

The Geneva Treasures

THE NEW AND IMPROVED SYNONYM OF "GEMS"

Bill & Barb & Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice

The annual Bill and Barb and Friends concert was (per usual) a rousing success. The late arriving crowd (the local Moultonborough PD was unprepared for the overflow that formed on Interstate 93) was treated to a night of excellent music as well as Bill's early start on Joke Night. The music was wonderful, the jokes were funny, but we're not sure about this Paul Mitchell guy that Bill was showering with beforehand. Whoever that guy is we'd be willing to bet that his Katherine Hepburn impersonation is better than Bill's.

Note: Bill's newest song ("Sounds of Winni") was originally scheduled for the Hoot but surpassed the Hoot's 4-minute time limit for acts by approximately 15 minutes. Perhaps if Bill wants to submit the "45RPM record AM radio" version he can fit it in for Wednesday night. It also should be noted that Barb's sisters Julie and Sue are relieved that Barb is willing to lift them up because they're not heavy. (You had to be in attendance to get that one.)

A reminder of how times have changed came when the end of Bill's firefly song was met not by lighters being held up asking for an encore, but cell phones doing firefly impersonations (see photo to right). All those who joined in on the fun get a participation trophy (AKA, today's issue of the Gems).

So, our thanks go out to those who made last night's concert another example of what makes Winni special.



Photo Credit 1. Joann Milford (taking photo of Bill & company)



Photo Credit 2. Bill Milford (taking photo of Joann & the Fireflies)

Today's Schedule of Events

- 4:00 – Knitting (Meetinghouse Porch)
 6:45 – Evening Watch (Chapel)
 7:30 – Weston Family Campfire (Council Ring)
 9:00 – Dancing in the Barn with Barb
 9:00 – Fireside Chat (Meetinghouse porch)

Tomorrow's Menu



Breakfast: Pancakes, French toast, sausage, cinnamon buns, oatmeal,

Lunch: Assorted grilled cheese, tomato soup, salad bar

Dinner: Roast turkey breast, eggplant parmesan, bread stuffing, mashed potato, butternut squash, green beans, salad bar

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

Your Winni Weather



Mostly sunny, 84°/60°

UV Index: 8 of 10 (*wear your sunscreen!*)

Sunrise: 5:33 AM, Sunset: 8:08 PM

If ye be seeking treasures, join us at the...

Scavenger Hunt

Tuesday, 1:00

Meet at the Flagpole

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ☆ **Today** – Keep your eye out for Wednesday's Hoot sign up AND/OR Winni Swimmi posted on Monday on the Inn porch! We're looking forward to those willing to share their personal "treasures" on the stage or in the lake.
- ☆ **Tuesday** – X marks the spot at the flagpole where a Scavenger Hunt begins at 1:00, then Family Feud that night
- ☆ **Wednesday** – Winni Swimmi will take place after the memorial service (moved from Thursday in light of weather reports. Is "preponed" the opposite of "postponed"?)



Photo Credit 3. Rachel Brosious (photo of Lydia listening to Laine Harris)

From our fabulous Evening Coordinators:

Bill and Barb Concert

We had a great turn out at the Bill & Barb Concert last night! A willing audience showed that participation is key to a good time. We were all blown away, once again, by the incredible talent of the musical leaders of the camp. Thank you all for sharing your gifts, talents, and TREASURES that makes our souls sway. A big thank you to Kevin Weston as always, as well as Jared Goldman for helping Kevin out! A thank you, also, to Zahra Adloo for helping put away chairs at the end of the night.

Tonight!

Don't miss tonight's Weston Family Campfire at 7:30! Find a good stick, your singing voice, and head to the Council Ring to enjoy our classic Winni songs with family and friends...and if you DON'T have a good singing voice, come anyway! There'll be s'mores!

There will be a fireside chat at 9 o'clock on the Meeting House Porch led by Laine Harris. Topic: Re-purpose/Recycle of public properties and spaces to meet various needs of the local community. It will be partially informative of what has been done so far in a community, as well as a brainstorming discussion welcoming others' ideas to spread and enhance this movement.

Tomorrow!

A Scavenger Hunt will be tomorrow after lunch. Meet at the flagpole at 1:00 to get instructions and supplies. Be prepared with a team of 2 or 3. This is not your typical scavenger hunt. It is to be enjoyed and to appreciate the treasures we find throughout the week. It will conclude at the Family Feud event at 7:30.

4 traditional families will be competing for the honorable title of Winni Family Feud Champion. They have been here for generations. And now it's their time to step up and show the community just how well they know the intricacies and details of Winni. Are you guys ready?

No barn dancing Tuesday night, Barb has the night off! In place, there will be bonfire singing in the tenting area. If you brought a guitar, this is the place to jam and groove.

Avast Ye, Knitters!

