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December 2019

## Cohousing Now!



### 2020 Vision

*by Karen Gimnig and Karin Hoskin*

As 2019 draws to a close, there is a lot for CohoUS to be proud of. We had our largest conference ever. We launched a new website with more and more accessible information. We gathered a group of Evergreen Neighbors who invest with ongoing financial support month after month. (Thank you!) We've helped dozens of communities connect with new members and hosted communications that help communities help each other across the country. A resource of 38 recorded WebChats connects cohousers with the wisdom and experience of experts in all aspects of cohousing.

Even with all that to look back on, the more exciting view is forward. The work of 2019 has set us up to launch an even more exciting 2020. As the light gets longer day by day, we note that even the number of the coming year, 20-20 suggests the kind of clear vision we have for the cohousing movement. It is a vision that includes not only sidewalk conversations and shared meals, but also community outreach and compassion that expands far beyond the boundaries of our property.

We see cohousers as change-makers, engaged in politics and community gardens and soup kitchens. We see communities inviting neighbors to share conversations and work parties and informational meetings into their common houses, bringing whole neighborhoods together to make positive change in the world. In those moments of connection, the story of our time becomes brighter, healthier and more whole.

Most exciting for us, we see cohousers finding ways to offer cohousing to more and more people. Some are offering a spare room for rent, making room for one more in their community. Others pool their resources to purchase a unit and make

it available for rent by a family that could not afford to buy. The burning souls are creating new communities from scratch with all the joy and frustration and accomplishment that brings. Those who have not yet found community they can afford, continue to hold the vision of cohousing for all, reminding us that for all we have already learned about how to do community, there are miles to walk before we sleep.

As an association, we are all about bringing people together. When we come together and think about the characteristics that define cohousing, in this season of clear vision and growing light, we name what we see every day. Cohousing is generosity, curiosity, creativity, and vision. It is kindness and collaboration that flavor the “secret sauce” of community. Differences and conflict add a little spice. Passion and compassion give it fullness. Cohousing is abundance, health and a profound sort of wealth.

As we look ahead to all we have planned for 2020 and the richness we cannot yet predict, we are grateful to be building such a bright future together with all of you. Happy New Year!



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## Thank you Evergreen Neighbors

An Evergreen Neighbor is one who gives to CohoUS regularly, allowing more opportunity for the association to strengthen our roots as we branch out in new directions!

Katie McCamant knows what a difference cohousing can make in the world, and how important the work of CohoUS is to creating more and better cohousing. Before midnight December 31 2019, Katie will donate \$50 to CohoUS for every new Evergreen Neighbor (making an ongoing monthly donation in any amount).

[Click Here](#) to join Katie in giving and become an Evergreen Neighbor.

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## Thank you Communities!

We cannot express our gratitude enough to these Communities who donated in 2019:

Acequia Jardin  
Altair Ecovillage  
Arboretum Cohousing  
Arcadia Cohousing  
Ashland Cohousing  
Bellingham Cohousing  
Berkeley Cohousing

Harmony Village  
Higher Ground Cohousing  
Island Cohousing  
Jackson Place Cohousing  
Jamaica Plain Cohousing  
Liberty Village Cohousing  
Manzanita Village

# Cohousing Communities

Blueberry Hill  
Burlington Cohousing  
Cantine's Island Cohousing  
Casa Verde Commons  
Cascadia Commons Cohousing  
Clearwater Commons  
Coho Ecovillage  
Cornerstone Village  
Daybreak Cohousing  
Durham Central Park Cohousing  
Community  
East Lake Commons Cohousing  
East Village  
Fair Oaks Ecohousing  
Flagstaff Cohousing  
Frog Song  
Great Oak Cohousing Association

Meadow Wood Condominium  
Milagro Cohousing  
Monterey Cohousing  
Mosaic Commons Cohousing  
Nubanusit Neighborhood  
Oak Creek Commons  
Oakcreek Community - Stillwater  
PDX Commons  
Pioneer Valley Cohousing  
Pleasant Hill Cohousing  
Rocky Hill Cohousing  
Shadowlake Village  
Silver Sage Village  
Songaia Cohousing  
The Commons on the Alameda  
Valverde Commons  
Wasatch Commons

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In 2020, the Cohousing Association is rolling out a new concept in cohousing education. We'll be offering a few online conferences as well as partnering with communities and professionals around the country to offer a series of simple events in various locations throughout the year.



