

VILLAGE VIEW

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Colette Hoff, Editor



Intersectionality is a word I have recently encountered in reading about race relations. Feeling my lack of understanding and imagining I am not alone, I began to research and chose the word for this issue of the eView. I found Everyday Sociology on a web site and a blog written by Peter Kaufman that communicated this complex term and have abbreviated the article, *Intersectionality for Beginners*.

The word intersectionality is often attributed to legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw who first used it in 1989. Writing in her essay, “*Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics*,” Crenshaw spoke of intersectionality as a way to capture the multiple dimensions of discrimination that Black women face. Instead of seeing “race and gender as mutually exclusive categories of experience and analysis,” Crenshaw argued that to truly understand the experiences of Black women one must account for the cumulative effect of being both Black and female:

Because the intersectional experience is greater than the sum of racism and sexism, any analysis that does not take intersectionality into account cannot sufficiently address the particular manner in which Black women are subordinated.

The point that Crenshaw was making had long been recognized by Black women. For example, both Sojourner Truth (1797-1893) and Anna Julia Cooper (1858—1964) wrote about the intersection of being Black and female. Like Crenshaw, Truth and Cooper recognized that Black women do not only suffer sexism in one instance and racism in another instance. Instead, they must constantly deal with the combined consequences of both sexism and racism, among other factors.

This issue is beyond black women and includes countless individuals who experience oppression in society because of the **cumulative and intersecting** effects of “racism, sexism, class oppression, transphobia, able-ism and more.” Intersectionality has

On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System

The American Association for the Furtherance of Community
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Sahale Learning Center
The EcoVillage at Sahale

become such an important and pervasive concept because it has “given many advocates a way to frame their circumstances and to fight for their visibility and inclusion.”

An intersectional approach pushes us to think about, study, and make sense of the social world in a very different way according to Patricia Hill Collins. In her book, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*.

"What I can say is that
**I STRIVE
TO BE AN ALLY,**
and it's my job to keep learning what
people of color consider an ally."

Consider the following questions to understand intersectionality by asking yourself:

- How do my race, gender, class, and other social positions enable my actions in some instances and constrain them in others?
- What ways do these social positions combine together to give meaning and structure to my life?
- How would my life choices and life chances change if I occupied different social positions?

Embracing an intersectional perspective requires that you be introspective and be willing to see how your life is shaped by these various social factors.

Intersectionality shines a light on this complexity and challenges us to look beyond stereotypes, prejudices, and taken for granted assumptions.

The insights that we gain from intersectionality provide a strategic road map for how we may eliminate social inequality and injustice. It is no use to only work toward the eradication of sexism or racism or classism because these forms of inequality are intimately and complexly tied together. Knowing that these systems of oppression work in cumulative ways means that we must take a cumulative approach to address them. **We have to address all of them simultaneously.**

When I began this issue, I didn't realize that Barbara Smith's article on page 5 is actually an answer to the intersecting issues raised through intersectionality. She has a comprehensive plan for systemic change.





The Goodenough Community & Convocation

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Thank You from the Economy Circle of the Goodenough Community's General Circle

Kirsten Rohde, Tom George, Colette Hoff, and Barbara Brucker

To everyone who responded to our recent fundraising drive, we are deeply thankful. You have been very generous during this period of living in the pandemic and all of its economic spin-offs. Because of your donations and generosity, we have been able to improve the financial position of our organizations. We have improved our relational/financial integrity with several individuals who have carried some of our previous financial burden by reimbursing them for longstanding expenses. We know that finances are part of right relationship.

With the EIDLs (Economic Injury Disaster Loans) and PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) that we successfully obtained through the government, we can confidently continue to meet our ongoing operations expenses while addressing the above-mentioned accrued expenses.

We appreciate the kindness of friends of the Goodenough Community in helping us keep our operations moving through the pandemic. We are grateful to have your support in these unusual times.

Currently, we are pushing the pause button on our current fundraising appeal that began last May. We want to acknowledge that this is an important time for donations with many requests for financial assistance coming to each of us nearly daily from a variety of charities. Food pantries are running low, people have been displaced and lost possessions due to natural disasters (fires closest to home), many are suffering economic impact from the pandemic and there are many requests for campaign support as the election approaches.

With deep gratitude for your kind response to the fundraising campaign and all that your donations have enabled,

The Economy Circle





Northwest Permaculture Convergence

September 24 -27, 2020

Registration and more information about this year's convergence.

<https://www.northwestpermaculture.org/>

This event was scheduled to be at Sahale and sadly due to COVID cannot happen as an on-site event. The organizers are instead putting together a virtual event that will include a wide variety of presentations and culture.

