



THE VILLAGE VIEW

DECEMBER 16, 2020

Colette Hoff, editor

Christmas Is A Feeling

Colette Hoff



John Hoff loved the holiday season – he would sit with the Christmas tree and watch the lights each evening, he very much loved all Christmas treats to eat, and most of all, John loved Christmas music. Our Christmas music collection was broad and varied from traditional to pop. We could hear Christmas music from the time John woke up till he turned the lights off at night. As cassette tapes morphed into CD's, we lost track of some favorite music.

A very simple song has eluded my research for at least 30 years. Finally, last evening I finally found the words and music I had been looking for each year. Written by Edward Leslie Hamilton in 1972, it was brought to life by Glen Campbell on an album titled **Lost Christmas 2, Holiday Rarities**. It can be found on you tube.

This is the year to seek Christmas music. It could bring a little joy. As we learned from Pierro Ferruci this year, small amounts of joy that are shared expand to become larger. Joy is not silly and frivolous, and it doesn't need to be overwhelming or reserved for special occasions. Joy isn't earned, it is chosen and spreads easily. Consider joy as a practice to be developed that leads to enduring contentment and psychological well-being. Receive all you can. While joy may feel elusive this year, seek it out and allow it to make a difference this year. It is a capacity we all have.

The words to John Hoff's two favorite Christmas carols follow.



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

I Believe in Christmas

I believe in Christmas
But Christmas isn't snow
Candy, floss, or mistletoe
Or Santa's ho, ho, ho.

Love is what it's all about
And I hope this yuletide rings
With thoughts of love for everyone
And friends of long ago.

Christmas is a feeling
Only children know
Theirs for such a little while
We lose it when we grow.

Christmas comes a winging
Just once a year to you
If all that love would stay awhile
Then Christmas could come true.



The Cherry Tree Carol

The Cherry-Tree Carol is a ballad with the rare distinction of being both a Christmas carol and one of the Child Ballads. The song itself is very old, reportedly sung in some form at the Feast of Corpus Christi in the early 15th century.

The song presumably made its way to the United States centuries ago, where Appalachian singer Jean Ritchie was recorded singing two traditional versions with slightly different tunes.^{[7][8]} The version sung on Ritchie's album *Carols for All Seasons* (1959) was taken by Joan Baez, who released her own rendition in 1961 on the album *Joan Baez, Vol. 2* with an added guitar accompaniment, bringing this version of the song mainstream popularity.

Cherry Tree Carol
Album: Light of the Stable (Christmas)

from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he
He married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee
He married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee

Mary and Joseph walk through an orchid green
There were berries and cherries as thick as might be seen
There were berries and cherries as thick as might be seen

And Mary said to Joseph, so meek and so mild
"Joseph, gather me some cherries for I am with child"
"Joseph, gather me some cherries for I am with child"

And Joe flew in anger, in anger flew he
Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee
Let the father of the baby gather cherries for thee

Then up spoke Baby Jesus from in Mary's womb
"Bend down the tallest tree that my mother might have some"
"Bend down the tallest tree that my mother might have some"

And bent down tallest branch till it touched Mary's hand
Cried she, "Oh look, thou Joseph, I have cherries by command"
Cried she, "Oh look, thou Joseph, I have cherries by command"

Blessings for a joyful holiday!



Getting Ready to Say Goodbye to 2020 and Welcome 2021

By Elizabeth & Pam Jarrett-Jefferson

We are planning for our end-of-year *Village eView* (**December 30**) and would love you to consider sending to the eView editors---Colette, Elizabeth, & Pam---any thing that might ease that transition for you or help you let go of 2020, ease into 2021, and bring back light into our collective lives. Do you have words to a song that inspire you? A meaningful poem that speaks to your experience?

Stories to share? Insights into the human condition? Elvis sightings? Alternate Tuesday raptures to One Drive? Ideas for offering a mandatory US Civics class? Cartoons and humor?



Send it all our way. “Let us keep our celestial fire extinguishers at hand as we reflect on the Dumpster Fire that was 2020.” — *Overheard at a local fire department*



Acknowledging the Holidays, Virtually

December 20, 2020

Sunday evening, December 20 at 7:00 pm will feature holiday carols with a chance to connect. The Lifeways Team, one of several governing bodies of the Goodenough Community, will present a program whose intention is to inspire by enabling conversation, celebration, and light and love of the season.



