

# The Village View

January 19, 2022

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Editor



**Coming Up—  
Women's Gathering—  
Saturday, January 22, 10:00am, Zoom  
Third Age - Friday, January 28,  
7:00 pm**

## CONTENDING

This is one of the “tending” words in Colette’s article that brings forward five tending words as part of a model of social processes. With her statement, **to tend is to serve from the heart**, I am intrigued by how contending fits in. It follows the word *extending*:

### Extending: The Fourth Phase.

Someone once said that it is impossible to will more than one thing. This is because real life is complex and because we live within systems that reside within systems, and so forth. As we care for the process that unfolds, we must recognize how our current project connects to other things. A truly good idea can have vast implications during the phase of extending. We are simply being responsible for the impact of our intentions on other people and their concerns. And. . . . we are *tending* their needs and aspirations in the same way we are carrying on our own business. Mostly, we are extending in awareness, responsibility, service, and love.

**Contending: The Continuing Work of Community Life.** Contending is the final phase of a community’s central process. Contending has to do with developing stamina. It has to do

**On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System**  
[www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org)

American Association for the Furtherance of Community  
Convocation: A Church and Ministry / Mandala Resources, Inc.  
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with learning to stay with our energy and with the process of ever deepening, clarifying, and expressing what is important to us. In the phase above we found ourselves impacting others in unforeseen ways, we are therefore needing to explain our intention and contend for our vision and mission. Contending does bring a quality of contentiousness which makes it important to be peaceful in our manner and to seek the good of all as our largest purpose.

In the world I see lots of examples of contending, not all with peacefulness. Also many people and groups are contending for the environment, for racial equality, for family, education, the right to vote, democracy. This can be contentious however I am drawn to those who are able to articulate with feeling and facts while communicating a position. As I read the extending description I am valuing political action groups that are beginning to unite with each group's focus merging into common values and positions equally important to all. "Tending to the needs and aspirations of others."

This is good for me to study. I work with myself – a person who has strong values and beliefs. This carried me in my life, say as a hospital nurse contending for patient rights, as a union organizer contending for fair treatment of workers, joining other longtime member of the Goodenough Community contending for the vision, mission, and values of our community. Sometimes I find that others have different views on the same vision, mission and values. If I become contentious without remembering to be peaceful and seek the good of all, it doesn't go so well. Much to learn here.

*Music embodies feeling without forcing it to contend and combine with thought, as it is forced in most arts and especially in the art of words.*

Franz Liszt

- In this issue is an article by Hollis Guill Ryan about how to join the membership of the Goodenough Community and Convocation.
- A review of the book Robert E. Lee and Me by Ty Seidule. This is about a white West Point brigadier general and historian who grew up in the South and was totally indoctrinated into the cult of Lee and the “lost cause” myth. How he came to a radical transformation is quite the read.
- A new baby!
- And Mike’s blog.
- Community schedule at the back.



## “I want to be a Member of the Goodenough Community! What do I do?”

By now, you have read and heard that after four decades or so, the Goodenough Community has become a membership organization! People like you, who have been enjoying the gifts of the community, are choosing to become Members so that they can contribute to the continuing success of the Community.

### **It is easy to join.**

The first step is to take some time to contemplate what joining the Goodenough Community means to you. What attracts you to the Community, and how have you participated? What have you learned and what do you want to learn? Think also about how you want to be involved in the Community in the future.

Once you have considered the value of joining the Goodenough Community, it is time to apply for membership. All who join the Community start at Service Level 1, Water. This Service Level asks you for a commitment of service through your time, energy, and financial support, with the suggested financial contribution being \$15 a month (\$180 a year). Some Members feel able to contribute more than the suggested amount, and their generosity is gratefully received.

**How can you apply for membership?** Go to the Membership page of the Goodenough website (<https://www.goodenough.org/membership>), click on “New Members Option 2,” and print the form. Soon we will have “New Members Option 1” smoothed out so that you can complete your application online. Meanwhile, complete the printed form and return it to our Membership Focal, Rosemary Buchmeier ([buchmeiers1@gmail.com](mailto:buchmeiers1@gmail.com)). Rosemary will call you so the two of you can talk about your interest in the Community and your intentions for your involvement. She will work with you to find an appropriate form of service for you. You may also negotiate your financial contribution during this conversation.

If you are choosing to remain a Heart Friend and want to formalize your contribution to the future of the Community, you may talk with Rosemary. Or, you may click on the Donate page of the website (<https://www.goodenough.org/donate>), choose which organization you would like to contribute to, and set up a continuing monthly pledge at an amount that feels right to you.

Whether you choose to join the Water Service Level or become a contributing Heart Friend, you are a part of the team that is working together to assure that the community we love has a sustainable future.

