



# Chalet Chatter

Issue 22 — Winter/Spring 2022

## It All Began With Helen Storrow. . .

A prominent American philanthropist from the Boston area, **Helen Storrow** served for many years in the 1920s as first vice-president of Girl Scouts of the USA. (Interestingly, during those years, the second vice-president was none other than Lou Henry Hoover.)

In 1929, Helen attended a meeting of the World Committee of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in The Hague. At that time, she pledged to finance a World Center in Switzerland. Later elected chair of the World Committee, she made good on her promise and the rest, as they say, is history.

Helen’s spirit and love of Girl Scouting lives on in the international seminars held at Our Chalet since 1986. These Helen Storrow Seminars have brought together groups of young women in the Swiss Alps to develop their leadership skills, have adventures and create an environmentally sustainable project to impact their local community.

This annual international event is a unique opportunity for leadership development, as it addresses one of the most relevant issues in contemporary society — environmental sustainability. At the seminars, 35–40 participants gather for an



↑ **HELEN STORROW** (above left), Guider-in-Charge **Falk** (Ida von Herrenschwand), and World Chief Guide **Olave Baden-Powell** (above, right) at Our Chalet’s opening celebration on July 31, 1932.

intensive seven-day combination of adventure and leadership practice.

Similarly, the Juliette Low Seminars, which began at Our Chalet in 1932, have offered leadership experiences for hundreds of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide. (The Juliette Low seminars are now offered at all five World Centers.)

Since it opened, Our Chalet has welcomed thousands of visitors every year. (COVID pandemic times being an exception.) As we begin the Chalet’s 90th year, let’s wish this treasured World Center (in Swiss German): *Härzliche Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag!*



↑ **CONSULTING** with World Chief Guide Olave Baden-Powell.

↓ **ENJOYING** a visit to Our Chalet.



↑ **MEETING** with Juliette Low at Pine Tree Camp in Plymouth, MA, in 1923.

## July, 1932 — Here Come the Girl Scouts!

**Carol Ann Worden**, a Girl Scout from Auburn, NY, and seven members of Helen Storrow's Girl Scout troop from Lincoln, MA, were the first American Girl Scouts to arrive at Our Chalet. Mrs. Storrow had sailed over with them and had duly prepared them for their trip. Having arrived prior to the opening, they had to wait several days for the workmen to finish construction before they could enter the Chalet,

How very exciting! Helen had arranged for the girls to help set up the house. The girls unpacked the many gifts that had been sent from around the world. There was a lot of washing of dishes and silver. All of the beds needed to be made up as the linens were sorted. Carol Ann had taken a picture of Mrs. Storrow's childhood Auburn home to hang in the office area.

As opening day approached, the girls helped to host the customary party to thank the workers. The Massachusetts Girl Scouts had contributed maple sugar candy as a special treat.

Shortly after the celebration, the girls departed with chaperones to tour France, England, Scotland, and Wales. They often stayed at Girl Guide camps. What a fabulous experience filled with a lifetime of memories for these first-to-Our-Chalet girls!

---

## 1932 — Tea Party

On opening day and after the public celebration, a special tea party was held at the newly built Baby Chalet. A select group of invited guests attended. Helen Storrow provided monogrammed cups and saucers from Boston's Paul Revere Pottery. Wonderful dark blue teapots were emblazoned with golden trefoils. Among the guests were Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, Ida von Herrenschand (Falk), Swiss Girl Guide executive **Yvonne Cuenod**, and **Dorothea Briggs**. Fortunately, many of these monogrammed cups and saucers are still at the Chalet. Look for them when you visit.





↑ "WILLKOMMEN IM OUR CHALET": Friends of Our Chalet alumna **Jean Maassel** (left) and current Friend **Anne Connors**.



↑ **A WHITE CHOCOLATE DOG** carved and on display in Interlaken. Swiss chocolate — yum!



↑ **A TREFOIL** carved out of a tree stump at the woodcarver's. It was 2-3 feet tall.

**A Few of  
My Favorite  
[Chalet] Things**  
  
 (See article by  
Anne Connors, next page)



↑ **EVENING** entertainment: **Fritz** and his alpenhorn



↑ **A PERFORMANCE** by the "Hot Cozies", some of whom were 2010 Chalet staff members. World Center Manager **Sally Thorton** is on the far left.

# A Few of My Favorite [Chalet] Things & Memories

by Anne Connors

I have been fortunate to make several trips to Our Chalet. I was invited to be a trainer to a group of Girl Scouts in Geneva for my first trip in 1991. We stayed in the Squirrel House. I made a second trip in 1992 and stayed in the Seven Dwarfs Room of the main Chalet.

I also got to enjoy winter skiing on several trips. I was back again in 2007 and 2010. Many friendships and, oh, so many memories were created high up on the mountain. We did lots of hiking but the hike to the woodcarver was always a highlight.

