their family members and Winni friends for such a significant milestone in their Journey. It was a beautiful act of love. Amy brought up water from the lake, blessed it as she poured it into the bowl. The setting sun was shining through the west windows of the chapel and lit up the water like diamonds! Praise God!

Blessings,
Diane & Kevin

Share Your Treasure on Thursday

Dear Winni Friends,

We treasure Winni. We "Live Winni". We "Go from this Place....". How does this actually manifest in your lives during the other 51 weeks of the year?

One of the many blessings of our Winni week is sharing our stories and hearing the stories of others. Would you be willing to share a story during Evening Watch on Thursday? Please consider helping us deliver the message of Sharing our Treasures.

You can let one of us know you'd like to participate when you see us around camp, or come to the EW planning after lunch tomorrow on the inn porch.

Love and Gratitude,
Diane & Kevin

Errors Du Jour

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

- Abby Davis' email: scottandabbyd@yahoo.com
- Bill Robert's email: williamoroberts@gmail.com



NNESRE Crash Party

Saturday evening at Barb's house!

Invitation to Boston Area Folks

Do you ever find you are missing your Winni friends on Saturday after you get home, unpack the car and take a nap?

You are welcome to come hang out in Barb's back garden or house. We order Thai food and split the cost. You can bring what you'd like to drink or anything else. But you can come with nothing as well. If you have a camp chair, bring that too.

Please tell Barb soon if you are coming because she orders the food on Thursday.

59 Court St. Medford, MA

(Do NOT take Rte. 90 through Boston/construction. I'm right off Rte. 93 so take Rt 95/128 around Boston. Park on the street, at the elementary school in the block before my house or at the park at the end of the street. All people welcome. Not appropriate for animals.)

Lynn & Lindy House Concert

Hi friends!

Stephen Kaye, Kathy Pike, Maxwell and Emily Kaye would like to invite you to a House Concert

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 AT 6:00 PM

Please click the Evite link below to RSVP and for more Details:

<http://evite.me/bgWy2aJ9FJ>

Come join us for a House Concert at our home provided by the amazing Adler & Hearne! We are spending another wonderful week with them at Camp Winni in NH, part of their tour across the US, just before the concert. You won't want to miss these talented musicians! This is our fourth time hosting them; they put on an amazing show!

("Survey Says" - continued from pg. 1)

the *Match Game* played a few years ago. Though the Siftars may not have won the game, they did win our hearts with their charm. It did come to a close call after 2 rounds, however, as the audience was confused that more points were awarded to the Siftars, though the Dockendorffs cleared the board. As the hosts of the night, we had not been clear that the second round of questions is often (according to the original show) double the points, therefore rewarding the Siftars with a higher point value, despite missing a question or two. The audience communicated their discontent. A tie-breaker was arranged and ultimately rewarded to the Dockendorff family. Some controversy ensued as the audience did not agree that a common smell of Winni is "rain". They were quieted when the host wagged a finger and proved the validity of each answer, reminding folks that, in fact, a survey had been taken and answers were provided by Winni campers. So, if you're complaining about an answer being "right" or factual, this is the wrong game (and for that matter, the wrong newspaper; but enough about the Gems).

The Second round pitted the Brosious family against the Eskra clan. The first question the teams were challenged to answer referred to the most popular way to spend your morning at Winni. While Kate's answer of "breakfast" counted, it was Jason Brosious's "classes" that was highest on the surveys. After the Eskras didn't win that round, teammate Alex St. Louis protested that, her aunt, Kate Fioravanti, didn't score higher as Kate spends *her* mornings writing in the GEMS office (not able to go to classes). Though we could appreciate Alex defending her aunt's honor (and demanding bonus points), we were unable to appease her request. The Brosious boys were off to a great start, though during each round they struggled to clear the board. Fortunately for them, when brought back to the Eskras, their answers were not up to par, and therefore they were unable to steal the points. Both rounds played out the same, resulting in a major victory for the Brosious family! Scoring was questioned in certain instances (Does the Brosious answer of "spending time with family and friends" really match the survey answer of "Read/relax"?) but overall a good time was had by all (except the Eskras who got beat 155-0 because the only answer they got right was when they were asked their names).

Many thanks to Charley Smith for capturing all these great photos of the fun evening (and all the other photos in this issue that aren't captioned were his, too).



More Alternative Facts

- Bob Ganley changed the date of the Swimmi from Thursday to Wednesday because the motorcycle rental rates are cheaper on Thursdays.
- Andre Garcia was sent from France as a secret agent. Apparently, his mission is to crack jokes and chase Lisa around the camp. Mission accomplished, Andre!

- The scar on Kelley Garrett's neck isn't from her surgery. She's actually a cyborg and the scar hides the on/off switch. (Kelley doesn't realize it but Joel flips the switch every night and then sneaks off for a midnight swim.)
- Due to a New York state clerical error, Scott Gatto is actually Scott Gotti and is supposed to be in prison.
- There's nothing wrong with Joe Morrissey's foot. He just likes making Mike Nisson fetch him drinks.
- Wes Gunderson can't understand why his boat always seems to run out of gas. Obviously, he doesn't realize that the teenagers here at camp have figured out how to hotwire his boat and go cruising around the lake picking up girls. They're just clever enough to put it back in the same spot.
- Derrick and Tracy Hall did indeed arrive at camp on the same day. Derrick just wouldn't let Tracy come out until she baked him a couple of dozen lemon drop cookies.
- Doby Hall will be the next head basketball coach at the University of Kansas.
- Alan Kendrix secretly likes the attention he gets when the Gems misspells his name.
- Mike Nisson's brain will be donated to science so it can be dissected in the attempt to figure out what went wrong.
- Monday's Gems picture of Dan Nicholson jumping off the far raft with his peers proves that Dan has been genetically modified and is forever stuck at the age of 12.
- Charlie Soper shouldn't be allowed to drive a golf cart. The man is a menace.



