

The Village View

January 11, 2023

Hollis Ryan, Editor

Elizabeth JJ, Layout



"May I call you 'Rover'?"

Coming Up—

- General Circle, Mon., Jan 23, 7pm
- Third Age, Friday Jan 13, 7PM
- Pathwork, Sunday, Jan 15

Introductions

Meet Our New Treasurer, Norm Peck

Interview by Hollis Guill Ryan

Who is the new treasurer of the Goodenough Community Board? It's Norm Peck, a man of many talents and interests, a man who is often described as loyal, steadfast, and capable.

Knowing what others think about Norm, I wanted to learn what he has to say about himself, so I peppered him with questions. Here is what I learned.

To me, Norm's "signature quality" is his love of nature which shapes much of his worldview. When I asked him about his most satisfying activities, he promptly responded with "simply observing all that's going on in whatever piece of the natural world I'm in at the moment." Before retirement, he built a career in ecology and environment and expanded his depth of understanding and kinship with nature. Even in retirement, much of his time is occupied by reading and reviewing environmental regulatory and policy proposals related to some citizens' advisory groups he belongs to. His favorite activities are also related to nature: heating with wood, bird watching, small- and big-game hunting, recreational shooting and reloading. In fact, among his favorite books he names "A Guide to Reloading," a 1950s look at historic practice in reloading rifle ammunition.



Picture by Tom Leopold,
Zeandale, KS 2021

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

Norm comes by his comfort in the outdoors naturally, having grown up in Kansas with a father who collected rifles and enjoyed hunting. Now, Norm visits his family twice a year and while there, he and his brother often hunt turkeys or deer together on his brother's farm.

Even his favorite color—the range of hues from turquoise to aquamarine—carries associations with the flowing waters, open skies, and freedom found in nature.

Yet our natural environment is not Norm's only focus. He tells me he has been gifted with a range of experiences in his life that have expanded his perspective and that often help him understand other people's perspectives. Norm is well educated, with both a B.S. and an M.S. His work life has included stints as an agricultural field hand, a machinist who attained journeyman status as an auto mechanic, an Emergency Spill Response Specialist and Hazardous Waste Cleanup Specialist; and his service in the Kansas National Guard trained him in roles as an engineer equipment mechanic and a semi-professional pistol shooter on the State Pistol Team.



These experiences (which are not listed in their entirety!) helped him develop his ability to work with a team to discern needs and priorities, and plan and implement activities needed to meet those needs. He will surely use this skill in his role as treasurer on the Board.

I asked Norm for his thoughts about his new role. “When Kirsten Rohde and Tom George asked me to take on the role of treasurer of the Goodenough Community, the awareness that more of us as members need to step up and take on more responsibility for administration and decision-making about the future of our community was in the forefront of my mind. The role will certainly be a learning experience. Although I accepted the role partly because I do not want to leave Kirsten and Tom to carry the finances of the community alone, I’ll rely on them to increase my understanding and abilities to meet the needs of the role. And, I’ve received feedback that my knowledge and experience have already been helpful to understanding our present and planning our future.”

Norm's love of the community and his commitment to his own personal growth will continue to guide him in his new role, as they do throughout his life. On behalf of the community, Norm, I welcome you to your new position.



Introducing the Sahale Nature Systems Circle

Laura Sweany

What better way to introduce the Sahale Nature Circle than to describe our recent work party and to invite you to the work parties planned for this spring.

First Sahale Nature Circle Work Party of 2023!

Our mighty crew, working January 6 – 8, consisted of the ever-capable Phil Buchmeier, Mike DeAnguera, Julie Wolf, and the mother/daughter crew of Diana and Laura Sweany. Julie's husband Russ tended the hot tub on Friday, so by Saturday morning it was hot and ready! Tom George lent a hand (and a pole pruner) on Saturday, and Pamela Jarrett-Jefferson was a welcome spark to our work on Sunday. Jim Tocher and Pam worked on getting the new monster chipper up and running, and we all did our best to make piles of wind-downed walnut, plum and curly willow for the chipper monster to consume! Draí Schindler kept us all warm and very well-fed.

Take a look at some of the winter debris!



