2021 Virtual Conference Report

Circumstances again caused the 2021 Communal Studies Conference to be held online. A recurrence of the Covid-19 virus and difficulties with accommodations at the planned Yellow Springs, Ohio site caused the CSA Board to make the decision to again hold a virtual conference.

Nonetheless, we had a full slate of presenters. Tendai Chitewere of San Francisco State University gave the keynote lecture on the conference theme of inclusion, diversity, and social justice in intentional communities.

Sessions were again held individually rather than concurrently, and recordings were made beforehand to be used in case of technical difficulties. Sessions ranged from how Covid has impacted communities, to community leadership, to the influence of New Dealer Arthur Morgan.

In addition to its annual meeting and awards (see sidebar), the CSA even held its fundraising auction online, and, thanks to some generous donors, made almost as much money as its live counterpart. Saturday evening featured Zoom breakout sessions.

Thank you to program chair Josh Lockyer of Arkansas Technical University, our many presenters and to our technical support guru, John Luchin, for making this second foray into cyberspace a success. Here’s hoping we can meet in person at Canterbury Shaker Village in 2022.

2021 CSA Awards

The annual CSA Awards were presented at the Thursday evening virtual Business Meeting. Christian Goodwillie of the Hamilton College Library was this year’s Distinguished Scholar. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints’ restoration of buildings in Nauvoo, IL was this year’s Project winner. Joshua Lockyer’s book on the Celo community, “Seeing Like a Commons” won this year’s Book award. The winner of the Article award was “A Not so Silent Form of Activism: Intentional Communities as Collective Action Reservoir” by Zach Rubin, published in the journal Humanity and Society in 2020. There were no winners for the 2021 Starting Scholar or Research Fellowship.

Nominations for the CSA’s 2022 awards are now open. We encourage members to suggest worthy nominees. We especially urge those who teach in the field to recommend students for the Starting Scholar Award. The Research Fellowship is available to any CSA member who wishes to pursue work that will lead to a presentation at a CSA conference.

Please go to www.communalstudies.org/awards for more information and nomination forms.

Canterbury
Conference Info

Mark your calendars for September 29-October 1, 2022 to be at Canterbury Shaker Village for the 48th Annual Communal Studies Conference. The conference theme is “Communities Emerging from Crisis,” appropriate for the (hopefully) post-Covid era. Submit your paper and panel proposals on our website www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference.

Rooms have been reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott in Concord, New Hampshire (70 Constitution Ave., Concord) at $152.00 per night. To reserve a room, call the motel directly at 603/225-0303 and tell them you are with the Communal Studies Association to receive this discounted rate. Rooms will be guaranteed only until September 9, 2022; after that date, the motel will release the rooms to the public, so please reserve your room early.

Two airports serve the Concord, New Hampshire area: MHT (Manchester-Boston) and BOS (Boston Logan International). MHT, a regional airport with limited commercial flights, is 24 minutes by car from the conference motel; BOS is one hour and 15 minutes away via I-93. If traveling by air, it is suggested that you rent a car to travel to and from the motel and conference, as no CSA-sponsored shuttle service will be provided to either the motel or the conference site of Canterbury Shaker Village (13.5 miles from the motel).
CSA Loses Two Pioneering Communal Scholars

Robert S. Fogarty

The Communal Studies Association and its members worldwide pay tribute to our friend and colleague Dr. Robert S. Fogarty who we always knew as “Bob.” Because he brought so much good humor and impeccable scholarship into our personal and professional lives, we celebrate Bob’s life rather than mourn his death on August 9, 2021 at age 82.

As a career-long history professor at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio and the award winning editor of its highly respected Antioch Review, Bob was one of the first recognized utopian communal scholars to lend his presence and prestige to efforts to establish a communal studies organization. He attended the Historic Communal Societies Conference at Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky in 1975 sponsored by the Center for Communal Studies of the present University of Southern Indiana. At this meeting, Bob became a founding member of the National Historic Communal Societies Association, now renamed the Communal Studies Association, and was elected as an invaluable member of its first board of directors.

In ten books on communal utopians from the Harmonists, Owenites, Fourierists, and Oneidans to the House of David, Branch Davians, and People’s Temple, Bob Fogarty established his reputation among the most productive communal historians. Bob’s theoretical expertise allowed him to delve deeply into the underlying utopian and dystopian ideas that motivated charismatic leaders to corral their disciples into the inviting but sometimes lethal communal form of organization. Bob presented his latest research at CSA conferences and consented to tender his own forthright but well-intentioned critical comments on others’ research and manuscripts prior to publication.

