



Lisle *Interaction*

A Bi-Annual Publication of Lisle International

W I N T E R I S S U E • 2 0 1 2

Celebrating 75 Years: Fun and Fellowship in Philadelphia, PA

By Lori Bratton, Board Secretary

Earthquakes, floods and fires couldn't prevent this party from happening! Traveling a total of nearly 30,000 miles, we came from Texas, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Washington, Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, California,

Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Georgia. Nestled in the heart of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, our "home" for the weekend was Chamounix Mansion, a stunning "country home" built in 1802 on a scenic bluff above the Schuylkill River. Surrounded by towering trees and lush vegetation, it was hard to believe we were in the middle of Philadelphia!

In attendance were Board Members: Smita Patel, Marty Tillman, Bill Kinney, Mark Kinney, Gail Bier, Dianne Brause, James Burke, Jon Findley, Anne Hayner, Lori Bratton, Barbara Bratton, and Vistors: Juanita Salvador-Burris, Nancy Kinney, Barbara Holder, Chris and Dean Coons, Marina Firestone, Betty & Walt Ligon, Karen Swam,



What a fabulous group of global-minded people!

Andy and Susa Nahmias, Barbara Walker, Hans & Ellie Spiegel, Alex Cox, Jenny Cox and Brenda Gilbert. With nearly everyone arriving Thursday night or early Friday, the board spent Friday meeting in committees and as a group, and thoroughly

enjoyed having so many vistors to provide input and suggestions!

The Board's primary goal for Friday was to select the 2012 Seed Grant Recipients. After receiving the Seed Grant Committee's report, the Board voted to award a total of \$11,755 in grants to the following programs: Friends of African Village Libraries (FAVL), Summer Reading Camps in Village Libraries in Burkina Faso; Friendship with Cambodia, Education for Rural Girls in Cambodia; Lubuto Library Project, Building Capacity in the second Lubuto Library, hosted by Ngwerere Basic School in Lusaka; and The Unitarian Union of Northeast India Education Committee, Emergency Preparedness Youth Training for Villages

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Betty tells the “girls” what it was like to preside over the Board in the “old days.”
 L to R: Betty Ligon, Barbara Walker, Ellie Spiegel, Juanita Salvador-Burris.



Karen Swam (Leader Training 1998) was a surprise visitor to the 75th—she was warmly welcomed after a number of years off the Board.

Lisle Celebrates 75 Event-Filled Years

By Mark Kinney and Marty Tillman

Last September 16–18, about 30 Lislers gathered at the Annual Membership and Board Meeting to share the past, present and future of Lisle. Included in the celebration, which was underwritten by the generous contribution of two long-time Lisle families, were Lislers from as far back as the 1940s and as new as the 2000s: a truly inter-generational gathering. We sang, talked, discussed the current proposals for Global Seed Fund support, ate wonderful food and discussed the issues, which face the organization—and the world—going forward.



Alex Cox and Andy Nahmias smile, remembering the “Good Ole Lisle Days!”

Very few American nonprofit organizations are still thriving—and innovating—after seven decades: there was so much to celebrate! Lisle is effectively managing its modest portfolio of assets in these tough economic times, has in place a very robust procedure for seeking, evaluating, and managing its innovative seed grant program, and has a loyal membership which continues to consider their involvement in Lisle as life-changing

Meeting at the Chamounix Mansion International Youth Hostel in Philadelphia, we gathered from throughout the U.S., West Coast, South, North and East. It was such a wonderful renewal of our previous times together. Lislers, Marina Firestone, Barbara Walker, Susa & Andy Nahmias, Walt & Betty Ligon (whose untimely death only a month

after the meeting leaves all who knew and admired her with a deep sense of loss), Brenda Gilbert, Juanita Salvador-Burris, Chris & Dean Coons, Hans & Ellie Spiegel, Karen Swam, Alex and Jennifer Cox, and Barbara Holder joined with current board members to celebrate the international work and commitment of Hans & Ellie Spiegel as they received the 2011 Ligon Service Award for their sustaining contributions to Lisle.

Board member James Burke was the meeting videographer, and “story corps” recorder, interviewing everyone to archive their Lisle story[ies] so that we would not lose this important perspective on how the program has influenced the lives and engagement of Lislers. These interviews will eventually enter the Lisle archive at the University of Toledo and hopefully, also be put on the website (*see page 29*). We’d urge you to consider sending us your story either in hard copy to the Texas office or to anyone you know on the Board—including Marty Tillman at <mjtillman47@aol.com> or Mark Kinney at <mark.kinney@utoledo.edu>.




Lisle’s Closing Circle, singing “We’re in The Same Boat Brother/Sister”.
L to R: Dianne Brause, Juanita Salvador-Burris, Jon Findley, Barbara Bratton and Smita Patel.

An Evening with Irshad Manji

By Mark Kinney

During the 75th celebration, Executive Director Mark Kinney shared an audio-tape of an interview with Irshad Manji, “Human Rights and Multiculturalism: An Evening with Irshad Manji,” from the CBC program *Ideas*, which is available at: www.cbc.ca/ideas/episodes/2011/06/29/human-rights-and-multiculturalism-an-evening-with-irshad-manji/.

Manji declares her mission as guiding people about Muslim reform and moral courage. Irshad is founder and director of the “Moral Courage Project” at New York University’s school of public service. This leadership program equips students to challenge political correctness, intellectual conformity and self-censorship—within their families, communities and organizations.

As we listened during the evening, participants asked questions and discussed the controversial ideas, which Manji espoused. I suggest that it is worth one hour to listen to this podcast from CBC. If you do, please let me know your thoughts. 



Juanita Salvador Burriss in all her beauty.



Smita presides over the delicious and gregarious banquet. It’s the fun part of Lisle’s Presidency!



Barbara Holder, Lori Bratton and Jon Findley visited the Liberty Bell.



Blue Columbines © Dick McRill

President's Message

By Smita Patel

It is deeply humbling to sit here 75 years out and look back over the trajectory of Lisle's history: what a ground-breaking, transformative process the Baldwins set in motion when they first started bringing people together to learn, experience, and share.

These experiences formed and changed not only the individuals who participated in the Lisle units, but through them, their families and communities. The Lisle values of tolerance, respect for, and an eager curiosity about other people and different cultures, a deep and passionate belief in the value and possibility of achieving peace and understanding are still abiding threads running through the fabric of American thought and culture.

The power of Lisle is most evident in the strong passion of Lislers: though their own Lisle experiences took place decades before, we have with us Lislers who have traveled from across the country to celebrate this legacy. I can think of few organizations that can boast such commitment.

But here in 2011, we face a dramatically different world from that in which Lisle took root three quarters of a century ago. It is a rapidly changing world, one that forces us to continually re-evaluate what Lisle's work is and what we hope to achieve. The need for greater understanding and mutual respect through shared experience is evident in every aspect of our current society. Is Lisle as effective as it can be in highlighting those values and showing people a path to achieving them?

We now have a wealth of tools undreamed of in the 1930s; the Internet and social media connect people in unprecedented ways that continue to evolve rapidly. Are we making the best possible use of these tools?

We have carved out a special niche—through our seed grants we have supported im-




Smita Patel, Lisle's President

portant, exciting projects that embody our values and, in many cases, would not have taken place without Lisle. Is this niche still the best place for us to be? And if so, how do we broaden the impact of our work and of the projects we support?

As our fellowship grows smaller through the attrition of time, how can an organization like Lisle best make an impact while managing with fewer resources?

There is no doubt in my mind that values of Lisle are more relevant and more needed than ever. We ask these questions not because Lisle no longer matters, but because we stand today at a crossroads. Behind us is a long and storied history. Ahead the path is uncharted. To do justice to our past we must make every effort to ensure that in the cynical, screaming cacophony of today's world, Lisle's way of listening is clearly heard.

This is *our* mission if we choose to accept it. 

Executive Director's Report

We have worked this year to have a wonderful time in Philadelphia celebrating the 75 years of Lisle. It looks like it is all coming together. The organization continues to build a strong continuation of the Baldwin tradition of bringing peoples of diversity together to learn from one another. The grants we have supported this year have each done that in their own way.

The Seed Grant Process

Applicants: Each of the past two years, we have thought that the number of applicants would be very small, only to receive an adequate number. For this next year we have had six applications which met our requirements and which are being evaluated by the selection committee. Each of these proposals has significant strengths.

Selection Committee Process: After a slow start, I believe the selection committee has been sharing their ratings of projects and coming to a recommendation for the board. I have spent some hours updating the "Lisefund" blog so the can use that process to share their ideas.

Lisle 75th anniversary

Our Annual meeting in Philadelphia at the Chamonix Mansion Hostel on September 16–18 looks to be a really good one. Thanks to the planning committee of Marty (chair), Alex and myself for their efforts. Several very active Lislors from the past will be joining us and will give us a chance to discuss long standing issues about Lisle's future. The executive committee has been discussing these ideas and looking at how to do so in an effective way. I have brought some old time songbooks and song sheets to help us do some singing during the meeting, which we have not done in the recent past.

Webpage

Managing materials: Our site contains a great deal of information for multiple kinds of us-



Mark Kinney, Lisle's Executive Director

ers. There are, of course issues, which arise from time to time. One way the website continues to work well is that Jon Findley, and others, occasionally go to the site and look at various pages and then email me with problems which they encounter. We have had several suggestions for changes to the website. So far concrete recommendations have not been made. I would also like to see links to Facebook and perhaps Twitter on the website. The issue is how to do so in a way, which furthers our goals. I think some real research has to be done to determine how to link the webpage to Facebook—is the Lisle page a “group” page, a “friend of ” page? (And I believe there are several other kinds of pages as well). What is the best way to set up a Facebook page for Lisle? Then there is a need to make sure that someone is active in adding information to the Facebook page on a regular basis. In other words, if we are going to make use of these social media mechanism we need to find the individual or individuals who will continually monitor the materials which are posted, deleting those entries which are out of date or not appropri-

(Cont'd on next page)

ate and as well building the site(s) so they continually add new information about what we are doing. I believe that until we are prepared to make this commitment we should not do anything.

It will be useful for us to have a conversation at this meeting about a statement which describes Lisle for the website. There is a statement drafted by Sharon Kristjanson, which is currently posted to the webpage. It will be helpful to have the board review that statement and see if we want any modifications made to it. It reads:

Lisle International is a unique non-profit organization that funds small development projects around the world through its Global Seed Fund. Its distinctiveness comes from how it melds experiential cross-cultural learning with the work itself, placing equal emphasis on relationships and development funding.

Lisle has been ahead of the curve since its inception in 1936, recognizing the essential value of group process interaction in promoting global understanding and sustainable growth at every level, from the individual to nation. These relationships foster a network of people around the world, which increases creativity and growth; thus the funding, by itself, is two-dimensional: process and outcomes. Most organizations emphasize one or the other, few do both, and even fewer do so with the commitment and success of Lisle.

Paypal: Paypal continues to be used sparingly by Lislers. I expect that usage will grow over time.

Lisle Email Contact List

I have developed a series of mailing lists so that we can send information to those for whom we have email addresses about what is happening with Lisle. As I worked on this project, I was pleasantly surprised to find that we have more than 400 email addresses. I needed to send up four different mailing lists since the software I am using limits the total to 100 on a list. My first mailing was to ask for remembrances of Lisle for this annual meeting

celebration. We have received several and they are nice recollections of Lisle. (*They begin on page eight.*) We might find it useful to discuss how we could use email contacts to strengthen Lisle.

The email lists will take some energy because of the high number of out-of-date email addresses. I am still receiving bounce notices from the mailman software indicating email addresses, which were not successfully sent. Those need to be consolidated, sent to Dianne, deleted from the mailing lists, etc. We also need to determine a series of steps to be used to keep the lists up to date, and coordinate the email changes with the database and vice versa.

Organizational functioning

We are a small organization. We have gotten smaller in the past few years. The executive committee has been discussing some aspects of how we can continue to match resources, needs and effectiveness well.

1. We need to discuss how many meetings we need to have each year, 1 or 2?
2. We need to discuss whether moving our meeting(s) to a central location rather than moving them around. It has been suggested that Chicago is the best location.
3. We need to review our board member reimbursement for meeting attendance. We need to review how much and what we are asking of the office.
4. We need to bolster the process of recruiting board members.

I believe a bigger question for us to address is: "What are our goals for the organization in the next 1-5 years?"

Outreach and Interaction

We are thankful to Dianne Brause and Elise Kimmons for their efforts in producing *Interaction* over so many years and doing outreach to our members. We will definitely miss their contributions. (*See page 29 for their articles.*)

(Cont'd 'Executive Director' on page 45)


Thanks & Kudos!

By Smita Patel, President

Dear Lislors, I came back from our time together glowing with the warmth and energy you all brought to the meeting. I wanted to say “Thank You” and express what a joy it was to be with all of you and how much I appreciate all that you bring to Lisle.

Thank you especially to Marty Tillman, Alex Cox, Finn Hornum, and Mark Kinney for pulling together such a wonderful gathering. Of course without Nancy’s masterful management of the kitchens and all her able helpers, we’d never have been as happy and able to focus on the business on hand as we were. And focus we did—tearing through a densely packed agenda filled with difficult questions. Thank you all for your patience with my “on-the-job training” and for putting up with my attempts to keep the meeting moving. And thanks especially to Anne. I felt her orientation at the beginning really helped us keep our sessions effective and focused.


Thanks to all our “council of elders” who came so far to celebrate Lisle’s 75th with us. It was a delight to meet each one of you, and your presence and participation elevated and enlivened the meeting for us all. And thank you to our wonderful board who give so much to Lisle and whose company never fails to inspire me. In Philadelphia, Andy Nahmias talked about how discouraging the times and trends around us have been. But being with you all helped remind me of the amazing people we have on our side, the remarkable work that is being done, often with scant resources, and it makes me feel hopeful that we’ll make it through these challenges as well.

I hope each of you will contribute something to this next issue [of *Interaction*] so that Lislors who were not able to join us can still get a taste of the wonderful time we had together and the glow that, at least for me, persists still. With lots of love, Smita 

Our Reflections

By Chris and Dean Coons

Lisle is alive at 75! What a thrill to come to Chamounix Mansion Hostel and be with so many like-minded folks. There was a reunion with present and former Board Members and with Colorado ‘48 tent-mate Marina Firestone. We especially appreciated meeting the new, younger Board members. We loved hearing the stories about the successful Seed Grants and how they are keeping Lisle alive. Thanks to all who made the weekend possible.

