



Lily of the Valley – Flower of the Month, May

# The Village View

May 6, 2023

*Hollis Guill Ryan &  
Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson  
Editors*

## Something New at the Goodenough Community

Shani Fox

Something new and exciting has arisen from the recent series of leadership retreats held at Sahale.

In the wake of the passing of community cofounder Colette Hoff and several other beloved elders, community leaders have been meeting to talk about what has worked best for the community, what needs improvement, and a vision for our future. At our most recent retreat in March, with expert facilitation from Sky Blue and Avi Kruley, we clarified three major areas in which the Goodenough Community has had a beneficial impact:

- **“The Work”**: this includes the teachings of the community on self-development and harmonious relationships, put into practice in innovative environments such as the Human Relations Lab and in the past, the School of Human Development.
- **The Community**: as a result of learning together and committing to a covenant of personal and relational development, a warmly bonded community has formed which is in itself a reason that people remain engaged.
- **Sahale**: the Sahale retreat center provides a grounding place for the community’s own programs, as well as a place for others to come to be nourished by the land, the Community, and The Work in action.

### On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System

[www.goodenough.org](http://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

We then began brainstorming ideas for strengthening and developing these “pillars” to meet the evolving needs and desires of our own community, and to best serve the world around us.

With the community’s existing governance circles focused on keeping Sahale and current programs running during this time of transition, Sky and Avi recommended the formation of a new Steering Committee, to support the community’s evolution towards the next version of itself. This committee has come together within the last month, consisting of three elder community members and three highly engaged members who have not yet served on the governance circles.

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to listen for the community’s wants and needs, identify new initiatives that support and develop the three pillars, and organize and resource teams to carry out those initiatives. While Steering Committee members can choose to work on particular initiatives, the committee’s purpose is less to do things itself, than to support others in doing things. As such, the Steering Committee will serve the important role of bringing ideas that originate in the broader community to light, and providing opportunities for many more people to engage in the community’s development as the most promising of those ideas are nurtured into reality.

You can expect the Steering Committee to solicit ideas and feedback from the broader Community, and to provide periodic updates about initiatives as they are incubated to fruition. Our first step of this kind will be a survey regarding possible options for the continuation of the Human Relations Lab. >>*Check your email for the survey link which went out on May 2.* We are looking forward to hearing what a rich and fulfilling Lab experience would look like for you.

Additional initiatives we are considering for the near future include:

- A Community Code of Conduct, to create a culture of safety within the Community
- a Healing and Reconciliation Circle, where past and present grievances can be heard and healed
- best practices for keeping the broader community apprised of the Community’s work, and coordination of communication between subgroups focused on different aspects of that work
- Offering “the Work” online, leveraging the rich teachings of the community to engage existing friends of the community and attract new friends.

Do any of these initiatives spark your interest? Are there others that you feel are essential for the future wellbeing of the community? The Steering Committee wants to hear from you! Feel free to let us know of your ideas, or what skills and experience you’d love to contribute to the community. You can reach us at [\*\*goodenoughcommunity@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:goodenoughcommunity@gmail.com)

Your Steering Committee:

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Laura Sweany, Pamela Jarrett-Jefferson, Phil Buchmeier, Shani Fox, Sue-Marie Casagrande

# Help Us Get Ready for Guest Season & Keeping Sahale Looking Good!

The Goodenough Community  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Memorial Day Weekend Work Party @ Sahale**  
May 26, 27, 28, and 29, 2023



Our community-sponsored annual Sahale work party is coming up over Memorial Day weekend, and this year our specific focus will be on getting our learning center ready for the quickly approaching guest season. There will be tasks for everyone's ability, both large and not-so-large, and our hot tub will be providing spiritual salve for the body and soul. We will introduce you to our new lead chef and food-services manager, Joseph Rusiski; and after dinner we will host informal toasting in the Swamp in honor of our beloved friend Tod Ransdell (who passed last month; a separate, formal event for him will be planned for him later in the year). Also--

1. Contact Elizabeth with your **arrival** and **departure** dates and for additional information. This information is **key** to planning accommodations and meals. Please let EJ Know by **Monday, May 22**. Elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com
2. Our indoor spaces are limited, so please plan to camp if needed.
3. Bring sturdy shoes and gloves.
4. Bring libations and snacks to share – there is always time to have fun and connect.
5. We will be asking for donations to cover the cost of food.

**The supreme accomplishment is to blur the line between work and play.**

-Arnold J. Toynbee, historian (14 Apr 1889-1975)

## Remembering Barbara Brucker



**Barbara Louise Brucker**  
**September 9, 1948, to April 22, 2023**

### **From Barbara's sister, Beverly Masteller**

Barbara Louise Brewer was born to Helen Louise (Berg) Brewer and Willis Brewer in Wallace, Idaho, on September 9, 1948, and passed peacefully from this life at her home in Tukwila, Washington, on April 22, 2023, where she fought a brave battle against central nervous system lymphoma.

