

# Communiqué

The Communal Studies Association Newsletter

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2021

**Virtual Conference**  
Sept. 30-October 2

2022

**Canterbury, NH**  
Sept. 29-October 1

2023

**New Harmony, IN**  
Date TBD

2024

**Ephrata, PA**  
Date TBD

## 2021 Conference Again Is Virtual

Ah, the best-laid plans.... We were supposed to be enjoying early fall in Yellow Springs, Ohio this year, but the uncertainties of the Pandemic necessitated the decision to have our Annual Conference online yet again. Dates are **Thursday, September 30 to Saturday, October 2**.

Sessions will be held on Zoom Webinar, with real-time Q & A via its chat feature. New this year will be a virtual field trip to Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage (see sidebar) on Wednesday, a "happy hour" via breakout rooms on Saturday and, possibly, our annual Auction on Friday night. Our Annual Meeting and Awards presentations will occur on Thursday evening.

Program chair Josh Lockyer has lined up a stellar program of sessions and panels, necessitating one more daily session than last year.

The Foundation for Intentional Community (FIC) is co-

panels will discuss the Center for Communal Studies and recent books.

The keynote speaker will be **Tendai Chitewere** who will discuss sustainability in intentional communities.

Sessions will run from 10:00 a.m. until 6:45 p.m. Eastern all three days, with evening programs beginning at 7:00 p.m. There will be no concurrent sessions; participants can pick and choose the sessions of their choice, or attend all of them. Links to the online sessions will be e-mailed to registrants a few days beforehand.

Registration is \$65 for CSA members, \$80 for non-members (both until September 15, when these prices will rise) and a CSA Supporter level of \$100. Students and community members are \$25. The fee for the Dancing Rabbit tour is \$20, which will be shared with the community. Registration is online via PayPal and your credit card (you need not be a member of PayPal).

To register, for more information and the draft program, go to [www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference](http://www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference).

Hope to "see" you there!

## Dancing Rabbit Virtual Tour

Dancing Rabbit is a small intentional community intent on growing to be a village of several hundred, and is an experiment in cooperative culture, incorporating people from different backgrounds, lifestyles, ages, and worldviews, coming together to develop, grow, and demonstrate a collaborative, regenerative, and just society. The "inner sustainability" of their community depends on shared purpose, interpersonal connection, individual growth and building internal resilience through play, work, and celebration.

Following a virtual tour of their community and of the systems and structures they have put in place to support their goals, join past and present members of Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage, for a panel discussion highlighting how the lessons learned living in community have translated into supporting their current work and activities in the wider world. The panel presentation will be followed by a virtual Q&A with conference session participants. Cost for this "virtual field trip" is \$20, which will be shared equally with the village. Go to [www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference](http://www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference) to register. Confirmed panelists include: Tony Sirna, a Dancing Rabbit founder, now working with Citizen's Climate Lobby; Danielle Williams, Dancing Rabbit's Executive Director; and David Carleton, a longtime member and coordinator for Research and Outreach at Dancing Rabbit. For more information, go to [www.dancingrabbit.org](http://www.dancingrabbit.org)



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-sponsoring this year's conference, and their members will be heading up panels on the Earthaven community, community sustainability, young people in community and BIPOC members in community. Other (non FIC)



## Message from the CSA President Susan Love Brown



There is a lot to look forward to with the upcoming CSA virtual conference, September 30 to October 2, 2021. Please register if you haven't already, as this promises to be an exciting conference. One thing to look forward to, in keeping with the conference theme of "Sustainability, Justice, and Inclusivity," is the virtual pre-conference tour of Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage. Here is your chance to learn about a contemporary community and the practices it has undertaken to turn its ideas into a way of life.

Some years ago, on a tour of intentional communities in the Midwest, I had the opportunity to visit Dancing Rabbit during a conference of the International Communal Studies Association (ICSA) at Amana, Iowa. Then, the community was new, and we were given a tour of its existing buildings and facilities and got to see a number of innovative ideas for living off the grid being implemented in real time. I was impressed then with the ingenuity of the young people who undertook the mission and the hard work that they were put into the creation of the Dancing Rabbit community. Not many people used the term "ecovillage" back then, but today more and more intentional communities are choosing to build communities that are ecologically sustainable. We hope you will join us on this pre-conference tour.

We are joined in this year's conference by our conference co-sponsor, The Fellowship of Intentional Community (FIC), whose members have made substantial con-

tributions toward our understanding of intentional community over the decades. Together, we hope to provide you with a stimulating exploration of community once again!

