

Lifelong Learning Collaborative, Fall Session
Aging in Community: New and Better Options
Wednesdays 1-3:00, Sep.30; Oct.7,14,21,28; Nov.4

Coordinators:

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As we age, we are challenged to ask important questions about our futures. Many of the questions have to do with our living situations. Can we stay in our present home? What kind of community do we want to live in? What values should define the community? What support services do we need or want?

Aging in Community will explore the large and growing field of housing options for seniors. In choosing models to read about, we've used the filters of community and intentionality: that is, models we are interested in are places designed for building community where it is assumed that those who live there share the intention to build community. We hope the course will not only inform but energize participants to clarify their own needs for the future and identify community models that best suit their needs.

Below are the topics along with assigned readings for each class. As the readings are generally short, we expect that everyone will be able to finish them before class and thus be able to participate fully in the discussion. *If there's anyone who cannot access digital text, please call one of us well before the first class to work out a way to get the readings for that class.*

September 30: The Field of Possibilities

During the first class we'll spend some time getting to know each other, and we'll talk about our expectations for how the course will proceed. In the second hour, we'll present a broad range of efforts by and for seniors to create communities.

Readings:

- "How Baby Boomers Are Creating Their Own Retirement Communities" by Teresa Mears, April 20th, 2015 <http://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/articles/2015/04/20/how-baby-boomers-are-creating-their-own-retirement-communities>
- "Introducing the retirement commune" by Sally Abrahms, June 30th, 2013 Boston Globe Sunday Magazine <https://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/2013/06/29/the-retirement-commune-housing-new-direction-for-baby-boomers/VO4KkbSUMv8JmcydfuuaHl/story.html>

October 7: Cooperatives and Ecovillages

Readings: Ecovillages

- "Finally, Ecovillage Activists Gather in the US" http://www.ecovillagenews.org/wiki/index.php/Finally_Ecovillage_Activists_Gather_in_the_US
- <http://ecovillageithaca.org/live/> On this website, scroll down and select Village Life for an overview . We will look at other parts of the website in class:

Cooperatives:

- “Nascent R.I. cooperative community strives for 'intentional living' in Chepachet” by Karen Lee Ziner, August 26, 2015, The Providence Journal
<http://www.providencejournal.com/article/20150818/NEWS/150819317/0/SEARCH>
- http://www.uwcc.wisc.edu/pdf/Housing_Toolbox_Practical_guide_for_success.pdf
This is a long document about cooperatives in general; read only pages 1-10 for a good introduction to the coop housing model and how it compares to other models.

October 14: Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Co-housing

Readings:

- “About Continuing Care Retirement Communities” AARP website
http://www.aarp.org/relationships/caregiving-resource-center/info-09-2010/ho_continuing_care_retirement_communities.html
- “Re-Establishing Community Through Cohousing” Museum of the City website
<http://www.museumofthecity.org/reestablishing-community-through-cohousing/> Scroll down this website to read “Re-Establishing Community Through Co-Housing

October 21: Logistics of Forming One’s Own Community

Readings:

“Maitri House Case Study, The Sustainable Economies Law Center”

<https://sites.google.com/site/maitricasestudy/home>

The reading is a detailed narrative about one particular group of people in Washington DC who created a multigenerational community. This class will also provide an opportunity to “catch up” on subjects we may have cut short due to time constraints in prior classes.

October 28: Guest Speaker

Aurora DeMarco, Director of Development at The Fellowship for Intentional Communities, has written and published on health care, child care, women’s issues, and aging in community. She is a Licensed Massage Therapist with a specialty in working with Trauma Survivors and has worked as a Grief Counselor for Hospice of New York, developing and presenting workshops on working with trauma survivors in hospice settings. She recently facilitated a workshop on providing elder and hospice care in intentional communities. She lives at Ganas, an intentional community on Staten Island, New York.

- <http://www.ic.org/every-eight-seconds/>

November 4: Panel Discussion

The final class of Aging in Community: New and Better Options will include a panel presentation by Rhode Islanders who have started or are planning to start communities: an ecovillage, a senior arts community, a NORC village, and a senior LGBT community.