### **What is Cohousing? Kick Off Event Online**

We're kicking off our 2020 Simple Series with the very basics. Our Kick Off Event is a four hour online workshop covering what cohousing is and how it works.

This is perfect for seekers just beginning to learn about the cohousing way of life.



### **An Affordable Conference on Affordable Cohousing**

As a part of our 2020 Simple Series we're offering **CohoUS's first ever online conference**. We'll gather in Zoom rooms for a 6 hour event including a keynote, breakout sessions, opportunities for smaller conversations, and more.

This event is for everyone who would like to understand what cohousing is from the very beginning. We'll introduce cohousing vocabulary so you understand the jargon, and we'll describe the components that make a community a cohousing community. If you've ever wondered what is meant by "burning soul", or how a "common meal" is different than a "potluck", or why it matters whether you park in a garage or not, this is the event for you.

Bring your questions and join us for four hours a great information.

**January 26, 2020**  
**10:00 am to 2:00 pm Mountain Time**

registration opening Jan 1, 2020  
[for more info, click here](#)

We will gather from around the nation to discuss this challenging and vital topic of Affordability in the cohousing movement.

Recordings of all sessions available after the conference are included in your paid registration.

**February 22, 2020**  
**10am-4pm MST**

registration opening Jan 7, 2020  
[for more info, click here](#)



We'll be pausing the hosting of new WebChats while we concentrate on the launch of the Simple Series 2020. Recordings of past WebChats can be viewed here:

[View Recordings](#)

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Have you had the opportunity to poke around the new CohoUS website?

Be sure to check out Laura Fitch 's contributions to this page on [Site Design](#) and the many things to consider.

Also, take a look at Laird Schaub's contributions to this page on [Consensus](#) .

Would you like to work with CohoUS staff in creating content for the website? If so, contact [karencohous@gmail.com](mailto:karencohous@gmail.com)



# CohoUS 2019 Annual Report

It was great to see many of you at our Annual meeting presented in an online webinar December 2, 2019. It began with a report from Alan O’Hashi about his experience of the value of cohousing and a plea for all of us to support the association. Our current board and staff were introduced, and Karin Hoskin reviewed our finances. We looked back on an incredible conference in Portland in 2019 and forward toward a whole series of events, the Simple Series that will fill 2020. Our generous Association Supporters were thanked for their support of the association and of the cohousing movement. We introduced new Community Launch and Professional Launch programs then finished off with a tour of our new website and all it has to offer. CohoUS looks forward to another year of building more and stronger connections among cohousers!

For the full report, watch the video [here](#) .

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## Blog



### We Welcome Your Stories

Some of our favorite blogs are stories by people just like you. Tell us about your favorite community experience, your biggest learning, the beautiful thing your neighbor did. We'd love to share it. Submit to: [karencohous@gmail.com](mailto:karencohous@gmail.com)

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### How to Create and Agenda - Part 1 ~Karen Gimnig

Careful agenda-setting is an essential element in preparing for a good meeting, and often an area where a little effort can make big improvements in meetings and community relationships.

Agenda creation includes two distinct parts. **Part one: Choosing the topics to be discussed.**

Click [here to read](#) more

### How to Create and Agenda - Part 2 ~Karen Gimnig

Careful agenda-setting is an essential element in preparing for a good meeting, and often an area where a little effort can make big improvements in meetings and community relationships.

Agenda creation includes two distinct parts. **Part Two: Determining how those topics will be addressed.**

Click [here to read](#) more

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# In the News



## Regenerative, Sustainable Living Group - Cohousing

*~Interview by Elders Action Network*

Robert "Han" Bishop's experiences in transitioning to a cohousing lifestyle in southwest Colorado, including what it takes to live successfully and happily in cohousing.

click [here to watch](#) video



## Cohousing: A housing alternative getting more interest

*~Interview by Martin Moylan MPR News ~Photo credit: Christine T. Nguyen MPR News*

Carol Tellett of Monterey Cohousing Community "You have to learn how to get along with a whole lot of different people and accept each other's ideas and work with them," she said. "It wouldn't be for everyone. But if you want to really get to know your neighbors very well, it's a good way to live."

click [here to listen](#)

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## Classified Ads

### Forming Communities and Communities Seeking Members

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**Bay State Commons has studios, 1BR and 1BR+ units available in advance of groundbreaking outside Boston!**



