



Lisle Interaction

A Bi-Annual Publication of Lisle International

SUMMER ISSUE • 2011

Celebrating Our Contribution to A More Just and Peaceful World

Lisle at 75 (1936 – 2011)

By Marty Tillman

There are very few American nonprofit and non-governmental organizations that have reached the milestone of being active over a period of eight decades! Lislers around the world should take great pride in our accomplishment—in the continuity, which is represented by this great achievement.

The Board of Directors is looking forward to coming together with Lislers and their families in Philadelphia, September 16–18, to recall Lisle’s past accomplishments as a pioneering intercultural organization, and also to share our pride in the exciting achievements of these past five years since establishing the Global Seed Fund.

In order to encourage everyone to join us at the Chamounix Mansion in Fairmount Park, we want to set the Registration Fee for the weekend, covering all meals and housing in the hostel at only \$25. Thus,

we are seeking support from Lislers to raise sufficient funds to be able to cover the actual costs. We already have substantial contributions—but we still need to raise another \$1,000 to make this goal a reality.

We know these are hard times around the nation, but if it is possible for you to make a special gift to Lisle for the Annual Meeting, please contact the Leander, TX office.

As with all Lisle meetings, we’re certain this will be a special gathering with much story-telling, picture-telling, and good fellow/sistership.

See Page 2 for the schedule of the weekend’s program and activities. We welcome ALL ideas; send them to mjtillman47@aol.com.

For more information contact the Lisle office at 512-259-4404, or email info@lisleinternational.org. Or, mail in the Registration Form on Page 15. 🌸

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75th Celebration Schedule

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Morning: Board Meeting, 9am

Afternoon: Special Discussions: “Tings” **

- Impact of Lisle’s Group Dynamics Approach in Small Groups
- The Global Seed Fund: An Agent of Community Change
- Citizen Effect: A Dialogue (*Citizen Effect is an organization driven by the idea that anyone can make a real and significant impact in the world. It is our mission to provide everyday citizens the tools and networks they need to work directly with communities in need around the world.*)

Evening: “Story-Corps”

- We invite you to record your memories of how Lisle impacted your life choices, in terms of personal and professional development, for inclusion in the Lisle archives.
- A viewing of the *Lisle History DVD*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Morning: Annual Membership Meeting, 9am

Afternoon: Community Field Trips & Service Work

- Opportunities for dialogue, and community work, with representatives of notable community organizations in the city.

Evening: Celebration Banquet & Presentation of the Annual “Ligon Service Award”

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- Conversation about the Next 75 Years
- Closing Circle

** *Marty Tillman explains: “Ting” is an old Norse word for “assembly,” and was the form of community meeting that took place at the New Experimental College that was begun by Lisler Aage Nielson (NY ‘48, CT ‘48 and Denmark ‘52). It just came to me as a sort of epiphany. Using ‘ting’ honors Aage’s contribution to what we’d call ‘world education.’”*

Uncle Si & Aunt Edna Baldwin: A Tribute

By Dianne Brause

“Uncle Si” (Dewitt) and “Aunt Edna” Baldwin founded Lisle upon their return from “missionary” work in Burma: they wanted to create an organization which actively taught an ethic of “global-mindedness” in the world — and especially among young Americans — as they recognized this as a vital need in our culture.

They both tenaciously worked to realize this goal throughout their lives. In their picture I like to think that they are delighted that Lisle is about to celebrate its 75th Anniversary — as one of the many “ripples of light” that reflect their amazing contributions in the world! Indeed, it looks like Uncle Si is raising his left hand in a toast to our accomplishments. *Thank You, Uncle Si & Aunt Edna!*

If you’d like to read the complete story about Lisle’s beginnings, order the book, *Tiger by the Tail*, by Si Baldwin. (See page 14 for the order form.) 🌿



Is Lisle Still Relevant?

By Smita Patel, Lisle President

As Lisle's 75th anniversary rapidly approaches, I can't help but think how different the world was when Lisle first took root. People traveled by ship, communicated through letters, and most lives were defined and limited by the geography of the place where they were born.

And yet, people such as Uncle Si and Aunt Edna, and the students who became the first Lislors, were able to bridge those vast distances and cultural divides. In doing so, they created a new way for people to perceive themselves, the world around them, and their place in it. Today, a myriad of technologies—computers, air travel, television, cell phones, and the Internet—have dissolved many of those geographic barriers and provided access to the rest of the world that was undreamed of in the 1930's.