Here is a description from the website:

2020 is a year for **Cultivating Community!** To do this best we see small workshops being hosted across the region, with a digital home-base to keep us all connected. We will follow our traditional schedule of Thursday night to Sunday night, live-streaming opening and closing circles, keynotes and all workshops. A digital format anchored with real small gatherings across the land allows us to be super inclusive, flexible on our pricing and share the value of permaculture teaching for maximum impact.

We have hosted at Sahale several Permaculture courses and convergences in the past. We will miss seeing everyone in person but we are excited about the opportunity to join online with many across the Northwest.

At Sahale we are making a number of brief videos featuring our work here, with a focus on soil-building and land restoration. We are tentatively on the schedule for Friday September 25th. Tickets are \$20 and online it will be possible to choose the presentations that you are most interested in during the event. Hope you will consider joining!





Pathwork, a Program of Convocation: A Church and Ministry – September 27.

The Pathwork Circle is meeting on Zoom and find it brings connection to friends and encourages reflection on our inner life and spiritual development. 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. Currently, Pathwork meets via Zoom every other Sunday evening from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. You are welcome to join this circle of fellowship, **Sunday, September 27**, which will continue re orientation to Convocation and Pathwork as a context for intentional living.

Please email Colette at hoff@goodenough.org to get access information to the Zoom call and register your interest.



SPEAK UP.

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.

Editor’s Note: I recently saw Barbara Smith interviewed on Democracy Now TV and I was very impressed.

How to Dismantle White Supremacy

To end systemic racism, the country needs a comprehensive racial justice program even more sweeping than the Marshall Plan. **By Barbara Smith**

A few days after police lynched George Floyd, I began writing what became the op-ed “The Problem Is White Supremacy.” Filled with grief, I wrote because I needed to do something with my rage and pain. I wrote because I was frustrated with public discussions about race that rarely mentioned—let alone examined—the root cause of this atrocity: white supremacy.

The reason these horrors continue century after century is that the system of racial domination that disadvantages people of color and privileges whites has not been broken. The ruling class dismisses the subjugation, exploitation, and violence because of the unrestricted power and disproportionate wealth that they gain as a result.

After explaining in *The Boston Globe* that the nation’s racial quagmire does not result from negative attitudes and the behavior of “a few bad apples” but is instead caused by this overarching system of oppression, I asked the following question:

What if we launched an initiative on the scale of the Marshall Plan or the space race to eradicate white supremacy? What if it were led by experts with the most detailed knowledge of how white supremacy in tandem with racial capitalism operates, that is, poor and working-class people of color? What if these experts partnered with researchers, advocates, and practitioners to provide exhaustive documentation, analysis, and comprehensive recommendations for ending the scourge of white supremacy once and for all? What if...?

In a country where millions deny the existence of systemic racism, including a cohort that enthusiastically supports white supremacy, it is difficult to imagine such a plan being realized. It would be a major struggle, but one that would move the country closer to being a functional democracy, freed from the terror and hypocrisy that poisons life on both sides of the color line.

If roadblocks could be put aside, how might one begin this paradigm-shifting work? I would start by calling it the Hamer-Baker Plan. Fannie Lou Hamer and Ella Baker did as much to end white supremacy as any persons who ever lived. It feels appropriate to evoke their legacies in the process of envisioning the completion of that task.

The purpose of the Marshall Plan was to rebuild European nations that had been decimated by World War II and to align them politically as US allies in the Cold War. Its goals were both economic and ideological, and the same should be true of the Hamer-Baker Plan, except that its ideological goal would be to consolidate justice, not power and empire. Since white supremacy permeates every facet of life in the United States, the scope of the Hamer-Baker Plan would need to be even more sweeping than the Marshall Plan.

Because racial capitalism has had such grievous repercussions for generations of people of color, economic interventions would be at the forefront of this project. Eradicating poverty; eliminating the racial wealth gap; investing in the infrastructure of Black, brown, and Indigenous communities whose labor and natural resources have been stolen; and guaranteeing full employment are some of the actions that must be taken to rectify centuries of economic exploitation. The cancellation of student loan and medical debt, stricter sanctions against discriminatory lenders, a viable federal minimum wage, paid family leave, free quality child care, and pro-union labor laws are examples of policies that can address economic inequality.

It also would make sense to explore reparations as part of the plan's economic agenda.

Ending mass incarceration and shutting down the prison industrial complex would also go a long way toward destroying white supremacy. Prison abolition, defunding the police, and ensuring that all neighborhoods have the level of resources that affluent communities take for granted are solutions that already exist.

