

Lisle Interaction

SUMMER ISSUE • 2000

A Community Covenant

By Dr. Ann Groves

To walk with Don and Jean Ervin is to experience social planners and movers at work. Words are inadequate to describe two adults whose lives have impacted directly on so many of their neighbors.

In the early 60's, they moved to a co-op on E. 52nd Street in Chicago. The members of this cooperative succeeded in developing an interethnic, interracial, ecumenical extended family which shared concerns, responsibilities and the joys of living in harmony. The group made decisions in open meetings. Such methods produce better understanding and appreciation of each other.

Jean reports that the families really enjoyed each other's company and co-operation. For example, when a building next door became a part of the co-op, the second story porches were connected so that the children shared a common play area. This led to the children's learning to accept individual

differences and to be tolerant of problems some of their playmates faced.

Leadership was encouraged while maintaining an agreeable, caring, sharing environment. Don, a lay accountant, designed a spreadsheet which he taught fellow residents how to use in "Bookkeeping Bees." Families took turns keeping track of the budget thereby increasing their skills and investment in the co-op. This idealistic manner of life thrived on such realistic ways of solving practical problems. For 22 years, the Ervins reared their three children in this type of life. What made the effort successful? Don says, "It was the cooperative work involved in a great living enterprise".

In 1979, the Covenantal Community Housing Cooperative was founded by the University (Christian) Church. This group envisioned a living space where lower income families

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Don and Jean Ervin, standing near the Covenantal Community sign

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could rear their families together, an example of intentional community living. The Corporation formed bought and rehabbed an abandoned building at 6101-07 So. Woodlawn. What was the Covenant?

“God, having covenanted with us to be a people for all people and all life, we covenant together to care for each other, the life of the community, the larger human community, and for the resources of the land and for the beauty of nature. We share together major decisions, listen to each other, know each other so that we are really part of each person’s life, address at least one of the challenges of our world for the sake of each other and our God, to be responsible stewards in carrying out our community tasks, and to achieve this in such a way that we are bound together and free to be our own deepest selves.”

Don and Jean are truly responsible community stewards committed to this contract.

Covenant goals were realized in practical collective decisions made about the management of the building, being true neighbors not just residents, sharing as an extended family, working through disagreements, conscientious living through gardening, composting, recycling and neighborhood involvement. Residents who were members of the University Church or committed to these principles attended weekly Sunday night potlucks, and enjoyed a weekly educational/fun program, and being actively involved with other members of the building.

Some members of the community wanted to extend their efforts to the surrounding neighborhood to people in another dilapidated building. Such buildings were typically leveled; the new apartments were sold/rented to higher income families thereby displacing the former residents. The Covenant Development Corporation was formed so members could provide support via informa-

tion and opportunities enabling residents to make changes in their living arrangements and lives. They, themselves, determined the priorities. Don admits it was not easy to convince persons who had experienced discrimination and economic restrictions “to follow a white man into strange, new beginnings.”

By the mid 80’s, people in the neighborhood served on the Board of the corporation and joined together to form the People’s Caucus. Now members could come together to air their views and plan for the neighborhood. Don was asked to administer this effort. Describing himself as being a people person, he was eager to bring people together so he accepted this task. Residents were asked if they would agree to help in the renovation and to participate in communal living. The most successful of these efforts was the Carpenter Training Program

At the Lisle Annual Meeting at the University of Chicago in the 80’s hosted by the Ervins and at-

tended by Uncle Si, Regina Curry delivered the keynote speech at the banquet. Her testimony about the Carpenter Training Program was inspirational. She shared what it meant to have the opportunity to participate in such a cooperative effort. She had gained self-confidence as she served as Administrator of this training program. Residents obtained a carpenter’s license while rehabbing apartments in their building. Mother of ten children, she has subsequently put them all through college and earned two degrees herself. She is a living model of the mission to develop future leadership, particularly among those with limited options. What a solution to enabling lower income families to actualize their dreams. Congratulations to Regina and the Ervins!

In 1983, the Ervins moved to the community building at 6105 So. Woodlawn to a living room with a



The Ervins in front of the apartment building they will soon move into.



charred wall, a result of an oil stove fire; an apartment requiring many repairs to be completed. They changed it into a lovely, warm place where doors were open to all the neighbors, members of the Covenantal Community and Lislars, who were invited in for a chip and dip party.

Was Jean merely passively accepting the changes in their lives? “No,” she states with conviction. When reviewing their lifelong effort, she claims with conviction that she went “kicking and screaming into each new phase.” Don firmly says that she is a vital part of this team and that “Jean is the only person who could tone me down when I became too adamant. She is my harshest critic and my guide to a realistic stance in the many challenges and crises we have faced. She is my greatest resource and support!”

Don found out about two buildings that were becoming a blight on the block, down the street from the covenant building. Regina Curry and a friend in the buildings helped acquire them. The Ervins provided the initial financing. Now ten years later, with the help of the Woodlawn Development Associates, headed by Lislar Juanita Burris (friend and former Board member), financing for rehabbing has begun. They will be a part of a co-housing development consisting of these as condominiums, a rehabbed building for rental to lower income residents, and new rowhouses for ownership. Called Greenway Park, this development is based on lifestyles of African villagers and Pueblo Indians. The units will share indoor and outdoor common spaces. A community house is planned to provide space for social events, meetings, recreation and meals. Emphasis is on diversity, interethnic and ecumenical affiliations.

Numerous professionals have lent their expertise to this concept of cooperative living. Don does not credit himself with doing it alone. He has served in numerous capacities as a volunteer consultant and as lay accountant donating his time and energy to reaching fruition in complicated efforts necessary to achieve complex ends.

What are the sources of motivation for Don and Jean? These are evident in Don and Jean’s Christian

covenant with God and with neighbors. Don’s uncle, who was a minister, and Uncle Si all contributed to Don’s purpose in life. It is worth noting that Don and Jean lived with Uncle Si during his first year as Director of Religious Affairs at the University of Michigan while Aunt Edna was away working. (This is another story worth hearing). Studying cultural anthropology and visiting the Native Americans in Oklahoma with Lislar served as bases for this couple who have been engaged in an interactive marriage

of fifty-two years while pursuing goals seemingly elusive and utopian to most.

What happened to each of the cooperative efforts? Don stoically reports

that society now moves at an even quicker pace. Two income families are too busy trying to balance their work and lives to maintain interest and activity required in a covenantal co-op. The original members move away, and new residents do not make the necessary commitment.

Has it been worth it? “Every day of it.” Have they become discouraged? Jean answers this question with an energized voice while viewing the recently financed apartments. “See the two bay windows on the first floor in the boarded-up building? Our two tables are going to fit perfectly. You see, we have already purchased that apartment and will be moving there when the repairs are completed in about two years.” You can see that they move to a new setting in order to continue their strongly held beliefs, principles and practices.

Don and Jean are highly intelligent and dedicated individuals. Don says his most dominant trait is persistence. He and Jean represent dedication and endurance. They are determined to practice what they believe by doing and sharing with their neighbors in unique cooperative settings. By any measure, they have repeatedly succeeded in accomplishing this. The Lislar focus on sharing, caring, achieving understanding in an international, interracial, ecumenical extended family is an important part of the covenantal community commitment. Don’t you think that Uncle Si, Aunt Edna and all Lislars would agree that Don and Jean Ervin are remarkable proponents of living Lislar? 🌐

Their ability to patiently bring people together from very different backgrounds and styles of living into a cooperative neighborhood of friends speaks highly of their dedication to the values taught by Uncle Si and Aunt Edna.”

— Dianne Brause, Editor



President's Message

As I am trying to determine what I should write about, I am again looking back to the previous Board meetings. They have been exciting times. Some of the first Board meetings that I went to were at Mark and Nancy Kinney's home where we sat around their living room and really got to experience each other and the Lisle way of communicating with each other, one close to home in downtown Austin, Texas, which was the first time I had seen downtown Austin since I was a junior in high school, then there was the "Rock and Roll" meeting in Los Angeles a week after the Northridge earthquake.

We were in Arlington Virginia, in the middle of their blazing spring in 1995, then we went to the opposite side of the country to Bainbridge Island, Washington, to the Browns' home for their beautiful spring with the water and mountain backdrop. We were in Maine and Grand Rapids for the blaze of fall. We explored our country's roots in Boston and the winter garden area around Lakeland, Florida. It sounds as if the main part of these Board meetings was the travel that was enjoyed. However, this was only some of the serendipity of being on this Board and going to the meetings.

We also have worked hard. We have, during this period of time, taken advantage of professional leadership and learned many things about leading an organization of this kind successfully. We have sent programs throughout the world. We have gone from operating in a "Mom and Pop Store" manner to operating Lisle like a business that is growing and thriving. We have gone from operating on a very thin shoestring to having investments that are growing and providing income for our organization. We will continue to work very hard.

