

Communiqué

The Communal Studies Association Newsletter

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

2023

New Harmony, IN

October 5-7

2024

Ephrata, PA

October 3-5

2025

Amana, IA

Date TBD

2026

Oneida, NY

Date TBD

Fiftieth Annual CSA Conference

Beautiful **New Harmony** is the site of the Communal Studies Association's fiftieth annual Communal Studies Conference on **October 5-7, 2023**. New Harmony is a fitting location for this landmark occasion, as it was the location of the organization's very first conference in 1974 (an organizational meeting had been held the year before at Pleasant Hill, KY).

New Harmony was founded in 1814 by the German Pietist Harmony Society, who moved there from their first American home, Harmony, PA. Finding this western location too remote, the Harmonists moved back east to Economy, PA in 1824, after selling the community to the secular community led by Scottish industrialist, Robert Owen. That community officially ended around 1828, but New Harmony retained its educational and scientific character through the end of the century.

The conference theme is "Communal Theory, Practice and Impact." Conference chair Greg Brown of the University of Southern Indiana (USI) and his committee of Josh Lockyer of Arkansas Tech University, Silvia Rode of USI's Center for Communal Studies and Diane Sanders

of Historic New Harmony, have designed a great program.

On Thursday, October 5, conferees will have dinner on the USI campus in Evansville and tour the collections of the Center for Communal Studies. Friday and Saturday sessions will be held at Historic New Harmony. Our

annual fundraising auction will be Friday evening. Special 50th Anniversary commemorations are planned.

Pre-conference

tours are planned on Wednesday, October 4 to the nearby St. Meinrad Archabbey and Thursday, October 5 to Lyle's Station, a 1920's Black community.

Go to www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference to register or send in the form on page 7. Discounted early bird registrations end September 8 and all registrations must be in before September 22 to guarantee meals.



Travel Info

Rooms have been reserved at the **New Harmony Inn (812/682-4431)**, located in the center of the village's historic district and a walkable distance from all conference venues. Special room rates for the conference are \$115 per night. **Tell the clerk you are with CSA. Rooms will be held until September 5** and then will be released to the public. There are also bed and breakfasts and camping nearby. See <https://visitnewharmony.com/> for more information.

New Harmony, Indiana is 40 minutes (37 miles) from the Evansville (Indiana) Regional Airport (EVV) with limited air service, or 2 hours from the Louisville (Kentucky) Muhammad Ali Airport (SDF). Both airports are near Interstate 64. The New Harmony Inn operates an airport shuttle. To make arrangements, contact Robin Weyerbacher at the New Harmony Inn (phone number above). The shuttles are \$85.00 per two people in same shuttle and then \$10.00 per person in the same shuttle after that. Or, you may wish to rent a car.



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Message from the CSA President Tom Guiler



Dear Friends,

First, an apology. Due to a file corruption at our printer, the latest issue of *Communal Societies* was riddled with errors—everything from articles being cut off to blurry images and more. We sincerely apologize for this mistake. A publication such as *Communal Societies*, a leader in this field, only deserves the very highest quality. Immediately after discovering the misprinting, we contacted our printer who, mortified, immediately agreed to reprint the issue and mail it at no additional charge. What's more, this issue, the largest in the history of the journal, will be printed in full color bringing the amazing scholarship and communal material culture to life like never before. We sincerely apologize and a new issue should be hitting your mailboxes soon. A sincere thank you to Heather Van Wormer, Mary Ebejer, Christian Goodwillie, and Susan Love Brown for stepping up in short order to make it right. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

On to happier topics. This year, the CSA will be celebrating its 50th conference back where it all began: New Harmony, Indiana! This is one conference you are not going to want to miss. The theme for this year is "Theory" and while that topic is surely represented in this year's program, there is a bevy of other subjects that range from panels on Shakers, New Harmony, and Mormons to film screenings and even an interactive art workshop. In addition

to the fine scholarship always on display, attendees can come early for pre-conference tours of St. Meinrad Archabbey and Lyles Station. Do not forget about our annual auction and dinner at USI's Center for Communal Studies to celebrate the CSA's Golden Anniversary. You also do not want to miss some special surprises we have in store. Many thanks to our conference planning committees for their hard work. See you in Indiana!

