



## The Next Generation: Our Children of Cohousing

### ***A Word from Your Chief Engagement Officer***

Part of our work at Coho/US involves building a national cohousing community - towards connecting you with the larger cohousing world, both for support and mentoring, but also to celebrate the innovative movement you are helping grow. Our children of cohousing - those who have grown up in cohousing - are a tangible and priceless feature; below is a call out to bring us together.

Another essential ingredient to connecting our national community are those that give their time and energy in service to cohousing. To name just a few: **Joani Blank**, co-founder of [Swan's Market](#) in Oakland, answers our phone, sharing wisdom with folks looking for resources; **Raines Cohen**, a [Berkeley Cohousing](#) member and cohousing consultant, patiently and resourcefully answers inquiries from our website; and **Fred Olson**, who volunteers independently of Coho/US in service to our larger community, maintains the [cohousing-l discussion list](#) from his Minneapolis home - for over 20 years.

Our recent launch of a new [website](#) is largely due to the creativity and countless volunteer hours contributed by **Catya Belfer**, who serves as Coho/US Technical Director in her spare time. Catya was the tenacious champion of our redesign, leading a group of volunteers who crafted the new site. Given the importance of our website as a connector and clearinghouse, we are mighty proud of our team's accomplishment. Catya is a member of [Mosaic Commons](#), west of Boston, and has been involved in intentional communities for over 20 years. Catya is a talented and experienced project manager and website builder. Coho/US has benefited enormously from her contributions. She's also a parent, practices yoga, reads a lot of books, and even bakes cookies. Visit [Catya's website](#) for more goodies.

Want to get more engaged in growing the cohousing community? Visit [Volunteer Opportunities](#).

Alice Alexander, Executive Director

### ***New on cohousing.org***

We now have more than 100 examples of policies & procedures in our [Policy Database](#), courtesy of Daniel Lindenberger and Laura Fitch et al, and we would love more! (Someone just asked for examples of CA group CCRs on cohousing-L last week.)

We also have some impressively persistent and aggressive spammers. If YOU get a message that says you have been blocked as spam, I apologize for catching you in my net & [please let me know](#).

- cat

Catya Belfer, Technical Director & Volunteer Website Builder

## **Tours & Events**

### **Regional Cohousing Conference in Boulder, Colorado September 26-28, 2014**

There will be a Regional Cohousing Conference in Boulder, Colorado, on the weekend of Sept 26-28, 2014. All cohousers, wanna-be cohousers and anyone else interested are invited. There will be topics of interest to both established cohousing communities, and those just starting out. More information on the program, registration procedures, volunteer opportunities, etc. will be coming; visit the Coho/US [Tours and Events](#) website for more details as they develop. We hope you can join us!

### **National Conference: The Next Generation and Our Children Of Cohousing**

With cohousing communities taking hold in the early 1990's, we have produced a generation of "children of cohousing." These now-young adults benefited greatly from growing up in a cohousing community. We are looking for their stories, their experiences; how they have applied "cohousing lessons" in their 20's and 30's. Is there anything profoundly different about their networking and other skills, world views or approaches to life than others of their generation who did not grow up in cohousing? Ideally we could benefit from their participation in the [2015 National Cohousing Conference: The Next Generation](#).

We would like to connect with the children of cohousing: **can you share this request with this younger generation**, and have them [contact us](#) or [email](#)? We invite their participation as they are willing and able in gathering - in person or via skype - at the national conference, or in sharing experiences through blogs and videos.

Although these young people value cohousing, they are likely not living within a traditional cohousing community, given issues of affordability, and the transient nature of early careers and lives. So along with discussions we plan surrounding the conference about how this generation is using cohousing experience to "get ahead" or find satisfaction in life, school and work, we also invite conversations about alternative communities they have built that could serve as models. We also seek their advice about what Coho/US can offer to them and to our evolving movement, and what they can offer to us.

We believe the issues surrounding "children of cohousing" provides a potent focal point in our conversations about the evolution of cohousing, and [your participation and ideas are welcome](#). [read more about the 2015 national cohousing conference](#)

### [Senior Cohousing Forum](#)

A Senior Cohousing Forum will be offered July 12th in San Rafael, just north of San Francisco. Co-sponsored by Coho/US, this is a collaboration between two cohousing groups (Wolf Creek Lodge and Phoenix Commons) as well as forming groups in Marin County, and McCamant & Durrett Architects and CoHousing Partners. Hosted by the UU Congregation of Marin. Email [info@wolfcreeklodge.org](mailto:info@wolfcreeklodge.org). [read more](#)

### **Interests Rather Than Positions**

From [The Wisdom of Group Decisions](#) copyright © 2006 [Craig Freshley](#)

**In principle**, when someone comes into a meeting or a negotiation with an already-established position, it limits prospects for creative, innovative, win-win solutions. When I state my position on an issue early in the discussion, my focus thereafter becomes defending my position and trying to persuade others to agree with it. I might even get side-tracked into defending my pride rather than considering what is best for the group. On the other hand, if I am able to speak clearly about my interests (what I would like to get out of the issue without attachment to a particular way of getting it), and I am able to listen openly to others' interests, we have a much better chance of all getting what we want.

