

GREENE CRICKET-PRESS

THE NEWSPAPER OF GREENE FAMILY CAMP'S
JOURNALISM HAGIGAH

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Camp Plans Tree Houses, Teatron Renovations, More

By Aviva Isgur and Jared Press

While many projects are in the works at camp, no project has an exact timeline due to the number of variables involved.

“This renovation we did in the art room... we thought that it was going to be a one year project but it turned into a two year project,” Dobin explained.

Camp is hoping to accomplish two main projects in the near future--the inside of the old activities center and the exteriors of the camper cabins.

The plan for the activities center is to remove the walls and reconfigure the placement of the rooms, which will be more built to purpose. The dance studio will be complete with a wood floor and floor- to- ceiling mirrors.

Renovating the exterior of the camper cabins currently has no set timeline.

“When someone gives us a [donation] to do that, that is when we’ll do it,” Dobin chuckled.

“It’s doable in the next couple of years, but I can’t say when it’s going to happen.”

This renovation consists of

changing the material of the cabins’ exterior, changing the placement of the windows for the sake of efficiency, painting them the iconic GFC green color, and adding drying racks to the sides of the cabins.

The main infrastructure project this summer involves removing trees around camp that could potentially be dangerous.

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Behind the Scenes in the Doar

By Rebecca Fripp

The doar is where we get our beloved mamtak and mail, but we don’t realize how it works and what is going on behind the scenes. Sherry Freeman, the Director of the Mailroom, showed us behind the scenes of the Doar.

Doar workers come in at 9 a.m. and leave at 5 p.m., except on Friday, when they leave at
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S’ganim Takes First Trip to San Antonio



Stephen Yoss, Tova Ross, Shoshi Korsounsky, Shay Ashkenazi, Yael Meyer, Stephanie Felberbaum, Seth Obrien and Julia Volz take a jumping photo for a scavenger hunt. *Page 9*

The First Shabbat

By Jules Weinstein

A typical Shabbat at Greene Family Camp is when the whole camp comes together from Camp Kattan to Kibbutz. We all have Shabbat dinner and then t'fillot at the Beit Kneset where we sing songs, say prayers and everyone puts their arms around each other. We finish the night with Israeli dancing.

How do you feel at Shabbat when everyone has their arms around each other?

"I feel like I'm in a loving community, and I feel that I can talk to anyone and they will be there for me." -Noa Granoff

"I feel like I am being hugged by the whole camp!" -Avery Simon, counselor

"I feel like I am surrounded by loving people who care about me and have my back when I need it." -Emily Mandel



A group of Melachim friends enjoy their Shabbat together.

The Myths of Greene

By Tanner Kopel and Zach Mikulencak

There are many myths surrounding Greene Family Camp. Counselors are always denying the existence of Maccabiah while supposedly they are riding a rollercoaster underground. Here are some of Greene's biggest secrets revealed.

The Secret Bowling Alley – This legend has been driving campers crazy for years! The bowling alley has been confirmed to be true by Summer Camp Director Stefani Rozen. The bowling alley is located under the zula, and campers are not allowed to bowl because it's a privilege for the staff.

According to Rozen, it's located through a closet door in the staff lounge, but is invisible to campers. Something in your mind changes when you become a counselor allowing you to see it.

The bowling alley is old-fashioned and has been here for longer than Rozen has worked here. The reason that we run out of mamtak, she said, is that the bowling pins are made of candy. The bowling specialist's name is Josh but his last name is unknown.

The Tree Houses-- Executive Director Loui Dobin has confirmed plans of tree houses to be real.

"We're hoping [for] next summer, but it's all dependent on the
Continued on the next page

A Day in the Life of an Avodahnik

By Mia Press

Rachael Garcia, an Avodahnik has been going to camp for four years. She decided to become an Avodah after she heard about the “really amazing experience”, and that lots of her friends were going.

Garcia starts her day by eating with her campers at breakfast, after which she and her fellow Avodahniks have to bus.

Next, they have Avodah education. This session, Valerie Klein is the new education director for the Avodah. The Avodahniks get to choose some of the activities they do, and the leaders incorporate their ideas into the curriculum. Some discussion topics are current events and things happening around camp.

