



MATURITY

The Village eView

April 13, 2016

Kirsten Rohde, Guest Editor

Calendar of Events:

Pathwork – Sunday, April 24

Council – Monday, April 25

Relational Group – Tuesday, April 26

Third Age – Friday, April 22

Women's Weekend – May 13 to 15

Maturity: The Word

Hollis Ryan

What does maturity imply? Let's go to some sources.

For example, Roget's *Thesaurus* says that as a noun, it means development, mellowing, ripening, seasoning. As a verb it means a person matures or grows, develops, feathers or fledges, comes of age, comes into the years of discretion, cuts one's eye teeth or wisdom teeth. And as an adjective, it describes a person who is adult, out of one's teens, big, grown, fully developed, full-fledged, in full bloom, old enough to know better.

Etymologically, "mature" comes from the Latin and signifies earliness. It is related to the words for morning and dawn, and means "to ripen." Similarly, the word "grow," which literally means "to become green," means to ripen.

What do teeth have to do with maturity? According to Brewer, "He has cut his eye-teeth means he is wide awake and has acquired worldly wisdom, is quite sophisticated. The eye-teeth

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

cut late, the first set at about 16 months and the second set at 12 years.” Likewise, “to cut your wisdom teeth” means to reach the age of discretion.

Notice that “growing up” and “maturity” do not mean growing old. They mean ripening, seasoning, getting better. According to these sources, growing and maturing happen early in life, whether a person chooses to do so, or not.

But what is the good of growing older without choosing to grow up? Does growing up really happen aimlessly, without consciousness, without a choice or decision? Legally, a person may have reached the age of discretion, be old enough to know better, but is that person actually mature?

Look around you at the people you know. Who attracts you the most? What are their traits, their qualities? Whom do you admire and wish to emulate? Is it possible that these characteristics are signs of maturity? And is it possible that these mature qualities were consciously sought, nurtured, and developed?

I would like to tell you what I think your answers to my questions should be, but I’ll leave the questions with you to ponder, along with one more:

How are you choosing to ripen yourself?



“He had learned some of the things that every man must find out for himself, and he had found out about them as one has to find out--through error and through trial, through fantasy and illusion, through falsehood and his own damn foolishness, through being mistaken and wrong and an idiot and egotistical and aspiring and hopeful and believing and confused. Each thing he learned was so simple and obvious, once he grasped it, that he wondered why he had not always known it. And what had he learned? A philosopher would not think it much, perhaps, and yet in a simple human way it was a good deal. Just by living, by making the thousand little daily choices that his whole complex of heredity, environment, and conscious thought, and deep emotion had driven him to make, and by taking the consequences, he had learned that he could not eat his cake and have it, too. He had learned that in spite of his strange body, so much off scale that it had often made him think himself a creature set apart, he was still the son and brother of all men living. He had learned that he could not devour the earth, that he must know and accept his limitations. He

realized that much of his torment of the years past had been self-inflicted, and an inevitable part of growing up. And, most important of all for one who had taken so long to grow up, he thought he had learned not to be the slave of his emotions.”

— Thomas Wolfe, *You Can't Go Home Again*



A conversation with John: What are the qualities of maturity?

Kirsten Rohde

One thing about being retired is having the time for some good conversations. I like using the weekly theme of the eView to have conversations with John. I asked him what he would say about the theme of maturity:

Maturity has to do with development, fulfillment, intelligence, not only intellectual but emotional intelligence. Maturity is something that is responded to and noticed by others, i.e. it is not something that you can claim yourself as much as it is something that others see in you. Others notice that you fulfill certain qualities of being mature. Some ways mature people are recognized is as quiet, serious, steady, having strength and wisdom.

John, when in your life did the word “mature” first come to you?

When I first studied child development, where the maturity of a child had to do with whether they were older than their age range would indicate or younger. Also when I was about 12 or 13 others thought that I was mature for my age and I think that was because of living in the bush. I showed that I was confident in taking care of myself in the woods, capable and able to handle life as it presented itself to me.

When you were older did you find different ways of looking at the meaning of maturity?

I remember an early relationship, my first girlfriend. We went together quite a bit and I liked her a lot. But we had a different view of maturity. She was from a wealthy family and seemed to define maturity as having money. I didn't have much money then so that difference got in the way of our relationship.

