

HISTORIC NEW HARMONY **IN** N E W S L E T T E R

# HARMONY

Where the Past and the Future are Present

Spring • 2008

Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites

## ATHENEUM RECEIVES 2008 AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS TWENTY-FIVE YEAR AWARD

The Atheneum, designed by Richard Meier, has received the 2008 American Institute of Architects (AIA) Twenty-five Year Award, intended to honor architectural design that has stood the test of time for 25 years. The building and architect were honored at the American Architectural Foundation's Accent on Architecture gala in Washington D.C. in February.

The Atheneum serves as the Visitors Center for Historic New Harmony. It is the starting point for tours and a center for visitor orientation and cultural community events, and it houses exhibits on the communal history of New Harmony, a large theatre, and the Museum Shop. The Atheneum's galleries also accommodate receptions and meetings, allowing the structure to participate in the vitality of the community.

According to the AIA, the Atheneum "was conceived in terms of the linked ideas of architectural promenade and the historic journey of one of America's most significant



utopian communities." The Atheneum has received numerous design awards including the Progressive Architecture Award for 1979 and an AIA Honor Award in 1982.

"The Atheneum is one of Richard Meier's seminal works of architecture," said nominator Peter Eisenman. "The design elements in this important work are evident throughout his career, having been further distilled to their most essential expression.

While one of his earliest buildings, it is a wonderfully pure example of the recurring themes among his substantial oeuvre; it is a classic 'Meier' design."

Mark Rozewski, USI vice president for Business Affairs, said, "The Atheneum is known worldwide as a landmark work of modern architecture, and it is a great honor for the University to be the steward of this important building."



HISTORIC  
NEW HARMONY

"By preserving its utopian legacy, Historic New Harmony will inspire renewal and fellowship between people and communities through its programs and collections."

—Historic New Harmony Mission Statement

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FAX: 812.682.4313

## FORGOTTEN HARMONIST ARTIFACTS REDISCOVERED

Josh Orem, a USI history major from Wadesville, Indiana, has worked as a museum aide for Historic New Harmony for two years, giving guided walking tours of New Harmony to the public. This year, his responsibilities include handling artifacts from a decades-old excavation of Harmonist sites.

Dr. Michael Strezewski, USI assistant professor of anthropology, was tipped off to the existence of 80 boxes of Harmonist artifacts by his predecessor, Marjorie Jones. The artifacts were uncovered in the 1970s by Dr. John B. Elliott, a USI archaeology professor and descendent of the original Owen community.

Continued on Page 5



# DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Connie Weinzapfel,  
Director

*"There's always room for improvement... even in utopia!"*

This issue of our *In Harmony* newsletter highlights new faces and new honors. Recently retired University of Southern Indiana professor and New Harmony scholar Dr. Donald Pitzer will be writing for us, highlighting interesting aspects of our utopian history in his column, *Harmonizing*. Stewart Sebree, director of the southwestern Indiana field office for Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and Historic New Harmony's preservation consultant, will be contributing an occasional article to the newsletter as well. Pulling it all together is Samantha Brown, a 2004 USI graduate and our new manager of development and public relations.

I am especially pleased to highlight the work of University of Southern Indiana student Josh Orem. Josh has been a tour guide with Historic New Harmony since June '06 and since that time has garnered unsolicited rave reviews. His latest project recalls my college days at USI in the 1970s when Dr. John B. Elliott of New Harmony taught anthropology and archaeology and conducted field schools in New Harmony. Again, under the auspices of Historic New Harmony, Josh is assisting Dr. Michael Strezewski, USI assistant professor of anthropology, in analyzing artifacts from the Elliott excavation.

And finally - as the director of Historic New Harmony and before that, as the director of New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, I have always been the local "interpreter" for Richard Meier's Atheneum. As great art is frequently criticized in its own time, it is indeed personally gratifying to have the American Institute of Architects recognize what I've known all along.



## HARMONIZING...WITH DON PITZER

Now that we are a few months into 2008, how many of your New Year's resolutions have you kept? How many can you even remember?

What might the New Year's hopes, dreams, and resolutions of the Harmonists have been for 1824 or 1825 as they left New Harmony? Or those of Robert Owen, William Maclure, and their followers for 1825 or 1826 as they arrived?

The enterprising, peace-loving, celibate German disciples of George Rapp spent 10 fatiguing years building a unique town on the Indiana frontier. Every day they expected Jesus Christ to return. They believed this Second Advent would achieve their goal of a peaceful, plentiful kingdom of God on earth. But that kingdom had not yet come. Now they were selling their beloved New Harmony to Robert Owen, the wealthy social reformer from Scotland who wished to make it the first model of a secular utopia built by the hearts, hands, and minds of mere humans.