Next, Garcia has coverage for Chug. Her coverage can be “very fun” or “really boring” depending on the kids she is with.

After lunch with her kids, Garcia goes to a meeting with all the Avodahnikim. During meetings, they talk about many things including conflict resolution, planning Spectacular Night, and sometimes they have guest speakers.

Garcia said she is having a great time being an Avodah and was excited from the beginning. She says becoming an Avodah is a great learning experience and a good way to mature.

MYTHS, CONTINUED

legalities of whether we can come to an agreement with the guy on liability,” Dobin said in an interview with S’ganim journalism campers.

The old plan also cost \$100,000 to build the tree houses. He also mentioned that there have been plans, but none have been approved yet because of Texas accessibility standards.

The proposed location of the tree houses is in the trees near the campout site. The new plan has not have a price estimate, so GFC is not yet able to put the plans into action.

Aviva Isgur and Jared Press contributed to this article.

The End of Camp

By Henry Smith

At home we feel that time slows down as we await the start of camp. We get here and time goes by. We enjoy our friends, activities, and the atmosphere even though we may get homesick.

Gaga and hagigah, chug and menucha, it’s all good. Two weeks are gone and we’ve made great friends. We want to stay and have fun, but secretly we miss our parents.

Camp is great but we all know it can’t last. Enjoy the last few days of camp, and let it go out with a boom. As our time slides through our fingers like the water at Hawaiian Falls, we realize camp is as unique as the talent show.

Although it’s sad, camp goes out with a boom on Spectacular Day. All campers, Avodahniks, and staff enjoy their time, but we need to have fun in the present because camp racks up our friends list more than Facebook or Instagram ever could.



A Day in the Life of...

A Nurse

By Rebecca Fripp

The life of a nurse is even more than a full-time job. They wake up at 7 a.m. and go to bed at 11 p.m., even on Shabbat, and one nurse is always on call. Nurse Avery Herman, who is also Nurse 2 for medications, tell us what a day in the infirmary is like.

A typical day begins with morning medicines at both breakfasts. Breakfast also has sick call, a time when those with non-emergency illnesses or injuries can see the nurses.

Per sick call, the nurses see about 12 to 15 campers, Herman said, but as camp goes on, the line will only get longer. People

get more tired and the allergies start bothering them and they get sicker.

Afterward, the nurses have a little time to go back to the infirmary and to tie up loose ends like returning phone calls. They come back to the dining hall for the two lunches, and then have varying amounts of time in between lunch and dinner.

“Sometimes we do get a little downtime where we’re so tired that we might need to take a little rest or maybe we walk around and go visit the farm or something like that or read a book,” Herman said. “But one of us is always available in the infirmary.”

Dinner is the same drill, where the nurses pass out meds at both meals. Like breakfast, dinner
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Loui Dobin

By Carter Rose Matheny

We asked 4 people to walk us through their schedule.

“You assume I have a schedule,” Greene Family Camp Executive Director Loui Dobin said.

He then walked me through a day in his shoes, beginning by meeting with people while walking to breakfast. He goes to the end of first breakfast and the beginning of the next so he gets to see everyone.

After breakfast, Dobin makes phone calls in his office; he says this is his least favorite part of the day because he doesn’t like the telephone.

He then walks around, wandering, watching, and helping, which is the part of his day he likes most. Dobin attends both lunches before going to the leadership meeting. He stays back afterward for people to ask him questions.

Dobin says that he can’t control his schedule. “I don’t deal with it; it deals with me,” he explains.

Like breakfast and lunch, Dobin also goes to both of the two dinners. He then walks his dog and sees his wife. After doing some more work, he eventually goes to sleep.

Dobin explained that he is able to do all of this because of the smiles, new opportunities, and the fact that he gets to watch people grow. He says that is what camp is all about.



Avodahnikim find time to spend with their friends during Shabbat song session.

A Day in the Life of...

A Counselor

By Sam Shapan

Molly Paley is a Shoftim counselor and has been going to camp for nine years. Paley begins her day by waking up at 8:30 and taking her bunk Netanya to breakfast at nine.

After breakfast, she goes to her hagigah coverage which was journalism for the first week of camp.

"I really like journalism," Paley said. "I've never done journalism before so I think it's interesting because I like reading the newspaper."

