

# Lisle *Interaction*

S U M M E R I S S U E • 2 0 0 4

## *Grantmaking & Social Change— Successful Models in the Northwest*

*October 28–31, 2004, Dexter, Oregon*

By Dianne Brause

**C**alling all Lislors from far and near!  
Join us in celebrating the beginning of a new phase in our history!

After nearly 70 years of service in the world through the creation and implementation of successful intercultural exchange programs, Lisle is kicking off a new strategy at this coming Annual Meeting in Dexter, Oregon. At this meeting we will choose to award one or more mini-grants to organizations or individuals who are requesting our support in moving forward a project that exemplifies the goals which Lisle has pursued for decades (*see page 3 for grant application info*). We hope to leverage the modest financial resources of Lisle in a way that will most benefit the ideal of “global-mindedness” begun by Uncle Si and Aunt Edna so many years ago in Lisle, New York.

One of the exciting features of this Annual Meeting will be the presence of a number of veterans of Grant-



*Our Mystery Guest Speaker  
and former Lislors!*

Making for Social Change within the Pacific Northwest. And one of them is a “mystery” Lislors, pictured here. Hint: Can any of you who participated in CA ‘43, CO ‘55, or Jamaica ‘56 guess who she is? Come to the October meeting to meet her in person!

In addition to this Lislors, who was co-founder of the McKenzie River Gathering (with yet another Lislors), an Oregon non-profit supporting projects and individuals working for social change, we have tentative commitments from several others who represent small funding organizations offering grants for Lisle-like causes. These people have agreed to be our mentors in learning the ropes of mini-grant making. Their wisdom comes from a family foundation which gives grants for peace, education and international understanding, from a Eugene-based foundation supporting individuals and groups with projects that further the cause of sustainability and from a

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*A hand-built cob kiosk welcomes all who come to LVEC.*

larger foundation focusing on environmental issues. There are several potential multi-cultural guests whose organizations have been the recipients of mini-grants that have allowed them to accomplish im-

portant projects, and others who have experienced the ups and downs of becoming philanthropists on their own. I am sure that we will all learn a great deal from these old and new friends as they informally share their wisdom with us. Please come with your questions and concerns as we explore how to support Lisle in moving forward!

Besides playing a part in this historic time, you will have the opportunity to reminisce with other Lislers from the 30's to the 00's; to choose from a number of mini-deputations related to sustainability and interpersonal communication as taught at Lost Valley Educational Center; to have your say at the Annual Meeting; and to generally relax and enjoy the pleasures of pristine fall days in the Pacific NW.

These are the tentative meeting plans as they are shaping up at this point:

The Board Members will arrive on Thursday night, preparatory for deliberations and committee meetings on Friday. Presentations will then be made to everyone Friday evening. The official "Annual Membership Meeting" will take place Saturday morning, followed by mini-deputations on the afternoon, led primarily by Lost Valley Staff (and perhaps our special guests as well). Saturday night dinner will feature a NW feast with everyone wearing one of his or her favorite ethnic or international costumes, and the possibility of a surprise extra as well! Sunday morning will provide time for a final Board wrap-up or more socializing with reunion participants. The official meeting will end after Sunday lunch.

All Lislers and Lisle Friends are encouraged to attend this meeting. We extend a special invitation for those who live in the West or NW, and those who have attended North, South & Central American/Hawaiian programs; it will be fun to have mini-reunions! We also invite you to step forward and lead specific activities on or off the property.

Lost Valley is located centrally to mountains, lakes, the seashore, farmlands and old growth forests...there's lots to explore! If you want to plan an excursion or convene a unit reunion, let Lane know at <[lisle2@io.com](mailto:lisle2@io.com)> by October 1<sup>st</sup>. You can also register ahead of time, indicating your plans on

the registration form that's on page 23. Lost Valley can also serve as a "base camp" between October 28th and November 1st, as long as you register ahead.

Lost Valley is 18 miles from Eugene. United, Horizon, & Alaska Air are the major airlines, and Amtrak and Greyhound have stations in Eugene. Flight costs might be cheaper to Portland, which is 2 1/2 hours to the north; there is now a light-rail connection to the Portland bus and train stations from the airport. Pick-ups can be arranged from Eugene and ride sharing is encouraged.

The relaxed and rustic atmosphere of Lost Valley Educational Center—with its tall trees, clean air, fresh and organic vegetarian cuisine—is loving and welcoming. Our dorms have shared bathrooms with enough spaces that you can choose a separate cubicle, or share with a friend. There are also some private rooms with double beds (please request these on the registration form—register early if you want to be assured of one!) The dorms, classrooms and dining hall are wheelchair accessible. If you want to tent camp, bring your tent and you can choose a platform in the woods or a grassy space in the meadow.



*The Meadow is encircled by pines—A lovely site for tipis, tents or blankets to watch the Halloween full moon rise!*

The cost per day for housing plus three organic vegetarian meals is \$50 per person. Add a \$35-\$100 donation for facilities, honorariums, and program fees to your total cost. An additional fee may be charged for airport or Eugene pick-ups and linens. Camping is \$35 per day. Day use fees are \$10 per person plus \$10 per meal. Total billings and payment will be arranged at the meeting.

Bring comfortable clothes and shoes, towels, personal effects and a flashlight. The weather is usually warm in the daytime and fairly cool at night; pack raincoats or umbrellas and boots as well. Bring a costume or ethnic dress for Saturday night. If you can easily bring a sleeping bag, please do so; otherwise linens and blankets are available at an extra charge. Bring work clothes or gloves if you want to participate in a work project.

So, get out your maps and start planning for a wonderful fall vacation! Your ideas and energy are essential to the future of Lisle. We have all invested a great deal of time, money and love into the Lisle legacy. Let's not stop now. See you in October! 🌐



## *Lisle 2004 Mini-Grant Initiative*

By Mark Kinney

In June, Lisle launched a new mini-grant program with the mailing of an announcement and description of the process. All Lislers should have received a copy of these materials.

The Lisle board is conducting a pilot initiative to offer small grants of between \$500 and \$3000 to assist individuals and organizations to conduct projects which further the goals of the fellowship. We are looking for individual Lislers to either make direct proposals to Lisle or to assist others with whom they are acquainted to make applications for these funds. We are asking that the Lisler be an active 'Lisle Mentor' who assists both the Lisle Board and the individuals actually conducting the project to work through the many questions which will need to be asked to develop strong project proposals.

The Lisle board has set a deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup> for receiving applications. A proposal packet is available on request from the Lisle office, by calling 800-477-1538, or emailing, <[lisle2@io.com](mailto:lisle2@io.com)>.

Project proposals which are received in this first application period will be reviewed and selected between September 15 and the Lisle Annual Meeting at the end of October 2004. Awards will be made shortly after the Annual Meeting. The project should occur between November 2004 and October 2005.

Project proposals will be evaluated by a committee of the Lisle board. The committee will be evaluating the purpose of the project, the project focus population, the goals and objectives, the relationship to Lisle Goals and Purposes, activities planned to achieve the goals, the proposed budget and budget rationale, the self-evaluation design and the planned follow-up activities.

We believe this mini-grant initiative will be the beginning of an exciting new era in how Lisle can make a difference in the understanding of globalmindedness. 🌐



*Mary Newman considering a point during the spring Annual Meeting.*

## *Become a Lisle Mentor Now!*

By Mystery Author

Lisle is offering small grants to fund projects which aim to fulfill the mission and purpose of Lisle. Key to this process is to have a person who has participated in a Lisle experience be a 'Lisle Mentor' throughout the process. Below is the Board's vision of the role the Mentor will play.

Active involvement in the initial proposal process. The Lisle Mentor could be the person who submits the proposal directly or who acts as an active intermediary with another person or organization who will conduct the activities.

The Lisle Mentor should be willing to be in communication with the project throughout its duration and fulfill a liaison role through helping the Lisle Board and the project staff understand how the ongoing project relates to the goals of Lisle.

Providing Lisle extensive contact information so that the Lisle Board has a direct means of communication with the Mentor. This should include address, telephone, Email, and fax.

Interacting with the persons who are developing the project proposal, as well as designated Board members over time; to incorporate into the final project proposal a rich environment for achieving Lisle outcomes.

Assisting in the fulfillment of follow-up activities, including, but not limited to, a written description of the project proposal suitable for publication in the Lisle *Interaction*, a written evaluation of the project and article summarizing the outcomes of the project suitable for publication in *Interaction*.

Identifying ways to strengthen the outcomes of future projects which others may purpose to Lisle for funding with the appropriate Lisle committee members. 🌐



*Nancy Kinney, Mark Kinney, Leyla Welkin, Jon Findley, Betsy Bridwell and Mary Newman sharing lunch on an outing while in Phoenix.*



## Mini-grant Project Ideas

By Marty Tillman

We welcome hearing from Lislers who have suggestions and ideas about our new mini-grants initiative. Tell us about the work you have supported over the years—and inform us of innovative projects in your community which are in sync with Lisle’s mission and philosophy.

