

Lisle

Interaction

WINTER ISSUE • 2008

“Global Seed Fund”

A New Name and Three New Grant Recipients

By Betsy Bridwell

At the October Annual Meeting in Boston, the Lisle Board of Directors agreed on a new name for the Lisle Mini-Grant program. The idea was brought to the board by Marty Tillman, and everyone agreed that the name more inspiringly reflected the vision of what Lisle is trying to do. Our goal is to assist organizations that can benefit from a small amount of seed money, to develop new ideas and build on projects in the arena of cross-cultural understanding and peace-building.

For 2007, our fourth round of grant awards, the board is pleased to announce funding for three exciting projects.

THE MOUNTAIN CHILDREN’S FORUM

Lisle’s 2007 grant to the Mountain Children’s Forum (MCF) will allow the MCF to expand its work with young people in rural mountain communities in

a new and exciting way. This proposal was facilitated by Sharada Nayak and the Educational Resources Centre (ERC).

Through a series of nine workshops in different parts of the North Indian state of Uttarakhand, the MCF will expose young people in those communities to the concepts of collective action and local engagement. Each workshop will engage about 30 children, aged 12–18.

The MCF focuses on a broad range of issues, including education, health, agriculture, environment, and disaster preparedness. But its primary focus has always been on developing leadership, communication skills, and self confidence in children, breaking down traditional barriers of gender, caste, religion, etc., and helping young people find ways to improve their lives and their villages through direct action.

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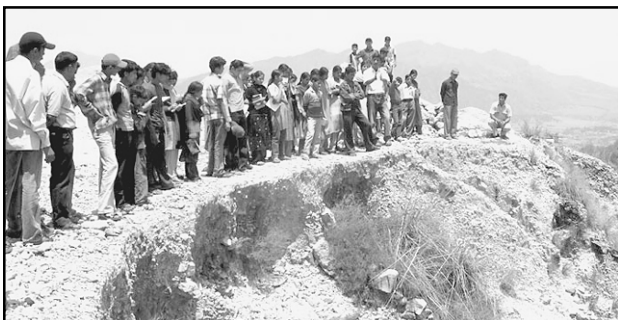
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A North Indian youth helps serve rice to other children in a rural mountain area.

Although community engagement has always been a central focus of the MCF's work and workshops have always been one of our most effective tools, we have never before had the opportunity to focus our resources in this way. These workshops will use the medium of games and group activities to tap the energy and excitement of young people and help focus it on improving their communities.

In rural mountain villages, where the needs are so great and the resources so few, the young people have shown themselves to be a dynamic force for change. Driven by the inherent revolutionary tendencies of youth, children are not as bound by tradition and so are willing to reconsider prevailing beliefs—such as the idea that boys are better than girls—and shake off the debilitating apathy that makes people think they are helpless to improve their circumstances.



Conference participants stand at the top of an eroded hillside at an abandoned manganese mine in Pithoragarh as the director of the Pithoragarh Disaster Mitigation and Management Cell explains the risk of landslides and what local communities can do to identify and prevent such risks.

Yet this resource usually remains untapped because, before the children can become engaged in improving their communities, they must first learn to believe in themselves and understand the importance of respecting and working with others. That is the purpose of these workshops.

We have also discovered that one of the most powerful motivators for the children is having people listen to their ideas and show an interest in what they are trying to do. That is what makes this grant all the more unique. The first workshop will coincide with a visit by a small group of Lisle board members and friends, who will participate actively in the workshop. It will undoubtedly be a fun and unique experience for the Lislers. But for the children, its impact can be momentous: these young lives are often defined by the borders of their small, rural villages. Through this interaction they will have an opportunity to see a world far vaster than they have imagined and, even more importantly, they will have the amazing, empowering knowledge that someone from so far away actually *cares* about them and what they are doing.

Another powerful feature of this project is the planned follow-up. Until now the MCF has measured its work by the number of partners and children it reaches. However, through these nine workshops and the support for following up with each individual community, Lisle is providing the MCF with a rare opportunity to actually measure how the ideas and concepts discussed in the workshops are turned by the children into action and results in their villages.

CHINTAN-INDIA ORGANIZATION

The Chintan-India Organization's mission is to facilitate the participation and cooperation of all sectors of society in the empowerment of their communities, and to advocate for local and national policies that ensure social equity and environmental safeguarding.

Under the sponsorship of Lisle mentor Sharada Nayak, Project Director Lavanya Marla will work with a group of approximately 80 poor Muslim women trash-pickers in marginal parts of Delhi. Most of these women are from conservative Muslim backgrounds, working in a predominantly Hindu society. The goal of the project is focused on fundamentally transforming the women's lives through a paradigm shift in how



they see themselves and in developing their collective strength. It also provokes the broader community to change their attitudes towards these women. There will be an impact on local government agents—the police and municipal officials—helping them understand the many faces of poverty and positive change as the women interact with them.

The organization will hire a trainer to devote time to work exclusively with these women to develop cooperation and leadership in exercising their rights and improving their lives. Activities include:

- ♦ training, self-assessment, and visioning workshops to build a core group with rules, responsibilities and a plan;
- ♦ linking the women with nearby sources of waste that can be collected for immediate results and to test the ability to work as a team;
- ♦ training in legal literacy and assisting them in working with the police to create mutual confidence;
- ♦ helping the women identify other service-based livelihood opportunities (e.g., paper recycling, contracted waste pick-up) and training them to undertake such options.

