

News & Notes

For Campers, Parents and Alumni • Spring 2015 • Vol. 26, No. 1

In This Issue: PG. 3: Staff Profile: Baboon PG. 5: Love Connection PG. 6: Ways to Give a Hand

GAC's 2015 Give a Hand Challenge

The theme for GAC 2015 is “Give a Hand,” and we’re excited to focus on reaching out and helping others. We are challenging the GAC community to complete 2015 hours of service in 2015! You can help us reach that goal by pledging to Give a Hand for at least one hour between now and December 31. Together, with more than 1200 campers, their families, and 200 staff, we can have a huge impact on others as we find ways to Give a Hand this year.



That said, we want to know what you’re doing to Give a Hand! Are you already doing community service for school or another organization? Do you have a great idea about how you would like to help us meet our goal this year? Be creative! There are two ways you can tell us what you’re doing to Give a Hand:

1. Email giveahand@goldarrowcamp.com with your name, what you’re doing to Give a Hand, and how many hours it took you to do. You may be featured on our website or our blog so we can inspire other campers to Give a Hand.
2. Post a picture of yourself on Instagram helping others in your community. Tag [@goldarrowcamp](https://www.instagram.com/goldarrowcamp) and use [#gacgivesahand](https://www.instagram.com/gacgivesahand).

We appreciate your efforts to help us meet our goal to complete 2015 hours of service this year. Campers who tell us about service hours they complete before camp will be presented with a giant foam GAC hand at the first Morning Assembly of their session. Staff and Campers will have opportunities to “Give a Hand” at camp this summer, and we hope to cultivate in everyone a lasting passion for thinking of and serving others.

See page 6 for some ideas on how to give a hand this year and how to get connected with some service opportunities!



CAMP NEWS

Camper Profile: Ruth Wecker

Ruth, a five-year GAC camper, was asked to write an ode directed towards something or someone she loved. Ruth chose to write about GAC. Here's what she said...



**G-A-C is the camp to beat
Really great people you will meet
Smelling the vanilla tree on the way to meals
Putting on chap stick so your lips don't peel**

**Green and Gold, we represent
Spending two to four weeks in a big green tent
Without this camp my summers would be a bore
Missing out on sleeping with my cabin mates
and listening to our counselors snore**

**Three years a banner, five years a blanket, ten years a jacket
I know I'm going to make it
Have fun, make friends, and grow is our motto
All the counselors have really cool names, like Ninja, Toyota and Pesto**

**I come back every year to see my friends that I wish I were always near
Sailing in sunfishes
And sleeping under the stars making wishes
Just being at camp is a wish come true**

**There are always people to talk with and something to do
Everyone there is such a champ
I love and thank you, Gold Arrow Camp
(Wadda, Wadda, Wadda!)**



5 Year Campers

Each summer we recognize campers who have returned to camp for 5 summers, a tradition that began with GAC's founder, Manny Vezie. We are honored to be awarding **105** 5-year blankets this summer.

Nina Adams
Tiger Adams
Brian Adler
Elise Adler
Kate Allhusen
Audrey Angel
Ella Angel
Brynn Baker
Cameron Baker
Hannah Baumhover
Dylan Benavides
Parker Benfield
Brett Berenson

Sammy Bernstein
Devin Boden
Will Bonderer
Calvin Bonomo
Henry Bonomo
Abby Borchers
Aidan Bowman
Bo Brown
Ella Cashman
Caroline Cox
Avery Daubert
Karli Davis
Catherine Dickerman

Jackson Downey
Jacob Dulai
Maria Ellsworth
Ben Franz
Justin Galinson
Christine Garrison
Isabella Ghanbari
Sophie Gilford
Greta Gooding
Abby Gordon
Davis Graham
Denia Graham
Elizabeth Griffin
Emilia Hamburg
Caroline Hawley
Timothy Hays
Josh Henderson
Cole Hillyer
Alex Horowitz
Zach Horowitz
Hayden Hutson-Wiley
Thomas Hutson-Wiley
Lily Hyun
Clare Kelly
Sean Kelly
Oleg Kozinets
Sara Krakovsky