But remember, for Lisle to consider them eligible for a mini-grant you, or another Lisler, must become a “Lisle Mentor” to promote and support their application!

For example, here is what **Barbara Johnson** (Colombia ‘77) wrote: “...from inner city to rural communities, there are a number of at-risk populations who could benefit from a community-based program that brings people together from various socio-economic backgrounds and blending multiple generations in cooperative/collaborative development or educational projects that would foster greater communication, problem-solving and peaceful interactions. I’d recommend using a model akin to the native North American traditions which involve elders mentoring younger generations through story-telling, tribal traditions and governance.”

Another model grassroots project, which directly emerged from the participation of its founder, **Carl Kline** (former Board Member and unit leader, India ‘77–‘85, SD ‘86 & ‘87), in a Lisle program is that of Nonviolent Alternatives based in Brookings, South Dakota. In their latest newsletter, *One Step*, they note plans are beginning for a conference on Religion and Nonviolence in the Fall, 2005. That is certainly relevant theme for anyone concerned about the future of Iraq and Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Carl can be reached at: <[carlek@brookings.net](mailto:carlek@brookings.net)>

What are other examples of innovative community projects that Lisle could support? How about the work of Operation Understanding DC, based here in my hometown of Washington, DC? It seeks to develop leadership, dispel stereotypes and promote mutual respect, understanding, cooperation and dialogue between African American and Jewish youth, two communities with a long history of common ground throughout the civil rights era; but whose recent history of cooperation has been shaken by strains between the two communities.

What groups are you currently working with who could use a mini-grant? What groups have you heard about that may offer programs that Lisle would like to support? Please tell us by contacting the Texas office! Lisle, Inc. 900 County Road 269, Leander TX, 78461. Phone: 800-477-1538. Email: <[lisle2@aol.com](mailto:lisle2@aol.com)>. 🌐

## Lisle’s Creation Story

By Walt Ligon

As Lisle moves toward a new way of being, or perhaps becoming, as an enabler more than a doer, I have taken a long look at Lisle’s past to see how the new Lisle squares with the old. Betty’s piece on Lisle’s Evolution opens the door for me to write something on Lisle from a ‘Creationist’ perspective. I put quotes around Creationist not to make fun of Creationism but to signal my return to one of the oldest questions Lislers have asked at reunions and other Lisle gatherings, namely: What is Lisle?

Older Lislers like me, and even some younger ones, are familiar with the echoing song that starts:

Oh the Lord looked down  
From His holy place,  
Said lordy me  
What a sea of space....

So He built Him a boat with a mixed up crew... and the rest is history. Lisle units from the beginning have deliberately been created to be diverse — racially, religiously, ethnically and nationally. I think of two reasons for this. One is to come as close as possible to having a miniature world community. The other is to have the richness in the Lisle group that diversity can provide when true community has been created.

There were many other aspects of a “Lisle experience.” These are some of the things discussed or remembered when Lislers get together: particular songs, dances or games; the challenge of deputations, of being with a team in a new situation; learnings one brought back to the group from the wider world; internal learnings about oneself and others in the group; the experience of growth assisted by others; new values and appreciations; and the group bonding that takes place over the course of the time a group spends together.

Can Lisle today assist other groups in achieving some of these values and outcomes through financial and other kinds of support? I think this is the primary question with which the Lisle board has been engaged during their last two meetings and the answer thus far has been a cautious ‘yes.’ At least we feel it is worth a try. 🌐



# Lisle's Evolution

By Betty Ligon

Evolution comes slowly and not without pain and distress. Lisle has become a master at adapting to change without losing sight of its mission. We are on the verge of making another one of those adaptations.

As we all know, Lisle started in 1936 under the inspired leadership of DeWitt and Edna Baldwin after their return from Burma where they had been missionaries. They returned convinced that young Americans, particularly those going into church related work, needed more exposure to nationalities and cultures different from their own. Devising a careful plan for a six week experience involving large and small groups, lectures and group discussion, total group responsibility for cooking, laundry and cleaning, they personally recruited college students of different races and nationalities. The Methodist Board of Global Missions supported the first Lisle Units of 40 to 60 participants. They proved to be highly successful and, for many, life changing.

Then the Board of Missions withdrew its support

because the Baldwins were drawing in not just Methodists, or even Protestants, but students of all faiths and colors. Undaunted, Uncle Si and Aunt Edna took jobs to support themselves and continued to work tirelessly on their creative programs. Much of their own money went into the programs

In the 50's and 60's units grew smaller in number and in size. Other organizations

*Where would Lisle be without the quiet wisdom of Betty Ligon?*

drew from the same pool of students. Colleges developed more overseas study opportunities. Lisle almost died but it made it through with the Baldwin commitment and loyal Lislors.

When the founders of a nonprofit organization such as Lisle are no longer in the picture, the organization often flounders. Lisle did not. The Board of Directors weathered many contentious meetings and financial crises. Except for one year, there was always at least one unit, thanks to

committed leaders. Units started to draw fewer students and more adults. Units became intergenerational and exciting in other ways. Lisle continued still committed to its mission.

As older Lislors became scarcer another kind of challenge came. We began to draw Board members from more recent units but the pool was small because units had been small. We pulled in Board members who had never been to a Lisle unit. The board has worked through this challenge, evolving into a hard working group of dedicated volunteers. Email and phone conferences have become part of the process, as has an excellent accounting system.

But still another need for change arises as the hours put in by Board officers; staff and office expenses are not matched by the number of participants served—this despite excellent, creative and well-led units.

So now we embark on a challenging move to use our funds differently and more effectively in order to maximize the influence of Lisle. And surely this vision of world-mindedness is needed more than ever. The Board will try to keep you informed of our thinking and planning. We hope you will keep us informed of your thinking. We need your input as we again adapt to change.

There are too many people who have worked hard in many ways and at many times in its almost 70 years of existence to attempt to mention them all. But the Baldwins must be mentioned again. As long as they were on the Board, they supported and encouraged discussions of changes to keep Lisle going, always with an eye to the central vision. 🌐



*Leyla Welkin making good use of her hands—knitting—during a discussion at the Phoenix annual meeting.*



## *Lislars Discuss Our New Direction*

Over the course of recent months, various Lislars have exchanged ideas and opinions about Lisle's new direction. Below are a several of these interchanges. We can just imagine how excited Uncle Si would be if he were able to jump into the discussion and explore why each person feels the way they do. He still serves as a model for Lislars as they seek to respect the validity of diverse opinions.

**Libby Shanefield** (CO '58) wrote: "I read with interest that Lisle will not have any more units. I am surprised that you want to continue as a grant-making organization. Since so few people have been participating in Lisle units in the past few years, and since you have so little money, I would think that it would be wiser to fold up and give our money to a like-minded organization, like the AFSC, which has a sound structure. In reading *Interaction* I see that the majority of supporters are from the '40's and '50's units (like me, Colorado '58) with the golden age seeming to be the '50's. We are all aging; I am now 65 going on 66, and I can't see my supporting you monetarily much longer, although I have steadily given dues money year after year.

"It was great ride, but why continue at all? In Quaker circles, when we see a committee is no longer useful, or drawing support, it is "laid down." I think that might work for Lisle. Nothing to be ashamed of!"

**Judy Brown** wrote: "Having read Libby Shanefield's plea that we lay Lisle down, a la Quaker style, I am moved to describe some differences as well as some similarities Lisle has with the American Friends Service Committee and 'laying down a program' or laying down a committee. Quakers lay something down either when there is no longer energy for it or no longer money for it, and usually not because it has outgrown it's usefulness or is no longer needed. If there are other groups doing the work, that is incentive to lay the effort down as well.

"I remember thinking and writing about the fact that we in Lisle would not need to be ashamed of laying Lisle down because there seem to be good reasons to lay it down. However, there are also in Lisle's case it seems to me good reasons for trying some changes before we lay it down.

"We have been given money to carry on with Lisle as it has been. We may not be legally bound to use that money that way; but it may be that we are morally bound to use that money to promote "world-mindedness" in any way we can find and execute to promote it.

"There is still enthusiasm on the part of some volunteers for creating world-mindedness in a way akin to the way Lisle programs have operated for these past many years.

"What mitigates against our going on the way we have been is our shortage of energy for business as usual and our lack of funds and enthusiasm to hire charismatic leadership.

"We think we have some enthusiasm for change to a Foundation if we can do the important nitty gritty work of making the necessary changes.

"We feel we can give grants with what money we have and perhaps new moneys to support persons who do have the energy to do programs that create and promote world-mindedness.

"It does not seem that we should lay Lisle down before we do more to experiment with operating Lisle within the limits of our energy and our creativity as a Foundation.

"If we can not find a form that excites us to give our energies to in a new way, then, perhaps we should lay Lisle down.

