



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

DECEMBER 2, 2020

Colette Hoff, editor



The General Circle of the Goodenough Community wish you each a Happy Holidays especially this year! This issue of the Village eView is dedicated to our True Holidays Celebration, and this year would have been 33 years.

## 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



T'was the first Saturday in December  
and all through Goodenough Land,

It was heard, "Time to get ready, True Holidays is at hand!"

We dressed in our finest for the true celebration.

To Mercer Island, a beautiful Church,  
A gathering with friends was their merry destination.

With good things to eat and drink, a rousing silent auction,  
All enjoyed the cheery connections.

There was dancing and singing and time for reflection,

But, wait, it's 2020 . . .  
we can't gather because of the infection!

Sharing the spirit of the season with old friends and new friends is especially hard to let go of. We will miss seeing our children and grandchildren and catching up with friends from local communities.

The True Holidays Celebration is a significant fundraising event for the Goodenough Community each year. With the pandemic, many events and usual income sources have had to be cancelled.

So, in lieu of the True Holidays Celebration, this year we are asking you to consider a donation to the Goodenough Community for the amount you might have spent at the True Holidays Celebration in the past—with our gratitude! You can make an on-line donation at [www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org), and while you are there, notice some of the pictures and new activity on our web site.

Blessings for a True Holiday!



True Holidays, 2013



Our beloved Virginia Stout passed away in 2020 at age 89. We will miss her dancing!



Chair of the Board, Kirsten Rohde



## A True Winter Holidays Story

By John L. Hoff

In mid-October of 1986, a dozen friends gathered to talk about how they might make the winter holiday season more to their liking. Since they represented a variety of faiths, situations, and attitudes, they wanted the holiday celebration to be respectful of Dewali, Hanukah, Solstice, Christmas, Kwanza, New Year's and Epiphany. They also desired less emphasis on materialism and more emphasis on the way the season can support relationships. They had already researched the difficulties this season exposed throughout our society. They documented the stresses of the season that made some people physically ill and others mentally so. They documented a dramatic increase in drinking, acting out, domestic disputes, driving incidents, suicide and depression. Current research indicates a steady worsening of all these matters.

They learned that materialism and consumerism was destroying the season for many folks who felt they had to keep up with the wealthy Jones family. They discovered that prices were often raised at this time of year, that many businesses count on making 50-80 percent of their annual sales in November and December. The pressure to buy and to consume is at its peak. They knew that overspending for Christmas created aftereffects of broken budgets and discouraged households.

They'd done enough reading to know that stresses of the season made some people physically ill and others mentally so. They knew there was a dramatic increase in drinking, acting-out, domestic disputes, driving accidents, suicide and depression. In short, their research documented what they knew from their own experience — that this is a festival of light with a very dark side.

And so... this group of friends began "the true holidays campaign." Their first task was to *improve their own* holidays that year. They did so by slowing down the pace of life, focusing on relationships and valuing occasions where they could talk more, listen to each other's hearts and share stories, music and enlivening activities. They gave gifts they made, and gifts that kept giving all year long such as theater tickets, promises of trips, visits and companionship. Afterwards, they agreed they had indeed deepened the peace and joy of the season and lessened the stress and financial drain.

The next year they put together a booklet to help other people apply their own proven process as a method for improving any holidays. Other friends were so appreciative they asked for more of those "holiday booklets" to give to family and friends. So, the next year they looked around



Lili (now 11) and Grandma, Colette

for funding for their True Holidays Campaign booklet. Fortunately, Puget Power liked their idea and printed 5,000 copies, providing our True Holidays logo.

For many years, these booklets have done their work in many, many lives, some ending up across the country. There are a multitude of touching stories of how individuals, with help from family members and friends, have improved the season and restored traditions that bring relaxation peace, conversation, and joy back into relationships.

Love John

Now 33 years later, the True Holidays has provided a holiday gathering to enjoy friends and family. The Silent Auction grew out of the desire to offer a different way to buy gifts. The multi-cultural aspects of this event have been important to broaden our celebration. Contra dancing has become an important aspect of the Celebration and I know Sherry Nevins has enjoyed calling for us over many years. The moment of silence to intentionally consider the season has provided many people to have a more joyful holiday season.



I will miss seeing you and hope you take time to contemplate the holiday season that is right for you this year. Peace and light, Colette

I hope you will join our zoom gathering on December 20!

And, **be sure to consider ordering some of your favorite products.** A price sheet is available on-line at [www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org)



## Pathwork—December 6



The Pathwork Circle (Pathwork is a program sponsored by Convocation: A Church and Ministry) is currently meeting on Zoom and find that the circle brings connection 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, December 6, our next virtual gathering.** Please email Colette at [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) to get access information to the Zoom call and register your interest.

