

# Lisle *Interaction*

WINTER ISSUE • 2007

## *Lisle Celebrates 70 Years of Creating Global Communities*

*By Marty Tillman*

**H**ow do we create the connections that create relations? A Native American artist posed this question last summer when my wife and I visited Santa Fe at an art exhibit of her work. The question helps frame the focus for the 40 Lislors and friends who gathered at the University of Toledo for the Annual Membership meeting in Ohio, October 6–8, to celebrate Lisle’s 70 years of commitment to fostering intercultural human relationships. It was a terrific weekend, and friends from far and near enjoyed it!



*Dedicated Lislors and Friends joined in smiles.*

The Annual Meeting would not have been the success that it was without the work of Mark (and Nancy) Kinney. Lisle owes Mark, an emeritus professor at the University, a debt for having cajoled Toledo into accepting the Lisle archives. As a repository of our history, we can rest assured that significant documents, re-

ports, papers, research documents, and photos which record our history will remain protected and preserved for future historians and generations of interested offspring of Lislors!

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Lislors from all seven decades were in Toledo to join together to share memories, view the important Lisle archival material housed in the University of Toledo Library, and to also learn about Lisle's new direction in providing mini-grants to non-profit organizations whose educational purposes are in line with our mission and goals. Oh—and we also celebrated the life and commitment of Walt Ligon, who at 80, has served Lisle for more than 50 years! As much as anyone I know, Walt (Lisle's longest serving Board member) and his wife, Betty, (our former Board President) are representative of what is so unique about those who have sustained a lifelong commitment to Lisle's mission and philosophy—and who have remained resolute, through the ups and downs of the organization's life, in their support of Lisle.



*Smita Patel shares about the Mountain Children's Forum sphere of influence in India.*



*Bill Kenny (back right), John Kachuba (back center), Mary Newman (back left), Betsy Bridwell, Walt Ligon, Betty Ligon, Ann Groves, and keynote speaker Lynn Hendrickson, discuss the Department of Peace campaign.*

Maria Austin Snell, from the first 1936 unit in Lisle, NY, was with us and provided a wonderful link to Lisle's founding principles, representing Lisle's impact upon the lives of young college students during its most powerful era of summer units, and remains an active generational bridge to our pioneering past.

And demonstrating the relevance of our 21st century focus and global outreach, we were thrilled to meet Smita Patel, from San Jose, CA, who

represented the Mountain Children's Forum [MCF] in India—one of our first mini-grant recipients.

Smita joined us to discuss the impact of our grant through a moving presentation about the important work of MCF in educating youths in the isolated mountainous regions of India. Smita and her cousins founded MCF and told us that receiving a small grant from Lisle provided the organization with the momentum to continue their work at a critical juncture; she said that had MCF not received the grant award, she doubted that MCF would have been able to carry on its work, and that our grant lent a certain international credibility to their work which enabled others to take notice of their organization. The Board hopes to remain actively engaged with Smita as the work of MCF gains more momentum and visibility within India.

Read on and enjoy both the descriptions of events that took place during the meeting and the pictures. But, better yet, write for your own copy of the new Lisle DVD—created with much hard effort, love and devotion by Board member Jon Findley—which contains rare film footage of 1952/53 units in California and Colorado, an interview in New York City with the Baldwins in 1983, and then a moving interview with DeWitt just before his death at age 95 in 1993. 🌐



# Visit to the Lisle Archives

By Nancy Pearson Kinney

*“That’s me! How on earth did you get that photo?”*

*“Oh look! That’s Everitt Sheldon!”*

*“Quite a few people have done extensive writing....”*

*Edith (Ballard), if you could go through all seventy-five boxes...”*

*“Glen Yoder—Oh, he’s from Yale. I know I was there when he was. Oh, here he is in ’37.”*

These are just some of the Lislors’ comments, made as we had the opportunity to visit the Lisle Archives at the Ward Canaday Center of the Carlson Library at the University of Toledo. Before Uncle Si, the founder of Lisle died, he was searching for a home for Lisle’s records. After he tried all the universities where he had connections and had no luck, he left the task to Mark Kinney.

Because of Mark’s long career at the University of Toledo, he was able to influence them to take and catalog the Lisle records. Comprising at least seventy-five linear feet of record boxes, it is now one of the Library’s largest archive collections, reported chief archivist, Barbara Floyd. Barb and her assistant, Kim Brownlee, were on hand to tell us about the comprehensive nature of the collection,

give information and provide answers to our questions.

They have two messages for us. The first is that they want people to USE the collection. They will be happy to make arrangements for anyone to see any records they can use.



*Johnny Miller looks for special friends in photos from past Lisle Units stored within the archives.*



*Edith Ballard, Johnny Miller and others pour over the Lisle archival files.*

All that’s necessary is to send an email message <[BFloyd@utnet.utoledo.edu](mailto:BFloyd@utnet.utoledo.edu)> or make a phone call (419) 530-2170. They may be able to track down simple fact questions. If you want to see records from your unit, you should take a visit to Toledo yourself; they need help with identification of photos especially. If you know any young scholars studying the history of non-profit organizations, you might also direct them to this very extensive collection.



*Hazel Martin and Marty Tillman visit at the Lisle Archives.*

The second message is that the collection can still be expanded. If you have materials such as identified photos, scrapbooks, personal reports and recollections, papers you wrote about your experience, or remembrances of Lisle, you are asked to

*(“Archives” cont’d on page 14, bottom.)*



# Friendly Center

By Nancy Kinney

As we stopped at the curb, we noticed a man in conversation with someone standing in front of a large house. It was David Morris, waiting for us to arrive. Reverend Morris has been the director of Friendly Center, Toledo's innovative social agency for thirty-two years. Since 1923, the center has been affiliated with the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. The United Methodist Women own the building and raise much of the support for the



*Friendly Center pre-school center. David Morris explains how the Center works to Ann Groves and Barbara Bratton.*

neighborhood committees, and city officials and is frequently called upon by other social agencies and their staff to cooperate on programs.

The Lislers who visited the Friendly Center: Barbara Bratton, Bill Kinney, Edith Ballard, and Ann Groves, were all amazed at the wide variety of ways Friendly Center relates to Toledo and the ways in which the building has been made to serve so many purposes for so many people. While the Kinneys had been designating part of their United Way gift to Friendly Center for years, we had never actually been there. It was an eye-opening experience that made us all feel a sense of optimism for the effectiveness of private social programs. 🌐



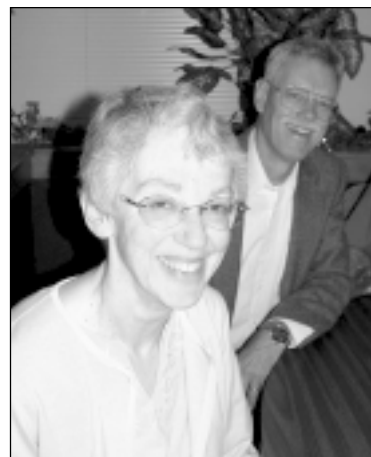
*Barbara Bratton, Bill Kinney, Nancy Kinney and Edith Ballard on the steps of the Friendly Center.*

Friendly Center. The United Way and contracts with the government to provide services they do not offer, along with a little support from the city makes most of the remainder of its income.

Located in one of the poorest sections of Toledo where many of the clients are at 200% below the U.S. government's official poverty level, the agency provides a long list of programs in addition to its original recreation offerings. At least

six types of food aid, several kinds of counseling, case reviews for custody cases, and a tutoring program are just a sampling of the comprehensive ways Friendly Center serves its neighborhood.

David Morris is an energetic and articulate spokesperson and a capable advocate for his agency's mission. He must also be a great politician, since he relates to a twenty-eight-member board of trustees,



*Nancy and Mark enjoy their life in the context of Lisle friends and shared experiences at the Annual Meeting, Toledo, 2006.*



# UT Islamic Chair

By Mark Kinney

On Saturday afternoon we had a panel of faculty members from the University of Toledo share about the successful effort to fund an endowed chair in Islamic Studies. Samir Abu-Absi, Saleh Jabarin, Mashhad Al-Allaf, and Elias Nigem described the effort started about nine years ago to provide the funding for the endowment. It was mentioned that Mark Kinney had assisted with this effort while he was a professor at UT.



*Samir Abu-Absi, Saleh Jabarin, Mashhad Al-Allaf, and Elias Nigem share how they accomplished creating and funding an endowed chair in Islamic Studies at the UT.*

Work was done to define the focus for such an endowed position, discussions throughout the campus academic community and administration, and connections with the community were made. In the end, with individual and corporate donations, one million dollars were raised to support the position. Mashhad Al-Allaf became the first recipient of the chair. His position is in the philosophy department where he teaches classes in Islamic thought and culture.