Currently, my cable provider offers half a dozen Indian TV channels! I can chat with relatives around the world in an instant, or even provide a micro-loan to someone in a country I've never visited, just with a few clicks of a computer mouse.

In a world so changed, we have to ask...is Lisle still needed?

I believe Lisle's values of openness and appreciation for other cultures, its indefatigable push to bring people together to interact and learn from one another, its unwavering support of peace and the common good, are just as needed today as they were in 1936. We still have a long way to go to achieve true understanding and peace among people of different races, religions, and cultures.

Last week, two American Muslim men were removed from a flight despite passing three separate security checks. Our national politics are polarized. Ongoing international conflicts continue to devastate lives around the world.



Yet, most efforts to address the world's problems focus increasingly on technology, finance, or distribution. As a result, the need for a voice that advocates for the human, interpersonal, intercultural element is greater than ever before. That has always been, and continues to be, Lisle's voice.

Our seed grants have given a crucial leg up to small organizations struggling to find their feet, and our dedication to Lisle's mission has prompted them to change and craft their projects in a way that maximizes opportunities for intercultural interaction and learning.

Our challenge now lies in communicating Lisle's mission and values in a way that resonates in this new information-overloaded age, and enables us to recruit a new generation of Lislors. To achieve this, we have to find a way for Lisle to touch their lives and transform them as powerfully as did the Lisle experience for previous generations.

Editor's Note: We want to know what you think! Please write to us at Interaction and share your responses. It will give us food for thought at the 75th celebration and we'll print some of your ideas in the next issue. Send us your ideas regarding:

"How can Lisle continue to be relevant in the cacophony of our time?"

"What can Lislors do to make our voice and our role stronger?" ❁



"Colors of Spring" by Dick McRill, ©2011

Lisle at 75

By Walt (with Betty Ligon)

My first experience with Lisle was at Watkins Glen, NY in 1948. I was 21 years old from a small town in Texas, a sophomore in college, and still undecided as to what my major would be. I didn't know what I was getting into when I encountered "a mixed up crew, with eyes of black and brown and blue," fifty some-odd people from many parts of the world, three races, half a dozen faiths, and a six week program that would prevail in Lisle for at least the first twenty years.


Leaders like the Baldwins, Roy Deming, Levona Williams, Sam Barefield, Prof. Tom Hopkins and others worked together to create what came to be known as a "Lisle experience" over the six weeks that we were together. I think few of us came away unchanged and most would say we were changed for the better.

The Lisle we will be celebrating in Philadelphia in 2011 is a different institution from the one I described in 1948. Program models have changed. Lisle's global seed grants give responsibility to world-minded citizens in many parts of the world to build projects that are consistent with Lisle values. New leadership has come to the fore, most notably in the person of Smita Patel, Lisle Board President who was the recipient of an early global seed grant.

There are many stalwart leaders who have helped keep Lisle afloat during the stormy years. Many of these leaders are still with us. Some I hope will come to Philadelphia in September to help celebrate Lisle's 75th anniversary. Two of the most prominent, Mark Kinney and Marty Tillman, will almost certainly be there and of course all are invited.

Betty and I, having consulted with our doctor this morning, hope to make it. Will we see you?

Older Lislens may remember a Danish hymn that was a favorite of Aunt Edna's. Kristian Ostergaard (1855-1931) wrote the lyrics, using a Danish folk melody. It was translated to English by Jens C. Aaberg (1877-1879).

Editor's Note: Lisle can still find inspiration in the hymn's message. 

That Cause Can Never Be Lost Nor Stayed

*That cause can never be lost nor stayed
Which takes the course of what God has made;
And is not trusting in walls and towers,
But slowly growing from seeds to flowers.*

*Each noble service that men have wrought
Was first conceived as a fruitful thought;
Each worthy cause with a future glorious
By quietly growing becomes victorious.*


*Thereby itself like a tree it shows:
That high it reaches, as deep it grows;
And when the storms are its branches shaking,
It deeper root in the soil is taking.*

*Be then no more by a storm dismayed,
For by it the full grown seeds are laid;
And though the tree by its might it shatters,
What then, if thousands of seeds it scatters?*

