



# What's Happening

A Quarterly Newsletter from the World Foundation  
for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc.  
February 2024

## Greetings:

## Updates from the Board:

The first quarter of our new fiscal year really kicked off strong seeing \$223,937.92 in total gifts! This is more than \$40K stronger than the first quarter of our previous fiscal year, thanks to amazing efforts of our friends and supporters. We are excited to see where this momentum may take us as we enter 2024.

### Friends Committee Funding Activity FYE 2024 to date

	Goal	Current	% of Goal
Nuestra Cabaña	\$84,000	\$13,440	16%
Our Chalet	\$75,000	\$13,766	18%
Pax Lodge			
USA	\$40,000	\$4,368	11%
Sangam	\$51,000	\$15,444	30%
WAGGGS USA	\$75,000	\$23,036	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$325,000</b>	<b>\$70,054</b>	<b>22%</b>

Our Program Coordinator Valerie Pierpoint began her maternity leave January 16 and welcomed a daughter, Angela Lee Pitt on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. She anticipates returning to work in mid-April. Until then, financial questions will be fielded by our Treasurer, Ellen Petrino, and other inquiries can be directed to Board President, Barbara Schliebe.

**Date to Remember:** Gathering of the Friends of the World Foundation: October 31 to November 03, 2024



## Facebook and Fundraising

Many of you use Facebook for fundraising (great!) but recent changes to the way FB reports those funds have become problematic from a bookkeeping perspective. It has become near impossible to acknowledge who your donors are and be able to give proper credit to you, as well as your donors.

Additionally, the funds from FB donations are no longer reported out in a timely manner that enables the Program Coordinator to send reports at the end of each month.

Therefore, to provide better information for you and for your donors, it is suggested that you use SALSA to host fundraisers on FB. All you must do is go to the World Foundation website and using the drop-down menu, select your committee and your personal drop down to copy the link and then post that on your FB page (do not use the "donate" button on FB). SALSA will track your donations and provide more accurate information as well as send an instant message to acknowledge your donor and provide a receipt for their donation.

## World Thinking Day February 2024



In 2024 the Theme is "Our World, Our Thriving Future: The environment and global poverty" In this year's activities, we'll explore the link between poverty and the environment and find out how these problems are even more challenging for girls and women in your community and around the world.

Support this year's activities specifically by donating during the month of February or donate anytime to support GSUSA and WAGGGS initiatives around World Thinking Day each year.

The link to the World Foundation's website can be found at [Click here:](https://worldfoundationgggs.salsalabs.org/worldthinkingday/index.html) OR <https://worldfoundationgggs.salsalabs.org/worldthinkingday/index.html>

### News from the Friends Committees:



#### Friends of Nuestra Cabaña

The Friends of Our Cabaña have a new name. By a vote of the membership at the end of 2023, we are now the Friends of Nuestra Cabaña.



Nuestra Cabana's Renewal Event in October 2023, was hard work cleaning, organizing, and strategizing for a sustainable future with

great fun and laughter on the side. A small group of FNC attended representing Canada, UK, Mexico, and the USA. We had tremendous help from other volunteers polishing up the Chief's Door was a highlight.



The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Friends of Nuestra Cabaña was held February 7-11<sup>th</sup> in the beautiful city of Eternal Spring under sunny blue skies with warm temperatures. Eighty-one supporters of World Centres gathered to celebrate Nuestra Cabana's reopening. We were honored to be joined by Candela Gonzalez, WAGGGS World Board Chair, Stefanie Argues, Chair of the Western

Hemisphere Region, and Martha Baldaras, International Commission for the Girl Guides of Mexico. Sarah Keating and Adwoa Aidoo of also attended our meeting to share information on the Global Strategy for GSUSA.

During our business meetings, we heard from Martha Concha, new WCM and Veronica Gonzalez with exciting new opportunities ahead for Nuestra Cabana. The food was wonderful with the fellowship renewing old friendships and making new. Raising the flag each morning started our day, with campfire singing, swimming, and day trips filling our days. Our auction was successful, and funds raised funds to best support Nuestra Cabana and the Girl Guiding and Scouting Movement.



### Friends of Pax Lodge

The Friends of Pax Lodge USA committee—and Pax Lodge itself—have remained quite busy. We had our annual successful virtual tea in late September to raise additional funds for our world center. Money was raised, both by registration fees as well as an auction that included vintage Girl Scout items, British memorabilia, as well as coronation memorabilia and items with our Julie Dawson kaleidoscope printed on them. Many thanks to Jennifer Glover and her team for all their hard work.



