The Goodenough Community’s Summer Gathering: Envisioning Our Next Chapter

Sunday, August 6 through 12, 2023, Sahale Learning Center

The Goodenough Community is at an important and exciting threshold: Envisioning our next chapter as an empowered, self-led community. It’s time to celebrate who we are and envision who we want to be.

*Something we know for sure* is that our ‘we’ and our ‘why’ are our superpowers. We have invested heart and soul into creating kind and generous relationships, drawing out of each other the best versions of ourselves. What we know how to do is needed more than ever in this time of division and alienation.

This summer, join us in celebrating what brought us here and has kept us here, and in the challenge of forging the path we want to follow now. What would you love the community to be for you? What contributions are you ready to make to the community?
The time is NOW for each of you who value the community to join us in writing our next chapter. The magic of Goodenough happens when we show up and lift each other up, daring to be vulnerable, to be intimate, and to grow together.

**At this summer’s gathering, we will take on timely topics such as--**
- An updated vision and mission for the Goodenough Community.
- Creating a community where everyone feels welcome, safe, and supported.
- Recommitting to a community covenant that holds us to showing up as our best selves.
- Envisioning a community structure in which each person’s contribution is valuable and integral to the whole.

There will be lots of space between group conversations and activities to be with friends old and new, to contemplate and synthesize the ideas you’ve heard, all while we are held by the natural beauty of Sahale.

*The future of the community is in our hands.* It’s time to show up with your passion, energy, and ideas. Because when we join together as genuine friends and community partners, magic happens.

Please visit [www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org) to register. You can expect additional information prior to the event.

---

**Simple Formula for Living**

*Author unknown*

- Live beneath your means.
- Return everything you borrow.
- Stop blaming other people.
- Admit it when you make a mistake.
- Give clothes not worn to charity.
- Do something nice and try not to get caught.
- Listen more; talk less.
- Every day take a 30-minute walk.
- Strive for excellence, not perfection.
Be on time. Don’t make excuses.
Don’t argue.
Get organized.
Be kind to unkind people.
Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
Take time to be alone.
Cultivate good manners.
Be humble.
Realize and accept that life isn’t fair.
Know when to keep your mouth shut.
Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
Learn from the past. Plan for the future. Live in the present.

Meet One Happy Guy:
Tom George

Our friend Tom George participated in the
Goodenough Community for many years, attending
“the Young & Restless” group, the Private School for
Human Development, spiritual direction, and fun times. He
stepped out of community involvement for a decade or
more, and when he returned to the community a few years
ago, he immediately demonstrated strong leadership skills.
Responding to his interest in joining the
community’s leadership team, the team invited him to the
General Circle, the central governing body of the
Goodenough Community. There he continues to serve the
community as a member of the Economy Circle, and he has
volunteered to serve as president of the Board for the community.

Tom guides his life by choosing the high road and, as he says, by “making it easy for
myself.” But “making it easy” is not always easy. Here is an example: When he married, he
gained stepsons and eventually had a son of his own. He felt a “moral calling” to raise all the
boys even through and after the turbulent ending of his marriage to their mother. As anyone
who has lived with teenage boys knows, that is not an easy undertaking. However, he could not
have lived with himself had he chosen otherwise, and he is quick to add that the choice to be a
father to all the boys was not imposed on him. Taking an “easy way out” would have made it
harder, not easier, for him.
How does Tom find the high road? He trusts that he is following a guide, which many of us call Spirit. How does he meet Spirit? He makes it easy! Getting up at 6:00 a.m., for an hour he stretches, has coffee, listens to bright music, shaves, gets his son to school, and reports to duty by 8:00 a.m. Following this routine is a practice, like doing yoga, and helps him stay in touch with his guide.

Big in Tom’s life is his impetus for a better life. This better life includes a new career working with plants, volunteering for the Goodenough Community and Sahale, tending his own yard and home ... and reserving prime time for his loving relationship with Kathy. For 30 years he had a good work life raising money for schools. The work brought him joy and paid the bills, in addition to giving him time off during the summers. He eventually burned out, though, on “PTA moms and principals” and took the huge risk of leaving a secure job to find differently fulfilling work. What was next? “Love of plants is a family thing,” Tom says. His mother was a gardener, his father raised roses and rhodies, and his grandfather raised “incredibly huge roses.” And Tom himself is “in love with trees and plants.” So here he is at 60, working 10 hours a day at physically taxing work, “learning something every day,” and happy as the proverbial lark.

In his life that he has envisioned and made real, the Goodenough Community is large. When asked what he appreciates about the community, he answers, “I love the construct. The community is bigger than any one of us. It engenders trust, love, growth, shared learnings, and possibility.”

The high road, boosted by his love for the community, called again as he listened to then-president of the community’s Board, Kirsten Rhode, say that she was feeling ready to retire from that position. Tom asked her, “Why don’t I help you by becoming president when you are good and ready to retire? You’ll be more productive as past-president, and the Board and I will value your sharing your years of experience.” In the autumn of 2022, the transition was complete. His roles as president and as a member of the Economy Circle complement each other, and the community benefits from his service.

And guess what the most fun in Tom’s life is … He’s in love! His growing and growth-full relationship with Kathy is the most important thing in his life, and he makes sure that he puts time with Kathy at the top of his list of priorities.

What does Tom like best about himself? “I like humor, laughing, funny thoughts!” And when you meet Tom, you will be warmed by his good cheer, his optimism, his sunniness, and yes, his good humor. Tom George is a happy guy.
Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Community is about adapting to change, and that has been the case with Covid 19, the pandemic, as we adapted many of our ways to connect, most of which have been held on Zoom. This has enabled people from outside our area to participate in community events. Now we are adapting to change following the death of our co-founder Colette and our need to learn from the past and look toward the future of our community.

Throughout the year we offer programs and events 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. As we work through this period of transition, we have limited or changed our offerings, but check this page for the latest information. Information about future programs and events also will be found on our website: www.goodenough.org and in future Village Views.

The Goodenough Community’s governing body, the General Circle
Currently meets monthly on Monday evenings, 7 PM on Zoom. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson.

The Women’s Program is a long-established and ever-growing way for women to enjoy each other’s company, learn about themselves as women, and even perhaps to experience the Divine Feminine. Meetings will resume in the fall. For information, contact Hollis Ryan.

The Third Age - Those aged 60 and older have customarily been gathering every other month, Friday evenings, at 7 PM by Zoom. 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. 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 Kirsten Rohde for more information.

Work and Play Parties Throughout the Year. Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work and play 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.