



The Village View

June 27, 2023

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Editor

Coming Up:

Pathwork, Sunday, July 2;

Goodenough Community

Summer Retreat (in place of Lab),

August 6—12 @ Sahale

Remembering Tod Ransdell

Hello Everyone – It is a privilege to be editor of this edition of our community's *Village View* where we remember our long-time community member, Tod Ransdell, a man with a big heart; blessed with many, many talents; and possessed a knowledge base as big as the oceans are deep. We miss Tod and his loving presence among us.

Love,

Elizabeth

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



Tod was a botanist with a passionate interest in the world of mushrooms & the mycorrhizal network.

A memorial for Tod will be held at Sahale on **Saturday, October 21, 2023**

Information to follow later this summer.

My Friend Tod - by Rebecca Abenroth

I met Tod at least 20 years ago. I think it was probably at the Private School for Human Development (PSHD), and then later at a Lab at Seabeck, where I was one of the group leaders he was assigned to. I remember him seeming frightened, and I remember hounding him to “get in touch with his feelings.” Tod did not easily emote in person. He did, however, have feelings. Way back somewhere, he must have learned that sharing them directly was not safe. I



learned to love him for who he was, and what he chose to share. This life of his was not always easy, and he suffered some severe heartaches and physical traumas.

Tod had an enormous intellect, and a real drive to learn. He was always learning, and then practicing and perfecting what he had learned. The ecology of Yellowstone? Check. Hot sauces of the world? He knew ‘em all. Every way to cure or process meat? He could do it all. Validation for Bio tec industries? He was the best. Reiki? Yes, yes. The best hugs? Uh huh, Tod was the best. Some of my most enjoyable conversations have been with Tod about things we both were passionate about.

And some of my most enjoyable meals have been collaborations with Tod, where we tried out something we had researched. Some were busts: During Covid, I collected kelp stipes for him and he pickled them. They were truly awful!

When Tod was dying, I told him that he had been one of my most dependable and steady friends, through good times and bad. We both cried. He has been. Even when we disagreed, he stayed constant with me. I am going to miss my kind, complicated, enduring friend.

Tod was a Fun-gi - By Kirsten Rohde

Tod was a person with many interests and areas of expertise. I remember how much he used his scientific mind to figure out all sorts of things. One of his areas of training was as a botanist. One day some of us took a walk up in the woods at Sahale with Tod and he taught us about soil and mushrooms. He dug down through the soil and identified what the different layers were made of. I remember seeing the layer of white mycelium. I’d never taken such a close look at soil before!

It was Tod who told me that the stems of mushrooms are the most nutritious. How many times do we cut off the stems and toss them? Now I eat them, or if they are too hard, I simmer them in water and drink the tea. I think of Tod when I do this.



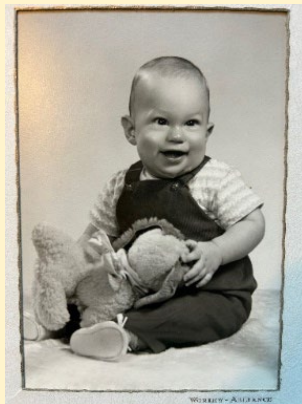
Tod also made herbal tinctures. One of his dreams was to develop a life crafting tinctures. Unfortunately, “making a living” came first and I still wish he could have lived long and retired to go where his dreams led him.

Tribute to Tod - by Douglas DeMers

Over the dozen or so years I knew Tod, I have fond memories of times spent with him. At the Human Relations Laboratory (Lab); at men’s weekends and other events; and at Sahale. Tod and I had many conversations over the years – in person and over email – on such a variety of topics! I always appreciated and valued his views and his opinions – finding our thoughts to be in alignment more often than not.