Jenna Kramer
Jackson Kruse
Caden Lacy
Kate Larsen
Camilla Laursen
Greer Little
Connor Maduzia
Reed Magee
Kate Mallery
Eli Mansour
Finn McClintock
Fiona McLaughlin
Molly McLaughlin
Emma Milenky
DJ Miller
John Monke
Piper Montana
Katie Mumford
Katherine Nath
Kendall Nicholas
Ozzie Nicholas
Camille O'Connell
Ashley Ohebshalom
Rose O'Neal
Lindsay Padden
Luke Padden
Owen Pallenberg

Julia Paymer
Jasmin Pukke
Payton Pukke
Ruthie Reichman
David Rich
Jonathan Rich
Annie Riveroll
Pablo Robin
Julia Russell
Dylan Sandler
Cornelia Schon Laven
Annie Schwerdtfeger
Audrey Scott
Lydia Sears
Nate Seleno
Danny Seplow
Zach Sherman
Mason Silverman
Ashley Stokols
Lexi Trujillo
Alyssa Turenne
Michelle Turenne
Lily Warmington
Ian Weiss
Joe Zales



Staff Profile: Baboon

We're excited about Baboon returning to GAC for his second summer! He'll be the Waterfront Director, so keep a look out for him when you head down to the lake for your activities. He'll be there with a huge smile on his face, probably dancing around, excited to see you! He's just that kind of guy!



Baboon is originally from a village in the North Downs in Surrey, England. He is passionate about water sports, and is an experienced coach and competitive wakeboarder. While living in England, he spent his weekends teaching wakeboarding. He's currently working at Whistler Blackcomb Ski Resort before he ventures back to camp in May. His endless high energy, positivity, patience, and passion make him an easy favorite among campers and counselors. Baboon has never met a stranger! His willingness to jump in whenever help is needed and his dedication to working hard is inspiring, and we're looking forward to his nonstop dancing (he's an expert "Gangnam Style" dancer) and the fun he brings to camp!

We were able to catch up with Baboon and ask him a couple important (and some pretty ridiculous) questions. Check out his answers:



Why do you want to be a counselor at GAC again?

How could I not! I get to hang out and teach the coolest campers around, spend my whole summer outside, eat a lot, have campfires, sing like no one is listening and dance like no one is watching – it is

the most fun I have all year! I love helping our campers overcome new and exciting challenges while watching them grow through the session. Beyond this, I always learn so much from GAC and feel it makes me a better person helping me to appreciate everything I have.

What is your hidden talent?

It's not hidden, but I do enjoy sculpting bananas into penguins. :)

Choco Taco or Strawberry Shortcake?

Choco Taco! No contest, although I would happily settle for both.

What is your perfect pizza?

I would say a Mediterranean-style pizza with a pesto base, and it would be delivered to me by a highly trained penguin while I was out on the water on a paddle board watching the sunset.

What is your favorite part of camp?

Our breathtaking Gold Arrow waterfront!

If you could be any age for a week, what age? Why?

I would say five. Five-year-olds have no cares in the world or need to explain what may be irrational behavior to anyone. I would stick broccoli to my wakeboard helmet, run around in circles, jump in puddles and get right to the biggest indoor playground I can find.

What should be the next Joke of the Day at Morning Assembly?

What do you call a pig that knows karate? A pork chop!

What is your favorite food at GAC?

Hmmm, I would say Mexican.

Who is your hero?

Steve Irwin! He had such a passion for life and those around him, he took the positive from every situation and truly believed in following your heart in life. He would have made such an outstanding GAC counselor as I feel he embodies our philosophy so well. He dedicated his whole life to those around him that were in trouble. In the 80s, Steve spent months living in remote areas of Australia rescuing crocodiles from poachers. During this time he developed humane relocation techniques that are still being used today.



What are you most looking forward to about GAC 2015?

