



Lisle *Interaction*

An Annual Publication of Lisle International

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2018 Global Seed Grants

Kenya: 42ChangeMakers

Since Kenya gained its independence from Britain in 1963, ethnicity has shaped contests over land, power and resources. The dark memories of the ethnic violence after the 2007 election still haunt Kenya. Research has shown that lack of employment and involvement in the country helped create an opportunity for youth in urban and rural Kenya to be manipulated by politicians and recruited into the conflicts. 42ChangeMakers, a non-profit organization based in Kenya, works with at-risk young people from 42 tribes in Kenya to build their capacity for peace and development. Given the history of conflicts and political tensions due to long standing issues of ethnicity and feelings of politi-

-continued on page 28-

Colombia: Sembrandopaz

For 15 years Sembrandopaz has been working to counter the decades of conflict in Colombia through grassroots organizing and accompanying local communities, and now the peace accords offer new opportunities for progress. In 2015, Sembrandopaz carried out a diagnostic evaluation with the youth of Montes de María, Colombia, and based on these findings, the youth of these communities and Sembrandopaz formed the Ecological Protectors. This project recognizes that investing resources in youth and creating connections between them is the way to make sustainable change in the communities and to guarantee the

-continued on page 28-

In This Issue

New Global Seed Grants 2018.....	1
2017 Seed Grant Reports.....	5
Notes From the Field.....	8
Leadership Report.....	9
Ligon Service Award.....	11
Lisle Business News.....	12
Travels to Fez.....	14
Annual Meeting Report.....	16
Lisle Friends News.....	20
In Memoriam.....	24
Treasurer Report.....	30
Membership Form.....	31

Six projects selected for Lisle Seed Grant funding at 2017 meeting in Seattle, WA.

After screening almost 200 inquiries and reviewing and debating 25 detailed grant proposals, the Lisle Board selected six outstanding applications for 2017-18 Global Seed Grant awards. The Board was interested to note that all of the successful projects this year share a common theme of youth work to prevent violence in very diverse regions of the world, through a variety of activities ranging from ecological protection to street theater to training workshops. We wish each of these groups the best as they implement their projects.

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Submissions Solicited!

We'd love to include your Lisle memories, travel stories, journal entries, poetry, artwork, and any photographs of Unit participants.

Please email your submissions to the Lisle office : <office@lisleinternational.org>



Board Meeting on Lopez Island

2018 Global Seed Grants



Pakistan: Accountability Lab

South Punjab constitutes one of the least developed regions of Pakistan. A lack of basic human rights, social and political entitlements, and economic opportunities in short, deep lack of accountability has led to fundamentalism, terrorism, and criminal activity. Young people, who constitute over 60 percent of its population, have become particularly vulnerable to radical ideas. Those that become radicalized do not only hail from religious schools, but are also well-educated university students. Women and minority groups are also particularly marginalized and disempowered. The Accountability Lab has been working in this region and at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University for two years through its Accountability and Peace Incubator, focused on changing these dynamics through youth focused, creative peace promotion and conflict resolution efforts. Lisle seed grant funding will support the Accountability Lab project called Civic Leadership Academy: Theater for intercultural dialogue and civic leadership in Pakistan. The Civic

-continued page 29-

Thailand & SE Asia: Sarus

We live in a world that is increasingly divided and polarized across national, ethnic, religious, economic, and political lines. Recent years have seen a substantial increase in communal violence surrounding diverse identity groups. To address this problem, Sarus has been operating in Southeast Asia since 2010 with an aim to empower the youth of the community to reimagine their own identity and to explore conflicts and establish peace around them. Sarus brings together youth from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam to participate in cross-border experiential exchange programs. Already 200+ alumni are emerging as peace leaders in their communities and are on the cusp of realizing their potential to shift larger systems towards nonviolence. In order to help spread transformations from the small pool of Sarus alumni to their larger communities, Sarus began conducting alumni training in 2015. The Seed Grant from Lisle will be used to launch a new initiative for Sarus, a Peace Leadership Incubator Program, through which their alumni

-continued on page 28-

2018 Global Seed Grants



Serbia: Center for Culture and Education(CCE)

Sontaln the 1990's the historic conflict in the Balkans escalated into war involving Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia and Kosovo. The current migrant crisis shaking the EU has reawakened communal tensions due to struggle over resources, ethnicity, discrimination, and degrading political and economic conditions in Serbia. In Serbia the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, known for its so-called "segregated multiculturalism," has six official languages. The towns of Sonta and Svilojevo are both near the Croatian and Hungarian border, but have different ethnic identities—made up of Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim, Serbian, Croat, Hungarian, Roma and Kosovar people, and they have never cooperated together. The Center for Culture and Education (CCE) was established in Sonta to include all members of the community, no matter their ethnicity, religion, age, gender, or disability. CCE has made contact with a new organization for youth and children in the village of Svilojevo which shares these values, and together they have developed a project Svilo-

-continued on page 29-

India: Deepam Trust

Despite longstanding legislation outlawing caste-based discrimination in India, the caste system continues to generate division and interethnic and cultural problems, leaving very little room for young people to learn values that promote peaceful coexistence and tolerance. Deepam Trust has been working for the development of rural communities in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu since 1995. Funding from Lisle will support Deepam Trust for a project titled Creating Intercaste Understanding Promoting peace among various caste youth. This project specifically targets 250 young people in 50 villages of Tamil Nadu where clashes between different caste communities have been drawing young people into violence and destructive activities. The project will bring together young people of different castes who normally live in segregated communities with little interaction through activities such as intercultural trainings, peaceful dialogues, exchanges and street theatres. Twelve street theatre programs are planned to cover 50 villages in the region. The goal of the project is

-continued on page 29-

Reports from 2017 Global Seed Grants

2017 Lisle grantees share their stories By Mark Kinney

In 2017, Lisle Global Seed Grants provided funding to 5 very different projects in several different countries. Below is a synopsis from each grantee of what they did with our support and what happened as a result of these efforts. Do enjoy seeing how your support of Lisle is making a difference in the world.

Dos Pueblos: Extending an intercultural youth exchange and mobile library project to northern Nicaragua

Lisle supported the intercultural communication component of a binational youth service and cultural exchange project that took place in Tipitapa, Nicaragua from February 18-27, 2017. A total of 56 people participated, including 27 New York and 18 Nicaraguan youth, plus adult leaders and chaperones. A major goal was to improve the quality of our North-South exchange by working in a new place and with new people, by focusing more deeply on building communication skills, and by providing support for conversations about the dynamics of our interactions.

The explicit focus on intercultural communication, inspired by Lisle, was of huge benefit to the participants and the organization as a whole.

We developed a curriculum and recruited volunteers and staff to help plan and implement this component. Creating space for these group conversations and hiring a skilled facilitator (Taleigh Smith) brought us to a new level of openness and understanding and

deepened our relationships.

Taleigh and four other volunteers worked with us on the curriculum before the trip. Taleigh lives in Nicaragua and has also worked as a community organizer and environmental justice advocate in the Bronx. Her background in nonviolent communication, oppression theory, consensus decision-making and mediation were very influential in shaping a higher level of exchange.

While the advance preparation was very helpful, having a staff person dedicated to the quality of the exchange was possibly the most impactful outcome of Lisle's investment, especially as the attention of the other leaders (Rosa, Karen, Ann and Susan) was frequently divided between program process/content and logistics.

