

FINDING A COMMUNITY

(Wisdom of Communities, Volume 2)

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
I. INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY TYPES: A SAMPLING	
Tracking the Communities Movement: 70 Years of History and the Modern FIC	5
<i>Communities</i> 176, 15–19	Sky Blue and Betsy Morris
For decades the Fellowship for Intentional Community has been an essential resource for documentation, support, and networking. Here are some definitions, community types, and organizing principles.	
Balancing Act: How Much Are You Willing to Share?	11
<i>Communities</i> 152, 20–23	Janel Healy
Twin Oaks and Acorn members discover the complex issues, challenges, and rewards of attempting to live by the principles of Right Livelihood in an income-sharing community.	
Participatory Budgeting in an Income-Sharing Community	16
<i>Communities</i> 175, 18–21	Adder Oaks
How does one share income and expenses among a hundred people? Twin Oaks discovers how to supplant apathy with widespread engagement.	
Fifty Years of Utopian Intentioneering at Twin Oaks Community	21
<i>Communities</i> 176, 27–30	A. Allen Butcher
A long-lived egalitarian community offers valuable lessons about optimum population levels, the revolutionary potential of labor-credit systems, and the equal valuing of all types of work as a practical expression of feminism.	
Servant Leadership in Cooperative Business: Stirring It Up at East Wind Nut Butters	26
<i>Communities</i> 175, 22–25	Sumner Nichols
An egalitarian community's General Manager reflects on embodying collective values and ecological sanity in a three-million-dollar-a-year business.	
Living Out a Gift Economy in Community with Others	30
<i>Communities</i> 175, 50–52	Tina Dunn (with input from others in the Jesus Christian community)
Putting love into practice can be done even when you have nothing materially.	
The Gift Economy of Standing Rock	33
<i>Communities</i> 175, 15–17	Murphy Robinson
The principles of indigenous culture informed the Water Protectors' camps: generosity, compassion, and collective survival took precedence.	
A World of Possibility: Communities and Global Transformation	36
<i>Communities</i> 140, 26–32	Ethan Hughes and Sarah Wilcox-Hughes
Visits to the Ark of Lanza del Vasto, a 60-year-old community movement in France, and the Possibility Alliance, a one-year-old community in Missouri, raise the question: What could society look like if the communities movement chooses to become socially and politically involved at a new level?	

Moving Beyond Diversity Towards Collective Liberation: Weaving the Communities Movement into Intersectional Justice Struggles	43
<i>Communities</i> 178, 11–12	Deseree Fontenot
The co-organizer of the People of Color Sustainable Housing Network shares strategies for deepening your community's work on issues of race, class, and privilege.	
Active Communities: Why working towards improving our world should be a defining part of any intentional community	45
<i>Communities</i> 152, 24	Michael Kenny
The founders of the Toronto Ecovillage Project offer guidelines for groups that want to commit to making the world outside the immediate community a better place.	
An Inspiring Journey in Ecovillages	46
<i>Communities</i> 171, 36–37	Nébesna Fortin
From La Cité Écologique to NextGEN, a young ecovillage activist completes the circle.	
Therapeutic Community: A Century at Gould Farm	48
<i>Communities</i> 150, 46–51	Steven K. Smith
A venerable institution continues to change, grow, and help its guests to become functional members of society.	
Camphill: Working with Special People	54
<i>Communities</i> 150, 52–54	Diedra Heitzman and Jan Martin Bang
Camphill: Glimpses of Community Life	56
<i>Communities</i> 150, 54–55	Wanda Root
Camphill: The Way of My Brother	58
<i>Communities</i> 150, 56–57	Bill Prensky
Dedicated to holism, ecology, and service, Camphill Villages incorporate people with so-called handicaps as valued community members, teachers, and guides.	
Diversity at Camphill Soltane	60
<i>Communities</i> 155, 29–31	James Damon, Tai Shinohara, and Bethany Walton
By welcoming a diversity of abilities, socioeconomic status, and personality, a community for people with special needs also strengthens participants' capacity to work well together.	
Community Living as Social Activism in Camphill	63
<i>Communities</i> 172, 10–11	Kam Bellamy
In Camphill communities, people of all abilities have a voice.	
Innisfree Village: Lifesharing in a Service Community	65
<i>Communities</i> 172, 12–13 Nancy Chappell	
Adults with disabilities and residential caregiver volunteers share the challenges and joys of community life at Innisfree.	
The Gesundheit Institute: A 45 Year-Old Communal Hospital Experiment	68
<i>Communities</i> 172, 14–17	Patch Adams
In a decades-long project with worldwide reach, medicine, humor, and community become vehicles for social change.	
Coming of Age in Service Community	72
<i>Communities</i> 172, 30–34	Jen and Hilary Bayer
Growing up in a community with a strong commitment to changing the world can be both enlivening and challenging.	

