

## **Minutes of the Center for Communal Studies Advisory Board Luncheon Meeting**

**November 2, 2016 – Noon – 2 PM**  
**USI – Room UC2205**

**Members Present:** Director Dr. Casey Harison, Ms. Wendy Bredhold, Dr. Gregory Brown, Ms. Jennifer Greene, Dr. Donald Janzen, Dr. Jane Johansen, Dr. Joshua Lockyer (via *Skype*), Dr. Carol Medicott, Mr. Graham Perry, Director Emeritus Donald Pitzer, Dr. Silvia Rode, Dr. Michael Strezewski, Dr. Jason Hardgrave, and Ms. Marna Hostetler

**Members Absent:** Dean Dr. James Beeby, Dr. Susan Matarese, and Ms. Connie Weinzapfel

**Guests Present:** Ms. Leslie Townsend

**Administrative Assistant:** Ms. Marilyn Thielman

### **1. Greeting and Introductions**

Director Casey Harison greeted all persons present at today's Center Board of Advisors meeting, acknowledging our newest Board members. He especially thanked those who traveled a distance to attend the meeting, and he indicated that Dr. Joshua Lockyer would join us again through *Skype*.

Harison then introduced Ms. Leslie Townsend, who was substituting for Ms. Connie Weinzapfel, current director of Historic New Harmony (HNN), who was unable to attend. As the interim director of HNN, Townsend will work closely with Weinzapfel until her retirement at year-end 2016. Townsend, director of Community Engagement for USI's Outreach and Engagement, is no stranger to the Center Board of Advisors since she facilitated the meeting that resulted in the Center's new Bylaws.

### **2. Minutes from Spring 2016 Board Meeting**

Harison called for corrections or additions to the Minutes from the Spring 2016 Board Meeting, which was emailed as an attachment to all members ahead of today's meeting. Dr. Donald Pitzer directed attention to this revision of item "Under #3" on page 2 of the minutes:

- Delete sentence 5 and substitute the following: Pitzer announced a book commemorating Indiana's Bicentennial this year. It is titled *Indiana's 200: The People Who Shaped the Hoosier State*. Connie Weinzapfel wrote the essay on Jane Blaffer Owen, and Don wrote the one on Robert Owen in this volume.
- The balance of the paragraph, beginning with "Additionally," should remain the same.

Ms. Jennifer Greene moved that the Minutes be accepted with that revision. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gregory Brown, and all were in favor. This revision will be made, and Harison said that the revision will also be reflected in the Board Minutes that he is now posting on the Center's website along with the Bylaws.

### **3. Reports**

#### **a. Casey Harison**

Harison interviewed by phone the directors of the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Fort Wayne's Indiana University-Purdue University and Center for the Study of American Religion and Culture at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis about the methods and challenges of directing an academic center. He found those conversations to be very productive and useful regarding the differences and similarities between their centers and ours. Harison shared with members some of the knowledge gleaned in regards to budgets, funding, scholars in residence, outreach and engagement.

A panel was organized by Harison on "40 Years of the Center for Communal Studies: A Retrospective" and he presented on "The Center for Communal Studies: Now and Future" for the Communal Studies Association's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, which was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 6 through 8. The panel was chaired by Matt Grow, the first Director of the Center after Pitzer retired, and the panel members and subject matter are listed below:

Don Pitzer – "Role of the Center for Communal Studies"

Jennifer Greene – "Collections of the Center"

Casey Harison – "On-going Role of the Center"

Some 15 persons attended the session, Harison reported. Carol Medicott, who chaired another session during the Conference, reported that she had some 15 persons at that session as well.

The Center hosted the "Center for Communal Studies 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Colloquium" on October 19, from 9 am to 2 pm, in Rice Library Room 0017. Eight presentations were given from a variety of disciplines across the university. All were very appreciated and well received. Harison's talk was entitled "What Is the Center for Communal Studies?" The Colloquium was widely publicized and open to students, faculty, staff, and the public. Harison was interviewed about the Colloquium by the USI student radio station and by a local television (WEVV) news channel. Attendance for each of the nine sessions was good.

A general discussion followed, which included these points:

- Consideration will be given to doing something similar to this Colloquium in the future.
- Students seemed to appreciate the fact that each session was fairly short.
- If done on a regular basis, we might interest persons off-campus, using Elissa Mitchell's presentation "Hope Meadows: Lessons from an Intentional Intergenerational Community" as a model.

