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Feb 2020

## Cohousing Now!



### The Power of 2

Numerology is any belief in the mystical relationship between a number and a coinciding event(s) ~ *Wikipedia*

When planning our first ever online conference, we absolutely noticed something unique about the date we chose, specifically the multiple appearance of the number two.

2 / 22 / 2020

When taking a bit of a brain break we got looking into numerology and what attributes are represented by the number two. It was so interesting to see many descriptive words used that we see represented in the cohousing world: cooperation, awareness, partnership, teamwork, problem solvers, flexibility, idealism, companionship, diplomacy, coexistence ... it's all about the relationships. This phrase caught my eye:

"The number 2 feels extremely lonely when it's by itself,  
with no other numbers to interact with"

You might be wondering what does that have to do with Affordability in COhousing which was our focus of the conference held on the 22nd ... I suppose nothing directly, except that if we are connected to the number 2, inherently we have the desire for more people to access information about cohousing and for more people to choose cohousing; an online conference can be more affordable and together we can work to create solutions for affordable cohousing.

Our online Affordable Conference on Affordable Cohousing (AConAC) was a great success! We started off networking in small groups to get to know a bit

more about each other. David Dworkin, CEO and President of National Housing Conference, shared with us statistics on housing and it's challenges across the US. Twelve different sessions were offered and we wrapped up with opportunity to have further discussions all in relation to affordable cohousing.

If you missed the opportunity to attend this online conference but would like the information, it's not too late to register for access to recordings ( [click here](#) )

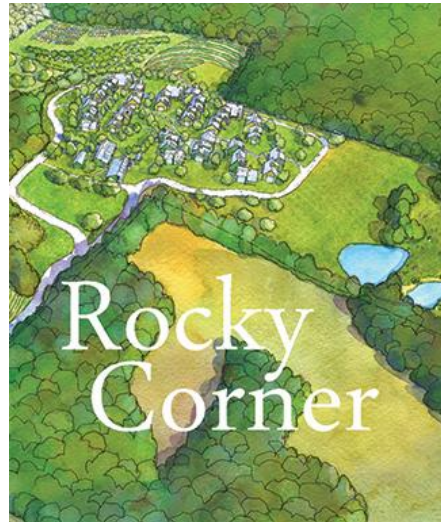
If you registered to attend AConAC and/or view the recordings, PLEASE share with us your feedback ( [click here](#) ). We rely on your feedback to make improvements in your experience.

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Watch our [website for more Simple Series](#) events and conferences as details are confirmed. It's going to be a great year for learning and sharing ideas about cohousing.

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### **Rocky Corner Cohousing**

Simple Series Event  
in Bethany, CT

**April 25, 2020**

[click here for details](#)

[Early Bird Registration  
Now Open!](#)



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

**What a fantastic day we had on  
Saturday February 22, 2020!**

Thank to attendees and speakers  
for joining us!

Thank you to our AConAC  
sponsor Wonderland Hill  
Development Company

Thank you to SOFA, specifically  
Ted Rau for advising us and  
preparing us to host our first ever  
online conference!



### **Fair Oaks EcoHousing**

Simple Series Event  
near Sacramento, CA

**Sept 12-13, 2020**

[watch here for details](#)

For registrants, recordings are posted, access them through [the program](#) using the conference password given.

You can still [click here to register for access to recordings!](#)



### **The Commons on The Alameda**

Simple Series Event  
in Santa Fe, NM

**Oct 9-11, 2020**

[watch here for details](#)

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Want to help create future online conferences? Brainstorm keynote speakers, solicit and review RFP's, create program, chat up sponsors, contact us ASAP to apply for the committee!  
[karincohous@gmail.com](mailto:karincohous@gmail.com)



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**Thur, Mar 12, 2020 –**

### **Keep Cohousers Healthy: a conversation facilitated by Karen Gimnig**

As communities listen and respond to current events, it seems like a good moment to come together online and talk about how cohousing interfaces with public health concerns. What practices do communities use to stay healthy? How do we take action as a community in the face of individual differences when the stakes are high? How do we balance the competing needs for safety, connection and mutual support?

