



## Cohousing Now!

### Cohousing Kicks Butt for Women's March



From all over the U.S. and the world they came to DC. Singles, couples, groups. All stripes and colors. Very young and very old. Women and men. All genders. All faiths. All traditions.

They came to march.

There are many, many exciting stories out there about The March, the marchers and the message.

This is not one of those.

#### **This is a story about how cohousing kicks butt when it comes to bringing people together.**

In particular, this is a story about one community, [Takoma Village Cohousing](#), in Washington, DC that opened its doors and its heart to 27 people coming to DC for the Women's March on Washington. In addition, seven households welcomed about 19 personal friends and family for the weekend so our community's population increased by more than half!



*Five of the eight folks from Michigan*

Here's the tale. In November, we discussed hosting marchers among ourselves and on our email list. In December, we took the discussion to a membership meeting. Community Team took on the responsibility. A point person networked with local March organizers, who gave tips for advertising ourselves and also directed guests our way. Other point people cooked and organized four meals, and everyone volunteered to clean up... .Neighbors took in singles, couples and a group of three. More folks lodged in the Common House spreading pads, sleeping bags in available spaces..... Our visitors told us they felt comfortable, welcome, well-fed, and actually got enough rest to make the long trip home. Those unfamiliar with cohousing became intrigued by our community and several want to visit and explore cohousing in their own lives.

#### **How were we able to do all this?**

We were able to do this because cohousing is uniquely positioned to

undertake exactly these types of large scale events. Our innovative social structure makes it possible for us to take on BIG projects.

**This is what cohousing brings to the table:**

[read more...](#)

**Ann Zabaldo, Takoma Village Cohousing (Washington DC)**

#### **PDX Commons Gathers Together for Portland Women's March - Gretchen Brauer-Rieke & Ann Lehman**



The benefits of intentional community can sometimes come as a surprise - especially when the community is still in formation, not yet even living together. When members of PDX Commons learned about the Women's March on Washington and all of the sister marches around the globe, there was a strong spontaneous desire of wanting to gather together, joining forces to march with our community identity: At PDX Commons, we stand for kindness, compassion, fairness, justice, equality, human rights for all.... Many of us had never participated in a major demonstration march like this - others

hadn't marched since the turbulent 60's - so the power of solidarity with this peaceful human mass of perhaps close to 100,000 people was amazing, as was the camaraderie of marching with other members of our own community.... When I (along with my husband) decided to join forces with PDX Commons last year, I had no idea that I'd be marching with our new friends among thousands of others on a cold wet January day. This community stands behind our values, and is willing to hit the streets to demonstrate that.... [read more...](#)

## Conferences & Events



Join us! Check out our [schedule](#), [more info](#). [Register Now!](#)

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Join us as we share the joy of our collaborative neighborhoods. The [National Cohousing Open House Day](#) inspires individuals and families to consider joining communities and sparks the creation of new groups. [Communities learn more here](#) We'd love to have you sign up! [Click here for a great flyer to post.](#)

**Getting-It-Built Workshop and Cohousing Presentation**  
St Paul, Minnesota (March 3-5)

## Cohousing Blogs

**Joani Blank on Common Meals: Part 1 - Practice Run**  
Jenny of CoHousing Solutions



*" My illness is messing with my brain, making things fuzzy. But this kind of stuff, I can't forget it."* The cohousing world lost a pioneer and community mentor in summer 2016: Joani Blank of Swan's Market Cohousing in Oakland. A fierce advocate for the power of community, all who knew her have

stories to tell. I had the privilege of interviewing Joani before her passing.... It was obvious, immediately, how crucial she considered breaking bread in community to be, saying " *Cohousing without common meals isn't cohousing at all...* " The biggest key Joani gave to establishing a successful common meals practice is to move into your community with a plan already in mind.... Joani is credited for initiating a "practice run" idea for forming groups to get a sense of the mechanics of well-run common meals..... So, how do you organize a practice meal? Here are Joani's step-by-step tips:

**[Read more](#)**

## Classified Ads

### Homes for Sale

[Come check out 924 Wild Cherry Lane, Greyrock Commons in Fort Collins, Colorado!](#)

[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](#)

[Homes for Sale in New Hampshire's Greenest Community.](#)

