



# Lisle *Interaction*

An Annual Publication of Lisle International

ANNUAL ISSUE □ 2020



## 2020 Global Seed Grants

### ***Bridging Cultures with Music, Dance and Education***

**Organization: Fandangos Across Borders**

**Location: Mexico, Tennessee and Texas**

We are living in an era where the cultural values of diversity, the benefits of intercultural appreciation, and the connection found in music-making, are not given sufficient emphasis. And the appreciation of Mexican culture is unfortunately under assault in some parts of the U.S., particularly in non-urban areas. Fandangos Across Borders will use Lisle seed grant funds to construct new, truly international experiential musical spaces in three different venues in Mexico and the United States over the course of a year to further cross-cultural appreciation and connect-

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### ***Building Resilient Neighborhoods***

**Organization: Centre of Dialogue on Human Settlement & Poverty Alleviation**

**Location: Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone is home to 16 ethnic tribes with many rifts and hostilities due to ethno-cultural differences, which have roots in colonial policies. This project will capitalize on the organization's previous work with vulnerable communities and will be piloted in two ethnically sensitive settlements. Twenty young people, evenly divided between genders and ranging in age from 13 –21, will be selected to serve as peace-building champions. This cohort will be ethnically diverse and serve as role models and local activists. They will be trained in life skills (group dynamics, leader-

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## Seven Lisle Seed Grants awarded for 2020!

By Betsy Bridwell

Lisle received 17 full grant proposals this year, and the grant committee narrowed it down to 10 for final consideration. At the 2019 meeting in Austin, TX, after extensive discussion of committee recommendations, the board awarded seven seed grants for the coming year. The projects include efforts to bridge divides here in the US as well as across the world—from Ecuador to Sierra Leone to Hungary to the Indian Himalayas. Thanks to all the mentors who helped these organizations develop successful proposals. We hope Lislers enjoy reading about the wonderful work being done around the world that supports the Lisle mission. Because of the unexpected disruption of

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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 e-mail your submissions to the Lisle office : <[office@lisleinternational.org](mailto:office@lisleinternational.org)>

the coronavirus pandemic, we are working with the grantees to ensure they have the flexibility they need to meet their project goals. For a detailed description of the application and mentoring process, see <https://lisleinternational.org/> We hope you will join us in mentoring next year! §



2019 Board Meeting in Austin, TX

# 2020 Global Seed Grants



**Change from the Inside Out: Strengthening Women's Organizations**  
**Organization: Crossing Borders Education**  
**Location: Cotacachi, Ecuador**

The canton Cotacachi is known for its history of citizen participation processes and strong civic life and is home to many civil society organizations, one of which is the Coordinadora Cantonal de Mujeres. The Coordinadora is a place for representatives to come together from the three largest women's organizations representing (1) rural indigenous women, (2) urban mestiza women, and (3) mestiza and afro-descendant rural women. The organizations promote rights and justice for women and victims of violence, the environment, indigenous communities, children and others. Unfortunately, the Coordinadora is weakened by infighting between the three organizations. Undercurrents of racism, classism, urban-centric perspectives and perceived competition for resources undercut both the effectiveness of the individual organizations and the Coordinadora as a space for encounter, learning, understanding and friendship.

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**Afghan Girls Exchange Program**  
**Organization: Afghans for Progressive Thinking**  
**Location: Afghanistan/Uzbekistan**

Afghan girls live in a country of armed conflict, where restrictive cultural norms, male dominance, and lack of educational opportunities affect the confidence of girls and limit their world view. This project will enable a group of five young women to travel to Uzbekistan to participate in a Model United Nations, an extra-curricular activity in which students typically role play delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committee in order to broaden their world view and gain a better sense of appreciation for diversity through interaction with people of different cultures. The project participants will have an opportunity to hear about other cultures and norms and also share their own culture. This will help them observe the contrasts and similarities and improve not only tolerance but also appreciation for differences. The project activities will provide opportunities for the participants to learn leader-

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## 2020 Global Seed Grants

### ***“Our Birth” –Doula Training for Roma Women***

**Organization: Regina Foundation Miskolc**

**Location: Hungary**

The location of this project’s activities is an economically disadvantaged region of Hungary with a large population of Roma (a.k.a. “Gypsies,” a socially excluded, stigmatized ethnic minority) and with tensions between the majority society and the Roma minority. A specific problem identified by the Regina Foundation is the difficult relationship, fraught with misunderstandings and stereotypes, between the medical staff of the local public hospital and disadvantaged Roma families. The project will provide midwife (Doula) training for selected female members of a rural Roma community who have personal experiences in the field of childbirth and parenting and are interested in supporting women during childbirth in the public hospital. Volunteers of Regina have already accompanied birthing Roma women in the Miskolc hospital, but this arrangement (white middle-class women using their privileges to support minority women in the spirit of sisterhood) cannot be considered as a permanent, sustainable solution: Roma women themselves should be empowered. The Doula training would include the topics of birthing techniques, hospital protocols and patients’ rights and it would be aimed at involving both mothers and the medical staff in order to improve relationships/understanding

*-Roma Women continued on page 29-*

### ***Bridging the Generation Divide***

**Organization: Mountain Children’s Foundation(MCF)**

**Location: Uttarakhand, India**

Rural mountain villages in India exist on the margins, far from resources and opportunity. Able-bodied men move to urban areas in search of opportunity, leaving the women, children and the elderly behind. As a result, the social fabric in these villages is frayed and the vibrant culture of these communities is rapidly fading. The oldest and the youngest members suffer particularly in this dynamic. Though related by blood and living in the same community, the youth and the elderly in these villages might as well exist in separate worlds, so great is the gulf between them. Seniors often feel very alone and young people unmoored and disconnected from their own roots. MCF sought a Lisle Seed Grant to help bridge this gulf using Lisle’s approach to intercultural understanding. The project will bring 30 youth and 20 seniors in each of 5 remote villages together to work on a project to rediscover and reclaim elements of their forgotten cultural heritage. A series of workshops will bring the kids and elders together. Through discussion, games and other activities, they will learn to hear one another and then begin the task of recovering the forgotten songs, stories, dances and art of their village. In the process, the young can rebuild the bonds of affection and empathy towards the elderly –and a renewed commitment to helping and caring

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## 2020 Global Seed Grants

for them. The project will culminate with a community fair in each village —put on by the children and seniors —where the villagers and residents of neighboring communities will be invited to join and hear the songs and stories the children and their elders have gathered and help restore a sense of community and interconnectedness among the people. Update: The coronavirus lockdown in India forced the MCF to pause this project until movement is allowed and activities can resume. In the meantime, the organization has been working to provide food and other support to families who lost their livelihoods because of the shutdown. They shared a heartwarming story in which the members of one children’s group used money awarded to them for their activities by their village to buy food for children in a neighboring community. §

