

Lisle Interaction

W I N T E R / S P R I N G I S S U E • 2 0 0 0

“Aunt” Edna Baldwin — A Truly Extraordinary Woman!

By Nancy Kinney

Edna Aiken Baldwin, known affectionately to Lislers as “Aunt Edna,” founded the Lisle Fellowship along with her husband DeWitt Clair Baldwin (Uncle Si). Aunt Edna was born January 12, 1900 in Antioch, Illinois. The year 2000 has been designated by the Lisle Board as the Year of Aunt Edna to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of her birth.

Edna Baldwin was a truly extraordinary woman in her day. She formed her values early in life in interaction with her Methodist pastor father and her loving and devoted mother. She met DeWitt Baldwin in the summer of 1919 while working in the Malaya section of the Methodist Centennial Exposition. Their friendship during later work together at a city mission on Chicago’s West Side led to their engagement on February 14, 1921. Edna announced the news to the girls in the house where she was preceptress by means of a fire drill, earning herself a visit to the



Dean of Women. The story made headlines in the *Chicago Tribune*. They were married August 3, 1921.

As a 1921 honors graduate of Northwestern University, Edna had completed a major in language and minors in psychology, speech, drama, and botany, all in three and one-half years. She then earned a master’s degree in religious education, also at Northwestern. From 1923 to 1933, she was an educational missionary in Burma with the Methodist Episcopal Church, along with husband DeWitt.

After returning to the United States, she lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan, lectured on college campuses, co-founded the Lisle Fellowship and wrote the play “Ba Thane.” This one-act play was published in 1931 and was presented at the Student Volunteer Movement Quadrennial Conference. Later, college groups throughout the United States used “Ba Thane” to dramatize the difficult struggle
(cont’d on pg. 11)

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President's Message

Several years ago a new President for Lisle decided that there was a need to get Lisle "organized". Some would say that there really was not any need for such thing, that Lisle had been doing just fine as it was. Others would say that such a radical concept was not possible for the Lisle Fellowship. Be that as it may, she did have a vision, and she did put that vision into action. One part of her vision was the "5-Year Plan". Such plans had been talked about before, so I heard. But SHE showed up with blank forms, passed these forms out and told us to write something down. In this manner the first of the annual "5-Year Plans" was born.

In Betty Ligon's message in the spring 1995 *Interaction*, she told about some of the visions that had been put in those first 5-Year Plans: visions for fund raisers, improved accounting and budgeting, active committees, consistent Board development and "...increase in number of programs with some programs being filled". These visions had started to be fulfilled. This was only four years into the active planning. This January, when we met in Lakeland, Florida, we looked at the 5-Year Plan. We discovered that these old plans were no longer appropriate: they had all been realized! Yes, there are a few that must continue on in some manner, such as fund-raising. But the fund-raisers being thought about only a few years ago have been successfully completed. We have realized a successful investment program. We do have accounting and budgeting that is responsible and insures the safety and appropriate use of the monies that have been given to Lisle. We do have a varied and active international board that is working hard to insure that Lisle continues on into the 21st century as a viable, stable organization accomplishing the goals in our mission statement. And we do have programs that are going and are successful.

We have begun formal trainings for new leaders so we will continue to have enough leaders to insure successful programs. The main leaders will always have the trained assistants they need to insure they do not suffer from "burn out". In the past few years we have tried new and different programs; we are returning to some of the ideas of the original programs, where there is emphasis on younger people. There are programs in the formative stage for sometime within the next two years that will be working with younger people.

One goal, a few years ago, was to get enough funds to pay someone to answer the mail, enter information into the computer, maybe, just maybe, move the Lisle office out of the family room in Mark and Nancy Kinney's home. Guess what! We have done it! Not only did we get the funds to hire the part-time secretary for the office, but we now have several other paid positions. At the Annual Meeting the Board did some major



Barbara Bratton, left, out-going President, hands over the Glove of Presidency to Barbara Holder, right. Barbara B. looks almost gleeful, while Barbara Ho. looks appropriately awestruck. We wish our new President the best on her tenure for Lisle!

reorganizing of Lisle's business structure, bringing it into the new year in a manner we feel will insure Lisle's success. (see pg. 6) This reorganization is on a trial basis and will be reviewed at this year's Annual Meeting. Of course, we realize that there will need to be some refining of the concept. Everyone agrees that it is a step into the future for Lisle.

We now are on the Internet. We don't have just a "Home Page". There is information about the organization and how to become a supporting member. There are thoughts on Lisle programs written by the some of the participants. There is information about future programs and the forms necessary to apply to attend those programs. We are attracting the attention of those who are young enough to feel as comfortable with the computer and Internet as the older Lislers are with the pen and paper.

Thank you, Betty Ligon, for taking that plunge a few years ago. It was not easy. There was a lot of hard work to get everyone to take the leap with you. The payoff has been great. Your shoes were hard to fill, but Barbara Bratton did an outstanding job of that. Now she has taken a giant leap of faith in proposing the new direction for the Lisle, Inc., board and office. I am only here for this year, but my commitment to all is to insure that what these two have started will continue and grow toward better Lisle. 🌐

Barbara Holder



Executive Director's Report

This has been an interesting time for me as I moved out of my University office and retired. Retirement has allowed me to do some things for Lisle, which I might not otherwise have accomplished.

The usual things have been done: continuing to work with the logistics of programs, conversing with leaders and potential leaders, especially about a second CR program, which is not going to work out, and keeping the homepage updated. Song is now working on updating the listings in the Board Profile section to correspond to the Board List.

In more depth, I have reviewed the opportunity for Lisle to place a link to Amazon.com or another book vendor on our homepage. Just yesterday I got word that UT would rather not have us place such a link on our webpage. I also did a lot of research about what the affiliate programs are at Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and a couple of other vendors. I have lots of information, which highlights the similarities and differences. One issue which presented itself is that the minimum amount of royalty in these contracts is \$100, which means Lisle would need to do a lot of volume before it would get paid. However there is some evidence that Amazon at least has been paying after \$10, even though their written documents say \$100.