## Guiler Takes New Job

Tom Guiler, Vice President of the Communal Studies Association, has recently accepted the position of Director of Museum Affairs at the Oneida Community Mansion House. Tom will oversee the interpretation, collections management, and educational wing of the institution in upstate, NY. Tom said, "It is a really amazing opportunity to contribute to the revitalization of this iconic site. With plans in the works to conserve the historic structure, showcase the stories of all the people who worked and lived at the Mansion House, and oversee an incredible collection, it is an amazing opportunity to work at a place I have been interested in since college! While it is bittersweet to leave Winterthur, I am so glad that I was able to show the Communal Studies Association the amazing communal studies collections at Winterthur at the 2019 Conference. I look forward to welcoming you back to Oneida soon!" Tom will start at the Mansion House in September.



## Bob Rosenthal Dies

Long-time CSA member Robert "Dr. Bob" James Rosenthal, age 82, of Dupont, Indiana passed from this life on Friday, February 26, 2021.

Born on March 31, 1938 in Hartford, Wisconsin to the late Armond and Virginia Rosenthal, it was a hometown and childhood he always cherished.

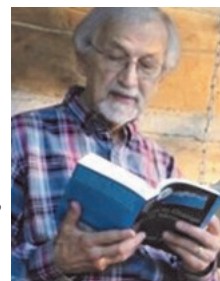
He attended St. Olaf College in Minnesota, and married his first wife, Grace

Hildebrandt, during his student years. From there

he went on to earn his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Maryland. While there, their daughter Sonya was born in Washington, D.C.

Shortly after, Bob started his teaching career at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. There he developed a lifelong love of trout fishing.

In 1967 he came to Hanover College where he taught philosophy until his retirement in 2014. He developed a creative range of courses, finding special purpose in his class "Concepts of Love" and his distinctive experiential class "Utopias and Intentional Communities." Over the years, many students let him know how impactful these courses were for them.... a source of deep satisfaction to him. He acted on his love for the College community in many ways - in the early 1970's he helped found a student coffee house, Dove Cottage, and throughout his career found special delight in sharing his folk singing and could be seen strolling campus in his beret. He held a deep respect for the life and art of Harlan and Anna Hubbard, taking many classes down to Payne Hollow so students could experience the beauty of their way of life. Later Bob helped found The Friends of the Hubbards as well as the Communal Studies Association and coordinated two conferences on campus dedicated to sharing and exploring the Hubbard way. His 47-year teaching career at Hanover stands as the second longest in the history of the College.



## Executive Director's Column By Kathy Fernandez



Many of you are academics teaching in many disciplines. In fact, I am constantly amazed at the number of subjects our members teach – spanning the fields of history to philosophy to literature to religion to sociology to anthropology. (Have I missed any?) Or, maybe I should not be surprised – after all, the study of intentional communities is the study of life and the ways we live together.

We have recently received several inquiries via our website from students wishing to find a **program of study** that focuses on communities, and realized we don't have such a list. We further realized that one might be an integral part of our new website.

If you teach such a program, know of one in your institution or elsewhere, or have ideas of the subjects that might comprise such a course of study, please let me know by e-mailing me at [kathyfernandez@neo.rr.com](mailto:kathyfernandez@neo.rr.com) and we will add it to the the website.

In addition, the **bibliography** resources on the site are woefully out of date. If you have a recent bibliography of a particular community or community-related subject that you would not mind sharing with the world, please also forward to me for posting. Compiler credit will be cheerfully given.

One last thing – we need applications for our **2021 Digitization Grant**. This matching grant provides \$1500 to organizations or libraries to scan and place communal-related documents online. For more, go to [www.communal-studies.org/hidden-collections-grant](http://www.communal-studies.org/hidden-collections-grant)

## Other Communal Studies Conferences

The 21st Conference of the **Utopian Studies Society (Europe)** starts from the conviction that this is a **turning point for Utopian Studies**: Its online format is a sign of the times as well as an opportunity for raising global awareness and stimulate collective thinking about problems. The COVID-19 pandemic has decimated millions of lives, caused the economic and social disruption of societies already in crisis, and has had a global impact on people's livelihoods and wellbeing. This is the moment to show that **the only future we will get is the one we are capable of imagining**.

The conference, held December 10-12, 2021, will have the threefold objective of **raising awareness, analysing old and new utopian spaces and discourses, and creating a forum for delegates to co-design the future**. Hopefully, a document will result from this co-designing activity – **The Porto Declaration on Utopian Possibilities** – to be signed by individuals and institutions, acknowledging the productivity of a utopian thinking methodology and asserting the universities as privileged places for training utopian minds.

