



Christmas Tree, 2013, Community Center

The Village eView

December 3, 2014

Colette Hoff, Editor

On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System

- The American Association for the Furtherance of Community
- Convocation: A Church and Ministry
- Mandala Resources, Inc.
- Sahale Learning Center

A Good Enough Holiday!*

Good enough: *Synonyms: gratifying, satisfying, fulfilling, pleasing

Upcoming events:
December 2, Relationship Group
December 6, True Holidays
Celebration
December 7, Pathwork
December 20, Winter Solstice Bus

Forgive us our Christmases as we forgive others who have Christmased against us

John L. Hoff

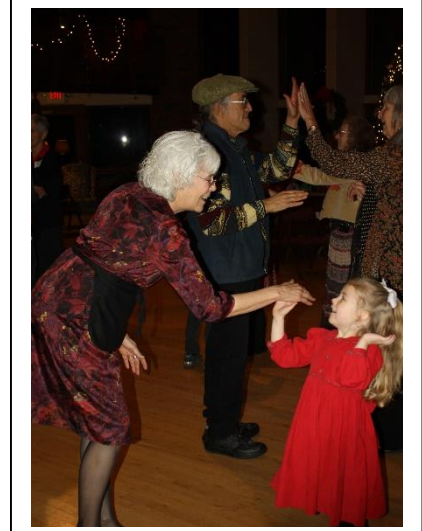
If this heading feels dark to you, it is. While this is the season to be jolly, it is also a season with a dark side: a rise in crime, increase in alcohol and other excess, and tensions in families and friends that gather. Like small children we have expectations for the season, but as adults it is a stressful period, complete with crises, accidents, and unkindness. Most of us will have to endure some difficult socializing as well as some rewarding times of renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends. At the beginning of the season it is important to remember the season calls out the best and worst in us as human beings. Since it is still early in the season, you can prepare for dealing with high spots and hard spots.

It is my concern that you have a good enough Christmas by preparing for the worst and the best that comes your way. Our True Holidays Celebration this next Saturday evening is our serious attempt as the Goodenough Community to prepare each other for the weeks ahead. You will

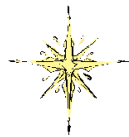
have an opportunity to reflect on the holiday that you want and get ready to deal more gracefully with difficulties—we believe this celebration will give you a good start to a goodenough holiday. We will of course, do some of your favorite holiday things like contra dancing with Sherry Nevins and friends, singing a Christmas favorite, working on your Christmas gift list at the Silent Auction as well as good things to eat and drink.

Above everything else, use this evening to help you move past old memories and a sense of stress to embrace the season of joy and light. The season begins with Thanksgiving and concludes with the celebration of new life in a new year. Let's do it!

I appreciate the thoroughness with which my wife and partner approaches the holiday season. I notice that Colette is formatting the Village eView to include some great short stories that make the season come alive. For instance, there is a story by Pearl S. Buck titled, Christmas Day in the Morning, page 5. Next week there will be a short story by O. Henry. There is much to plan for and some extra things to attend to, yet a joyful attitude is what transforms the season. Prepare on the inside for the extra tasks required by the holidays.



*Grandma Colette and Lili
Contra dancing (2013)*



Romanian) - **Crăciun fericit**

Did you know . . .

Santa Claus is generally depicted as a portly, joyous, white-bearded man—sometimes with spectacles—wearing a red coat with white collar and cuffs, white-cuffed red trousers, and black leather belt and boots and who carries a bag full of gifts for children. Images of him rarely have a beard with no moustache. This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century due to the significant influence of the 1823 poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas" and of caricaturist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast.^{[2][3][4]} This image has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, children's books and films.

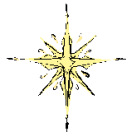
ANNOUNCEMENT:

We now have a post box in Tahuya for all organizational correspondence including donations. If you use automatic bill paying, please change the address to: **American Association for the Furtherance of Community, Convocation, or the Goodenough Community**

P.O. Box 312

Tahuya, Washington 98588

Thank You!



(Danish) - **Gledlig jul og godt Nytt Aar**

(Through this issue, you will find the words of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in many languages. Editor

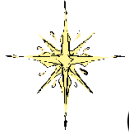
2007 Holiday Nostalia

Irene Perler

Recently, a few of us were gathered and we were appreciating the hospitality and the warmth of many years spent gathering at 2007 33rd Ave S. We were wondering who needed a place to come in the city over the holidays and how we could provide for that need in our community. The Community Center of 35 years has provided a home to friends and families of the Goodenough Community. This is the first year we will not meet there. John and Colette Hoff resided at the Community Center for many years and created a place that was welcoming and charming for all those who came along at the holidays. I agreed with others to speak of those enchanting memories, not long past! There at least three features that stand out proudly as I reminisce: The huge tree that disappears into the 2nd floor above it, seeming to grow indefinitely from its red and green tree holder and filled with light and gleaming balls and bobbles, the troll collection often placed on the piano, juxtaposing the elegance of a piano with the innocent charm of childhood and lastly the meaningful and humble crèche whose story told year after year brought tears to my eyes and others' with its message about hardship and the work of opening hearts. All of these magical memories teach me about making my holiday season a time to have meaningful experiences with friends and family and to create traditions. I appreciate the demonstration John and Colette provide to us about how to make life more meaningful and humble and to enjoy the realness of relationships instead of the fantasies that can torment holiday times with expectation and unfulfilled dreams. There are plenty of real dreams come true that happen at the holidays, but they are often packaged in torn brown paper and string and a bit of flashy tinsel. I will miss the 2007 traditions, yet, the images and the experiences do live on for me!