### ***Cross-Community Dialogue for Multiracial Collaboration***

**Organization: Tosa Together**

**Location: Wauwatosa, Wisconsin**

Wauwatosa is in the Milwaukee metropolitan region, well known for hyper-segregation. The region is one of the most racially divided urban areas in the US. The primary lines of division are city/suburb with the suburbs ranging 85-95% white. Wauwatosa has a history of overt and covert exclusionary practices such as housing and travel restrictions for Blacks and Jews. Anecdotal data suggests that there are still deep racial divisions in the city, a significant factor in people of color not feeling welcome in

the city where they live, shop, study or play. Tosa Together, in partnership with UW-Milwaukee graduate students and faculty, will plan and conduct three community dialogue circles, 50-60 participants in each, with discussion breakout circles of 5-8 people plus facilitators. Particular effort will be made to have a diverse group. Attendees will be informed of the recently established city Equity and Inclusion Commission and the School Equity Plan, their purposes and activities. A member of Tosa Together will briefly discuss the organization’s work and some basic statistics/history about Wauwatosa and struggles with racial diversity and understanding. Participants will break into small groups and engage in facilitated dialogue with the help of students from the UWM program in sustainable peace building. Primary concerns and priorities of residents related to equity/inclusion and ideas for strengthening intercultural relations will be sought and recorded in the notes. The students will work with faculty to develop a summary of major points of discussion and a list of possible steps. After two years of work to establish the Equity and Inclusion Commission, these community dialogues are the next step in widening participation across the city in these issues. Ideally, they will then be expanded through other community organizations (neighborhood associations, business improvement groups, religious institutions). §

*Mentor a Seed Grant!*

Reports from 2019 Global Seed Grants



**Lisle's 2019 Global Seed Grant Success Stories**  
By Mark Kinney

It is a joy to write and describe the successes of the four projects around the world that were supported by Lisle in 2019. Their work was made possible because of your continuing support. One project, in Italy, strove to bring members of different cultural and immigrant groups together. A project in Pakistan worked with young people to overcome their differences and lessen the violence of their communities. In Nepal, we supported an initiative to help communities devastated by the 2015 earthquake learn how to better to live together. And in Liberia, the work focused on creating conditions for women to continue to speak out about civic issues. Below are more detailed reports from each of these projects which were submitted in early 2020 before the coronavirus pandemic brought much of the world to a halt.

**B#SIDE War Academy**  
Organization: Lo Deposito  
Country: Italy

This project sought to bring together people who lived in the same community but had different heritages: Italian, Slovenian, Balkan, Indian, and Bangladeshi. The project supported intercultural interaction between young people from different ethnic backgrounds, through the organization of participatory arts and cultural events and creative/expressive activities. Despite encountering significant challenges in bridg-



**B#SIDE War Academy**

*Mentor a Seed Grant!*

Reports from 2019 Global Seed Grants

ing hostility among the communities, this project was able to help people, especially the youngest participants, reach a better understanding of other cultures and to consider the area's cultural diversity as a richness. The project created laboratories and think tanks in three different municipalities that produced five cultural, social and artistic events for people of different ages ranging in age from 11-26. One of the most emotional moments was when a group of younger participants, during a creative laboratory, decided to create a textile artwork, kind of a big flag, to be exhibited in the city hall. The work conceptualized the ethnographical presence of immigrants and refugees in their municipality, with each ethnic group represented by a different color and pattern to illustrate how beautiful they are together. "The Lisle funding enabled us to foster a change in behavior and attitudes," they said in their report. "We now know we need to continue doing this work." They also said two of the municipalities involved in the seed grant have decided to finance a new edition of the project in the coming year.

**Uniting Youth for Inter-cultural Peace Building and Conflict Resolution**

Organization: Learn-Empower-Act-Promote(LEAP)

Country: Pakistan

The LEAP project aimed to tackle the massive issue of racial, ethnic and gender violence in Pakistan. The LEAP team formed 15 peace youth groups and organized a three-day training for 60 youth peace leaders who were selected from the colleges and

universities in the area. The sessions included group collaborations, presentations and individual experience sharing. It was the first time for a majority of the participants to attend a peace building training. As they were from diverse backgrounds, they learned about each other's religious and social practices, values and customs. LEAP created 1,000 posters on peace-building and intercultural unity. Many community members put up the posters in their houses and shops to spread the message of peace and tolerance. LEAP also organized a sports event with a cricket tournament and badminton matches between teams with different religions and sects. The players interacted with each other, had food and practice sessions together and ended up exchanging their contact information. In a follow-up session, they exchanged their ideas on peace building, discussed their local problems and concluded that there is a great need to talk about the issues and hold cultural events which unite the youth of

*-LEAP continued on page 8-*



**Uniting Youth**



## Reports from 2019 Global Seed Grants

*-LEAP continued on page 7-*

different religions and backgrounds. Other activities included a cultural gala. Culture is a great connector and the young people forgot about what separated them when they started singing and dancing together. Another event was the peace speech competition where young girls shared beautiful messages of peace that inspired their school principal and the community. The organizers said the activities had a greater impact than they had expected and the plan to repeat them again in 2020.

### **Intercultural Economic Development Program**

**Organization: Herchaha**

**Country: Nepal**

The main goal of this project was to support the economic development of families from different groups while providing cultural interactions and learning through daily activities and celebrations of diverse customs and knowledge. In the deadly earthquakes of 2015 in Nepal, many families from Sankhu Village lost their homes. Families from different cultural groups and castes were compelled to live together, sharing basic shelter and food. Many were still living in temporary structures, without running water or electricity, and their children had not been able to return to school. The project distributed goats and vegetable seeds to 24 needy families to improve food security and brought people together every three months for cultural interaction and learning. This effort created some change in the community by supporting economic growth and fostering commu-

nication between people of different backgrounds by enabling them to share their cultural customs. The organization is now thinking about continuing this project with the addition of vocational training.



### **Intercultural Economic Development**

### **The Young Women Peace and Development Dialogue**

**Organization: B4PCODEFOUND**

**Country: Liberia**

This project sought to enhance the ability of women to have a voice in the future of Liberia. The project timeline was extended due to the need to work around students' class schedules, heightened political tensions and frequent protests across Monrovia and on university campuses. However, the project continues. To date, the organization has brought together more than 35 college students in dialogue. During these discussions, the students identified several key chal-

*-B4P continued on page 25-*

## Leadership Report



*Anne Hayner, President*



*Mark Kinney, Executive Director*

### **2020 - Leadership Report**

**Anne Hayner, Board President**

**Mark Kinney, Executive Director**

### Sharing a Boat in the Coronavirus Storm

A recent email exchange among Lisle Board members called to mind the words sung by Lislers over the decades, "We're in the Same Boat, Brother/Sister." Sharada Nayak shared an essay she had read that began, "I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat." It described many ways in which the pandemic has vastly different effects on people –some lives are devastated, some merely inconvenienced. Jon Findley agreed, "The people sitting on their 100-foot yacht in a protected bay are in a very different situation than those in an open row boat on a wind-swept sea. But... I still like the original concept that we all have to work together to face a common adversity." Lisle is fortunate to be in a solid boat in this storm. Due to a strong core of investments over the years, our financial resources have not been drastically affected by the economic stress of the pandemic. We plan to share this benefit with others by continuing our mission of supporting innovative projects which advance intercultural understanding around the world. Last fall we awarded grants to seven new projects to be conducted in Africa, North and South America, Europe and Asia –an amazingly diverse set of grass roots efforts to create intercultural experiences. While several of these projects have been delayed by the pandemic, we have assured grantees that their funding is available whenever it is safe for them to continue work. The grants we award