While Paley is on her hour off, everyone else is at chug. She likes to spend her hour off alone, making friendship bracelets or reading in the cabin.

Paley said she thinks the difference between a camper and a counselor is that a counselor has more responsibility.

"I feel like I have to worry a lot more about killing bugs in the cabin and making sure that

Loui's New Role

By Aviva Isgur

Recently, Loui Dobin had a change of position from camp director to executive director of Greene Family Camp. Previously, Dobin ran only the summer program.

"That was a huge job," said Dobin, "[but] it was limited in

everyone is happy and healthy and safe and enjoying their time at camp," she said.

When her hour off is over, Paley eats lunch with Netanya, and then they have nikayon and menucha, before heading to the pool. Next, they have dinner prep and finally dinner at 6:30.

Chufsha begins at 7:15 and after song session, Shoftim has their evening program. Paley's favorite evening program is Iron Chef "because we get to eat a cookie cake [and] it was my parents who were judges," she said.

Her other favorite program is trip night when the entire unit goes to Hawaiian Falls.

The last thing Paley does is "put the kids to bed, and then I pass out because I am so tired."

Paley's favorite part of camp is "being able to see other campers enjoy camp as much as I did when I was a camper." Then sadly, her least favorite part of camp is well of course...leaving.

its own way." In Dobin's new position, he now runs an operation that is not only summer-based, but one that lasts all year long.

According to Dobin, not only are activities year-round, but they are also in many different places besides Bruceville. Greene has done a ski trip in Colorado, Costa Rican Mitzvah Corps, and a trip to Washington D.C.

Another one of his new responsibilities is to create partnerships with other organizations such as BBYO, Federations, and JCCs.

"There are a lot of kids that don't do anything except go to

A Camper

By Grace Kant

At the beginning of the day Ava Slobin is one of the last campers to wake up. Her best friend, Grace Kant, who she met at camp, is one of the first. When asked about her other bunk-mates, Slobin says that "they rock."

Slobin's hagigah is zoo and her chug is ultimate frisbee, although she said she would love to try the fitness chug.

Her favorite part of the day is Menucha. During Chufsha, which is immediately after dinner, she usually walks around camp with her friends.

After Chufsha is song session, which is her least favorite part of the day. Her night concludes with an evening program, and she was most looking forward to Lake Night. Before Slobin goes to bed, she listens to music.

Sunday School and quit after [their] Bar Mitzvah, which is one of the things that we are supposed to prevent," Dobin explained.

Dobin's main priorities now consist of raising money, hiring staff, constructing buildings, and supervising the people under him. Dobin says supervising people is the hardest part because he prefers being creative and working on his own.

"I'm more of a musician than a manager, which works up to a certain point," he explained.

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Homegrown Food

By Elijah Alford and Zane Zientz

One of the ways that Kibbutz is different from the rest of camp is that they grow and plant their own food. They grow a variety of vegetables including corn, snap peas, squash, as well as herbs like mint, basil, fennel, and dill.

Russian lettuce is also in the garden.

“It feels like a ball of snot, it’s really fun,” says Kibbutz garden specialist Brahm Walter of Russian lettuce. “You eat it and it gets really slimy. It’s awesome and it’s good for you too.”

GFC works with someone from the Homestead come out and plant in early spring.

“It’s a really cool community just a little bit north of here and it’s like a big farmer community, a farmer village that keeps home values,” Walter said.

Kibbutz cooks their own food; they have a cooking group that changes every week.

How does Kibbutz decide what to cook, you ask? They sit down at a table and think about what sounds delicious.

Some daily activities at the farm are stretches, pulling out weeds, and singing to the plants because, surprisingly, rock music makes the plants grow faster. A scientific study has been done on this, and yes, this is true.



Kibbutznikim work at the garden to grow vegetables that they use when they cook meals for the unit.

GCP 2016 TEAM

Niviim

Elijah Alford, Shayna Levy, Alexis Robinson, Sophie Starr, Jules Weinstein, Zane Zientz

Kohanim/Shoftim

Evyn Gadd, Alex Ignatow, Grace Kant, Tanner Kopel, Rachel LeRoy, Carter Rose Matheny, Zach Mikulencak, Carly Mills, Mia Press, Sam Shapan, Henry Smith

Melachim/S’ganim

Stephanie Felberbaum, Rebecca Fripp, Aviva Isgur, Lia Moses, Mason Pfeffer, Jared Press, Hannah Schwitzer, Mira Schwitzer, Mikayla Sneed

Staff

Brooke Dubin, Naomi Grant (specialist), Sammy Lutes, Molly Paley, Jason Thompson, Fred Traylor

What makes camp special for you?

