



The Village View

May 19, 2021

Colette Hoff, Editor

Recovering Relationship Post Pandemic

Colette Hoff

Emergence was the theme that Kirsten chose last week when she was the guest editor of the Village eView. I especially appreciated her reference to emerging from the pandemic. I have noticed in many zoom meetings this spring that there is a hesitancy about relating or not going very far into relationship. My favorite morning news show (CBS) had a piece today about anxiety in relationship and so did NPR this afternoon. The pandemic has impacted the relational capacity of people and raised anxiety about being intimate. Psychologist, Lisa Damour, who was interviewed, suggested re-engaging small groups of people rather than larger groups. She suggested that anxiety can feel contagious but learning to manage the uncomfortable feelings will minimize the stress of anxiety. She also noted that anxiety is part of life and can be treated as one of our inner characters but be careful to avoid giving anxiety the last word. She also suggests to talk about the feelings of being uncomfortable with intimacy as you experience it. And as we know, that is being intimate.

The Human Relations Laboratory is being planned for an **in person event** and we are especially sensitive to helping relational skills be re-engaged. We can practice together going slow, joining each other and seeking understanding for each other. We can also decide to open our hearts and express our love and appreciation for each other.

Hollis sent a reference from the NY Times that also gives some perspective on how to think about re-entry after the pandemic. This article is helpful right now and encourages us to reflect on the impact of the pandemic and the conscious changes that we can make.

Upcoming Events,

- *Third Age, Friday May 21 on Zoom*
- *Pathwork, May 23 on Zoom*
- *Memorial Day weekend May 28 to 31, Sahale*

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 / The EcoVillage at Sahale

Need a Reset? Take the 10-Day Fresh Start Challenge By Tara Parker-Pope

Published May 11, 2021

Studies show that moments of disruption offer a unique opportunity to set and achieve new goals. If there was ever a perfect time to make a life change, this is it.

Behavioral scientists have long known that times of disruption and transition also create new opportunities for growth and change. Disruption can come in many forms, and it happens when life knocks us out of our normal routines. It can be moving to a new city, starting a new job, getting married or divorced or having a child. And for many of us, there's never been a bigger life disruption than the pandemic, which changed how we work, eat, sleep and exercise, and even how we connect with friends and family.

"I think this fresh start is really a big opportunity," said Katy Milkman, a professor at the Wharton School and author of the new book ["How to Change: The Science of Getting From Where You Are to Where You Want to Be."](#) "I don't know when we'll have another one like it. We have this blank slate to work on. Everything is on the table to start fresh."

Much of Dr. Milkman's research has focused on the science of new beginnings, which she calls "the fresh start effect." According to Dr. Milkman and her colleagues, we're most inclined to make meaningful changes around "temporal landmarks" — those points in time that we naturally associate with a new beginning. New Year's Day is the most obvious temporal landmark in our lives, but birthdays, the start of spring, the start of a new school year, even the beginning of the week or the first of the month are all temporal landmarks that create psychological opportunities for change.

Although the pandemic is far from over, for many people, the lifting of restrictions and getting vaccinated means planning vacations and returning to more-normal work and school routines. It's exactly the kind of psychological **new** beginning that could prompt the fresh start effect, said Dr. Milkman.

- **Dig deeper into the moment.**

"We have this opportunity with this blank slate to change our health habits and be very conscientious about our day," said Dr. Milkman. What is our exercise routine? There's an opportunity to rethink. What do we want a work day to look like?"

It's Not Too Late to Reset.

As the pandemic recedes, some people are worried that the past year of lockdowns, restrictions and time at home was a missed opportunity. While some people did develop healthy new habits during pandemic lockdowns, it's not too late if you spent your pandemic days just getting by. The good news is that the end of the pandemic is probably a more opportune time for meaningful change than when you were experiencing the heightened anxiety of lockdowns.

“Covid-19 was an awful time for many of us,” said Laurie Santos, a psychology professor at Yale who teaches an online course called [“The Science of Well-Being.”](#) “There’s lots of evidence for what’s called post-traumatic growth — that we can come out stronger and with a bit more meaning in our lives after going through negative events. I think we can all harness this awful pandemic time as a time to get some post-traumatic growth in our own lives.”

So What’s Your Next Chapter?

