

## Wash Away Those End-of-Summer Blues ...with a little help from your friends at WAGES!

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### A Woman's Worth, and Her Work

#### WAGES Working to Advance Women's Equality Through Co-op Ownership



Each August 26<sup>th</sup>, the WAGES team, along with women throughout the US, takes time out to celebrate Women's Equality Day and the anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, which granted women the right to vote in political elections. Ninety-one years later, it's not difficult to see that the struggle for absolute equality for women remains an ongoing battle. But, for the women in our co-ops – the *socias* – we believe there is much success to reflect on in the spirit of Women's Equality.

*Members of Oakland's Natural Home Cleaning Professionals celebrate at WAGES' annual Network gathering*

Although the women worker-owners that WAGES trains and supports face multiple barriers to fair wages and dignified employment, they are part of a cooperative business structure that allows them to improve their futures, their families' lives, and their communities. As worker-owners of their green cleaning co-op, they are co-creators of their own economic empowerment - a form of women's equality certainly worth celebrating! We hear *socias* repeatedly say that what drives them to provide the absolute best natural, green cleaning service for their customers is their own stake in the success of the business.

In a recent client feedback survey of customers from our San Francisco co-op, Home Green Home, one of the reasons given most often for choosing our services over competitors was the fact that the women workers – the *socias* - directly benefit from the financial success of the business. For families seeking a socially responsible quality green cleaning service and the women who have a stake in its success, it's a win-win!

### A Fresh Start to Fall with a Natural, Eco-Friendly Cleaning

#### Back to School Season and What Matters the Most

Here at WAGES we absolutely love the Back To School season. It's a time when our co-ops are able to provide a little something extra in addition to our usual high quality, professional, non-toxic and

natural cleaning services... like peace of mind and extra time while in the midst of the start of the school year. And who doesn't love that?

You can have peace of mind knowing the eco-friendly services our green-cleaning experts provide will make your home or apartment sparkle and feel fresh and brand new again.

And you can enjoy more time with your family or just doing the things you love because - let's face it - the weekends begin to quickly fill up and time seems to magically disappear once school begins. But one thing that doesn't have to take up your time is making sure your home or apartment is spotless and toxin-free.

So we invite you, if you haven't before, to let our green cleaning experts show you how easy it is to save some time and gain some peace of mind by booking a cleaning today! (Or referring a friend!)



## SPECIAL!

You and your friends can save on your green cleaning service:

- Book now and **save 15% on your first cleaning appointment**
- Current customers: Refer a friend and **receive 10% off your next service... and 15% off for your friend on their first cleaning service**
- Book recurring cleanings (Weekly, Biweekly) before September 30 and **save 33% on your 4th cleaning.**



Please visit our website at [wagescooperatives.org](http://wagescooperatives.org) to donate or click the button below



### Quick Links

[WAGES Website](#)  
[Co-op Network](#)  
[Find us on Facebook](#)  
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### WAGES News & Recent Activity

WAGES' alternative model of job creation and economic empowerment via worker-owned co-ops is discussed in a recent article - "[An Economy Turned Upside Down](#)" - on Shareable.net. Author [Mira Luna](#) explores myriad grassroots alternatives to re-building communities and paths to economic freedom for the working class.

Before her tenure ended, outgoing ED, Hilary Abell, contributed to a report

## Say Hello to Jan Cohen

**WAGES welcomes our new Interim Executive Director, a longtime nonprofit leader.**



On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, WAGES asks you to join us in welcoming Ms. Jan Cohen, who joined WAGES as Interim Executive Director in July. We are excited to have Ms. Cohen at the helm during the transition period, and also very fortunate that she brings to WAGES more than 18 years of experience as a nonprofit leader, consultant, and trainer. Her passions are consulting, coaching, training individuals

and organizations in earned income strategies, social enterprise development, marketing planning, and strategic planning. In addition to her own training/consulting business, Ms. Cohen was the Director of New Business Ventures at HOPE Services for 3 years, an affiliate consultant with CompassPoint Nonprofit Services in the Bay Area for 6 years, a senior consultant with the National Center for Social Entrepreneurs for 5 years, and Chief Executive Officer of Project HIRED, a nonprofit employment service serving individuals with disabilities, for 10 years. Ms. Cohen has also served in Interim Executive positions at the following organizations: TechSoup Global, My New Red Shoes, Community Gatepath, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, San Francisco Vocational Services, Center for Excellence in Nonprofits (CEN), and Easter Seals of the Bay Area.

Join us again in welcoming Jan to the WAGES team!

*WAGES will be launching its search for a new Executive Director later this month! Look for a special e-mail regarding our search soon!*

about worker co-op development models. Her answers, along with other WAGES staff contributions, are featured in the article "[WAGES Model and the Value of Partnerships](#)" found in Grassroots Economic Organizing, Issue 8.

### Things We Love

A new feature of fun news, inspiring articles, or upcoming events you should know about!

Essay from Green for All Fellow, Carmen Llanes, about finding and creating economic stimulus in our communities: "[A Cooperative Economy: The Time Is Now.](#)"

Provocative blog post in the New York Times from economist Wilhelmina Leigh about "[Co-ops on Main Street and Wall Street.](#)"

[Food, People, Power](#): A video about Mandela Marketplace empowering communities through entrepreneurship.

## What You Won't Notice

### The "No Smell" Smell of Green Cleaning



We all know this familiar scene: you've booked a professional home cleaning service, and now, on your way home from work, you're excited at the idea of walking into a spotless, sparkling clean home. You can't wait to put on some tea and curl up on your favorite chair with a good book. You arrive at your door and just as you open it, BAM! Instead of the peace and serenity you had expected, you're greeted by endless wafts of bleach and ammonia.

Thanks to the all-natural, non-toxic cleaners that our co-ops use, the natural products don't leave any smell at all. As many of our co-op clients report, "[...] the house is generally spotless after a cleaning, and I like that there's no chemical smell." Another client says, "[I] love that when I come home after the house cleaning that it doesn't smell like bleach. I am really glad the crew uses non-toxic [products]." There is far less aggravation to allergies or if you are sensitive to fumes. For clients with pets or small children, there is comfort knowing the green cleaning products are safe and surfaces are chemical-free for all your loved ones.

So if you haven't already considered switching to the "no-smell" smell of green cleaning, perhaps it's time to give our co-ops a call!



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