### **Welcome to the Goodenough Community!**



## Robert E. Lee and Me, by Ty Seidule

Professor Emeritus of History at West Point

I can't recall how I found out about this book but once I started reading I could not put it down, unusual for me with nonfiction books." Kirsten

From the front leaf: *Ty Seidule grew up revering Robert E. Lee. From his southern childhood to his service in the U.S. Army, every part of his life reinforced the Lost Cause myth: that Lee was the greatest man who ever lived, and the Confederates were underdogs who lost the Civil War with honor. Now, as a retired brigadier general and professor emeritus of history at West Point, his view has radically changed.*

From the introduction by the author: "Eleven southern states seceded to protect and expand an African American slave labor system. Unwilling to accept the results of a fair, democratic election, they illegally seized U.S. territory, violently. Together, they formed a new "Confederacy," in contravention of the U.S. Constitution. Then West Point graduates like Robert E. Lee resigned their commissions, abrogating an oath sworn to God to defend the United States. During the bloodiest war in American history, Lee and his comrades killed more U.S. Army soldiers than any other enemy, ever. And they did it for the worst reason possible: to create a nation dedicated to exploit enslaved men, women, and children, forever.

"As a retired U.S. Army officer and as a historian, I consider the issue simple. My former hero, Robert E. Lee, committed treason to preserve slavery. After the Civil War, former Confederates, their children, and their grandchildren created a series of myths and lies to hide that essential truth and sustain a racial hierarchy dedicated to white political power reinforced by violence. But for decades, I believed the Confederates and Lee were romantic warriors for a doomed but noble cause. As a soldier, a scholar, and a southerner, I believe that American history demands, at least from me, a reckoning."

"As a nation how can we know where we want to go if we don't know where we've been? The same holds true for me personally. I can't excise the racism out of me without understanding where it came from. Telling my story – as a southerner, a soldier, and a scholar – might help.... The myths became the American legend and reinforced racism, forming a destructive legacy our nation deals with daily."

The author reviews books he read or that were read to him as a child. Uncle Remus reinforced that African Americans' purpose was to serve white folks through amusement or through labor. The Disney movie *Song of the South*, with another Uncle Remus story, is described as a racist trope by Seidule. He describes watching it recently and finding it unbearable. Yet this was something he loved as a child. In 1970 Disney stopped showing the movie because of its racism, but in 1972



Crews remove the statue of Robert E. Lee in Richmond on Sept. 8. Pending city council approval, the statue and eight other Confederate monuments will be moved to Richmond's Black History Museum.

Steve Helber/AP "

rereleased it because it was the most requested title. *Gone with the Wind* is rated in this century the second-favorite book in the world, next to the Bible. Seidule describes it as including every trope, every lie of the Lost Cause myth. “The Lost Cause became a movement, an ideology, a myth even a civil religion that would unite first the white South and eventually the nation around the meaning of the Civil War.”

The Virginia legislature formed a textbook commission in the 40’s that created three textbooks for use in every school in the state. The textbooks for example argued that in the antebellum era slavery was positive for both master and slave. In 1972 the textbook commission was decommissioned and the books were tossed out.

The myth that was created states that the war was fought for other reasons than to retain the slavery system – state’s rights, the land, the economy, etc. Even though the vice president of the Confederacy wrote that the Confederacy’s foundations were based on the preservation of slavery.

So much of this rings true in our present U.S. Reading this book I became more aware of how easily history was rewritten and a cult like belief system was created that continues today.

At West Point, Seidule took up the inquiry of the army bases and forts being named after confederate soldiers, some of whom were some of the worst soldiers and people imaginable. West Point has many monuments to Lee. The controversy continues to the present. Seidule began giving speeches about the truth of the Civil War and the continuing presence of Confederate monuments as well as telling his own story of being raised and indoctrinated in the south.

As a historian Seidule has documented thoroughly the truth of what happened during the Civil War, reconstruction, Jim Crow, and into the present with the continued presence of monuments and other honoring of Lee and other Civil War generals. His own personal journey is an integral part of the book. I recommend this book!



Each of the eight hundred and sixteen steel slabs at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice—hanging from the ceiling at even intervals—represents a U.S. county where a lynching occurred.  
Photograph by Audra Melton / The New York Times / Redux

## Welcome Margret Wren

Congratulations to Sarah Benner-Kenagy and husband Henderson on the birth of Margret Wren "Maise," born December 23. Richard Kenagy and Lee Benner are the thrilled grandparents. As Sarah reports, "Maise is a happy little being and bringing much joy since her arrival." We are so happy for you.



### Mindful Mike's Blog: ML King's Legacy Mike deAnguera

My relationship with Black people has been as a white person. Would I have the courage to be a Black person if I had the choice? I'd like everyone to be safe whenever going driving or shopping.

Dr. Martin Luther King tried to change the current state of affairs but as the Dalit (previously characterized as "untouchables") of India have shown legislation often is not effective. Something else is needed.