## Leadership Report

are made possible through the rich contacts of the Lisle network, the dedication of board members, and the faithful support of Lisle members. Recently Lisle was grateful to receive a substantial bequest from the estate of June Ammirati. The two bequests from her family, a previous one from her husband's estate and this one from hers, have made a substantial difference to the funds which the board has available for grants. We know each such bequest demonstrates both the impact Lisle has had in the past and confidence in our continuing mission, and we are deeply grateful. This past year, as we realized we did not have time to search for a new program manager before the grant deadlines, we were delighted that Lindora Diawara was able to step back into the position which she

*-Leadership Report continued on page 11-*

### Mentor a Seed Grant!

**What is Mentoring All About? All applicants for a Lisle Seed Grant are required to have a mentor—a Lisle who can help the applying organization understand Lisle's interest in supporting intercultural understanding. Mentoring is an easy way for any Lisle to get involved and play a meaningful role in the Lisle Seed Grant programs and work directly with organizations from around world—from the comfort of your own home. Mentors communicate with their projects by phone or email (no travel required) and review and provide input on the proposal before it is officially submitted to the grant selection committee. The**

**mentor is simply responsible for helping guide the project through our process—as a mentor you are not expected to vouch for an organization or held accountable for its performance. For me, mentoring is about helping an organization put its best foot forward when applying for a Lisle Global Seed Grant. This rewarding effort creates a dialogue between others who are attempting to make important things happen in their world and me, who is interested in making sure I can really understand what they are talking about, how possible I think it is, and how it fits into Lisle's mission. I have mentored more than 10 Lisle seed grant project proposals and, in the end, only a couple of them received Lisle seed grants. So, should I give up and quit mentoring? I think not! Over time, I realized that my mentoring is most successful when I follow several principles: First, I am mentoring a project not because I think it will receive funding, but rather I am mentoring a project so that the application will be the best it can be. The mentored project is then passed on to the selection committee for evaluation. Thus, it is better when I don't become emotionally attached to a project. Second, I find my mentoring suggestions work best when I see that my comments are designed to help the other organization understand better the process of writing a grant application. Thus, if I have done my job, that organization will be better equipped to successfully apply for future grants. Third, mentoring works really well for me when I find ways to help the organization throughout the project time frame, if they are funded.**

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*-Leadership Report- continued from page 10-*

originally shaped before leaving for her position in Mali. Welcome back, Lindora! If you haven't visited the Lisle website since its redesign last year, please check it out at [lisleinternational.org](http://lisleinternational.org). Full information on Lisle Seed Grants is available on the site as well as info on our virtual 2020 Fall meeting in October. So if you know of anyone who sounds like a good fit for a Lisle seed grant, send them our way! §

*-Mentor - continued from page 10-*

**If you know of a project whose work promotes intercultural understanding, why not invite them to apply for a seed grant and be their mentor? Or, if you don't have a project in mind but would like to be a mentor, let us know at [office@lisleinternational.org](mailto:office@lisleinternational.org) and we'll assign you to one of the many wonderful programs that apply for Lisle Seed Grants every year! §**

### Joyce Hardin honored with 2019 Walt and Betty Ligon Service Award



Joyce and her husband Fred

**By Barbara Bratton and Mark Kinney**

It was with great pleasure that we recognized Joyce Hardin with the Walt and Betty Ligon Service Award for 2019. This award has been presented annually since 2002 to a Lisle individual or couple who have volunteered their time and talents to Lisle above and beyond. The recipient receives a crystal globe and the name is added to the historical plaque. Joyce was very active in Lisle units beginning in 1946 in Colorado, then in NY '47. She started the Family Camp in 1956 and was a leader in '61. She became active once again in '90, attending the Elderhostel at the University of Toledo then and again in '91. She attended Bali in '92 and Oklahoma in '93. She was an active member of the Board of Directors in the 80's and early 90's which entailed three meetings a year plus the volunteer time outside of meetings to keep Lisle programs running smoothly. Joyce was instrumental in the transition from an organization with an office and paid staff to an organization headed up by a volunteer Executive Director, an all-volunteer staff and no office. I know how stressful that was, because I (Mark) was president of the board at the time. One of the fallouts from that time was the need to move the office files from Uncle Si's basement. Where else than Joyce's garage, where they stayed for almost a decade before being moved to the Kinney basement, where many of them still reside. The great majority of 50 years of Lisle records have since been archived at the University of Toledo, available for organization and research by the post-graduates. Much

*-Ligon continued on page 21-*

## 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 Lisler's 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](mailto:office@lisleinternational.org).

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

e-mail is arriving in your junk e-mail box. If you have not received the e-news, and wish to do so, please send us your e-mail 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. §



**News from India****By Sharada Nayak, Lisle since 1954****Delhi, India, April 2020.**

The atmosphere throughout the country has changed so dramatically and so suddenly that it is hard to believe. Although in the cities we have no shortages of any of the basic necessities, we are all required to stay home. No newspapers, so we read the news online. The Delhi government is providing free food for the homeless and poor, cash for the aged, widowed and disabled, cash help for the construction workers now unemployed. The Sikh gurudwaras do what they have always done as a religious duty, providing free food, except that most people have to stay home and cannot go there to eat. The biggest tragedy is the condition of the daily-wage migrant workers in the cities, who now having no jobs and no money are struggling to get home. With all means of transport now unavailable they are walking home to distant villages in neighboring states. In India social distancing is something we have to be taught and which has to be enforced by police! It is hard to believe that this can be enforced now in a country of over a billion people, where crowds are a constant at temple rituals, weddings, festivals, and grocery stores. But we all have to acknowledge that stringent steps are necessary and the difficult decisions that have been taken are needed and timely. But here are the positives I see: Internet is available and I am able to stay in contact with family and near ones. The sky in Delhi is blue and clear and the air pollution has improved tremendously. No traffic, empty roads, and rain has washed the trees and plants. The silk cotton tree is red with blooms. There was a picture in my e-paper of

the threatened Olive Ridley turtles coming to the beaches of Orissa in their thousands to their nesting grounds, undisturbed by tourists or human predators. Soon hundreds of thousands of their little hatchlings will scurry to the ocean. The struggle for survival is everywhere on the planet, and Maya Angelou's words are relevant for us too: "Hope and Fear cannot occupy the same space. Invite one to stay." In my teacher and student workshops, I used to talk about Experiential Learning. Through recent experience I have re-learned the meaning of the words I used so often: Compassion, Empathy, Equity, Communication, Collaboration, Trust, and above all, Humility. I write this to share my optimism, Stay well. And stay in touch. §