One spin-off of this effort has been the reawakening of the teaching of Arabic at UT. Samir offered to teach Arabic in the 1970's, and did so for several years until he realized that there was no administrative support for this focus, and he was receiving no benefit for so doing. Now with this endowment, a four-course sequence is beginning which does have administrative support. Such activities are a tremendous boost to the Middle Eastern community of Toledo. 🌐



*Marty Tillman and Betsy Bridwell speak with Saleh Jabarin about the new Islamic Chair position at the U. of Toledo.*

## Toledo Sister Cities

By Mark Kinney

On Friday morning during the annual meeting John Henry Fullen from Toledo Sister Cities International came and shared his experience as the long-time executive director of that organization. Mark had served on the board of TSCI during the '90s and knows of the good work John Henry is doing. John Henry told us of the three-week visit that TSCI had hosted this summer with 10 Iraqi and 10 Egyptian students. He shared how they had worked hard to overcome the fear of speaking and sharing, but by the end of the time, everyone was participating and having a great time. As a result, there are plans for the Egyptian students to host the Iraqi students next year in a follow-up experience.

This was just one of many activities which TSCI is currently involved with. John Henry shared how the city of Toledo and the Lucas County Commissioners both support TSCI and that they get specific grants for projects like the one above, as well as donations. Toledo has seven or so sister-cities relationships with committees working on projects for each relationship. He made a point to say that organizations like Lisle have a great deal to offer sister cities organizations through our expertise in offering programs and our links to various parts of the world, and he suggested that we all go back home and find out more about what our communities are doing. 🌐



# Ligon Award Offered

By Barb Bratton

We are pleased to announce the winner of this year's *Walt & Betty Ligon Service Award*. This year the award goes to Chris Coons, of Lafayette, California.

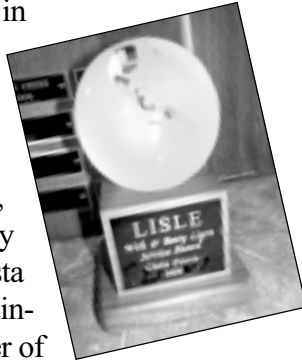
Is there anyone active in Lisle who doesn't know Chris? Her first Lisle program, as Chris Brogotti, took place in Colorado in 1948. She and her husband, Dean, also participated in Family Camp 1961, Bali 1991, Costa Rica 1996 and Leadership Training 1998. Chris was a member of the Board of Directors for six years, serving for a time as Vice President.

Chris' greatest skill and gift to Lisle has been as the penultimate hostess. Chris has the organization and enthusiasm to plan, gather and energize groups of persons from the "Bay Area Lisler's" at parties in her home. She became an expert planner of Board meetings during her term as a member of the Board and hosted and planned the wonderful Annual Meeting at San Francisco in 2002.

Chris worked diligently towards setting up the "Lisle Bed & Breakfast" list. Her dream was that all Lisler's would find a common bond and stay with each other in homes across the world to further the unity of the Lisle family. Her 100% belief in the message of Lisle was demonstrated when she attended numerous College Days Festivals in various colleges and universities in her area. She had a Lisle booth to recruit for programs and talk to students about the Lisle goal of "world-mindedness."

Chris continues to this day spreading her Lisle-influenced message of one-world through her activities in peace marches, anti-war rallies and being an advocate for the proposed cabinet level Dept. of Peace.

We join with her beloved husband, children, and grandchildren to say, "Thank you, Chris, for your love of Lisle and your loving example as a world citizen." 🌐



# Chris Coons Accepts!

By Chris Coons

I was surprised and thrilled when I received the notice that I was the recipient of the of the Walt & Betty Ligon Service Award at this year's annual meeting. To be in the company of the previous winners of this award is humbling. The mission of Lisle has played a significant role in my life since 1948. I cherish the associations that I have had with the many members of the organization. Thank you for recognizing me in this way.

**Editor's Note:** *Chris and Dean Coons were unable to attend the annual meeting because they were on an extended cruise. While travelling, Chris experienced a sudden loss of vision in both eyes due to an onset of Giant Cell Arteritis, a complication of Polymyalgia Rheumatica (PMR) which she has had for several years. They completed their cruise, but Chris' vision has not returned to normal. She remains upbeat and otherwise healthy, but her former activities will be curtailed if partial vision is not restored. She wants to stay connected—call her at 925-284-7386; her e-mail is: <[chriscoons@aol.com](mailto:chriscoons@aol.com)> 🌐*



Dean and Chris Coons, from the winter, 2002, Interaction.



Marty Tillman shows the Ligon Award plaque, with Chris Coons' name added.



# Marie Austin Snell

By Lane Winnet

It was such a thrill when I answered the Lisle telephone one day in September and a lady said she was Marie Snell and she was in the first unit of Lisle Fellowship at Lisle, New York 1936 and also in the unit for 1937. She said she was 91 years old and she wanted to attend the 70th Anniversary of Lisle in Toledo, Ohio in October.

Since I was attending the Annual Meeting also, I thought it would be really neat to meet someone who attended the very first unit! I spoke with Marie several times prior the annual meeting

Marie (Austin) Snell now lives in Rochester, MN. We discussed Marie's flying into the Toledo airport and taking the Comfort Inn shuttle from the airport to the hotel. I could not be in Toledo when she arrived so I arranged transportation from the airport. I was concerned it would be too complicated, etc, for Marie to deal with. As soon I met Marie, I realized I worried for naught. Marie is tiny ball of fire. I can only hope I will be as grounded at 91 as Marie is.

At the Saturday night banquet, Marie was given a reward for being a participant in the first Lisle Unit. I drove Marie to the airport on Sunday and we had a wonderful visit. I felt so privileged in getting to know another wonderful Lisle! 🌐



Mark Kinney honors Marie Snell, who represents the first Lisle unit in 1936!

# Lislers Celebrate Lisle In Absentia

By Hans & Ellie Spiegel

It doesn't look good for either one of us to attend the Toledo clambake. Our warmest greetings to all. If you need more proxies, here are two votes to be exercised by you! The last few years of Lisle strike me as exceptionally rich and instructive. Lisle had the gumption to change course, perhaps even to reinvent itself. It doesn't happen frequently that organizations really want to renew themselves. "Renewal" is often interpreted as increasing an organization's fund raising capabilities without touching its institutional soul.

Ironically, Lisle first did away with its original corporate name "fellowship" because it conjured up mistaken images of being a foundation, only to reinvent itself as a low-keyed foundation and enabler. The change took place as the result of considerable conceptual "Sturm und Drang" as we could witness from the annual meeting at our house some years ago. Lisle followed through on its plans and Lisle itself and 25 organizations are the richer for it. Congratulations to you, the remarkable leadership of the Board, and many Lislers who have been willing to take the risk of plowing new territory and, in the words of Myles Horton and Paulo Freire, to "make the road by walking." Have a great meeting!

*Editor's Note: The Spiegels participated in a variety of Units: CO '46 & 47, NY '47, Leaders for Germany '58 and Bali '88. 🌐*



Lane Winnet, and Marie Snell share a Lisle moment.



# Birthday Celebration

By Walt Ligon

I had said Lislors know how to celebrate and it turned out to be true! Lisle's 70th and my 80th were recognized and celebrated at Tony Packo's Hungarian Cafe in East Toledo in grand style. Thirty or forty (I didn't count) Lislors from all periods of Lisle's history and many parts of the USA were there. Marie Austin Snell (NY '36, the first Lisle unit) came, as did Bush Olmsted and Grey Austin, Uncle Si's first two assistants at Lane Hall and their spouses, Levona and Barbara, all now Ohioans. "Lisle's whirling dervish, Dianne Brause, who lives in an intentional community and edits *Interaction*, was taking pictures for the next issue, as were many others.

Others from Ohio included Mary Newman and John Kachuba, who took time out from their teaching and ghost hunting to be at the party. Linda Easley, Professor of Anthropology at Scienna College, drove down from Adrian, Michigan; and two other Michi-



*Walt accepts the accolades for his years of service to Lisle at his 80th birthday party during the Annual Meeting in Toledo.*

ganders, Hazel Martin and Hester Willis, both alums of Denmark '57, took an active part in the proceedings. Darwin and Barbara Holder, more recent Lislors, drove up from Lubbock, Texas enroute to visit grandson Ed-

ward, now in college in NYC. It was great to see Juanita Salvador-Burris again. Back in the 90's she helped to launch the \$1,000,000 endowment campaign that raised much of the money which allows Lisle to give to worthy projects around the world today.

Other Chicago friends, Don and Jean Ervin, took time out from their good works in housing in Chicago to be in Toledo with Lisle. All the Lisle officers were there: Mark and Nancy Kinney, recently returned from Hungary where they worked under a Fullbright scholarship; Marty Tillman from Washington, DC where he works at Johns Hopkins; Barb Bratton taking time off from her CPA duties in central Texas and where she also raises sheep;

John Findley up from Arizona having just put together a DVD that chronicles part of Lisle's history; and Betsy Bridwell from Seattle, WA where she works with international students at the University of Washington.

A Lisle grant recipient, Smita Patel, Program Development Coordinator of the Mountain Children's Foundation, was there to meet members of Lisle. She gave a brilliant report the next day on what the Lisle Mini-Grant had supported in India. Newly minted lawyer Bill Kinney was present and was elected to the Lisle board at the Annual Meeting, as was Barb Walker from California, Ethiopia and Staten Island. Joe and Jackie Ault came down from Minnesota to renew their Lisle contacts, as did Ann Groves from Indiana and Catherine Peters from NYC.

