



# *The Village View*

*May 11, 2022*

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Editor



*You are invited to a  
Celebration of Life for*

*Mary Colette Hoff*

**Sunday, May 29, 2022, 1:00 PM**  
*Sahale Learning Center  
2901 NE Tahuya River Road, Tahuya WA*

*Please bring warm clothing, shoes for walking the land, and your  
stories and memories of Colette*

*We also invite you to bring snacks and beverages to share*

**Please RSVP**

*Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson*

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## The Goodenough Community: Mourning While Carrying Our Community Forward

Kirsten Rohde

As Marjenta Gray's lovely article in the last *Village View* about Colette Hoff demonstrates, our community is a learning community. This learning happens in supportive friendships, coaching, gatherings of women, men, couples, families, elders and youngers that have happened over the 50 years of Goodenough life. One of the aspects of learning that I am particularly valuing right now, in this time of Colette's passing, is the training in organization and leadership that has always been a cornerstone of Colette and John Hoff's teaching. One of Colette's classic phrases was, "If not me then who? if not now then when?" which remains a helpful tenet that continues to help many of us step up into leadership as a way to learn about ourselves and contribute to the whole. I remember John saying many years ago, "Let's rent a tour bus and invite families and friends to join us on a winter trip over the pass to Leavenworth." I thought – "really???" His was just a creative idea, and yet he and others developed the idea, created the first trip, and now we've had 20 plus fun annual trips, only paused due to COVID. If we believe in something, it can happen!



*Colette & Granddaughter Lili*

This introduction is to say that the Goodenough Community and its programs and events will continue – no doubt about that. John and Colette were strong leaders and trainers that helped set our community in motion and bring others into leadership roles. Three years ago we learned about a way of organizing called Sociocracy. Community leadership attended a weekend workshop with Diana Leafe Christian to learn the basics and agreed to try out this method that works well in a community setting. Sociocracy enables many people to fill roles in circles with the principle that decisions are made at the level of each circle's area of work to accomplish. In this way there are many people providing leadership while orienting and training each other to accomplish the work of each circle. We are not dependent on any one central leader and we don't all have to be involved in all decisions. Some of these circles have been featured in previous *Village Views* and we will continue this theme in future issues.



For myself, I came to the Goodenough Community with some organizational skills but lacking a heartfelt response to life and to friendships and to myself. I am so grateful to learn about my inner world and choose to change what didn't work well in the world. And to learn how to be a good friend – always continuing to learn more. And to use these new ways of being to become a more connected, joined, humble and helpful contributor to our community work. To be supported when I fall and be kind to others when they stumble. We

enjoy celebrating each other as friends, hard workers, fun and funny people. Even in grieving laughter happens.

So while we mourn deeply the recent loss of Colette (too soon!), and often reference aspects of John and Colette's teachings, I am assured that we have the capacity to continue and expand the work of our community. In the last year, we have been in a visioning time and look forward to strengthening our circle work with new members joining in to learn and contribute. Perhaps you may be one of these people. Let us know of your interest! To find out how you can find out more contact one of us:

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## Mary Colette Hoff, friend, pastor, leader, founder of the Goodenough Community and so much more.



Our beloved teacher, spiritual guide, counselor and friend Colette Hoff died the afternoon of April 21 at her daughter Amie Aylward's home in Lake Forest Park lovingly tended by Amie and a few close friends who had been at her side for the last week of her life. Amie and her husband Colin opened their home to dozens of friends who came by to visit with her. Her mind was clear to the end, and many were grateful for a final word of love, advice, or humor from her. Her beloved grandchildren were often at her side.



Born on November 10, 1947, and raised in Westwood, NJ, Colette found her vocation for service early as she aided her father Ray Werner, a paraplegic from service in World War II, as he served other veterans as a repairer of wheelchairs and informal counselor. She credited Girl Scout leadership for shaping her spirituality through ceremony, community, and experiences in nature. She was graduated from Auburn University in

### **On-Line News of the 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

Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in foods and nutrition. After graduation she worked in the quality control department of a food business in Birmingham and learned firsthand the hardship of factory life. Drawn to the civil rights movement, she became sensitive to the treatment of minorities. Her work in Birmingham as a nutritionist in heart attack prevention studies drew her to Seattle where she joined the University of Washington's Lipid Research Clinic. As she worked with study participants, she realized she was more interested in the people than the scientific findings. She became skilled in motivational counseling, facilitating staff retreat, and teaching assertiveness training skills.