**Last Home Claimed**



**Multigenerational, environmentally responsible, cottage homes, 4.75 acres with organic garden**



**Riverside Living in Eugene, OR Growing rapidly - come aboard now!**



**Heartwood Commons – a new 55+ Community in Tulsa, OK. Won't you be our neighbor?**



**Skagit Cohousing -- our design is in process!**



**First Cohousing in Connecticut!**

Homes for Sale

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**Two homes for sale at Wolf Creek Lodge Senior Cohousing in Grass Valley, CA**



**New homes ready to finish, under construction, and to be started--you choose**



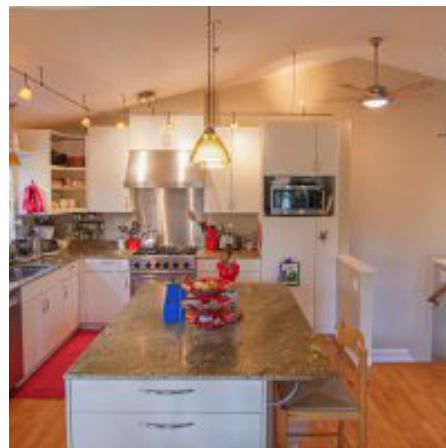
**Beautiful and Energy-Efficient Homes for Sale in New Hampshire Co-housing and Farming Community**



**5 condo units for sale at Bull City Commons Cohousing – Join our urban Durham community: walkable, diverse, and vibrant**



**Reserve a home at Juniper Hill Commons – a multigenerational community in a progressive small city located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia**



**Rare Trillium Hollow Townhouse for sale  
4 Bedrooms / 2 Baths**

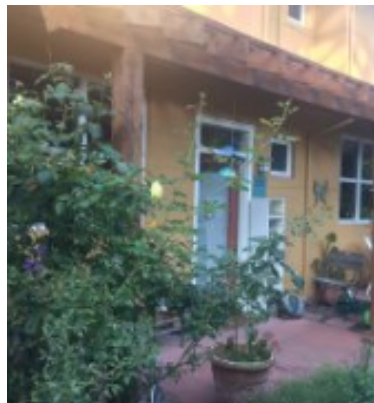




**55+ LGBTQ, Friends, & Allies Cohousing currently under construction in progressive Durham, NC**

## Homes For Rent

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**2BR 1.5BA rental 6 months  
SF Bay Area**

## Cohousing Professionals



McCamant & Durrett Architects  
The Cohousing Company

[McCamant & Durrett Architects](#)  
[The Cohousing Company](#)



[Caddis Collaborative](#)



[Fitch Architecture](#)  
[& Community Design](#)



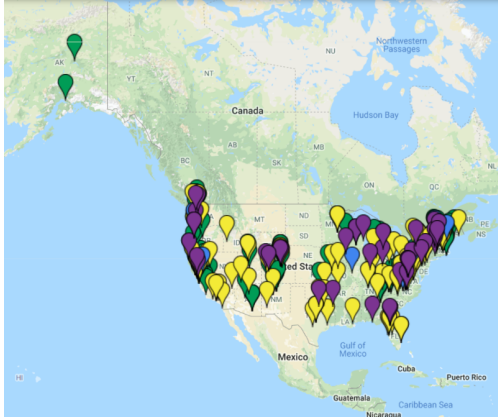
[Cohousing Solutions](#)



Wonderland Hill Development Company

Cohousing Opportunities Group

## Directory - Find your community now!



[Click Here](#) for the Cohousing Directory

If your community has not created a new and accurate listing for the new website, please do that now. As part of that process you will need to create a new user account which will allow you to update your directory listing and access other website features.

### Huge Heaps of Gratitude to our Association Supporters:

McCamant & Durrett Architects  
Caddis Collective  
Wonderland Hill Development Company  
Fitch Architects & Community Design  
Cohousing Solutions



Together We are Creating Community, One Neighborhood at a Time

### Thanks for reading

[Cohousing Now!](#) provides news and events on Cohousing... Now! provided by The Cohousing Association of the United States. Please forward to your friends, communities, and other lists to spread the word about cohousing!

The Cohousing Association is funded by donations from people like you. Thanks so much for your support.

[Donate to Cohousing](#)



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www.cohousing.org

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