Our next weekend of work, February 3 – 5, will entail more storm cleanup, as well as cutting cordwood, pruning and shaping ornamentals, and starting weeding and mulching the upper campus. We are starting this new year with lots of teamwork and good humor – and GETTIN' IT DONE! We hope you will join us in February – Sahale awaits...your loving care.



The Goodenough Community's Sahale Nature Systems Circle is waking up from its long slumber, and we are hoping you are ready to join us as we gear up for monthly work parties. Our goal is to enjoy each other's company while we tend the land by pruning, weeding, trimming, and spiffing! Recovering the main campus areas from the damage wrought by this winter's heavy, wet Snowpocalypse, and then getting the public areas tidy and safe for the upcoming retreat season will be our scope of work. And after our labors, don't forget the hot tub awaits!

Our next set of dates at Sahale for this year are Fridays through Sundays:

February 6-8

March 17-19

April 14-16

May 26-29 Memorial Day Weekend – Friday through Monday!

You are welcome to join us for a day, or 2, or more. Sahale will provide meals and lodging and will accept any donations for services that volunteers wish to make. We encourage folks to bring their own preferred tools and foul-weather gear, to make sure we have enough to go around.

Please reach out to me at 360-880-2424 by text or phone, or email

alwaysgrowingdesign@gmail.com as soon as you commit to a date. I must confirm the volunteer list to the Sahale management team at least 1 week in advance of each weekend.

I look forward to seeing you, and working with you, sometime soon!

**Service to others is the rent you pay
for your room on earth.**

Muhammed Ali

Barbara Brucker's CaringBridge Page:

Friends of Barbara can follow Barbara's progress by checking her CaringBridge page:

<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/barbarabrucker>

Our Governance System Using Sociocracy: Part Three

Pamela Jarrett-Jefferson

Facilitator & Member, Goodenough Community General Circle

In a democracy, we have the right to govern ourselves. We have the right and responsibility to create and maintain our own form of governance. For the Goodenough Community, we are using *Sociocracy*. *Sociocracy*, even more than democracy, strives to be egalitarian as does the Goodenough Community. As a membership organization, the members have both the right and the responsibility for making decisions for the benefit of themselves and the organization. Sociocracy helps us take our aspirational ideals and organize them into operational goals. One of the key elements of Sociocracy is consent decision-making. Prior to Sociocracy, the Goodenough Council, the name for the overall governing body then, used the consensus model of making decisions. Comparing the two may highlight the reasons we have moved from our previous model to the other.

Decision-making: Consensus versus Consent

“Consensus is a process involving a good-faith effort to meet the interests of all stakeholders and seek a unanimous agreement.” *Harvard.edu Program on Negotiation*

In our organization, using consensus means that the stakeholders, in our case the members, all must understand and agree with any decision needing to be made. The process is time-consuming to reach an agreement and one person can halt the unanimous agreement. Because of this facet, we adopted the understanding that if a person didn't agree but were willing to allow the decision to go forward, then resolution could be reached.

“Consenting to a proposed agreement does not mean you agree with it. Consent is not an endorsement. It means you have no objections to the proposal and that you are willing and able to work with the result.” *We the People, John Buck and Sharon Villines, p. 81*

Objections must be reasonable in Sociocracy. Initially, an objection may be a gut feeling that something isn't right. Ultimately, the objection must be stated factually and explained. Objections are a healthy part of the process. As a form of feedback, they point out flaws, conflicts with the goals of the circle, ways to evaluate and measure are missing from a proposal, potential unintended consequences exist, the proposal isn't well thought out, or that a proposal may make it difficult to carry out your role or assigned tasks.

