Legacy Circle Spotlight: Balboa Lodge dedication

New lodge ready for girl adventures

Nearly 300 friends of Girl Scouts San Diego descended on our Balboa Campus to celebrate the debut of our state-of-the-art lodge.

The gathering doubled as a farewell party for our CEO, Jo Dee C. Jacob, who recently retired. The development of the lodge was a dream come true for Jo Dee — and a capstone to her long series of contributions to Girl Scouting (see story on page 2).

The 2,800 square-foot building replaces a much smaller, 52-year-old-cabin that was closed in 2012 because of structural and electrical issues. More than 5,000 girls and adults will use the lodge each year for day camps, trainings, events and overnight camping.

Among guests were many of the generous patrons who helped fund the lodge, lending their names to elements such as: the Hervey Family Fund fire suppression system; Barbara and David Groce Activity Portico (the Groces also sponsored a $50,000 challenge grant that continues to inspire additional contributors); Katie and Dan Sullivan Powerhouse (which contains the electrical delivery system and back-up generator); Patti Roscoe-Jim Tiffany Culinary Experience (a commercial kitchen) and generator; architectural elements funded by Katherine White (including the mission style roof and loft window seats); Jan and Wayne Loftus Loft; Sue and John Major Fireplace; Debbie Turner and Conrad Prebys Singing Porch; interior décor for the lodge donated by Las Patronas; Julia Brown Picnic Area; drought-resistant landscaping from Susan and Larry Favorot; fire prevention equipment from Andrea Migdal and Michael Tierney; Tange and Tom Gavin Wash-up Station; Tipton Honda heating and air conditioning unit; support from our community partner, Cox Communications; kitchen equipment provided by Cushman Family Foundation; and general construction funding from the Linden Root Dickinson Foundation.

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Meet the Cool Women Class of 2016

During our recent Cool Women celebration, we honored luminaries who shine in the realms of science, business, fashion, film production, nature, energy, education, politics and community leadership. A Cool Woman alumna introduced each awardee.

Joye Blount of Point Loma (a Cool Woman of 2013) and Girl Scouts San Diego board member Julia Brown (a 2005 Cool Woman) co-chaired the 16th annual event.

Girl Scout Elizabeth “Lizzy” Hosie was named Cool Girl of 2016. The Rancho Buena Vista High School senior earned her Girl Scout Gold Award by creating an online magazine with positive messages for girls about body image, diversity and activism. A delegate to Girl Scouts’ national convention and member of Girl Scouts San Diego’s CEO Girl Advisory Board, Lizzy will enter the U.S. Naval Academy this summer.

Proceeds from the Cool Women luncheon support program outreach for girls in schools in low-income neighborhoods, homeless shelters and the Girls Rehabilitation Facility. Congratulations to the Cool Women Class of 2016! They are extraordinary role models for the 23,000 Girl Scouts we serve.

Jo Dee’s dream is for us to continue Operation Thin Mint® for generations to come. “My hope is that people will know that Girl Scouts San Diego will always care about our military.”

About the Legacy Circle

Our Legacy Circle honors friends who have included us in their estate plans by naming Girl Scouts San Diego in their wills, living trusts, IRAs and other life-income gifts. These planned gifts provide critical long-term support for our council, allowing future generations of girls to experience the fun, education and leadership training available only through Girl Scouting.

To learn about planned giving opportunities, visit sdgirlscouts.org/donate, or contact Merle Brodie at (619) 610-0804 or mbrodie@sdgirlscouts.org.
Girl Scouts San Diego celebrates!

Buy a Brick. Build a Future

Be a part of Girl Scout history by sponsoring a brick for the walkway at our new Balboa Lodge! (Deadline: Friday, June 30.)

Personalize a brick with your name or troop/service unit number, or dedicate one to honor or memorialize someone special. See list of current brick sponsors at sdgirlscouts.org/lodge.

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Please help us continue to keep Girl Scouts exciting and relevant for today’s girls by contributing to the lodge building fund now through the brick campaign.

Thank you for helping us build it together!

For questions, contact Mel Wehr at (619) 610-0785 or mwehr@sdgirlscouts.org.
Spotlight on giving: The Helm Family

In my role as gift planning officer, I meet many people who care about developing girls into tomorrow’s leaders. Several years ago, I had the pleasure of being welcomed into the home of Dorothy “Dottie” and John Helm. Dottie was what we call a true “green blood.” She loved her memories of being a Girl Scout, going to Camp Tapawingo in the Cuyamaca Mountains, and leading the Chula Vista Service Unit as well as her daughter Linda’s troop. The many scrapbooks and photos Dottie shared with our council are testimony to the family’s happy memories of their Girl Scout experiences.