The other staff person hired with Lisle funds was Hector Calera Gómez, a Nicaraguan mason and agronomist, who taught the group about traditional adobe and gardening techniques and shared his philosophy of environmentally-sustainable methods in community development. His expertise, humble demeanor and dedication to teaching sparked great discussions.

A positive change was the unprecedented proliferation of spontaneous youth-led meetings and initiatives of various kinds among the New York and Tipitapa teens. For example, a binational group of teen leaders requested a meeting with adult leadership late one night toward the end of the trip to demand more input into trip planning in the future. We are following up to make sure this happens.

-continued on page 6-

Reports from 2017 Global Seed Grants



Dos Pueblos

Lisle's support made the Northern trip possible by supporting planning and travel for the Nicaraguan participants. In addition, it helped us to build a focus on communication into everything we did, bringing about a large increase in self-awareness and a new level of sophistication in sharing, working out differences, and accepting others' perspectives. As a culture, I think our binational group has moved from the "matching" phase of our relationship, that is, primarily looking for and emphasizing similarities ("Hey, we like the same music!") to a new stage of being capable of acknowledging and gaining understanding of each other's differences.

LEAP (Learn-Empower-Act-Promote): Bridging cultural, sectarian and religious gaps in Faisalabad, Pakistan

The project was conceptualized in response of growing divides, hatred, extremism, and violence occurring between cultures, religions and sects in the Faisalabad district of Pakistan. The five targeted areas include populations with different identities, beliefs and practices about which each group is highly sensitive and, therefore, prone to extremism. The core problem we hoped to address was the lack of

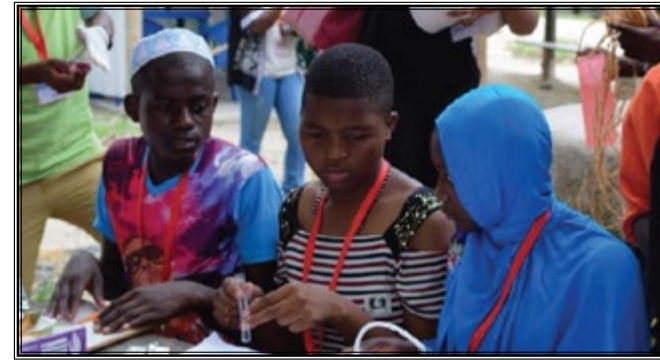
interaction between communities of diverse backgrounds at different tiers of society. It was felt that the understanding of beautiful concept of diversity, peace and harmony was lacking, which is becoming the root cause of growing hatred.

The project was prepared for the period of 6 months, however due to the number of activities with the local communities; the project completed its activities in 11 months. Altogether more than 1,725 direct beneficiaries and the communities of 5 project areas were benefited from the project interventions. We wanted to enhance the knowledge and responsiveness of 15 leaders of diverse backgrounds to be an instrument of bridging cultural, sectarian and religious gaps within their communities. We wanted to sensitize 1,600 opinion makers and the general public to promote interreligious, intersect and intercultural harmony and reduce societal conflicts through seminars, street theaters and publications. We also wanted to improve the responsiveness of the 20 media and 10 local government officials in devising strategies for the promotion of inter-religious, inter-sect and inter-cultural harmony so that they became the instruments of reducing conflicts and violent.



LEAP

Reports from 2017 Global Seed Grants



Projekt Inspire

To accomplish this we trained 15 key leaders to lead their community groups for sustaining peace and harmony in their areas. We worked to have 9 community groups actively playing their role while connecting with the LEAP team on regular basis.

We succeeded in having 1,680 community members participate in the street theaters, seminars, exposure visits, and workshops and have given them posters to paste in their homes.

We believe we now have 30 local media and government officials who are more sensitive about the topic and who are in regular contact with LEAP. We have experienced an increased level of harmony in the 5 project areas and seen a reduction in the number of violent incidences, and the relationship of the LEAP team and the communities has been strengthened. It was very challenging to talk with the communities about the sensitive topics of bridging the religious gaps and promoting peace, but by conducting these conversations through key leaders in the community, we reduced this difficulty. However, in some areas, it was found difficult to discuss further as the communities were of extremist nature.

The Lisle funds help LEAP to reach 5 areas and

30 diverse communities to promote peace. The participants have never before attended these types of activities.

Projekt Inspire: STEM Youth Boot Camp 2017 in Tanzania

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Boot Camp is a sustainable project that aims to integrate project-based integrated learning to complement the formal secondary schools' science and mathematics curriculum. The boot camp introduces hands-on, interactive projects to students in all levels of secondary schools, allowing them to apply the theories in practical world and inspiring them to pursue STEM-related careers. This includes inspiring the youth to be critical thinkers, with the ability to be effective communicators, as well as giving them the capacity for lifelong learning.

In order to implement the Tanzanian vision of becoming an industrialized economy, passion for STEM careers has to be incorporated in the minds of young people through crea-

-continued page 22-



African Ukrainian Union

Notes from the Field



Abdul K. Lebbie: Personal Reflections on working at the front line for the Ebola fight in Sierra Leone and - NOT A BY-STANDER

Editor's note: Sierra Leone was one of the West African nations at the epicenter of the Ebola outbreak in 2014 and 2015. Prior to this epidemic, Lisle had supported a project to promote human rights led by Abdul Lebbie, the author of this article.

In January 2014, I began to work as a manager for "contact tracing" in the district of Port Loko. This involved identifying everyone who might have come in contact with an Ebola patient, ensuring that they were quarantined and tested for the virus, following up with all cases of people discharged as "negative" for Ebola to ensure they didn't later develop symptoms of the virus, searching for any missing contacts, and ensuring that the quarantine homes functioned as required to

prevent further spread of the epidemic.

I had a team of 26 coordinators who, in turn, supervised, monitored, and reported on the daily activities of the 510 contact tracers across the district. For almost six months, I worked closely with people from the hard-to-reach communities to the urban areas to support the Ebola response.

As a human rights activist it was very difficult for me to see people put in quarantine homes and their freedom of movement restricted. Moreover, monitoring activities at the front-line puts me at high risk for contracting the virus. That, coupled with missing my family back home in Freetown, was challenging. But even more difficult and traumatizing was the lack of sufficient food in the quarantine homes and the daily cries of the quarantined patients. This situation also put me and my staff in danger, as people we were investigating sometimes reacted violently. In some instances, they threatened to capture us so we could all serve the 21-day quarantined period with them.

One of the moments I will never forget was the day I came across a person matching the case definition for Ebola: diarrhea, vomiting and weakness. Surveillance officers and contact tracers came to the scene to investigate and the victim was immediately evacuated to an Ebola testing unit. The next morning while getting ready to go to work, I was asked to stay home and wait for my test result. (Because of my contact with that person, a team was also sent to investigate me.)

-continued on page 10-

Leadership Report



Bill Kinney, Lisle's President



Mark Kinney, Lisle's Executive Director

*"We're in the same boat brother, We're in the same boat brother,
And if you shake one end, You gonna rock the other, It's the same boat brother"
- We're in the Same Boat Brother, lyrics by Huddie "LeadBelly" Ledbetter*

By Bill Kinney and Mark Kinney

Another year has produced a new group of successful Lisle Grant projects and we are grateful to work with a committed group of Lisle board members and associates. A major strength of Lisle continues to be the teamwork among our board. Together with the administrative support of our paid assistant, Lindora Diawara, we have made great strides in strengthening our interaction with potential awardees and grantees, and in tracking the progress of the grants. In the past year we experienced a major increase in the number of applications for support through the Seed Grant Fund. Lindora was key to the success of the Seed Grant Committee in working through the very large number grant applicants, and in handling the award process itself which involved a total of six new grants for 2018. See page one for articles in this edition of Interaction.