As we were writing these comments, we received word of Betty Ligon’s death. We are so grateful to have had a visit with her in Philadelphia. She was such a pillar of Lisle activities for so many years and her memory will be invoked in future years each time the Walt & Betty Ligon Service Award is presented. 



Chris and Dean made the most of their 60th Wedding Anniversary with fellow Lislors at the Saturday Night Banquet. ...the sparkle is still in their eyes.

Warm Congratulations!

James Burke & Susa Nahmias are seated in the background.

I Remember Uncle Si

By Brooks Hill

In 1982, Patty Hill was looking for a part time job. She came across an item about an elderly gentleman who wanted help writing a book. DeWitt Baldwin struck Patty at first as a nice old man who had been a missionary in Burma for ten years. (That was just the tip of the iceberg!) She took the job and the bond was formed. They complemented each other very well, and work on *A Tiger by The Tail*, began.

Patty's father, Brooks Hill, became acquainted with Uncle Si and began taking him out for breakfast on Saturday mornings. This expanded to inviting various friends. Many good discussions were triggered by Si. He said:

"When choosing between people and things, chose people," and, *"I won't let you go until I understand why you believe as you do."*

A question to Si that frequently came from a new person, *"After 90+, to what do you owe your longevity?"* Uncle Si's response was: *"I associate with younger people."*

Other memories we have:

With Trudy: Discovering true love again in Si's 90's.

At the "San Francisco Earthquake Reunion Trip" with Si: at a party on board ship in the harbor: (Very upbeat): *"Do you remember....,"* and, *"When it started, I was here/there..."*

When we were checking in for the flight home, I said to the check-in person: *"This young man was here for the San Francisco Earthquake Reunion. It would be nice if he could go first class."* We flew home first class at no extra charge!

We were privileged to have Si become a real part of our family. ✍

Marina's Thoughts

By Marina Firestone

The following are my thoughts about the 75th Anniversary of Lisle and the Board and Annual Meeting Celebration in Philadelphia, while still fresh. The gathering at the Chamounix Mansion International Hostel and Meeting Center proved to be a wonderful experience, for which I am especially grateful to Hans and Ellie Spiegel, who had offered to drive me and encouraged me to go. It was especially moving for me to reconnect with Chris Coons (my Colorado '48 tent-mate) and husband Dean, and with Betty and Walt Ligon, long standing friends from Lisle activities in Texas and New York. And it was great to reconnect with so many "old" friends on the board and to connect with our "newer" members.

I know Lisle is in good shape and in good hands under our present board and our energetic and lovely new president, Smita Patel. Everything was well organized and thanks to the skills of Nancy Kinney and Barbara Bratton—as well as help from other volunteers we enjoyed good and healthy meals and plenty of snacks.

The celebratory banquet at a Chinatown vegetarian restaurant turned out to be a delicious and fun "Hans and Ellie evening," with libations and singing. The Spiegels were the surprised recipients of the Ligon Service Award and we all helped celebrate the Coons' 60th wedding anniversary.

I must say it was especially hard to leave Sunday morning, after our singing in a Lisle circle. Thank you all! ✍

Marina Firestone has fond memories as well.



What Lisle's 75th Birthday Means to Me

By Marty Tillman

I think it's remarkable for any organization to have survived through the times that Lisle has lived through. I think about the global conflicts we've witnessed in seven decades and all of the disruptions to international education and exchange due to conflict around the world. Lisle has unquestionably made a difference for the small part it has played in opening doors to different cultures both within our own society and in other developed nations; most notably post-WW II Europe and Japan, and at the height of the cold war, to the Soviet Union in 1958.

There were the numerous "units" throughout the developing world: I'd highlight the lengthy period of engagement with India; but we've also been to South America and to Africa. When Jimmy Carter first opened the door to Cuba in the late 70s, we sent two groups there. I led two groups to the Alaskan Arctic in the 80s working with the former President of Kent State University, a friend of Dewitt Baldwin (Uncle Si), who became President of Alaska's first and only public university in Anchorage.

When I first came to know of Lisle in 1976 and became involved with NAFSA: Association of International Educators, I was given a history lesson by Uncle Si. I learned that Lisle was one of the first nonprofit organizations to join NAFSA when it was established in 1948. I learned that we were part of a unique "club" of nonprofits like the Council on International Educational Exchange (led for 30 years by a Lisler) and the former Experiment in International Living (est. in 1932) which were sister organizations working to open doors for U.S. students to learn more about the world beyond our borders before and after the second world war.

What I know is that Lisle has made a difference on many levels in our society. On the personal level, we changed the way many people "saw" the world during their college years at a time in our

history when our country and our campuses were far less engaged with the world, when few people learned foreign languages and when studying abroad was not yet an opportunity. I know that hundreds, if not thousands, of international students

got the opportunity to meaningfully interact with American students at a time when this aspect of campus student affairs work was just emerging. And when the term "foreign" really meant just that for most Americans, on a political level, Lisle took chances: we were one of the first nonprofit organizations asked to send Americans to the USSR in the 50s when the door opened slightly. We sent students to Japan and to Europe in the early post-war period.

On an educational level, we experimented with new educational ideas challenging the status quo. "Thank You" to those who spent one year in Connecticut in the early 50s that eventually led a Danish student to return home and create his own experimental college patterned after Lisle's approach to group dynamics—"Thank you, Aage Nielson!" Those of you who do not know of Carl Rogers, a pioneering humanistic psychotherapist, should know that he influenced the way that the Baldwins structured Lisle's interpersonal group dynamics.

And as Kurt Vonnegut wrote, Lisle has "stayed the course" through difficult financial times and through times when our campuses finally became more international after the 60s. And as our model became less cutting-edge and other organizations grew larger (and we did not), we then re-imagined



(Cont'd 'Lisle's 75th Birthday' on page 44)

Remembrances of Lisle's 75 Years

Compiled by Mark Kinney

Leading up to the 75th annual meeting, I sent out emails to Lislers for whom I had email addresses. I received several emails in return which shared their connection with Lisle. Below are several of those comments. I hope you do enjoy reading them!

Rev. John M. Balcom, Amherst, MA

It was 1938, the second year of Lisle in New York state: as one of a few students with a car I was driving our team to have a dinner and perform our play at a country church. On the way we passed a town house—which was a police station in disguise and were caught for speeding. We were taken to a farm where the farmer was the local judge and were fined \$5. (The judge's children were peeking around the dining room door). I suppose the "court" wondered at our foreign crew, but we were not allowed to explain who we were. We proceeded to our destination where Aunt Edna's play was well received. (Rev. Balcom is 93 ½ years young!)

Rev. Balcom's Unit: NY '38.

DeWitt (Bud) Baldwin Jr., Chicago, IL

I was recently asked to contribute a chapter in a book on innovators and innovations in medical education. The area identified for me is the currently exploding interest in interprofessional teamwork in health care—a field in which I have been involved since 1952 and for which, even internationally, I am often referred to as the "grandfather" (not Godfather!) The ideas of Interprofessional education and teamwork have obviously been around for a long time, but have had rough going most of that time and have never been widely accepted by the medical establishment. By now, of course, the rest of the world is far ahead of us, but at last there seems to be a possibility here.

The real point here is that I fully recognize (and have for many years) that nearly all of my work and accomplishments stem directly from the ideals, ideas, and work of my parents—and more particularly—from the innovative and distinctive educational ideas and program that emerged as Lisle—ideas like the use of adult experiential learning, small group dynamics, the value of diversity, alternating periods of work experience and time for reflection, learning through service, now so popular as "service-learning," and the idea of working and learning in teams. Above all, Lisle was inclusive, with nearly every social "separateness" of the time—race, religion, nation, culture, faith, discipline, being joined together by the unique concept of worldmindedness and the use of the prefix, "Inter-". So you see, "interprofessional teamwork" fits right in.

I know many Lislers have wondered why I have not been directly involved with Lisle throughout the years, I guess I needed to test and discover for myself the value and applicability of those ideals, principles, and ideas in another field. I really wish I could be there [the 75th] and that we could reminisce together. After all, I was present at the first few Lisle programs starting in 1936, and my memory for pictures is still pretty good. I attended my own unit in 1939, where I remember Kingsley Ozumba Mbadiwe from the IBO tribe in Nigeria. The reason I mention him is that Chicago is full of Nigerian taxi drivers, and each day I ask them if they are Nigerian and IBO. Even those who aren't IBO know who he was because he ended up as Minister of the nation in the 1960s or 70s. But for those who are IBO, I am practically embraced and several have told me that they came from his very village.

I am truly sorry not to be there with all of you. And I regretfully realize that I probably won't be

(Cont'd on next page, 12)

around for the next BIG reunion. I feel especially sad because I was scheduled to make the 70th and then came down with a rare (for me) URI at the last minute. I'm afraid it is a medical matter again this time.

For several years I have had fairly severe back pain and difficulty standing or walking. It's spinal stenosis and it's gotten progressively worse. Because of its severity and my hemophilia, surgery is out of the question and I've been trying injections the last month in the hope that I could be put together in time to make the reunion. They haven't worked and I am now on a walker and wheel chair.

This being said, despite being in my 90th year, I continue to work full-time (with a paying job no less!) and am working just about as hard as my father did at this age and stage. I love my work and it is making a difference in the world—of medical education and health care at least—and it's keeping me alive.

I've recently received two honorary degrees and a lot of recognition for my efforts to humanize medicine. Michele and I are deeply in love and valuing every minute together. She's working on the 3rd Edition of her book *The Use of Self in Therapy*, and both of our daughters, Lisa (a Lisler) and Mireille, have produced two grandsons each, with Lisa and her husband preserving the Baldwin last name for their eldest, Ian.

Lisa has also kept the family tradition of living and working internationally, doing Peace Corps and Public Health in five African nations, Indonesia and now in Israel (managing USAID health programs in Gaza and West Bank). Mireille is married and a full time mother and settling into a nearby lovely and supportive community, Wheaton, Illinois.

I guess I have to stop sometime, so have fun for me. Hans Skaleva!

Bud's Units: NY '40, CO '41, & '42

Anne Hardt, Tempe, AZ

Although I participated in several Lisle Units, the most important for me was the first in 1946.

It profoundly affected my life: it was multicultural and interracial, not only in the makeup of our group, but also in our deputations. One was to Puebla where three of us women students, one who was black, went walking in the local park. There was an empty swimming pool with one gate in which to enter. We three walked around the pool, but when we returned to the gate two young men on bicycles blocked the exit. We talked to them without fear and gradually they removed the blockage as we continued to talk until we left the park. Later we were told these young men were the instigators of the racial riot at school that year. To me as I look back on it, I am aware it was a practice of non-violence on our part.

Later, in Denver we were asked by members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation to go to Elitch Gardens Theater with a black member of the community. After a Colorado law on desegregation FOR had been one of the leaders in opening up the movie theaters for all seats, not just the last in the balcony. When we got to the theater the African-American woman (probably the name designation used in those days) was late.

So three Lislers went in. I stayed outside along with **George Cole**. When she arrived the curtain was going up. At first they took my ticket as they told us we could not all go in on the first floor. George grabbed the other tickets before they could toss them into the ticket holder. We went to the box office where he put his foot in the door so they could not close it on us during the time of intermission. The next morning some of the NAACP asked if we would be willing to file a case. We made out affidavits; however, it was settled out of court, which was lucky since I was underage!

When we returned to Lisle, there were long discussions that for years made me feel somewhat guilty, because we were not going to be around to work with the community about change. It was not until Selma that I began to feel outsiders could do so much good.

Other highlights of deputations included getting to know something about migrants, staying
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over night for the first time in a black home, and being at a party where Danny Kaye talked to me for a long time and signed his card for me.

Back at Lisle home base that summer I learned to “talk to the coals” from a Chinese student in order to get them to make a fire to heat our water. I learned to really listen, not to close off others during one memorable evening. . Near the end of our camp time, I started talking to one other girl in our tent. It was very personal, but when another one came in we did not stop talking about the event or issue. Soon a third entered, and again we did not change the subject. A fourth and later a fifth and sixth entered, and we never stopped our conversation. I learned how open one can be and how rare that is in our society.

Other Lisle experiences included the year-round [unit] in Hartford where I took courses, worked in a church with youth, and realized I really wanted to return to teaching, so I entered Cornell the next year to study child development. I also frequently refer in speeches and writing to my experiences in the Soviet Union in 1958—and learning about Gandhi in India partly led me to establish the Hardt-Nickachos Chair in Peace Studies at Arizona State University. I am glad I influenced Walter Ligon and others to go to Lisle. You can see Lisle meant much to me and afterwards Board meetings did too. At one board meeting my mother enjoyed her brief deputation of serving lunch at a church in San Francisco.

Anne’s Units: CO ’46, CT ’49, ’50, USSR ’58, India ’79.

Nancy Pearson Kinney, Presque Isle, MI

“All Lisle encounters are not with humans....” In the 1990’s Lislors were pressuring the organization to expand into Africa, so **Jack and Judy Brown** took on the challenge and led a group to Uganda in 1993. The following year there was to be a repeat, but the Browns could not go, so my husband **Mark Kinney** and I, (never having been to East Africa), stepped in to lead the experience. We met a fellow in Toledo, **Bob Anderson**,

who offered to help us. He knew one Mwalimu Musheshe, an agricultural economist who was performing miracles in a rural part of Uganda.

Then we made the acquaintance of John Yeatman, Associate Area Director for Africa of Habitat for Humanity who knew of a Habitat project in Uganda. After a very satisfying building project with Habitat and a site visit to Musheshe’s planned agricultural college and the surrounding area, we rewarded the Lisle group with a visit to Queen Elizabeth Park, a wildlife preserve where animals that we knew only from zoos and circuses were protected and where there were real cabins with real beds and someone to cook for the guests.

