



# The Spirit

e-newsletter

January 2019

## Warm Greetings!

By Executive Director

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to plan your summer! I am anxious for summer to start at Wiawaka as I reflect on memories of the sun shining brightly, the warm breeze floating through the birch trees, sparkling water surrounding our magnificent dock and the friendly faces of other women enjoying their time at the country's oldest continually operating women's retreat center.

Wiawaka has brought together so many people through events and programs, reunions of family and friends and quiet conversations on the porch. It is no wonder that she has been in operation for 116 years. I am so honored to be part of the community of Wiawaka. I have met incredible people inspired by Wiawaka with everyone sharing a common theme of love and dedication to this special place. Whether you are an artist, a history buff, an architecture lover, a yogi, a musician, a knitter or quilter, guests and instructors fall in love with the beauty and spirit of Wiawaka.

As I prepare for the 2019 season I am anticipating an exciting summer of growth and change. With a dedicated Board of Directors and a devoted, hard working staff, I am confident our 116th year will be spectacular!

Join us! Book your reservation, plan your stay, attend a program, volunteer, send a donation, share us with a friend. Be part of an organization that honors tradition while embracing the future!

See you this summer!

# Discovering Georgia

Georgia O'Keeffe is one of the most significant and intriguing artists of the twentieth century, known internationally for her boldly innovative art. Her distinct flowers, dramatic cityscapes, glowing landscapes, and images of bones against the stark desert sky are iconic and original contributions to American Modernism (okeeffemuseum.org)

At Wiawaka we are privileged to have had Miss O'Keeffe as part of our history.

Before Yaddo was founded in Saratoga Springs, Katrina and Spencer Trask built their first artists' retreat at Wiawaka in an Adirondack lodge known as Amitola (now Wakonda) where students from the New York Arts Club held their first retreat. O'Keeffe, who studied at the Art League from 1907 to 1908, won an opportunity to visit the Trask's retreat.

Long did this exciting bit of art history stay dormant before long-time Board Member Glenda Lewis and our Executive Board agreed to bring life to the story of Georgia O'Keeffe at Wiawaka.

In 2016 Catie Owen was commissioned as an intern to assist in the project of celebrating and showcasing O'Keeffe. Catie spent a good portion of that summer researching Georgia, talking with art historians, curators, Board members etc. Catie's enthusiasm and dedication to the project was inspiring and through her hard work we were able to secure two funding sources that paid for the installation of two historical markers and an interpretive sign that each commemorate Georgia's stay at Wiawaka over one hundred years ago.

The signs were in place by the start of our 2017 season along with an exhibit that was put together by Catie and Glenda. The exhibit features photographs of Georgia at Wiawaka, like the one on the right. Additionally, a replica of the dress she is wearing in the picture was created by Lisa Hall and displayed as part of the exhibit. Other interesting books and prints were set out for viewing.

The addition of Georgia O'Keeffe week was also instituted into our program schedule in 2017 and 2018 and featured painting classes and lectures all with the intention to bring awareness to Miss O'Keeffe's artistic style and personality. Clare Nolan and Erin Coe presented exceptional programs that helped guests get to know this amazing artist. Patti Ferrara, one of Wiawaka's artists in residence, held four sold out classes introducing students to the painting style of Georgia. Even our chef got on board serving mint tea and other favorites from the artist's cookbook. It was wonderful to see Wiawaka bustling with excitement and wonder as guests, many of them new, toured the grounds, attended classes

and listened to our fabulous speakers. Our visitors truly were discovering Georgia. The 2019 season will once again embrace this special week commemorating O'Keeffe's time at Wiawaka and her work. We will be adding some additional classes including clay work, flower bombs and mint herbal healing salves for those who may not want to dive into painting. We will welcome back Claire Nolan and also hear from award winning storyteller Kate Dudding and Lake George Historical Museum curator Lisa Adamson. Plans are also underway for an interactive self guided tour throughout the property where guests can learn more about our history and the life and work of Georgia O'Keeffe.

Thank you to our dedicated board members!

## **Board of Directors**

Karen Guiseppe - President  
Joan Tarentino - Vice President  
Peg Mackey - Past President  
Colleen Campoli - Treasurer  
Rene Clements  
Glenda Lewis  
Carol McCarthy-Sieper  
Marina Skea



## Did you know?

Wiawaka can benefit every time you shop when you use Amazon Smile! Simply visit the website above and choose Wiawaka Holiday House, Inc. as your charity and every time you buy a donation is sent to Wiawaka!

## SAVE THE DATE

### *Ladies of the Lake Luncheon*

Monday, June 17, 2019

Lake George Club, Diamond Point, NY

General tickets \$80.00

Opportunities for sponsorship & advertising

Volunteers needed!

Please call 518-668-9690 for more info.

## Important dates for 2019

May 4 & 5 – Volunteer Clean-up

May 11 & 12 – Volunteer Clean-up

June 17 – Ladies of the Lake Luncheon

June 21 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dock Party

June 24 – 115<sup>th</sup> Season opening day

June 28 – Girl's Day Our Wellness Fair

July 4 – Family Fun Day & BBQ

July 5-7 – Artist in Residence Art Show & Sale

July 8-14 – Georgia O'Keeffe Week

July 15-20 – Writer's Week

July 21 – Victorian Tea Party

July 28 – Adirondack Pastel Art Show

August TBD – Lake George Music Festival Concert

August 31 – Final day of regular season

September 9 – Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

October 12 – Annual Appeal Kick-Off Party