The end result of this project will hopefully be improved livelihoods, a more secure work environment and less harassment from the police. Ideally, this model can then be replicated by both Chintan and the women themselves to increase the capacity of such work.

SOCCER WITHOUT BORDERS (SWB) AND BEYOND SPORT INCORPORATED (BSI)

“Girls Got Goals” is a joint project of the above two organizations. BSI is a Zambian grassroots, youth-led nonprofit organization whose mission is to use sport for social development and community organization. SWB is a grassroots nonprofit organization based in San Francisco developed to use soccer as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of marginalized youth.

Deirdre Murphy, the project director, is a relative of Walt and Betty Ligon, who are acting as Lisle mentors for this project. The mission of the Girls Got Goals program is to provide integrated soccer and life-skills training to female youth in Monze, Zambia, as a tool for individual and community development. Sport

serves not only as an invaluable tool for social integration, but also provides a platform to discuss a variety of crucial life skills such as communication, team-building, health and decision-making. By targeting the involvement of girls and women in sport, the project will promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Lisle funding will help build the initial infrastructure for the Girls Got Goals program, supporting the SWB facilitators to bring their expertise in community development through sport to Zambia. They will work with local BSI staff to train female coaches and implement sports education programs. Girls Got Goals will focus on young women ages 9–18: the curriculum will target ages 9–13, while those 14–18 will be trained as coaches, peer educators and mentors for the younger group. The initial project, starting in October 2007, will involve a core group of 50 young women and 20 peer educators/coaches. By January 2008, local leaders will run the program, which will continue indefinitely with ongoing support from SWB and BSI, engaging 500 young women in the first year.

Once this program is established, an additional objective is to facilitate a cultural exchange between girls soccer team in Tennessee that will sponsor a team in Zambia. There will be a multimedia exchange (letters, photographs, and videos) as well as service opportunities for other girl’s teams in the U.S. to positively impact their peers in Zambia. 🌐



SWB conducts a group exercise at a Girls Sports Camp. Photo courtesy of the Soccer Without Borders website: <www.soccerwithoutborders.org>



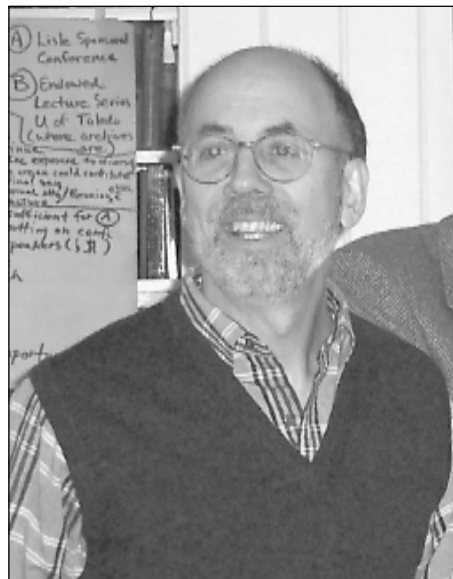
President's Message

Happy New Year! Let me extend best wishes to all for a more peaceful year around the world and express my personal wish for a more positive and inclusive year with respect to what I believe will be one of the most important national elections in recent memory.

There is good news to report as Lisle enters its 72nd year! It has to do with the importance and impact of our newly named Global Seed Grant Fund in relation to Lisle's mission and purpose. Now entering our fifth grant cycle, we have demonstrated evidence of the success of the grant program as measured by its direct impact on organizations and the individuals they serve in their local communities in the U.S. and overseas.

The Fund represents a new way for Lisle to contribute on many levels to individual development, community change, and intercultural education. The Board's Grant Review Committee spends a lot of its time each year in working with grantees to revise and improve their submissions and clarify that their objectives are in sync with Lisle's mission. We actively support proposals which articulate intentions to positively affect individuals, create opportunities to educate citizens about local, national and global issues, work to improve their community, and promote greater tolerance and understanding on an interpersonal and international level.

Evaluations by past grantees have provided the Board with evidence of success in realizing goals in the above areas. You'll read about and see photos of some of our grantees in this issue. I'd like to urge Lislers and friends to help us reach out to nonprofit organizations doing good work around the world and in your own communities.



Marty Tillman, Our Board President

To date, our budget has allowed us to make grants each year which range from \$500–\$3,000 and between \$9,000–\$12,000 in total. If you actively work with an organization which meets our goals, or you can put us in touch with a friend who does, we'd like to hear from you! We know that our seed dollars are now growing!! Help us to help others continue their good works in their communities. Were you in Peace Corps? What about your "Friends of..." organizations and the networks linking you back to your country? Let's plant more seeds of peace and social change. Write to me at: <mjtillman47@aol.com>. Go to our web site for examples of current and past projects at: <www.lisleinternational.org>.

With best wishes,

Marty

Leaded glass window transom from an historic home in Illinois.