In this regard, the only possibility for Lisle is for us to pay someone else to host our homepage. We could possibly find someone to host it for free. If we were to do that, we could work to get our own domain name and site address, which might be a plus, but on the negative side, we would lose the name link to the University of Toledo, which for some, gives us credibility.

I have also been doing research on making our homepage more visible to search engines. Song and I will also be doing more in regard to revising the pages in order to have it become more accessible to different kinds of users.

I just returned from a four-day visit with Chris Coons. She sends her regards, and is seriously thinking about whether she wants to accept Marty's request that she come back on the board. She will let us know shortly. They are both well and were extremely helpful during my visit.

I met with Robin Kwisera and Susanne Brooks from Sacramento one evening and Adelaide Chavez. They are all well.

While in CA, I visited with Greg Biggs from World Neighbors and with people at Global Exchange. GE is interested in collaborating in either piggybacking programs (they are doing 10-14 day "reality tours" which acquaint people to issues like child labor, etc), or in assisting us with some contacts in new program areas such as South Africa.

I also visited with the LaFetra Foundation. I was very impressed with efforts they are making and the work which is being conducted to bring organizations which offer programs that involve volunteering together to share experiences and to see how cooperation can assist us all. I know we intended to join

IVPA last year, and am certain we should do so this year. As an effort to get into the discussions, which could assist Lisle, I volunteered to serve on their executive committee for this next year. That will entail attending their fall conference in November. With my connections with Sister Cities International, I was able to make some helpful suggestions to La Fetra and Global Exchange.

As recruitment was going somewhat slowly, I authorized that we announce the program on Ron Mader's email newsletter for two weeks (\$50) to see if we could drum up further interest. I am also looking into other connections, which Dianne Brause suggested. I will be continuing to follow up on those ideas.

Phyllis Beck has made several suggestions for connections with homepages, e-newsletters, etc, which I intend to follow up on during the next few weeks.

I have plans to begin contacting people about the possible South Africa program during the next few weeks as well. I had already talked with a visiting professor at UT who was in the Foundations program. She is South African and visited Durban over the holidays. I asked her to make some contacts. I will be talking with her when I return to Toledo.

There have been a lot of other things going on for Lisle. Things are looking good! 🌐



Mark Kinney
Executive Director

Mark Kinney



Board Meeting, October 1999

The Lisle Board of Directors has met twice since the last Interaction, once in October 1999, and most recently in January 2000. Below are synopses of both meetings. The Board has done some very good work, and managed to enjoy themselves too!

The Annual meeting was held October 8-10, 1999 at a delightful conference center in Loveland, Ohio. Our thanks to John Kachuba and Mary Newman for getting this set up. Grailville is a farm, which was donated to a non-profit organization that promotes women's issues. Its land and buildings are rented out as a conference center. Loveland is about 45 minutes drive north of Cincinnati, OH.

The Board was busy, but enjoyed the visits of Lisle alumni Chris & Dean Coons, Mas & Wati Mastriyana, Earnest Smith, Ann Frisch, Edith Ballard and Ann Groves. Our deputation Saturday afternoon was to assist a local organization of young people called "Shalom" in improving the path in the Loveland Nature Walk. The Shalom group work together to help in the community and to educate themselves outside of the classroom. We hosted them for dinner and a sing-a-long Saturday night, and hope to include them in our plans for a Lisle Program at Lost Valley Education Center in Eugene, Oregon.

There also was much discussion regarding Lisle's primary function — to promote world-mindedness through programming, both international *and* national. To place more emphasis on this goal,

and to expand the program offerings, a new position of Program Manager was established at an annual salary of \$5,000. Mark Kinney was asked to accept this role and work with the Board, as the previous responsibilities of Executive Director are allocated to other job descriptions. He will work a double job as we continue to evaluate this position.

All of the jobs inherent in providing Lisle Program's have been delineated and the responsibility for completion of the work allocated among the leaders, Board Members, Program Committee and office staff. The Program Manager is responsible for oversight, review, approval and visioning. It is the hope of the Board that this position will create more continuity and professionalism in the Lisle Programs as well as allowing the Program offerings to grow in number and diversity.

In order to allow Mark the time to concentrate on programming, another position of Office Manager was created. Barbara Bratton will fill this volunteer role for two years. She will define and oversee the paid staffing necessary to recruit and support the programs. The office is currently at her CPA office in Leander, TX. The shift in office responsibilities has been an ongoing process for the last two years and the Board allocated some additional responsibilities to this job description.

The additional work of the Board of Directors continued with program planning, publicity and recruitment and financial oversight. The Annual Meeting of members elected the following positions:

President: Barbara Holder; Vice President: Marty Tillman; Treasurer: Barbara Bratton; Secretary: Phyllis Beck; Program Chair: Leyla Welkin; Publicity Chair: John Kachuba; Board members: Gail Bier, Dianne Brause, Jack Brown, Don Cowing, Anne-Rose Heck, Darwin Holder Sr., Mary Newman, Mark Kinney, Robin Kwizera, Betty Ligon, and Sharada Nayak. In addition, Lisle's two Board Emeritus Members, Miriom Zusman and Walt Ligon, have voting positions on the Board. 🌐



Ernest Smith, Lisle's 1999 Marion Wright Edleman Scholarship recipient, pictured with Wati and Mas Mastriyana, our leaders for the Bali Program.



Wati, one of our leaders from Bali, and children from Shalom looking at pictures from a Bali trip.



Phyllis Beck, Robin Kwizera and a youth from Shalom, carrying lumber during a building project.



January 2000 Board Meeting

We wish to thank Joyce and Bob Payne (CO '46) for setting up this meeting at Florida Southern University. We also want to thank them for the delicious fresh-picked strawberries and tangerines they brought Saturday morning when they stopped to visit. Unfortunately, no other Florida alumni were able to join us.



