

**Program**  
**2024 Communal Studies Conference**  
**Ephrata Cloister**

**Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

8:30 a.m. Pre-Conference Tour-Woodmont, Father Divine Mansion, Gladwyne, PA  
Meet at lobby of Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

**Thursday, October 3, 2024**

8:30 a.m. Pre-Conference Tour-Young Center, Elizabethtown, and Lititz, PA  
Meet at lobby of Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

9:00 a.m. CSA Board Meeting  
Hampton Inn (near Ephrata Cloister)

3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration  
Ephrata Cloister

6:00 p.m. Dinner  
Reamstown Fire Company, West Church St., Reamstown, PA

9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room  
Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

**Friday, October 4, 2024**

8:00 a.m. Registration  
Ephrata Cloister Visitor Center

8:30 a.m. **Session A-1: Health, and Mental Health in Community (Auditorium)**

1. Claudia Roesch, University of Konstanz: “A response to Malthusianism? Birth Control and Population Planning within Owenite Communal Schemes”
2. Zach Rubin, Lander University: “Military Veterans and Intentional Communities”
3. Boaz Feldman, NeuroSystemics (remote presenter): “Nervous System Approaches for Resilient Community Living”

**Session A-2: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Utopians (Academy)**

1. Mitchell Jones, University at Buffalo: “Enchanted Motor Power: A New Materialist Approach to John Murray Spear’s Electric God, 1830-1872”
2. David Entin, Rocky Hill Cohousing: “Northampton Association of Education and Industry”
3. Jeremy Genovese, Cleveland State University: “The Earth for All: Intentional Communities and the Georgist Model”

- 10:00 a.m. Break  
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds
- 10:30 a.m. [plenary] **Session B: Quiz Show (Auditorium)**  
Deborah Altus, Washburn University, Emerita and Tim Miller, University of Kansas, Emeritus: “Game Show: Test your Communal Studies Knowledge!”
- 12:00 noon Lunch  
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds
- 1:30 p.m. **Session C-1: Problematic Sexuality in Modern Communities (Auditorium)**
1. Dan McKanan, Harvard Divinity School: “Sexual Misconduct at L’Arche: A Challenge to Communal Studies Scholars”
  2. Nicholas Chiaia, George Mason University: “Unification and Fragmentation of Community: a 50 year look back
  3. Stephanie Carpenter, Michigan Tech University: “Cult Followings: A Consideration of Streaming Docu-series about Lifestyle “Cults”
- Session C-2: Western Shaker History (Academy)**
1. Carol Medicott, Northern Kentucky University, Emerita: “The Complicated Legacy of Shaker Pioneer Issachar Bates”
  2. Christian Goodwillie, Hamilton College, Richard Couper Press: “Alpha and Omega: Richard McNemar’s Evaluation of the Shaker West”
  3. Tommy Hines, South Union Shaker Village: “Benjamin Seth Youngs: An Easterner in the Shaker West”
- 3:00 p.m. Break  
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds
- 3:30 p.m. **Session D-1: Defining Community (Academy)**
1. Greg Brown, University of Southern Indiana: “Developmental Communalists”
  2. Tom Kendig, Old Economy Village: “Could a Leprosy Colony Be Considered A Communal Group”
  3. Johannes Zinzendorf, The Hermitage: “Community within Community or, How did people like you end up in a place like this?”
- Session D-2: Ephrata and Harmony Society (Auditorium)**
1. Anca Wilkening, Harvard University: 2023 Research Fellowship Presentation-- “Sinful Relations and Salvific Unions: Sexual Ethics, Erotics, and Intimacies in the Early Ephrata Cloister”

2. Jeff Bach, Young Center, Elizabethtown College, Emeritus: “Conrad Beissel's Understanding of Gender and Celibacy”
3. Cheryl Coulthard, Independent Scholar: “Sexuality and Harmony: Ideals in Tension in the Rappite Community”

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Auction  
American Legion, 300 Cocalico St., Ephrata

9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room  
Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

### Saturday, October 5, 2024

8:00 a.m. Registration  
Ephrata Cloister Visitor Center

8:30 a.m. [plenary] **Session E: Revisiting classic books about 19<sup>th</sup> Century Communalism (Auditorium)**

1. Carl Guarneri, Saint Mary's College of California, Emeritus: “*Backwoods Utopias at 75: Arthur Bestor's Scholarship and Its Legacy*”
2. Larry Foster, Georgia Tech, Emeritus: “*Religion and Sexuality: An Author’s Retrospective Reflections on his Book after its more than Four Decades in Print.*”
3. Michael Barkun, Syracuse University, Emeritus: *The Burned-over District at 75: Whitney Cross’s Analysis and Its Problems*

10:00 a.m. Break  
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds

10:30 a.m. **Session F-1: Workshop (Auditorium)**

1. Hugh Perry, Independent Scholar (remote presenter): “Full Spectrum Management: A Workshop”

#### **Session F-2: 20<sup>th</sup> C Sexuality and Community (Academy)**

1. Tom Cimarusti, Florida Gulf Coast University: “Let This Be a Day of Rejoicing: The Solar and Lunar Festivals of the Koreshan Unity”
2. Etta Madden, Missouri State, Emerita: “Murder in a Galápagos Utopia: A Review of Abbott Kahler's *Eden Undone* (2024)”
3. Brian Carroll, Israelite House of David: “Revisiting the Virgin Law: Celibacy, Sex, and Relationships at the House of David 1903-1978”

12:00 noon Lunch  
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds

1:30 p.m. **Session G-1: Material Culture and Community (Auditorium)**

1. Kathleen Fernandez, Executive Director, Communal Studies Association: “Die Heller Signalstern: The Significance of The Zoar Star”
2. Thomas Guiler, Oneida Community Mansion House: “The Oneida Community Mansion House: A Lab for Learning”
3. John Murphy, Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College and Ian Shelley, Loeb Collections Curatorial Fellow: “Great Green Hope for the Urban Blues: Hudson Valley Art and Utopia”

**Session G-2: Shaker Sexuality and Community (Academy)**

1. Ryan Obert, Quincy University: “The Shakers: From Celibacy to Women Empowerment”
2. Mary Ann Haagen, Dartmouth College: “Counting the Cost: Shaker Celibacy”
3. Richard (Rick) Marshall, University of Indianapolis: “Shakers Celibacy: A Cover for Sexual Scandal?”

3:00 p.m. Break  
Tent on Ephrata Cloister grounds

3:30 p.m. **Session H-1: LDS Sexuality and Community (Auditorium)**

1. Marti Bradley Evans, University of Utah, Emerita: “What’s Sex Got to Do With It? The Demographics of Mormon Polygamy”
2. Stephen Fleming, Independent Scholar: “Jane Lead and American Communalism from Ephrata to Mormonism”
3. T. Ashton Reynolds, Southern Methodist University: “Monogamy to Royal Polygamy: The Evolution of Marriage Practices among the Strangite Mormons”

**Session H-2: Roundtable on Hutterite Life (Academy)**

Ruth Lambach and Zenas Baer, Independent Scholars and former Hutterites: Question and answer session

6:00 p.m. Awards Banquet and Annual Business Meeting  
American Legion, 300 Cocalico St., Ephrata

9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room  
Comfort Inn Lancaster County North

**PRESENTERS BIOGRAPHIES AND ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS**



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