Julie Dawson’s generous donation to WAGGGS allowed Pax Lodge to host *Celebrating Us*. These young women from

around the world were participants in last year’s virtual *Juliette Low Session* and now had the opportunity to meet face to face. This JLS was held in both Spanish and English. With participants, program staff, and Pax Lodge staff, twenty-seven countries were represented from four of our five regions.



The final large event for Pax Lodge in 2023 was *Global Friendship Week*. This year’s event was to highlight London at Christmas to see the amazing lights as well as enjoy British traditions. Our London at night tour was led by USAGSO member, Catherine Gritz (she leads London tours with a focus on Girl Guiding and/or Juliette Low’s life in London). We went out to Hampton Court to see where Lady Baden-Powell lived in a Grace and Favor apartment. The week also included international night, WAGGGS and world center programs, theatre night, and our community project at the Peace Garden near Hampstead Heath.



## News from Kusafiri: Thinking Day



### Virtual Rally 2024

**Overview:** The theme for World Thinking Day 2024 “Our World Our Thriving Future” will showcase the positive impact Girl Guides and Girl Scouts make as we investigate the conditions that girls and young women need to survive and thrive in an environmentally conscious world. Kusafiri World Centre will mark the day with a Virtual Rally to share learning and experience of our Community Partners who are building sustainable environmentally conscious businesses and the opportunities available through them for girls and young women.

**When:** 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Time:** 1800hrs UTC

**Cost:** £2 per person

**Where:** Zoom – Link provided when you register

**Register here:**

<https://bookings.waggs.org/>



### Friends of WAGGGS USA

#### A BIT OF HISTORY

Friends of WAGGGS USA was founded in 2002, as a project committee of the World Foundation for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc. Founding Chair Yvonne Lowrie was asked to develop a committee focused on the broader work of global Girl Scouting

and Girl Guiding, and not just focused on a singular World Center. The committee started with 10 members, two of whom are still active members of the committee today. Yvonne and Roz Greene were honored with Emerita status to recognize and thank them for their efforts in those early years to start and grow the committee.

#### HOW THE FUNDS ARE USED

Since the committee was formed, funds have been granted to both WAGGGS and GSUSA for programs such as “Stop the Violence” that promote and enable global experiences for girls and young women. These grants cover everything from the translation of materials into one of WAGGGS’s official languages (English, French, Spanish, and Arabic) to sending a delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and so much more. Many thanks to all the Friends and donors who have promoted all things global and donated money over the years.

#### THIS YEAR’S GOALS

Now in early 2023, the committee has 30 active members. Our goal for this year is to add three new members and reach our goal of \$75,000 in funds raised, all members are reminded to meet their membership commitment of making a personal donation.



We had an amazing year last year! Thank you so much to the World Foundation for the timely communication and all the help.

The GSUSA National Council Session and Phenom in Orlando in July presented us with an excellent opportunity to share with girls and adults the benefits and opportunities our organization affords them worldwide. Thanks to the leadership and support of Lisa Hinshaw and Margaret Renwand, the team of representatives from the Friends groups and OB-PS was able to create a space that welcomed and engaged those who attended. We were cozy, but it worked!

We also co-hosted the international reception with GSUSA, and were able to invite Girl Scout staff, presenters from the Hall of Experiences, OB-PS members, and other key adults. Messages from girls and young women; Inga Pikse, WAGGGS staff; and Susan Campbell, OB-PS president were meaningful and moving.

The triennial meeting of the World Board was held in Cypress, immediately following Orlando. Several OB-PS Members flew directly there. What an experience to be able to attend and see young women putting governance into action! It was especially meaningful because our fundraiser in 2022 in Cincinnati supported scholarships for the participants.

Our annual meeting was in Malaysia. It was hosted by Queen Azzizah and her planning team. Our days were filled with updates, royal hospitality, amazing food, fellowship, and singing into the wee hours! The board challenged us to bring in 40 new Members, 40 young Members, 40 associate Members, and 40 upgrades to the next giving level before our 40th anniversary celebration in Copenhagen this year. We are well on the way to doing our part of the worldwide challenge.

Thank you again, World Foundation, for helping to make all of this happen. We are looking forward to an amazing year!

Sue Goldsmith & Karen Saenz, USA Co-coordinators

The next issue of "What's Happening" will be published in the summer. If you have any articles or information, you would like included, please send to [vpierpoint@girlscouts.org](mailto:vpierpoint@girlscouts.org) by.

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