

The Village View

May 25, 2022

Hollis Ryan and Barbara Brucker, editors



Coming Up—

- **Memorial Day Weekend**, May 27- 30
- **Celebration of Colette’s Life**, May 29, 1pm
- **Intergenerational Team for Lab**, June 2 - 4
- **General Circle**, June 5, 7pm
- **Tent-Raising at Sahale**, June 10 – 12

Thresholds

Bill Scott

“At any time you can ask yourself: At which threshold am I now standing? At this time in my life, what am I leaving? Where am I about to enter? What is preventing me from crossing my next threshold? What gift would enable me to do it?”

These are the words of John O’Donahue, Irish poet, priest, Hegelian philosopher, and author. He describes thresholds in a way that takes me back to the threshold that was birthed out of our 2019 Human Relations Laboratory, a threshold created by our personal commitment to ourselves. Our dear friend Dyanne Harshman lovingly shepherded us each across and we have all lived on the other side of that threshold since then.

A new threshold has now emerged, in the light of the Goodenough Community’s loss of its last living co-founder, Colette Hoff, following the loss of its other co-founder John Hoff, four years prior.

Online News of the Goodenough Community System

www.goodenough.org

American Association for the
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Convocation: A Church and Ministry / Mandala Resources, Inc.

Sahale Learning Center / The EcoVillage at Sahale

John O'Donahue goes on, "a threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms, and atmospheres. Indeed, it is a lovely testimony to the fullness and integrity of an experience or a stage of life, that it intensifies toward the end, into a real frontier that cannot be crossed without the heart being passionately engaged and woken up. At this threshold a great complexity of emotions comes alive: confusion, fear, excitement, sadness, hope. This is one of the reasons such vital crossings were always clothed in ritual. It is wise in your own life to be able to recognize and acknowledge the key thresholds; to take your time; to feel all the varieties of presence that accrue there; to listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you forward. *The time has come to cross.*"

I love the line, "A threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms, and atmospheres." I find solace in those words. I wish solace for all friends, family and the community as they navigate this frontier. And those final words—"to take your time; to feel all the varieties of presence that accrue there; to listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you forward. *The time has come to cross.*"—they feel like a kind and wise encouragement for me, for us, and for this time.

Thank you, John O'Donahue.

John O'Donahue's poem "Thresholds" can be found in *To Bless the Space Between Us*.



Standing at a Threshold

Hollis Guill Ryan

Colette Hoff and her husband John Hoff set in motion a community that has been evolving for a remarkable 40+ years. When John died, only 4 years ago, Colette helped the community step over the threshold into the new space that was created by the loss of the community's dear co-founder.

As an intentional community we have, over decades, studied and learned from other intentional communities. How did they face into the challenges that arise from, for example, land ownership, relational troubles, the realities of a shared economic life, or the retirement or death of founders? We learned that any of those (and other) challenges could erode a community to the point that it could not continue and that many communities did indeed fall apart.

Although the Goodenough Community has had its own share of challenges in all those areas, the one area we have had the least obvious success in preparing for is the loss of our founders. Our succession plans were incomplete and fragile; how could we imagine a future without John and Colette?

Upon John's death, the community turned to Colette and formally asked her to serve as center of the community, as well as manager of the Sahale Learning Center. After consideration, Colette agreed to hold those positions, so long as she could share the responsibilities and be well supported by community leadership.

It was from these positions, leading from her heart and from her deep sense of service, that Colette helped the community stand at the new threshold and look hard at the space that lay on the other side. She understood that, although we could not know what lay over there, the choices we made as we crossed threshold would shape what we found further along.

None of us imagined what a brief time we would have before Colette would leave us standing at yet another threshold, a threshold beyond which lay a future where both our co-founders had died. As John O'Donohue says (quoted above by Bill Scott), such a critical threshold evokes emotions of all kinds: "confusion, fear, excitement, sadness, hope," and the heart must be passionately engaged for the crossing to be successful. And, sure enough, throughout the Goodenough Community, we hear passionate responses to Colette's death and heartfelt commitment to continue Colette's and John's legacies.