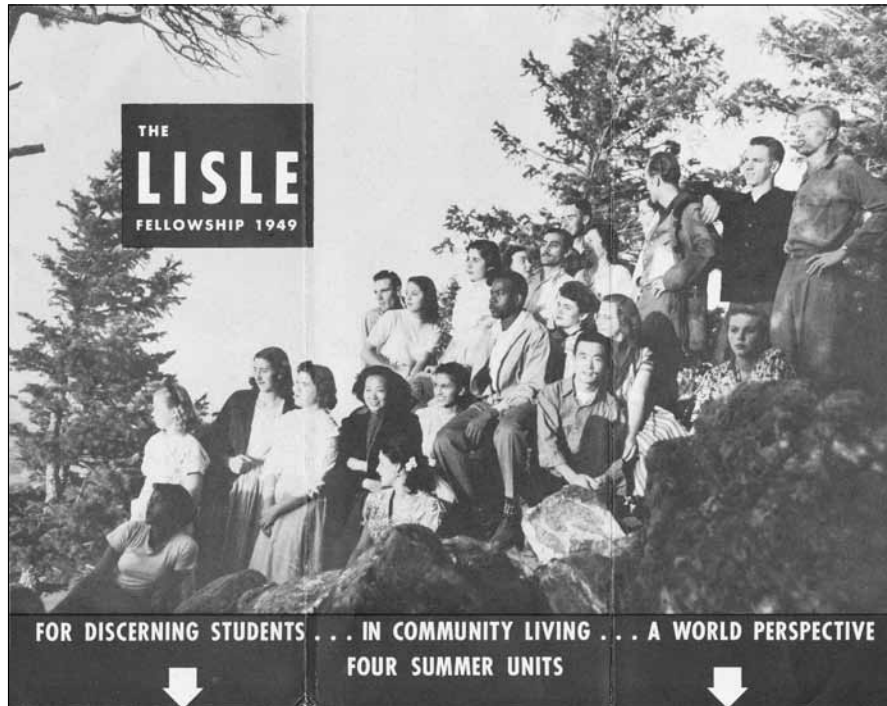
Correction

Mary Belle Schinnerer, daughter of Walt and Betty Ligon and Lisle Friend sent this message:

"Greetings and Merry Meet in Peace! Just got through reading the 2011 Winter Issue of Lisle Interaction. I am so grateful and pleased to read about Lisle and of Lislens around the world. It is nice to watch Lisle evolve and grow, keeping Uncle Si and Aunt Edna's loving works alive! My parents' email address was in error. As I am sure they would enjoy hearing from Lislens, would you please have their email address corrected in your next issue. Thank you! Peace Be."

Walt & Betty can be reached at: <mlligon8670@aol.com> 

These are the front and back pages of a brochure from a 1949 marketing campaign that targeted “Discerning Students.” It invited thoughtful, intelligent and “world-minded” students to get out of their classrooms and into Lisle’s “summer intensive laboratories in human relations.” This was Lisle’s approach to realistic education. If any of you “Older Lislars” can identify yourself or anyone else in the picture from this brochure, let us know!



THE LISLE FELLOWSHIP
invites
DISCERNING STUDENTS
to a summer of realistic education

Any person working for a better world today realizes that it takes more than good intentions. He is further aware that ultimate answers to our most basic world problems are not achieved in the verbal abstractions of the classroom, nor in the wishful thinking, however idealistic it may be, of an ivory tower. Rather must we find ways of working out our problems in the everyday give and take of our human relationships, wherever we may be. A worldminded attitude is as important in the tiniest hamlet as it is in the most cosmopolitan city.

For an adequate leadership toward world community a more realistic education is required. It must help persons find:

- Emotional Maturity in Human Relations
- An Understanding of the Growth of Personality
- A Feeling of Genuine Participation
- An Appreciation of Democratic Processes
- Techniques and Skills of Group Leadership
- A Strong Personal Orientation
- Social Sensitivity
- Ability to take part in Group Decisions
- Appreciation of Different Cultures
- An Understanding of God as Meaningful in Every Culture

Aware of the basic world need of leadership, The Lisle Fellowship began in 1936 the first of its intensive summer laboratories in human relations. In 1949 it offers four summer units, open to upper-class and graduate students who are seeking effective ways of living with others, and of achieving a kind of leadership adequate for today's world needs.

