HAPPY THINKING DAY 2019!!!

WAGGGS is celebrating World Thinking Day 2019 with a recognition to the group of girls who took the lead in 1909 and demanded that Lord Baden-Powell create ‘something for the girls’. WAGGGS has done a terrific job creating an activity pack that can be downloaded through the WAGGGS website at www.wagggs.org.

The theme for Thinking Day 2019 for GSUSA is: 

Step Up, Stand Up, and Get Involved!

Girls are encouraged to ‘stand up and take action for positive change on global issues that are important’.

Regardless of the theme, this is the time of year when we remember our roots and renew our Promise and dedication to the movement. This is also a time that we can share our talents in activities in our councils and support our movement financially. A donation to the "World Thinking Day Fund" on the website, http://www.worldfoundationwagggs.org/donate, would be a nice remembrance.

THE GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE WORLD FOUNDATION FOR GIRL GUIDES AND GIRL SCOUTS, INC.

The Edith Macy Conference Center is once again the site of the World Foundation's Gathering of Friends scheduled for October 31-November 3, 2019. Friends received (via email) in early February the 2019 Gathering preliminary schedule. The email also detailed information about required changes occurring with Macy as they are now collecting registration information and arranging transportation through Eventbrite.

Registration takes less than two minutes and can be updated as transportation and roommate preferences are determined: https://22nd_gathering_of_friends.eventbrite.com

Barbara Putney is our Friends Gathering Coordinator. Your $25 non-refundable event fee ensures a room and covers the costs of the expenses associated with using the conference facilities at Edith Macy. Send your $25 check, payable to Barbara Putney at 104 Mel Oak Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

The event promises to be specular!

As we plan to celebrate our founder’s birthday, legacy, and story, we’ll also want to celebrate by recording your stories of how Girl Scouts and Girl Guides has impacted you. We will use the recordings for the website, social media, and other places that will help get the word out.

Throughout the Gathering, Kaela Sáenz Oriti, a Friend of WAGGGS USA, will have a filming area set up to hear from you. A sign-up sheet will be
available at Macy and these conversations will happen at various times Thursday through Saturday. Each recording should take between 5-10 minutes and there’s no preparation necessary. Just come ready to share your joy in Girl Scouting and Girl Guiding with others. Additional details will be communicated as we get closer to October.

We will be celebrating Juliette Gordon Low’s birthday the evening of October 31st in the Great Hall!

Think about what you would wear on such a special occasion and what you would say to Juliette about how her dedication and efforts have had an impact on your life. Perhaps you might wish to bring a monetary gift that will be designated to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund.

FRIENDS COMMITTEES SET GOALS FOR 2019
[*percent increase from FY 2018 noted]*

Kudos to our Friends committees for setting ambitious goals for FY 2019. The goals are:

- Friends of Our Cabaña: $80,000 - 6.6%
- Friends of Our Chalet: $55,000
- Friends of Pax Lodge: $30,000
- Friends of Sangam: $35,000
- Friends of WAGGGS USA: $43,000 - 22%
  - Totals: $243,000

Each Friends committee has set the goal of growing by at least two Friends. Additionally, the Friends of Our Cabaña have decided to earmark 5% of their goal to support grant applications specifically to benefit girls from GSUSA.

Fund Raising Goals for FYE 09/30/19:
Progress towards these goals at the 4 month mark (end of January) is as follows:

- Friends of Our Cabaña: $20,130 25%
- Friends of Our Chalet: $17,608 32%
- Friends of Pax Lodge: $12,802 43%
- Friends of Sangam: $9,377 27%
- Friends of WAGGGS USA: $4,817 11%
  - Totals: $64,732 27%

Thank you! Your dedication and work to secure funds will impact the life of a girl or young woman in ways you may never know, but be assured that it will, as it has you!

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

The World Foundation Board of Directors will stay and conduct their March 2019 meetings at Hostelling International in New York City. Peggy Stevens, WF Board Vice-President, is Board Chair of HI-USA and has graciously made arrangements for us to stay and to conduct our meetings there. The WF Board will network with Sapreet Kaur Saluja, Chief Fund Development Officer, GSUSA, and Judith Beatty, GSUSA.
International Commissioner, at dinner on Thursday night. The Annual Meetings will take place on March 15th where grant applications will be reviewed and funds awarded, Board members will be appointed or reappointed through nominations from our two Members, GSUSA and WAGGGS, and other matters of business will occur.

World Foundation Board Member Kristen Grennan will return to NYC one day prior to the March Board meeting after a trip to Sangam with her mother. You may recall that Kristen was the recipient of a generous donation from Friends of Our Chalet member Barbara Friis, who purchased the trip at our Not-So-Silent Auction during the 2018 Gathering.

Gillian (Harrow), Strategic Partnerships Manager, WAGGGS, reports: “From 10 – 14 January I had the honour to attend the first Stop the Violence (STV) training in Côte d’Ivoire with 39 participants representing the three Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting associations from across the country. The event blended WAGGGS’ non-formal education component (Voices against Violence) with our advocacy component (STV) so that participants can take action to address violence against women and girls in Côte d’Ivoire. We were joined by Unicef and the Executive Coordinator of Coalition Ivoirienne pour la Cour Penale Internationale to provide a national context on gender based violence in country.