Send Us Your Favorite Books, Podcasts, Films

Do you have a new book coming out, or have you read a thought-provoking new book on intentional communities past or present? Have you heard a podcast or watched a movie on communalism that intrigued you or made you mad? We are always looking for reviewers for books (1200 words) and movies/podcasts (500 words). If you are interested, or have ideas for podcasts, movies or books to review contact Book Review Editor Cheryl Coulthard cheryllcoulthard@gmail.com.

ICSA Conference

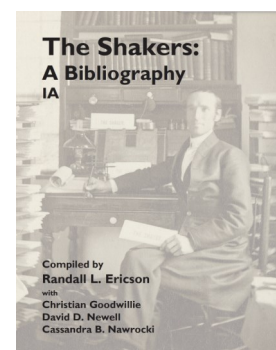
The International Communal Studies Association warmly welcomes proposal submissions for its first virtual conference, to be held by Zoom on **January 15, 17, and 19, 2024**. The deadline for proposals has been extended to Friday, September 29th. To learn more about the conference and to submit a proposal, go to www.icsacommunity.org/.

The theme of the conference is *Building Communities for Global Social Change*. Proposals for scholarly papers, workshops on community practices, and cultural events (e.g., music, storytelling) are welcomed.

Registration for the virtual conference is also open. To register for the conference, go to: www.icsacommunity.org/registration-1. A sliding scale is available to make the conference accessible to a wide range of income levels.

Shaker Bibliography

The Shakers: A Bibliography was published in April 2023. It has been forty-eight years since the publication of Mary Richmond's bibliography *Shaker Literature*. During that time much research has been completed on the Shakers with an enormous number of books and articles being published. The team for this project spent fifteen years uncovering the works comprising the 17,540 entries in this bibliography (four volumes, more than 2,350 pages). Numerous visits were made to physical collections and many electronic databases were surveyed. This



information will hopefully open new avenues of research for scholars of Shakerism. 8,453 entries are for works by the Shakers and 9,097 for works about the Shakers. The bibliography lets the Shakers speak for themselves. We have attempted to be as thorough as possible and err on the side of inclusion rather than exclusion and have provided extensive annotation for many entries.

The Shakers: A Bibliography was compiled by: Randall L. Ericson, Christian Goodwillie, David D. Newell, and Cassandra B. Nawrocki.

Price: \$150 for the set of four volumes plus \$20 shipping. To order online:

<https://www.hamilton.edu/offices/lits/special-collections/couperpress/shaker-studies-page-1>

To order by mail:

Send a check for \$170 made out to Trustees of Hamilton College
To: Hamilton College
Burke Library, attn: Goodwillie
198 College Hill Road
Clinton, NY 13323

Executive Director's Column By Kathy Fernandez



Anniversaries do more than celebrate an organization's longevity. They are opportunities to look back and reflect on where we've been.

I have been tasked to do a presentation for the New Harmony conference discussing all the different historic sites where we have held CSA annual meetings. It's quite a list. 2023 will be the sixth time we have met at New Harmony, which was the site of our very conference, in 1974.

Looking at my file of back issues of this newsletter in order to put this talk together has allowed me to think back on all 47 conferences I've attended; my first one was at Old Economy in 1976. It's been quite a ride!

In those days, we were called the National Historic Communal Societies Association, NHCSA, a real mouthful. (We became the CSA in 1990.) But that name essentially described our membership in those early years, as many, including myself, were associated with specific historic sites, as managers, volunteers or others. Through the years, the make-up of our organization has fundamentally changed to be primarily academics, albeit a wonderfully diverse group of disciplines.