Christmas wonder, 2013



(Gaelic-Irish) - **Nolag mhaith Dhuit Agus Bliain Nua Fe Mhaise**

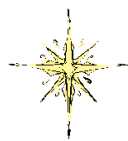
The Warm Home Filled with Good Friendship

Kirsten Rohde

I've been remembering the many years that I spent Christmas Day at the Hoffs' house in Mt. Baker. There are many reasons I miss that house and this season brings back memories. I grew up in a fairly non-religious household. We did not attend any church and I was not very knowledgeable about such things, including one year cluelessly sending Christmas cards to some of my Jewish friends at high school. Our family had a Christmas tree and decorations however it was mostly focused on gifting rather than religion. We did enjoy singing carols with our mother playing accompaniment on the piano. There were many images of the season: the New England town of Marblehead was a very decorative place during the holidays.

I was influenced by the pictures I saw of winter scenes, horse-drawn carriages traveling through the beautiful snow to a beautiful house, with Christmas lights and the door opening to a warm glowing interior. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas", "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" – this was the music in the air. I had a yearning for that sort of fantasy Christmas.

When I left home I rejected Christmas for the consumerism and seeming falseness of the whole thing and didn't really celebrate it. My first two boyfriends were Jews and I had fortunately become more educated about their faith by then. Then when I met John and Colette they invited me to an open house at their place on Christmas Day. I had a wonderful time. It was a warm, glowing interior that I entered with a decorated tree, friends, games, good conversation, and a wonderful potluck dinner. Bing Crosby could have fit right in. My attitude toward the holiday began to soften through experiencing such a welcoming and friendly time each year. It embodied the spirit of the season, not about buying gifts, but rather the offering of an inviting place to be with friends. Not having family nearby I spent many Christmases at the Hoffs as did many others, stopping by, bringing gifts and food. A house filled with good times. That house served us well and this season was one of the best times. I'm grateful to John and Colette for offering their home for so many years. Now in our community we have to think about what new traditions we want to create and we have good memories to help us.



(Iraqi) - **Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah**

Christmas Day in the Morning

By Pearl S. Buck

He woke suddenly and completely. It was four o'clock, the hour at which his father had always called him to get up and help with the milking. Strange how the habits of his youth clung to him still! Fifty years ago, and his father had been dead for thirty years, and yet he waked at four o'clock in the morning. He had trained himself to turn over and go to sleep, but this morning it was Christmas, he did not try to sleep.

Why did he feel so awake tonight? He slipped back in time, as he did so easily nowadays. He was fifteen years old and still on his father's farm. He loved his father. He had not known it until one day a few days before Christmas, when he had overheard what his father was saying to his mother.

"Mary, I hate to call Rob in the mornings. He's growing so fast and he needs his sleep. If you could see how he sleeps when I go in to wake him up! I wish I could manage alone."

"Well, you can't, Adam." His mother's voice was brisk. "Besides, he isn't a child anymore. It's time he took his turn."

"Yes," his father said slowly. "But I sure do hate to wake him."

When he heard these words, something in him spoke: his father loved him! He had never thought of that before, taking for granted the tie of their blood. Neither his father nor his mother talked about loving their children--they had no time for such things. There was always so much to do on the farm.

Now that he knew his father loved him, there would be no loitering in the mornings and having to be called again. He got up after that, stumbling blindly in his sleep, and pulled on his clothes, his eyes shut, but he got up.

And then on the night before Christmas, that year when he was fifteen, he lay for a few minutes thinking about the next day. They were poor, and most of the excitement was in the turkey they had raised themselves and mince pies his mother made. His sisters sewed presents and his mother and father always bought him something he needed, not only a warm jacket, maybe, but something more, such as a book. And he saved and bought them each something, too. **(Continued pg. 25)**

Community Development Weekend, Responses from a far

The following is an excerpt of an email sent out during the weekend.

*Thank you for sending your good energy to our Community Development weekend at Sahale!
We're all thinking of you and want to let you know how it's going.*

We'd love you to join us in that conversation by taking a few minutes to reflect on how any community has touched your own life. We'd love to know your thoughts and reflections. If you would like to share, please do so by 10AM tomorrow (Sunday) and we will bring you present in our conversation.

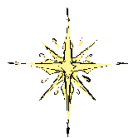
Please remind the gathered group that I have spoken fervently many times of how the Goodenough Community has changed my life for the better.

A brief anecdote: I attended lab for the first time in 1982. John Ryan, my then-husband, also attended. We honored an agreement to live completely separately, and to have no contact except for a 15-minute check-in each day. At the end of the week, I had experienced such a sense of freedom, and along with it came joy and release, that I could not envision going back to the life I had been living. John felt the same way. We consulted with our therapists, who guided us into a separated life, beginning instantly.

I went home to a brand-new, free life, ensconced in community. I plunged headfirst into the Goodenough Community and was held lovingly – and continued to be taught to live freely. It was an ever-expanding learning, and I would not have learned it on my own, because my own habits were so engrained. Freedom included choices, and my friends and counselors in community encouraged me to know my own heart and to make my own choices. **THAT WAS FREEDOM!**

That was a long time ago, and those lessons that were started in 1982 have continued to grow and blossom. If I were to stretch that metaphor even further, I could talk about the fruit and the harvest – and maybe even planting new seeds ... but I won't go there!

Love to you all, Hollis



(Irish) - **Nodlaig mhaith chugnat**

Watchcare News: Community Members & Friends

Supporting one of our Mercer Island Households, Can you help?

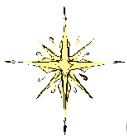
Kirsten Rohde

Hollis Ryan has had knee surgery and is returning home soon. Meanwhile, **Tod Ransdell, staying at the same house**, is doing well in his recovery from a quadruple bypass surgery. So it's a good time to send some good energy to the household and this includes checking in about visits to Tod and later to Hollis as well as some food support. I have agreed to help coordinate this process for our community.

