

# Communiqué

The Communal Studies Association Newsletter

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**2020**

### Virtual Conference

October 1-3

**2021**

### Yellow Springs, OH

Sept. 30-October 2

**2022**

### Canterbury, NH

Sept. 29-October 1

**2023**

### New Harmony, IN

Date TBD

**2024**

### Ephrata, PA

Date TBD



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## 2020 Conference Will Be Virtual

The coronavirus has disrupted all parts of our lives, and that includes the Communal Studies Association's 2020 Conference. Originally scheduled for beautiful Ephrata Cloister in Ephrata, Pa., the conference will now be held online on Zoom Webinar. After an online poll of the membership, the CSA board met via a special videoconference in May and decided that an in-person meeting was no longer feasible.

The dates of the conference will remain the same,

**Thursday, October 1 through Saturday, October 3.** So

that concurrent sessions will not be necessary, we will use all of Thursday for presentations, not just the evening. Sessions will begin at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time and end at 6:00 p.m. Eastern. Each session will be 90 minutes in length, generally with three present-

ers speaking for 25 minutes with time for questions. Viewers will be able to query speakers in real time via the Q & A tab. There will be 15 minutes between sessions. Our business meeting, election and awards ceremony will

ing expense of an in-person conference. So please spread the word!

Registrants will receive access to the conference session links a few days before the event. All sessions will be password-protected.

The program will be our usual eclectic mix of all things communal – from Ephrata and Amana to the communal nature of video games and the Seattle CHOP. A draft conference schedule will be online soon.

This is a brand-new experience for the CSA. We hope you'll join us in cyberspace!

P. S. If you were looking forward to seeing the Cloister, never fear. The staff at Ephrata has graciously offered to host us again in 2024!



occur on Friday evening.

Registration will be on our website at [www.communalstudies.org/annualconference](http://www.communalstudies.org/annualconference).

**Cost for registration** will be just \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members and \$10 for students and current communitarians. We hope this low price will encourage many to attend who might not the transportation and lodg-



## In Memoriam: Ruth Werner

Ruth Werner, a charter member and first secretary of the Communal Studies Association, passed away on February 25, 2020. She had recently achieved her century mark. Ruth dedicated her long life to helping others as a registered nurse and—with her medical doctor husband and photographer, Robert—to assisting the preservation and promotion of historic Harmonist Harmony, Pennsylvania. Ruth served as a museum guide, became president of the historical society, and helped in getting National Historic Landmark status. Bob documented Harmony and later CSA conferences with his photographs.

In 1974, Ruth gave me my first tour of her beloved Harmony. As usual, I was running late. I had lingered too long at Economy, one of my stops at several historic communal sites that spring. Those contacts resulted in the communal studies conferences that Ruth and Bob attended faithfully. Ruth greeted me that day with the kindly cheerfulness and patience which endeared her to everyone. In her enthusiastic and informed way, she explained the treasured objects in the Bentle Haus-Harmony Museum and took me on a walking tour to the houses of Father



Rapp and his adopted son Frederick. Then we climbed the hill overlooking the Connoquenessing Creek so I could sit in the stone chair where Father Rapp is said to have meditated. I last visited with Ruth at her residence in nearby Zelienople during the CSA's meeting at Harmony in 2013. Her exuberance was still intact, and we recounted many cherished memories.

Ruth was elected secretary when we founded the National Historic Communal Societies Association during our 1975 conference at the Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky. In 1980, when we met at Hancock Shaker Village, Ruth suggested that the board name the new NHCSA journal *Communal Societies* "because 'Communal Societies' is part of the organization's name." Ruth's title continued to be used even after the NHCSA was renamed the Communal Studies Association in 1990 and still graces the cover today.