The 2003 edition of the Lisle *Directory* was dedicated to Edith Ballard, whose diligent work resulted in many new names and addresses being

*(Cont'd on next page)*



*Walt reads his article about voting Democratic. Seems like it must have helped out during this last election!*







*Betty and Walt Ligon and Walt's 80th birthday party.*

found. Lane Winnett, Barb's strong right arm in the Lisle office, was there to keep things in order, which she did. I apologize to those whose names and accomplishments I have missed naming. Jean Jensen sent a greeting summarizing her and Mogens' Lisle experiences (*see page 7*). Other greetings had been received from Hans and Ellie Spiegel (*see page 7*), Marina and Nat Firestone, Chris and Dean Coons, and probably a dozen others that I have neglected to mention.

It was a grand party. When my turn came to speak there was much I wanted to share from my lofty perch of 80 years; but realized there were many there loftier than I. I did read a recent letter I had written to our local newspaper of the self-help variety entitled "How To Vote Democratic." Even at a Lisle meeting, national and state politics is hard to avoid. Our daughter Mary Schinnerer attended the meeting and said it seemed like old home week to her. The dinner, in combination with the other events of the weekend, was a life-enhancing Lisle experience, the best kind. 🌐

### *10-Year Perspective*

I thought it'd be cool to see what Lisle and *Interaction* were like 10 years ago. Here's what I found:

The newsletter was only 16 pages long. Betty Ligon was our Board President and Mark Kinney (who sported a mustache) was our Executive Director. World-minded programs were happening in Costa Rica, Turkey, Bali, India, and Bainbridge Island. Mark and Kuni announced that the Lisle website was ready for viewing. Finally, did the person who left their glasses at the meeting in Wiscasset ever get them back?

We sure have developed. It's been a great time!

*New Lisle items for sale.  
(See page 31 for ordering information.)*



*Mark Kinney models the new Lisle T-shirt.  
Maybe Marks has a new avocation in his retirement!*



*Marty Tillman appreciated the fine and dedicated service of Lane Winnett to Lisle over the years.*



# *Lisle Annual and Board Meeting Notes*

*October 6-8, 2006*

*By Betsy Bridwell*

## **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Mark Kinney opened the meeting with general remarks and a review of the agenda, the activities planned for the weekend.

John Henry Fullen of Toledo's Sister Cities International talked about the organization, its background and most recent activities. The first sister city relationship began in 1934 between Toledo, Spain, and Toledo, Ohio, which now has eight sister-city relationships. The organization recently hosted a group of Iraqi and Egyptian students for a three-week program focusing on conflict resolution and leadership training in non-violence. He particularly encouraged Lisle to consider partnering with sister-city organizations to further our own goals of building intercultural understanding and awareness.

Jon Findley gave a general overview of Lisle's new direction in grant funding and Mark Kinney reviewed the projects of our past grant recipients. Like Lisle units, some have been more successful than others, and he discussed some of the issues with follow-through and tracking. Barb Bratton expressed a concern that we received so few applications this year and there was a brief discussion of how we

might encourage more Lisle mentors to sponsor organizations they are familiar with.

The afternoon was spent visiting the Lisle archives at the Canaday Center of the UT Library. Director and archivist Barbara Floyd gave an overview of the collection and its contents but said that many of the photographs were not labeled. She encouraged those in attendance to fill in names for



*Don Ervin, Bush Olmstead, Jean Ervin and Levona Olmstead enjoy catching up on old times.*

any of the people and places they recognized. She also hopes that the collection will be accessed and used. We then spent time reviewing items in the collection and labeling many of them. A number of people contributed to the oral history of Lisle by recording memories for the video archive project.

Dinner was at well-known local restaurant Tony Packo's Café, which included a celebration of Walt Ligon's 80th birthday. Unfortunately, due to all the road work in Toledo, several people got lost, including the guest of honor! Everyone eventually made it for good eats and wonderful cakes made by Dianne Coons!

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7**

Marty Tillman opened the meeting on Saturday morning, sharing the theme from an exhibit in Santa

*(Cont'd on next page)*



*Dianne Brause, Mary Newman and John Kachuba listen to the reports at the Annual Meeting.*





*Jon Findley looks over the new Lisle documentary video that he produced. (See page 31 for ordering information.)*

Fe that he thought was very appropriate to Lisle's work: "How do we create the connections that create relations?"

Marty also acknowledged Barb Bratton and her wonderful work as our treasurer. Because of her financial expertise, Lisle has very professional financial reports and records, and we all expressed our appreciation of her dedication!

Barb then reviewed the treasurer's report and last year's income, expenditures, and overall assets. There was also a discussion of our membership base and the trends in amounts donated. We continue to be appreciative of the commitment of Lislers in supporting the work of the organization even as the focus has changed.

There was acknowledgement, however, of how the changes in Lisle over the years will eventually impact the organization. Earlier participants had the most compelling personal experiences in Lisle units, while more recent activities do not seem to instill the same loyalty to the organization. The board anticipates the possibility of a drop-off in contributions as older members pass away.

The projected budget for 2006–7 was discussed and approved.

The Board of Directors for 2006–7 was approved. This includes new members Finn Hornum and Bill Kinney, who transitioned from Member Associate to a full board member. Betsy Bridwell's contributions were acknowledged as she leaves the

Board, but she will continue to participate as an Associate.

The board also wanted to acknowledge with great appreciation all the work of Lane, Barb, Mark and Nancy in coordinating this meeting as well as Jon's time spent in putting together the CD for the meeting.

Smita Patel, of the Mountain Children's Forum (MCF), shared detailed information on the work of one of the organizations that Lisle's grant money has helped to fund. This organization is four years old and began with a 2002 conference of mountain children, which brought together children from mountain areas from Northern India. Although they have different languages, religions, and cultures, they share the commonality of living in remote mountainous regions. The vision of MCF is to give children a voice in the development of their communities and to change the way the world perceives and works with children. They focus on many aspects, including education, health, human rights, natural resource management, disaster preparedness, etc.. And they have 16 partner organizations working with 7500 children in 380 village groups. A Lisle-funded workshop in May 2005 brought together 57 children from six districts to build leaderships skills and disaster awareness in order to help their communities.

#### **SATURDAY ACTIVITIES AND DEPUTATIONS**

**Friendly Center**—Several people visited this social service agency in one of the poorest sections of Toledo, where it operates a community counseling service and food programs. It is supported by the United Methodist Women, which provides rent-free space, and the United Way and government contracts.

**Lucas County Juvenile Detention Center**—Hester Willis joined Dianne Koop to go clothes shopping for teenage girls and boys who are in the detention center. They bought clothes appropriate for the teens' return to school. Dianne Koop coordinates this program. (See page 14)

**UT Endowed Chair in Islamic Studies**—Three committee members who spearheaded the effort to raise \$1 million to fund this Chair at the University of Toledo (Samir Abu-Absi, Elian Nigem, and Saleh

*(Cont'd on next page)*





*Lane Winnet, Lisle secretary, connects with Grey Austin, his wife Barbara (left), and Dianne Koop (right).*

Jabarin) were joined by the newly hired professor who filled the position (Mashhad Al-Allaf). They discussed the background and current status of this project. The first interdisciplinary courses in Islamic culture are being offered in Fall 2006. (See page 5)

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

The first order of business was to set the meetings for the coming year. We will hold our spring board meeting at the Institute for Cultural Affairs in Chicago April 28–29, 2007. The fall Annual Meeting will be held at the Walker House in Boston over the weekend of October 19–21, 2007.

Dianne Brause confirmed the list of assignments for articles to be included in the upcoming issue of *Interaction*. The deadline will be October 23, with a ‘drop-dead’ date of November 1<sup>st</sup>.

We discussed the need for a new Secretary to take minutes at the meetings, and there was no rush of eager applicants! We discussed the possibility of rotating the responsibility, and Bill Kinney nobly volunteered for the spring meeting!

We reviewed the four grant applications for this year and the recommendations for funding by the grant committee. Although all four had solid applications and were judged worthy of funding, one applicant, Rainbow Haven, had no Lisle mentor and was therefore ineligible.

Grant monies available for grant funding were determined to be \$9900. The Board approved recommended funding of \$8500 for three proposals. Re-

generation of Integrated Tribal Community will receive \$3000. Global Visionaries Youth Leadership will receive \$3000. Jamaican Teacher Computer Lab Training will receive \$2500). It was agreed that if a Lisle mentor could be found for Rainbow Haven, the board would approve funding of \$1400 for this year’s cycle.

There was further discussion of the grant process and ideas/suggestions related to it. Mary recommended that the grant committee might consider a method for giving more points for “Lisle-ness” for those applications that have an opportunity for participation by Lisle members, or that might encourage new Lisle members/supporters, etc.

Marty suggested that he, Mark, and Gail have a discussion before the spring meeting to develop a recommendation to the board about involving grant recipients (organizations or their representatives) as Member Associates of Lisle.



*Nancy Kinney and Juanita Salvador-Burris share pictures of their loved ones.*

This year’s grant committee was composed of Mark, Beth, Mary and Dianne. We reiterated our intention that all board members would rotate onto the grant committee for a two-year cycle. Potential new members in the coming year or two are John Kachuba, Finn Hornum, and Betsy Bridwell. One issue the committee needs to discuss is the whole process of tracking, follow-through, and accountability of the grant recipients.

