



The  
MATILDA JOSLYN GAGE  
FOUNDATION<sup>SM</sup>



## **Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights 2020 – 2021 Application**

210 E. Genesee Street, Fayetteville NY 13066

Email to: Vanessa Johnson - [griotwords@gmail.com](mailto:griotwords@gmail.com)  
Deadline: Open Applications through November 30th

### **WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN TODAY'S WORLD THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT?**

***Voting Rights? The Detention and Deportation of Refugees and Immigrants? The Separation of Children from their Parents at our Borders? Police Shooting Unarmed Citizens? The Environmental Distress of our Planet? Jobs and Careers for Women in the Future? COVID - 19 and Health Care? The Industrial Prison Complex? Do Black Lives Matter? Are Your Rights as a Young Woman Valued?***

#### ***What Do You Stand For?***

***“Think for Yourself” - Matilda Joslyn Gage***

Drawing on the life and legacy of Matilda Joslyn Gage, **The Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights Program** empowers and inspires young women identified women to become agents of change on the local, national, and global stage. Through Meetings, Community Dialogues, Speaker Salons, International and Global Dialogues, and Taking Direct Action - Gage Ambassadors delve into a wide range of topics. High school-aged women interested in feminism, social justice, global connections, and community service are encouraged to apply.

The 2020-2021 program year will be **Virtual**, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are excited to open up the program to young women-identified women from around the United States, and to offer Dialogues with young women-identified women from other countries!

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### ***Self - Empowerment Through Fundraising!***

***“The most effective way to DO It - is to DO It!” - Amelia Earhart***

The Matilda Joslyn Gage Ambassador Program is funded through private donations, grants, and an annual Ambassador program fee of \$200. Gage Ambassadors have the choice of paying the fee out of pocket - due October 18th.

-or-

Gage Ambassadors raise part of their program fee through a virtual group fundraiser in November, and a sponsorship letter campaign. **We will assist you with this!** Ambassadors who choose the fundraising option will take part in planning and implementing the fundraiser, and will be credited an equal share of the fundraiser towards their program fee. Funds raised through the sponsorship letter will be credited in full to the Ambassador seeking sponsorship. The balance on the unraised part of your program fee is due December 20, 2020.

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### ***Educate Yourself!***

***“For me, EDUCATION was POWER!” - Michelle Obama***

During the 2020-2021 program year, with 2020 being the Centennial of the 19th Amendment giving women in the United States the constitutional guarantee of the right to vote in the United States, Matilda Joslyn Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights will have the opportunity to:

- Become educated in the history of Matilda Joslyn Gage and her contributions to the Women’s Rights Movement
- Learn about the History of Haudenosaunee Women and how their rights were the model for the U.S. Women’s Rights Movement
- Understand the unspoken history and the struggle for their rights by the U.S. Women of Color
- Be trained in **Virtual** Dialogue Facilitation

- Facilitate and take part in **Virtual** Dialogues of your choosing between Gage Ambassadors
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***Take Action!***

***“Never be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble” Civil Rights Activist John Lewis***

- Facilitate **Virtual** Gage Ambassador Community Dialogues for Social Justice that are open to the public: The Rights of Indigenous Women, Generational Women’s Rights Movements, Being Allies with Women in the Black Lives Matter Movement, Men and the Women’s Rights Movement (or on other issues related to the work of Matilda Joslyn Gage) with a team of Gage Ambassadors.
- Train 20 5th-8th grade youth from Syracuse’s *Griot Guides Program* in Dialogue Facilitation, passing on your skills to a younger generation! *Griot Guides come from schools all over the country, and are trained to learn and pass on the intergenerational Social Justice Stories of their communities.*
- Have the opportunity to be invited to participate in State and National **Virtual** Programs where you will represent the Gage Ambassador Program and the Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation
- Invite a woman that you respect and admire to be a presenter at a Gage Ambassador’s Women in Business and S.T.E.A.M Virtual Salon, open to the public. Plan and Facilitate that Salon with a team of Gage Ambassadors.
- Participate in or Create a **Virtual** Women’s March Program in January 2021 (Ambassadors have the **option** to attend the March in person in Syracuse, if scheduled, or in your area - Practicing Distancing and wearing Masks).

- Visit the Mohawk Nation, **Virtually**, at Akwesasne for a cultural immersion program in celebration of Gage's recognition of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Indigenous model as the highest form of civilization, and the position of Haudenosaunee women as a model for U.S. women.

