



Chalet Chatter

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THE USA NEWSLETTER SUPPORTING THE WAGGGS WORLD CENTER IN ADELBODEN, SWITZERLAND



Altadena fires that started on January 7, 2025. They had been fundraising for two years and made the trip despite the upheaval in our community. We traveled to Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and France and I made many new friends (as it says in the song).

One of the highlights for me was songleading on the bus. Our tour guide and bus driver had never

Celebrating Joy Despite Great Loss

by Leilani Jones Wilmore

It had been 12 years since I had been to Our Chalet with my daughter Lauren and my Aunt Beulah. *(Note: Beulah Sutherland was a member of the Friends of Our Chalet from 2006 to 2021.)* This year, in July, I tagged along with a group of Girl Scouts from my town, Altadena, California. Many of the 40 adults and girls on the trip had lost their homes and were displaced because of the



traveled with Girl Scouts before and they were laughing hysterically at our everyday camp songs! The tour guide shared with me how much she enjoyed traveling with these amazing girls and complimented them on their ability to go with the flow and be kind to one another. That was the best compliment of all for our traveling Girl Scouts!

← **LEILANI WILMORE** spending a sunny day in Paris.



↑ **HIGH UP, HIGH ON THE MOUNTAIN**, **Skippy**, the Chalet's resident cat (far left), is enjoying the view of Tschentalp and Adelboden village.

A Piece of Our Chalet History

By Irene Bareis

In September 2023, my friend **Jan Spence** and I traveled to the Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill in Waltham, Massachusetts to donate a piece of Our Chalet history: an original 1932 shutter from the Chalet building.

Here's the story of how I ended up with this unique memento of a special place, "high up, high on the mountain..."

In 1978, I joined the GSUSA staff of North Atlantic Girl Scouts (NAGS), based in Heidelberg, Germany, as a field advisor serving the Nuremberg area. The NAGS program served U.S. Troops on Foreign Soil and their military families by organizing Girl Scout troops and training Girl Scout leaders on U.S. military bases around Europe. I believe our status was described as "employees of GSUSA," who were "on loan" to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), with DOD identity cards and benefits within the DOD system while there.

Shortly after arriving in Germany, we had an opportunity to offer a NAGS volunteer trainers' conference hosted at Our Chalet. To make this happen, we drove a little over five hours, with many scenic view stops, to Adelboden, Switzerland, and upon our arrival certainly "found a welcome there."

*During our stay at the Chalet there was a fundraising auction event. As **Isabelle Dufour**, the Guider in Charge at that time, watched the crazy bidding on auction items, in various currencies from all the international guests gathered, she commented that she wished she had something more to add to the event's fundraising effort. She came up with the idea to auction off the original 1932 shutters (which had been replaced in 1973) which were still being stored on the property grounds. My colleagues and I ended up bidding on some of the shutters and they became ours! The Chalet staff gave us an abandoned sleeping bag to protect them so that one of the trainers from Heidelberg could strap them to her car roof and bring them safely back for us.*

Having the Our Chalet shutter in my home, covered with a thick glass protective coffetable top, has been a treasured memory for 45 years and a continuous inspiration that a Girl Scout's dreams can come true. I'm so happy the shutter is in the welcoming appreciative hands of the Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill so that generations of girls and alumnae can continue to enjoy and share its special history.



↑ A TREASURED CHALET SHUTTER: Jan Spence (above, left) and Irene Bareis (above, right) at the Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill in Waltham, MA. Irene donated her original Chalet shutter to the museum last fall.

About the Author: Irene Bareis was a Girl Scout from Brownies to Intermediates to Seniors in the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York. Her mom was one of her leaders. She and her sister became leaders of a Cadette and a Senior troop. Irene volunteered as a program staff member at Our Cabaña for three months in the summer of 1972 and as a volunteer program staff member at National Center West in Wyoming for two summers in 1974 and 1975. She worked as a field advisor for the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York (1974-76) and as program director for the Camden County GS in NJ (1976-78.) Today she continues to enjoy travelling and outdoor activities, with a special passion for birding.

OUR CHALET

Hohliebweg 1, 3715 Adelboden, Switzerland

Phone: +41 33 673 1226, Fax: +41 33 673 2082, Email: info@ourchalet.waggs.org



“Passport to Adventure”: Southeastern Michigan Council’s New Event To Provide A “Tour” to All Five WAGGGS World Centres

The Our Chalet Tea, a popular event sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan (GSSEM — based in Detroit), has evolved into the **GSSEM World Centres Committee** which plans to offer two Passport to Adventure events during each troop year.