Lisle is on the move technologically. At the November 2017 Annual Meeting, the Board set up committees tasked with updating our website and clarifying the grant application process and information. The committees routinely work to process the work flow for Lisle and we anticipate increased reliance on our technological resources. An example of our technological capacity is our use of video conference technology which enables us to see and work with members from all over the world.

We look forward to a productive 2018 year, as we continue to make Lisle present in a world in need of dialogue and intercultural understanding. \$

Notes from the Field

I was tortured by the thought that I might have contracted Ebola and worried about the effect on my family and friends, but I thank God that the results came out negative on the next day.

In June 2015, I joined UNICEF's communication for development unit. I shifted to support social mobilization activities, which were critical in ending Ebola in the country as there were a lot of confused messages some of which undermined the trust for the response workers. With correct messaging, deepened community engagement blended with theater for development and ambulance exhibitions, we were able to rebuild the confidence of the people in the response teams. These interventions resulted in marked improvements as we saw an increase in the alerts, utilization of the health facilities and, finally a breakdown in the chains of transmission of the virus, leading to the nation being declared Ebola free on November 7, 2015.

For more about the situation in the quarantine homes, see this article: <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/2/19/in-sierra-leone-quarantined-ebola-survivors.html>.



Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.
Samuel Johnson

Smita Patel honored with 2017 Walt and Betty Ligon Service Award



By Mark Kinney

The 2017 Ligon award was presented to Smita Patel at the Seattle Lisle Annual Meeting on October 13th.

Smita has been a most active board member since the 70th anniversary annual meeting in Toledo Ohio, where she shared her experiences with one of the first Lisle Global Seed Grants which had been awarded to the Mountain Children's Foundation in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India that year.

For her quick and creative mind, her reward was an invitation to join the Lisle Board. She said, "Yes" and has served on the Board and on many seed grant committees since that time. With a background working in nonprofits in Silicon Valley, she has leveraged her computer and communication skills to assist the board with managing our communication through emails, ensuring that requests which come into the office email account are directed to persons who can handle them. She has often shared ideas with the board which have been instrumental in moving the board decision-making in productive directions.

Congratulations, Smita!\$

I think for any relationship to be successful, there needs to be loving communication, appreciation, and understanding.
Miranda Kerr

Whatever words we utter should be chosen with care for people will hear them and be influenced by them for good or ill.
Buddha

Making Connections

Lisle's Electronic Communication

Lisle has added to the ways it communicates with the world. Up until last year, we have mailed out letters three times a year, updating Lislers about what we are doing and requesting they help us do that. We also have published Interaction. In the past couple of years we have limited the number of issues of Interaction from twice a year to once a year because of the increasing cost of printing and disseminating it. As a result we have been looking at a way to begin sending other communications electronically.

We now have that process and have begun sending out occasional e-newsletters. These will allow us to send out more information to you and to fill in the time gaps between our other communications. We hope these communications provide something in addition to what we can provide in print. If you have suggestions

If you have not received the e-news, and wish to do so, you can add your email to our list at the Lisle website.

of how we might maximize the effectiveness of the e-newsletter, please contact us at office@lisleinternational.org.

If we have your email address, you should have received a couple of these so far. If you have not, then it probably means we do not have your email address or the

email is arriving in your junk email box. If you have not received the e-news, and wish to do so, please send us your email address. §

Want to Meet Interesting People? Join the Lisle Board

Please consider becoming a member of the Lisle Board of Directors. Some organizations' board meetings are boring, and work. Lisle Board meetings are a joy (and work). Our current members include people from all over the United States and include the retired, persons between jobs, a school teacher, an accountant, a university administrator, a global peacemaker, a non profit administrator, among others.

We are united by our commitment to making a better world through intercultural learning, and sharing in the work of budgets, grant selection and planning. Call any of the current Lisle board members if you want to know more about time commitment and personal rewards. The rewards are huge, the time investment shared.

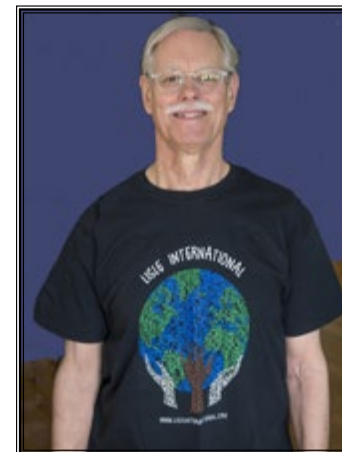
If you have a son or daughter, or niece or nephew, who is involved in cross cultural and/or peace building activities, please encourage them to attend a board meeting to see how consensus decision-making works and to then consider joining the Board. We'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at:

office@lisleinternational.org or 512-259-4404. §

Making Connections

Gifts and Bequests to Lisle

Do you have fond memories of your Lisle times and experiences? Keep those memories alive in your hearts and help others to spread the Lisle mission in our world. In the recent past our Seed Grant program has greatly expanded. One source of resources that has allowed Lisle to award additional grants has been through generous bequests and donations. Lisle operates due to the generous donations that you and others make to the organization. Many Lislers have made plans to help support Lisle into the future by naming Lisle in their will or by planning to donate to Lisle as a part of legacy estate planning. Think about the Lisle relationships that you have enjoyed and the joy that you felt working with groups from around the world. Allow others to take part in similar experiences by continuing to support Lisle. Please consider a bequest to Lisle so that we can continue to promote and develop relationships with youth from around the world. Please contact us: office@lisleinternational.org.§



Lisle Shirts!

This shirt is designed by board member Lori Bratton. It is comprised of all the Lisle Units and Seed Grant countries. Get yours today. See page 31 to order.

Suggest Organizations for Lisle Grants to fund!

Know of an organization whose work furthers the mission and goals of Lisle — improving intercultural understanding by bringing people of diverse backgrounds together to share, work together, and learn from one another? Encourage them to apply for a Lisle seed grant! Lisle awards "seed grants" of up to \$3,000 to innovative projects which match our goals. Help us find organizations that are doing "Lisle-type" work, and to encourage them to apply. Send suggestions, ideas and questions to office@lisleinternational.org. Can you help "mentor" a grant? We need Lisle "mentors" to work with grant applicants to ensure that the project they propose is aligned with Lisle's values. The mentor is a Lisle member who is interested in the grant process and willing to help an applicant edit and focus their proposed project so that it is a good fit for Lisle. If you already know of an organization you feel would be a good fit for a Seed Grant, you can be the mentor for that applicant. If you don't know an organization personally, but are still interested in being part of the process, please let us know. Each year we receive many inquiries from organizations that do not have a Lisle mentor. If we feel the project is worth considering, we try to find them a mentor. If you could review an application and help the applicant to fit their project to Lisle's goals, you would be a great asset. §

Dianne Travels to Fez



Reflections on Travel to Morocco with its Riads in Fez, Desert Moonrises, & Mountain Beauty

By Dianne Brause

Last summer, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Fez, Morocco with a friend and colleague.