"You asked Marty for a description of what Quakers mean when they speak of an effort "laid down" and every Quaker might put it differently, but this is the way I would put it. I submit it humbly, and hope it might help a bit."

**Helen Burke** wrote: "Bud Baldwin, who was at my Lisle (Helen Whitacre -NY '41) and at my husband's Lisle (Jesse Burke-CO '42) expressed my own opinion of Lisle's many years of placing emphasis on overseas units. He wrote, 'Yes! I just didn't think of the overseas units. I hate to admit it, but I never felt the same about those units. Guess I'd been 'imprinted' by the US units....'

"He expresses how I have felt in recent years. Now it has been decided that it's 'Time for a Change,' and you ask that we let you know what we think.

"Finding students from other countries who are studying in the U.S. and bringing them together with students from our country in a Lisle Fellowship seemed to work for a number of years. What went wrong?

"Lisle is the biggest influence on the course my life has taken. Many of us can say that. I also must say that I have not given much support to Lisle since overseas units seemed to be emphasized over and above U.S. units. The decision by the Board to make the changes announced was perhaps inevitable. I am very sad."

**Marty Tillman** wrote: "I'm sad that Helen is sad and it does not make me feel good to bring such sadness to anyone with ties to Lisle's early history. I was personally unaware that Bud ever felt as she states. ...there are others from her generation with Lisle who support our changing and I will try to explain why we are doing what we are doing."  
*(Cont'd next page)*



**Mark Kinney** wrote: “We have spent many board hours talking about how we ought to go back to holding programs in the US, that those were the ‘real’ units. I am confident, from my conversations with Bud in times past, that is the ‘spin’ which I am confident he would place on his comments.

“In this regard, the sadness mentioned, I believe, is primarily for a long-time-past time when Lisle had successful units in the US, much more than the current changes we are contemplating.”

**Sid Anderson** wrote: “I’m compelled to begin with a resounding ‘No!’ in response to the choice of our Board of Directors...and then immediately return to my long term deep joyful and thankful feelings about Lisle, ending with a strong positive suggestion for our future...”

“I am among those who feel that Lisle’s original design, mostly for college students, deputations and return for weekend sharing, was uniquely valuable and should not be modified or lost. It seems like yesterday that we sang together at sunset high on the vesper hill, signed up for work jobs (with the opportunity to choose the job that interesting girl had already signed on for), being taught Indian dances by the kids at the Onondaga Reservation, hearing the grandparent’s sad memories. George Cole and Herb Zimm came for a visit, looking for girls (what better place?) So, I feel overseas travel experience is wonderful, but today there are thousands of interesting—and expensive—opportunities. Lisle has far more to offer!

“Now for the positive suggestion for our future. How would it be if our Board Members concentrate for a year on searching for a young couple who have the background experience and ‘dream’ to wish to become the new leaders of Lisle in the footsteps of Uncle Si and Aunt Edna? Maybe they would be skilled in song leading and folk dancing, have traveled the world, happy and fun-loving, and, most of all, deeply moved by the opportunity to take ‘a tiger by the tail!’

**Cherry Wunderlich** (CA ‘64 and helper with some DC units) wrote: “Today I continue to feel awed and inspired at your creative thinking as you chart the course for Lisle’s future. The ideas and thinking that you shared brought to mind one of the last big Lisle gatherings I attended at Uncle Si’s home in Rockville. I recall that, as we all shared our memories and ideas and hopes for Lisle, he voiced his feelings and affirmation that Lisle’s shape and role in the future might differ from what had worked so well in its earlier decades, as those currently involved considered current and emerging trends and needs.

I greatly appreciate all your time and your efforts for continuing the Lisle philosophy even as it may take new forms in the future. I know that it continues to have an impact in so many dimensions of my life.

**Robin Kwizera** wrote: “Things are certainly different in terms of development since 1994 (Lisle) but then again so many things are the same. I read the Lisle paper and think it is great that there is a new paradigm shift with Lisle.”

**Linda Tatsapaugh** wrote: “I enjoyed reading your latest newsletter, and about all the changes Lisle is going through. I have not been ...as active a supporter as I would like to be, but I wanted to voice my support of Lisle’s mission and how you have chosen to alter your path to get there. I wish there were ways to build the trip program, and there probably is one that will eventually become evident. Students need to know they have an opportunity to choose a travel option that connects them responsibly with the residents where they visit. I will be keeping an ear out for ways that I might become more involved in Lisle in the future, but at this point felt a need to voice my support and thanks for the Board’s hard work. I participated in the first Women in Development trip to India in 1989, and it definitely has influenced my life in many ways. Thanks again for the good work!”

Do you want to weigh in on this topic too? Let’s hear from you! We appreciate you lending your creativity towards the future good of Lisle. 🌐



*Dianne Brause considers how to make the Fall’s annual meeting in October at Lost Valley Center fun and exciting.*



# Spring Board Meeting Notes

By Betsy Bridwell

The Lisle Board held its 2004 spring meeting April 16–18 in Tempe, Arizona. Local board member Jon Findley was a wonderful host to our group and arranged meeting space at the conference center at Cook College and Theological School. While there, we had the opportunity to meet people from church congregations around the country who were serving as volunteers at the center. We also heard the personal story of one of the students at this interesting school, which largely serves Native Americans earning community college degrees as well as studying for the lay ministry.

In addition to our regular board members, we were joined by Walt and Betty Ligon and several area Lislers: Margit Rubendunst, Ted Crawford (CO '49), Anne Tinker (NY '38), and Ann Hardt (CO '46, CT '49 & '50, USSR '58, India '79, and former Board Member).



*Ann Hardt knows the score!*

There was a discussion of the upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Lisle in 2006 and how we might organize celebrations. One idea was having celebrations in 50 states and 20 countries, although that might not be realistic if we depend on Lisle alumni, since there are not very many in some states. It was also proposed to have a major celebration in San Francisco. A committee was formed to flesh out ideas further: Barb Bratton, Jon Findley, Dianne Brause, and Walt Ligon volunteered, with the idea of possibly inviting others to join in the planning. (See page 12)

The annual meeting was discussed and scheduled for October 28–31, 2003 at Lost Valley in Oregon. We agreed



*Our good-natured host, Jon Findley, who also serves on our Board and as our webmeister.*

to keep our standard time frame (Thursday evening through Sunday morning). It was emphasized that we should work to encourage alumni participation, schedule activities/deputations and evening speakers. Dianne, Leyla, and Betsy agreed to be on the committee to plan further. (See lead article)

Leyla reported on the Teacher Initiative. She shared information on the groundwork she has done and brought copies of the brochures she has developed for the program in Turkey. She has designed a syllabus and has also developed a workshop and has arranged for Continuing

Education credit through SPU. She is planning a trip to Germany and Holland in June, focusing on Muslim immigrant issues, and had hoped to take a group but will now just do set-up for the future program. (See page 21)

Leyla has also connected with the Compassionate Listening Project, which takes groups to Israel and Palestine, and had planned a trip October 4–17 to be co-sponsored by her PeaceWorks organization and the CL project. The design was to talk and listen to Kurds and Sufi and Sunni Muslims; however not enough participants have signed up to make this program a “go” for this year.

The New York land was discussed: it has been listed with an agent in Greenfield, NY nearby and, in preparation for sale, ‘markers’ are being created for the land at a cost of \$400 (this is less expensive than a formal survey).

Our major topic of discussion was planning for Lisle’s new direction as a small grant-making organization and reviewing the initial process that was developed by the Grant Committee. Appreciation was expressed for the amount of time spent by Mark Kinney, Beth Bader, and Brian Palmer in laying the groundwork for this process.



*Walt and his cheerful smile brighten up any meeting!*







*Beth Bader, Mary Newman, Betsy Bridwell, Dianne Brause and Leyla Welkin in discussion.*

The materials developed by the committee were reviewed and discussed by the board. The goal is to do our first round this summer, which would be our pilot project. There were a number of recommendations made by the board, which will be incorporated into the final version of the materials by the Grant Committee. The range for grants was set at \$500-3000. There will be a mailing to advertise the process this first time, rather than relying only on *Interaction*.

The mass mailing will go to 956 U.S. addresses and 233 international addresses. It will include: a fundraising letter from Marty; notice of solicitation for proposals, with information for Lisle ‘mentors’ who sponsor grant applicants; a return postcard asking for Lisler’s e-mail address and about inclusion on listserve.



*Marty Tillman and Beth Bader using universal hand signs to make their points!*

Those who indicated interest in serving on the grant selection committee were Barb, Betsy, Dianne, Mary/John, Beth, Mark, and Marty. Requests for information will go to Texas office and packets will be sent out. Barb will review proposals for completeness and copies will be sent to the review committee.

Below is a note received from Margit Rubendunst: “I also want to say how much I appreciated being part of the group and your kindness to let me participate in your deliberations and lively debates. It was such a good feeling to meet and be with people so very much committed to Lisle after all these years.