Date: Sunday, December 20, 7PM, via Zoom. All are welcome to join.

Please let Elizabeth or Colette know of your intention to join so that we can send along the Zoom link.

We would love to see you!



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.

Hearing a good man, and his thoughts about racism.

Norm Peck

Major General Charles Q. Brown was the highest ranking African American in the U.S. military, and the U.S. Air Force in July 2020 when he was nominated to be the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff at the Pentagon, the first African American to be nominated (and ultimately to serve) in that role. Before his nomination was confirmed, he made a powerful recording, telling his forces in Air Force Pacific, and the nation, what he was thinking in the midst of the rising Black Lives Matter Movement.

You can see that recording, and an interview of him about it on the NPR website at: [For Air Force Leader, Making Video On Racism He's Faced Was 'The Right Thing To Do' : NPR](#)

I recommend it if you want to understand more about one black American's perspective on his life and service, his family and sons, and questions about where each of us stands on racism in our country. His service undoubtedly started after my term of military service ended. Although the military was theoretically integrated when I was in, black men were disproportionately drafted, and at some times as many as 75% of enlisted men serving in Vietnam were black men. Some white soldiers while I was in Basic Training were openly abusive of black men, and only the black Drill Sergeants called them on it...and a few of us who were "trainee leaders". So what you hear from General Brown is the deeper, more nuanced forms of bias, the kind I and we all need to watch out for.



A Reminder . . .

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, and while you are there, notice some of the pictures and new activity on our web site. Remember, donations are tax-deductible and in 2020 those who take a standard deduction will be able to add up to \$300 "above the line" for contributions made to nonprofit charities.

A Sahale Product List can be found on page 13.

Blessings for a True Holiday!





Mindful Mike's Blog: The Messiah

Mike deAnguera

Advent is the Wait. We are waiting for something. What are we waiting for? Why the birth of the Messiah of course! The baby Jesus in the manger with Mary and Joseph looking on. Last night Colette Hoff selected the Charlie Brown Christmas on Channel 9. Charlie Brown and the kids talked about the Savior who would save the world. The Good News.

Why do we need a Messiah? Because our world is so messed that only a Messiah can fix everything. Who is the Messiah? Some kind of superman. We are told he is in the line of King David.

So an obscure rabbi comes along as a miracle worker. He draws a following. Would I be among his followers? Of course. I'd love to have somebody who could suddenly turn my world into a paradise. Especially now with everything going down the toilet.

Naturally he would see my character flaws but love me anyway. Would I get defensive? In the past yes. Perhaps for most of my life.

I have read theologians like Rudolph Bultman who seem to give me nice logical arguments for how things went but something seems to be missing. I find myself much more likely to want the company of Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch missionary who's faith enabled her to survive a Nazi concentration camp.

I believe the Messiah we are all waiting for lies within each of us. The Maitreya or World Teacher. The Divine. That who Jesus was leading us to. The one he called his Abba.

I find I need a Friend. He/she won't solve all my problems but instead be a presence to anchor my egoic self. I guess I give him the name of Jesus because our religious culture is centered around him. Yes, the Messiah could be female and is represented as such at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.



A Friend represented by something as cuddly as the bunny doll in the left hand photo? Even older adults love nice cuddly dolls. Something soft I can hug. You see? I just want to be loved. Have no desire to worship anything. Just want to have a Friend to walk with.

The Christmas tree. A pagan symbol of everything green and growing. Connecting me with the Earth. I can't imagine the Earth to be just a dead ball of dirt because life would have been impossible here.

All the wonderful colored lights everywhere in Kloshe and Potlatch. Also outside. Pam has installed Christmas lights across the street as well as my balcony. I don't believe I ever put lights up in my condo. Christmas is hard to do when living alone. It is something to be shared.

Even the bright yellow flower on the side of Kopet WaWa makes a beautiful display during today's rain.