Dottie and John’s contributions to our organization included financial support that would extend beyond their lifetimes. They established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust funded with real estate. The Helms received annual payments of six percent as well as a tax deduction. When they both passed away, the yearly payments were transferred to Linda. Upon her death last November, we learned that Girl Scouts San Diego was the remainder beneficiary of the trust. The Helm’s gift to us was $1.3 million dollars.

One way we can all thank and honor this special family is by thinking of them every time we visit the new lodge at our Balboa Campus. The great room is called Sparrow’s Nest (named after Dottie’s mother, Zelda “Sparrow” Davis). Gracing the walls are Dottie and Linda’s vintage handmade paddles — an apt reminder of the Helm’s love of the outdoors and Girl Scouting.

Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout

Calling all Girl Scout alumnae! You know just how transforming Girl Scouts can be. You hiked trails, camped out under the stars and canvassed your neighborhood to sell Trefoils and Thin Mints. You honed your skills with each badge you earned and ultimately learned how to be a leader. Today, you are the women who understand the importance of Girl Scouting. You are teachers, mothers, business executives and scientists who credit Girl Scouting as the place where you found your voice, formed lifelong friendships and learned new skills. You are the key to developing and sustaining a strong Girl Scout presence in San Diego.

If you were ever a Girl Scout, troop leader, volunteer or staff member anywhere in the world, register today to get involved with other alumnae in San Diego. Reconnect with old friends while making new ones — and help keep the legacy going for a new generation of girls. Joining is free. Register today at sdgirlscouts.org/alumnae.

Girl Scout voices heard at United Nations session

Four inspiring young leaders recently took the international stage. Girl Scouts Jenna Greene, Cristina De Almeida Amaral, Maya Kota and Shreya Huilgol (pictured, from left) represented us at the 60th session of the United Nations’ Commission on the Status of Women in New York City.

The teens, who are members of Girl Scouts San Diego’s Global Arms of Advocacy group, exchanged ideas with other attendees and heard from high-level U.N. officials. Jenna was selected to help craft a statement summarizing the collective views of the 150 girl delegates. Maya and Cristina served on panels and Shreya served as an advocacy liaison.

We’re proud to have young women of such vision, intelligence and maturity as ambassadors for our organization.

Teaming up to finish Chelsea’s run

Thank you to everyone who joined us in Balboa Park in March for Finish Chelsea’s Run in Partnership with Girl Scouts San Diego. This is the third year we’ve teamed up with Chelsea’s Light Foundation founders and co-presidents (pictured) Brent and Kelly King to host the popular run/walk. Brent is a member of our board of directors.

Held in memory of the Kings’ daughter Chelsea, who was a Girl Scout, the event provides scholarships for college-bound local teens who embrace characteristics that reflect Chelsea’s thirst for knowledge, service-over-self ethic and indomitable spirit. Proceeds also support Gold Award projects and other Girl Scout programs, including the financial assistance that keeps Girl Scouting available and affordable.

Join us for Camp Exec 2016

Wanted: CEOs, VPs, COOs, CFOs and other senior-level business leaders! Please help us inspire high school girls to soar during Camp Exec 2016. Set for Friday-Sunday, Sept. 23-25, the premier, camp-based leadership development experience connects local Girl Scouts with accomplished female executives and entrepreneurs.

Together, participants will build relationships that provide the encouragement and drive for success girls need to become the top-executives of tomorrow.

Campers will explore the outdoors at our mountain property in Julian while enhancing skills in the areas of team building, professional development, financial savviness, career planning, personal well-being, and how to project a positive image. As one-on-one mentoring is key to the program’s success, we’ll pair each role model with a teen. The session also includes adult-group workshops and grown-ups-only networking time.

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We’re proud to have young women of such vision, intelligence and maturity as ambassadors for our organization.
Celebrate those who help grow girls of courage, confidence and character!
To applaud the leaders and volunteers who nurture and mentor our girls, we’re planting trees to honor their efforts. Each new tree will represent the hard work and dedication of these volunteers and beautify our Balboa Campus for years to come.

Plant a tree, grow a girl.
Please consider supporting the hard work and dedication of Girl Scouts San Diego by making a gift today. Your contribution can pay tribute to a troop leader who helps girls cultivate new skills … a retired volunteer who spent decades changing lives … a camp counselor remembered for empowering girls to reach for the stars … or that special person in your life.

When you make a gift of $100 or more, you’ll be invited to a Tributes Tree Planting and Picnic Day at our Balboa Campus on Saturday, Oct. 8. (Details to follow.) So pull out that plaid blanket and thermos, get your garden gloves and let’s plant some trees!

To make a gift, go to www.sdgirlscouts.org/contribute.
For questions, please contact Dawn Bruckel at dbruckel@sdgirlscouts.org or (619) 610-0705.