We noticed that along with many bird species there was ample grass, and there were lots of flowers growing around the park. The second morning there, we awoke to loud slurping and chewing sounds under the window outside our cabin. Hesitant to investigate, we lay in bed imagining what could be responsible for the noise. The visitor in the portrait below was the culprit. It’s still hard for us to imagine that all that separated us from a large hippo was a thin wall.

Nancy’s Units: MEX ’91, OK ’94, OK ’95, Uganda ’95, Japan ’96.

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Alice Ladas, Santa Fe, NM

Having been raised in an enclave of German Jews, Lisle gave me entry into an entirely new world. Although I am a genetic Jew, I was not raised as a religious, national, or cultural Jew, but as a Humanist; nevertheless, I knew little about Christianity and even less about rural Christian United States. It was an eye opener to be treated as a foreign student at Lisle, along with a Japanese pilot and a prince from Nigeria. Being musical, I think in terms of songs. *'That cause can neither be lost nor stayed'* became my standard swimming accompaniment. It was just the right rhythm to keep me going further than I would normally. At Lisle, I met **George Cole** and other young men who were studying at Yale Divinity. As a Smith student, this gave me access to a dating world I would otherwise not have had. Encountering anti-Semitism in person for the first time at Smith, (I knew about it intellectually but had not experienced it), it was helpful to me to have access to this less prejudiced Christian world. Now I work on the staff of the Pastoral Counseling Center in Santa Fe. A nun and a priest are among other staff members. The Priest learned from me to talk about self-pleasuring instead of masturbation (which means, "to pollute with the hand") He reminds the staff when they forget. Multiculturalism still turns me on as it first did at Lisle. I remember Aunt Edna and Uncle Si fondly and have thoroughly enjoyed occasional contact with Bud who works in areas of health that I share.

Alice's Unit: NY '40.

Barbara Walker, Staten Island, NY

"Surely we'll remember, surely we'll remember, surely we'll remember Lisle" **Elaine Schmidt**, classmate at Hunter, described her 1953 summer with Lisle. I applied and on graduating in June 1954 took off by bus for California—three days and four nights—plains, desert, mountains, no air conditioning, so open windows; it was good! It was a beautiful setting—Doak Mansion, Oakville

(before it became The Napa Valley). We had one afternoon our own invitation to the Charles Krug Winery. I visited Doak Mansion decades later, once with my brother and once with my sister and my son's mother-in-law. It had become a monastery and each time the brother who responded to my knock kindly gave us permission to walk around the grounds.

I was the last participant to arrive that summer. Aunt Edna was Aunt Edna. There were **George Coelho**, psychologist and researcher, and I believe 36 other participants: 18 young women and 18 young men; 18 exchange students and 18 U.S. Americans. I remember my introduction to dahl (I have not since had dahl as delicious as that was) and to hot curry; and George referring to "the burn that pleases"; the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in the background when we were in residence; "lummy sticks"—I still know some of the patterns; **Joop** teaching us the Indonesian stick dance sequences.

The deputations: San Francisco with **Paula**—for me it was an introduction and led to an appreciation of the work of the Salvation Army in its Brooks Memorial Residence for unwed mothers; the St. Helena Community Center; the Duvernoy's Hidden Villa Ranch, Los Altos—camp for city children. (Four years ago visiting my step-daughter and family, I found that my granddaughter's school in Stanford had the Duvernoy name. We located and enjoyed a visit to the Los Altos ranch/farm, now redesigned.)

There was a memorable Lisle trip to the Feather River Canyon and Marysville—the pleasure of sleeping out of doors on beds! Then there was the bus trip with **Honore Eisenberg (Honey Kass)** back to New York, via the Lisle unit in Colorado, and the ride to the top of Mount Evans. In 1955, there was hitchhiking with **Bobbie Steiner (Robinson)** in Germany, Austria, and Italy. That summer, it was so very nice to see **Hedi** in Vienna and to meet her mother, to see **Hans** in Munich and to meet his aunt (and to meet his father in Passau), to meet **Klaus** and his parents in Cologne, **Hilde** and

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her school children in Ingelheim, **Lore** in Bremen, and years later **Joop** and his wife in Addis Ababa.

I say to Lisle “Thank you.” In September 1954 on return from California, I began work with the Institute of International Education (having been encouraged by Aunt Edna to follow through on the indication on my Lisle application of interest in IIE), principally setting up training/study/travel programs for the Ford Foundation and UNESCO Fellows; then followed work with the United Nations in Ethiopia (African Fellowship Program) and in UN Peacekeeping Offices (Personnel).

Close friends here were very much taken with the Lisle focus on examining “cause and effect” in interpersonal relations and to this day sometimes when we go below the surface in discussing matters, they refer to “interpersonals.”

Retired, I am involved in some anti-war groups—Grandmothers against the War, Granny Peace Brigade, Peace Action Staten Island, Women in Black (this last focusing on Israel/Palestine), and I write letters to the editor at the *Staten Island Advance*; (if one writes, the *Advance* prints). I also try to encourage young people to seek opportunities, other than the military, to leave their “front and back yard” sometimes and to convince them that once they know “others” they may not love all but will wish all to live without our “bombs.”

On a lighter side, I enjoy serving on the board of the Richmond County Orchestra—we are so fortunate to have the RCO here.

Barbara’s Units: CO ’54. 



Barbara Walker standing vigil at Rockefeller Center with her “Grandmother’s Against the War” group.

Remembering Uncle Si & Aunt Edna


from Bob Sprinke

I suspect you are not aware of the fact that I also “started” in 1936 and so am about to hit the 75-year mark as well. Si used to get a real kick out of my saying that Lisle was the **second best** thing to have arrived that year! It was also, by the way, the year that *Life Magazine* and *The Federal Register* started publishing, the year the Shenandoah National Park opened, and the year that the “Knock-Knock” jokes first appeared—a busy year indeed!

Si and Edna were indeed special people. “Young guys” like you and I certainly had our lives enriched in so many ways by having known both of them. Beyond the Lisle “connection,” I also had an active involvement for some years with the adult education community and Edna’s experience/insight in that area was invaluable.

I first had contact—albeit only by mail—with Si in the early 1960s when I edited *Work, Study, Travel Abroad* for the old USNSA travel office in NYC. Then when I moved to the Univ. of MI International Center staff in 1965, I had the great good fortune to meet and get to know Si and Edna.

In many ways, people of our vintage were blessed by the fact that we had the opportunity to know, learn from, and be friends with people such as Si and Edna, Ruth Purkaple, and Mary Thompson. Cassie Pyle and I used to talk about being the “kids” of the founders and one could not have had better role models, mentors and friends than we all did. The passing of an era, I guess.

This via Marty: Bob Sprinke is an old “Friend of Lisle”—a stalwart international educator who was tied to the Baldwins. Bob was formerly Executive Director of the Association of International Practical Training. 

My Lisle Family of Over 60 Years

Dedicated to the memory of Uncle Si, Aunt Edna, & Betty Ligon

By André (Andy) Nahmias

The recent 75th Year Celebration in Philadelphia has re-awakened our confidence of how great the impact has been of the “uniting vision and evolving mission” of Uncle Si and Aunt Edna. So many of us have gained a better knowledge of ourselves and of the larger “One World.” In my case, there is little question that I would have become a very different person and followed other callings than those I actually pursued in my career.



Andy tells his story of Lisle.

I was already privileged to have lived the first 16 years of my life in the multicultural ambiance of Alexandria, Egypt, attending both French and British schools. It was the desire of becoming a physician—driven by my mother’s early death—that landed me “culture-shocked” in Austin, Texas—without any family in the U.S. I was fortunate to have a friend at UT, **Sue Hall/Vogel**, who encouraged me to attend a Lisle unit in beautiful Muir Woods, CA in 1950.

There, I soon discovered a new “in the same boat” family of brothers and sisters, and I developed a special relationship with Aunt Edna and Uncle Si. So changed was I by the California experience, that while attending a Quaker camp in Lookout Mountain later that summer, I spent a great deal of time at the neighboring Lisle Colorado unit! I benefited from both the didactic, educational approaches to the much-desired goal of peace in the Quaker

camp, and from the Lisle “experiential” learning about oneself and the world through the sharing “one-on-one” and “one-on-many;” the cooking and clean-up duties; the social-bonding volleyball games; the solidifying smaller deputation units; the often non-harmonious, but definitely enthusiastic, renderings of the various multilingual songs, and particularly the “top-of-the-mountain” meditation togetherness.

The need of putting into practice, when I came down-to-earth, some of what I had learned on top of Lookout Mountain, led me to be elected as a graduate student assemblyman at UT. Alas, attempts to change the segregation system of the university, the animosity towards the United Nations, and many other people causes, resulted my suffering “the slings and arrows of outrageous... majorities.” My next summer’s Lisle unit in Valdosta, CA helped to re-balance my views on the world, further restored a dozen years later by the complete turn-around of the now more progressive majorities at UT (the beauty of America!)

Having finished my Master’s Degree and still not accepted as a foreigner to medical school, I was in a state of despondence. To the rescue came Uncle Si and Aunt Edna, who invited me to stay with them in Ann Arbor, and figure out what to do next with my life. Another blessing—a woman scientist with whom I interviewed for a lab technician position at U of MI’s School of Public Health, not only obtained the job for me, but also had me admitted to the Public Health Program (without any of the usual applications!) I worked weekends in Uncle Si’s Lane Hall, and was befriended by several of my growing Lisle Family, **Norm Hayner**, the **Olmsteads’** (Bush & Levona), and others. I am convinced that my MPH degree helped me, not only

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Andy chatting it up with Walt and Betty.

to be admitted to George Washington U. Medical School the following year, but also to become one of twelve select Epidemic Intelligence Service Officers at CDC in Atlanta (in 1958), fulfilling my obligatory military

service as a new US citizen. During my Med. School Jr. year, who better to perform the wedding ceremony of an Egyptian Jewish boy to his German classmate in a Unitarian Church in DC...but a Methodist minister... Uncle Si!

After training four more years in Boston, I returned to Atlanta—where some of my Alexandria family now lived—to join the Pediatric Faculty at Emory University in 1964. I kept up with Lisle by becoming a Board Member, helping to host an Annual Reunion in Atlanta, and assisting **Marty Tillman** in setting up the 50th year Reunion in Lisle/Ithaca, NY in 1984. I was glad to see Aunt Edna participate in that reunion, although greatly saddened by her chronic illness and later demise. I had treasured, however, our personal times over many earlier years during the visits I made to their new home outside DC. These were important periods of togetherness, discussing and sharing our many concerns about Watergate, the Vietnam War and other disturbing events in our country and the world.

By February 1987, a further important link, not only to Uncle Si and Aunt Edna, but to their son **Bud** and his family, came about as they all helped with a conference I organized in Atlanta on “AIDS in Children, Adolescents and Heterosexual Adults.” Uncle Si provided the religious and spir-

itual aspects; Bud, the new needs of medical education; Michelle (Bud’s wife), the importance of psychological support; and Lisa (their daughter), was of great assistance in running the 700-participant international conference—she later became an AIDS advisor in Africa and the Middle East. The proceedings were published in 1988, and the book was dedicated to Aunt Edna. Also, shortly after the conference, Uncle Si married me to a Swedish physician—Susa.

I kept up with Uncle Si as much as possible, what with his being alone in their apartment outside Washington, and he also visited us a few times in Atlanta. He remained my spiritual advisor and was particularly happy to join us for the wedding of one of my children in Cape Cod, MA, singing along with our kids in the car. Not too much later, I was saddened when he passed away, being comforted by others in my Lisle family who attended his funeral.

The passage of Aunt Edna and Uncle Si made many of us wonder about the future of Lisle. However, the efforts of Marty, Mark, the Ligons, and many others—old and young—were instrumental in keeping the flame alit. After several years, my involvement was re-kindled when attending, with Susa, an annual reunion in Leander, Texas. We also made sure to attend the 75th Celebration in Philadelphia. I am now even more convinced that the unifying vision and the continued mission of Lisle since the mid-30s have led to pioneer ways in how to provide significant experiences for the spiritual and practical needs of individuals



Susa Nahmias learns some things about Andy that she hadn't known before!

(Cont'd 'My Lisle Family' on page 45)

The Lisle Summer of '47

By Hans Spiegel

In the summer of 1947, I attended the final three weeks of the Lisle Fellowship unit in Watkins Glen in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State. Utilizing an experienced thumb, I then hitch-hiked across most of the country and landed on Lookout Mountain, near Denver for the full six weeks stint... That's a heavy dose of Lisle!

How did a student from Switzerland, about to enter his senior year at Antioch College, ever hear about "Lisle?" Had it not been for the urgings of a young lady I had met in Atlanta while on an Antioch co-op job, I probably would have sought summer work in the trade union movement (I felt then, and still do, that economic justice requires strong, democratic organizations to represent workers).

But **Ellie** was an important new discovery for me—in another year and a half she would be my wife—and she had joined Lisle in 1946. She was very persuasive. She took me to an Atlanta meeting with Uncle Si who said, "*We don't have anyone coming to Lisle this summer with a labor background and we need this experience to be represented.*" That did it. Though my "labor background" was not especially strong (I had worked as an intern for the United Auto Workers and now with the Georgia Workers Education Service) I was delighted with this challenge. Besides, the girl I was courting would be pleased.

As it turned out, Lisle helped to clarify a number of things for me. One of them dealt with a vocational choice that a year before graduating from college still had both feet solidly planted in mid-air. I still didn't know which way to jump: labor organizing or labor education, a career in business following the footsteps of the family, teaching, or perhaps diplomacy?

This indecisiveness was not very European, where vocational choices frequently are set on their course by age sixteen. My father told me that the choice was entirely mine to make and he was

true to his word. However, I also knew that nothing would make him happier than if I decided to return to Switzerland and enter the family business as part of the third generation of Spiegels.

The Lisle summer of 1947 taught me, first of all, that the life of a businessman was not for me. Difficult as it was, I realized that I must share this decision with my family and also must add



Hans and Ellie Spiegel express their delight at receiving the Ligon Service Award.

something about the budding relationship with an American girl. It must have been disappointing for my parents to receive this double-barreled news because it became much clearer to them, as it did to me, that chances of a return to Switzerland were slim.