*As I said, I just cannot commit to anything else at this time. But certainly hope to hear about the progress of your new direction. And if financially possible – not just time wise – I will try to attend one of your meetings again.”* 🌐



*Anne Tinker and Margit Rubendunst pay rapt attention during the Board Meeting.*

*On Sunday after the meeting, several of the Board Members visited a cactus garden and stone ruin.*



*What would a trip to Phoenix be without seeing the amazing Saguaro cactus?*



*Some of the Lislers visited this stone ruin that sits on a hilltop above Phoenix.*



# President's Message

By now, all Lislers and Friends of Lisle have read about the Board's decision this past year to redirect our financial resources away from funding traditional summer programs and towards an innovative "Mini-grant Initiative". This was fully outlined in the July mailing which included a terrific message from former President Betty Ligon entitled, *Lisle's Evolution*, (see page 5).

I'm citing it again because I know the change taking place now for Lisle might be confusing and even disheartening to some of our most longstanding and loyal supporters. And here I'm referring to those who attended the units in the 1930's, 40's and 50's.

Betty tried to address concerns for this particular group of Lislers by outlining the ongoing challenges Lisle has coped with for most of its organizational life. And I'd point out that even as recently as when I came to work with the Baldwins (in the 1970's), Lisle was then struggling to reinvigorate the summer programs which had declined in numbers from the late 60's era. To put the present news about Lisle in this very long-term perspective, it's fair to say that Lisle has been in transition for more than thirty years—maybe even longer!

The new direction we are taking has re-awakened for some Lislers a renewed nostalgia for Lisle's past and for its unique significance in their lives. Some have expressed a hope that we still might recapture the glory that was Lisle at its inception in the last century.

However, as Betty rightly pointed out in her message: "*As long as they [the Baldwins] were on the Board, they supported and encouraged discussions of changes to keep Lisle going, always with an eye to the central vision.*" I want to reassure every reader that the Board has indeed kept its eye on Lisle's central vision as it considered the options before it last year.

Our new direction involves providing small grants to support community-based programs aimed at multicultural,



*Lisle President, Marty Tillman*

inter-faith and inter-racial audiences and that are working to improve communities, to rectify social problems and to achieve social justice. Doing so will provide us with an opportunity to reach out to individuals and communities as we always have. And what better way to do this than to collaborate with you—our friends and alumni—whom we hope will suggest programs and projects you may already work with and support! The Board will consider grant applications and award worthy projects at the Annual Meeting this October in Oregon. Call the Texas office at (800) 477-1537 to obtain details about working with us to develop a mini-grant proposal! (See page 3)

While Lisle will not longer create its own programs, we certainly hope to impact communities and individuals in measurable ways with our small grants. On this point, let me just say that we all know that despite how easily our country found the billions to support the war in Iraq, the economic downturn of these past three years has resulted in states having far less money available to support social services for the poor, for education and health care needs of children and the elderly. Foundations and private philanthropy have not been able to keep up with the demand for financial support. "*Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness!*" Small as our grants program will be, the support we provide through our mini-grants has the potential to do much good.

Change is risky. Change is never easy. Change is confusing. Change may result in failure. But change is inevitable for people, communities and for organizations. Lisle has never been a risk-avoiding organization, and we need to move in a new direction now if we are to innovate on a new cutting edge in coming years.

I hope Lislers continue to work with us to help our new mini-grants initiative succeed. I would love to see our new direction engage program alumni of the past 20 years. We need your continued support and your suggestions. We need you to work on the Board to help us build our new future! 🌐

*Marty*



# Executive & Program Director's Report

This has been an interesting transition year for Lisle. Much of the effort of the office has focused on Alumni and Board efforts. Much of my work has focused on coordinating and drafting materials for the new grants effort. There has been a wonderful collaborative effort between Beth Gilson-Bader, Marty Tillman, Brian Palmer and myself in thinking through and drafting the various materials needed for this effort.

Those materials are now available through the Lisle office. Many of you should have received some or all of those materials in our recent mailing. So now we are anticipating lots of interest from you Lislers in applying for a grant to help others offer a Lisle-like program somewhere where you have contacts. We hope to receive a good number of grant applications by September 15.

I have also been working with Leyla Welkin on the Teacher Initiative. She is hoping to offer a pilot program in Turkey in the near future, which will try out many of the ideas that have been conceived over the past several years. She recently traveled to Europe to explore the possibilities for collaboration with several agencies. She is excited about the prospects for her work. *(See page 19 for her report)*

Winslow Realty listed our property in Porter Corners and is assisting us in having a survey done of the property. The work on this effort shows that access to the property continues to be a limitation in terms of setting a sales price and developing purchaser interest. Since the land is on a mountain top, with access only available by using a logging road with a four wheel drive vehicle, and by traveling across land owned by others, it does present a challenge to a successful sale. I am working to confirm that there actually is documentation affirming the right of ways for access to this property. I continue to work to provide information to the New York realty company in this regard. Anyone want to live on a mountaintop in New York?



*Executive Director, Mark Kinney*

The web page has been provisionally restructured to limit the access to program materials while leaving the other materials available to the public. As the direction for Lisle become clearer, I will be modifying the site to accommodate those ideas. For instance, Sharada is interested in offering the India Women's program again, so I have posted those materials on the website. As soon as definitive program dates are available for Leyla's initiative-based programs, I will post them.

I have been working with the International Volunteer Programs Association (IVPA) as an outgrowth of the initial contacts made on Lisle's behalf by former Board Member Chris Coons. This organization continues to struggle

for support, but is developing nicely with its success in becoming incorporated and applying for 501(c)(3) status. IVPA is a wonderful resource for those interested in going on a quality international volunteer program. The website has a search engine which provides information about future programs. That site is: [www.volunteerinternational.org](http://www.volunteerinternational.org).

Nancy and I attended the NAFSA conference in Baltimore May 24-27, where I was involved in a couple of efforts to keep international cooperation alive. It was a bit different this year, since at the International volunteering poster session there were no Lisle programs to present. But I was involved in coordinating the Poster Session wearing my hat as Executive Director of the International Volunteer Programs Association. At several sessions I talked about Lisle and its history during the question and answer periods. It is always wonderful to attend NAFSA and talk with many colleagues who remember Lisle, and a few who remember Uncle Si and Aunt Edna.

When we decide to offer future programs, there are several ideas which I gathered from a number of sessions which will be very helpful in terms of safety and security, publicity, and collaboration with other agencies. 🌐

*Mark*



## *Committee Reports*

Communications—there was an idea proposed to consider merging the Communications and Technology committees, since their work is linked in many ways. The current focus has been on *Interaction* as the major tool for communication. It can report on alumni news, new programs and funding activities, recruiting applications for grant proposals, etc.

Technology—sees itself as more reactive than proactive, implementing the ideas and directions the board chooses. Chair Jon Findley sees two to three levels of electronic communications, including the website and listserves. There could be e-mail lists for different groups (board, alumni, prospective grantees, etc.). The Lisle website should reflect current directions and programs we are supporting (e.g., Teacher Initiative). 🌐

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## *Financial Summary*

By Barbara Bratton

During this fiscal year we are not trying to run international programs. This has resulted in significant cost reductions for office staffing, paperwork and telephone costs. This means that the funds we raise from your generous support will go more efficiently to the participant at the end of the line that we hope to influence with Lisle's vision. We have raised \$11,256 of our projected \$14,000 in membership dues.

A new mailing was sent in July from which we anticipate additional membership donations and support. We have sponsored one project as a mini-grant: \$3,000 was awarded to Leyla Welkin, a long time Lisle program leader, who is planning another trip to Turkey for teachers. The projected surplus of \$3,000 will be used to fund other mini-grants in the future.

Our total assets (as of the spring Board Meeting) were \$210,000. This reflects an increase from the low of \$90,000 a few years ago.

The finance committee (Mark, Barb, and Mary) will evaluate where funds should currently be invested and changes to be made, with a move back to less high-risk, more conservative funds. The Executive Committee will make final decisions. 🌐

## *Lisle Will Be 70 Years Old in 2006!*

By Barbara Bratton

As you read the essay by Betty Ligon on Lisle's Evolution (see page 5), you get a small feeling for the number of people that have been impacted by the genius of Si & Edna Baldwin. Their vision of "worldmindedness" is still critical in today's world but we can look back at growth and innovation in the concept and be proud of Lisle's part in promoting these ideas.

We will have been broadcasting the message of diversity, interaction, experiencing and sharing for almost 70 years! *It's time for a celebration!*

How about...

- A celebration event in every state or country where a Lisle alumnus will help get it organized?
- A big Annual Meeting in a city that will draw Lisle visitors?
- A one week event for families similar to Family Camp 1956, 1961 & 1963?
- A massive publicity campaign?
- A big fundraiser so we can put Lisle's name as sponsor on projects around the world
- Perhaps we might strive to have 70 Lislers conduct "human relations" dialogues in homes around the globe with friends from diverse backgrounds to discuss ways to promote and support increased tolerance and dialogue in their community.

