

# Lisle *Interaction*

A Bi-Annual Publication of Lisle, International

SUMMER ISSUE • 2010

## *We Are All Connected...*

*By Dianne Brause and Mary Newman*

**I**t seems like the idea that “we are all connected” is proving to be true in relation to this past year’s granting cycle where our Seed Grant recipients are concerned. Sometimes all the good intentions and planning are superseded by factors “beyond our control.”

In the case of the Burkino Faso Summer Reading Camps called “Friends of African Libraries” (FAVL), it has been difficult to find international French-speaking college students who are able to make it to Africa to supply the “intercultural” portion of this wonderful opportunity supporting children in their reading skills.

The project designed to connect children from a Detroit public school with school children in the Dominican Republic was postponed due to the earthquake in neighboring Haiti. In addition, there have been major cutbacks in school funding in Detroit, and the organizers have had difficulties finding a specific school within the DR to link the Detroit children to their DR counterparts.

Meanwhile, in the project designed to send three promising young women from Jamaica to Chicago to join with African women learning skills of leadership to take back to their home communities, two of the three chosen participants were denied their visas, thus making it impossible for them to get to the training in Chicago. Another young community leader was selected and did get her visa, but it didn’t seem possible to find a third.

Fortunately, the trash clean-up project in Indonesia seems to be going ahead with no “glitches” and with the added intercultural impact of a focus on youth from abroad joining selected youth leaders from the villages.

So, as you can see, sometimes our best-laid plans are hard to accomplish. In each case, the Lisle Board and Seed Grant Committee are supporting the recipient organizations to readjust plans in the most favorable way possible for everyone concerned. Below find, the Interim Reports from the latest information we have from Mentors and the organizations:

### Burkina Faso

The Burkina Faso Neo-Literacy Program is momentarily stalled as the coordinators of the project try to work out volunteer issues. The Seed Grant proposal calls for volunteers from outside Burkina Faso to teach the literacy programs, but none have been found for the literacy camp slated for this summer. One problem is that volunteers would have to be French-speaking, since that is the language spoken in Burkina Faso.

The FAVL coordinators have proposed three options:

1. Conduct the camps in the summer as planned, but without foreign volunteers.
2. Cancel the summer program but conduct the fall after-school program; there is a greater likelihood of foreign volunteers being in Burkina Faso in the fall.
3. Conduct the summer camp in Ghana, an English-speaking country, instead.

The FAVL coordinators are working diligently with the Lisle Board and Smita Patel (Mentor) to find the best way to proceed with the Neo-Literacy project.

*(Cont’d on page 3)*

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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.

You can download the submission  
guidelines from the website.

<[www.lisleinternational.org](http://www.lisleinternational.org)>

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The camps are scheduled for late summer, so there is not much to report. We have had difficulties in organizing the intercultural experience component. Last summer we had three U.S. university students in Burkina for the camps, and we had hoped to again have three volunteers join our Burkina Faso staff to provide summer camps. However, the students were unable to go, primarily because their families wanted them to find paying summer jobs.

However, the school year in Burkina Faso does not start until Oct. 1, and we will have nine U.S. undergraduates—eight from Santa Clara University—who will be beginning SCU's study abroad program in Burkina Faso in September. So we decided to take advantage of this confluence and hold some of summer camps during the third week in September so that the study abroad students can participate. This will be a nice way for the village children to celebrate the end of summer and will help them focus on the upcoming school year. It will also be a wonderful way to introduce the study abroad students to village life. As an added bonus, FAVL Co-Director Michael Kevane will be there, possibly also with his son Elliot, who is 12, the same age as many of the participating village children, giving us yet another opportunity for cultural exchange.

Also, a Peace Corps volunteer who has started a library in her village, Jen Lazuta, will be visiting the camps that are held in August, along with the Bougounam village librarian. So that will be another intercultural exchange.

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#### Detroit/Dominican Republic Exchange

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Mark Kinney reports that he had contact with the Kim, the Project Director for the Detroit/Dominican Republic school exchange program. He reports that he recently received an email from her. It was in the form of a letter to a school administrator in the Dominican Republic asking for help. This letter, roughly translated, said:

*"Hello! I am a Spanish teacher at a school in Detroit, MI, USA. Three years ago we're together as a class. We are a family. We studied all over Latin history of slavery until now. They can write and speak Spanish well. But as a teacher (I'm American and I want*

*to improve speaking and teaching the best), I want an opportunity for my students to learn the real language, culture, and Latino experiences. We want to travel to the Dominican Republic to find people, especially children, helping them on any way possible, and give them school supplies. We want to see the island and study the native plants and animals. We want to do a project that can improve the quality of life for some people there. We are saving money for the trip. We received a gift to help us too. We are working with the Detroit Public Schools system to arrange the details. It is very difficult. I wrote a lot of people without response. Sirs, if you can help, please call me or write me pronto. Gracias for your time and consideration."*

In a later email she reported: *"Good news! We have finally made contact with someone in the Dominican Republic! We're in the process of making plans/itinerary now. The tentative dates for travel are Thanksgiving week. We are deciding upon the type of project we can do together (in addition to the donation of school supplies/clothes). I will forward all correspondences to you ASAP and have a write-up to submit as well. Thank you for your patience and support!"*

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#### Jamaica/Chicago Program for Young Women Leaders

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From James Burke (Mentor of the Jamaica Project) comes an informal report on the status of the Jamaica project, as of June 3, 2010.

"A quick update on the Jamaican girls...we have decided that we will not pursue a second visa interview for the young Jamaican girls. The current visa 'environment' is not conducive to our project. With all visa holders having to prove that for 10 years they will respect the visa 'code' it is not possible for young poor girls to experience what we have to offer. My organization offered up \$1000 to assist Lisle's efforts in bringing the girls over. We have spent half of that in our first attempt. My Board feels that to go again for an interview in this environment will not only be a waste of funds but put the girls through a situation that will result in the same depressing response from the US. We have told the girls that over the course of the following year we will work on our elected officials to create or pressure the State Department to offer a temporary travel visa for projects such as ours. We will attempt

*(Cont'd on next page*

another interview next spring with my Senator's support and hopefully have a better result. The girls are disappointed but they do understand what we are trying to do and they really appreciate the time and effort we have already given on their behalf.

On another note, I have successfully secured the \$21K Boeing grant for my biodiesel project in Jamaica. I will be in Jamaica for two weeks in August working on my Engineers Without Borders' project, something I am very excited about. EWB has some major hoops to jump through but all is finally done. My non-profit is almost at the approval status from the IRS...they had me modify some language in the articles of incorporation and this should be the final deal...be nice to get that done...only have 10 more days of school left then it is off to Jamaica with my students for two weeks. I am hoping to join Bill with the two Jamaica ladies who will be coming to Chicago this July to work with the Lisle Grant opportunity. Perhaps you could pop up to Chicago and join us?"

From Bill Kinney (Leader of the Chicago Jamaican Teachers Exchange Project, for August 2010)

"We have been working hard to respond and re-align our program after applications from our Jamaican student applicants were denied. We have worked with Andria Dehaney (principal of Maryland All-Age School and our original Jamaican leader) to recruit Kerel Samuels (a teacher at Marland All-Age) to join our project this summer. The project will still work with the Expanding Lives program to create a multi-cultural and organizational platform to develop women in leadership. In combination with a peer mediation curriculum employed by Expanding Lives, our group will focus on working with existing resources to develop a curriculum for teaching non-violent conflict resolution. We feel that this focus will create the possibility for generating an ongoing dialogue between our participants and future programs involving women in leadership as well as apply in school settings. We hope this project will coordinate with other future Lisle projects and generate a common platform from which to integrate and exchange ideas."



*Photo courtesy of Dick McRill.*

*<[www.cameraguy.com](http://www.cameraguy.com)>*

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## Tompotika Beach Clean-Up & Trash Jamboree

Most of the activities for this grant will occur over a two-week period in July–August 2010, in Tompotika, Sulawesi, Indonesia, when a team of international visitors will join with local Tompotikans to pick up trash and usher in a new, clean and safe method of waste management in the area. To date, preparations for this event have been proceeding well. Here are a few highlights:

The Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo) has assembled an excellent group of ten people (eight Americans and two Indonesians) that will travel to Tompotika. The age range of the group is 18–80.

After much discussion with local Tompotikans, AITo has decided to focus the “Pantai Bersih” trash clean-ups across multiple areas in three main villages, rather than six, as originally planned. The villages are Teku, Taima, and Tanah Merah. This will allow the group to spend more time in each village and strengthen the outreach and awareness components of the activity.