Now, a full month after Colette's death, as we pause at this threshold and look around us, we recognize how well Colette prepared us for this crossing. The multiple perspectives she held, the activities she oversaw, her gracious attitude and welcoming smile have all been picked up by others around her. Her feminine wisdom, her passion for learning, her commitment to our community lifeways have all been caught by others. True, no one will ever be another Colette. But Colette lives on in our hearts, in our minds, in our relationships, and what we have learned from her shapes us and benefits our community.

Yes, Colette took us over the threshold of John's death. And she prepared us well for her own death. As we stand at this threshold, we catch a glimpse of sunshine ahead. The community's future looks bright.

Thank you, Colette.

"Traveler,
there is no
path. The
path is made
by walking."

Anthony
Machado,
Spanish Poet

The future depends on what we do in the present.

Mahatma Gandhi

Recognition

The word spread about something her eyes began to whisper, and many gathered to receive her great gifts when her gaze turned their way.

And it did, for she looked upon all who came close to her as if she were seeing God. It was hard to believe the welcome she gave, but I guess that was natural, with her really knowing you.

What the sun in the sky can do for the earth, give it life as it does,

so can the eye bestow an equal grace to the heart when its vision naturally caresses a face out of recognition.

Who then does not know a moment of happiness? And more than that...then dance in some way, because of gratitude.

~ Hafiz



Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play.

~
Jane Goodall

*You are invited to a
Celebration of Life for*

Mary Colette Hoff

Sunday, May 29, 2022, 1:00 PM
*Sahale Learning Center
2901 NE Tahuya River Road, Tahuya WA*

*Please bring warm clothing, shoes for walking the land, and your
stories and memories of Colette
We also invite you to bring snacks and beverages to share*

Please RSVP

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson
Elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com

Keep an eye on your email for more details about this event.
Dinner will be served. Please RSVP so we can plan.
Thank you!



Memorial Day Weekend at Sahale Learning Center May 28-31

*We'll gather to care for Sahale, be together, and celebrate Colette on Sunday.
See below for details*

The Goodenough Community is hosting its annual work party weekend at Sahale this coming weekend. This year we will focus on preparing for Colette's Celebration of Life event on Sunday of the weekend, but there are plenty of things to be done in preparing for the upcoming summer. You are welcome to attend any part or all of the weekend. If you are planning to stay, please prepare to camp as all indoor accommodations are full. To help us plan for logistics and food, please RSVP to [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](#) by Friday, May 27. Thank you!

The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play.

-Arnold J. Toynbee, historian (14 Apr 1889-1975)



Now we (members and friends of the Goodenough Community) are taking a stand for love and equality. We will continue to speak out about the injustices in our country and in the world and to advocate for peace.

Today, we feature Alicia Garza who is the initiator of the Black Lives Matter Movement.



We shouldn't be focused on building a brand but building a movement that can succeed.'

Photograph: Jessica Chou/The Guardian

Alicia Garza is not synonymous with Black Lives Matter, the movement she helped create, and that's very deliberate. The 39-year-old organizer is not interested in being the face of things; she's interested in change. "We are often taught that, like a stork, some leader swoops from the sky to save us," she tells me over Zoom from her home in Oakland, California. That sort of mythologizing, she says, "obscures the average person's role in creating change".

Garza is also scornful of fame for fame's sake and of

celebrity activists. The number of people who want to be online influencers rather than do the work of offline organizing – knocking on doors, finding common ground, building alliances – depresses her. “Our aspiration should not be to have a million followers on Twitter,” she says. “We shouldn’t be focused on building a brand but building a base and building the kind of movement that can succeed.”

That doesn’t mean Garza doesn’t care about her image: for our interview, she has sneakily avoided having her webcam switched on, but only because she’s “doing a [skincare] face mask before your shoot today, so I didn’t want to scare you”. While Garza is ferociously smart, laser-focused on “pushing our political system to move from symbol to substance”, she also has a lighter side. She laughs often, draws you in; her passion is infectious.

