



# What's Happening

A Quarterly Newsletter From the World Foundation  
for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc.

November 2024

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## From the Board of Directors

It was wonderful to have such a "full house" at Macy for our Gathering of Friends.

**Thanks** to everyone for your passionate engagement in our shared mission.

Our board meeting was a short one but enabled us to approve new members of Friends groups, pass the budget, and tee up critical future conversations. Our **meeting with the leadership of Friends groups** is always a highlight. It helps us know you better and thus how to align our work to support yours.

Whether during plenaries, meals, the fabulous auction or meetings, we all took every opportunity to **deepen our connections and partnerships with GSUSA and WAGGGS** in ways that will only benefit our future work.

**Thanks again** for the investment of time, care and resources you make in our missions and thus in the girls and young women of our world. We are grateful for you !



**Wishing you each and all joy-filled holidays with those you love.**

*Linda Foreman and the Board of the World Foundation*

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## NEW Annual Awards!

The Fund Development Committee introduced their brand new Annual Awards at the Gathering of Friends earlier this month. There were some very close races for Fiscal Year 2024, but for each category there was one winner who particularly shone!

### Friend with the Most Donors

Sue Cunnold

### Friend with the Most NEW Donors

JoAnne Johnson

### Host of the Largest Grossing Fundraising Event

Meg Oldman, Pax Lodge UK Camp Day

### Friend/Board Member with Highest Total Amount of Donations (Given or Solicited)

Diane White

### Friend with the Largest Donation from a Non-Friend

Kris McCann

Congratulations to all!

Stay excited for next year's FY25 Annual Award featuring a brand new secret category!

## Giving Tuesday 2024

We are fast approaching Giving Tuesday 2024! Giving Tuesday started as an idea in 2012 and is now “an independent nonprofit and a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.” Mark your calendars for **December 3**, share with your networks, and don’t forget to GIVE.



2026 as the Growing & Learning Project. Girl Guiding & Girl Scouting Visibility -2023 is a WAGGGS brochure titled Our Impact Journey. It is more user-friendly, with simple and engaging language, and hopes to provide The WAGGGS global transformation and impact on girls and young women.

The 2024 Strengthening Leadership Facilitation Phase One is directed to two regions: the Arab and Asian Pacific. With WAGGGS’s support, training for trainers will be provided.

Kusafiri will be located in Ghana for the next 2 years. With WAGGGS support, the facility and programs will be run by Ghanaians.

A grant to USA-GS Overseas sent 40 girls to camp in Germany, Taiwan, and at Our Chalet.

Friends of WAGGGS USA funded the Campfire online system and The Girl Guiding & Girl Scouting Visibility project.

We thank all Friends of WAGGGS USA committee members who continue to support the World Foundation's mission by making personal donations and soliciting funds from outside sources. We are proud to support programs that promote and enable global and personal experiences for girls and young women in WAGGGS’ 153 member countries.

Kandi Lancaster – Chair  
Gail Lamotte – Vice Chair

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## News from the Friends Committees:



### Friends of WAGGGS USA

On November 2nd, our committee welcomed 7 new prospective members to our meeting at The Gathering. As of mid-November, 6 had requested applications, and 4 had already been submitted to the WF Board for the December meeting. We look forward to their approval!

Of the 30 current members, 17 attended our committee meeting, while 3 joined us on ZOOM. We were pleased to welcome Guy Holloway, WAGGGS Acting Chief Executive; Sandy Thomas, WF Vice-President; Barb Sirvis, WF Board Member; Ellen Petrino, WF Treasurer; and Lisa Hinshaw, WF Board Emerita.

As part of our PP presentation, Guy gave us the larger picture of the WAGGGS grants, funded by The World Foundation. The JLS-Digital Leadership Seminar, in a digital format, allows for more participants. WAGGGS looks forward to expanding their use of technology by its member organizations.

