"We evolved to live in community, and that seems to be the scale where we can best navigate the complexities of life—the experiences of people not like us, the fragility and resilience of the web of life that surrounds us. When we live connected to a community, we are more likely to become champions for one another, not just for ourselves. It's a small step from there to becoming advocates for the larger community, even for the community of all life. From there, the idea of the common good is not so hard to grasp."

These wise words come from YES! magazine co-founder and editor Sarah van Gelder - and much to our excitement, our 2017 National Cohousing Conference keynote. Sarah is also a founder of Winslow Cohousing, her former home on Bainbridge Island, where she claims, "raising my kids in cohousing was one of the best things I ever did." This well-spoken and community-focused woman will frame our Conference’s theme of Building Resilient, Sustainable Communities. Sarah will arrive fresh from writing her new book, The Revolution Where You Live: Stories from a 12,000 Mile Journey Through a New America, chronicling her journey through eighteen states, seeking solutions to the enormous challenges our country faces today. She identified a commonality to thriving communities that will resonate with cohousers, the steadfast dedication of people loving and defending the places they call home. Sarah's book will be available in the Conference bookstore, and you can join the conversation with her during the interactive conference session she'll be leading too.

Get to know Sarah more here, and follow her updates on Twitter @sarahvangelder. Conference Registration opens January 1st. Hope to see you there!

Jenny Godwin, Coho/US Outreach Associate

---

Conferences & Events

2017 National Cohousing Conference

Building Resilient, Sustainable Communities

May 19-21, 2017, Nashville, Tennessee

Learn more here.

We're planning a fantastic conference with more than 100 proposals from experts and innovators across the country being considered. Registration launches Jan 1, 2017 with an early bird rate!

**************

Cohousing Blogs

Musings about the Cohousing 'Dealing with Diverse Personalities' Retreat at Arcosanti, Arizona

Alan O'Hashi, Silver Sage Village (Boulder CO)

We had 40 people from around the country attend who I hope learned a little bit more about themselves and why self-awareness is important while interacting with others......It is up to each of us, as individuals, to take responsibility for our actions. It's then up to the community to determine the level at which its members agree to intentionally learn about one another, particularly about past experiences and histories. read more

---

In This Issue

Conferences & Events

Cohousing Blogs

Living in Community

Cohousing Map & Metrics

Classified Ads

Cohousing Professionals

In the News

New Resources

---

Classified Ads

Homes for Sale

4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Beautiful CoHousing Town Home Available!

Sacramento two-bedroom home for sale in Southside Park Cohousing

Industrial Chic Condo in Doyle Street Cohousing

Beautiful light-filled home in Champlain Valley Cohousing in Vermont!
Sharpening the Conversation
Laird’s Blog

Recently I was conducting a facilitation training with co-trainer María Stawsky. The weekends run from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon and are a mix of presenting material, answering questions, conducting practice exercises, and facilitating live meetings. That said, we emphasize the last approach above all others: devoting three-fourths of every weekend to having students prepare for, deliver, and evaluate the facilitation of real meetings—on the pedagogical theory that people tend to learn faster and more deeply if they’re facing live ammunition. As teachers, María and I face the challenge of identifying a teaching moment as it develops and figuring out what intervention (if any) might be both effective and elucidating. Here are the elements. read more

Existing Communities: You Need Not Reinvent the Wheel
Alice Alexander, Coho/US Executive Director

Nurturing Cohousing Communities to Help Them Thrive is one of three core areas of the Coho/US strategic plan. We offer abundant resources on our website, and encourage communities to search for successful practices on work share, meal participation, marketing, whatever. Also, see "New Resources" each issue of eNews (bottom, right column). Offerings this month: Tips on Getting a Journalist’s Attention Resale Strategies to Address Turnover

Contact us to share your wisdom, experiences and stories, to feed our role as "connector and clearinghouse."

Living in Community

Interdependent Community Makes For a Secure Childhood
Bryan Bowen, Wild Sage (Boulder, Colorado)

..."I can't imagine leaving Wild Sage," Bryan says. "I can't imagine raising my kids any other way. It's hard enough as it is. Having the support of an interdependent community makes parenthood so much more interesting and rich." And it makes for a secure childhood, too. Bryan remembers renting a home in Florida for a family vacation when Eli was 3 years old. After they pulled up to the house and unloaded, Eli ran outside, saying he was going to explore. He made a loop around the big grassy front yard, then came back inside. "He looks totally confused," Bryan recalls. "He says, 'Daddy, where are all the friends?' That was a moment of epiphany for me. I realized that my kids were growing up with the expectation that wherever you go, there should be a whole bunch of fun, interesting people right outside the door. That's how the world is for them." Read more

Seeking Members

Retire in Mexico’s First Co-housing Community
Join an Over-55 Cohousing Community in the Land of Enchantment - Placitas
New Mexico

Permaculture oriented community forming in stunning Vermont location

Riverside Living in Eugene, Oregon!

Emerson Commons - Cohousing near Charlottesville, Virginia

Village Hearth: Adult Cohousing on 15 Beautiful Acres in Durham, NC

Join a Green, Intergenerational Cohousing Community near Sacramento!

Cohousing Professionals

Caddis Architecture

CoHousing Solutions | Sustainable Neighborhood Consultants

Kraus Fitch Architects | Home - Community - Planet

Linda Herman Consulting

McCamant & Durrett Architects: The Cohousing Co

National Cooperative Bank

schemata workshop | architecture & planning

In the News

Ravens’ Roost in Anchorage move in!
Coho/US Notes

Many Thanks to Communities who have Given in 2016
Coho/US exists to nurture our Cohousing Communities, established and forming. Gifts from our communities, as well as individuals and sponsors, enable us to provide services that benefit you. Visit Sustaining Communities for giving options, thank you.

The FIC Fundraising Campaign + Coho/US
Like Coho/US, the Fellowship for Intentional Community is dependent on charitable contributions. Executive Director Sky Blue shares, "As the intentional communities movement has continued to grow and evolve, we've increased our efforts. The challenge has been to increase income to increase capacity, and this has led us into a financial crisis.".....If you appreciate the FIC and support intentional communities in all their forms, visit FIC Campaign.

Coho/US is a charitable organization, not affiliated with FIC. We are, however, collaborative partners in promoting intentional community, cooperation and sustainability. Like FIC, Coho/US is dependent on financial support from individuals and communities. While dependency on gifts translates to a tenuous business model, I am proud that Coho/US is on good financial footing, with careful financial oversight from our Board of Directors. If you appreciate Coho/US, please support our efforts with a tax deductible gift at Donate Now.

Cohousing Directory Metrics
Established Communities = 163
---Completed = 147
---Building = 16
Forming** = 132
**Thirty two forming groups have acquired land they plan to develop

Like receiving eNews? Please support Coho/US, serving as a clearinghouse and connector to grow and nurture cohousing across the country.

Thanks for reading
Cohousing Now! provides news and events on Cohousing... Now! From Coho/US, the Cohousing Association of the United States, Cohousing Now! is emailed monthly. Please forward to your friends, communities, and other lists to spread the word about cohousing!

Copyright 2015 The Cohousing Association of the United States All rights reserved. Privacy policy - www.cohousing.org/privacy