The evolution of Black Lives Matter, Garza says, has been ‘deeply humbling, and super weird to watch’. The origin story of Black Lives Matter is one of collective, collaborative action rather than individual glory. After George Zimmerman was acquitted of fatally shooting Trayvon Martin, an unarmed black teenager, in 2013, Garza wrote a Facebook post she called “a love letter to Black people”. Her friend Patrisse Cullors shared the post with the hashtag BlackLivesMatter. Another friend, Opal Tometi, designed the blacklivesmatter.com website and social media platforms, using the signature black and yellow colour palette. Seven years later, that rallying cry has changed our lexicon and landscape. Black Lives Matter has been chanted by millions of protesters around the world. It has been painted in giant letters on a road leading to the White House, and posted on windows in primary schools in Northamptonshire.

The evolution of Black Lives Matter, Garza says, has been “deeply humbling, and super weird to watch”. Particularly considering she was repeatedly told, by everyone from pundits to peers, that the name sounded too threatening. “People said we should call it All Lives Matter or Black Lives Matter Too, if we wanted to get more people involved. There have been so many full-circle moments.”

Four years ago, nobody talked explicitly about Black Lives Matter during the Democratic National Convention, for example. But, Garza says, you couldn’t get through five minutes of this year’s without the movement being namechecked. What’s more, it’s being talked about with “more substance than we’ve seen before”. In the early days, many of the solutions being discussed in relation to the movement were “relatively symbolic measures, like mandating that the police wear body cameras, requiring implicit bias training and setting up police reform taskforces”. Now, however, there are serious discussions about defunding the police; about “whether or not policing keeps us safe. And that is a huge, huge change.” Those conversations aren’t just happening in the US, either; they’re happening around the world.

Garza attributes the movement’s global spread to two catalysts: Donald Trump and his overtly racist administration; and Covid-19, which meant people were more likely to be at home and glued to their screens when George Floyd was killed on camera. “Black Lives Matter is now in the muscle memory of many of us,” Garza says. “And it was triggered by watching a man murdered by a police officer, who stared into the camera as he did it.”

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Annual White Event Tent Raising

Y

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.



Mindful Mike's Blog: The Hope of Sahale

Mike deAnguera

My life's purpose is to live out a story. That is what makes me unique as a person. Therefore, a normal life is not desired. Why should I be like other people? Others can serve as models, but Mike needs to be a unique entity. That is why my career life turned out the way it did.

I did not raise a family unlike my brother, Paul, but I have the Goodenough Community instead.

If John and Colette Hoff had tried to be normal professional people, there would have been no Goodenough Community. None of us would be friends with each other and I would be a very lonely person.

Why didn't I get married? Is it possible a marriage would not have worked for me? For me it would mean being bound together like with bungee cords. As much as Kathleen Notley and I loved each other I am quite sure we would both have hated it. Our magic was living for the moment. Not making plans to be a couple.

Humans are supposed to come together to have children and create families, right? So why didn't I want that? It is enough that I didn't want it. But I gave no thought as to what I wanted. Absolutely none. My diary of the teen years shows that.

A predictable story like the others would not have interested me. I wouldn't even bother to open the book. I am looking for adventure. In my case the story is "When will Mike speak up for himself in all areas of his life as Mike?" Not as somebody else.

Could Paramhansa Yogananda be the Guru I follow without question? No, because he can't help me be Mike, but John Lawrence Hoff could be such a guide. John was willing to listen to me. I doubt the same was true for Yogananda.

Every creature and plant is unique. Every tree in a forest is different. When trees are planted in rows all at the same time their uniqueness disappears. Thus they become less able to fight off disease. They can't serve a habitat for various creatures.

Likewise the goal of our society is to make us all alike. That is the goal of education. So when I've finished I am just like all the others looking for work. I get lost in a crowd and have nothing to set me apart from the other candidates.

Why did I major in business administration while in college? Because it would make me employable somewhere out there. Just like all the others. So I never made use of my strengths. I had no idea what they were. I had no friends.

