

The Village View

December 15, 2021

Colette Hoff, Editor

Relationalism

Colette Hoff

This past weekend, our General Circle met for an extended time in person at Sahale. We needed more time together to build our relationships as well as get some work accomplished.

Pam Jarrett-Jefferson, who is the current facilitator of the General Circle, distributed a scanned copy of the last section of the book, **The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life** by David Brooks. This book introduces the word, relationalism, a word that John Hoff would have appreciated. Relationalism describes the way of life that is community-based on the desire for “thick” relationships and caring for the whole rather than the ego-centered individualism that puts individual needs ahead of the needs of the group. I also found a web site from the Aspen Institute titled: Weave: The Social Fabric Project initiated by David Brooks, NY Times columnist.

Weave: The Social Fabric Project began with the idea that America’s social fabric is being ripped to shreds by distrust, loneliness, alienation, inequality, racism, spiritual emptiness and tribal enmity. But we also knew that there are people fighting these scourges, successfully, at the local level all across America. We wanted to learn what they could teach us. We wanted to shine a light on their examples and magnify their effect. **We believe relationships can transform our lives and our communities... and ultimately mend our deeply divided nation. We work in our neighborhoods and towns to create connections and lead with love.**

The following document is just one piece of the effort to create cohesion and a sense of common identity among the many Weavers across America. It’s not an attempt to tell the common story, or

Coming Up—

Pathwork, Sunday, December 19 –
7PM ***This is a change***

***Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve
at Sahale***

On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System

www.goodenough.org

American Association for the Furtherance of Community
Convocation: A Church and Ministry / Mandala Resources, Inc.
Sahale Learning Center / The EcoVillage at Sahale

provide a common symbol or arouse common emotions. This is simply the beginning of an attempt to lay out a common creed. What you are about to read is the first draft, of what we think of as the Weaver's creed. It is a rough attempt to articulate the ideas behind this movement. An earlier version of this manifesto appears as the conclusion of David Brooks forthcoming book, "The Second Mountain," Included in this article are excerpts of the Relationalist Manifesto and hope to peak your interest to explore the web site of the Aspen Institute, [The Relationalist Manifesto - The Aspen Institute](#).

The Relationalist Manifesto highlights the different perspectives that come from the current focus on individualism. "In our age, by contrast, the self is inflated and the collective is weak. We have swung too far in the direction of individualism. The result is a loss of connection—a crisis of solidarity. Hyper individualism erodes our obligations and responsibilities to others and our kind."

Hyper-Individualism is a system built upon the egoistic drives within each of us. These are the self-interested drives—the desire to excel; to make a mark in the world; to rise in wealth, power, and status; to win victories and be better than others. Hyper-individualism does not emphasize and eventually does not even see the other drives—the deeper and more elusive motivations that seek connection, fusion, service, and care.

"The hyper-individualist finds himself enmeshed in a network of conditional love. I am worthy of being loved only when I have achieved the status or success the world expects of me. I am worthy of love only when I can offer the other person something in return. I am what the world says about me. In the end, hyperindividualism doesn't make people self-sufficient and secure. It obliterates emotional and spiritual security by making everything conditional. It makes people extremely sensitive to the judgments of others and quick to take offense when they feel slighted."

"Modern society needs a moral ecology that rejects the reigning hyper-individualism of the moment. We need to articulate a creed that puts relation, not the individual, at the center, and which articulates, in clear form, the truths we all know: that we are formed by relationship, we are nourished by relationship, and we long for relationship. Life is not a solitary journey. It is building a home together. It is a process of being formed by attachments and then forming attachments in turn. It is a great chain of generations passing down gifts to one another."

"The hyper-individualist sees society as a collection of individuals who contract with one another. The relationalist sees society as a web of connections that in many ways that precede choice. A hyper-individualist sees the individual as a self-sufficient unit; The relationalist says, A personality is a movement toward others."

As adults, we measure our lives by the quality of our relationships and the quality of our service to those relationships. Life is a qualitative endeavor, not a quantitative one. It's not how many, but

how thick and how deep. Defining what a quality relationship looks like is a central task of any moral ecology.

Relationalism is not a system of ideas. **It is a way of life.** Relationalism is a viewpoint that draws from many sources, from Edmund Burke and Martin Luther King, Jr., from Martin Buber and Dorothy Day and Walt Whitman, from Jacques Maritain, Emmanuel Mounier, Martha Nussbaum, and Annie Dillard to Gandhi and William James.