TODAY IN 49 COUNTRIES FORMER STUDENTS ASSUME NECESSARY LEADERSHIP TOWARD WORLD UNDERSTANDING

PLACES AND DATES:

- Ann Arbor, Michigan (limit 45)
June 29 – August 10 (six weeks)
- Watkins Glen, N.Y. (limit 45)
June 11 – July 22 (six weeks)
- Lookout Mountain, Colo. (limit 45)
July 24 – September 5 (six weeks)
- New Hartford, Conn. (limit 35)
June 27 – August 31 (nine weeks)

EACH UNIT OFFERS:

- Co-operative Group Living** with all participating on an equal basis.
- Academic Credit** by special arrangement with over 20 colleges.
- Guest Leaders** sharing thought in various fields of achievement.
- Skills** for developing group and community participation.
- Personal and Group Integration** through alternating periods of orientation, community deputations and evaluations.
- Selection of Students** from widest possible range of backgrounds and nationalities. Participants are chosen who want to find and test themselves in relation to the larger world home of social and spiritual relationships. Students from other countries have an opportunity to know and enjoy common American home life in various types of communities.

The plan of finance is an integral part of the group experience. The cost to each student is just what he is able to contribute to a common fund, to which former students and interested friends also contribute. All expenses are paid from this fund. The actual cost per student is \$150.00 for the period.

APPLY EARLY: DeWitt C. Baldwin, Director
The Lisle Fellowship
Lane Hall, University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

LISLE INTERNATIONAL—SEED GRANT PROGRAM

- PURPOSE

To support projects which broaden global awareness and cultural understanding through experiential learning, with the goal of creating a more just social order

- ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Individuals or organizations in any country

- GRANT AMOUNTS

\$500 - \$3,000

- LISLE MENTORS

Each application requires a Lisle Mentor, a Lisle member who reviews the grant application, assists with communications with the Board, and helps to ensure that interim reports, photographs and final evaluations are submitted.

- WHAT IF A PROSPECTIVE APPLICANT HAS NO LISLE MENTOR?

Send a brief project summary to the Executive Director at least two months before the application deadline, and Lisle will make an effort to match appropriate projects with mentors.

- UPCOMING FUNDING YEAR DEADLINE: July 15, 2011

- FUNDING PERIOD: November 1, 2011- October 31, 2012

How to apply: Applications are available at: <www.lisleinternational.org>

For more information, contact: Mark Kinney, Executive Director

Email: <mark.kinney@utoledo.edu> * Phone: (989) 595-3667

Bigutar Book Project, Nepal

By Peter Prindle

A fundamental aim of the Bigutar Book Project was to provide the school library with books, which would be thought provoking and outside the normal range of texts ordinarily used by the students. Additionally, we bought some of the more commonly used and/or required books for students who could not afford them.

Basically, the project progressed without any major problems. Before going to Nepal in Nov. 2010, I visited several local libraries to enlist their support and received a suitcase full of donated books. The big surprise came at the Boston airport where I was charged \$120 extra for having more than one bag.

Several persons, including former students from Bigutar, and by chance the head master, were in Kathmandu and offered their views as to what kind of books we should buy there. About half the books we took to the school were regular, required texts which the poorer students could not afford, which were then placed in the library.

I was most interested in the other half, which would complement the standard required materials: texts that were international, scientific, analytical, concerned with societal problems etc. These included some innovative books presently being published by young, creative Nepali writers, which consisted of illustrated short stories dealing with problems inherent in Nepali society such as caste inequality, tribal conflict, poverty and sexual discrimination.



The books (at last) in the new Bigutar Library to the delight of one of the students.

As predicted, transporting the books from Kathmandu to Bigutar turned out to be the most difficult part of the project. I had to hire a jeep and driver to drive about 100 miles along the Sun Kisi River to Ghurmi, where we then took a bus for another 25-mile trip to Okhaldhunga Bazaar. The journey took two full days (19 hours) of driving almost entirely in first gear. Fortunately, several friends went with me, including the Bigutar School's most illustrious graduate Suman. From the Bazaar, the books—perhaps weighing 150 pounds—were then carried by two porters to Bigutar.



Students hard at work copying the Teacher's notes.

Once in Bigutar, everything went smoothly, including a ceremony with skits and dances in our honor. Suman gave a speech in which he described the substance and purpose of the book donation. The books seemed very much appreciated by both the faculty and students. My hope is that at least a few of the best students will be inspired by the unconventional half of the texts, as many students are looking for something beyond the traditional system of rote learning of required texts.