**Practical Tip:** Focus first on what you really want rather than how to get it. If you are leaning toward a particular solution, peel back a layer, dig a bit deeper, and ask, "What desire in me does this solution attempt to satisfy?" Ask yourself, "What is my fundamental interest here?" Identify what you are really interested in, give it words, and speak the words to others. Listen carefully to their words about their interests. As a group, hear and understand all interests before crafting solutions.

## [Cohousing Blogs](#)

### [What Should We Be Afraid Of?](#)

By [Sharon Villines](#)

On Cohousing-L, a member of a forming group asked a smart question: "What SHOULD we be worried about?" Philip Dowds, an architect living in Cornerstone Cohousing in Cambridge Cohousing replied: *Plan on delay. Plan on surprising cost increases. Plan on flogging your way past disappointments. Your group may have to deal one or more of ...* [read more](#)

### [What should a forming group get a good plan for NOW?"](#)

by [grace h. kim | schemata workshop inc](#)

I'll preface my advice with the fact that I am an architect, but also a founding member of an urban cohousing group in Seattle that will break ground later this summer. Even though my husband and I are architects and purchased the land more than 4 years ago, it has taken us this long to get to construction (recession was not in our timeline, and bank attitudes towards lending during the recovery also hit us hard). [read more](#)

## [Why Starting with a Proposal is Usually a Bad Idea](#)

by [Laird Schaub](#)

As a process consultant for cooperative groups one of the most common things I'm asked to address is why it's such a slog to solve problems in plenary. While there are number of things that may be in play, I want to focus here on one particular culprit that's a frequent contributor: expecting that topics come to plenary in the form of a proposal. [read more](#)

### **Featured Classified Ads**

Please [contact our marketing manager](#) for more information about featuring your ad here

### **Cohousing Events**

- [Senior Cohousing Forum July 12](#)

### **Cohousing Groups For Seniors**

- [Wolf Creek Lodge: Move in Now to Senior Cohousing!](#)

### **Cohousing Groups Seeking New Members**

- [Cohousing in New York City](#)
- [Cohousing takes off in PDX](#)
- [Consider Jubilee Cohousing in Floyd - Heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains in VA](#)
- [Riverside living in Eugene, Oregon](#)

### **Cohousing Homes for Sale**

- [Come visit us! Affordable homes at Mosaic Commons](#)
- [Delightful Nevada City Co-Housing](#)
- [Enjoy life in a village surrounded by forest in the Pacific Northwest](#)
- [For Sale in New Hampshire's Greenest Community](#)
- [Gorgeous Home in Senior Cohousing Community in Boulder, CO](#)
- [Last Great Cohousing Deals-3 homes starting \\$139,900](#)
- [Liberty Village Cohousing is Building Phase II](#)
- [Live the Dream at an Organic Farm in Southern New Hampshire!](#)
- [LIVING THE DREAM IN PORTLAND!](#)
- [Near Net Zero Duplex Condo Available in Belfast](#)
- [Timberframe/Strawbale House for sale in Heartwood Cohousing community](#)
- [Townhome in beautiful Calif community in rapidly rising real estate market](#)
- [Urban Garden in Portland](#)

### **Creating a Cohousing Friendly Environment**

**Cohousing & HUD: A Love Story** 6/12/14  
Ann Zabaldo <http://www.cohousingblog.com/>

Talk about moving a mountain ... are "Cohousing" and HUD falling in love? Matchmaker and Cohousing Coach, Raines Cohen, a Cohousing California regional organizer living at Berkeley Cohousing, dished out the ice cream and hot fudge. The assembled were celebrating the end of a petition campaign to have HUD treat cohousing condominiums the same as all other condominiums for purposes of certifying a cohousing project for federally backed mortgage insurance. [read more](#)

### **In The News**

- [You have how many f@#king roommates?!: On cohousing communities vs. the very American trend of living alone...](#)  
*Sacramento News & Review 6-26-14*  
It's not a cult or commune. Promise. There is no engaging leader in a black robe. We split some costs, but we don't merge incomes. We don't have any creepy rituals- unless you count the occasional barefoot "compliment circle" around a fire pit...
- [Ultra-Energy Efficient Homes: Are They Worth the Upfront Cost?](#) *Triple Pundit 6/20/14* All 36 homes at **Belfast Cohousing & Ecovillage** (BCE) in Midcoast Maine have Zehnder heat recovery ventilation (HRV) systems, that transfer 90 percent of the heat from the exhaust air to the intake air before it exits the home. Stale air is removed from ...
- [Neighborhood Notes - Woodard Lane Cohousing](#) Olympia WA *Thurston Talk - 6/15/14* "I wanted to way downsize," says Monroe. She also wanted a place in the middle of town that felt like a cabin in the woods....

[more cohousing news](#) 

### **Featured Professionals**

Connecting with Cohousing Professionals is easy with our [Cohousing Professionals Directory](#) webpage. Interested in getting listed below? [Contact our Marketing Manager](#) to find out more.

- [Bryan Bowen Architects, p.c.](#)
- [The Cohousing Company: McCamant & Durrett Architects](#)
- [Cohousing Partners, LLC & Wonderland Hill Development Company](#)
- [Kraus Fitch Architects, Inc.](#)

## Thanks for reading

Cohousing Now! provides timely information on Cohousing... Now! It's from the [Cohousing Association of the United States](#), aka Coho/US. Cohousing Now! is emailed monthly. Please forward to your friends, communities, and other mailing lists to help spread the word about Cohousing - now!

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