Activism and Service at Black Bulga Community: Inspiring, Nurturing, Challenging, and Not All Hard Work	77
<i>Communities</i> 172, 27–29	Geoff Evans
At Black Bulga, the experience of community provides vital support for members to be effective change agents in the wider world.	
Urban Kibbutzim: A Growing Movement	80
<i>Communities</i> 177, 62	Anton Marks
With rural kibbutz communities in retreat, newer, urban ones such as Kibbutz Mishol are providing examples of how society can be structured in a more just and equitable way.	
It's Not Just the Curtain: Crossing the Class Divide at the Bloomington Catholic Worker	81
<i>Communities</i> 178, 50–52	Laura Lasuertmer
Distinctions and boundaries between community members and their homeless guests can be problematic sometimes, but they are also what allow the sharing and caring to continue.	
Opportunity Village Eugene: Pioneering New Solutions for the (Formerly) Homeless	84
<i>Communities</i> 162, 58–61, 77	Alex Daniell
In a village of Conestoga Huts and micro-houses, residents and supporters build community together.	
Homelessness and Tiny Houses: Two Worlds Intersect to Foster Community	89
<i>Communities</i> 172, 51–52	Kerri Fivecoat-Campbell
Those inspired by the tiny house movement can help those with no homes to become part of it.	
Politics on Open Land	92
<i>Communities</i> 140, 54–56, 76	Ramón Sender Barayón
“Who’s in charge?” If the residents at Morningstar and Wheeler’s Ranches had not needed to answer that question repeatedly for county officials, they might have been able to avoid reproducing the external world’s hierarchies altogether. As it was, the best meetings were called by the cows.	
Nobody Likes Bosses	96
<i>Communities</i> 168, 60–61	Molly Shea
Even an anti-authoritarian household needs agreements—but who and how to enforce them is another question.	
When Community Land Is Privately Owned	98
<i>Communities</i> 141, 58–62	Tree Bressen
Private ownership of community land poses challenges to healthy community; here are some strategies for surmounting them.	
• Common Problems with Private Ownership of “Community” Land—Jan Steinman	
Class-Harmony Community	103
<i>Communities</i> 178, 61–63	A. Allen Butcher
Most types of intentional community are difficult for working class people with children to join—except for this one.	
Cohousing for Non-Cohousers	107
<i>Communities</i> 144, 61–64	Charlene DiCalogero
Cohousers reflect on their experience and share advice with those considering the option.	
Community and Health: Immigrant Senior Cohousing in the Netherlands	111
<i>Communities</i> 145, 50–53	Dorit Fromm and Els de Jong
Innovative Dutch cohousing projects allow ethnic minorities to spend their elder years in dignity, community, mutually supportive relationships, greater connection to their traditions and families, and better health.	