One of the biggest obstacles to change has always been the fact that we tend to have established routines that are hard to break. But the pandemic shattered many people’s routines, setting us up for a reset, Dr. Santos said.

“We’ve all just changed our routines so much,” she said. “I think many of us have realized during the pandemic that some of the things we were doing before Covid-19 weren’t the kind of things that were leading to flourishing in our lives. I think many of us were realizing that aspects of our work and family life and even our relationships probably need to change if we want to be happier.”

One reason *fresh starts* can be so effective is that humans tend to think about the passage of time in chapters or episodes, rather than on a continuum, Dr. Milkman said. As a result, we tend to think of the past in terms of unique periods, such as our high school years, the college years, the years we lived in a particular town or worked at a certain job. Going forward, we’re likely to look back on the pandemic year as a similarly unique chapter of our lives.

“We have chapter breaks, as if life is a novel — that is the way we mark time,” said Dr. Milkman. “That has implications for the psychology of fresh starts, because these moments that open a new chapter give us a sense of a new beginning. It’s easier to attribute any failings to ‘the old me.’ You feel like you can achieve more now, because we’re in a new chapter.”

Take the Fresh Start Challenge!

While the start of a new chapter is a great time for change, the pages will turn quickly. Now that we’re emerging from the restrictions of pandemic life, social scientists say it’s an ideal time to start thinking about **what you’ve learned in the past year**. What are the new habits you want to keep, and what parts of your pre-pandemic life do you want to change?

“It’s time to rethink your priorities,” said Dr. Milkman, who outlines more detailed steps for change in her new book. “We have to ask ourselves, ‘How am I going to schedule my time?’ We have a limited window to be deliberate about it, because pretty quickly, we’ll have a new pattern established, and we probably won’t rethink it again for a while.”

A good first step is to take our 10-Day Fresh Start Challenge. Sign up, and starting Monday, May 17, we’ll send one or two messages a day to prompt moments of mindful reflection, build stronger connections and take small steps toward building healthy new habits. You can text us, too! The challenge will include 10 daily challenges, with a break over the weekend.

To sign up, just text “Hi” or any word to 917-809-4995 for a link to join. (If you’re on your phone now, [tap here to send the text](#). Message and data rates may apply.) If you prefer not to text or live outside the United States, you can follow along on the website or app. Just bookmark this page and join us on May 17 for the first challenge.

“I think a lot of us have realized how fragile some of the things were that gave us joy before, from going to the grocery store, to going out to a restaurant with friends, going to a movie, giving your mom a hug whenever you’d like,” said Dr. Santos. “My hope is that we’ll emerge from this pandemic **with a bit more appreciation for the little things in life.**”

Editor’s Note: AND the relationships in your life that need more time, energy, and kindness.

Tara Parker-Pope is the founding editor of [Well](#), The Times’s award-winning consumer health site. She won an Emmy in 2013 for the video series [“Life, Interrupted”](#) and is the author of “For Better: The Science of a Good Marriage.” [@taraparkerpope](#)



Save the date!

This summer's Human Relations Laboratory will be held at
Sahale

August 8 to 14, 2021.

We are now planning for an **in-person** Lab.

Let Elizabeth know of your interest.



Third Age

Our next Third Age gathering is set for Friday, **May 21 at 7:00PM**, and we hope you'll be able to attend. We're planning to show a delightful short film which we think you will enjoy and maybe find inspiring. (We did.)

Our meeting will begin on Zoom at 7 p.m. and the Zoom link will be sent on Friday. Looking forward to seeing you. Warm regards, [Kirsten](#) and [Joan](#). Please RSVP by letting Joan know you are coming. joanvalles70@yahoo.com

Memorial Day Weekend @ Sahale

Colette Hoff & Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson

We are inviting you to spend time in person at Sahale over Memorial Day weekend, e.g., May 28 – 31. Sahale is inviting guests who are vaccinated; but if you are unvaccinated, we will make special accommodations for you.

Tasks for all abilities are identified. Bring your favorite work gloves and tools. *We must know in advance if you want to attend as space is limited.* If you would like to attend, please email [Colette](#) or [Elizabeth](#) as soon as you can and include the dates you are requesting to arrive and depart. *Thank you!*





Now we (members and friends of the Goodenough Community) are taking a stand for love and equality over all the expressions of racism and injustice and inequality against People of Color. We, as mostly white, will educate ourselves and learn to make a difference. We will continue to speak out about the racial injustice in our country.