First, Tod: he is happy to take calls or email. Call him to arrange a visit and go for a walk (he is working up to walking 2 miles a day so we can all take our exercise with Tod!): 206 409 9793/
todransdell@yahoo.com

We would like to help provide some food for the household and are recommending portions for 2-4 that can be heated or frozen for later. Please contact me if you'd like to offer some meal help and I can let you know about dietary needs.

I will keep us all informed each week. Please contact me with offers to help or questions at 206 719-5364 or krohde14@outlook.com



(Italian) - **Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo Buone Feste Natalizie Buon Natale e felice Capodanno**

Christmas Day Open House at Sahale

John Hoff

This fall has been a time of transition and Colette and I are not opening our home in Seattle for some portion of the season. Instead we will be returning to Sahale on Christmas day in the afternoon and welcome others to join us there. We will provide food and drink and invite any one coming to bring a dessert or a side dish.

Please RSVP at hoff@goodenough.org. You are welcome to spend the night and join a brunch on Friday morning.



Pathwork - Sunday December 7, 2014

On Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. John and Colette Hoff are proving leadership for a “Pathwork” which is about sharing our own faith journeys and our focus in human development. This week as we move toward Christmas we will celebrate the second Sunday in Advent. It is a process in which we coach each other and elicit insights from those who have done psychological and relational work with themselves. John and Colette Hoff have been asked to provide leadership and to resource us thematically. *John and Colette would welcome meeting with anyone interested in attending.* Email John or Colette at hoff@goodenough.org to RSVP and/or if you are interested in attending. Pathwork will be meeting in West Seattle at the [home of Joan, Phil, Barbara, and Jim at 7723 13th Avenue SW, Seattle 98106.](#)

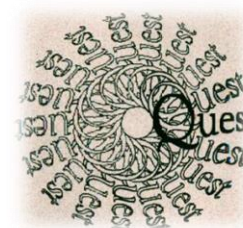
Pathwork is for those persons who have consciously decided to develop themselves and improve their lives. The group supports each other in doing this. John and Colette have always made sure that this process is offered in our community and we rely on ancient guidelines for human development. We think that this is what Meier Baba was talking about when he wrote:

*Love has to spring spontaneously from within;
it is in no way amenable
to any form of inner or outer force.
Love and coercion can never go together;
but while love cannot be forced upon anyone,
it can be awakened through love itself.
Love is essentially self-communicative;
those who do not have it
catch it from those who have it.
Those who receive love from others
cannot be its recipients without giving a response
that, in itself, is the nature of love.
True love is unconquerable and irresistible.
It goes on gathering power and spreading itself
until eventually it transforms everyone it touches.
Humanity will attain a new mode of being
and life through the free and unhampered interplay
of pure love from heart to heart.*

*~Meher Baba
(1894-1969, Indian Mystic)*

Quest: A Counseling and Healing Center

Our belief is that mental and emotional health are prerequisites 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 be more effective in relationships. **Call John (206 963-4738), Colette (206-755 8404).**



Where are you working, you might ask?

Currently, John and Colette are doing home visits and utilizing community homes for individual sessions and group meetings. We are especially appreciative to Pam and Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson and the West Seattle household of Joan, Phil, Jim and Barbara.

Culture in and around Relationship:

Tuesday evening series on relationship

By Pam and Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson

John and Colette Hoff are offering a series on learning-in-relationship that meets Tuesday evenings. This series is open to couples and committed friends who understand that personal growth and learning is exponential when done within the context of relationship. Following is our experience and synopsis of the gathering on Tuesday evening, December 2.

Culture both shapes and is shaped by relationship. Therefore, to manage the influence of culture on your relationship, it's best to know your relationship's inner culture that has been developed by each of the members of your relationship; once that is discerned, you can then choose what you want to let in for the purpose of sustaining and/or growing yourselves in the relationship. It's also true that once you identify and understand your relationship's culture, you can decide how you want to influence the culture for the good of the whole.

John encouraged us to spend 30 minutes in our couple relationships to identify elements of our culture. Pam and I love to talk about culture; it both fascinates and intrigues us. We want to understand what it is, how it's created, and how it shapes us, each and together. Obviously, for us, the most visible example of our relationship's culture can be seen in the expression of the **Swamp**. The Swamp was born of our relationship's culture that wants to have fun, help people relax, offer hospitality, and serve our friends. Over the years, it has become mutually beneficial both to our relationship and to our community.

A story comes to mind to illustrate.

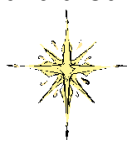
Several years ago, Pam and I had a doozy of a fight at lab, and we weren't sure that the other was going to show up at the Swamp that night. We each arrived within minutes of each other because we each knew that "the show had to go on." Already in place was an understanding



between us and the lab community that we were offering to host the Swamp each night. Ours was a social contract of an experience that we would offer---and the lab community wanted---so we had to be there. And while the tension hadn't subsided initially between us, it had by the end of the evening as the environment of our friends having a good time helped us relax and warm up to each other again. In other words, fulfilling our role of being hospitable required us to be warmer and friendlier than we actually felt inside and between us.

That experience certainly raised our awareness about knowing our relationship's impact on our community. We understand that we are visible, that our presence matters, that the energy between us speaks volumes, and we must therefore be intentional about what we demonstrate.

It is a challenge to find the words to describe our relationship's culture, even after we've known each other for so many years. We look forward to next week as we continue to explore the culture in us and around us.



(Turkish) - **Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun**



The deAnguera Blog: Thanksgiving 2014



This year's Thanksgiving Paul and I celebrated with my sister-in-law. It was a delicious vegetarian dinner with cheesy vegetarian meatloaf. Lynwood property. The place was packed.

Paul's Sanskrit Om borders were still up around the top of the walls. They certainly add a flair. I guess the Ananda folks want to keep them up as long as possible.

We were treated to a choir singing familiar songs by Swami Kriyananda. They really knew how to sing and used no sheet music. The choir is in the photo on the left.