**News from Kenya****By Shaban Varajab, Lisle board member and 2018 grantee**

Like the rest of the world, many lives and livelihoods in Kenya have been disrupted by Covid-19. The Shikomari region in rural Kakamega (Western Kenya) is already experiencing direct and ripple effects of this pandemic. Inspired by its mission to bring together energetic and creative young people to brainstorm, design and implement innovative ideas that solve communities' most pressing challenges, the 42 Change Makers team stepped forward to join the fight against the virus. Partnering with the Shikomari assistant chief's office, the team conducted a door-to-door assessment of the needs of vulnerable families and disseminated information on how to reduce the risk of getting ill or spreading the virus. Through this assessment, 25 needy families were selected and supported with soap and food items. The assistant chief

had the following to say when we met to plan the project: "Poverty in our community is not only a bridge to illness but also a reason for all sorts of wrong choices and other vices. For this reason, my office supports appropriate and timely action such as what 42 Change Makers is doing to reduce both the short-and long-term impact of the coronavirus in our community. I am glad to see this team of young people stepping forward to sensitize our people so that they can understand the importance of hand washing and safe distancing. The soap, rice and sugar donated to these needy families will help them to wash their hands regularly and have a meal on the table, especially now that everything is shutdown." §

**Help us get the word out about Lisle Seed Grants**  
**By Smita Patel**

Do you know of a project that epitomizes Lisle's spirit of breaking down cultural barriers and bringing people together? Invite them to apply for a Lisle Global Seed Grant! Lisle supports projects around the world that promote intercultural communication and shared learning. Grants of up to \$3,000 are intended to help start an initiative rather than support an existing, well-funded project—hence the name "seed grant."

One thing that sets Lisle seed grants apart is the requirement that every grant application be mentored by a Lisle to help the applicant understand and better tailor the project to the spirit and mission of Lisle. If you recommend a project for a Lisle seed grant, we'd love to have you

take on the role of mentoring it. Mentors are not expected to travel to the project location or take responsibility for the project execution or outcomes. If you are unable to mentor it personally, no worries; a Lisle board member will mentor it for you. Applying for a grant is easy. Instructions and application forms can be found on the Lisle website: <https://lisleinternational.org/lisle-grants/>.

The steps are: 1. Applicants fill out a short "Request to apply" form describing their proposal. 2. An initial screening committee determines if it's a good fit for Lisle. 3. Projects approved by the screening committee receive an invitation to complete a full grant application. If a project does not have a Lisle mentor, it will be assigned to a member of the Lisle board. 4. The Lisle seed grant committee reviews all grant applications and makes its recommendations at the fall board meeting. The full Lisle board makes the final determination on which grants to fund. 5. All applicants are notified in November after the Annual Meeting.

Though the pandemic threatens to dramatically change how people interact, the Lisle board recently reaffirmed its commitment to continuing with our Seed Grants in the 2020 year. We believe Lisle's messages of cooperation, dialogue and learning from one another is more important than ever. And we'd love to hear your thoughts about how we can do that in the post-pandemic reality. Do take a moment to think about people here or abroad who embody that Lisle spirit of bringing people together to learn from one another—and invite them to apply for a Lisle grant! §



# Annual Meeting - Austin, TX

## Lisle's 2019 annual meeting in Austin By Barb Bratton

As Austin grows exponentially to become one of the larger cities in the United States, it is trying desperately to hold on to its "hippie" mantra of "Keep Austin Weird." As our contribution to this progressive stance, we held the 2019 Lisle Annual Meeting on the University of Texas campus from Oct. 24-27.

Eleven Lislors attended in person: Anne Hayner, Gail Bier, Barbara Bratton, James Burke, Jon Findley, Bill Kinney, Mark Kinney, Betsy Bridwell, Smita Patel, Lindora Diawara and Shaban Varajab. Marty Tillman, Dianne Brause, Sharada Nayak and Karana Olivier (a potential new board member) joined via Zoom.

We also welcomed two visitors to Austin (Ingrid Davis and Nancy Kinney). One sig-

nificant thing we learned is that we are all getting older and the noise from all-night parties was really not something we had on our to-do list.

We were in two condos that slept 20 but, truth in advertising, AirBnB advertised "UI-



*On the UT campus in Austin :)*

...timate Party Condos" and that is what transpired. Lots of music, heavy beats, drinking and shouting. And that was NOT us! Next year we're looking for something a little further out. We did have kitchens and were able to cook our own meals and enjoyed soups and salads.

We met at the Thompson Conference Center and were able to have a big video screen to bring in our worldwide visitors. A highlight was a visit from Stephanie Gharakhanian, a lawyer for the Workers Defense Project. She spoke to us of her efforts to help workers in



*Meetings :)*



*James and Gail :)*

Texas who are ripped off by employers. Even if a worker is undocumented, labor laws on hours worked, minimum wage, and timely payment all apply and she has worked for a number of years in attempting to get these undocumented workers fair pay for fair work. She also brought us up to date on the border situation through her interactions with lawyers representing asylum seekers.

Stephanie was elected a Trustee to Austin Community College last year and it was interesting to hear her input on the increasingly important role of community colleges, both because of the cost of higher education and the need for a greater variety of skills being taught.

Austin is a dynamic city for a meeting. Some of us visited the Bullock State History Museum, the Harry Ransom Library, the Blanton Art Museum and the Barbara Jordan Memorial Park on the campus. Kerbey Lane Café, an Austin landmark eatery since 1980, hosted our Saturday Night Banquet where we were pleased to recognize Joyce Hardin as the recipient of the Walt and Betty Ligon Service Award. §