Positively speaking, the summer of 1947 helped me focus on community and group development as a viable vocational goal. I was strengthened in my view that "development" efforts were not only lead by indigenous people, but

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were frequently guided by skilled professional persons who were community and labor organizers, city and neighborhood planners, race relations or “intergroup” councilors, extension workers in universities, and organizational development specialists. They were primarily concerned with the development of whole communities or of community institutions. They might have been trained in social work, public administration, social psychology and group dynamics, or theology.

The Lisle participants themselves, the community professionals we met on deputations, and the guest speakers we heard gave evidence of people with the requisite development skills. They dealt in exciting contexts—on the edges of deliberate community change. I saw myself increasingly as part of such cadres of workers. I also realized that such people can be compensated for their efforts and that we might soon discover an emerging new profession, cross cutting traditional disciplines. I wanted in.

I also realized in the summer of 1947 that I had acquired skills to relate to other people and that these skills would stand me in good stead as I pursued a possible career as a community developer. In this connection, I recall an episode from Lisle. Another participant and I were walking along the main drag of a New York State town. He told me how difficult it was for him to start a conversation with strangers. “*How do you do it?*” he asked.

“*Do you see that man over there looking into the store window?*” I replied and then said in an arrogant way that now makes me wince: “*Just watch me!*” I walked over to the man, positioned myself next to him and soon we were talking a mile a minute. I don’t recall the topic—whether it was the weather, the store window, or a topic about the town—but the human connection between the two of us was made.

And that’s how Lisle helped me think about a career path. The next step on this search happened quite serendipitously while reading the *New York Times* back on campus. I read that Columbia University had just received a sizable grant to develop

a doctoral program in “Intergroup Relations.” I applied and received a “fat” (fat in 1948 dollars) fellowship of \$1,500 and tuition!

Opportunism surely was part of my vocational choice. I’m reminded of the Quaker saying: “*proceed as the way opens.*” My career since then has been more academically-centered than I anticipated in the summer of 1947, but at the core, I have always pursued community development. Lisle contributed mightily to this and subsequent career choices. ✍️



Nancy Kinney, Ellie Spiegel and Hans Spiegel deep in discussion at the Annual Meeting.



A light moment during the meeting results in great smiles from Betty and Walt.

Lisle Mourns The Passing of Former Board President, Betty Ligon

By Barbara Bratton

Some people leave such a hole in the universe it is difficult to write of their passing with enough passion, with enough understanding of history, with enough projection of our loss. Such is my feeling at the passing of Betty Ligon. I want to reach back and hold her to me and thank her in this life for her influence and mentorship. I hope that I told her often enough when she was with us.

Betty always introduced herself in Lisle meetings as having “married into Lisle”. Married to Walt Ligon (NY48) Betty became involved in Lisle by default. Walt is a 50 year member of the Lisle Board of Directors and Betty came along and got involved. So involved, that in 1989 she became President of the Board of Directors. What a wonderful event for Lisle’s history. Betty brought a structure to the Board and a warmer sense of community. Initiating a five year planning schedule, the Board would spend time each meeting evaluating our current situation, making specific plans for the next year and setting goals for the future five years. With that model, the planning and execution of many international programs continued successfully. Betty was also instrumental in focusing on the makeup of the Board of Directors—identifying the specific skills needed on the Board and then working to recruit the individuals necessary to fill these requirements.



Betty (Mary Elizabeth Gilbert) was born in Chicago in 1921 where she attended the University of Chicago Lab School. Following graduation from Lab School she attended Wellesley College where she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees. From Wellesley College Betty went to New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois, where she taught for five years. For two years following New Trier, Betty was dean of girls at Salem High School in Salem, Oregon. In 1953 Betty entered Teachers College, Columbia University for study for a doctorate in education. She obtained this in 1956 and began teaching at Hofstra University on Long Island, New York, the same year. She taught at Hofstra continuously until her retirement in 1982 at which time she received the honorary degree of professor emeritus. Betty’s primary teaching field was counselor education. She taught teachers and others who wanted to become guidance counselors what she thought the job entailed. It was Betty’s opinion that guidance counselors ought to be doing more counseling and less clerical work than was typically being done on Long Island at this time. Betty co-authored with Sarah McDaniel a book entitled “The Teacher’s Role in Counseling.”

In 1960 Betty Gilbert and Walter Ligon were married. Walt had taught social studies in the public schools. Later he went into guidance work, first

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in the junior high then in the senior high. Betty and Walt continued working in tandem, as it were, until 1982 when both retired.

Betty and Walt had a rich retirement from 1982 onward. They traveled to many parts of the world, often to take part in workshops in the person-centered approach, sometimes with the Lisle Fellowship, or sometimes just to see and experience a different culture. For several years they spent six months of each year on a cattle ranch in Texas, which they had inherited from Walt's mother, and six months in Betty's family home in Pentwater, Michigan.

In 1962 Betty and Walt adopted an eight-year old girl whom they named Mary Belle Ligon (now Schinnerer). Betty is survived by her husband, Walt; their daughter, Mary Belle Schinnerer; and three grandchildren, Benjamin Clark Berman, Katherine Smith and Robert Schinnerer.

Mark and Nancy Kinney attended Betty's memorial service in Grand Rapids on November 4th, 2011. Mark reminisced about his many years on the Board of Directors with Betty and Walt. Visiting the Lignons one summer, Mark spied a Hobie 16 (sail boat) for sale, which he decided to buy. "Betty was the one— not Nancy or Walt—who wanted to go for a sail with me to try in out at Bass lake. What fun."

Betty and Walt were honored for their many years of service to Lisle in the year 2000 with the creation of the Walt and Betty Ligon Service Award. Over the last eleven years, in their honor, this award has gone to eleven individuals or couples who exemplify the time, love and commitment that Walt and Betty brought to Lisle. Our great love goes out to Walt and loving memories go out to Betty. There is a hole in our fabric at her passing that will be hard to fill.

Kinneys Attend The Memorial Service

By Mark Kinney

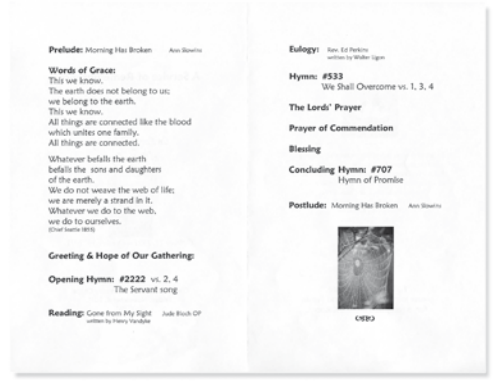
Nancy and I drove eleven hours and attended Betty's memorial service. It was a nice service, with about seventy people in attendance. We had a nice time talking with Mary Schinnerer, Walt and Betty's daughter, and her two sons.

Walt was greeting everybody and we had a good time to talk with him about some of our memories of Betty. How she was the one who was supportive of moving into the computer age and email. How she developed with the Board the idea of a five-year plan, and also the idea of identifying the specific skills we needed on the Board, and how she worked to recruit individuals with those skills.

We also had a chance to mention to Walt that I had posted the obituary from the Luddington News on the Lisle website and had created a visible procedure for persons to make contributions to Lisle there. I also mentioned I had gathered several photos from the 75th and posted them to Youtube as a slide show and linked that to the Lisle site. We met several persons at the Clark community who knew of Lisle from Walt and Betty and were pleased that we were there.

It was very worthwhile to go and represent Lisle.

Betty Ligon Memorial Fund
Contributions in Betty's memory will be tenderly accepted.
Please send your tax-deductible memorial donation to:
Lisle International, 900 County Road 269
Leander, TX 78641



Heartfelt Responses from Lislors

The news of Betty's death, emailed out on October 28, 2011 by Walt, hit the Lisle Board members hard. They had recently enjoyed a three-day weekend with the Lignons at the 75th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Betty had fully participated in the meetings and dinners. Below are their responses.

Barbara Bratton: I'm sad, sad, sad.

Dianne Brause: I am so sorry to hear your news about Betty's passing. I will miss her a great deal, as she and your were always mentors for me.

For me it was a wonderful gift to see Walt and Betty walk in the door during our 75th Reunion in Philadelphia. The two of them have always served as major "Mentors" and inspiration for me, in how they have lived their lives over the 25+ years that I have known them through Lisle. Especially in recent years, with each of them facing health challenges, I loved the way they continued to attend meetings and go traveling. I always looked forward to seeing them at Lisle activities. Thanks for being in my life!

Judy Brown, former Boardmember: She was a wonderful, solid person.

Juanita Salvador Burris: My favorite memory of Betty Ligon is seeing hummingbirds in their Pentwater birdfeeder porch area.

James Burke: I enjoyed my short time with her and will cherish the wisdom she passed on to me during our last time together.

Jon Findley: Indeed, a very great loss. We carry Walt, their children, and all those who benefited from knowing Betty in our hearts through this very hard time.

Finn Hornum: It is indeed a sad day for Lisle and I share the sense of loss that I am sure Walt feels.

John Kachuba & Mary Newman: Betty will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Walt and all of Betty's family and friends.

Bill Kinney: Bless the memory of Betty.

Mark Kinney: It is a sad day for Lisle. We have lost a valued Lislors.


Smita Patel: How heartbreaking! But Bill and I were just talking and thinking how lucky we were to spend time with her in Philadelphia. I'm so glad she and Walt came out to see us.

Marty Tillman: I just got off the phone with Walt. I felt compelled to call given my close relationship with him for over thirty years. Walt & Betty have been great friends throughout my work for Lisle. Betty's quiet and "centered" presence at Board meetings was crucial in the often complex discussions taking place. ...in my early years working for Lisle and upon my return to leadership on the Board, I was very supported by both Walt & Betty.

I had studied the work of Carl Rogers as part of my graduate studies in student affairs at Colgate in the late 60s. I was trained in his style of psychological counseling for my work with students in residence halls.

Walt & Betty knew Rogers and were part of his international network of educators who were integrating his person-centered practice and philosophy into their professional work (as Uncle Si did too when defining how he approached Lisle leadership of its groups when Rogers was establishing himself as a world leader in the field of psychological counseling.)

It was at their invitation that I attended a workshop conducted by Rogers in NYC at Fordham University. It was a thrill to meet him and then be part of the planning which later brought Carl Rogers to Lisle's "gathering" at Cornell University in 1983.

Everyone reading these pages (whether they knew Betty or not) can see that her contributions to Lisle have been enormous, both to the organization and to individuals within Lisle. Truly, you are missed, loved and appreciated! In Peace, Dianne. 

How Betty Found Lisle

Excerpted from Summer 1997 'Interaction'

Update: Walt Ligon

"Since April of 2010, Betty and I had lived at Clark Retirement Community. Since her death, I have wrestled with the decision whether to leave Clark and return to Pentwater where we lived for several years, or to remain at Clark."

Dianne Brause talked with him recently and she reports: "Walt has decided to move back to their beautiful lake house just off of Bass Lake (which empties into Lake Michigan)—probably by May. He says that his health is "stable" at present and he hopes to live another 8–10 years! He appreciates all the care and concern that he has received from Lisle friends around the world. He is in generally good spirits and would love to hear from any of you—or to have you come for a visit!"

Also of note: there will be another Memorial for Betty in Pentwater, MI on June 10th, 2012, especially for Betty's relatives (whose home roots are there).


Please feel free to call, email or write Walt to support him in his grieving process. His telephone is 616-241-3064. His email address is <mligon8670@aol.com>. His mailing address is 1551 Franklin St. SE, Apt 3013, Grand Rapids, MI 49506.

The first Lisle-connected meeting I encountered was at **Johnny and Arnold Miller's** on Long Island in, perhaps, 1961, our first year of married life. I had, of course, heard of Lisle from Walt and learned that it was "wonderful but hard to explain." This meeting of Lislors on Long Island centered on the future of Lisle. Some thought it time for Lisle to close up. Soon Arnold and I sought each other's company as the two "unconverted" who had never been to a Lisle Unit. That was the beginning for me. Walt was so connected to Lisle that I either had to go along or be a "Lisle Widow."

Board meetings at our house followed, where I cooked and counted how many would be staying the night. Annual meetings came. I ventured to comment now and then, sometimes out of frustration, at the slowness and indirection of the meetings, as well as a growing concern for Lisle. A person commented to me that for someone who had never been to a unit, I really did very well.

Well, obviously one thing led to another. I became a Board member. I came to know the Baldwins, who spent many Thanksgivings with us and who were a blessing in our lives. And I went through the ambivalence expressed at the 1961 meeting of local Lislors: "Lisle is wonderful; Lisle had had its time." Walt never, well almost never, faltered, so I hung in there with him. I learned about Lisle and Lislors...Lisle weathered the transition from the leadership of its founders, a transition many non-profits do not manage. And I met extraordinary people.

You may have noticed that our Board is not the ordinary, run-of-the-mill Board. Its members are a mix which I'll not try to characterize. I remain grateful to each and every Board member.

Betty, we all are deeply grateful for your earnest and integrity-filled contribution to Lisle. We could not be who we are without your dedication! 

Betty's Words of Wisdom from The Past

Compiled by Elise Kimmons

I wanted to capture and present to our gentle readers the essence of Betty's personality as revealed in her 'President's Messages' over the years that I've been doing the layout of *Interaction*. I hope I've done her memory justice.

Her wise guidance and forethought, almost certainly a kind of prescience, can be felt and used like a compass as Lisle strives to grow in these changing times.

May all Lislors and Lisle Friends feel a lift in their hearts and a power surge in their batteries to continue to participate in meaningful ways to the successful world-mindedness of Lisle as the future unfolds.

Spring 1995—Four years ago...the Lisle Board adopted a five-year plan. Since then we have checked our progress...revised as necessary...and made specific concrete objectives for the upcoming year. For me it has been reassuring and exciting to see how much of what we planned has come about.

Summer 1995—October is beautiful time of year in Michigan. Fall foliage will be almost at its height. Best of all, though, is the chance to be with other Lislors, renew friendships, make new friends, and hear about recent Lisle programs from those who have taken part...Every new program idea starts with an idea from someone who not only has an exciting idea, but also the energy and commitment to follow up on it.

Spring 1996—We are stewards of our natural resources in this and others' parts of the world; we must ensure that our programs do not contribute to environmental damage; we must become more aware of the damage caused by thoughtless tourism.