We are continually looking at the scholarship programs. The Program Committee is developing a way to standardize each scholarship. We have money to offer for scholarships, but we must now find a more professional way to insure that these funds are used most wisely. A new and different program is being developed for the summer of 2001. The Finance/Investment Committee continues to review Lisle's investment portfolio, analyzing the portfolio in light of the current market conditions. They will also determine how to best utilize gifts donated to Lisle.

We have been mentioned several times in the *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel: Vacations for Real People*, as well as on their websight. We are looking into ways to further use this publicity.

We have more fully utilized the computer and our own Internet websight. We continue to do Board work between the Board meetings using the email and the regular mail systems.



Board President, Barbara Holder

Although the computer has reduced the number of telephone calls between Board members, there still are committee and Executive Committee conference telephone calls when needed. We are always evaluating what methods of communications best serve Lisle and its members.

This is my last letter for *Interaction*. In October I will be stepping down to let a new President come forward. This interim time has been both enjoyable and enlightening. I wish the next president all of the best. The job of overseeing the work of Lisle is both easy and difficult. The committee members and the staff do a wonderful job of operating and functioning in a very efficient manner. I want to thank all of them here for what they have accomplished and continue to accomplish.

Now we move on to an international Board meeting to be held in Germany in the spring of 2001. This is exciting! The purpose of making people think One World-mindedness is being expanded to the Board operation in a new way. May it be a grand and glorious success!

See you in Texas at the October Annual Meeting! 🌐

Barbara Holder



Executive Director's Report

Written and presented at the May Board Meeting

This has been a busy time. I have been talking with a few participants who have been referred to me by the TX office in regard to scholarships, and tax deductibility. I have been authorizing acceptance of some participants when Lane has requested I do so. I continue to forward approximately 2 email messages every day to the Lisle account so that the TX office can reply to them, and to forward 1-2 letters per day to the office. This level of forwarding has been pretty constant for the past year. I have begun to assess why we are continuing to receive this mail and email rather than having it go directly to the Lisle account and office, and have uncovered a couple of reasons, but in large part, I believe it represents the use of dated materials by individuals around the world and thus is very difficult to terminate.

I have had several conversations with Leyla discussing program committee tasks, etc. I have made suggestions in regard to the questionnaire for leaders and in regard to the MWE scholarship process.

I have been preparing for a poster session at the NAFSA conference in San Diego, California at the end of the month, using new signs and pictures to develop a showy presentation for the conference. (see article and pix on page 9.)

I have been working to strengthen the Lisle homepage. The first page of the website has been replaced during the past couple of months with one of 4 colors. I welcome your feedback about it. One new feature of the opening page is the introduction of timely news items which can be updated quickly and in an efficient fashion. I am seeking ideas as to news items to add. When you know of something which might be added that would be of use to the general public, please let me know so I can add them. During this time I spent quite a bit of time working to get the past issues of *Interaction* so that they can be loaded onto the website. I now have the files, and am working with my Chinese student assistant, Song Yan, to load them onto the website.

I have been working with Ruth Sylte, a colleague from NAFSA whose company assists others in developing web sites. I have a proposal from her for her company to evaluate our website and give some recommendations for changes which will be helpful. Her firm wants \$250 for this work. I think it would be worth while to do this and to develop a relationship with them for future assistance as we move along. I will be asking the Board for authorization for this expenditure.

I have purchased a portable computer for use by Lisle and have been working to add on the software which I use in this effort. It is surprising how much and how complicated it really is to get it all working together. I have been able to purchase



Mark Kinney
Executive Director

upgrade software for the email package, MS Outlook, so that the Texas office can add it to their computer also and will have more capabilities in accessing the email account at the University of Toledo.

I have been doing some work on developing new programs in South Africa, Cuba, and Hungary. Nothing substantive has yet occurred to move us on to the proposal stage. More is written about this in the program committee report. 🌐

Mark Kinney

Lisle Origins and Founders

Founded in 1936 by Dr. Dewitt and Edna Baldwin, Lisle Fellowship, Inc. was a pioneer in intercultural education and service programs. In the looming shadow of World War II, they envisioned programs that would open minds to other cultures and other individuals, and create the possibility of a peaceful world. For over 60 years now, Lisle has sponsored literally hundreds of programs worldwide. 🌐



Thoughts From Board President Nominee

Marty Tillman, nominee. Vote to come at Houston Meeting, October

Dating to the period in the 1970's and 80's when I traveled extensively for Lisle and visited so many Lislers in their homes, I continue to feel amazed by the lasting impact Lisle has in the lives of so many individuals. This is readily apparent when I am compiling information for "Network News." I know that everyone now on the Lisle Board cherishes the support and good wishes from so many early Lislers.

As letters from these Lislers testify, Lisle had a unique impact at a time when students, both foreign and American, traveled little across national borders, when campuses were not "internationalized," and when there were few opportunities for overseas study apart from Fulbright scholarships (after 1948). Workcamps of the American Friends Service Committee, and family "homestays" sponsored by the American Field Service and the former Experiment in International Living, were among the few other programs providing college-age youths with intercultural education experiences.

Does Lisle still impact the lives of program participants in ways that will remain vivid over the next 50 years? Maybe this isn't a fair question, but I pose it because there may be Lislers quietly wondering about it as they send in their annual membership forms and reflect upon the meaning of Lisle in their lives.

I met the Baldwins in 1976 and now have been associated with the organization for nearly a quarter century. I believe that Lisle has, as it always has had, the potential to realize change in the worldviews and personal perspectives of program participants.

Lisle remains unique because we all believe there is an inherent possibility for our group process to enable someone of any age, not just college-age students, to grow and to learn. And despite shorter programs and smaller groups (a trend over the past 30 years) Lisle has indeed had a positive impact for participants. I see this in my recent relationships with new Board members and in meetings with recent Lislers. And I know it is true for many of the students and leaders I have personally known for 25 years who remain interested in Lisle's future.

Lisle needs those of you who have become inactive, who have perhaps recently retired and are searching for new challenges in your life; we need those of you who wonder about the impact of our programs in the lives of students and older adults in the 21st century.

My message to you is: COME HOME TO LISLE!! Our Board needs you, our programs need your leadership and mentoring skills, and the organization needs your commitment to building a better world. I would like to dedicate my future years of Lisle service on the Board to the memory of Dick McLure, who served as Board President when I first came to work for Lisle in 1976. 🌐

Marty Tillman



*Marty Tillman
Board President Nominee*

FYI: Lisle Mentors

We thank these Lisle advisors for all their wise and loving guidance over the years!!

Chris Coons, Lafayette, CA. Board member for 6 years/many contacts with other similar organizations/acts as ambassador of goodwill for Lisle; **Ken Cowing**, Cornelius, NC. Board member for 6 years/chair of leadership training; **Walt Ligon**, Kingsland, TX. and Pentwater, MI. Board member for lots of years; **Karen Swam (Mangle)**, Middleton, WI. Board member for 6 years/active in recruiting; **Dianne Koop**, Toledo, OH. Board member for 2 years/active in inner-city youth work; **Ana Maria de Jesus**, Rockville, MD. Board member for several years/was secretary to Uncle Si; **Earl W. Downing**, Brighton, MI; **Craig & Zann Jacobrown**, Indianola, WA. 🌐



Lisle Meeting in Houston

Lisle Annual Meeting, October 13-15, 2000,

The next Lisle Annual Meeting will be held at the Blackwood Land Institute, Hempstead, Texas, between Houston and Austin. Events will begin Friday evening, October 13, and conclude Saturday evening. On Sunday morning, the Board of Directors will meet and all Lislers are invited to attend. The Board meeting will conclude by noon.

Blackwood Land Laboratory is based on a concept of Erdkinder created by Maria Montessori. It is a living classroom that teaches students of all ages to explore the natural web of life and to develop a healthy, respectful relationship with nature. The Blackwood facility offers a very intriguing location for a Lisle meeting. It is a place to explore, recycle your materials, compost, perhaps use their sweat lodge, visit their strawbale house, explore their greenhouse, organic gardens and orchard. When you tire of visiting their facilities you can explore their 23 acres, 13 of which is wooded.

We all will be experiencing the strawbale house dormitory as our lodging for the weekend, unless you would prefer staying at a local motel. The cost is expected to be \$75 for three nights and \$75 for ten meals (3 each on Friday and Saturday, and one on Sunday).

For reservations, travel directions, or additional information, contact the Lisle office at 800-477-1538. 🌐

FYI: Board Members

We thought you readers and fellow Lislers would like to know who is currently on the Board of Directors. Below is a list of who they are, when they began their term, where they live, and what position they have volunteered to hold.