*Another Lisle Dinner :)*

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



*Ligon Award!*



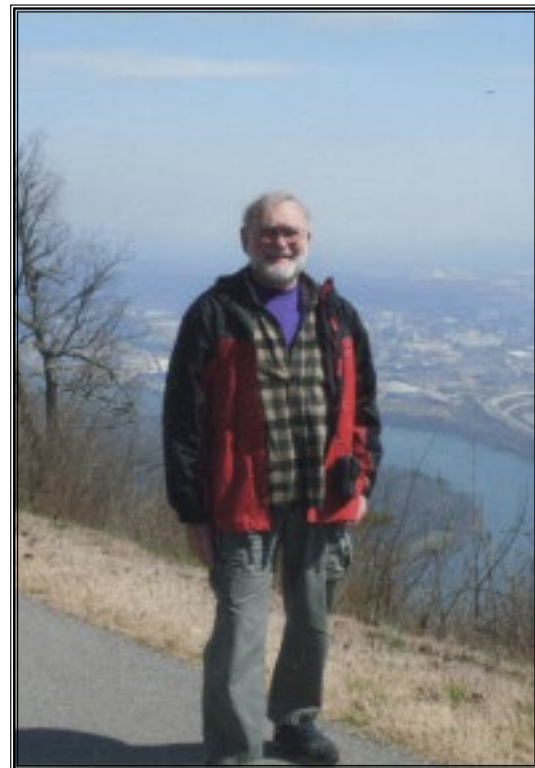
# Lislers in History



*Beth Bader-Judy Brown-Alex Cox*



*???-Jack Brown-???*



*Dale Wolfgram*

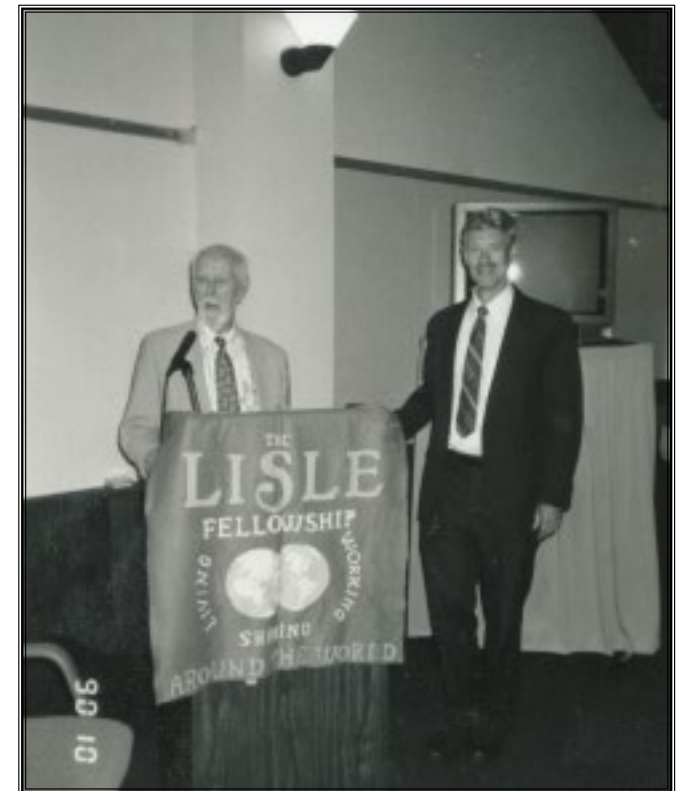
# Lislers in History



*Lisle Reunion Estes Park CO 1988*



*Uncle Si-Ev Sheldon-Bud Baldwin 1978*



*Uncle Si annual meeting version of emeritus status*



### A visit to the children of the Himalayan foothills By Sharada Nayak

In January, Mark and Nancy Kinney and I made a trip to Dehradun, India, to visit the Mountain Children's Foundation (MCF), which has been awarded a Lisle seed grant this year under my mentorship. The MCF team took us to a village about an hour from Dehradun where they are currently engaged in educating and empowering children to take leadership roles to improve their community, with a special focus on preserving the environment and fighting climate change.

Reaching the village, we were greeted by a group of village elders and talked to them about how life in the village had changed in the past 5 decades. There had been more trees and they had to walk long distances to collect water and fodder. There were fewer trees now, but water was available in taps, piped in from distant springs. They now had toilets and roads that connected them to bus routes to the city. They had to get up early to start on their farm chores, but life was easier for today's youth they said; they slept late and did not have to work so hard on the farm. But they all went to schools and many of them go on to college.

The traditional grains had lost favour as the younger generation preferred more packaged foods like instant noodles. The villagers were eager to hear from Mark and Nancy about their life in America, and farming and the vegetables and fruit they produced.

Meanwhile three of the young women cooked and served us a delicious sweet "halva" of semolina and raisins. Next, we stopped at a small roadside shop selling groceries and candies. The shop owner's teenage grand-

daughter, Aastha, is a member of the village children's group (known as a bal sangathan) organised by the MCF. She had persuaded her grandfather to stop giving customers their groceries in plastic bags, which litter landscapes across India, in favour of bags made from discarded papers and newspaper. We also met with middle and high school students who told us about their activities, including meeting with the village headman and helping clean up the mess after a village festival. There were more girls than boys in the group we met, and all were ready to speak about what they had collectively accomplished through their group. It was a pleasure to hear them, so articulate and eager to explain their work. It was a full and interesting day, our minds crowded with images, ideas, experiences that left deep impressions. I hope this account and Mark's photographs convey some of this day to remember our Lisle friends and colleagues. §



*Nancy in India with Sharada*

### The Ultimate Lockdown: Social distancing with the White Lions of South Africa By Dianne G. Brause

My most recent Lisle-like "deputation" took place last November and December when I had the remarkable opportunity to live, locked within an enclosure with a bunch of other humans and a magnificent pride of endangered white lions in the South African bush. In truth, we humans were actually locked within a relatively small acreage which held the round traditional mud "huts," where we slept, plus an open-air dining area, classroom spaces, shared bathrooms, and the living quarters for some of the staff. And we were "protected" from the "wild animals" by electrified barbed wire fences and locked gates which opened into the much larger enclosure occupied by the white lions, wildebeest, antelopes, jackals, hyenas, snakes, vultures, tortoises and all manner of exotic birds, insects, and plant-life large and small. But each morning, before sunrise, our motley crew of 8 participants and a local game ranger, would clamber up into the seats of our green Land Rover and set off through the gates into "their" territory, to try to find the lions and spend time observing their pride for an hour or more. Our guide took note of all the nuances of the social interactions between these endangered creatures as part of a PhD study to determine the strength and character of the community bonds between these seven endangered individuals: 2 adult male brothers, plus 2 adult sisters, one a mother and the other an aunt of the 3 partially grown teenagers. These morning

drives were incredibly inspiring to me. Each day, when we finally spotted "The Boys" or the females and cubs, my heart would leap at this amazing opportunity to watch these magnificent wild beings and begin the process of practicing my skills of intercultural/ interspecies communication! We had been taught the art of making proper contact with these beings, whom the local tribal people have believed for centuries to be the direct messengers from the Gods and Star Beings in their own right.

To greet these Kings and Queens, we would bow down our heads in reverence and then look up and slowly blink our eyes, again nodding our heads. Then, if our greeting was accepted, the individual would acknowledge us with a slow "lion blink" in return and we would know that we were accepted into his/her presence! If we forgot, or our energy was not adequate to their majesty, they might stand up and walk away, ignoring our very presence, or they might just turn their heads and resume their morning nap! But on other occasions, after the ritual blink, they sometimes would get up and walk towards us, staring with a piercing gaze into our eyes, as they walked around our vehicle, close enough that, had we been allowed, we could have reached out and scratched an ear! Clearly, this was the "lock-down" and social distancing experience of my lifetime! §

Each person must live their life as a model for others.  
-Rosa Parks-

## Lisle Friends News

### Lisle Friends News

By Betsy Bridwell and Barbara Bratton

**Chris Coons (CO '48, Family Camp '61, Bali '91, Costa Rica '96):** "Dear Lislors, so great to still keep in touch --the best to the Board and all working hard to keep our goals out there. My sight is deteriorating but mobility is great. Very content in congregate living. P.S. LOVE TO HEAR FROM LISLERS BY PHONE! 925-283-3576."

