

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 Nation Cultural Center

Meet at Vernon Downs Lobby with a Stop at OCMH front Entrance

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

1:00 p.m. Tour of Liberty Tabletop/Sherrill Manufacturing with Founder and CEO Matt Roberts
****Please wear closed toed shoes!****
Meet At Front Entrance of the Mansion House

3:00: p.m. Tour of Former Oneida Ltd. Sales Office Complex with Oneida Community Mansion House Museum Director, Tom Guiler

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

3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Mansion House Tours
Up to 5 Tours (10-12 People Each);
Tours leave at 3:30, 4:00, 4:30, and 5:00
Oneida Mansion House 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 Rooms
Vernon Downs (Inquire at Front Desk for Room Number)/OCMH (Oneida Room)

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, Museum Director, Oneida Community Mansion House
Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall
- 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
Moderator: Cheryl Coulthard, Independent Scholar
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
Moderator: Heather Van Wormer, Grand Valley State University
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
Moderator: Graeme Pente, Independent Scholar
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

Moderator: Elph Morgan

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 C-2: Families and Family Matters in Intentional Communities

Oneida Community Mansion House Library

Moderator: Monica Mercado, Colgate University

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

Moderator: Julieanna Frost, Northwestern Michigan College

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, “As long as we could get anybody to attend”: Spiritual Changes at Pleasant Hill, 1865-1923

3:00 p.m.

Break

Oneida Community Mansion House Lounge

**3:15 p.m. Session D-1: Descendants of Utopia: Roundtable Discussion with
Oneida Community Descendants**
Oneida Community Mansion House Big Hall
Moderator: Thoams A. Guiler, Oneida Community Mansion House

1. Kelly Rose
2. Laura Wayland-Smith Hatch
3. P. Geoffrey Noyes
4. Carolyn Strobel-Larsen
5. Meredith Leonard

Session D-2: Experimental Communities and Spiritualism
Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room
Moderator: Brian Carroll, Israelite House of David

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
Moderator: Mitchell Jones, University at Buffalo

1. Nana Osusu, Michigan Technological University and Zach Rubin, Lander University, "Operationalizing Sustainability: A Longitudinal Eco-Audit of Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage"

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
Science Atrium, Hamilton College
Speed Dating Event!

6:30 p.m. Dinner
Science Atrium, Hamilton College

9:00 p.m. Hospitality Rooms

Vernon Downs (Inquire at Front Desk for Room Number)/OCMH (Oneida Room)

Saturday, October 3, 2026

8:00 a.m. Registration

Oneida Mansion House Lounge

8:30 a.m. Session E: 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

Moderator: Nana Owusu, Michigan Technological University

1. Jen Myers, Thrive Ithaca EcoVillage

2. Heather Sullivan-Catlin, SUNY Potsdam

Session F-3: Fourierists, Phalanxes, and Associationists

Oneida Community Mansion House Library

Moderator: Donald Zarate, University of California-Riverside

1. Carl Guarneri, 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. Session 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

Moderator, Zach Rubin, Lander University

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

Moderator: Becky Soules, Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill

1. Laura McLaws Helms, Independent Scholar, “Biblical Robes, Jeans, and Peasant Blouses: Dress within Spiritual Communes of the Counterculture”
2. 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

Moderator: Deborah Altus, Washburn University

1. Kristine Maassen, Rutgers University, “Sharing More Than Space: Interdependence in U.S. Intentional Communities”
2. 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

Moderator: Greg Brown, University of Southern Indiana

1. Dan McKanan, Harvard Divinity School, "Communalism, Settler Colonialism, and the American Ideal"
2. Marie Rabecq, Université Lumière Lyon 2 / Triangle, "The Oneida Community in context : a laboratory for American history".
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

Moderator: Eve Stern, University of Rhode Island

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 H-3: Communities of the Counter Culture

Oneida Community Mansion House Dining Room

Moderator: Catherine Abbott, Independent Scholar

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. 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 Rooms

Vernon Downs (Inquire at Front Desk for Room Number)/OCMH (Oneida Room)