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

### Seeking Members

[Join Iowa's first cohousing community- -Prairie Hill, in Iowa City.](#)

[Looking for community? Aria Cohousing is forming in Denver! Only 9 Homes Remain!](#)

[Two units remain! Elderberry Cohousing](#)

[Village Hearth: Adult Cohousing on 15 Beautiful Acres in Durham, NC](#)

[Join a Green, Intergenerational Community near Sacramento!](#)

### Homes for Rent

[2 Homes for Rent at Elderberry Village and Potluck Farm](#)

### Senior Cohousing

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

[Phoenix Commons a Cohousing Community on Oakland Waterfront --- 1 & 2 bdrm Condos](#)

[Wolf Creek Lodge, CA - Home Available](#)

## Cohousing Professionals

[Caddis Architecture](#)

[CoHousing Solutions | Sustainable Neighborhood Consultants](#)

[Fitch Architecture & Community Design | Home - Community - Planet](#)

## Power in Cooperative Groups, Part 1: Yourself

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



.... In physics, power is defined as work accomplished over time, or force multiplied by velocity. In sociology, the lens I'm using, I define power as influence, the ability to get others to agree to something or to do something. I've chosen to examine the individual's relationship to power through a series of questions, the answers to which can help a person sort out where they stand in relationship to power in any given situation.

1. **Do you want power?** While that may be an easy "yes" for some, it's an easy "no" for others, with plenty of anguish in between whenever the answer isn't obvious. Yes, it's an opportunity to contribute and to influence results, but the obverse of that coin is that it's also an opportunity to mess up, and not everyone is comfortable with that weight on their shoulders. .... Even if you are clear that you have power, care about the outcome, and know what you think, you may be hesitant to exercise your power.

2. **How can you assess what power you have?** [read more](#)

## Germantown Commons Hosting the 2017 Conference

Diana Sullivan, Germantown Commons (Nashville TN)



Your presence is especially requested! The [National Conference](#) promises exciting educational opportunities, networking and fun in Nashville. The Millennium Maxwell House Hotel is just minutes from Germantown Commons. This is a

first for Nashville to host the conference, and Germantown Commons is the first cohousing community in Middle Tennessee. The urban community near downtown was founded in fall 2015 with 25 households. By spring 2016 the much awaited common house was complete and the festivities and dinners began. It's a story of commitment and perseverance. **When the conference is held in May, the beautiful rain gardens that flourished last summer and fall will be in full, welcoming bloom thanks to our landscape team. [Here's our video invitation to you!](#)**

## Living in Community

### Rural Cohousing: Being a real neighbor in the old-time country sense

Karolyn Mangeot, Elderberry (Rougemont, NC)



Several months ago there was a blog suggesting that seniors should look for cohousing communities in urban areas.. I'd like to offer an alternative... My cohousing neighbors here in rural North Carolina will tell you that their goal is to continue "growing". By that some include urban offerings (museums, concerts) reached

by a 45-minute car ride. However, daily opportunities for "growth" here require really immersing one's self in what cohousing means - intentionally doing things with and for your neighbor...everything from trying out a new restaurant together to sharing errands. For those in our community who are still working, all of them have a commute. But they want to live in a place that is a rural respite from the bustle of their business lives: Walks in the woods, sitting on their front porch, sunsets and incredible stars replace honking horns, pollution and street views. For all of us here, whether working or retired, we have chosen a community where truthfully life isn't easy. There's grass to be mowed, a garden to tend, firewood to split, chickens to feed, landscaping to maintain. But every task is also a challenge to remain physically fit, to eat healthier, to learn new skills

## New beginnings from a seasoned cohousing professional

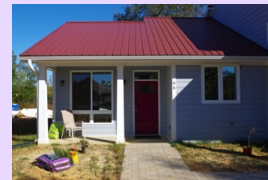
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## In the News



[The Home Buying Decision + The Home Happiness Calculator](#)

David Brooks writes in the NY Times that buying a home is the most difficult decision in life. We don't choose a house so much as fall in love with it, he writes, and although we may envision a home with exotic things in which we will host large gatherings, most folks really seek privacy and tranquility... but the real crux of this opinion piece:

"The process of house hunting focuses your attention on the wrong things.... It focuses on the features of the house, not on the social relationships that will happen in them, which is all you'll remember decades hence. Choosing this or that house has only a moderate effect on joyfulness. The neighborhood you choose, and the social fabric you enter, is more important than the structure you adore."

