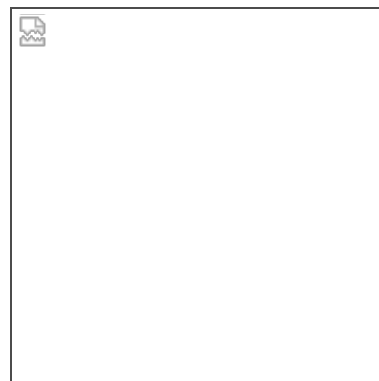


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Cohousing Now!

Hot Soup Cure for Negative Worldview



This Thanksgiving break, I've been especially grateful for my cohousing bubble. When I drive home in the dark after a long business trip, I look up the hill and appreciate seeing the lights on in the common house. My worries and concerns of the external world stay outside the door as I join the impending common meal.



Like catching a cold, I think I've caught a bad case of negative worldview from the media that I have consumed. It's gotten so bad that I'm sometimes up at night. I think the cure might be a delicious hot bowl of my neighbor Stephanie's soup and some good conversation.

I'll venture to say that my neighbors, and perhaps most cohousers, generally share a positive view of humanity. Our approach to living is predicated on it. Otherwise, how could we trust a decision-making model where anyone can "block" a decision? It all works because we trust each other to place "relationships" over the quickest route to "winning." We are not only tolerant of but have a true interest in other peoples' viewpoints because they make for a better, more inclusive decision. We explicitly agree to treat each other with respect. This carries over to daily interactions with each other.

Rather than building walls, we both literally and figuratively tear down fences. Our homes foster privacy, but their closeness and orientation towards each other and common spaces creates community. We welcome diversity. Cohousers are fundamentally environmentally conscious. Our buildings are green. We cluster our homes. We drive less. We have organic community gardens. We are typically not ostentatious and status conscious. We believe in living simply. We have smaller homes, share common spaces and tools, to name a few things. In cohousing, there is no need to covet thy neighbor's lawnmower because you can always borrow it.

I am so grateful that my fellow cohousers don't share the dark and scary worldview that I see on the screen. If the news is getting you down, turn it off, go outside and appreciate the wonderful like-minded people living around you.

Peter Lazar , Coho/US Board President

Conferences & Events

In This Issue

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[Cohousing Blogs](#)

[Living in Community](#)

[Cohousing Map & Metrics](#)



Registration launches January 1st. Meanwhile, check out our [sessions](#) and [intensives](#) and [schedule](#), and [more info](#). Join us!

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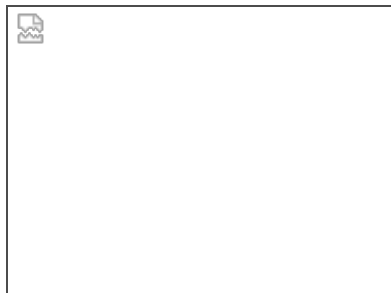
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Cohousing Blogs

Spending Thanksgiving with FarAways

Andrea Mason, Placitas Sage (Placitas, New Mexico)



While we wait to build our homes, we are committed to building strong ties within our member community. We were so glad that four of our five "FarAway" members could come to stay, and get a chance to live in New Mexico - if only for 10 days. Our final event together on Nov 30 will

be attending the County Planning and Zoning. This is when we hope to hear that our application for rezoning our chosen land has been recommended for approval. ... It isn't easy to develop community when some members don't live near-by, but we have used technology and personal connections to keep our FarAway members involved.

[read more](#) and visit [Placitas Sage Cohousing](#) for updates

Defining Cooperative Culture

Laird Schaub: [Laird's Blog](#)



Back in 1974, when a group of four of us started Sandhill Farm, I started down a path that ultimately added up to dedicating my life to

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Classified Ads

Homes for Sale

[Sacramento two-bedroom home for sale in Southside Park Cohousing](#)

[Beautiful light-filled home in Champlain Valley in Vermont!](#)

[Mosaic Commons: 1 bedroom home for sale](#)

[Energy Star Home for Sale at Cobb Hill Cohousing, Hartland, Vermont](#)

[Colorado Mountain Ranch & Farm -- 3BD artisan timberframe strawbale](#)

[For Sale in New Hampshire's Greenest Community](#)

[Washington Village in the Heart of Boulder](#)

Seeking Members

[Retire in Mexico's First Co-housing Community](#)

[Join an Over-55 Community in the Land of Enchantment - Placitas NM](#)

[Green Village in a Charming Small Town near Washington, DC](#)

[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 Community near Sacramento!](#)

Homes for Rent

[Try out Community Life: Rent 3bd/2ba Townhouse in Oregon](#)

Senior Cohousing

[PDX COMMONS, Portland - Only 4 homes left!](#)



building community. While that commitment has never wavered (the need for community today is more urgent than ever), I've frequently adjusted the lens through which I see what I'm doing.

