

# HISTORIC NEW HARMONY IN NEWSLETTER HARMONY

Where the Past and the Future are Present

Fall • 2008

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

## A TRUE LABYRINTH: HARMONIST LABYRINTH RESTORED TO ORIGINAL DESIGN

Historic New Harmony has restored the Harmonist Labyrinth to a true one-path labyrinth using the design of the founding Harmonie Society around 1820. The labyrinth was recreated as a hedge maze by the New Harmony Memorial Commission at a site near the original labyrinth in 1939.

Congressman Brad Ellsworth will cut the ribbon and take the inaugural step into the restored labyrinth during an opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. September 20.

According to Robert Ferré of Labyrinth Enterprises, a labyrinth is a pattern with a single path that leads circuitously to the center. A maze has multiple paths, intersections, choices, and dead ends.

The labyrinth was one of the earliest projects of the New Harmony Memorial Commission, created by the state of Indiana in 1937 to help preserve and protect New Harmony's history.



After the labyrinth ceremony, Congressman Brad Ellsworth will present New Harmony with the Preserve America designation at 9:45 a.m., September 20, in downtown New Harmony. David Campbell, president of the New Harmony town council, will accept the designation on behalf of the town. To be recognized as a Preserve America Community, a town must protect and celebrate its heritage, use its historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.



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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The original Harmonist Labyrinth was made of flowers, trees, and shrubs. There was a wooden grotto at its center. The New Harmony Memorial Commission built a small stone grotto at the center of the maze, based on designs from other Harmonist sites. Historic New Harmony renovated the grotto in 2001.

"Nothing was left of the original labyrinth in 1939," said Connie Weinzapfel, director of Historic New Harmony. "The New Harmony Memorial Commission had the research and they knew what the Harmonie Society had done, but they made a conscious decision to make a design they perceived to be more interesting."

A maze offers choices in the pathway intended to perplex the visitor, while a labyrinth holds one meditative path to its center. But the many blockades created by

the current design have worked to destroy some of the Amur River privet hedges that were planted in 1939, as visitors crossed through the hedges rather than using the pathways.

The Harmonists built a labyrinth at each of their three communities, including those at Harmony and Economy, Pennsylvania. Recreating the original Harmonist design required removing the hedges currently blocking the pathways, realigning the pathways, reconfiguring some hedges at the entryway, and planting new hedges. Nellis Landscaping completed the work with assistance from Historic New Harmony staff.

Ferré said the Harmonist design is unique in the world of labyrinths throughout history because it solves an interesting problem.

...continued on page 2



# DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Connie Weinzapfel,  
Director

"Historic New Harmony, which is a very successful collaboration between the University of Southern Indiana and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, has developed a new "interpretive" plan. No, we're not learning Russian or French, but we may as well be speaking a foreign language when trying to share New Harmony's incredible history with today's audience.

History museum professionals across the country are fretting over the relative dearth of knowledge and interest in history among young people. Ways of learning are changing and we must discover new methods of telling our stories. That's exactly what we will be doing as we systematically re-evaluate and upgrade our exhibits, most of which were installed more than 25 years ago.

Among the broad themes where New Harmony made a real impact on the nation are community planning and peaceful co-existence; progressive methods in education; equality for women and African-Americans; innovations in science; and the rights of working people. While New Harmony's history dates from 1814, these issues are even more relevant today, and will become the core stories that will engage residents and visitors."



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

It was a Tuesday evening, and I was on my daily walk around town with Mactavish, our Scottish Terrier. Even though their vehicle was half a block away, I knew by the smiles in my direction the couple was going to stop and ask a question, either about New Harmony or my attractive little dog.



Sure enough, a Historic New Harmony brochure the woman held confirmed my initial impression. "Just what's special about this quaint little town?" she asked. She and her husband had picked up the brochure at the Indiana visitors center on Interstate 64. "We're going to be in the area through the weekend," he said. Hailing from Nebraska, they wanted to combine his business trip with some site seeing.

I had just minutes to condense volumes on what makes New Harmony a special place. "If you're searching for utopia," I answered, "then you've just arrived!" I quickly explained that New Harmony was the site of two attempts at establishing a Utopian community in the early 1800s...that much of the town could be toured in a couple of days, and that they could, in a single visit, absorb some of the peace and tranquility that I loved.

