

RELEASES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Girl Scouts®
Where Girls Grow Strong™

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Joan Countryman Addresses 275 10th – 12th Grade Girl Scouts
Talks To Girls About Women in Leadership & Her Work As Interim Head At the Oprah Winfrey Academy in South Africa

Where: Salve Regina University – O’Hare Auditorium

When: Friday, March 14, 2008 at 7:15pm

Newport, RI: On Friday, March 14th at 7:15pm, Joan Countryman will address 275 senior Girl Scouts at the annual Senior Conference hosted by Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc. The conference is in its 21st year, and the participants will be attending workshops and activities led by women who are leaders in their field. The workshops will be designed to educate the girls about mature issues in a safe, supportive environment. Ms. Countryman will be the keynote speaker, talking to the girls about her amazing experiences as Interim Head at the Oprah Winfrey Academy in South Africa and about the importance of women leaders.

Topics of conference workshops will include: Green Chemistry, Women’s Rights Worldwide, Cultural Understanding, Stress Management, and Global Health Concerns.

Janet A. Feyler, CEO of Girl Scouts of Rhode Island says “We are thrilled that Joan Countryman has agreed to speak to our girls! We want girls to understand the world around them, and we want them to see themselves as potential contributors in *all* fields. Like all Girl Scout programs, the senior conference will help enlighten girls and cultivate their self-esteem so that, later in life, they will pursue anything that interests them...and feel comfortable tackling global issues.” For more information about the Senior Conference, please contact Laurie Pansa at 255-1348.

ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS OF RHODE ISLAND, INC.

Girl Scouts is the world’s preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls – all girls – where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, Inc., serves girls from all over Rhode Island, from Pawcatuck, Connecticut and girls from Bellingham, Blackstone, Attleboro, Fall River, North Attleboro, Plainville, Somerset, Swansea, Westport, Wrentham, Millville, Rehoboth and Seekonk, MA. www.gsri.org

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Joan Countryman: Biography

Joan Countryman is the former Head of Lincoln School in Providence, Rhode Island, a position she held for 12 years until her retirement in 2005. Previously, *Joan Countryman* served as Assistant Head for Academic Planning and Director of Studies at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia, where *Joan Countryman* taught mathematics from 1970 to 1993. Since August 2006, she has served as consultant and Interim Head of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy in South Africa. *Countryman* is a member of the Board of Managers of Haverford College, the Board of Trustees of Sarah Lawrence College, the Board of the Providence Journal Company, the Board of Trustees of Women and Infants Hospital, the Advisory Council of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, and the Board of Trustees of the Paul Cuffee School, a non-profit, public charter school. *Joan Countryman* has also served on the boards of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools, the National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls, and the National Association of Independent Schools. *Joan's* approach to teaching and learning mathematics is described by William Zinsser in a chapter of book, *Writing to Learn*. Her own publications include *Writing to Learn Mathematics* (1992), "Is Gender an Issue in Math?" in *Math and Science for Girls* (1993) and *Black Images in American Literature* (1977). *Joan Countryman* grew up in Philadelphia and was the first African-American graduate of Germantown Friends School. She received her B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, a Master's from Yale University, and studied at the London School of Economics as a Fulbright Scholar. *Joan Countryman* and her husband, Edward Jakmauh, an architect and Principal with Ballinger Associates, live in Providence and Philadelphia. They have two children and four grandchildren.