A draft of an Anti-Litter awareness poster has been made and is scheduled to be finalized and printed by July.

The group is in the process of designing the Anti-Litter Awareness Campaign curriculum for outreach to villagers and schoolchildren, to be finalized by July.

Since the group of people that signed up to join this trip included three young people aged 18–19, AITo decided to highlight the power of youth to inspire change. The group will be recruiting about six local Tompotikan youth of this same age to join together with the visiting youth in a small group to create skits and outreach events for the celebrations following each beach clean-up. The teams of villagers and visitors working together to pick up trash will proceed as planned, but those local-visitor teams will be augmented by partnerships with a specifically youth-centered one to help promote outreach and awareness on the trash issue. We're excited and delighted by this new youth-oriented opportunity. 📷



# Celebrate 75 Years of Making a Difference!

By Marty Tillman

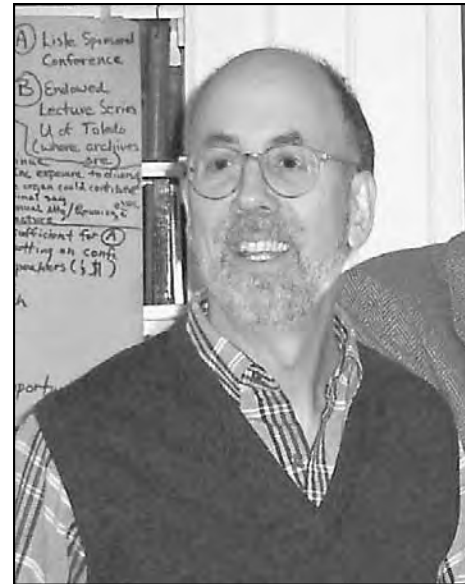
Sometimes brevity has its place, and this is one of those moments as my tenure as President comes to a close. I've been both active and inactive as a full-time staff member, *Interaction* reader, member, and Board member for 34 years. Many of you have been reading *Interaction* far longer: I'm thinking of Lislers I know from the 1940's units! We should all celebrate the fact that in 2011, Lisle will be 75 years young! There are not many nonprofit organizations in any field that have been around this long—yes, there are the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, and the old Experiment in International Living (founded in 1932), which is now known as World Learning.

But, here we are on the cusp of our seventh decade as an organization; one whose commitment to building opportunities, at first, for college students of all races and faiths to learn from each other at a time when **no** other campus office did that (and when the nation's laws still supported segregation), and then opening our programs to inter-generational units—and finally, after we re-assessed our work and our future—to this moment... A time when Lisle actively supports its mission and ideals through the Global Seed Fund. What a history of achievements and milestones—we directly helped launch other educational organizations like the “Scandinavian Seminar,” and Lislers have themselves made major contributions to civic life in their communities around the world, served in government and led universities, foundations and taught students at all levels in education systems.

Much has been achieved and there is more work to do. I hope that Lislers and friends of Lisle will in their own small ways celebrate all that we have done together to make a difference in the lives of so many for so long. The Board will begin to plan for an event in coming months—one thing we have already decided is that the Fall 2011 Annual Membership Meeting will take place in Washington, DC.

Three cheers to Smita Patel, whom you will hear from next as our new Board President! She will bring wonderful new energy and ideas to our deliberations.

Best wishes to All! 🍷



Marty Tillman, Lisle's Outgoing (and outgoing!) Board President

*How many of you have been to Lisle, NY—where our first units were held beginning in 1936 for a number of years—and where our organization got its name? One of our “newer Lislers” went there for the first time; find out who on page 14 under “Friends News.”*



*Comments came in from other Lislers. From Marty Tillman: “The last time we were there was in 1983 for a very BIG reunion event and conference and there was no sign. Back in the 30's, the Baldwins used the Methodist camp as the site for the first groups.”*

# Executive Director's Report

By Mark Kinney

Lisle continues to be strong, and along with working to promote Lisle values through young organizations, we are also making sure we keep up with the times and new technologies. Lisle can now accept donations through our website. By following the links on our homepage, you can make your donation to Lisle using Paypal. You do not have to have a Paypal account to do so; you can use your own credit card.

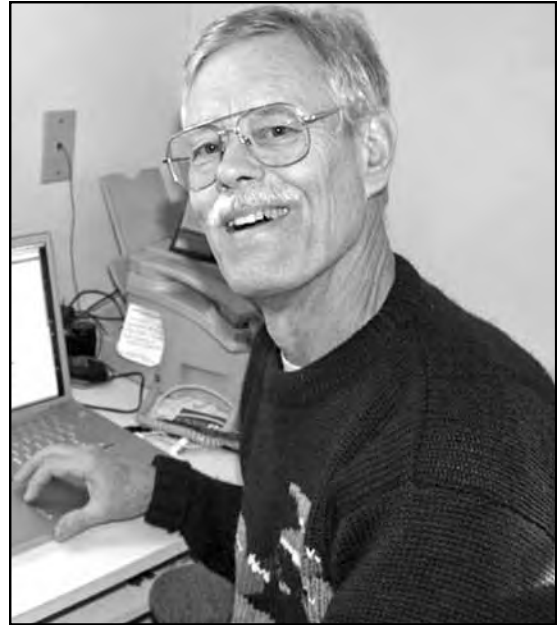
The Lisle Global Seed Grant process is in place for the 2010/2011 cycle. Grant proposals are due September 15, 2010, and awards will be determined at the Annual Meeting/Board meeting November 5-7. The grant cycle will run from November 15, 2010 to October 31, 2011. The new materials for the grants are available on the website at [www.lisleinternational.org/grants.shtml](http://www.lisleinternational.org/grants.shtml).

Speaking of Global Seed Grants, we sure could use a few more proposals to select from. If you know of worthy projects, why not suggest that a proposal be written for some extra funding? Over and over again we find that once a person has mentored a grant proposal, they become more active in Lisle and find it easier to mentor yet another proposal. That is a win-win situation, for sure.

The Board had a lively discussion in Chicago about involving mentors even more in the projects they are mentoring. We all agreed that it is really important to have mentors engaging in dialogue with the agency developing the proposal to assist them in focusing their project toward the intercultural learning outcomes which Lislors especially appreciate. We are working to be more explicit as to how mentors can accomplish this as they work with their projects.

Lisle *Interaction* continues to be strong, even in the face of competing personal commitments by the two persons who work to actually put it together. Dianne Brause and Elise Kimmons have done extremely good work for us since 1995! I especially appreciate the volunteer efforts which Dianne has given to the production over all these years. THANKS!

Lisle continues to be adequately strong financially, and with the great volunteer efforts of those who are active we continue to look forward to a healthy future. 📺



Mark Kinney, Lisle's Executive Director



Hungarian Fulbright Commission Director Huba Bruckner's staff with Mark and Nancy in Budapest. Huba is second from the left.



John Kachuba makes a point at the Board meeting.

# Spring Board Meeting Notes

By Smita Patel

The weather was beautiful, the food was great, and the discussions deep and productive at the Spring Board Meeting in Chicago.

This has been a year of great transition for many Lislers, so the group that made it to Chicago was smaller than usual. But Mark and Nancy Kinney made it back from Europe, despite the volcanic ash airport shutdown. Dianne Brause, John Kachuba and Mary Newman, Marty Tillman, Anne Hayner, Jon Findley, and Smita Patel all arrived via some combination of planes, trains, and automobiles. Bill Kinney, who lives in Chicago, was there and ensured that the weather stayed gorgeous during the day and all thunderstorms were confined to nighttime hours.

Jon Findley good-naturedly took a great deal of ribbing from the rest of the group about the draconian new immigration law recently passed by his home state of Arizona. But the Board did feel that the law was so contrary to the values of Lisle that it was not appropriate to hold the Fall 2010 meeting there as originally planned. We also decided that Bill Kinney would draft a letter to the governor of Arizona and other state officials explaining why we decided not to meet there, and then Marty sent it out. (See page 13)

While that decision certainly made us feel good, it also left us without a venue for the November 5–7 Annual meeting. Since we haven't had a meeting on West Coast for several years, we've decided to hold this year's fall meeting in San Francisco, CA. We hope you will join us! (See page 8)

We also continued to refine the seed grant process. Now in our sixth year, Lisle has supported more than 20 projects that have helped promote Lisle's values and affected thousands of lives all over the world. We discussed how we can encourage more Lislers to become involved in either nominating projects that further the Lisle mission of promoting peace and intercultural

education, or by becoming a mentor to a grant and helping the applicant create a proposal that makes the most of Lisle's investment. (See page 12)

Another important discussion centered on the Lisle Board. The current Lisle Board has a great deal of energy and talent, but we're always looking for more. Anne Hayner, one of our newest members, is the daughter of Lisle Norm Hayner. While she hasn't participated in a Lisle program herself, she says that Lisle was very much a presence in her life growing up. She

brings a wonderful perspective and "can-do" attitude to the board and we hope that other friends and children of Lislers will consider joining us to honor and build this venerable organization. (See page 9)

Dianne Brause gave us an update on her outreach efforts. Over the past year, she's spoken to some 60 Lislers! In her calls, she often finds people eager to talk about their experience in Lisle and share what is going on with their lives as

well as learn about what other Lislers are doing. Most of the *Lisle Friends News* in *Interaction* is due to her incredible efforts. But Dianne noted that many addresses and phone numbers have changed. If you, or any Lislers you know, have recently moved, changed your contact information, or have an email address, do be sure to pass it along to Dianne so we can keep in touch. Her email is: <[diannebrause@gmail.com](mailto:diannebrause@gmail.com)>.