A play followed by P.J. Woodhouse, an English humorist Kriyananda loved. The play was about the theft of the stamp collection of a local vicar. The thief was known to the vicar's wife who encouraged him to steal it. It had been insured for 5000 pounds but a family relative let them know it was worth only 5 pounds. So the vicar's wife encouraged the thief to steal the stamp collection so the vicar could collect the insurance money. Then the vicar preached such a good sermon that the thief, a congregant, decided to give the stamp collection back. Now how does one collect the insurance money? Well, the relative who valued the stamp collection also had attended during the great sermon and confessed that the stamp collection was really worth 5000 pounds. He felt quite contrite and offered to buy the collection for 10,000 pounds.

Afterwards we sampled desserts at three apartments in the Ananda community. I ran into Zach and Hallie, managers of the Ananda Farm on Camano Island. I told them how much I enjoyed watching Carly, one of six alpacas being loved by the children. They were about to pick up three more alpacas needing a home. One of them was Fifi who was just as affectionate as Carly.

Pat can be seen conversing with friends at one of the apartments in the right hand photo.

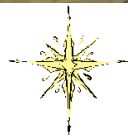
The last apartment we visited for dessert featured a fish tank. Lovely tropical fish swam in it. I was told that sometimes one of the fish would eat another. They also tend to eat up their own young as well as eggs.

We had a second Thanksgiving turkey on Saturday from PCC. The dinner was a whole kit including mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, and a kale salad. The dinner was good but we had a ton of leftovers. Guess that's the way Thanksgiving usually works out.

Saturday morning was cold and clear. There was a light dusting of snow on the ground. I am not even sure the temperature got above freezing during the day. I was very thankful to have a nice warm place to spend Thanksgiving. According to Real Change, Seattle's homeless paper, over 3000 people have to live on the streets. I wonder how they survive when it gets so cold. Twenty years ago the homeless population was only 500. I feel very fortunate to have Sahale for a home. It is my hope that communities like ours can continue to give people options they otherwise would not have like me.



We tried out desserts at 3 different homes at the Ananda Apartment complex in Lynwood. You can see here a pumpkin pie, banana cream pie, and a layer cake. I had the banana cream pie enjoying the chocolately bits in it.



(Swedish) - **God Jul Och Gott Nytt År**

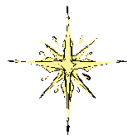
A Good Enough Thanksgiving



The community Thanksgiving gathering was hosted by the Valles-Stark-Brucker-Tocher household. Seventeen community members and friends gathered for a yummy Thanksgiving dinner. clockwise around table

Sharon Grant, Steve Ghan, Bill Scott, Marjorie Gray, Jodine Hatfield, Pharaoh, Josh DeMers, Leslie Norman, Kirsten Rohde (hidden behind Nan), Catherine McGuire, Nan Kreyer-Scott, Joan Valles, Virginia Stout, Sadie & Marie Scott, Erich (?).

After dinner some chose to root the Seahawks to victory while others visited in the living room. And, several games of Scrabble were played.



(Serbian) - **Hristos se rodi**

The Den: A Place for Manly Thoughts

Norm Peck and Bruce Perler

I've been enjoying more connection with my old friend Norm Peck the last couple years and particularly appreciating the way he's been a good friend to me in the work of caring about and holding the Men's Culture of the Goodenough Community. For me Norm is a quite an old fashioned kind of man with a dose of Renaissance, hard earned. I value very much Norm's perspective on manhood and the ways he's lived as a life-long-learner.

Here's a passage from some recent conversation about learning from and with our families where Norm speaks from a mature understanding that is heart warming and inspiring to me with my own father and brother relations.

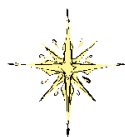
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Reflections on a class reunion and relations with Dad

I'm assisting my brother Eric (recently retired) rewire and replace ceiling lights in the 'old' part of my Dad's shop, the portion that started life as a garage for Ford Model "A" and "T" sized cars. The wiring was (mostly past tense now) bare, fabric-wrapped and (natural) rubber covered copper wire without a ground wire, and the plugs (not quite all past tense yet) were ungrounded, non-polarized outlet plugs. There were no light switches, he turned everything off and on with the circuit breakers (not ideal). Today we took down one set of ceiling lights and all the outlets wired with them on one side and installed new low-temperature, energy efficient fluorescent lights. Tomorrow we'll wire them, complete with switches to control them from both entrance doors to the shop. Taking a step back, I'm learning from my little brother as much as he's learning from me while caring for my father's needs that he's unable to do for himself. This is not what I imagined a couple of decades ago.

I've also learned, in conversations with high school classmates at our Reunion earlier this month as well as from my brother in recent conversations, how much I impacted those around me without any awareness of it. A classmate I knew casually (after a difficult start) acknowledged that even bad behavior (mine) can have a good outcome; I'd lost my temper after several instances of his following behind me and deliberately walking on the heels of my shoes, turned and popped him one. I didn't know it at the time, because I turned and kept walking, but it had knocked him down and he said he saw stars for a couple of minutes...and decided it wasn't such a good idea to mess with people he didn't know. He actually thanked me for that lesson. I apologized for hitting him, while celebrating what he'd learned from it. I also didn't remember it until he mentioned it, and we did eventually become passable if casual friends. Eric confessed he'd learned a lot from me about when and how to continue to learn from Dad, and when to look for other places and people from whom to learn where Dad was less skillful. Again I wasn't aware at the time I could have any real effect on other people, much less have any idea who or how they might be impacted. It's even now given me pause and an urge to be more conscious of how I act and speak.

Be well, Norm



(Spanish) - **Feliz Navidad y prospero Año Nuevo**

Oh no! – the hot tub is at the end of its life cycle

(but we have the solution)

Thirteen years ago we installed the first hot tub at Sahale—We all have enjoyed this wonderful hot tub – after a day of hard work, for recreation and healing, for good conversation and more. We are pleased to provide hot tubbing to our guests.