While the individualist operates by straight forward logic, the relationist listens to the higher callings of the heart and soul. The relationist tries to see each individual as a whole person—body, mind, heart, and soul.

The line between ego and soul runs down the middle of every person. Most of us, from time to time, buy into a workaholic ethos that leaves us with little time for relationship. Most of us, from time to time, hue to a code of privacy that prevents us from actually knowing the people who live right nearby. Most of us live with technology that aims to reduce friction and maximize efficiency. **Relationship, though, is inherently sticky and inefficient.** Most of us, daily, slip back into self-absorption, succumb to the hunger for status, and have to recognize that and dive back into relation.

The relational life is a challenging life but ultimately it's a joyful life, because it is enmeshed in affection and crowned with moral joy.

It can easily be said that the Goodenough Community is a relationalist organization. Hollis wrote last week, "Love is what it is all about!" Notice if there are ways to put more energy into relating during the holiday season and beyond. Consider sharing a story about what you did.



This poem is a gift to you with love from the eView editorial staff, Colette, Elizabeth, Kirsten, Hollis, Joan, Barbara, Marjenta and Rose.

These Are My Holiday Wishes for You Sandra Sturtz Hauss

May you find serenity and tranquility in a world you may not always understand.
May the pain you have known and the conflict you have experienced give you the strength to walk through life facing each new situation with courage and optimism.
Always know that there are those whose love and understanding will always be

there, even when you feel most alone. May you discover enough goodness in others to believe in a world of peace. May a kind word, a reassuring touch, and a warm smile be yours every day of your life, and may you give these gifts as well as receive them. Remember the sunshine when the storm seems unending. Teach love to those who know hate, and let that love embrace you as you go into the world. May the teachings of those you admire become part of you, so that you may call upon them. Remember, those whose lives you have touched and who have touched yours are always a part of you, even if the encounters were less than you would have wished. It is the content of the encounter that is more important than its form. May you not become too concerned with material matters, but instead place immeasurable value on the goodness in your heart. Find time in each day to see beauty and love in the world around you. Realize that what you feel you lack in one regard you may be more than compensated for in another. What you feel you lack in the present may become one of your strengths in the future. May you see your future as one filled with promise and possibility. Learn to view everything as a worthwhile experience. May you find enough inner strength to determine your own worth by yourself, and not be dependent on another's judgment of your accomplishments. May you always feel loved!



Holiday Planning



Christmas Day Open House at Sahale

Join us at Sahale on **Christmas day** in the afternoon and welcome others to join. **Happy hour is at 4pm** with dinner to follow. We will provide the main dishes and invite anyone coming to bring a beverage, dessert, or side dish. **Please RSVP to Elizabeth Jarrett** <elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com> You are welcome to spend the night.

We will host a fun gift exchange full of surprises that everyone can join in, regardless of age or economic means. If you are planning to come to join us for Christmas at Sahale, please bring one creative gift that is wrapped but doesn't need any tags. Just a wrapped gift. We will have a game for exchanging these gifts. There is no need to spend anything; you are encouraged to make something as a gift! If you do purchase a gift, please limit spending to less than \$15. Guaranteed to be fun and you'll learn more about your friends and what kinds of things they are drawn to when the game play begins!



New Year's Eve at Sahale, 2021 – 2022. Friday, December 31, will be New Year's Eve and Saturday will be New Year's Day. This is a time to honor the year's passing and the new year to come. It is a combination of playing and reflecting together. Games, poems, music, good food, laughter, relaxation, and thoughtful conversation are all usually part of our time at Sahale as the new year arrives. Consider coming anytime on December 31 and stay through

January 1. **Make your plans now, especially if you would like specific sleeping accommodations.** Email **Elizabeth Jarrett** <elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com> to **RSVP**. A suggested donation of \$35.00 per night will cover expenses.

New Year's Day 2022 at Sahale

Sam Staatz

First off, it's next year; New Year's Day. January 1.

Next up. I get it. We're in Advent. Christmas, that is. I'm not the one skipping holidays here. It's the stores; they're already putting up their Independence Day decorations. Just sayin'.

Oh, I see I've lost you. New Year's Day. You're thinking it's the holiday after Christmas. Nope. It's the eighth day of Christmas. Complete with eight maids a milking, 23 assorted birds, and five rings. Unless you're in the South. There it's black-eyed peas, collard greens, and corn bread.

This New Year's Day skip the birds, maids, and rings and come on by for some black-eyed peas,

collard greens, and corn bread. I'm even cooking up a mess of hoppin' John and some boiled peanuts.