We talked about Lisle 75th birthday, which is coming up in 2011! We could think of few other organizations that have been around as long or had such a lasting impact. Marty Tillman is going to head up the team to plan the celebration. (See page 5)

As always, we managed to squeeze in fine dining around all the hard work: Thai & Indian cuisine, as well as "Pot Belly Sandwiches." We also talked about old friends and good times. We missed you and hope you can join us in San Francisco this fall! 📍



Mary Newman, Smita Patel and Marty Tillman laugh at an old Lisle story over breakfast at the Board meeting in Chicago.



## 2010 Annual Meeting—Here We Come!

By Smita Patel & Dean Coons

All members and friends of Lisle are invited to participate in an exciting weekend in San Francisco at the 2010 Lisle Annual Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 5 through Sunday, November 7. You won't want to miss this opportunity to renew old contacts with Northern California Lislors and Board Members from across the country.

The housing venue will be the Fisherman's Wharf Hostel on the San Francisco Marina (Ft. Mason). Hostel International proclaims this is the most popular hostel facility in the country, with direct views of Alcatraz, Golden Gate Bridge, and the Marina area. It is also very affordable (\$28/night) for dormitory style accommodations, including linen and towel service and breakfast. Private rooms are available, but more expensive. More details about the hostel amenities can be viewed at [sfhostels.com/fishermans-wharf](http://sfhostels.com/fishermans-wharf)

The hostel does not have a conference room for our exclusive use, so our meetings will convene at two different locations in the downtown area about a 10 minute drive from the hostel. When you register your intent to attend (see below) and provide a projected time of arrival, you will be given more detailed instructions on how to reach the conference room location for that day.

All Lisle alumni and friends are invited to attend any or all of the weekend activities. The "business discussions" will occur on Friday and be continued thru to at least midday Saturday. Some free time to explore Downtown San Francisco or participate in an organized field experience may be possible. Saturday's agenda will culminate with a hosted banquet at the home of Amar and Vinita Singh in Menlo Park, about 30 miles south of San Francisco near Stanford University. They are the Uncle and Aunt to our event coordinator (and incoming Board President) Smita Patel. Local Lislors can participate by arriving in Menlo Park around 6:00PM..

Because this popular hostel gets fully booked several months in advance, the Arrangements Committee needs to know by August 31 your intention to attend and your housing requirements (two or three nights? dorm bed or private room?) For Thursday arrivals, San Jose Airport (SJC) or Oakland Airport (OAK) could be considered, with accommodations for that one night being in local Lisle homes. **All those who plan to use the hostel must respond by August 31 to Smita Patel, at: <smitspat@gmail.com> or call: 408-518-7853.** For planning purposes, an RSVP contact should be made by October 1 by the "local" Lislors who plan to attend any part of the weekend activities.

The Arrangement Committee would love to have people arrive early and stay late. Smita offers her place near San Jose as a crash pad while you visit people or spend more time sight-seeing. Come join us and "lose your heart in San Francisco!" 📍

### *The FW Hostel*

*The San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf Hostel is the most popular budget option in the city. Housed in historic buildings in a National Park setting with views of Alcatraz and the Golden Gate Bridge, this is an ideal choice for travelers who prefer green grass and birdsong to the frenetic pace of urban life.*

*In addition to its park setting, the hostel is conveniently located between the Marina district and the Fisherman's Wharf/North Beach neighborhood. The hostel is within walking distance of: Fisherman's Wharf, Pier 39, North Beach Marina district shopping, dining, and nightlife, Chinatown. The hostel can be reached by public transit (MUNI buses), though it is a quarter-mile walk from the bus stop to the hostel.*



## Meet the New Board Member!

By Anne Hayner

Anne Hayner joined the Board of Lisle in 2009. She works at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, where she is Associate Director for International Development and Alumni Relations. Her 23 years at the Kroc Institute have included recruitment, teaching and support of international students in the MA program, coordination of international field sites for internships, and development of a professional peace-building network among alumni of the Kroc Institute.



Anne's connection to Lisle started with her father, Norman Hayner, who participated in Lisle units in Colorado in 1946 and Denmark in 1952. As it turned out, a couple of years later, Norman's sister married a German, and with family spanning

the continents, cross-cultural communication became a constant. Norman completed his medical residency in Ann Arbor and worked for the University of Michigan School of Public Health for fifteen years before becoming State Epidemiologist for Michigan.

During the 1960's when Uncle Si and Aunt Edna lived in Ann Arbor, they were frequent visitors to the Hayner home, and Anne still remembers their warmth and laughter. In the next decade, a young Lisle staffer named Marty Tillman visited the Hayners in East Lansing, and remembers being impressed that the home was without a television. Over the years Anne and Marty crossed paths professionally through NAFSA (Association of International Educators) of which Lisle was a founding member. 📷

## Treasurer's Report

By Barbara Bratton

Who-hoo! Our assets are coming back in value (to my great relief) after the disastrous 2008/09 "big fall". As you are probably aware, we don't spend the "growth" on our portfolio—only the dividends—but we suffered with the rest of the nation when our portfolio value dropped 35%. At this point, our asset value is \$210,822 compared to our high point in 2007 of \$235,651. This is only a 10.5% decrease—and we remain optimistic that we will be able to overcome even that deficit.

We give grants each year based on our membership dues received from the previous year. So, in 2009, we were able to grant \$11,800 to exciting new causes. Dues are running behind budget this year and we'd like to encourage everyone to maintain your annual giving to Lisle. Our budget from membership dues is \$12,000 and we have received \$7,857 to date. So we have only received 65% of our budgeted amount. A second gift letter went out in April and another will be mailed in July – we hope anyone who has not renewed their annual gift will consider a 2010 contribution.

As a reminder, we hold bequests in a special part of our heart and continue to be grateful for "Bequest Holdings" from Muriel Carlson, Edith Ballard and Annis Bassler. These funds are segregated from general funds and held in the name of the benefactor so we can remember these special Lislers after their passing. We hope you have considered Lisle in your Wills and know that we will be forever grateful.

With ongoing awe for those Lisle members who have supported us financially over the last 75 years, Thanks! 📷



*Jon Findley is a thoughtful listener and an active participant as a steady and dedicated member of the Board.*

# Sharing Lisle Across The Generations

By Bill Kinney and Anne Hayner

**W**hat has Lisle meant to you? Have you told Lisle stories to your children and grandchildren?

As Lisle grows towards its 75<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, the Board focused a discussion how we can connect Lisle's past and future by spreading the word among our own families. In many cases, younger Lislers are related to experienced Lislers and the generational knowledge has been transmitted. However, it is possible that some younger family members may not know about Lisle and how it can have a profound effect on relationships and world view. Sometimes we forget to talk with those closest to us about our deepest values.

Many recent news items have highlighted that the generation of Americans aged 18-26 are the most optimistic of all age groups about the future. What better way to help supplement this optimism and help recruit the next generation of Lislers than by sharing experiences and helping to form links to Lisle?

Here are the voices of two third and second generation Lislers currently serving on the Board:

**Bill writes:** "As the son of Mark Kinney and the grandson once-removed from Uncle Si, I was exposed to Lisle at a young age. Growing up in a family that has been connected to the Lisle Fellowship through family ties, as well as direct participation, has been a great experience. However, explaining what Lisle is to those not familiar with the organization always seems to be a bit of a challenge. Many people focus on the word "fellowship" and question whether or not we are a part of the "Lord of the Rings!"

As a youngster, my first contact with Lisle was at a gathering in Ithaca, New York. The great feeling of common purpose and united efforts certainly comes to mind when I reflect on my involvement with Lisle. Being connected with Lislers through *Interaction*, at meetings and while traveling has deepened my understanding of what Lisle is all about.