I don't see this change as necessarily a bad thing, but I do wish more folks in communal site operations would become involved with CSA, as I, for one, found that hearing the histories of other groups, be they historic or contemporary, gave me important insights into the lives of those who lived in historic Zoar, the site where I worked. Compar-

ing and contrasting communities is an important facet of what the CSA does at its conferences and journal.

You'll have to wait until the New Harmony conference to hear more regarding the places we've been. I hope I'll see you there!

Recent Articles from Communities Magazine

Communities magazine's mission includes publishing illuminating, even revelatory articles about not only the communal present and possible communal future, but also the communal past. In recent issues, stories of particular interest to communal studies scholars

include:

In issue #197, Winter 2022:

"Will It Happen to Us?" by Anton Marks,

about the history, present,

and future of kibbutzim and other ICs

"Reflections on Fifty Years of Community" by Daniel Brown, reflecting on Brotherhood of the Spirit/Renaissance Community

"Why Community Was the Best Time of My Life" by Hugh Perry, remembering his '60s-era community

In issue #198, Spring 2023:
"A-Frames" by Carol Ladas Gaskin,

about another back-to-the-land community founded in the late '60s
"Lost, Found, and Reused: Adapting Historic Vernacular Farm Buildings at the Hermitage" by Johannes Zinzendorf,

reflecting on a recent attempt to re-establish an 18th-century group while re-purposing 19th-century buildings
"Baptism" by Martin Holsinger, about the early years of The Farm in Tennessee

In issue #199, Summer 2023:

"Agreements and Individuality, The Farm's 'Multistery,' and My Shotgun Wedding" by Martin Holsinger, with more reminiscences about The Farm

"The Kids Are Talking: Pay Attention" by Dana Gaskin Wenig, remembering

a communal childhood split between her parents' two communities—including revelations about child-rearing practices at

The Farm that clashed with their public image and philosophy

"Children of Utopia: Freedom's Toll" by Understanding Israel, describing some much more harrowing consequences of child-raising practices in The Love Isreal Family

"Too Much of a Good Thing: Small-Group versus Large-Group Communal Childcare" by A. Allen Butcher, a survey of communal child-rearing in Catholic Worker communities, kibbutzim, and at Twin Oaks and East Wind

Digital subscriptions continue to cost \$20 for four quarterly issues, including complete digital back-issue access. Print-plus-digital subscriptions cost \$30 in the US and \$40 internationally, with additional options for Supporters and Sustainers. Find info at gen-us.net/communities.



**Have you paid your
2023
CSA Membership?
If you haven't, there is a
form enclosed in this
newsletter.
PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**



Historic New Harmony Receives Grant From The Lilly Endowment

The University of Southern Indiana's Historic New Harmony program has been awarded an implementation grant of more than \$2 million from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The funding is in support of Historic New Harmony's Religion and Cultural Institutions Initiative, in collaboration with the Endowment.

Through Lilly's broader Religion and Cultural Institutions initiative, the Lilly Endowment has awarded grants totaling more than \$86 million to museums and cultural institutions across the United States to develop exhibitions and educational programs that fairly and accurately portray the role of religion in the U. S. and around the world.

Historic New Harmony received funding for a project that includes restoration and renovation of two historic buildings to be used as exhibition and programming space, development of a new permanent exhibit detailing the religious history of New Harmony and creation of community engagement programming, including a multi-day interfaith festival. The five-year grant also funds a Collections and Exhibitions Curator and student fellowships to work with exhibit design and programming.

"The initiative will expand our capacity to share New Harmony's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, and we are honored to receive the Lilly Foundation's support," said Leslie Townsend, Director of Community Engagement for the University of Southern Indiana, and Historic New Harmony. "Funding will allow us to restore the John and Roxe Beal House into a permanent exhibition space and the former Doctor's Office

exhibit building into a community learning center which will benefit both visitors and residents of New Harmony.