## Acknowledging the Holidays, Virtually

December 20, 2020

Many community members have asked about a holiday-focused zoom experience. Sunday evening, **December 20 at 7:00 pm** will feature holiday carols with a chance to connect. The Lifeways Circle will present a program that will inspire, enable celebration, conversation, and recognize the light and love of the season. We hope you will consider joining.



## In the Spirit of Brotherhood for Men

Bruce Perler and Norm Peck

Dear Men,

For about 25 years I've been involved in the GEC men's culture. For the last 15 years I've been the focal, the guy who calls us together and hosts our events. Its been a joyful, challenging and rewarding experience and, I'm ready (perhaps over ready) to hand this to another man. Truthfully, we ought to have done this a while ago. Five-year terms would be a better. Norm Peck came to mind as a brother passionate and well oriented to men's work. His experience is broad and deep and I trust his sense of honor and kindness. A couple months ago I asked Norm to consider taking on the role. I've appreciated his serious consideration and feel good about his acceptance.

Give it up for Norman Peck, our new GEC Men's Culture Focal! In Friendship, Bruce

And from Norm:

I feel the honor of being asked to accept the role of Focal of the Men's Culture of the Goodenough Community. First and foremost, I want to thank Bruce for his years of dedication and leadership of our culture. As he has noted, he's been in that role a very long time, and had put a lot of energy into all that goes into administration and planning largely invisible to most of us. I will also say this is in the "scary-exciting" category. I'll be stretching to learn how to be a Facebook Group Administrator, something I've never aspired to or done before. I will also ask your help in holding, honoring and sharing good male energy, and perhaps learning more of what that needs to be in the times we're in.

We are in a challenging time, individually and organizationally. A little over two years ago John Hoff, our long time teacher and coach passed from us, our organizational model as a Community has been in transition as we seek to have leadership circles or groups rather than individuals, and we are now all working together to cope with a pandemic that challenges us as individuals and organizations in almost every way imaginable. I hope to find ways to connect and share our lives as men even as we are unable to gather together physically.

In my view it is a trying time to be a man in many ways. We have had a President who engages in and encourages behavior that reflects badly on all men, and sadly many who rebel against and fail to follow public health guidance are men. I take personally, and ask you to as well, the responsibility to lead by example out of care for ourselves and each other. Wear a mask when in public spaces with people you

don't know...and even those you do and are not living with. Maintain social distance, follow personal and shared place cleaning and hygiene practices, isolate and/or get tested if you have symptoms and don't pass it on. That's a place to start.

A more difficult task is seeking to counter the polarization we're seeing as a larger culture. Please remember that many of those who support the President now feel exactly as some of us felt when we learned he'd been elected. Kindness and empathy may simply mean remaining silent or being as gentle as possible, even just quietly withdrawing at times. We are also largely white men. That means we will need to "see again" many things we thought we knew, come to understand more and better the experience of our fellow humans, whatever their preferred pronouns and backgrounds are, in ways we have not before, perhaps. I look forward to a time we will again be able to come together face to face. Until then, I encourage us all to post and share of our lives on the Goodenough Community Men's Circle Facebook page. If you're interested in a Zoom Meeting, please let me know by email, or a private message on Facebook, a telephone call or even (gasp) a letter in the mail. If you have other ideas for how to connect and share time together while apart, let me know that as well.

In the Spirit of Brotherhood, Norm



**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.**

## **What if Instead of Calling People Out, We Called Them In?**

*Professor Loretta J. Ross, Visiting Professor, Smith College*

Excerpted from an article in the *New York Times*, Nov. 19, 2020 by Joan Valles

Nyla Conaway, 19, remembers being “called out” for changing her profile picture on Instagram in solidarity for ... something. She can’t quite remember what for, only that an older student she didn’t know told her it was a scam. “It just made me feel really embarrassed, like a ton of people had seen it and now I just looked really stupid,” she said.

Katie Wehrman, 18, still feels guilty for calling out a boy in her high school for something he said about a local politician and L.G.B.T.Q. rights — schooling him in an all-class Snapchat group.

Sophia Hanna, 18, has never been called out herself, but has spent more time than she’d like to admit during this pandemic watching two beauty bloggers call each other out. “It just fires something

emotionally,” she said, noting that she doesn’t even like makeup tutorials. “There’s like a dopamine trigger that makes me keep scrolling.”

The women are students in a class taught by Loretta J. Ross, a visiting professor at Smith College who is challenging them to identify the characteristics, and limits, of call-out culture: the act of publicly shaming another person for behavior deemed unacceptable.

Calling out may be described as a sister to dragging, cousin to problematic, and one of the many things that can add up to cancellation. “I am challenging the call-out culture,” Professor Ross said from her home in Atlanta, where she was lecturing on Zoom to students on a recent evening... “I think you can understand how calling out is toxic. It really does alienate people and makes them fearful of speaking up.”

