



In Harmony Newsletter



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FEBRUARY 2023 Edition

Assistant Director's Update

In my family, childhood vacations often felt more like school field trips than relaxing breaks. My mom, a former elementary teacher, loved to fill our family's leisure time with educational visits to museums, historic sites, parks and other roadside attractions. Read more from our new Assistant Director, Diane Sanders

Atheneum Update

The Atheneum reopens on March 1 after a very busy off season. [Read more about what occurred during the winter break](#)

NHGCA Update

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Advisory Board Spotlight

Dr. Mark Krahlung has been at USI for nearly 30 years. While his involvement with the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board just began, his appreciation of this community has been there since the beginning. [Learn more about Mark](#)

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ISMHS Update

This winter, the Harmonist Labyrinth has been shining bright at night to guide visitors through its hedges. For decades now, people have walked around the path of this replica Harmonist labyrinth to achieve a thoughtful, ponderous state leading to clarity and discovery. Read more on how the community came together to light the labyrinth

James A. Sanders Spring '23 Fellowship

As the Spring James A. Sanders fellow, Al Sheets will organize and curate shows in the Back Gallery Projects' space at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. The current display in the Back Gallery Projects is *Hodge Podge*, an exhibition highlighting the diversity of work brought together by members of the USI Art Club Learn more about the exhibition

DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023 Edition



Interim Assistant Director's Update

For those of you that have been reading this newsletter from the beginning, you might remember an article I wrote for the very first edition in June 2020 about our very own history mystery. After two years the mystery is (kind of) solved! Read more from Claire

NHGCA Update

Revelations, a solo exhibition featuring Chicago-based artist Cass Davis, has closed and two new exhibitions have opened! Learn more about these new exhibitions

Christmas in New Harmony

Believe it or not, the holiday season is here. Throughout town, businesses are preparing for one of our biggest weekends of the year: Christmas in New Harmony. Read how Historic New Harmony is participating in the festivities

Three New Harmony Properties Sold

On Thursday, November 3, the University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees approved the sale of three properties in New Harmony. [Learn more about these sales](#)

ISMHS Update

This year, it was my pleasure to prep and plan a spooky program for the New



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Diane Sanders, Assistant Director

In my family, childhood vacations often felt more like school field trips than relaxing breaks. My mom, a former elementary teacher, loved to fill our family's leisure time with educational visits to museums, historic sites, parks and other roadside attractions. We often travelled to Indiana, since it



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was close to our home in St. Louis, Missouri. My early interest in history was fueled by these trips, especially those to Conner Prairie in Fishers, Indiana. There, I donned homemade period clothing to immerse myself in the past—much to my sister’s and brother’s chagrin!

Our summer trips somehow never brought us to New Harmony, so my first experience of the town wasn’t until high school. My American history teacher assigned a paper that could be on any historical topic, but it had to be based on primary sources. I had an interest in utopian communities, so my mom and I planned a day trip to New Harmony to prepare for my assignment.

Many of the details of that trip have faded from my memory, but I do remember my first view of the Atheneum: the crisp, white architecture silhouetted against the bright blue and cloudless sky. The modern architecture underscored the uniqueness of this place: one that valued its history but also looked towards the future. Once inside, the models of the town and Harmonist Brick Church captivated my attention; I still have my photographs of them tucked away. On tour, I remember being fascinated by the Community Houses and trying freshly churned butter. Our visit to New Harmony was rounded out by tours of the Labyrinth and the Roofless Church, window shopping along Main and Church Streets, and lunch at the Red Geranium. It was truly a perfect day in utopia.

Even though I tease my mom about our “field trips,” they spurred a lifelong love for museums and historic sites, which I’ve since made the focus of my career. I studied Historic Preservation and Housing and Interior Design at Southeast Missouri State University and then received a graduate degree in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. My first job in the field was as an exhibit designer at the Missouri History Museum back home in St. Louis. That experience prepared me for a job at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. There, my work supported a total redesign of the exhibit space, culminating in a grand reopening last August. At that point, it was time to look for a new adventure, so it was serendipitous to find the job advertisement for the Assistant Director of Historic New Harmony around the same time! Now my mom has something new to tease me about, as I always thought I would live in a big city. But after living in large cities and spending far too much time in traffic, I’m looking



forward to raising my family here. Already, you may have seen me with my husband, James, and my two kids, Eric (5 years) and Claire (10 months), enjoying the amenities the town has to offer. We have played at Murphy's Park, explored the Harmonist Labyrinth and hiked the trail by the Wabash River. We are thrilled to be here and look forward to being part of this town's rich history and innovative future.