What can I offer as a teacher? Being a teacher is what enables me to fill out as a person. But the only models I had were schoolteachers. Since school was so unpleasant for me, I didn't want to be that kind of teacher. Teachers just throw stuff on a blackboard. Drawing a person out is impossible in a classroom. The teacher knows all the answers, right?

If I am a product of an educational assembly line, would you like my company? Probably not because I would be a very dull person. So my life was designed to force me to be unique. A drive inside growing through the years. A being that despised assembly lines as a way to grow people. Assembly lines are fine for producing goods at fast and furious rates but for growing people? Don't think so.

If I want to grow good people I need to provide good soil for them to grow in. Otherwise they won't grow. They will always be seeds.

If I am able to wake up maybe I won't be marched off to war so readily. Waging war is necessary only if I have to defend my homeland against an invader. Tyranny is only possible if we all think alike and get our information from the same sources.



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. 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 May and June. 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. For more information, contact [Hollis Ryan](#).



The Third Age - Those age 60 and older have been gathering monthly, Friday evenings, 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. 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 [Brucker Brucker](#) for Zoom information.

Spring Dates:

- June 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. This year's Memorial Day gathering will include a celebration of the life of Colette Hoff on Sunday, May 29.



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palette. Seven years later, that rallying cry has changed our lexicon and landscape. Black Lives Matter has been chanted by millions of protesters around the world. It has been [painted in giant letters](#) on a road leading to the White House, and posted on windows in primary schools in Northamptonshire.

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Between Black Lives Matter co-founders Opal Tometi and Patrisse Cullors in 2015. Photograph: Ben Baker/Redux/Eyevine

In particular, Garza says, the right has perpetuated the idea that success is purely a matter of personal responsibility. The message to poor people has been that it’s their laziness holding them back; the message to black people, that systemic racism doesn’t exist – the problem is their life choices. Worse, “the narrative of personal responsibility for systemic failures has often been used by Black leaders to secure their seat at the table,” Garza writes.

Garza knows a thing or two about being different. She was raised by her black mother and Jewish stepfather in Marin County, a predominantly white San Francisco suburb. She describes herself as queer. “Maybe it’s an outdated ass word,” she laughs, but adds that it’s a useful umbrella term for “being more fluid in who I’m attracted to and who I build intimate relationships with.” Garza is married to a trans man and activist, whom she met in 2003.

Difference, she notes, can be a source of strength and power; it can give you a vantage point with

“potentially more range and insight”. Yet the NGOs for which she worked after graduating from the University of California, San Diego seemed to have little room for difference: while the staff were mainly people of colour, those running the show were white. She moved into more grassroots organising, fighting for affordable housing in San Francisco’s black communities by building neighbourhood coalitions. This work, she says, changed the way she thought about politics. It was where she began to understand that winning is about more than being right; it’s about inviting people to be part of a change they may not have known they needed.

Black Lives Matter has certainly mobilised people; but its move into the mainstream hasn’t been without its issues. Garza accepts that the phrase has become a generic term that gets attached to anything related to police violence or black people. The decentralised nature of the organisation has contributed to the confusion.

Mistakes were also made as Black Lives Matter grew. It’s hard to build a plane while you’re flying it, Garza notes, and the organisation missed opportunities, such as developing clear demands to take on the 2016 campaign trail. Following eight years of a black president who hadn’t brought as much hope and change as he’d promised, many within the network were disillusioned with electoral politics and focused on direct action instead.

So Garza has taken the insight she has gained from Black Lives Matter and channelled it into a new organisation called [Black Futures Lab](#), which she launched in 2017. Protesting can only get you so far; now Garza wants politicians to feel as accountable to black people as they do to corporations. “Our work is purely focused on making sure that Black people are powerful in politics, so that we can be powerful in every aspect of our lives,” she explains.

Excerpted from The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/17/black-lives-matter-alicia-garza-leadership-today-doesnt-look-like-martin-luther-king>