Service & Joy

The Village View

June 08, 2022

Marjenta Gray & Joan Valles, Editors

Coming Up—

- o Tent-Raising @ Sahale, June 10-12
- Pathwork, June 19, 7pm
- Human Relations Lab, August 7-13

Last week's Village View highlighted Colette Hoff's memorial on May 29. This was a momentous event, saying goodbye to Colette; community co-founder, valued leader and teacher, and dearly beloved friend, mother, grandmother, and more. At the memorial, John and Colette's daughter, Amie Aylward, spoke a powerful and touching eulogy for her mother. See her eloquent words below. Thank you, Amie, for your words and for giving us permission to share with a larger audience.

Amie's theme of "Service as Joy," from a poem by Bengali poet, Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941) is key to her eulogy and describes Colette well. This past weekend, an intergenerational group met at Sahale to discuss the future of the Goodenough Community and this summer's Human Relations Laboratory. Joan Valles reports on their hard work. Thank you to all who attended for your service! It sounds like the weekend contained joy, as well as openness, truth-telling and courage. Here's to Service and Joy, and Service as Joy!

- Marjenta Gray, editor



Eulogy for My Mother

Amie (Hoff) Ayleward

slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." Rabindranath Tagore

We all dream of having a mother who is kind, loving, and genuine. Colette was exactly that type of mother. She was also the co-founder of the Goodenough Community, with my father John, and as such, she devoted her life to the service of others. Her life of service, I think, began before she was even born. She was the eldest of two children, born to Ray and Mary Werner in Westwood, NJ. Both of her parents served in the Navy during World War 2. That in and of itself is remarkable, but my

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grandparents continued to serve in their community in countless ways. But those stories are for another day.

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." Rabindranath Tagore

What I love about that quote, and why I think it so perfectly encompasses my mother, is the last line, "I acted and behold, service was joy." I think most of us here would agree that my mother led a life of service, not out of some belief that she SHOULD; she hated that word, SHOULD! She led a life of service because it brought her joy, it brought her happiness and she truly loved to help those around her. I think that is partly why she rarely seemed tired or burnt out, whether she was planning a community event, leading a group at Lab, cooking a meal for a crowd, cleaning a toilet, weeding the terraces, or most importantly in my opinion, teaching her grandchildren how to bake cookies, knit a scarf or tie a knot, she approached all these tasks from a place of pure and genuine love. When I am feeling worn out from a day with my kids or a hard day at work, I will remember my mother's spirit of "service as joy."

Some of my favorite childhood memories of my mother were on our many camping trips throughout the US and Canada. Those of you who know my mother, know that she loved to cook. In fact, just about everyone here has probably eaten something my mother cooked. She loved cooking, especially



Amie and her mom, several weeks before Colette's passing

for large groups. But some of my favorite meals of hers were cooked over an open campfire in some remote spot by a river. In those moments, she wasn't a community leader, serving the masses, she



Mother and daughter cooking, at Sahale

was just my mom, cooking dinner for my dad and me. She had a cherished Dutch oven, worn black by the fire. She made all sort of things in it, from meat stews to fruit cobblers, but my favorite was her apple fritters!

My mom taught me a lot about cooking. She taught me it's ok to make a mess, it doesn't have to be perfect and there is always room for one more. I have decided that the kitchen is one of the places I will keep her memory alive, sharing her recipes with my own children, and thinking of her fondly for years to come. I often fret and fuss over a meal, trying to make everything perfect or worrying that there won't be enough food when an extra guest arrives. I hope that as my mother's memory courses through

me, I can take a deep breath and trust that it will all be "goodenough!"

My mother, Colette, was loved by so many. She always knew how to brighten someone's day and make them feel loved, accepted, and welcomed. She treated everyone with kindness and respect. She rarely got mad and when she did, you knew she had a darn good reason! She brought people together and created community wherever she went. Her outlook on life was inspiring. If you were lucky to spend more than five minutes in her presence, you were forever changed.



Colette, with grandchildren, Wiley & Juniper

My mother was a kind and patient teacher, to me, and to so many of you here. Those of us who were with her in her final days witnessed her teaching until the very end. My mother had been battling cancer for the past 15 months. And even though we knew her time with us was limited, I don't think any of us knew how fast she would go. She was up and about chatting with friends and family at Wiley, her grandson's 6th birthday party on a Saturday. A little over a week later, she was gone.