Ruth Werner's talents and faithfulness were essential to the vitality of the NHCSA in its beginnings and continue to infuse the ongoing mission of the CSA. Her legacy is beyond words and her spirit abides in the hearts of all of us who knew her. Memorial donations may be made in Ruth's honor to Historic Harmony, Inc. (Harmony Museum) P.O. Box 524, Harmony, PA 16037.

- Don Pitzer

## New Publications from Richard W. Couper Press

Couper Press has issued two new works on the Shakers in recent months. Both can be ordered from Hamilton College at <https://www.hamilton.edu/offices/lits/special-collections/couperpress/shaker-studies-page-1>.

***The Shakers of Enfield, Connecticut 1780-1968***, by Stephen J. Paterwic. 564 pages, 110 illustrations. \$55. The Shaker community at Enfield, Connecticut, lasted from 1792 to 1914. Shaker founder Mother Ann Lee gathered converts there, and her successor Father Joseph Whitaker ministered to them before he died there in 1787. This is the first book devoted to telling the 130-year story of this relatively unknown celibate Christian community. Additionally, eighteen appendices provide rich primary source information for further research.

***Imagining the Shakers: How the Visual Culture of Shaker Life was Pictured in the Popular Illustrated Press of Nineteenth-Century America***, by Robert P. Emlen. 338 pages, full color illustrations, 2019. \$45. In the half century between 1830 and 1880 the visual culture of America's oldest, largest, and most distinctive communal religious society was portrayed in scores of printed images published in the popular illustrated press. In this complement to his 1987 book *Shaker Village Views*, Robert P. Emlen identifies and explicates every known engraving or lithograph that pictured the Shakers in the years of their greatest prosperity and before photography became popular in Shaker communities. Many of these images are reproduced in this book for the first time. Emlen's book has received the Ewell W. Newman Book Award for the best new book on American historical prints. The award is given annually by the American Historical Print Collectors Society. The Newman Book Award is made each year to recognize and encourage outstanding publications enhancing appreciation of American prints at least one hundred years old.



The first NHCSA board in 1975. Seated, Robert Fogarty, Susan Keig, Ruth Werner, and Ruth Cavan. Standing are Raymond Pearson, Don Pitzer, Ronald Nelson, Karen (Platz) Hunt, John Ott, Julia Neal, and Robert Meader.

## Communal News

Friends and descendants of some 1200 pioneering Swedish "Eric Janssonist" perfectionists, who founded the Illinois Prairie Utopia of **Bishop Hill** in 1846 will celebrate the National Historic Landmark's 175th Birthday in 2021 with events on both sides of the Atlantic. Details to follow!



I'm a Quaker living in a Catholic Worker community in upstate New York, which is open to all faiths. We're approaching a time of transition and I'm looking for new community members to join me in living a Spirit-led alternative to the consumer culture, growing food to share, practicing sustainable forestry, and offering prayerful presence and outreach to neighbors and guests. Our March newsletter tells more about who we are, have been, and hope to be: <https://www.stfranciscfarm.org/2020-newsletters/>. There's an update and some further thoughts on transition and community at times of crisis and division in our June newsletter, <https://www.stfranciscfarm.org/newsletters/>. There's more information for possible new members at <https://www.stfranciscfarm.org/new-members/>.

It feels odd to be posting this in a time of urgent national crisis. But I don't know what to do about the national crisis beyond praying, writing, donating, listening to folks who have had to deal with hardships that were never laid on me because of my skin color, and trying to converse honestly and tenderly across ideological divides. I find it hard even to imagine adequate responses on a national level. What I know (in part) how to

place and try to be a good neighbor to neighbors from very different backgrounds. And I'd be very glad to hear from any Friends who might be interested in joining me.

