

Lise Greene and Mark Bippes



Two ideals, learning and serving, weave through the lives of Lise and Mark. Lise, who grew up in Nutley, NJ, graduated from Montclair State University with a BA in English. Mark, raised in Rochester, NY, completed a BS in Mathematics at Albright College, and then spent five years in full-time Christian youth work. Their lives intersected at Moody Bible Institute, where they had both enrolled in the graduate school. They ended up in the same five classes the first semester! They married the following year. Both later completed an MA in Counseling at MSU.

After completing their master's degrees, they thought it would be fun to continue taking courses for pleasure instead of a degree. In 1981, they took Mainstream lessons sponsored by Warren Wheelers (a club they joined), followed by NNJSDA-sponsored Plus lessons over the summer.

In 1988, they began round dance lessons with Al and Gale Spinks. Upon moving to Lake Hopatcong, they joined Sussex Spinners. Mark and Lise joined Reelers in 2001, where they have served as Refreshment Chairs, Raid Chairs, Treasurer (Mark), and Secretary (Lise). They are also members of Kittatinny Rangers, where Lise was reporter and ad maker. For the NNJSDA, they served as 3rd VP for Publicity for two years. Lise is currently in her second term as Co-President. However, Barbara Kanter, former Editor of the *Grand Square*, has noticed, "Mark might not have his name up there, but whenever I see him, he's working."

Lise cites the first Kittatinny Rangers dinner dance she attended as her best dance experience. She enjoyed Johnny Preston's outstanding calling and mini-concert, as well as the delicious food, decorations, and tricky tray. Mark's favorite dance experience was at Western Wheelers this past season. "Howard Williamson was calling a very challenging Plus. There was one fun square in particular; we didn't break down, and it was the best tip ever!"

Just before they married, Mark took a summer job as a window installer, which eventually led him to establish his own construction company. He started volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in 1987 and became a full-time employee in 2000. After one and a half years in North Carolina, he became Construction Supervisor and Volunteer Trainer for Morris (County) Habitat for Humanity in New Jersey.

Lise went on to earn a PhD in Higher Education Administration at New York University. She was employed at Montclair State University for 25 years, the last 18 as Executive Assistant to the President. While Mark was in North Carolina, she spent a year in Denmark learning her mother's language in order to translate family diaries and letters into English (an ongoing project). Upon leaving MSU, she returned to Denmark to teach English for a semester, and then spent the following year in a graduate program to earn certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She also spent two years as a newspaper journalist and photographer. Currently, she is at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania as Presidential Writer.

Lise and Mark's only "child" is a pampered black cat named Spooky. They also adore their many nieces and nephews. They enjoy sailing, biking, canoeing, hiking, and playing tennis. Mark is very involved at his church as an elder, youth leader, and Sunday school teacher, and was a Scout leader for two of their nephews. Lise likes traveling (25 foreign countries so far), gardening, choral singing, and reading. Mark and Lise have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing, including a 100-mile walk from Paterson to Philadelphia to raise awareness and funds. Mark has taken many student groups on weeklong building projects and participated in several Jimmy Carter Work Projects, while Lise ran two Hoedown for Humanity fundraisers and volunteers as a writer and photographer. They have competed in several triathlons to benefit Special Olympics – Mark as an individual athlete (biking, canoeing, running) and Lise on a four-person team (as a canoeist). They both placed first in their divisions on occasion!

When asked what was the best thing she ever did, Lise replied, "I reconnected with my mother's family and culture by living in Denmark and learning the language. It was the best year of my life." Mark's response to the same question was, "I decided to become a Christian and live by the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Both Lise and Mark exemplify living by this creed.

Jan Thompson