As I thought about the possibilities of the Hamer-Baker Plan, I realized that there are already innovative strategies that would be effective in alleviating the day-to-day consequences of structural racism. Here are some that come immediately to mind. The Nurse-Family Partnership pairs first time, low-income mothers with visiting nurses who help families get a healthy start and work toward

economic stability. The Harlem Children’s Zone offers wraparound programs for children, from birth through college, assisting their families to overcome poverty and ensuring their academic success. [Cure Violence](#) (formerly CeaseFire) uses a highly effective public health model, including violence interrupters, to end gun violence. The Green New Deal recognizes that environmental devastation disproportionately affects communities of color and that interventions in these communities need to be a priority. It also would be a source of thousands of new infrastructure jobs. Medicare for All would address racial health disparities resulting from the lack of access to affordable quality health care. The severely disproportionate impact of Covid-19 upon communities of color shows the pressing need to establish health care as a human right.



Currently, initiatives that focus on inequality in specific sectors like education, health care, and criminal justice are not aligned with one another, are seldom brought to scale so that they have maximum impact, and may not operate with the conscious goal of challenging white supremacy. The Hamer-Baker Plan would close these gaps and encourage integrated approaches.

For example, if quality education were a priority, there would be an understanding that stable, affordable housing, safe neighborhoods, access to excellent, affordable health care, and minimal exposure to trauma are all critical components of children’s educational success. A holistic approach could make it possible for America to have a robust social safety net for the first time, benefiting people of every background.

The Hamer-Baker Plan would not only maximize the effectiveness of existing initiatives, but would also function as a catalyst for imagining new ways to challenge systemic racism. After reading my op-ed, a friend told me that he was ready to sign up for the Anti-White Supremacy Peace Corps (his own concept), and added that his city could really use some help. He was joking, but imagine if there were dedicated organizers fanning out across the country to help communities figure out ways to rid their local schools, courts, workplaces, hospitals, and houses of worship of entrenched white supremacy.

It would be groundbreaking for Hamer-Baker to use an intersectional approach based on the fact that misogyny and heteropatriarchy are integral to the functioning of white supremacy. The plan would consistently take gender, gender expression, and sexuality into account, and create solutions to address the specific impact of racism upon the lives of women, transgender, and queer people of color. New York’s [Audre Lorde Project](#) exemplifies this approach. Founded in 1994 as a community organizing center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirit, trans, and gender-nonconforming people of color, it has been centrally involved in the fight against police brutality and in coalitions for racial, gender, social, and economic justice.

There are myriad paths that a Hamer-Baker Plan could take. It is far easier to imagine what a plan to end white supremacy might look like than it is to imagine the conditions that would lead to a national consensus that this is what needs to be done. There are more people than we care to admit

who look at the video of George Floyd pleading for his life and assume that he did something to deserve being choked to death while handcuffed. Less than three weeks after Floyd's death, police shot Rayshard Brooks in the back as he was running away. After he fell to the ground, the officers kicked him and stood on his body as he struggled for life. Despite being shot eight times, Breonna Taylor did not die immediately, but none of the medically trained officers at the scene made an effort to assist her. As a society, we are a long way from committing to end this nightmare.

Our job is to do everything possible to make that day come sooner. A few suggestions of how to get us to a time when a Hamer-Baker Plan could become a reality:

- Name the problem. Begin using the term “systemic white supremacy” to describe America’s racial morass instead of less incisive terms that may feel more comfortable.
- Understand the scope of the problem. Read Black history. Read about the international impact of white supremacy reflected in US imperialism and militarism in non-European countries. Read classic, non-contemporary Black authors besides James Baldwin and Toni Morrison. Read social science research that provides statistical documentation and analysis of America’s rampant inequality.
- Do not accept it when the power structure’s response to this period of racial reckoning is platitudes and partial solutions. In 1968, the Kerner Commission report on civil disorders concluded that the primary cause of urban rebellions was white racism. That would have been a great time to launch a Marshall Plan to dismantle white supremacy, especially since the report provided extensive recommendations, but of course this did not occur.
- Using Hamer-Baker as a template, envision what a comprehensive, explicitly anti-racist plan to eradicate systemic racial oppression in your workplace or community would look like, and then work with others to make it happen.

We can be encouraged that one day when a consensus does emerge, it will not come from the top. History indicates that it will come from the streets, from people organizing and demanding that every kind of dehumanization and carnage must stop, and that after more than 500 years, the system of white supremacy must end.

Barbara Smith is an author and independent scholar who has been active in movements for social, racial, and economic justice since the 1960s. She is the coauthor of the Black feminist “Combahee River Collective Statement.”