Our Board of Directors take a break at the Strawberry Extravaganza in Florida.

Although a small Board Meeting, several items of importance were discussed. The Lisle Board began meeting three times a year in various parts of the United States for two principal reasons: 1) to maintain the level of enthusiasm need for the volunteer board to get all of the work done, and 2) to draw in Lisle alumni from different areas to continue their interest in Lisle. This costs a lot in terms of time and money for the Board Members. For Year 2001 and 2002, we will only have two meetings per year as a trial. One in early spring (end of Feb beginning of March) and the Annual Meeting in mid-October.

Other work that was completed was the final draft of the Lisle Directory for 2000 (to be dedicated to Aunt Edna), formation of a cancellation policy, and discussion on leadership training and brochures. Continuing with the 5-year goal setting and officer reports completed the meeting. 🌐

Upcoming Board Meeting

Camp Ronora at Watervliet, Michigan will be the location for this Spring's Lisle Board Meeting, from May 4 – 7. Camp Ronora is a Retreat Center and Nature Preserve, having been established as a "Camp for Girls" in 1935. The present owners, the Leggits, have taken care to restore the original structures (built from lumber harvested and milled right on the property), and flavor of the retreat. It boasts restful living rooms, efficient kitchens, and pleasant porches viewing the sweep of the land. There are 300 lovely, quiet acres, and a private lake, where you can swim, fish and boat. It is an easy 100-mile drive from Chicago, via I-94 in the middle of rolling orchard and vineyard country.

Lislors will stay in the Ranch Lodge, a six-bedroom, six-bath lodge that sleeps up to 48 guests. It also has a living room with a fireplace, dining room and kitchen. The cost will be \$200, which includes three nights (Thu. – Sat.) and eight meals (Fri. morn–Sun. noon). Dr. Anne Groves will be the Lisle host.

Please call Lane Winnett at the Lisle office (1-800-477-1538) for further information and to make your reservations. Or, send in your registration form (*see pg. 16*) right away! Reservations should be made no later than April 15. Lane will be happy to send you a brochure with a map. 🌐

European Board Meeting — Would You Come?

Because airfares to Europe are so low, the Board has been exploring the possibility of the Feb/Mar, 2001 Board Meeting being held in Germany. Two of our Board Members live abroad, and they survive the ordeal of long flights to attend the Board Meetings in the U.S. If there is enough interest from Lisle alumni in Europe, the U.S. members of the Board will take the long flight to Frankfurt and hold a meeting similar to the Annual Meeting.

Anne-Rose Heck, our Board member from Bruhl, Germany will be setting this up. If you have interest in attending such a meeting, please contact Anne-Rose at: 0049-2232-211598 (Germany), or ARHeck@compuserve.com. You can also contact the Lisle office at 1/800-477-1538, or lisle@utnet.utoledo.net. 🌐



Lisle Restructuring

By Barbara Holder

Lisle, Inc. is growing and evolving. In the past few years we have been gradually enlarging the scope of the professional staff as the funds have become available. Some of these things have been tried in the past, but were discontinued because of lack of funds. With our successful fund raising and gifts from very generous Lislens, we have been able to once again add professional staff.

Several years ago we hired a part-time secretary for the Lisle office to answer telephone messages, mail out information requested and enter information into the computer. Mark was able to acquire student interns through the University of Toledo to assist in other work where as a volunteer Executive Director, he needed help. When Barbara Bratton became the President, some of the office functions were moved to her office in Texas while some of the administrative function was retained in the office in Michigan.

During the time that she was president, the Board decided that it was time to start giving the Executive Director a stipend to help compensate for his time, expenses and energy. The Executive Director's interns helped with recruiting, other office requirements, and worked on building a Lisle web page. Some of the expenses for these interns were paid by others, and some of it by Lisle, Inc. This brought us to having a paid staff of two part-time secretaries, a part-time student intern and a part-time Executive Director (part-time in pay only, as Mark puts in a great many more hours than we could ever afford to pay him). At the Annual Meeting in October 1999, the Board again took on the responsibility to do some restructuring and they created two more paid positions. Now, for those of you that view a "paid position" as a large commitment, let me assure you that we are only talking about very small stipends for the amount of time and work being given by the people filling these jobs.

The new positions are Operations Manager and Program Director. The Operations Manager will be responsible for seeing that all of the mundane, day-to-day operations of Lisle are accomplished in a timely manner. He/she will insure that there are enough program materials printed, that all inquiries are answered and followed up on in a timely manner, and that all participants' forms are received and forwarded to the appropriate people. He/She also will make sure that membership letters are printed and sent on schedule. In other words, the Operations Manager performs the nuts and bolts duties for Lisle.

The Program Director will work directly with the Program Chairman and the Program Leaders to see that all programs are run in a professional manner which insures that the leaders have the support they need, that the participants receive the product that they are contracting for, and that Lisle, as an organization, is operated in a successful manner.

The Executive Director will continue to recruit for Lisle Programs, be the spokesperson for Lisle, Inc. to other professional organizations—including universities, travel abroad organizations, etc.—and be the link to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will continue to be actively involved in the running of the organization, but the burden of seeing that all of the work is done in a timely manner will no longer fall on those few who can commit to many long hours of work.

By the way, Mark Kinney has been hired as this year's Program Director, and Barbara Bratton is taking on the role of Operations Manager. 🌐

New Board Member: Darwin Holder, Sr.

New Lisle Board Member, Darwin Holder Sr. (OK '95), husband of Barbara Holder, and father of former board member, Darwin Holder, has been a Lisle associate since '91. He retired from a civil service job with the U.S. Army in '97.

He started his career as an Industrial Engineer, and stayed in the army industrial operations throughout his career. This took his family to several locations in the U.S., to Okinawa for seven years, and to Mainz, Germany for five years.