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Claire Eagle, Interim Assistant Director

Every December, the Historic New Harmony (HNN) team takes some time to think about everything we accomplished throughout the year—all the programs, grant applications, maintenance work and community partnerships. This year, with a bit more focus on behind the scenes work, there weren't as many public-facing programs for us, but that doesn't mean we didn't document everything we accomplished this year and took even more photos of the beautiful landscape of New Harmony. So, instead of writing a long article, I thought I'd share a gallery of some of the hundreds of photos we took. Please enjoy the gallery below. We look forward to another exciting year at HNN and wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday and New Year.



Historic New Harmony News



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Atheneum Update

Claire Eagle, Community Engagement Manager

The Atheneum reopens on March 1 after a very busy off season. In addition to the Atheneum roof tiles being replaced, the wooden floors were refinished, drywall repairs were completed and paint touch ups are happening as I type this. Before the reopening, we'll also be stocking the Museum Shop with new and returning favorites including redware by Bee Tree Pottery, historic toys like Jacob's ladder and new jewelry designs. All that's missing at the Atheneum is you! The Atheneum will be open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. We're excited to welcome you back and hope you'll visit soon.

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A Look Ahead

Leslie Townsend, Director of Community Engagement and Historic New Harmony
This time of year provides an opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months, but to also look ahead to what the new year will bring. For Historic New Harmony, 2023 will bring some changes to our team.



NHGCA Update



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FEBRUARY 2023

Tonya Lance, Senior Gallery Associate

The cold weather made the past few months seem slow, but a lot has happened behind the scenes. The main exhibition space received more upgrades, including replacing the carpet with tile and resurfacing the wood floors. Along with the new lighting, shades and ceiling makeover, the gallery once again feels like a contemporary space. We are grateful to the Efroymson Family Fund for financially supporting these upgrades and to Iris Williamson for all the legwork lobbying for and planning the execution of these upgrades! Iris left the Gallery at the end of January. We wish her the best in her new position at the Maine College of Art and Design. In addition, the Gallery Shop is working on some technology upgrades as we continue to improve our processes and workflow through project management. We are also excited to have our part-time gallery assistant, Ashley Banks, and our Spring James A. Sanders Fellow, Al Sheets, join the NHGCA team! Our current exhibition, *Climb In and Back Out Again*, is a raw display of vulnerability exploring femininity, motherhood and way-finding. Melanie Cooper Pennington utilizes materials, methods and symbols to examine gendered issues around power, grief and desire. In her works, Pennington melds human and anthropomorphic forms into abstract figures that evoke physical sensations such as intimidation, awkwardness and ecstasy.

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Pennington blazes a trail for deep communion with oneself and others, embracing the tension between what is familiar and what is unknown. Having descended from Arizona cowboys, Melanie Cooper Pennington formally references art



histories rooted in masculine symbols and practices such as Western American Art, mid-century modernist sculpture and traditional craftsman-like techniques. She confronts these tropes by utilizing “the feminine”—an adjective that historically diminished the work of women artists. As an exploration of the body and its psychological states, Pennington asserts traits that traditionally imply “weakness”—fragility, sexuality, desire—as elemental to human fulfillment.

James A. Sanders Spring '23 Fellowship

Al Sheets, Fellow

As the Spring James A. Sanders fellow, I will organize and curate shows in the Back Gallery Projects' space at New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art. The current display in the Back Gallery Projects is *Hodge Podge*, an exhibition highlighting the



diversity of work brought together by members of the USI Art Club. I am thrilled to be a part of the process of facilitating this show and looking forward to sharing this collection with the public. At USI, I am currently studying art (with emphases on both illustration and graphic design) and exploring the world of gallery management, curation and conservation. My work typically uses charcoal, soft pastel, colored pencil and digital software. In the past, my work has explored the topic of human connection through physicality, gender identity and sexuality. Recently, my work explores the passage of time and the expectations we set for ourselves vs. the expectations of others. I

anticipate incorporating these ideas as I curate two exhibitions for BG Projects, one later this Spring after *Hodge Podge* and one at the beginning of the Fall Semester.

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Iris Williamson

We did a lot in 2022. While the world has changed since COVID-19 hit and there is still much to do, we have been gradually improving processes, strengthening



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Claire Eagle, Community Engagement Manager

Historic New Harmony's mission is to preserve and promote its utopian legacy and inspire renewal and fellowship between people and communities through our programs and collections. Historic New Harmony's Advisory Board is crucial to the fulfillment of this mission. Our board members show their support daily by promoting education, scientific, and charitable activities and programs by contributing both their time and money. As we continue this new digital newsletter adventure, we thought there was no better way to show our gratitude than to spotlight those that serve.