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***Think Globally!***

***“Don't think about making women fit the world - think about making the world fit women”. Gloria Steinem***

- Plan, Facilitate, and Participate in **Virtual** Global Social Justice Dialogues with young women from International Countries and from around the United States. Learn about the rights and struggles of women Globally.
- Write an article or reflection on one of the Gage Ambassador Dialogues for Social Justice that you attend, and have your work published on the Matilda Joslyn Gage website and in the Gage Foundation newsletter. These writings will be compiled and become an end-of-the-program-year publication. The publication will be donated to libraries in the Gage Ambassador's communities.

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**Expectations and Requirements of the 2020-2021**

**Gage Ambassadors:**

**The Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights Program will begin October 4, 2020 and end June 13, 2021.**

- Attend every **Virtual** Planning and Training Meeting **a month** (held Sundays from **3-5pm**) between October 4, 2020 and June 13, 2021. **Two (2) excused absences** from Virtual Planning and Training Meetings are allowed, with dismissal from the program after the 3rd absence).

- Attend the **MANDATORY Virtual** Gage Ambassador Program Orientation, Planning and Training Meetings on **Sunday October 4th and Sunday October 18th from 3-5pm**. (Includes Dialogue Facilitation Training) **The MANDATORY Virtual Training will be recorded for November applicants to attend and meet this requirement.**
- Participate in **two (2) Virtual** Gage Ambassador Community Dialogues on Social Justice. Work with a team of Gage Ambassadors to plan and facilitate **one (1)** Community Dialogue out of the two that you participate in.
- Participate in **two (2) Virtual** International Dialogues and **two (2)** Dialogues with young women in organizations in the United States. Work with a team of Ambassadors to Plan and Facilitate at least **one (1)** of the International or National dialogues that you participate in.
- Participate in **two (2)** Gage Ambassador Women in Business and in S.T.E.A.M. Salons. Work with a team of Ambassadors to Plan and Host **one (1)** of the Women in Business and in S.T.E.A.M. Salons. These **Virtual** events are open to the public, and will feature Interviews and “Talk Backs” with Women from various Professions, providing Gage Ambassadors the opportunity to explore future jobs and careers.
- Write and Submit **one (1)** article or reflection on a Gage Ambassador Dialogue for Social Justice that you attended, for publication on the Gage Foundation website and newsletter. Submissions will be included in an end-of-the-year publication.
- Choose at least **one (1)** special project to participate in during the program year.
  - Represent the Gage Ambassador Program at a State or National **Virtual** event

- Travel **Virtually** to the Mohawk Nation for a cultural immersion program on the lives of Haudenosaunee Women
  - Participate or create a **Virtual** program celebrating the Annual Women's Rights March (or you have the option of attending a March, if held, in person and representing the Gage Foundation Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights.
  - Represent the Gage Foundation Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights at a program of your choosing. (Submit a description and what you will do).
- Participate in this year's **required** Community Service Project:  
***“Warm Hands, Warm Hearts! Project***
- In January the Syracuse based Gage Ambassadors will work together to solicit and donate 400 Hand Warmers and 400 Gloves/Mittens to the *“We Rise From the Streets”* program which provides support to Syracuse's homeless.

Individual Gage Ambassadors that do not live in the Syracuse area will donate a minimum of 20 Hand Warmers and 20 Gloves or Mittens (or other needed items in warmer climates) to an organization that supports the homeless in their area. Hand Warmers and Gloves are available at discount and Dollar Stores - around the country.

## The Application Process

The Girl Ambassador program is a diverse group, recruiting women-identified young women from a wide variety of ethnic, racial, religious, nationalities, urban, suburban, rural, and socio-economic identities.

- Only two (2) Gage Ambassadors can represent their high school in any given year. There are a total of twenty (20) Gage Ambassador positions available to women-identified High School students from Onondaga County, NY. There are an additional ten (10) Ambassador positions open to women-identified HighSchool students from outside of Onondaga County.
- Submit applications by November 30, 2020 to Vanessa Johnson [griotwords@gmail.com](mailto:griotwords@gmail.com). Applications will be reviewed, notifications of **Virtual** interviews will be offered to the applicants that we feel are the most qualified. Applicants accepted on a first come first served basis until all positions are filled.
- You will be notified by email as to whether you are being offered an interview.
- Interviews will take place beginning September 23rd through November 30th.
- Up to three Gage Ambassadors, who are Mentors in the program, will sit in on the **Virtual** interviews, along with the Gage Ambassadors Program Director.