Always dignified but never aloof, Bob Fogarty related not only to communal scholars but also to the many other interested folks who attended CSA meetings. These included members of historic communal societies and their descendants, residents in current intentional communities, university students, and the interested public. Bob was comfortable in the roles of friend, colleague, and mentor.

We cannot count all the blessings and benefits we have received because Bob Fogarty passed our way. But we can thank Bob’s family for sharing this remarkable man with us. As long as our pleasant memories and his prodigious scholarship endure, Bob will live on in a multitude of hearts and minds.

Donald Pitzer

Mario S. De Pillis, Sr.

The Communal Studies Association mourns the loss of one of our founders, and a giant in the fields of both communal and Mormon studies. Mario S. De Pillis, Sr. passed away from cancer and complications incident to old age in Amherst on November 18, 2021. He was pre-deceased in 2013 by his first wife, Freda Rustemeyer. He is survived by his second wife, Constance M. McGovern.

Mario was the second of three sons of Vincent Carmine De Pillis and Giacinta Angelucci De Pillis. He was born in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on January 22, 1926. He attended St. Callistus Elementary School, from there he went to St. Thomas More high school. During World War II he joined the Army Air Corps and served in the occupation of Germany, training as a counter-intelligence agent (partly because of his knowledge of German).

Returning to the United States in 1948, he attended the College of the University of Chicago (BA 1952, MA in history 1954). There he met Freda, whom he married on June 21, 1952. In 1955-56 he matriculated at Yale University, taking a second MA and a Ph. D. in American history. His dissertation won the George Washington Egleston Prize.

Coming to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1958. He served on the first Board of Trustees (1960) of the Hancock Shaker Village, which was saved from becoming a race track. In 1965 he joined a group headed by the art historian David C. Huntington in preserving Olana, the architectural masterpiece of Frederic Edwin Church.

His major scholarly work concerned the extension of the story of Mormon communalism into the 20th century. From 1994 to 1995 he served as the 30th President of the Mormon History Association, only the second non-Mormon to do so. He was instrumental in the development of three scholarly journals still leading their fields: the Journal of Social History (with Peter Stearns); the Journal of Mormon History (assisting Jan Shipp and Leonard Arrington and others); and our own journal, Communal Societies. He was the second editor of Communal Societies, proud of specifying the typeface and design.

He is survived by his wife Constance M. McGovern (m. 2017); his three sons: Vincent, Mario Jr., and Alexander; and their wives and children. Donations in Mario’s memory may be made to Hancock Shaker Village, 1843 West Housatonic Street, Pittsfield 01201 (hancockshakervillage.org).

Christian Goodwillie
In 1942 a retired gentleman from New Jersey, Eugene Monroe, wanted to start a community to assist WWII veterans heal and grow after their wartime experiences. It started as a simple missionary outreach and grew into a community. To support the community a young Greek man, Theodore Zarpas, began to bake bread using an old family recipe. The bread was so popular that the community soon began a delivery service selling the product across the area. The community believed in growing its own materials to ensure the highest quality for the bakery.

By the late 1940s the bakery was such a success that the community expanded their line of baked goods and purchased trucks in order to be able to meet the growing demand. The farm was expanded, and other farmers were enlisted to grow and produce materials for the bakery and community. Early in the process, Shiloh Community insisted that the products be as clean and wholesome as possible. They had the farmers agree not to use pesticides or herbicides, and later even some fertilizers, to ensure the highest quality ingredients.

By the 1950s the community was listing the ingredients on the labels of their products and nutritional information, so customers knew the products were wholesome and healthy. More than 15 years passed before the U.S. government began asking companies to supply this information on product labels, and the practice

was mostly voluntary until 1989.

In 1962, after the death of community leader Father Monroe, and then his son, James Janisch, long time resident of the community, became the leader of the community. James moved the community to Sulphur Springs, Arkansas for a more central location for shipping the products nationwide. The business had grown and was producing thousands of food related products. Eventually the community would expand the line to include clothing, candles, and household products. Around 2007, Mr. Janisch closed the business because he felt the community had lost its mission and become too commercial. Unfortunately, soon the community members began to leave and dissolve. Thanks to Dr. Donald Janzen, the University of Southern Indiana was able to connect with this community and preserve its history.