3 Climate Activists Making Change in Their Frontline Communities

BIPOC leaders pursue visionary solutions proportional to the climate emergency we face.

BY MAIA WIKLER MAY 12, 2021

The year 2020 illustrated to the world that the overlapping issues of climate and racial justice can no longer be ignored. A pandemic that disproportionately killed people of color and record-breaking wildfires that displaced thousands unfolded amidst international protests for racial justice spurred by George Floyd's killing and the Black Lives Matter movement. We are living through the climate emergency every single day.

Communities that have contributed the least to the climate crisis are now bearing the brunt of its effects. Total emissions from 100 poor and vulnerable countries account for less than 5% of global emissions, according to the International Institute for Environment and Development, while the U.S. and China combined account for more than 40% of the world's carbon emissions. In the United States, Black, Indigenous, and people of color are at greater risk because they often live in areas exposed to environmental crises, such as areas prone to flooding and rising sea levels, and often are unable to access infrastructure needed to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather. The escalating climate crisis is a human rights crisis, evident in forced displacement and dispossession, along with impacts on access to food, water, housing security, and cultural identity. The world is increasingly at risk of "climate apartheid," where the rich pay to escape heat and hunger while the rest of the world suffers, states a 2019 U.N. report. According to the report, "States have marched past every scientific warning and threshold, and what was once considered catastrophic warming now seems like a best-case scenario." At this rate, incremental actions taken by most United States human rights bodies "are entirely disproportionate to the urgency and magnitude of the threat," the report states. The climate crisis is here; hundreds of thousands of people around the world are on the front lines dealing with its impact. Any notion that the climate crisis is "imminent" or "pending" is a privileged fallacy. Article continues on page 15





**YOU ARE INVITED
TO SAHALE
FOR OUR FIRST
PLANT SALE!**

**Delicious
Nutritious
Good for the Soul**

Welcome to the garden corner!
This spring the Natural System
Circle is hosting Plantapalooza!

The intention behind
this call to action:

- 1 Food security
- 2 Seed sovereignty
- 3 Developing a healthy relationship
with food

QUESTIONS

I hope to answer within and among community:

- 1 Where does our food come from?
- 2 How long does it take to grow one
vegetable?
- 3 What is the size of homegrown fruits
and vegetables?
- 4 What do homegrown fruits, and
vegetables taste like?
- 5 Why is having a direct relationship to
food important?

I would **love** to talk with anyone who is
finding that their enthusiasm is growing.



precious veggie, fruit & flower seedlings are

\$4



Please send your order to
marleyraelong@gmail.com
As you can see, supplies are
limited, dont miss out!
Please Order Today!



Veggies

VEGGIE BABIES	INVENTORY
Heirloom Broccoli (2 pack)	25
Bok Choy (2 pack)	10

FRUITS

FRUIT BABIES	INVENTORY
Banana Pepper	38
Mixed Cherry Tomato	36
Heirloom Tomato	30
Viva Italian Sauce Tomato	8

FLOWERS

FLOWER BABIES	INVENTORY
Tall Marigold (4 pack)	25
Calendula	22
Cosmo (2 pack)	4
Zinnia (2 pack)	2





Here is some information about clearcutting in Washington passed on by Teresa Jacobson

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

There has been an alarming uptick of clearcutting in Mason County, and no end in sight.

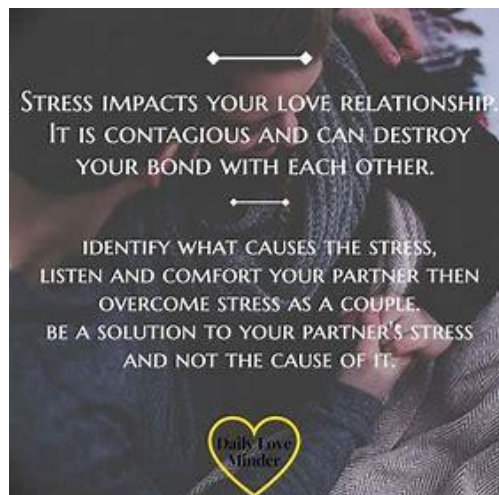
Here is the link to a petition to stop clearcutting in Mason County, WA, restore our shared waters and forests, and protect our community's future.