## Applicant Information

Name:

Age:

Date of Birth:

Mailing Address:

City:

Zip:

E-mail:

Home Phone Number or Parent Cell&Name:

Your Cell Number:

School:

School grade level Fall 2020:

Have you applied to the Girl Ambassador Program before?(circle one)  
Yes/No

The Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights Program communicates through social media and uses closed group sites that are available to Ambassadors and their Parents.

Are you able to access and use these social media sites? (circle one)

Group Me! - Yes/No

Facebook - Yes/No



## **Extracurricular and Community Involvement**

The Matilda Joslyn Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights program is an intensive social justice and dialogue program. Ambassadors are expected to balance this program with their extracurricular activities and academics. Please list the extracurricular activities you are involved in below, with at least two to three sentences explaining the activity, and your involvement. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

## Essay Section

Please answer each question completely, and to the best of your ability. Type or neatly print your answers on separate pieces of paper and attach them to your application.

- OR-

You may answer each question on a personal video. You should always face the camera. Be sure that the video is clear, and that your voice can always be heard. Answer the questions as completely as possible. Email your video to: Vanessa Johnson - griotwords@gmail.com

1. Who was Matilda Joslyn Gage? What Social Justice Issue, that Gage championed during her lifetime most affects your life today?
2. What do you think the role of an Ambassador is?
3. What would you bring to the program in your role as an Ambassador, if you are chosen?
4. What do you think is the most challenging issue facing women in the United States today?
5. What are some activities that you have participated in, that have given you the opportunity to meet and interact with people from diverse racial, ethnic, gender, religious, physical or mental challenges or socio-economic backgrounds?

How have these interactions impacted on your life?

6. Tell us about a woman or girl you respect as a Role Model and why?

## Applicant's Parental/Guardian Consent

Parents/Guardians Name:

E-mails:

Phone numbers:

Cell numbers:

Mailing address:

City:

State:

Zip:

I have read the Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights program description to which my daughter is applying. To the best of my knowledge, \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) has a clear understanding of the program that she has applied for, and if selected, has my permission to participate.

- I understand that the Gage Ambassadors Program is funded through donations, grants, and fundraisers, and that there is a \$200 program fee for the year. I understand that the fee is due November 1st, 2020 payable by check to: **The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation**. I also understand that my daughter can choose to earn part of this fee through participating in an on-line fundraiser in November/December 2020, with the balance of the payment not earned through fundraising due December 22, 2020.

If my daughter is chosen as an Ambassador, I am willing to attend periodic **Virtual** Parent Group Meetings. I understand that the Parent Group will work with the Gage Ambassadors in an advisory capacity and in helping to organize and implement one fundraiser for the Gage Ambassadors for Human Rights Program.

- I understand that the Gage Ambassadors communicate through closed group Social Media Sites.

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Date:

**Parent/Guardian Signature**

## **Applicant references**

Name:

Occupation:

E-mail:

Phone Number:

Relationship to Applicant:

Please have your reference letters emailed to: [griotwords@gmail.com](mailto:griotwords@gmail.com)  
Please have your reference include your full name in the reference letter.

Questions? Matilda Joslyn Gage Center: 315-637-9511  
Vanessa Johnson - Program Director: 315-289-6573

## **2020-2021 Proposed** **Gage Ambassadors Calendar and Agendas**

Planning and Training Meetings, and Salons are Sundays  
3:00–5:00 p.m.

Gage Ambassador Community and International Dialogues,  
Salons, and other Activities will be scheduled as appropriate.  
The Calendar and Agenda will be updated as needed.