- Aging in Community** 115
Communities 149, 44–45, 77 Raines Cohen
 From senior cohousing and village networks to elders' guilds and more, a broad movement offers alternatives to the aging-industrial complex.
- Green Houses: Providing Humane Care for Elders** 118
Communities 149, 54–56 Deborah Altus
 An alternative to conventional nursing facilities offers personalized schedules, a home-like environment, and a holistic approach to aging.
- Shared Living—When Home Is a Community** 121
Communities 144, 28–30 Carol Pimentel
 An ex-resident of Casa Caballeros reflects on the wealth she found in the realms of personal growth, shared resources, spontaneous celebration, and financial freedom even in economic downturns.
- Householding: Communal Living on a Small Scale** 124
Communities 144, 32–35 Elizabeth Barrette
 Especially in financially uncertain times, those seeking the advantages of intentional community living can often find them within a single shared house; basic "how-to" guidelines make the process easier.
- Green and Resilient Neighborhoods: Portland, Oregon and Beyond** 128
Communities 177, 49–54 Jan Spencer
 Columbia Ecovillage, Cully Grove Garden Community, Kailash Ecovillage, River Road Neighborhood, and elsewhere embody diverse, promising approaches to re-greening our lives.

II. SEEKING AND VISITING COMMUNITY: TIPS AND RESOURCES

- The New Communities Directory: A Star Chart for Seekers and Founders** 137
Communities 170, 6–7 Sky Blue
 Whether you're starting a community or looking to join one, the *Communities Directory* is an essential resource.
- The Quest for Community** 139
Communities 170, 8–9 Chris Roth
 From thought exercise to full-fledged community search and membership, *Communities* and the *Directory* have helped guide the way.
- A Useful Tool for Founders and Seekers: Spectrums** 141
Communities 170, 10–11 Ma'ikwe Ludwig
 Whether starting a community or looking for one to join, identifying your priorities, your approaches to life, and your ranges of tolerance can be essential to successful community living.
- Community Search Resources** 143
Communities 170, 12 McCune Porter
The FIC offers diverse ways of finding a community.
- Red Carpets and Slammed Doors: Visiting Communities** 144
Directory 2007, 21–27 Geoph Kozeny
 If you're considerate, persistent, and keep these guidelines in mind, the odds are good that you'll be able to arrange a visit and have a great experience.
- Visiting Communities: Tips for Guests and Hosts** 150
Communities 122, 47–49 Julie Pennington
 As a guest, you can take many steps to get the most out of your experience. As a host, you can do the same.

Planning a Community Visit	154
<i>Communities</i> 122, 36–41	Julie Pennington
The most important thing to remember during your stay is to be honest with yourself and the group.	
The Art and Ethics of Visitor Programs	160
<i>Communities</i> 155, 38–41	Blake Cothron
To create a thriving, diverse community, we need to learn how to host and integrate new people in ways that support them as multi-dimensional human beings.	

III. COMMUNITY EXPLORATIONS: STORIES AND REFLECTIONS

Excerpts from a Community Seeker's Journal	167
<i>Communities</i> 122, 29–35	Sue Stone
The author shares personal observations and insights about the sometimes inspiring, sometimes arduous community-seeking process.	
The Dilettante's Journey, Part I:	
How do you pick a community to join if you're interested in...EVERYTHING?	174
<i>Communities</i> 132, 24–29	Frank Beaty
If his mother was indeed calling him an "indolent, decadent, grape-eating faux-aristocrat," was she right? Or could he follow through on his dreams of community?	
The Dilettante's Journey, Part II:	
How do you pick a community to join if you're interested in...EVERYTHING?	180
<i>Communities</i> 133, 32–37	Frank Beaty
The author continues his immersive explorations of diverse communities, enjoying experiences ridiculous to sublime.	
What Interns and Work Exchangers Say About Us...	186
<i>Communities</i> 134, 34–39	Darin Fenger
Some temporary communitarians share lessons learned, insights gained, and input for host communities.	
Adventures in Temporary Community: An Interview with Liat Silverman	192
<i>Communities</i> 142, 25–27	Kim Scheidt
Superhero rides, Burning Man, and Rainbow Gatherings all demonstrate how living, working, and sharing together offer many benefits, whether in temporary or long-term community.	
Burning Man: Experiencing the Playa Community	196
<i>Communities</i> 142, 28–31	Kayla Wexelberg
A first-time Black Rock City "Burner" learns multiple lessons about cooperation, connection, self-expression, and play, and brings them back into her daily life.	
Comin' Home to the Rainbow	200
<i>Communities</i> 142, 32–33, 73	Scott Shuker
A dedicated Rainbow Family member explains the diverse culture, the lingo, the traditions, the politics, and both the "bright" and "shadow" sides of this gathering of the tribes.	
Network for a New Culture Camps	204
<i>Communities</i> 142, 34–39	Pati Diehl, Melanie Rios, Michael Rios, and Sarah Taub
Participants in NFNC's Summer Camps explore intimacy, transparency, freedom of choice, personal responsibility, sexuality, and new ways of being, teaching, and learning.	
Review: Visions of Utopia Part Two	210
<i>Communities</i> 143, 80, 79	Tim Miller
After visiting many hundreds of communities, a community networker extraordinaire shares the cream of his treasure-trove of information and insight.	