Executive Director's Report

I just got back from the annual meeting in Boston. We had a very productive, if small group. One highlight of the meeting was the report of last year's Jamaica computer project by James Burke. It is always so rewarding to hear first hand how much the Lisle grant has provided as a seed for the projects. This is the report we are now hearing regularly. The little Lisle funding has helped several projects go out and collect more funds in order to complete the opportunity which the project represents.

For me, this year has been spent working to make sure that the Mini-Grant cycle of funding (now re-named the Global Seed Fund) was completed successfully, working to keep the website updated, and visiting the New York land.

The Mini-Grant committee worked very smoothly this year. We had a total of five applicants to select from, which was a smaller set of applicants than in the past. What surprises me is the amount of effort which is expended by the grant committee to manage the process each year. I spend quite a bit of time answering questions, interacting with applicants to make sure their applications are complete, posting information to the website etc. All this to continue a very successful Lisle effort. It definitely is worth it.

It continues to be exciting that we are getting interest from our grant recipients for Lislors to participate with them. That is the reason for the Lisle trip to India which is scheduled for early January. Those of us going are enthusiastic about the visit. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me to serve on the committee: <mark.kinney@utoledo.edu> or call me at: 989-595-3667.

Nancy and I also visited the Lisle land in New York during August. It was a great trip during which I visited with David Evans and his wife. The four of us walked the property, and with the use of my GPS was able to see where the corners of the lot are and what the make-up of the trees on the property are like. This trip will result in a renewed effort to market the property as well as a request to the township to reassess the prop-



Mark Kinney, Our Executive Director

erty, since it has become clear that the land surrounding the land was recently sold for much less than the assessment which currently exists

Several exciting choices have become available because of the work done on the 70th anniversary. Lisle now has a DVD, *The History of Lisle International*. This 115 minute DVD has the film, *Lisle Fellowship* of the 1952-53 units, and the VHS Tapes, *The Baldwins* from 1982, and *Spring Message from Uncle Si* from 1993. In addition we now have a new DVD of 14 different Lislors who attended the 70th celebration reminiscing about what Lisle means to them. Their stories are very, very interesting. Purchases can be made through the Lisle office. (*See form on pg. 31*)

I have been working to keep the Lisle website up to date. We continue to work to make this a valuable resource for Lislors. The website at: <www.lisleinternational.org> has information about the history of Lisle, the current Lisle Interaction, current information about upcoming activities, information about our grantees, etc. It just has a wealth of information.

Lisle continues to be a vibrant force for bringing people together across cultures. With your support we continue the legacy for many more decades.

Mark



Annual Meeting in Boston

By Barbara Bratton, Acting Secretary

The Annual Meeting was held at the Walker Center in Boston on October 18–21. We had a very small group this year and missed all who were unable to attend. The meeting was chaired by Marty Tillman with Board Members Jon Findley, Mark Kinney, Barb Bratton, Bill Kinney and Gail Bier attending. Lislers Lori Bratton, Nancy Kinney, Betsy Bridwell and Sam Baker were welcome attendees. James Burke also joined us for the entire weekend and gave us a terrific report on the Jamaican/Computer project he ran last year with Lisle sponsorship. An acquaintance of James' through the Jamaican school, Alan May, came on Friday and shared his work in Jamaica and the interesting blend of ideas from his NGO and James' project that are coming together to educate some Jamaican students and teachers in computer technology.

The primary work of the meeting was to discuss the five grant applications. The grant committee receives and evaluates the applications; works with the mentors and the applicants; and recommends funding to the Board of Directors. The Board elected to grant

three organizations: \$3,000 to the Mountain Children's Foundation in India (a repeat recipient), \$3,000 to the Chintan-India organization and \$3,000 to Soccers without Borders in Zambia.

Reports were received on last year's recipients and we were pleased to have the head of the Jamaican/Seattle project on hand for a personal and lively report.

Committee reports regarding finances, grant committee reorganization, New Generation

Fund, the Lisle property, and "Take a Lisle to lunch" challenge were discussed and are reported in greater depth in other articles.

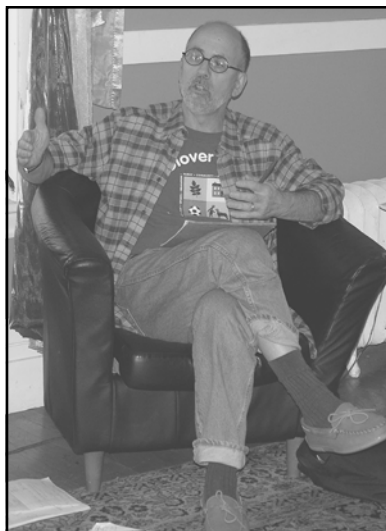
The Class of 2010 Board members was elected by the general membership with Smita Patel becoming a new board member, John Kachuba, Mary Newman

and Jon Findley renewing their board commitment for another three years. Associate Member James Burke was added to the Board. "Associate Member" is a program established a few years ago as a "Board

Member in Training" position. An Associate Member does not vote on the Board but is included in all conversations during the year and will take on various jobs as the spirit moves them. The program anticipates that



Nancy Kinney and Gail Bier pose at the Walker Center, surrounded by gorgeous fall foliage.



Marty Tillman conducts a discussion during the meeting.