*Jim Tocher and Wesley Boone
installing the first tub in 2001.*

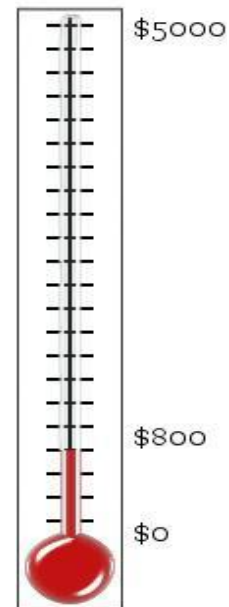


Well that hot tub has worn out and we are going to replace it. We need to raise \$5,000 for the next hot tub. If you have appreciated the hot tub or look forward to the new one, you may be some of the early investors in our new hot tub. Some of us have ordered the new hot tub in the faith that **together** we will find a way to pay for it.

Donations of cash are welcome and checks can be made to The Goodenough Community. Mark your contribution to the New Hot Tub Fund (NHTF). You will notice the thermometer is rising.

Donations of any amount are welcome. Please join us in continuing to provide one of the most valued amenities we provide at Sahale!

The Goodenough Community is part of The American Association for the Furtherance of Community, a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable corporation.





(Peru) - **Feliz Navidad y un Venturoso Año Nuevo**



News about True Holidays Celebration, December 6,

One of the favorite parts of the program at the True Holidays has become our children's (and grandchildren's) performance over the past couple of years. The following are the lyrics to the song they will be singing. We Wish You A Merry Christmas will also be sung by the children. All children are welcome to join and practice learning the song. There will be a brief rehearsal prior to performing at the event. Thank you to Irene Perler with Carla Geraci and Rachel Hoff for organizing this delightful feature of the program.

Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river (hands in peace sign)

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got love like an ocean (arms cross the chest in love sign)

I've got love like an ocean

I've got love like an ocean in my soul

I've got love like an ocean

I've got love like an ocean

I've got love like an ocean in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain (ASL J with hands – shake)

I've got joy like a fountain

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain

I've got joy like a fountain

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

I've got peace, love and joy like a river

I've got peace, love and joy like a river

I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul

I've got peace, love and joy like a river

I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul

And we invite everyone to join in singing:

Song of Peace (from Finlandia)

1. This is my song, Oh God of all the nations,
A song of Peace for lands a-far and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
2. My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine:
Oh hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.
3. May truth and freedom come to every nation
May peace a-bound where strife has raged so long;
That each may seek to love and build together,
A world united, righting every wrong;
A world united in its love for freedom,
Proclaiming peace together in one song.



About the song, Finlandia

Irene Perler

Here is some history about the beautiful song, Finlandia. I was first introduced to this song at a Waldorf teacher training 6 years ago where it was used as the morning song taught to a group of over 60 teachers. It was a very powerful experience to be a part of raising our collective voices in 4-part harmony, as this beautiful song filled the room and strengthened our work together. Songs such as this one are popular because they bring people together with feeling and respect. This song has also been led by Phil Stark as part of the men's repertoire and has graced many of our gatherings.



The song we will sing at True Holidays is the cumulative result of several musicians and poets adding to what was originally a stand alone orchestral piece. ***Finlandia***, Op. 26, is a symphonic poem (instrumental music that creates powerful visual imagery and stirs emotions) by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. It was finished and performed in 1900. This original orchestral piece is stirring and was created to invoke feelings of national patriotism at a time when Finland was hoping for freedom from Russian rule. This piece was preformed around Finland and gained popularity and was became as a kind of underground protest song

with different versions to hide it from being found out and banned. It continues to be enjoyed by the Finnish people as an independence song long after 1917, when independence was gained. The last segment of the piece includes a “hymn” which is the music to which lyrics were later written. These lyrics are known as “Song of Peace” or “This is my Song” and were written in 1934 by poet Lloyd Stone. Further verses were created by Georgia Harkness and are found in many church hymnals.

Not only has this song been popular as church choral pieces and programs, it has been popularized by artists and peace activists such as Joan Baez, Mary Travers of Peter, Paul and Mary, the Indigo girls, Independence day and more.

Check out these links: [Joan Baez](#); [Mary Travers](#); [Cantus](#); Indigo girl

Sherry Nevins at the True Holidays Celebration!

*Saturday evening, December 6th
Mercer Island Congregational Church.*

By Marjorie Gray



Swing your ma, swing your pa, swing that gal from Arkansas.....have a whooping good time at the True Holidays Hoedown on December 6th!

We are very pleased that **Sherry Nevins** will once again be bringing her lively contra dancing to our True Holidays celebration this year.

Sherry's had great fun calling traditional square dances since 1977 and contra dances since 1980, also occasionally teaching couple dance workshops (waltz, polka, schottische, and beginning East Coast swing). She began coordinating community dances in Seattle in 1979. She especially enjoys calling at Family Dance events where adults and children of all ages participate together (like the True Holidays event). She has taught at several dance camps, including Camp Wannadance, Pinewoods, Chehalis, Suttle Lake, Bear Hug, Let's Dance, and the BACDS and Lady of the Lake Family Weeks. She is particularly adept at calling for weddings and birthday celebrations; school, church, and club parties; festivals, fairs and all kinds of events where dancers with varied levels of experience and inexperience come together. Her informal style and boundless enthusiasm, combined with clear teaching and a varied, lively repertoire ensure a satisfying dance experience for all!

Sherry is looking forward to being with us for the True Holidays Celebration. She says the Goodenough Community is always warm and welcoming. Come join in the fun, Saturday, Dec. 6th! Contra dancing will be from 7:30 to 8:00pm, and then resume again at 9:00, after a short program. Hope to see you there!