Christ Climbed Down

By Lawrence Ferlinghetti

Christ climbed down
from His bare Tree
this year
and ran away to where
there were no rootless Christmas trees
hung with candycanes and breakable stars

Christ climbed down
from His bare Tree
this year

and ran away to where
there were no gilded Christmas trees
and no tinsel Christmas trees
and no tinfoil Christmas trees
and no pink plastic Christmas trees
and no gold Christmas trees
and no black Christmas trees
and no powder blue Christmas trees
hung with electric candles
and encircled by tin electric trains
and clever cornball relatives

Christ climbed down
from His bare Tree
this year
and ran away to where
no intrepid Bible salesmen
covered the territory
in two-tone cadillacs
and where no Sears Roebuck creches
complete with plastic babe in manger
arrived by parcel post
the babe by special delivery
and where no televised Wise Men
praised the Lord Calvert Whiskey

Christ climbed down
from His bare Tree
this year
and ran away to where
no fat handshaking stranger
in a red flannel suit
and a fake white beard

went around passing himself off
as some sort of North Pole saint
crossing the desert to Bethlehem
Pennsylvania
in a Volkswagen sled
drawn by rollicking Adirondack reindeer
and German names
and bearing sacks of Humble Gifts
from Saks Fifth Avenue
for everybody's imagined Christ child

Christ climbed down
from His bare Tree
this year
and ran away to where
no Bing Crosby carollers
groaned of a tight Christmas
and where no Radio City angels
iceskated wingless
thru a winter wonderland
into a jingle bell heaven
daily at 8:30
with Midnight Mass matinees

Christ climbed down
from His bare Tree
this year
and softly stole away into
some anonymous Mary's womb again
where in the darkest night
of everybody's anonymous soul
He awaits again
an unimaginable

and impossibly
Immaculate Reconciliation
the very craziest of
Second Comings

Copyright 1958 by Lawrence Ferlinghetti



Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Includes dates for Winter 2021

*Because of our unpredictable times, dates and descriptions shown
represent our plans for now.*

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 new-found friends ... working together in a creative endeavor ... collaborating during 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 help you 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 monthly, 7:00 PM, via Zoom. Below are dates for our winter meetings:

- December 7
- January 4
- February 1
- March 1

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](#). *Our next Zoom gathering will be Saturday, January 23, 10am to 1:00 PM.*

We will publish a zoom link and invitation in advance.



The Third Age - Those age 60 and older have been gathering monthly, Friday evenings. 7:00 PM. With the pandemic, meetings are virtual. The next scheduled meetings are below. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information: December 11

- January 15 February 26.

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. A weekend is planned from June 4 & 5, 2021. Stay tuned for details.



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. You are welcome to join.

Meetings are held via Zoom on alternate Sundays from 7pm to 9pm. Contact Colette: hoff@goodenough.org for Zoom information.

- December 20 – a time to mark the holidays
- January 3 & 17
- February 14 and 28
- March 14 and 28



True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 4, 2021

We are planning our 2021 event! Hold this date on your calendar. We traditionally hold this event on Mercer Island. Stay tuned for details.



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 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 pandemic crisis.*

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Sahale Local Love Homemade Products of the Harvest

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BLACK & BLUE Double-berry jam
 BLACKBERRY BLISS Summer joy jam
 RASPBERRY Sweet sunshine jam
 STRAWBERRY Luscious scarlet jam

SPECIALTY JAMSpint \$12 | half pint \$7

ELDERBERRY, HUCKLEBERRY, BLUEBERRY Triple-berry, triple-antioxidant jam
 CHERRY Crimson tart 'n fresh jam

GRANOLA 1.5 Pounds of homespun yumbag \$12

GRAPE JUICE Lightly sweetened Island Belle from our arborsquart \$10

SASSY APPLE SAUCEquart \$10 | pint \$5

DRIED APPLES Crisp bits of sunshinebag \$10

APPLE CHUTNEY The seasons delightpint \$15 | half pint \$8

MARVIN Our "famous" sourdough startjar \$10

ENGLISH WALNUTS Harvested from our potlatch tree, in the shellbag \$12



Soon, we will have a online shop for you - Exciting!!
 In the meantime...

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Drai will communicate to you about
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