But she truly gave us a gift to be able to witness her dying with such dignity and grace. She taught us not to fear death. And to find humor even in such a dark moment. On the one hand, she was reverent, often taking a deep breath and saying "wow, is this really happening, is this what dying feels like?" And then, an hour later, after a deep sleep, she would open her eyes wide and shout into the room "FUCK!"

On one quiet night as I sat by her bed in silence, she opened her eyes, looked right at me, and said, "I forgot to research!" I said, "Oh, you forgot to research?" She said, "yeah, I didn't

want to know what comes next, so I forgot to research." This led into a rather deep and esoteric conversation about life after death. It was remarkable how clear-headed she was, even as she was dying. And as the teacher that we know her to be, she gave us this profound glimpse into the dying process and the afterlife.

My mother's final days were spent in my home. It wasn't the plan, but it actually turned out to be the perfect place. I worried that too many visitors would wear her out, tire her, or take her too soon, but eventually, with the nudging of my husband, I opened the doors and took a cue from my mother, and announced "everyone is welcome here."

In those final days she had many visitors; family and friends she had known for more than 40 years, and some she met more recently. She was unapologetic in expressing her love for all of us. She kept telling me, "Amie, the nurse says I can tell you how much I love you as much as I want now!" And she did! And I wasn't the only



Colette, Bruce T. and Amie, 4/18/22

one. It seemed with each friend that came into the room, she had one more nugget of truth, one more teaching, one more expression of gratitude, one more smile, one more "I love you." And it was as if all her roles in life were coming into expression, mother, grandmother, friend, teacher, counselor. She didn't seem rushed or afraid, she was happy to see so many loved ones, and took time with each, sometimes only having energy for a smile or a moment of heartfelt eye contact-she never shied away from deep eye contact, in life or in death! And others were lucky to have time with her when she rallied, seeming full of life and so far from dying.

The room was filled with tears, yes, but it was also filled with laughter, so much laughter. And gratitude, wow, wow, wow, the room was full to the brim with gratitude! My mother was full of gratitude for the deep and lasting friendships, those present in the room and those brought forth through the sharing of memories and stories of her life. A new person would come into the room, and she would remark, "Wow, where did you come from, I haven't seen you in ages, did you come all this way just to see me?" There was gratitude seeping out of everyone there, so many words of love and thanks for the impact my mother had on their lives. And me, I found myself full of gratitude, gratitude for the immense help I received from her friends to care for her in the most painful and difficult times. And I am still today, standing here, full of gratitude for a mother who showed me unconditional love, and who showed me by example that a life led with love is a good and worthy life. My mom was an incredible person. I feel very lucky to have been her daughter.

Thank all of you for coming to celebrate the life of this beautiful and incredible woman, my mother, Colette. Some of you only met her briefly, others have known her for decades. But one thing I think we can all agree on is that my mother left an impression, on this world and on all of us.

I'd like to read this poem in my mom's honor.

Untitled

You can shed tears that she is gone or you can smile because she has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember her and only that she's gone or you can cherish her memory and let it live on
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.



Thank you!

Ashes Dedication

Pam Jefferson

Pam wrote these touching words to say while casting Colette's ashes. They mistakenly were left out of the memorial program, so we're including them here:

"Colette, we let go of this, what remains of your body in one of your, and our, sacred places. You are free of this life and onto the next; and yet, you will live on in our hearts.

Colette, we are forever thankful for you in our lives. You have blessed us all with your loving heart, generous spirit, and life of service.

You are greatly missed and you are dearly loved."



Altar at the river, one of seven places where Colette's sacred ashes were cast

Service and Joy:

A Gathering of Lab Leadership and Intergenerational Group

Reported by Joan Valles

"This was not an event, it was a happening"

This is an incredible time of transition in the Goodenough Community. Colette's passing in April shocked most of us at how quickly it happened. We're working it, reminding ourselves, as Colette demonstrated, to engage this service with joy.

Since the beginning of winter and before, two groups of leaders have been meeting; one group, the Lab leadership from 2021 Human Relations Laboratory, and the other called the Intergenerational Group. The Intergenerational group, led by Bruce Perler and Barbara Brucker includes younger adults with organizational skill who came to Lab at Elias Serras's invitation, and who want to help us succeed. The weekend of June 3-5 was set aside as a collaborative time for these groups to meet.

