

# The Village View

June 22, 2022

Hollis Guill Ryan and Barbara Brucker, editors

## Change

Hollis Guill Ryan

### Coming Up—

- General Circle, July 11, 7pm
- Human Relations Lab, August 7-13

### Fighting the Instrument

Mark Nepo, *Suite for the Living*, 2004

Often the instruments of change  
are not kind or just  
and the hardest openness  
of all might be  
to embrace the change  
while not wasting your heart  
fighting the instrument.  
The storm is not as important  
as the path it opens.  
The mistreatment in one life  
never as crucial as the clearing  
it makes in your heart.  
This is very difficult to accept.  
The hammer or cruel one  
is always short-lived  
compared to the jewel  
in the center of the stone.



### 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

Our community will change ... must change ... is changing. We are in a place where we have never been before. One instrument of change is the loss of our founders, John and Colette Hoff. While developing our own leadership, we have nevertheless asked them for and counted on them for central leadership. We have turned to them for inspiration and vision, for advice and guidance both organizationally and individually. Both John and Colette were dear friends to the community as a whole and to many individuals. Because they were spiritual directors and spiritual counselors for many in the community, many of us consulted with them about personal and relational difficulties. Four decades ago, they founded our Goodenough Community and they have remained central to the community ever since.

John Hoff died 4 years ago, and Colette Hoff died only 3 months ago. We know the community must change to respond to our loss and we share the pain of grief and of change. Now, as we plan for the Human Relations Laboratory 2022, we are uncovering private pain we didn't know we shared with anyone else, pain that we individually thought was ours alone. This private-yet-shared pain has become an instrument of change.

A dozen or so community leaders gathered for a weekend to begin designing a Lab. It may have been obvious that Lab must be different this year due in part to the deaths of our founders—but also, we knew, because our community has an unexplored shadow, visible to others, and beginning to be visible to us. In good conscience, we cannot present a Lab that does not respond authentically to our dawning awareness of our communal and individual shortcomings. Almost the moment we sat together, pain came bubbling and roaring to the surface. Pain which until now had been held carefully, closely, confidentially. As pain called out more pain, memories spilled into the room. We are like a family that has kept its difficult experiences secret from each other, finally revealing what we experienced and how it has affected us. We have received so much from our community that is good, beneficial, growthful. To support that goodness, we did not talk about—or even know *how* to talk about—the hard places. Not knowing how to talk about what was hard, we were unable to support each other, causing even deeper pain. Even worse, people like me couldn't even believe that anyone would be hurt by the community or anyone in the community. For a while, I believed that all anyone expressing hurt or doubt needed to do was to increase their understanding. I was not listening to them with my heart. How little did I understand that I was actively darkening the shadow that our community was forming and that I was contributing to divisiveness rather than *community*. I call on Mark Nepo's wisdom—*embrace the change while not wasting my heart on resisting the cause of change*—to help me accept that airing our secrets," which includes voicing *my* secret pain, is necessary and worthy. By the end of the Lab Design weekend, although we had no design or theme for Lab, we had consensus that seeking healing is the right direction to take. We know that our relationships are being tested and are proving strong enough to embrace change. We know we deeply love each other. Change is beginning and with willingness, persistence, and openness, healing will come.

## Potlatch Storm Drainage System Constructed

Samuel D. Staatz, P. E., PMP



Potlatch has had an ongoing problem. During heavy rain runoff from the driveway leaks through the front wall and floods both the kitchen and dining areas. This has caused the exterior cladding to buckle and pull away from the building. Inside there is visible damage to the drywall between the stove and the front wall. The base of the counter beside the front door also shows signs of water damage.

I designed a drainage system to intercept and capture this runoff before it enters Potlatch. Once intercepted and captured, the runoff is conveyed through the drainage system, which runs along the front of Potlatch. The runoff is discharged on the hill next to Klawhie.

Construction began on Sunday. Jim Tocher rented a pavement cutter, which Joshua Demers operated.

Once the pavement was cut, marking the outline of the trench, Joshua manhandled the slabs of asphalt up and to the side.

Using the backhoe on our Kubota tractor, Joshua carefully excavated the trench for the drainage system.



By the time Joshua returned home Monday, the bulk of the trench had been excavated. Many, many thanks to Joshua. This project would not have been possible without his assistance.

On Monday the remaining ten feet of the trench were excavated by hand. This part of the trench was more complicated because of the underground utilities running through the area. We didn't want to rip any up with the backhoe. Well, any more than we actually did (we found a previously unknown power line that the underground locate folks didn't locate. Fortunately, we didn't damage ourselves or the power line). Also, several of the plants in line with the trench were rescued, under the supervision of Irene Perler and Phil Buchmeier, to be

planted elsewhere.

Once the trench was completed, we started installing the drainage system, with layers of gravel, a geotextile wrap, perforated pipe, and a catch basin. By day's end, much of the system was in place and covered. The permeable pavers in front of the Potlatch entrance were also installed. Many thanks to Niles Burton, Jim Tocher, Mike DeAnguerra, Pam Jefferson, Irene Perler, and Phil Buchmeier for their hard work Monday.