At the University Archives and Special Collections, located in the David L. Rice Library at the University of Southern Indiana, you can see the records of the Shiloh Church & Trust community from its humble beginnings to the end. The collection includes information on the business, religion, educational programming, and individual members. There are pictures of the community online, https://digitalarchives.usi.edu/digital/collection/CSIC/search/searchterm/shiloh and a finding aid for the collection, https://digitalarchives.usi.edu/digital/collection/RCFA/id/3745/rec/1 This was a unique community with a singular mission. Often, we think of organic foods as a more contemporary notion, but Shiloh is an example of how communities were thinking progressively about food sourcing and the environment long before the practice became mainstream in society.

-Jennifer Greene, Archivist, Special Collections, University of Southern Indiana

Have you paid your 2022 CSA Membership? If you haven’t, there is a form enclosed in this newsletter. PLEASE RENEW TODAY!
ICSA Conference is in Denmark

The International Communal Studies Association will be holding its triennial conference this summer in Denmark, with papers and workshops by at least seventy-five presenters from around the scholarly and communal world. It will be held live at the Audonicon conference center as well as virtually.

Conference registration is now open. Thanks to the hard work of Cynthia Tina, the ICSA now has a brand new organizational website at https://www.icsacommunity.org/. Please register in three steps: first, purchase a 2022-2024 ICSA membership; second, make your actual conference registration. In order to make the conference as accessible as possible, both ICSA membership and conference registration are available on a sliding fee scale. We have a reduced rate for those of you who are students, low income, or living in income-sharing communities; a standard rate for those with professional incomes; and a sponsor rate for those who wish to help make the conference more accessible to others. Please consider the sponsor rate if it is at all possible for you. We are a small organization whose members have generally chosen idealism over income, and every bit of financial support helps. And if you are part of an intentional community that would like to send multiple people to the conference, please consider the “community package,” which allows communities to purchase an organizational membership in ICSA and then a group ticket to the conference.

We are also cooperating with a few nearby hotels, and the website has more information and links for these. You will also notice that we have small “early bird” discounts for those who register before February 1. Please do so if it is at all possible for you; this will help us to confirm our reservation with the Audonicon. Please register even if you are not sure whether you will be in-person or online; we will allow free changes between these options any time before 15th May. It is suggested that you delay purchasing airline tickets until the current COVID wave subsides, however.

We plan to conduct pre- and post-conference tours of Danish intentional communities. Many of the host communities for these tours have already confirmed; however, we are not yet in a position to finalize the costs. Please keep checking the website for more information on this.

Please spread the word of our conference, so as many people as possible are able to experience ICSA’s special blend of scholarly depth and communal commitment. Feel free to share the conference website with scholars and with people living in community—especially those in Scandinavia or northern Europe who are likely to find our location convenient. Even though the deadline for proposals has passed, we are able to consider additional proposals on an ad hoc basis. Please encourage anyone who might like to take advantage of this to be in touch with me directly.

If you have questions about any aspect of the conference, please don’t hesitate to reach out to ICSA chair Dan McKanan at dmckanan@hds.harvard.edu. Please register in three steps: first, purchase a 2022-2024 ICSA membership; second, make your actual conference registration. In order to make the conference as accessible as possible, both ICSA membership and conference registration are available on a sliding fee scale. We have a reduced rate for those of you who are students, low income, or living in income-sharing communities; a standard rate for those with professional incomes; and a sponsor rate for those who wish to help make the conference more accessible to others. Please consider the sponsor rate if it is at all possible for you. We are a small organization whose members have generally chosen idealism over income, and every bit of financial support helps. And if you are part of an intentional community that would like to send multiple people to the conference, please consider the “community package,” which allows communities to purchase an organizational membership in ICSA and then a group ticket to the conference.

FIC Board Minutes

Harvey Baker has collected, edited, and organized a complete collection of the minutes of all the Foundation for Intentional Community board of directors in-person meetings, from the first at Stelle in Spring 1987 to the most recent at Twin Oaks Fall 2018. All are now available as Google docs, in the following folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oEDFloYlITXtrrMTMHbM9U90C_Scheme=true. They have also been given to the USI Special Collections and to the Hamilton College collections in electronic format. The link to the minutes in the USI Special Collections is https://digitalarchives.usi.edu/digital/collection/CSIC/search/searchterm/board%20minutes.

Center for Communal Studies Awards

The Center for Communal Studies at the University of Southern Indiana annually invites submissions for its prize competition for the best undergraduate and graduate student papers on historic or contemporary communal groups, intentional communities and utopias. Submissions may come from any academic discipline and should be focused on a topic clearly related to communal groups.