### **Pre-Orientation Assignments:**

- **Email Program Director Vanessa Johnson your favorite song!**  
[griotwords@gmail.com](mailto:griotwords@gmail.com)
- **Complete assigned reading - Will be emailed when you are accepted into the program**
- **Watch “Without A Whisper: movie on the influence of the Haudenosaunee on women’s rights. Link will be emailed to you when you are accepted into the program**
- **Order Gage Ambassador’s T-shirt - Details will be emailed when you are accepted into the program**

### **October 2020**

#### **10/4: Orientation, Planning, and Training in Dialogue Facilitation**

- **Introductions**
- **Warm Up Game**
- **Orientation and Q&A**
- **History lesson - Discussion on Assigned Reading and movie**
- **Dialogue Facilitation Training - “The Power & Rules of Dialogue Facilitation”**
- **Volunteers are needed to organize our November 22nd “Women in Business and S.T.E.A.M” Salon. Program Director Vanessa Johnson will assist you in planning and implementing this Salon**

- **Fundraising Meeting (Optional meeting and optional way to part of your Annual \$200 Program fee). Set second fundraising meeting date**
- **Annual Program fees are due by October 18th, if you are not participating in fundraising part of your fee:**
  - **Make checks or money orders payable to: *The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation*.**
  - **Note in memo: Your name and Gage Ambassador Program**
  - **Send check or money orders to:**  
**The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation**  
**210 East Genesee Street**  
**Fayetteville, NY 13066**
  - **Call-In payment by credit card:**  
**Gage Center/Melissa - 315 637-9511**  
**Leave a message and she will call you back to facilitate payment (do not leave credit card number on the phone)**

### **10/18: Orientation, Planning, and Training in Dialogue Facilitation**

- **History Lesson: Discussion on Assigned Readings**
- **Dialogue Training: Exploration of Different Formats of Dialogues**
- **Assignment to one of six Dialogue Teams**
- **Break into Dialogue Teams**
- **Practice Dialogue - you will be assigned a Social Justice topic. Choose a format.**
- **Dialogue Teams 1,2, and 3 will pick a Social Justice issue and Facilitate an in-group Dialogue at the 11/8/20 meeting**
- **Dialogue Teams 4, 5, and 6 will pick a Social Justice issue and Facilitate an in-group Dialogue at the 12/6/20 meeting**

## **November 2020**

**October MANDATORY training on-line for applicants accepted during the month of November**

**Virtual Fundraiser - Date to Be Announced (mid Nov./early Dec.)**

### **11/8: Planning and Training Meeting**

- **Discussion on Election Outcomes and what you think it will mean to the Rights of Women in the U.S. - Guest TBA**
- **Dialogue Teams 1, 2, and 3 will be matched with another Dialogue Team, and will facilitate an in-group Dialogue on the Social Justice issue that your team chose at the last meeting.**
- **Dialogue Teams will report back on the results of their Dialogue.**
- **Each Dialogue Team will pick a subject for the Virtual Community Dialogue that they will Organize and Facilitate, and set a Date in the month assigned. (Dialogue subject, date, and time due by 11/22/20)**

**Team 1 - December**

**Team 2 - January**

**Team 3 - February**

**Team 4 - March**

**Team 5 - April**

**Team 6 - May**

**11/14 Three Volunteers are needed to Virtually Train 20 youth in the 5th - 8th grade in a Dialogue Facilitation**

**11/22 Women in Business and S.T.E.A.M. Salon**

- **“Preserving the Legacy of Matilda Joslyn Gage: An afternoon with Founding Director of the Matilda Joslyn Gage Center: Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner”**

## December 2020

**Virtual Fundraiser - Date to be Announced (mid Nov./early Dec.)**

**Virtual Community Dialogue Date and Time to Be Announced**

### **12/6: Planning and Training Meeting**

- Dialogue Teams 4, 5, and 6 will be matched with another Dialogue Team, and will facilitate an in-group Dialogue on the Social Justice issue that your team chose at the 10/18/20 meeting. Dialogue Teams will report back on the results of their Dialogue.
- Annual Program fee balance is due by December 20th, if you participated in the fundraiser. You will receive an email, two days after the fundraiser takes place, with a tally of your balance due. Please report any outstanding donation commitments towards your program fee, so we can include them in the tally.
- **Make checks or money orders payable to: *The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation.***
- **Note in memo: Your name and Gage Ambassador Program**
- **Send check or money orders to:**  
**The Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation**  
**210 East Genesee Street**  
**Fayetteville, NY 13066**
- **Call-In payment by credit card:**  
**Gage Center/Melissa - 315 637-9511**  
**Leave a message and she will call you back to facilitate payment (do not leave credit card number on the phone)**
- ***“Secret Friend”***  
**Choose a number from 1-30, and a Gage Ambassador’s name and email will be sent to you as your *“Secret Friend”* for the December 22nd Holiday Party. Email her a Virtual Gift by December 22nd. *Gift her with a poem, an inspirational message, kind words, photos, a story, a virtual card or artwork, or share a virtual trip! Be creative and use your imagination!***
- **Article or Reflections on the Salon with Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner for the Website/Newsletter are due**