## Cohousing community for LGBT seniors coming to Durham



### Village Hearth in Durham

"It took a lot of us time to come out of the closet; many people wind up going back into the closet to get the care they need" as they age, said Pat McAulay. "We want to be able to live comfortably as ourselves, without having to hide any aspect of ourselves."

## A Housing Crisis for Seniors, NY Times

"Co-housing, if it can shed its 1960s hippie commune associations, which doesn't square with how these communities operate today, is another path toward providing community and care for all ages."

(a powered wheel barrow, a miter saw, a rototiller) - and especially to grow with other people who are earnestly trying to stay as strong and active as possible for as long as they live. [Read more...](#)

## Coho/US Notes

### Many Thanks to These Communities who Gave in 2016

Coho/US exists to nurture our communities, established and forming. Gifts from our communities enable us to provide programs that benefit you. We are grateful for these contributing communities. Sustaining Communities are in bold.

Acequia Jardin Albuquerque NM  
Arboretum Cohousing Madison WI  
Arcadia Cohousing Chapel Hill NC  
Ashland Cohousing Community Ashland OR  
Bellingham Cohousing Bellingham WA  
Berkeley Cohousing Berkeley CA  
Blueberry Hill Vienna VA  
Burlington Cohousing East Village Burlington VT  
Capital Hill Urban Cohousing Seattle WA  
Cambridge Cohousing Cambridge MA  
Cantine's Island Cohousing Saugerties NY  
Casa Verde Commons Colorado Springs CO  
Cascadia Commons Portland OR

#### **Charlotte Cohousing Charlotte NC**

Coho Ecovillage Corvallis OR  
Common Place Cooperative Cambridge MA  
Cornerstone Village Cohousing Cambridge MA  
Daybreak Cohousing Portland OR  
Doyle Street Emeryville CA  
Durham Central Park Cohousing Durham NC  
Fair Oaks EcoHousing Fair Oaks CA  
Germantown Commons Nashville NC  
Great Oak Cohousing Ann Arbor MI  
Green Grove Cohousing Forest Grove OR  
Higher Ground Cohousing Bend OR  
Island Cohousing Vineyard Haven MA  
Jackson Place Cohousing Seattle WA  
Liberty Village Cohousing Union Bridge MD  
Manzanita Village Prescott AZ  
Milagro Cohousing Tucson AZ  
Monterey Cohousing St Louis Park MN  
Mosaic Commons Berlin MA

#### **Mountain View Cohousing Mountain View CA**

#### **Nevada City Cohousing Nevada City CA**

Nubanusit Neighborhood and Farm Peterborough NH  
Nyland Lafayette CO  
Oakcreek Community Stillwater OK  
Pioneer Valley Cohousing Amherst MA  
Pleasant Hill Cohousing Pleasant Hill CA  
Raleigh Cohousing Raleigh NC

#### **Rocky Hill Cohousing Northampton MA**

Shadowlake Village Blacksburg VA

#### **Shepherd Village Shepherdstown WV**

Silver Sage Village Boulder CO

#### **Songaia Cohousing Bothell WA**

Swan's Market Cohousing Oakland CA  
Stone Curves Tucson AZ  
The Commons on the Alameda Santa Fe MN  
Two Eco Cohousing Brunswick ME  
Trillium Hollow Portland OR  
Valverde Commons Taos NM  
Village Hearth Cohousing Durham NC  
Wasatch Commons Salt Lake City UT  
Winslow Cohousing Bainbridge Island WA

#### **Wolf Creek Lodge Grass Valley CA**

### Cohousing Directory Metrics

Established Communities = 163

---Completed = 147

---Building = 16

Forming\*\* = 134

\*\*Thirty two forming groups have acquired land they plan to develop

## New Resources

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

[Access to Common Areas in Cohousing](#)

[Ten Tips for Success in Building a Cohousing Community](#)

[Resale Strategies & Turnover](#)

[Tag Cloud](#)

## The Cohousing Directory

New listings:

[Austin Senior Cohousing](#) (Texas)

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

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## Thanks for reading

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