Fez is amazing with its thousand-year-old Medina (old city). The magic begins when you enter through the "Blue Gate." Vendors of all sorts sell traditional products – pointed shoes, scarves of every color, caged birds, hand-tooled metal and woodwork, paintings, and household items. Fleeces and hides are cured by traditional methods; washed in the local stream, dyed, and then woven for rugs or blankets, or cut for leather products. Food stalls hold fresh fruits and vegetables that are cooked in ancient ceramic conical pots or made into pastries, their sticky sweetness baked in clay ovens.

What I found most fascinating in the Medina

were the Riads. These are the ancient homes whose outer walls of mud brick or cement create the crooked paths which serve as narrow streets. The doors are of battered wood or polished metal lead into courtyards, often with a pool or waterfall, and tile-inlaid columns open into common sitting areas, a kitchen, and possibly one or two bedrooms facing the garden. Upstairs, bedrooms, bathrooms, and balconies overlook the courtyard below.

On the rooftop, breakfasts are served while one overlooks the Medina. Many of these ancient extended family homes have been converted into B&Bs, with prices ranging from a few dollars a night for a dorm room to several hundred dollars for greater luxury.

On another trip, I was hosted by a very gracious family who provided the opportunity to stay at a "Kasbah" on the edge of the desert. There I was treated as a "desert princess" and could walk onto the sand dunes for as long and as far as I chose, day or night. The desert was fascinating and inviting. The colors changed throughout the day with passing clouds and the moving slant of the sun on the sand. In the evening, the desert was magical with the sun setting and the moon rise simultaneously. One of the Berber boys, whose family ran the Kasbah, introduced me to a few of the wild and roaming camels.

Later, I was taken to an amazingly beautiful retreat center named L'Ermitage, in the mountains in the north. The retreat was bordered by a river with many waterfalls and little islands for lounging and relaxation. There

I received educational sessions about Sufism, meditated, said prayers, and ate fabulous meals prepared by the French-taught staff.

If you ever get a chance to go to Morocco, I recommend that you say: "Yes"! §



Leather from Tanner's Corner



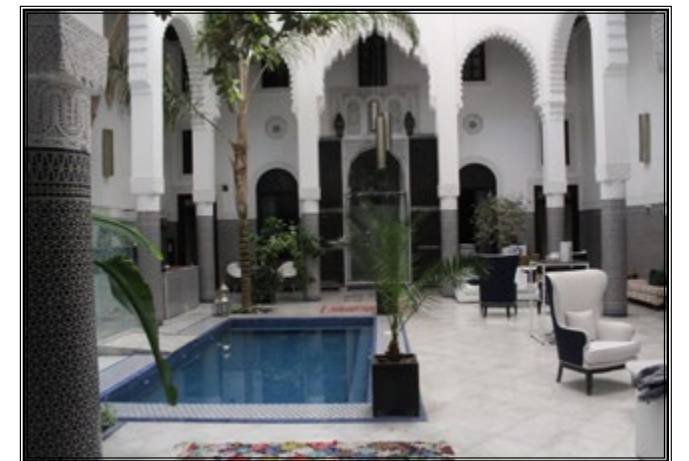
Guest House in L'Ermitage



Blue Gate in Fez



Sufi Dancers



Riads in Fez

Annual Meeting - Seattle, WA

By Bill Kinney

The 2017 Lisle Annual Meeting was held October 12-14, hosted by board member Anne Hayner and her family. The Board Meeting was held on Lopez Island, Washington at the local library and Plum Ducky, the Hayner family residence, followed by the Annual Meeting and banquet dinner in Seattle. The trip to Lopez for many Board members began from their homes throughout the US to Seattle, a shuttle to Anacortes, and then a short ferry ride to Lopez Island. There we were treated to the natural beauty of the Island. The Hayner family has maintained a residence on the Island since the arrival of her great-great-grandmother who was one of the first white women settlers.

The library, a short walk from Plum Ducky,



Mingling before dinner

provided an internet connection and a video conferencing screen. While on the island, our Lisle family got in touch with each other and the large tidal shifts of the ocean. During our meeting, we awarded the Ligon Award to Smita Patel for service to Lisle in many roles:



View from Plum Ducky on Beautiful Lopez Island

seed grant project director, board member, communications coordinator, and president of the board. We reviewed the current year Seed Fund applications and video-conferenced with Lislors from across the world. It is amazing how much you can accomplish with a committed group of truly amazing folks and an internet connection!

We were lucky to enjoy the brilliant fall colors on Lopez Island. The Island has a great variety of birds, coastal scenery and a calm atmosphere that helped us all recharge our



The crew taking in a music program

internal core. We feasted on cinnamon rolls from the local bakery, sang Lisle songs and reconnected under the starry night sky. On Saturday we returned to Seattle for the Annual Meeting. Ryan Ewert joined us to present a slide show and report on the work of the Nepali Youth Development Project which was awarded a Lisle seed grant in 2016. The NYDP works to empower girls through education, and support from Lisle enabled a Girls Intercultural Leadership Workshop which was attended by girls from 6 of the 7 castes of Nepal. The evening was celebrated with a banquet prepared by Lisa Motherwell and John Hayner.

The good news for our Lisle family is we will return to the Pacific Northwest next fall for the Lisle Annual Meeting. We hope to see you on Lopez Island or in Seattle. If you need any details about the meeting please contact the Lisle Office (office@lisleinternational.org).§



Lopez Island Sunset

***Mentor a Seed Grant!
Contact Lisle for more info.***



Discussing Lisle issues

Lisle uses social media to reach out by Jon Findley

From our humble beginnings in 1936, Lisle has been dedicated to communicating with Lisle unit alumni, friends of the Baldwins and other contacts we have made over the years. It has not always been easy. I remember going to the airport to pick up the Baldwins and finding Uncle Si waiting patiently with the luggage as Aunt Edna perused the white pages, trying to find a new phone number or mailing address for Lislens whose mail had been returned from the most recent Interaction mailing.

Times have changed. Although we still use the traditional communication tools, we have added new methods to our "toolbox" to connect with all those interested in Lisle. In addition to our own Web site (<http://www.lisleinternational.org/>), we currently have a presence on the following:

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/6619056893/>
This public group, created in 2007, has 39 members. Messages about Lisle events and Seed Grant projects are posted mainly by members of the Board of Directors and long-time active members. This is a good place to view photos of Lisle activities.
- LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1389867>
This public group has 16 members and was created about 6 years ago to facilitate an exchange of academic ideas and opportunities among various Lisle members and friends.
- YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMhfoi8jSX29H31O3adqAQw/videos>

Or go to: <https://www.youtube.com/> and search for: Lisle International
If you end up on the "Home" Page, click on "Video" to see the individual titles.