At this point, the project management idiom of 90 percent of the work takes ten percent of the time was coming to mind.

Tuesday morning Jim Tocher picked up a load of drain rock, which was placed in the trench. More permeable pavers were added in front of the patio entrance. Many thanks to Phil Buchmeier, Niles Burton, Jim Tocher, and Mike DeAnguerra for their hard work Monday,

Given the volume of runoff this is designed to intercept, the majority of the finished system was left as exposed drain rock. The permeable pavers in front of the entrance to Potlatch and in front of the patio allow wheelchair and walker access.

The significant work is complete. In a few weeks the slope below the outfall will be armored with crushed rock to dissipate the energy of the discharged water, preventing erosion of the hillside. This will also disperse the water out across the hillside, watering more of the garden. This work will probably take two or three people half a day to complete.

## Congratulations to Josie Ray

**Crookston** on her high school graduation. She's shown here with proud father, Joe. Hard to believe this young woman is the little girl who ran around at lab just yesterday!



## Mindful Mike's Blog: Chop Asphalt, Carry Dirt



*Mike de Anguera*

Remember Zen with Chop Wood, Carry Water? Well how about Chop Asphalt, Carry Dirt? Same idea. Zen spends a lot of time on how to do work. Get into the doing of a task by stages. Take breaks when needed.

Right now I am taking a break from cleaning up the parking lot in front of Potlatch to type up this report. The work is physically demanding and I am a senior so I need to take it slow. There are signs all over the place urging me to slow down. Quite different from the outside world which urges me to speed up and evaluates me on how fast I do a task. In fact, if a machine can do a task faster than me it will replace me because it doesn't need breaks and can work 24 hours a day.



Did I ever believe the day would come when we would have to dig up part of the parking lot to install a drain in front of Potlatch? Well, we have an expert hydrologist Sam Staatz to design and help build such a drain. No more floods.

Here you can see Jim Tocher, Sam Staatz, and Josh DeMers discussing how best to employ the asphalt cutting machine. Jim rented it in Port Orchard and brought it out on a trailer with his truck. Luckily Josh operated the cutting machine. He was the only one strong enough to run it. Thanks, Josh, for all your hard work.

Jobs like this force me to acknowledge my limitations as an older guy. Getting old means decreasing physical strength as well as endurance. If Josh were not here we would have had to hire somebody to do the work.

On construction sites people are hired from temp agencies to do the shoveling. One frequently has to show up very early in the morning to be available to work even if there are no jobs. Of course they would take one look at me and conclude that I was too old.

Imagine if I was a homeless guy trying to get my life back on track. I could not even clean toilets at a community college. Here what skills I do have are sufficient and nobody judges me by my age.

This is where our Lab skills get put to the test. I like working with friends much better than any employer. I am not just a factor of production to be exploited and laid off as redundant. As far I am concerned everybody should live in community. It makes for a healthier life. This is where I learn to be a friend and is the only way I can develop as a compassionate person. I am valued for who I am not for how fast I can work.

Seattle as a collective endeavor on the part of over 700,000 of us feels cold and uncaring. Graffiti is everywhere. Bridges are falling apart. Towers dominate the skyline built for the rich people we serve.

Sam took Niles Burton and me to a Fremont bar for fish and chips. It must have been quite a while since I had been to the city because it really shocked me. Broken down RVs everywhere along with homeless tents. Roads full of potholes.

I find myself wondering about the people serving us at our favorite eating places. I learn to see them as just simply wait staff. Maybe one day they will be replaced with robots and I won't know the difference.

Here is an award winning photo of Niles Burton and Pam Jarrett-Jefferson unrolling a huge drain pipe for the Potlatch drainage ditch. They won't be replaced with robots because they are community members, not employees. Watching them unroll the pipe was an experience I have never had before.



## Thoughts on Transition

The comments below are excerpted from the following article and seem relevant to the time we are in. Windward is a community on the east side of the Cascades in southern Washington.  
Barbara Brucker

### Crossing over the Threshold

Posted on December 7, 2012 by Lindsay Hagamen

Author: Lindsay Hagamen

Published in *Communities Magazine* Issue #157

*“The past must die in order for the future to have a place to live.”*

—Joseph Campbell

Windward’s history, like the history of many intentional communities that have survived in some form through the last four decades, is complex and multi-sided. Windward grew out of the conviction that we needed a working model of a better way to live, freely and sustainably—a desire that sails into the prevailing winds of modern culture, and so requires a strategy akin to tacking, wherein a boat sails a zig-zag course windward, for no sailing vessel can move directly into the wind.

The piece of this long history that I will focus on here is that critical point of transition that all of life experiences, after a retreat, after a decline, when space is created for something new to incubate, to gestate and eventually come to life. In other words, the fated transition in community when the founders, or what is left of them, pass on what they have created to a new generation of practical idealists who will carry an evolved version of it into the future.

