

Draft Program
2026 Communal Studies Conference
Oneida Community Mansion House

Wednesday, September 30, 2026

8:30 a.m. Pre-Conference Tour - ThriveIthaca ecovillage and Shao:wi Oneida Indian Center
Meet at Vernon Downs with a Stop at OCMH

Thursday, October 1, 2026

8:30 a.m. CSA Board Meeting
Oneida Mansion House Dining Room

1:00 p.m. Pre-Conference Tour – Old Sales Office and Liberty Tableware Factory
Meet at Oneida Mansion House Front Entrance

3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration
Oneida Mansion House Lounge

3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Oneida Community Mansion House Tours
Up to 5 Tours (10-12 People Each)
Oneida Mansion House; Meet in Lounge

6:00 p.m. Dinner
Oneida Mansion House Lounge

7:30 p.m. Film
“Welcome Space Brothers” (Unarius Community)
Oneida Mansion House Big Hall

9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room
Vernon Downs

Friday, October 2, 2026

8:00 a.m. Registration
Oneida Mansion House Lounge

8:30 a.m. Session A: Plenary Session:
The Past, Present, and Future of the Oneida Community Mansion House
Thomas A. Guiler, Director of Museum Affairs, Oneida Community Mansion House

10:00 a.m. Break
Oneida Mansion House Lounge

- 10:30 a.m.
- Session B-1: The Hollywood Shakers: Roundtable Discussion on *The Testament of Ann Lee*
 Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall
1. Christian Goodwillie, Burke Library, Hamilton College
 2. Doug Winiarski, University of Richmond
 3. Carol Medlicott, Northern Kentucky University
 4. Stephanie Carpenter, Michigan Technological University
- Session B-2: The Architecture and Landscape of Intentional Communities
 Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room
1. Martha Bradley Evans, University of Utah, "Polygamy and the Architecture of Accessibility"
 2. Martha Lyon, Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC, "The Contradictory Landscape of the Oneida Community"
 3. Christine Piazza, Harvard University, "Imagined Nature, Real Land: An Environmental History of Fruitlands"
- Session B-3: Sex and Sexuality in Intentional Communities
 Oneida Community Mansion House Library
1. Julieanna Frost, Northwestern Michigan College, "Edgar Peissart and His Pursuit of Happiness"
 2. Rachel Banner, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, "Marital Masochism, or, Edith Wharton's Free Love"
 3. Ashley Rattner, Jacksonville State University, "'An animal ashamed of his own body': Sex, Agency, and Reform in Robert Dale Owen's Moral Physiology"
- 12:00 noon
- Lunch and Auction
 Oneida Mansion House Lounge
- 1:30 p.m.
- Session C-1: Sharing Contemporary Communal Stories
 Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall
1. Chris Roth, Lost Valley and *Communities Magazine*
 2. Jen Myers, Thrive Ithaca EcoVillage
 3. Marty Klaif, Kerista, Shannon Farm, FIC
 4. Daniel Greenberg, Foundation for Intentional Community
 5. Sabrina Simon, Programs Director at the Foundation for Intentional Community
- Session H-3: Families and Family Matters in Intentional Communities
 Oneida Community Mansion House Library
1. Susan Palmer, Concordia University, "Children's Roles in Utopian Hierarchies: Towards a Typology of Child-Parent Relations in Contemporary Communal and Millennial Movements"

2. Charlotte Terry, Utah State University, "White Mormons and Adoptions of Native Hawaiian Children during the Nineteenth Century"
3. Hannah Jung, University of Alabama, "Spies, Apostates, and Window Peepers: Mormon Polygamy in Transition"

Session C-3: Intentional Communities at Home and Abroad

Oneida Community Mansion House Library

1. Catherine Abbott, Independent Scholar, "Nobody Joins a Cult: The Peoples Temple Community in Jonestown"
2. Adam Lyons, Université de Montréal, "Communalism and Child Socialization in Modern Japan"
3. Becky Soules, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, "'Easier to Implant in the Young:' Theological Shifts Among the Pleasant Hill Shakers, 1865-1896"

3:00 p.m.

Break

Oneida Community Mansion House Library

3:15 p.m.

Session D-1: Descendants of Utopia: Roundtable Discussion with Oneida Community Descendants

Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall

1. Kelly Rose
2. Laura Wayland-Smith Hatch
3. P. Geoffrey Noyes
4. Carolyn Strobel-Larsen
5. Meredith Leonard
6. Thomas A. Guiler, Oneida Community Mansion House

Session C-2: Experimental Communities and Spiritualism

Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room

1. Joscelyn Godwin, Colgate University, "Intercourse with Elementals, or Sex with Spirits? Ideas of Inter-Dimensional Community"
2. Valerie Hahn, Via Lactea Sanctuary, PMA; Cherry Hill Seminary, "Via Lactea Sanctuary, PMA: Turning Tables, Turning Heads"
3. Dani Joslyn, Barnard College, "Wombology:" Spiritualism, Socialism, and Scientifically Directed Breeding in the 1850s"

Session D-3: Dancing Rabbit

Oneida Community Mansion House Library

1. Nana Osusu, Michigan Technological University and Zach Rubin, Lander University, "Operationalizing Sustainability: A Longitudinal Eco-Audit of Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage"
2. Katherine Todd-Brown, University of Florida, "Making Communal Studies Communal: The Case for Coproduced Transdisciplinary Research and Logistical Paths Forward"