A podcast by **South Union Shaker Village**, a museum dedicated to preserving the history of the Kentucky Shakers. Once marked as others, members of the United Society of Believers, commonly known as Shakers, reject many foundations of American culture, yet they have endured for more than two centuries. Taking a deep dive into the history of the South Union Shakers we reveal remarkable human stories not found in history textbooks. Exploring the trials and triumphs of these nineteenth century Americans, we share the stories of Shakers of distinction, those who lived lives of quiet service, and those who left the village for life anew. Listen on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, or on our website: [SouthUnionShakerVillage.com](http://SouthUnionShakerVillage.com)



Pleasant Hill Shaker Village recently issued the following statement:

Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill is an historic site that, for the last 50 years, has given visitors an opportunity to be informed and inspired by the story of how one society of people chose to live their lives together, in union. Recently, events across our nation have given each of us the opportunity to reflect, in our own way, on the concepts of community, equality and prejudice.

The Shakers of Pleasant Hill were often persecuted, both for their religious beliefs, and for their acceptance of so many members that had struggled to find equality elsewhere. In a world where enslaved people were led through their village in chains, the Shakers stood strong in their belief in equality, and gladly accepted African Americans to live equally with them as brothers and sisters.

We mourn the death of Mr. Floyd and

Ms. Taylor, and also the violence and inequality that plague too many of our brothers and sisters today. We will work tirelessly to create a safe place for all of our visitors and employees. We will strive to provide historic context, and contribute to our nation's collective effort to learn, listen and heal together. We recommit ourselves to our inclusive mission to inspire generations by sharing the legacies of the Kentucky Shakers.

We are but one small place in a much larger world, but we will do our part.

**Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village** is having a "sponsor a lamb" program, an opportunity for you to support Shaker Village. Your one-time donation of \$200—representing less than 55 cents a day—provides the support the animals need for an entire year. It also helps improve our hayfields and restore pastureland.

Each participant of the program will receive (within a week):

- A handmade tote created from the very grain bags that feed the sheep
- An 8x12 photograph of your lamb
- A certificate of your sponsorship

If you choose to sponsor for a friend or relative be sure to provide their name and mailing address. Payment can be made by addressing a check to "The Shaker Society" along with a letter mailed to: ATTN: SHEEP, The Shaker Society, 707 Shaker Road, New Gloucester, ME 04260



**Have you paid your  
2020  
CSA Membership?  
If you haven't, there is a  
form enclosed in this  
newsletter.  
PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**



## Music of Communal Groups

**Nicholas Alva**, a historian and composer, in December, completed a musical audiobook based upon the true history of **Morning Star Ranch** Commune, the "accidental" commune outside of Occidental, California, founded by Lou Gottlieb and Ramon Sender that existed from 1966 till 1972. This was often referred to as the "hippy commune", or the "digger commune," as it flowered after the beginning of the Summer of Love in San Francisco. The history and the intention of the commune, *Open Land Access to Which is Denied No One*, is fascinating and rather unique, particularly since Lou Gottlieb, after many legal battles with the law and the courts of Sonoma County, deeded the Land to God. A Sonoma County Registrar's Office clerk accepted the signed document and stamped it, making it official that God (not any specifically named god) owned private property in Sonoma County. The Court's legal ruling on God's right to own property remains the Law of the Land in the United States.

There are many general common and unique elements to the history, to the story, of Morning Star Ranch. There exist many documents, some published, regarding the history of Morning Star Ranch. I was also able to interview many of the people associated with Morning Star Ranch, including Ramon Sender, who has remained a very good friend, and was invaluable in connecting me with documents and people and editing nearly all of the written material I developed regarding Morning Star Ranch. Further both Lou Gottlieb, former member of the folk group, "The Limelitters," and Ramon Sender (San Francisco Tape Music Center) are musicians and composers, and some of their songs became the foundational source of music for this musical audiobook production.

In 2005, *MorningStar* a play with music and dance, started to be performed in various permutations,

with a full on performance in 2008. In 2016, Alva began work on an extended musical audiobook, *MorningStar, a Play as Musical Audio Book*, with the intention of having a large scale, long-playing artistic document telling and performing the story of Morning Star Ranch.