A vision of racial equality eventually contends with the reality of politics and human behavior. The corporate world would like us to believe it is supporting such a vision. The vision comes up against resistance. Will the resistance cause it to be stronger?



I made an African style bracelet while in high school. I like how all the reds blues and yellows came together. That's why I have it with me today. The bracelet represents for me the vision of

what I can share with Black people. A cultural creation point. I am not very good at abstract notions of racial equality but art is a great way for me to get there. Like the embers of Zimbabwe.

For me the best example of the American Dream was the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. A whole city built seven miles south of downtown Chicago. A fantasy built to last only 6 months. An illusion of the brotherhood of all. They did have a Museum of Women so women were included. Everything on exhibit was by women.

But nothing by Black people. There were Africans in tribal dress in the Midway so people could gawk at them.

The folks who built the fair including Black folks got paid 10 cents per day. Per day not per hour! So they could not afford the 50 cent ticket price. Segregation was the rule. There were even anti Chinese riots.

Dr. King believed in the American Dream. If only Black folks could have it. Guess I don't believe in the American Dream anymore. For me it was a fantasy hiding the reality of life in this country. It vanished with my computer career.

The rich hold out the American Dream to us and I believed in it. World's Fairs like the ones in Chicago and Seattle were ways the Dream could be manifest by the corporate world. Cities loved them because for a brief 6 months they could be put on the world map.

The magnificent buildings of the Chicago Fair were largely wood and steel frames covered over with stucco, a mixture of plaster and straw. It was never intended to be permanent. One was the largest building in the world at the time. The Pyramid of Cheops could fit inside it.

Why would we buy into a dream that was not real? That was made of plaster and straw? Maybe one could get sucked into it and carried along with the strong flow of a river. Vision *has* been described as a flowing river.

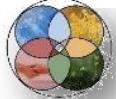


# **Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community**

## **Announcing Winter and Spring Dates**

**Community is about adapting to change, and that has been the case with the pandemic as we have adapted many of our ways to connect, most of which are held on Zoom.**

Throughout the year we intend to offer programs that help you participate in your own development, learn about relating well with others, and help you discover your potential for having a good time in life and with others. Information about programs and upcoming events can be found on our website:[www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org)



### **Human Relations Laboratory, August 7 – 13, 2022 – Mark your calendars now**

This intense and joyous week-long event is a communal experience of personal growth and relational development within a rich culture with art, music, dance, song, drama and more. Next summer in 2022 we will celebrate 53 years! Contact: Colette Hoff or Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org), [elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com)

**The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle,** meets monthly on Monday evenings, 7:00 PM

### **Winter and Spring Dates**

- January 24, 2022
- February 21
- March 21
- April 25
- May 23
- June 20

For additional information, contact [Elizabeth.Jarrett-Jefferson](mailto:Elizabeth.Jarrett-Jefferson)



**The Women's Program** is a long-established and ever-growing way for women to enjoy each other's company, learn about themselves as women, and even perhaps to experience the Divine Feminine.

*Saturdays, 10AM to 1:00 PM via Zoom:*

### **Winter and Spring Dates:**

- January 22, 2022
- March 26
- April 29 – May 1 - *Annual Weekend for Women*

For more information, contact [Hollis.Ryan](mailto:Hollis.Ryan).



**The Third Age** - Those age 60 and older have been gathering monthly, Friday evenings, 7PM. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information

**Winter and Spring 2022 dates:**

- January 28, 2022
- February 25
- April 15



**The Men's Program** - Our Men's Circle is an expression of brotherhood and practice with wisdom, gathered from our own lives, other men's work, advocates, and the founders of this circle.

For information, contact [Norm Peck](#)



**Pathwork, a Program of Convocation: A Church and Ministry** – Pathwork offers you a spiritual home in which to rest and to share your heart and mind as you move through these unpredictable times. Participants come together under the leadership of Pastor Colette Hoff and find support and encouragement, gaining wisdom from the world's faith & wisdom traditions. All are welcome to join. Meetings are held via Zoom on alternate Sundays: 7pm to 9pm. Contact Colette Hoff: [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) for Zoom information.

**Winter and Spring Dates:**

- January 9 and 23
- February 6 and 20
- March 6 and 20
- April 10 and 24
- May 8 and 22
- June 5 and 19



**Work and Play Parties throughout the Year.** Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work parties over Memorial Day weekend as well as other times to express gratitude for the presence of our beloved retreat center, Sahale, and to experience the satisfaction of playing and working together. Please email [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) with questions.

**Quest: A Counseling and Healing Center**

Our belief is that mental and emotional health is a prerequisite for spiritual well-being, collaboration, and the expression of compassion. Quest's counseling and education programs, open to all interested individuals, focus on empowering individuals, couples, and family groups to be happier and more effective in relationships. Call Colette Hoff (206-755 8404).