Really?

JEW WITH A VIEW ✪ BARI PRINCE

• Lifecycle Events: Bar Mitzvah •

Q: How do you know when a Jewish dog is fully mature?

A: He has a bark-mitzvah!

How do you know if your child is 13? If your child is Jewish, you know because his or her Bar or Bat Mitzvah is approaching. If your child is not Jewish, invitations to Bar and Bat Mitzvot start appearing in your mailbox. Either way, the first thing you are thinking is "Oy, what is Hershel or Leah going to wear?"

Please note: Bat Mitzvah refers to a boy and Bat Mitzvah to a girl. For simplicity's sake I will use the masculine form throughout this article.

The translation of "Bar Mitzvah" is "son of the commandment". The term actually refers to the child, not the event, so it is proper to say "Irving is becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday." The term is also used to refer to the ceremony itself, as in "Irving's Bar Mitzvah is on Saturday."

Becoming a Bar Mitzvah means that a child is coming of age and can take on adult responsibilities and religious

privileges. There doesn't need to be a ceremony for this to happen; at the age of 13 (12 for girls in some traditions), the transition is automatic. But it has become customary for the child to mark the occasion by leading his congregation in prayer to demonstrate this coming of age. The service the Bar Mitzvah leads is a regular Shabbat service and may be attended by members of the congregation not associated with the Bar Mitzvah family. Because this is a regular religious service, guests should be respectful of the religious significance of the event and of all of the people in attendance.

In the ceremony we see most commonly today, the most basic element is the recitation of the Aliyah, or Torah blessing. The Bar Mitzvah is called to the Torah to say this blessing for the first time. It is also common for the Bar Mitzvah to lead the congregation for the entire service, including chanting a Torah portion in Hebrew and giving a talk (d'var Torah) about the meaning of that portion.

Preparation for becoming a Bar Mitzvah is lengthy. Jewish children generally attend religious school weekly starting in first grade, and may attend more than one day a week as they get older. In addition to Jewish history, observance, and the study of Torah, children learn how to participate in and lead worship, and how to read and chant prayerbook Hebrew.

In addition, many congregations require pre-bar mitzvah children to attend a minimum number of Shabbat services at the synagogue, take on a charity or community service project, and maintain membership in good standing with the synagogue. In addition to study and preparation offered through the synagogue and Hebrew schools, bar mitzvah tutors may be hired to prepare the child to chant his assigned Torah portion, prayers he will be leading, and assist with the comprehension of the Torah portion and writing of the d'var Torah.

Judaism places great value on lifelong learning, and the Bar Mitzvah is not meant to be the end Jewish religious education. Students can continue with their religious education through their Confirmation, which takes place in 10th grade, and throughout high school. Most synagogues offer an ongoing program of adult education as well.

Note to women of a certain age – the introduction of the Bat Mitzvah into the Reform Jewish tradition of which I am a part is fairly recent. When I was growing up, it wasn't offered, although I was confirmed. Today many women who grew up in the same era are

becoming Bat Mitzvot as adults. In 2003 I completed 3 years of study with a peer group and became a Bat Mitzvah. As with many others, this was a very powerful and meaningful experience, much of which might be lost on a 13-year-old.

You may notice I have not mentioned anything about a party. A Bar Mitzvah is a religious passage, and no party is required, although some bagels are always very nice. It is very common today for the Bar Mitzvah to be celebrated with an elaborate party including bands, DJs, party favors, and a catered meal for family and friends.

Some Practical Matters

Q: What should my child wear to a Bar or Bat Mitzvah?

A: Unless otherwise stated on the invitation, boys should wear a button-down shirt, pants with a zipper and a belt (not sweat pants or active wear), and dress shoes. Sneakers are okay if you can't fight this battle with your child. A tie and/or jacket are also appropriate. Girls should wear a dress that is not too short and it is most appropriate to have their shoulders covered in the temple either by the sleeves of the dress or a wrap/sweater/etc. It is common for yarmulkes to be handed out to the boys at the temple; girls do not need to wear them.

Q: What happens during the service?

A: The Bar or Bat Mitzvah will lead a regular worship service. This will usually contain a combination of Hebrew and English prayers and readings. The highlight of the service is when the celebrant reads from the Torah. This service may last up to 2 hours or more.

Q: What about gifts?

A: It is common to give a gift. The gift should be given at the reception or party, not in the synagogue. If you are giving a monetary gift, it is customary to give in multiples of 18, which has spiritual significance in Judaism, so a check for \$18 or \$36, etc., is appropriate. Gift certificates in any denomination are also appreciated. Items of Judaica are also common, but if you aren't Jewish be sure to get some advice about this. Mazel tov! Let's eat. Where did you get that bagel?

BONUS Question from the Audience:

Q: Why do you write/type G-d without the "o"?

A: In the Jewish tradition, the name of G-d is sacred. Writing it on paper that could be thrown away, burned, etc. is disrespectful. Jewish texts are buried, sometimes along with deceased with permission of the family, and sometimes during special burials.