We need your ideas and we need to know if you will be willing to organize something in your area. Call the office at (800)477-1538 or Email us your ideas: <[lisle2@io.com](mailto:lisle2@io.com)>. 🌐

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## *Ligon Service Award*

The Ligon Service Award committee consisting of Walt and Betty Ligon, Mark Kinney, and last year's award winner, Dianne Brause are interested in hearing from you about whom you believe would be a worthy candidate for this award. The award is given to a Lisler who has demonstrated through their work the high ideals of Lisle and has provided Lisle with long term effort to assist Lisle in fulfilling on the promise of the Baldwins' vision. Please contact Walt and Betty with nominations by September 15. Their Email is <[MLigon8670@aol.com](mailto:MLigon8670@aol.com)> You can also call them at: (231) 869-4384. 🌐



## Lisle in History

By Marty Tillman

**B**ob Sprinkle is a friend of Lisle and a friend of mine for many decades. He served as the CEO of the Association of International Practical Training for many years. And he was involved in many of the most important decisions impacting international education in the past century. Bob is now retired and found several interesting documents as he was cleaning out his files—some of which he has sent on to me because they represent a slice of the important role that Lisle, and its founder, DeWitt Baldwin, played in the evolution of international education on campus since 1948.

For example, in a volume of the encyclopedic survey of the University of Michigan (where DeWitt served as Director of Religious Affairs from 1948-1968), which discusses the development of the Student Religious Association [SRA] on that campus (activities which were curtailed or eliminated when DeWitt was forced to resign his post in 1968!). It states: “*Under Baldwin, intercultural activities as a means of approaching questions of religious distinctions and differences increased. Outings and seminars in comparative religions were included in the program [of the SRA], and summer experiences in work camps and human relations projects [meaning Lisle’s summer programs!], both here and abroad, were emphasized. Baldwin was instrumental in the formation of the Council for International Living, which resulted in the first international house for men at the University.*” NOTE: In many of its programs held in this era, Lisle used the term “humans relations” to describe its focus on group dynamics during the summer program.

This passage also mentions another [future] Lisle, C. Bushnell Olmstead (NY ‘46 & ‘48, CO ‘46 & ‘48, Fam. Camp ‘56, ‘60 & ‘61), who at this time, was a Program Assistant working for DeWitt. It says that he was “...instrumental in carrying out this part of the program [post-WWII relief projects for displaced persons], having had previous experience in working with refugee problems and world student relief operations.”

Another fascinating publication (especially for those of us who lived through the turmoil of the ‘60s) is Lisle’s mention as a community service program in a document published by the long defunct U.S. National Student Association based in Philadelphia. It came out in 1965 and was called SCOPE—a guide to community-based service opportunities around the country. Of course, at this moment, youth service was intimately involved with the civil rights

struggle. In the introduction, it states: “*American students today are feeling their way out of the academic environs. The really active students are in a minority and always have been, but, they form a mature and responsible minority armed with both the determination to help change the world and the knowledge that the work is long and slow and hard.... He understands the connection between himself and the world at large... Whether it is academic policy at Berkeley or Yale, racial injustice in the South, or the chronic poverty in urban ghettos, the American student is increasingly aware that these problems are his problems...*” Does this sound like a statement (apart from the gender bias!) we might make about today’s college student generation? Perhaps, in places... And at times... 🌐

### Interaction Appreciated!

It’s always nice to hear from Lislers who tell us how they much enjoyed reading *Interaction!* For some, it’s the only way they have of reviving their connection to us.

Below are some of the responses we received after the Winter 2004 issue.

From **Walt and Betty Ligon**: “Dianne and Elise, *Interaction* was just great. We have enjoyed reading it.”

From **Cherry Wunderlich** (CA ‘64 and helper with some DC units): “Another terrific issue of *Lisle Interaction* arrived in last week’s mail, and once again, I feel deeply grateful for my Lisle experience and how it helped open my eyes and ears and heart in what I now realize have been lasting ways.

From **Linda Tatspaugh**: “I enjoyed reading your latest newsletter and about all of the changes Lisle is going through.”

While Dianne Brause does a phenomenal job of producing the newsletter, a standing ovation must be given to all Lislers who contribute articles. Without the written work of Board Members, active members and friends, we couldn’t fill up so many pages! Be sure to look on page 21 for the list of current authors. And next time you see them, give ‘em a hearty hug of thanks! 🌐



**Sid Anderson** (NY '45) reports "I taught science briefly at Garden City Jr. Hi.. Yes, I was in swimming pool safety cover business. I'm mainly writing books, so have no time for travel, except our annual November health trip to Puerto Escondido, Mexico. My wife, Ali, teaches exercise classes in senior center. Step daughter, Judy 55, is computer expert in VA. Daughter, Bryn 39, is sub teacher in San Diego. For many years I ran Adventures in Marine Biology at Old Providence Island, Colombia, till drug mafia made it dangerous."

**Jeanne & John Balcom** (NY '37) live in Amherst MA near **Justin Hartman** (NY '40). They recently were in Arizona for both a wedding and a funeral. "...it was a happy and sad week, but a gathering of the clan."

**Edith Ballard** (CO '44, CA '52, DC '54, CR '99) recently attended Lisle **Anne Tongren's** workshop at the Friend's Conference on Psychology and Religion at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, PA. Anne was in units in Germany '60, Jamaica '61 and DC '62, travelling for Lisle in an old car provided by George Cole. Anne is a psychotherapist in private practice (The Turning Point) in Bethesda, MD. Her work with dreams and imagery incorporates Jung's archetypal and active imagination as well as Gestalt, psychodrama and holistic imagery techniques.

**Edith Ballard** and **George Levinger** (NY '49) attended a Friend's General Conference recently and met up with a number of Lislers. **Carol Wheeler-Liston** (Jamaica '57) ran into Edith in a cafe, told her "I was at Lisle." Her address is 2220 N. Locust St. Denton, TX 76209-1806, telephone (940) 898-1769. They talked with **Carol Bartoo** (NY '48, CT '48, MI '49) from the Twin Cities, MN. Her family is scattered across the US, but they come together for a reunion each year at FGC. **Justin Hartman** (NY '40) and **Ruth Ferguson Hooke**, (CO '47), who live in Amherst, came to the cafe at the conference center to have lunch with George and Edith. Ruth had just returned from a trip to Europe and was busy with political efforts. **Hugh Barbour** (NY '43) and **Hazel Haines** (NY '42) also met with Edith. Hugh was a leader in one of the workshops and held an interest group about his spiritual views which he hopes to publish. Hazel lives at 3001 Austin Rd, Clinton, NY 13323-4505.

**Gail Bier** (Board Member) received a Fulbright scholarship to study Japanese culture and educational system. She visited many types of educational institutions, talked with administrators, students, parent and teachers. She learned how intertwined Japanese culture and economics are. She and four others visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial and

participated in some cultural activities. They also had a lengthy conversation with a Buddhist monk in Kyoto about his experiences studying in the US in 1954, as well as experiences during WWII, where he witnessed the bombing of Nagasaki. She's now back in New Orleans looking for a new position.

**Leslie Brockelbank** (CA '43, CO '55 & Jamaica '56) lives in Eugene, Oregon, and was recently "rediscovered" by Dianne Brause. Leslie and another Lisler, **Charles Gray** (CO '55, Jamaica '56), co-founded the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation (MRG) in 1976. MRG pools the financial resources of Oregon's progressive community and distributes it back to grassroots groups working on a variety of social change issues. Grantees receiving funds work on a range of issues including globalization, poverty, war, racism, sexism, homophobia and environmental destruction. Leslie writes "It's more important to leave my children a better society than to leave them a trust fund." Visit the MRG's website: <[www.mrgfoundation.org](http://www.mrgfoundation.org)> to learn more! Leslie will share her experience and expertise selecting mini-grants at this October's Annual Meeting.

**Suzanne Brooks** (Costa Rica '96) is keeping quite busy by performing as a jazz vocalist and gospel singer. She has a private vocal studio and is accepting students. She recorded a CD of her music, and if you'd like to purchase one, send your request and a payment of \$15 to: Creative Concepts Systems, 3325 Northrup Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95864.

**Chris and Dean Coons** (former Board Member, CO '48, Fam. Camp '61, Bali '91, Costa Rica '96, Leader training '98) reports that Dean is in the garden until dark and they're enjoying lettuce, chard and gorgeous roses. They attended an International Lecture series, where they heard Dr. Farid Younos speak about Afghanistan. Dr. Farid hosted the Lisle group in Fremont last year at the Annual Meeting. They've been in Florida in July, helping out the new mother and family of new grandchild.

**Maggie Ennis** (CO '53 & '54, CA '55) is hard at work in the League of Women Voters, AAUW, Interfaith projects involving justice ministries, and her Universalist Unitarian congregation...plus working towards a change of administration in Washington.