I gave directions to the Atheneum and told them about the art galleries, the two labyrinths, the many beautiful sculptures, the trails, the lovely gardens, the theatres, the variety of restaurants and the unique shops, without pausing to take a breath.

With their promise to return on the weekend, I walked away feeling exhilarated and satisfied to have had the opportunity to list the reasons I love New Harmony. I felt confident the couple would visit one of our restaurants and enjoy the "good home-cooked meal" he requested for that evening, and they would return for a longer visit.

You see, residing in utopia is an experience I love to share. Steeped in history, New Harmony is a living, thriving, and yes, complex community—not perfect yet, but still making the effort in ways that may be sensed in a single visit.

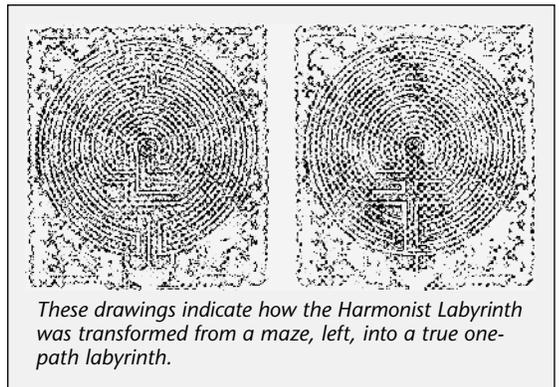
I invite you to come again, or visit us for the first time. Experience Historic New Harmony first hand, and form your own impression.

Karen Walker  
Chairman of the Board  
University of Southern Indiana/New Harmony Foundation

### A True Labyrinth continued...

"The oldest labyrinth design is a classical seven-circuit design which is deceptively sophisticated," he said. "In it, the turns are opposite each other, on each side of the entrance, which gives it a very balanced look. However, the labyrinth is not symmetrical. One side has one more path than the other side, plus it is sort of mushroom-shaped.

"When you make the labyrinth circular it becomes symmetrical, but the turns no longer line up, so a very nice visual effect is lost. In the Harmonist Labyrinth it is both circular and symmetrical—the turns line up across from each other in a very elegant way. This was done by intercepting the circles with horizontal lines in such a way as to manipulate where the turns end up on either side of the entrance."



These drawings indicate how the Harmonist Labyrinth was transformed from a maze, left, into a true one-path labyrinth.

Ferré designed the University of Southern Indiana Labyrinth and consulted on the Cathedral Labyrinth in New Harmony. "I was very impressed with the unique solution they found," he said. "I may copy it some day."



## KAHLE AND PITZER ATTEND SCHISM REUNION

Jan Kahle, education coordinator for Historic New Harmony, attended a "Schism Reunion" in Harmony and Economy, Pennsylvania June 27-29, 2008. Over 40 descendants of seceders from the Harmonie Society attended the event. Most of the descendants were from the "Great Schism" of 1832 when one-third of the population of the Harmonie Society in Economy, Pennsylvania, chose to leave Economy and follow Count de Leon to Phillipsburg (now Monaca), Pennsylvania. Leon proclaimed himself the "Lion of Judah." In actuality, he was Bernhard Mueller, the illegitimate son of Baron Dalberg of Aschaffenberg, Germany. The departure of these members was a severe blow to the Harmonie Society, both financially and spiritually.

Other communities established by seceders from the Harmonie Society include Blooming Grove (1804), Concordia (1826), and Teutonia (1827). Larry Waltz of the Blooming Grove Historical Society and Walter Brumm of Old Economy Village spoke about these communities.

The reunion included tours of Harmony, Economy, and Old Phillipsburg as well as presentations from Dr. Donald E. Pitzer, University of Southern Indiana professor emeritus of history, who discussed "How the Harmonists Suffered Disharmony" and Dr. Eileen Aiken English, professor emeritus of education at California University of Pennsylvania, author of "1833 Residents of Phillipsburg (now Monaca) Pennsylvania: A Historic Register."

During the Indiana years of the Harmonie Society only 43 members left the community. Pitzer and Kahle will present a program relating to the seceders for Harmoniefest, February 13, 2009, at Thrall's Opera House.

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## FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM WILL FOCUS ON "CULTURAL TOWNS"

The Fourth International Symposium will be held in New Harmony, November 12-14, with presentations and symposium events at the Barn Abbey, Thrall's Opera House, the Atheneum/Visitors Center, and the Rapp-Owen Granary. The focus of this year's symposium is "Cultural Towns."