I would like to thank the members of the Lisle Foundation for their support. The Bigutar Book Project may not be very dramatic or easy to evaluate, but I am sure its long time impact will be considerable. In this regard, several of Bigutar's best graduates have already mentioned that it was "outside" encounters such as this, which had originally inspired them to study. 🌿

Empower the Children, India

By Rosalie Giffoniello

In *Our Global Village: Kolkata* is a children's book written and illustrated by the children themselves. The creation of the book brought volunteers and slum-dwelling students together in order that they each gain a new perspective. The students were given an opportunity to look at their lives through their own artwork, photos and drama. The volunteers had a window into the children's world by sharing the experiences with them.

In all, 125 students participated from five educational centers: Preyrona 1 School, Preyrona 2 School, Preyrona 3 School, Prabartak Home for Mentally Challenged Young Adults, and Rehabilitation Centres for Children, a hospital for non-ambulatory children. They were joined by 36 American volunteers over a two-month period, January through February 2011.

The activities they participated in included:

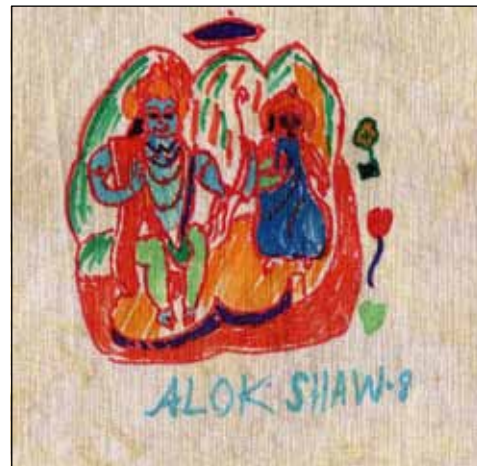
- Drawing of self-portraits, family portraits, homes, animals and local scenes
- Dramatization of important Hindu holidays
- Sharing of recipes of local foods
- Taking photographs of home, school, family members and neighborhood
- Creating narratives about their lives and experiences

The volunteers provided feedback in the form of answering various questions related to their experience.

Currently, the various activities are being compiled and formatted for the book. A copy of this book will be mailed to the Lisle office.

"We greatly appreciate the opportunity Lisle has given the children and volunteers in Calcutta."

Editor's note: To the right are several creative drawings done by the children. We are looking forward to showing off this book at the 75th Anniversary Celebration in Philadelphia, September 16-18, 2011. 🌿



Mountain Children's Foundation, India

By Smita Patel

In May, the Mountain Children's Foundation (MCF) celebrated 10 years of bringing young people together to transform their communities. Today the MCF network includes more than 12,000 children across more than 500 village-level children's groups.

Had it not been for a grant from Lisle International in 2005 that provided encouragement and momentum at a critical time, it is likely the MCF would not have made it so far.

Lisle is once more helping the MCF break new ground with a workshop that will bring together children from diverse communities across the state of Uttarakhand, and teach them about child protection laws and the Juvenile Justice Act. Sadly, there is very little formalized protection for children in India currently.

Through this workshop, the MCF hopes the state's young people can become strong and vocal advocates for policies that can help ensure the security and well being of children.

This newly-funded workshop will take place in June after the children finish their exams.

Top photo: Lislers Nancy Kinney, Sharada Nayak and Suzanne Vogel work with children in a community engagement workshop in 2008, in the foothills of the Indian Himalyas. Lisler Smita Patel interprets.

Middle photo: Barbara Bratton is drawing cartoon characters during a workshop activity, while an attentive a young women looks on.

Bottom photo: It was an icy December day in this high mountain village, so Lislers Mark & Nancy Kinney, Suzanne Vogel, Sharada Nayak and Dick & Lois Huddleston join the kids in some warming-up exercises.

Editor's Note: Lisle first funded the MCF in 2005, and again in 2008. Since this new project has yet to take place, we have included some pictures from the 2008 MCF program that some Lislers participated in, so you may get a flavor for the project. ❁



Dianne Brause always enjoys compiling the Network News about Lisle's activities. We're so glad you all like to keep us in touch!

Wally Allen (Denmark '54) sends special Hello's to Dianne Brause, Finn Hornum and Mark Kinney. "Good luck with the 75th Anniversary activities. Happy Lisle memories—and also a 50-year Peace Corps 'Vet': Philippines #1('61-'63), elementary education. Quite a year!" Wally regrets that his current health will make it impossible for him to travel to the joint anniversaries of Lisle and Peace Corps on the East Coast.

Jacqueline Ault (spouse) says: "My husband, **Joe Ault** (CO '51, CT '51 & '52, Elderhostel '90), deceased September 2009, was the Lisle and a strong believer in the organization. I have attended two or three Lisle events and do want to continue supporting this organization because of Joe's strong belief in it." Jackie can be reached at: 324 11th St. So, Virginia, MN 55792.