He and Barbara have three children, all married, and three grandchildren. His hobbies include traveling, writing, reading, painting, and wood-working. He loves to sew, but hasn't had time to get back into it since his retirement. He will serve on the Board until the end of Barbara's term as President. 🌐

Lisler Profile

Earl W. Downing (Board Member '96-'99) is a retired United Methodist Pastor/Psychiatric Social Worker for the State of Michigan.

In 1993, Earl's wife, Gloria, introduced him to Poland, with the offer "I will take you to Poland, if you go to Germany and Prague with me." Little did she know it would be habit-forming! They traveled to Poland as members of an Elderhostel group.

In 1997 Earl joined the Board of Directors, and served on committees, accomplishing a variety of goals that he personally saw as important new steps for Lisle. He is well-known for his many stories of his Polish exploits, including the 5000 pounds of books that he collected and shipped there. *Well done!* 🌐



BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Alumni throughout the world can rest assured that decision-making about the quality of Lisle's programs, the training and oversight of its leaders, and the organization's continued commitment to its mission and purpose are nurtured by its current international Board of Directors (including members from India and Germany).

Lisle's newest Director is Robin Kwizera (Uganda '94), mother of four children, originally from Oakland, California, educated at Spellman College in Atlanta, Georgia, with graduate work at California State University- Sacramento. A social worker by profession, Robin has a personal commitment to international cross-cultural interactions. The Board is pleased to join Robin's commitment to diversity, international understanding and inclusiveness with that of Lisle.

We welcome nominations of alumni willing to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors. Address nominations, including name and address and a brief statement describing how the nominee's background, skills, and experience would contribute to Lisle's future growth and development, to: Marty Tillman, Chair, Board Development Committee, 2400 41st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036; email: mjtillman@worldnet.att.com. 🌐

Many thanks to all who submitted articles for this issue. If you notice that something you submitted isn't present, you may see them in next one! —Editor

PROGRAM

Lisle has been developing and operating a full slate of programs this year. We had a program in July, which brought together North American and Turkish teenagers in environmental service projects. We had a program in Bali in August. Due to low enrollment we postponed the March 2000 Costa Rica program, and rescheduled it for January 2001.

Our India program this last December/January offered an opportunity both for some past Lislers to reunite and for Lislers in India to gather. We plan another trip to India in the summer, and again next winter. Programs are planned for Turkey and Bali this summer and recruitment is going very well.

The committee has identified Leadership Support as a high priority. Lisle has had some challenges in cultivating and maintaining leaders for programs in recent years. The committee plans to learn from current and past leaders about how we can improve our support of leaders, and through them, our quality programs. Solidifying some policies and procedures is also a priority of the committee in the next year or two.

Safety, cancellation and other policies will be updated and improved. We also hope to offer more solid guidelines for program development to encourage our renewed interest in programs within the United States.

Jack Brown's careful groundwork served us well in Florida: we thank him for his leadership on this committee. Our new program chair, Leyla Welkin "hopes to be able to continue that kind of consistent, well-documented collaboration." All in all, it has been a fruitful time for the program committee, and for Lisle programs in general. 🌐

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

The Publicity Committee is developing better ways to work with the Program Committee in order to develop accurate and interesting program brochures in a timely manner. Timing the mailing of the brochures frequently poses a problem since the dates of some programs are not fixed.

The Publicity Committee is also interested in identifying target audiences for mailings such as senior citizens, and those seeking new life changes. The Publicity Committee is further committed to working with Mark on the Lisle website, which has the potential to be a very strong promotional tool for the organization. 🌐

FINANCES

Lisle's finances continue to be very healthy, although our investment portfolio value went down in January due to a dip in the market. We have \$44,782 in unrestricted funds, which includes the bequest from Frances Bigelow. The Board has not yet determined how to allocate these funds.

Our restricted funds from endowment and for scholarships are \$189,891. Adding a few receivables, office equipment and the New York land, Lisle's Total Assets are \$252,702.78. We have liabilities of \$5,937 for a total net worth of \$246,765.

The Board of Directors would like to convert our asset of 50 acres of land in upper New York to cash. The asking price is \$15,000. We have a sales and information package if anyone is interested! Please call 1/800/477-1538 or email lisle@utnet.utoledo.edu. 🌐



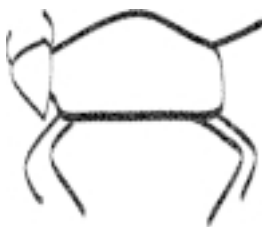
TURKEY

JULY 6 – 27, 2000

Lisle's program in Turkey this year builds on the relationships Lisle has been cultivating there since 1997. Our co-leader Filiz Yuksel has participated in four Lisle programs now: Turkey '97 and '98, North America/Turkey Cultural exchange '99 and India '00. She says she understands Lisle programs and philosophy pretty well now. Also, her English is improving with every program.

Many of the students who participated in our cultural exchange program last summer will be providing the homestay opportunities for the Lislers who visit Turkey this year. Our goal with the programs in Turkey is to build strong mutual relationships so that we can have the experience of genuinely sharing in each other's cultural life and concerns. In keeping with the Lisle philosophy, these trips aim to be much more than tourism.

Next year it will be our turn once again to host Turks in the United States and we hope to discuss possibilities and the Turk's interests when we are in Turkey this summer. At its best, Lisle is about building communities that cross international and cultural boundaries. Communities are groups that bring out and use the richness of the diversity which is available in their human and ecological participants. With time and a conscious effort, community is being built between Turkey and the United States. Come join us! 🌐



BALI

JULY 30 – AUGUST 20, 2000

While goal setting, it was clarified that Lisle serves three distinct groups: (1) those persons who will be participants in the programs (2) Lisle Alumni and (3) those communities which host our programs. 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 for Summer, 2000.

The group will fly to Bali on July 30th and stay until August 20th. 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. We have the program almost filled at this time, with our age diversity ranging from 13 to 81, and the level of knowledge ranging from people with an interest to a professional percussionist wanting to learn gamelon, to a dancer going to learn Balinese dance.