Colette attended her first Human Relations Laboratory in 1977 and immediately recognized its benefits. Her relationship with John Hoff, one of the founders of the Lab, grew out of a friendship that developed in the following year. John and Colette were married on June 7, 1980. In 1981 they called together a group of friends and counselors, Lab participants, to consider the possibility of forming an intentional community. This led to their founding the Goodenough Community (American Association for the Furtherance of Community). The early 1980s were an especially busy time for Colette: she gave birth to her daughter Amie Grace and also decided to return to school to deepen her skills in education and counseling. She obtained a Master's degree in Education from the University of Puget Sound and a certificate in Pastoral Care and Counseling from the Christian Counseling Service in 1984. Colette was a dedicated student of life and her own growth and development.



In 2000 Colette was ordained as a pastor by Convocation: A Church and Ministry, the spiritual arm of the Goodenough Community system, which embraces interfaith traditions. As pastor for Convocation, she served as a pastoral counselor through Quest: A Counseling and Healing Center. With the acquisition of Sahale Learning Center in 2001, Colette took on the role of managing Sahale in all its many aspects. She seemed to have boundless energy and she made all who came to Sahale feel immediately welcome. She regarded Sahale as a demonstration of the Community's learning and lifeways.

Colette was a coach to many and a trustworthy guide for community living, relationships of all kinds, and leadership skills. Colette embraced the idea that mental health isn't measured by the absence of problems but by the way one deals with them. Her journey at the side of her husband during his passing in 2018 deepened her wisdom and increased her comfort with death and dying. She approached her own final illness consciously and with wisdom and grace. She taught us all until the end.

Colette is survived by her daughter Amie Aylward and son-in-law Colin Aylward; stepson Larry Hoff and daughter-in-law Rachel Hoff; stepson David Hoff, stepdaughter Laura Young and son-in-law Mike Young; and grandchildren Wiley and Juniper Aylward and Sophia and Liliana Hoff.

If you wish to honor Colette with a donation in her memory, it may be made to either the Goodenough Community or to Convocation, PO Box 312, Tahuya, WA, 98588. Or, in recognition of Colette's vocation of working with women and supporting women's right to choose, a contribution may also be made to Planned Parenthood of Birmingham, Alabama. Colette lived in Birmingham after her graduation from Auburn University and began her career as a counselor in nutrition. Unlike Washington, Alabama is a state unlikely to support women's right to choose in light of recent Supreme Court actions.

## Missing Colette

*Kirsten Rohde*

I hate cancer! OK, I got that out of the way. It's hard to have equanimity while watching our friend's journey from getting a not-great diagnosis in February, 2021; and, in spite of two rounds of treatment and the kind skilled care at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, coming to the end of her bodily life this April. I have so much love and appreciation for all of us as we were on this journey with Colette. Many friends, family, skilled practitioners and healers, phone calls, cards and offers of help in all ways passed through Sahale in this past year and a half.

John and Colette moved to Sahale in 2014. They loved this land and Colette was so happy to fulfill a life-long wish to be an "innkeeper and host," a role she filled with love and expertise. Visitors to Sahale always fell in love with the land and many also became good friends with Colette and others in our community who help provide the space for sacred work to happen.

Colette had many roles beside "innkeeper." Most of all she was a friend who urged all who knew her to become their best selves. She provided guidance, enduring friendship, unconditional love and training to many. She believed in the possible. We all wish she had had many more years to continue her mission of spirit filled work in all meanings of the word.

In a prior *Village View* Colette wrote about her journey with cancer and included the Missa Gaia version of "Mystery" one of her most favorite songs. This song helps me to feel Colette all around.



### *Mystery by Paul Winter*

*It lives in the sea or a tree as it grows.  
You can hear it, if you listen, to the wind as it blows.  
It's there in a river as it flows into the sea.  
It's the sound in the soul of a man becoming free  
And it lives in the laughter of children at play  
And in the blazing sun that gives light to the day.  
It moves the planets and all the stars that shine.  
It's been the mover of mountains, since the beginning of time.  
Oh Mystery you are alive; I feel you all around.  
You are the fire in my heart; you are the holy sound,*

*You are all of life; it is to you that I sing.  
Grant that I may feel you, always in everything.*

*And it lives in the waves as they crash upon the beach.  
I have seen it in the gods that we have tried to reach.  
I feel it in the light and I know it means so much.  
I know it in your smile, my love, when our hearts do touch.*

*But when I listen deep inside, I feel best of all,  
Like a moon that's glowing white and I listen to your call  
And I know you will guide me, I feel like the tide  
Rushing through the ocean, of heart open wide.*

*Oh Mystery you are alive, I feel you all around.  
You are the fire in my heart; you are the holy sound.  
You are all of life; it is to you that I sing.  
Grant that I may feel you, always in everything. O Mystery*



## **Mindful Mike's Blog: Motivation**

*Mike de Anguera*

What motivates me today? It certainly is not the same as in the past. My stage in the life cycle from birth to death has a very powerful effect on my motivation. I never thought it could change but it does. That is the most surprising thing about getting older.