Harison produced and had printed a flyer representing the Center's history and main functions. In addition, he revised and published the Center's multi-page brochure.

Harison called attention to his adding a link with information to the Center's website. Whether to place certain writings/publications regarding communalism on the Center's website is still difficult to determine. It was noted that students could then copy and submit them as their own personal writings, as is currently being done with some materials found on the Internet. Perhaps handling certain articles as a blog would help to get the author's story out. Articles regarding developmental communalism would be of interest to most persons. Possibly something like Jaya Priya Reinhalter's lecture regarding Kashi could be put on the website in some form with a notation like "Research in Progress." Harison said that he is not sure of the traffic that we get on our website. He suggested that this matter of what to place on the Center's website needs to be pursued further at the next Spring Board meeting, and he encouraged members to come with further thoughts and suggestions.

## **b. Jennifer Greene**

### Collection Development

- Working to get tapes and recordings from Shiloh.
- Working with an eco-village community in Australia.
- Working with Dr. Donald Janzen to catalog the California intentional communities.
- Continuing the process to get The Farm photos.

### Requests

- Received 10 requests for materials.

### Events

- Participated in a panel along with Harison and Pitzer at the CSA Conference in Salt Lake City, UT, entitled "40 Years of the Center for Communal Studies: A Retrospective." Panel was chaired by Matt Grow, who was USI's first director of the Center after Pitzer retired.
- Gave a presentation at the Center's 40 Anniversary Colloquium on campus.

## **c. Don Janzen**

### Communities Contacted

- Contacted 13 intentional communities in the Los Angeles area at least once since the Spring Board Meeting, including an Ashran eco-village, Buddhist community, Hari Krishna community, MSIA spiritual community, and a Black artists community.
- Have been in email or telephone contact with six other communities in California.

### Community Events

- Attended a Salon hosted by Witch House, which is a social gathering of communities with presentations on various topics. About 60 people attended the one Janzen attended, with 18 presentations.
- Attended Art Festival, featuring children's art, held at St. Elmo Village, a community of Black artists.
- Attended a Summit of Los Angeles intentional communities hosted by the LA Eco-Village. This one-day event was the *first effort* to organize the intentional communities of Los Angeles. About 50 people, representing 16 different communities, participated in the event, where it was decided to:

(1) Hold quarterly meetings.

(2) Create a List Serve to announce events and news.

Janzen volunteered to contact the 17 known communities in the Los Angeles area that didn't attend the Summit, urging them to attend the upcoming January Summit meeting. First Summit went extremely well, with formal introductions and descriptions of the various communities as well as ample time for meeting each other and forming contacts. Janzen had Center brochures available, and he addressed the importance of communities preserving their history, sharing with the public the valuable lessons learned about cooperative living, and serving as an inspiration to others to create communities.

He suspects that at the second January Summit the communities will form some kind of organization and establish more formal ties since there was talk of having formal sessions of topics of interest to communities. He also suspects that this organization will be responsible for the formation of new communities.

#### Other Public Relations

- Called Groundswell Community in northern California regarding the distribution of Center brochures at the West Coast Communities Conference they hosted from September 29 through October 2. Brochures were mailed by the Center. Janzen maintains email contact with Groundswell and receives their online newsletter.
- Has email contact with Community of St. John Cassian.
- Emailed Three Springs Community, inviting them to send material to Special Collections.
- Gave *Communities Magazine* to Synchronicity and Technicolor Tree Tribe.

#### Photographs and Archival Materials

- Has taken almost 300 photographs of the 13 Los Angeles communities.
- Obtained community literature from Synchronicity and St. Elmo Village.
- Contacted Emerald Earth in northern California and ordered a complete set of newsletters for Special Collections.
- Started doing a “Print Screen” of websites of California communities, since some of this will eventually be deleted – 30 completed. Also printing Groundswell’s emailed newsletters and personal emails that Janzen receives from communities. All have been converted to a PDF file, and a Finding Aid has been prepared for Special Collections.

As an ongoing project, Janzen is in the process of getting communities to turn over materials to Special Collections. Several communities have large photograph collections, and he has been given permission to scan them. Permission is needed to make a copy of the many photographs of people and the details.