Barb Bratton beams at being honored for her tireless service.



these persons will be able to move onto the Board at some point when their lives allow for a greater time commitment.

Motions approved: three grants for \$3,000 each; changed name to Global Seed Fund; Ligon Award given; and 2007/8 Budget. Trial period approved for \$2,000 carry forward grant amount with the freedom to spend within this budget cycle with a minimal application process. Work was completed, discussions were held and then the fun began!



James Burke and his artistically carved "Lisle" pumpkin.

We all took the MTA to Boston Commons on Saturday evening. There was a Pumpkin Festival being held and, along with the Red Sox playing that night, the place was jumping! Over 32,000 carved pumpkins were lit up and on display. There were lots of activities for children but we were only able to

talk James into participating and he carved a LISLE pumpkin to add to the multitudes.

A wonderful dinner was held at Durkin Park and Barbara was awarded (and very pleased to receive) the Ligon Service Award.



The Lisle Crew at the Durkin Park restaurant.

Air congestion in the northeast, storms in Chicago and Washington DC conspired to make transportation to this meeting a nightmare. Almost everyone had a delayed flight—Bill and James arrived from Chicago at 1:30 on Thursday night, Gail got in from Tennessee 10:30PM on Friday and Marty's flight from D.C. boarded at 7:00PM and didn't get off the runway until midnight—



Betsy Bridwell is ready for lobster! Gail Bier smiles to her right.

having him arriving at the Walker Center in the dark and the rain at 2:30AM. The Board will be reconsidering the "moving" annual meeting at the next Board Meeting. We are concerned about the cost in time and money for all Board members to join at a different city every October. If you have any thoughts, pro or con, on this issue, we would love to hear from you at the office by mail or email.

The 71st Annual meeting was adjourned Sunday 10/21 at 11:00AM with a closing circle. 🌐



Mark and Nancy Kinney in front of the wall of carved Jack o'lanterns.



Board Development

By Marty Tillman

We are very pleased with the sustaining support of current Board members who provide us with an anchor to Lisle's past and creative energy to widen our activities in the future. At the Fall annual meeting, we added a representative of the Mountain Children's Forum, a former Seed Fund grantee, Smita Patel, to the Board. This marks a turning point in the young history of the grant program—the first time we have made a link between our new grant program with Lisle's governance.

We also added James Burke, who initiated the work of 2006 grantee, the Jamaican Teacher Computer Lab Program, as an Associate Member of the Board. I'm excited about building these bridges as we identify new ways to involve grantees with our ongoing management and oversight of the grant program.

The Board meets twice a year, always in Chicago in Spring and another city for the Annual Fall Meeting. Want to join us? It's great fun as we work to strengthen the Global Seed Fund. We need your active support on the Board! Write Marty Tillman to discuss your interest. 🌐

Add Quality to the Lisle Archives

By Mark Kinney

Many of us have lots in our collections from our memorable Lisle experiences. You can help in two ways: you can clean out part of your house and contribute to the researchable historical collection of Lisle materials.

So what should you think of donating to Lisle? The focus should be on donating what will be useful for researching the organization. Therefore, materials such as identified photographs, scrapbooks, diaries and letters of those who were in Lisle programs, videos of interviews with participants, etc. Materials such as agendas and invitations are often helpful. One-page recollections of your experiences are welcome. Common memorabilia like notes on napkins and nametags, is not useful for research, and probably has more relevance to you than to the collection.

Should you want to see if an artifact that you have is still needed within the archive collection, please go to the Lisle website: <www.lisleinternational.org>, and look at the UT Archive listing there.

Please send the materials directly to Barbara Floyd; Carlson Library; Attn: Lisle Archives; 2801 W. Bancroft; Toledo OH 43606. 🌐

Our New Statement of Purpose

Lisle is committed to broadening the ideal of a global community and increasing the appreciation of all cultures. It does so by bringing together persons of diverse religious, cultural, sexual, political, and racial backgrounds to interact with each other, and to reflect upon their experiences. Lisle is committed to an educational process which emphasizes cooperative, democratic leadership and participation.

Lisle supports organizations and individuals that demonstrate diverse cultural and racial decision-making, planning, and administration. Lisle supports intercultural learning experiences in which participants enhance their communication skills, discover greater tolerance for different ideas, and gain greater respect for all life. Lisle supports projects that result in resolving conflicts, community building, and increased self-knowledge." 🌐



Financial Report

By Barbara Bratton, Treasurer

Lisle's fiscal year financial statement of 10/1/2006 through 9/30/2007 has been completed. I would be happy to mail a copy of the Financial Statement and Form 990EZ to any Lisle member who is interested in our overall financial situation. Please email a request to: <lisle2@io.com>.

Lisle assets at the end of the year have a fair market value of \$249,772.75. This compares with a FMV of \$223,267 as of 9/30/2006 and \$217,233 as of 9/30/2005. There are three reasons for our growth in assets.