The 2023 Quality Learning and Development Project is in its creative phase and will roll out in January



### Friends of Sangam

The activities are progressively becoming more dynamic. With an average of 1 to 2 events per month, we have a good rhythm between leadership and cultural events. While more family, friends, leaders and adults over 30

are coming for the cultural events, groups of young people aged 13 and above are starting to return for the leadership events.



### **SURF SMART 2.0 CELEBRATION**

We have been inspired to see how people from around the world are coming together to promote internet safety. Sangam was honored to be a part of the discussion on the future of the program. Participation included 36 participants from 19 countries, including 8 global teams and 2 Pax Lodge staff as well as representatives from Gen and Johnson & Johnson joining

the event for a panel discussion.



### **JULIETTE LOW SEMINAR 2024**

Blended with international exchange and Indian culture, Sangam provided a space for

these JLS participants to practice their leadership and create lifelong memories. Sangam welcomed 43 participants from 26 countries, and 11 global team including 2 volunteers from the Language Services Team from 8 countries and delivered the seminar in English and Arabic.

### **STEM DISCOVERY DAY PROGRAM COMMUNITY PROGRAM**

Last year, 3 young women joined Sangam and



developed the WAGGGS' first ever STEM Discovery Day program for girls aged 10- 15. As of July 2024, we have exceeded our target by 20% and have reached 1,076 girls and boys from our community partner, local schools and local Scout and Guide groups. This program has enhanced their understanding of STEM as well as their ability to identify and challenge gender bias in STEM education and career pathways. The Community Program is 20 years old this year. The program continues to change the lives of participants and the community. This year, we celebrate 20 years of impact and over 200 Tares who continue to shine around the world.



### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

With funding from The World Foundation Sangam has been able to offer scholarships to enable more Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to experience this incredible journey. During this period, they have been able to offer scholarship and travel grants to 21 young women from Sri Lanka, Philippines, Kenya, India, Czech Republic, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Denmark, Fiji, and Canada.



### **Friends of Pax Lodge**

The Friends of Pax Lodge, USA (FOPL) welcomed Candela Gonzalez, Chair WAGGGS World Board, Magdalene Thomas, Head of International Operations for WAGGGS, and Joyce Knoll, WF Board, to the Pax Lodge Friends meeting at the Macy Gathering. We had a

lively discussion on fund raising options for Pax Lodge and reviewed the ten-year plan for maintenance, upgrades, and operations.

As a committee, FOPL brainstormed many new and different ways of fundraising for our world centre. Many ideas were generated which will be further developed in the years ahead. Our Friends' committee agreed on a new solicitation letter, new Friends goals and the annual fundraising goal. The committee nominated and approved Maureen Lienau and Sarah Edwards moving from interim to full co-Chairs.

Seven Friends were awarded for their participation in the Olave Baden-Powell Society. In addition, Meg Oldman won the newest award from the WF Board for hosting the biggest fundraiser of the year for the virtual UK Camp Day held in June.

Our dual FOPL USA and UK, Catherine Gritz, has her own tour company, Obscure Tours of London (website: <http://obscuretourslondon.com>) and conducts tours for troops, groups, and individuals around London featuring Pax Lodge – Girl Scouts, Girl Scout London History, and Nursery Rhymes Walk – London, to name a few. Please let your troops and others visiting London know about this wonderful opportunity to see unique parts of London.

Pax Lodge hosted over 19,000 bed nights in 2023 and as of October 2024, over 16,000 bed nights have been reported. Pax staff and volunteers facilitated many programs in which over 1,000 girls and young women from around the world participated. Come visit Pax Lodge where strangers soon are friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Lienau and Sarah Edwards, co-Chairs Friends of Pax Lodge, USA

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## Friends of Our Cabaña

We had a great group of FNC gather at Edith Macy Center. While this is not our “big” meeting of the year, it did provide time for us to have in depth discussion with WAGGGS, GSUSA and members of the World Foundation Board.



We are making plans for our annual meeting in February at Nuestra Cabaña where we typically raise funds through our own auction, recognize long serving FNC, provide service either in the community or at Cabaña, and work strategically to support Nuestra Cabaña throughout the upcoming year. This year we will be joined by members of

Guias de Mexico.