Liminal space describes the stage of a transition when a person, group, or entity straddles the threshold, occupying both sides of a boundary. Liminality is commonly referenced in rituals or rites of passage, when the participant has traveled sufficiently away from a former identity, but has yet to fully cross over the threshold and embrace a new identity. Metaphorically, something has died, but has yet to be born anew. The duration of this period varies depending on the individuals and the nature of the transition. For all, it carries with it elements of disorientation and confusion as well as heightened awareness and new perspectives.

Nothing can transform, or evolve, without passing through this threshold. Communities that want to transition past the vision of the founders, aging members who desire to have their efforts have meaning beyond just their own experience, young communitarians who want to build on successes, learn from mistakes, and not keep re-inventing the wheel all must be willing to pass through this liminal period, often wrought with role and identity confusion.

So it is ever more important during this time of vulnerability to maintain the balance between rigidity and flexibility, between community-focused efforts and individual desires. To facilitate a successful rite of passage, like a skilled ritual-maker, communities must honor established structure and customs, such as decision-making practices, while leaving room to adapt to what is at hand, and encourage cooperative and interdependent values, while also encouraging the pursuit of individual bliss.

At the most basic level, if a community is approaching such a transition, the best that can be done is to be aware of it, anticipate it, and maintain compassion and integrity, patience and perseverance when the time comes.

Looking back, it was a commitment to a shared purpose and vision, and a willingness to step into unknown parts of myself, that helped me survive those days when I would collapse to the forest floor in tears, wondering why it had to be so hard to live so simply, wondering why I had to fight so hard to be able to love. In other words, it was desire that enabled me to survive the transition, a strong desire for the intangible yet very real promise that community holds.

I now have far greater understanding of the challenge that Walt and many other long-term communitarians face during the attempt to hand over the life's work of many to a younger, necessarily less experienced generation. Initially comes the challenge of attracting young people with a common vision and shared values to something that is fading, if not already faded. We are more easily drawn to health, the vibrant and the lively. Those who want to take on the role of an elder must be willing to help the community hold a steady course long enough for the younger generation to go through the humbling process of learning how great the challenge is and how grand an opportunity it is, during these vulnerable years of growth, to access many years of experience and practice. In the same way, a young sapling is far more likely to succeed if it is grounded in the fertile, life-giving soil created through past cycles.

I can also assure readers that if there is little or no room for the people who will carry the community into the future to make their mark, to be involved in the creative evolution, to play a role in determining the direction the community heads, then the community will not last very long. Those who are capable of maintaining the integrity of the community through time will leave if their efforts are not valued. And those who do not care to be involved in the creative process integral for community survival, and are content to just let others make such decisions, will not be able, on their own, to maintain a dynamic community when the elders are no longer able to. This means that the elders need to step back just as much as the younger generation steps forward. Increasing or decreasing responsibility is best mirrored by similar changes in authority.

Finally, there are mistakes that we in the younger generation need to make for ourselves, and then there are mistakes that are not worth repeating. I know that I have greatly benefited from elders who have done their best to differentiate between the two, to help me avoid the pitfalls while leaving me to learn the lessons that are best learned first-hand. I imagine that others could benefit from such guidance as well. I imagine too that one of the greatest joys that can come from a hard-earned truth is the understanding that someone else, potentially someone whom you are deeply invested in seeing succeed, will benefit from your experience. My generation has, however, been sold many false promises, and we now crave a practical wisdom that is earned only through experience; we can detect from a distance a lack of authenticity. So it is not the infallible self-proclaimed gurus to whom we are attracted, but rather the people wise in their humanly years.

# Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Community is about adapting to change, and that has been the case with the pandemic as we have adapted many of our ways to connect, most of which are held on Zoom. This has enabled people from outside our area to participate in community events. Throughout the year we offer programs that help you participate in your own development, learn about relating well with others, and help you discover your potential for having a good time in life and with others. Information about programs and upcoming events can be found on our website: [www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org)



## **Human Relations Laboratory, August 7 – 13, 2022**

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. In 2022 we will celebrate 53 years! Contact: [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](#) or [Kirsten Rohde](#)



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

currently meets weekly on Monday evenings, 7 PM on Zoom. **Spring Dates:** Weekly in June. 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. For more information, contact [Hollis Ryan](#).



**The Third Age** - Those age 60 and older have been gathering monthly, Friday evenings, 7 PM by Zoom.

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. The Men's Culture of the Goodenough Community will be meeting and providing leadership for a Sahale Service Weekend on June 10, 11 & 12. Years of experience putting up and taking down the big White Tent annually, and caring for each other through the process, offer us the experience from which to lead in this weekend. We hope to expand the weekend to be more inclusive, while still offering

opportunities for us to gather as a Men's Circle to share our lives' news, work and experience of working together on the weekend. I hope to see you there! For more information, 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  
Contact [Brucker Brucker](#) for Zoom information.



**Work and Play Parties Throughout the Year.** Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work 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.

