



The Village View

February 9, 2022

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Editor



Coming Up—

Valentine's Day – Monday, Feb 14

Pathwork, Sunday, Feb 20, 7pm

The Origin of Black History Month—And Why It Still Matters

BY LONNIE G. BUNCH III
YES! MAGAZINE, FEBRUARY 2, 2022



African American Historian Carter Woodson

Date Unknown

Bettmann/Getty Images

On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System

www.goodenough.org

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



No one has played a greater role in helping all Americans know the Black past than Carter G. Woodson, the individual who created Negro History Week in Washington, D.C., in February 1926.

Woodson was the second Black American to receive a Ph.D. in history from Harvard—following W.E.B. Du Bois by a few years. To Woodson, the Black experience was too important simply to be left to a small group of academics. Woodson believed that his role was to use Black history and culture as a weapon in the struggle for racial uplift. By 1916, Woodson had moved to D.C. and established the “[Association for the Study of Negro Life and Culture](#),” an organization whose goal was to make Black history accessible to a wider audience. Woodson was a strange and driven man whose only passion was history, and he expected everyone to share his passion.

This impatience led Woodson to create Negro History Week in 1926, to ensure that schoolchildren would be exposed to Black history. Woodson chose the second week of February to celebrate the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

It is important to realize that Negro History Week was not born in a vacuum. The 1920s saw the rise in interest in African American culture that was represented by the Harlem Renaissance, where writers such as Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, and Claude McKay wrote about the joys and sorrows of Blackness. Meanwhile, musicians like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Jimmie Lunceford captured the new rhythms of the cities created in part by the thousands of Black Southerners who migrated to urban centers like Chicago. And artists like Aaron Douglas, Richmond Barthe, and Lois Jones created images that celebrated Blackness and provided more positive images of the African American experience.

There is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history.

Woodson hoped to build upon this creativity and further stimulate interest through Negro History Week. He had two goals: One was to use history to prove to White America that Black people had played important roles in the creation of America and thereby deserved to be treated equally as citizens. By celebrating heroic Black figures—be they inventors, entertainers, or soldiers—Woodson essentially hoped to prove our worth, and by proving our worth, he believed that equality would soon follow. His other goal was to increase the visibility of Black life and history, at a time when few newspapers, books, and universities took notice of the Black community, except to dwell upon the negative. Ultimately Woodson believed Negro History Week—which became Black History Month in 1976—would be a vehicle for racial transformation forever.



The question that faces us today is whether or not Black History Month is still relevant. Is it still a vehicle for change? Or has it simply become one more school assignment that has limited

meaning for children? Has Black History Month become a time when television and the media stack their Black material? Or is it a useful concept whose goals have been achieved? After all, few—except the most ardent rednecks— could deny the presence and importance of African Americans to American society. Or as my then-14-year-old daughter, Sarah, put it: “I see Colin Powell every day on TV. All my friends—Black and White—are immersed in Black culture through music and television. And America has changed dramatically since 1926. Is not it time to retire Black History Month, as we have eliminated ‘White’ and ‘colored’ signs on drinking fountains?” I will spare you the three-hour lesson I gave her.

I would like to suggest that despite the profound change in race relations that has occurred in our lives, Carter G. Woodson’s vision for Black history as a means of transformation and change is still quite relevant and quite useful. African American History Month, with a bit of tweaking, is still a beacon of change and hope that is still surely needed in this world. The chains of slavery are gone—but we are all not yet free. The great diversity within the Black community needs the glue of the African American past to remind us of not just how far we have traveled but lo, how far there is to go.

The Power of Inspiration

One thing has not changed: We still need to draw inspiration and guidance from the past. And through that inspiration, people will find tools and paths that will help them live their lives. Who could not help but be inspired by Martin Luther King’s oratory, commitment to racial justice, and his ultimate sacrifice? Or by the arguments of William and Ellen Craft, or Henry “Box” Brown, who used great guile to escape from slavery. Who could not draw substance from the creativity of Madam C.J. Walker or the audacity and courage of prize fighter Jack Johnson? Who could not continue to struggle after listening to the mother of Emmett Till share her story of sadness and perseverance?



I know that when life is tough, I take solace in the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Nikki Giovanni, or Gwendolyn Brooks. And I find comfort in the rhythms of Louis Armstrong, Sam Cooke, or Dinah Washington. And I draw inspiration from the anonymous slave who persevered so that the culture could continue.