Historic New Harmony has been an Outreach and Engagement Program of the University of Southern Indiana since 1985.



The Lilly Endowment is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by J. K. Lilly, Sr.

and his sons Eli and J. K., Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Co. It is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing body, staff and location. The Endowment supports causes of community, development, education and religion. It maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown of Indianapolis and home state of Indiana. The Endowment values the broad diversity of Christian traditions and endeavors to support them in a wide variety of contexts.



The Beal House (L) and Doctors' Office are slated to be restored and reconfigured with the grant.

Harvard Divinity School Plans 2024 Conference

Harvard Divinity School's Program for the Evolution of Spirituality is delighted to announce that our spring 2024 conference will be organized around the theme of "Alternative Spiritualities of Celebration, Resistance, and Accountability: Engaging Our Colonial and Decolonial Contexts." We invite practitioners and scholars who identify as Indigenous, Diasporic, Settler, and/or Immigrant to join in a dialogue that works toward spiritual traditions characterized by solidarity and mutual transformation rather than colonial violence.

Proposals may be for individual academic papers (20 minutes in length), interactive workshops (60 minutes in length), or artistic performances (60 minutes in length). Each proposal should include an extended description of at least 500 words, a 100-word abstract (suitable for inclusion in the conference program), and a 50-word biography of the presenter. The extended description should give a clear sense of the way the presentation is rooted in spiritual practice and/or the academic study of alternative spiritualities; for workshops, it should also identify the specific ways the audience will be invited to participate and provide a brief outline for the workshop's component parts. Because the conference will be fully hybrid, we ask that presenters be mindful of both virtual and in-person audience members.

We also welcome pre-arranged panels from groups of presenters. In such cases, each presenter should submit a separate individual paper proposal, and the panel organizers should inform us by email (pes@hds.harvard.edu) of their intention to present together.

The deadline for proposals is December 1, 2023. Proposals submitted by September 15, 2023, will receive a decision by October 15; proposals submitted by December 1 will receive a decision by January 15, 2024. This conference is tentatively scheduled for **April 24-27, 2024.**

Amana Church Restoration Project

The fund drive to stabilize and restore the Amana Church main meeting house and return the Middle Amana (preschool) Kinderschule to active service for the community as the Amana Colonies Food Pantry has exceeded its Phase I goal.

Over \$382,500 has been raised. That's 105% of the Phase I goal of \$364,387 and it's nearer to meeting the total estimated need of \$472,387.

Right now the Amana Church is contacting contractors and seeking construction bids to begin work on the Middle Amana Kinderschule and the Amana Church in Amana. The church has also applied for historic rehabilitation tax credits and has received preliminary approval.

This past week the Amana Church-Amana Colonies Food Pantry received a \$5,000 donation from Whirlpool presented to the co-chairs of the Amana Colonies Food Pantry. Since the food pantry, a confidential service, was created in the basement of the Middle Amana Church about seven years ago, the need has grown. Now, on average, more than 30 Iowa County families and individuals are assisted every two weeks with boxes of fresh vegetables, meat, milk and canned goods.

"We have seen the need grow, so we are very grateful for the support," said Amana Church Elder Kristie Yoder.

Having outgrown its current space the AC Food Pantry needs a new home. The nearby Kinderschule requires work including the installation of electrical wiring/ heating/ cooling plus repairs to the exterior and the interior to make it usable.

Work on the Amana Church main meeting house includes the construction of much needed, new handicapped entry ramps, new entry/ door ways, foundation repairs,

repairs to windows and window trim, replacement of soffits, fascia boards and rain gutters, the removal of asbestos siding and more. A new roof was installed. All work on both structures will be done to Dept. of Interior standards for historic preservation.

The Amana Church built in 1864 is a National Historic Landmark providing space for worship and community use. Today church houses the Amana Church Sunday School, vacation Bible camp, Monday noon community dining, space for all-community worship services,



weddings, funerals, funeral luncheons, Bible study groups, Prelude to Christmas public events, and more. The Communal Studies Association has met in the meetinghouse several times.