Before meals we sang grace and the food was always delicious. Here's the Chalet Grace (*Bénédicité de Notre Chalet*, by Francine Cockenpot, translated by V.M. Synge):

*You, who have worked today for our refreshment,  
Come and partake;  
You, who have worked today  
Come, share with us this bread, for friendship's sake.*

At nighttime we ended the day with a lullaby (*Whip-poor-will*, by Anne H. Chapin, Kent, CT):

*Gone to bed is the setting sun, Night is coming and day is done,  
Whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will, has just begun.*

Here are two of our favorite Swiss recipes:

## Cheese Fondue from Kathi Hari's *Kochbuch*

### Ingredients:

Per person 150 – 200 g (5 – 7 oz.) grated cheese (if possible, a mix of Gruyere, Emmental and Appenzell)  
100 ml (3 – 4 oz.) dry white wine  
1 Tsp cornflour  
Some kirsch  
Paprika, black pepper, nutmeg, garlic  
Bread cut into biggish cubes  
Selection of chopped vegetables (optional)

### Method:

Rub the inside of the fondue pot (*caquelon*) with a clove of garlic.  
Heat the wine slowly, add cheese, stirring continuously in the same direction.  
Mix cornflour with kirsch.  
Add to cheese, stir, simmer for a few minutes to a smooth consistency. (Do not panic if the cheese curdles, just keep stirring.)  
Season just before serving.  
Put the fondue pot on a *rechaud* (spirit burner) to keep the fondue simmering.  
Dip bread into fondue with a fork, stirring as you dip.  
A dry white wine (or tea) should be served with fondue.

→ **SCHERENSCHNITTE**, or papercutting, is a painstaking Swiss craft. This view of the Chalet is by Hans Jungen.



→ **WHENEVER** we hiked in the mountains and fields around Our Chalet we looked for edelweiss.



## Rösti (Bernese fried potatoes) from Kathi Hari's *Kochbuch* — Serves 4

### Ingredients:

1 kg (2 lb.) potatoes  
1 large onion finely chopped  
Bacon, cut into small cubes

### Method:

Parboil the potatoes, leaving their skins on. Peel, and grate coarsely.  
Lightly fry the onions, adding the bacon. Continue to fry until golden brown.  
Add the potatoes to the onion and bacon mixture.  
Turn carefully from time to time whilst frying until the *Rösti* is crisp.  
To make a vegetarian version, the bacon can be omitted.



## Thanks to the Following For 90 Years of Chalet Leadership

### Guiders-in-Charge:

1932-1952 Falk, Ida von Herrenschand, Switzerland  
 1952-1968 Pen, Penelope Wood-Hill, UK  
 1968-1975 Inge Lyck, Denmark  
 1975-1980 Isabelle Duford, Switzerland  
 1980-1986 Hanna Newport, Switzerland  
 1986-1992 Maha Salhani, Lebanon  
 1992-1997 Gweneth Smith, UK  
 1997-1999 Katharina Kalcsics, Austria

### World Centre Managers:

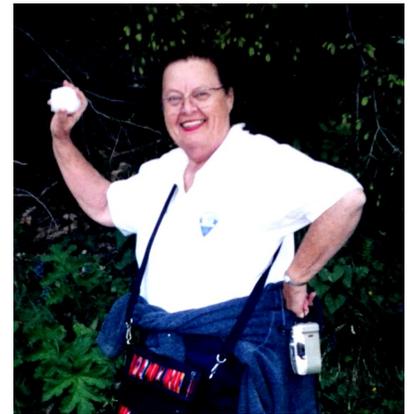
2000-2005 Peter Neurauter, UK  
 2006-2008 Lars Bo Petersen, Denmark  
 2008-2009 Katie Franzke, UK  
 2009-2013 Sally Thornton, Australia  
 2013-2022 Tanya Tulloch, USA



↑ **INTERNATIONAL VISITORS** loading their gear for the trip up to the Chalet.

## Good-bye to Two Chalet Friends

**Joan Paull** served on the Friends of Our Chalet Committee from 1995 to 2013. She made several trips to Our Chalet. In the photo to the right here, she is having a snow ball fight on the road up to Our Chalet. Her early participation on the Committee included editing Chalet Chatter, taking part in the "Songs of Our Chalet" CD, and attending GSUSA National Conventions. She was very active with the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital and with the National Park Service. Joan Gordon Paull died at the age of 91 on May 24, 2021.



↑ **JOAN PAULL** tossing a Swiss snowball.



↑ **BEULAH SUTHERLAND** enjoying a visit at Our Chalet.