Hats off to these fine members, and the efforts they make on behalf of Lisle!

Gail Bier, New Orleans, LA. Class of 2000; **Phyllis Beck**, Needham, MA. Class of 2001. Secretary; **Barbara Bratton**, Leander, TX. Class of 2001. Treasurer/Operations Manager; **Dianne Brause**, Dexter, OR. Class of 2000. Editor, *Interactions*; **Jack Brown**, Bainbridge Island, WA. Class of 2002; **Donald E. Cowing**, Dresden, ME. Class of 2000; **Anne-Rose Heck**, Bruhl, Germany. Class of 2002; **Barbara Holder**, Texarkana, TX. Class of 2000. President; **Darwin Holder**, Texarkana, TX. Class of 2000; **John Kachuba & Mary Newman**, Loveland, OH. Class of 2001. Publicity Chair; **Mark Kinney**, Temperance, MI. Class of 2000. Executive Director and Program Director; **Robin Phillips Kwizera**, CA. Class of 2002; **Betty Ligon**, Pentwater, MI. and Kingsland, TX. Class of 2001; **Sharada Nayak**, New Delhi, India. Class of 2001; **Marty Tillman**, Washington, DC. Class of 2000. Vice President, Board Development Chair, President nominee; **Leyla Welkin**, Olympia, WA. Class of 2001. Program Chair. 🌐

Next Lisle Board Meeting to Convene in Germany

By Anne Rose Heck

Next year the Board meeting will take place right in the middle of Europe: in Frankfurt, Germany, from May 3-6, 2001. There will be a meeting of the Board, combined with an opportunity for the European Lislers to meet. We will consider and choose issues of importance in Europe, such as immigration or unemployment. We'd like to address such issues, and the values they call out from Lisle, and how they affect our European programs.

The event will most likely take place near the city center in the Frankfurt Youth Hostel. "It is by far the cheapest accommodation one can find in the area and it is located right next to the river and all the museums" states Anne-Rose Heck, German member of the Board. There are also many hotels available. She is the contact person and can be reached by e-mail at: ARHeck@compuserve.com. If you want to whet your appetite for visiting Frankfurt, you can check out the city's webpage at: www.frankfurt.de.

All Lislers and friends are invited to attend. Flights to Frankfurt are often about the same price as flying from one city in the USA to another, so plan a Lisle reunion and a visit to Europe all in one! More information will be forthcoming in future *Interactions*. 🌐



What Do Lisle Leaders Need?

By Jack Brown

In order to better support and strengthen leaders of Lisle programs, Leyla Welkin, the program committee chairperson, in cooperation with Gail Bier, a Board member, has proposed to the Board that a questionnaire be circulated by interview to recent Lisle unit leaders. The Board accepted this suggestion.

Leyla and Gail have formulated such a questionnaire, and Walt Ligon and Jack Brown, past and current Board members, volunteered to implement the interviews by telephone. This interview process has begun, and the results will be published and made known at a later date. 🌐

Help Prevent Hunger and Protect Rainforests!

Use The Internet to Do Good Deeds

If you are interested in directly contributing to the prevention of death by malnutrition and the destruction of the rainforests, visit the following websites: www.thehungersite.com and www.rainforestsitesite.com.

Simply click on the "donate" buttons, once a day, and you can provide a cup and a half of rice to a starving human, or save 6.9 square feet of precious rainforest. Corporate sponsors are financing this endeavor; the more clicks per day, the more they donate. Yes, the amounts are miniscule. But if enough people do this, a considerable amount of good can be done for our fellow human beings and our earth. It's easy! 🌐

Lisle Is On The Web

By Mark Kinney

Did you know that Lisle is on the web at www.lisle.utoledo.edu? Check it out. What we have built is a multipurpose site which holds information about many aspects of the organization including programs, Board information, history, philosophy of the organization, experiences of past Lislers, and special information helpful to Board members.

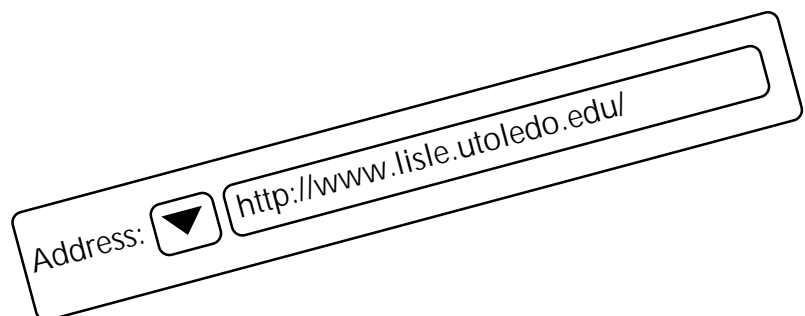
In the program section, there is information about our current programs including registration materials, and forms that participants need to submit with their registrations. To help them understand what the programs are like there are sections which have pictures and journals from several past programs, including Costa Rica, India, and Turkey.

In the "Organization" section there is information about the history of Lisle, the philosophy of the organization, and the list of publications which are currently available. There is also a list of Board members including their addresses and telephone numbers, and there are profiles of many Board members so that people can understand the kinds of people who keep this organization alive and well. There is also a private section for Board members. In order to use this section you must have a user identification and a password. Once in, there is information including past Board and executive committee minutes, forms for use by Board members, and other items.

There is a constant effort to keep the site up to date and providing the kind of information that is helpful to keeping Lisle alive and well. To assist in this effort we have set up a three person committee. Two of us, Phyllis Beck and Mark Kinney, are on the Board. In addition, Jon Findley serves as a non-Board volunteer. This group has been very helpful in identifying ways to improve the site, make it more accessible, and have it be more known by search engines. One idea that is being pursued is the possibility of Lisle purchasing its own domain name so that search engines will recognize us better. The committee is discussing the pros and cons of this idea.

Mark works with a University of Toledo graduate student, Song Yan, who does the actual updating of the information for the site.

The Internet is a powerful tool for helping non-profits accomplish their goals. To assist us, those of us on the committee would love to hear from you regarding your ideas for making this site useful to you as a Lisler. Please send any suggestions to mark.kinney@utoledo.edu. 🌐



Lisle Represented at 51st Annual NAFSA Conference

By Marty Tillman

Lisle continues a tradition of representation at the international gathering of educators from around the world: it has been a member of NAFSA, the Association of International Educators—formerly known as the National Association for Foreign Student Advisors—since its inception in 1948. The Baldwins were at the first meeting, and attended virtually every one thereafter until their death.



Marty, Mark & Nancy at the Lisle booth

The meeting in San Diego, California last May was attended by over 5,000 educators from 90 nations. This annual conference has become a premier event for those interested in global education, foreign student affairs and study abroad. So it was that the Kinney and Tillman families were there to represent Lisle! Marty's wife Gail is a Senior Director for NAFSA, and their daughter Zoe attended her fifth conference.

Mark and Nancy worked hard to put together a display of Lisle history and programs for a first-ever Poster Session for a variety of voluntary organizations; a session designed to foster informal dialogue about organizations and their activities. A member of NAFSA since 1977, Marty also talked with many interested educators at Lisle's table.

Mark and Marty engaged in discussion with representatives from other organizations about how to raise the visibility of programs whose focus is voluntary service in the U.S. and abroad. Mark is now developing a panel presentation for the next conference in May, 2001 in Philadelphia. 🌐

Board Development Committee

By Marty Tillman and Darwin Holder

The biggest change in recent years is the adoption of a new cycle of Board meetings for 2000-01: the Board will meet two times, once during the fall Annual Meeting and again in the spring. It was felt that increased use of the Internet coupled with the Executive Committee engaging in a regular series of conference telephone calls, that the governance structure could function well enough with just the two meetings.

We also hope that reducing the number of meetings may make it easier to attract new members to the Board. Other issues addressed include: increased use of "Board Advisors" from our talented alumni pool to assist on special projects. For example, John Finley has assisted Mark and Phyllis Beck on a host of issues relating to upgrading our website. Other issues include placement of a new volunteer form on our website so alumni can "register" to assist the organization with varied assignments concerning publications, the development of the web page, financial management, etc., and ongoing Board training.

The current Board has a total of 15 members, two of whom are from abroad: Germany and India. We will continue to strive to maintain an international presence on the Board. At this time, several alumni are being asked to consider joining the Board as members of the Class of 2002. Please contact either Marty Tillman or Darwin Holder if you are interested in joining the Board!