In 2021 the Amana Church board of trustees applied for and was honored to be chosen as one of 15 churches nationwide to be part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation – National Fund for Sacred Places 21-22 program. This is a nationally recognized, highly regarded program to assist churches in rehabilitating their sacred spaces to best serve their communities. The National Trust for Sacred Places has given the church two grants: a \$5,000 initial planning grant and a \$70,000 project grant to help pay for repairs / restoration of the two buildings.

In June 2022 the Amana Church received a \$50,000 donation from the Amana Society, Inc. a significant help early in the fund drive campaign.

It has been blessed to receive numerous generous donations and pledges

from Amana community members, friends from far and wide, Amana community merchants and from businesses who serve the Amana community. The Amana Colonies Food Pantry also received an Iowa County Community Foundation grant for restoration/ rehab of the Kinderschule.

"The Amana Church board of trustees and its members are very grateful for the prayers, donations and support. At every turn we have seen and felt the support for this project and for the church's work on behalf of the Lord. It's been remarkable," said fund drive co-chair Emilie Hoppe.

If you would like to help, please send donations to the Amana Church, PO Box 103, Middle Amana, IA, 52307 mark for the RRR Fund Drive. Or give via Venmo, Paypal or credit card on the Amana Church website: Amanachurch.com on the Restore Revive Renew page. Thank you.

- Emilie Hoppe



CSA member Janet Zuber speaks at the Amana Church in 2023



Communal News

The **Israelite House of David** in Benton Harbor, Michigan, has recently expanded its archival staff from one to two! Olivia Beebe is now Collection Manager, joining Brian Carroll, Historian and Archivist. Beebe earned her undergraduate degree from Central Michigan University and her MA in Art History and Curation from the University of Birmingham, England. Since then, she has worked primarily in local history museums, including, most recently, the Trumbull County Historical Society in Warren, Ohio, where Beebe managed an object inventory and photographed and cataloged over 900 items a year. Beebe is dedicated to increasing the accessibility of the collections at the House of David and looks forward to cataloging and digitizing the colony's vast photograph archive.

The House of David's traveling exhibition "The Melodious Faithful: Music at the House of David" is currently on display at the Morton House Museum in Benton Harbor for the summer through September 2023. The exhibition showcases dozens of restored



vintage instruments as well as photographs and artifacts chronicling the House of David's rich musical history.

Last Autumn, the House of David reacquired a 175-year-old antique harp that first came to the colony in 1907, when it was given to co-founder Sister Mary Purnell (1862-1953) by members Roland and Emily Hill after they immigrated from England. It appears to be a double pedal Grecian-style harp made early in the reign of Queen Victoria

(circa 1847) by the leading manufacturer of fine harps in London, Pierre Érard (1798-1855). It is currently in climate-controlled storage awaiting restoration. We plan to preserve this historic treasure so that it can be displayed to the public.



From the **American Music Recordings** Collection of music from earlier America, there is a special CD release with religious communal music written by Shaker women. It contains twenty-four songs and hymns written by twenty Shaker women from the 18th to 20th centuries. These words and tunes were written by some of the most important Shaker women leaders, including their foundress, Mother Ann Lee (1736-1784). There are also selections from Shaker women leaders from New England, like Eldress Mary Ann Gillespie from Maine and Eldress Dorothy Durgin from New Hampshire. Other words or music were written by Shaker women in Ohio and Kentucky. The title of this CD, "My Shaker Home," is believed to be the last Shaker song composed in the 20th century and was completed in July of 1959 with words and music by Sister Bertha Lillian Phelps. The performers on this CD are soloists, chorus and instrumentalists from The Canterbury Singers, a New Hampshire based ensemble under the direction of Kathryn Southworth. The CD also contains a few original tunes composed by Roger Lee Hall, based on original Shaker poems. For more about this CD (AMRC 0048), see this link: <https://americanmusicpreservation.com/MyShakerHomeCD.htm>