Introducing the Lifeways Circle

Lifeways Circle members are Barbara Brucker, Rosemary Buchmeier, Marjenta Gray, Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Pamela Jarrett-Jefferson, and Hollis Guill Ryan

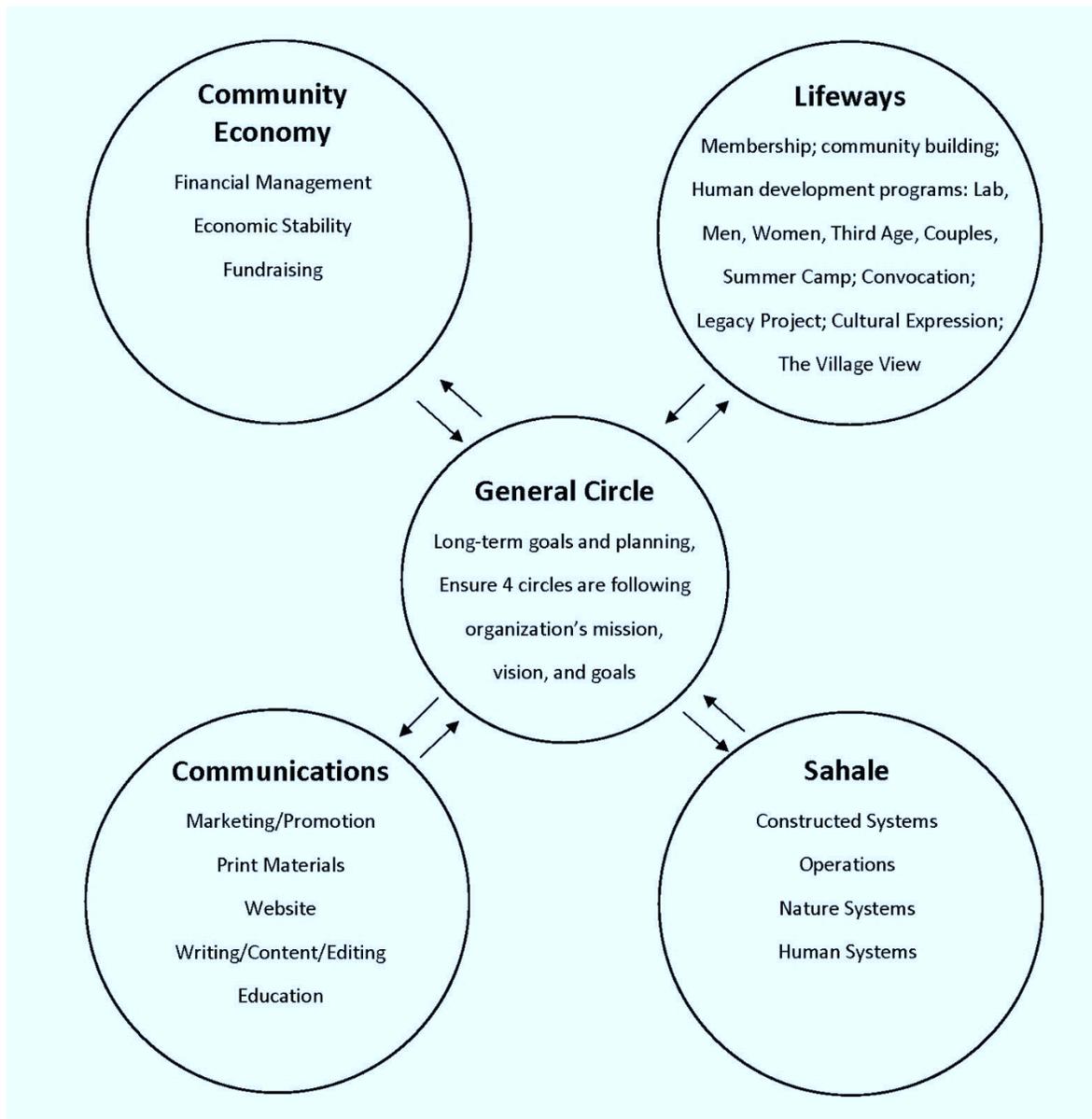
We are in our own version of transition in this circle. We lost two members, Colette Hoff and Joan Valles. Our dear friend, Barbara Brucker, is on medical hiatus with health issues. Elizabeth is our operation lead & facilitator, and Hollis is our administrator. We have not yet reassigned all the formal Sociocratic roles---e.g., we now need to ask one of us in the circle to be the representative as a substitute for Barbara. We have had enough changes in our circle make-up that we might be unconsciously not finishing this task! Lifeways is a long-standing, functional team, so we tend to just get down to business. We regularly meet weekly on Thursday mornings.

Aim: The overall aim of the lifeways circle is to demonstrate a way of life based on our Covenant, the Perennial Philosophy and the teachings of the founders, John and Colette Hoff.