By Jules Weinstein

“Seeing old friends from last year.” -Evelyn Arouty

“Meeting new friends.” -Hannah Clearfield

“Doing arts and crafts.” -Maya Comisar

“Being in a Jewish community with all my friends.” -Noa Granoff

“Meeting my new counselors.” -Jillian Miller

“All the new things we get to try.” -Avery Simon, counselor

“Dancing in the Chadar.” -Chloe Stein

“Making new friends.” -Sophie Weiner

Why did you choose to come to camp?

“I came last year and it was really fun.” -Hannah Clearfield

“I enjoy being with my friends and counselors.” -Noa Granoff

“My brother talks about it and makes it sound really cool.” -Emily Mandel

“To see all my old friends and to have fun.” -Jillian Miller

NEW ROLE, CONTINUED
Although his job brings new opportunities and responsibilities, Dobin said a lot hasn't changed.

“In a lot of ways, there is more that hasn't changed than that has changed and the reason I say that is because I am busier than I ever was.”

When Dobin first began his job as camp director, he had no assistant directors. Eventually, camp

hired an assistant director and Dobin then lobbied to get another assistant director and then one more. After starting with 70 kids, the operation built up to about 1,000 kids in summer and winter programs.

“It's a lot of fun,” Dobin said, “I get to do a lot of cool stuff, go to a lot of neat places.”

Jared Press contributed to this report.

NURSES, CONTINUED

also has sick call and the nurses have a little time in the evening between dinner and when they have to pass out night meds.

The Shabbat schedule is a little different, “...in the sense that Shabbat is the only meal where we actually get to sit down with the campers and staff and we actually eat the meal with them,” Herman said.

On Shabbat, dinner meds are passed out in the infirmary starting at about five. Because Saturday is a grab 'n go breakfast before services, medicines on Shabbat morning are also passed out from the infirmary starting at around 8:30.

A Special Place

By Miriam Schwitzer

A special place
To come and play
Where the times just fade away
Friendship grows like trees
Though it's like a million degrees.

Walking around the rocky paths
Holding on so the memories last
Watching sunsets
Awaiting stars
Jumping around like on monkey bars.

A special place
Where whispers never end
Something new around the bend

PLANS, CONTINUED

“They could blow over onto somebody, a limb could fall or something like that, so we have... a map of the camp with every single tree located with GPS coordinates,” Dobin explained.

This summer, using the GPS tracking device, every potentially dangerous tree has been marked to either be removed or trimmed. Dobin estimates the total cost of this project ranges from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

One of the two main construction projects is a performing arts center.

The main focus of this project is a new theater that can seat the whole camp. It will consist of improved lighting, sound, seating, and space, said Dobin. It will connect to the kikar like the chadar ochel and the sports center

and the project should cost about \$2.5 million.

As far as a timeline, “ask me in half a million dollars and I’ll tell you if it will happen... So my goal is to have it built for next summer,” said Dobin.

The other rumored construction project is a giant treehouse that campers can utilize during campouts.

However, due to complications with the designs concerning accessibility, plans have been delayed multiple times and the costs are still in question.

Dobin said he hopes the treehouse will be ready for next summer, but it depends on costs and legal issues.

“This is the smallest but most complicated project we have ever done here,” Dobin said. “But it’s been a lot of fun.”

DOAR, CONTINUED

4, according to Freeman. Even though we don’t get mail on Saturday, they come in to put out mail for Sunday.

“During a work day; I open mail, put out mail, sort the mail, fill mamtak bags, go through mail that comes to the mailbox [and] make sure it’s stamped and addressed correctly before it goes out,” Freeman said. “I pick up [the t-shirts campers receive] in their individual bags at the beginning of camp and end of camp and...keep all this stuff [the refrigerator of mamtak drinks] filled,” explained Freeman.