Can you join me and take action? Click here:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/lorax?source=email&>

We've been working hard on organizing to protect our forests! Stay tuned for our documentary, coming soon!

You can also find out more about the Lorax Coalition at wespeakforthe forests.org





Mindful Mike's Blog: Children's Dreams

Mike de Anguera

Presley Harrington left Sahale yesterday. She left me a gift: the fairy house the two of us spent the last several weeks working on. So far it survived the rain last night and our two fairies are still beautiful.

Last night I looked at my kids' book *The Tooth Fairy* by Shirley Barber. It caught my eye years ago when I bought it at a sale hosted in the Boeing Company Cafeteria. Such beautiful fairy pictures. I could not resist it. Thank heavens I still have it.



The fairy house looks great on my deck. Don't you agree? Wonder why I didn't make any fairy houses when I was a kid. Well my imagination was taken over with space travel and ferry boats. Stuff my folks bought for me. I watched *Star Trek* in TV.

There is something magical about fairies. They offer a playful doorway to our natural world. As I recall Jesus did say that we had to enter the kingdom of heaven like little children. Children are great at playing with stuff.

What do adults do? We go to church but do not play. No fairies and no magic. Instead we get to hear the story of a miracle worker over and over again. A ritual with a sermon.

Of course our little church in Tahuya is a wonderful way for the community to work together. We had a great fish fry last week. I love the way the community committed itself to keeping the church going through COVID.

Communities like Findhorn show that folks are serious about fairies. So is Mike Pilarski. I believe that's what introduced him to permaculture. I have to admit my interest in it dries up without the fairies and other nature spirits.

The nature spirits are at the very center of Hopi lives. I remember when I tried to grow corn stalks on my condo deck how that fizzled. Nobody to play with. So I wrote stories instead.

Once I lost my playmates I lost the best community creation tool I ever had. Now life is about working and paying the bills. A life of isolation for families and single adults. Imagine what single adults have to go through just to find an intimate friend. As kids we bonded together easily through our playing. I didn't have a chance to play until I did an exercise with the folks of Authentic Revolution.

In the neighborhood where I grew up we kids knew each other really well because we played with each other every day. By contrast our parents didn't know their neighbors at all.

Careers just don't seem to do it anymore for me. Maybe it is just getting older. Or maybe I am just learning about how isolating career life can be. Some big people such as Frank Lloyd Wright never retired at all. Ditto with Pablo Picasso. These folks created solitary ways to have fun. For me the real juice is having fun with my community friends. Pam and Elizabeth Jarrett Jefferson could have a party on the spur of the moment. That can happen only here. One of the results is Marley Long getting loved by Cooper.



Updated through June 2021

Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

*Because of our unpredictable times,
dates and descriptions shown represent our plans for now.*

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

Throughout the year our intention is to offer programs that help you participate in your own development, learn about relating well with others, and help you discover your potential to have a good time in life and with others.

Information about programs and upcoming events can be found on our website:

www.goodenough.org



The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle, meets twice monthly, 7:00 PM, via Zoom. Below are dates for our spring meetings:

- May 24
- June 14

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. 7:00 PM. With the pandemic, meetings are virtual. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information. May 21 is our next gathering

The Men's Program - Our Men's Circle is an expression of brotherhood and practice with wisdom, gathered from own lives, other men's work advocates and the founders of this circle. A weekend is planned from June 4 & 5, 2021.



Pathwork, a Program of Convocation: A Church and Ministry – Pathwork offers you a spiritual home in which to rest and to share your heart and mind as you move through these unpredictable times. We come together under the leadership of Pastor Colette Hoff and find support and encouragement as we clarify our personal goals and develop the practices we choose for a spirit filled life, gaining wisdom from the world's faith & wisdom traditions. All are welcome to join. Meetings are held via Zoom on alternate Sundays from 7pm to 9pm. Contact Colette: hoff@goodenough.org for Zoom information. **Note the next Pathwork will be May 23 and June 13.*



True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 4, 2021

We are planning our 2021 event! Hold this date on your calendar. We traditionally hold this event on Mercer Island. Stay tuned for details.