The specifics:

- Three o'clock on January 1, 2022 y'all c'mon by Sahale, now y'hear.
- As far as RSVPs go, I start cooking early. Early, as in December 30 early. Meaning, I do my grocery shopping the day before. In other words, please RSVP by five o'clock on December 28. This will let me get my act as close to together as it's ever going to get.
- Here is where here is:
 - 2901 Tahuya River Road, Tahuya, WA 98588
- RSVP to me, Elizabeth Jarrett (elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com), or Colette Hoff (hoff@goodenough.org). When you do so, we'll send you directions to get here. It's just an hour from the Southworth or Bremerton ferry terminals (or from Gig Harbor, for those thinking of driving around). In your RSVP, let us know if you'd like to spend the night.

Cheers,

Sam

Sam Staatz (mrstaat@gmail.com)



You Responded: a Winter Bus Trip to Leavenworth January 15 th is a great idea!

For the past many years we have offered a magical experience with friends & family where we journey via a chartered bus through the mountains to Leavenworth, stopping along the way for snow play. We will monitor Covid and take that situation seriously in any planning.



We have heard from Eagle Creek that it is unavailable to us this year. We will plan to be in Leavenworth for a longer period of time. The schedule will be available next week.

Our cost includes transportation:

\$90 – Adults (18 and older)

\$70 - Children (13 to 18)

\$50 - Children (3 to 12)

Children under 2 free

For more information or to register by phone, please call Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson at 206-313-9803. Family rates are negotiable.



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 Black people. 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.

Continuing with the Relationalist Manifesto are points about what makes a good society. These points incorporate the intention of this column.

THE GOOD SOCIETY

1. As T. S. Eliot observed, the chief illusion of modern political activity is the belief that you can build a system so perfect that the people in it do not have to be good. The reality is that democracy and the economy rest upon a foundation, which is society. **A society is a system of relationships.** If there is no trust at the foundations of society, if there is no goodness, care, or faithfulness, relationships crumble, and the market and the state crash to pieces. If there are no shared norms of right and wrong, no sense of common attachments, then the people in the market and the state will rip one another to shreds as they vie for power and money. Society and culture are prior to and more important than politics or the market.

2. In this day and age, our primary problems are at the level of the foundations. They are at the level of the system of relationships. Our society has been spiraling to ever-higher levels of distrust, ever-higher levels of unknowing and alienation. One bad action breeds another. One escalation of hostility breeds another.

3. The call of relationalism is to usher in a social transformation by reweaving the fabric of reciprocity and trust, to build a society, as Dorothy Day put it, in which it is easier to be good.

4. The social fabric is not woven by leaders from above. It is woven at every level, through a million caring actions, from one person to another. It is woven by people fulfilling their roles as good friends, neighbors, and citizens.

5. Whenever I treat another person as if he were an object, I've ripped the social fabric. When I treat another person as an infinite soul, I have woven the social fabric. Whenever I lie, abuse, stereotype, or traumatize a person, I have ripped the fabric. Whenever I see someone truly, and make them feel known, I have woven the fabric. Whenever I accuse someone of corruption without evidence, I have ripped the social fabric. Whenever I disagree without maligning motives, I have woven it. The social fabric is created through an infinity of small moral acts, and it can be destroyed by a series of immoral ones.

5. Personal transformation and social transformation happen simultaneously. When you reach out and build community, you nourish yourself.

6. The ultimate faith of relationalism is that we are all united at the deepest levels. At the surface we have our glorious diversity. But at the substrate there is a commonality that no amount of hostility can ever fully extinguish, that no amount of division can ever fully sunder.

WHEN I TREAT ANOTHER PERSON AS AN INFINITE SOUL, I HAVE WOVEN THE SOCIAL FABRIC.

7. Relationships do not scale. They have to be built one at a time, through patience and forbearance. But norms do scale. When people in a community cultivate caring relationships, and do so repeatedly in a way that gets communicated to others, then norms are established. Trustworthy action is admired; empathy is celebrated. Cruelty is punished and ostracized. Neighborliness becomes the default state. An emergent system, a culture, has been created that subtly guides all the members in certain directions. When you create a norm through the repeated performance of some good action, you have created a new form of power. People within a moral ecology are given a million subtle nudges to either live up to their full dignity or sink to their base cravings. The moral ecology is the thing we build together through our daily decisions.