**Finn Hornum** (CT '51, Denmark '52 & '58, CA '54 & '55, CO '55) is glad to be back in touch with Lisle. He lives in Philadelphia.

**Carole Howe** (India '85) lives in Mattapoisett, MA and recently trained in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins University for becoming an RN International Consultant, a goal she has had since she read about Dr. Tom Dooley in the 50s.





*Mary Newman and John Kachuba at the French 18th century farmhouse.*

**John Kachuba** (Board Member, Leader training '98, Costa Rica '99) **and Mary Newman** (Costa Rica '97 and Board Member) are grandparents for the first time to a baby girl, Riley Elizabeth Driver. They also spent time in France: "Our trip to France was wonderful. A week in Paris, living in a studio apartment in a Parisian neighborhood and then a second week with friends in a restored 18th century farmhouse

in a little village in the province of Burgundy. My French was rusty but serviceable and, no, the French do not dislike Americans. They do, however, dislike our "President" intensely."

**Joyce Koch Kumao** (CO '47, CA '50, Japan '55, CT '50 & '51) lives in Berkeley CA and will soon be 80 years young! She recalls being the RN for the Colorado unit and was part of the deputation that hitch-hiked to go cherry picking. She writes, "I'm glad always for my Lisle experience and reach out daily as a global citizen." Joyce married a Japanese man and lived in Nagasaki for three years teaching English Composition. She is a member of the Epworth United Methodist Church and attends the Berkeley Friend's Church, as well as being a volunteer for the Berkeley Senior Center.

**Robin Kwizera** (Uganda '95, Leader training '98) writes that "All is well with me and my tribe. Charles and I went back to Uganda in September 2003 which followed a trip in Sept 2002. Her email is <[rkwizera@elkgrove.net](mailto:rkwizera@elkgrove.net)>.

**Shirley Lake** (CT '52, Germany '54 and former Lisle Board Member) wrote to say that her health is good, she's feeling better than she has in years! Her cancer was diagnosed six years ago. She hasn't stopped her traveling to Peru this past Spring with the Friendship Force. She's also attended her 50<sup>th</sup> Oberlin College reunion and traveled to Pennsylvania, Montreal and Maine. Way to go Shirley!

Although **Hazel Leler** (CO '45, NY '46, CA '57, Fam Camp '57) has Alzheimer's her daughter writes she recalls much about her Lisle units. As a child the daughter remembers being with her mother when she was in a unit at Stanford. She found a note that Hazel led a Family Camp in California for a week in both 1958 and 1959.

**Ray and Anja Miller** (Denmark '55, CO '56, CA '57, Denmark '69) visited the Coons in February. Ray was the first speaker in the Great Decisions series. He still teaches half time at San Francisco State.

**Catherine Peters** (CO '49 & '51, Bali '88, WI and Germany) shares that her retirement is very fulfilling. She attends a young people's group for Bible study, participates in activities at the International House, attends church services and activities, and also finds time for relaxed reading and walking! She lives in New York City.

**Kathryn Rhodes** (NY '37) now lives in the Monte Vista Grove Retirement Center in Pasadena, CA.

**Irving L. Smith** (CO '42) lives in Enid, OK. He met his wife, Saleta Wentworth, during the 1942 Colorado Unit, and were married the same year! Saleta died in September, 2001.

**Robert Starr** (CO '49) lives on the Mississippi River in Wisconsin. He's been a retired social worker and tennis coach for 12 years. He would welcome Lisle visitors and is now registered officially in the Lisle B&B directory! Phone: 608-248-2806.

**George Theuer's** (NY '38) daughter writes that George has developed Parkinson's and is now living in a nursing home. She says he's in good spirits, his sense of humor prevails and he still recalls the names of unit members from Korea!

**Karen Swam** (former Board Member, Leader Training '98) is living in Manchester, CT. She enjoys working on house and garden projects, but political volunteering is very close to her heart. She's grateful to the friends and relatives who support her and will be looking for "real" job after November.

**Larry Swift** (CO '49) and Edith Ballard have renewed a connection. Larry has been a Fellowship of Reconciliation member and employee for most of his life. (This was an organization important to Uncle Si.) While in Japan in the 50's with a short term Methodist mission Larry married his Japanese wife, Haruye. They have 2 daughters.

**Miriom Zusman** (CO '45, former Board Member) had a July visit by Hans and Ellie Siegel, who report that "...she continues to be her positive, remarkable self." Miriom has a new project she's busy developing. She learned that the underprivileged kids in her old neighborhood YMCA love to go on day trips, but lack the money to do so. Miriom started a fund to enable all interested children to participate in these trips. She hopes to receive donations totaling \$4000. You can help these kids expand their world by sending a tax-deductible check to: Beth Goldowitz (Director, Eastern District YMCA, 125 Humboldt St., Brooklyn, NY 11206. Make the check out to "Eastern District YMCA" with "Miriom's Fund" on the memo line. As you may know, **Beth Goldowitz** is a fellow Lisler, from NY '86, Bali '88 & '94. 🌐



## “A Gathering of Stones”

By John Kachuba

“The pen is mightier than the sword” — not simply a cliché to John Kachuba; it’s the inspiration for his collection of short stories, *A Gathering of Stones*. The characters in these stories are all affected by war in ways that are not obvious or even immediate. They suffer what John calls the ‘residual effects’ of war: anger, alienation, fear, suspicion, mistrust, and discrimination.

“I have been angered and saddened by George Bush’s immoral and illegal war against Iraq from the very beginning,” John said. “I protested in Washington, but it didn’t make any difference. *A Gathering of Stones* is my own weapon against, not just the war in Iraq, but war in general, and I hope that by reading it Americans will recognize the true cost we all pay when our country goes to war.”

Several of the stories in the collection have already been published in various literary magazines around the country. One of them, *The Reich Photographer’s Tale*, was awarded the Dogwood Fiction Prize, a major literary award. Another, *Like Sun After Clouds*, will be published this fall in *Hawai’i Pacific Review*.

Editor’s Note: At this point, John is actively seeking publication for *A Gathering of Stones*. He would be interested in hearing from any Lislers who may be able to help. 🌐

## JJ Smith

By Marty Tillman

JJ Smith, a Lisler (CA ‘63), manages the operations of the Fannie Mae Fund in Houston. We met at a TX meeting several years back, and he and I later got together in DC to effectively “lobby” the Fannie Mae Foundation to provide us \$5,000 to support the summer program based at Lost Valley. He’s a very interesting man with a unique Lisle perspective. He is involved with Houston public school education issues.

JJ called the Lisle line because he sent in a membership contribution and he wanted to know about our change of direction. We had a good conversation about our thought processes beginning last year and where we think this might go. He is intrigued and wishes us well. I told him that one of our options was to shut down altogether and give the money to a single organization and he said he would hate to see that happen. He will come to the Board meeting in October, and we look forward to his input. 🌐

## Profile: Marisa de Leon

By Dianne Brause

Marisa de Leon, while in her mid-80’s, was an active participant in the Hawai’i (1995) and Costa Rica (1996) units with Dianne Brause. She now lives in Eugene where she is currently fighting for the rights of minority workers in her retirement home.

Marisa Lusiardo de De Leon was born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1911. She went to school at a private evangelical school as a girl. She gained a nursing certificate in 1938 and received scholarships to study in Texas and California. She lived at International House in SF. Marisa studied Physical Education and became interested in Physical Therapy, especially with children with disabilities. She had the opportunity to study and do research with several doctors who were on the cutting edge of developing therapy modalities for children suffering with Cerebral Palsy.

In 1941, Marisa returned to Uruguay to start the first school for disabled children begun in Latin America (which is still running and is a showplace even today). She later returned to California for further study and work. She created a private practice in Oakland in 1955 and practiced until 1973 when her husband, Frank, needed her attention during a long period of illness. After his death in 1983, Marisa became involved with Mother Wright in her work with the rehabilitation of people at the bottom of the social scale in San Francisco. Marisa has also supported children in Guatemala and been a mentor for many people from all over the world. Marisa became involved with many other civic and cultural activities as well.

In 2000, Marisa moved to Eugene, OR where she continues to be very active in a variety of causes. Many of her friends from California and beyond have enjoyed being hosted by her in her new apartment.

Marisa is clearly a unique and wonderful being, who has made an outstanding and positive impact on the world over long years of dedicated service in many areas of social activism. The ripples from her friendships and activities continue to flow out in many directions and will undoubtedly do so for many generations to come.

Marisa’s contact information is: Marisa de Leon, Solvang Retirement Center, 1202 Jacobs Dr., Eugene, OR 97402. Her phone is 541-463-9704. 🌐





## Brian Palmer Leaves Harvard

By Marty Tillman

I recruited Brian Palmer (India '82) to join Lisle and he has now been on the Board twice. He obtained his MA and PhD degrees from Harvard and has been a Lecturer in the Religion Department for the past three years. Brian has been one of Harvard's most popular lecturers and also one of its most outspoken political and social critics.