**Lunch break occurred at this point.**

#### **4. Reports (Cont.)**

##### **d. Carol Medicott**

Medicott (Editor of *Communal Societies*) gave a review of the annual Communal Studies Association (CSA) conference that was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 6 through 8 with a theme of “Anticipating the End Times: Millennialism, Apocalypticism, and Utopianism in Intentional Communities.” She complimented the host for this conference, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one of the largest religious organizations with a significant communal heritage. Former Director of USI’s Center for Communal Studies, Matthew Grow, was the Program Chair. There were 125 registered attendees and 80 papers presented. Center Board of Advisors members – Harison, Pitzer, and Greene – presented “40 Years of the Center for Communal Studies: A Retrospective” which Grow moderated. Center Board member Josh Lockyer, also on the Board of CSA, echoed the praise that Medicott offered for a truly wonderful conference experience.

Additionally, Medicott reported that there was so much to see and do in the Salt Lake City area. Special pre-conference tours, including the Tabernacle and Brigham Young's homes, highlighted communalism practiced in the Mormon tradition. Of special interest to Medicott was Welfare Square, where the LDS church has provided food and other personal effects over the years to the less fortunate among us.

A new feature of the CSA Conference was the Donald Durnbaugh Starting Scholar Award, which was awarded to Lane Attmore, whose submission was really excellent, Medicott said. It will be published in an upcoming issue of *Communal Societies*. Others who did not win were encouraged to submit their papers separately to be considered for publication in the future. Medicott said printing of many good papers is currently running some six to seven months behind. She shared information concerning some upcoming papers that members should anticipate reading in Vol. 36, No. 1:

- Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage case study village analysis is an excellent paper.
- Philippe Chavance's paper regarding Shaker architecture in the early west. His ideas in that paper need to be debated, according to Medicott. It covers the difference between manifesto and testimony, two different ideas that have never been explored before.
- Dan McKanan contributes an article assessing the evolution of the 75-year-old Camphill movement. Medicott said that she was very excited and grateful to use the original artwork of Michael Hoet, art instructor at Camphill Village Minnesota, on the cover of this issue of the journal.

Concerning the upcoming Vol. 36, No. 2, Medicott said that she is busy laying out these articles:

- The history of "Simple Gifts" which is a long-time Shaker song.
- Matt Grow's review of the Nauvoo Temple. Medicott said they always try to tie the cover with the journal inside story.
- A study of three contemporary ecovillages by Jesse Sherry and Alison Ormsby.

Medicott expressed thanks to everybody, especially for the good cooperation in reviewing manuscripts. She then called attention to Greg Brown's book review in the upcoming journal. And, she said in Vol. 38, No. 2, they will be doing a special issue concerning the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jonestown through the eyes of Laura Kohl, a survivor. In closing, Medicott reminded members of next year's CSA Annual Meeting, which will be at the Historic Zoar Village in Zoar, Ohio.

Director Harison said that he was pleased to see three or four of the Center paper prize winners at the CSA Conference. It made him feel that we are bringing younger scholars into the fold. Greene commented that we need to get Laura Kohl here as a lecturer next spring.

#### **e. Don Pitzer**

Pitzer thanked Medicott for her wonderful work as Editor of *Communal Societies*. He further said that their journal is "the journal" in this field. Pitzer commented that the article regarding Camphill which Medicott mentioned is based on "developmental communalism," a theory which Pitzer proposed in the 1980s to explain how movements use, change, and sometimes abandon communal living. Daniel McKanan's article is titled "Camphill at Seventy-five: Developmental Communalism in Process." Pitzer announced that Dr. McKanan has also become president of the International Communal Studies Association (ICSA) and will be program chair for its 2019

conference at Camphill communities he studies in New England. Center board members will be welcome to attend and present papers.

A reminder was given by Pitzer regarding Harison's important book entitled *A New Social Question*, published in 2015 by Cambridge Scholars Publishing. It resulted from Harison's editing papers from the Center's conference on "Capitalism & Socialism: Utopia, Globalization and Revolution" at New Harmony, as part of their bicentennial celebration in November, 2014. It should be noted that the title of the book is related to Harison's 2015 article in *Communal Societies* titled "Louise Michel, the Paris Commune, and Icaria: Europe's Social Question and the Legacy of French Communalism."