<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/how-to-dismantle-white-supremacy/>



Watchcare

News from Tanya Kaczka <tmkaczka@yahoo.com>

Kingsley Lincoln Simpson was born April 6th at 12:10pm. He was born perfectly healthy at a whopping 6lb 15oz. He is now 5 months old and loves to play, laugh and stand up (assisted). He has been such a happy little boy who has brought us so much joy and love. Tanya has left the working world and has become a full time mom caring for her son. She is also now supporting her partner who was just diagnosed with colon cancer. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Feel free to write a note to Tanya at tmkaczka@yahoo.com We will keep you in our hearts Tanya.





Mindful Mike's Blog: Intersection

Mike deAnguera

Covid19, forest fires, the coming historic election. The perfect storm. That's what intersection is. Actually I see these as bills coming due, or long past due. Why were they not paid? Because I live in a world of procrastinators. Of course I never procrastinate. Oops! Is my nose starting to grow long? Okay I only procrastinate sometimes. Why? Because I want to put off unpleasant experiences as long as I possibly can. Can't I have a little more joy in distraction prior to the forthcoming unpleasantness?

Maybe I should see life like how Thich Nat Hanh sees it. Since life is suffering, just get into the suffering. Suffering. I honestly don't like to suffer. Every time I get a shot I have to look the other way. I simply can't can't observe intentionally inflicted pain.

Currently I am not in physical or emotional pain. I have been noticing that there doesn't seem to be enough oxygen in the air. Forest fires along the whole west coast. Seattle has the second worst air quality in the world after Portland, Oregon. Sahale may in fact have even worse air quality.

Likewise I wish I had a mate. Someone to really share intimate thoughts with. Kathleen Notley was one such person. She was my best friend. The best gift to bring each other is ourselves. Simply writing about it is helpful to me. I have all of you to share my desires with.

Sometimes a person can bring adversity as well as friendliness. Both are a gift to me because adversity helps me grow my loving self. The trick is standing up for myself in a gentle way. I can avoid being a doormat.

The presidential election? Yuck! There's so much to wade through it's hard to keep my head straight. My desire is for my country to do good. Unfortunately, Uncle Sam needs to understand his impact around the world as well as at home. When power and politics meet the results are never good.

Yoga is about doing good for my body. The stretching and balancing can be a challenge along with endurance. It is a discipline for my mind as well as body. John Hoff used to say everything is yoga. Yoga would be good for our country's leadership. It is an excellent way for me to develop my friendships. Friendships are the key to doing good. My friends can give me feedback thus helping me know the right direction.

Talk about friendships. Bruce Perler and Josh DeMers are working to build a porch for my tiny house.



Doesn't the porch look great? Far better than the former black metal steps.

On the right Irene Perler is presenting a lighted cake to Draï Schindler for her birthday. Blessed be.

Our relationships enable us to weather the storm together. As the storm gets rougher I need to remember what is most important.

The blood red Sun as well as the smoke is a clear warning of danger. I could not get the Sun to show up in my photographs but this picture gives a good idea of what we have had to endure the past week.



Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Note: NEW DATES for FALL 2020

*Because of our unpredictable times, dates and descriptions shown
represent our intention.*

What makes community meaningful and fun? The richness of life in community comes in many ways – getting together informally over a meal ... celebrating a significant birthday with long-time and newfound friends ... working together in a creative endeavor ... collaborating in a work party ... thinking deeply with others about what it means to be fully alive and connected with ourselves, each other, and Spirit ... and more.

Of course, 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 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 alternate Monday evenings, 6:30 PM, via Zoom. Below are dates for our fall meetings:

- September 14, 28
- October 12, 16
- November 9
- December 7

For additional information about dates, contact Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com



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. Fall virtual dates are

- September 26
- October 24



True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 5, 2020

Be part of this fun-filled family-oriented evening and prepare yourself for the winter season (whatever faith tradition you follow) that fills your heart. Contact Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson for



more information.

The Third Age - Those age 60 and older have been gathering every other month, Friday evenings, virtually since the pandemic. Our fall dates are on Fridays:

- November 6

Contact Kirsten Rohde for more information: krohde14@outlook.com

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. Stay tuned for additional information.



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. Currently, Pathwork meets via Zoom every other Sunday evening from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. You are



welcome to join. Contact Colette: hoff@goodenough.org for the Zoom link. The remainder of the fall 2020 dates are:

- September 13 and 27
- October 11 and 25
- November 8 and 22
- December 6 and 20



Work and Play Parties throughout the Year. Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work parties over Memorial Day weekend as well as other times throughout 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 information about what may be coming up. It is a great time to bring friends to share Sahale!

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 more effective in relationships.

Call Colette (206-755 8404) if you find you need to talk out your feelings regarding the panemic crisis.

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