Enjoy having a Good Enough* Holiday!

*Good Enough: *Synonym:* gratifying, satisfying, fulfilling, pleasing

**Join the Goodenough Community
& Friends**
Celebrate the mid-winter holidays

Silent
Auction!

LAUGHTER!

Contra
Dancing
with
Sherry Nevins!



RAFFLE!

FUN!
Childcare
provided

**Sweet & Savory
Treats + Drinks
for Sale**

A short program to reflect on your upcoming holiday experience-
so you can design it the way you want!

Saturday, December 6, 2014
6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Mercer Island Congregational Church
4545 Island Crest Way, Mercer Island, WA

7:30 - Contra Dancing ♥ 8:00 - Program ♥ 9:00 - Resume Dancing

For more info, contact Kirsten Rohde: 206-719-5364 or email: office-gec@goodenough.org



Free Admission

Our True Holidays Silent Auction

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson



We are pleased to announce that we will again be featuring our **Silent Auction** at our annual True Holidays event this year, **Saturday, December 6, at the Mercer Island Congregational Church** (4545 Island Crest Way, MI 98040), beginning at 6:00PM (mark your calendars & note the time). This event is a wonderful part of the True Holidays

celebration because the spirit of warmth, generosity and creativity that surrounds the Auction is deliciously palpable—and sometimes even edible!

To which I extend my invitation again to you to donate to this very worthy cause, the work of the Goodenough Community, which supports programs that help real people and real lives. We need the work of communities like ours now, these days, more than ever. There will be a bid form included each week with the eView, and [I invite your contribution](#).

Are there things/experiences that you would love to bid on but aren't offered by the auction? [Let me know](#).

Here are some ideas---either for donating or your wanting to see them there. **I know this is the fall, but let these spring-board your creativity!**

- A team to rake fall leaves
- Mosaics class
- Dog sitting, dog walking
- House sitting
- A guided/catered hiking experience for several with your own personal sherpas
- A catered sailing experience with two experienced, talented sailors
- Maid-for-the-day
- Laundry-for-the-day
- Grocery shopping
- Running errands, driving your kids to activities, driving your parents to activities
- Birthday cakes for your family/children for the entire year
- Gardening/potted plants lessons and nursery trip
- Perennial plants
- Holiday linens
- Movie tickets
- Certificate for a massage or the Spa
- Organizing your papers

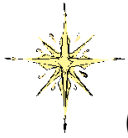


- Architectural consultations
- Museum tour with your own personal docent
- DIY wine tour with your own personal DD
- Wine and cheese basket
- Knitting lessons
- Knitted items

- Scrapbooking, organizing photos, sorting
- Drawing lessons
-

I look forward to seeing you there. – *Elizabeth*.

- Meals and meal deliveries
- Sourdough starter from a famous local restaurant
- Guitar lessons De-cluttering your house
- Handy man services



(Iraqi) - Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

Sirens on a Shelf: Claudia Fitch at the Greg Kucera Gallery

Nov. 6 through December 24



The Greg Kucera Gallery has announced its [seventh exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Seattle artist Claudia Fitch](#). The show, titled *Sirens on a Shelf*, presents a stylized representation of the artist's own female form cast in ceramics and bronze. Claudia's show runs Nov 6 through December 24.

Bit O' Holidays

By Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson

From

"Don't Grin or You'll Have To Bear It"

by Ogden Nash

It is better in the long run to possess an abscess or a tumor
 Than to possess a sense of humor
 People who have senses of humor have a very good time
 But they never accomplish anything of note, either despicable or sublime
 Because how can anyone accomplish anything immortal
 When they realize they look pretty funny doing it and have to stop to chortle

12 Days of Christmas Correspondence

Dearest John:

I went to the door today and the postman delivered a partridge in a pear tree. What a delightful gift. I couldn't have been more surprised.

With dearest love and affection, Agnes

December 15th

Dearest John:

Today the postman brought your very sweet gift. Just imagine, two turtle doves.... I'm just delighted at your very thoughtful gift. They are just adorable.

All my love, Agnes

December 16th

Dear John:

Oh, aren't you the extravagant one! Now I must protest. I don't deserve such generosity. Three French hens. They are just darling but I must insist.... you're just too kind.

Love Agnes

December 17th

Today the postman delivered four calling birds. Now really! They are beautiful, but don't you think enough is enough? You're being too romantic.

Affectionately, Agnes

December 18th

Dearest John:

What a surprise! Today the postman delivered five golden rings. One for each finger. You're just impossible, but I love it. Frankly, John, all those squawking birds were beginning to get on my nerves.

All my love, Agnes

December 19th

Dear John:

When I opened the door there were actually six geese-a-laying on my front steps. So you're back to the birds again, huh? Those geese are huge. Where will I ever keep them? The neighbors are complaining and I can't sleep through the racket. PLEASE STOP!

Cordially, Agnes

December 20th

John:

What's with you and those birds???? Seven swans-a-swimming. What kind of joke is this? There's bird do-do all over the house and they never stop the racket. I'm a nervous wreck and I can't sleep all night. IT'S NOT FUNNY.....So stop with those birds.

Sincerely, Agnes

December 21st

OK Buster:

I think I prefer the birds. What am I going to do with eight maids-a-milking? It's not enough with all those birds and eight maids-a-milking, but they had to bring their own cows. There is poop all over the lawn and I can't move into my own house. Just lay off me. .

Ag

December 22nd

Hey:

What are you? Some kind of sadist? Now there's nine pipers playing. And do they play! They never stopped chasing those maids since they got here yesterday morning. The cows are upset and are stepping all over those screeching birds. No wonder they screech. What am I going to do? The neighbors have started a petition to evict me. You'll get yours.