We are very pleased to be reopening communication with the Guias.

Please join us in Cuernavaca, February 5 – 9, 2025.





### USA OB-PS

The Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS) exists as one of the primary methods of recognizing individual donors of WAGGGS. The organization has over 1,850 Members in more than 65 countries. At the recent World Foundation Gathering, 60 people attended the OB-PS Information Session. A highlight of the session was the presentation of four new Members and recognition of 12 Members who attained a new giving level. We were honored to have OB-PS President Kaela Sáenz Oriti, WAGGGS Board Chair Candela Gonzalez, and OB-PS Board Member Kris McCann, make the presentations to our Members. Interim CEO of WAGGGS, Guy Holloway, also participated in the ceremony. Don't forget to save the date—our next annual event will be held in Cyprus, October 16-20, 2025 and we'd love for you to join us!

The Olave Baden-Powell Society celebrated its 40th birthday in August in Copenhagen, Denmark, and virtually in November. Attendees at the events were from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and the Western Hemisphere! President Kaela Sáenz Oriti inspired us all with a reflection on the impact that OB-PS Members have had in the lives of girls and young women. We played Birthday Bingo, caught up with friends, and heard some special 40th birthday messages from young women in the Movement who attended Juliette Low Seminars in 2024 at all five World Centres. We also shared our thoughts on what OB-PS means to us by creating a word cloud during the celebration. Not surprisingly, "FRIENDSHIP" stood out most in the word cloud.

All of you are invited to our next OB-PS USA virtual meeting on Saturday, January 25, at 12:00pm EASTERN time. The focus of the meeting is the connections between the Olave-Baden Powell Society, the work of the World Foundation, and its relationship with WAGGGS through the lens of our three supporters. The guest speakers will be:

- Linda Foreman, President of the World Foundation
- Sandy Thomas, Vice-President of the World Foundation, and Volunteer Lead for the WAGGGS Capacity Building Team
- JoAnne Fischer, Volunteer Lead, WAGGGS Finance/Fundraising Capacity Building Team.

OB-PS USA Members will receive an invite to the Zoom meeting in early January. If you are not yet an OB-PS Member, please contact Karen or Sue and we will make sure you receive the invite. Also, contact us if you are interested in helping OB-PS make the world a better place, we would be happy to have a conversation with you!

Karen Sáenz, [karensaenz.obps@gmail.com](mailto:karensaenz.obps@gmail.com)  
Sue Goldsmith, [suegoldsmith.obps@gmail.com](mailto:suegoldsmith.obps@gmail.com)  
USA Co-Coordinators

### News from the Members:



**World Foundation + USA Girl Scouts Overseas:  
Connecting girls, the world over!**

**Another Successful Halloween Camp in the books!**  
November 2024

This weekend marked the 20th anniversary of the Halloween Camp partnership between U.S. and Japanese Girl Scouts! There were 200+ attendees, 50+ pounds of candy given out, 30 hours of spooky fun, 1 wiggly tooth lost, and endless memories made!



## USAGSO Globetrotters!

Destination- Amsterdam

October 2024



Twelve Girl Scouts from Belgium, Germany, Italy and the U.S. met up in Amsterdam for a whirlwind adventure as part of our

Globetrotters program!

Girls explored the city's beautiful canals, ate an unlimited buffet of Dutch pancakes on a river cruise, hit the shops for some thrifting, rode every form of public transportation and designed their own chocolate bars. They also learned a lot at the historic museums of Amsterdam, including the Van Gogh Museum, Rijksmuseum (where they got to create some art of their own!) and the Anne Frank House. Best of all, they celebrated Juliette Gordon Low's birthday with the local Amsterdam Girl Scouts and made tons of new friends!

The next Globetrotters trip is to Lisbon in April 2025!

## USAGSO Girl Scouts from Shanghai American School

October 2024

USAGSO Girl Scouts from Shanghai American School in Shanghai, China recently participated in their annual school fair where 78 girls sang on stage for the audience! The girls also promoted their library building project for schools in a remote province of China by passing out information and selling lemonade.