I appreciate that, as cook, Tod took the extra time to accommodate my often strange dietary requests. I cherish memories of Tod and Claudia visiting us at our Tokeland home and digging clams at Willapa bay; I remember the years of working the cider press together at Sahale’s Harvest weekend; I enjoyed being in small group together – the memories go on and on! I appreciate Tod’s kindness and going the extra mile – literally – when he drove Connie & me from SeaTac to Lab one year that he did not attend the event himself.

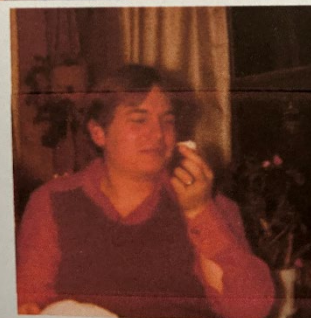
And, of course, there are the years of hanging out by the fire; the Bubba Tod’s seasoning on hard cooked eggs, making and drinking hard cider and endless delicious meals!



Memories and Blessings to Tod from His Friends

Excerpted from Tod's CaringBridge Site, lovingly maintained by Rebecca Abenroth

- ♥ **Phyllis Symmonds** : Memories of camping, whale watching, visiting around the campfire and wandering through tulip fields. Our thoughts and prayers with you, your family and all your friends. You will always be a part of us. Much love, Phyllis & Tom
- ♥ **Michael deAnguera** : We will be with you no matter what happens. We transcend time and space. Love you!
- ♥ **Veronica Schweyen** : Dear Tod, I have followed you on Facebook for a few years and really have appreciated your very honest and relevant entries. I live in New York now, and I have seen the many travels that you have taken in the past years. I am a religious Sister, and I am sending prayers to you during this time when you are suffering with cancer. You have shown others a very courageous path to follow. Peace and Love to you, Sr. Roni Schweyen
- ♥ **Sandy Bailey** : Sending peace and love your way Tod.
- ♥ **Susan Watson Richmond** : Thinking of you all. Peace to you all.
- ♥ **Julie Wolf** : Tears just below the surface as my heart breaks knowing your journey is so near Tod my new friend...May it be a joyful ride into your happiest Being! I love you Tod and more than Tod!
- ♥ **Marjorie Gray** : Thinking of Tod, appreciating his presence in my life and wishing him a gentle and easy departure. May grace be with you, dear Tod!
- ♥ **Leslie Norman** : We had a good 2 hour visit with Tod today Rubbed his feet and talked and listen to music (Beaver Chief) He is handling this with a lot of grace ♥ Love you so much Tod ♥ Leslie and Jodine
- ♥ **Doug Jane Holly Horton**: Hillary, family and friends of Tod's, this is sad news, and Doug and I send gentle hugs and love for you. He flew free ✨ Remember to breathe.
- ♥ **Kirsten Rohde**: I'll miss you Tod. So sad you had to go. You are/were a truly unique person with humor, love and a wealth of knowledge. I still remember learning about mushrooms....



♥ **Leslie Norman:** It is comforting to know his passing was peaceful and he was never alone. By the way Tod's nurse said (during our visit Saturday) after 46 years she has never seen anyone handle this as well as Tod did. Says a lot about him and the friends he made and his dear family ♥♥♥♥♥

- **Barbara Brucker:** Yes, Leslie, I agree. Tod faced the stunningly swift end of his life with his usual practicality and humor, didn't he!

♥ **Marjorie Gray:** Blessings, Tod, on your journey away from the body you inhabited for so long. Love to Claudia, Tod's sisters and the friends who have held him during this transition.

♥ **Shani Fox:** Blessings, Tod, on your journey. And blessings to all who held him so tenderly, enabling him to pass so peacefully.



Haiku!

Tod told his friends that what he really wanted, after he passed, was to have his community and friends toast him in the Swamp at Sahale. So, we did just that over Memorial Weekend - and Tod supplied the libations!

Barbecue Master
Purveyor of Bubba Tod's
King of Slow Cooked Pork

Wake up on Sunday
Sourdough cakes with our Chef Tod
In Potlatch today.