Mary shared some of the results of the web review and report done by her daughter, Amy, to help Lisle evaluate and improve the website. The main

*(Cont’d on next page)*



focus was to ask people what it was like to use the website as a non-Lisler and what they thought the organization was about. The responses included comments that it was informative and user-friendly, but it seemed like there was almost too much information.

Barb will send the report to the board. It was agreed we needed a “publicity committee” again to review the web and proposed materials and changes. John, Marty, and Darwin will be on the committee.

John and Mary again mentioned their willingness to donate \$250 as a start for a Next Generation Fund/Plan that might begin encouraging the next generation of contributors/supporters of Lisle. It was suggested that there be a Board discussion at the spring meeting in Chicago to develop a plan of action.

The meeting closed with a circle and song. Lisele closing circles remain much like they were 70 years ago, although the participants a just a little bit older now! 🌐



*L to R: Walt Ligon, Katherine Peters, Jacque & Joe Ault, Edith Ballard, Johnny Miller, Jean Ervin, Betty Ligon, Lane Winnett, Hester Willis, Barbara Bratton.*

## Attending Luminaries

### Board Members

*Walt & Betty Ligon, Marty Tillman,  
Jon Findley, Barb Bratton, Mark Kinney,  
Betsy Bridwell, John Kachuba,  
Mary Newman, Bill Kinney,  
Dianne Brause*

### Lisle Friends and Alumni

*Lane Winnett, Johnny Miller,  
Catherine Peters, Edith Ballard,  
Hester Willis, Hazel Martin, Ann Groves,  
Mary Schinnerer, Diane Koop,  
Barbara Walker, Linda Easley,  
Joyce Hardin, Barbara & Darwin Holder,  
Marie Snell, Barbara & Grey Austin,  
Joe & Jacque Ault, Bush & Levona  
Olmstead, Don & Jean Ervin,  
Juanita Salvador Burriss, Nancy Kinney,  
Smita Patel, Linda Hendersen*



*L to R: Marty Tillman, Nancy Kinney, Bill Kinney, Barbara & Darwin Holder, Jon Findley, Mary Newman, John Kachuba, Betsy Bridwell, Dianne Brause, Hazel Martin, Walt Ligon, Johnny Miller, Jean Ervin, Betty Ligon, Mary Schinnerer.*



# Annual Meeting Thanks

By Dianne Koop

**O**n behalf of Lucas County Youth Treatment Center and my church, Center for Conscious Living, many thanks to Lisle Fellowship and especially Hester Willis for joining me for a very special service project. YTC is a secure residential facility for 44 juvenile felons; Center for Conscious Living is a Partner in Education with YTC and recently tithed \$1,000 to buy clothes for YTC's indigent students. Now I can teach, counsel, and mediate, but how will I ever figure out what to buy for teenagers?

The answer is simple; take Hester as a shopping partner, and what seems like a formidable task becomes light and fun. Thanks to Hester's savvy shopping sense, we conquer Toledo's Westfield Mall and find the perfect jackets, baggy pants and underwear for teens. Thank you all for coming to Toledo and for loaning Hester to us for a delightful and productive Saturday afternoon. 🌐



*Dianne Koop works within the Toledo school system, helping with juvenile offenders. A shopping trip to buy clothes for them was led by Dianne.*

# A Note of Appreciation

Mary B. Schinnerer

**L**isle Fellowship was always a huge picture window onto this vastly diverse and worth-filled world of ours. A growing, living library from which one can absorb and help evolve the world—beginning with oneself, an important ingredient in an interactive exchange.

My first experience with Lislars was in 1962 with Betty and Walt Ligon. As an eight-year-old ward of the state, it was not the norm for adults to speak to me, encouraging an exchange and communicating with them. Even their questions and requests were non-threatening for a returned response. Wow! Adults who knew I was a person...Pinch me!

Well, I was pinched countless and priceless times during the four decades since. Lisle was always a presence, a way of life within our home and out in the world. Lisle was my worldly-extended family. One would have been hard pressed to convince me that Aunt Edna and Uncle Si were not family kin, which is still a true fact—to my heart.

After a twenty-four year absence from the interactive circles of Lisle Fellowship I was delighted to greet and re-meet many wonderful and familiar folk, and it was super to meet all those others for the first time. The changes I recognized appear to be encouraging the support and growth from which to evolve and venture forward into the next seventy years.

Congratulations, Lisle, on the last 70 years! 🌐

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*("Archives" cont'd from page 3)*

forward them to: Barbara Floyd, Director of the Canaday Center, University of Toledo Carlson Library, 2801 W. Bancroft St., Toledo, Ohio, 43606.

It was a great way to spend an afternoon, and we were excited to see how carefully organized and systematically stored the records are. Such a collection is a work in progress, and we all can help. So think of ways you want to use your Lisle records. 🌐





*Darwin and Barbara Holder (seated) receive a Lisle pillow door-prize from Barbara Bratton.*



*Juanita Salvador-Burris wins one of the Lisle pillow door-prizes.*



*Lynn Hendrickson, Saturday night's Keynote Speaker on the US Department of Peace Campaign.*



*Grey Austin, Edith Ballard and Joyce Harding order lunch at a UT cafe.*



*Hester Willis and Lynn Hendrickson, keynote speaker, smile for the camera.*



*Barbara Bratton, Hazel Martin, and Hester Willis relax over the lunch menus.*



# President's Message

**F**or me, the best thing about the way that we celebrated our 70th birthday in October was that we did not merely celebrate our past—but that we also looked ahead to the future! To a future with a clear focus and direction which holds the promise of Lisle continuing to be an agent of social change, individual growth and community empowerment, we offer thanks to the presence of the co-founder representing one of our first mini-grant recipients, the Mountain Children's Forum, based in India.

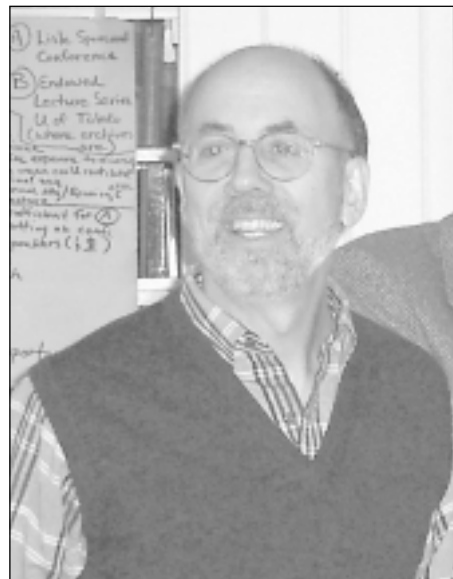
Reflecting on the milestone that Lisle has reached in 2006, I'd like to direct a few words to readers who are program alumni of the past 20 years or so. If you're reading *Interaction*, I will take that as a sign of your continuing interest in what we now are doing; and I would like to suggest a few ways that you can make a contribution—a non-financial one, if you will—to our future.

1) Consider becoming involved as a member of the Board of Directors—or in the non-voting role of Member Associate. We are always looking for fresh perspectives and individuals with professional skills in sync with our new direction (fundraising, grant management, and budget oversight.)

2) Consider becoming a mini-grant Mentor. Each grant proposal we receive is accepted **only** if there is an identified Lisle Mentor—a Lisle who assists the organization as they develop their proposal, interprets Lisle's mission and philosophy, and who agrees to remain engaged with the organization through the grant period.

If these ideas appeals to you, write me at: <[mjtillman47@aol.com](mailto:mjtillman47@aol.com)>. Let's talk!

The Board is committed to strengthening our ability to govern effectively, and at the Annual Meeting in Toledo, we took several steps in this direction. New appointments to the Board include: Finn Hornum of Philadelphia, (CT '51, Denmark, '52-54, '58, '68; CA & CO '55, and now retired



*Marty Tillman, Our Board President*

after teaching for 28 years at LaSalle University), and Bill Kinney, an attorney based in Chicago, (India '00 and Leader of Bali '01). We also have added Lori Bratton, a college student, (Costa Rica '98, India '00), as a Member Associate.

To keep yourself current about our work and to keep up to date with the work of those organizations that have received our mini-grants, please visit our web page at: <[www.lisleinternational.org](http://www.lisleinternational.org)>. Because we are not conducting summer programs, we are not now creating new "Lislers"—in the traditional sense of the term. So the Board is exploring how we can strengthen connections with our grantee organizations and their leaders.

I believe we will find the means to create a way to broaden our membership through sustaining ties to the good works of our growing list of grantees—and to the individuals whom they serve in their communities. See my comments about the co-founder of the Mountain Children's Forum, Smiti Patel, who attended the Annual Meeting, in my article about the Toledo meeting. (*See page 2*)

All good wishes!

Marty





# *Executive Director's Report*

This has been a year of solid progress for Lisle. We have successfully implemented the second year of the mini-grant program and have seen the positive results that have been achieved through our funding of small agencies. Those of us at the annual meeting in Toledo heard a stirring report of the success, which our project with the Mountain Children's Forum has achieved in India. One indication of the power of this report is that there was serious talk of developing a special Lisle program to visit the sites of the Mountain Children' Forum and see their work in progress. Several of us signed up on the spot to participate. We are now working with Sharada Nayak to design this program.