Emergency Community	2
<i>Communities 144, 24–27, 77</i>	
After serving thousands of meals, a community of post-Katrina relief kitchen volunteers moves to the West Coast and acquires a mortgage, a baby, full-time jobs, and the challenges of the mundane.	
A Community Newcomer Finds Her Rhythm	2
<i>Communities 146, 53–55</i>	
Thanks to music, nature, and sympathetic fellow passengers, climbing aboard the Mothership turns out to be not such an alien experience after all.	
Second Family.....	2
<i>Communities 146, 40, 77</i>	
A mother responds to empty-nest syndrome by discovering her new family in community.	
Power and Disempowerment on the Ecobus	2
<i>Communities 148, 41–47</i>	
Some saw this radical environmental education program as a “cult,” others as an intensely focused experience of challenge and growth. Had participants lost their individuality, or gained a new sense of self?	
Ad Astra per Aspera: Through Adversity to the Stars—A Community Member’s Passage to India and Back	23
<i>Communities 148, 60–61, 77</i>	
A trip to and from Auroville ecovillage sheds light on a slew of social, ecological, and lifestyle issues.	
It Takes a Community to Grow an Elder.....	23
<i>Communities 149, 16–17</i>	
After confronting an identity crisis worthy of adolescence, a 65-year-old finds a new home in community and discovers that elderhood is a blessing, not a curse.	
And I Listen: Staying connected and building trust when adult children choose the “alternative” lifestyle of living in community.....	235
<i>Communities 149, 27–31</i>	
Howling, shouting, cries of despair, and The Pierced One greet a parent on her first visit to her daughter’s adopted community. Luckily, through lots of talking and listening, things improve.	
A Mental Health Patient Seeks (But Does Not Find) Religious Community	240
<i>Communities 150, 44–45</i>	
A disillusioning series of visits to intentional religious communities leaves a mental health patient with more questions than answers.	
Hopeful New Stories from the Old World: A New We.....	242
<i>Communities 150, 80–79</i>	
Ten European ecovillages show the way to a brighter future.	
My Search for Community and Intimacy: Is Cohousing the Answer?	244
<i>Communities 151, 48–49, 51, 53</i>	
The path toward connection takes an aspiring communitarian through student rooming houses, group therapy, community-building workshops, and finally cohousing, with important lessons along the way.	
Buddha Being...Buddha Doing	248
<i>Communities 152, 56–59</i>	
Personal retreats at Deer Park Monastery offer the author renewal, connection, and community.	

Growing a Culture of Gratitude in Argentine Patagonia:

A WWOOFer Experiences Community Living 252

Communities 153, 38–39

James Collector

An organic farming volunteer learns surprising new lessons from his Argentinian hosts—such as how to relax, how to enjoy practical labor, and how to contribute more sustainably by putting personal work first.

Spirituality and Community Living. 254

Communities 154, 58–59

Clistine Morningstar

At the Global Community Communications Alliance, a seeker finds herself in the “Spiritual Olympics,” learning to walk her talk while embracing a cosmic perspective.