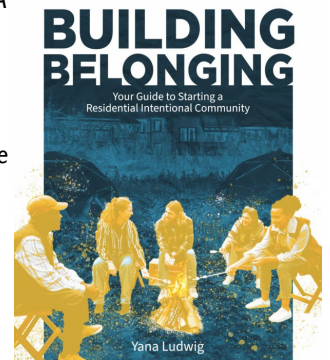
This September members of the Illinois State Museum Society will visit New Harmony. **Don Pitzer** is scheduled to speak to them on "The Quest for Utopia."



Don Pitzer

New Book from FIC

The Foundation for Intentional Community announces a new book: *Building Belonging: Your Guide to Starting a Residential Intentional Community* is both a practical guide for how to start a residential intentional community and a collective framework for addressing the racial, social, ecological and economic disparities affecting all aspects of the living experience for humans, land, and its co-inhabitants. The author is Yana Ludwig, who is the co-author of *The Cooperative Culture Handbook: A Social Change Manual to Dismantle Toxic Culture and Build Connection and of Together Resilient: Building Community in the Age of Climate Disruption*, which won the 2017 Communal Studies Association Book of the Year Award. The book sells for \$30 paperback, \$18 for an e-book (\$44 for both formats) from www.ic.org/bookstore/product/building-belonging.



Communiqué, the Newsletter of The Communal Studies Association, P. O. Box 122, Amana, IA 52203, info@communalstudies.org, www.communalstudies.org
Send news items to Editor
Martha Bradley-Evans,
mevans@utah.edu





REGISTRATION FORM

50th Annual Communal Studies Conference Communal Studies Association Historic New Harmony, New Harmony, IN October 5-7, 2023

Name (will be on badge unless indicated otherwise) _____

Institution _____

Preferred mailing address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

E-mail _____ **Phone** _____ / _____

Registration fee _____ \$110 CSA member before 9/8; \$130 after
 _____ \$130 non-member before 9/8; \$150 after
 _____ \$65 student/spouse/current communitarian before 9/8; \$75 after
 _____ \$65 one-day registration before 9/8; \$75 after
 _____ \$15 undergraduate student

Meals _____ \$115 ALL MEALS
 _____ \$24 Thurs. 10/5 dinner at USI, Evansville
 _____ \$19 Fri. 10/6 lunch at New Harmony
 _____ check if vegetarian _____ \$27 Fri. 10/6 dinner & auction at New Harmony
 _____ \$17 Sat. 10/7 lunch at New Harmony
 _____ \$28 Sat. 10/7 dinner at New Harmony

Pre-conference tours _____ \$35 Wed. 10/4 Tour of St Meinrad's Abbey (lunch on own)
 _____ \$35 Thurs. 10/5 Tour of Lyle's Station (lunch on own)

CSA Membership _____ Regular \$50 _____ Friend \$200
 (year begins with conference) _____ Outside N. America \$60 _____ Lifetime \$600
 _____ Sustaining \$100 _____ Institutional \$90
 _____ Student \$20 _____ Retired \$40
 _____ Couples \$75 _____ Community member \$20
 Contribution to CSA Endowment \$ _____
Total _____

Payment method: _____ my check, payable to CSA, is enclosed

(Credit cards now payable only online www.communalstudies.org/annual-conference)

Send to: Kathleen M. Fernandez, CSA, 4840 Pond Dr. NW, North Canton, OH 44720, 330/526-6353
REGISTRATION DEADLINE is September 22 TO GUARANTEE MEALS.
 Preliminary Program available on CSA website: **www.communalstudies.org**



COMMUNIQUE

Address Service Requested

The Communal Studies Association Newsletter

P. O. Box 122
Amana, IA 52203

info@communalstudies.org
www.communalstudies.org



**Register for
the New Harmony
Conference TODAY!**

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**

Name _____

Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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.