- USI Center for Communal Studies Undergraduate Prize ($250)
- USI Center for Communal Studies Graduate Prize ($500)
- USI Center for Communal Studies Research Travel Grant ($2000)

Applications for the graduate and undergraduate prizes are due March 1; the Travel Grant deadline is May 1. Send applications to Silvia Rode at sarode@usi.edu.

A building at Audonicon in Denmark.
**News from Historic Communal Sites**

**Historic Zoar Village** is proud to announce that it is one of 98 institutions in the United States selected to participate in the Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program.

CAP helps museums improve the care of their collections by providing support for a general conservation assessment of the museum's collections and buildings. The Zoar Community Association will work with a team of preservation professionals to identify preventive conservation priorities in the Town Hall Museum. The final assessment report will help ZCA prioritize its collections care efforts in the coming years.

“We are honored to have been selected to participate in such an important program designed to preserve our history for generations to come,” explained Tammi Shrum, Historic Sites Director. “This program helps ensure the longevity of the priceless artifacts we have collected that still have so many stories to share.”

The CAP program is administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

2022 marks the 160th anniversary of the building of the 1862 portion of the Oneida Community Mansion House. To ensure the Mansion House lasts at least another 160 years, a major preservation project is well underway. The multi-year project seeks to repair roofs, install new gutter systems, and repair deteriorating masonry. This multi-million dollar project is supported by New York State, family and community foundations, and the generosity of donors to the Mansion House. To help us preserve this National Historic Landmark for future generations, donate today at: [https://www.oneidacommunity.org/support-us](https://www.oneidacommunity.org/support-us)

This fall the Amana Church Society, Amana, was awarded a grant from The National Fund for Sacred Places, a program of Partners for Sacred Places in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Amana Church was one of 15 faith communities across the country to receive a generous grant.

The grant of $70,000 will go toward the total project cost will be used for rehabilitation of the historic Amana Church in Amana and the small Kinderschule building east of the Middle Amana Church.

A fund drive has begun by the Amana Church to match those grant dollars and carry through on rehabilitation projects at both sites.

The project will begin with a complete condition assessment and restoration plans for of both buildings. Improvements will include handicapped accessibility, window replacement, and gutter work at the Amana Church and upgrades to the wood-frame Kinderschule so it can become the Amana Colonies Food Pantry.

Julie Zuber, Amana Church Treasurer, said, “We are so very grateful to the National Trust and the National Fund for Sacred Places for this opportunity. We are hopeful that our community will contribute to help us raise the money we need to match this grant so that we can begin work.”

To make a contribution: your tax deductible donation should be made payable to the Amana Church, Our Sacred Space Fund, PO Box 103, Middle Amana, IA 52307. To learn more, consult the Amana Church Facebook page and our Amana Church website [amanachurch.com](http://amanachurch.com) or email mchurch@southslope.net.

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Dish with the Zoar emblem of the seven-pointed star, made in the Zoar Pottery, c. 1835.

![The Oneida Mansion House under renovation.](https://example.com/oneidahouse.jpg)

The Oneida Mansion House under renovation.

The Amana Church, Amana, Iowa
Communal Books and Articles


Tonya K. Flesher and Dale L. Flesher recently published “Accounting, Greed, and Beliefs in a Nineteenth Century Communal Religious Society” in Accounting History.


News from the Young Center for Anabaptist & Pietist Studies

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College has made several changes that are beneficial to communal studies. In February 2020 the Center celebrated the completion of the Bowers Interpretative Gallery, a new, permanent installation that presents an overview of Anabaptist and Pietist groups, some of their central themes, an exhibit on the Love Feast and an overview of the Amish. The gallery includes a listening station where visitors can hear short segments of music and singing by the Amana Church Society, a Hutterite group, Moravians and songs from the Ephrata community. The Interpretive Gallery is open to the public and free. For a guided tour, please contact the Young Center at (717) 361-1470 or by email at youngctr@etown.edu. The Young Center’s web page link is www.etown.edu/centers/young-center.

In 2014 the Young Center supported the creation of the Earl H. and Anita F. Hess Archives and Special Collections to house the rare books, manuscripts and artifacts of the Young Center’s collection and the college’s archives. The Archives is climate controlled with a fire suppression system and is located in the lower level of High Library, the college library. Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh is the professionally trained, full-time archivist. To make an appointment to visit the Hess Archives or to do research there, please contact Rachel Grover Rohrbaugh at (717) 361-1506 or by email at grover@etown.edu. The web page for the Hess Archives is www.etown.edu/library/archives.