Human Relations Laboratory, August 8 to 14, 2021

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. This summer we will celebrate 52 years! Contact: Colette Hoff, hoff@goodenough.org

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 during these times of the Pandemic.

Quest: A Counseling and Healing Center



Our belief is that mental and emotional health is a prerequisite for spiritual wellbeing, 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 (206-755 8404) if you find you need to talk out your feelings regarding the pandemic crisis.*

Local Advertisements



BRUCE PERLER, GC
HANDYMAN SERVICES

licensed. insured. bonded. modesi816pq.

bruce_perler@hotmail.com

FB | [ProjectsBrucePerler](#)

206.419.8361



3 Climate Activists Making Change in Their Frontline Communities

Article continued from page 6

Activists agree climate justice will not come from corporations or market schemes because these are the structures responsible for causing the crisis in the first place. BIPOC communities and youth are leading visionary solutions proportional to the emergency at hand. From mutual aid efforts and record-breaking voter turnout to successfully halting pipelines, grassroots BIPOC leadership shows that collectively we can build a just world that will sustain us. Teen Vogue spoke with young women on the front lines of the climate crisis who are dedicated to supporting their communities to not only survive, but thrive.

Amber Tamm, Brooklyn, New York The agriculture industry, which in the U.S. was strongly tied to the institution of slavery, is one of the largest drivers of climate change. “When I think about my ancestors, they were eating ham hocks and pickled watermelon rind, very much slavery poor food,” says Amber Tamm, a 25-year-old farmer and healer from Brooklyn, New York. “Food justice was set out to talk about the inequities that the food system presents and then talk about the structural racism that’s there.... But we need more than a personal revelation of anti-racism. What are we doing to pivot around these structural oppressive systems so people can get access to what they need?”

Tamm’s work connects diverse communities with the earth and nourishing foods. From bringing her fresh produce to local markets to supplying communities with free food, she champions a local, regenerative food system that not only restores the environment but also restores the food security and well-being of communities of color.

For Tamm, the past year showed the power of local food and the disparities in the food system amplified by race and poverty. She witnessed her community struggle through increased hunger while also navigating disproportionate impacts of the pandemic. She was farming on a Brooklyn rooftop during the peak of the George Floyd protests. “The constant helicopters represented the noise and movement in the city. It left me questioning: ‘What am I actually doing?’”

The integrity and dedication of community organizers coordinating mutual aid throughout the pandemic and BLM uprisings became a source of energy and inspiration for Tamm. “Communities are not here for the clout, they’re doing the work because it needs to get done,” she explains. “I feel myself on the front lines by asking my community and the ones leading the way, ‘How can we as farmers support you?’”

Tamm’s partner, a pivotal source of inspiration, and members of her community helped set up 70 community fridges within three months. As Tamm explains, “Free food is a COVID response, free food should have been more heavily thought about before COVID, but hunger and food insecurity has increased by 38% during the [first two months of the] pandemic. With rent not being canceled and an inadequate stimulus package, people need free food. If rent can’t be canceled, then food has to be free. It’s one or the other.” The community fridges also address the systemic barriers associated with food banks. Some food banks require recipients to present

an ID and address. For undocumented people, accessing food can become a dangerous risk. “People shouldn’t be monitored to get access to food,” Tamm says.

Without barriers to access, the community fridges became a vital source of aid. Tamm described the fridges emptying just as quickly as they restocked. “People have to survive today, we are in the deep unknown now, weather-wise and government-wise, and as long as we are in this unknown, I want to know how I can feed people today,” Tamm says.

The urgency of the climate crisis presents itself in the mass hunger Tamm witnesses every day. “When I was living in New York, I was hungry for three days without access to produce.” Without community access to land to grow food, and with unpredictable seasons caused by climate change, sheer sustenance has become a privilege.

For Tamm, 2021 is the time to talk about structural influences that make it hard for food justice to happen. She explains, “Privileged people in power have the nerve so effortlessly to talk about what others need to do, like how Black people need to stop eating so much sugar to stop having diabetes. I wish it was that simple. I wish I could roll into the ‘hood and actually say that and have that be true. Privileged people can make 10-year climate action and anti-hunger plans because they know they will be good in 10 years. They are eating organic and regenerative food. I’m not in the space to think about 10 years; I need to make food accessible now.”