This new initiative currently has 4 videos available for public viewing. We will be making revisions and improvements in these videos and uploading new footage as it becomes available. The four segments are from the History of Lisle International (115 minutes), which is also available for purchase in DVD format from the Lisle office:

"The Lisle Fellowship" – 33 minutes. A home movie, narrated by Uncle Si Baldwin and photographed by Carl B. Manner, describes life in Lisle Units on Lookout Mt., Colorado and in California in 1952 and 1953. Published on film in 1956. YouTube Title: Lisle Fellowship Video- Units in CO & CA 1952

"The Baldwins Remember Lisle" Part 1 – 34 minutes. A video tape of Uncle Si and Edna Baldwin made during a meeting in New York some time in the 1980s. YouTube Title: Lisle Fellowship Video- The Baldwins Remember Lisle Part 1 - 1980s

"The Baldwins Remember Lisle" Part 2 --23 minutes. Continuation of the above. YouTube Title: Lisle Fellowship Video- The Baldwins Remember Lisle Part 2 - 1980s

"Spring Message" – 23 minutes. A recorded message by Uncle Si to the Board of Directors on March 7, 1993. Uncle Si describes the "state of the fellowship" after 55 years and his vision for the future. YouTube Title: Lisle Fellowship Video- Spring Message from Uncle Si Baldwin- 1993.

If you have additional information or recollections about these video materials or have any other materials that should be added to our archive and/or shared on social media, please let us know.

And if you're online, we hope that you will join us in these new cyberspace meeting places – please "like" or "follow" Lisle and feel free to reach out with your memories, stories, and current adventures. §

Words are singularly the most powerful force available to humanity. We can choose to use this force constructively with words of encouragement, or destructively using words of despair. Words have energy and power with the ability to help, to heal, to hinder, to hurt, to harm, to humiliate and to humble.
Yehuda Berg

How Empathy and Initiative Snowball into Changing Lives By Sharada Nayak

In 1944, when my father went to a motor garage in Delhi to get his car serviced, he met the manager, Mr. Umesh Basrurkar, who became a good friend of the family. Whenever he visited us, Basrurkar talked of his passion – a plan to rehabilitate the blind. He had picked up three blind boys in the streets of Delhi who had been re-

jected by their parents and sent away from home to beg and fend for themselves. Mr. Basrurkar made a home for them in a village hut in Badarpur with a man to supervise and look after them. He arranged for them to learn how to weave cane on chairs and to make cloth dusters for floor mops. He then sold these products through his friends and acquaintances. From his empathy and selflessness was born the Blind Relief Association. When I went there recently to buy some floor mops, I was told the boys no longer did any weaving but now worked on computers. Through Mr. Basrurkar's continued efforts, he has developed a fine campus in Delhi that trains boys for a wide range of modern occupations.

Not too long ago, I met two of my former students, Sachin and Shailendra, now college teachers themselves, who were engaged in counselling young people. They found that while there were many companies that employed the physically disabled, there was no counselling to help these persons with a disability to be placed in vocations of their choice. Most candidates accepted whatever training and job they were offered because of their need to earn a livelihood. Sachin and Shailendra wanted to know if the workers could cope with the job given to them, and how well they performed as well as how persons with disabilities could be helped to articulate their own desires, interests and dreams for a useful place in society, and what was needed to break down the obstacles of rejection and low self-esteem caused in part by feelings of being a burden to their parents.

-continued on page 24-

Lisle Friends News

Lisle Friends News

Compiled by Betsy Bridwell

Sonja Bjork (India '86) is a volunteer with Soccer Without Borders in Oakland, which runs year-round programs for newcomer refugee and asylee students. She is a driver, fan and 'soccer mom' for the girls under-12 team. "Check out this great program at soccerwithoutborders.org."

Marina Firestone (CO '48, Lake Erie family camp 2001) is thankful for the past year, saying the best thing was her 90th birthday party. She continues to swim, folk dance, take classes at the Senior Center, and participate in her Horizon House book club. One great joy is working with plants at home and in the garden at church.

Ann Hardt (CO '46, CT '49, CT '50, USSR '58, India '79) is still active at the Center for Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University, with an endowment for Peace Studies including a chair in Peace Studies.

Jeannine McCullaugh continues to contribute to Lisle in memory of her late husband, **Robert McCullaugh (CA '43)**, who was a participant in Los Angeles before he was drafted.

Raymond and Anja Miller (Denmark '55, CO '56, CA '57, Denmark '69) report from the 'Left Coast' that after this year's political shock, they continue to "act locally, perhaps dreaming of a fictional Ecotopia... composed of CA, OR, and WA... but if all fails, Anja and daughter Elna have current Finnish passports and our place in Helsinki."

Richard T. Scott (DC '54, USSR '57) is retired and still plugging along in Salem, OR.

Sharon Scott (Colombia '65) notes that she

and her husband Mike (they met in Cali on that Lisle program) have been married for 51 years. They enjoy travel, time with children/grandchildren, reading and bridge; are also active birdwatchers and active in several non-profit organizations. Would love to hear from others who were in Colombia '65.

Hans and Ellie Spiegel (CO '46 & '47, NY '47, Germany '58, Bali '88) write that their days of traveling to Lisle meetings are over, but they're still living in Leonia, NJ, and welcome visitors there. "These are such discouraging days, with our nationalistic, security conscious, militaristic government. We keep singing Lisle's anthem: 'We're in the same boat brother/sister... and if you shake one end you're going to rock the other.' With fond greetings to you all."

Helen Baker St. John (Uganda '94, HI '95) and Stacy, now in their 90s, find that house, yard, grandkids, and P-Patch garden (a community program) is about all they get to — "but I enjoy memories of Lisle projects."

Karen Thomas (India '83) worked as an educator in employee ownership for many years and now leads community gardening activities with seniors.

Alice Wiedrich (CO '46) reports that Don Wise (CO '45) and wife Jennie still live at Primrose but moved to assisted living in August.

Barbara Wilks (CA '50, CT '51) is "continually grateful for the Lisle experience I had in my late teens. It gave depth to my philosophical understanding and acceptance of people 'not like me.' It colored all my interactions. Thanks to Uncle Si and Aunt Edna for being a part of my long (86) life."

Cherry Wunderlich (CA '64) sends her generous donation "with all good wishes and

Lisle Friends News

thanks for all you do."

Nancy Zinner studied Lisle for Master's thesis and attended several board meetings, now works as a manager for her father's medical practice and as a caregiver. Best Wishes to all Lislers!\$

January 1, 2017 - Seed Grant Proposals accepted

Proposals screened until September 1, 2017

From the Staff Desk

By Lindora Howard-Diawara

Dear Readers,

It's been a little over a year since I started my work with Lisle, and I'm still glad I made the decision to join the team. Compared to 2016, which was an election year, the year in review here — 2017 — can be remembered in the history of Lisle as a year filled with anxieties. It was an eventful year in and around the United States with disasters ranging from floods to hurricanes to wildfires and earthquakes. As if these weren't enough, the country's political landscape constantly seemed to remain in a swing mode. But through it all, Lisle stayed focused and continued pursuing its goals and objectives, namely helping to promote tolerance and intercultural learning — two key elements needed to help make our world beautiful.

A second reason why Lisle may find 2017 historical is that it gained more visibility through the Lisle website, and other platforms. And at such, we saw a dramatic increase in the number of "Request to Apply" forms (the first step to applying for a Lisle Seed Grant), with the largest number of submissions coming from Africa, Europe and Asia. Despite the unexpectedly high number of requests to review, the team pulled through with less hassle and managed to get the new grants out the door in time. The teamwork was fascinating, encouraging and dynamic. However, the debate about the scope of the seed grants remains on the table, and I expect that the 2018/19 grant cycle will help us determine whether (1) the influx of submissions from multiple location signals that we are not focused, or (2) that scope shouldn't matter as we're simply trying to be inclusive as an organization.