Other reports have been mostly favorable as well. We should all be proud of the work that has been accomplished. Now we are implementing the third year cycle of funding, having chosen three projects for funding at the annual meeting. I look forward to seeing great results for this coming year as in the past.

I can begin to see that we need to redouble our efforts in tracking the accomplishments of our funded projects. We will now be focusing additional attention to this part of the process during the coming months, so that we create more consistent and available documentation of these results.

We recently had the Lisle website analyzed through the good work of board member Mary Newman's daughter, Amy. This in-depth report shows that the site does a pretty good job of representing Lisle, and shows lists some areas, which we could develop to enhance the site even more. Jon Findley and I will be working to implement some of these suggestions over the coming months.



*Mark Kinney, Our Executive Director*

As many of you will remember, last year I was given the opportunity to teach in Hungary on a Fulbright grant. It was a wonderful experience, one I will treasure forever. In fact, the time was so rewarding that I am writing this report while sitting in Budapest, having been asked to return to give to presentations at conferences this fall. I only regret that some energy was not available to focus on Lisle efforts, as has been the case in the past.

On the other hand, President Marty Tillman and the Board have been doing a wonderful job focusing attention on the various tasks that need to be accomplished. You have been seeing some of these efforts in the high quality of the Lisle *Interaction* newsletter. In this regard, a special thank you is due to Elise Kimmons and Dianne Brause for putting together the various materials which the rest of us submit for editing and composition.

I am looking forward to a very productive year for Lisle during 2007.

Mark



## *Financial Report*

*By Barb Bratton*

As of the 70th Annual Meeting, Lisle has assets of \$221,021. This includes \$47,565 in the Baldwin Fund, which is a combined fund including gifts given in memory of the Baldwins, a gift from the Bagoes Oka family in Bali in the early 1990's, and the Marion Wright Edelman funds. The Restricted Endowment funds were initially raised in 1996 to \$141,207. Income from these funds has been used annually, as planned, for the operations of Lisle; but they have also been allowed to grow to their current fair market value of \$154,437. We have an estimated value of \$15,000 in the New York 50 acres—we were delighted to have Johnnie Miller volunteer to try to market this land for us. The balance of the funds is in unrestricted accounts.

The Statement of Support and Revenues for the fiscal year of 2005–2006 showed that donations by members was \$18,620—a wonderful increase over the budgeted amount \$14,800! Let's keep that up! Return on our investments, unfortunately, was budgeted at \$7,550 and only \$3,792 was received. The Financial Committee is reevaluating these investments in order to increase our return but keep within the socially responsible guidelines set out by the Board.

Grants were rewarded as budgeted at \$12,671. Expenses for Board of Director meetings, business office, property tax on the land, fundraising and production/ mailing of the *Interaction* were budgeted at \$9,679 and overspent by approximately \$1,000—primarily in the production of a larger *Interaction* in the summer and additional office costs with planning for the 70th Anniversary.

We have various Lisle “items” for sale (*see photo on page 9*) and hope to make \$500 this year to cover our costs. Send in your order with your annual membership form (*see page 31*) or call the Lisle Office at (800) 477-1538 and Lane will be glad to ship something out to you. 🌐

## *U.S. Department of Peace*

*By Bill Kinney*

Lynn Hendrickson was the keynote speaker at the Saturday night dinner of the Lisle 70th Anniversary celebration in Toledo, Ohio. Lynn is an attorney from Lansing, Michigan. She spoke as a representative of The Peace Alliance, a group supporting legislation to add a new Federal government office called the Department of Peace. Lynn conveyed her passion and conviction for the idea that ideas about peace should be presented in the leadership halls of government.

Her talk detailed that a Department of Peace in the form she is supporting would have representation at the same tables as the Departments of Defense and Treasury. The crowd was then treated to a video of Marianne Williamson speaking in support of the same movement. The Peace Alliance is sponsoring a 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, DC from February 3–5, 2007. The Conference will showcase the details of this concerted effort to change the government. You can contact The Peace Alliance at (248) 813-8950, or if you prefer, visit their website at: <[www.ThePeaceAlliance.org](http://www.ThePeaceAlliance.org)>. 🌐



*Nancy Kinney and Barbara Bratton look at Lisle commemorative pins.*



## A Lasting Gift to Lisle's Future

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. It was about fifteen years later that I decided to join the 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. And knowing Lisle as I do 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 a 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 Treasurer, Barbara Bratton, at: (800) 477-1538. 🌐



*Editor's Note: The hummingbird is the ancient symbol of the impossible becoming the Possible. Help Lisle continue to make the impossible Possible in 2007!*

## Be a Lisle Mentor!

A package is available to describe the responsibilities of a Lisle Mentor. If you are active in a non-profit organization that can use a small grant (\$500 to \$3,000), we want to encourage you to explore the process. It is NOT intimidating or time consuming and you can do a great service to your local project. Call the office or note your request on your 2006-7 membership form.

Applications for the next grant cycle will be due September 1, 2007 but, if you contact us early, we can get you and your project on the road early to reduce the rush of gathering data and filling out the application. One of our goals in having a Lisle Mentor is the interaction between the Board, the Mentor and the project to help get the funds to programs that are not sophisticated in grant applications but are known to our Lisle members as exciting and "Lisle-like".

Call (800) 477-1538 to talk to Barb Bratton or (989) 595-3667 to talk to Mark Kinney. 🌐

## Upcoming Meeting Information

The Spring Board Meeting to be held in Chicago next April 27-29, 2007 will have a change of venue. The ICC is closing its doors this November and Lane will be seeking a new location where Lislers can meet. If you plan to attend, please email Lane at: <[lisle2@io.com](mailto:lisle2@io.com)> or call her at (800) 477-1538. She will keep you updated!

The Fall Annual Meeting dates for October, 2007 were changed. Now the meeting will take place over the weekend of October 19-21, 2007, in Auburndale, MA. Look for more details in the Summer 2007 issue of *Interaction*. 🌐



## *New Mini-Grant Recipients*

*By Mark Kinney*

The Lisle Board of Directors is excited to announce that it has voted to fund three new projects during this third year of the Mini-Grant Program, with a fourth project possibly being added if concerns are removed in regard to the logistics of the project. These grants will be completed between December 2006 and October 2007, with reports on their achievements available at the Annual Meeting in Boston MA in the fall.

### **THE REGENERATION PROJECT**

It is described as the “integrated transformation of tribal community through their cultural initiatives in four tribal villages of Banaskandtha District in Gujarat, India.”

The Regeneration Project is co-directed by long-time Lisle Hasmukh Patel and Shilpa Vaishnav, with Lisle Mentor Sharada Nayak. Hasmukh founded the Sarvodaya Kendra (SK) ashram many years ago, and has hosted a number of Lisle programs over the years.

“Sarvodaya” means welfare of all. This meaning itself speaks loudly about the aims and objectives of the organisation. A group of dedicated social workers decided to form a mechanism to undertake various service-oriented activities for the welfare of downtrodden strata of our society. Be it social disturbances or natural calamities or developmental work, this most vulnerable lot of our society has always remained at the focal centre of the SK. Compassion is the only humanitarian way to create sense of belongingness among poor to the other groups of society.

This broad worldview has inspired us to carry out several humanitarian activities since its inception in 1959. The track record of the activities undertaken so far by the SK underlines its overall worldview. SK aims at bringing about total transformation in the lives of less fortunate brethren of our society through various peaceful means. Service to the humanity is its motto in spirit and action.

Besides, running three formal primary and secondary schools for the tribal children, SK has undertaken various developmental projects in 200 villages with participatory approach.

Its activities include watershed development, water conservation, women’s empowerment, low cost housing, and provision of sustainable livelihood through various programmes including handicraft. One hundred thousand marginalized rural poor belonging to 10,000 families have been directly benefited by several projects undertaken by SK.

SK has always been at the disposal of the natural disaster affected people. During past unprecedented floods and cyclones, droughts and earthquakes, the SK had rushed to the rescue and relief operations with a team of doctors and volunteers with medicines and relief material. SK has also established a core group of trained volunteers who provide their selfless services during natural disasters. SK has constructed 312 houses, two schools, one temple in four earthquake-affected villages in Kutch.

For the last six years, SK’s intervention in 42 tribal villages of Virampur area of Amirgadh Taluka in District Banaskantha located in North Gujarat, adjacent to Rajasthan, through various socio-economics programmes has resulted into shaping out a sustainable model of development. These villages are still alienated from the mainstream of development. The tribal populations living on small patches of their farmland of these villages along Arvalli Mountains barely manage to make their two ends meet. Consequent droughts had made their lives more miserable. Basic needs such as education and health are, by all standards, inadequate. Tribal habitat area is so invulnerable and difficult that it takes hours to walk down to people’s huts. They have no access to any other income generation source except agriculture and animal breeding, which provide supplementary income.

*(Cont’d on next page)*



Development of this area is strangled to some extent due to social evil customs and addictions. Innumerable families in these villages are too unfortunate to have two mealtimes and a roof to shelter their family members. The literacy rate among girls is less than 2%. This is 8th lowest ranking area in the country as far as girls' literacy is concerned.

