

Minutes of the Center for Communal Studies Advisory Board Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm
USI University Center 226-227

Members Present: Gregory Brown, Jason Hardgrave, Casey Harison, Marna Hostetler, Jane Johansen, Joshua Lockyer, Susan Matarese, Graham Perry, Donald Pitzer, Silvia Rode, Michael Strezewski

Members Absent: James Beeby, Wendy Bredhold, Jennifer Greene, Donald Janzen, Carol Medlicott, Leslie Townsend

Guests: Franziska Bechtel (Frankfurt, Germany), Alex Dandy (USI student), Melinda Roberts (Assistant Dean of USI College of Liberal Arts)

Administrative Assistant: Marilyn Thielman

1. **Greeting and Introductions:** Director Casey Harison greeted all, noting those who traveled some distance to attend. Harison introduced guests Alex Dandy, Franzi Bechtel and Melinda Roberts (sitting in for Dean James Beeby).

2. **Minutes from Fall 2019 Board Meeting:** Harison asked for corrections or additions to the Minutes from the Fall 2018 Board meeting. Greg Brown moved that the Minutes be accepted; seconded by Graham Perry. Don Pitzer identified some corrections. All voted in favor. The revised Minutes will be posted on the Center's website.

3. Reports

a. **Harison on Center Annual Report for 2018-2019.** Brief discussion about the Annual Report. Harison noted that HIST 222, which is a required introductory course for the new Communal Studies minor, did not meet the minimum number of students during Priority Registration, and so will not be offered in Fall 2019. About Item 1 of the Annual report: Harison will continue publicizing the Minor and recruiting students. About Item 5: Harison noted that we are awaiting word on the release of the Josh Robin/NY1 News film that included interviews with Pitzer, Harison, Greene, Dandy and others. About Item 6: Harison is awaiting word as to whether the Communal Studies Association will hold their 2021 annual conference in New Harmony. About item 10: Harison will work this summer on developing the Communal Studies Minor by creating a bibliography and talking with faculty about teaching the required HIST 222 and/or a capstone senior-level course.

b. **USI History student Alex Dandy on MAGIC/Minka Project.** Alex presented a Power Point version of the presentation he made at the Spring 2019 USI Endeavor! Program, which was based on research and a paper he wrote for an independent study History course completed with Harison in the Spring semester. Alex's interpretation was based partly upon Pitzer's theory of developmental communalism.

Lunch

3. Reports (cont.)

c. **Don Pitzer reported** on work on communal societies that Board member Don Janzen is doing in California (see below). Pitzer reminded the Board of the upcoming meeting of

the 13th triennial meeting of the International Communal Studies Association in and around Hudson, New York (17-19 July 2019), where the conference theme was the Camphill Communities movement. The 46th annual meeting of the Communal Studies Association takes place 18-20 October 2019 at Dupont Estate in Winterthur, Delaware. Pitzer noted the passing of two important figures in communal studies: Jean Vanier founded the L'Arche community in France in 1964; this eventually became a federation of 149 communities in 137 countries dedicated in part to feeding the hungry. Also passing away was Jim Arnold, who after 1974 was director of the Owen Historic site at New Lanark, Scotland. Pitzer made a motion that guest Franziska Bechtel be made a member-at-large of the Board operating from Germany and Europe; seconded by Greg Brown; the motion was approved unanimously. Pitzer noted the following publications:

Fernandez, Kathleen. *Zoar: The Story of an Intentional Community* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2019).

Miller, Timothy, *Communes in America, 1975-2000* (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2019).

Don Janzen activities in California this past year (also added to Annual Report):

- Intentional Community Web Research Project: It has been thirty years since the F.I.C. introduced the term "intentional community" and invited groups to decide if they were this kind of community. A search was done on the web to see what groups have decided that they are an intentional community. It was found that the term is now widely used, and groups claiming this status include: summer camps, schools, churches, Yoga classes, beauty and massage parlors, rehab facilities, Greek social fraternities, and nudist colonies. Statements from these various groups were copied and a report written that included an analysis of the findings. A copy was sent to (USI) Special Collections.
- Ongoing Project: Since 2015, articles on intentional community that practice cooperative living have been copied from websites, blogs, word press articles, etc. Only articles written after 2000 are considered. More and more people who lived in hippie communes are writing about their life in the community, and most of the articles contain photographs. All articles are printed and sent to (USI) Special Collections along with a PDF file. To date the following has been completed: 202 articles on 40 different communities = 1,112 pages
- On May 3rd, Ellis Island, a Los Angeles community from the Hippie era, will hold a 50th anniversary party. I have been invited, and will take photos for the Center. A book on the history of the community has been printed for the occasion. I will purchase one for (USI) Special Collections.

4. Other Items

- Harison distributed a list of Prize and Grant winners since 2011. Discussion followed about ways to encourage more submissions for Undergraduate Prize; recommendations from Jane Johansen to make better use of social media and the Center website.

- Graham Perry noted that Fort Negley in Tennessee may be designated a UNESCO World Historic Site.
- Thielman and Harison will contact individual Board members whose terms are expiring.
- Discussion of public events and activities for the Center in the coming year. These include publicizing annual prizes and travel grant; publicizing new Communal Studies minor; creating new required class for the minor (“Roots of Communalism”); and continuation of a variety of projects on Marilyn’s desk.
- Special thanks to Marilyn Thielman for her work in organizing this meeting.

Harison thanked all who were able to come to today’s Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey Harison, Director
Marilyn Thielman, Administrative Assistant