Tough question! I think seeing how our campers have grown is definitely way up there, along with meeting all of our new campers and staff. It's just so exciting! I am really looking forward to being the Waterfront Director, I cannot wait to get all of our campers out onto Huntington Lake. I am itching to turn my phone off and sleep under the stars again for a whole summer, and waking up to a good ole GAC breakfast. Oh, and Footloose!!

Want to meet more 2015 GAC Staff? Head over to the Meet Our Staff page at goldarrowcamp.com/meet-our-staff!

Jeanie Vezie (1913-2014) Remembering a GAC Legend

"I spent the six most important summers of my life at Gold Arrow Camp. I have my blanket and I also think GAC changed my life. I had no idea I owed it so much to Jeanie."

**- Ellen Fead Fields
(Camper 1964-1971)**



Many parents and grandparents of today's campers fondly remember Jeanie Vezie, who co-owned and directed Gold Arrow Camp with her husband Manny for thirty years. Jeanie passed away at the age of 101 on Saturday, December 13, 2014.

Jeanie was born on a ranch in Western Nebraska on February 17, 1913. "We lived on this ranch, and in February out west the weather can get pretty bad. There was a big blizzard. The doctor couldn't make it. My father sent a team to go to the farm next door to get the midwife. When the midwife arrived, she found me all cleaned up and my dad holding me by the pot belly stove. 'I suppose there was a little whisky in it too,' was what my dad said about the bottle he had fed me. My dad had delivered me. He took me with him when he was going to work. He took me everywhere with him. I was my dad's favorite from the beginning," said Jeanie.



Jeanie had many adventures living and working in Los Angeles during World War II as a real estate agent. As fate would have it, her husband passed away while her son Scooter was a camper at Gold Arrow Camp. And thus began a new adventure in her life.

In 1958, Jeanie Vezie joined her husband Manny at camp and became part of the beloved team "Manny and Jeanie." Together, they owned and operated Gold Arrow

Camp during the years when many of our current camp parents attended (1960s-1980s). For 30 years (1958-1988), Jeanie brought her business sense and woman's touch to camp and helped Manny create a successful and world-renowned summer camp.

We can especially thank Jeanie that GAC has girl campers now, as she had to convince Manny that girls would enjoy his "rugged camp" as much as boys did! In Jeanie's words,

"I recalled that some parents had asked why we couldn't have girls at Gold Arrow. I broached this to Manny and, at first, he said it was out of the question. One day he asked me if I thought girls would like Gold Arrow. I said, 'I'm a girl, and I like it.'" Finally, we decided to try enrolling boys in July and girls in August. None of these changes made over the years were easy to get Manny's approval but, after they were made, he always agreed they were good."

The positive influence Jeanie has had on the lives of the campers and staff at Gold Arrow Camp is something impossible to measure.



On February 17, 2013, a group of GAC alumni gathered to celebrate Jeanie's 100th birthday. She is fondly remembered for her high energy and her deep love for the campers and staff at Gold Arrow Camp. She is also

credited with convincing Manny to allow girls to attend GAC. For that, and for her hard work creating a special community at Gold Arrow Camp, many of us are thankful.

Contact the camp office if you would like information about the celebration of Jeanie's life we will be having at GAC on June 13.

Estaline Watkins (1906-2014) Helped Start GAC

Estaline Watkins was Manny Vezie's first wife and was instrumental in helping Manny realize his dream of starting Gold Arrow Camp. Estaline passed away in Redding, California, on November 11, 2014, at the age of 108.



Manny and Estaline met while both worked summer jobs at Yellowstone National Park. She was a talented musician, dancer, and horseback rider who loved the outdoors. A graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in music, she taught briefly while waiting for Manny to complete his education at Notre Dame. The two married in 1931 and immediately moved to Southern California to start a life and family. Manny had a law degree, but Estaline said it was work that never really "stirred him." Throughout their early years, he had talked often with Estaline about starting a camp for boys. When he came home from his first day of work in a law firm, he told her, "I can't do that. Let's start a boys' camp." She said, "I'm ready."