## Girls in Aviation Day

September 2024

On September 21, Girl Scouts across Okinawa celebrated the second annual Girls in Aviation Day in partnership with Women in Aviation International and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The day kicked off with a welcome greeting from Col. Lundaby, Deputy Wing



Commander for Kadena Air Base . Then Girl Scout families explored three aircrafts - the KC-135 Stratotanker, HH-60W Pave Hawk and F-15 Eagle - and

learned about the many jobs that aviators on these aircraft do and the missions of these aircraft. Girl Scouts also built and tested paper airplanes in a hangar and got to tour the Kadena AB flight line.

Thank you to the 909th ARS, 33rd RQS, 67th AMU, 961st AACS, AFN and Kadena Public Affairs for their support of this event! We're already looking forward to next year!



**WAGGGS**

Gathering Reflections from World Chair, Candela Gonzalez:

🌟 As Chair of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), I had the privilege of attending the 25th World Foundation meeting, a remarkable opportunity to reconnect with valued friends and supporters who share a steadfast commitment to our mission. Together, we celebrated our global Movement and the trust in WAGGGS and GSUSA that underpins our work.



A highlight of the gathering was the pinning ceremony in the Great Hall at Macy Center, a venue rich in history and significance



for our Movement. In 1926, during the Fourth Girl Scout International Conference, delegates emphasized the importance of a day for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to reflect on the global reach of our mission, appreciating the sisterhood we share across borders. This led to the establishment of Thinking Day on February 22, honoring the birthdays of Lord Baden-Powell and Lady Olave Baden-Powell. At the 30th World Conference in Ireland in 1999, it was renamed "World

Thinking Day" to highlight the truly global nature of this celebration.

♥ The gathering was a meaningful experience, filled with reunions, moments of reflection, and invaluable conversations. It was truly inspiring to witness the commitment of so many to our mission of empowering girls and



young women worldwide. As Chair of WAGGGS, I am proud to stand alongside such dedicated advocates and look forward to continuing our shared work in advancing the lives of girls everywhere.

### 14th Annual Not-So-Silent Auction a Huge Success!

One of the highlights of this year's Gathering of Friends at the Edith Macy Conference Center at the end of October was the 14th Annual Not-So-Silent Auction. The Auction Committee (**Karin Carlson, Sandy Craighead, Lisa Hinshaw, Joyce Knoll, and Addy Lerner**) set the ambitious goal of raising **\$65,000** and our Friends did not disappoint! Here are a few important highlights from this fun-filled event:

- **Opportunity Sweepstakes:** Everyone attending the Gathering received a complimentary ticket. An additional 1,870 tickets were purchased by 62 people, raising **\$8,023.00**. Thirty-one items were available in the sweepstakes. The most popular items were handmade items and items showcasing our Girl Scout heritage. Thank you to all those who donated items to this new auction feature.

- **Live Auction:** Once again, we had great success with the live auction. Thirty-six items raised **\$53,055.00**. In all, 32 people made significant donations to the World Foundation through their participation in the live auction.





· **Additional Donations:**

Another **\$8,552.00** was raised through the generous donations of Friends, allowing us to reach our goal of \$65,000,

raising a total of **\$69,630.00!!!** Amazing!!!

The Auction Committee would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to all the Friends who donated items to this important event. Whether you brought something for the live auction, made something for the Opportunity Sweepstakes, or brought something that fit nicely into one of the 10 tins what were auctioned during Tin Time, your donation mattered! A big shoutout to those who bought Opportunity Sweepstakes tickets, bid during the live auction, or simply cheered on our Friends during the event...your participation mattered and is truly appreciated.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!**

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**Introducing NEW Program Coordinator Open Calls!**

As a way of connecting, addressing common questions, and generally increasing transparency with our Friends, Program Coordinator Valerie Pierpoint will be hosting open Zoom calls for any Friends to join. In order to not exclude anyone based on schedule, these calls will not be at a consistent day and time, but will vary from call to call.