For the past five years I have worked as a Lisle Board member and as a Lisle Seed Grant Mentor. This experience has given me valuable hands-on interaction with projects that have linked continents and brought


neighbors to a closer understanding of each other. I encourage Lislers to consider becoming a Mentor to help develop the next generation of Lislers!"

**Anne writes:** "I grew up hearing from my father, Norman Hayner, how important the Lisle experience was for him. My father had a scientific mind: he was a doctor by profession and an engineer at heart. The Lisle experience nourished the side of him which loved learning about and connecting with people of diverse backgrounds. Three of the six children in our family have studied and worked abroad, and now address cross-cultural issues in our professional work in university education, language teaching and transitional justice.

My father's Lisle experiences nourished his cross-cultural awareness, which in turn supported us all. In 1983 my father, my sister and I converged from various parts of the country to attend the Lisle conference on "Education Toward a World View" in Ithaca, New York. This conference gave us all a taste of the Lisle experience. Serving on the Board of Lisle and helping to strengthen the Seed Grant program feels like a way to pass on the benefits which have enriched our family's lives.

Here are some of suggestions about how you might pass on the Lisle legacy:

- Find a picture which reminds you of why Lisle is important to you, from either a Lisle activity, or a picture from the daily news. Share it with your family members along with a story of a memorable Lisle experience.
- To multiply the experience, send your picture and story on to *Interaction* to share with the Lisle family!
- Give a gift membership to Lisle to children or grandchildren (it's free!)
- Introduce younger family members to fellow Lislers.
- Become a Lisle Mentor for a Seed Grant applicant.
- Ask family members for suggestions of organizations which might be candidates for seed grants.

We encourage you to find your own way to share what you love about Lisle with the younger generations in your family, and encourage them to join in our new adventures. 

# A New Look at Lisle

By Nancy Pearson Kinney

As Lisle approaches its 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday, most of you will remember that there have been reporters, scholars, and Lislers themselves who have sought to capture Lisle in writing for various publications. The most recent paper was written by Kimberly Hieronimus Brownlee, Manuscripts Librarian and Assistant University Archivist at the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections of the University of Toledo. Kim has a special advantage since she has at hand the Lisle Archives to which so many of you have contributed items valuable to Lisle's history.

Writing for the *American Educational History Journal*, Kim wanted to examine Lisle's history from the point of view of the Cold War. She was interested in whether or not Lisle and the Baldwins were affected by U.S. Foreign Policy in the 1950's, particularly in Lisle's units and programs that involved relationships with the U.S.S.R. Those of you who knew Uncle Si and Aunt Edna are probably already saying to yourselves, "Si and Edna wouldn't have let anything change the Lisle philosophy and methods!" So Kim's conclusions won't surprise you at all.

She says, "It appears that neither the Sputnik crisis nor the Cold War had an effect on the Lisle Fellowship's philosophy or principles. Rather, the available evidence shows that Lisle simply made adjustments and adaptations to its traditional program in order to allow it to achieve its goal of increasing understanding between the US and the USSR, and that it did so in a realistic manner within the context of the times. Concurrently with and subsequent to its experiences on these exchanges, Lisle continued to operate its traditional program in the US and in other countries." She also looked at how Lisle has affected the field of international student experiences.

*Although this isn't a great photo technically (it's from an old snapshot), it certainly captures the wonderful love of laughter shared by the Lisle Co-founders, Uncle Si and Aunt Edna. If you have pictures of them or the units they led, please send them to Elise Kimmons for scanning & inclusion in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year Interaction.*

Readers will remember how Uncle Si influenced others. Since it began, Lisle has conducted programs in twenty-one countries in the world. Through the years it has also spurred the creation of other similar organizations and projects. Among them are the Scandinavian Seminar, the US Institute of Peace, the Council for International Educational Exchange, and NAFSA: Association of International Educators

Longtime Lislers will also identify with her findings in the area of program structure. She says, "It is interesting to note that more recently established cultural exchange programs appear to be returning to the use of models similar to the one created by Lisle. They seem to be revisiting the concept that shorter, more intense intercultural encounters can have a greater impact and provide students with a much more valuable experience than the more typical student exchange experience in which the student spends an entire semester or academic year studying in another country."

She uses the example of a three to four-week University of Michigan "study, work, volunteer, and adventure abroad opportunity" that has provided the model for a great number of UM study abroad offerings.

We are grateful to Kim Brownlee for once again shining a spotlight on Lisle's history. Sometime soon, someone will be writing about today's Lisle seed grants and their influence on the early twenty-first century! 📷



# Got a Project? We've Got a Seed Fund!

By Bill Kinney

How would an agency you know like to have a bit of help conducting their intercultural workshop, or project? Well, we may be able to help. In a time of shrinking budgets, Lisle once again is offering Global Seed Grants of between \$500-\$3000 for funding between November 15, 2010–October 31, 2011.

As you can see in other places in this *Interaction*, we have funded many exciting and important projects that have led to amazing results in our short time offering grants. As well, each project requires someone to become a Lisle Mentor or sponsor for the project which has served to renew many individual Lisler's awareness of what Lisle is now doing. The mentors have also been crucial in helping to build proposals that are truly worthy of the high standards and goals that the Lisle Board has set. Project proposal applications are due to the Lisle office by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Lisle committee will consider the selections until the Annual Meeting in California on November 5–7.

The awards will be made public during the Lisle Annual Meeting and Board meeting. The official announcements of these awards will be sent to applicants within a week following the meeting. The mini-grant cycle will be from November 15, 2010–October 31, 2011.

## So What Does It Take, Really?

First, once you have a working relationship with the organization that is making the proposal, help them submit the proposal. The proposal needs to follow the format provided by Lisle (*see website*, <[www.lisleinternational.org/grants.shtml](http://www.lisleinternational.org/grants.shtml)> or get materials from the office), and will include contact information for the director and the Lisle mentor if they are two different persons, a title for the project, a description of the project, some information about how the project will further the goals of global-mindedness, a description of the activities which will be fostered through the


project, a process for evaluating the outcomes for the project, and a budget. We especially ask that mentors become actively involved in suggesting revisions to the project proposal during the formulation stage.

Second, help the organization learn more about Lisle, its approach to intercultural learning and its methods. Believe it or not, these ideas often come as a surprise to many persons interested in providing intercultural programs. They often will welcome your ideas and suggestions.

When you are interested in developing a proposal, please go to the Lisle website at: <<http://lisleinternational.org/grants/shtml#aboutseedgrants>>.

This year, Lisle is making a concerted effort to provide materials on the website which allow individuals to submit their materials electronically, directly to Lisle. If you can, please make use of the electronic versions of the materials. If you wish the paper version of the materials, either download them from the website or contact the Lisle office and request a Global Seed Grant packet. If your project does use the application on the website, you may want to begin the process using a word processor and then cut and paste the materials into the application, since it is not possible to save a partially completed form at this time.

There have now been a number of Lislers who have either received a grant or have served as a Mentor for an accepted grant. These persons are very knowledgeable and willing to assist you in your efforts. If you would like to talk with one of them, and/or have questions about the Global Seed Grants, please contact Mark at 989-595-3667, or <[mark.kinney@utoledo.edu](mailto:mark.kinney@utoledo.edu)> , or contact the Lisle Office: 900 County Road 269, Leander TX 78641, (512) 259-7621, <[lisle2@io.com](mailto:lisle2@io.com)>.

And remember, Lisle stands ready to assist you and the others formulating the project in developing powerful materials for submission. 



# Dear Governor Brewer: We Protest!

By the Lisle Board

This is the letter that the Board agreed to send to Governor Brewer as a result of our decision to not hold our Fall Annual Meeting in AZ. It was sent out by Marty Tillman, President on behalf of the Lisle Board in May, 2010.

Dear Governor Brewer:

I write to inform you that our organization has decided to not hold our Annual Membership Meeting in Arizona as we originally planned. Based upon our understanding of SB 1070, the "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act," our Board of Directors does not feel that the State of Arizona is a hospitable environment for our meeting next fall.

Although we have held meetings in Arizona several times in the past, attracting members from across the country as well as citizens of Arizona, we will not meet in the state next fall. From its establishment in 1936, The Lisle Fellowship was one of the first non-profits in the United States to promote and advocate intercultural, inter-racial and international understanding.

We believe SB 1070 is unjust and discriminatory, unenforceable and promotes intolerance and discrimination—all of which are antithetical to Lisle's mission, principles and values. We believe that SB 1070 threatens to inflame anti-immigrant sentiments and undermine constructive solutions to the challenges faced by communities in Arizona and across the nation.