Let me conclude by re-emphasizing that Black History Month continues to serve us well, in part because Woodson’s creation is as much about today as it is about the past. Experiencing Black History Month every year reminds us that history is not dead or distant from our lives.

Rather, I see the African American past in the way my daughter’s laugh reminds me of my grandmother. I experience the African American past when I think of my grandfather choosing to

leave the South rather than continue to experience sharecropping and segregation, or when I remember sitting in the backyard listening to old men tell stories. Ultimately, African American History—and its celebration throughout February—is just as vibrant today as it was when Woodson created it 94 years ago. That’s because it helps us to remember there is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering.

This essay originally appeared in the “Our American Story” series published by the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It has been edited for length and clarity, and is republished here with permission.

LONNIE G. BUNCH III is the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian. As Secretary, he oversees 19 museums, 21 libraries, the National Zoo, numerous research centers, and several education units and centers. Previously, Bunch was the director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. A widely published author, Bunch has written on topics ranging from the Black military experience, the American presidency, and all-Black towns in the American West, to diversity in museum management and the impact of funding and politics on American museums. His most recent book, *A Fool’s Errand: Creating the National Museum of African American History and Culture in the Age of Bush, Obama, and Trump*, which chronicles the making of the museum that would become one of the most popular destinations in Washington. Learn more about Bunch’s life and work at The Smithsonian.

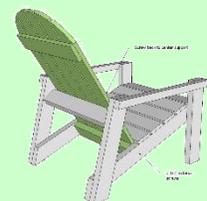


Men’s Gathering and Service Weekend at Sahale

The **Goodenough Community Men’s Culture** will be getting together at the Sahale Ecovillage and Learning Center the weekend of March 12-13, 2022, to work together at Sahale and gather as a Men’s Circle.

Working with Wood and Each Other seems to be an emerging theme, from possibly building new deck chairs, caring for wood art and structures, pruning and more. We’ll be including good socializing time, Happy Hours and Men’s Circles.

The structured time will begin Friday evening for those able to arrive on Friday and end mid-afternoon Sunday. Please let Norm and Tod know when you will be arriving, and of any dietary considerations. All attendees must be vaccinated and have had their boosters.



Norm: shkwavrydr@aol.com , 509-607-1124

Tod: todransdell@yahoo.com , 206-409-9793

“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). 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!



Mindful Mike's Blog: Valentine's Day

Mike deAnguera

We are coming up on St. Valentine's Day. A time to send Valentine cards to our loved ones.

This is a way to extend love to our loved ones. It is a tradition going back to the Middle Ages.

I suspect originally in Pagan Rome there were festivals during this time involving fertility rites.

The Catholic Church made Feb 14 St. Valentine's Day to honor St. Valentine, a bishop who was martyred during the 4th Century AD. There is a painting of him in this photo.

St. Valentine's Day celebrates the romantic side of love. This is eros in Greek. This can be confusing for me when it comes to understanding what love really is. The below picture for me is a truer representation of love, one with no illusions. The Greeks refer to this kind of love as agape. A true connection between people who have experienced the ups and downs of life. This is the kind of love older people understand. They are extending themselves to each other without any conditions. True love has no conditions attached to it.



To me, love is what God is. This is the energy animating all of us. Buddhists understand this because they don't see the Divine as being separate from us. Love is something they practice. That's the kind of love I prefer. Since romance may be illusion, it can get me high like a drug. Then a crash follows when reality hits. That's when I find out if love is present.

Kathleen Notley enabled me to experience love as a real person. We had no plans and just lived for the moment.

Divine Love is where I start before coming into this world. It is my true nature. So why would love involve possessing another person?

Why is love symbolized by a heart? I suppose amorous feelings seem to emanate from there. People have been said to die from a broken heart.

The heart is the organ pumping blood throughout the body. It is always in operation even when I am asleep. Beat! Beat! Like a metronome, it sets the pace for the entire body. Kathleen used to love listening to my heartbeat. It can be very soothing.

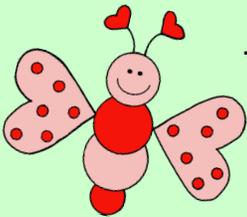
If we sing about love all the time why is there so little understanding around it? It seems to be continually represented by love between a boy and a girl. Is that the real love of agape? Or is it the possessive love of eros? I didn't have to possess Kathleen to love her. We shared a true love between each other. That for me is what Heaven is all about. Unlike the love of eros it can last an eternity. We will never tire of each other.