In such a horrifying situation, SK has been striving to transform the face of this area by taking up several sustainable activities without any support from Govt. funding agencies. Construction of 65 check dams and deepening 6000 water wells of tribal farmers with the help of American Red Cross has provided additional water to farmers, which has substantially helped them in agriculture operation, which is the only source of their livelihood. The formation of 70 self-help groups comprising 1000 illiterate tribal women is also a landmark work done so far.

Lack of infrastructure and inaccessibility deprived 500 tribal children living in the remote hilly areas from schooling. Many brilliant children had to leave their studies half way and are forced to look after their animals. In the era of globalization, if proper education is not imparted to the children of these native people, tensions of all nature may occur resulting social imbalances as happened all some South American and African Countries. To avoid this awful situation, SK was instrumental in starting 10 informal schools for these 500 deprived tribal children in the deeply inaccessible hilly regions.

There has been close bond between Lisle and SK. The perception of Lisle very much matches with the worldview of SK. Cultural intervention and initiatives could be moving spirit of strong base of peaceful and just society. Children are the best ambassadors for spreading and strengthening cultural values. Taking into consideration the rich cultural values, SK has selected four tribal villages where its informal schools are located for the development of a model of just society through cultural initiatives. SK intends to take up several activities in these four villages with the help of Lisle. Ms. Sharada Nayak, an old Lisler has been an inspiration

for SK volunteers to take up the challenging task of transforming the tribal community where SK has been located. The activities under Lisle Mini-Grant Project include:

1. Motivating tribal leaders to change their conservative outlook.
2. Creation of awareness among tribal women about having less children [Each women has not less than 10 children]
3. Creation of awareness for literacy
4. Intervention with the other sections of the other sections of the society.
5. Motivating SK volunteers to interact actively with the tribal community.
6. Creation of new tribal young leadership and provision of exposure to this new generation of leadership.

The medium employed to carry out all aspects of project shall be songs, dances and festivals keeping their cultural values at the focal center of Lisle Mini Grant Project.

Transformation cannot be achieved overnight and hence one has to try tirelessly. Bigger should be the efforts if challenge is big. This is a short story about what crazy people have been doing.



*Global Visionaries: Working together to change the world, one dirt pile at a time!*

#### **GLOBAL VISIONARIES YOUTH LEADERSHIP**

This program is directed by Chris Fontana with Lisle Mentor Betsy Bridwell. Our program will provide students of differing backgrounds the

*(Cont'd on next page)*





*Hands of all colors, smiles of all friends, sharing a global vision.*

opportunity to interact, problem solve, and develop friendly relationships which aids in breaking down both racial and economic barriers and in providing youth a wide range of perspectives and experiences. Participants learn to be global citizens with a greater awareness of how their actions create a social and environmental ripple effect on a global scale.

In addition, students accept responsibility for those actions and develop a strong community interest. Students gain a broader inter-cultural understanding through study of and interaction with Guatemalan, Mayan, and Latino cultures. Overall the students develop lasting leadership skills that continue to benefit the community.

The Leadership Program educates and trains students in cross-cultural understanding, environmental awareness and social action, empowering students to take critical steps to eliminate racism and social inequalities and become environmental stewards both at home and abroad. The program provides opportunities for participants to build

friendships across racial, ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds locally and internationally. The program trains participants to develop tolerance, respect and acceptance of those different from themselves. One way that students do this is by staying with Guatemalan families. The Leadership Program is targeted at high school youth aged 15-18. As of now, 40% of the participants are from low-income backgrounds and are receiving scholarship support, and 37% are students of color.



*"Goodbye for now!" New friends have been made.*

Through culturally and environmentally focused class nights and involvement in local volunteer work teams, Global Visionaries strives to provide participants with a better understanding of regional environmental and social justice issues as well as build their own capabilities in community leadership, communication, outreach, acceptance, and self-esteem. A paramount focus of Global Visionaries' class curriculum and work team collaborations is making youth and local communities aware of their own "ecological footprint" and consumption habits.

#### **JAMAICAN TEACHER COMPUTER LAB TRAINING**

This program is directed by James Burke with Lisle Mentor Bill Kinney.

The goal of this project is to increase access and skills in Information Technology (IT) for women teachers and children in developing countries empowering them to build stronger communities. The plan is for the project director and 15 students along



*It takes a village to complete a Global Visionary project!*

*(Cont'd on next page)*



with 3–4 parent chaperones to make the trip to Jamaica and train the teachers in the use of the computer lab that we will be bringing with us.



*Decorated exterior of a Jamaican school.*

The purpose of the trip is three-fold. First is the donation of a computer lab to a school with no access to information technology. This is very important to allow the youth of Jamaica to become citizens of the world in the 21st century, not only for employment but also for access to information.

Second is the relationships that will be made with youth of different cultures. Having the Washington State students bond with peers in developing countries will create a better understanding of other peoples for that generation.

Third is providing training for the teachers so that in their spare time they can use the lab to train women in their community. Thus making some extra income for their families and strengthening the future of women in the community by giving them skills and access to knowledge.



*“We’re proud of our school! Jamaican students will benefit from the IT program.”*

#### **RAINBOW HAVEN, TAMIL NADU, INDIA**

This is a potential project, which may be funded if a Lisle Mentor is found within India. It will be directed by Jacob Devadason (with Jasmine Jebakani).

The purposes are to break down the barriers and walls of caste, religion, gender and other walls/barriers, to build strong local communities to support and help each other, and to remove suspicion of any kind.

The Project will bring different people together from different castes, religious and culture backgrounds once a week. Giving more opportunities to sit and spend their time together, more opportunities will be created to work as a team through various indoor and outdoor programs/games and other social activities and entertainments. This will help them to understand the nature of the “otherness” and learn to appreciate the “otherness”—interfaith, intercultural and international dimension of different global communities, which will ultimately lead them to live in harmony and unity. This is to create a Rainbow Haven, a community of different colors to live in harmony. We are aiming for unity not uniformity. 🌐

#### *New Assoc. Bd. Members*

Let’s welcome the following Lisle Associates: Betsy Bridwell (former Board Member), Lisler Ann Groves (Denmark ’55, Netherlands ’03), Smita Patel, who works intensively with the Mountain Children’s Forum in India, and Lori Bratton, Costa Rica ’98 & India ’00.

We look forward to their insights and wisdom to aid in the dynamic evolution of Lisle’s future. Thanks! 🌐



## Network News

This column is one of the favorites for our readers! In it our membership can find out what is going on in other Lisler's lives. Thanks to all who write to the Lisle office. Thanks also to Lane Winnet for compiling the snippets of information shared into a format ready for publication. Of course, Edith Ballard also is in communication with Lislers around the world and her emails "to and from" fill out this column. Thanks to each and every one of you has done so much over time in the name of Global Community building.

**Barbara Baum** (NY '45) of Scarsdale, NY writes: "I would welcome visitors to the New York area for a brief visit. It is a 10-minute walk to the train station. It is approximately 20 miles to Manhattan."

**Mary (Roberts) Bhuta** (CO '50) of Los Osos, CA re-enacts scenes from the lives of famous American women in history, i.e. Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison, Betsy Ross and Martha Washington.

**Cora Bell (Walburn) Crane** (CO '45) of Palmdale, CA writes: "It would be great to sit in on the meetings and maybe see an old friend or two, but at age 86 I'm having to cut back on many activities. I still do Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy for seniors 2 hours a week, keep active on our local Retired Teachers Assoc. Board, and attend church activities and Genealogical Society. I did fly to Minnesota last month to visit family and attend the 69th reunion of my high school class."

**Mirabel (Hansen) Deming** (NY '44, '46, '47, '48 '49 and CO '46 & '52) of Janesville, WI writes: "I'm fortunate to have good enough health to be quite active, and continue in those interests which Roy and I shared: international affairs and the UN; poverty especially of children; interfaith understanding. Our family is close and they keep me involved in their lives. I live in a real community in my retirement home, with many formal and infor-

mal opportunities to do things with friends. I'm pleased with the reports coming from the Lisle office."

**Katryn (Dunning) Eynon** (CO '52, Denmark '54) writes: "I am getting settled into my new home in Maysville, NC. It is 100 years old and needs lots of work, as does the 3-acre property. What am I doing? Besides working on my new/old house, I spent 2 weeks in Wisconsin during Feb. Visited Mirabel and painted an undersea mural on 2 large walls of my grandson's bedroom. In May I made a short trip to New Jersey to visit my sister-in-law and together we "did" shows and concerts and ate through every restaurant that was handy. Wrote and directed the children's program for Christmas and Easter at my church and worked at the Vacation Bible School. I work-out 3 times a week and like to think I haven't aged a bit!"

**Mary Anne (McGill) Hirsch** (CO '49 & '50, Denmark '51) of Sacramento, CA writes: "Dale and I are still spending our summers on his boat in Washington & points north. We went to Alaska again this summer. I see Shirley (Wolff) Hunting (CO '52 & '54) when we are in Seattle and was saddened this year by her husband, Al Hunting's sudden death. We will miss him so much."

**Emily (Moore) Krause** (CO '49) wrote Edith Ballard that she has lived in Ft Collins, CO for 20 years and before retirement lived in Washington DC and lived overseas 3 different times. She lost her husband a year ago and now Emily is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

**Karen Marie Metzler** (Cuba '80) of Parma, OH has been invited to be a contributor to medical text "Developmental Behavior" 4th Editor at the Allen C. Crocker of Boston Children's Hospital. Also invited to the Bioethics Conference at Imperial College for Arts and Sciences on "What is Human?"