She attended grades K-4 in Osburn, Idaho, before the family moved to Walla Walla, Washington, in 1957. She graduated from Wa-Hi in 1966 and attended the University of Washington where she was a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She married Robert (Bob) Brucker in 1969 and finished her degree in physical therapy. They lived briefly in North

Dakota, fulfilling Bob's military commitment, before returning to the Seattle area where Barbara was employed at the Veterans Hospital as a physical therapist. She loved her job and was always willing to take on new challenges and help others. After she and Bob divorced, she stayed in the area and worked at several hospitals throughout her career. She took a teaching position at Green River Community College where she became department head after receiving her doctorate from Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions in 2005. She loved her time as a teacher and it was obvious she made a lasting impression on many of her students.

Barbara was an active member of, and instrumental in, the leadership and success of the Goodenough Community, where she forged life-long friends.

She met her long-time partner and love of her life James (Jim) Tocher through their love of biking. Barbara was passionate about physical fitness, was always up for new adventures, and loved to travel. She and Jim took many bike trips, including Cycle Oregon, Tours de Lacs (Idaho), and even Australia. They took many road trips together, enjoying the camp trailer they shared. In addition to time traveling in the US and Canada, they traveled to Mexico, Norway, and parts of Europe. Barbara also enjoyed trips to Iceland, China, and Cuba with friends. But her fondest passion was snow skiing, and she relished spending as much time as she could on the slopes. For several years she even committed the month of March to spend with stepsister Paddy Farley skiing the mountains around Lake Tahoe.



*Barbara and Her Sister Beverly*

She is survived by her partner of 20 years, Jim; her sister Beverly (Rand) Masteller; a niece

Laura, nephew Ryan, and their families; stepsiblings Paddy and Ned Farley, Sally McManus, Marilyn Sandifer and Roger Towne; several cousins, and many close friends. She will be remembered for her enthusiasm and determination, her can-do and caring attitude, her willingness to help and take on challenges, and her loyalty to her dear friends.

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**Future issues of the Village View will commemorate Barbara’s formidable contributions to the development and growth of the Goodenough Community. Here, we present brief anecdotes that illustrate the range of her friendships, especially those beyond the community.**

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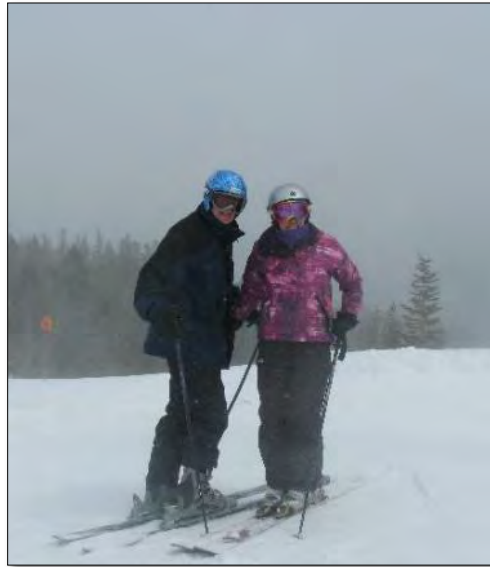
*About 2 months before the recurrence of Barbara’s tumor was diagnosed, she joined her life partner, Jim, to climb Lembert Dome, an 800-foot lump of granite in Yosemite. It was a strenuous climb, even for a seasoned hiker like Barbara. Here she poses triumphantly—and tired—atop the dome with the magnificent view of the Sierra Nevada behind her.*

*Photo by Jim Tocher*



**Ski Bum Barbara!**  
**“Purple Paddy” Farley, Stepsister**

We have lost such a close friend. She was truly an amazing friend. I am sending you some ski pictures of Barbara. Please note, she was always smiling!



*Jim and Barbara*  
*Photo by Purple Paddy*

Barbara was determined to become a ski bum for a month every year. She succeeded as she skied every day when she came to Tahoe. Barbara was also very determined to keep up with her local friends on the hill. And she did her best. We have places on the mountain where we think of Barbara. I will never stop thinking of her



*Barbara and Ski Buddies*  
*Photo by Purple Paddy*

## **“We laughed together until we cried”**

**Theresa Jacobson**

On many occasions Barbara and I laughed together until we clutched our tummies and tears ran down our cheeks. Barbara and I also shared deep, serious, insightful conversations which taught each of us important life lessons.

I will never have another friend quite like Barbara.