Sadly, he was "let go" from his position at Harvard, for being "too liberal." This is an excerpt from the campus newspaper, the *Harvard Crimson* (April 2003):

"...As the professor of one of Harvard's most popular courses, *Globalization and Human Values: Envisioning World Community*, Palmer is a celebrity of sorts across campus. His accessibility is almost unrivaled (his home number is at the bottom of every e-mail he sends to his 522 students), and his powerful lectures and selection of notable guest speakers always draw a crowd.

"But the class has come under scrutiny in recent weeks and not just because of Palmer's stance against war. His course...has been lambasted for airing overwhelmingly liberal perspectives. Editorials in *The National Review*, a slam from Rush Limbaugh, and dozens of irate e-mails have forced Palmer, who received the Levenson Award for "best teaching by a junior faculty member" last year, to defend not only his course, but himself.

"Palmer, described by one student as a "marketer for ethical questioning," says one goal of the course is to "be aware of the most urgent societal debates and to know how to participate in them. I hope it creates spaces of deliberation and, if it's not too grand a word, spaces of democracy," he says in his trademark whisper."

We wish Brian well as he moves on in his career and we look forward to his continued questioning of moral issues with his students in the future.

Betty and Walt supported Brian. "One of the things that eases our distress over the current situation is people like you. We have been delighted to hear of your success at Harvard in challenging students to explore all sorts of issues. Whatever your future holds, I think it will be exciting and full of good things"

They warmly invited Brian, who attended the India 1982 unit led by Carl Kline, to come to Lost Valley for the October Annual Meeting, as well as assuring him he'd have a warm bed and a welcome anytime at their home in Pentwater, MI. 🌐

## Ecuador Anyone?

By Elise Kimmons

Spending six weeks in Quito, Ecuador last summer not only garnered me 12 credits of university-level Spanish towards my minor degree, it also opened up the wonders of Ecuador, via its people and environment. I did my best to be 'worldminded' while visting with shopwomen, guides and new friends. Here are a few photos of my time there. Enjoy!



*Yours truly with a traditional dancer from Quito. We sat next to each other chatting the whole time while on a bus trip to the 'Mitad del Mundo', where she was to perform.*

*The Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge, where I spent two weekends, not only offered 15 species of hummingbirds, but fabulous food and a talented naturalist. This little bird was no bigger than my thumb!*



*My group spent a long weekend near the Rio Napo in the Amazon jungle. The lodge provided entertainment in the form of this family of indigenous men who performed for us in their native dress.*

*These two beautiful girls sold me several gorgeous shawls from their colorful stall in Otavalo, the site of a huge indigenous market. Men do the weaving and women do everything else!*



## Changing A Frog ...

By Ted Crawford

**D**o you remember the old story about the Princess and the Frog? When the princess kissed the frog, she broke the “magic” spell that imprisoned him in the form of a frog. On being freed he sprang into view as her handsome Prince Charming fulfilling her dreams.

Most of us feel “trapped” in some form that is not fully us. Metaphorically speaking, almost all of us are frogs waiting for that magic someone to free us.

*The Seven Guidelines* are not as fast or as easy as a kiss, but they do work, if you work them! Working the guidelines changes your perception of the other and yourself into *The Prince* and *The Princess*. Until you experience it, this may be difficult to believe.



Ted Crawford doing a “Show and Tell” about his book at the spring Annual Meeting.

Below are some pointers from his book, *Seven Guidelines for Improving Relationships: Transforming a Frog into a Princess*

1. *Non-blamingly accept your partner “as is”*. Determine that you are in your relationship to enjoy yourself—not to try to fix, reform, or straighten out your partner. Seek to influence your partner, but not demand that he or she must change. Also, give her or him the freedom to influence you. Yes, to persuade and inform you.

2. *Frequently give appreciation for small things*. Expand yourself to find or discover things that you really value about your partner. Saying them induces change. Honesty is important here. Avoid using the “killer”—frequent criticism of your partner.

3. *Communicate with integrity: Be honest regarding beliefs and evidence that conflict with your own views of what is true*. When your partner is right, admit it. Develop your honesty with tact and sensitivity. Agree to stop penalizing each other for honesty as you now often may do. Agree that you both will be honest and let the other “get away” with honesty.

4. *Share and explore differences and disagreements with the other to move toward a win-win resolution that accepts parts of both your views*. Additionally, be ready to compromise without pretending that you agree when you really don’t agree.

5. *Willingly choose to support your partner’s purposes, goals, wishes, and wants without surrendering your own integrity, important desires and views*. Look afresh, for going as far as you honestly can to support your partner even when you clearly disagree.

6. *Willingly give your partner the right to be wrong*. Respect both of your rights to be fallible humans: your inalienable right to make mistakes and to learn from your own experience and errors. Don’t cherish only your right to be an error-prone human!

7. *When you don’t get what you desire, reconsider your want and make it a future goal that you may achieve later*. Frequently remind yourself that you don’t have to get what you want, now or ever! (This guideline enables you to work properly with the other six guidelines).

Note: *You choose, regardless of what your partner does to practice the Seven Guidelines as a unilateral commitment*. If you “fail”, look for your possible mistake.

Note from Walt: Ted Crawford (CO ‘49), who turned up at Cook College for the spring Boad Meeting, has evidently been out of Lisle for quite awhile. But one thing he has done is connect with Albert Ellis, originator of a method of therapy that used to be called Rational Emotive Therapy. I don’t believe Ellis is still alive and don’t know how many practitioners claim to use RET, but Ted said he had helped Ellis write at least one of his books and had quite a bit of social contact with him. 🌐



## *Europe and Turkey, June 2004: The Teacher Initiative Lives On*

By Leyla Welkin

As the recipient of Lisle's first mini-grant I am happy to report that it was used to plan and develop new Lisle-type intercultural programs. I set off in late May to Germany, hoping to cement contacts begun through Internet messages and to continue the process of planning a program for teachers in Europe. Based upon the Lisle Holland program of 2003, which explored issues of immigrants in Europe, and my recent work with educators and schools in Turkey, a new program will bring educators from the U.S. and Turkey, to Berlin, Germany and Holland.

A friend who works in the German Ministry of Education in Berlin, Margret Otto, set up a series of meetings for me with educators and social service providers who work in the large immigrant community there. Several of these people were Turks who have lived many years in Germany. They offered ideas and some genuine interest in putting together a program in Berlin. Educators working with immigrant students and communities in Berlin will share experiences and compare notes with educators who work with diverse populations of students in the United States or Turkey.

My sons and I also visited a lively and innovative bilingual school in Berlin where students who have an interest in both languages and cultures can learn together in a publicly funded grade school. Evan and Avery and I visited a music class and shared in the singing of a Turkish song and learned a Turkish dance rhythm. This school provides an excellent example of innovative work that is going on in Berlin with students around immigrant communities.

From Berlin we took the train north to Holland to stay in Waalwijk with Yolande Houbens (Pacific NW 2002, and Holland 2003) and her husband Jacques. Yolande has many contacts and long experience working with intercultural exchange programs in Holland. She has agreed to be the European organizer of our educators program and

has many ideas about people and places that could be the focus of our European program. She brings both a clear understanding of Lisle principles and a strong background in supporting and organizing intercultural programs to our team.

We flew south to Turkey to solidify arrangements there with education contacts. In Istanbul there are programs to support child development and educational readiness that look familiar to any American early childhood educator. These programs are also offered in more remote locations in eastern Turkey where many people are not well educated and opportunities for such learning are sparse. Our goal is to visit programs in both places.

The most important success of the Turkey visit was a meeting with Nilufer Kayaalp, an English teacher and educator in Gaziantep. Nilufer has helped with previous Lisle programs, recruiting young people to participate, arranging home stays, hosting Lisle visitors and showing us schools. She is willing to become the primary Turkish organizer of future programs focused on education in Turkey. Her wealth of contacts and experience should make possible stronger sponsorship in Turkey and open more doors to us.

This foundation-building trip was a great success—providing strong contacts, enthusiastic support and beginning several collaborative relationships in the next year or two. The Turkey program is projected to be at Spring break time 2005 and the European program could happen Summer 2005. Support, funding and strong sponsorship is still being sought in the United States, Europe and Turkey. Programs of this level of complexity need the support of a variety of sources and more funding than traditional Lisle programs have required. Lislers are invited to continue to contribute their knowledge, experience, contacts and support to the teacher initiative as it continues to unfold. From under Lisle's wing yet another project is taking flight! 🌐



*Nilufer Kayaalp, English teacher and Lisle friend in Gaziantep.*



*These girls are from a conservative Islamic school and were skipping class when we met them on the ferry across the Bosphorus.*



# In Memoriam

*Don Cowing, 1927–2003*

By Darwin Holder

With sorrow in our hearts, we report the loss of another friend and supporter of Lisle. Dr. Donald Earl Cowing died November 20, 2003 in Maine. A celebration of Don's life was held Saturday, July 3, at his church, St. John's Episcopal Church in Dresden. Don attended Lisle's Bali '92, and with his brother and sister-in-law Kendall and Della Cowing, was a leader of Bali '93. He also shared his knowledge and wisdom with us as a member of the Lisle Board of Directors.