Respectfully, The Lisle Board Members

Although many of us were looking forward to returning to Tempe, AZ after a number of years' absence from that sunny location, we received unanimous support from Lislors—both from AZ and beyond—for our ethical stance to boycott the State at this time due to this controversial bill. It has been a while since Lisle has officially taken a political "stance," but we on the Board felt it was the "right" thing to do, given our mission to enhance intercultural understanding. If any of you care to comment on our decision or on the situation there in Arizona, please feel free to contact the editor of *Interaction* or another Board member and we will take note of your opinion in the Board meeting in CA. ☺

## Donate On-Line

You can now make your Lisle donation on-line through Paypal. Go to [www.Lisleinternational.org](http://www.Lisleinternational.org) and click on the "donate" button. That will take you to a donation page where you can begin the process. There you will click on the "donate" button once again which will take you to the Paypal page. On that page you can either use your own credit card or your Paypal account to make your donation to Lisle.

We hope this will make it easier for some people to support Lisle. And, "Thank You All" for the support you continue to give—even during these tough economic times! ☺

## In-Kind Donations

From time to time Lisle tries to accomplish a task which it is not fully equipped to do. The following are some of the tasks which we could use help with.

1. Coding a website form which combines third party payments (i.e. Paypal) including data validation with a simple form to collect donor information which is developed in-house.
2. Create a web-based newsletter template
3. Provide a CPA audit or review of Lisle financial records.

If you have questions, please call Mark at 989-595-3667, or email at [mark.kinney@utoledo.edu](mailto:mark.kinney@utoledo.edu) ☺

**D**ianne Brause has been having a gay old time re-connecting with Lislors from all over the world. She was charged with the task of doing so a year ago, and not only has it warmed her heart to speak with former Lislors, it has brought them, and *Interaction* readers, into renewed contact as well. Thanks, Dianne, for your efforts to keep Lislors in touch!

**Betsy Bridwell** (Bali '97) I was back east in June for my 40th college reunion in Ohio, and I drove over to Ithaca, NY, to visit a friend. I had never been in the area, which is lovely, but I also learned that the town of Lisle was very nearby. My friend and I took a drive one afternoon and paid a visit to our organization's namesake. Sorry I didn't know more about what to look for, but it was interesting to see the place. I think you might enjoy seeing the sign coming into town!

**Chris & Dean Coons** (CO '48, Family Camp '61, Bali '91, Costa Rica '96, Leader Training '98, Lisle Board & Ligon Award) Address: 3960 No. Peardale Dr, Layfayette, CA 94549, (925) 284-7386 Email Dean at: <[dmcoons@aol.com](mailto:dmcoons@aol.com)>. Although both Chris and Dean are facing health issues, they are excited about helping to set up this fall's Annual Meeting in the Bay Area.

**Jane C. (Scory) Covell** (Denmark '56) tells us: "For many years, I was a member of the Coventry Conservation Commission. I am still active in the Coventry Historical Society. I still see my former college (Tufts University) room-mate, **Roberta (now Robin) Reardon Briggs**, who was a member of the Denmark Lisle in 1955. Over the years, I have seen **Bent HyldKrog** and **Louise Baker**, both of whom were members of Lisle Denmark 1956. My Lisle experience was one of the most important in my life. It was a terrific way to learn about relationships with others, even those with different points of view. I went back to Denmark in 2000." Jane would like to connect with others from her unit and can be reached at: 82 Ridge St, Manchester, CT 06040-4955. (860-649-8407). Email: <[janecovell@att.net](mailto:janecovell@att.net)>.

**Ken & Della Cowing** (Bali '91 Leaders, Leadership Training) stay busy with family members and other activities. Their middle daughter, Becky, a school teacher, with her husband, has adopted nine Mexican

children—in addition to their two biological children! Della makes one quilt per year. Ken's health is slipping. Call: (704-532-5305), or write if you want to make contact: 3800 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte, NC 28215-3220. (See profile of Ken on page 17)

**Howard & Cora Belle Crane** (CO '54) write: "At 90 and 92 we are not able to be very active but enjoy reading about friends and their activities. I still am active in our local retired teachers association and we attend most AARP meetings. I attend my church, but Howard is almost completely deaf so he has trouble knowing what is being said."

**Kristin Currin** (Costa Rica '98, Leadership Training '98, CR Leader '99, '01 & '02) reports: "Married Andrew Merritt in May 2009 (small ceremony on our land). Last year worked on two big habitat restoration projects planting native plants for native pollinators & butterflies". Their address is: 2355 Osborn Cut-Off Rd, Mosier, OR 97040, (503-449-3694). Email: <[jewelweed@lastmail.fm](mailto:jewelweed@lastmail.fm)>.

**Mirabel Deming** (NY '44, '46-'49, CO '52, Family Camp/MI '56 and Elderhostel '91), lives at 1700 S. River Rd. #66, Janisville, WI 53546, (608-754-7503), Email: <[mirabeld@charter.net](mailto:mirabeld@charter.net)>. She says: "I'm very pleased to learn about the 'seed money' grants and the innovative things they are fostering. Thanks to the Lisle mentors who are keeping Lisle's philosophy alive in these ways."

**Sophia Holley Ellis** (Germany '55, Russia '56, Germany part-time '57-'58) says: "Great being a Mentor! My mentees rewrote their proposal on my computer, after I expounded on Lisle philosophy and had them read earlier editions of Lisle *Interaction*. Then I decided to step back and let them go on their own. I'm a Mentor...Thought it would be hard." :) As for me, I'm still learning Arabic, tutoring German, keeping up with my students on *Facebook*, trying to keep well, giving a weekly piano lesson." Holley rode in a neighborhood cohesion parade in a float in June, ending at an endangered community garden and market. Holley has set up a scholarship at the U of MI for Detroit area students and the German Government has also set up a scholarship in her name for student travel abroad. When recently asked about her "well-developed world view" she answered, "I'm a Lisle!" Contact Holley at: 20172

Picadilly Road, Detroit, MI 48221-1310. (313-863-7831), email: <[sophia.ellis@att.net](mailto:sophia.ellis@att.net)>.

**Marina Firestone** (CO '49, Family Camp '61) enjoys staying in touch with other Lislors: **Hans & Ellie Spiegel, Walt & Betty Ligon** and her four sisters: **Clara Madonia** (CO '49) **Jo (Giovanna Steckler) Zaccaro** (CO '53), and Luigina, Ersilia. (See page 18 for a group picture.) Marina can be reached at: 5 Horizon Road, Apt. 303, Fort Lee, NJ 07024-6627. (201-886-3048). Email: <[natmarina@verizon.net](mailto:natmarina@verizon.net)>.

**Ben Goldberg** (India '87, SD '88) was featured on a radio show about his first-of-a-kind composting porta-potty which is being used at a Cummington Fair in MA. Go to: <[www.wrsi.com/pages/3243131.php](http://www.wrsi.com/pages/3243131.php)> to hear the interview and see a picture of the radio host, Monte BelMonte, posing in the new invention. Ben can be reached at: (413) 586-3699, or: <[plunkatune@mindspring.com](mailto:plunkatune@mindspring.com)>.

**Trish Haas** (Friend, Bd Mtg Austin '09) "I am a social worker, live in the country and garden; belong to Buddhist Sanga; have organized voluntary simplicity and sustainability classes; currently support services to military personnel and their families."

**Ardis Hanish** (Ger '59, CA '56) "We enjoy our life in New Mexico; both of our daughters and one granddaughter are here. Retirement has been a good blend of volunteering, learning, cultural events, a little travel and family." Contact: <[aehanish@hotmail.com](mailto:aehanish@hotmail.com)>.

**Joyce Hardin** (CO '46, Family Camp '56 & '61, Elderhostel '90 & '91, Bali '92, & Lisle Board) from 6655 Solon Blvd. Solon, OH 44139-4126, (440-248-1560) comments: "I read *Interaction* from cover to cover. Thanks to all who produce it! I am very pleased with the reports from the seed money."

**Ann Hardt** (CO '46, CT '49 & '50, USSR '58, India '79) responds: "I am disappointed that you are not meeting in AZ, although I agree." Contact: <[annhardt@asu.edu](mailto:annhardt@asu.edu)>.

**Anne-Rose Heck** Germany, (OK '94, India '99) writes: "I have been to Istanbul recently and was stuck there because of the volcano ashes; so I stayed five extra nights, quite an adventure!" She says that "when I saw pictures of the Dervishes in Istanbul" she thought about **Dianne Brause's** travels there. She "will not make it this year either." This summer she

will go to Italy with a friend, who is a teacher. She still produces news for children, on television and for a radio program. She has retired from politics after 15 years and so far does not regret it (!)