## **Flowers for Remembrance**

**Hollis Guill Ryan, Goodenough Community**



*Barbara’s Scilla Flourishing in Hollis’ Garden  
Photo by David Wesley*

Like me, Barbara had not always been a gardener but when she took over yard maintenance duties at the home she shared, she sowed and reaped and dug and weeded and thinned and pruned with the best.

As you who are gardeners know, pretty, blue-flowered scilla is determined to take over the universe, and Barbara was equally determined to contain the plants to their designated area of her garden. When I started my garden at my new home, she offered me her dug-up scilla. The scilla hesitated for a year or 2 before claiming their new space, but now they are beginning to spread, just as they did in Barbara’s garden. It’s my turn now to thin them, and I am grateful for Barbara’s gift, which will keep on blooming year after year, just like my memories of Barbara.

## **Quick Thinking!**

**Sharon Russell, 54-year Friend**

Choosing one story after 50 years of stories? Near impossible. This anecdote happened back in the ‘70s—the days of hippies and Viet Nam.

Barb and her then-husband, Bob, were visiting from North Dakota when my then-husband, Mike, and I lived in New Jersey (all thanks to the military). We decided to visit Washington, D. C. I’d made a reservation at a slightly worn hotel called the Francis Scott Key where we could get an inexpensive “suite” with one bedroom, a hide-a-bed in the living room, and kitchenette. We showed up at the front desk in the early evening to check in. The woman at the desk, also slightly worn, looked askance at the four of us. “Four of you in one bedroom?”



I don't want any of that Hippie nonsense going on in my hotel." (She apparently didn't notice the guys' military haircuts.) Barb, pointing to Mike, said, "There won't be. He's my brother, and he's being shipped out to Viet Nam on Monday." The woman looked at us, still skeptical. She handed Barb the key. "I guess I'll have to trust you," she said.

### **A Gift from the Universe**

**Vicki Groff**

A chance meeting at Alpine Meadows brought us together and opened up a world of joyful outdoor play and travel: skiing, hiking, zip-line, bobbing in ocean swells.

Time together led to deep conversations, discovering shared values, a rare and precious friendship. What a gift from the universe. I carry Barbara in my heart always.



*Cartoonist unknown*

**Irene Perler**

**Goodenough Community**

I was not able to visit you in person but I assure you, I hold you close and often think of you and our times in Potlatch together or enjoying singing a community song, hanging in the hot tub at Sahale, and mutually enjoying a laugh or smile moment. These images carry my love.

**Nancy Lanphear**

**Songaia Co-housing Community**

I will remember Barbara coming back to life several times, such determination to live! And I remember the message she gave loud and clear most recently, that it was time to let go. And now she has crossed that threshold. May she continue her journey in peace knowing she made a difference with her life and in her dying. You are loved, Barbara.



**Claudia Fitch**  
**Goodenough Community**

Barbara, I am wishing for you deep serenity and peace. I am missing our friendship. You will always live inside me; a true ally, vibrant, supportive, insightful, and bluntly to the point with your wise words. You could lay down the law, sometimes!! Which would often be exactly what I needed in such moments. I love you very much.

**Allison Jansen**  
**Green River Community College**

My tears are flowing, but Barbara told us that she was ready and willing for this stage. What a beautiful human being. She lived with love, clarity of purpose, and intentionality. I feel honored to have been her friend and colleague.



**Mindful Mike's Blog: Chautauqua**

*Mike deAnguera*

When I think of the chaos of our society in terms of our relations with ourselves and other countries, the effect can be very depressing. Our Human Relations Laboratory shows another way. Good relations take work. It is easy for me to fall back into my own fears.

Fears? I have them aplenty. We have recently lost both Tod Ransdell and Barbara Brucker to cancer. I am not strong enough to face the Grim Reaper alone. These two individuals have given so much of themselves to our community. Tod was my roommate during my first Lab in 1998.

I have written about death before but now it is striking me in a very personal way. One more? Have I not faced enough death this past year? I don't know how I would have faced it without my community friends.

In 1874 a movement was started on Lake Chautauqua in New York state by John Heyl Vincent, a Methodist minister, and Lewis Miller, a businessman. I would like to think it was about community. Every summer the Chautauqua event would be held. Important speakers would be featured, such as Mark Twain and Susan B. Anthony. An outdoor auditorium was built as well as a hotel, cottages, and a campground. Theodore Roosevelt called Chautauqua "the most American thing in America."



I spent some of the most important years of my childhood at what was once a Chautauqua campground in Ellisport on Vashon Island. Two of the lots my family bought were 25-foot tent lots.

What is now Ellisport was once an open field with a hotel, cottages, a 1,200-seat auditorium, and over two miles of park. Mark Twain might even have appeared here.

You got to the campground via the steamer Zephyr. The fare was 75 cents.