### **‘Uncomfortable Conversations’**

That perspective has made Professor Ross, 67, an unlikely figure in the culture wars. A radical Black feminist who has been doing human rights work for four decades, she was one of the signatories of a widely denounced letter in Harper’s Magazine, for which she herself was called out. “There’s such an irony for being called out for calling out the calling-out culture,” she said. “It really was amusing.”

At Smith College, Professor Ross teaches courses called White Supremacy in the Age of Trump, of which the “calling in” module is part, and Reproductive Justice. Yet she tells students when they enroll: “If you need a trigger warning or a safe space, I urge you to drop this class.”

“I think we overuse that word ‘trigger’ when really we mean discomfort,” she said. “And we should be able to have uncomfortable conversations.” She doesn’t believe people should be publicly shamed for accidentally misgendering a classmate, which she once did, leading to a Title IX complaint that was later dismissed; for sending a stupid tweet they now regret; or for, say, admitting they once liked a piece of pop culture now viewed in a different light, such as “The Cosby Show.”

...“What I’m really impatient with is calling people out for something they said when they were a teenager when they’re now 55. I mean, we all at some point did some unbelievably stupid stuff as teenagers, right?” Professor Ross thinks call-out culture has taken conversations that could have once been learning opportunities and turned them into mud wrestling on message boards, YouTube comments, Twitter and at colleges like Smith, where proving one’s commitment to social justice has become something of a varsity sport.

Professor Ross has been an activist for more than 40 years, and she helped organize a delegation of women of color at the March for Women’s Lives in 1989. “I think this is also related to something I just discovered called doom scrolling,” Professor Ross told the students. “I think we actually sabotage our own happiness with this unrestrained anger. And I have to honestly ask: Why are you making choices to make the world crueler than it needs to be and calling that being ‘woke’?”

The antidote to that outrage cycle, Professor Ross believes, is “calling in.” Calling in is like calling out, but done privately and with respect. “It’s a call out done with love,” she said. That may mean simply sending someone a private message, or even ringing them on the telephone to discuss the matter, or simply taking a breath before commenting, screen-shotting or demanding one “do better” without explaining how.



Calling out assumes the worst. Calling in involves conversation, compassion and context. It doesn't mean a person should ignore harm, slight or damage, but nor should she, he or they exaggerate it. "Every time somebody disagrees with me it's not 'verbal violence,'" Professor Ross said. "I'm not getting 're-raped.' Overstatement of harm is not helpful when you're trying to create a culture of compassion."

There was call-out culture when Professor Ross was young. "We called it 'trashing,'" she said, referring to a term used by Jo Freeman, in an essay in *Ms.*, to describe infighting within the women's movement. "It used to be you'd be calling someone out to a duel. This is how Alexander Hamilton got shot!" Professor Ross said. "What's new is the virality and the speed and the anonymity."

Civil conversation between parties who disagree has also been part of activism, including her own, for quite some time... As the program and research director for the Center for Democratic Renewal, which monitored hate groups, she found herself on a mountaintop in rural Tennessee, teaching antiracism to women whose families were members of the Ku Klux Klan. She thought of what her organization's founder, the Rev. C.T. Vivian — who had been Martin Luther King's field general — told her when she started her job: "When you ask people to give up hate, you have to be there for them when they do." ...

... The idea of "calling in" occurred to Professor Ross at a speech she was organizing at Smith in 2015 to honor Gloria Steinem. What was up with all the nastiness she saw on Twitter, she asked a young woman. "Oh, you mean 'calling out'?" the woman said. "You-all named it?" Professor Ross said in surprise. She soon assembled a group of students to practice the techniques of "calling in" and took the message on the road. During quarantine this summer, she began offering an online course called *Calling In the Calling Out Culture*, and is working on a book of the same name. She has also been hired by nonprofits and women's organizations to help them grapple with their own reckonings around race and gender... "I wouldn't call myself a mediator," she said. "I'm like a one-time consultant, rearranging relationships..."

... Not that Professor Ross is conflict averse. "I have no problem calling out politicians who aren't living up to the oaths that they swore to," she said. She cited Colin Kaepernick, someone who quite effectively called out a powerful organization, the N.F.L. "The thing I am sharply critical of is punching down, calling out people who have less power than you simply because you can get away with it. But there is a very strategic use of punching up." Indeed, after the #MeToo movement and global protests of police violence in response to the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, employees have called out bosses, consumers have called out corporations, students have called out peers, and victims have called out abusers. ...