We had a great first day of knitting! All are welcome of ANY age! 4:00 on the Meeting house porch.



Photo Credit 4. Gloria Hoda.



Photo Credit 5. Gloria Hoda.

Restoring Community

3rd period rogue class – Wednesday only

Len Raymond is doing a participatory one-day class with elements of restorative practices, measuring well-being and compassionate witnessing. An apolitical thing -- "Civil Tech." Wednesday, 3rd period. Meeting House screened in porch. Theory gems in tomorrow's GEMS.

Bear-lieve it or not

The coveted high rent district known as "Tenting sites 1-4" is soooo five minutes ago. The "in" place to be is Dock Road! Keep an eye out... Mama Bear has set up camp and was seen by Ben & Tracy Eskra on a casual afternoon stroll yesterday. (Ask to see his video!)

We Give You Thanks

We are so grateful to Marilyn Hendrix for stepping in as the celebrant at Evening Watch last night to provide us communion. She helped us understand that the stole worn by ordained ministers is a symbol for the towel Jesus used to wipe his disciples' feet. Because she wasn't expecting to officiate this week, she didn't bring her stole, so she wore her towel.

We are also very grateful for the many friends who came to share in our worship last night. We joyfully expanded our circle to make more room for the crowd. Thanks to the wonderful creativity of Cindy Campbell we experienced a song from Lynn & Lindy in a way that helped us feel more connected to each other and to God, the Source. Thank you, Lynn & Lindy for sharing your song, "The Legacy".

We hope to see many more friends join our Evening Watch tonight in the Chapel at 6:45. Come and find your Treasure....

Blessings,
Diane and Kevin

Many thanks to the Chapel Line crew for making yesterday's Gems possible starting with Kelsey Morrissey's photocopier skills, followed by the collation team who stapled 130 Gems & rosters yesterday with 2 and ½ staplers & one taskmaster of a coordinator (Haley Nisson, we're looking at you). The Gems would have literally fallen apart without your help!

The Gem Editors are grateful that Jim Eskra, Sue Hartley and Jennifer Brosious answered the desperate plea for chocolate at the Gems office. It was nice to not feel forgotten. (Plus it made sure Kate decided not to go on strike. Yet.)



Haley Nisson shares her treasure.

A little birdie tells us...

Nice to see Justin and Alison George back here at Winni even if we are going to have to follow Justin around to clean up his messes. It seems Justin went to get himself a saucer and bowl for some soup at lunch. He found a saucer, then proceeded to get himself a nice ladle full of minestrone. The only problem is, he forgot the bowl. Perhaps using a saucer for your soup is one way of cutting down on portions but it has a tendency to create a bit of a mess. Pull it together, Justin.



Photo Credit 6. Tim Fioravanti (with Lorraine Morrissey)

OK. Pretending to be Gems widows is one thing. But right outside of our office?

Grammar and Pontification

*The future, the present and the past walked into a bar.
Things got a little tense!*

Given our 2017 theme, the Co-chaplains are engaged in a rich philosophical debate about the grammatical priority of the word “treasure.” What do you think holds greater importance, “treasure” as a noun or a verb? We consulted the dictionary for help settle this.

Treas-ure /'treZHər/

noun

1. a quantity of precious metals, gems, or other valuable objects.

synonyms: riches, valuables, jewels, gems

*“This year’s Gems editors are real **treasures**, worth their weight in chocolate.”*

verb

1. keep carefully (a valuable or valued item).