For the first time in Lisle's history, or so we believe, the Board will conduct a meeting abroad in Frankfurt, Germany from May 3-6, 2001. Working closely with Board member Anne-Rose Heck, a journalist and resident of Frankfurt, the meeting is seen as a means to reunite with German and other European alumni, and also to consider the feasibility of developing a new European unit (remember the Danish units in the 60's and 70's?) If you remain in contact with German or other European Lislers, please give the Lisle office their names and contact information. 🌐



May Board Meeting Notes

by Barbara Bratton

The Lisle Board Meeting in May was held at a lovely rural retreat center called Camp Ronora in Watervliet, Michigan. It was a wonderful setting with woods, a pond with nesting eagles and Great Blue Herons, and a giant snapping turtle. The owner was a gracious Native American woman, and we shared meals with a group studying Peruvian Shamanism.

Those present. Barbara Holder, Marty Tillman, Dianne Brause, Jack Brown, Darwin Holder, Betty Ligon, Walt Ligon, Leyla Welkin and Mark Kinney. The President, Executive Director and Programs Director's reports were presented. (*see pages 4 & 5*)

The Office Manager's Report. There was a discussion on a proposal for reallocation of money from the Michigan Office account to the Texas Office account. It was determined that there were sufficient funds in the Michigan Office account to re-allocate \$500 to help pay for the expansion of personnel and equipment. A motion was made and approved to move \$500 to the Texas account for a trial period between May and October. At the annual meeting this expansion will be evaluated, and, if successful, the necessary funds will be included in the new budget.

The Board Development Committee Report. We have a stable core Board. Marty reported on who has been approached regarding becoming Board members. He sees service on the Board as self-selective as joining a unit is. By changing the number of Board meetings and/or tightening the schedule of each Board meeting, perhaps more people might be attracted to the Board. Several people have been approached,

and a few other will be contacted. Asking a Turk and/or Costa Rican to become Board members was discussed. The idea of developing an international advisory Board, its function and its usefulness, will continue to be explored.

The current classes are: 2000: Gail Bier, Dianne Brause, Don Cowing, Darwin and Barbara Holder, Mark Kinney and Marty Tillman; 2001: Phyllis Beck, Barbara Bratton, Betty Ligon, John Kachuba and Mary Newman, Sharada Nayak and Leyla Welkin; 2002: Jack Brown, Anne-Rose Heck and Robin Kwizera.

Scholarship Committee Report. Changes in the application/financial assistance forms were recommended. The committee suggested that a Marion Wright Edleman Scholarship sub-committee be formed, with the responsibilities of reviewing the process for selecting the recipient, reviewing applications for the scholarship and following up with the recipient, to include selecting a mentor for the scholar. Jack suggested that a committee begin now to create a mentor for this year's scholar. Dianne Brause and Darwin Holder will serve on the committee, with Mark Kinney as Program Director also serving. It was suggested that Vickie Marie be contacted to participate.

It was recommended that the MWE Scholarship be granted to Coriselda Cristina Mora, who was interested in India Summer 2000, but was willing to attend either the Bali or the Turkey program. Leyla said Turkey would have space if the India program does not go. Mark will be the mentor for Cristina, with perhaps the

help of Chris Coons. Mark will let Joe Luri know that we have a Berkeley student who has been awarded the MWE Scholarship. It was suggested that a press release be sent to Marion W. Edleman and to Berkeley about the new scholar. It was suggested that committee might create a plaque to contain all of the scholarship award winners' names. Also, it was suggested that the subcommittee look into a MWE Scholarship winners reunion to be at one of the annual meetings.

Program Committee Report. The summer India program will be evaluated at the end of May after the office has attempted to fill the program. It was suggested that Gail Bier be contacted to see if she was interested in attending this program. India winter 1999/2000 was very successful. India winter 2000/2001 is open. Bali 2000 is full. It was suggested that we go ahead and start advertising a Bali 2001 program with a generic flyer. Turkey has only one slot open (for the MWE scholar, if the India program does not go). There is to be a Turkey 2001 exchange program, similar to the program held in 1999. Costa Rica late 2000 is open. Additional letters are going out of the office regarding Costa Rica and India programs for winter 2000/2001. It was recommended and approved that the Program Committee be empowered to determine if the Lost Valley program in the summer 2001 is feasible. This program might link the Lost Valley Program with the Turkish Exchange Program.

A proposal was made that Leyla Welkin, Dianne Brause and Mark have a meeting the weekend of August

(cont'd on next page)



12-13 in Seattle to put together methods to gain additional program related funding for broader area of recruitment, as well as to put create funding proposals for the Lost Valley/Turkey program.

The Board voted to transfer \$1000 from the Program Development funding and earmark it to cover the expenses of this working meeting. Barbara Bratton is working on a program in New Zealand. Jack Brown will contact former Board member Dianne Koop about an urban program with her residential students. There is also interest in a Cuba unit. Contact could be made with Carol Hanson, Darra Mulderry and Louise Doud for ideas on recruitment.

Treasurer's Report. It was recommended that the Bigelow gift be added to the Baldwin Scholarship fund. The Board voted to do so. It was suggested that a special letter be sent to the others in their unit telling them of the gift and its use. The committee discussed forming a specific subcommittee to set up and administer the procedures to make Future Funds/Gifts work effectively; to include focusing toward special projects related to programs and the development of new programs. This subcommittee and its functions was to be done by Leyla, Dianne and Marty.

Interaction Report. Dianne reported there were several publication problems with the past issue of *Interaction*. As a final result, much of the hands-on work of putting out the issue and mailing it fell directly on Dianne. In spite of the problems, Elise and Dianne did a beautiful job. The next *Interaction* will be sent out in August.

Old and New Business. An investment questionnaire was passed out, filled in, then discussed. It was decided that the questionnaire would be revised

and sent out to all the Board members by the office.

Board Member Recruits. What we should be looking for in Board members? What can a diverse group can offer to the organization? What we can do to assist the aging Lislers to remain active with the organization were discussed. Look to see if there are ways in the future to help people achieve personal goals other than through the programs themselves, such as "Lisle Fellows" programs.

A "Retrieve the Archives" Program. Builds on the materials at the University of Toledo. Funding for this project is also to be discussed, perhaps looking toward the Nicholson's in Albuquerque and a friend of Chick Ackley for assistance.

Domain Name For Lisle. Mark explained what this means. The name "lisle" was already taken. The cost of purchasing a name and why we need more than one name was discussed. The Board voted that we authorize the purchase of three names for approximately \$210, but that Mark should consult with Jon Findley and Phyllis Beck before proceeding. Brainstorming was done on possible names, and a poll was taken. The final suggestion was for the name "lisleinternational.com" with the additional two names ending in "net" and "org".

Proposed Board Meeting in Germany. The Board could meet in late winter/early spring of 2001. It was determined that there should be a reunion in conjunction with the Board meeting, that will include Lislers who live in Europe and Lislers who attended units in Europe. Several people, including Barbara Holder, Marty Tillman, Mark Kinney, Barbara Bratton and Anne-Rose Heck are to be working on gathering information about

sights, possible programs and contacting alumni. The Board determined that the date of the meeting should be in late April/early May, with the committee finalizing the date in time for it to be in the August *Interaction*.

Ann Groves Thanked. Appreciation was offered for the work Ann did in locating the great retreat where we enjoyed wonderful accommodations (even though it was pretty warm for Michigan in May), gourmet food and a peaceful setting.



*Walt Ligon played Taps
as the Board Meeting ended.*

Taps Played. As some people had to leave early Sunday morning to make their connections home, the Board meeting was brought to a close on Saturday evening with Walt playing his trumpet and all singing along with him. As the sun went down below the horizon, Walt closed the Board meeting with a beautiful rendition of Taps. 🌐



COSTA RICA

DEC. 30, 2000 — JANUARY 20, 2001

Students, families, elders, and others are invited to join in a quest to develop mutually supportive relationships among group participants and host communities in the lush and colorful countryside of Costa Rica. This program is all about sustainable tourism and cooperative living. We still have space available on this program, but Costa Rica is a popular travel destination. Reserve your place now!

During the course of the trip we will travel by bus to several cooperatively owned and operated communities. We will meet and learn from people in these communities who are striving to make a living while protecting their land, forest, and waters by creating viable ecotourism projects. In each of these co-ops we will live, eat, work and learn together while sharing our dreams and visions, and exploring the process of creating community among ourselves and with our new Tico friends. We will take time to assess our individual and group learnings before we journey home.

As the journey begins, participants will walk through misty rainforests with host friends who can share their rich knowledge of Costa Rica's unique flora and fauna. Next we will see dry savannas, tall volcanoes and humid coastal areas. We will come to understand not only the biological diversity of the country, but also the ethnic diversity as we meet Ticos, both of Spanish and other European origins, Afro-Caribbeans, and indigenous Central Americans. Several Ticos from our host communities will accompany us on visits to their counterparts in other co-ops.