We'll gather on zoom in our usual way for a time of sharing and discussion. What is your community doing? What is working? What isn't? What are the ways in which living in community makes us resilient? What are the unique concerns and resources that come with living together? Bring your questions and answers.

**Thur, Mar 19, 2020 –**

### **Open House Options with Raines Cohen and Alan O'Hashi**

An Open House is a great way for a community to share the good news about cohousing, which is why we do one on a national scale each spring. This year we're thinking some communities may be looking for some alternative approaches to sharing with others. In this WebChat, Raines and Alan will share some ideas, including an example of a tour video. Bring your ideas too, the more the merrier as we get creative in the face of challenges.

5pm Pacific, 6pm Mountain, 7pm Central, 8pm Eastern

Zoom Room

<https://zoom.us/j/202941610>

5pm Pacific, 6pm Mountain, 7pm  
Central, 8pm Eastern

Previous WebChats are available for  
view at the button below.

Zoom Room

<https://zoom.us/j/202941610>

[View Recordings](#)

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## National Cohousing Open House Day Sunday April 26, 2020

Watch the "[Open House  
Options](#)" WebChat offered  
March 19th

Register your community [here](#)  
For more information, click [here](#)



## MADISON, WISCONSIN HERE WE COME!!!

We are thrilled to announce the 2021  
National Cohousing Conference will be  
in Madison, Wisconsin!

[watch here for details](#)



## The spotlight is on: Rocky Corner Cohousing

On a recent afternoon, Rich Wilber stood at the window of his nearly finished home looking over a muddy February landscape. He saw the fruit trees and berry bushes; naturalized pollinator plantings and tidy garden rows; and neighbors grazing on ripe fruit—all of which are in the plans for his community, but not yet reality. It takes vision and heart to see a lush green landscape in the middle of a construction site.

Fortunately the members of Rocky Corner cohousing have an abundance of both. As they look over their 33 acres in rural Connecticut, the vision is clear. "Creating an edible landscape, regenerating soil, and increasing biodiversity are goals that are part of our vision statement," according to Rich. The edible landscape interspersed with their 30 homes and large common house will enable them to live sustainably. The permaculture plan includes a working organic farm that can provide produce for common house meals; and each household will have access to a large garden plot. This will be a place where all the residents of the land—people young and old, animals and plants—thrive together.

Part of thriving is commitment to a collaborative lifestyle that leaves space for plenty of individual preference. Many members are eager to get their hands in the dirt. They can't wait to plant seeds that will grow with their community, and they know that they will have some neighbors who aren't able to get into the dirt or just don't want to. "That's fine," says Beth Bradley, Rich's nextdoor neighbor. "We want everyone to gravitate toward what they love—and once in a while clean a toilet." Their shared work agreement is a guideline for how many hours are needed from each person.

They point to their longstanding study and practice of sociocracy as a source of their overall success. They like that the work is distributed among small, efficient circles with defined authority, making it possible for everyone to speak and be heard in every round; and they believe they make better decisions than they would without it. "When we have a decision that we thought was pretty good, and someone objects, we work through it; and we always end up with a better decision," says Beth. Sociocracy has already led to a culture of working hard to create the community together.

As in most cohousing neighborhoods, the common house is the center of activity. Maker spaces designed for arts, crafts, and woodworking are planned. Rich looks forward to swing dancing in the dining room. Beth can't wait to be leading everyone in singing songs she has written. Residents will use a commercial kitchen for common meals and can rent it out to create food products to sell. Rocky Corner folks have had a vision to create housing for different income levels. Thirteen of the 30 homes are income-qualified affordable units, subsidized by a \$2.6 million dollar grant from the State of Connecticut. Those homes are reserved by people of all ages with limited incomes. Even the buyers who are paying market rate prices realize that cohousing is benefiting them financially. Energy-efficient houses, shared vehicles, food from the land, and more ways of sharing will keep money in many pockets.

With 18 homes nearing completion and 12 more planned, Rich and Beth are eager to meet the rest of their neighbors. As committed buyers arrive, funds become available from the bank to start the next building.

In the meantime, they are waiting for topsoil to be spread and plotting where to plant the trees and perennials they will bring with them from other properties. It's an exciting time as they watch their community take shape, already enjoying strong bonds and shared vision for stewarding this land and nurturing one another. If you'd like to join them, you can find everything you need to know at [www.rockycorner.org](http://www.rockycorner.org).