In the early years of Gold Arrow, Estaline did just about everything to support Manny's dream. "I was the cook, dishwasher, clothes washer, secretary, happy helper," she wrote. In the off-season, she

earned money as a dancer at Graumann's Chinese Theater to help finance camp and support Manny and their young son, Krieg Stanton Vezie, born in 1932. She had two other children with Manny: Diana, born in 1940, and Tim, born in 1941. For over a decade (1933-1945), Estaline kept the camp books, cooked for the campers and staff, and taught the boys "how to ride the ponies." She was a very important person to Gold Arrow Camp and she remembered it fondly even to her last days. She was active and sharp, playing the piano and harmonica and writing poems until the very end. We at Gold Arrow have a deep admiration for the life she lived.

Love Connection



Tom "Chilli" Smith and Kristi "Lala" Bon met at camp in 2010 and were married on May 25, 2014, at Pond View Farm in Maryland. Their wedding was well-attended by current and former GAC staff who were happy to support the couple.

Campers and staff recreated the wedding and reception this summer during Session 3 when Chilli and Lala visited camp.



New Arrivals

Congratulations to former staff members Josh "Tech" and Brandi "Snuggles" Klein on the birth of their first child. Hudson Joshua Klein was born on December 4 at 11:42 pm. He weighed 8 lbs, 4 oz, and was 21 inches long. Hudson is the nephew of Colby "Goulash" Klein, who worked as a Rocks & Ropes counselor last summer. We can't wait for Hudson to join us as a GAC camper in 2020!



Elijah Samuel Say was born on December 16, 2014, at 9:06 am. He weighed 7 lbs and was 20 1/2 inches long. Eli is the first child for long-time GAC camper and staff member Renee "Zippy" Say and her husband Sam. He is the nephew of Robyn "Tiki" Smith, Rod "Malibu" Tucknott and Tamara "Sprite" Norton. We can't wait until Eli can join his cousins as a GAC camper and continue the family tradition!

Lala wore her wedding dress, Ellie was the flower girl, and Monkey officiated the wedding from the stage at Big Campfire. Campers welcomed "Chilala" to the dining porch with bubbles and cheers.

Chilli and Lala are currently living in Maryland with their dog, Aldo. They're hoping to return to camp again soon.

Heather "Cheerio" Hochstedler (GAC Staff 08-14) and Sam "Buzz" Veatch (GAC Staff 14) were married on December 26, 2014, at a private campground in the Ocala National Forest in Umatilla, Florida. Sharing in the fun of their day, including s'mores and Footloose, were many current and former GAC staffers. The newly married couple continues their adventure in Winter Park, Florida. We're so happy for you, Cheerio and Buzz!



Calling All GAC Poets!

We are looking for new and creative, GAC-related haikus to be shared and read during our Appreciation Campfires this summer. Bonus points for any haikus relating to the “Give a Hand” theme of GAC 2015! A special prize will be sent to all who submit a haiku. Here are a few winners from past contests:



*Sailing in our boat
Waves splashing up on the
side
Oh no, capsizing*

*I love Gold Arrow
It is the best thing of all
Here everyone rocks!*

*I love the fresh air
Campfires are fun with
s'mores
But goodbyes are sad.*

*Speeding down the lake
Captain of my little ship
I would sail all day*

*Soaring over waves
Arms straining with the
effort
engulfed by water*

*Overcome your fears.
Have fun. Socialize. Love
earth.
Discover yourself.*

Email mail@goldarrowcamp.com with your name and your haiku, or mail your entries to our administrative office at:

Gold Arrow Camp
644 Pollasky Ave., Ste. 100
Clovis, CA 93612

We look forward to seeing all the haikus you can come up with!

Ways to Give A Hand

Our 2015 theme is giving. We're so inspired by the importance of giving that we want to encourage our campers and staff to start giving NOW and not wait until summer!



How can campers “Give a Hand” this year?

Here are some ways to give:

Time: Help others through giving service.

Talents: Share your talents.