**Robin and Steve Pollens** (India '81) of Kalamazoo, MI wrote: "We still measure our life





outlook by the understandings gained through our Lisle experience in India in 1981. We have had other satisfying cross-cultural experiences, such as living in Mayan villages while providing services on a short-term basis. We have traveled to other countries—off the beaten path if possible—knowing that only through listening to those who are part of the culture can we hope to understand what we see. We now have children in college, interested in social work/public health and environmental issues. Best wishes to anyone who was part of our India Journey. We celebrated our first wedding anniversary with you in 1981 and we've now been happily married 26 years.

**Dawn (Saari) Russell** (CO '45) of Eugene, OR writes: "I'm still doing my best to promote intercultural understanding between persons and groups."

**Hans and Ellie (Durham) Spiegel** (CO '46, '47, NY '47, Germany '58, Bali '88) of Leonia, NJ writes "It is a joy to work with Martina and Nathan Firestone!"

**Bob and Alice (Rife) Wiedrich** (CO '46) of Decatur, IL writes: "Thanks for the Interaction! Bob had a role in Theater 7's production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" in February 2006. It was a fun play! In March we journeyed via mini motor home to California. The gasoline bill was "out of sight!"

**Cherry (Charlotte Forbes) Wunderlich** (CA '64) of Bethesda, MD wrote: "THANK YOU, LISLE!"

**Nancy Jo Zinner** (Leadership Training) of Santa Barbara, CA who is a Lisle Board Member Associate wrote, "I've been so out of touch with Lisle, so it's been great to read up on all the recent changes. I'm the immigration advisor for UC-Santa Barbara Extension. Meeting and assisting the students is a joy! I drive to LA a few times per month to help out my Dad. Wishing you the very best!" 🌐

## *Blast from The Past!* *Old Friends from Costa Rica Write*

*Dianne Brause*

This is from Cristobal (Christoph) Burkard, Co-Founder of Longo Mai, an intentional community made up of many Central American refugees where the Lisle programs used to go in Costa Rica in the 1990's.



*First Lisle group in Costa Rica, March 1996.*

Hola Dianne!

Great to hear from you after such a long time! Things go well in Longo Mai, and we even won probably the most important international prize for "Socially Responsible Tourism" in 2004.

I was with Edith (Quijano-Ruanos) in Berlin in 2005 to receive the prize on behalf of the community. If you want to know more see: <[www.to-do-contest.org/2004](http://www.to-do-contest.org/2004)>.

The Institute for Tourism and Development decided in 1995 to organise the "TO DO! Contest for Socially Responsible Tourism" and to invite entries from all over the world. The future of tourism will depend partially on whether it develops a socially responsible profile in the destination areas.

The contest accepts entries only for projects and measures whose planning and implementation involves the different interests and needs of the local population through participation on a broad scale. In addition, the following aspects are also considered: Awareness Raising; Wide-ranging benefit; Quali-

*(Cont'd on page 31 "Costa Rica")*



## I Celebrate by "Turning!"

By Dianne G. Brause

Many of you have been interested in the practice of "turning" that I have begun to do in the past few years. It is what some of you have seen on TV done by the "Whirling Dervishes" of Turkey with the men wearing long white skirts and tall conical hats.

This Sema ceremony first began in 1273 to commemorate the death of Jelaluddin Rumi, the now famous poet symbolizing his process of returning to God as "The Beloved." It is a process of prayer that can be seen as bringing celestial energies down through the right hand with each turn, pouring through the heart of the turner (semizan) and finally grounded into the earth through the down-turned left hand. It also symbolizes the turning of the planets around the sun.

This ceremony is traditionally done during the week in December before the final ceremony performed on the actual night of Rumi's death (December 17th). I

consider myself very lucky that my birthday is on Dec 12th and thus sometimes falls on the night when the Sema service is performed.

Last

year, our group of American semizen from the Mevlevi Order of America were invited to perform in Istanbul on my birthday in an ancient building, the ("Sema" Cont'd on page 30)

## Mark Visits India and Hungary

By Mark Kinney

Mark is traveling again! This time he is spending the middle of October in Northeast India in the Meghalaya section with the Khasi people. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ann Arbor has been supporting a school there through their "Sponsor a Student" project for the past five years. This project is an attempt to build cross-cultural understanding through sponsoring a student and sharing photos and letters to learn more about each other.

Now, five leaders of that project are traveling to India to do a site visit. They will be visiting the school and several others, talking with teachers and administrators and seeing the cultural richness of the Khasi Hills. They hope that this effort will give us additional insight which will lead to a deepening of the relationship between the US and India.

After that time, Mark will be traveling to Hungary where Nancy will join him. During that portion of the trip Mark will do a presentation explaining the current research results of the "No Child Left Behind" at the fall national conference of educational research. Then later in the visit he will do a presentation of the development and use of instructional websites. Both should be interesting to present and discuss with colleagues. He and Nancy also hope to go sailing in Croatia for part of their visit time. It should be a wonderful re-visit to Hungary. 🌐



Mark gives a lecture about the "No Child Left Behind" policy at a research conference in Budapest this past fall. His interpreter is Marianna Joo.



Dianne Brause in full Semizen regalia enacting this sacred ceremony performed in Eugene Oregon on her birthday.



## *Lisle Memories*

*By Mogens and Jean Jensen*

Mogens and I both have very special memories—and friends—from our participation in Lisle units in CO '46, Denmark '54, Family Camp '56, Germany '59 and as Leaders for Germany '62.

Jean just reread her diaries from Colorado and Denmark, making very old memories come alive again. Uncle Si and Aunt Edna Baldwin were an important part of our lives in the 40's and 50's. 1946 Colorado unit members helped celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in our rustic campsite in the Rocky Mountains. There were 55 students in that group.

Jean moved to Ann Arbor in 1953 to become Lisle's international secretary in Lane Hall on the U-Michigan campus. Uncle Si was a busy man as Coordinator of all religious groups on campus, and directing Lisle activities as his second job. She decided it was time to visit Europe so became part of the six-week 1954 Danish unit. She met this attractive Dane on a deputation to a home for delinquent boys in Skibby. He became our guide for the four days, since no other teacher felt confident enough in English to take on a team containing an Austrian, a Dutchman, a Dane and an American. Mogens became interested in Lisle's program and joined us every evening after work for our last week. When Jean arrived back in Michigan three weeks later, she found six letters from Mogens, indicating he was applying for a visa to immigrate to the US.

To make a long story short, Uncle Si became his sponsor, he arrived by freighter in NYC in June 1955, we were married in September 1955 by Uncle Si in Ann Arbor, and celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year! Talk about proceeding through life on faith!

One unique experience afforded to Lislors who traveled to Europe in those early years was our method of travel—not planes, but “student ships” sailing out of New York Harbor, with mostly student and teachers to Le Havre, France. From there

we traveled by train to European units. We enjoyed 10 days of language lessons, orientation to European culture, lectures of various topics, and folk, square and ballroom dancing under the stars on deck after glorious sunsets. It was great preparation for new experiences to come in the next eight weeks. On the journey home we had 10 days to rest up and personally evaluate our summer.

We would both enjoy being with you in Toledo this weekend, but [health complications] over the past three years prevent us from making the trip. We're sure you will have many memories and new experiences to share as you contemplate Lisle's past and future.

*Editor's Note: Jean and Mogens Jensen live in Grand Blanc, Michigan. 🌐*

### *In Memoriams*

Yung Hsuan Chou (NY '48) of Lapeer, MI passed away this past summer.

LaMarr Graves (Elderhostel '90) of Dublin, OH passed away in April 2006. Daughter, Karyn Prince informed the Lisle Office last summer.

Mary Lawrence (Fletcher) Hunt (NY '36) of Brattleboro, VT passed away January 03, 2006 reported husband Norman Hunt. Mary was 90 years old.

Al Hunting, husband of Shirley Wolf Hunting (CO '52, '54), passed away in November.

Caroline (Godfrey-Weber) McClure (NY '41) of Sun City Center, FL passed away 9/18/05. The Lisle Office was notified last summer.

Reva Lee Moskowitz (CA '50) of Aurora, CO passed away Feb 11, 2006

Glenn A. Olds of Sherwood, OR, a Friend of Lisle also passed away this past year.



## *Tom Goodridge Remembered*

*By Edith Ballard*

Tom and I met at an Friend's General Conference (FGC) workshop in Hamilton, Ontario several years ago, maybe nine. It was a memorable trip because I rode with David and Anne Greene. On the way we stayed overnight at a friend of theirs not far from Buffalo. Before the conference we visited the rose garden.

The workshop was led by Francis Hole, a soils professor at the University of Wisconsin, who wrote songs about our relationship to the earth and played the violin to accompany them. I chose that workshop because back in 1938 I had met Francis at a community cooperative meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. Later I saw his name in *Fellowship* magazine and Quaker publications so I remembered the name.

Our mutual interests in the soil led Tom to confer with me about his school efforts to show his classroom things like the way earthworms work in a terrarium. He sent me information about the city of New York bulldozing his students' garden. They did later provide another space which Tom has used to get the data for his doctorate on the relationship of children to the earth.

