



# BIENVENIDOS NEW COMMONERS

## Welcome Jim and Carol Ludden, joining us in Lot #21:

For the past two years Jim and Carol have looked at various co-housing arrangements not finding a good match. This fall they came to visit Taos and saw that the Commons offered much of what they were looking for and a community to which they could contribute.



They currently live in Seattle, Jim a transplant from California, and Carol from Northern New England. Jim is a graduate from Pomona College in Chemistry and has a PhD from the University of Washington. He currently is working as a contractor (or as he says intellectual day laborer) having just left his job at Microsoft as a Systems Architect.

Jim describes his interests as analysis, design and build. In his early years he joined the peace corps in Nigeria, studied organ building in Germany and started the first tracker organ company in the Northwest. Together with Carol, he enjoys camping, studying ecological systems, and trips to Nicaragua and Mexico where they stay with the Sisters of Guadalupe Benedictines in their missions.

Carol has been immersed herself in both, attending university and seminary in New York City. Her first career was in community planning and development and as campaign manager for a congressional candidate. The political and religious work led her to become an Episcopal priest in the Pike Place Public Market where she began a ministry with farmers, craftspeople and residents.

The Luddens have engaged the architect Robert Parker to design a contemporary house, but will put the building on hold for a few months until Carol no longer needs monitoring for her rare brain cancer. Moving from snow capped mountains and a vibrant city will be a challenge but the Luddens are drawn to a simpler life and a closer community of compatible people.

## Welcome Kate, joining us in Lot #7:



This is my favorite picture of me. I'm on my elephant. I was excited about Valverde Commons the minute Barbara told me about it - especially the no forced -fed meetings and no countless hours attempting to reach consensus.

I live now on an orchard in Sebastopol, CA and there are a number of co-housing developments in the area, none of which

interest me. Too many meetings, too much process, not enough maintenance (rentals, clearly under funded) or something. BUT my friend Barbara and her friends seemed smarter than that.

I have lived in rural areas since I left Washington DC about 25 years ago and I love the idea of being rural (sort of) and near things at the same time. And I have always wanted to build my last house.

I do not like to drive and it is not in my top ten skills. Walking to nearly everything sounds like heaven. Not to mention it will extend my independence. I expect to give up the keys on the early side.

This was my checklist when I went to look at the Commons:

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So, I was good to go, but I found even more pluses:

Valverde Commons was exceptionally well thought out and developed (one of my careers was as a low-income housing advocate and at times I focused on co-ops)

I could hear crickets

The views are awesome

The commoners run one great meeting and throw damn fine potlucks

And last but, not least, my cousin (who went to Short ridge High school in Indianapolis) talked to her

h Y f Ä g Ä the very best sense of the word.

I hope to fit right in.

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Looking forward to getting to know you all whenever!

## COHOUSING WEST UPDATE

We invite our readers to visit the websites of our sister co-housing communities, Wolf Creek Lodge in Grass Valley, California, and Washington Village in Boulder, Colorado. They both have openings for new co-housers.

<http://www.wolfcreeklodge.org>

<http://washington-village.com>

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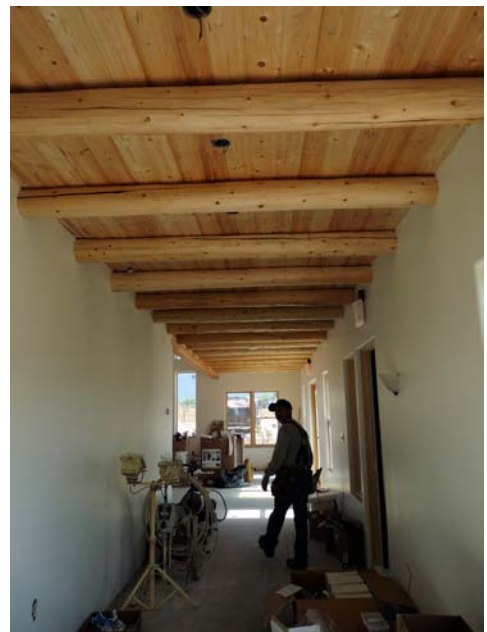
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# OUR COMMON HOUSE :

Nearing completion and Looking Fabulous!!!!



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# A TALE OF TWO HOUSES



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