Departing Harmonists would surely have resolved to be worthy of Christ's return. Moving back to Pennsylvania they would pledge to further purify themselves, increase harmony within the community, and help build a third town, a divine Economy, which the Son of God would surely visit.

Although the worldwide kingdom of God did not materialize for the Harmonists, their resolutions permitted them to experience their utopia-by-the-square-inch. Perhaps from their experience we should see that utopia can begin only within our own individual hearts and neighborhoods.

Robert Owen buying New Harmony in January 1825 and William Maclure arriving with educators and scientists on the *Boatload of Knowledge* in January 1826 resolved to create a community of economic, social, and gender equality. They would make New Harmony the precursor for a New Moral World.

Owenite New Harmony soon suffered division and dissolution. Social differences and bitter debates overcame their best resolves, but their efforts produced a communal experiment and reform movement that helped improve Americans' lives. Women's rights, slaves' freedom, tax-supported public schools, workingmen's libraries, and geological discoveries all were advanced by their initiatives.

Even if we have not kept our own New Year's Resolutions, we can take hope from New Harmony's past. We still might bring harmony from diversity and utopia to our personal lives in the months remaining.

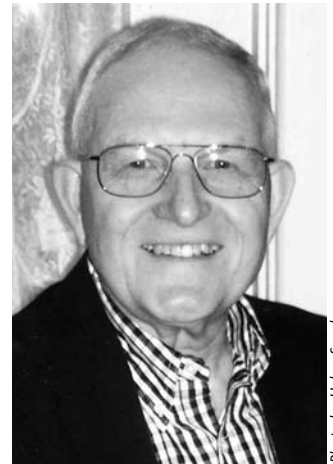


Photo by Helen Sands

*Dr. Donald E. Pitzer, University of Southern Indiana professor emeritus of history and founding director of the USI Center for Communal Studies, is a leading scholar on communal utopias and intentional community. His column Harmonizing will be a regular feature of this newsletter.*

## THE GOLDEN TROUPE BAND IS A TOUR HIGHLIGHT

Historic New Harmony's guided walking tour season starts March 15 with a new exhibit featuring The Golden Troupe Band. Included will be uniforms, photographs, broadsides, and instruments at Thrall's Opera House, which was their home theatre. The Golden Troupe was a traveling theatre company based in New Harmony in the late 1800s who performed across the country. Tours run daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For more information, call 812.682.4488.



Courtesy of the Working Men's Institute



## GUEST HOUSE NAMED IN HONOR OF LATE TEACHER

Many people submitted ideas, but *Scholar's Retreat* was selected as the winning name of USI's Harmonist house getaway. The name symbolizes the educational legacy of New Harmony and the Owen/Maclure Community, as well as having significant meaning for the winners, the family of the late Cynthia Lawrence.

Cynthia and a friend came to New Harmony for a weekend trip and fell in love with the town. After several visits, they decided to purchase a home and started restoring it on the weekends. Their plan was to restore the house and move to New Harmony. Cynthia had one year until retirement and planned to live the rest of her life

in utopia. Sadly, Cynthia's dream did not come true. A few months after purchasing the home, she became ill and passed away. Her family entered the contest in her honor. The name *Scholar's Retreat* is fitting because Cynthia was a beloved teacher who had a strong passion for education and was awarded "Most Influential Educator" numerous times. Her family visits New Harmony often and feels "her spirit resides in the places she loved most...the Roofless Church, the Labyrinth, the Harmonist Cemetery, and Carol's Garden," said Elise Lawrence-Mundy, Cynthia's sister.



## HARMONIST BUILDINGS RECEIVE A FACE LIFT

by Stewart Sebree, director, Southwestern Field Office, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Over the past several months, considerable construction activity has taken place on Harmonist buildings in New Harmony, most notably the Keppler House, the Cooper Shop, and Community House No. 2. Much of the activity is based on corrective maintenance issues, and some of the activity is based on information brought forth by new research.

Over the past several years the wood cladding on many of the Harmonist residential structures has deteriorated, and in order to protect these historic buildings, the cladding must be replaced.

Therefore, prior to replacing the siding and attacking other maintenance issues, research determined how a wood Harmonist residence would have been historically clad and what exterior trim was used. Investigative procedures were undertaken utilizing the physical buildings and information garnered from both the archives found in New Harmony and Old Economy Village in Pennsylvania. Additionally, research conducted some time ago also indicated that Harmonists painted their residential wood structures white and did not leave the cladding exposed to the elements as originally interpreted. The results of these investigations are now being applied to all structures undergoing rehabilitation. In the case of later additions to the Harmonist structures, "invisible green," as the dark green paint color is called, is applied to indicate that that part of the house is not original.