Doar workers open packages, looking for candy and food, but some parents know this and are sneaky. Once, Freeman found candy inside a hollow book.

“I just opened it and it didn’t look right and I opened it up and... the inside was cut out... and the candy was inside.”

She also found “stuffed animals unsewn with candy stuffed in there and sewn back up,” she said. “[The animal had] kind of a crunch.”

On average, camp gets about four to five bags of mail a day plus two tubs.

“UPS has left packages about as tall as me,” Freeman said.

Farm Specialists Q & A

By Shayna Levy and Sophie Starr

Greene Cricket-Press: What animal is the hardest to care for?

Jospeh Satterwhite: Llama. We have to brush the llama and keep his coat as clean as we can.

GCP: Why did you choose to work on the farm?

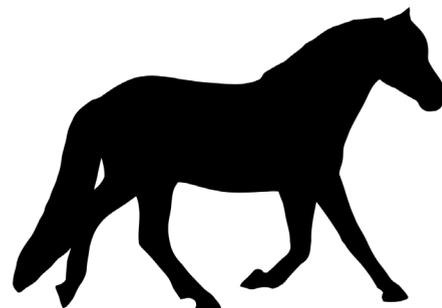
JS: I grew up living on a farm in the cattle industry.

GCP: What’s the training process with the horses like?

Lem Brown: It really takes months...being that they’re a prey animal, they can be real flighty when you first start because they assume that you’re a predator and want to run away.

GCP: How do you feed the horses?

LB: You put the feed in a bowl or a container of some sort. Most of what they eat is hay and grass. You just put your hand in their face-- some of them would flinch, others wouldn’t even pay attention. But if you’re going to feed them out of your hand, make sure that your hand is flat so that they don’t bite your fingers off.



S'ganim Takes First Annual Trip to San Antonio



S'ganimers took various photos around the River Walk as part of their scavenger hunt. On the right, Team Wet takes a selfie in front of the Alamo.

From Their Eyes: The S'ganim Trip to San Antonio By Stephanie Felberbaum

S'ganim Off Campus By Haley Derdiger

In the third week of camp, S'ganimers went on their first trip to San Antonio. After the trip I spoke to campers Arielle Klein and Benjamin Kressbach and Alex Null, Assistant Director of Year Round programs about everything S'ganim did on the trip.

The unit first went to the Alamo and the Riverwalk, where they attempted a scavenger hunt.

Klein's group "kind of did the scavenger hunt, but...got very lost," she said. "Then it started raining, so we just kind of took two pictures and then somehow ended up at a mall."

Kressbach's group "tried to, but ... kinda got a little lost." He is also a member of Temple Beth-El, which is where S'ganim spent the night and much of the afternoon.

"It was a really cool thing for me to have a bunch of my camp friends who have never been there before to go and see what I do on a daily basis," Kressbach said.

Arielle said she thought "[Beth El] was so big and
Continued on the next page

S'ganim left for the annual trip on July 26th to San Antonio. Because of the rain our first stop at the River Walk was detoured. The unit headed into the mall for shopping and sightseeing instead.

From there, we departed to Temple Beth-El where we had a couple speakers inform us about immigrants and refugees, which we had discussed during education in the days leading up to the trip.

Our first speakers were from BCFS, an organization for unaccompanied minors from mostly Central America who immigrate to the United States, and we learned about struggles that young kids our age have to face.

Our second set of speakers was from the San Antonio branch of Catholic Charities, which had a similar goal to that of BCFS. However, it is for all ages and helps people from overseas--the two people who spoke to us were refugees from Iran and Myanmar, and the refugee from Myanmar shared his personal story of his immigration.

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THEIR EYES, CONTINUED

beautiful. My temple is really small and so it was really amazing how gigantic [Beth El] was.”

S’ganim did not just take this trip just to sightsee--they have also been learning about refugees and heard presentations from two organizations that work with refugees.

BCFS and Catholic Charities spoke about what they do to help refugees and how they deal with unaccompanied minors.

“I learned that a lot of kids have it a lot harder than I do,” Klein said. “Even when I feel like I’m having a bad day, other people are having worse days.”

Kressbach realized that refugees were not what he thought they were.

“A couple years ago, when I was told that GFC was hosting a bunch of refugees, I thought of like, adult criminals and stuff,” Kressbach said.