The Lighter Side of Community: A Communitarian Appreciates Wanderlust 256

Communities 155, 58–63, 75

Chris Roth

This Hollywood movie offers both surprising insight and fond parody while taking viewers far from the beaten path, into the world of intentional community.

Journeying on the Ark: One Woman’s Experience at L’Arche 264

Communities 157, 48–50

Janna Payne

Questioning her community’s philosophy and practices, a live-in caregiver ends her involvement there in order to focus on greater self-expression and self-care.

Transitioning into the Heart of Community 267

Communities 157, 44–47

Tara Pettit

In short-term summer project spiritual communities, group connections are intense but also destined to end.

Cycling toward Sustainable Community: *Within Reach* 271

Communities 157, 80, 78–79

Chris Roth

After 6,500 miles of pedaling and 100 community visits, a couple documents the promise of intentional community and cooperative living.

Seeking Community: A Conversation to Shape Our Future 274

Communities 159, 13–15

Paul Born

The Tamarack Institute helps people talk and learn together about the possibilities of community.

Reviews:

***The Intentional Christian Community Handbook* 277**

Communities 159, 76

Nancy Roth

***The Encyclopedic Guide to American Intentional Communities* 278**

Communities 159, 77

***The Rhythm of Rutledge* 279**

Communities 159, 78

Chris Roth

New resources shed light on life in a vast range of communities.

Finding Community, Producing Durability: Learning from the rhythms of Rutledge 280

Communities 159, 80, 79

the Last Volunteer

Filmmakers reflect on their explorations of place and possibility in northeast Missouri’s tri-communities.

Wilderness Journeys Meet Cooperative Culture: Teens in Community on the Trail. 282

Communities 160, 44–47

Mary Murphy

Group-building activities and conflict management strategies help teen expeditions thrive.

Reviews:

- Communes Britannica** 286
Communities 160 73–75 Pam Dawling
Spiritual and Visionary Communities: Out to Save the World 289
Communities 160, 76 Nancy Roth
More new resources explore a wide range of communities both historical and contemporary.
- Vision, Money, and Sustainability: Bringing in Renters while Building the Dream** 290
Communities 163, 26–28 Jane Moran
In the quest for sustainability, long-term goals can yield to short-term needs and opportunities, fertilizing new growth in unpredictable ways.
- The Dirty Business of Growing a Cohousing Community Farm** 293
Communities 163, 29–33 Sandy Thomson
A farm is not a clod of dirt; it is more like mud that slips through your hands, gets on your boots, and is tracked all through the community.
- The Community We Built** 298
Communities 164, 20–21 Carly Fraser
Residents of Guelph, Ontario, build community with intention in an existing suburban neighborhood.
- A Baby Boomer Rediscovered Community** 300
Communities 166, 34–35 Jeffrey Mabee
After falling into a disillusioning “status quo” existence, a baby boomer rekindles his zeal (and ability) to live by his values at Belfast Cohousing and Ecovillage.
- Short-Term Vacation Cohousing: A Great Way to Learn** 302
Communities 166, 44–45, 73 Deborah Carey with Ray Shockey
Two retirees discover a way to explore cohousing without long-term commitment—and after several extended visits, decide it’s for them.
- Immigrating to a Cohousing Project** 306
Communities 168, 51–52 Katharina Jones
As a stranger you can find welcome in the United States amazingly fast—unless you have to deal with the US Customs and Immigration Service.
- Finding Community Outside of “Community”** 308
Communities 169, 16–17, 74 Sam Makita
Myriad groups and connections on “the outside” don’t call themselves intentional—but sometimes are.
- The Unexpected Journey** 311
Communities 169, 31–33 Elizabeth Matson
A three-month living/learning seminar in alternative communities still resonates three decades later.
• The Three-Community Seminar—Belden Paulson
• Community—Barbara B. Prendergast
- Three Kinds of Community—Three Kinds of Experience and Learning** 314
Communities 169, 20–24 Belden Paulson
Whether with refugees, in the inner city, or in intentional groups, community holds life-long lessons.
- The Long Trail Home: Discovering My Own Community** 319
Communities 169, 53–55, 77 Clistine Morningstar
An octogenarian reflects on the life experiences that led her to community and have kept her there for two decades.