Kristin Currin (Costa Rica '98, '99, '01, Leadership Training '98) "...Continuing work in the Pacific Northwest to preserve and protect native plants... currently working with various local groups to propagate and restore rare native plants in the Columbia River Gorge."

Marina Firestone (CO '48, Family Camp '63, Lisle Board) says: "The Spiegels and I are hoping to come to Philadelphia". (*We'll see you there!*)

Ruth Ingeborg Fuss (CA '54, Germany '55 & '63) calls herself 'Bag Lady, Ruth Fuss' and reports that at least twice a week, she "takes two or three bags of styrofoam boxes to the recycling bin at the local supermarket." She has thanked the CEO for the bins and appreciates the bus service from her retirement home to the stores. Ruth can be reached at: 900 Tamiami Trails, #524, Venice, FL 34285.

Eleanor Tibbeth Hanrahan (CO '46) says: "It's been a great run!" but is now "resigning" from Lisle.

Lois (and Dick) Huddleston (CA '50, India '07) sent a note, saying: "I have not been well since our trip with you in 2008(?) Hit me on my return flight from India—my heart gave me trouble from then on and I finally had a knee replacement. It was fun to stop by Smita's home and it's a trip we shall never forget—there and to India. I was sorry to miss the Board

meeting, but no traveling yet!" They can be reached at: 27337 Paseo Laguna, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 or <lvlt@gmail.com>.

Maude Johns (CO '45, Elderhostel '89) tells us: "Life is slowing down. Drew is on hospice now, so I am a caretaker. I still am active in United Methodist Women, but not much else."

Sybil Kyi (DC '54) says that she has been: "retired for six years from state government service in Workforce development. Now active in community service organizations raising funds and administering programs for college scholarships, book projects on ethnic social histories and in a family business. Continue to do some travelling abroad as well as to the continental U.S." Sybil lives in Honolulu, HI.

Alice Kahu Ladas (NY '40) reports that: "Smith College gave me a medal for 'Extraordinary Professional Achievement and Outstanding Service to the Community' in Feb. 2011. I live in a Co-Housing Community, work as a Licensed Psychologist, and a body psychotherapist... When I attended Lisle, I was considered a 'foreign student' along with Harumi Taeuchi and Kingsley Umbadiwie because I am a genetic German Jew. Unfortunately, for Lisle, since I was raised as a Humanist in the New York Society for Ethical Culture, I was not able to contribute much about cultural or religious Judaism, which disappointed Aunt Edna and Uncle Si." Alice can be reached at: <aladas@aol.com>.

Louise Malcolm (Denmark '56) announces that they have a new address (in an independent/assisted living community). The address is: Bentley Commons, 197 Water St., Apt 219, Keene, NH 03431.

Barbara Braxton Wilks (CA and CO '50, CN '52, Denmark '55) wrote that "the impact of the Lisle experience had on my personality and the person I became defies analysis. I am connected to everyone who shared Lisle. Agin is a sinister condition. Can not attend any more reunions. I enjoyed Colorado and Atlanta." She included a photo of the group in Estes Park, CO '88. She lives in Madeira Beach FL, and you can reach her at 727-398-0796

Patricia Wold (NY '46, MI '50) reports: "I have retired and am volunteering to fragile psychiatric care at a Free Clinic in Providence." Patricia can be reached at: 1520 High Hawk Rd, E. Greenwich, RI 02818.

Farida's Fund

By Bill Kinney

Lisle lost a great supporter with the recent passing of Farida Kristjanson. Farida loved Lisle and was involved in many units and activities throughout the years.



Farida 1970 or 1971

We sincerely invite Lislors and others who knew Farida in any context, including those from the California '50 and Turkey '97 Lisle Units to honor her with a donation to "Farida's Fund." This fund was established by Farida's family members as a way to create pathways for current and future Lislors to support and work with Seed Grant projects.

Memorial and Other Donations to Lisle

If you would like to consider making a donation to Lisle or your Estate Planning involves establishing a charitable bequest, memorial or other transfer of assets, please contact the Lisle Board of Directors at the Lisle Office to open a conversation as to how Lisle can work with you to help set up a charitable giving plan. ✿

IF YOU WANT to discontinue your subscription to *Interaction*, please contact the Lisle office at 512-259-4404 or by email: <info@lisleinternational.org>

If you still want to read about Lisle's activities, go to the website at: <www.lisleinternational.org>, click on "Lisle Publications" and scroll down to the section "Lisle Interaction." Archived versions are available all the way back to 1997!