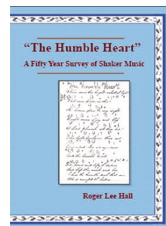
*MorningStar a Play as Musical Audio Book* is available as a download only at Bandcamp.com. It is best to type in the entire name as there are a number of other titles with Morning Star in the title.

<https://bandcamp.com/search?q=MorningStar%20a%20Play%20as%20Musical%20Audio%20Book>



In 1969, **Roger Lee Hall** visited Hancock Shaker Village in Massachusetts. After that visit, he began his research on the unusual Shaker music notation using letters of the alphabet rather than traditional music notes. While at Binghamton University, he completed a paper titled, "The Shaker Letteral System: A Practical Approach to Music Notation."

After graduation in 1972 with an M.A. in Ethnomusicology, he continued with Ph.D. studies in musicology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio where he collected research on all the music from one Shaker community in Ohio. This was published as: "May We Ever Be United": Music of the North Union, Ohio Shakers (PineTree Press, 2012).



To celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Shaker music research he has compiled an extensive computer disc available on a DVD-ROM with hundreds of files including some of his publications, plus audio and video features. The title of his collection is named after the first Shaker hymn he wrote an article about for *The Shaker Messenger Magazine*: "The Humble Heart": A Fifty Year Survey of Shaker Music available from <http://www.americanmusicpreservation.com/TheHumbleHeart.htm>

## CSA Member News

**Katherine Manthorne** is pleased to announce her new book *Restless Enterprise: The Art and Life of Eliza Pratt Greatorex* due to appear from University of California Press in late Fall 2020, in time to celebrate the Centenary of the Nineteenth Amendment. Now largely overlooked, Greatorex was the most recognized woman artist in New York in the 1860s and 1870s. She considered oil painting but one element in her repertoire that embraced pen and ink drawing, heliotype, books, portfolios and plein-air etching. Her attitude freed me to move away from the privileged status of the art object to investigate her communal approach to art-making entwined with her two artist-daughters and her sister; her involvement with the women's movement; her role in the founding of art colonies in Cragmoor, NY and Colorado Springs, CO; and her commitment to the pedagogy and promotion of her community of female critics, collectors, writers and artists.

**Mitchell Jones'** MA thesis for the College at Brockport was just posted on the Digital Commons website. Here is the URL: [Hunting for Harmony: The Skaneateles Community and Utopian Socialism in Upstate New York - 1825-1853](https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/theses/111/).

The Skaneateles Community was a utopian socialist commune that existed from 1843 to 1846 in Mottville, New York. Abolitionist lecturer John Anderson Collins founded the community on the non-resistance and no-government principles of abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. Collins and his Skaneateles followers, so-called communists, sought to live in a godless, harmonious, communist utopia, free of both chattel and wage slavery. They eschewed private property, declared the virtues of communism and shared everything.

**Communiqué**, the Newsletter of The Communal Studies Association, P. O. Box 122, Amana, IA 52203, [info@communalstudies.org](mailto:info@communalstudies.org), [www.communalstudies.org](http://www.communalstudies.org)  
Send news items to Editor Susan Brown, [slbrown@fau.edu](mailto:slbrown@fau.edu)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Editor's Note: With the Coronavirus Pandemic, many events at historic communal sites have either been cancelled or modified. As the outlook for later in 2020 is unknown, we decided not to include a calendar in this issue. Here's hoping for a better 2021!

### Communes On Film

A recent online discussion on Hamilton College's Communal Studies Listserv (COMMUNAL-STUDIES@LISTSERV.HAMILTON.EDU) produced the following list. Sources were not given, but some are available on YouTube or Netflix.