Looking forward, I hope that we will become more aware of the context of our partners, and that we will tread a path that will lead us toward ensuring that Lisle becomes more effective and present in supporting grantees programs and projects around the world.\$

Music is the greatest communication in the world. Even if people don't understand the language that you're singing in, they still know good music when they hear it.

Lou Rawls

Reports from 2017 Global Seed Grants

-continued from page 7-

tion of highly developed problem-solving skills; technical knowledge and analytical skills. The participants also had the opportunity to apply these skills to real world problems, including: assessing water quality and treatment methods; creating interactive water sources maps in Bagamoyo using drone technology; hardware hacking using Arduino Technology; mosquito trapping and identification; and malaria intervention methods.

Students recorded observations of the areas surrounding the identified water sources, and suggested a working hypothesis of the expected water quality in terms of chemicals and bacteria. Using chemical testing kits, the students tested for chemicals such as chlorine, iron, and nitrates, from these water samples. Additionally, they tested for total dissolved solids and conducted coliform testing using a Coliscan Easygel kit. They also had an opportunity to observe organisms such as phytoplankton under a microscope. Finally, they brainstormed and built various filtration systems and evaluated the efficiency of these simple filtration systems.

African Ukrainian Union: Afrik Festival 2017

Afrik Festival is an annual event organized by the African Ukrainian Union, a non-governmental Organization in Odessa, Ukraine. It brings people together from diverse cul-

tural backgrounds, in an atmosphere that fosters love, unity and friendship. The Festival aims at bringing Africa culture closer to the Ukrainian community, which in return will help tackle racial discrimination in a friendly manner. The Afrik Festival 2017 offered individuals with talent in art and craft an opportunity to showcase their talents. It also offered corporate organizations and private individuals an opportunity to promote their products and services towards nation building, and advancing social cohesion and boosting economic development within the African community and the city of Odessa in Ukraine.

At the Afrik Festival and Trade Expo 2017, for the first time, Africans SMME (Small medium, micro entrepreneurs) were able to exhibit their products and services. Previously they could not do this due to the high cost of exhibition. For the first time, the African Ukrainian women were able to have their own beauty pageant. It encouraged them to learn about their history through the cultural wardrobe showcase and talent show. Every part of the project was a success, from the exhibition, to the music which allowed the youth to use their raw talents, even children and the beauty pageant. The most successful part of the project for me is the Exhibition and trade expo. The African small, medium and micro entrepreneurs were able to see the market opportunities around them. The beauty pageant was huge success and has helped to create a group of African Ukrainian women, made up of more than 30 women from different African countries who are actively involved,

-continued next page-

Check out the full final reports for all Seed Grants at the Lisle website.

2017 Seed Grant Reports

and committed to the cause of empowering women.

With the funds from Lisle International, the event venue was fully funded, while partial travel cost, pre-project materials, and communication were funded. This has made Afrik Festival 2017 a huge success.

For the future it is important to find funding for small, medium and micro entrepreneurs, a way to provide online marketing training, and to help to establish online marketplace for their business growth. For Afrik Festival project, to make effective impact and reach a wider audience, there is need for annual repetition. There is also a need to help women to find their voice through conferences and training, so they can make a positive impact in their local community.

Musicians without Borders, the Netherlands

Musicians without Borders uses music as a tool for reconciliation, community building and healing the wounds of war and conflict. In October, 2017, the organization welcomed 46 musicians from around the world to the Netherlands for our second annual Training of Trainers. This was an intensive, six-day training for highly skilled musicians exploring concepts related to nonviolence, psychosocial first aid and music as a tool for peace-building in war-torn regions. The training helped the musicians learn to use music as a tool for inclusion, emphasizing non-violence and creating a safe environment.

This year, we were delighted to be able to

invite some of our assistant trainers and participants from these regions to take part in the advanced training with the aim to enhance their skills in running music workshops in their own communities.

For six days, we provided an intensive overview of Musicians without Borders's working principles and workshop approaches developed from our long-term work in training young people in music workshop leadership skills in Palestine, Rwanda and Northern Ireland. The reactions from our participants were overwhelmingly positive in terms of how the training material will benefit their future work in their local communities. Our trainees commented that the depth and breadth of the training was substantial yet balanced, allowing them sufficient time to absorb the material and to discover ways of applying it in their respective communities. §



Musicians without Borders

In Memoriam

Our departed Lislars, 2016-17

By Nancy Kinney

While we hope that the two Lislars about whom we were informed this year are the only ones to have passed away, we suspect that there may be more. Please let us know if you are aware of other people we should honor and then tell us how you knew them and what you know about their lives. Thanks.

Robert M. Starr 1926-2016

Bob Starr, originally from Ohio, ended his long life in December 2016. He participated in Colorado-49 along with Uncle Si and Aunt Edna, the Austins (Grey and Barbara), Catherine Peters, Jerry Eisenman, Don Ervin and fifty-six others from around the world. Bob was a veteran of World War II and Vietnam. He and his wife "DD" (Dorothy), whom he married sixty-six years ago, lived in Walnut Ridge, a retirement community in Clive, Iowa where Bob enjoyed his small patio tomatoes and peppers garden. Friends commented about his love for tennis, opera, the Milwaukee Brewers, and the Democratic Party.

Mohammed Y. Quereshi (19 - 2016)

Colorado Lislar Mohammed Quereshi died in August 2016. He is survived by his wife and seven children. Mohammed first came to the U.S. from Pakistan in 1953. During his student days at the University of Illinois on a Fulbright scholarship, he took time off to accept invitations to holiday celebrations in American homes and, in the summer of 1956, to attend a Lisle Unit in Colorado along with twenty-

five others, including Anja and Ray Miller, Marna Feldt, Bob Walker, and Philippe Julian-Gauffres. He spent thirty-nine years teaching psychology at Marquette University in Milwaukee, publishing more than eighty-five articles in twenty-five journals. While he was a student he co-founded a Muslim student organization and later he served as President of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee. Mohammed spoke several Pakistani languages and composed original poetry, along with doing good deeds for the poor and disadvantaged. He was also an avid Green Bay Packers fan. §

-Empathy continued from page 19-

With these questions in mind, and with great empathy, Sachin and Shailendra have made a start to finding answers through their interaction with a hospital for the visually impaired in Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, India. The Director, Mr. Sudan, is also deeply committed to providing care for its patients whose families come from rural backgrounds and have minimal economic means. They joined forces and while Shailendra and Mr. Sudan interview those who come to the hospital, Sachin is working on a questionnaire to use in interviews.

Initially the work began with the visually impaired, but it will be extended to help persons who are hearing impaired or physically challenged. Through the results of this project, we hope to introduce a counselling program to NGO's that are already doing considerable job training and placement of persons with disabilities. Sachin, Shailendra and Mr. Sudan will present their findings at forthcoming conference. The project is being funded by my Trust – the Educational Resources Centre. §

On Resilience

By Marty Tillman

I met "Uncle" Si Baldwin, Lisle's co-founder with his wife, Edna, when I was 29 and he was, if memory serves me right, 78 years young. It was spring, 1976, in New York City, and I met Si & Edna at a conference discussing results of a citizen poll to be delivered to the Democratic Party's national platform committee for the presidential election in the fall. This was the beginning of my relationship with the most active and agile "older" person I had met up to that point in my life. Today, at age 70, I am amazed to be closing in on the age when I first met Si.