Attending Men's weekend
Drove around through Tacoma.
In dismal light rain

How and the Hell can
Reiki treat you remotely
And how does it work?

In Sahale sweat lodge—
We cooked in the heat and spoke
Of being set free.

Haiku about Tod
Without his name being called
We love you, our friend

We all get sloppy
Drinking our dear buddy's booze
And remembering.

Tod, Tod, what was that?
You pop in - many talents
Always mystery

Is Tod a mushroom?
Quiet and then he pops up
Says a few sage words

The land she calls you
Come and walk in the river
Let her love hold you

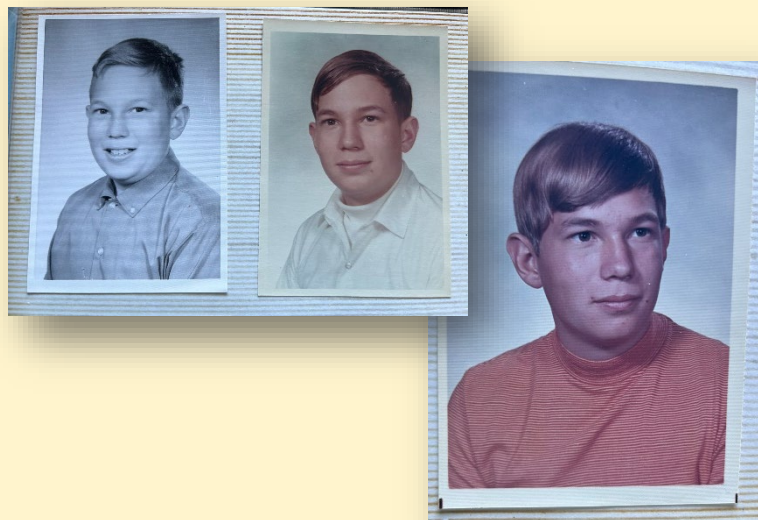
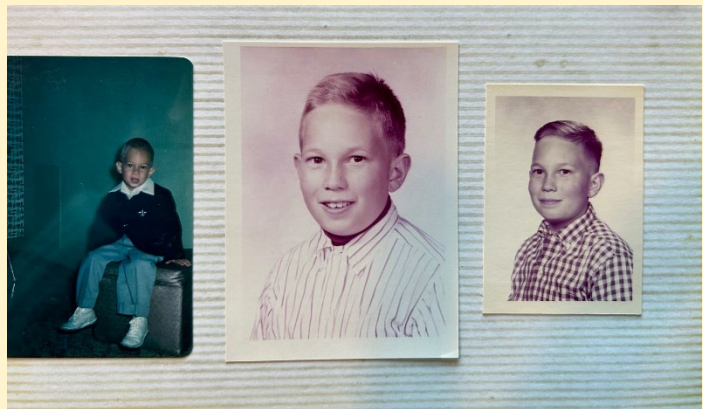
Thanks for the mezcal
I'm not telling anyone
About it – hide it

Tod booze Tod Haikus
What a wonderful world
Pour me another

Be at peace, kind man
Thank you for the
nourishing
Tasty meals with love

Tod loveth Brave Bulls
A man of man-y talents
I tip the tall glass

The rose named for him
Blooms searing pork
steaks
Mycologist



Barbara Brucker's Memorial

Marjenta Gray

Between 65-70 friends and family of Barbara Brucker celebrated and honored her life on Sunday, June 11, at West Seattle's Camp Long Hall. Barbara died on April 22 after a brave battle with central nervous system lymphoma.

The program primarily consisted of stories about Barbara, interspersed with music by Tim Manion and readings of poems. The stories created a full picture of the very active, multi-faceted, wise, loving and occasionally "prickly" woman Barbara was.