Primarily, we have been blessed with gifts from the wills of Muriel Carlson and Edith Ballard. Muriel left us \$10,000 in her will and Edith left us \$5,000. We always receive these gifts with mixed feelings—gratitude that they felt such a connection with Lisle during their lifetimes that they remembered us after death—but also we miss their company and connection and wish we could have told them in person how very, very grateful we are for these remembrances. To all of you who have listed us in your wills, please know that we will treat these funds with the utmost respect and gratitude and do our best to have Lisle impact the future to the same extent that it has impacted your lives.

Secondly, our return on investments was significantly higher than we budgeted. During 2006, I was

neglectful of Lisle funds and allowed them to languish too long in poor return investments. The finance committee reviewed our portfolio and reinvested the funds. Our return from the money market accounts was excellent—we hope the current downturn in the market won't reverse these gains in 2008.

Finally, we budgeted \$9,900 for grants and only awarded \$8,500. We had a tentative award for which we requested more information. When the organization failed to respond, the grant money was returned to the budget.

Income from dues was down this year so we encourage everyone to read and respond to the membership mailing going out in December. There are no preexisting conditions to being a member of Lisle. Your interest in the work that we do is the only requirement. We hope everyone will respond to the membership mailing, whether or not you are able to enclose a contribution. This will keep your address updated for the Interaction and allow you to keep learning about the grants that are awarded with the Global Seed Fund. Perhaps you will be moved to nominate one of your pet projects for a grant and be willing to add yourselves to the list of Lisle members who have been willing to mentor another small non-profit to spread the goals and ideals set forth 70 years ago with the beginning of Lisle! 🌐

Future Meetings

By Barbara Bratton

The Spring Board meeting will be held May 2–4, 2008 in Chicago, IL. We will meet again at the downtown youth hostel which has excellent, clean rooms in dormitory style with as few as four per room. The cost is very reasonable for downtown Chicago, but hotels are also available in the area.

A mailing will be sent in March to the surrounding states to encourage member participation.

The next Annual Meeting will be held in Austin, Texas October 17–19, 2008. Current plans are to meet with interested students at Southwestern University in Georgetown in order to explain Lisle's history and mission and attempt to generate new participation in Lisle's future.

Spring, 2009 we'll be back in Chicago for the Board Meeting. Venues are being researched for the Fall, 2009 Annual Meeting. 🌐



Charitable Donation = Tax Benefit

By Bill Kinney

Do you ever wonder if there is a way to donate to Lisle other than writing a check? Many traditional Individual Retirement Account (“IRA”) owners know they must take a required minimum distribution (“RMD”) from their IRA beginning when the owner reaches the age of 70 and in certain other situations. A new provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 enables an IRA owner to make a direct charitable donation of their required minimum distribution which can also qualify for an income tax deduction.

IRA owners may want to preserve as much value as possible in their IRA in order to maximize the tax-sheltered growth of the account balance. An IRA owner may take only the required minimum preserving the total balance of the IRA. By making a charitable contribution using an IRA RMD, an IRA owner can also qualify for an income tax deduction for up to \$100,000 of the amounts donated to charity.

The process of donating an IRA RMD to charity requires that the IRA owner direct the custodian of his IRA to make a qualified charitable donation in an amount equal to, at least the IRA owners RMD for that tax year. Following this process allows the individual to satisfy the RMD rules without adding the RMD amount to taxable gross income, for up to \$100,000 distributed to charity for tax years 2006 and 2007. It is important to note that if a benefit is received, or the donor did not obtain sufficient documentation of the donation from the charitable organization, the exclusion from taxable income and the charitable donation may be disallowed by the IRS.

In summary, if you wish to proceed with this strategy you need to make a direct transfer to a qualified charity of an amount more than or equal to your IRA RMD. You can claim a tax deduction for amounts up to \$100,000 if you obtain the proper documentation from the charity. You must not receive a substantial gift in return for your donation and currently you can only use this strategy for the 2006

A Lasting Gift to Lisle

By Marty Tillman

Why have I decided to leave a gift to Lisle in my will? I recognize that I’m in a somewhat unique situation as I did not participate in a program or “unit” while I was in college. As readers know, I met the Baldwins in my late 20’s and decided to accept an offer to work for Lisle to renew its campus outreach activities after leading a summer unit in DC in 1976. Then I spent the next seven years working full-time for Lisle. About fifteen years later I decided to join the Lisle Board.

There are a few organizations which have measurably influenced my personal and professional life: Lisle is definitely one of them. That succinctly sums up my criteria in deciding to place Lisle in my will. I believe in the direction that we are now taking and I’d like to know that my small gift will assist Lisle to carry on its work in the world.

Knowing Lisle as I have over the past 30 years, I trust that individuals with strong moral and ethical values will act as stewards of the organization’s assets.

If you are in a position to do so, and if you feel that Lisle deserves to be remembered in this special way, please consider making a gift to Lisle in your will. Contact the office in Texas and request a brochure with more detailed information. If you have questions, contact our able Treasurer, Barbara Bratton, at: (800) 477-1538. 🌐

and 2007 tax years. When making a direct donation from an IRA account to your favorite charity, such as Lisle, you create a win-win situation: your favorite charity benefits and you generate tax advantages for yourself and your family. 🌐



Barbara Bratton Receives the 2007 Ligon Award

By Betty and Walt Ligon

It was at a meeting of friends of ours to discuss world affairs that we first met Barbara Bratton. There was general unanimity among our opinions about the problems of the world. Barbara Bratton stood out for her independent thinking. She agreed with most of us most of the time, but also raised thoughtful questions.