We are also excited about the leadership team this year. Mas and Wati Mastriyana were first introduced to Lisle during the Lisle Bali trip in 1988. They lived in the ashram where this program was held. After marrying, they came to Kentucky for their higher education. This will be their first time leading a program back to their homes and we will be meeting their families in

Budakeling and Kamasan. The assistant leader for the trip is Barbara Bratton, Board Treasurer, who will be responsible for the business side of the trip.

We still have room for five more participants; why don't you join us? 🌐

COSTA RICA

DEC. 30, 2000 – JAN. 20, 2001

The Costa Rica program originally planned for March has been postponed due to lack of enrollment. It is being considered for December or January and will most likely feature five different stops in Costa Rica; the capitol city of San Jose, Coopesanjuan agricultural cooperative, Coopesilencio environmental cooperative, the village of Longo Mai, and a visit to Caribbean coastal areas.

The Costa Rica program offers wonderful diversity, both in the natural landscape and the human landscape. Volcanoes, hot springs, rain forests, mountains, plains, and shorelines, all inhabited by one of the most diverse populations of plant and animal species in the world makes Costa Rica a nature lover's paradise.

In addition, program participants get the opportunity to live with and learn from people representing the country's Spanish, Indian, and Black cultures.

There is plenty of time for Lislers and their friends to register for the program. Contact the Texas office for details. 🌐



INDIA

JULY 16 – AUGUST 18, 2000

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!

This Lisle 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 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 Masal a new branch of Anandwan where an environmental scheme aims at protecting the animals of the nearby Tadoba forest sanctuary and bringing the tribal community and the local farmers closer together in understanding each other's lifestyles.

The second phase of the program will take us to Navadarshanam, a retreat center outside of Bangalore run by former Lislers, where degraded waste land has been reclaimed for organic farming, and where a community of environmentalists operate an ashram. At Navadarshanam, non-violent alternatives to the modern way of living and thinking are being investigated in the areas of farming by natural/organic methods, soil regeneration through natural afforestation, eco-friendly housing, solar energy and, healthier food habits.

The group will interact with those involved in Navadarshanam through discussions, working hand-in-hand in the kitchen and on the farm, and through understanding nature and ecological alternatives. There will be opportunities to meet and discuss developmental issues with NGO representatives and activists, and to learn about naturopathy and meditation.

A visit is also planned to an ancient community in the hills south of Bangalore to learn about the indigenous people and their culture. Participants must plan to arrive not later than the July 16th in Delhi. The program ends in Delhi on August 8th. However those who want to extend their stay and pursue individual interests will be assisted by Indian Lislers.

Please note: a winter program will be held in India as well. Dates are set for December 17, 2000–January 7, 2001. The details will be described in the next *Interaction*. 🌐

Special Invitation!

For all Lislers who took part in the Rosebud Reservation units led or organized by Carl Kline, there will be a reunion of those groups who visited there through both Lisle and the Non-Violent Alternatives. Carl Kline led trips to India as well.

This is an opportunity to share where we've been, what we're doing, and how the Rosebud program has affected our lives. It's a time to reconnect and refresh the wonderful friendships that were formed in South Dakota. It's an opportunity to look at where we are in our process of "undoing racism", being allies with other people, and furthering the learnings gleaned in Indian Country.

The dates are June 26–July 1, 2000 (following this year's Lakota Program). The location is Marv Kammerer's ranch outside Rapid City, with travel to special places such as Bear Butte, Harney Peak, or the Badlands. Invited guests will be the Garriots, Florentine Blue Thunder, Ed Velandra and other hosts and Lakota friends of the program. The fees will include sharing the costs of food, water, community tent, etc.

There are a number of participants who have not yet been located. If you'd like to help find them, contact: Pamela Morgan, PO Box 961, Fort Collins, CO 80522 (970) 484-1857; e-mail: morganpamela@hotmail.com.



India Reunion, Jan 2000

By Sharada Nayack

The idea of a Reunion group was rooted at the end of the Lisle program in Turkey as we relaxed at our hotel in Cappadocia. We had been talking about meeting again to welcome the new Millennium. When someone suggested India, I immediately said, "Why not?"

We sadly missed a few of the enthusiastic Turkey-Lislers. But the newcomers who joined us were Ali (Nili Bilkur's nephew), Dan Adams, (Judy Brown's nephew who lives and works in Germany), and Davindar and Charlotte Singh (neighbours of mine). Davindar is a Sikh, and Charlotte, his wife, is an American from Minnesota.

Twelve of us gathered in Delhi on a cold, foggy morning. It was great to have Nili and Filiz, who had been our hosts in Turkey. Tim Nicholls from New Zealand joined us later in Bombay. Our group was made up of citizens from the US, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, New Zealand and India.

Our plans to welcome the dawn of the new Millennium at the Taj Mahal were spoiled by a heavy fog. Nevertheless, the Year 2000 began with a lot of fun and champagne, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Our trip took us to Jaipur, its exotica and its shopping, and all the stereotypes of India as portrayed in the media: elephants, forts, camels, maharajas, and beautiful handicrafts.

Thereafter we went by train to a small rural place called Amirgadh, in the western region of Gujarat near the border of Pakistan.

Here we visited the Sarvodaya ashram, a school and rural development project started for predominantly tribal people by a group headed by Hasmukh Patel, a Lisler. Hasmukh visited the US in the eighties as a member of a group from India; they visited the Native American Indians on the Rosebud reservation.

Hasmukh and his colleagues are doing wonderful work, not only in educating the young, but by helping poor farmers



Classroom in Amirgadh, India, an Ashram community where Hasmukh Patel, fellow Lisler, is working actively.

improve their land with water conservation and income generation in different ways. We took another train to Bombay where we stayed two days, and also visited the ancient rock sculptures at Elephanta Island.