For more information go to <https://utopian-studies-europe.org>

The **International Communal Studies Association** will be hosting our next triennial conference on **July 14-16, 2022 in beautiful Denmark**, home of the cohousing movement and so much more! If you've been saving your pennies for post-pandemic conference going, this is a great opportunity to experience some of Europe's finest intentional communities and interact with scholars from around the world. The conference will also have a hybrid structure to enable participation by those who are not able to travel. Either way, we'd love to see your paper or workshop proposals! The theme is Co-Creating Community: Evolving Models of Intentional Community; please note that the deadline is November 1, 2021, and that if you are

able to submit a proposal by July 15, we'll be able to give you an expedited response (which may be helpful if you need to apply for institutional funds to support your travel). To submit a proposal, please email your proposal to conference chair Dan McKanan at [dmckanan@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:dmckanan@hds.harvard.edu). (An online submission portal may be available later.) For more information: <http://communa.org.il/icsa/index.php/en/allcategories-en-gb/conferences/denmark-2022>



The inaugural conference on **"Ecological Spiritualities,"** will take place on **Wednesday-Saturday, April 27-30, 2022** at Swartz Hall at the Harvard University Divinity School. The planners anticipate that this conference will be an extremely fruitful opportunity for deep learning among scholars, practitioners, spiritual leaders, and others who care about the intersection of spirituality and ecology.

For more information regarding the conference, please write [pes@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:pes@hds.harvard.edu). Registration will open in fall 2021. Attendees can participate in person or virtually or in-person.



**Have you paid your  
2021  
CSA Membership?  
If you haven't, there is a  
form enclosed in this  
newsletter.  
PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**



## Communal News

The **Bishop Hill Swedish Prairie Utopia** in Illinois celebrates its 175th year with programming running through this year.

<https://www.visitbishophill.com/bishophillevntcalendar.html>



The **Israelite House of David** in Benton Harbor, Michigan, has been a flurry of activity since January. A new historian and archivist has begun a series of new initiatives. These include a film and audio digitization project to go along with its ongoing photo digitization efforts. In the past six months hundreds of photos and recordings have been catalogued and digitized, including forty House of David home movies from the 1930s to the 1960s and dozens of reel-to-reel and cassette audio tapes made by House of David members from 1950 to 1980. These recordings include band concerts, choir performances, and sermons given by members.

They have also begun identifying, cataloging, and restoring almost fifty historic instruments left from the House of David professional touring and concert bands, and have also purchased some vintage House of David-made instruments that have recently come up for sale, including an exceedingly rare 1932 custom-built guitar made in the colony's workshops--one of only two known. It is currently being professionally restored.

The organization's voluminous manuscript, ephemera, and printed material collections are being organized. In the process we discovered

previously unknown diaries kept by members, dozens of albums full of newspaper clippings, thousands of letters to and from members (both personal and official correspondence), as well as a veritable trove of business records from the colony's numerous business enterprises. Additionally, work has begun on a monograph about the experiences of the Christian Israelite communities in Benton Harbor during World War II.

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that the **Historic Ephrata Cloister** is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for their **2020 Virtual Holiday Programming**. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 76th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. As the COVID-19 pandemic raged, Ephrata Cloister staff re-imaging their popular 40-plus-year holiday program tradition as virtual programs. The result was three virtual programs: *Candlelight Chat* a Facebook Live first person conversation with Ephrata Householder, Michael Miller; a 40 minute recorded version of *Christmas at the Cloister* with photo collage images of the Cloister and previously recorded music by the Ephrata Cloister Chorus that was shown via Zoom and YouTube; and "Witness to History" a 40 minute film featuring Ephrata's Student Historians and Ephrata Cloister's role as a hospital in 1777/1778, which was also shown via Zoom and YouTube.