Offerings to the Land.	323
<i>Communities</i> 169, 18–19, 75	Mary Murphy
Befriend the land where you are, and you will never be lonely.	
Finding Home.	326
<i>Communities</i> 170, 14–15	Eridani Baker
A community/solo journey through London, Greece, Oregon, India, Cyprus, and New Zealand reveals as many lessons within as without.	
Rediscovering Community: A family's journey back to appreciating Home	328
<i>Communities</i> 170, 16–18	Devon Bonady
An active search for a new community allows one family to explore core questions.	
Finding a Healthy, Happy Cohousing Community that Fits Your Values	331
<i>Communities</i> 170, 19–21	Cynthia Dettman
A cohouser offers resources and tips on how to find your community.	
Queer, Person of Color, or Low-Income; Is Cohousing Possible for Me?	334
<i>Communities</i> 170, 22–23	Cynthia Dettman
Some creative solutions are starting to counteract cohousing's demographic homogeneity, but significant obstacles remain.	
Leaving Eden: One man's quest for community in a divided land	336
<i>Communities</i> 170, 24–27, 74	David Leach
The tension between idealism and compromise plays itself out in the complex communal landscape of Israel.	
The Dog that Brought Us a Community	341
<i>Communities</i> 170, 55, 78	Jim Daly
After a health crisis precipitates major life changes, a couple finds a new path, becoming founding members of a cohousing community.	
Community Is the Best Medicine: A guide to cooperative living on a disability income.	343
<i>Communities</i> 175, 46–47	Lily Silver
Those living with disabilities have many options for finding community; here are suggestions on where and how to look.	
An Invitation to Single Men: Consider Cohousing	346
<i>Communities</i> 175, 60–61	Carolyn Schlam
Cohousers make their pitch: they want you and they need you.	
The Value of Community: What Defines Success?	348
<i>Communities</i> 176, 31–32	Deborah Altus
Short-term experiences of intentional community, and short-lived communities, can still have powerful, life-changing, and society-changing effects.	
Intentional Community in a Nicaraguan Jungle:	
Honoring my duality through community practices	350
<i>Communities</i> 176, 47, 74	Elizabeth Arnott
Through her experience temporarily "unplugging" to join a community emphasizing genuine connection and values-based living, an international law student gains lifelong lessons.	
A Community Journey	352
<i>Communities</i> 176, 50–51	Brittney Love
A journey across the country visiting intentional communities offers insights and personal inspiration.	

Dreaming of a Different Way.....	354
<i>Communities</i> 176, 52–54	Amanda Crowell
An experience of intentional community during college inspires a long-term dream (an alternative to the American one), temporarily impeded by student loan debt and other setbacks, but now alive, well, and providing guidance in daily life.	
Forty Years in Community: Has It Made a Difference?	357
<i>Communities</i> 176, 55–56	Linda Moore
A dedicated communitarian reflects on the challenges and rewards of cooperative living.	
Ganas: Finding Home in an Urban Community	359
<i>Communities</i> 177, 13–14	Aviva Derenowski
A child of a kibbutz tries a rural community, but ultimately finds happiness in a multigenerational urban community.	
The Radical Sabbatical: Discerning an Urban-to-Rural Move	361
<i>Communities</i> 177, 29–33	Laura Lasuertmer
A family from the Bloomington Catholic Worker spends time at three Catholic Worker Farms, discovering an energizing vision.	
Terra Firma: A Single Mother Discovers Community	367
<i>Communities</i> 177, 60–61	Shoshana Magnet
A small cohousing community in Ottawa provides an ideal mix of support and growth opportunities for a new parent and her son.	
Reviews:	
<i>Living Sustainably</i>	369
<i>Communities</i> 177, 76, 74	Sarah M. Pike
<i>Hippie Family Values</i>	370
<i>Communities</i> 177, 74	Chris Roth
A broad communities portrait and a focused, intimate one both give tastes of life in community.	