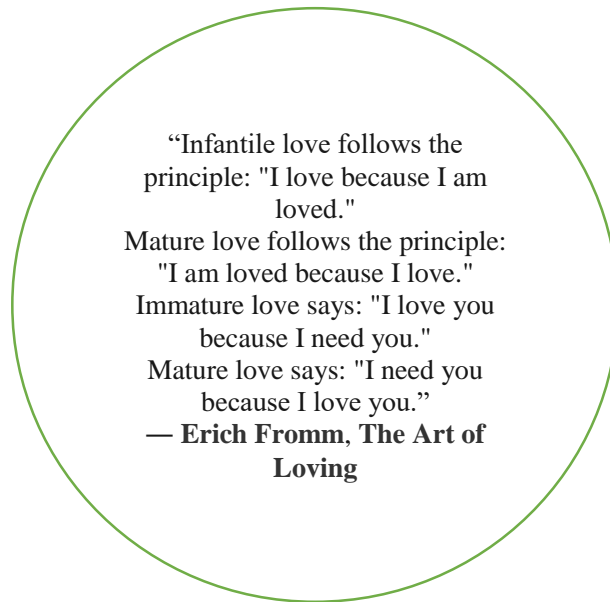
I think it is true that you can be very mature in one area of life and less so in another. For example, a couple may be mature in some ways that our society values, such as being able to own a house and hold a job. But if a couple doesn't have good personal definitions of maturity then they don't have a good basis for coaching their children on maturity

I'd say that maturity also has to do with self-control, self-management, and self-fulfillment.

The quality of a self is to be a focused, purposeful person. It includes the ability to accomplish, to communicate clearly, being aware of oneself and how one is functioning. A mature person would want to know how they're doing, seeking out feedback from others.

Another way to look at this issue is in the context of community. A good society that is well-developed is invested in maturity. People in such a society or community see this as a social value. A goal of such a community supports the ideal of being our best selves. A serious society has defined maturity and is invested in helping people mature. As people are reflective inwardly and socially the community is also able to be self-reflective.

A mature person is also able to feel free and handles freedom well. Freedom is an unpleasant demand for an immature person and can raise anxiety. A mature person is energized at the potentials of freedom and is positively challenged in the face of freedom.



Growing Up – Age Has Nothing to Do With It **Hollis Ryan**

"I may be growing older, but I refuse to grow up."

How many times have you seen or heard this slogan? It always prompts me to ask myself, "Why? What do people think growing up means? Does it mean no more fun? Too much work and responsibility? What is wrong with becoming mature?"

Growing up is a process that is filled with adventure. It is a path that loops back on itself, with predictable passage points and completely unexpected twists. It is the same for every human being, yet completely unique to each individual. It is a journey that never ends.

The predictable and universal stages of growing up are illustrated in the women's archetypes that we women in the Goodenough Community refer to: Maiden, Mother, Guardian, and Crone. Men have similar – but not the same – stages in their development. A Maiden, or young woman, grows up by learning to be on her own and seeking her own identity apart from her family, sweethearts, and buddies. A Mother learns to create and nurture something beyond herself, whether that is a family, a career, or other creative endeavor. A Guardian recognizes a life beyond her own nuclear family or creative efforts and leans into a more global community. And, finally, a Crone looks back on her life, gleaned its meaning, sharing her legacy, and preparing herself for the end of life.

Do these stages happen sequentially? No. Not usually. And not completely. I, for example, matured early and missed my adolescence almost entirely. I moved directly from my parents' home to an *in loco parentis* college, and from there to my husband's home and youthful motherhood. I sought out and took on the responsibilities of an older woman without experiencing the freedom and identity-seeking tasks of youth. As a mother, I learned to care deeply for others, without yet knowing how to care so much for myself. Then, as I stood on the threshold of middle age and with an empty nest, Adolescence grabbed my hand and invited me out on the dance floor. I had a blast! I often think that I could never have had so much fun as an actual teenager. And, with the depth of life experience that I could not have had as a teenager, I learned more deeply who I am as an individual, as a woman.

And, yet, my experience of being a mother could have been deepened had I learned more about myself first. Eventually, I revisited motherhood as I raised a stepdaughter while in my later years. Although it was a tough experience, I weathered it well and helped raise a remarkable young woman because I had matured even more since my first experience of mothering and because I allowed this new experience to help me continue to grow up.

Generally, one needs to have life experience in order to grow up in each stage of life. So, usually we do not see youth who have the maturity of old age. Yet, I have known young adults who, in facing the probability of their own death, have shown more Elder-Wisdom than I have even now at my own advanced stage of life.

What are the benefits of maturity? Probably each individual would have to answer that question. For me, calm self-confidence has come to me only from having allowed my life to teach me and from accepting the truth of life's lessons. I treasure my self-assuredness because when I was younger, I lacked a sturdy belief in myself, my worth, and my capabilities.