There is something for everyone, whether your special interest is Costa Rica's human or ecological aspect. Our

time with each other and our hosts, traveling sustainably in a unique and diverse new environment, will be rich enough to satisfy almost all interests and exploratory spirits. The travel may be rough at times, but the benefits will be many, the vistas almost too grand and the friendships deep. No matter what your personal experience is, this trip will be a momentous one.

Program leaders for Costa Rica are Kristin Currin and John Kachuba. Kristin has lived and studied extensively in both India and Central America. She has explored many aspects of ecological communities abroad, both in her own journeys and with Lisle. John is a writer from Loveland, Ohio and a member of the Lisle Board of Directors. Both Kristin and John co-lead the Costa Rica 1999 program.

Cost: \$1,400 per person. \$1,190 student/second family member. \$1,140 third family member. Program prices include room, Board, and program-related in-country travel.

Airfare is a separate cost and arranged by the participant. 🌐

INDIA

DEC. 17, 2000 — JANUARY 9, 2001

If you are eager to share a profound experience with people of different ages and walks of life who share a passion for global understanding and a desire to make a difference, have the humor and flexibility to live in Ashram communities and experience their simple way of life, like working with their hands, and enjoy learning and cooperative problem solving, then this program is for you!

The travel program will involve train and bus travel through very diverse geographic regions, and living in rural locations in simple accommodations. The food will be simple vegetarian fare from the Ashram's community kitchens

and eaten with the residents. The two Ashram communities work with different social groups, though both are engaged in encouraging self-help, environmental awareness, and economic self-sufficiency. The Lisle group will volunteer at the Ashrams, doing simple manual labor projects. The experience of working and living with Ashram communities offers an intimate glimpse into the lives of people living at the margins of Indian life, and opportunities to form friendships with people from very different walks of life.

On arrival in Delhi, the group will spend two days for orientation before proceeding by train and bus to Warora and then on to Navadarsanam, a retreat center outside of Bangalore run by former Lislors, where degraded waste land has been reclaimed for organic farming and where a community of environmentalists operate an ashram. After a week's stay we will return to Delhi for a brief stop which will allow time for group Interaction and discussion with resource people in developmental concerns.

The second phase of the program will take us to Anandwan, a community for the disabled, established by Baba Amte, the noted social activist and Gandhian who named his center Anandwan or Forest of Bliss. We will observe medical and rehabilitation programs and efforts to protect the environment, improve literacy and enhance vocational skills. A visit is also planned to the forests where Baba Amte's son runs a hospital for the tribals. There will be opportunities to meet and discuss developmental issues with NGO representatives and activists and to learn about naturopathy and meditation.

Participants must plan to depart from the U.S. on December 17th and arrive not later than the 19th in Delhi.



Cost: \$1,200 per person. \$1,100 student/second family member. \$1,050 third family member. Program prices include room, Board and program-related in-country travel.

Airfare is a separate cost and arranged by the participant.

Deposit: A \$250 deposit is required with the application. 🌐

BALI

AUGUST, 2001

Thanks to the groundwork set out by Zann and Craig Jacobrown, we have established very enriching and ongoing ties with the community in Budakeling, Bali. It is our pleasure to continue this relationship with another generation of leaders and participants for the Summer of 2001.

We will spend the majority of the time in two remote artist villages: Budakeling and Kamasan. At these villages, each Lisle participant is assigned a mentor and will spend a week learning a craft from a master. When we move to the next village, the participant can expand on the same craft or choose another. The ability to learn such Balinese art as mask carving, dance, gamelon music and weaving from the Balinese artists has been a tremendous draw.

Why don't you join us for next summer's program? 🌐

TURKEY EXCHANGE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
MID-JULY 2001

This program is currently under development, and may offer participants two locations to experience world-mindedness: exploration near Seattle, Washington and living at the intentional community at Lost Valley Center, in Dexter Oregon.

The target participants are primarily Turkish students who will come to

the U.S. and learn about our culture and the environment of the Pacific Northwest. There will be opportunities for American youth to join in; and their families may participate as well through opening their homes to the Turkish students for homestays.

Call the Lisle office for updates on the development of this program. 🌐

LISLE AT LOST VALLEY, OR

MID-JULY, 2001

An exciting inter-generational, international Lisle program is being planned for July, 2001. We expect to have participants ranging in age from about 13, to well over 60, converging on Lost Valley Education Center to become more familiar with concepts of permaculture and sustainable living. In the early spirit of Lisle, they will also have an opportunity to gain a better understanding of their own culture, and the cultures of a wide diversity of fellow participants. We already have requests from about a half dozen Turkish students, and firm intentions to attend from a grandmother, daughter, grandson trio, and a grandson, grandfather duo from the U.S.

Participants will have the opportunity to work in the organic garden, learn about stream and forest restoration, discover the wonders of cob and strawbale construction, and energy conservation through alternative technologies. They will explore the processes of composting and recycling and undertake service projects which may include donating time to the gardens and kitchens at an organization called "Food for Lane County".

A second portion of the trip will take the group to the Oregon Coast to live in the circular Yurts provided by the Oregon State Parks while playing and working within the coastal dunes,

beaches, ocean waves and inland old-growth forests. The expertise in these endeavors will be furnished by the Park Rangers and Wildlife Biologists, using field work on the dunes, as well as the outstanding interpretive centers.

The group process will focus on learning to stretch and grow through honoring and celebrating our diversity as we go about our daily activities. Turkish students from the Turkish Exchange Program may join us as well!

We don't expect the generation gap to disappear, but we do expect it to be blurred a little by the tears of joy this program can provide to all who participate. You can be a part of this exciting return to Lisle's roots by committing to come, and bringing a son or daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew, or by making a donation to Lisle so that some deserving children can add to the diversity of this special program, while experiencing some of the Lisle magic you have seen in your life.

Leadership will be jointly held by Robin Kwizera, Darwin Holder and Dianne Brause from Lost Valley, and everyone in the group will be invited to contribute their skills, talents and expertise. Come one, come all, to make this pilot program a success! 🌐

If you would like to support the multi-generational and multi-cultural program in July 2001, please send your donation to the Lisle business office, marked "For Lisle, Inc., July 2001 Program".



New Domestic Unit at Lost Valley Center in Dexter, Oregon

By Darwin Holder & Dianne Brause

In recent years, many of the older Lislers have been expressing a desire to reinstate the kind of "units" that Uncle Si and Aunt Edna held within the United States so many years ago. There is a certain sense of nostalgia for bringing together a diverse population of both US citizens and young people from other cultures to learn about issues important to us all while also confronting the challenges of working together as a team. Some Lislers also have expressed a desire to see a focus on inter-generational programs (like the old family camps?) where youth could bring along their parents or grandparents to learn together in a setting that was unique to everyone.

During the Lisle Annual Meeting at Lost Valley Education Center in October of '98, both Robin Kwizera and Darwin Holder fell in love with the place. Lost Valley is an intentional community of about 25 adults and 10 children, who live and work together to model, demonstrate and teach ways of living more simply on the land.

Lost Valley folks believe that if those of us who currently take a larger share of the earth's resources begin to consciously cut back, perhaps others around the world who have traditionally had less may be allowed a fairer share of the abundance on this planet. They also feel that it is vitally important to protect the environment that provides the elements of life for future generations. They grow much of their own food in organic gardens, protect their "new" forest and local watershed, experiment with alternative building techniques and energy sources, compost and recycle their wastes, teach "Permaculture" and practice living in harmony and cooperation with each other and the rest of the natural world.

Over July 8-14, Board members Robin Kwizera and Darwin Holder met with Dianne Brause for the initial development of a new pilot program for Lisle, slated for the summer of 2001. It will be held at Lost Valley, utilizing the theme of "sustainable living." Robin brought her mother, Alice Kelly, and her thirteen year-old son Jarrel Phillips, while Darwin was

accompanied by his twelve year-old grandson, Edward Kamantauskas-Holder. These family members served as our inter-generational consultants!

During the course of the week, the group brainstormed many options for the two-week unit. The group took an overnight trip to the Oregon Coast where ample opportunities abound for learning about nature. They discovered that the State of Oregon has installed a number of circular tent-like structures called "Yurts" in their Coastal campgrounds: they seem to be ideal economical options for a group like this for a 2-3 night stay on the Coast. Park Rangers and ecologists are also available to teach about environmental protection and set up a small service project, perhaps on the dunes or the nearby Old Growth forests.

The planning group thought the Lisle experience would be more meaningful if they had broad socioeconomic and ethnic diversity. Robin suggested we contact the group of the young people from the Cincinnati area that joined the Lisle Board in a work project at the October '99 Loveland, Ohio Annual Meeting.