When Executive Director Loui Dobin and BCFS spoke to S’ganim, Kressbach realized that these refugees were primarily unaccompanied minors.

“It taught me that I’m very privileged and that I should be thankful for what I have, and try to give some of that to them,” he said.

During group discussions, it was clear that much of the unit felt the same way.

“Based off of the discussion that we had at the end of the night, it was really great to just hear everyone talking about their personal experiences and how it related to the S’ganim trip,” Null said.

S’ganim also had the opportunity to spend time with some kids from BFF (Beth-El Food

and Fun) day camp, which is for children who don’t have food all the time and at school get free or reduced lunches.

Kressbach volunteered there everyday this entire summer until he went to camp. The first time he volunteered at the beginning of the summer, they had a lot more kids than they had during the trip--he estimated there were about 80 throughout the day when he was a volunteer and only about 15 when he came with camp.

“It was really cool to see the kids and meet them and see how excited they were that we were there,” Klein said. “It was really sad that there were that many children that didn’t know where their next meal was coming from.”

The trip concluded with a visit to the Institute of Texan Culture and a hike through a cavern.

“When you put stuff on paper you never know how it’s going to turn out in real life, but I think that [the trip] was a really positive experience for the campers,” Null said.



OFF CAMPUS, CONTINUED

To S’ganimers, it was really eye-opening about how fortunate we are and made us see ourselves in whole new ways.

The next morning we were woken up at seven to eat and prepare for BFF (Beth-El Food and Fun) Day Camp, which is held at the Temple during the summer. The day camp is for underprivileged kids who have free or reduced-price lunches during the school year so that they can receive free breakfast and lunch during the summer, as well as a day filled with activities.

There, S’ganim volunteered and spent time with these kids while they ate breakfast and briefly afterward.

We departed from the temple around 9:15 to head to the Institute of Texan Cultures, where we toured around the museum learning about cultures from all over the world and how they migrated and settled in Texas.

We also had a big discussion about refugees and immigrants and our opinions on them. The different words and thoughts we used to describe these people varied among individuals and groups.

From the museum, S’ganim went to the Natural Bridge Caverns. Once we arrived we went on a tour up to 180 feet below the Natural Bridge. The Cavern was beautiful and the tour was a really good experience.

After the tour ended, we were able to walk around gift shops and buy souvenirs and treats.

We returned to GFC a few hours later after a long and fun two days. S’ganim really enjoyed this trip and was sad it had come to an end so soon.

The Wonderful World of Roi Sarne

By Tanner Kopel

Roi Sarne is a Kohanim counselor in the bunk of Ein Gedi and part of the photography team.

Sarne became a counselor because he likes kids, and wanted to try something new. He is easily spotted when his camera is in use and wearing his photography shirt.

He is almost finished with his three year term in the Israeli army but is excited to serve his people. When asked about the army's impact on his life, Roi answered, "The Israeli army has helped me become more mature, work under pressure, and command others."

He said he hopes to come back to camp next year.

Melachim Mitzvah Corps

By Lia Moses

This year was the first year of the Melachim Mitzvah Corp. All of Melachim was divided into multiple "corps," and every day we would discuss a different topic and how we would help people in that situation.

Some examples were hunger, mourning, baby naming, conversation, types of mitzvot, Jewish values and so much more.

In addition to talking about mitzvot, we also performed mitzvot that benefitted the whole camp.

On the second and third Shabbatot, we set up the chadar ochel for brunch, and on the last week of camp, each corp was given its own assignment. One group helped clean and organize the library, while my group found a fun way to teach the Bonimers about the Torah portion for the week. Another group cleaned up around camp.

Overall it was a great experience to learn about helping our community.

The Greene Monster

By Sophie Starr

The Greene Monster, such a myth.

But what if it's true?

Avodahnikim say that it's true and counselors say it too. Here are some questions I asked to two counselors and an avo:

Was the Greene Monster fun? They all said it was.

Where does the Greene Monster lead? The lake and all over camp. Where is the entrance to the Greene Monster? Unknown.

So there it is. The Greene Monster is real. Now you have it. This is Sophie Starr with the Greene Cricket-Press.





By Hannah Schwitzer
and Mikayla Sneed