There was a time when I most wanted to be a ferry boat captain because we were riding them across the sound to our summer place. A magical place for me as a youngster. Maybe a way to get away from the bullies at school.

Of course, a summer place was part of the middle class heaven of Magnolia in Seattle.



Everybody had one, at least most of the folks we knew. For my dad it was a chance to unwind after working the week. Maybe he wanted to recreate the country home he had as a boy in Nova Scotia.

Now I still like riding ferry boats but wouldn't care to work on one. I certainly loved riding the Water Taxi to downtown Seattle.

Sahale is my motivation now. I help care for the groups coming here to do their work. The work we all do is helping us construct a new world, a new dream to replace middle class heaven. It is still very much incomplete.

Originally it was the vision of John and Colette Hoff. Now it is actually land with buildings including two new ones we put up. My tiny house is part of this dream. I love being part of

this vision. It feels much better than any career I ever had. That's because a career was never a good way to build friendships. We never shared anything outside of work. Work simply paid the bills.

Ah....the illusion of middle class heaven. Gardens create the rural scene on a city lot. Here are Rose Buchmeier and Irene Perler working on a bed in front of the Tum Tum green house. I've even seen box gardens on wheels at the Mt. St. Vincent Home. Sahale has the advantage in being real.



Elizabeth Jarett-Jefferson is enjoying mowing her lawn with her Rosa. As you can see it is indeed a beautiful lawn. Her house is meant for living rather than show. That's what makes it so attractive.

Did I want a house with a lawn while growing up? Actually I wasn't sure. Seattle's World's Fair's Plywood Home of Living Light impressed me but Somehow I didn't feel drawn to it. It was never a goal in my life.

Where did I want to live? Alaska. I had no idea what Alaska was like but figured with glaciated mountains it must have been pretty special. I still think it could be a special place to visit. I would go on the ferry rather than a cruise ship. A ferry is a lot less expensive and can be just as much fun. That's because regular people ride it.



Last week Sam Staatz treated all of us to a Kentucky Derby Dinner. It was delicious although I usually don't enjoy spectator sports. I remember being made to read the sports section of the daily newspaper by my high school PE teacher. It is the one section I usually just put aside. Here you can see Sam wearing his favorite Derby hat.

## Annual White Event Tent Raising

*Norm Peck*

**Y**

ou are invited to an inclusive, all-hands weekend of Service at Sahale on **June 10, 11 & 12**. Each year in late May or early June, a group of Goodenough Community members and friends gather to put up the 40-foot by 60-foot event tent. Because it's a big tent, it's a big deal. Many hands make it light work and good shared time together. Through the summer, the tent will host many gatherings, as well as our Human Relations Laboratory in August. We will gather again in October to take down, clean and carefully store the tent fabric cover, aluminum frame and dance floor deck panels. In addition to help with installing the dance floor, tent frame and fabric placement and power and lighting setup, help in support roles such as kitchen/meal preparation and even music to share are always welcome. The Men's Culture of the Goodenough Community will provide leadership for the service weekend, and the Men's Circle will meet at times for planning, check-in and evaluation purposes. The service opportunity is not intended to be limited to men only, rather to be open to anyone wanting to be of service to and together as a community.



***Washington DC 2016***

*Ok, as editor, I am very fond of this picture! - ej*

## 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. Throughout the year we intend to 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,** is currently meeting weekly on Monday evenings, 7:00 PM and alternating between in-person and Zoom formats.

#### Spring Dates

Weekly in May and June.

For additional information including location, 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, 7PM. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information

□ **Spring 2022 dates:** May 13



**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. I 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: 7pm to 9pm. Contact [Brucker Brucker](#) for Zoom information.

**Spring Dates:**

- May 22
- June 5 and 19



**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.



*Colette officiating Amie/Colin Wedding 2012*