A year or so later we handed Barbara a Lisle brochure and asked if it was something she might be interested in. She responded positively. We nominated her for the Lisle Board of Directors. At the first meeting she attended which was at Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, TX in 1996 she pitched in, brought a computer and printer for our use, and greatly helped our decision making. Wow! A real treasure had been found.

Best of all, Barb is a skilled and competent accountant. She willingly took on the task of straightening out our finances, accepted the nomination for President in October 1997, moved the Lisle office to Leander, TX in January 1998, resigned as President but took the job of Treasurer in October 1999, and has continued with that job up to the present. 🌐



*Barbara Bratton and her daughter, Lori
posing with the Ligon Awards.*

Lisle – On-Line and In Touch

By Jon Findley

Lisle has always been in the forefront of looking for new ways to reach out to those who might benefit from the Lisle philosophy and methodology. Our entry into the age of electronics was no exception. In the 1980s, Belvin Williams computerized the Lisle membership list so that mailing labels for Interaction mailings to recruiting contacts could be printed from a mainframe computer.

Later, Patty Hill with the help of her father, Brooks, transferred these files to an early Apple desktop computer. Then, in the mid 1990s, Jon Findley developed the first Web page for Lisle. Today, Mark Kinney maintains an extensive and detailed record of past and present Lisle activities on a Web with our own domain name <www.lisleinternational.org>.

At the 2007 annual meeting, Lori Bratton and Jon Findley took the latest step when they opened a portal site for Lisle on FaceBook on the Web. Sites like this make it possible for an organization to communicate easily with its members and for those members to pass information about Lisle on to family, friends and other people who might be interested in Lisle.

Since Lisle no longer grows each year by organizing its own summer units as it did for 65 years, it is important that Lisle finds new ways to reach out to the world and increase the circle of those who understand the work we are doing and want to support that work with their time as well as their financial resources. We hope that efforts like this will support and accelerate our transition to a revitalized organization that is addressing the world as we know it today using the most modern tools to do it.

If you want to join Lisle on FaceBook, go to <www.facebook.com>. You must first become a member and join a “network” which might be the city where you live or a college or university. Lisle is a “group” which you can find by using the search function. Send a message to the Lisle group so we will know you have joined. 🌐



Lisle Mini-Grant Cycle for 2008

By Mark Kinney

We have now moved through the awarding of four years of Lisle Mini-Grants. The fifth year grant cycle will remain substantially the same as the previous ones. While some minor date adjustments may be made, the Lisle Board expects that grant applications for 2008 will be available beginning in June. Applications must be submitted by the 1st of September, with awards being announced during the Annual Meeting in the fall. The next Global Seed Fund grant cycle will be from November 1, 2008– October 31, 2009. During the first year that Lisle awarded Mini-Grants (2004), we awarded three grants. The 2005 cycle of awards were given to five applicants. During 2006 we awarded three grants and again in 2007, we have made three awards.

So, how does the Board make its decisions regarding grant awards? The Board has assigned a subcommittee comprising three to four members who are responsible for reading and rating each grant application. Following receipt of all applications, the committee takes several weeks to review proposals. At the same time, Mark Kinney is in communication with the lead contact person for each proposal to insure that all questions have been fully answered. If members of the committee do have questions, the grant writer is provided an opportunity to clarify their answers or more fully explain any aspect of their proposal. The committee members then objectively rate and discuss each application using a very professional scoring procedure. We therefore try hard to intentionally create an honest dialogue with each applicant to be certain we fully understand their intent and need for Lisle funding. The committee then makes a recommendation to the board which determines the grant awards at the time of the Annual Meeting in the fall.

The Lisle Board looks forward to receiving interesting applications in 2008. Should you have questions about the process, go the Lisle homepage, look to the left, mouse over “Grants”, and then click on “About mini-grants.” If you would like to discuss a proposal idea for a grant, contact me at <mark.kinney@utoledo.edu>. 🌐

Calling all Lislers!

We want *Interaction* to be the voice of Lislers everywhere and a way to share both important personal & professional notes with members around the world. Please submit your creative endeavors that relate to Lisle’s influence in your life for inclusion in upcoming issues. You don’t have to be a writer, poet, artist or professional photographer to qualify!

Try your hand at writing a memory of a Lisle experience that touched you deeply. Look back in a trip diary for that bit of poetry you were inspired to write. Thumb through your sketchbook for an image that captured a moment while on a Lisle journey. Pull out that box of old photos and choose a few that bring back sweet memories of a Lisle trip outside your familiar environs. You *are* allowed to toot your horn, especially if your avocation or career was jump-started by the transformative influence of a Lisle Unit.

The mission and goals of Lisle live on: tell us about how you have affected the global community and increased the appreciation of all cultures. (*See the grey box on page 30 for submission information.*) 🌐



Tunisia: Ali, the youngest Bedouin guide, strides across a dune. See how loaded the camels are? Did we need it all? (Read Dianne’s story on page 28.)