**Beulah Sutherland** served on the Friends of Our Chalet Committee from 2006 to 2021. She attended many Gatherings (everyone loved her GS patch jacket). She wanted so much to keep Girl Scouting alive at her church and local neighborhood. Beulah held the record for attending the most GSUSA Conventions as a member of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. She loved to sing. In the photo above, she is singing, with Adelboden, Switzerland, in the background. She has a commemorative chair at Our Chalet with her name woodburned into it. Beulah Sutherland died on March 21, 2021.





**OUR CHALET**  
WORLD ASSOCIATION  
OF GIRL GUIDES  
AND GIRL SCOUTS

Dear Friends of Our Chalet,

Happy World Thinking Day 2022!

This year's World Thinking Day theme is Our World, Our Equal Future. The supporting WAGGGS World Thinking Day Activity pack encourages us to learn about gender and the environment through seven changemakers from around the world and discover the link between Climate Change and Gender Equality! These changemakers are inspiring, as are the many changemakers, including you, who have come through the doors at Our Chalet.

Highlights from 2021 that you all supported:

- Virtual programmes and fundraisers with participants of all ages from around the world.
- In partnership with the other World Centres, we developed our Vision for the future of the World Centres. This was completed in consultation with over 1,800 people from the many stakeholder groups including the Friends.
- A handful of short-term volunteers came and offered their time and service to keep Our Chalet ready for the future.
- Worked with a marketing company to refresh our communications. Watch for these to start showing up on our social media and our website over the next few months.
- Brand-new Garage! Boris the snow plough looks so happy in his new home.
- Hosted guests through Airbnb to generate income and increase awareness of Our Chalet in Switzerland.

Our Vision

We have developed our Vision to remind us of the powerful role the World Centres play.

*The World Centres are safe spaces, where Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world can **connect, learn, and build agency**, becoming powerful **changemakers**, who are confident to lead, and empowered to create a better world together.*

One of the ways we empower changemakers at Our Chalet is through our signature event the Helen Storrow Seminar. While we have not been able to hold it in person for the last few years it was held on-line over a 20-day period. This was the first time WAGGGS held a Seminar in this format and it was well-received. Those young women who had been selected for the May 2020 HSS were finally able to connect with each other, learn from their peers from around the world and build their personal toolbox so that they could develop environmental impact projects to deliver at home. They are living this year's World Thinking Day theme and serving as changemakers of Our World.

In 2023 we plan to bring the Helen Storrow Seminar back to Our Chalet for an in-person event. In order for this to be a truly diverse and accessible event we will need more funding than ever, Many countries have been hit hard by COVID, climate change, and many other economic challenges. This leaves the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in those areas in need of financial support to be able to attend a Seminar. Just think of the impact one participant can have on her community when she is given this type of opportunity. There is a video of one of the past participants and her story as a changemaker on Facebook,

What is coming in 2022?

We are opening to international programme guests in May! The volunteer leadership development programme will start up again in April. Our summer programme will greet guests that have been waiting since their original trip in 2020 was cancelled. The programme for this summer has also been re-worked to give those visitors who come back time and time again some new experiences and is more adaptable to make it more accessible to all girls and young women!

We will be celebrating the 90th Birthday throughout the year, but there will be a special event on the weekend of 7-9 October, 2022. Watch for details to come out in February on our website.

At Our Chalet we are excited to keep working towards our vision in our 90th year! We can't do that without all of you. Your support through both your time and your donations is much needed and very much appreciated. Certainly through 2021 your donations have helped to keep Our Chalet operational so that in 2022 we can open with a well-maintained and clean facility. So how can you get involved and support Our Chalet in this special year? Maybe you raise your usual donation up to something that starts with 90? Or maybe you book a stay at Our Chalet and come help us bring back old traditions and start new ones. Maybe you host a fundraising event, or serve on a working group? Whatever you are able to do, it makes an impact. Just think of Helen Storrow and Falk as they worked to get Our Chalet started 90 years ago. Did they imagine how life-changing participants over the years would find it? Your support now could still be affecting lives 90 more yrs from now. That idea gives me shivers!

Thank you again for your amazing support in 2021! It was a challenging year and some of the challenges will continue in 2022. However, as I reflect on everything that has happened during Our Chalet's 90-year history. I feel hopeful that together we can continue to create changemakers from within the beautiful Ad-elboden valley.

I wish you all a wonderful World Thinking Day on 22nd February and a safe and healthy 2022!

Yours in [Girl] Guiding and [Girl] Scouting,

*Tanya Tulloch*

Tanya Tulloch, WCM and the Our Chalet staff

**OUR CHALET**

**Hohliebweg 1, 3715 Adelboden, Switzerland**

**Phone: +41 33 673 1226, Fax: +41 33 673 2082, Email: [info@ourchalet.wagggs.org](mailto:info@ourchalet.wagggs.org)**