At the rice farm worked by Indians affected by leprosy, Charlotte Singh, Tim Nicholls and Jack Brown learn that harvesting is the same, whether disabled or not.

Travel by plane and bus brought us to Anandwan, a community founded by Baba Amte. This remarkable settlement not only treats and rehabilitates leprosy victims, but it also provides a home and a productive life to live for all manner of disabled peoples. We saw people engaged in all kinds of skilled work and farming to support its residents. It was inspiring to hear Baba Amte talk of his philosophy and his hope for the new millennium.

Other Lisle groups have visited Anandwan in past years, and our our plan of a Lisle project building a Reception Center at Anandwan had been reported in *Interaction*, Summer '99. After discussion with Vikas Amte, it became clear that funding issues were to put a halt to that idea. We therefore suggested that a cottage on the new development of a place called Masal, would be named the "Lisle House", as our contributions over the past three years would cover its building costs. The building has been designed in a circular model that is economical as well as easy to replicate in other parts of Anandwan at low cost.

Masal is an environmental project we visited, on land near the edge of a forest sanctuary, where both tribal farmers and the animals in the forest have space for living. We saw elaborate preparations afoot for a large MELA (fair) which was soon to be held there. Baba Amte would meet and talk to a large gathering of tribals and local farmers to discuss environmental concerns and a collaboration of all local groups to help protect the forests. This would also open a dialogue between different social groups.

On our return to Delhi we met several India Lislers from former groups organized by the Gandhi Peace Foundation. We reminisced about Lisle and programs from past years, and had ideas for the future. 🌐



India Participant Comments

Here are some evaluations from the India 1999 participants. Read them and feel secure in the knowledge that our programs do have a major impact on the individuals who search them out.

What did you most enjoy?

Lisle India was a fantastic experience. I enjoyed the focus on social action and the ability to see life in India from the Indian perspective, rather than as a tourist.

How did the group do in regards to being responsible travelers?

I think we were very responsible travelers. At times the travel was very tiring and uncomfortable. Nobody complained...Everybody was sensitive to cultural differences in this country...

How did you feel about the leadership?

Sharada's leadership was perfect. Plans/actions well thought-out. Tremendous knowledge of India's story and problems, which she deftly related to similar ones in the countries from which group members came in particular, and the world in general.

How did you feel about the places visited?

I loved all the places: great variety and quality both in the villages and in Delhi. The Gandhi activities...were actually my favorites. I can't imagine dropping any of them.

In what ways did you grow the most?

My interests and understanding of India and Indian culture have been widely expanded. Tolerance was essential in dealing with our group. 🌐

("Aunt" Edna Baldwin, cont'd from pg. 1)

and the dynamic relationships between missionaries and the people with whom they worked. From 1948 to 1968 she was active in organizations for international students and women at the University of Michigan, while aiding the Michigan Church Women United in adopting an interfaith approach as an alternative to a denominational focus. From 1953 to 1956, she was Dean of Women at Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan. In 1958, under Lisle auspices, she led students on the first USA/USSR student summer exchange program. From 1968 to 1970, she was foreign student director and counselor at Iowa Wesleyan College.

In her "retirement" she lived in Rockville, Maryland, and remained active with Lisle. On December 25, 1986, after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease, Edna Baldwin finally let go of life.

To relate just the facts of Edna's life does not do justice to the influence she exerted over the people whose paths she crossed. Edna Baldwin was a powerful role model. She exemplified, particularly for women, the epitome of the intellectual, self-directed, "liberated" woman of her time. She had it all — a challenging career with high goals, a warm and sensitive husband, a bright and motivated son, and "networking" relationships with other professionals around the world.

Aunt Edna was a brilliant intellectual. Her college record is one piece of evidence, and her quick wit and clever way of distilling events into conceptual packages showed that she knew how to use what she had learned. In the days when scholars were only beginning to understand the functions of groups and to analyze group behavior, she and Uncle Si predated what Carl Rogers and his followers later described in their textbooks as the new group work technique!

She was an unforgettable woman, as remembered by many Lislers. The impressionable age at which most people enrolled in a Lisle unit was probably at least partially responsible for her influence on them. Her power was of a very special sort: it became apparent only in close relationships when people chose to be open to growth. She could be intrusive in using her influence, but she seemed to know when people were ready for the jolt that would send their lives in a more creative and self-expressive direction. One minister told of the evening as a young Lisler when she "let him have it." She told him that anyone as insensitive, oblivious to others, and puritanical as he was had no business even thinking of the ministry. He credits her with turning around his life and showing him what he had neglected!

Readers should not, however, think of Edna as totally consumed by intellectual and educational pursuits. Many Lislers remember her as one who could manage ordinary life situations with great skill. They remember her knitting and mending impossibly hole-y socks. Her cooking skill with leftovers reminded them of loaves and fishes miracles. Washing the dishes always provided time for meaningful conversations. She even had advice on what to do when you think you're lost: "If you are lost and cannot find where you're supposed to stay, drive at least fifteen miles before you park the car."

The Lisle Board invites you to celebrate the life of Aunt Edna this year. Think about what you learned at the Lisle experiences you have had, and then act on it!

If you would like to purchase the small book about Aunt Edna, edited by Nancy Kinney, please send \$5.00 to the Lisle office. 🌐



Hans Vinge, husband of **Ingrid** (CO '48) wrote with the sad news that Ingrid passed away last December. He said: "Ingrid often told me about the pleasant time she spent with Lisle in the summer of 1948 and we also had the pleasure of once seeing Uncle Si in our home in Sweden."

Larry (CO '41, '42) and **Ginny** (CO '44) **Judd**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary 5 years ago, write extensively of their mission service experiences in Asia, especially in Thailand. They recently donated primary source materials in Thai/English for SE Asia Library Collection at Northern Illinois University. They are willing to promote Lisle on the campus of Illinois College.