New Harmony can expect much of the same in the spring of 2008. Current plans are to completely re-clad the Autrieth House and replace the currently inaccurate window and door trim with more historically correct trim. Additionally, investigative processes are underway for extensive work to the Neef House. The Fauntleroy House also is scheduled for an extensive makeover in the future.

## SUMMER HAT LUNCHEON: FASHIONABLE FUN AND FOOD

Love to chat among friends, eat fabulous food, and wear a hat? Then don't miss a fashionably good time. *The Summer Hat Luncheon* will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, June 19, at the Rapp-Owen Granary. An informal style show also will be presented courtesy of Antique Showrooms in the Mews. If you would like to attend this event, call 812.682.4488 for more information. Remember to wear your hat!

## WABASH HERITAGE PADDLEFEST: A PADDLING GOOD TIME

Join us for the fourth annual *Wabash Heritage Paddlefest*, a 9.7-mile paddle on the Wabash River from Grayville, Illinois, to New Harmony on Saturday, August 16. In addition to the river trip, there will be many other exciting events happening throughout the day. In Grayville, there will be breakfast and quick-start canoe classes, while New Harmony will offer food, games, and fun activities for the whole family. Last year's *Wabash Heritage Paddlefest* attracted more than 240 paddlers. Those who complete their registration by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, August 14, will receive a free Paddlefest tee shirt at check-in. Adult registration is \$25; children 15 and under are \$15. Canoe rental is \$30, but you are welcome to use your own canoe or kayak. For more information, call 812.682.4488 or go to the Wabash Heritage Paddlefest link at [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

## INTRODUCING SAMANTHA BROWN

Samantha Brown has joined Historic New Harmony as manager of development and public relations. In her new position, she will plan, coordinate, and promote marketing and fundraising activities for Historic New Harmony; write grants and funding proposals; and develop advertising and promotional materials. Brown is a 2004 graduate of the University of Southern Indiana with a Bachelor of Science degree in public relations/advertising. She was formerly employed as an India program coordinator at Families Thru International Adoption and with Standing Partnership, a public relations firm in St. Louis, Missouri.



## ROPEWALK CELEBRATES 20 YEARS IN UTOPIA

Nearly two hundred years ago, ropewalks were used by the Harmonists who stretched hemp fiber to dry, and then twisted it into rope. The founders of the RopeWalk Writers Retreat drew an analogy between the historic social ritual—twisting raw material into something stronger and more beautiful—and the craft of writing, and this summer the RopeWalk Writers Retreat marks its 20th year in New Harmony, June 14–21. To register (by May 1) or for information about free public readings, go to [www.ropewalk.org](http://www.ropewalk.org) or call 812.464.1863 or 800.467.8600.





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## OXEN WILL STEER ATTENTION TO 23RD ANNUAL HERITAGE ARTISANS WEEK

This year's *Heritage Artisans Week* will include the opportunity to drive a wagon led by a team of oxen. Gerry Barker of Frontier Resources will provide several programs involving oxen and will call on onlookers for participation in the demonstrations. Another new demonstration will be the art of tinsmithing. The week-long celebration of 19th century arts, crafts, and industry will be held April 21–26 on the grounds of the Atheneum/Visitors Center.

Heritage Artisans Week focuses on New Harmony's rich historical traditions by featuring demonstrations by accomplished regional artisans in period costume. Some of the returning demonstrations include spinning/weaving, cordwaining (shoe making), beekeeping, woodworking, rug-making, and more.

West Side Nut Club of Evansville are long-time lead sponsors of this event. Craft demonstrations will take place daily, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Preregistered admission is \$5 for students and parents and free for teachers and school personnel. Walk-in admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for ages 7 to 17. Entire families can attend any day for a single ticket price of \$25. Tickets may be purchased at the Atheneum/Visitors Center. Group discounts can be arranged in advance for any day of the week. Call 812.682.4488 to register or for more information.

### Forgotten Artifacts continued from Page 1

Strezewski said, "They were moving some Harmonist houses around in New Harmony because they wanted to put them in a centralized place for visitors to see. Elliott did excavations on the foundations and the yards to recover artifacts." The artifacts were never washed or analyzed, and nothing was ever written about them. "I thought it would be an interesting project for myself and my students," Strezewski said. "The Harmonist period is one of the first large occupations by Europeans, and there has been no archeological analysis of what day-to-day life was like for the Harmonie Society in New Harmony."

Before that analysis can take place, the artifacts will be washed and catalogued by Orem and students in Strezewski's senior-level independent study course. Working in the USI archaeology lab, the students have found broken pottery made by the Harmonists or imported from Europe, bottles, spoons, and toothbrush handles.