In Memoriams

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of these former Lislors. We are grateful for the gifts they offered Lisle, their families and the world. We know they are missed.

Billie Irene Cranford (CO '55) died Wednesday, March 18, 2009 in Columbus, Ohio. "Billie grew up in the small town of Proctorville, Ohio, and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Ohio University and a Master's Degree from The Ohio State University. She spent the majority of her teaching career in the Westerville School District teaching English. Her trip to Colorado with her Lisle program may well have sparked the adventurous flame in her; following her retirement, Billie taught English at the Czech Agricultural University in Prague for four years." She is very much missed by her children and grandchildren and everyone who knew her. (Sent by her daughter: Julie, <carpenter-hubin.16@osu.edu>

Dorothy Jean Furnish (CO '44), died January 3, 2011 at the age of 89.

Elise Kiesel (CT '51) passed away in October, 2009 (as reported by her niece, Barb Sloss <jlsloss5@yahoo.com>

Farida Kristjanson (CA '50, Turkey '97) passed away on March 23, 2011 at 83 in Ottawa, Canada. Her memorial service is scheduled for June 23, 2011 and will be held in Ottawa. Her daughter, Sharon, set up "Farida's Fund" in honor of her mother, who she knew was very dedicated to the work of Lisle. (See left-hand column for more information on the fund.)

Irving Lee Smith (CO '42) died on January 1, 2011. His wife, Saleta (Wentworth) Smith (CO '42) died on September 21st, 2001 as reported by their daughter, Marilyn Rudebock. She says, "They met at Lisle CO '42, got married shortly thereafter and had (me) Marilyn in August of 1944, giving me the middle name of LISLE! (Now there's dedication to a cause!)

J. Graydon Wilson passed away on December 13, 2010 as reported by his son, Dave Wilson <dpm339@cox.net>. "I can remember him talking about the Lisle Fellowship when I was a child, so I am sure he was one of your oldest members. Thank you." ✿

Reflections on Travels in The Middle East

By Dianne G. Brause

Last fall, I joined a group training for future “tour guides” on an international initiative called “Abraham’s Path.” We gathered in the north of Jordan to get to know one another, and then began walking down toward the Jordan River, traveling along dusty paths and dirt roads through villages and staying in family homes as guests of the people who have lived and farmed there for thousands of years.

As always, in homes in that part of the world, hospitality was extended to us everywhere—as families shared the best they had to offer—whether it was sleeping mats on the floor or a traditional breakfast of fresh-baked bread, jam, olives, dates, hard-boiled eggs, cucumbers and tomatoes, and of course strong coffee or tea.

We visited several start-up “eco-tourism coops”: a women-run soap factory using local olive oil and traditional herbs and a school for learning Arabic and the ancient art of calligraphy.

We crossed the border into the “West Bank” near Nablus, visiting the old marketplace before going up in the hills to a little village for our overnight stay. Everywhere, the Palestinians wanted to meet us and to show us their friendship.

We walked, got dusty and hot, and one day came across the rotting carcass of a hyena near a dump. When we entered the only town inhabited solely by Palestinian



In Jordan we were hosted for a fabulous patio dinner, by a family with ten loving and boisterous kids.

Christians—a couple of our members were excited to tour the only beer factory in the West Bank!

Later, we followed the steep canyon walls to an ancient Christian Monastery heading down to Jericho and meeting an old monk who lived in one of the caves. In Jericho, we visited a Nature Sanctuary for the protection of migrating birds.

In Jerusalem, we visited the Dome of the Rock, and “Al-Aqsa Mosque” on the ancient Jewish “Temple Mount” and below it the “Wailing Wall”. A prominent Israeli archeologist toured us around the “Old City,” with its layers of ancient history.

In Bethlehem we stayed at a guesthouse run by Christian nuns from around the world, and went on to Hebron, where Abraham and Sarah are buried—a site claimed by both Israelis and the Palestinians. While within the West Bank, it is largely dominated and controlled by ultra-conservative Jewish “Settlers” and the Israeli soldiers who protect them. We entered both the Jewish and the Palestinian sides of the “Tomb of the Patriarchs” (which was divided after two deadly massacres—one by each side—in past years).