Take a Lisle to Lunch

By Nancy Pearson Kinney

In the last issue of Interaction we reported on finding Ed and Ardis Hanish (Germany '55 and CA '56) at church in Albuquerque on a visit to the kids in May. This is the second installment of that tale, and it comes with a message.

One Lisle who received our news was Carnis Salisbury (NY '43) who also lives in Albuquerque. She made a quick phone call to Ardis to introduce herself, and Ardis told us about the surprise serendipity. During our September visit to Albuquerque, Ed, Ardis, Mark and I invited Carnis to have lunch with us. One of her choices was Garduño's, a well-known Albuquerque "tex-mex" restaurant, so we followed her lead and that's where we went.

Carnis is now 92 and lives in her condo on the West Mesa of the city, looking out at Sandia Peak from her living room. She was very excited to meet all of us and was happy to tell us, "Lisle was the best thing that I ever did!" Naturally we were intrigued, so she told us her story.

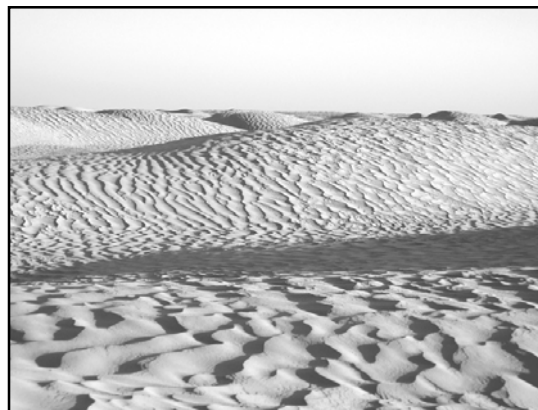
It seems that she was married and a staff person at Sam Houston College (today's Houston-Tillotson College) in Austin, Texas. Information about the 1943 Lisle Unit in Lisle NY came across her desk directed at students, and she decided that she needed to be the one to get out of Texas and go to New York. Her husband worked for the State Department and was comfortable traveling, so she wanted to meet new people and become accustomed to different ways of living.

The people and the volunteer activities were just what she hoped to find. She told a story of a community member making a phone call to the minister of the church where she was assigned for one deputation to report that a Japanese man and a black woman (Carnis) were walking along the street together. The minister thanked the caller and said that he was happy to have them there. Her memories of Aunt Edna and her direct communication about the great value of the role that Carnis played in the unit sound very familiar to those

of us who knew Aunt Edna well. Carnis went on to live in Washington, D.C. and to work for the federal government in several different agencies in a pioneering role for African-American women. We all felt privileged to have met Carnis and to have heard her story.

We are aware that as we and Lisle age, Lislers from the early units, a valuable resource for memories and traditions of Lisle, are aging too. These priceless treasures, the early Lislers, may become less able to get out to join us in the future, so it's vitally important to find them and mine their memories NOW. So at the Fall Board meeting in Boston, Board Member Gail Bier issued a challenge to the Board, and we issue that challenge to all of you. She vowed to contact Lislers living within 200 miles of Knoxville, Tennessee where she lives and works and to invite them to join her for lunch or some other social occasion. So all of you Southerners, get ready!

And Omar DeWitt and Alice Ladas, look forward to a call from us the next time we're in Albuquerque! 🌐



*Tunisian desert: changing and rearranging.
Grain by grain, the dunes have a life of their
own, endless and blessed.*



How Did the 2006-07 Mini-Grants Do?

By Mark Kinney

Last fall there were three projects which were granted funding. Each one has been successful in achieving their goals!

THE JAMAICA COMPUTER PROJECT, JAMAICA

The *Jamaican Computer Project* led by James Burke, with Bill Kinney as mentor, took on the challenge to increase access and skills in Information Technology for women teachers and school children at the Sheffield All Ages School in Negril, Jamaica.

To achieve this goal we set forth a plan that would over the next five years:

- ◆ Install a fully networked computer lab of desktop and laptop computers and accessories.
- ◆ Provide technology training to teachers at a level necessary to allow independent teaching of computer skills.
- ◆ Provide a conduit of cultural exchange for middle school students with the participating schools (Tyee Middle School and Sheffield All Ages).

Although research for the project was initiated three years before, the summer of 2007 saw the successful completion of step one of the five-year plan. This phase of the project was focused on delivery of a partial computer lab including desktops, laptops, printers, software and IC3 textbooks. In addition, training in the use of and recovery of the computers was initiated and students from both schools over the course of the project had many engaging opportunities to interact and learn from each other.

The project went off with several hitches, such as James being detained for a few hours by Jamaican authorities because he was alleged to be smuggling

computers into the country for personal gain, even though he had a letter from the local school officials indicating that the computers were for them. It wasn't until Bill could pass the original version of the letter through a gap in the wall, so James could show the original rather than a copy, that James was released. But a second hitch was that the computers were confiscated for most of a week.

Personally, the best part of the project was the cultural exchange taken on by both the Jamaican and American students. Both groups were very nervous of

what the other group would think about them. The Jamaican students were worried that Americans would not like them because they were black and the American students were worried that because they were American they would be disliked. Thanks to our cultural liaison and Lisle board member Bill Kinney these fears were not only dissolved, but have been transformed in to

caring relationships that continue still through email and cell phone conversations as evidenced during the summer hurricane season.