Another benefit of maturity that I see in myself and in others is the ability to unify and integrate my sub-selves, no longer being in the sway of passing moods. Although I still experience a mood from time to time, moods do not dictate my inner life and rarely intrude on my peace of mind.

What are the traits you wish to develop in yourself? How are you developing them? What you do in life to develop character is your personal path to maturity. You can choose that path, or you can refuse to grow up. I assure you that life will be better and you will be a more interesting human being if you choose to let your life grow you up.

“We do not grow absolutely, chronologically. We grow sometimes in one dimension, and not in another; unevenly. We grow partially. We are relative. We are mature in one realm, childish in another. The past, present, and future mingle and pull us backward, forward, or fix us in the present. We are made up of layers, cells, constellations.”

— Anaïs Nin

Maturity:

Level headed,
Wisdom
Sense
Responsibility
Discriminating
allowing feeling/recognizing emotions
fully developed
growing older inside
reflective
interested in others
aware of self
soulful
grateful to be alive

*Next week's eView
theme:
Proactivity*

“In a desperate attempt to stay young forever we have achieved eternal childishness, rather than eternal youth.”

— Daniel Prokop, Leaving Neverland: Why Little Boys Shouldn't Run Big Corporations



The deAnguera Blog:

Tukwila House Sitting



If you want some quiet alone time to think about life I would recommend house sitting, especially in neighborhoods you are not familiar with. You have the whole place to yourself with no distractions.

Part of maturity is being able to take a bigger perspective of one's life. I notice now this is something I could not do when I was a young person.

I also notice having a greater interest in the homes around us wondering what the lives of our neighbors were like. I was most drawn to the simpler smaller weather beaten homes. I am very much interested in Tukwila's history. The name Tukwila comes from the Chinook jargon word for "nut". The hazelnut is the city's symbol.

Last week I house sat for Jim Tocher, Barbara Brucker, and Joan Valles. They really have found a nice home that's just right for them. An early 1950's brick rambler like those above the ferry dock in Fauntleroy. A huge corporate office park is just across the street.

Tukwila is a working class suburb letting it all hang out. You can find everything from single wide mobile homes to some very fancy split levels. The lots are much larger than those in Seattle. Some had Riverton Creek flowing through them while at least one home had a waterfall in the backyard. Another home had a backhoe parked out in front. A rooster crowed two blocks away from where I house sat.

A very nice community center fronts the Duwamish River with space for all kinds of activities. It is fairly new and well maintained with beautiful green lawns featuring Canadian geese. There is a gym as well as a soccer/baseball field.

A lot of industry is also present in Tukwila along with corporate office parks. Industries and homes can be right next to each other. I am a great fan of industrial grunge and love the faded siding of the old buildings.

Boeing Employee's Credit Union has their head office here. It is right by the Green River Trail which goes for miles along both the Green and Duwamish Rivers. Jim and Barbara will enjoy biking on this trail.

I spent a lot of time hiking along the Green River Trail and at times I felt like I was in a small river town. I suppose there was a time when that's what Tukwila was. Other times I walked right underneath I-5 where it swings from one side of the Duwamish to the other. BSNF freight trains lumber by. A lot of restoration work is happening along the trail near BECU which it sponsors.



This old church caught my eye, especially from across the Duwamish River. I like how it stands tall and proud with its weather beaten exterior.

"One of the signs of passing youth is the birth of a sense of fellowship with other human beings as we take our place among them."

— Virginia Woolf

"It must be wonderful to be seventeen, and to know everything."

— Arthur C. Clarke, 2010: Odyssey Two

Community News

By Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson

Birthdays

□ **Happy birthday, Sarah Boone – April 20!**



"The corn hasn't quite matured if it's still reading Ayn Rand."



"Don't forget to cancel my subscription to 'Modern Maturity.'"

Cultural Programs & Events in 2016

***All programs and events are open to the public.** We welcome your interest and participation. For the Goodenough Community, cultural life is an arena for creative expression.*

“Community is a word that captures the fullness and wholeness of humans together.”

■ Colette Hoff

The Goodenough Community organizes its cultural life around encouraging human development—through our programs for men, women, committed couples, families and around age groupings. Cultural programs usually encourage maturity, responsibility, and the development of valued relationships. Some of our programs bring everyone together with a seasonal emphasis. Following, are program offerings for the next period on our calendar.

Programs & Events:

Third Age Gatherings	Women’s Culture
The Men’s Culture	Human Relations laboratory
Family Enrichment Network	Sahale Summer Camp

Third Age Gathering: Next Meeting Friday, April 22, 2016

The next Third Age gathering will be on Friday, April 22, at the Community Center in West Seattle (3610 SW Barton St.). The evening will allow time for conversation and what we'd like for the Third Age culture.