New Harmony residents may attend the educational sessions and presentations free of charge. Conference registration fee of \$350 will be charged to anyone who resides outside of New Harmony and wishes to attend the symposium. For more information about the event, contact Kent Schuette at [schuettk@purdue.edu](mailto:schuettk@purdue.edu) or visit [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

Sponsors of the event include the University of Southern Indiana, Historic New Harmony, the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation, the New Harmony Artist's Guild, the American Planning Association, and the US/International Council on Monuments and Sites.

## HARMONIZING ...WITH DON PITZER

*Dr. Donald E. Pitzer, professor emeritus of history and founding director of the University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies, is a leading scholar on communal utopias and intentional communities.*



Grandchildren are the darlings of their grandparents. Harmony Dove Malie Pitzer taught me this for the first time when she arrived on June 19, 2008. She is named for the New Harmony attachment (or rather utopian enchantment) of her grandfather. Malie (Ma-lee-aa) is the equivalent of harmony in her mother's native Samoan.

Harmony's appearance reminded me that one of the best and worst sagas in Harmonist history revolved around George Rapp's beloved granddaughter Gertrude. Contrary to the Harmonists' commitment to celibacy in 1807, she was presented to George and Christina Rapp by their son John and his wife Johanna on August 31, 1808.

After Gertrude's father died suddenly at Harmony, Pennsylvania, in 1812, the 800 Harmonists took the young Gertrude to their communal heart. She was given a liberal education in their New Harmony school. She was tutored on the pianoforte by the Harmonist musician, composer, conductor, and physician Christopher Mueller. She and her aunt Rosina were sent to perfect their English language skills with the Shakers at West Union north of Vincennes.

Gertrude became the hostess for the Harmonie Society. Notable visitors testified to her social, instrumental, and vocal talents. Her writings were included in a book the Harmonists published as their best prose and poetry titled *Fiery Coals*. She enjoyed her pet elk, painted in water colors, created wax flowers, and managed the Harmonists' silk production at Economy, Pennsylvania, which won blue ribbons for excellence.

Yet Gertrude suffered the loss of many dear friends in the Great Schism of 1832. One-third of her grandfather's disciples, 256 people, left to follow the Count de Leon, who claimed to be the returning Messiah. Then her loss turned to bitterness. She even harshly rebuffed her former tutor and mentor, Christopher Mueller. When he wrote requesting that they continue their close relationship, Gertrude replied, "I am surprised very much that you could be so foolish to think we may still be your friends. You have broken the bond and left our narrow path. You love and now seek that which you formerly considered dirt and stench. I will be happy if I hear very little or much rather nothing at all from you or see anything of you."

Gertrude lived 81 years and at her best made everyone's spirit soar. In this 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Gertrude's birth, my prayer for our new Harmony, my first claim to grandfatherhood, is that she may avoid the loss of friendships and the bitterness and know only the love, talent, and longevity.



## NEW GALLERY DIRECTOR WELCOMED

Erika Myers-Bromwell was officially welcomed as the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art's new director on August 1, 2008. Myers-Bromwell, a native of Maryland, has worked at the gallery almost six years as the assistant director. She received her undergraduate degree at St. Mary's College of Maryland and received her graduate degree from the University of Southern Indiana.

Myers-Bromwell has known since she was in college, while working at the Frederick Boyden Gallery, that working with art was something she wanted to pursue as a career. This career advancement opportunity came available because her predecessor, April Vasher-Dean, along with her family, moved to Potsdam, New York in June.

April was the New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art's director since 2002 but left to become director of the Roland Gibson Gallery at the State University of New York, Potsdam.

In Myers-Bromwell's role as director, she will schedule exhibits and curate the shows, and plans to implement more collaborative programming with non-profit entities in New Harmony and the Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/ Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries at University of Southern Indiana, which opens this month. Please welcome Myers-Bromwell into her new position at the opening reception for the Eric Tucker exhibition, from 4 to 7 p.m. September 27.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL UNEARTH'S ARTIFACTS

A field school and archaeological dig led by Dr. Michael Strezewski, University of Southern Indiana assistant professor of anthropology, and Bill Wepler, historical archaeologist for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, was held May 13–June 13 at Community House No. 2 in New Harmony. The field school served as a course for USI students in Anthropology 397: Archaeological Field School.