Stories began with her sister, Beverly Masteller's recollection of growing up with Barbara, where they learned to ski when they were young. Sharon Russell told of meeting Barbara over 50 years ago, when their husbands were friends at the University of Washington's dental school. Barbara had earned a Bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy there. Barbara and Sharon continued their friendship way beyond their divorces, as they attended many cultural events and traveled together.

Long-time partner to Barbara, Jim Tocher, told of their relationship which spanned decades and included bike rides in the US, Australia, and Europe. Their activities also included ski and camping trips, hikes, and visits to national parks, represented by "4 refrigerators-full" of magnets. I think most of us were touched to hear Jim's stories, especially knowing he was the closest to Barbara, living with her and her illness and decline for months.

Kirsten Rohde told of working with Barbara on numerous teams, as co-leaders in the Goodenough Community's shaping organizations. Their minds seemed to work similarly. Barbara had a special gift for synthesizing different perspectives, asking questions that deepened conversations, and finding solutions that bridged differences.



Vicki Groff told of meeting Barbara 10 years ago when they were both skiing on the hills near Lake Tahoe. They became deep friends and traveled, visited, and shared much during their relatively short time together.

John Tocher told of how his relationship with Barbara deepened when he became her technological “anchor” when she was ill, and her vision and orienting abilities were skewed by the cancer. John helped simplify her phone and create other systems for her to stay connected and navigate the environment. He said that Barbara had used a ski metaphor when describing how she knew she needed to approach her illness: “No guts, no glory!”

After some more stories from the audience, we closed with singing together five verses of Amazing Grace, followed by a poem by Rabindranath Tagore, which I will post below.

Though there is sadness and loss that Barbara is no longer with us, it does seem like “amazing grace” that we had so many good years with her and were able to gather together and appreciate that blessing. You live on our hearts, dear Barbara!



Peace My Heart

Rabindranath Tagore

Peace, my heart, let the time for
the parting be sweet.
Let it not be a death but completeness.

Let love melt into memory and pain
into songs.

Let the flight through the sky end
in the folding of the wings over the nest.

Let the last touch of your hands be
gentle like the flower of the night.

Stand still, O Beautiful End,
for a moment,
and say your last words in silence.

I bow to you and hold up my lamp
to light you on your way.

The Goodenough Community's Summer Gathering: Envisioning Our Next Chapter

Sunday, August 6 through 12, 2023, Sahale Learning Center

The Goodenough Community is at an important and exciting threshold: Envisioning our next chapter as an empowered, self-led community. It's time to celebrate who we are and envision who we want to be.



Something we know for sure is that our 'we' and our 'why' are our superpowers. We have invested heart and soul into creating kind and generous relationships, drawing out of each other the best versions of ourselves. What we know how to do is needed more than ever in this time of division and alienation.

This summer, join us in celebrating what brought us here and has kept us here, and in the challenge of forging the path we want to follow now. What would you love the community to be for you? What contributions are you ready to make to the community?

The time is NOW for each of you who value the community to join us in writing our next chapter. The magic of Goodenough happens when we show up and lift each other up, daring to be vulnerable, to be intimate, and to grow together.

At this summer's gathering, we will take on timely topics such as--

- An updated vision and mission for the Goodenough Community.
- Creating a community where everyone feels welcome, safe, and supported.
- Recommitting to a community covenant that holds us to showing up as our best selves.
- Envisioning a community structure in which each person's contribution is valuable and integral to the whole.

There will be lots of space between group conversations and activities to be with friends old and new, to contemplate and synthesize the ideas you've heard, all while we are held by the natural beauty of Sahale.

The future of the community is in our hands. It's time to show up with your passion, energy, and ideas. Because when we join together as genuine friends and community partners, magic happens.

Registration Information - Please go to www.goodenough.org to register

- ☐ **Deposit** – Please send in a deposit of \$250 by July 10 with the balance being due by August 6.
- ☐ You can expect additional information prior to the event.

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.

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. Meetings will resume in the fall. 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. 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.



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.