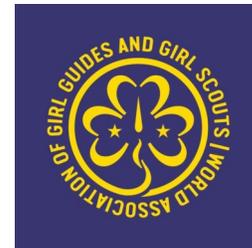
Committee members representing the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) were: **Amy Baker, Fran Clancy, and Robbiezell Price-Marshall**. Those representing Our Chalet were **Suzanne Bante, Mary Elias, JoAnn Johnson, Carol McConnell, and Nora Tegan**. Additional council volunteers were **Dena Kirkland, Phil Pittoli, and Jane Tegan**.

The committee’s inaugural Passport to Adventure event, designed for everyone from Daisy Girl Scouts to Ambassador Girl Scouts, is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2026. The three-hour event will include crafts, games, activities, and food. Participants will

“travel” to all five World Centres — Our Chalet, Pax Lodge, Nuestra Cabaña, Sangam, and Kusafiri — as well as WAGGGS’s London headquarters, all while staying in southeastern Michigan!

The event fee of \$12 for girls and \$15 for adults includes a patch and a portion of the fee will be donated to the World Centres.

Troop leaders attending Passport to Adventure will learn about troop travel from experienced leaders who have traveled throughout the USA as well as internationally.



↑ **A MUSICAL EVENING:** On September 29, 2023, **Julie Dawson** hosted an evening concert at her home in Michigan for her guest, **Candela Gonzalez**, Chair of the WAGGGS World Board. Girl Scouts/Girl Guides in attendance included **Charlotte Mawson** (Cadette), **Karen Ebben, Josephine Starcecki, Fran Clancy, Amy Baker, Nora Tegan, Jan Robertjohn, Mary Elias, Jessica Owens-Mawson, Carol McConnell, Rosemary Nachtman, and Suzanne Bante**. The young lady in the middle is a future Daisy Girl Scout and one of the evening’s amazing performers!

Our Chalet is in Good Company as the World Discovers A New 5-Star Hotel in Adelboden

As part of its 2025 list of “The World’s Greatest Places”, *Time* magazine included among its “Top 100 places to stay and visit” a small hotel, **The Brecon**, in Adelboden, Switzerland. It opened in July of 2024 and is described as looking “like a weathered chalet wrapped with spacious balconies and perched on a hill”. Located at Dorfstrasse 88, it is designed for guests 18 of age and older. It has 18 rooms and four suites.

Just when you’re thinking of maybe staying there if Our Chalet is fully booked, a look at the room prices might change your mind: they range from \$891 to \$2,234 (with three meals and afternoon tea included) per night. Isn’t it nice to know that our World Centre is located in such a deluxe location? The magazine *Conde Nast Traveler* describes Adelboden as “one of Switzerland’s loveliest down-to-earth villages — ski-smart and mountain-sure.”

Some Favorite Recipes From Our Chalet



CHICKPEA CURRY / Our Chalet Style (serves 4)

Ingredients

Chopped onion: 1
Garlic cloves: 3-4
Sweet paprika: 1 tsp.
Curry powder: 2 Tbsp.
Turmeric: 1 tsp.
Ginger: 1 tsp.
Coconut milk: 400 ml (or a 14 oz. can)
Tinned tomato: 400 g (about 1 can)
Chickpeas; 400 g (about 1 can)
Sweet potato: 200 g
Spinach: 150 g
Salt and pepper to taste

Note: The amount of garlic cloves can depend on your preference and spinach works better if it’s cooked prior to adding in the curry.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Peel the sweet potatoes, cut them in cubes, and boil them until tender but not overdone. (They are going to keep cooking in the curry.)
2. Dice the onion (add a little bit of salt so they can sweat) and fry it in the pot, with a little bit of oil.
3. Measure the spices and put them all together in a small bowl.
4. When the onions are ready, add in the spices.
5. After mixing the spices with the onion, add the spinach.
6. When everything is combined, add the chickpeas and the tinned tomatoes.
7. Leave to cook for 10 minutes.
8. Add the cooked sweet potatoes and let simmer for 5 minutes.
9. After 5 minutes, add the coconut milk and let it cook on low heat.
10. Simmer the curry for 10 minutes.
11. Leave inside pot, but turned off, until serving time — this will enhance the flavor.

GREAT GRANDMA’S CHOCOLATE CAKE

from *The Bell Rings Again*

Rhianna Hughes, USA, Assistant Programme Manager,
Our Chalet 2012

Beat together well:

1 cup of buttermilk
1 egg

Sift and add:

2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
3 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 cup cocoa
Pinch salt

Whip well.

Add 1 cup boiling water.

Bake at 325 degrees F for 55-60 minutes in 9 x 13 inch sheet pan or in two 9-inch round cake pans (lined with baking paper).

Frosting:

3 cups powdered sugar, sifted
1/4 cup butter, softened
3 Tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
3 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
(bittersweet works fine)

Note: The better the chocolate. The better the taste.