

Minutes of the Center for Communal Studies Advisory Board Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 11:00 am – 1:10 pm
USI University Center 2205

Members Present: James Beeby, Gregory Brown, Jennifer Greene, Casey Harison, Marna Hostetler, Donald Janzen, Carol Medicott, Donald Pitzer, Michael Strezewski, Leslie Townsend

Members Absent: Wendy Bredhold, Jane Johansen, Joshua Lockyer, Susan Matarese, Graham Perry, Silvia Rode

Guests: Martha Janzen (visiting from California with spouse Don), 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 Martha Janzen and Melinda Roberts (arrived after departure of James Beeby).

2. Minutes from Spring 2018 Board Meeting: Harison called for corrections or additions to the Minutes from the Spring 2018 Board meeting. Greg Brown moved that the Minutes be accepted; seconded by Carol Medicott; all in favor. The revised Minutes will be posted on the Center's website.

3. Reports

a. Harison on progress of the Communal Studies minor. The minor has been approved through all stages of departmental, college and university review. The minor has received support through all stages and is on schedule to be available beginning fall 2019. The required introductory course (HIST 222, "Roots of Communalism") will be offered by Harison in fall 2019.

b. Don Janzen reported on contacts with intentional communities in Los Angeles County. He has focused on Internet research of community blogs and websites, of which he has taken numerous screen shots. An interesting community is the Source Family, which has similarities with Shiloh (for which Don contributed to a sizeable collection at USI Archives). Some of the Los Angeles communities have created a consortium. The LA Ecovillage will contribute materials to the Communal Studies Collection. For the future, Don will continue to develop the Shiloh Collection, while also devoting attention to the artwork of communities in Los Angeles. He has organized his recent work in Los Angeles into bound works titled "Source Family," which he passed around for Board members to see.

c. Jennifer Greene reported on Communal Studies Collection development:

Working with a student to get the communal archives organized and a full inventory.

Developing a program on the history of Padanaram for Southwestern Indiana Historical Society scheduled February 18, 2018 at Willard Library.

Completing Laura Johnston Kohl's collection, scanned photographs and some documents, building an online gallery; should be finished by the end of the month. Small article in "Jonestown Report" on Laura's donation.

Working on articles for CSA newsletter & *Communities Magazine*.

Anyone wanting to write small pieces about communities in the collections is welcome.

In final negotiations with Dancing Rabbit – working on donation language and timetable for completion of digitization. May get a Graduate Assistant to make sure we can process this collection in a timely manner.

Presenting at the National Communications Association Conference.

Radio dramas by Leigh Ann Howard's class - Daniel Wright, Padanaram.

Circulation: 7 requests from collections (July-present); 25 requests 2017-2018.

California Trip: Was able to visit three different archives while in San Francisco and San Diego. Learned different methods for handling materials with the patrons – boxes only. Gathered material on Peoples Temple; working on a story for this summer. Visited five communities: LA Ecovillage, New Dvaraka, St. Elmo's Village, HMS157, Ellis Island. LA Ecovillage wants to send us materials and organizational documents.

Art from communities - HMS157, St. Elmo's Village and Ellis Island.

Collection Development policy review: Working on refining and narrowing the scope of materials for active collection development.

Communal Studies Collection Development Policy: The Communal Studies Collection has already begun the process of focusing on 20th and 21st Century communities. Now the goal is to narrow that focus to communities that meet an agreed-upon criteria for active collection development. The collections will not remove any existing collection or stop materials that already come into the CCS or the UASC. For the purposes of defining "intentional community" for collection development the following basic criteria has been developed:

1. A sense of purpose and distinctiveness, with deliberate intent to be a community formed by people that live in the community.
2. Some kind of shared living space.
3. Some shared resources.
4. An intentional community built around common values and goals.

5. Finding answers to social, economic, spiritual, or philosophical issues in a community setting.

d. Greg Brown reported on his recently-published book *Unified Field Theology: A Journey from Evangelical Fundamentalism to Faith in What Is* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2019).

Lunch (across the hall at UC 2203)

4. Reports (cont.)

e. Don Pitzer reported on recently-published books and a film (see titles below) and the passing of Susan Jackson Keig, who was a founding figure of the Communal Studies Association. Keig died this year at age 99. She was an enthusiast of Shaker history and culture, and a renowned graphic artist. She designed the logo for the CSA. Keig was a long-time resident of Chicago and attended many CSA meetings over the years.

Book/film titles:

Bechtel, Franziska. *New Harmony: Das Experiment und sein Vermächtnis*. Baden-Baden: Nomos Publishing Company, 2018.

Brown, Gregory. *Unified Field Theology: A Journey from Evangelical Fundamentalism to Faith in What Is* Eugene. Oregon: Wipf & Stock, 2018.

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

Grow, Matthew, Ed. *Saints: The Story of the Church of Jesus Christ in the Latter Days*, vol. I of *The Standards of Truth, 1815-1846*. Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 2018.

Mayhan, Joni. *Haunted New Harmony*. Self-published, 2017.

Rode, Silvia. *George Rapp Thoughts on the Destiny of Man: A Critical Study* (NCSA Literatur, 2018).

Film (DVD): *Hippie Family Values*. New Day Films. Prod. and dir. Beverly Seckinger.

5. Other Items

- Leslie Townshend noted the recent USI-sponsored conference on Contemporary Spanish Theater at New Harmony and the film *Three Identical Strangers*, which will be shown at New Harmony on Saturday, 17 November 2018, 8 pm.
- Carol Medlicott reported on the recent meeting of the Communal Studies Association at Bishop Hill, Illinois (Oct. 2018).
- Bookmarks publicizing the activities of the Center have been produced; each Board member was provided three bookmarks.
- Harison noted the creation of new signage for the Center (a large sign was displayed at the meeting), which may be used at future events hosted by the Center.
- Pitzer reminded everyone of the summer 2019 meeting of the International Communal Studies Association meeting in Hudson, New York.
- Thielman and Harison will contact individual Board members whose terms are expiring.

- Harison reviewed the schedule of activities for the Center for the rest of this semester and the start of the spring 2019 semester. These include publicizing annual prizes and travel grant; recruiting judges for prizes and travel grant; publicizing new Communal Studies minor; creating new required class for the minor (“Roots of Communalism”); organizing a public presentation for spring 2019; and continuing with a variety of projects on Marilyn’s desk.
- Some members of the Board attended the morning’s ground-breaking for the Minka model home (part of the Magic Project described at the spring 2018 Board meeting).
- 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 1:10 pm.

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