The invitation to the weekend at Sahale read: "We are inviting you to A Happening. In this unusual time in our community, we want to both look forward toward Lab 22 and receive the love



Sky Blue

and support that is offered by our friends who have been meeting as the Intergenerational Group. We invite you to come with a heart open to what may emerge as we move toward Lab 22. What support does our community need? What needs to happen at Lab? How can we best help that happen? The intention of this gathering is to bring interested people together not



Kelen Laine

specifically for Lab planning and training, but to look creatively at what is needed and how that might happen both in the context of Lab and in other contexts."

About 20 people participated, the majority being leaders from the Goodenough Community, plus Stellar Dutcher and Danny Morris, who flew up from Austin, TX. Both Stellar and Danny participated in Lab 2021 and the Intergenerational Group, A few folks listened in at times via Zoom. The weekend process was led by Sky Blue, communitarian and professional consultant to communities and like-minded organizations, and Kelen Laine, trained mediator and community facilitator. Both were at Lab 2021.

Kelen and Sky compiled questions for participants offered in four rounds:

Intro Round: What's a gift that you give to this community (just by being who you are)? (Another way to consider this: What's one way you love to love this community?)

Round 1: 1. What's 'up' with the GEC? What's going on right now?

2. Who's being impacted and how?

Consider ...

Round 2: Given the answers to Round 1...

3. What's needed?

Consider...

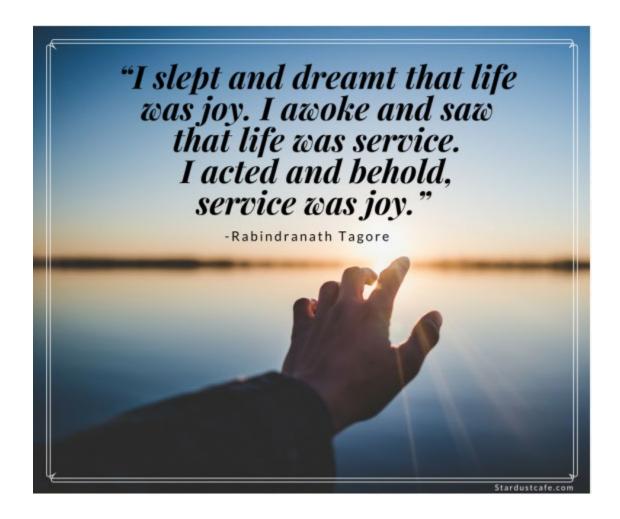
By the Goodenough Community from Lab?

By Lab from the Goodenough Community?

By the Goodenough Community from you?

By you from the Goodenough Community?

An extended period was spent Saturday afternoon with six members of the Lab leadership, seated in a "fishbowl" in the center of Kloshe living room answering some of these questions. Deep work was done looking at our past and our relationships and looking forward. If you have been a participant in Lab, or have participated in other community activities: How would you answer these questions?



Annual White Event Tent Raising

Norm Peck

ou are invited to an inclusive, all-hands weekend of Service at Sahale on **June 10, 11 & 12**. Each year in late May or early June, a group of Goodenough Community members and friends gather to put up the 40-foot by 60-foot event tent. Because it's a big tent, it's a big deal. Many hands make it light work and good shared time together. Through the summer, the tent will host

many gatherings, as well as our Human Relations Laboratory in August. We will gather again in October to take down, clean and carefully store the tent fabric cover, aluminum frame and dance floor deck panels. In addition to help with installing the dance floor, tent frame and fabric placement and power and lighting setup, help in support roles such as kitchen/meal preparation and even music to share are always welcome. The Men's Culture of the Goodenough Community will provide leadership for the service weekend, and the



Men's Circle will meet at times for planning, check-in and evaluation purposes. The service opportunity is not intended to be limited to men only, rather to be open to anyone wanting to be of service to and together as a community.





Congratulations Mari Scott!

Many of us remember Mari Scott when she was a babe in the arms of her mother Nan Krecker and father Bill Scott. Mari has brought a lot of joy to our

lives. Here she is, graduating from Western Washington University this weekend with a

degree in business administration, management concentration, from the College of Business and

Economics. Her minor was in communications. Congratulations, Mari, we're proud of you and predict a great future!





Send Healing Thoughts to Lisa Lita!

Please send healing thoughts to Lisa Lita Leibfried. She had a spinal injury last Thursday and has been in the hospital since then. There is much the doctors don't know about this very rare case, even after performing spinal surgery on Sunday. Lisa has not been able to move her left leg or walk, so is in need of your positive thoughts for her returning to the active life she has loved. She is at Harborview but may be moved to a rehab facility soon. If you would like to contact Lisa, but don't have her contact information, email Marjenta at marjoriemagenta@gamil.com.