Pitzer said that 2015 and 2016 marked three special anniversaries in the study of communal groups. In 2015, the Communal Studies Association celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary while the International Communal Studies Association was celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup>. In 2016, the Center for Communal Studies commemorated its 40<sup>th</sup> year. As a CSA and ICSA founding member, Pitzer was grateful to be asked to record his memories in an article for *Communal Societies* titled "The Communal Studies Association at Forty: A Personal Retrospective" and a chapter for the ICSA's commemorative volume edited by Yaacov Oved and Jan Bang titled "The International Communal Studies Association History and Recollections" and available online at [www.communia.org.il/icsa](http://www.communia.org.il/icsa). The Center's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was heralded by a day of scholarly lectures organized by Harison, in which he, members of the Center board, and other invited speakers participated, as reported earlier.

Pitzer said he was thankful for all of the above opportunities to recount the beginnings and achievements of the Center for Communal Studies and also to do so in his December 2015 lecture as part of USI's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. His lecture and the pictures he showed have been published by the university in a booklet titled *A Utopian Vision Realized*. He gave the Center board members signed copies and expressed his great indebtedness to all the kind people who had opened the doors he walked through while enjoying his life of teaching and of studying communal utopias. He especially thanked Harison for "putting up with him" over the years since his retirement after 2007.

Sincere and humble appreciation was also expressed by Pitzer that at its commencement in April 2016, USI recognized his academic career and service to the university with an honorary doctoral degree. He received it, he said, not only as a personal honor, but also as the university's confirmation of the academic credibility of the field of communal studies and the worldwide significance of the Center for Communal Studies and the Communal Studies Collection in the USI archives. Pitzer expressed his own conviction that the communal groups we study are invaluable voluntary social laboratories on the cutting edge of lessons so desperately needed to be learned by today's society. "Dr. Dr." Pitzer also brought his honorary Doctor of Laws diploma and hood to display at the meeting. He wore the hood for a fun group photo with the Center board afterward.

Pitzer announced that a scholar in France, Ritsert Rinsma, is nearing the completion of his massive illustrated book titled *Eyewitness to Utopia* on the life, research, and sketches of Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. Lesueur was one of the most outstanding natural scientists and artists in the early American Republic, an eyewitness to several communal groups, and a member of Robert Owen's New Harmony. Rinsma has asked Pitzer to write the Foreword. Rinsma's book uses and expands upon the fine 1999 book edited by Josephine Elliott and Jane Johansen titled *Charles-Alexandre Lesueur: Premier Naturalist and Artist* that also includes scores of Lesueur's invaluable sketches of landscapes, buildings, people, and wildlife of New

Harmony and worldwide. Their book is still available directly from Johansen and online at Amazon.com.

Pitzer called to the attention of members who may not be aware of the fact that New Harmony's Roofless Church has had its gold gate regilded. Also, he mentioned the possible opportunity for the Center or USI to begin an initiative in space now available in the former New Harmony High School which is being taken over by the Workingmen's Institute.

## **5. Other Items**

Harison thanked all attendees who were able to come to today's Board meeting, mentioning Wendy Bredhold and Jane Johansen and guest Leslie Townsend in particular.

Since Connie Weinzapfel was unable to attend today's meeting, Townsend shared a message from Weinzapfel regarding her last report about Historic New Harmony's purchasing five pieces of Harmonist furniture. Additionally, there are also several Harmonist scarves being purchased. Townsend mentioned a book on decorative art developed by Amanda Bryden. A book regarding the Harmonist furniture is in the beginning stages plus one covering textiles, pottery, and decorative art, authored by the same person.

Townsend said that Weinzapfel will be presenting to the USI Foundation on November 17 a talk entitled "Why New Harmony?" Also, on November 13 there will be a retirement reception for Weinzapfel at the New Harmony Atheneum .

A general discussion followed, which included the desire to have a masters degree offered at USI in the History Department. It was noted that since Dean Beeby has a background in teaching history, perhaps we are well-positioned for a masters to develop. Pitzer called attention to the Self-Study of the Center back in 2001. The Working Men's Institute is apparently looking at something in collaboration with USI as well.

The Fellowship for Intentional Community (FIC) is interested in having their materials come to the Center. Greene is in contact with them. She and Harison will be following up on that.

In closing, Harison reminded members about the Center's sponsoring a lecture in the spring of 2017 as well as also offering Undergraduate and Graduate Paper Prizes and a Research Travel Grant Award. The next Board Meeting will probably be in April or May. There will be additional reporting done at that time.

Our meeting adjourned close to 2 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Thielman, Administrative Assistant

mst - 3/6/17