- 4:30 p.m. Travel to Hamilton College
(campus map to be provided)
- 5:00 p.m. Introduction and tour
Hamilton College Communal Studies Collection
Burke Library, Hamilton College
- 6:00 p.m. Reception
Bristol Hub, Hamilton College
Speed Dating Event!
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
Bristol Hub, Hamilton College
- 9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room
Vernon Downs

Saturday, October 3, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
Oneida Mansion House Lounge
- 8:30 a.m. E-1: Plenary Session: 3rd Annual Communal Studies Game Show
Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall
1. Deborah Altus, Washburn University
2. Timothy Miller, University of Kansas
- 10:00 a.m. Break
Oneida Mansion House Lounge
- 10:30 a.m. Session F-1: Teaching and Learning in Community: Reflections on
Colgate University at the Oneida Community Mansion House, 2023-2025
Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall
1. Monica Mercado, Colgate University
2. Thomas A. Guiler, Oneida Community Mansion House
3. Julia Bihari, Colgate University
4. Avery Mathews, Colgate University
5. Geordie Waldman, Colgate University
6. Justin Renk, The Mark Twain House and Museum (formerly, Colgate
University)
7. Tabitha Saour, Colgate University
- Session F-2: Nurturing Collective Resilience: Education and Immersion at
Ecovillage at Ithaca
Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room
1. Jen Myers, Thrive Ithaca EcoVillage

2. Heather Sullivan-Catlin, SUNY Potsdam

Session F-3: Fourierists, Phalanxes, and Associationists

Oneida Community Mansion House Library

1. Carl Guraneri, St. Mary's College of California/Colgate University, "Brook Farm, Boston 'Combined Households,' and the Cooperative Twilight of American Fourierism, 1848-1860"
2. Cheryl Coulthard, Independent Scholar, "American History is Evolution: Frances Wright and the Reform of American Culture"
3. Mitchell Jones, University at Buffalo, "Spiritualism Everywhere Tends Toward Socialism: The Spiritualist Communities 1847-1860"

12:00 noon

Lunch

Oneida Mansion House Lounge

1:30 p.m.

G-1: OCMH Behind the Scenes Collections Tour

Emily Stegner, Oneida Community Mansion House

Session G-2: Looking Forward, Together: Envisioning Future Research Priorities

Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall

1. Daniel Greenberg, Foundation for Intentional Community
2. Anne-Kathrin Schwab, University of Vechta

Session G-3: The Material Culture of Intentional Communities

Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room

1. Laura McLaws Helms, Independent Scholar, "Biblical Robes, Jeans, and Peasant Blouses: Dress within Spiritual Communes of the Counterculture"
2. Esme Krohn, University of Delaware Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, "Amana Furniture: Cloistered Consumerism"
3. Katherine E. McCrary, University of Richmond, "Unearthing the Tyringham Shaker Cemetery"

Session G-4: It Works in Practice, but What About in Theory?

Oneida Community Mansion House Library

1. Kristine Maassen, Rutgers University, "Sharing More Than Space: Interdependence in U.S. Intentional Communities"
2. Mikayla Novack, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, "The Life and Times of 'Modern Times': An Institutional Analysis and Development (IAD) Perspective"

3. Christopher Nye, Springboard Foundation for Whole Person Learning, "The Current Meaning Crisis Seen Through the Lens of Intentional Communities"

3:00 p.m. Break
Oneida Community Mansion House Lounge

3:30 p.m. Session H-1: Communal History at 250
Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall

1. Dan McKanan, Harvard Divinity School, "Communalism, Settler Colonialism, and the American Ideal"
2. Marie Rabecq, Université Lumière Lyon 2 / Triangle, "Utopists and Abolitionists: The Declaration of Independence and its repercussions in the Oneida Community"
3. Larry Foster, Georgia Institute of Technology, "John Humphrey Noyes's Ideas that May Have Resonance for Us Today"

Session H-2: New Discoveries from Newly Opened Archives
Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room

1. Brian Carroll, Israelite House of David, "Before the House of David: Reevaluating Benjamin and Mary Purnell's Early Years, 1877-1901"
2. Alexandra Leah Prince, Skidmore College, "Transcribing Jonestown with the Letters to Dad: Digital Humanities, Archives, and the Voices of Peoples Temple"
3. Greg Brown, University of Southern Indiana, "William Maclure: Founder of Science, Education, and Free Thought"

Session D-2: Communities of the Counter Culture
Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room

1. Jeremy Genovese, Cleveland State University, "Background on the World Brotherhood Colonies"
2. Eric Noble, The Digger Archives, "Friends of Perfection: Oneida, Digger Do, Queer Beat, and the Kaliflower Experiment."
3. Tim Miller, University of Kansas, "From Satanism to Animal Rescue: The Remarkable Evolution of the Process Church"

Session H-4: OCMH Behind the Scenes Collections Tour
Emily Stegner, Oneida Community Mansion House

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Mansion House Tours
Up to 5 Tours (10-12 People Each)
Oneida Mansion House Lounge

6:00 p.m. Awards Banquet and Annual Business Meeting

Oneida Mansion House Lounge

9:00 p.m.

Hospitality Room
Vernon Downs