As has become customary, our gathering will start with potluck dinner at 6 p.m. A main dish will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert and beverages of your choice to share. An RSVP to Joan (joanvalles70@yahoo.com) or phone at 206 819 1089 would be helpful.



Goodenough Community Women's Program Further Along the Path to Freedom

The women's program of the Goodenough Community 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.

As a centering point, each gathering builds upon a theme which, this year, is "Further Along the Path to Freedom." The theme opens up a way for us to look inside ourselves and to share whatever we want our companions to know.



Our gatherings throughout the year include a time of introspection, a time of gathering and joining with others, and plenty of time to listen to others and to share your heart. We often sing, chant, and dance. We find that opening ourselves to other women is indescribably satisfying and uplifting. Each woman is free to participate to the extent that is right for her.

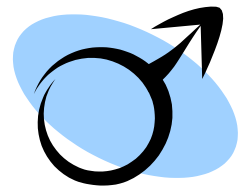
You are invited to join us at our women's weekend in May at Sahale, the community's retreat center near Belfair, Washington. We begin on Friday evening, May 13 and conclude on Sunday afternoon. Accommodations are comfortable, the food is delicious, and the company of women is refreshing, relaxing, and energizing.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Men's Program

Theme: Friendship among Men

Men's Program



We're an open gathering of men friends, some old and some new. Have a look at our (slightly outdated) [men's page](#) on the website to know a little more about our culture.

Let me know of your interest: bruce_perler@hotmail.com or 206.419.8361

Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 to 30 at Sahale Learning Center

Join us for a weekend of well-organized work parties balanced with play, wholesome meals, hot tubbing and relaxation. The only charge is a donation for food.

Putting Up the White Tent one more time!

On the weekend of Friday June 10 and Saturday June 11 we will put up our Gathering Tent. Mark your calendar!



Sahale Summer Camp for 9 to 12 Year Olds

June 26 to July 2, 2016

<http://www.goodenough.org/camp.htm>

Sahale Summer Camp is entering its 11th season! We invite youth aged 9 to 12 to join us for 6 nights and 7 days of fun living in nature at Sahale Learning Center.

We enjoy a program rich in experiences just right for this age zone. Youth enjoy traditional camping experiences with our tent village set up around a giant campfire pit for evening programs complete with stories, singing, s'mores and friends under a canopy of stars.

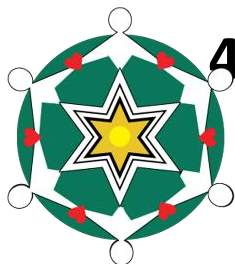


We teach skills of outdoor living and provide experiences which help you get to know yourself and have confidence making friends. We also impart a gentle sense of responsibility for caring for each other and the land. We do this through natural activities of taking and being part of small clans that spend time each day getting to know each other and



care of camp
together
working

A training program for 13 to 17 year olds is also included and is an excellent opportunity for leadership training. For more information, see [The Junior Staff Training Program](#). Please contact Irene Perler for more information - 206.419.3477 or irene_perler@hotmail.com.



48th Human Relations Laboratory

August 7 to 13, 2016

Transformation Happens Here

**Seven days of rich experiential learning and
social creativity within a community**

Sahale Learning Center on the Kitsap Peninsula

Register now at www.goodenough.org – space is limited

Useful for marriage, a resource for families, and
a kick in the pants for personal development.

An event designed to encourage human development

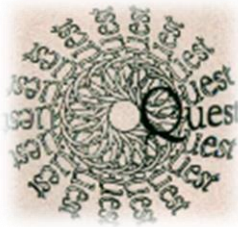
- Inspire your desire to be a better person.
- Facilitate your personal mastery and relational development.
- Practice interpersonal skills and experience community formation.

“Transformative and rejuvenating!” Lab participant, 2015

Enjoy social creativity in play, drama, dance, music, song, and conversation. Each day includes time to explore the magical land of Sahale.

To register: www.goodenough.org

To learn more: (360) 275-3957



Quest: A Counseling and Healing Center

Our belief is that mental and emotional health is a prerequisite for spiritual well-being, collaboration, and the expression of compassion. Quest’s counseling and education programs, open to all interested individuals, focus on empowering individuals, couples, and family groups to be happier and be more effective in relationships.

Call John (206 963-4738), Colette (206-755 8404) or Colette and John at Sahale – 360 275-3957. In Seattle, John and Colette meet with clients at the new community center, 3610 SW Barton Street, Seattle 98106, as well as at Sahale.