Our last days were spent processing what we had seen, heard, and felt from our ten days on “Abraham’s Path” and we talked about how each of us might be prepared to bring others to the Path in the future.

Following adventures in Greece and Turkey, I took an overnight bus into Syria and through Aleppo and up to Deir Mar Musa, an 11th & 13th century monastery restored by an Italian priest who is starting a Catholic order which professes Islam as a “sister reli-
(Cont’d next page, left column)



We picked a few olives, while waiting for tea & sharing an afternoon with a welcoming family of Palestinians.

gion” to Christianity! There I spent my birthday and met good people of all ages, races and creeds from around the world—many of whom were seeking peace within themselves as well as among the world’s peoples.



*Looking down on the snowy roofs
of a 13th Century Christian monastery,
Deir Mar Musa, in Syria.*

Since I have returned home, I have watched in awe, the tide of change sweeping the Middle East. Since my first trip to the Middle East in the summer of 1964, I have felt called to support a peaceful resolution of the situation between the Palestinians and Israelis.

My sense is that at this delicate historical moment, in the midst of turmoil and chaos in the Middle East, there might be a unique “window of opportunity” offering the potential for a new dialogue and even a “new” solution. Obviously, with the history each side clings to, fueled by hatred and fear, something new must come into focus in order to stop the violence. While in Palestine, several people offered the viewpoint that non-violence might be the future of a movement to end the “Palestinian Occupation”.

I, for one, would love to see Palestinian “would-be suicide bombers” turn into non-violent activists; young Israeli soldiers refuse to serve in the “occupied territories,” and America stop supplying arms to either side while also greatly increasing “humanitarian aide” and supporting the development of economic stability through micro-lending and educational training for the future of global citizenship, especially among the young. As I read this, I think how much Uncle Si’s philosophy has rubbed off on me over the years!

* Go to: diannegbrause.blogspot.com to read more of Dianne’s story. 🌿

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*Dianne Brause
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Contributing Authors:

*Dianne Brause
Rosalie Giffoniello
Anne Hayner
Bill Kinney
Walt & Betty Ligon
Smita Patel
Peter Prindle
Marty Tillman*

Submissions Solicited!

We'd love to include your Lisle memories, travel stories, journal entries, poetry, artwork, and any photographs of Unit participants. You can download the submission guidelines from the website. <www.lisleinternational.org>

Please email your submissions to:

Dianne Brause: <diannebrause@ymail.com>

Elise Kimmons: <eldkim@comcast.net>

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

Notes about your life & community involvement for the bi-annual newsletter, Interaction

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 (a memoir by Si Baldwin) \$25 ea. _____
- Aunt Edna: 50 Years of Memories***
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Lisle 75th Anniversary Celebration REGISTRATION FORM

Friday, September 16 – Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011
Chamounix Mansion International Hostel and Meeting Center
West Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, PA

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: home / work: _____ cell _____

Registration fee of \$25 includes all events, lodging and 6 meals.

*We are able to offer a low registration fee
thanks to donors who have generously underwritten this event.*

Limited capacity – register early!

Venue: Chamounix International Hostel <www.philahostel.org> provides lodging, meeting and meal space, free parking, free bike use.

Meals: Mark which meals you expect to join:

Friday: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Saturday: Breakfast Lunch Celebration Dinner

Sunday: Breakfast

Lodging: Sleeping accommodations are in comfortable, air-conditioned dormitory-style rooms. A limited number of smaller rooms are available for families and couples. The hostel provides linens, a blanket and pillow for each bed. (Sleeping bags are not allowed.) Towels may be rented for 50 cents, or guests can bring their own.

Thursday Friday Saturday # ___ nights

Registration fee..... \$25.00

Donation to support the Lisle 75th anniversary annual meeting.....

Donation in honor of Lisle 75th anniversary.....

Total.....

Any special needs? (*meals, accommodations, accessibility*)

Will you have a car and be able to transport participants locally? yes no

Register on-line at <www.lisleinternational.org>

Or, mail this form with a check payable to “Lisle, Inc.” to:

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For more information: email: <info@lisleinternational.org> * phone: 512-259-4404

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Upcoming Meetings

<i>Fall Annual Meeting</i>	<i>September 16-18, 2011</i>	<i>Philadelphia, PA</i>
<i>Spring Board Meeting</i>	<i>May 2012</i>	<i>Chicago, IL</i>

Seed Grant Applications are due July 15, 2011!

*Go to www.lisleinternational.org/grants
for information about the application process.
Don't delay!*