One of the most potent and enduring ways to frame my life's work is that I am promoting cooperative culture-as an alternative to the competitive culture that dominates mainstream society. But what does that mean, cooperative culture? While it's analogous to asking a fish to define water, I can at least nibble around the edges. [read more](#)

Election Catharsis + Refugee Resettlement Project **David Entin, Rocky Hill Cohousing (Northampton, MA)**



Our monthly cohousing meeting was the Saturday morning after the election. Many of us gathered feeling sad, angry, upset, dazed, and fearful as a result of the election of Donald Trump.....We spent 30 minutes of our valuable community meeting time sharing how we felt and the need to

support each other and those working for progressive change in the U.S. despite what we perceived as a major setback. We learned of the safety pin movement and put on safety pins to indicate we will serve as a safe place for anyone being threatened or treated unfairly. We reached consensus to help an international refugee family coming to our country; attached is a consensus resolution we adopted. This was one way to indicate we plan to move ahead and not be set back in our efforts to make our country more loving and open to all. I want our fellow cohousers to know that there is still hope and much to be encouraged about in what are often seen as dark times. [read more](#)

Living in Community

The Morning After the Election

Ann Zabaldo (Takoma Village, Washington DC)



Election night at 1:45 a.m. my neighbor Carrie and I packed up the projector and headed home. You might consider the emotions at that juncture would be sadness, anger, confusion, bemusement, bewilderment, anxiety, depression, etc. Instead, I felt profoundly lonely... But when I

woke up at 5:30 a.m. I was profoundly grateful. I live in cohousing. Now, it's not just that I have all my neighbors so I won't be lonely. It's something bigger than that. A lot bigger.

Cohousing allows me to tackle the issues I want to tackle. I'm not waiting around for "The Government" to deal with issues around aging. Or the challenges single parents face (and two parent households!). Or, environmental and energy challenges. Or, latch key kids. Or any of dozens of social challenges facing society. I have a blueprint for how to tackle these issues: Cohousing. I don't

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



Quimper

Village in Port Townsend WA is under construction! Future residents are proving that if you work hard and stay true to the path you can finish a project in record time.

Want to Survive Climate Change? You'll Need a Good Community.

Remember the blistering heat of 1995 that killed hundreds of people in Chicago? Statistical models were at a loss as to explain the high death toll. Although Chicago's aging infrastructure failed the entire city, it didn't explain the "patchwork death toll." Why did some neighborhoods fare better than others? Turns out, "social infrastructure" was the most important variable to explain the pattern of mortality.

Faces Not Fenders: Cohousing in The Good Trade



In searching for ideas creating positive social change, our cohousing communities are ideal social laboratories for bubbling

up great conversations about sustainable living, and partnering with our neighbors

have to wait around for a government program. I can just keep building more communities. So on this morning after the election, I am moved to say how grateful I am to Katie McCamant and Chuck Durrett for giving me this blueprint. From the day I read the first paragraph in the first edition of "Cohousing" I have never wavered in my belief and commitment that **community has the power to change the world - one cohousing community at a time** . That's a gift, Katie and Chuck. Thank you.

Coho/US Notes

Keeping Us Alive and Well

Your Cohousing Association is, thank you, alive and well - but only as long as we receive financial support from our communities and individuals. Coho/US is by design a lean and mean organization; our financial needs are modest, but we do need steady support.



If you consider how cohousing has changed your life; how cohousing has made a dent in our otherwise hyper-individualized society; how cohousing values of resilient communities may be a crucial model to combat climate change: **isn't that incentive to invest in your association?**

Please **Donate Now**. You will feel good, I promise.
Alice Alexander, Coho/US Executive Director
PS Gifts are tax deductible.

Annie Lehman Joins the Coho/US Board



Having never lived in an intentional community (college doesn't count), I don't know what it will feel like when I move next April to **PDX Commons**, a senior (I prefer boomer) cohousing community in SE Portland. I do know I will be surrounded by people who want to live in community and who think intelligently about the world around them. I've spent the last two years

getting to know these folks (and others have worked for years before I entered the picture) to build this community and the building. What do I love about this? [read more](#)

Cohousing Directory Metrics

Established Communities = 163
---Completed = 147
---Building = 16

Forming** = 134

**Thirty three 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.



*allows us to build a more conscious lifestyle together.*

### Parents Rave About Cohousing Community in N. California



*"Parents can provide only so much guidance and fulfill only so many curiosities. But what Jessie learned from playing with lots of kids just outside the door, what she learned from lengthy conversations with their parents, endless sports with neighbors .... If people only knew what cohousing offered their kids, they would be there," says Chuck Durrett*

## New Resources

[Reserve Studies: Why Every Project Needs One](#)

[The Inner Game of Aging Podcast](#)

[Getting a Journalist's Attention](#)

[Resale Strategies & Turnover](#)

[Tag Cloud](#)

[The Cohousing Directory](#)

[Edit your Community Profile here..](#)

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