- 12/20: Virtual Holiday Party
- Invite your Mom or other significant women to this Intergenerational Dialogue led by the Gage Ambassador Mentors. (Topic to be announced)
- A surprise edible gift will be delivered to your home to chow down on during the party, so set a table for yourself, your Mom, and the other significant women in your family that you invite! Include your own beverage!
- We will vote on *"The Most Elegant Table"*, *"The Most Creative Theme"*, and the *"The Funniest Table"*! Be creative! Yes - you can wear costumes! And, oh yes! - There will be Prizes!
- Share you gift from your *"Secret Friend"*

### January 2021

- Gage Ambassadors "Warm Hands, Warm Hearts" Hand Warmers and Gloves/Mitten Donations to Homeless
- 1/10/21 Planning and Training Meeting  
2021 *"From Vision to Action"* Being an Agent of Change in the Fight for Social Justice - Guest TBA
- First Community Dialogue - Team 1 Date TBA
- First International Dialogue - Date TBA
- 1/24/21 Second Women in Business and S.T.E.A.M. Salon.  
Guests and Subject TBA
- Women's March/Women's March Celebration - Date TBA
- Articles or Reflections on "Intergenerational Dialogue", the First Community Dialogue, or on the International Dialogue for Website/Newsletter are due 1/29/21

### February 2021

- 2/7/21 Planning and Training Meeting  
*"The Struggle to Connect"*: Women of Color and the Women's Rights Movement (Guest to be Announced)
- Second Community Dialogue - Team 2 Date TBA
- Second International Dialogue - Date TBA

## **February 2021 (cont.)**

- **“Love Notes to the Forgotten”. At the end of January, you will receive a heart in the mail. Write a short appreciation note to a Woman Activist whose story was lost to history! Mail back to the Gage Center by 2/1/21. The Gage Ambassadors “Love Notes to the Forgotten” will be displayed at a public location in Syracuse and on-line. They will be accompanied by a visual tribute to Matilda Joslyn Gage and other marginalized Women Activists.**
- **2/21/21 Third Women in Business and S.T.E.A.M. Salon. Guests and Subject TBA**
- **Articles or Reflections on “The Struggle to Connect”, the Second Community Dialogue, the Second International Dialogue, or on the Third Salon - for the Website/Newsletter are due 2/26/21**

## **March 2021**

- **3/7/21 Planning and Training Meeting  
The Haudenosaunee and the Roots of the Women’s Rights Movement in Upstate NY (Guests TBA)**
- **Third Community Dialogue - Team 3 Date TBA**
- **Final International Dialogue - Date TBA**
- **3/21/21 & 3/26 - Virtual Visit to the Mohawk Nation in Akwesasne: A Cultural Immersion Program**
- **Articles or Reflections on The Haudenosaunee and the Roots of the Women’s Rights Movement, the Third Community Dialogue, the Third International Dialogue, or on the Virtual Visit to the Mohawk Nation - for Website/Newsletter are due 3/31/21**

## **April 2021**

- **4/4/21 Planning and Training Meeting  
Women and the United Nations - Guest TBA**
- **Fourth Community Dialogue - Team 4 Date TBA**
- **4/18 Special Gage Ambassador Salon  
Women, Politics and Social Justice - Guest TBA**

**(April 2021 cont.)**

- **Articles or Reflections on the Women and the U.N., the 4th Community Dialogue, or on the Women, Politics, and Social Justice Salon for the Website/Newsletter are due 4/30/21**

**May 2021**

- **5/9/21 Planning and Training Meeting  
Program Evaluation**
- **Fifth Community Dialogue - Team 5 Date TBA**
- **Articles or Reflections on your general experience with the Gage Ambassador Program, any Social Justice subject of your choosing, on Graduating from High School, or on the Fifth Community Dialogue for the Website/Newsletter are due 5/28/21**

**June 2021**

- **Final Community Dialogue - Team 6 Date TBA**
- **6/6/21 Virtual End of the Year Gage Ambassadors Tea Awards Celebration**
- **Articles or Reflections only Social Justice subject of your choosing, the Final Community Dialogue, on your general experience with the Gage Ambassador Program, or Graduating from High School for the Website/Newsletter are due 6/30/21**