This makes me reflect a bit about the many older Lislars whom I've had the privilege to know over these past forty years. Many readers – you know who you are – are among this group. But, I'll stick to a few whom I knew particularly well: Si and Edna of course, Walt Ligon, Howard Binkley, Hans & Ellie Spiegel, and Andy Nahmias. The characteristics (among a long list) that come to my mind as I reflect on their lives – and which I believe they all share – are resilience, spirit and a very strong moral compass.

Although my interactions were usually in the context of my work with Lisle, over the years I came to a deeper understanding about the personal and professional lives of these Lislars. We participated together in the ups and downs of Lisle, shared family stories, and agonized over social problems and global political issues. Their lives were lived fully with a passion for Lisle which carried on for decades after their college par-

ticipation in "units." All had a deep commitment to their family, to their community, to social justice and an abiding concern for the welfare of others, at home and abroad. I've often thought about the importance of resilience in the lives of the Baldwins, whom I came to know in a special way. I worked daily in their home in Rockville, MD for several years. We ate lunch together, opened the mail together and explored the history of Lisle in every detail. I learned about the many obstacles with which they struggled in each phase of Lisle's history. I learned how Si navigated the personalities on many boards, the complexities of changing student values and changing priorities for higher education institutions.

The arc of Lisle's organizational life has now spanned eight decades. As we have sailed into new waters with the change from organizing summer programs to the creation of the Global Seed Fund, I see the same flexibility and resilience in the Lisle Board members as I have seen in older Lislars. While we still struggle with change and a new focus at home and abroad, we continue to apply Lisle's core educational principles to the review of seed grant applications, learning about the efforts of other organizations to improve intercultural human relations, and to the promotion of cross-cultural understanding. §

We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak.
Epictetus

Seed Grants

Dramatic increase in applications for Lisle grants show how many organizations around the globe are working to make the world a better place.

By Alice Gail Bier

Lisle received over 189 pre-applications during the most recent application cycle, a 278% increase over the previous year. Grant Committee members were both thrilled and startled by the increase in applications (and workload) and the members stepped up to read all the pre-applications as well as the full applications.

Of the 189 pre-applications for seed grants, 25 were invited to submit full applications and six of these were chosen to receive Lisle funding. The projects funded for 2018 are described in a separate article in this issue of Interaction.

The 189 pre-applications came from organizations and individuals in: Colombia, Kenya, Uganda, India, USA, Namibia, Ghana, Cameroon, South Africa, Nigeria, Liberia, Ethiopia, Zambia, Pakistan, Philippines, Malawi, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tanzania, Turkey, Congo, Australia, South Sudan, Rwanda, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Botswana, Slovenia, Egypt, Jordan, Argentina, Venezuela, Morocco, Austria, Peru, Germany, Nicaragua, Nepal, Senegal, and Bangladesh.

Lisle purposefully and thoughtfully seeks out projects to fund that improve intercultural understanding by bringing people of diverse backgrounds together to share, work

together, and learn from one another. The 189 pre-proposals went well beyond the scope of Lisle grants. They represented a broad range of local engagement throughout the world, reflecting how a wide range of organizations are working to improve the lives of those in their local and national communities.

Here is a small sampling of projects that were submitted:

- Empower rural Colombian youth to take the lead in caring for their environment and give them incentives to stay in their rural villages and pursue nonviolent life paths.
- Promote a smooth transition and adaptability of migrants into host community cultures while building on the girls' STEM and leadership abilities and skills.
- Develop positive relationships and friendship among youth from different castes in India.
- Train disadvantaged youth with disabilities, female headed households and the unemployed youth to develop projects around holistic animal life.
- Engage conflicting groups in sports to reduce the fights between people around the water sources in north eastern Uganda.
- Enable community based organiza-

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Seed Grants

tions to act as a peace building agent within the community level to minimize the culture of mob justice in the state.

- Foster inter-cultural understanding, tolerance, equality as well as the integration of Baka (Pygmies) youths in the Cameroonian society through a narration, food, dance and dressing festival.
- Develop skills in families and teachers of children with autism and trauma-affected children that will help manage their own self-care.
- Build youth capacity on the ethics and rudiments of peace, mindfulness, and good leadership.
- Bring education equality for children of the urban poor in India through a social startup.
- Peace and Development.
- Build sensitivity and tolerance for intercultural diversity in marginalized and destitute children living in institutional homes.
- Create youth leadership capabilities.
- Establish constructive cooperative, democratic capacities of young fisher women through experiential learning and sharing.
- Provide a mobile library and computer training classes to introduce children to the use of computers and the internet.
- Create a dialogue among women and girls in six communities to develop strategies for community peace and economic development.

It was heartening to read the project ideas

that came to Lisle this last seed grant cycle. They reflected that throughout the world, individuals and organizations are working to help their communities live better and safer lives through learning skills and looking for ways to better understand each other.

For those readers who would like a refresher in the Seed Grant process: The Lisle Seed Grant pre-application is due in mid-June. The Seed Grant Committee reads all pre-applications and invites applicants whose projects broadly fit the Lisle funding criteria to submit a full application by mid-August. Then the Seed Grant Committee reviews the full applications and evaluates them on how they align with the objectives of Lisle seed grants, feasibility and completeness. The organizations are also researched to understand their strength and overall focus. The Grant Committee makes recommendations to the Board at its fall meeting (usually September) and the Board discusses and votes on which to fund. §

Please let us know of your address changes and email address changes so we can continue to send you Lisle news about your friends and about the projects Lisle is supporting. We invite you to check out the Lisle webpage at lisleinternational.org. If you are a Facebook user, please visit us at: facebook.com/groups/6619056893/

2018 Global Seed Grants

January 1, 2018 - Seed Grant Proposals accepted

Proposals screened until September 1, 2018

-Kenya continued from page 1-

cal marginalization and exclusion, Kenya's youth have long been exposed to violence and have had fewer options for taking paths that would help them become peaceful and productive citizens. A Lisle Global Seed Grant will support the 42Change Makers project, Rethinking Our Future Kenya, which seeks to actively engage youth in community reconciliation, visioning and action for change. Project goals include the establishment of 42ChangeMakers chapters in ten schools in Kakamega county in western Kenya, where five trained coaches will work with 250 youth to help them participate in and lead non-violent actions, network and champion change in their community. Activities will include street theater and an annual youth summit, with the goal of challenging youth to see the power of Kenyan diversity as pillar to build bridges for a prosperous future Kenya. §

The art of effective listening is essential to clear communication, and clear communication is necessary to management success.