The group went to a potluck dinner honoring 25 young women from around the world who are disabled. All of them, whatever their disability are dedicating their lives to helping other disabled women obtain more services and opportunities. Participants from their group, Mobility International, will be invited to join us in next year's unit.

Other international participants might be involved by including young people from the Turkey Exchange Program that Leyla Welkin is planning for 2001. Perhaps some of the Costa Rican youth could be involved.

In order for these dreams to become a reality, it will be necessary to secure funding for scholarships. Grants or corporate funding will be solicited, as well as individual and local service group scholarship donations. So, please be thinking about how you can support this program that returns to Lisle's roots. 🌐



Lost Valley residents and friends in a garden

Photo credit: Lost Valley Center



Field Notes from Turkey

By Leyla Welkin

July 2000 was remarkable in Turkey both for the hottest weather the Turks had recorded in 60 years, and for the 13 Lislors travelling through it. We visited many archeological sites, meeting a wide range of Turks from all different walks of life and interests.

Turkey's head long rush into modern industrial statehood and their urgent rush to develop the tourist industry were both very apparent to the group: at times we felt as if we were pushed to be more touristic than we liked.

Their economy is struggling with years of rampant inflation. Two years ago when a Lisle trip was in Turkey, there were 200,000 lira to the dollar. This summer there were more than 600,000 lira to the dollar. Turks express a lot of frustration with their economy. From an observer's point of view, enterprise is everywhere, and Turks seem always to be scrambling to find the next way to supplement their living.

Our group was from all over the United States and represented a wide range of interests. Participants particularly enjoyed their homestays in the southeastern city of Gaziantep. In Gaziantep we reconnected with the group of Turkish students who had come to the Northwest for last summer's exchange here. They joined us for our travels around the area, acting as helpful language/cultural translators for our group.



Turkish catacombs

The intense and unrelenting heat made our travel uncomfortable, but it did not stop us from seeing a broad view of Turkish society. From the swank of an underground disco nightclub to the dirt farmyard in villages, we explored the full range of Turkish lives. From up-to-the-minute department stores in big cities, to the archeological digs from nine thousand years ago, we also saw the vast range of time Turkey has cradled human lives. Next year we hope to continue the exchange by once again bringing students here from Gaziantep. 🌐

Field Notes from India

By Sharada Nayak

It is the 17th of July and I am sitting at my computer with the rain coming down hard and noisy on my roof. My group of seven Lislors is getting a real taste of what a monsoon is like. They all arrived on various flights and are enjoying the location of their stay, Anandgram- "Happy Village", a refuge for artists built by a Delhi philanthropist on the outskirts of the city. The studio rooms are surrounded by folk sculpture and statuary. It is beautiful and green and the peacocks call loudly all day as the rain and thunder awaken their mating instinct!



Community work project, India

Yesterday we had an orientation meeting and we were joined by Ashok Chauhan, who last summer's Lislors will remember. I had expected him to come with us this summer as well but he has been on an extended medical leave because of surgery on his back and cannot get time off from work. He and I took our seven visitors in our cars on a tour of Delhi. On our way back the heavens opened and we had rivers of water on the road. We crawled through flooded roads and breathed a sigh of relief when we got back to base without any problem with our cars. Lori Bratton said this was "just like Texas."

Everybody is in good spirits. Tomorrow we Board the train for Nagpur and our first halt will be Anandwan, the settlement for the disabled founded by Baba Amte. We are carrying enough food to last us for several meals, so nobody will starve if the train is late. *Vive la Compagnie!* 🌐



Lislers Support Costa Rican Projects

by Dianne Brause

In recent years, Lisle has begun to think more seriously about how we can actually do service projects in the countries and with the people who act as our hosts. In Costa Rica, over the years, we have done small work projects to help out while we are visiting the co-ops.

We have also often chosen to use whatever discretionary money we had left to make small gifts to efforts that participants wanted to support as a group. Individual participants also sometimes chose to make personal donations to support individuals or group efforts within the country. We have seen that a relatively small amount of our money could make a major difference in the quality of life for a person, family or even a whole community or group of people.

Recently we have received two requests from individuals in one of the communities, Longo Mai and a report of a completion of a mini-hydro project that has finally been completed as a result of Lisle's presence in another co-operative. The stories are as follows:

Yolanda Arguedas: Funds to Study English

Yolanda Arguedas was one of the young adults in the community of Longo Mai which is made up of many refugee families from El Salvador. Although these people can return home, most have chosen to settle down in Costa Rica to live in a simple and safe manner on the 1000 acres of mixed crops and forested lands that they have been given to steward.

Yolanda met us the first year we arrived and helped to parcel the participants out to appropriate home-stay sites.

Then she and another young woman teacher joined the Lisle group as we traveled around the country, enhancing our experiences with the joy and enthusiasm of explorers within their own country! We could see through their eyes the wonder that some of us have grown too jaded to appreciate—whether it be the experience of riding a bike or canoeing on an estuary or watching giant turtles lay their eggs.

Yolanda has since had a variety of opportunities offered to her such as studying German in Austria. She seems to be taking responsibility as a liaison between her community and visiting groups such as ours. She is determined to do whatever is necessary to learn English as a skill that will improve her chances for work and to help her community become more able to serve foreign tourists who want to stay there. Perhaps as she matures, Yolanda will be able to serve as one of Lisle's leaders in the Costa Rica program!

She has written a couple of letters to Kristin, Jono, and myself in the hopes of soliciting financial support for a \$1000 English course which is given at San Isidro, a nearby city in the south of Costa Rica. While the Lisle Board felt they did not want to endorse this request as an official Lisle concern, they were willing to collect any money that individuals would like to donate for this worthy cause. To date, \$180 has been collected and will be transferred from the TX office to Yolanda in a manner in which she can use it for her studies. Please designate any money sent for "The Yolanda Arguedas English Fund". In addition, Yolanda would one day like to come to the USA to further practice her English and learn more skills. Anyone with ideas for her could also write to: Yolanda Arguedas, ADP. 834-8000, Perez Zeledon, San Jose, Costa Rica.

Vida Nueva: Domestic Violence Office and Staff Salaries

I also recently received a letter of request from Eliza Richmond, an English woman married to a man from El Salvador who is a member of the Longo Mai Cooperative.

I first met Eliza at Casa Ridgeway, where the Lisle group stays in San Jose. It was Easter break following a Lisle trip and I was taking some personal time to learn more about Costa Rica. Eliza invited me to travel south with her on the public bus to visit Longo Mai. I was impressed with what an amazing model of successful refugee empowerment that Longo Mai was and chose to bring the Lisle group there the following year. We also visited a project in San Isidro working with male street kids. At that time there was not the energy or staff to deal effectively with girls or women.

So I was pleased to read in Eliza's letter that there is a new project is called "Vida Nueva" (New Life): Centre for Prevention & Attention of Domestic Violence that she is working with. She sent a several page proposal asking for help in finding funding for their project. It looks like they need around \$520 US per month for three staff salaries, plus an additional \$60 per month for supplies and some one-time equipment and furniture costs.

If anyone would like to donate to this project or suggest other sources of funding, please contact Eliza Richmond directly c/o Vida Nueva, Apdo. 292, San Isidro Del General, 8000, Costa Rica. Or fax her at: 00506-771-42-39. ☎



Coopeuniorio Hydroelectric Project

By Ben Watkins

On the first trip I led to Costa Rica with Lisle in 1995, a couple, Ben Watkins and Mary Schanz, decided to come along as a way of seeing if they might want to retire to a Central American country. They were intrigued with many of the cooperatives we visited, but Ben in particular became enamored with one named CoopeUnioro in the Osa Peninsula.



Ben Watkins, Lisle participant and volunteer, stands by the completed electric module.

This group was originally a cooperative of Gold Miners who were working for a German mining operation pulling gold out of the river. When the country made it illegal to continue to dredge the river (which came out of Corcovado National Park), the men asked the government to be allowed to stay on this land that they had come to love. They decided to become “environmentalists” and help create trails in the park, collect and grow medicinal herbs, and begin to create a place where “ecotourists” could come and learn about the ecology of the remote portions of Costa Rica.

That first year, their leader, Ricardo, made a great connection

with Ben. When he discovered that Ben was an engineer, he asked if he could help design a mini-hydroelectric plant that would provide the minimal electricity that the community needed. Ben was hesitant, not having any idea what was needed, or even if he wanted to return to Costa Rica. But the prospect of helping a community in this way grew in his imagination, and a several-year project was born!

And now, after five years of international research, design and planning, a number of trips to Costa Rica by Ben (to deliver parts which could not easily be gotten or paid for in Costa Rica), and lots of hard labor by Ricardo and his friends at CoopeUnioro, there is light at the end of the tunnel (or should we say, on the way to the outdoor bathrooms and showers!)