8. Rebuilding society is not just get-togetherism— convening people in some intellectually or morally neutral way. There has to be a shift in moral culture, a shift in the definition of the good life people imagine together.

9. The state has an important but incomplete role to play in this process. The state can provide services, but it cannot easily provide care. That is to say, the state can redistribute money to the poor, can build homeless shelters and day care centers. It can create the material platforms on which relationships can be built. But the state can't create the intimate relationships that build a fully functioning person. That can only happen through habitual personal contact. It is only through relationships that we become neighbors, workers, citizens, and friends.



Juniper Aylward added joy to our True Holidays event!



Adrien helped Draï with the Sahale products



Mindful Mike's Blog: Relationalism

Mike de Anguera

Would you believe many theories have been developed around how relationships are formed and work? All this work around relationships is called relationalism where ism is a theory.

So if relationships have been studied and analyzed so thoroughly why do we as a society have so little understanding about relationship? It could be that all these theories were developed in the ivory towers of academia. Naturally one of the people doing this kind of research was B.F. Skinner. But I suspect application in society didn't happen because societal structure was not helpful. It took courageous people like Dr. John Lawrence Hoff to expose people like us to the benefits of relational theories.

I have certainly benefited from the many long years I have lived out at Sahale. My relational training goes back over twenty years.



The most important relational unit is the family. You can see our Goodeough family coming together around our Christmas tree. Here Drai Schindler, Adrian, and Marley Long pose in front of the tree. The second photo shows me, old bearded guy with Marley and Adrian putting ornaments on the tree.

No matter how down I might feel Christmas has always been a magical time for me. My spirits are immediately lifted by all the lights and glitter. I admit this might be a conditioned reflex from childhood years when I had the expectation of presents and time off from school. Pauses like this are very necessary for me psychologically. I now understand why tribal people like the Hopi were always preparing for some festival. It's like having Christmas all the time. Festivals like this get me into the Earth's seasonal rhythms. Maybe less TV? That's a major preoccupation for most people in our country.

Christmas like Hannukah is family time. It is community time. Community is the foundation for family life. Plenty of studies have shown this to be true yet community is something most folks never experience. Church gives people a chance to taste community on the surface. It is still a place where I can't be real.

Being real takes work. It is easy to put on a show but not a good way to make friends. John always said that when you are down that's when you find out who your real friends are. Without the kind of training Lab has provided us I doubt any of us would be real. I might feel I have too much to lose. It is too risky. But family life where I am not real is simply not worth living for me. I

remain stunted as a person. This definitely impacts my survival skills. Relationship makes possible all the other good things in life. Healthy relationships enable me to live a long happy life. Just ask Pam Jarret-Jefferson. She knows how to wear a Christmas ornament.



Some additional Pictures from Our True Holidays Celebration



WB and Bonnie, our band!



Abundant and beautiful goodies!



Master of Ceremonies,
Tom George



Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Announcing Winter and Spring Dates

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, many of which are now via Zoom.

Throughout the year we intend to 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 – Mark your calendars now

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. Next summer in 2022 we will celebrate 53 years! Contact: Colette Hoff or Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, hoff@goodenough.org, elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com



The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle, meets monthly on Monday evenings, 7:00 PM

Winter and Spring Dates	
<input type="checkbox"/> January 24, 2022	April 25
<input type="checkbox"/> February 21	May 23
<input type="checkbox"/> March 21	June 20

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.

Saturdays, 10AM to 1:00 PM via Zoom:

Winter and Spring Dates:

- January 22, 2022
- March 26
- April 29 – May 1 - *Annual Weekend for Women*

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



The Third Age - Those age 60 and older have been gathering monthly, Friday evenings, 7PM. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information *There will not be a gathering on December 17.*

Winter and Spring 2022 dates:

- January 28, 2022
- February 25
- April 15



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.

For information, contact Norm Peck, shkwavrydr@aol.com



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. Participants come together under the leadership of Pastor Colette Hoff and find support and encouragement, gaining wisdom from the world’s faith & wisdom traditions. All are welcome to join. Meetings are held via Zoom on alternate Sundays: 7pm to 9pm. Contact Colette Hoff: hoff@goodenough.org for Zoom information.

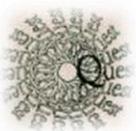
** The next fall date: December 19 – this is a change **

Winter and Spring Dates:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 9 and 23 | April 10 and 24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> February 6 and 20 | May 8 and 22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March 6 and 20 | June 5 and 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. Please email hoff@goodenough.org with questions.



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 Hoff (206-755 8404).