**Finn Hornum** (CT '51, Denmark '52-'54 & Leader '58 & '68, CA '55, CO '55 & Lisle Board) sent an email saying, "I read awhile ago that **Mogens Jensen** had died. He was a very old friend. I first came to know him arranging deputations for the Denmark Lisle Unit in 1954—he worked at an institution for juvenile delinquents. He met **Jean Horton**, who was the Lisle Secretary in Ann Arbor, in that unit and later immigrated to the U.S. I was his Best Man at their wedding in Ann Arbor and we saw each other a few times later, including a visit they made to Philadelphia." Finn can be reached at: 4713 Cedar Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143 (215) 729-2044). Email: <[hornum@verizon.net](mailto:hornum@verizon.net)>.

**Dianne Koop** (Elderhostel '91 & Lisle Board). "I retired on March 1, 2010 after 32 years of teaching. I enjoy hosting Lislors who pass through Toledo and am enjoying time with our 8 grandchildren. I'm in the process of starting a small consulting business, "The Mindful Home." Dianne can be reached at: 2063 Thornapple Dr., Toledo, OH 43614. (419) 754-3470. Email: <[dkoop@bex.net](mailto:dkoop@bex.net)>.

**Dr. Alice Kolen Ladas** (NY '40) reports that next February she will be receiving a medal for her pioneering work for women's sexuality, educated childbirth, breastfeeding and her NY Times best-seller, "*The G-Spot & Other Discoveries About Human Sexuality.*"

**Shirley Lake** (Germany '54, CT '52, Lisle Board) and her husband, Jim will be celebrating his 76<sup>th</sup> birthday at their summer place at: 25168 W. State Highway M64, Ontonagon, MI 49953 (608-238-1647), Email: <[leylake@hotmail.com](mailto:leylake@hotmail.com)>. They enjoy traveling and have been to Thailand five times (visiting Thai friends whom they housed in their home years ago). They also have visited Europe and done three bicycle tours, plus walking tours. They often socialize with friends and look after ailing friends. Shirley says: "**Joe Ault's** passing was a big loss for me... we were in two units together. Give my greetings to Lislors." (See page 17 for more details/recent photo)

**Louise Malcolm** (Denmark '56) writes: "Since all three of our children were in the Peace Corps, I was

interested to learn that Uncle Si was involved [in setting it up].” Louise lives in Peterborough, NH.

**Jeannine McCullagh** (wife of **Robert** of CA '43): “I am happy to continue supporting Lisle in memory of my husband, **Robert P. McCullagh**, who was a short-time member of a unit in L.A. before he was drafted in 1943—and because I admire what you are doing with the Global Seed Fund!”

**NeGarre Hesmat Moore** (NY '49) “I had such wonderful memories of Lisle—and the friendships I made!” She can be reached at: 11 Hiddenwood Path, Lincoln, MA 01773.

**V. Ione (Moody) Murchison** (NY '48, HI '95) reports that she “retired” from tap dancing at 80, but still joins in speaking gigs for the group in which her granddaughter also sings. She recently attended an international tea which was a part of a project funding 4 different groups. She is thinking about Lisle’s Seed Grants, but is currently finishing up a novel set in the US slavery period. She also writes to a prisoner as part of her church’s pen-pal project. She was a Delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 2000. Her address is: 9542 Village Tree Dr, Elk Grove, CA 95758; (916-684-6148), Email her: <[ionemurchison@hotmail.com](mailto:ionemurchison@hotmail.com)>.

**Margit Rubendunst** (Denmark '54) says: “Congratulations to all your success—as it continues. I am somewhat under the weather...Not working for AARP as representative liaison any longer—just did not feel up to all the pressure after my knee replacement. Still playing tennis; learning golf. It was good to hear from **Wally Allen** and **Wayne Odom**. They were good friends in Denmark '54.” Margrit lives in Sun City, AZ and can be reached at (623-546-1868).

**Ingrid Johansson Slawson** (CA '50) from 2131 Maryland Place, Northwood, OH (419-666-8259) cheers: “Keep up the good work! She continues: “After retiring from the State of Ohio and some work after that, I and my husband of 58 years, Raleigh, are now ‘doing nothing’ (sic!). Some ill health, but good spirits! And a wonderful family! One of our best memories is about when Uncle Si (in his 90’s) came to visit us.”

**Irving L. Smith** (CO '42) reports: “I met my wife, Salette Wentworth of Granbury, TX, studying at Scarritt College in Nashville, at Lisle near Golden, Colorado. I was in Dallis at SMU at the time. After

six weeks at Lisle with the Baldwins we were engaged—wed six weeks later, in DeRidder, LA. Salette returned to Scarritt and I to SMU. I became Assistant Pastor at Ft. Worth FUMC and she joined me. Two years later our first child was born in Ft. Worth and we moved to Oklahoma. 1946–48 we went to Cuba as missionaries. Back to OK, served as minister, returned 1988; Salette died 2001.” Irv currently lives at: 2513 Constitution, Enid, OK 73703, (580-233-7867).

**Hans & Ellie Spiegel**, (NY '47, CO '46, Germany '58, Bali '88, Lisle Board) continue to be very active in peace and justice issues. Ellie is currently also focusing on Guatemalan workers rights and Hans belongs to the Leonia Writers Group. Their address is: 187 Leonia, NJ 07605, (201-947-9231). Email: <[hansellie@gmail.com](mailto:hansellie@gmail.com)>.

**Robert & Dorothy Starr** (CO '49). Robert writes: “I am sending a memorial gift in memory of **Joe Ault**, a former Lisler who died this past year. Joe and his wife have been good friends with us ever since our unit together—visiting, doing things together, playing golf and tennis. They helped us way back when we moved to Dayton. Robert & Dorothy can be reached at: 1525 N. River Rd., Buffalo City, WI 54622. (608) 248-2806. Email: <[buffalocystarr@aol.com](mailto:buffalocystarr@aol.com)>.

**Dr. Joan Straumanis** (CO '55) reports that she is doing research about brain functioning at the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC. She directs a program on the “Science of Learning”—basic research at the intersection of neuroscience, psychology, computer science and education. Her address is: 1801 Crystal Dr, Apt 509, Arlington, VA 22202-4421, (202-277-1937). Email: <[joanstraumanis@earthlink.net](mailto:joanstraumanis@earthlink.net)>.

**Karen Swam** (Leader Training '98, Lisle Board) has a new address: 18 S. Georges St., Unit 61, York, PA 17401. Email: <[kjofct@yahoo.com](mailto:kjofct@yahoo.com)>.

**Geraldine (Gerry Chambliss) Trammell** (CO '42) joined Lisle after her Jr. year at Fisk University. Afterward, she stayed connected with some Vanderbilt students. She hasn’t been involved lately (except to send annual donations!) but would definitely like to connect with others from her original unit. Her address: 1438 E. 55<sup>th</sup>, Chicago, IL 60615-5420 (773-643-5529).



**Fay (Walker) Webster** (CO '44) sends her news: "I retired from teaching high school English and remedial reading at Camp Verde, AZ in 1989. My husband and I moved to Cottonwood, AZ, bought a house here and stayed. I have been a volunteer for the Camp Verde Adult Reading Program since it began in 1987. At present I am tutoring 2 students at the Learning Lab at DES. I am 90 years old and enjoy being useful as a reading teacher." Fay lives in Cottonwood, AZ, (928-634-8273).

**Rev. Donald E. Wise** (CO '45) says that he is "still kicking," volunteering in the church choir, a nursing home, and the Red Cross. He is: "grateful for the Lisle experience with Uncle Si and Aunt Edna." He lives at 2318 N. Longwood Dr., Decatur, IL 62526. Ph: (217) 423-3224.

**Pat Wold** (NY '46, MI '50) says that she volunteers at a free clinic giving psychiatric care one and one half days per week. She enjoys her four grandchildren—ages 6-12. Pat lives at: 1520 High Hawk Rd, E. Greenwich, RI 02818, (401-885-0258). Email: <pnwold@pol.net>. 📧

### More from Shirley Lake

We are grateful for our family, friends, good health, and the wonderful life we are fortunate to be living.

In 2009, we celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary, and we are still celebrating Shirley being 10 years out from her diagnosis of breast cancer.

*Editor's Note: I'm sure all Lislens are delighted to know your health continues to be intact!* 📧



### In Memoriams

**John David Castle** (NY '46) of Americus, GA.

**Betty Grudin**, (CO '43) from Issaquah, WA

## Ken Cowing, Minister to Society!

Compilation by Elna Hanly & Elise Kimmons

Kendall Cowing was recently named "Resident of the Month" by the staff and residents of the retirement home where he and his wife, Della live. Excerpts from the Gateway's April 2010 newsletter, written by Elna Hanly, are below.