FEBRUARY 2023

Dr. Mark Krahlung has been at USI for nearly 30 years. While his involvement with the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board just began, his appreciation of this community has been there since the beginning. Not only has he enjoyed numerous trips with USI faculty, staff and students, he and his wife, Allison, were married at St. Stephens in 2014.

So why does he love New Harmony? "New Harmony exemplifies what a small town can provide," Mark shared. He cites the Rapp-Owen Granary as a perfect example of this. The renovation that was completed in 1999 is "typical for New Harmony though contrary to much of what happens in America's small towns." HNH can continue this legacy through our discussions of sustainability, which Mark cites as the major topic he would like HNH to tackle. While the town has excelled in continued use and restoration of our

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historic landscape, he believes further discussions often falter. “I think patience will help us find a path that works.” During his tenure, Mark has spent many workdays in New Harmony as a part of a



university workday, most recently as a UNIV 101 Instructor during our New Harmony Freshman Experience last fall. These visits would often include an aspect of New Harmony history, whether it was a visit to one of HNH’s historic properties or a presentation that highlighted “a significant Historic New Harmony event.” When asked how HNH could further serve as a living, learning laboratory for USI faculty, staff and students, Mark noted how heartwarming it is to see their “discovery of an art loving community with shops, galleries and restaurants so close” to campus. The discovery is what leads to further fascination, and finally to the connection of New Harmony as a living, learning laboratory.

As a part of these spotlights, Advisory Board members are always asked to share a favorite memory of New Harmony. Mark shared seven. They included everything from his wedding and summer cycling trips with his wife to memories of his daughters playing in the Patrick Dougherty woven tree sculptures that were installed in Maclure Square in 2003. It’s clear that Mark has a fondness for New Harmony, which has led to a lifelong

connection. Now as a member of the Historic New Harmony Advisory Board, he can help inspire other community members and visitors to make that connection as well.

AUGUST 2021



For Linda Warrum, New Harmony is home. She first became a resident of Posey County in 1976, moving to New Harmony in 1999 when she also became a tour guide for Historic New Harmony. After 20 years, Linda retired from Historic New Harmony last year. As a tour guide, she enjoyed working in a multimillion dollar building and being able to meet people from all over the world. “I loved it,” she shared, “except for rain and snow.”



In addition to her tour guide duties, Linda often volunteered at the Working Men’s Institute, exploring the archives and finding items that expanded her historical



Indiana State Museum Update



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Jess McPherson, New Harmony State Historic Site Coordinator

This winter, the Harmonist Labyrinth has been shining bright at night to guide visitors through its hedges. For decades now, people have walked around the path of this replica Harmonist labyrinth to achieve a thoughtful, ponderous state leading to clarity and discovery. The journey often symbolizes finding the solution to a problem and achieving understanding. Others view the labyrinth as a metaphor for a spiritual journey, with the entrance representing birth and the center symbolizing God, knowing or enlightenment. Getting to the center requires a long, arduous journey of growth. And now, for the first time ever, visitors can take this journey after the sun has gone down. This is all thanks to some beautiful string lights which now envelope the hedges. All of this was thanks to some amazing volunteers headed by Mary Beth Guard of Caper's Emporium. Not only does the labyrinth represent growth and journeys, but it now also represents the tight-knit community that is New Harmony. To see everyone come together not only to acquire the solar-powered lights, but to also install them all and then use drones to take some photographs (provided by Ted's Drone Service) was inspiring. I am already aware of the joy and love that lives in New Harmony, but it is especially beautiful to see that joy and love embodied in a physical form. It is definitely a must-see for tourists coming through the area.

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NOVEMBER 2022



Jess McPherson, New Harmony State Historic Site Coordinator

Every year, New Harmony turns into a Hallmark movie during the first weekend of December. The town held its famous annual festival, Christmas in New Harmony, December 2-4 and it was a blast. This was my second time working and attending the weekend festivities and if you haven't made it out to see it for yourself, you really should next year. This was also the second year the Indiana State Museum opened the doors of Community House No. 2 for artisan vendors. We also provided space for the Children's Center for Dance Education to host their performance of "The Nutcracker." In addition to these events, New Harmony also offers a tree lighting ceremony, a pub crawl, horse-drawn carriage rides, a gnome scavenger hunt and many more fun activities for visitors and families to enjoy. The town is filled with music, laughter and the enchanting smell of fresh kettle corn and hot chocolate. I wasn't exaggerating when I said the town turns into a Hallmark movie. It really does feel like you're escaping from a bustling, over-worked life into the quiet magic of a small-town Christmas. It was especially my pleasure to decorate and assist in the Community House artisan sales this year. Not only were the artisans all lovely to