Women in Côte d’Ivoire are faced with violence in their everyday lives, it is a country that has experienced two civil wars in 21st century. Harsh statistics that were shared during the training are testament to how important this training and our partnerships are:

- 26% are victims of physical and/or sexual violence by their partner
- 27% are victims of early marriage
- 37% are victims of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) despite the practice being outlawed. A national law was adopted by Cote d’Ivoire in 1998, prohibiting FGM/C and punishing it.

As a result of the hard work over four days by the participants and facilitators, the young women chose to focus on forced marriage, street harassment, FGM/C, domestic violence and how to break the silence for their future campaigns. The campaigning work will be shaped by using education, campaigning, awareness raising, research and policy, and lobbying.”

Stefanie Ortiz-Cidlik, USAGSO Director, writes that (USAGSO) is partnering with Women Political Leaders (WPL) and Girl Scouts of Japan to send girls and young women, ages 14-25, to Tokyo June 25-27 to a “#Girl2Leader Campaign. The program is designed to encourage girls to consider a future in leadership and to get more girls involved in politics by connecting them with female politicians.
Marlene Logan, Chair, Friends of Pax Lodge, recently returned from Pax Lodge and reports “we have a new Senior Program Coordinator, Liz Tranter (pictured below). She is a former teacher of 5 and 6 year-olds and has Brownie and Ranger units. She visited Our Cabaña last summer and decided she wanted to look for work with WAGGGS. She couldn’t believe her current position was available when she returned to the UK and found it is just the career change she was looking for. She is really excited with what she can offer at Pax.

WCM, Nico, has been working on making more family type rooms available. His newest reincarnation is a studio apartment that can be used by a family over several days. That brings our family rooms up to four. These rooms are the most popular rooms available.

While I was there, I was able to see all that Pax Lodge has to offer—even in the middle of winter. We had a mother and daughter who were visiting Pax Lodge and using it as a hostel. We had a unit of Guides who were there overnight for Girl Guiding program as well as the girl program that was offered at Pax in the evening. Three girls made their promise during morning flag ceremony. We also met a woman who was staying at Pax Lodge while her husband was recovering from transplant surgery at nearby Royal Free Hospital as well as a woman who worked as a caretaker and was waiting for her next client. Pax Lodge is vibrant and truly a place where “strangers soon are friends.”

Five Friends of Our Cabaña visited Sangam in January. Ann Killeen, Debi Willis, Sue Goldsmith, Barbara Putney and Rebecca Daniels participated in a session called “Reaching for the Stars”.

Debi Willis wrote that the beauty and peacefulness of Sangam was almost overwhelming upon arrival, especially after visiting Mumbai or the Golden Triangle (which were both great). The Program Volunteers and Staff greeted us with smiles, and never failed to help us with anything we needed.

Our session focused on Leadership and involved a great deal of community involvement with both children and adults. Along the way, we made new friends, cemented “old” friendships, and discovered our Leadership Potential.

Ann, Debi, Sue, Barbara and Debbie
Your gift could change the life of a young woman by being a sponsor of the Juliette Low Seminar November 14 - 20, 2019:

Staff from WAGGGS presented information at the Gathering about the Juliette Low Seminar to be conducted at 20 hubs (including the Macy Conference Center) around the world for 50 girls each. The outreach of 1000 girls to 100 girls each from their homes would mean 100,000 girls would develop new leadership practices to lead their lives and communities. The cost to support one girl is $2000 but donations in any amount would be cobbled together to make it possible for a girl to attend.

Facilitator training occurred in Kampala, Uganda in November 2018 utilizing WAGGGS’ Leadership Training model. WAGGGS has shared with us the following “Thanks to the World Foundation and other donors we were able to subsidize event fee for all leadership program participants, and offer either partial or full travel grants to everyone from the leadership program that applied for them”. In addition, 16 adults from the US participated in a cultural event of 50 individuals which was held simultaneously at the same location.

The World Foundation will receive donations earmarked for this event until February 28, 2019. Both GSUSA and WAGGGS will be granted funds received upon receipt of a grant application to be reviewed at the WF March 2019 board meeting.

SAVE THE DATES!

March 15, 2019: World Foundation Board Meetings @ Hostelling International – New York City

October 31-November 3, 2019: World Foundation Board Meeting, WF Board/Leadership Team Meeting, and The Gathering @ Edith Macy Conference Center


The next issue of “What's Happening” will be published in June 2019. Please share your stories and adventures (personal or Friends committee)

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the World Foundation for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc. an independent not-for-profit organization whose purpose is “to promote in all lawful ways for charitable and educational purposes, the success of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in any and all countries of the world”.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the World Foundation for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc. at 420 Fifth Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2798, Phone: 212-852-8612, Email:ryuschak@girlscouts.org.

World Thinking Day