**Marina Firestone (NY '49, Family Camp '50, '51)** is thankful for her independence, living in her apartment and having friends/neighbors to take her to activities. She spent two weeks in Martha's Vineyard for a summer gathering of family and friends.

**Julia Forbes (Denmark '67)** would love to receive any information about members of that group. If you are out there and would like to follow up with Julia, please contact the Lisle office for her contact info.

**Heidi Cowing Herrell:** "My folks, Ken & Della Cowing, went to Bali three times. I used to babysit Mark & Nancy Kinney's kids!"

**Galal Kernahan (CA '43):** Mel Kernahan reports "my beloved husband passed away November 29, 2018. He was 93. He remembered his service with the Lisle Fellowship fondly."

**Louise Malcolm (Denmark '56):** "Lost my husband of 60 years this past February so adjusting to widowhood. All three of our children were in the Peace Corps so Lisle might be a choice for our grandchildren!"

**Anja and Ray Miller (Denmark '55, '69, CO '56, CA '57)** sent a lovely Christmas letter. "Wise pundits say that these days real old age starts at 85. Our experience is consistent with that observation." They delight in their 10-year-old twin granddaughters; Anja still does some translating and interpreting; they both still serve on the informal Brisbane History Committee. They worry about the conditions under which future generations will live and "can only be thankful for the good luck of living in the 'Golden Age of the Middle Class.'" They appreciate relatives and friends and wish everyone the best of health and beautiful relationships.

**Rev. Dr. Jean Paglia (Denmark '63)** "would love to connect with Lisle Fellowship again."

**Margit Rubendunst (Denmark '54)** "Having turned 85 this year, I noticed that I'm getting slower and all takes longer. Still play tennis and golf once a week and run the charity raffle for our tennis tournament. Thanks for all you do. Can't join your meetings; my husband is on nightly dialysis so travel is out. Think of Aunt Edna often --when she visited me in Berlin."

**Hans and Ellie Spiegel (CO '46, NY '47, CO '47, Germany '58, Bali '88)** share that they were celebrating different traditions (Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza) but all praying and working for peace in 2020. They remain in their Leonia home with care providers and support from children and grandchildren. "You all are remarkable to keep the Lisle spirit bright. All best wishes from these 'ancient Lislors!'" Coming soon: Stay alert for the pub-

## Lisle Friends News

lication of Hans Spiegel's memoirs featuring a major section on his years and years with Lisle!

**Marty Tillman (DC '76 '77; India '77 '78; AK '79 '80; past president)** and wife Gail are the proud grandparents of Mira Emaline Null, born to Zoe Tillman and Schrylen Null on November 8, 2019. "We are thrilled!" Marty continues to consult and write about international education issues. A chapter on "How education abroad impacts the transition to graduate employment," will appear this July in the book, *Education Abroad: Bridging Scholarship and Practice*.

**Alice Wiedrich (CO '46):** "The challenge each year is to pass the driver's examination. I am still driving and involved with United Methodist Women, Church Women United and Grace Church. I'm grateful for good health, family and friends."

**Barbara Wilks (CA '50, CT '52)** says the Lisle experience colored her global view, which might have been black and white without it. Now age 88, the experiences are still vivid and appreciated!

**Nancy Jo Zinner:** "Thank you for all you do to sponsor worthy groups advocating for peace and justice. I ♥ LISLE!" §

*-Ligon continued from page 11-*

of the preservation of Lisle history can be credited to Joyce's contribution and we thank her. After a long career as an elementary school teacher, Joyce is residing at a re-

**January 1, 2020 - Seed Grant Proposals accepted**

**Proposals screened until September 1, 2020**

tirement community in Monroe Falls, Ohio. We recently received this letter from Joyce's daughter: "I am writing on behalf of my mother to thank you so much for the Walt and Betty Ligon Service Award for Lisle and the beautiful Globe (the piece is amazing!) that you so kindly sent in January. Mom is currently 92 years old and doing well at the Mulberry Gardens' assisted-living complex near my home. Please know the Globe has a prominent place on her bookcase in her apartment. My mother often spoke of the people of the Lisle Fellowship and how much they meant to her and contributed to the enrichment of her life. I know she is pleased and honored to be chosen as a recipient of this esteemed award." -Bette Kelley We send our love and honor her service to Lisle. §

"Sweet is the memory of distant friends! Like the mellow rays of the departing sun, it falls tenderly, yet sadly, on the heart."

— Washington Irving



## In Memoriam

### In Memoriam By Nancy Kinney

We remember the Lislars we have lost and their contributions to the communities and the world, as well as Lisle.

#### **Loren Neil Behrmann, USSR '68**

September 28, 1942 –August 6, 2017, died in Daly City, CA While there was no official obituary written and published on the Internet for Loren in 2017, some research yielded results at least for the first 26 years of his life. He was born in 1942 and grew up in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Behrmann. He participated in a Halloween costume parade at age 6, a dramatic/voice recital at 9, a pet parade at age 11, won a science fair prize at 17 and graduated from the University of Wisconsin/Madison in Anthropology in 1963. When John Glenn made his historic space flight on Friendship 7 in 1962, he proclaimed, as he passed over Perth, Australia, that it was a "City of Lights." Loren wrote a friendship letter to the people of Perth thanking them for making their city shine "as an oasis in a darkened world," which again caught the attention of the Kenosha Newson March 6, 1962. Later in 1968, Loren participated in the USSR-68 Lisle unit. We lack the details of how he ended up living in Daly City, California and owning a home in Florida and of anyone who figured prominently in his later life. We invite Lislars to help fill in the details.

#### **Earl Downing, Lisle Board (1990's)**

Rev. Earl W. Downing was born June 25, 1928 in Detroit and died December 6, 2018 in Brighton, Michigan. He was a graduate of Wayne State University and Oberlin Graduate School of Theology and was a Methodist minister, directed several homes for children and youth, and retired in 1993 from a position with the Michigan Department of Social Services.

Earl also held numerous leadership positions in social welfare agencies targeted to aid people with medical and addiction problems. He was active with community service and performing arts groups in Livingston County Michigan during his retirement. Earl found Lisle later in life than many, introduced by his friend, Kendall Cowing, and became an active member of the Lisle Board in the 1990s. He is survived by his four children and their children and grandchildren.

#### **Susan Egnew, Denmark '67**

Susan was born in St. Louis MO, December 11, 1939, the daughter of Alvin Langley and Rosalie Hill Egnew, and died in Mexico in 2010. She graduated from Stephens College in 1959 and then received a B.A. from the University of Oklahoma in 1961. She was a high school teacher of English and French who took trips with her French students, some of whom remembered her fondly, to Europe and especially enjoyed New Orleans. Susan loved hiking, winter sports, singing, photography, and trying new things, such as joining Jon Findley, Julia Forbes and Ann-Marie Keyes, among others, to go to Denmark with Lisle in 1967.