Six or seven years ago Tom attended a gay conference south of here one vacation and stopped here to give me a foundation for a wreath that he had made with dried vines. It was not until last Christmas that I put trimming on it and placed it on my porch. Marlin (my son) was here so I was happy they were able to meet. Both of them are gifted in many ways; song, dance, art and other creative activities and have some similarities in personality. When Tom had his special education children do creative cards he would do one for me. I loved that.

When my Japanese guest, Megumi, was here with the "Never Again Campaign," I felt she should have the experience of attending the Fellowship of Reconciliation Conference at Riverside. We wanted to spend a day visiting art museums so Tom ar-

ranged for us to use his apartment while he went to a teacher's weekend meeting.

I attended the Fellowship of Reconciliation conference only two days because Marlin had a yearning to visit his Uncle Mervin Ballard at his summer place on a lake in Ohio. It was fortunate we did, because Mervin died the following year.

When Lisle had their Annual Meeting in New York City and New Jersey, Tom was host to my sister Norma and I after their meetings. When I told Darwin Holder about Tom's work for a doctorate he felt Tom should meet Leyla Welkin, the Lisle I enjoyed dining with in Seattle with her aunt and with Lisle Betsy Bridwell in Betsy's back yard last summer. Leyla had just received her doctorate for which she had used material from her leadership in Lisle units in Turkey. Tom was invited to lunch with the Lisle group and sat by Leyla and Dianne Brause. Tom found Leyla's counsel helpful and was grateful.

Last April when a bus went from here to New York for a peace rally, I arranged to have my artist friend, Theresa Reuter take me to Stony Run Friends Meeting from which the bus left. Then I bought a train ticket for my return so I could visit with Tom. Dressed as Greenman, Tom came to the rally with his praying mantis puppet and entertained a few children. I was delighted to see him do that.

On Sunday I had the joy of attending Tom's Friends Meeting, Morningside, after which we walked in Riverside Park enjoying the signs of spring before taking the subway to the train station. The other night Tom called and we found more common interests, one of which was help we both gave to the Green Party.

My memory is failing so much I must write more about past experiences while I still am able.

Love to you all—Edith. 🌐

*Editor's Note: Please read Leyla Welkin's response to Edith's reminiscence on the next page.*



## Lisle and Me

By Don Ervin

I have thought about Lisle so many times, asking “What did I learn, and what am I still learning?”

Ever since we moved to Woodlawn (Chicago area) in 1983, I have tried to work with others—first in the community that a group of us formed, but working with others in that community. At first I kind of lost myself to being treasurer of the organization we founded, but soon the question arose, “Are we doing this work *for* others in the neighborhood, or *with* others?” I began to see that I needed to look at the world through the eyes of my neighbors.

Soon after Jean and I moved farther into our neighborhood, MacArthur funds were donated to our and other neighborhoods, where many lived in poverty. As a contribution to a housing committee, I volunteered to write a guide for repairs and maintenance. I soon got the message: “You need to write this so tenants can understand it!” More looking at the world through the eyes of others.

I remember Aunt Edna saying, “Life is real; life is earnest, and the grave is not its goal!” Well, Aunt Edna, I still hear you. It helps!

*Editor’s Note: Don and Jean live at 6233 South Woodlawn, Chicago, IL 60637. They participated in the NY ’48, CO ’49, Family Camp ’61 & ’62. 🌐*

### Leyla Welkins Responds

What a lovely story Edith! Thank you for including me on your list for these memories. I have had thoughts about Tom many times since we met and corresponded about our schoolwork a few years ago. I am delighted to know that he has finished his doctorate, or at least I draw that inference from your tale.

How wonderful to know that the Green Man lives on in New York delighting children and those of us who have met him. Thank you, Tom!

Fondly, Leyla. 🌐

## Book: Home Alone in America

By Elise Kimmons

Elizabeth (Betty) Arnswald Dost wrote Edith Ballard recently. Betty participated in the Germany 1959 Unit. “I’m glad your meeting with the other Lislers went well. I think a lot of Lislers would find the story of my husband’s nine years alone in the US, beginning at age 16, very interesting.”

The book was published in 2004 and contains 248 pages. The story is told in the original letters exchanged by him and members of his family in Berlin during that long separation. She has a website for the book, which includes excerpts and readers’ comments. *(This illustration, right, of the book cover front was taken from the website listed below.)* The following quotes are from the website listed below.



“Dost’s widow, Elizabeth Arnswald Dost, a journalist, translated and organized the communications. She has done a marvelous job of preparing them for publication. They are well-organized and annotated where necessary for clarification. Letters from Dost’s family in Germany are interspersed chronologically.”

“The extraordinary collection of letters exchanged during those years by Helmut Dost in the United States and his family in Berlin tell the suspense-filled story of a young man’s unanticipated struggles and challenges in the country of his birth. At the same time, they give us intriguing glimpses of life in beleaguered West Berlin during the tense days of the Cold War.”

To read the commentary, excerpts and reviews, you can go to visit her website at: [www.homealoneinamerica.com](http://www.homealoneinamerica.com). If you’d like to order the book, click on the link “Order form” and print it out. 🌐



(“Costa Rica” cont’d from page 25)

fied jobs in tourism; Strengthening of identity; Minimisation/avoidance of damage.

It would be great to have visitors of Lisle or similar communities and friends once in a while—be it as groups or as individuals. The Lisle visits always were of highest human and conceptual quality—no group has reached this level ever since. We now have medical students from U of Michigan and Harvard once in a while who are doing community-health projects. Otherwise we have very few people from USA, more from Quebec and Europe. Thanks a lot also for your offer to include us in the mini-grant program. We’ll look into it to see what ideas come up in this respect.” We wish you a peaceful time to come and an even better 2007 and beyond.

*Editor’s Note: Anyone interested in visiting Longo Mai (or being a Lisle Mentor, in case they want to apply for a Lisle Mini-Grant) should contact Cristobal at: <[zsp@gmx.net](mailto:zsp@gmx.net)>.*

(“Sema” cont’d from page 26)

Galata Semihane, first built in 1491 to be used specifically by this ceremony. Our group was composed of both men and women semizen and I felt awed at actually being able to “turn” in this amazing historic space where the Sultans used to come to watch the ceremony.

This December I was able to turn in this same ceremony in my home town of Eugene, Oregon for the first time, also on my birthday! What a treat! I was accompanied by other Mevlevi Sufis from the USA and several noted musicians who came from Turkey to play and sing for us at the ballroom of the University of Oregon.

This year (2007) has been declared as the “UN Year of Rumi” since it is the 800th Anniversary of his birth. Our group has created a calendar of pictures from last year’s trip to Turkey plus other pictures and sayings of our teacher, Jelaluddin Loras. It is beautiful. If you would like to order one, go to: <[www.hayatidede.org](http://www.hayatidede.org)> The cost is \$15 including shipping & handling.

Also, for those of you in the East Coast, next December we expect to be performing in Washington, DC, New Jersey and in New York City. I hope to see some of you there! 🌐

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### **Submissions Solicited!**

We’d love to include your Lisle memories, travel stories, journal entries, poetry, artwork and photographs of unit participants and travel locations.

You can download the submission guidelines from the website.

Please send your submissions to:  
Dianne Brause: [diannebr@lostvalley.org](mailto:diannebr@lostvalley.org)

**AND**

Elise Kimmons: [eldkim@comcast.net](mailto:eldkim@comcast.net)



Clip, fold and mail



# Lisle, Inc. Membership Form

Mail to: 900 County Road 269 • Leander, TX 78641

(800) 477-1538 • Email: <lisle2@io.com>

I want to become/stay a member of the Lisleactive membership roster, and make an annual commitment with a tax-deductible contribution as checked below.

## Lisle 2007 Active Membership Fees

- Student or Reduced Income ..... \$0-\$15
- Basic Member ..... \$35-\$74
- Contributing Member ..... \$75-\$149
- Supporting Member ..... \$150-\$499
- Sustaining Member ..... \$500-\$999
- Benefactor ..... \$1000 and above
- Organizational Member ..... \$200

### Information you'd like to receive from Lisle:

- Please send me information about being a **Lisle Mentor**  
(Sponsor an organization to apply for a Mini-Grant)
- Please send me a brochure about **"Providing a Lasting Memorial"**  
(This brochure deals with Wills and Bequests)

### Lisle Items for Sale

- 70th Anniversary T-shirt (Circle the size: M L XL XXL)..... \$6 / \$8 for XXL
- 70th Anniversary BookBag ..... \$5
- 70th Anniversary Lisle History DVD ..... \$15
- 2006 Lisle Directory ..... \$20
- "Tiger by the Tail" by Uncle Si ..... \$25
- "Aunt Edna—50 Years of Memories" by Aunt Edna ..... \$8

Because of high processing costs, we no longer are able to accept credit cards.  
Please enclose your check payable to "Lisle, Inc."

**Total enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Units attended \_\_\_\_\_

### Notes about your activities for the *Interaction* newsletter

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## MEETINGS

Spring Board Meeting	April 27-29, 2007	Chicago, IL
Annual Meeting	October 19-21, 2007	Auburndale, MA
Spring Board Meeting	Spring, 2008	TBA
Annual Meeting	Fall, 2008	TBA