From Ag

December 23rd

You Creep! Now there's ten ladies dancing - I don't know why I call them ladies. Now the cows can't sleep and they've got diarrhea. My living room is a river of poop. The commissioner of buildings has subpoenaed me to give cause why the building shouldn't be condemned. I'm sicking the police on you.

One who means it, Ag

December 24th

Listen Idiot:

What's with the eleven lords a-leaping? All 234 of the birds are dead. I hope you're satisfied, you rotten swine.

Your sworn enemy, Miss Agnes McCallister

December 25th (From the law offices Taeker, Spedar, and Baegar)

Dear Sir: This is to acknowledge your latest gift of twelve fiddlers fiddling, which you have seen fit to inflict on our client, Miss Agnes McCallister. The destruction, of course, was total. All correspondence should come to our attention. If you should attempt to reach Miss McCallister at Happy Dale Sanitarium, the attendants have instructions to shoot you on sight. With this letter, please find attached a warrant for your arrest.

-Merry Christmas

Christmas Day in the Morning, Continued from page 5

He wished, that Christmas when he was fifteen, he had a better present for his father. As usual he had gone to the ten-cent store and bought a tie. It had seemed nice enough until he lay thinking the night before Christmas. He looked out of his attic window, the stars were bright.

"Dad," he had once asked when he was a little boy, "What is a stable?"

"It's just a barn," his father had replied, "like ours."

Then Jesus had been born in a barn, and to a barn the shepherds had come...

The thought struck him like a silver dagger. Why should he not give his father a special gift too, out there in the barn? He could get up early, earlier than four o'clock, and he could creep into the barn and get all the milking done. He'd do it alone, milk and clean up, and then when his father went in to start the milking he'd see it all done. And he would know who had done it. He laughed to himself as he gazed at the stars. It was what he would do, and he mustn't sleep too sound.

He must have waked twenty times, scratching a match to look each time to look at his old watch -- midnight, and half past one, and then two o'clock.

At a quarter to three he got up and put on his clothes. He crept downstairs, careful of the creaky boards, and let himself out. The cows looked at him, sleepy and surprised. It was early for them, too.

He had never milked all alone before, but it seemed almost easy. He kept thinking about his father's surprise. His father would come in and get him, saying that he would get things started while Rob was getting dressed. He'd go to the barn, open the door, and then he'd go get the two big empty milk cans. But they wouldn't be waiting or empty, they'd be standing in the milk-house, filled.

"What the--," he could hear his father exclaiming.

He smiled and milked steadily, two strong streams rushing into the pail, frothing and fragrant.

The task went more easily than he had ever known it to go before. Milking for once was not a chore. It was something else, a gift to his father who loved him. He finished, the two milk cans were full, and he covered them and closed the milk-house door carefully, making sure of the latch.

Back in his room he had only a minute to pull off his clothes in the darkness and jump into bed, for he heard his father up. He put the covers over his head to silence his quick breathing. The door opened.

"Rob!" His father called. "We have to get up, son, even if it is Christmas."

"Aw-right," he said sleepily.

The door closed and he lay still, laughing to himself. In just a few minutes his father would know. His dancing heart was ready to jump from his body.

The minutes were endless -- ten, fifteen, he did not know how many -- and he heard his father's footsteps again. The door opened and he lay still.

"Rob!"

"Yes, Dad--"

His father was laughing, a queer sobbing sort of laugh.

"Thought you'd fool me, did you?" His father was standing by his bed, feeling for him, pulling away the cover.

"It's for Christmas, Dad!"

He found his father and clutched him in a great hug. He felt his father's arms go around him. It was dark and they could not see each other's faces.

"Son, I thank you. Nobody ever did a nicer thing--"

"Oh, Dad, I want you to know -- I do want to be god!" The words broke from him of their own will. He did not know what to say. His heart was bursting with love.

He got up and pulled on his clothes again and they went down to the Christmas tree. Oh what a Christmas, and how his heart had nearly burst again with shyness and pride as his father told his mother and made the younger children listen about how he, Rob, had got up all by himself.

"The best Christmas gift I ever had, and I'll remember it, son every year on Christmas morning, so long as I live."

They had both remembered it, and now that his father was dead, he remembered it alone: that blessed Christmas dawn when, alone with the cows in the barn, he had made his first gift of true love.

This Christmas he wanted to write a card to his wife and tell her how much he loved her, it had been a long time since he had really told her, although he loved her in a very special way, much more than he ever had when they were young. He had been fortunate that she had loved him. Ah, that was the true joy of life, the ability to love. Love was still alive in him, it still was.

It occurred to him suddenly that it was alive because long ago it had been born in him when he knew his father loved him. That was it: Love alone could awaken love. And he could give the gift again and again. This morning, this blessed Christmas morning, he would give it to his beloved wife. He could write it down in a letter for her to read and keep forever. He went to his desk and began his love letter to his wife: My dearest love...

Such a happy, happy Christmas!

THE END

The Goodenough Community:

Cultural Programs & Events in 2015

For the Goodenough Community, cultural life is an arena for creative expression. All programs and events are open to the public. We welcome your interest and participation.

Over thousands of years human communities have organized not only their work life but also their relational and cultural life. The Goodenough Community organizes its cultural life around encouraging human development—through our programs for men, women, committed couples, families and around age groupings. Cultural programs usually encourage maturity, responsibility, and the development of valued relationships. Some of our programs bring everyone together with a seasonal emphasis. Following, are program offerings for the next period on our calendar.

Programs & Events in 2015

Third Age Gatherings	Women's Culture
The Conscious Couples Network	True Holidays Celebration
Family Enrichment Network	The Winter Solstice Bus Trip
The Men's Culture	New Year's Eve Weekend at Sahale



True Holidays Celebration - Saturday, December 6

Our annual celebration will be held on Saturday,
December 6, 2014, 6 to 11PM.