*40 Years on The Farm* <https://vimeo.com/309518633>

*Wild Wild Country*

(Rajneeshpuram)

*Commune* (Black Bear Ranch)

*American Commune* (The Farm)

*Children of God* (The Family)

*Barbara Rubin and the Exploding*

*NY Underground* (East Hill

Farm, Allen Ginsberg's com-

mune and Beat rehab project)

*Last Believer* (Mary's City of

David)

*Father's Kingdom* (Father Divine)

*Hippie Family Values* (Los

Mimbres, New Mexico)

*Briars in the Cotton Patch*

(Koinonia Farm)

*Let the Fire Burn* (MOVE Organi-

zation)

*The Source Family*

*Jonestown: Terror in the Jungle*

*The Shakers* (Ken Burns)



Shirley Andrews, left, with her communal trivia prize, with Laurie Ward.

### Mother Ann Lee's Birthday Party

Tim Miller held an Ann Lee Birthday Celebration at his house on Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>, which he holds every four years. It was Ann Lee's 284<sup>th</sup> birthday, or perhaps 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday if you consider that she was born on a Leap Day. It was attended by several CSA members -- **Deborah Altus**, **Etta Madden**, **Holly Folk**, and **Shirley Andrews**. Shirley Andrews won the communal studies trivia contest and received a painting of Pleasant Hill from **Laurie Ward**, a Shaker descendant who is a friend.



### Center for Communal Studies Announce Winners for 2020

The Center for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana has announced the winners of the 2020 Prizes and Travel Grant:

- **\$250 Undergraduate Prize:** **Alexander Dandy**, University of Southern Indiana for "The MAGIC of Senior Cohousing and the Theory of Developmental Communalism"
- **\$500 Graduate Prize:** **Thomas A. Guiler**, Winterthur Museum and University of Delaware for "The Soul of the Workmen is His Work: Sacred Craftsmanship in Hallowed Spaces"
- **\$2,000 Research Travel Grant:** **Rafal Soborski**, Richmond—The American International University of London for project on "Patterns of Prefiguration and Consensus Decision Making in Communal Politics"



## “Emerging Spiritual Practices for a Wounded Planet” Conference Postponed

In compliance with Harvard University's stance on Covid-19, we have postponed the Program for the Evolution of Spirituality Mini-Conference. We intend on rescheduling for this fall 2020, but there are no definite plans at this time.

This one-day event will explore innovative spiritual practices that are emerging in response to the painful realities of climate change, mass extinction, biodiversity loss, and the disruption of local and global ecosystems. It will feature a series of hour-long workshops, each devoted to one or more emerging practices, followed by a concluding panel with all workshop presenters. We will continue to post updates on our website as we know more. Thank you for your patience as we adapt our plans.

## Hidden Collections Grant from CSA

Does your organization, library or the community you study have papers they would like to digitize and place online? The Communal Studies Association offers a \$2500 grant for digitizing (including digitizing of existing microfilm) materials related to communal studies.

The application is open to any non-profit organization, current communal group, historic site or library. The digitized material must be then made available to the public online. A dollar-to-dollar match is required. Half of the requested funds are given up front and the remainder when the project is completed. This “hidden collection” grant is for materials that are not currently available online.

For more information, go to our website [www.communalstudies.org/hidden-collections-grant-application-form](http://www.communalstudies.org/hidden-collections-grant-application-form) **The deadline for applications is September 1, with the winner notified by October 1.**

## “Communities of Hope” Film

On June 4 several CSA members gathered with about 130 others via Zoom for the premiere of a new documentary, *Communities of Hope*, by Lou and Diego of The Great Relation Films. Sponsored in part by the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) Europe, the 30-minute video, the producers' first, explores “the social, economic, ecological and cultural dimensions of sustainability” of ecovillages. Much of the production came from Lou and Diego's time at the GEN



Europe conference in July 2019 at La Comune di Bagnaia in Italy. They added to that material information from their visits to other villages and footage offered by Tamera (Spain), Damanhur (Italy) and Amalurra (Spain).

The premiere was followed by break out small group discussion and a Q & A with the producers. Most questions were about ecovillages in general rather than about the film production or details of any specific village mentioned in the film.