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## In the news

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**Cohousing: The Future of Community and Human Connection**



**The Nuclear Family Was a Mistake**



Trish Becker-Hafnor ~ TEDx

Trish Becker-Hafnor is a founding member of Denver's newest cohousing community, Aria Cohousing, and a passionate advocate for housing solutions that address both the crisis of affordability and the global loneliness epidemic. She is in the process of establishing a micro-village in Wheat Ridge that addresses both. This talk was given at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community.

[Click Here to view](#)

story by David Brooks ~ The Atlantic

"The family structure we've held up as the cultural ideal for the past half century has been a catastrophe for many. It's time to figure out better ways to live together

This article is about ... how Americans are now groping to build new kinds of family and find better ways to live."

[Click Here to read full article](#)

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## Classified Ads

Forming Communities and Communities Seeking Members

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**Washington Commons Cohousing seeking members**



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



[Can you Hear the River Calling?](#)



[Bloomington Cohousing is seeking new friends and families to join us in beautifully wooded Monroe County, Indiana](#)



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



**Last Home Claimed**



**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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**Wolf Creek Lodge Senior Cohousing in  
Grass Valley, CA**



**Award-winning Iowa City Cohousing  
homes available.**



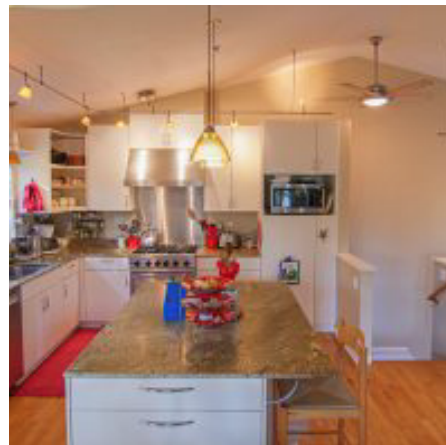
**Beautiful and Energy-Efficient Homes for  
Sale in New Hampshire Co-housing and  
Farming Community**



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

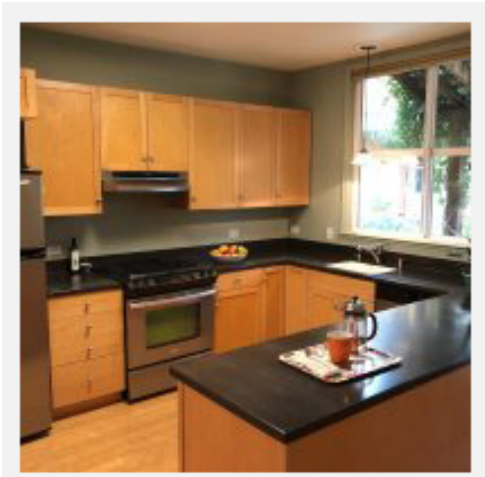


**Reserve a home at Juniper Hill Commons  
– a multigenerational community in a  
progressive small city located in the  
Shenandoah Valley of Virginia**



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





[2BR/1.5BA - Cozy tree house atmosphere with front and back patios in vibrant, multi-generational Pleasant Hill Cohousing](#)



[55+ LGBTQ, Friends, & Allies Cohousing currently under construction in progressive Durham, NC](#)

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## Cohousing Professionals



McCamant & Durrett Architects  
The Cohousing Company

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



[Caddis Collaborative](#)



[Wonderland Hill  
Development Company](#)



[Fitch Architecture  
& Community Design](#)

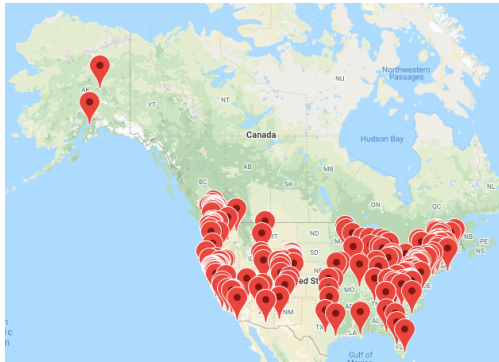


[Cohousing Solutions](#)



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## 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.

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### 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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