Don was born July 9, 1927 in Mount Clements, Michigan and attended public school in Roseville, Michigan. Following combat service in the Navy during World War II, he served many years in the Air Force Reserves, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After this, he spent a number of years as a Staff Sergeant in the Maine National Guard in Bangor. From Wayne State University, he received an undergraduate degree in 1951, a Master's in clinical psychology in 1959, and a Doctorate in special education in 1968.

Don was a teacher, school psychologist and special education administrator in suburban Detroit school systems. He served as an adjunct faculty member at several Michigan colleges before going to Rutgers University in NJ, where he established a graduate program in special education in the late 1960's. He was a faculty member of Bowdoin College in the early 1970's, after which he worked for U.S. Veterans Affairs at Togus as a psychologist at the Medical Surgical Hospital, a position he held until he retired.

I enjoyed every opportunity to visit Don at Lisle board meetings, but my most rewarding time with him was in Maine, during the 1996 Lisle annual meeting at Wiscasset. The Cowing family generously made room for many Lislors in Cowing homes on the family's ancestral property in Dresden. It was wonderful to be bathed in the beauty and majesty of fall in rural Maine as Don spoke lovingly about family, past and present. He was most joyful as he told of his grandchildren and of the pleasure he derived from being with them. He loved family. He loved people. He was beloved and will be greatly missed by many. ☉

# In Memoriam

*Orion Six 1923–2004*

By Darwin Holder

We were saddened to learn that Orion Six, a gentle teacher dedicated to promoting better understanding of Native American culture, died Feb. 28, 2004, in Norman, Oklahoma. A memorial service was held March 6, at Goodrich Memorial Methodist Church in Norman. A longtime Lislors, Orion attended California 1950, Michigan 1950 and was a leader of Oklahoma 1993, 1994, and 1995. The Lisle *Interaction*, Summer Issue 2003, honored him with a Lislors Profile written by Nancy Kinney.

Orion was born Dec. 22, 1923, in Oklahoma City. During World War II he was a radar repairman in the Army Air Corps. Following the war, he returned home and completed a degree in journalism at the University of Oklahoma, and later, a master's degree in social services from George Williams College in Chicago. He worked for a number of years for the YMCA at the University of Cincinnati, at Ohio State, and at the University of Oklahoma. Then after two Downtown Y assignments in Chicago and Binghamton, New York, he was contacted by a friend who asked him to come teach at the Navajo school in Shiprock, N.M. Orion retired after teaching there for 19 years, and then moved to Norman to live out his years in the shadow of his beloved OU, and in the embrace of many of the Six family who lived in the Norman-Oklahoma City area.

Orion's association with, and support of, Lisle spanned over fifty years, during which his quiet enthusiasm and knowledge of our Native American heritage, his gentle spirit, gifted teaching skills and willingness to work had a very positive effect on many, many Lislors. In addition to Lisle, his interests, especially since retirement, had been his church, Goodrich Memorial Methodist and the GCG (Goodrich Chronologically Gifted), serving on the Board of Directors of Jacobson House, and supporting the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History and the Indian Cultural Society of Norman. But his greatest love remained the children and he was blessed with a loving family of siblings that presented him with a host of nieces, nephews, grand nieces, and grand nephews.

Orion Six, you will be greatly missed. Those of us who were fortunate enough to spend time in your gentle presence will rejoice at having had that opportunity. ☉



## Tracking Down Lislers!

By Edith Ballard

Some of you know I have been trying to clarify the country that each Lisle program participant has gone to. George Cole began doing this, and I'm continuing this effort as a memorial to him. As a result of my contacts using clues—like names—I've had some interesting results. I found Vaughn Smith by writing Irving Smith, since I knew they both had Oklahoma connections.

I rediscovered Mary Dietrich (NY '41, Denmark '70) She wrote that her whole family participated in the Denmark unit, which her husband Albert led.

I will often receive little notes, such as the one from Louise Gray. Her mother was Gladys Gray (NY '36, CO '42). I connected with her because a Lisler from the same unit sent her address to me.

During one trip to the Midwest I met Everitt Sheldon (NY '37 & '41). He was appreciative of my efforts to keep him in touch with a mutual friend.

If any Lisler remembers Billy Gammon (NY '38) I have a biography of her work in Brazil, sent to me by her brother Joe (NY '38). If you would like a copy, let me know and I will send you one.

This research is lots of fun, and it keeps our Lisle Network growing. Folks seem to appreciate reconnecting. And I could use help with this project. Spend some time going down Memory Lane. If you run into old friends and still have contact information, let me know! E-mail me at <[edith@all-systems.com](mailto:edith@all-systems.com)> or write me at 8648 Oakleigh Rd, Baltimore, MD 21234. 🌐

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## Portia Foster Questions Kucinich

By Dianne Brause

I occasionally run into Portia Foster (NY '44, Mex '91) who lives in Eugene. She keeps quite active, despite not being able to drive. She participates in a wide variety of social and political activities. The last time I saw her we were at the University of Oregon Law School, where Dennis Kucinich fielded questions. The auditorium was packed and I was in the back. I didn't notice Portia until she stood up and asked Kucinich a question. I later found her and took this picture. Doesn't her smile dazzle? 🌐



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We hope to learn more about you and your world, and look forward to your contributions!





# Lisle, Inc. Membership and Pledge Form

900 County Road 269  
Leander, TX 78641

I want to remain a member of Lisle, Inc., and make a contribution as checked below.

- Basic Member..... \$35-\$74
- Benefactor..... \$1000 and above
- Contributing Member.... \$75-\$149
- Student.....\$15
- Supporting Member..... \$150-\$499
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Would you like information about:  including Lisle in your estate?  making a memorial donation?  
 nominating a Lisle Saint?  Ligon Service Award nomination?

Does your employer match your contributions to a non-profit?  Yes  No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes about your activities:

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay by:  Check  VISA  Mastercard


Credit Card # / exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## *Lisle's Statement of Purpose*

**L**isle broadens global awareness and increases appreciation of cultures through programs which bring together person of diverse religious, cultural, sexual, political and racial backgrounds, to interact, and to consider reflectively their experience. The Lisle experiential approach emphasizes cooperative, democratic leadership and participation. Lisle program participants enhance their communication skills, discover greater tolerance for diverse ideas, and gain greater respect for all life. Conflict resolution, community building, and increased knowledge of self are outcomes of the Lisle experience. Lisle seeks to exemplify multicultural/multiracial decision-making, planning, and administration.

**L**isle experiences involve participants intimately in the life of the community. Through living and learning together, members explore and integrate different values, beliefs, and life styles.

**L**isle is committed to a more just social order in which persons of all cultures, social classes, religious affiliations, nationalities, and political persuasions are full participants. Lisle believes that actions and plans must be rooted in a clear understanding of the hopes and aspirations of all people. However, idealism must be tempered with a realistic vision. The future leadership of our world community demands experiences which develop emotional maturity, social sensitivity, self-awareness, and appreciation of cultural diversity. 





# Annual Meeting Registration Form

## October 28-31, 2004 • Dexter, Oregon

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number adults in party: \_\_\_\_\_ Kids/ages: \_\_\_\_\_

### TRANSPORTATION

Method of Travel:  Car  Plane  Bus  Train  
 I would like to carpool from: \_\_\_\_\_ I am a:  Driver  Rider  
 I need a shuttle from/to:  Eug. airport  Eug. bus station  Eug. train station  
 Arrive date: \_\_\_\_\_ time: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ Depart date: \_\_\_\_\_ time: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

### LODGING (Dorm: \$50/day; Tent: \$35/day; 3 meals included)

Dorm  Tent  Other \_\_\_\_\_  1 night  2 nights  3 nights  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single room  Double room  Couple w/double bed  I snore loudly: put me at end of hall!

### FOOD (Delicious fresh organic vegetarian cuisine, includes some dairy)

Vegan  Wheat-free  Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

### SPECIAL NEEDS for getting around? Please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### EXCURSION or UNIT REUNION? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please detach and send to: Lisle, Inc.  
 900 County Rd. 269 • Leander, TX 78641  
 800-477-1538 • FAX: 512-259-0392  
 E-mail requests to: <lisle2@io.com>



## Lisle, Inc. Proxy Form

900 County Road 269  
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 Fill out and mail in by September 30, 2004

I hereby authorize President Marty Tillman, or the person listed in the following space,  
 \_\_\_\_\_, to cast my vote at the 2004 Lisle Annual Meeting, 10/28/04.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Lisle Unit(s): \_\_\_\_\_





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## MEETINGS

Fall Annual Meeting	October 28-31, 2004	Dexter, OR
Spring Board Meeting	April 22-24, 2005	Chicago, IL