Ephrata Cloister

The United Society of Shakers is America's oldest communal folk sect with the remaining few members living at Sabbathday Lake, Maine. Composer and ethnomusicologist, Roger Lee Hall, is one of the world's leading authorities on their music, having researched and written about it for over forty-five years. He is currently Director of the Center for American Music Preservation (CAMP), which provides materials for research and also CDs in the American Music Recordings Collection (AMRC). Recently, he has revised and expanded his earlier book and retitled it: **Gentle Words: The Meaning and Message of Shaker Music** (PineTree Press)

The newly expanded edition of this book is divided into several sections. Part One has a summary of Shaker music written by a past Shaker member from Canterbury, New Hampshire. There are also interviews with two past Shaker singers and an interview with the distinguished composer, Aaron Copland (1900-1990), whose arrangements of the Shaker song, "Simple Gifts," helped to make it known throughout the world. Part Two has lyrics to twenty-five (25) Shaker folk spirituals which the author has discovered and written about and recorded many of them. At the back of the book are four Shaker songs, arranged for chorus by Mr. Hall. There is also an accompanying CD available separately with all 25 Shaker spirituals in the book. For more about this book, see this link: <http://www.americanmusicpreservation.com/GentleWordsbook.htm>



**Communiqué**, the Newsletter of  
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## 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 2021 is still unknown, we decided not to include a calendar in this issue.

## News about Current Intentional Communities



**Eco Village Voice** is an online community featuring a magazine and includes videos, podcasts and webinars. It provides inspiration, networking and educational articles on many aspects of ecovillage living. It encourages communication between other ecovillages to help each other and for the sake of our planet's well-being – exploring “ecoliving.” Become a member at [www.ecovillagevoice.com](http://www.ecovillagevoice.com).



### FIC COVID Survey Results

This spring, intentional communities in the FIC's Communities Directory completed a survey. The responses were collected and turned into a report that showcases the wide diversity of responses to Covid amongst intentional communities, offers guidance to other communities during the “opening up” phase of the pandemic, uplifts critical questions, and shares insight into both the opportunities and challenges of life in community. The report can be found here: [https://www.ic.org/covid-report/?mc\\_cid=2a14d22d7c&mc\\_eid=0b5a631d22](https://www.ic.org/covid-report/?mc_cid=2a14d22d7c&mc_eid=0b5a631d22)

The **BIPOC Intentional Community Council** is now accepting applications to support communities and individuals no matter where they are in the process. Our first set of funds will be focused on communities that have or are ready to purchase land or housing—however, we encourage everyone to apply so we can understand your needs for the future.

The BIPOC Council will provide these types of support:

- Financial: grants or loans
- Intentional Community Training: workshops, courses, and consultants within the intentional community movement.
- Networking: connection with other communities and seekers
- Legal: support from a legal team
- Land search: support from real estate agents

There are no requirements to apply, but the Council is interested in supporting BIPOC-led communities and communities that are committed to the inclusion of BIPOC. Communities that are majority white will be limited in the amount of financial support they receive. Funding for individuals will be limited to those who identify as BIPOC.

Applications can be sent here: <https://www.bipocicc.org/apply-for-funds/>



The Summer 2021 issue of **Communities**, focused on **Ecological Culture**, includes an extra 30-page digital-only section which is available as a separate, free digital supplement for online viewing and/or download. It contains eight articles not appearing in the print edition, including an 11-page collection of stories and photos compiled from a dozen alumni of The Farm in Tennessee, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. It's full of lots of historical reflections which I imagine will be of interest to subscribers to this list. You can find it for free at <https://www.gen-us.net/191.1>



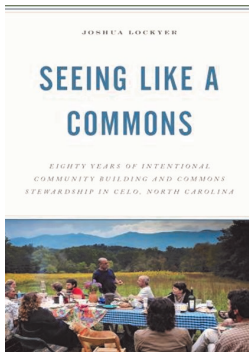


## Books, Books, Books and more Communal Books!

In *Seeing Like a Commons*, Joshua Lockyer demon-

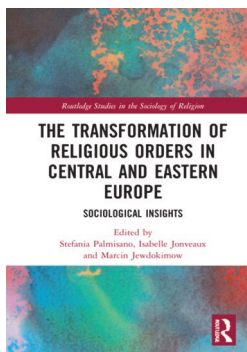
strates how a growing group of people have, over the last eighty years, deliberately built Celo Community, a communal settlement on 1,200 acres of commonly owned land in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. Joshua Lockyer highlights the potential for intentional communities like Celo to raise awareness of global interconnectivity and structural inequalities, enabling people and communities to become better stewards and citizens of both local landscapes and global commons.

Use promo code: LEX30AUTH21 when ordering for a 30% discount valid until 12/31/21 <https://rowman.com/>



*The Transformation of Religious Orders in Central and Eastern Europe: Sociological Insights* is edited by Stephania Palmisano, Isabelle Jonveau and Marcin Jewdokimow. It is the first volume to explore various facets of contemporary change in consecrated religious life in selected Central and Eastern European countries. The book presents a series of studies of Catholic and Orthodox monasticism.