The Young Center has acquired several rare items of interest to researchers of communal groups. Among the highlights are two eighteenth-century Ephrata manuscript music books for the Ephrata hymnal, Zionischer Weyrauchs-Hugel, and two Ephrata manuscript booklets of letters and treaties by Israel Eckerlin, one-time prior at Ephrata. One letter is in Eckerlin’s own hand and is addressed to Maria Eicher, the prior of the sisters. The Young Center also purchased a very rare nineteenth century booklet once kept at Snow Hill, listing members, baptisms, funerals and love feasts for Snow Hill, daughter community of Ephrata, in the nineteenth century. In 2018 the Center purchased the Clarence E. Spohn Collection of rare Ephrata imprints. Spohn collected items published by the celibate brothers and by other printers of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century in Ephrata.

The Young Center also acquired a donation of extensive manuscript materials related to Christ’s Assembly (Christi Menigheid), a twentieth century Radical Pietist group that was influenced by the Brethren, the Community of True Inspiration and other Pietist writers. A small group lived communally near Eaton, Ohio in the 1970s and 1980s. The documents in the Young Center’s collection include prophecies received by their leader, spiritual letters from angels, correspondence among the members, poetry and a few photographs. These materials constitute the largest single collection of Christ’s Assembly documents that are available to the public.

The Young Center’s collections contain miscellaneous other items related to communal groups. The web page for the Hess Archives contains information and finding aids for much of the material.

The Young Center offers two semester-long endowed fellowships with stipends and office space for scholars who wish to come to the Young Center for a residency and research and writing. The Snowden fellowship is available in the autumn and the Kreider Fellowship is available in the spring. With Johns Hopkins University Press the Young Center also publishes a book series, Young Center Books on Anabaptist and Pietist Studies that includes occasional titles related to communal groups.

Dr. Steven Nolt is the current interim Director of the Young Center as well as the Senior Scholar. Former director Jeff Bach retired in August 2020 and is now Director Emeritus. Long-time Senior Scholar, Dr. Donald Kraybill, retired in 2015 and is now Senior Scholar Emeritus. The staff of the Young Center and Hess Archives welcome inquiries, visits and researchers related to communal studies and other topics.

- Jeff Bach
CALL FOR PAPERS
for the Annual Conference of
The Communal Studies Association
September 29-October 1, 2022
Canterbury Shaker Village
Canterbury (near Concord), New Hampshire
“Communities Emerging from Crisis”
The deadline for submission of proposals is May 16, 2022

The CSA has not met in person since 2019 due to the pandemic. As we gather in 2022, having (hopefully) emerged from a global crisis, what better time to reflect on the way in which intentional communities have confronted and moved beyond the crises that threatened their existences. Prior conferences have focused on the crisis that typically unfolds following the death of a prophet or charismatic leader. However, communities past and present have faced many other types of crises: fire, flood, famine, financial malfeasance, sexual abuse, pestilence, persecution, and more. The CSA invites proposals for papers and panel sessions on these crises and the ways in which intentional communities have dealt with them.

As always, we are also interested in proposals that concern any other topic about intentional communities. Please feel free to submit proposal on any aspect of communalism or intentional communities.

Canterbury Shaker Village was established in 1792 when followers of founder Mother Ann Lee formed their seventh community in Canterbury, NH, which remained prominent for 200 years. The Village has operated exclusively as a museum since 1992 when the last Shaker sister in residence, Ethel Hudson, died. The few remaining Shakers live at the Shaker Village in Sabbathday Lake, Maine. At its height in the 1850s, 300 people lived and worked in over 100 buildings on 3,000 acres at Canterbury Shaker Village. Today, the museum at Canterbury interprets 200 years of Shaker life through its exhibits, buildings, gardens, programs, and tours. The museum has an enviable collection of Shaker objects, manuscripts, and photographs along with surviving architecture from all periods of its history.

Please submit your proposals for individual papers or whole sessions via the website submission portal (www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference). Please include an abstract of 150 words maximum describing your presentation and/or session. Also, please include your biographical statement of 100 words maximum. For information please contact Program Chair Christian Goodwillie, Hamilton College, cgoodwil@hamilton.edu. All presenters will be notified of their acceptance by email by July 1, 2022. A limited amount of financial support is available for graduate student assistance. If applicable, please indicate your interest with your on-line proposal submission. Successful applicants will be notified of financial support by email by August 2022.
CSA Membership

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

______ Regular, $50
______ Outside North America, $60
______ Couples, $75
______ Sustaining, $100
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______ Student, $20
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______ 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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Submit your Paper/Panel Proposals for Canterbury by 5/16