Orem said, "Sometimes I find myself struck by the fact that so much has happened here, and there's so much we'll never understand. I'll pick up a piece of pottery and there's only so much I can tell about it. I can tell it's a piece of redware. I know where it came from, but while I know where it is made and how it is made, I am in awe of the fact that it has a story behind it. I'll never really know more than that it's a little piece of pottery."

Strezewski said there is a story to be told with the New Harmony collections. "Of course we'll never have the complete story, but archaeology is all about getting the information that isn't available in the documents. There's a lot about daily life in Harmonist-era New Harmony that we don't know about, and I think the artifacts have the potential to tell us a lot about it."

## COLLECTIONS CORNER

Amanda Bryden, Assistant Collections Manager



Scaffolding, lifts, and men wearing hardhats have been a common sight at Community House No. 2 during the past fall and winter. Later this year a second group of people will arrive and will trade the hammers and nails for shovels and trowels.

Fifty years ago, Community House No. 2's exterior appearance was restored to the Harmonist time period. Our most recent exterior restoration effort involves preserving the earlier restoration. The work includes replacing the shake roof, painting all of the exterior woodwork, installing copper gutters and downspouts, and tuckpointing the chimneys. While reviewing research for the project, one finish detail did change—the color of the shutters. Since black and green were the prevalent shutter colors in the early 19th century, and because those at Old Economy are green, No. 2's shutters are now green instead of white.

This summer, archaeologists and students will try their hand at uncovering more clues to the past. A five-week field school will be conducted in No. 2's backyard. In addition to training to become the next Indiana Jones, college students also can earn credit hours by participating in the dig through an anthropology course offered by the University of Southern Indiana. Material collected at the site will be processed and studied, and data gleaned from this research will be incorporated into future exhibits about the building's rich history. Archaeologists from USI and the Indiana State Museum are leading the excavation.



USI Student Josh Orem gives a tour to a group of international students brought to New Harmony by Robert Owen descendent, Abigail Owen Pontez.

Photo by Brooke Grace

# MAKE A GIFT TODAY!

One of the great benefits of supporting Historic New Harmony is receipt of this bi-annual newsletter, In Harmony. All donors who contribute at the \$25 level or greater receive the newsletter free of charge. Our fiscal year ends June 30, and if you haven't yet made your contribution, you may do so on-line at [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org) or you may call Andrea Gentry at 812.464.1997.



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NEW HARMONY

*In Harmony* is published twice yearly by Historic New Harmony. Letters and comments may be sent to: In Harmony, P.O. Box 579, New Harmony, IN 47631.

Contributors: Connie Weinzapfel, director; Samantha Brown, manager of development and public relations; Daniel Goodman, collections manager; Amanda Bryden, assistant collections manager; Jan Kahle, education coordinator; Christine Crews, administrative assistant; and Wendy Brechold, writer in USI News and Information Services.

Historic New Harmony is a unified program of the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. Information is available at [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

NO7-5312



# EVENTS

MARCH 15  
**Historic New Harmony Tour Season Opens**  
Atheneum/Visitors Center, 9:30 a.m.–5p.m.

APRIL 5  
**Under the Beams Concert Series**  
Rapp-Owen Granary, 8 p.m.

APRIL 17 TO 19  
**First Brush of Spring**  
Plain air paint-out throughout New Harmony

APRIL 21 TO 26  
**Heritage Artisans Week**  
Atheneum/Visitors Center

MAY 3  
**Spring Gallery Stroll**

MAY 3 & 4  
**Arts in Harmony**  
Open-air art and fine craft fair

MAY 3 & 4  
**Harmonie Hundred Bike Ride**

JUNE 13 TO 29  
**Othello**  
The New Harmony Theatre

JUNE 14 & 15  
**7th Annual Golden Raintree Antique Show**

JUNE 14 TO 21  
**RopeWalk Writer's Retreat**  
Celebrating 20 Years in Utopia

JUNE 16 TO 20  
**Elderhostel**

JUNE 19  
**Summer Hat Luncheon**  
Rapp-Owen Granary, 11 a.m.

JULY 4  
**Traditional Fourth of July Celebration**  
Rapp-Owen Granary and Madsure Park, 10 a.m.

JULY 11 TO 27  
**Crimes of the Heart**  
The New Harmony Theatre

AUGUST 1 TO 17  
**My Fair Lady**  
The New Harmony Theatre

AUGUST 16  
**Wabash Heritage Paddlefest**  
Atheneum/Visitors Center

AUGUST 23  
**Summer Gallery Stroll**

For information regarding these and many other events, visit [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

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