Summer 1996—I urge those of you not on the Board to join this very real Lisle Fellowship. Lisle is atypical. With a volunteer Executive Director, Board members must expect to do work that might, in other nonprofit organizations, be done by the office...the Board needs all the help it can get!

Fall 1996—I conclude with deep appreciation for hard-working Board members, other supportive Lislors, and especially our volunteer Executive Director, Mark Kinney. Seldom has an organization done so much with so little paid staff. We should be proud of Mark and all the other volunteers who keep Lisle on the move.

Winter 1996—I continue to be distressed by the polarization which I see: rich vs. poor, conservative vs. liberal, straights vs. gays, developers vs. environmentalists...in spite of those who say affirmative action is no longer needed, I believe racism continues to be an enormous problem on all fronts.

Spring 1997—While Lisle envisions bridges to the future and enjoys bridges to the past with its founders and members, it may well concentrate on a different sort of bridge: a bridge between and among peoples of other cultures, interests, points of view, ethnic backgrounds and secular preferences; bridges of understanding and appreciation.

Summer 1997—I remain grateful to each and every Board member for their humor, generosity of spirit and hard work. And I thank all Lislors for their continuing, loyal support. Peace and Love.

Fall 1997—This summer I crawled (I don't leap anymore) into our 10-foot sailboat to see if I could still sail. Fairly launched, I found the center board would not go down. "Oh well," I thought, "I'll keep going," but of course I only went sideways. I tried to head for home but couldn't come about. I had visions of landing at the end of the lake and wading back, boat in tow. I wove about and made a little headway toward our side of the lake. A few more maneuvers enabled me to reach shallow enough water to step out, let down the sail, and contemplate wading a few tenths of a mile. A friend rescued me and towed me back with her motorboat. Never had I realized so clearly the necessity of a center board. (This was Betty's last Message as Board President.) 

Hans & Ellie Spiegel: 2011 Walt & Betty Ligon Service Award

By Marty Tillman

I had the honor of presenting the 2011 Ligon Award at the Annual Meeting banquet dinner in October to Hans & Ellie Spiegel. I've known them since I first started working for Lisle in 1977 when Hans was on the Board. This year, the award is all the more poignant and meaningful because Walt & Betty were at the dinner in downtown Philadelphia and as I write this piece, Betty has just passed away—only a month after the meeting.



Marty Tillman offers the Lisle Globe to Hans and Ellie Spiegel, recipients of the Walt and Betty Ligon Service Award.

Betty smiles on the left.



Walt and Betty Ligon, holding the plaque that is given each year to Lisle(s) who earns the honor!

Everything about the personal and professional lives of the Spiegels reflects the core values of Lisle:

In 2011, Ellie received the prestigious Hugh Jenkins Award for her distinguished service to NAFSA:

Association of International Educators (of which Lisle was a founding member). In the 1950s, she was co-executive director (with Hans!) of the International Student Center located at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ellie served as the director of programs and resident services at the International House in New York City, where she created the Women's

International Leadership Program and played a key role in launching the East/West Leadership Program for residents of Central and Eastern Europe. She was successful in relating international students to communities and neighborhoods throughout Greater New York.

Ellie was awarded the NAFSA Region X Lifetime Services Award at the Re-

gion X 2010 Conference for her extensive service to the regional and/or national NAFSA community. She is the first NAFSA representative to the UN. She taught as a volunteer in Kenya, South Korea and the Philippines. While serving on the Leonia (NJ) Board of Education, Ellie helped start an alternative high school taught by community members and was appointed to the committee to create the Thomas Edison State College (NJ's external degree institution) of which she eventually became chair of the Board of Trustees. She is also the current President of the Community of Friends in Action working with recent immigrants in Northern New Jersey.

Hans retired as Director of the Hunter College, City University of New York Graduate Program in Urban Affairs and Planning (and is an Emeritus Professor of the program). He also directed the Hubert Humphrey North-South Fellowship Program. He is former Deputy Assistant Commissioner of the United States Urban Renewal Administration and member of the Presidential Task Forces on Poverty and Urban Problems.

(Cont'd 'Ligon Award' on page 44)

The Future Form of 'Interaction'

By Mark Kinney and James Burke


Question: Would you read the *Lisle Interaction* if it were on-line, or emailed to you?

The Lisle board is wrestling with managing the costs of producing two issues of *Interaction* each year, since as our membership ages the number of individuals on our mailing list shrinks. Conversely, on the increase are the costs of producing, printing and mailing the newsletter. Given that reality, we are seeking your opinion about whether you would read the newsletter if it were transmitted in electronic form?

The *Interaction* newsletter serves four primary purposes:

1. To keep "old" Lislens in contact with the news about Lisle and each other.
2. To serve as a "memory jogger" to remind Lislens that our only source of support to keep the organization alive and well, and continuing to serve diverse populations around the world, is through member and friends' donations.
3. To serve as a conduit and outreach tool to introduce Lisle to new people who might become: members, supporters, or possible "Seed Grant" recipients.
4. To document the legitimate activities as a nonprofit under its 501c3 legal status.

One idea is to develop an E-newsletter which would be sent out several times a year, and would include many of the articles of *Interaction*. Those articles could then be compiled into one large issue of *Interaction* to be printed annually. Individuals would be able to either go to the Lisle website to read *Interaction*, or be emailed the PDF version.

We'd like your feedback! Email or call James Burke <inibara@yahoo.com> (206) 302-9213, or Mark Kinney <mark.kinney@utoledo.edu> (989) 595-3667. 

Inspired Design: My Vision of Lisle

By Lori Bratton


As a visually oriented person, writing is a bit of a tortuous process for me. I can do it, but I don't enjoy it. I prefer to show, rather than tell, and as they say, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Unfortunately, my vision doesn't translate well into black and white, and I hope that you will all have the chance to see it in color on the web site soon.



For now, I hope this description will suffice from afar: the image is of a globe being held up by three hands. As you get closer (or it gets bigger), you can see that the image is created out of text. On the globe, representing Lisle's present and future, is a list of all the programs for which we've awarded Seed Grants. Supporting the globe is Lisle's past: the list of program units.

Having been lucky enough to experience Lisle in the past, as a program participant (Costa Rica '98 and India '01) and currently, as a Board member, I see the success of the Seed Grant Program as being possible due to the rich history of this organization, as well as the continuing support from our membership. I feel this logo is a visual representation of this success, and I hope you all enjoy it!

Get Your T-shirt Now!

To order your T-shirt, see page 47 order form and select the size, write the check and mail it in! 



Share Your Lisle Legacy and Inspire the Next Generation

By Gail Bier



I search for ways that I can pass on my own Lisle experiences, inspirations and ways of acting to family and friends. Like many of you, perhaps, I think carefully about even small financial commitments in these uncertain

times. Then I remember that giving can take many forms.

The good news is that you can make a no cost, high impact legacy by simply talking from your heart about Lisle to your friends and family. Tell them now, and perhaps again, about what you have carried with you over the years from your Lisle experience. Tell them about your Lisle unit experiences, your inspiration, dedication, reaching across boundaries, grabbing someone else by their lapels until you understand them.

Remind your friends and family of how your Lisle interactions changed your thinking about the people you later met, and how you reached out to others. Encourage your loved ones to keep the spirit of Lisle going, for you, and for the world. The spirit of intercultural understanding is planted through the new Lisle seed grants. Continue to promote your values through the funding of seed grants that make big differences in small communities. ✍

Financial Report

Barb Bratton, Treasurer

Lisle was blessed during this last fiscal year to increase membership dues and contributions from \$8,695 in 2010 to \$10,192 in 2011. In both years, we had 89 contributors. *Thank you all so much!* It is our plan to use 100% of these funds to make mini-grants. In 2010, we only awarded \$6,500 so we carried funds over to 2011 and were able to award almost \$12,000. The Board is exploring other ways of funding the mini-grant cycle and increasing available funds.



With the rest of Americans, we continue to ride the wave of stock market volatility and have been able to maintain our investments fairly evenly. We ended 2010 with investments of \$195,065 and we ended 2011 with investments of \$192,661 (but this reflects spending the extra 2010 money for 2011 grants).

Our investments did pay some additional with the purchase of 6% bonds. In 2010 we earned \$4,040 of interest and dividends and in 2011 we received \$5,789. Unfortunately, we had to sell some investments to fund the 2011 grant cycle and lost over \$2,000 on the money market stock sold (which was originally purchased in early 2007).

The finance committee continues to explore various investment options that will hold our endowed funds safely, returning annual income and potentially show some growth in value. The IRS Form 990EZ has been filed and is available upon request. If you would like to receive a copy, please write Barb at the Lisle office or email her at: <lisle2@prismnet.com>. ✍

Four “Job” Opportunities

Editor, Database, Outreach, Desktop Designer

By Dianne Brause

As of this issue, both I and my very fine friend and cohort, Elise Kimmons, are stepping down from our Lisle responsibilities in various capacities, after many years of serving Lisle with strong dedication. We both are desiring to pursue other creative activities, do a great deal of international traveling and focus on other endeavors.

It is now time to invite some new, fresh, and creative blood into the Lisle outreach and communication areas. Do **you** have the desire and skills to offer Lisle? Read on!

Opportunity 1—*Interaction* Editor-in-Chief

This opportunity is fairly unique, given the quirks and individuality of the Lislers involved. It can be exciting, rewarding, frustrating, challenging and fun! The right person for this job should: know the basic use of the English language and how to edit other people’s styles of writing; be highly organized and talented at project (and people) management; understand the basics of print media; appreciate the “big picture” of Lisle to ensure the continuity of its voice; work with varied personalities.

Opportunity 2—Database Manager

This job is great for someone who loves computer work and understands the inside workings of database software. When all is working correctly, this is a fairly minimal time commitment, but is important, as it holds Lisle’s 75+ years of history and its several thousand “members” from over the years in useful and accessible “memory.” In addition, it provides the mailing labels for *Interaction* and other Lisle official mailings, as well as tracking donations, so it must be accurate.

Opportunity 3—Membership Outreach

This “job” has recently been combined with #2 above, but could be done separately. Basically,


this is how Lisle nurtures its ongoing relationships with its members. This personal contact, usually by phone, helps Lisle stay connected with our members’ lives and, encourages them to stay linked to Lisle. These calls have resulted in gaining paying members, Seed Grant mentors and Board members, as well as gaining additional financial support. The information helps update the database and provide stories for Network News. You need to be willing to call people you never have met and to enjoy the amazing conversations—usually about “Lisle in the good old days” and/or current interests, activities, and accomplishments.

Opportunity 4—Desktop Designer/Layout

This is a really fun job! You are creating a visually pleasing, inviting and informative newsletter. You work closely with the Editor-in-chief to develop the timeline, the length of articles (co-editing at times), selecting the photos and artwork and placing them correctly. You consult with the printer for specifications, estimates, tech support and final printing process. You must have several computer programs—InDesign, Photoshop and MS Word (or similar software)—to do this work.

Some financial remuneration may be available for these services (as a generous donation from one of our favorite Lislers). Please inquire by contacting: Mark Kinney <mark.kinney@utoledo.edu>, Barb Bratton <dragnfly@prismnet.com> or Smita Patel <smits_pat@yahoo.com>.

Full job descriptions will be available on the Lisle website: <lisleinternational.org>

So, if each of you could look into your hearts to see if you are called to serve Lisle in any of these capacities (or know of someone who would be a good fit for these positions) it would be greatly appreciated. 

Farewells from our Editor-in-Chief and Desktop Designer

By Dianne Brause and Elise Kimmons



I want to share a little about my life as Editor-in -Chief for *Interaction*—over the last seventeen years, with 35 issues behind us! We are sad to be leaving our “positions” now, but hopefully others will take over and add a new style and flair.

My first Lisle experience was in 1987 on the Lakota Rose-

bud Reservation in South Dakota. I loved the opportunity to live in an authentic Native American community. The next year, I was asked to co-lead the unit and then to join the Board of Lisle!

Elise and I met at the intentional community, Lost Valley Educational Center (LVEC) in Dexter, OR, just a year after I had been a co-founder there. LVEC hosted a couple of Lisle Annual meetings and two Pacific NW Lisle programs over the years. Elise left LVEC, moved to Eugene and took a university course in desktop/electronic publishing.

So, in 1995, when Lisle needed a new Editor and Publisher for *Interaction*, I volunteered to do the editing if Elise would do the desktop publishing. She agreed and we loved being able to spend time together as we worked on *Interaction*—although this became more difficult after my move to Ohio to support my aging parents.

I always enjoyed connecting with Lislors and learning about the amazing things they have done—often as a direct result of their early Lisle experiences! Now, I want to continue my travel—doing Lisle-like experiences in other parts of the world—starting with a “Compassionate Listening Project” delegation in Israel and Palestine in March, and connecting with other NGOs doing “peace-building” in the Middle East. Perhaps peace will come to our planet one day! ✍️

On a dark night in October 1990, my then-husband and three young children, exhausted from a 14-hour drive with all our worldly goods, arrived on the grounds of Lost Valley Education Center. A woman welcomed us warmly, her spirit light in the brisk fall air. That was Dianne.



Twenty-one years later, I still feel the gratitude of that moment; my love and respect for Dianne only grew as my family began our new lives at LVEC. Through all our changes over the years, our deep connection continues, even when I moved to Eugene in 1992, and she to Ohio in 2009.

We’ve been working together on *Interaction*—in smooth collaboration for seventeen years! It’s certainly been a pleasure to discover, through each issue, more about friendship and more about the Lisle global-mindedness.

From my desktop chair, I have traveled to many countries and cultures where I could never go myself. I have “met” Lislors through their trip diaries, Network News bits, articles, pictures and meeting minutes. I have come to cherish the mission of Lisle and the outstanding individuals who make it such an amazing organization.

I am sad to say “goodbye.” I didn’t make this decision quickly, nor lightly. But with Dianne’s changing life and mine, we are at this crossroads. I look forward to pursuing other creative adventures with my partner Dick McRill—who has kindly donated countless hours to Lisle, adjusting the photos and offering his flower photography as fillers

We are hopeful that two creative and caring Lislors—or Lisle friends—will feel inspired to bring their own personalities, skills and drive to produce *Interaction* in the future.