The dig helped collect information and artifacts from Community House No. 2 that when analyzed can provide more information about how residents of New Harmony's 19th century Utopian communities lived.

The field school's directors hoped to learn more about how Community House No. 2 was used and to pinpoint exactly where the Harmonist barn was located. A historical map showing several structures on the property, including the community house and the barn, helped guide their investigation. Students provided on-site interpretation during Historic New Harmony's daily tours.

A lecture series to discuss the findings at the archaeological dig site and current Owen/Maclure Community research will take place starting September 25. Featured speakers include Bill Wepler, historical archaeologist for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites on September 25; Ritsert Rinsma, Owen/Maclure scholar from le Havre, France,

on October 30; and Dr. Michael Strezewski, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Southern Indiana in November. For more information, visit [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).





## ATHENEUM/VISITORS CENTER OPEN YEAR-ROUND

The Atheneum/Visitors Center will now be open year round to accommodate local businesses and guests. "New Harmony has always been a peaceful retreat and this will encourage visitors to experience our unique community during the more quiet winter months," explained Connie Weinzapfel. The Atheneum/Visitors Center is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with tours offered daily.

### KUNSTFEST

September 20-21, 2008

Celebrate the heritage of New Harmony's original founders at Kunstfest, held September 20-21 in downtown New Harmony. This traditional celebration features German food, music, and various historic craft demonstrations which provide education for onlookers. There is entertainment ranging from the Big Whopper Liar's Contest to pumpkin painting to horse-drawn carriage rides. For more information, visit [www.newharmony.biz](http://www.newharmony.biz).

### A WALK INTO THE PAST

October 25, 2008

This year's event will be *A Walk Into The Past: A Golden Medley* which will highlight New Harmony's famous *Golden Troupe* and *Golden Band*. Show times will be 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Thrall's Opera House, where the *Golden Troupe* originally performed. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 students. Tour tickets sold on the day of the event also will include admittance to one of the shows. For more information, contact Jan Kahle at 812.682.4488 or [jkahle@usi.edu](mailto:jkahle@usi.edu). Also visit [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

### SPIRITS IN HARMONIE

November 29, 2008

Enjoy a "spirited" evening at Historic New Harmony's popular event from 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Kick off the holiday season by celebrating the spirits-crafting heritage of New Harmony. Visitors sample hand-crafted beers, ciders, and wines at the Atheneum/Visitors Center, the Double-Log Cabin, the Antique Doll Shoppe of New Harmony, and the Rapp-Owen Granary. Live music, festive foods, and shopping will be available at several of the venues. Cost is \$30 per person the day of the event; \$25 per person (\$22.50 for seniors/AAA) if purchased prior to November 29. You must be 21 years of age to attend this event. For more information, visit [www.newharmony.org](http://www.newharmony.org).

### HARMONIEFEST

February 13, 2009

This celebration of the Harmonie Society's founding, co-sponsored by Historic New Harmony and the Harmonie Associates, features a pitch-in dinner followed by guest speakers Dr. Donald E. Pitzer, USI professor emeritus of history, and Jan Kahle, education coordinator for Historic New Harmony. They will present a program relating to the "Schism Reunion" in Harmony and Economy, Pennsylvania, and the descendants of seceders from the Harmonie Society. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at Thrall's Opera House and is free and open to the public. For more information, call 812.682.4488.

## COLLECTIONS CORNER

Amanda Bryden, Collections Manager



The phrase "Lights... camera... action!" has been uttered quite a bit in New Harmony lately. That's because film crews from Ball State University were in New Harmony this spring and summer shooting a documentary about the Owen/Maclure community. The 90-minute film, sponsored by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, will be distributed to libraries and fourth-grade classrooms across the state.



*A scene from Ball State University's educational DVD about the Owen/Maclure community. Film crews shot footage throughout town during the spring and summer. The DVD is scheduled to be distributed to schools and libraries across Indiana this fall.*

The documentary's purpose is to educate students about the Owen/Maclure experiment, a subject often overlooked in the study of Indiana's history. Although much has been written about the utopian community, the history of the society is not well documented for students and teachers.