It's Valentine's Day



Thank you for your prayers and good wishes for me this year in my strange journey with cancer.
Lots of love,
Colette



To Mike – This lovebug has a message for you.
Love, Colette

Valentine cupcakes to the **new editorial staff of the Village View**: Joan Valles, Hollis Ryan, Barbara Brucker, Rose Buchmeier, Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Marjorie Gray, Kirsten Rohde. You are each improving our newsletter and thank you for stepping up.
I love you, MCH



Elizabeth,
Our capacity to be better and better together pleases and amazes me.
Your love and support haven't gone unnoticed.
Thank you for being there.
Co-piloting life, what a trip!
Love you Love,
Pamela Kay

Cody & Cooper,
I love you more than you know.
What you heard: Good boy, now you get a treat!
Woof,
Gma Pam

Shani,
New friend.
Cool friend.
Pam

Colette,
Big hearts, one heart, and our brains go together pretty good too!
It's sad that C & P Hauling is no longer in business. We did some heavy lifting back in the day! Thanks for believing in me and seeing my potential. And, I love you for all of it.
Love,
Pam

Blessed be the teachers who grace our lives and the lives of our children .
Joan Valles

Happy Valentine's Day
Colette
Beloved friend of the heart.
Joan

Happy Valentine's Day, **Barbara and Jim**
So lucky to have you as housemates.
Love, Joan

May all the people, nice ones or not, have fun and good things. Love Joan

A Big Valentine to **Mike deAnguera** who volunteered to take Draí and John's completed laundry from my house to their yurt. "Laundry delivery service" as Mike called it.
What a sweet offer!
Kirsten

A lot of love to **Sahale angels** who bring me firewood, replaced light bulbs, and cleaned my laundry room – like *really* cleaned it. Kisses to Marley Long, Mike deAnguera, Draï Turner-Schindler, and Pam Jarrett-Jefferson. Every bit of order gives me a good feeling.

Love, Kirsten

I tip my hat (well, I rarely wear a hat) to **Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson**: You volunteer to help out and take on projects with enthusiasm and added humor. Elizabeth administers event registrations, calendaring, communication about many items, filling in for facilitation needs, cooking, cleaning, helping create celebrations, providing support to the ailing, and more. All with impromptu puns while being real about life's many happenings. Your neighbor and friend, Kirsten



I've been reviewing the year end summary of donations to the **Goodenough Community**. So many generous people! Thank you each for your support and love. Happy Valentine's Day. Kirsten Rohde

To Pamela Kay:

Have no fear, my dear
Love circles all around you
Seeing your vast heart
-ej



To Cody and Cooper:

We play hide-and-peek
I hide behind the bed
I can't get up now
Love, Gma

To Kirsten:

I love your kitties
Peaches, Bumpy, and Feral
All spies for Chewy.Com
Love Elizabeth.

To the Goodenough Community:

Thank you for this land
Walking and keeping silent
Pleasing me each day
Love EJ

To Jim:

I love your loving
Of this whole community
Rich with history
Love Elizabeth.

To Janet, J'Fleur, Onka, Sharon, Molly, Kirsten, Claudia, Deborah, Colette:

I love your courage
To share, to reveal, to trust
You enrich my heart
Love Elizabeth.

To the Human Relations Laboratory:

I love your founders
And those who have followed you
To do the hard work of love
Love Elizabeth.

To Mindy and Matlock:

Dearly beloved
We're gathered here to pet you
You teach us how to feline

To Colette:

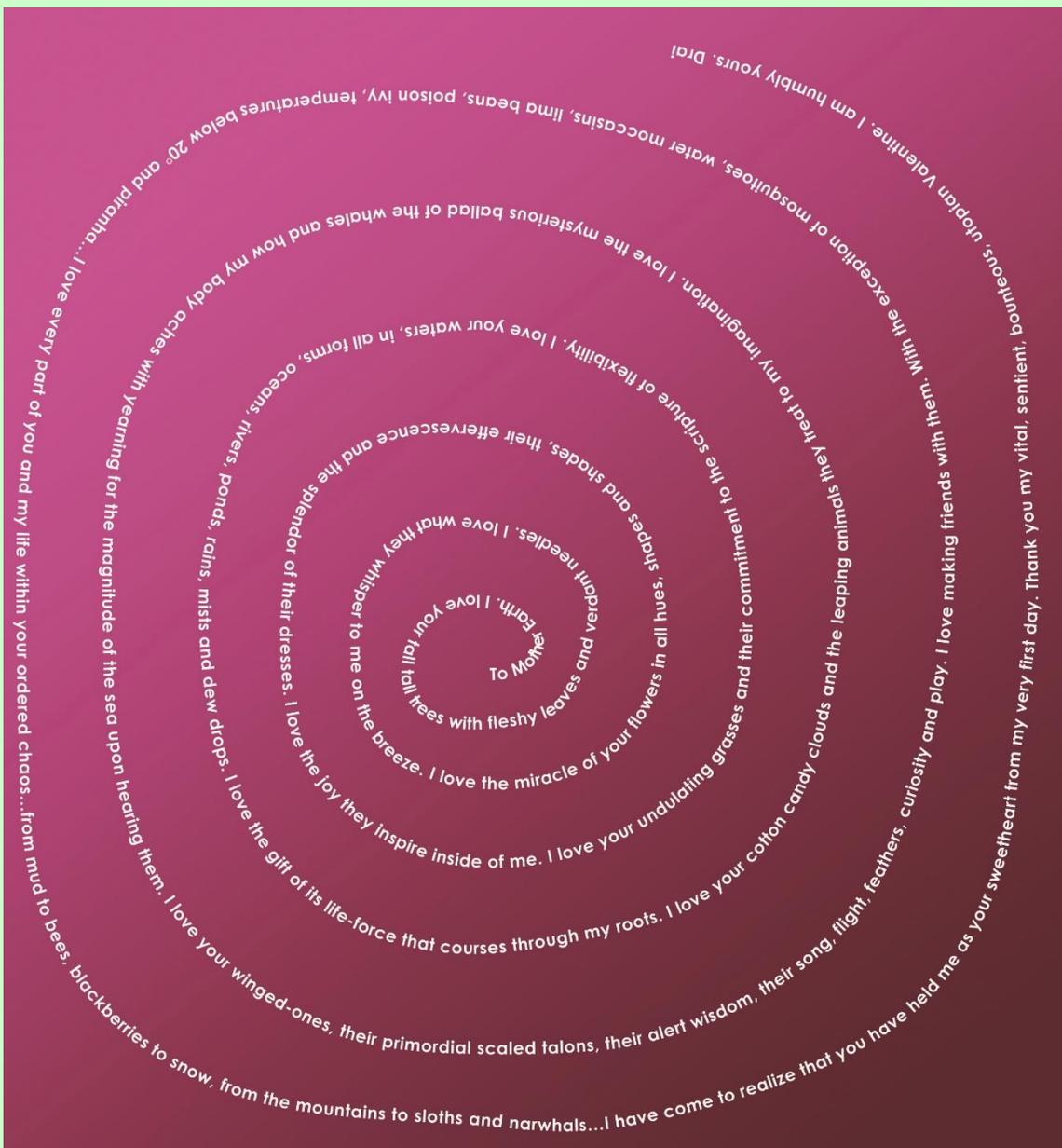
With a vast spirit
Your White Buffalo Woman
Teaches us the way
Love Elizabeth.

To Sam S:

How do I love thee?
Let me count the brilliant puns
While LOL-ing on high
Love, Elizabeth.

Mo Grá...If the sun refused to shine, I would still be loving you.
If mountains crumble to the sea...there would still be you and me.

Dear Squishy - Love of my Lives...
You are my Valentine, forever and always.
With my blood, my soul, my heart.
XOXO - Your Light



Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Winter and Spring Dates

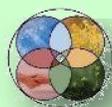
Community is about adapting to change, and that has been the case with the pandemic as we have adapted many of our ways to connect, most of which are held on Zoom.

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



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. In 2022 we will celebrate 53 years! Contact: Colette Hoff or Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, hoff@goodenough.org, 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

- February 21
- March 18-19
- April 25
- May 23
- June 20

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



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:

- March 26
- April 29 – May 1 - *Annual Weekend for Women*

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



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:

- 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. *See article this week on the Men's Cultural Weekend at Sahale, March 12-13.*

For information, contact [Norm Peck](#)



Pathwork, a Program of Convocation: A Church and Ministry – Pathwork offers 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 and wisdom traditions. All are welcome to join. Meetings are held via Zoom on alternate Sundays: 7pm to 9pm. Contact Colette Hoff: hoff@goodenough.org for Zoom information.



Winter and Spring Dates:

- 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 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).