John Falding (Bali '88) informed us of the sad news that his wife, Vreni, died of cancer last June.

Gary Tiller (Denmark '56; Germany '58, '63 and DC '63) who was living in Victoria, B.C., has passed away.

Ted Klassen (CO '48) thinks Lislers will find the book, *The Post-Corporate World*, by David Korten, of interest.

Dianne Koop (past Board Member) writes that she is currently facilitating a Change Project at the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center where she is a teacher for juvenile felons who are imprisoned. Mark Kinney, Lisle's Executive Director, is a key member of their team.

Cora Belle (Walburn) **Crane** (CO '45) keeps busy volunteering at her Seniors Center doing health insurance counseling and advocacy for seniors; last summer she was on an RV caravan in Alaska.

Patti Hill (India '86, So. Dakota '89) and husband, Carlos Aranaga have relocated to the Washington, DC area with their girls, Rose (4) and Grace (2). Patti counsels non-profits on pro-

gram evaluation, while Carlos is working within the State Department for the Bureau of Cultural & Education Affairs – formerly USIA.

Bob & Alice Wiedrich (CO '46) Bob is active in local theatre productions and Alice continues her involvement with United Methodist Women and Church Women United in Illinois.

Thomas Maxwell (NY '48, MI '49) at age 75, won silver and bronze medals in a Seniors Olympics at his local center.

Elaine Brown (CO '47, CA '51) wishes Lisle well and "backs our efforts to keep The Lisle Fellowship alive."

Kathryn Dunning Eynon (CO '52, Denmark '54) played the role of "Sophie" in *Social Security*, a comedy in community theatre; she also made 168 costumes for *Mame!*

Carolyn Dougall (DC '62, '64) writes: "Because of my Lisle experience, my whole professional and personal life has been involved with people from other cultures. For the past 10 years, I have taught English as a second language."

Marna Feldt (CO '56, Jamaica '57) Office Executive Secretary: '56-'58) has retired after a distinguished 30-year career as Information Officer for the Swedish Information Service.

Orion Six, (MI '50, CA '50, Leader DC '93, '94), who for many years was instrumental in making *Interaction* a success, reported that he had been laid up with a problem of "blood chemicals", but was keeping himself busy taking care of flower beds and housecleaning, and is still volunteering for church and the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Ethelyn Jones Maxwell (NY '40) writes fondly of "that wonderful six weeks. We were a happy bunch of diverse people — and they have had a positive influence on my life ever since."

Rev. Robert Payne (CO '46) is retired and living in Plant City, FL. He teaches an adult Sunday School class and sings in choir. Bob was involved in the set-up of the January Board meeting in Lakeland.

Dean Stout (CO '47, Rosebud '89) is active with a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity in Manson, WA.

Ardis Hanish (Germany '55, CA '56) retired from Michigan State University Extension.

Catherine Peters (CO '51, Bali '88) retired from High School teaching in New York City.

Carol Hansen (India '98), although not active now, continues to be interested in Lisle and its activities.

Maude Martin Johns (CO '48) is participating in retirement activities, learning the Internet and traveling around the U.S.

Elizabeth Manner (CO/CA '53) is living in a retirement community in California. She and her husband Carl (deceased) were dear friends of Uncle Si and Aunt Edna for many years.

Helen St. John (Uganda '94, HI '96) went on an 8-day canoe trip in the Boundary Waters Wilderness in Minnesota last year.

Rosalind Meyer (NY '48, Spain '76) works on fundraising for nonprofit organizations and travels extensively in the U.S. and abroad.

Barbara Wilks (CA '50, CT '52) "Loves to hear about Lisle activities. Lisle brings back the best memories of the best times. I am so grateful for the Lisle experience and hope my granddaughter can go to Lisle in 2007."

B. Carter Pate (CO '45, NY '47, CO '54) is Coordinator of the Holston Conciliation Service (UMC) and active in aiding refugees from Kosovo.

Dr. Dorothy Jean Furnish (CO '44) at almost 80, "tries to work for justice causes as I can."



Frances Boyd (NY '43, CO '45) is President of United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church in Odessa, Texas. "Through these offices, I am trying to create understanding of the diversity in the world today...and hope I am contributing to the vision of Lisle."

Teryl Reynolds (Turkey '97) is getting married April 29 to David Elliott of Greenwich, CT.

The Millers—Ray: (Denmark '55, CO '56, CA '57; Denmark '69) and **Anja** (CO '56) saw many Lislors through their professional and personal travels. Among them were: Rigmor Nissen (CO '56, Denmark '69) and Sonja Lonnerberg (CO '56) in Sweden; Belvin Williams (Germany '55) in NYC and Ann Groves and Elaine Davis (Denmark '55).

Konrad Borst (CO '53, Germany '59; Denmark '54) writes of an interesting life as a professional language specialist and translator. He also states: "While in the United States at Shepherd College as a Fulbright Exchange student, I became a member of Lisle, which helped me accept my lot as a German. Lislors, like the Quakers, prepare for the sociology of our multicultural world."

Carolyn Kearns Young (NY '45) is active as a community volunteer with, among others, the YMCA Battered Women Project and the Montgomery County Humane Society.

Marina Zaccaro Firestone (CO '48) continues to spend winters in Houston and summers on Martha's Vineyard, with frequent visits to NYC to see her two children and four grandchildren.

Charles and Robin Kwizera: We moved, we're happy, we're broke, and we're tired...we live on 8.5 beautiful acres in a great country house and get up in the morning and look in the

back and see bunnies playing, quail and pheasant hanging around and a very blue sky, when it's not raining. When it is raining we get the added benefit of seeing the swollen Badger Creek at the rear of the property overflow it's banks. We now reside at: 11540 Arno Road Galt, California 95632 (916) 687-4553 (916) 687-4556 fax. We're just 20 min. south of Sacramento, so the commute is easy.