Helena Gualinga, Ecuadorian Amazon The Sarayaku people live along the Bobonaza River in the Ecuadorian Amazon. After large oil reserves were discovered on their sovereign lands two decades ago, the Ecuadorian government, without consultation or consent, conceded 60% of their land, along with other regions of the Amazon to petroleum companies. With oil activity came militarization, environmental destruction, and violence on Sarayaku territory.

The community has been adamant in its opposition to oil extraction and has a successful history of defending its territory. In 2003 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights recognized several human rights violations, including the detention of four community leaders who were tortured at a CGC oil facility by the Ecuadorian military and police, and the Inter-American Court on Human Rights handed down a sentence for these violations in 2012, according to Cultural Survival.

Helena Gualinga, a 19-year-old Kichwa youth from the Sarayaku community in Ecuador, is following in the footsteps of her community’s fierce intergenerational resistance and resilience.

Gualinga grew up around community advocacy, watching her mother, Noemi Gualinga, and aunt, Patricia Gualinga, a well-known leader and advocate for Indigenous rights and environmental justice. As she tells Teen Vogue, “Indigenous women have been fundamental in leading the fight in my territory; they were the ones who first said no. My mom is a leader in my community, she made it very clear to me to stay true to our identities. The way my mom and grandmother have been resisting their entire lives is strength.” Helena’s aunt Patricia, a leader in the Sarayaku community, has faced death threats for defending the rights of her people to protect the Amazon from the oil industry. Violence against the land is often connected to

violence against women. Women, especially Indigenous women, are at a higher risk when they fight to defend the land and water. “This is something that is very serious, especially in Latin America. People are losing their lives every day just to stand up for their rights and defend the environment,” Gualinga says.

For Gualinga, living on the front lines of the climate crisis means bearing witness to a multitude of injustices. “Everyone knows that people on the front lines have not contributed to the climate crisis; we have a sustainable way of living in an extremely respectful relationship to forests, rivers, and animals. We have always advocated for its defense from the oil corporations and industry. But we live with the consequences of what the climate crisis is causing,” Gualinga says.

In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, Gualinga’s community was flooded by heavy rains that washed away homes and infrastructure. “When the floods happened, my community was devastated, our community was unrecognizable.” The flood, spurred by climate change and the deforestation in the Amazon, is just one of many disasters communities in the region have endured. “People on the front lines have a very specific way of living that climate disasters easily disrupt. There have been many oil spills this year in Ecuador. People are still living with those consequences.” According to Gualinga, the government still has not provided support to the community to repair damage from the floods, bridges remain broken and the community has been left to coordinate canoes to help children cross the river to get to school each day. “We cannot [defeat] the consequences of climate change,” she reflects. “There is no way of stopping an enormous flood. We have this double fight going on that is the same enemy. We have to fight corporations and oil companies while climate change is knocking on our door, destroying our communities.”

Having witnessed the threats of climate change and corporate abuse, Gualinga feels a deep sense of responsibility. “As someone who grew up seeing everything that happened to my community and feeling what children from the forest feel when their home is threatened, it is part of my responsibility to my community and to the children growing up today to do something. That’s what keeps me going. Once you have seen something you cannot unsee it.”

While Indigenous communities protect and steward the vast majority of the world’s biodiversity, governments recognize less than 10% of Indigenous legal ownership of the world’s lands. A recent report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services involving more than 400 experts from 50 countries concluded that Indigenous knowledge and stewardship is necessary for a healthier world. Yet Indigenous communities around the world lack adequate safeguards to steward their own territories. “The way Indigenous communities live is part of the solution. We are a strong example of how it is possible to live without harming nature and ourselves. It comes down to values and how humanity views the world. There is a connection that has been lost. These values are what Indigenous people keep alive, we have that strong connection, and it’s important to share that.” Climate change and the impacts of the fossil fuel industry necessitate the social destruction and stigma of Indigeneity, Gualinga explains. “A tool for them to destroy us is to attack our identity to gain access to these territories.” Despite everything her community has faced, the Sarayaku have remained resilient. “We kept our culture alive, we kept our community together, our

traditions and visions are still alive. We have not let ourselves lose everything that makes the Sarayaku people the Sarayaku people. That is proof of how strong our people are; we are fighting and we are still here.”