- Make something you're good at and give it away to someone who needs it (blankets/beanies/etc).
- Make something or do something you're good at to raise money to give away (For example, run the Kids 4 Kids Race with GAC Runners in April and raise money for children's cancer research!)
- Teach others how to do something you are good at.

Kind Words: Give a compliment or a nice note to a stranger or friend.

Friendship: Give attention and care to a friend.

Give away Your Stuff/Money: Give away or raise money for a worthy cause or give away your toys, clothing, or books that are still in good condition.

Check out generation.org and volunteermatch.org for some volunteer opportunities in your area!

Crock Pot Apple Sauce

Give this yummy recipe a try! There's nothing quite like a delicious home made apple sauce.

Servings: 12 **Size:** 1/4 cup

Ingredients:

8 medium apples (Use a combination of Golden Delicious, Honey Crisp, Fuji, Gala, etc.)
1 strip of lemon peel - use a vegetable peeler
1 tsp fresno lemon juice
3 inch cinnamon stick
5 tsp light brown sugar (unpacked) - or agave

Directions:

Peel, core, and slice the apples. Place them in the slow cooker. Add the cinnamon stick, lemon peel and brown sugar. Set crock pot to low and cook for 6 hours. Stir apples occasionally, apples will slowly become a delicious applesauce. Remove cinnamon stick and use an immersion blender to blend until smooth or, if you prefer a chunky sauce, leave sauce intact.



GAC Runners Report

The GAC running season is in full swing, and if you're looking for a way to give back to the community, this is a perfect opportunity! Coming up this March we'll be running the Spirit Run, which benefits schools and students in the Newport-Mesa area, and the Great Race of Agoura Hills, which benefits schools in the Agoura Hills and Oak Park areas. In April, we'll be at the Kids 4 Kids Race at L.A. Live, which contributes to the Children's Cancer Research Fund. We also want to thank all the campers, parents, staff and alumni who joined us at the Manhattan Beach 10K in October!



GAC Runners participate in races to support worthy children's causes, encourage our campers to have an interest in running, and promote everyone's favorite summer camp – GAC! If you haven't run with us and want to be part of our team and receive a free, moisture-wicking GAC Runners shirt, then visit our website at goldarrowcamp.com/gac-runners!

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, March 15:** Spirit Run (Newport Beach)
- Sunday, March 15:** Newport Coast GAC Chat
- Friday, March 27:** Pre Race Pizza Party (Agoura Hills)
- Saturday, March 28:** Great Race (Agoura Hills)
- Sunday, April 26:** Kids 4 Kids (L.A. Live)
- Sunday, May 1:** Are You In Run (Menlo Park)

Visit our Upcoming Events page regularly (goldarrowcamp.com/upcoming-events) for more details on upcoming races, pizza parties, service opportunities and more!

What's New at GAC?



We are bringing showers to the Ritz! The oldest girls will enjoy this addition to their closest bathroom, which includes a total of four new showers, and will be ready to go for Summer 2015. Also in the bathroom upgrade department, the Chipmunk bathrooms have been replaced with a new bathroom building.

Still Not Enrolled for 2015?

We have openings in all age groups for our one-week sessions at the end of the summer! Both Mini Camp and our Water Sports Specialty Camp sessions are from August 23 - August 29 and have limited availability. Go to goldarrowcamp.com to enroll now!



Thank You GAC Chat Hosts!

Thanks to our generous host families, many campers gathered this off-season to talk about camp and, of course, to "Whadda" to the GAC song! Returning and new campers got together to see the 2014 slide show and win fun raffle prizes.

GAC would like to thank the following families for their hospitality and support:



- Landers/Strouk Families** - Beverly Hills
- Brennan/Feick Family** - Menlo Park
- Scott Family** - San Francisco
- Groux Family** - Newport Coast



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GAC 2015

2015 Dance Themes

It's time to start planning your costumes for the dances this summer. Here are this year's exciting new dance themes:

Shaver Water Sports June: Hawaiian

Session 1: Western

Session 2: Prehistoric

Session 3: Winter Wonderland

Session 4: Cartoon

**Shaver Water Sports August
& Mini Camp: Super Hero**



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