James Cash Penney

-Thailand continued from page 1-

will be invited to develop ideas for support through a competitive process. Applicants will be offered substantial support from Sarus staff to structure their proposals for peace-building projects, and one project each from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam will be selected for support. In addition to receiving a \$300 grant, each winner will also join the Sarus staff in Bangkok for a 10-day training in project design, implementation and evaluation. The goal of the project is to generate active peace leaders through the Sarus alumni who will go on to implement their peacebuilding project in their communities and bring positive changes through an augmented ripple effect. §

-Columbia continued from page 1-

armed conflict is not repeated. The Ecological Protectors project has three primary objectives: to protect the natural environments of the communities; to create self-sustaining, economic opportunities for youth so that they are not pressured to leave their homes for less dignified work in cities; and to foster connections between youth from diverse communities in the region. The Ecological Protectors are currently composed of 16 youth from different communities who are committed to navigate un-mapped streams using a GPS to create a map showing both the needs and resources, collecting information such as contamination, deforestation, watering holes, flora, and fauna. The Lisle grant to Sembrandopaz for Peace Building and

2018 Global Seed Grants

-Pakistan continued from page 3-

Leadership Academy at Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University aims to use the power of theatre as a vehicle to workshop the challenges young people face and develop creative solutions to inter-cultural dialogue and civic activism issues. The project will engage 150 students, with special attention given to including women, people with disabilities and marginalized groups. Participants will undertake a series of trainings including conflict mapping, civic engagement, conflict resolution, advocacy, theatre performance and the use of social media and visual story telling for social change. Participants will then host a series of performances for the public (250-300 people at each) to illustrate concerns that arise during the work shops. Among its outcomes, the project seeks to create a more balanced, informed conversation about critical issues in South Punjab. §

-India continued from page 4-

to promote intercultural understanding and peaceful coexistence while also building the capacity and communication and leadership skills of the young people and ultimately establishing an intercultural forum that allows for interaction between young people of different castes from the 50 villages covered by the project. §

Stream Restoration will allow the Ecological Protectors to create action plans to restore and preserve the streams, complete the mapping project, and to prepare a proposal for the creation of an alternative ecological service option for the current military service required of youth in the Colombia. They plan to present the proposal to the government on a national level with the goal that the communities can continue to care for their environmental well being while the government can begin to support the rural youth in a way that creates peace. §

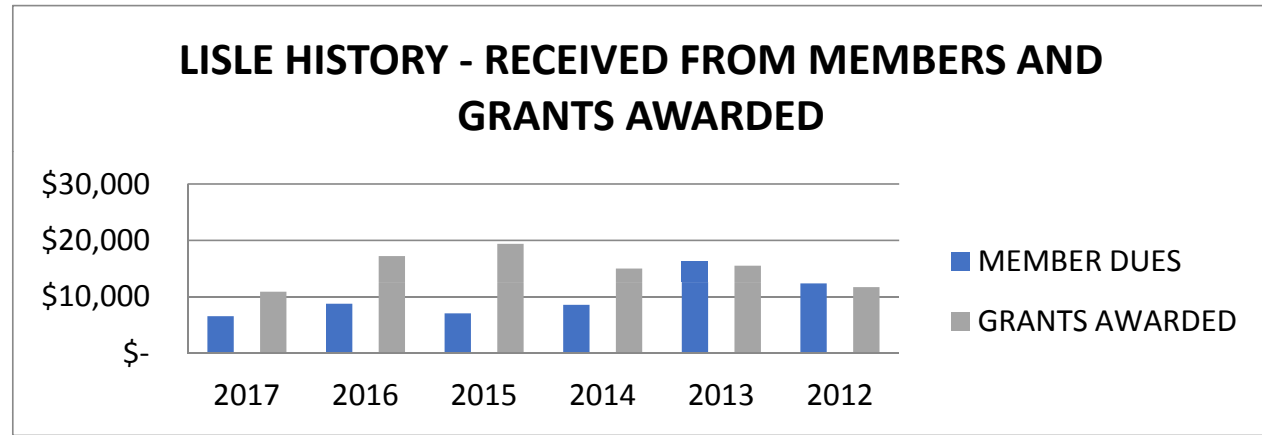
-Serbia continued from page 4-

jevo and Sonta Learn and Work Together to improve intercultural understanding among the communities. Lisle funding will support weekend trainings on intercultural learning and on theatre techniques for 16 youth and children from diverse backgrounds, which will enable participants to create performances about community conflicts. This will culminate in a theater festival in the two villages involving 500 or more people, followed by sports and other activities to involve all ages. The goal of the project is to help the youth learn new positive values and serve as change agents within their communities, while helping adults become aware of social and intercultural problems. §

Awards announced October 1, 2018

Award term from November 1 2018-October 31 2019

The pen is the tongue of the mind.
Horace



Lisle Financial Report for 2017 by Barbara Bratton, Treasurer

The Lisle financial report for the previous fiscal year 2017 (ending Sept 30) was given at the Annual Meeting in October. During that fiscal year we gave \$10,884 to our Seed Grants, a decrease from fiscal year 2016. (Note that current grant funding discussed in another section of this Interaction falls under fiscal year 2018.)

For Fiscal Year 2017, our investment income decreased from \$10,376 to \$8,433. The Finance Committee is reviewing our investments with an eye toward less growth and more annual income.

The fair market value of our investments (\$296,109) was up \$30,000 from the previous year, due to the rapid growth in the stock market and a \$13,175 bequest. Lisle would like to sell 50 wooded hilltop acres in upstate New York. If you know anyone interested, have them contact Mark Kinney or Barb Bratton. The current valuation is \$31,300 and the annual property tax is \$565.

The expenses to run Lisle rose from \$6,207 to \$9,009. The Board chose to allocate \$3,000 to a part time staff position in order to reduce the volunteer hours needed to keep everything going. Our Lisle Liaison is

Lindora Diawara and she has been a blessing to the Board volunteers in the areas of outreach and grant selection, Board coordination and much paperwork.

A detailed copy of our annual financial statement and/or a copy of our Income Tax Form 990EZ is always available upon request. If you are interested in the report or more budget details, please email the Lisle Office (office@lisleinternational.org) with your request, questions or comments.

What should we expect for fiscal year 2018? Dues and contributions from our base surged in December, with \$2,800 more contributions than received in Fiscal Year 2017. We thank all those who continue to support the work of Lisle. Since our membership base and active member donations have generally decreased, we can assume that the surge of membership contributions in December was a combined result of the new tax law and Lisle's more proactive request for contributions in a year-end mailing.

We would like to pose a question to readers and ask that you send us your thoughts on the following question: Should we continue to urge contributions to Lisle Seed Grants from a decreasing number of members; try to find an alternative method of fundraising; or spend down our assets?§

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Name: _____ Phone: _____
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- Other.....\$ _____

- I would like to receive **Providing a Lasting Memorial**, a brochure about Wills & Bequests.
- I would like to receive **Global Seed Fund Mentor** information.

Notes about your life & community involvement for the newsletter, Interaction

Items for Sale (price includes domestic S & H)

- Lisle Seed Grant T-shirt:** S-M-L-XL-XXL Qty____ Size____ (\$20 ea.) _____
 (2-4 shirts \$15/each - 5 or more shirts \$12/each)
- Oral Histories from 70th Anniversary DVD Qty____ (\$10 ea.) _____
- Lisle History DVD Qty____ (\$15 ea.) _____
- Tiger by the Tail*, the history of Lisle Qty____ (\$25 ea.) _____
- Aunt Edna: 50 Years of Memories* Qty____ (\$ 8 ea.) _____
 (a memoir of Edna Baldwin)

Total enclosed _____

If you prefer to use this form, mail your check, made out to Lisle, to:

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Upcoming Meetings

Spring Board Meeting May 4-6, 2018 Chicago

Fall Annual Meeting TBA Seattle

Fall Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington Save the Date!

The 2018 Annual Meeting will take place in Seattle, WA from TBA. We will meet on Lopez Island. <http://lisleinternational.org> for the latest information.

We hope you will be able to join us!