Domains: (areas of responsibility)

1. Human Development and Mental Wellness Programs (Cultural Programs including Lab, Summer Camp, Men, Women, Family, Third Age).
3. Spiritual Life: Convocation: Pathwork and Watchcare
4. Legacy: Embedded understandings that inform our decisions and ways of life
4. Cultural Expression (Art, Music, Dance, Ritual & Ceremony, Play, Stories and Poetry)
5. Membership & Community Building

Next time we'll look at using rounds in meetings, forming proposal; and we'll introduce the community Economy Circle.





Mindful Mike's Blog: Laughter

Mike deAnguera

We community people are such serious folks. That is good up to a point. When I am serious at the egoic level, I can say and do some pretty dumb things. I am stuck. Can't seem to shift out of it no matter how hard I try. Like trying to get a truck unstuck in the meadow grass. The wheels spin faster and faster as I push on the accelerator. Smoke starts rising up. I am burning my tires I am trying so hard.

Laughter comes in handy to help me push away from the stuck spot. When was the last time you really laughed? When was the last time I really laughed? Don't remember. Hmm..guess I must be stuck.

If I get feedback on something I missed, I could go to a pretty deep place. Why don't I try laughter instead? Like Leonard Cohen one said my cracks are what let the Light in. I can only let the light in if I am open to it.

Here is a cheerful Christmas bunch. We are all happy in the moment. All these folks are giving me energy. Any conflicts we may have are not remembered in the moment. At least that's true for me.

Our Christmas party was a simple one. Our tree was in Potlatch was made of two large branches brought down by the great snowstorm that began just after Thanksgiving. It was as tall as the ones we used to cut down in the forest.

I'd hate to think of where I would be without you guys. Isolation in the outside world is no fun. Does the outside world get it? When I see all the homeless people in downtown Seattle I have to wonder. When I am with my friends life becomes so much more than that.

I am here in this lifetime to help create a story. Can't do it without conflict. Think about it. Do we really want to be happy all the time with each other? Yes, we can be hard on each other and on ourselves.



I am here in this lifetime to help create a story. Can't do it without conflict. Think about it. Do we really want to be happy all the time with each other? Yes, we can be hard on each other and on ourselves.

Freezing rain. It is the first time in my life I have witnessed freezing rain here in Washington. The last time I saw it was when I was in the Navy in Norfolk, Virginia. The road outside my house became a skating rink. I found it difficult to stand up and used a cane to get around.

As you can see the branches were beautifully covered in ice.

Being warm is better than being cold. If I am cold as a person, I can't be happy or compassionate or kind.

I need my friends simply to live a healthy life. It is not possible for me to do it alone. I need friends I can hang out and laugh with. Even Matlock and Mindy can be helpful here. Also, Cody and Cooper. Most of what they do is silly. Such silly dogs! Now I know why many people have dogs.

We work great together. That's the ultimate test of a community. Can we come together to do what needs to be done? Especially in the rain?



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 and in future Village Views.

Human Relations Laboratory, August 2023

This event was cancelled in 2022. Please stay tuned for Human Relations Laboratory 2023 updates.

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.

Contact: [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](#)

The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle

Currently meets twice monthly on Monday evenings, 7 PM on Zoom.

Next meeting **January 23, 2023**. 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, **January 28, 2023**, via Zoom. For information, contact [Hollis Ryan](#)

Remember, the women will gather again via Zoom on Saturday, January 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. When you know you plan to attend, would you please let Hollis know? (hollisr@comcast.net) It helps the leadership team with its planning. And ... please come, even if you have not sent an RSVP! A zoom link will be sent out on Monday, January 23.

The Third Age - Those aged 60 and older have customarily been gathering every other month, Friday evenings, at 7 PM by Zoom. Our next zoom gathering is Friday, January 13. 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. Dates are in process for spring cultural gatherings and work parties. 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: January 15, 2023. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information.

New: Founders Day Celebration This new event is designed to celebrate our shared community life and to honor our founders, John and Colette Hoff. The first Founders Day celebration is scheduled for the weekend of **April 22, 2023**, at Sahale.

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. We will announce upcoming events in the Village View.