With attention to changes in the economy, everyday life, organisation and social presence of monastic orders, contributors shed light on the impact of 20th and 21st century social



and cultural processes – such as communism and its collapse or the growth of new communication technologies – on life in the cloister.

Bringing together research from various locations in Central and Eastern Europe, it will appeal to scholars and students of sociology, religious studies and theology, with interests in religious orders and transformations of religious life from a social perspective. Available from <https://www.routledge.com/>

In *The Kingdom of God is at Hand*, Theodore Kallman illuminates the brief life of a Christian socialist community founded by four men—a minister, an editor, a professor, and an engineer—on a worn-out cotton plantation just outside Columbus, Georgia, in 1896. Inspired by primitive Christianity, postmillennial optimism, and American democracy, its courageous, yet naïve, members labored for over four years to achieve their goal, the “Kingdom of God.”

Radical by some perspectives, they were emulating two great traditions: the apostolic Christianity of the followers of Christ and the Puritan desire to found a “city upon the hill.” Kallman explains how Christ’s Sermon on the Mount and the anarchism of Leo Tolstoy took root in west-central Georgia and attracted worldwide attention, including that of Tolstoy and Jane Addams..

Although the Christian Commonwealth only lasted until 1901, its combination of religious communitarianism and socialist ideology proved attractive to many during its existence. They did not realize their hope for social salvation, but for many, personal regeneration brought on by love and sacrifice led them to further endeavors in pur-



suit of a more humane world.

In Kallman’s capable hands, what appears to be a minor blip on the history of Georgia and radical thought in the United States instead emerges as a story that teaches us much about Gilded Age America and provides a necessary context for the surging interest in America’s socialist past. Available from [www.ugapress.com](http://www.ugapress.com).

A new, translated compilation of 86 testimonies by Ursula Meyer is now available. *A Heavenly Twilight* is the first collection in the English language from the Amana Church of testimonies by one inspired *Werkzeug* and includes testimonies first published in German. (*Ein Himmlischer Abendschein*, 1781).

Between 1715 and 1719, Meyer, from Thun, Switzerland who worked alongside E.L. Gruber, Johann Adam Gruber, and J.F. Rock, delivered more than 265 inspired testimonies. Of these 156 were published in *Ein Himmlischer Abendschein*; 86 translated testimonies are in the new book. These testimonies communicate to us the all-encompassing character of God’s love and his desire to gently embrace all of his children in his love. They are meant to be a light to guide us through the darkness; .

The critical preservation of manuscripts having been accomplished via 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century archivists and historians of the church, has been continued through, Lanny Haldy and John Bendorf, whose efforts to digitize and electronically preserve have made accessible the contents of the Amana Church archive.

Translation of Meyer testimonies has been the undertaking of Janet Zuber since she found a copy of *Ein Himmlischer Abendschein* in the attic of High Amana Church decades ago. Copies of that book are rare. Previous to Zuber’s work, not one testimony by Meyer had been translated. *A Heavenly Twilight* includes information about the testimonies, notes and a forward discussing the life and work of Ursula Meyer, written by Emilie Hoppe.

It is available on the Amana Church’s online bookstore and via the Amana Heritage Society website/bookstore.



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

for the Annual Conference of

**The Communal Studies Association**

**September 30 – October 2, 2021**

**“Sustainability, Justice, & Inclusivity”**

**HELD VIRTUALLY via Zoom Webinar**

**Co-Sponsored By:**



Sessions begin each day at 10:00 a.m. EDT

Special Pre-Conference Virtual Tour of

Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage at 2:30 p.m. EDT on Wed. Sept. 29

Preliminary Program and Registration at

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

Or mail the following form:

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

☐ CSA member \$65 (before 9/15)

☐ Non-member \$80 (before 9/15)

☐ CSA member \$75 (after 9/15)

☐ Non-member \$90 (after 9/15)

☐ Student/FIC/Community member

☐ CSA Supporter \$100

☐ Dancing Rabbit Virtual Tour \$20

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to CSA; mail to CSA, c/o Kathy Fernandez, 4840 Pond Dr. NW, North Canton, OH 44720



## COMMUNIQUÉ

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### The Communal Studies Association Newsletter

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info@communalstudies.org  
www.communalstudies.org



**Register TODAY**  
**2021 Virtual Conference**  
**Sept. 30-Oct. 2**

### 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:

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**P.O. Box 122**  
**Amana, Iowa 52203**

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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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.