The first call will be held Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. You can access the call at the following URL:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8059450592?omn=81441755764>

Gearing up for the end of the calendar year, the primary focus of this first call will be tax letters and donation summaries. We will make sure everyone knows what to expect come January tax season and you'll have a chance to ask any related questions you have.

If there are other topics you'd like to see centered in future Program Coordinator Open Calls, please email them to Valerie at [vpierpoint@girlscouts.org](mailto:vpierpoint@girlscouts.org) with subject like "Open Call Topic."

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## Impactful Stories: Abigail's HSS Experience



In March of 2024, I was fortunate enough to be endorsed by GSUSA to attend the Helen Storrow Seminar at Our Chalet. Because of Helen Storrow's donation and understanding of the importance of Girl Scouting, Our Chalet was founded in the Bernese Oberland. Helen was an American woman who came from a family that played an active role in the first women's suffrage convention at Seneca Falls, were friendly with Harriet Tubman and Fredrick Douglass, and descended from Quakers who had arrived with William Penn.

As an American Girl Scout, I had grown up visiting the historic site at Seneca Falls and seeing the hall of fame with many Trefoils identifying those legends who are also Girl Scouts. As a second-grade Girl Scout, I celebrated the 90th anniversary of GSUSA with my township at the home of Alice Paul, a Quaker who continued the work of the early Seneca Falls conventions. Helen had an inspiring story and it gave me a lot of confidence that a seminar named after her in a place she played a big role in establishing, would not disappoint.

And of course, it didn't! The seminar is focused on Environmental Sustainability, a topic that often feels daunting to many of us as individuals, but of course, once you enter Our Chalet and realize how big the 'Our' really is, you don't feel so alone in tackling these problems. This year's theme was "leading change through sustainable adventure" accompanied by a song that our Lebanese facilitator with a heart of gold had written for us to learn throughout the week. I recorded several of our songs and later published them [on Spotify](#).

I met a Girl Guide from Poland who was passionate about teaching 'Leave No Trace' Principles, a South African Girl Guide who had started a beach clean-up non-profit, a Japanese Girl Scout who was in search of ways to encourage places near her to lessen their waste of receipts after a purchase, a Girl Guide from Burundi who was gracious in letting me practice my French – at the same time, we dreamed of her becoming an interpreter for the United Nations. Everyone there from across our organization was taking action. It was so inspiring.



We spent a beautiful day high up, high in the mountains hiking along a glacier where we got to laugh and chat alongside new friends from countries we had never before had access to learning about. We spent sunny afternoons in the tea room sipping from steamy mugs and asking each other questions about our long-term life goals, the ones where we know we can have the largest impacts, and without hesitation we encouraged each other to reach beyond the stars. We stayed up later than late giggling, laughing, singing songs, and understanding the ways our countries' environmental and political choices have impacted one another throughout history. During one particular break-out session our patrol sought out the sled room so we could take advantage of the snow while we discussed our prompts from our facilitators. The highlight for us was the trip to the United Nations. We met a UN volunteer on her way to an event, and when she learned who we were and what we were doing she told us, "You are the real United Nations." Switzerland is an incredible location for this seminar because of its commitment to the environment. Many of us do not come from countries that value the environment so greatly, so it allowed us to see new possibilities.



After attending Helen Storrow, I have returned to the US and I now direct a New York Girl Scout Camp where I can lead change through sustainable adventure and provide space for all types of Girl Scouts to do the same. In fact, Helen Storrow's hometown is in my council and if she was a Girl Scout today, she might find herself out at our camp. It is my joy to create a space for the Helen Storrows of today to thrive as leaders with a global vision so that as Girl Scouts they can continue to make the world a better place.



- Abigail Haresign, 2024

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The next issue of “What’s Happening” will be published in February 2024. If you have any articles or information you would like included, please send to [vpierpoint@girlscouts.org](mailto:vpierpoint@girlscouts.org) by January 31st, 2024.

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