I would like to personally honor Ben, Ricardo and the whole crew who have worked together so well to create this tangible result, which is an inspiration to the kinds of projects that Lisle has been talking about in its future visions! (see article on the “Future’s Fund, same page.) In the next issue of *Interaction*, we will publish this inspiring story in Ben’s own words. Thank you Ben. Thank you, Ricardo. Y gracias a todos en Coopeunioro! 🌐

Futures Fund Proposed

By Marty Tillman

At the May Board meeting, in part due to the recent bequest of \$10,000 from the will of Rev. Frances Bigelow, a new fund idea was discussed. Tentatively called the “Lisle Futures Fund”, the idea would be to build and sustain ongoing relationships with organizations and institutions around the world who share our mission and values, and where we have existing or planned program linkages. The Fund could support new program initiatives at the grass-roots level, and also provide modest assistance to the work of individuals at selected nonprofit organizations.

The Board would love to receive feedback from interested Lislers about such a fund. Feel free to contact the Texas Lisle office with your ideas and suggestions. 🌐



Ricardo, a capable and hospitable leader of the community, adding a splash guard to the Pelton wheel discharge



Chris Coons (CO '48, Bali '91) writes with a wealth of news, not least of how active she and husband, Dean, remain in the San Francisco area. They attended their 50th college reunion at Iowa State in Ames in June, are active with Vacation Bible School and Habitat for Humanity this summer, have made all sorts of family visits with sons and grandchildren.

Marisa de Leon (HA '95; Costa Rica '96), **Emanuelle Vital** (CR '96), **Suzanne Brooks** (CR '96) met with new Board Member **Robin Kwizera** (Uganda '94) at their home in January.

Jessie Boxwell (NY '40, '41; CO '45) writes that she and her husband, **Dan** (CO '45)—don't we love those Lisle couples?—"continue their interest in Lisle and enjoy all the news." In Chicago this past spring, the Boxwells met **Marion Wright Edelman**, (Russia '58), the Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund. It was especially exciting to them that Marion remarked that she still appreciates Lisle and what it's accomplishing. They are active in church and community and noted the reason they missed the last Board meeting in Michigan was because they attended the 75th birthday of William Sloan Coffin (former Yale Chaplain, minister at Riverside Church in NYC and anti-war protest leader).

Rev. Richard Chartier. Dick writes that he remains interested in Lisle's work, and now resides at 36 Sheldon Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY, 12603.

Dr. Rev. Deborah Cannon Wolfe (NY '37), longtime supporter writes faithfully of her continued interest in Lisle. She served, among her many leadership roles, as former President of the National Alliance of Black Educators, on the New Jersey Holo-

caust Commission, and as Vice-President of the League of Women Voters.

Dr. Harvey & Emma Lou Neffner Baty (CO '46; hosts for Mexico '90), married over 65 years, wrote to share the unfortunate news about serious medical problems they've experienced since the start of this new year. Harvey now has prostate cancer and is blind, while Emma Lou suffered a nasty fall. Remarkably, their letter speaks of a gentle faith in the future stating: "We are in a glorious, heavenly, earthly spot—Bozeman, MT—and giving thanks with every conscious breath. Our love to you all."

June Holtzendorf Ammirati (CA '50) writes that while not actively involved, she "continues to be grateful for her Lisle experience and its influence of 50 years ago."

Carl Kline (Leader: India '77, '79, '80, '82, '85, '88; SD '90) has been teaching human relations at the University of Souix Falls and has spent a year exploring the possibility of starting a new UCC church in Souix Falls committed to racial and economic justice and rooted in the non-violence of Jesus. He has also continued the work that he had been doing with Lisle in India and the Rosebud Reservation through a nonprofit called: Nonviolent Alternatives.

Marisa de Leon (HI '95, CR '96) recently visited **Dianne Brause** at her community (Lost Valley Educational Center) outside of Eugene, Oregon.

[Ed. note: At 89, she is still in much better physical and mental shape than most of the people I know! She called to say she is moving from California to an elder care facility in Eugene, Oregon—and may ask to join our community sometime in the future. Watch out gardeners, here comes Marisa! She will soon be getting a computer and e-mail for anyone who wants to contact her!]

Marriages

We offer congratulations and best wishes to the following new couples:

Cathy T'Shala Vahsen (India '70, '82; Leader: India '83, '84, '89,) was married to Daniel Olivieri at the Well-spring Renewal Center in Philo, CA on September 1, 1999.

Chris Klug (Leader: India '84-'87, '89, '90) was married to Bev Mabee on September 25, 1999 in Tipton, IA where they are living.

May your marriages be long and fruitful! 🌐

Lisle Trips Influence Participants For Life

By Carolyn Young

Carolyn Young (NY '45), who lives in New York, wrote us and mentioned that "I was delighted to see in *Interaction* that you are celebrating the life of Aunt Edna Baldwin. Uncle Si came to Denison University in 1944 and met with my psychology and sociology professors and encouraged me to attend Lisle in the summer of 1945. It was a wonderful experience. I wrote an extensive report along with photos and received college credit toward my senior year in 1946.

What I learned at Lisle directed me toward a fulfilling life as social worker, counselor, mother, scout leader, church worker, civic volunteer and much more. I value the Lisle experience — it was my first time in a volunteer project and opened up a whole new world for me." 🌐

Many thanks to Lane Winnet, Office Diva, for holding the office together while Barbara Bratton is away enjoying her Lisle experience in Bali this summer!



Lislers Write Books

Portia Billings Foster (NY '44, Mexico '90) has published a book entitled: *The Pursuit of Justice: Around the World and in the Human Heart*. The cover synopsis says: "From the Far East to the New World, this author has been ahead of her time. This book portrays her dedication to human rights in Korea, pre-Mao China, Mexico, the Philippines and wartime USA and her courageous efforts to protect our country's fragile threatened coastlands. Her indomitable spirit triumphs over social censure and attacks on first Amendment guarantees".



Portia tells about the four weeks that she spent as cook for a Lisle, NY unit in 1944 while her husband was studying at Cornell. She remembers the "mindblowing" experience for two of the young women (one a Southern white girl and the other a black girl) who ended up sleeping in the same bed in their hosts' home while on a deputation! She also has a 3-page description of her Lisle experience in Mexico in 1990.

[Ed. note: I was on that unit as well and it was a great pleasure to travel with Portia and glean some of the wisdom that she gently shared with us younger Lislers! It seems to me that it is about time for Portia to be nominated as a "Lisle Saint". Any takers? Portia's book can be ordered from: Far Horizons Press, 350 Pearl St. #813, Eugene, OR 97401 at a cost of \$15 plus P&H.] 🌐

From The Lisle Archives!

Do you recognize anyone in particular in this photo? Hint: she was an Aunt to many, beloved by all, pictured at the New York 1945 Unit that Carolyn Young refers to in her article to the left.



(Aunt Edna is pictured in the center top row of diners, looking directly at the photographer.)

Book Subject: Alzheimers in The Family

Darwin Holder (Lisle Board Member & OK '94), has also written a little book, The book title is: *Alzheimer's in the Family, An Anthology*, by A. Darwin Holder, Sr. It chronicles the experience of living through his mother's progression of Alzheimer's Disease. Darwin writes: "I don't have books to sell yet, but am working with a publisher to print 1000-2000 copies as a trade paper back. If all works well, I should have them sometime in September of this year. The predicted price will be about eight dollars. It would be nice to have folks contact me about their interest in being informed when the book is available and at what price." You can email Darwin at: DARWIN.HOLDER@prodigy.net.

[Ed. note: Many of us remember Darwin's mother as the sweet Elder who came along with the Holders to many of our Board Meetings. Currently she is living at an assisted care center in Texas. I found Darwin's writing extremely helpful in understanding the many issues involved in dealing with a parent becoming less able to care for themselves.] 🌐

Do any of you have the time, talent, and desire to write a compilation of biographies of those amazing people (Lislers, of course!) who, before their passing, lived the values they gained through participation in Lisle programs?

In this issue, four fine people are memorialized, and their contributions to world-mindedness are fascinating, even in such a brief form.

Send your thoughts to Dianne Brause; email: diannebr@lostvalley.org. 🌐



In Memoriam—Alex Matejko

We are sorry to receive the news of Alex Matejko's death from his widow. He was a wonderful participant in the California '58 Lisle unit based on the Stanford campus. This was one of two units that hosted a group of students from the USSR to the USA, the first such exchange of the Cold War.

No one who was a member of that Lisle group will forget Alex's keen mind, delicious humor, or characteristic remark "Veddy interesting" about anything he wished to highlight for the group's attention.