Edith Ballard (CO '44, CA '52, DC '54, Costa Rica '99) and her sister Norma, were the senior members of last year's Costa Rica program, and by all reports they kept the younger members on their toes! Edith continues to be a real champion networker in her attempts to keep in touch with the older Lislors. The following excerpts are from communications that she had with several people she contacted during her travels around the country and a reminder to the NY '39 alumni that this was their 60th anniversary year! You can contact Edith at: 8648 Oakleigh Rd., Baltimore, MD 21234-3827; e-mail: edith@all-systems.com. Edith is looking for Louise Machen. (If anyone out there has a current address, please contact her or the Lisle office.)

Edwin O. & Genevieve Bissell (NY '39) send their greetings and mention that their 55th wedding anniversary was June 12, 1999. He is a retired minister.

Lewis M.K. Long (NY '48) writes that his sister, Edith Long Schisler (CA '50) was a speaker at the Wesley Foundation reunion in Norman, OK (which 7-8 other Lislors attended) during the 3rd week of October last Fall. Edith has lived in Brazil for over 40 years, but gets back to the States to visit two of her children and their families.

Harry Im (CA '50) who lived in SF in '51-'52, now resides in San Diego, as does **Helen Whitacre Burkes** (CO '41).

Denoya Wyatt (CO '46), lives near Santa Rosa, CA.

Joy Drobish Palmerlee (CO '47) reported that her brother "Bo" was temporarily staying with his son in Montana.

Wilma Martinez (CO '44 lives in Florida with her husband who was a Cuban immigrant who helped other Cubans find work in horticulture in CA when they lived there.

Dosia Robinson Geisler (CO '44) wrote that she had been in CA for 9 days at her son's to celebrate the graduations of her granddaughter from college, and grandsons from High School and Jr. High. Grandma Dosia enjoyed watching all three practicing "vaulting" — a type of acrobatics on horseback! She reports that her current hobby is entering pictures in photo albums for her children and grandchildren.

Jeanne Lohman (CO '43, NY '49) reports being the poetry editor of a Friends Magazine. Her e-mail is jlohmann@olywa.net,

Elizabeth Clarke (Den '54) is still active with the Methodists in her retirement home in Claremont, CA, where

Rev. Rex Knowles (NY '39) also lives.

Randy Cooper (CA '52, CA '54) lives in IL, but spends summers in The Pines in Skaneateles, NY, last year helping his son reconstruct a home for winter use.

George and Ann Levinger (NY '49) are active with a Friends program of prison visitation.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Marty Tillman, for compiling all these tidbits about our world-wide Lisle family!



In Memoriam —Francis Bigelow

By Walt Ligon

The Rev. Frances W. Bigelow (CO '48, NY '48, and Estonia '59) died on Oct. 4, 1999. In her will, Fran left \$10,000 to Lisle.

I remember Fran as one of three key persons in the kitchen at Magee Manor in Watkins Glen, NY. Whether she was dietician, cook, coordinator of volunteers or all three, I don't recall, but she worked with Hazel Leler and Aunt Edna to see that fifty or more of us had three delicious and nutritious meals a day for most of the six weeks that we were there. She also participated as much as she could in other group activities, possibly even going on a deputation or two.

There are Lislers from the '48 CO and NY units who are likely to remember specific incidents involving Fran, and I invite such persons to send them in to the Lisle office, to Mark or to Marty so that they can be included in a future *Interaction*. At the time of her death, Fran was listed as living in Sun City, AZ. According to the executor of her will there are no close living relatives.

The generosity of Fran's gift to Lisle reminds us that each of us can do a lot of good in our lifetime and can even do some good after our lives are over. Betty and I have put Lisle in our will and we invite you to do the same. 🌐

In Memoriam —Bess Attwell

By Walt Ligon

Bess Attwell (CO '54, Elder Hostel '91) died in her home in Houston after a brief illness. She was a strong and a giving person — someone Houston Lislers could always count on for cooperation or leadership in organizing a local or regional event.

Marina Firestone writes: "To the end she was active, involved, and an optimist." Betty Ligon remembers her statement "It's exciting being Black."

Diana Dry of the Houston Chronicle wrote a profile of Bess in 1979, noting that at age 62 she found the ideal job as recruitment coordinator for Volunteers in Public Schools. Earlier in her life she had been a teacher, a counselor, a college dean, a consultant to the National Headstart program, and a director of the National Council of Negro Women. The list goes on and on. In later years she lived at her home with her son Ernest.

Many Lislers remember the annual meeting and joint reunion of the '48 NY and CO Lisle units that Bess help to organize in Houston a few years ago. Besides the business meeting and reunion discussions, there was a male fashion show, a square dance evening and a boat trip on the Houston-Galveston Ship Channel.

Bess said to the reporter who interviewed her that she was lucky to have had very wise parents who instilled in their children a love for education. As a result, she graduated from college at age 18 and went on to earn two masters' degrees, one from Texas Southern and one from Columbia University. Her Lisle unit in Colorado had a considerable impact on her life, and she did much to share that experience and influence with others. 🌐

"The greatest satisfaction in life comes from helping people be all that they are capable of being."

— Bess Attwell, 1979

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





Registration Form, Watervliet, MI Board Meeting

May 4 – 7, 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

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Any special housing/dietary needs? Please list below:



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Leander, TX 78641

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Meetings

Board Meeting	May 4–7, 2000	Watervliet, MI
Annual Meeting	October 13–15, 2000	Houston, TX
Board Meeting	Feb. or March, 2001	Germany (?)
Annual Meeting	Mid-October, 2001	Washington, DC
Board Meeting	Early March, 2002	New Orleans, LA
Annual Meeting	October, 2002	No. California

Programs

LOCATION	DATES
India	July 16, –Aug. 6, 2000
India	Dec. 17, 2000 – Jan. 7, 2001
Turkey	July 6 – 27, 2000
Bali	July 30 – August 20, 2000
Costa Rica	Dec. 30, 2000 – Jan. 20, 2001

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