## In Memoriam

She is survived by her brother and several nieces and nephews.

#### **Anne Olding Hall Higgins, NY-41**

Anne was born in 1921 in Fairfield Connecticut, the daughter of Judge Clarence R. Hall and his wife Louise. While she was a student at Smith College, she participated in Lisle NY'41, and she graduated in 1943 with a major in art. In 1944 she met Arthur Eugene Higgins and they were married. They both graduated from Yale Divinity in 1946, were ordained by the Congregational Church, and took assignments to co-pastor churches in northern New York State. She also preached in Colorado and Maine. Anne was always committed to peace, justice and equal rights. She was an early supporter of the Civil Rights Movement and opposed the Vietnam War and the nuclear arms race. She criticized American foreign policy in Nicaragua and was a member of "People Against Injustice," a movement to free wrongfully convicted prisoners and reform drug laws. In 2010 she was honored at Yale Divinity School as one of the first female students and accepted an apology from a faculty member who had quoted Samuel Johnson's "witty" remark to her: "A woman's preaching is like a dog's walking on his hinder legs. It is not done well but we are surprised to find it done at all." In her later years, she attended the New Haven Quaker monthly meeting. Some of her art was exhibited in the Meetinghouse Art Project in 2017 and can be viewed at <https://quakercloud.org/cloud/new-haven-friends-meeting/announcements/anne-higgins-meetinghouse-art-project>. Anne is

survived by her four married children, and their children.

#### **Finn Hornum, CT'51, CA'55, CO'55, Denmark '52-4, '58 and '68**

A devoted Lisler from many past units, Finn also served on the Lisle Board. He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1932 and died in Philadelphia March 21, 2017. He attended the University of Copenhagen, Haverford College and the University of Pennsylvania and was a professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at LaSalle University for 39 years. In addition to Lisle, which was mentioned in his official obituary, he was active with the American Friends Service Committee and the Pennsylvania Prison Society. Surviving him are his wife, Barbara Goldberg, two children and three grandchildren, as well as family in Denmark.

#### **Galal Kernahan, CA'43**

Rev. Galal Kernahan was born in 1925 in Williams, Arizona, on the outskirts of Phoenix, where he graduated from high school. In 1943 he became part of Lisle's groundbreaking first-ever California Unit, led by Uncle Si and Aunt Edna. For a degree in philosophy, he went to Chapman, at that time housed on Whittier College's campus in Los Angeles. Not surprisingly Chapman is related to the United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ, for his was a family of ministers. He graduated from Boston University with a master's degree in religious studies. Early in his career, he wrote columns for several California newspapers and was involved in youth work there, and

*-continued on next page-*

## In Memoriam

in 1957, he received a personal letter from Dr. Martin Luther King. He attended World Council of Churches training in Geneva, then worked on special projects in Soviet-occupied Berlin with church advocates. Later, he spent three years teaching theological seminary in Buenos Aires and as the pastor of a Methodist Church in Rosario, Argentina. Along the way he developed an interest in the Hispanic history of California and joined Los Amigos, which sponsored many Hispanic-friendly projects, such as Kinder Caminata. By the 1970's he was a Regional Chapter Services Consultant to the California Teachers Association. In 1981, he released the results of a controversial teacher survey on working conditions that made all the local newspapers. In 2011 Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences Commencement awarded him the Harmon Wilkinson Award for Distinguished Contribution in the Humanities and Social Sciences. At age 90 in 2015 he was a consultant on the 8th edition of California, a History, a book that stressed Hispanic contributions. Galal died November 29, 2018 and is survived by his wife, Mel.

**DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS**  
**KEEP LISLE'S SEED GRANT FUND ACTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE IN COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD.**  
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT:**  
**OFFICE@LISLEINTERNATIONAL.ORG**

promote peace to honor veterans, as well as helping to establish a peace park in Framingham, Massachusetts. She is survived by her children, their families and many nieces and nephews. §



**Mark and Nancy in India :)**

### **Eleanor McRoberts Murphy, India'86**

Eleanor was born in 1932, lived, raised five children, and died in Massachusetts in 2017. She never let all her other activities stop her worldwide efforts for peace. She was a graduate of Becker Junior College in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1952. After her children were grown, she participated in the 1986 Lisle/Gandhi Peace Foundation India unit along with extensive peace work in other organizations all her life. Eleanor traveled to

**“No person is your friend who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow.”**  
**– Alice Walker**

## Reports from 2019 Global Seed Grants

*-B4P continued from page 8-*

allenges facing young women, including low self-esteem from being often demeaned by male colleagues; sexual harassment by male authority figures in the university and in workplaces; lack of knowledge and skills in public speaking and for negotiating relationships, and gender socialization and cultural norms that make it difficult for women to break out of traditional roles. These concerns were acknowledged and buttressed by the male students. The next steps will include completing the first round of dialogue at the Stella Maris Polytechnic, a plan to carry out the Young Women, Peace and Development Forum (YWPD, and then the final rounds of dialogues. The key challenges facing young women, including low self-esteem from being often demeaned by male colleagues ;sexual harassment by male authority figures in the university and

in work places; lack of knowledge and skills in public speaking and for negotiating relationships, and gender socialization and cultural norms that make it difficult for women to break out of traditional roles. These concerns were acknowledged and buttressed by the male students. The next steps will include completing the first round of dialogue at the Stella Maris Polytechnic, a plan to carry out the Young Women, Peace and Development Forum (YWPD, and then the final rounds of dialogues. §



**B4P**



**Barb and Betsy looking at art in Austin**



# 2020 Global Seed Grants

**January 1, 2021 - Seed Grant Proposals are accepted**

**Proposals screened until September 1, 2021**

*-Bridging Cultures continued from page 1-*  
tion in each locale through participatory music-making, public presentations, and other inclusive events. This project brings together the music and step dance traditions of Veracruz, Mexico, with the old-time music and dance traditions in historical epicenters in Middle Tennessee and Texas in order to foster strong ties between unique regions of the two countries at a local and interpersonal level. The events will teach all participants about the music, its cultural context, and how it is played, helping musicians, dancers, and audiences in both countries to explore and understand cross-cultural commonalities and to present these commonalities to public audiences in Tennessee and Texas. This will produce a durable and transnational infrastructure for cultural connections which will persist in future events, particularly in a new international component to the Festival of Texas Fiddling. Update: The initial phase of the project was completed in Veracruz in February.

Let us remember: One book,  
one pen, one child, and one  
teacher can change the world.

-Malala Yousafzai-

*-Bridging Cultures continued-*

They are hopeful that phase 2 in Nashville and Phase 3 in Texas can be completed as planned.