"Ken and Della created a partnership that allowed them to work together to raise a family of five children. Independently, they pursued careers in the fields of Ministry, Christian Education, Art Education, Social Research, and Consulting.

"Through the years Ken worked with young people and their families, helping them to develop positive attitudes, behaviors, and relationships. Youth found a haven in his home and guidance in the programs of the church. Ken served the Ann Arbor, MI in the Methodist Church as its pastor, where the youth group became a nationally recognized organization.

"Ken has had an influence on many young people through the churches he served, his curriculum development, and in his home. That influence in continuing to result in positive behaviors in succeeding generations of youth."

Kendall's involvement with Lisle began in 1991, when invited by Mark Kinney to co-lead the Bali 1991 trip. Ken was also a friend of Si Baldwin. The Bali experience had a powerful influence on his "life transition" ... and he decided to return and do it again! After his life career as Minister-Counselor-Youth Leader and Adult Educator, Ken assumed a new role as "Minister to Society," which enabled him to move outside the institutional church and bring new skills to education, through Human Resource Development Associates, which he and his wife Della helped to create.

He was a Lisle Board Member for six years and the Chair of the Leadership Training Committee. He and his wife Della participated in the Bali 1991 and 1992 programs, and were leaders for the Leader Training program in 1998.

*Editor's Note: Kendall is in failing health at this point, and might enjoy a call or card. Contact info: Kendall & Della Cowing, 3800 Shamrock Dr., Charlotte, NC 28215-3220. Ph: (704) 532-5305. 📧*

# Marina Firestone & Lisle, 1976–2002

By Marina Firestone

When my husband and I moved to Houston, Uncle Si sent me a list of Lislors in the Houston area, so I could get in touch with them. He was then still traveling and contacting various universities to recruit students to the various Lisle units and decided to come to Houston for his birthday in Feb '78. He and Edna were invited to stay at Percy Williams' beautiful house where we had a first Houston Lisle Alumni Reunion. Over the years I did a lot of networking and with the help of a few devoted Lislors, organized several Lisle presentations at various schools and universities (Rice, U of Houston, Texas U., St. Thomas) as well as Lislors get-togethers in various homes.



Marina Firestone with her sisters, July 2009.

L to R: Marina, Giovanna, Ersilia, Clara, Luigina

Bess Attwell hoped to organize a Houston inner-city one week camp for Lisle and with this end in mind had established a Lisle South Central Branch. She was given a grant from the Lisle Board. Unfortunately neither of these projects became concrete enough to become reality. But for few years we were able to have several gatherings in various parts of Texas and around Houston, organized by different Lislors. We were invited by the Stevenson family to meet at their ranch and Black Cowboys Museum; by Dorothy Huskey to spend

a day in Huntsville at her college and later at her house. Bess and her son Ernest invited us to a BBQ in a park in Texas City, and Walt and Betty Ligon had us over to their ranch in the Hill Country for a weekend.

I had been energized and become more active with Lisle at its "International Conference and gathering at Cornell University, in Ithaca, NY, also attended by Lislors Barbara Marshall, so when I was asked to join the Board, I served from 1987 to 1991. I took it upon myself to move the Lisle Board and Annual meetings to various states and locations across the U.S., rather than the usual ones in the Washington, D.C. or the New York areas. After joining the Board it was Chris Coons who took on this planning and organizational job and did a remarkable job for many, many years.

With the help of Bess Attwell we organized the Houston Reunion, Board and Annual Meeting in October 1988 which was very successful. In 2000, before we left Houston and moved to Fort Lee, N.J. I organized another Board and Annual meeting in that area, at an experimental teaching farm and retreat center.

See below for a list of Houston Lislors during those years. 📖

## Houston Lislors

Bess Attwell, CO '54; Ernest Attwell, CO '54, DC '69; Carolyn Attwell, DC '69; Lois Bailey, Friend; Ed Cole, NY '47; Amanda Dotson, India '85; Carol Fagan, MI '49; Allene Ford, CO '42; Janie Gentry, NY '48 (aka Dolly Hale); Dr. Dorothy Huskey, Colombia '69, Staff; Venkatesh Iyer, Mexico '91; Hazel Leher, CO '45, CA '58, '63, CA Family Camp '57 & '58; Walt & Betty Ligon, NY '48, MI '50, CO '51, '54, '57, CA '58, OK '87, Bali '88; Barbara Marshall, CO '51, '52; Marian McWhorter, Cornell Conference '83; Dr. Niels Nielsen, Japan '56; Billie Reed, Friend; James J Smith, CA '63; Mary Stafford, CO '42; Mollie Stevenson Neely, DC '67; Gary Tilly, Denmark '56, Germany '66; Percy Williams, CO '42; Wilmoth Williams, Friend; Bryant Young, CO '48

# *Easter in Southeast Turkey*

*By Leyla Welkin*

I am sitting on the terrace of a stone caravanserai in Mardin, an ancient city just north of the Syrian border near Iraq. This building was first built to house travelers and camel caravans in 1275 and my British friends, the McFarlanes have been staying here for the four days that we shared a vacation in Turkey's southeast. The sun is already blazing down in April and I have pulled my chair into the shade. My arms and face are touched with sunburn from our last few days of wandering. But the scent of the bay bushes beside me is rich.

There is something about the ancientness of these places that is at the same time intriguing and comforting to me. I attended a Syrian Orthodox Christian service on Easter yesterday. The language of the service was primarily Aramaic, the language that Jesus himself spoke. The altar area was filled with richly robed men, including two old ones with beards and close fitting cowls who are the last remaining Patriarchs of this tiny sect.

The church itself was built in 569 AD. Christians in this group say that Peter himself founded the churches here. The fittings were simple and "primitive" but lovely. The chanted service was mostly a drone in Aramaic sung on one hand by the priests at the altar and on the other hand by a group of lace-scarved young virgins standing to the left front of the congregation below the altar podium area. But the sound that sent shivers down my spine came when the patriarch stepped out from a side door in a procession to carry the red wrapped cross around the congregation. As the patriarch appeared, a loud ululation broke out from the old women behind me and was picked up by all the women who sat on the left side of the church. The men who otherwise dominated the service sat in front and on the right in silence while the women greeted the risen Christ with their wild, strange call of celebration.


Images on paintings and wall hangings showed Jesus on the cross, the last supper, a saint on a horse vanquishing a dragon, the virgin and child and church

fathers. Imagery that intrigued me included the dominant image of a dove, a lamb with a shepherd's crook. The richest cross held by the chief patriarch was a ruby studded small gold cross at the top of a spiral staff flanked by the heads of two serpents with open mouths. The solid gold serpents faced the cross and dominated it in size and energy. It reminded me of Hermes caduceus, a healing image?

This is a town of honey colored stone hugging the sides of a hill and the dominant language spoken here is Arabic. A ruined castle on top is now populated by the Turkish military as a watch post. From Mardin one can look far out over the fertile Mesopotamian plain all the way down into Syria and Iraq. I am surprised by how green and rich this place is, watered by newly abundant irrigation canals. The people here are palpably relieved that the fighting between Kurdish militants and Turkish troops that has gripped this region through the last decade has abated in the last two or three years. They are so eager to be able to have an ordinary life.

Violence has many faces here in Turkey, as in all places. The women here now seem to be on the bottom of a pecking order that is as old as history and full of machinations for power and bloody changes of tyrants. Nearly everyone in history seems to have taken a turn at being the ruler of this place, and all the while the women have stayed invisible to this history. There are signs that they want to have a part in the story now. Women have founded a couple of NGOs here. They are funded primarily by the European Union.

A change that could shift a current at least three millennia old may be beginning to flow. Who knows. Only time will tell. Perhaps a very, very long time.

Editor's Note: Read an article recently published in Turkey that highlights Leyla's work at: [www.today-szaman.com/tz-web/news-213160-american-therapist-calls-solidarity-of-turkish-women-remarkable.html](http://www.today-szaman.com/tz-web/news-213160-american-therapist-calls-solidarity-of-turkish-women-remarkable.html)> Email her at: Leyla <[leylawelkin@gmail.com](mailto:leylawelkin@gmail.com)> 



# Mark and Nancy's European Adventure

By Mark Kinney

This spring, we were invited to come to Paris and visit our niece, Linley and her family. Soon we began to expand our itinerary through various invitations from European friends. Katona Zsolt invited us to Norway to go skiing where our son Bill and his friend Carolyn joined us. He and Angela took us cross-country and downhill skiing and we toured a Forestry museum.