This movie will link historical knowledge to classroom education. The daily life of Owen community members will be depicted, and interviews with scholars and descendants of community members will be woven throughout the documentary.

Since most of the scenes were filmed in New Harmony, you may recognize a few places—and maybe even a few faces. Local people served as extras, and student actors portrayed various community members such as David Dale Owen, Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, Frances Wright, and Madame Fretageot. The actors donned replica Owen community garb and were filmed inside and outside historic buildings, along the Wabash River, and at USI's archaeological field school site behind Community House 2.

Some of the music that was performed in New Harmony during the utopian community days was rearranged specifically for the documentary and plans are underway to make a CD available to the public.

The documentary is scheduled to be distributed in early 2009.



## AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORIAN IS NEW DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR COMMUNAL STUDIES

The University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies has a new director: Dr. Matthew Grow, assistant professor of history, joined the University in August 2008.

Grow's specialization within American religious history is the history of the Mormon church, with special emphasis on its 19th century origins and development. His dissertation, *"Liberty to the Downtrodden": Thomas L. Kane, Romantic Reformer*, will be published by Yale University Press in 2009. His next project as co-author of *Parley P. Pratt: A Cultural and Intellectual Biography* is to be published by Oxford University Press.

Grow holds a Ph.D. in American history and Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Notre Dame, where he is an Edward Sorin Postdoctoral Scholar. His Bachelor of Arts degree in history is from Brigham Young University, where he graduated *summa cum laude*.

He will teach a variety of courses in American history, including classes that

examine communal societies in American history, religion in America, the history of reform movements in American society, and memory and war in American history.

Dr. Donald E. Pitzer, the founding director of the Center for Communal Studies, retired in 2007.

The Center for Communal Studies is a unique clearinghouse of information about historic and contemporary communal societies, founded in large part because of the University's proximity to and stewardship of Historic New Harmony.

Grow said, "I am thrilled to be joining USI and the Center for Communal Studies. The Center is a unique institution and I look forward to building on the foundation laid by Professor Donald Pitzer. The attempts by various groups to build communal societies are not only historically significant, but also relevant to contemporary debates about the building of communities in modern society."



## HISTORIC NEW HARMONY STAFF FIELD TRIP

In March 2008, Historic New Harmony staff members visited Columbus, Indiana. They took a city architectural tour, which included the North Christian Church designed by Eero Saarinen.

## COLLECTIONS MANAGER SAYS "GOODBYE" TO NEW HARMONY

After working alongside the Historic New Harmony staff for five years, Daniel Goodman, Historic Sites Collections Manager for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, says goodbye to New Harmony.



For the past five years, Dan has been responsible for the care, storage, exhibition, research, and conservation of artifact collections at 11 historic sites (including New Harmony) throughout the State of Indiana. Dan's new position will be as the Registrar for the New Mexico Museum of Art. In this role, he will have the opportunity to focus on modern and contemporary artwork at an institution with an aggressive exhibition schedule.

Before moving to Santa Fe, in August, Dan expressed that he and his wife Alanna are excited about this next step in their lives. "We will miss our friends, coworkers, and the town of New Harmony. It has been a great experience and we will always remember this special place," said Dan.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### DAILY

#### **Historic New Harmony Tours**

Atheneum/Visitors Center

### SEPTEMBER 20-21

#### **Kunstfest**

### SEPTEMBER 25

#### **Lecture Series**

### SEPTEMBER 27-NOVEMBER 2

#### **Eric Tucker**

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

### OCTOBER 4

#### **Golden Raintree Antique Car Show**

### OCTOBER 25

#### **A Walk Into The Past**

Thrall's Opera House

### OCTOBER 30

#### **Lecture Series**

### NOVEMBER

#### **Lecture Series**

### NOVEMBER 8-DECEMBER 21

#### **Andrea Hoelscher**

New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art

### NOVEMBER 12-14

#### **Fourth Annual New Harmony Symposium**

Cultural Towns

### NOVEMBER 22

#### **Fall Gallery Stroll**

### NOVEMBER 29

#### **Spirits in Harmonie**

Atheneum/Visitors Center

### DECEMBER 6-7

#### **Christmas in New Harmony**

### DECEMBER 13

#### **Holiday Ball**

Thrall's Opera House

### FEBRUARY 13

#### **Harmoniefest**

Thrall's Opera House

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

*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, Indiana 47631.

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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).