Recording Our Memories

By James Burke

Well it's not as polished as NPR's Story Corps program, but your Lisle Board of Directors have found it just as important to record the voices and stories of Lisle's, both young and old, since our founding in 1936.

Starting at Lisle's 75th anniversary event last fall, we have begun to assemble a collection of experiences/stories of Lisle program participants and archive them to preserve the rich history that has kept one of this country's longest operating non-profits going strong into the new millennium. Our next recording session will be at this spring's Board Meeting in Chicago. One immediate goal of this project is to place the individual interviews on the Lisle web site for all to enjoy.

By the time you are reading this, the first interview with Walt and Betty Ligon should be posted on the Lisle web and Facebook pages. The wisdom and humor brought forth in their recording will make you smile and reflect on how a small organization like Lisle can make a big difference in one's life.

However, the success of this project depends on you. Come to one of our seasonal meetings and let your Lisle story be heard. It's important to let others know how Lisle impacted your life and the friends you have made. If you have questions about this project please contact Lisle board member James Burke: <inibara@yahoo.com> Peace. 

Watch the You-Tube "slideshow" from the 75th (includes Betty) and the "Story Board" video of Walt and Betty sharing their Lisle experiences that James took during the meeting! It can be found on the Lisle homepage: <www.lisleinternational.org>.


2012 Global Seed Grant Cycle

By Mark Kinney

The Lisle board is excited to announce a request for proposals for the 2012 Lisle Global Seed Grants. This year grant applications for 2012 are available, either from the Lisle webpage or through the Lisle office. Applications need to be submitted by the **15th of July**, with awards being announced during the Annual Meeting in the fall. The next Global Seed Fund grant cycle for projects will be from November 1, 2012–October 31, 2013.

Grants are available to agencies that work to create global-mindedness. The one-year grants, made for between \$500–\$3000, are given to organizations to assist them in developing or expanding their efforts. Grants are evaluated in terms of how well their project fulfills the goals which Lisle seeks to foster, how clear the goals and objectives are, how concretely the activities of the project are spelled out, how completely and clearly the budget is described, the adequacy of the evaluation, and how plausible the follow-up activities are. Lisle is interested in projects which impact many individuals at a deep level and are designed to be repeatable after the Lisle grant has been completed.

All revised 2012 grant materials are available at any time on the Lisle webpage at <www.lisleinternational.org/grants.shtml>. You will find information about the grant cycle, the application form, the budget form, the evaluation criteria, and the description of the Lisle mentor role, which is crucial to the success of any proposal.

Should you have any questions about this grant cycle, please contact Mark Kinney at <mark.kinney@utoledo.edu> or call: 989-595-3667. 

2011 Seed Grants Awarded!

Barb Bratton & Anne Hayner

Lisle International is pleased to announce the awarding of mini-grants to the following terrific projects.

Lubuto Library Project, Zambia

Jane Kinney Meyers is a librarian currently living in Washington DC. As a professional working on projects for the American Library and Johns Hopkins University, she lived four years in Malawi and later in Zambia. She became increasingly involved with services to street children offered by the funds, and created a library for the children. On her return to the United States in 2001, she organized the "Lubuto Library Project."

Lisle was pleased to grant \$2,980 to this project for 2011 staff training at the second Lubuto Library in Lusaka, Zambia. The Lubuto Library Project has raised funds from the Zambia Ministry of Education, local Rotary clubs and funding bodies in the USA to cover the costs of in-service training for the staff in the new library. The focus population is: children and youth ages four to eighteen, especially targeting street children, orphans and other vulnerable and out-of-school children and youth. This new library had over 7,000 visits in its first month with high participation in the "Lubuto Drama Program."

The project aims to build local capacity of the library staff in library management and delivery of educational services. Lisle's funds will be used to work with the outreach staff to encourage street children and youth to come to the library, with a particular goal of achieving gender equity in library use and program participation. You can learn more about this project at: www.flickr.com/photos/lubutolibraryproject



Preparedness Youth Training, India

In the discussion of Lisle's grants as "Seed Grants," this next grantee demonstrates how the seeds we sow begin to sprout, grow and spread.

Hearing of the Mountain Children's Foundation (earlier Lisle grantee) and the national publicity regarding MCF, the Education Committee of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India proposed a similar forum to empower the future community leaders to take responsible roles in planning and carrying out strategies for community development and to promote inter-tribal and cross-community sharing of ideas and planning strategies among youth from several districts of rural mountain India. The theme of this first forum was the development of skills for disaster management in these mountains prone to earthquakes and flooding.



This was a one-day program for teacher/leader training and a one-day program for a focus group of 320 school children from four city schools of differing cultures and religions. An exchange program element was also incorporated for four children and four leaders with the Mountain Childrens Fund. Lisle's funds provided transportation and a meal for the children and adults, materials and space rental.

Funds of \$3,000 were provided immediately as the forum was in November 2011 and attended by the grantee Mentors, Mark and Nancy Kinney. Mark has set up a blog at: khasiindia2011.wordpress.com if you wish to read more of the day-to-day activities of the group. (And see page 36 for the Kinney's story about this service project.)

(Cont'd on next page, 32)

Friends of African Village Libraries, Burkino Faso

This grantee may sound familiar to those of you reading Interaction thoroughly as a \$3,000 grant was awarded to this organization two years ago. Grantees are eligible to apply for second grants after two years. The Lisle Board of Directors was pleased to have a presentation from this group during the October 2010 Annual Meeting in San Jose.

FAVL provides summer reading camps for children through the local library in Burkina Faso. These summer camps are the only organized activities for children in these villages and we are sponsoring two-week camps in five villages in the summer of 2012 servicing 100 children. The goal of these summer camps is to improve the children's reading abilities with one-on-one assistance, which is not possible during the regular school year because of large class sizes. Most importantly, the camps connect reading with FUN in order to encourage these students to become avid readers. These children have a large impact on their small rural villages. FAVL encourages them to read to their younger siblings. Their ability to read well also helps their families connect to the educated world.

Lisle's funding was critical to enabling these camps to be repeated next summer and we are delighted with the increasing connection of Lisle with this enthusiastic non-profit organization. Read more about FAVL at <www.favl.org>.




Education for Rural Girls, Cambodia

Education was the overpowering theme of the grant applications received for this grant cycle. The mission statement of the non-profit "Friendship with Cambodia" includes "to promote cultural understanding, appreciation and cooperation through education program and to teach kindness, peace and compassion."

Two schools in the United States have sponsored students in Cambodia. The US schools have a diversity of races and economic backgrounds and the sponsorship with students in Cambodia is enhanced with teleconferencing and a letter and photo exchange. The sponsorship program is ongoing and Lisle's grant of \$3,000 is for a 12-month period. It includes providing opportunities for the girls in Cambodia to attend University and the middle school students in Eugene, OR to develop friendships with Cambodian students in high school and university. Students in Cambodia learn about some of the challenges we face in the USA, and will see that we have some of the same problems in the USA including poverty, people who don't have enough food to eat, and drug abuse among youth.

Dianne tells about the "first ever Skype call between the 5th grade students from one of Eugene's grade schools and a college student" on page 37.

The Eugene schools are raising \$17,000 for this project and Lisle is pleased to be a part of this intercultural event. Look them up at <www.friendshipwithcambodia.org> 



Bigutar School Book Project

By Nancy Pearson Kinney

In an effort to combat ethnic strife in the small, remote village of Bigutar, Nepal, Project director Peter Prindle had the idea that a library where group members would need to interact with one another in order to share the benefits of using the books would improve relations among them. His Peace Corps experience there more than forty years ago was the basis of a long relationship with Bigutar where he has visited and conducted research on a regular basis. While fulfillment of the long-term goals of improving graduation rates among the school children and dispelling ethnic tensions have not emerged yet, a few interim unintended consequences have resulted which bear mention—only a year into the project.

The first is that the library does, indeed, exist and in the newly built village school (which was not in the plans when the library was envisioned), there is a special room dedicated to the library. It is the only public meeting place in the village and provides a place for both villagers and any visitors to get together.



This new library furniture, bookcase, tables and chairs, were funded by Lisle and now grace the newly-built "library" and school.

The second is that because of the celebration that resulted from the dedication of the library, an important personnel change happened at the school. At the celebration in the midst of dancing, skits and singing, one of the village's

successful school graduates, Suman, who now works in Kathmandu, gave a speech. He made ref-

erence to persons in the village that had embezzled funds and committed other unlawful and harmful acts, such as tolerating bad teachers who would not question this person's authority. It was obvious that the "person" in question was the headmaster of the school, and he resigned two months later. His resignation opens the door for more accountability to an increasingly better-educated group of students and parents.



Bigutar School students hard at work gaining an education that focuses them towards successful graduation.

Third, the Nepal Charitable Foundation, Peter's non-profit that manages donations for the village, has been approached by a group of fifteen to twenty students from Singapore who want to help Bigutar with a development project that may involve computers. While the project is still in the planning stages, the existence of the library can provide a place for the Singapore students to meet and work.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the project is that the project budget of \$1,400 has provided all the above changes! The library contains a wide variety of books, including Nepalese language folk tales, books on computers in English, a subscription to a national newspaper, and textbooks that can be loaned to students who cannot afford to purchase their own. This small "seed" grant has produced fruits beyond anyone's imagining a year ago. ✍️

Afro-Caribbean Technology Exchange: Five Successful Years Later

By James Burke


Five years ago I received notice that Lisle International had accepted my request for a Seed Grant. The proposal was a simple one: take a group of fourteen 7th and 8th grade boys and girls and some parent chaperones from my Computer Skills class to Jamaica and set-up a mini-computer lab, hand-built by the students. Our lofty five-year plan, to increase the knowledge of “developing world” girls and teachers in information technology, was hinging on a handshake between me and then Principal, Samuel Spragg of the Sheffield All Age School.



A Jamaican student and US student find common ground, sharing the universal language of smiles while doing a project.

Who would have thought that with the help of Lisle Mentor, Bill Kinney and fellow teacher Nate Manning that an idea initially developed during my Peace Corps service in the mid 90s would grow into the federally approved non-profit “Afro-Caribbean Technology Exchange.” Since then, we have made seventeen trips to Sheffield just outside

the coastal town of Negril in Jamaica, and this summer fulfilled our five-year commitment to this wonderful community.

The journey has not been without trial and tribulations. But overall, success can be measured on many levels. One of the most important metrics to me has been the level and frequency of post-trip communication between the students, both Jamaican and American, via cell phones, texting and social networking sites such as Facebook. For this I must thank Lisle and its overall philosophy of creating communication bridges between the project participants. Without the Lisle “energy,” our project would have been nothing more than a fancy, overpriced package delivery service. The bond between the participants, both parents and students, have inspired the Jamaican students to stay in school and pursue a life of setting and achieving goals. I encourage everyone to continue their support for Lisle’s Seed Grants and the opportunity it provides to fledgling non-profits everywhere. I, for one, can testify to the fact that this program did plant a seed in our organization that has grown to nourish the positive experiences of our participants. Bless every time. 



Two students explore computer and information technology together.

Empower the Children

By Smita Patel

Empower The Children (ETC) put their Lisle Seed Grant to a unique and creative use. ETC works with children in the slums of Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India.

In our Global Village: Kolkata, India, is a children's book written and illustrated by the slum-dwelling and disabled children of Kolkata. The book was done over a two-month period involving five educational centers and thirty-six American volunteers. This stunning, colorful book includes drawings by their children and photographs that capture glimpses of their lives.

Rosalie Giffoniello, who founded the organization and spends half the year in India overseeing its activities, conceived of this project as a means for ETC volunteers, slum-dwelling children in Kolkata, and students in Perth/Kinross, Scotland to share an experience.



Rosalie is surrounded by a group of her smiling students!

"The children in Kolkata created a book that is a window into their world," Rosalie said. *"The volunteers who assisted the children gained a better understanding of the joys and challenges of growing up in a developing country. The students in Scotland were thrilled to receive the book from their long-distance friends in Kolkata and might be inspired to create a similar one. This*

cultural exchange project was a complete success in that it raised awareness and cemented friendships."

This project once again illustrates the power of Lisle's seed grants, since ETC would never have taken on this project were it not for Lisle. Seed grant applications must show how a project would further the Lisle mission of promoting intercultural learning and understanding, which inspired Rosalie to develop this idea.

As part of the project evaluation, ETC asked each of the volunteers to complete a feedback form with their reflections on the project. While all the volunteers felt the experience was positive, some said it dramatically changed their overall perspective. Copies of the book were sent to students in Scotland as part of a three-year cultural exchange project between Scottish and Indian schools. ETC also sent books to Dutch schoolchildren who organized fundraising activities for the schools in Kolkata, as well as to local libraries in New Jersey, and to some local schools.

So, our relatively small (\$3,000) investment has touched—and possibly transformed—hundreds of lives around the world!

You can view the book on the Lisle website: www.lisleinternational.org

Learn more about Empower The Children on their website: <http://empower-children.org>



This drawing of a child inside a lotus in a pond with the sun shining was done by one of the children in Peyrona School.

Mountain Children's Foundation

By Smita Patel

Although India's laws to ensure the safety of children are impressive on paper, their implementation has been spotty at best. There are far too many stories of children caught up in India's criminal justice system—often as victims of crime—only to be victimized again by the police who were supposed to protect them.

After a decade of working in the rural mountain communities of India—a region where the concept of child rights is still mostly unknown—the Mountain Children's Foundation (MCF), with the aid of a Lisle seed grant, decided to broach the complicated issue of child safety and protection.

In keeping with the Lisle tradition, the MCF operates on a model of bringing young people together to learn from one another and work together to address common problems.

The Lisle grant helped the MCF to increase awareness of child protection issues and build bridges of understanding and communication between the children and the officials responsible for enforcing the laws that pertain to their safety.

"We were only able to do this because of Lisle," said Aditi P. Kaur, president of the MCF. *"This is not an issue that easily appeals to funders. But what can be more important than protecting children from harm?"* The MCF used the Lisle grant to hold a two-day workshop in June that focused on child safety and protection. More than sixty young people from around the state participated in the workshop along with representatives of the State Police and the Juvenile Justice board.