Then we flew to Split, Croatia, for a chartered boat in the land of sunshine, mountains and the Adriatic Sea. On Easter Sunday we sailed to Palmizana, then on to Vis and dinner at a Croatian "Konoba," with fresh fish grilled over an open fire. Back to Palmizana and finally Hvar and then off for a glorious sail to Stari Grad, in one of Croatia's UNESCO Heritage sites, Vrboska, Brac and back to Split. Pictures are at: <http://kinneyreunion.org/zenphoto/croatiasailing/>.

In Szeged, Hungary we stayed with Csapo Beno and Toth Vilma; visited the largest Jewish Synagogue in Europe and went to a baroque concert. Mark attended a conference for professors involved in educational evaluation and accountability, while Nancy learned to do Hungarian Kalocsa embroidery. In Budapest we visited Huba Bruckner, the Fulbright Director, and Jo Marianna, and saw the "Degas to Picasso" exhibition and the Szeged Contemporary Dance Company.

Friend, Istvan took us to see his non-profit health bus which was offering free blood tests, diabetes tests, blood pressure and other screenings (a great possibility for a Lisle seed grant?) We went to Eger (our home in 2005-06); explored the Eger castle and the "Beautiful Women Valley," and visited our old friend and College Rector Hauser Zoltan at his wine cellar. Mark took a swim at the 50m pool (one of his favorite places in Eger); we met friends from the college and revisited our favorite sweet shop.

Meanwhile, the Eyjafjallajökull volcano (which had kept our niece and family in Paris rather than Hungary), was still causing frustration and airports remained closed. On our flight day to Paris, it looked as if Easy Jet was a "go." For the first time in a week their Paris-Budapest flight arrived and the reverse flight

was noted as "scheduled" rather than "cancelled." We checked our reservation and discovered there was NO reservation for April 22<sup>nd</sup>—it was for March 22<sup>nd</sup> instead! This was our only mistake in planning, and here timing was absolutely critical because of an unplanned volcano eruption! Luckily our friend Marianna got us a last minute ticket to Paris. Long story short—we flew out only 2 ½ hours later than scheduled (minus many Euros, but happy nevertheless!)

Back in Paris, we enjoyed the Champs Elysees, the Louvre with Mona Lisa, Tuileries Gardens, the Place de la Concorde and the musical instrument museum. We went to Versailles, Notre Dame, the Ile de la Cite, and Amboise in the Loire valley and had an African meal made by friends from Cote d'Ivoire. Finally, we returned to Chicago to see Bill and attend the Lisle board meeting. A busy but successful trip! 📷



The Croatia sailor, Beno, Vilma, Mark, Petra, Jean-Paul and Nancy



Mark and Nancy with two of their colleagues during Mark's Fulbright year, Eva and Zsolt, from Eger, Hungary



## Francis, Claire & Me

By Dianne Brause

I just returned from a lovely trip to Europe, with a week in Assisi, Italy where St. Francis and St. Claire lived in the 1200's. Assisi is a small town that has retained an amazing medieval flavor, despite its thousands of visitors, some as tourists, some as Pilgrims like ourselves. Its streets are narrow and curving, bounded by the outer stone walls of the houses within. Window boxes or inner courtyards are flush with flowers, which give off intoxicating aromas at night. The shops open onto the street and tend to have quality items, often made locally.

Our group learned about St. Francis and St. Claire, and proceeded to walk the hills to the locations of important events in their lives. It was in the same dormitory where St. Claire slept and died at San Damiano that I was awarded a set of beads, which signified that I have completed all

of my credited class work and now "only" have to write my dissertation to receive my PhD in Wisdom Studies! In France, I audited a class at Chartres Cathedral. This is where, 1000 years ago, the most prestigious school of learning in Europe was begun. This year we studied the sacred knowledge underlying numbers and geometry and took part in ceremonies in the crypt below the current cathedral and walked the Labyrinth to candlelit ancient music.

What a wonderful way to learn! 📖



Dianne is dressed to receive her "Graduation Beads."

## John & Mary in the Far East

By John Kachuba

John Kachuba and Mary Newman recently returned from a month-long trip to Singapore, Vietnam and Cambodia. Mary's sister lives in Singapore so the couple stayed with her. John had the opportunity to give a lecture on historical fiction at the National University of Singapore.

The highlight of their trip was the marriage of their son Matt to Loan Nguyen in the Cao Dai Temple in Tay Ninh, Vietnam. Matt was the first westerner ever married in the temple, which is regarded as the Holy See of the Cao Dai faith. John and Mary stayed with Loan and Matt in her parents' house, which allowed them to really experience Vietnam as natives, rather than tourists. 📍



John and Mary are to the immediate left of the bridal couple, Matt and Loan her parents Phuong and Noi are to the right of the couple.

# Pointers for Digital Cameras

By Dick McRill

I have been helping Elise do the photos for *Interaction* for the last two issues; having 45 years in photography and 22 years with a camera business, I have a few suggestions that may help you take better pictures, both for your own enjoyment and for publication in *Interaction*.

There are several kinds of general photography styles, among them are snap shots, fine art photos, and news photos. News photos tell a story. Think about the 1950s news photographers and how they scurried around news-worthy locations, large eye-blinding flashes going off all the time. Those flashes helped reveal details in the scene that the camera would have missed, either because it was too dark or the light was too contrasty.

*Interaction* photos are considered news photos, and even when using the ubiquitous “smart” digital cameras, the flashes make a world of difference in whether I can use your photos for publication. What I am finding is that most of the photos are shot without a flash. I can’t “improve” those photos enough for the newsletter.

So, here are a few quick tips to help you get the most out of your digital camera.

**Flash.** Whether you have a point & shoot camera or the most expensive DSLR, your results will be greatly improved if you “turn your flash on.” This is not the same as “auto flash.” Rather, it is “force flash,” which is the icon with the little lightning bolt. Whether inside or outside, this will help bring depth and detail to your photo.

**Movement.** Use both hands to hold your camera steady. Even though your camera may be small, using both hands will stabilize the shot, especially if your camera is trying to set a slow shutter speed in the “auto” mode. Set the shutter speed for 1/60 second, minimum.

**Lighting.** New digital camera meters look at the entire scene and meter accordingly. If the subject is in front of a window or there is a light source in the photo, it will bias the meter, thereby darkening the photo. The flash will fill this in with light and equalize the scene.

**Subject.** Ask yourself, “What is the “main story” for this picture?” Be sure you “fill the frame” with your “story” by getting in physically close or zooming in. Also, put yourself on the same level as your subject, rather than taking the shot from above.

Enjoy your new photographs! 📷

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## Photographs for Interaction

By Elise Kimmons

Here are a few guidelines for submitting photos from your digital camera for possible inclusion in *Interaction*.

1. Please clean your camera lens often!
2. Photos taken by cell phones are unsuitable.
3. Move the original photo files directly from your digital camera or card into a folder on your computer. Do not upload them to a site and send me a link. Photo sharing sites reduce file sizes which load fast, but are low resolution and poor quality for printing.
3. Do not utilize any of the photo manipulation software programs before sending them to me.
4. Select photos that have a specific point of interest, smiles, activities, etc. Avoid those pictures that

are: the backs of heads, mouths full of food, and wide landscapes with no focal point.

5. Write captions for each picture you send. Names, location, activity are all important information that *Interaction* readers enjoy knowing.

6. Email me several of your best pictures. I will select the best of those, and place the ones that fit with the article and within the space available.

7. If your server doesn’t want to send them, try sending them one at a time. If that does not work, you can burn a CD and mail it to me.

Following these suggestions will result in better photos for me to use, and bring a vibrancy to our newsletter. 📷

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- 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 bi-annual newsletter, Interaction

\_\_\_\_\_  
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## Items for Sale

- Oral Histories from 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD \$10 ea. \_\_\_\_\_
- Lisle History DVD \$15 ea. \_\_\_\_\_
- 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirt -or- Bookbag \$ 5 ea. \_\_\_\_\_
- Current Lisle Directory \$20 ea. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tiger by the Tail**, the history of Lisle \$25 ea. \_\_\_\_\_
- Aunt Edna-50 Years of Memories**, \$ 8 ea. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## *Upcoming Meetings*

<i>Fall Annual Meeting</i>	<i>November 5-7, 2010</i>	<i>San Francisco, CA</i>
<i>Spring Board Meeting</i>	<i>May 6-8, 2011</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
<i>Fall Annual Meeting</i>	<i>September 16-19, 2011</i>	<i>Washington, DC</i>