Amber Brown, Dallas Amber Brown grew up understanding the importance of community. Her parents ran a homeless ministry, and every weekend she would join them to cook free meals throughout different parts of South Dallas. Now, at 27 years old, Brown has dedicated her career and time to advocating for climate justice in Texas as an organizer with the Sunrise Movement. Climate change in Texas has meant extreme weather change and events, like Winter Storm Uri, a climate disaster that struck in February, leaving millions without electricity, heat, and water for days during frigid temperatures.

As Brown explains, “We just experienced four seasons in a month with hailstorms and the freeze. We’ve never experienced it the way we have this past month, with it freezing and then summer weather the next week.”

The storm was dubbed “snowid” by locals for the dual crisis of the pandemic (Texas has seen nearly 3 million positive COVID cases), and the apocalyptic collapse of essential infrastructure during the snowstorm. The impacts of the disaster were exacerbated by corporate greed, systemic inequalities, and racism. As The Washington Post reported, “A vivid metaphor for the state’s entrenched inequities emerged Monday night: The illuminated Texas skylines of downtown buildings and newly filled luxury hotels cast against the darkened silhouettes of freezing neighborhoods.” Brown recalls, “It was like two different worlds. It was heartbreaking, that whole next week I cried almost every day. We were seeing homeless people sleeping in tents in snow, ice in apartments and walkways, thousands of people submitting requests for food.”

Brown began organizing support after hearing from friends who had lost power. Soon, her apartment became a place of refuge for people in her community to stay and cook meals. “All these requests started coming in, ‘Hey, I don’t have power, my water is out or it’s not safe to drink.’” Brown began calling shelters to see if they could provide support, but many had also lost power and had no way to feed people. “It started with us making food at my apartment for one of the shelters, and then the next day cooking for 200 people in my kitchen who didn’t have water. The next day, it was 1,400 people. Every day it escalated, we weren’t sleeping, I wasn’t working. It felt like we were trying to do FEMA’s job.”

Soon, a coalition of mutual aid formed as Brown brought together different grassroots organizations to coordinate their resources and strategies to be as effective as possible. Latin X’s program, Feed the Revolution, used funds raised by Sunrise to support cooking thousands of free meals for community members in dire need.

While millions of people suffered for days in freezing conditions without access to heat, water, and electricity, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R) jetted off to Mexico and Gov. Greg Abbott (R) told Fox News that “our wind and solar got shut down,” blaming green energy for the crisis. After the

Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the statewide power grid operator, ordered power cuts to avoid a total system collapse, rolling blackouts ensued.

Texas had time to prepare for this but chose not to. In 2011, a similar freeze resulted in 1 million people losing power. At the time, a federal report called for Texas to winterize the power grid, but that never happened. Ten years later, the failure of the state's power grid happened in large part because of privatization and Texas evading federal regulation of its power industry, The New York Times reported. "Our politicians are heavily influenced by the fossil fuel industry, at the end of the day for the fossil fuel industry profit is the bottom line for them while people without privilege are clearly suffering," Brown says. The Washington Post recently reported that "at least 13 members of the Texas Legislature who regularly weigh in on energy-related issues through their committee assignments draw some form of personal income from oil and gas."

As Brown tells Teen Vogue, "To be on the front lines of the climate crisis feels like our political leaders do not listen and do not care if we survive. I know young people feel that in Texas. I think as young people, our experience in this climate crisis is enough and should empower all of us to get involved. Our future needs to be us deciding, not these folks deciding for us. We have seen the crisis in this snowstorm and it is only going to get worse."

This story originally appeared in Teen Vogue and is republished here as part of Covering Climate Now, a global journalism collaboration strengthening coverage of the climate story.

MAIA WIKLER is an anthropologist, climate justice organizer, and writer whose work has appeared in Teen Vogue and VICE. She is also directing a short documentary film, supported by The North Face, featuring the Gwich'in women who are leading the fight to protect the Arctic Refuge. Maia was recently selected as a National Geographic Early Career Explorer to document cross-border stories about the threats to wild salmon from mining in Northern British Columbia.