"This was the first time these children had even thought about these issues," said Aditi. *"But after participating in the workshop they gained a new understanding that they could take back and share with their communities."* Aditi also noted that it was important to have government officials represented in the workshop as it enabled the children to talk to them directly, which hopefully will

make it easier for them to approach officials in the future. It also brought the officials out of the theoretical world of their offices and enabled them to hear first-hand the concerns and issues faced by the children.

"Once again Lisle has helped the MCF blaze a new trail," said Aditi, noting that it was a Lisle grant that enabled the MCF to hold its first statewide workshop for children, on the topic of disaster mitigation. Until that workshop, no one in the region had thought to include young people in discussions or training around disaster preparedness. The MCF now has a network of more than 10,000 young people in some 500 children's groups across the Indian state of Uttarakhand and making dramatic changes to their communities. It credits that first Lisle grant for giving it the momentum that brought it to this point.

Learn more about the MCF on its website: www.mymountains.org



One of the children sings at the Cultural Meeting, which was a part of the workshop the MCF sponsored.

A Workshop in India: MCF

By Nancy Pearson Kinney

It was Saturday October 15. Mark and I were at Madan Laban Unitarian Church in Shillong Meghalaya, India. Aditi Kaur and Sudhir Bhatt of the Mountain Children's Foundation had arrived from Dehradun, a city on the other side of the country several days earlier. We were all ready to greet about twenty teachers who had agreed to be available to work with the Upper Primary and Secondary students who had been there on Friday looking rather natty in their school uniforms to experience much of the same information and processes as we would that day.



Nancy helps one of the teachers' groups during the workshop sponsored by MCF.

The prospect of confronting disaster is ever-present for Indians. Their fragile environment and tropical climate invites floods, fire, accidents, storms and all those potential hazards that we discover in news reports daily. The message of the Mountain Children's Foundation is that there are steps that children can take to mitigate the effects of emergencies. Such actions can help them to be more confident and less anxious about their lives and to gain a sense of responsibility for their communities that can make them happier and make the communities better places to live.

That day, we adults talked at length about the kinds of emergencies that are common in Meghalaya and tried to separate man-made problems

from natural disasters in order to understand what we could and could not do. Each group was tasked to develop a list of steps that children could take to help out in different kinds of emergencies.

Kong Creamlimon Nongbri writes: "*On behalf of the Education Committee and on my own behalf, I also express my sincere gratitude to Lisle Board on the award of the 2011-12 Global Seed Fund grants to the Education Committee, UUNEI to make possible the Emergency Preparedness Youth Training for Villages in Meghalaya India. The Education Committee members were very grateful for the support, both in terms of money and opportunities for students and the facilitators that the programme provided. The Students expressed happiness at the exposure that they have had and look forward to the follow up programme.*

"I am also indebted to Aditi and Sudhir who had spared their valuable time and made it to Shillong. Then, let me share with you that the Workshop was a success. Thirty-eight students and twenty facilitators/teachers from eight different rural and urban schools were trained at the Madan Laban Unitarian Church Premises, Madan Laban for two days."

An exchange programme with the MCF to enrich their experiences is yet to be worked out. As proposed, an exchange programme of four children under the leadership of four teachers from Meghalaya are to be sent to Uttarachand to provide them an opportunity to spend time together and share their concerns, experiences, and accomplishments. Learning from the experience of the Mountain Children there, they will learn to empower themselves and help them to become more active in their communities.

Aditi Kaur says on behalf of the Mountain Children's Forum: "*On reaching Shillong Sudhir and I felt that we had reached home. The warmth*

(Cont'd 'India Workshop' on page 45)

The Magic of Mentoring

By Dianne Brause

A couple of years ago, when I was still living outside of Eugene, OR, I went to a fundraiser put on by an organization named “Friendship with Cambodia.” Hundreds of supporters were at the local church, eating authentic Cambodian food, buying Christmas gifts from the crafts tables and bidding on auction items. In the auditorium, local Cambodian girls, dressed in traditional costumes, danced for the crowd. There was a slide show telling about the various programs supported by this small nonprofit started by a local woman named Bhavia Wagner. I was most impressed and noted in my mind that they were a perfect candidate for a Lisle Seed Grant.

The next year, I contacted Bhavia, but it was at a late date and she was interested, but didn’t have a new project that we thought might get funded by Lisle. So I contacted her again for this funding cycle. She wrote a tentative seed grant proposal and I sent it into the committee with several questions about what would make it stronger. Bhavia waited for an answer, but hadn’t received one by the time of the submission deadline, so she assumed that she wasn’t being considered and I assumed she had dropped the idea.

But, as luck would have it, I was back in Eugene and I happened to find out about a rummage sale in a local church. I went in and noticed that a “Friendship with Cambodia” sign was on one of the office doors. The door was open and I went in, and there was Bhavia, preparing for a rare Saturday Board meeting. I asked about the grant proposal and she said she still wanted to apply, but hadn’t heard back. I got off a quick email to Mark and the Seed Grant Committee explaining the miscommunication and they encouraged her to resubmit with more information about planned intercultural interactions. She did so and I was very pleased when the board awarded their nonprofit one of this year’s seed grants.



Dianne in full regalia to perform the Sun Blessing, or, to be blessed by the sun!

I was doubly pleased to be invited on “Friendship with Cambodia’s” first ever Skype call between the 5th grade students from one of Eugene’s grade schools and a college student named Ritty, who had been supported in going to school for years by 5th graders from Eugene, and was now in college. I was attending a conference in Keene, NH at the time, but I found an empty classroom and “Skyped in.” I was able to see the young Cambodian college student, but unfortunately, their Skype arrangements had been for only two locations, so they had to cut me off the call in order to get the Eugene students to be able to see Ritty.

Later, I heard from Bhavia how wonderful the call had been for both the Oregon fifth graders and for Ritty, and how Friendship with Cambodia would not have thought of adding Skype calls as a part of their program, had it not been for Lisle’s feedback. Clearly, this addition had greatly deepened the appreciation and excitement of this program among the Eugene students. They could barely wait to schedule another call!

I recently received an update from Bhavia about their work. She and the US Volunteer Crafts Coordinator were in Cambodia collecting crafts for their “fair trade” outlets in America as well as visiting various of their partner NGO’s (Non-

(Cont’d ‘Magic of Mentoring’ on page 44)

Bud Baldwin: “A Humanist in Medicine”

Dianne Brause, Editor

We were sent an article with the above title, which was written by Susan Cousins Breen in the *Swarthmore College Bulletin*, recognizing the lifetime of work and achievements accomplished by DeWitt (Bud) Baldwin. It's subtitle was: “More Than a Half-Century of Research and Progress and DeWitt Baldwin Still Has More To Do.”

Bud who is now 90, is still working full-time as a scholar-in-residence in Chicago with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education after a lifetime of experience supporting positive experiences for medical students and residents. He is quoted as saying: “*Becoming a physician is not just about good scientific and clinical training...It's also about fully developing fully as human beings and professionals.*”



DeWitt “Bud” Baldwin

He was an early advocate for the teaching of ethics, social and behavioral sciences. He was recently given special recognition in the international Journal of Interprofessional Care and the “Baldwin Award” was created in honor of his seminal work in that field of medical education within various medical schools. However, Bud himself feels that his work as a “mentor” of young students, may be his greatest legacy.

He says: “*When young people work with me, I try to enlist their interest and passion in the human experience of helping others in need.*” He adds, “*One of my most treasured comments was by some students who said, ‘Other doctors teach us what to do to patients. You teach us how to be with patients.’*”

Obviously, many wonderful aspects of Bud's parents, Uncle Si and Aunt Edna, were infused into him along the way! 🌿



Barbara Braxton Wilks mailed this picture of the Lisle group at Estes Park, CO in 1988. Uncle Si top left. Barbara Braxton Hicks is on the bottom right. Joe Ault is third from the left, top row. Betty and Walt are kneeling in the front row.



Bud's parents, Si and Edna Baldwin, pose in front of the lodge in Colorado where the photographer, Ellen Potee Nichols, met her future husband on this 1947 Unit. She sent this picture to Lisle in 2006.

Network News

Here's what's happening in Lisle's part of the world! Compiled by Dianne Brause, Editor and Outreach.

Sarah Bekker (NY '43) reports that she is 88 years old and she has fond memories of her Lisle NY experiences including the weekend trips to various communities. She can be reached at: (703) 243-2566.

Leonora B. Cayard (wife of **Wallace Cayard**, NY '48), said that Lisle had been very important to Wallace and that it meant a lot to him. She remembers a reunion of Lislors that she attended with him. (He is now deceased).

Kristin Currin (Leader Training '98, Costa Rica '98, and CR Leader '99, '01, '02) is at: 2355 Osburn Cut-Off Rd, Mosier, OR 97040, (503) 449-3694, <motherofd@yahoo.com>. She reports: "Still in Oregon. Happy New Year to all!"

Carolyn Black Dougall (DC '62, DC Leader '64) is a super volunteer working at: U Tennessee Medical Center at the Chemo/Oncology Center, Recording for the Blind at Oak Ridge; as Member of the League of Women Voters in Knoxville; and sings in the 1st Presbyterian Church Choir. She can be reached at: 3900 Meloney Rd, Knoxville, TN 37920, (865) 609-1059, <cvbdougall@yahoo.com>.

Don Ervin (Lisle Board, NY '48, CO '49, MI '49, Family Camp '61 & '61). Daughter Rosemary writes: "My parents (Don, now 92, and Jean, deceased) dearly loved Lisle Fellowship. He has good days and bad days. His dementia is fairly advanced, and his hearing loss great. Phone calls are not possible. He does read and always enjoys hearing from friends. We celebrated my dad's 92nd birthday on Christmas Eve! Use my address for him: 7040 Eastwick Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46256. Son, **Bruce Ervin** adds: "There were also Lisle reunions for families at Fresh Air Camp near An Arbor, MI over Thanksgiving weekend in '62, '63 and '64. Maybe other years too, but those are the only ones that I remember.

They weren't full-blown units, so I don't know if your're counting those reunions or not. Sure was fun for the kids, though, while the adults were having their discussions!"

Julia Forbes (Denmark '67): Would love to have contact from anyone from her Lisle group (contact the Lisle office for her address in Seattle).

Donald French (USSR '58) remembers Aunt Edna with fond memories, and how his life was changed by that Lisle summer of 1958 when the Soviet Union was just beginning to open up. He then went to Penn State University and met **George Humphrey** at a Russian Summer Camp at Middlebury. In 1959, the two of them became tour guides at the American Exhibition in Moscow and studied Russian Language and Literature. George remembers their great intinerary: 40 days in central Asia, then on to Poland for two weeks, and Czechoslovakia and ending in several days in Paris. They then traveled back to America on an ocean liner, arriving early in the morning in NY Harbor. George, who was in the foreign service, married to a foreign service officer as well, who died a number of years ago in Berlin. Donald is planning to move into a retirement home soon. His cell phone is: 703-524-5337.

Dr. Claire E. Fulcher (Lisle Board) says: "Betty and Walt Ligon and I became friends at Columbia TC in 1933-4 and have continued our friendship ever since. I am a counseling psychologist and organizational consultant now. Walt brought me into Lisle in the 1970s to be on the Board. I found out what a valuable organization it is, and got to know Uncle Si and Aunt Edna at Thanksgivings at the Lignons' for many years. Because of my extended involvement at the University of Bridgeport as Dean, Counselor and Professor, as well as in three other international orgs, (represented IFBPC & IFUW for over 30 years at the UN, until I moved to AZ from CT/Manhattan two years ago; while working around my prac-

tice—mainly on women’s issues, mental health, etc.), I couldn’t become involved in Lisle, but value reading the newsletter. Thank you very much. Claire’s new address is: 8111 E. Broadway Blvd., Apt. 141, Tucson, AZ 85710-3925, (520) 885-2485, <fulcherclaire@gmail.com>.

Ruth Ingeborg Fuss (CA ’54, Germany ’55 and ’63, Vienna Reunion ’96) writes: “I am leader of the Worship Committee of our retirement complex. We select weekly speakers, etc. I give Holy Communion to Catholic residents; do volunteer mail courier three times per week; two hours at the reception desk two times per week and sometimes I play bridge with sight impaired residents. I am 81 years, but feel and act young.”

Olive Leonard (NY ’43) relates about her life: “I lived in France as a Military Dependent for three years. My husband died 4/29/11 after 63 great years together! We had three children, 11 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren. Was President of Church Women United & Federated (Women’s Club). Was selected to travel to Thailand & Vietnam by Church Women United. Taught school. Am now Mission Chair at my church. I am 88.”

Louise Malcolm (Denmark ’56) lets us know: “We now live in Bentley Commons, an independent and assisted living facility at: 197 Water Street # 219, Keene, NH 03431 (603) 903-1228. Do visit if you are in Keene, NH (Monadnock Area).”


Ada Jo Mann (DC ’65) <adajo@innovationpartners.com> reminisces about her Lisle unit in DC during which she did a variety of things including staying on a Mennonite farm in PA, a fraternity house at the U of MD, and the nurses’ quarters at St Elizabeth’s Mental Hospital. She also lobbied for the Civil Rights Bill and became acquainted with the International Women’s League for Peace & Freedom. Her daughter, Abby (Mann) Colucci, lives in Silver Springs, works with an economic consulting firm and has a 4 ½ year old son and a three year-old daughter.

Ray & Anja Miller (Denmark ’55, Denmark Leaders ’69, CO ’56, CA ’57) report that they

have new titles: Ray is now “Mayor Pro Tem” of his town of Brisbane, CA and Anja’s titles are: “Grandma of ‘the Adorables’” (their two year-old twin granddaughters) and “Advocate for Renewables.” This year they traveled to DC, and cruised in the Eastern Mediterranean and on to Helsinki. They can be reached at: 224 Sierra Point Rd., Brisbane, CA 94005, (415) 467-8512, <r_miller@sfsu.edu>.