I still remember the remains of the dock where the Zephyr brought attendees. Can you imagine men in business suits with top hats and women in their heavy skirts getting off the steamer and loading their luggage onto a wagon to be taken to their campsite?

Why do I mention Chautauqua? It was the greatest social movement of its time. It spawned over 5,000 Chautauquas across the country. Over 40 million Americans attended them. It lasted for about 50 years before being eclipsed by radio and movies. Chautauquas even traveled around the country with meeting tents like our big white tent.



The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle gave women the chance to get a liberal arts education on their own time at an affordable price. Thus, it played a powerful role in empowering women. It made me think of our Private School for Human Development.

The Chautauqua Institution still exists today on Lake Chautauqua. Summertime events still take place. Church services are held on Sunday by a variety of denominations from Catholics to Unitarians. Tolerance and openness have always been important foundations for the Chautauqua Movement.

Could we be like a Chautauqua? We already are. Our Chautauqua is Sahale as well as the Goodenough Community. A Chautauqua for better human relations. A way to come together around Tod and Barbara when they needed us the most. I still remember people staying with Kathleen Notley 24 hours a day when she was in a coma following her auto accident. Could we hold a community-building event for those facing the loss of loved ones? I would like to think so.

For me the biggest challenge is waking up and realizing that who I am encompasses everyone around me. Even all of Life. Our Human Relations Laboratories have helped me see this very clearly. But of course, growth is slow and often painful. The old selfish fearful part needs to be cast off to make way for Love and trust, something religious folks have been trying to do for centuries. It is better and more powerful to grow as a group rather than single isolated individuals. A spiritual discipline with openness.



*Landscaping Crew at Work at Sahale, preparing for the summer's Chataouqua-like events  
Photo by Mike deAnguera*

## Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

*Community is about adapting to change, and that has been the case with Covid 19, the pandemic, as we adapted many of our ways to connect, most of which have been held on Zoom. This has enabled people from outside our area to participate in community events. Now we are adapting to change following the death of our co-founder Colette and*

*our need to learn from the past and look toward the future of our community.*



Throughout the year we offer programs and events 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. As we work through this period of transition, we have limited or changed our offerings, but check this page for

the latest information. Information about future programs and events also will be found on our website: [www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org) and in future Village Views.

**Tentative: Human Relations Laboratory, August 6-12, 2023.**  
**This event was cancelled in 2022.**



**The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle**

Currently meets weekly on alternate Monday evenings, 7 PM on Zoom. 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. The Women's Program will meet from 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, **May 6, 2023**, via Zoom. For information, contact [Hollis Ryan](#)



**The Third Age** - Those aged 60 and older have customarily been gathering every other month, Friday evenings, at 7 PM by Zoom. Stay tuned for an email about our next meeting date. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information.



**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. Contact: [Norm Peck](#)



**Pathwork, A Program of Convocation: A Church and Ministry.** Pathwork offers a spiritual home in which to rest and to share your heart and mind as you move through these unpredictable times.

Participants come together and find support and encouragement, gaining wisdom from the world's faith and wisdom traditions. All are welcome to join. Meetings are held via Zoom on alternate Sundays: 7 to 9 PM. Next meeting: **May 7**. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information.





### **Work and Play Parties Throughout the Year.**

Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work and play parties over Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends 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. **Nature Systems Work Party during Memorial Day weekend at Sahale.**

Contact Laura Sweany for more information –  
alwaysseekingdesign@gmail.com

#### **From Lawrence Ferlinghetti**

A Coney Island of the Mind, 1958

The world is a beautiful place  
To be born into  
If you don't mind happiness  
Not always being  
So very much fun  
If you don't mind a touch of hell  
Because even in heaven  
They don't sing  
All the time

The world is a beautiful place  
To be born into  
If you don't mind some people dying  
All the time  
Or maybe only starving  
Some of the time  
Which isn't half bad  
If it isn't you

Oh the world is a beautiful place  
To be born into  
If you don't mind  
A few dead minds

In the higher places  
Or a bomb or two  
Now and then  
In your upturned faces  
Or such other improprieties  
As our Name Brand society  
Is prey to  
with its men of distinction  
And its men of extinction  
And its priests  
And other patrolmen  
And its various segregations  
And congressional investigations  
And other constipations  
That our fool flesh  
Is heir to

Yes the world is the best place of all  
For a lot of such things as  
Making the fun scene  
And making the love scene  
And making the sad scene  
And singing low songs and having  
inspirations  
And walking around  
Looking at everything

And kissing people  
And smelling flowers  
And goosing statues  
And even thinking  
And kissing people  
And making babies and wearing pants  
And waving hats  
And dancing  
And swimming in rivers  
On picnics  
In the middle of the summer

And just generally  
'living it up'

Yes  
But then right in the middle of it  
Comes the smiling  
mortician