This event has more than 25 years of history and is set early in the holiday season in order to deepen and enrich the winter holidays for people of all faith traditions. This interfaith celebration will again be at the **Mercer Island Congregational Church** and commences at 6:00pm. *Kirsten Rohde will be our host and guide.*



Register Now:

Winter Solstice Bus Trip – Saturday, December 20

Old fashioned fun for all ages. With your friends and family, enjoy this day-long journey that embraces the longest night of the year.

We will board a chartered bus and travel over Snoqualmie and Blewett Passes to the beautiful Bavarian Christmas village of Leavenworth. Then we'll head to Eagle Creek Ranch, just outside of Leavenworth, where a horse-drawn sleigh ride awaits us, followed by a buffet dinner.



New Year's Eve Weekend at Sahale!



This year New Year's Eve is on **Wednesday** night. You are invited to come to Sahale for the weekend to bid farewell to 2014 and to greet 2015. You may arrive as early as Friday. We plan to have our usual times in good conversation, winter walks, hot-tubbing, making meals together and celebrating the change of year. **Dinner will be served at 7:30pm** on New Year's Eve. Of course, we will have our **7th annual** Train Dominoes Tournament. Time will also be given for serious reflection and joyful celebration.

Email Kirsten or Elizabeth: krohde14@outlook.com, elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com

Third Age Gathering, Next Meeting Jan 16, 2015

The Third Age group is for older adults, approximately age 60 and older, who are interested in exploring the issues of living well while aging and supporting each other in this "third stage" of life.



The meeting schedule for 2015 is: Fridays, Jan 16; February 27; April 24; Sept 18; October 23; November 20.

We meet at the home of [Phil, Joan, Barbara, and Jim](#) in West Seattle. We start at 6 PM with potluck supper. An RSVP is always helpful – either by phoning us at 206-763-2258 or by emailing me at joanvalles70@yahoo.com

Women's Culture, Upcoming Next Gathering:



In 2015, the women's culture will meet Saturdays; January 17, March 14, September 11, October 24 and November 21. Will have a weekend May 1 to 3. We Mark your calendars! We meet 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

at the home of Rose Buchmeier:
9033 13th Avenue SW
Seattle, WA 98106

For directions, call Rose: 206 764 0193

As is our way, we will gather at 10:00 a.m. for a brief social time before sitting down together. We will have time together in the large circle, as well as time for individual reflection and time to share with one or two other women. And we will provide lunch.

We love it when a woman can attend every gathering throughout the year, and believe that the experience is richer when you can do that. However, **each program is discrete**, and you need not commit to attending every time.

While we do not charge a fee, **we welcome contributions**, and suggest a donation of \$20. We trust that you will contribute what is right for you.

An RSVP is not necessary, but we like to know about how many women to expect, so please write to hollisr@comcast.net if you know you are coming. But don't stay away just because you didn't send an RSVP!

All the best, Hollis



The Conscious Couples Network presents: An Evening for Committed Couples

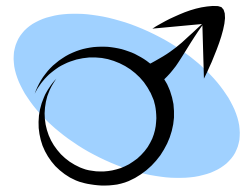
We will explore the joys, challenges, and effective processes for committed relationship and offer the kind of support that can only come from a network of couples. This group will meet at the home of Pam and Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson on Mercer Island.

New dates for 2015: January 23, May 29, Sept 11, October 6 to 9, November 13.
A weekend for couples will be March 6 to 8.

Men's Program

Theme: Friendship among Men

The men of the Goodenough Community will be meeting for a weekend this spring. **May 8 to 10, 2015** is the date suggested for the men's weekend.



Introducing . . .

A Workshop offered by John and Colette Hoff

April 17 to 19, 2015

Saving your Own Soul . . .

Growing your self up . . .

Maturing . . .

This is a weekend for remembering your own journey and your story of trying to develop your self. Each individual will review where they are in their story and in their growth. We will become a supportive circle. Guided meditation on our lives will be a primary method the Hoffs will be using to in leading the workshop and we will practice meditation as a whole group. Small group interaction will also be utilized.

Email hoff@goodenough to express your interest.

Memorial Day Weekend, May 22-25, 2015

at Sahale Learning Center

Join us for a weekend of well-organized work parties balanced with play, wholesome meals, hot tubbing and relaxation. The only charge is a donation for food.

Sahale Summer Camp



June 22 to 28, 2015

<http://www.goodenough.org/camp.htm>

Sahale Summer Camp is entering its 10th season! We invite youth aged 9 to 12 to join us for 6 nights and 7 days of fun living in nature at Sahale Learning Center.

We enjoy a program rich in experiences just right for this age zone. Youth enjoy traditional camping experiences with our tent village set up around a giant campfire pit for evening programs complete with stories, singing, s'mores and friends under a canopy of stars.



We teach skills of outdoor living and provide experiences which help you get to know yourself and have confidence making friends. We also impart a gentle sense of responsibility for caring for each other and the land. We do this through natural activities of taking care of camp and being part of small clans that spend time together each day getting to know each other and working together.

A training program for 13 to 17 year olds is also included and is an excellent opportunity for leadership training. For more information, see [The Junior Staff Training Program](#).

Please contact Irene Perler for more information - 206.419.3477 or irene_perler@hotmail.com.



Mark your calendars for 2015!

Human Relations Laboratory

August 9 to 15, 2015

The best event to experience the Goodenough Community

Seven Fun-filled Days of Social Creativity & Experiential
Learning about Friendship and Effective Relationship

Sahale Learning Center

A 68-acre retreat on the Kitsap Peninsula

Family Enrichment Network Parent Group

If you are interested in developing a supportive parent circle for study and conversation about family life, please contact *Irene Perler* at 206-419-3477 **or email** irene_perler@hotmail.com. Topics could include simplifying and organizing life, creating a family culture, development stages and sibling dynamics, understanding roles within the family.