Ben Watkins and Mary Schanz (Costa Rica Leader ’96, Costa Rica ’97) sent a letter to Dianne: “I thank you and Lisle a lot and our great trips to Costa Rica. On one of those trips I met Christine Crawford of the McKee Project. I was able to help McKee become a driving force for spaying and neutering of cats and dogs in Costa Rica. We shipped 10 anesthetic machines to Costa Rica about 12 years ago, which kicked off the program with the resident veterinarians. We also established “The McKee Project” as a non-profit in the US, which allowed for significant grants and donations over these 12 years. It has been and continues to be a significant program in Central America due to our involvement with Lisle on one of the Costa Rica trips. Thank you, Dianne and Lisle for all you do.” Ben and Mary can be contacted at 301 W. Spring Valley Pl., Tucson, AZ 85737, (520) 575-8469.

Martin Siegel (CA ’53, USSR ’58) at: 12014 Triadelphia Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042 (443) 535-2382. He is teaching six classes a week in his own school. He says: “I feel grateful for my Lisle experience.”

Cherry (Charlotte) Wunderlich (CA ’63) says: “Greetings to everyone! Lisle is a wonderful organization. Sounds as though you are adapting as time moves forward. Lisle has never stood still. It is needed now more than ever. Lisle has had a huge impact on me. And, a lot of effort goes into *Interaction*.” She has a sister and brother-in-law in Oregon and planned to go west this fall: to LA, the Bay Area, Ashland (OR), Seattle and on to visit her spouse’s family in St Mary’s, ID, a 2 ½ week trip in all! 

Dianne Brause Visits Lislors Across the USA

By Dianne Brause

This summer and fall, I had the wonderful opportunity to visit Lisle friends as I traveled in my new VW Pop-Top Camper across the country. My first visit was to the home of our new President, **Smita Patel** (President of the Board, India MCF Seed Grant Leader '05, Mentor), where I met some of her family, the dogs and had a lovely overnight stay in her home in the hills of Sacramento.

As I proceeded up the coast, I had a nice time with **Betsy Bridwell** (Bali '97, Turkey '02) in the house in Seattle, and going with her to the lovely "Pea-Patch" shared community garden plot where she picked fresh vegetables for our dinner.

Later in the Seattle area, Board Member, **James Burke** (Board Member, Jamaica Computer Lab '07, Mentor), took time away from building a back deck on his house to help me configure my new Apple MacBook Pro Computer—and became my hero, since I seem to have been given no computer genes when I was born! Thanks James, for saving me!

After my summer stay in Oregon, I headed north into Canada and had a brief visit with **Neils Christensen** (Mexico '91) with whom I went on the Lisle Mexico trip over Christmas of '91 and who helped to scout out possibilities for the Costa Rica units which happened a few years later. Neils, and his wife, Dorothy, have a lovely house in the hills above Salmon Arm, BC where they have both worked with the native people of the area and for the protection of the waters and the Salmon.

After the beauty of the Canadian Rockies, I drove the endless prairies and cut back down into the USA via Winnipeg, to celebrate my mother's 94th birthday in OH before heading east to join other Lislors in celebrating it's 75th Anniversary.

When our meeting was over in Philadelphia, I spent a few days camping out in the suburbs where **Alex Cox** (Colombia '63, '64) and his extended

family, who live in adjacent homes, and I took the opportunity to explore the public transit system in order to see a the sights in this historic location.



Alex Cox and his Peace Activist "in-law" in front of their houses in suburban Philadelphia. Dianne's new VW van is in background.

After Philly, I headed south for the 50th Anniversary of Peace Corps in Washington, DC. While in that area, I had the great pleasure of spending a few days with the Hill-Aranaga family. I stayed with Carlos Aranaga, and visited with a very busy **Patty Hill (Aranaga)** (India '86, South Dakota '89) who lives just a few houses away and made acquaintance with their three daughters—who have grown in leaps and bounds since I last was there. All three are unique, gifted, and precocious and I enjoyed meeting each of them (definitely future Lisle candidates!) One day, Patty's father, **Brooks Hill** (Lisle Friend), took me out to brunch, and we shared wonderful Uncle Si stories. (See page 9 for his story)

From there, I drove north again into NYC, to stay for a few nights at the new home of **Gail Bier**

(Cont'd 'Dianne Visits' on page 46)

In Memoriams

Almon Wilson Coulter (Germany '54) passed away September 24, 2010, according to his daughter, Sara Coulter.

Barbara Goss (CO '47) of 9 Poker Hill Rd., Underhill, VT 05489, reports that her husband recently died after 10 years with Alzheimer's. She says: "I am trying to adjust."

Lois Huddleston (CA '50, India '08) reports the death of **Bob Fisher** and says that: "Daya Shankar Fisher still supports Lisle with gifts." Lois is hoping to go to India to a school she adopted in March!

Ethelyn Maxwell (NY '40) passed away in September at the age of 92. Her daughter, Betsy who made a memorial donation to Lisle, reports that: "She always talked about her memories of Lisle and the wonderful experience it was for her in the 40's." [Thank you for your remembrance of your mother.]

Ella Pearson Mitchell (NY '38) as reported by her daughter, Elizabeth Clement, who said: "My late mother, Ella Pearson Mitchell, attended one of the first Lisle gathering when she was in college in the late 1930s. As an African American girl from South Carolina, it was one of her first experiences in a multi-racial setting. It was a pioneering if not prophetic moment for all concerned."

Rev. Everett E. Sheldon (NY '37 & '40 and Lisle Board) passed away August 7, 2010, just weeks before his 95th birthday. His daughter, Catherine Sheldon, says that he "was a founding member of Lisle." She sent a generous donation provided by Everett in his will. *Thank You Everett, for your thoughtful gift. We remember you, with Love. As you know, Lisle will use your gift well!* 🌸



Delicate Irises © Dick McRill

Jack Egle Will be Missed: by Lisle and CIEE

We received word of the passing of Jack Egle (CO '46, '48), who integrated his Lisle experience into his lifelong dedication in the international education field and especially in his work with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Jack was hired for a "2-week fill-in position" in Paris in 1951—which became the CIEE's European Director position—lasting until 1979, when he became the CEO of CIEE in New York and remained in that position until 1994!

Marty Tillman reflects: "*Jack was among the first leaders in the international education field whom I was introduced to by the Baldwins in 1977. For those not familiar with the study abroad field, CIEE is a leading nonprofit exchange organization. I last saw Jack at our terrific alumni gathering in Frankfurt, Germany. He was always very fond of how Lisle first launched his later professional work.*"


And Mark remembers Jack: "*He was a good friend of Lisle. He was always cordial to me when I attended either the CIEE meetings, as I did in the 80s and 90s, and the NAFSA meetings when I occasionally met him. Nancy and I had a chance to sit and talk with him while we were in Frankfurt. He was always thinking of how to expand on study abroad opportunities for students throughout the world. When he retired he left NYC and returned to Paris where he remained until his death.*"

And Finn adds: "*I was sad to hear of Jack Egle's death. While I only met him once in the 1950s in Paris, he was tremendously helpful in recruiting European students for the Danish Lisle Units starting in 1952.*" 🌸

(‘Celebrating 75’ from page 1)


in Meghalaya India. Detailed descriptions of each of these programs can be found in the accompanying Seed Grant article (*see page 31*). With the important work done, the Board adjourned and we followed our noses downstairs where Nancy and Juanita had prepared a fabulous feast, topped off with a melt-in-your-mouth apple crisp a la mode for dessert.

The Annual Meeting began Saturday morning with the presentation of officer reports, and the alumni voting to renew the following Board members whose terms had expired: Marty Tillman, Mark Kinney, Barbara Bratton, Gail Bier and Ann Hayner. After the business was concluded James, Smita and Nancy shared with us the on-going successes of a few past grant recipient programs and Juanita shared a letter from Lisle Don Ervin, who was unable to attend the meeting but wanted share his thoughts regarding this milestone anniversary.

After lunch we spent the afternoon in fellowship reminiscing and reflecting on Lisle’s past, then discussing what we hope to accomplish in the **next** 75 years. 

(‘Lisle’s 75th Birthday’ from page 10)


our future!! Imagine that. We stepped back and asked ourselves whether we could “see” a way to continue to make a difference...and we found that new way in the 21st century through creation of the “Global Seed Fund.”

I’ve been privileged to have been a part of Lisle’s history. To have known DeWitt & Edna Baldwin—along with so many other Lisle alumni in the U.S. and in other nations—has a special place in my heart. I’m not sure just how long Lisle will be around this century to play its small part in contributing to change in the lives of communities and citizens—but I know this: that, as my mom would say, “Where there’s a will, there’s a way.” And Lisle **will** find its way for sure. 

(‘Magic of Mentoring’ from page 38)


Governmental Organizations—like our nonprofits). They are reporting back through their various Internet presences, especially about their efforts to feed families who are hungry—due to the severe flooding that has reeked havoc with their crops. If you want to donate or learn more, visit their website: <www.friendshipwithcambodia.org>.

In addition, they have written a small book: *Responsible Travel Guide, Cambodia: Improving Lives Through Thoughtful Travel Choices* by Pujita Nanette Mayeda which can be ordered through their website, listed above, and would be invaluable for anyone traveling to Cambodia—or just someone wanting to dream of a tropical retreat this winter.

They also offer occasional trips to Cambodia, which would be open to Lislors! One day I hope to be able to travel to Cambodia with them and see for myself the effects of our Lisle Seed Grant! *Want to join me?* 

(‘Ligon Award’ from page 25)

For many years, Hans has been a faculty member of the International Honors Program conducted by Boston University, which gives students an unequalled opportunity to study overseas in multiple countries for a semester or a year. He is the representative of the Association of World Education to the United Nations.

Hans has also held professorships in urban planning and community development at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University and Springfield College. He was a Fulbright research scholar in India; visiting professor at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Germany; Kenya Institute of Administration; Yonsei Univ. in Korea; and De-LaSalle Univ in the Philippines. He served on the Board of Directors of the Experimental Group in the Danish Folk School Movement. 

(‘India Workshop’ from page 37)


of the UUNEI family was so welcoming and it was great to see Nancy and Mark there as well. The Sericulture farm where we stayed was picturesque and peaceful. All in all we had a wonderful time.

“On the 14th of October, we had a group of thirty-eight students from a number of UUNEI schools. The children were alert, quick and gave us their full attention. At times I felt that the children were not quite ‘getting’ what I was trying to say, so we would get some of the children who understood English well and knew Khasi to help translate. Group work was fun—where each child was able to say what they wanted in their own language. They enjoyed the toffee game, and by reading the feedback from many of them we got to know that they liked the slideshow with the ‘don’t give up’ slide best of all. We were able to reach out to the children and talk about disasters and what children can do: before during and after any disaster. But in one day, to expect more than just to start the conversation was not possible.

“The next day on the 15th of October we met with the teachers, and Mark and Nancy joined us as well. This was an interesting workshop; we did have a translation problem but Bari Mukhim helped us out by translating both ways. This was really helpful as we got answers and responses in Khasi which were much more in depth than we would have in English. This training was more intense and the teachers were kind enough to allow us the quick

(‘My Lisle Family’ from page 17)


and their world. A unique legacy which the many, many Lislens have planted, and are still planting—maybe small seeds (acorns in the song), some may have failed to take root, but many have grown into forests in nooks and crannies all over our planet. In this period of so many difficult problems, we must rejoice in the many strong trees standing and the new ones planted by our Lisle family.

PS: It could well be that I may best be remembered at Lisle for my suggestion of the need to include “sisters” in one of our Lisle anthems: “We’re in The Same Boat, Brothers” in 1950. 

pace so that we could cover most things as the day was short and some of the trainees had to get home before dark.

“Soon we hope to host some children and teachers in Dehradun where they can have an exchange of ideas and thoughts with children of our Horrawalla Bal Panchayat. We are very excited and we hope that Shillong will have some strong Children’s Groups that will be able to have a voice in their community and will know what to do before during and after a disaster. We are very excited about the possibilities that can emerge from this partnership. Sudhir and I would like to thank Lisle and UUNEI for giving us such a wonderful opportunity.”

The reactions of the Indian leaders tell the story: Lisle spent its resources well. Indian leadership to deal with Indian problems inspired us **and** the Khasi teachers and children to whom it was directed. Would that all international aid was so skillfully delivered!


Read more about the Kinney’s trip on their blog: uucopkhasiservicenov2011.wordpress.com. 



Mark and Nancy enjoyed meeting student Baiatri (front-center), her mother and sister. The Kinneys sponsored her for 10 years!

(‘Executive Director’ from page 7)

Contacts with Alumni

Last year we empowered Dianne Brause to take on managing the database for Lisle. It has been a wonderful way to talk with Lislens and find out how they are doing as well as keeping our records up to date. I assume that her work has resulted in the dramatic increase in the number of email addresses we currently have. 


(‘Dianne Visits’ from page 42)

(Board Member), down the street from the college where she now teaches in Brooklyn. While there, I was able to meet **Barbara Walker** (CA ’54) and stand with her as part of her weekly “Grandmothers Against the War” vigil in downtown NYC. And I got to see the new waterfalls at “Ground Zero” as well as visiting the early morning endeavors of the “Occupy Wall Street” people!



Dianne joined other “Grandparents Against the War” at Rockefeller Center in protest of the Iraq War. She went with Barbara Walker (not pictured).

After New York, I drove north to visit old friend, **Ben Goldberg** (SD ’88) and help him move his shop out of an old barn at the original farm and community created by Sojourner Truth in Hadley, MA where silk worm cultivation, as an alternative to the growing of cotton, was initiated!

It was a wonderful way to travel across the country and get to know fellow Lislors. Please contact me if you’d like a visit in the future, My Email is: <diannebrause@ymail.com> 



*That’s a line of Bubbling Barbs!
Barbara Walker, Barbara Bratton &
Barbara Holder, center to left.
Anne Hayner is on the right.*

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- I would like to receive **Global Seed Fund Mentor** information.

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Upcoming Meetings

<i>Spring Board Meeting</i>	<i>May 4-6, 2012</i>	<i>Chicago</i>
<i>Fall Annual Meeting</i>	<i>November 2-4, 2012</i>	<i>Chicago</i>
<i>Spring Board Meeting</i>	<i>May 3-5, 2013</i>	<i>Chicago</i>
<i>Fall Annual Meeting</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>Possibly Seattle Area</i>



Lisle's NEW 75th Anniversary T-Shirt Design!

See page 26 for how this new design came to be—Thanks Lori!

Then order yours using the form on page 47, or the website!