

Room 2 Chat

Session 1

Yana Ludwig

Class, Culture and Community

- class often equals access to wealth and access to wealth is often associated with people in white bodies, not people in black or brown bodies ... when a Cohousing community is cost prohibitive, it may also deter ethnic diversity in a Cohousing community.
- and yet our class lens is strongly formed early in life
- Motel 6 is usually fine. Not "stuck"!
- Billionaires keep getting greedier. I hear it's just a game for them.
- This is a good lecture. Class is really up for the rill. We keep loosing good prospects because of cost, yet we cost less than most housing in SoCo
- what great resources, how do these differences effect our decision making
- Do cultural (as in US vs. other foreign cultures) issues ever get discussed in communities?
- Also suggest checking out Class Action at www.classism.org
- Isabel Wilkerson's new book is about class.
- That's more than it costs to make a house payment plus membership plus monthly fees here
- There are systemic factors—finance & insurance "industries" (imo, vultures feeding off of others who really work) have grown and need to be regulated. We can work at several levels for change.
- wealthier members are accustomed to being in powerful roles and take on leadership roles. As such, they determine the community aesthetic, social events, and amenities. Lower income members are more apt to adjust their behavior to "get along" and not jepordize their position. How do we empower low-income members to speak out, advocate for a more moderate living and for wealthier members respect that class difference and do with less?
- From Anne Greenblatt : Our community did an anonymous donation fund to add to reserves.
- Yes! I grew up lower-middle class and have very low tolerance for risk.
- Our community has been around for 28 years. We are planning to add 5-7 new units. A crew was assigned to negotiate the land price for the new units. A professional appraisal was ordered and came in way under the expectations of the crew. They are advocating for a higher price and the incoming people feel they are in an inferior power position to negotiate.
- My now-ex-spouse grew up "dirt poor" and had a tendency to try to spend every dollar three times...led to a lot of credit-card debt.
- this is so appropriate to discuss. I've just been listening to some of the segments of "1619" sponsored by NY Times. It really helps to understand the historical frame of reference for what we see happening around us now.

- Yes, this is so important. The mutually enriching interaction among the coho community with the greater surrounding community. I've heard time banks be used for that.
- When people in our community sell their units, they sometimes donate a % of profit to the community, as we have a strong committee that plays some realtor functions,..so \$ saved for seller.
- we've met resistance in paying low-income members for work that would otherwise we'd require a contractor. we prioritize "equality" over "equity". How do ther communities work with paying members for work?
- We used to not have renters, either. We've now begun having more and more renters, and this has been a great boon to us. Very committed members of the community, bring a lot to us!
- Housing should be viewed as places to live rather than commodities. They should only be commodified when the sell. Rather than saying that the reason we need these new trees because our property values will increase, the reason should be we need these new trees so kids have a shaded place to play, and oh, yea, your property values may go up.
- Our experience of renters has been just the same - a great asset. Have just the same rights as owners.