*-Resilient Neighborhoods continued from page 1-*  
ship, civic rights and responsibilities, and understanding of national history and identity) in two sessions of a 5-day training workshop. They will then organize twenty inclusive youth dialogue circles of 10 participants each, which will serve as platforms to discuss challenges affecting their communities, and to visualize initiatives for community cohesion. A local, youth-led audio-visual facility will also be capturing issue-based messages, personal experiences and case studies, which will be documented and formatted into audio-visual clips and short movies. The goal is to organize movie hours in community centers and schools to facilitate community discussions. There are also plans for hosting topics on 6 radio and 3 TV talk shows and phone-in programs. Through this engagement, they hope to change attitudes and practices, and ultimately build bridges to promote resilient neighborhoods and communities. Update: The leaders inform us that they are adjusting their timeline with an expectation that they may need to ask for an extension.

*-Afghan Girls continued from page 3-*

ship and communication skills while also building a network among young leaders of the region, which could help them further in their endeavors for positive change in the Afghan society upon their return. The Afghan participants will initiate an Intercultural Club during this visit to Tashkent that extends membership to participants of other coun-

# 2020 Global Seed Grants

*-Afghan Girls continued-*

tries and can continue through an online platform. This will ensure that the project lives beyond the period of this grant, and will continue to provide opportunities for the participants to exchange views, learn from each other, and provide support to the members. Finally, the participants will take a tour of the city of Samarkand as a team building exercise that will help the members create shared experiences and memories that will lead to stronger bonds among the Afghan team. This exercise will also be part of the project's design to ensure sustainability of the team and their activities when they return to Afghanistan. Update: We were informed in April 2020, that this project has been successfully completed.

*-Roma Women continued from page 4-*

between the Roma community and health care providers. Doulas would not just serve their own communities (by supporting birthing women) but could also function as cross-cultural mediators between Roma families and the public hospital in Miskolc, an institution associated with the majority society (where practically all the professional positions are held by non-Roma). Update: We received the following note from the organization in February, 2020: "This morning, a baby girl named Linette was born in the city of Miskolc, Hungary, and her mother was supported during labor by a participant of the project, Anita. They are all members of the local Roma community. And this is an opportunity to say thanks to Lisle -and say that the Seed Grant means much more than just financial support for us!"

**Grant awards will be announced on October 31, 2020**

**Award term from November 1 2020-October 31 2021**

*-Strengthening Women continued from page 3-*

By bringing Crossing Borders Education's experience in transformative education to this context, we hope to strengthen individual change makers, their organizations, and civil society. Cotacachi, was chosen because of the local history of citizen participation, the diversity of the population, and the lost potential for the local organizations caused by prejudice and infighting. A total of 30 participants (10 from each organization) will participate in a weekend-long workshop. Parts of it will be filmed for future workshops with activist communities that are anticipated to grow out of this initial project. This project will use Lisle seed grant funding to: 1. Translate and adapt tools developed to facilitate cross-cultural understanding, conflict resolution and dialogue in the context of higher education into Spanish and adjust them to a Latin American setting. 2. Create a workshop based on these tools for an activist, rather than academic, population. Update: Due to the shelter-in-place orders and the overwhelmed health care system, the in-person aspects of this project are on hold. They are translating and preparing materials for the planned workshops, but are unable to meet with leaders or schedule actual workshops. \$

**An Additional Gift from the Ammiratis**

**By Nancy Kinney**

Last year, Lisle received a generous bequest from the estate of Philip Ammirati and this year we have received a similarly generous bequest from the estate of June Holtzendorf Ammirati, CA'50. The Lisle Board would like to express its deepest gratitude to the Ammirati family! June graduated from North Carolina College for Women at Greensboro (later UNC-Greensboro) in 1949 with a B.S. in Physical Education and a strong background in organizational leadership. She participated in the California Lisle Unit in 1950. Her strong Presbyterian background became the way she found to serve students as a teacher, at a home for orphans, and later at "Ole Miss" as the Director of Presbyterian Campus Christian Life. Later she worked at the Assembly's Training School/Presbyterian School of Christian Education (later known as Union Seminary) at Richmond, Virginia. Her 1965 marriage to Philip Ammirati took her to Bronx, New York, where she lived the rest of her life with her family. She died in the summer of 2018 at age 90. June kept in touch with Lisle for nearly seventy years. Her generosity will make possible Lisle grants to deserving nonprofits that will change the lives of those who are affected. Our profound thanks to all those involved. \$

**Lisle Annual Financial Report for 2019**

**By Barbara Bratton, Financial Coordinator and A. Gail Bier, Treasurer**

We are pleased to report that Lisle continues to be in a good financial position to support its work in the coming year. Financial responsibilities this year have been split between our new Treasurer, Gail Bier, and our financial coordinator and guru, Barbara Bratton. Gail will serve in a general review capacity with support from Barb as needed. Our thanks to Barb Bratton for continuing to act as the bookkeeper and to handle deposits, payments and bookkeeping from her office in Leander, TX, which has also long served as Lisle's mailing address and business office. In 2018-19, income from membership dues dropped from \$7,935 in 2017-18 to \$4,940 in 2018-19. We are ever so grateful for continuing support of Lisle's 30 loyal contributors, but as our membership continues to age, membership dues, "gifts from the heart", can no longer be counted on to carry the work of Lisle. We are also eternally grateful to those Lislers who remember us in their wills. We received a wonderful monetary gift of \$20,000 from the Estate of June Holtzendorff Ammirati(CA'50). The stockmarket uptick in 2019 blessed us with an average 8% increase in the value of our portfolio. Dividends and interest were not as generous in 2019, dropping to \$7,892 from \$10,727 in 2018. In all, our assets rose from \$281,333 to \$306,971 as of the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2019. For the 2020 Seed Grant Year, Lisle awarded \$21,000 of grants to a plethora of excellent program opportunities. The Covid-19 pandemic has, as you know, significantly affected recent investments. From January through the time of this writing in May 2020, our portfolio investments have been a roller coaster. Regardless of the current financial market fluctuations and their impact on Lisle's investments, the Board confirms its decision of 2018 to continue to offer Lisle seed grants. If you would like to be part of the Lisle planning committee regarding discussion about Lisle's future directions, fundraising and/or grant funding, please email our new treasurer, Gail Bier: [agailbier@gmail.com](mailto:agailbier@gmail.com). She looks forward to hearing from you.

**Support Lisle — Change the World!**

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**You can now donate or purchase items from our website using Paypal!**

***I want to become/stay a member of Lisle, 2020***

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***I attended the following Lisle programs/events:***

***I would like to make a donation:***

- Basic Donor .....\$35
- Contributing Donor .....\$75
- Supporting Donor .....\$200
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- Benefactor .....\$1,000
- 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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

**Fall Annual Meeting**

**November 6-8 2020**

**\*Online**

Fall Annual Meeting is Online November 6-8, 2020

Save the Date!

The 2020 Annual Meeting will take place Online from November 6-8.

Check <https://lisleinternational.org> for the latest information.

We hope you will be able to join us!

\*If you would like to participate, email <[office@lisleinternational.org](mailto:office@lisleinternational.org)> for schedule and connection instructions.