Walt Ligon received the following letter from Mrs. Matejko:

"Dear Mr. Ligon, Thank you for your letter. I am sure Alex would like to join all his friends—Lislers. My husband told me many times how happy he was to meet some Lislers in the United States in 1958. Unfortunately he passed away on August 27th, 1999. Alexander retired in 1991. After retirement he was teaching at the University of Bergen in Norway, then mostly in Poland at the University of Szczecin, Poznan and Technical University of Gdansk. He died suddenly of heart failure at the University of Alberta campus. He published several books and hundreds of articles, book reviews, essays etc. We both spent one academic year (1986/87) in Vienna, Austria. He was teaching at The Institute of Advanced Sciences. He was intellectually active to the last day of his life." —*Joanna C. Matejko* 🌐

Lucy Knox Jordan Washington: What's in a Name?

By Nancy Pearson Kinney

Back in 1985 when Lisle moved to our house along with Brooks Hill's first membership list, we were responsible for mailing membership materials to Lislers. As we stuck labels on envelopes, certain names conjured up impressions for me. One of those names was Lucy Knox Jordan Washington, Jamestown, North Carolina. My immediate image was of a tall, elegant and, perhaps, imposing Southern social hostess. Her participation in New York, 1948 indicated a lady of a certain age who had probably been interested in societal change and/or personal growth.

When I finally met her in Atlanta at the 1990 Annual Meeting, I was astonished. Lucy looked nothing like my vision of her. She was small, quiet, unassuming and gentle. Her soft Southern accent was musical and cultured. Lucy was quick to introduce me to her husband, Ed, a superior court judge. I thoroughly enjoyed my short, surprising visit with Lucy.

Her loyal, generous, loving support of Lisle will be missed. 🌐

In Memoriam—Ethel Golder

Chris Coons/Marisa de Leon heard from Andreanna Nickerson, that her mother, Ethel Golder (HI '95) just died at home in Oakland, California. A memorial service is planned for August 19, 4:00 pm, 1st Church of Religious Science, 5000 Clarewood, Oakland.

Ethel had a very colorful and interesting past. She was quite an active Socialist, and attended Leon Trotsky's funeral in 1940! She also knew Diego Rivera, a Mexican painter known for his murals. Ethel taught yoga for 30 years at Studio 1 in Oakland. She loved dancing, possessed a keen and active interest in the Peace Movement, United Nations, and Latin American issues. She touched and changed many lives. She was 86.

Marisa shared that that they met in a hiking group trip, and had been friends for 17 years. 🌐



In Memoriam—Annelies Marinissen

Anna Elizabeth Marinissen-Hollander. Annelies passed away at the age of 74 in March, 2000. Chris Coons shared memories of their friendship at the memorial service held in Berkeley, California.

“Annelies attended the NY ‘48 unit—but you can see from her memorial information how active she was in social justice, human rights, and peace organizations. She came to the Annual Meeting in Dexter, Oregon in 1995. She was always willing and helpful in Bay Area Lisle promotion and activities,” remembers Chris.

She sent the memorial bulletin for this amazing woman, and it is excerpted below.

Annelies was born in the Netherlands in 1926. She lived with her mother, an attorney, and received her religious education in a Sufi temple, next to the Peace Palace in the Hague. As WWII approached, she was forced to wear the Yellow Star of David, forbidden to ride the tram or bike, or even to go to the Lyceum. She received instruction in her home until 1942, when she was forced to go into hiding for three years. The family who hid her risked their lives for her sake. Both her parents died in Auschwitz.

She completed her Lyceum exams in 1946, received an undergraduate degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1948. She completed her graduate studies at Boston University of Social Work in 1949.

She later moved to California where she specialized in the treatment of emotionally disturbed children, and later worked in the field of children’s protective services.

After her marriage in 1959, she and her husband, Jan, were blessed with two children. Throughout their marriage, Annelies opened her home to many a person in need of support—whether a war resister, a troubled young person, or a new immigrant.

She loved animals, classical, Baroque and Klezmer music, going to the theater and symphony. She enjoyed a large group of friends, and was physically active. Annelies gave of her strength and insights through many memberships on Boards of directors and committees, including the Creative Living Center, the Steering Committee of the Mental Health Association, and Rubicon, among others.

Her ashes were scattered by her family on the bay. She is celebrated for “her warmth and altruism, her understanding and insight, her devotion and love, and her optimism and compassion. Annelies had a remarkable and effervescent sense of humor, and was easily moved to beautiful, healing laughter. 🌐

We Need More Saints!

How about nominating some more of the angels you know who’ve been working with Lisle over the years? All you have to do is write a statement about the person(s) you wish to honor in this way.

Include information about how you know them, and what their efforts have been. Then enclose a check for \$50 and send your nomination to the Texas office. Be sure to designate which program you want your donation to assist. 🌐

Lisle Saints Nomination

By Walt Ligon

Iwould like to nominate for Lisle Sainthood Chris Coons of Lafayette, CA. At the same time I would like to propose creation of the office of Saint Consort to which I nominate Chris’s husband, Dean Coons, also from Lafayette. In support of these nominations Betty and I are sending a contribution to Lisle at the Leander, TX office.

Chris first attended the Lisle Unit in Colorado ‘48, a dynamite unit. She and Dean also attended the Bali-91 unit and a recent unit in Costa Rica. Chris has been a faithful and creative Lisle for fifty-two years, including several years as a member and officer of the Lisle Board of Directors. She was enormously helpful in making arrangements for Board meetings across the country.

While on the Board she set up our Bed and Breakfast program. She also organized the Bay Area Lisle group and attended various college fairs to represent Lisle, bringing in several participants. She and Dean continue in this work, loyal Lislers that they are. 🌐

Past Saints Honored

- 🌐 Walt Ligon
- 🌐 Betty Ligon
- 🌐 Dianne G. Brause
- 🌐 Jerry Storm
- 🌐 Carl Kline



Food For Thought:

Putting Things Into Perspective

(Found on the women's bathroom wall at the college where we had last winter's Board meeting in Florida!
Source: 1999, Trade Aid.)

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of 100 people, while maintaining existing human ratios, there would be:

57 Asians
21 Europeans
14 No/So Americans
8 Africans

52 would be female
48 would be male

70 would be non-white
30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian
30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual
11 would be homosexual

59% of the entire village's wealth
would be in the hands of 6 people

80 would live in substandard housing
70 would be unable to read
50 would suffer from malnutrition
1 would own a computer
1 would have a college education

When you look at our world from this perspective, it is clear that privilege entails responsibility. The privileged few have an obligation to work for the betterment of the many who lack life's basic necessities. The need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

How do YOU honor your obligation? 🌐

Lisle's Statement of Purpose

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

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

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

Publisher

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





Annual Meeting Registration Form, Houston, TX

October 13-15, 2000

Please detach and send to: Lisle, Inc
900 County Rd. 269 • Leander, TX 78641
800-477-1538 • FAX: 512-259-0392
E-mail: lisle@utnet.utoledo.edu

Name(s) _____ Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (h) _____ (w) _____ Best time to call: _____ E-mail: _____

Method of Travel: Car Plane Bus Train

Arrival Time: _____ Airline/Flight # _____ Date _____ Airport _____

Departure Time: _____ Airline/Flight # _____ Date _____ Airport _____

I plan to rent a car at the airport I would like to share driving with others

I will need transportation during the weekend's events: Yes No

I would like to reserve a bed space in a single double room

Please reserve my room for ____# of nights, from (date) _____ to _____.

Any special housing/dietary needs? Please list below:



Lisle, Inc. Membership and Pledge Form

900 County Road 269
Leander, TX 78641

I want to become a member of Lisle, Inc., and make an annual commitment as checked below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Member..... \$35-\$74 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor..... \$1000 and above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member.... \$75-\$149 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student.....\$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Member..... \$150-\$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Member \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member..... \$500-\$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Income (as you can) \$_____ |

Would you like information about: including Lisle in your estate? making a memorial donation?
 nominating a Lisle Saint?

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

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Notes about your activities:

I wish to pay by: Check VISA Mastercard

Credit Card # / exp. date _____ / _____

Signature _____





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Meetings

Annual Meeting	October 13–15, 2000	Houston, TX
Board Meeting	May 3–6, 2001	Frankfurt, Germany
Annual Meeting	Mid-October, 2001	Washington, DC
Board Meeting	Spring, 2002	New Orleans, LA
Annual Meeting	October, 2002	No. California

Programs

India	Dec. 17, 2000 – Jan. 7, 2001
Costa Rica	Dec. 30, 2000 – Jan. 20, 2001
LVEC, Oregon	Mid-July, 2001
Turkey Exchange, WA	Mid-July, 2001
Bali	Summer, 2001

Contact the Lisle Office 1-800-477-1538 for all trip information

