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Sept 2019

Cohousing Now!

Tale of Two Communities



It was a dark and dismal night. www.cohousing.org had gone down several months ago and there was no one to fix it. Cohousers everywhere were wondering what had happened. Porch lights were being left off. Common meals were going uneaten and when some poor soul needed a ride to the airport [gasp!] well, they had to call a cab. They tried to reach out to other communities for help, but alas! With no cohousing directory, they couldn't find them. It wouldn't have helped anyway, communities across the country were having the same problems.

When a home became available in a community, there was no longer a great novice cohouser to move in. With no classifieds to share homes available, no online information for novices to learn from, no CohoUS staff giving interviews to prominent media outlets, interest in cohousing had stopped growing. Vacated houses remained vacant - or worse! They became occupied by unbelievers - villains who threw away recyclables, drove up to their houses and skipped common meals. It was terrible!

"NOOOO!" screamed Karin, racing from one community to another and finding the same problems everywhere.

Fortunately, just then, Karen happened to be passing by and shook Karin awake. "It's OK," she soothed. "You were having a nightmare."

"But what if it wasn't just a nightmare?" cried Karin, "What if we don't get enough Community Donations and Evergreen Neighbors? What if we have to cut staff and lose programs?"

"It won't happen," said Karen. "Cohousers understand the value to community and coming together. They are going to come through for us!"

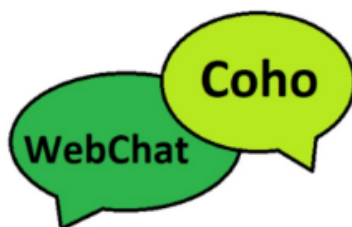


Together they envisioned a new day for cohousing:

Cohousers across the country are collaborating to share ideas, pool resources, and expand the impact of cohousing through new communities and into the broader world. The CohoUS staff is busy coordinating all the great input from experienced cohousers and cohousing professionals. News and information about the great opportunity that is cohousing is being actively shared through many media outlets. Collaboration with values-aligned movements is bringing even more people to cohousing.

What this means for communities is that every open space is filled with a knowledgeable, eager cohouser. New energy as revitalized word days and common meals. Consensus workshops are available online and in every state and communities meetings are warm and collaborative. When communities get stuck they turn to website resources and other communities for help and ideas. Work is getting done, problems are solved, and oh look, Sally is interviewing James for a school project. Joe is learning to garden from dear Ava who can't get on her knees any more. Smiles and laughter, and shared tears too.

Karin and Karen look at each other, smiling at their vision - **This is what cohousing can be, with everyone contributing as they are able to keep the cohousing movement thriving and bringing positive change to our nation.** They are counting on you to join your cohousing neighbors and make this world a reality. [Donate here](#) .



Wednesday, Sept 25, 5pm Pac, 6pm Mt, 7pm Cent, 8pm East

Sky Blue & Avi Kruley

More than Microcosms: The Transformative Impact of Intentional Community

Humanity is in crisis. The feedback loop between larger society, the communities we live in, and our personal experiences reinforce systems of privilege and oppression that create harm—harm for people and the planet. As microcosms of (and alternatives to) mainstream society, intentional communities can help us understand ways to shift out of this harm. But what makes something an intentional community, and how is it relevant? To what extent does an intentional community counteract or reinforce systems of harm, and how can we do better?

This presentation will provide a deeper understanding of and criteria for these multifaceted experiments known as intentional communities, as well as their relationship to society, current impact, and potential to support the transformation of our world.

Thursday, Oct 17, 5pm Pac, 6pm Mt, 7pm Cent, 8pm East

Diana Leafe Christian

Dealing Effectively with Especially Challenging Community Behaviors

After serving as a consultant for cohousing communities and other kinds of intentional communities and living in community myself for many years, Diana has seen four kinds of disturbing, disruptive behaviors that become painful and disheartening for the group. She will share what seems to work well in better understanding and dealing effectively with each of these kinds of challenging behaviors in community.

[Click here for complete schedule](#)

[Click here for past recordings](#)

Do you have a small business?

With the launch of the new CohoUS website we are excited to make available affordable advertising for those cohousers that offer a product or service that actually has nothing to do with cohousing, except that it is offered by a cohouser! To see what one of your neighbors is offering, [click here](#). To advertise your business, [click here](#) !



Thanks for reading **Cohousing Now!**
We are pleased to offer a mid-month mini-eNews as well as our monthly eNews published at the month end.

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

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