synonyms: cherish, hold dear, prize, value greatly

*“I **treasure** reading the Gems every night.”*

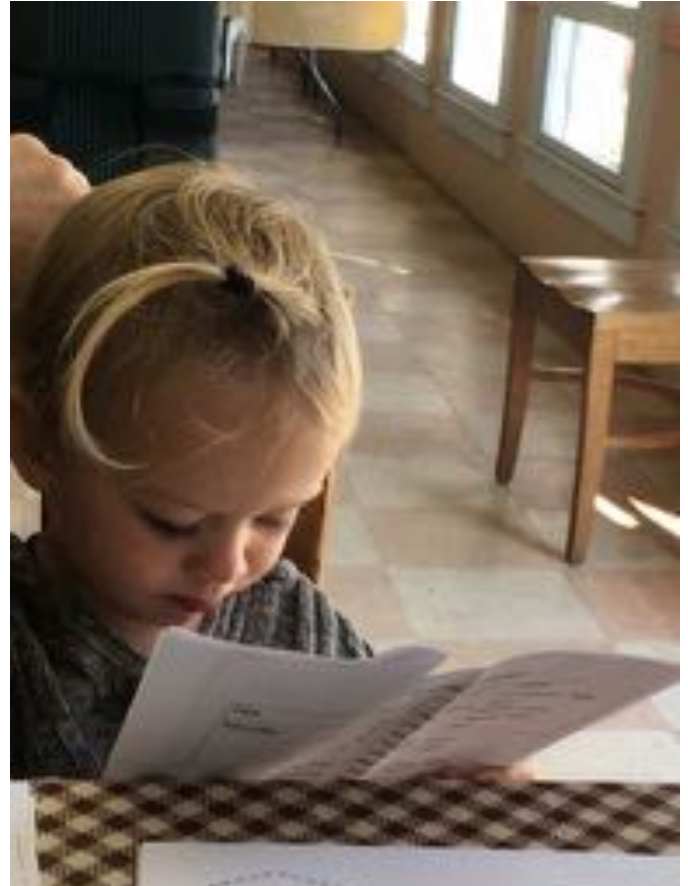


Photo Credit 7. Joann Milford (photo of Raja treasuring his Gems)

Editor’s Note: Our conclusion is that, noun or verb, this year’s theme is a treasure worth treasuring.

**Sometimes,
ya just gotta
be a kid.**



Photo Credit 8. Jim Dockendorff.

JEW WITH A VIEW

☆ BARI PRINCE

• Lifecycle Events •

Birth, Bris and Bagels

Q: In the Jewish doctrine, when does a fetus become a human?

A: When it graduates from med school.

Let's get started! In today's article, we'll take a look at the beginning of the lifecycle – the miracle of birth. As with so many religions and cultures, there are rituals and beliefs specific to Jewish births. And one of the strongest of beliefs, prevalent throughout the Jewish lifecycle, is that we must eat! So, I've included a brief history of the bagel, a key element of most Jewish celebratory events.

Birth

In Jewish law, and contrary to the joke above, although the human soul exists before birth and human life begins at birth. There is no notion of original sin in Judaism; a child is born pure, completely free from sin.

Baby Showers

Although attitudes towards this are changing, Jews traditionally did not hold baby showers before the baby was born. In fact, traditionally Jewish parents did not even purchase things for the baby or discuss baby names until the baby was born. This practice was based on superstition – drawing attention to the baby could also draw bad luck.

Naming a Child

Jews are given a formal Hebrew name, which is used in certain Jewish rituals. A girl's name is officially given in synagogue. A boy's name is given during the brit milah or bris (yup, we are going to go there).

Hebrew names have no religious significance. In fact, the "Hebrew name" need not even be Hebrew; Yiddish names are often used, or even English ones. It is customary among Ashkenazic Jews (the majority of Jews today) to name a child after a recently deceased relative. This custom comes partly from a desire to honor the dead relative, and partly from superstition against naming a child after a living relative. It is almost unheard of for an Ashkenazic Jew to be named after his own father.

Brit Milah: Circumcision

Of all of the commandments in Judaism, the brit milah (literally, Covenant of Circumcision) is probably the one most universally observed. It is commonly referred to as a bris (covenant). Even secular Jews, who observe no other part of Judaism, almost always observe these laws.

The commandment to circumcise is given at Gen. 17:10-14 and Lev. 12:3. The covenant was originally made with Abraham, and is the first commandment specific to the Jews. Like many Jewish commandments, the brit milah is commonly perceived to be a hygienic measure. However, the biblical text states the reason for this commandment quite clearly: circumcision is an outward physical sign of the eternal covenant between G-d and the Jewish people. It is also a sign that the Jewish people will be perpetuated through the circumcised man.

Circumcision is performed on the eighth day of the child's life, during the day. The circumcision is performed by a mohel (lit. circumciser; rhymes with oil), a pious, observant Jew educated in the relevant Jewish law and in surgical techniques. While the circumcision is performed, the child is held by a person called a sandek, who is similar to a godfather. The sandek is usually a grandparent or the family rabbi. Various blessings are recited, including one over wine, and a drop of wine is placed in the child's mouth. The child is then given a formal Hebrew name.

As with most Jewish life events, the ritual is followed by refreshments or a festive meal.

So, wipe the sweat off your brows, and now-- let's eat!

Bagels

The bagel (the word means "bracelet" in German) which was the everyday bread of the Jews in Eastern Europe, has become the most famous Jewish food in America.

Because of their shape - with no beginning and no end - bagels symbolize the eternal cycle of life. In the old days, they were supposed to be a protection against demons and evil spirits, warding off the evil eye and bringing good luck. For these reasons, they were served at circumcisions and when a woman was in labor and also at funerals. These days you will find bagels at pretty much every Jewish celebration.

Although so many new varieties of bagels have now appeared, purists will have only the original plain water bagels, which are made by throwing rings of risen dough into violently boiling water for a few seconds, then draining, cooling, and baking quickly. New York is said to make the best bagels, supposedly because of the mineral content of the water. Discussions among bagel aficionados about where the best bagels can be found get quite heated. The one point of agreement is that the good ones are not found in the local supermarket either fresh or, G-d forbid, frozen. You call that a bagel?