Even with all of these setbacks, the program was a great success. The middle school students and their parents who went to Jamaica were very effective in making friends, helping install the lab and to train the teachers and students in how to use the computers. (See page 19 for the story behind this grant!)

GLOBAL VISIONARIES PROJECT, GUATEMALA

The *Leadership Program* educates students in cross-cultural understanding, environmental awareness, and social action, empowering them to take critical steps to eliminate racism and social inequalities and be-



Students from the Sheffield School in Jamaica and the Tyee Middle School in Seattle pose happily.





*Photo courtesy of the Global Visionary Leadership Program website.
Visit: www.global-visionaries.org*

come environmental stewards at home and abroad. It provides opportunities for participants to build friendships across racial, ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds locally and internationally.

Through culturally and environmentally focused class nights and involvement in local volunteer work teams, participants gained a better understanding of regional environmental and social justice issues and developed their own capabilities in community leadership, communication, outreach, acceptance, and self-esteem. The participants also improved their Spanish



*Youths interacting in the Global Visionary Leadership Program.
Photo courtesy of the GVL website.
Visit: www.global-visionaries.org*

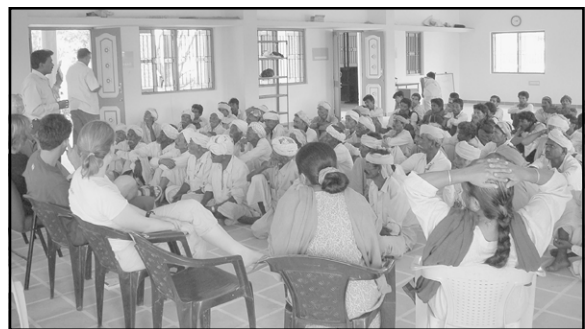
speaking skills through the Language Study program involving seven three-hour one-on-one language classes in Antigua, Guatemala. In addition the participants developed tolerance, respect and acceptance of those dissimilar from them by staying with Guatemalan families.

Because a central goal of the Leadership Program is the development of friendship and understanding between students of different backgrounds, it is imperative that participants come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Our goal was to increase participation of both low-income students and students of color to 50% during 2006–2007. The Lisle mini-grant was utilized to provide scholarships for low-income students to assist us in achieving that goal. The Lisle grant was used to underwrite partial scholarships for 6 low-income students from the Global Leadership Class (at \$500/student = \$3,000).

REGENERATION OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES, GUJURAT INDIA

The Gujarat Cultural Initiative, led by Hasmukh Patel, was a cultural project in four tribal villages in Banaskantha District. The selected villages consist of tribal populations, which are alienated from mainstream society, and live in miserable conditions. Though being economically very poor, they are culturally very rich.

The project had several actions. The first focused on bringing tribal leaders together for monthly meetings to motivate them to undertake community level



Community leaders meeting in the Gujarat

(Cont'd on next page)



actions, such as dealing with the long term ill effects of the generations-old revenge system, motivating them to have fewer children, working to overcome alcoholism, motivating them to adopt eco-friendly agricultural practices, motivating them to send their girls, to school, and teaching them about grass roots participation.

Second, there were meetings of tribal women. For instance in Nal village, 10 women showed their willingness to work on the spinning wheel. In Thala village one hundred tribal women started Self Help Groups (SHGs). Each women saves one rupee daily which is deposited in their Groups' bank account, and used for micro-enterprises.

In Padani village, 25 tribal women were trained in beadwork for four months. Their crafts have been exported to the USA. Besides health issues, sanitation and hygiene habits were discussed in all the meetings. SHGs were formed for the collection of honey and other herbs which may be marketed through the newly formed producer's company. One hundred women were provided with low cost drip irrigation kits. During these projects avoiding alcoholism and having fewer children were consistently discussed.



Women from Padani village seated in the shade learning how to fashion crafts from beads, which are exported to raise their socio-economic standing and empower change.

We also sponsored exposure tours. Women were taken to the Ahmedabad Handicraft where they had a special meeting with the Managing Director of the

Handicraft Corporation. Tribal farmers were sent to different areas in Gujarat and Maharastra to see agriculture-based sustainable technologies. Several tribal women were taken to visit women run model farms. These tribal women, after visiting these farms, have begun the production of vermi-compost and organic fertilizers through biomass.

We held two major Medical Camps. In these



Medical provider checking for cataracts

camp, 1554 patients suffering from different ailments were treated. All were given free medicines. The major challenge we have been facing with regard to tribal women is that they never open up even with women gynecologists about their major critical ailments related to their reproductivity.

The major achievement during these camps was that 32 women suffering from major ailments were identified and sent to well-equipped hospitals. Taking a cue from the positive results, we have established a medical centre. We hold regular free camps which serve an average of 300 poor patients. More than two thousand patients have been treated so far.

We also held two cultural festivals where 15,000 men and women participated for the whole day. Simple food was provided. Two thousand alcoholics took a pledge publicly to get away from liquor addiction in the presence of a holy Hindu saint.

A baseline villages survey was also done. The survey suggests that the identity of tribal communities is mainly exhibited through their folk songs and dances.