Likewise, the documentary provides an introductory overview than an in-depth discussion. With beautiful images and engaging voices, the video captures many of the qualities that entice newcomers to learning more about communal life in general and ecovillages in particular. It addresses basic questions, such as “What is an ecovillage?” Although the documentary does not provide any history of the movement, it discusses ongoing concerns, such as living in cooperation and dealing with conflict. It would be an ideal addition to a course syllabus or to engage discussion in community.

Those who missed the premiere are able to view it now through YouTube: <https://communitiesofhopefilm.org/watch/> The video website, [communitiesofhope.org](http://communitiesofhope.org), also includes more information and the opportunity to donate.

- Etta Madden

## “Ecological Spiritualities” Conference Planned

The Harvard Divinity School Program for the Evolution of Spirituality has announced an inaugural conference on “Ecological Spiritualities” for April 7-10, 2021. Presentations

and workshops will explore the evolution of earth-based spiritual traditions and highlight innovative spiritual practices that are emerging in response to the painful realities of climate change, mass extinction, biodiversity loss, and the disruption of local and global ecosystems.

If in-person meetings are not possible by spring 2021, we will postpone the conference until a later date. Regardless, there will be opportunities for remote presentations if a speaker is unable to travel to Cambridge.

We invite all in the study of religion and related fields to submit paper proposals from a variety of theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary perspectives. We also welcome proposals from spiritual leaders, environmental activists, farmers, and others whose work places them at the intersection of spirituality and ecology.

Our aim is to present a broad range of papers that address the theme of earth-based spiritualities from a range of methodological approaches in the context of various religious traditions and geographical regions. Possible topics include the ecological revival of animist, shamanist, and pagan traditions; ecology in indigenous and diasporic spiritual traditions; ancient and contemporary practices of herbalism and alchemy; the spiritual consequences of climate change and mass extinction; spiritual sources for environmental activism; cultural appropriation within plant medicine and spiritual traditions; spiritual practices in sustainable agriculture, and more.

Submission deadline: October 1, 2020 (proposals received by July 15 will receive an early decision). For more information on submitting a paper or conference logistics, please visit <https://hds.harvard.edu/faculty-research/>.



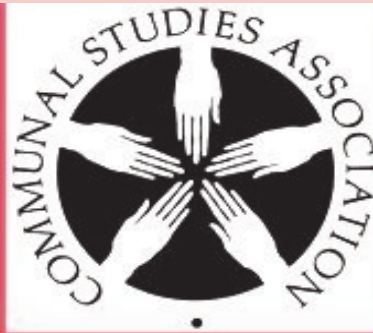




PLEASE POST



# Communal Studies Association 46th Annual Conference Will Now Be Virtual



Communal Studies  
Association  
Virtual Conference  
2020

## October 1-3, 2020

Sessions to run 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EDT  
Information, Draft Program and Registration  
at

**[www.communalstudies.org](http://www.communalstudies.org)**



## COMMUNIQUÉ

*Address Service Requested*

### The Communal Studies Association Newsletter

P. O. Box 122  
Amana, IA 52203

info@communalstudies.org  
www.communalstudies.org



**Virtual Conference  
October 1-3, 2020**

### CSA Membership

PLEASE PASS THIS FORM ON TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE — ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN CSA!

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular, \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime, \$600
<input type="checkbox"/> Outside North America, \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Institutional, \$90
<input type="checkbox"/> Couples, \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Student \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining, \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired, \$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$200	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Member \$20

Please send this membership form and check payable (U. S. Funds only) to:

**Communal Studies Association  
P.O. Box 122  
Amana, Iowa 52203**

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Communal interests (list no more than two) \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ If you do **not** want to be included in the Membership Directory, please indicate by checking here.

\_\_\_\_\_ Along with my membership, I wish to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to CSA.