Healthy Lisa bike-riding



Mindful Mike's Blog: Mow Grass, Carry Water

Mike deAnguera

The way of the Zen Master is to Chop Wood, Carry Water. But since I didn't chop any wood I decided to include the mowing of grass instead. There is a thing about mowing grass. Especially on the riding mower. It always gives me a feeling of power, and I imagine mowing like Lincoln Park in West Seattle.

Ah there is John Schindler doing what he loves best: mowing which the Kubota tractor. I have never seen him as joyful as when he is on the tractor.



Joy is the theme for this week. So I focus on being joyful. Besides I have been promised a trip into Seattle to a really special fish and chips place. There are only two I know of: the West Seattle Fish Company and Ivar's. I grew up on Ivar's. My folks would park across the street under the viaduct and bring me and my brother Paul our fish and chips. Joy. As long as I had my fish and chips I was in heaven. Especially with the Coke. I wonder if the Buddha ever ate fish and chips. Would it have changed his philosophy? I guess we will never know. He focused so much on Old Age, Sickness, and Death. For me that would kill any joy unless I had fish and chips in Long Beach.

You see? While the Buddha focuses on general stuff I focus on what brings me joy. Therefore I am not focused on Old Age, Sickness, and Death. I know I will experience all

three over time but I don't always have to focus on them.

There is joy in typing up this article since so many people enjoy reading it. Putting my thoughts in print makes them feel authoritative.

When I write fiction I am creating characters and stories. Same thing the Divine does. I get to do God work. That helps me clarify my character role as well as my life's story. Good thing because once I am born I am locked into my life's story and my only hope is to realize that the Divine is present within me. Otherwise I will not be able to wake up. To go through life asleep for me would truly be a nightmare. Of course, I could not wake up by myself. For that I needed the help of my Goodenough Community friends. The only teachers who could have helped me wake up were John and Colette Hoff as well as Kathleen Notley.

Waking up is the greatest gift I could have even if it is painful. It doesn't have to be painful. All I have to do is look at my character



role from the Soul perspective. Chop Wood. Carry Water. Mow Grass. My Buddha tool displayed in this photo.

Jim Tocher will be here soon. He is also one of my great teachers, a follower of John Hoff just like me. Unlike Paramhansa Yogananda who just had Sri Yuketswar, I have John and Colette Hoff as well as Jim Tocher.

One day I may also be a powerful Teacher or Guru. Maybe I already am. I just have not claimed the role yet. So all I have to do is claim the role and get others to agree with me. Then I can become a font of Universal Wisdom as well. Wonder if I will like it. Do I really want to know the answer to everything? To be able to do everything right the first time always? Then I will no longer make any mistakes or use poor judgment. What a dull life.

Life is not about what I know. It is about what I do with what I know. It is about being confronted by adversity and still finding joy. I can find joy even in the moment during a time when Colette is no longer with us. Her teachings reside within each of us as a whole, which makes us what we are.

The very fact of birth and death should let me know I am in the midst of mystery. That is a big thing to contemplate. For me it is where Heaven starts. There can be no Heaven if there is no mystery. If science provided all the answers that would feel terrible.



Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

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. This has enabled people from outside our area to participate in community events. Throughout the year we 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

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: Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson or Kirsten Rohde



The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General

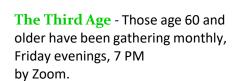
Circle, currently meets weekly on Monday evenings,

7 PM on Zoom. Spring Dates: Weekly in June.

For additional information, contact Elizabeth Jarrett- Jefferson



The Women's Program is a longestablished 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. For more information, contact Hollis Ryan.



Contact Kirsten Rohde for more information.







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. The Men's Culture of the Goodenough Community will be meeting and providing leadership for a Sahale Service Weekend on June 10, 11 & 12. Years of experience putting up and taking down the big White Tent annually, and caring for each other through the process, offer us the experience from which to lead in this weekend. We hope to expand the weekend to be more inclusive, while still offering

opportunities for us to gather as a Men's Circle to share our lives' news, work and experience of working together on the weekend. I hope to see you there! For more 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 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: 7 to 9 PM Contact <u>Brucker Brucker</u> for Zoom information.

Spring Dates:

☐ June 19



Work and Play Parties Throughout the Year. Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work parties over Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends 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. This year's Memorial Day gathering celebrated the life of Colette Hoff on Sunday, May 29.



Colette with Monster Wiley & Unicorn Juniper 4/2022