... "Folks have figured out that social media shaming and attention makes things happen," said Meredith Clark, an assistant professor of media studies at the University of Virginia who recently published a study of callout culture called "Drag Them." "It evokes apology from things and places that wouldn't normally enter into that sort of dialogue, and it allows people who otherwise would have no recourse to influence their own experiences." More troublesome, Professor Ross and others agree, is when small infractions become big infractions; when context gets lost and facts are distorted, or it becomes difficult to discern between the two. ...

... The students are eager to practice calling in, or least trying. But they have questions. Is interjecting calling in? What's the difference between calling in and a regular confrontation? What if calling out in fact is the most effective way to seek progress — as with, say, in the case of a public figure? And when is

politely trying to “call in” simply no longer effective? “You can’t be responsible for someone else’s inability to grow,” Professor Ross said. “So take comfort in the fact that you offered a new perspective of information and you did so with love and respect, and then you walk away. “We have a saying in the movement: Some people you can work with and some people you can work around. But the thing that I want to emphasize is that the calling-in practice means you always keep a seat at the table for them if they come back.”

Thank you Joan!



### **Mindful Mike’s Blog: True Holidays Memories**

*Mike deAnguera*



We are not going to have a True Holidays celebration this year due to COVID restrictions.

So, I am contributing my thoughts on holidays past along with pictures from last year’s event.

We started True Holidays as a response to the commercialization of Christmas and the resulting rush to buy gifts. Christmas specials fill TV screens. In fact Christmas shopping seems to start soon after Halloween. The stores? Chaos.

True Holidays was very different. We gathered at the Mercer Island Congregational Church and transformed it bringing out the real spirit of Christmas. A time for our community and others to come together. This was our chance to share our community life with family and friends. My brother Paul and his wife Pat came to one of our events.

My family usually had its own Christmas celebration. We never shared it with anybody else. What a difference it would have made for me as a child to experience a community Christmas. But then we were never part of any larger community.



I remember good food, contra dancing, and finally story time. Last year Colette Hoff started off with the holiday message, with grandson Wiley looking on. Amie Aylward told the kids a story. She knows quite a few tales.

We always feature an interfaith theme including all major religious traditions.

One year Dyanne Harshman told us the story of the Christmas Truce. At one place where the Germans and the Allies were fighting the song 'Silent Night' floated across the lines from the German side. All guns went silent. Soldiers from both sides mingled with each other sharing details of their lives. Everybody had a wonderful time together.

Then both sides went back to their guns and started shooting once again. I can never hear this story without getting emotional. How could those soldiers go back to killing each other again? I wonder if this was the only time when the message of Christmas silenced the guns of war.

At a time when the days are short and the nights dark and cold True Holidays allowed us to fill a church with light and hope.

Solstice is when the days are the shortest and coldest. A time of testing. This is when we need to gather with dancing and good cheer. We offer isolated folks a chance to join with us.

I can't imagine people alone during the Christmas Holidays. Yet for many people being alone is more true than ever due to COVID. I am spending this time with the residents of Sahale not going anywhere. Hopefully next year we can offer True Holidays again.

We meant to show others that Christmas can be about much more than the mad rush to buy gifts which will be forgotten about in the following months. True Holidays can create lasting memories such as Pedge Hopkins and others drumming on our Mother Drum.



## **Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community**

*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](http://www.goodenough.org)



**The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle,** meets alternate Monday evenings, 6:30 PM, via Zoom. Below is date for our fall meetings:

December 7. For additional information about dates, contact Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, [elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com](mailto: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](#). Our next Zoom gathering will be in January.



### **True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 5, 2020**

We will not hold this celebration this year due to the COVID pandemic. However, we intend to find ways to connect in other ways and honor the intentions of this annual event. Stay tuned for details.



**The Third Age** - Those age 60 and older have been gathering every other month, Friday evenings, virtually since the pandemic.

Contact Kirsten Rohde for more information: [krohde14@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) for the Zoom link. The remainder of the fall 2020 dates are: 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 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](mailto: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 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.**

## Local Advertisements

MODEST  
IMPROVEMENTS



**BRUCE PERLER, GC**  
HANDYMAN SERVICES

licensed. insured. bonded. modesi816pq.  
[bruce\\_perler@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce_perler@hotmail.com)  
FB | ProjectsBrucePerler  
206.419.8361



## A Celtic Friendship Blessing

May you be blessed with good friends.

May you learn to be a good friend to yourself.

May you be able to journey to that place in your soul where there is great love, warmth, feeling, and forgiveness.

May this change you.

May it transfigure that which is negative, distant, or cold in you.

May you be brought into the real passion, kinship, and affinity of belonging.

May you treasure your friends.

May you be good to them and may you be there for them; may they bring you all the blessings, challenges, truth, and light that you need for your journey.

May you never be isolated.

May you always be in the gentle rest of belonging with your anam cara (soul friend).

~ John O'Donohue

*Anam Cara: A Book of Celtic Wisdom*

