



The Village View

April 15, 2021

Elizabeth & Pam Jarrett-Jefferson,
Guest Editors

Colette, Community, and Sacred Clarity

By Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson

We chose the theme of *infusion* this week since the word and concept are much on our minds as our beloved friend and community co-founder Colette Hoff undergoes chemotherapy and infusions during this, her second month of cancer treatment. It is also true that the annual meeting of our Goodenough Community is before us on April 24. Our intent is to make sure that Colette is infused with light and our good energy, and our intent is to infuse that same good energy into our community, which continues to fare remarkably well now as well as during the past year of the pandemic. There are good stories to tell about both of these Beloveds!

Upcoming Events, on Zoom:

- *Third Age, Friday April 16, 7:00 p.m.*
- *Goodenough Community Annual Meeting, Saturday, April 24.*

When I researched the word and topic of *infusion*, I remembered that it is also a descriptor of sacred art objects, especially those made of glass. I found these words below from artists about their glass creations and substituted Colette's and Community's names when I read the words glass and gemstones:

- "The colors of this little gem Community are very ...versatile. I liked the understated color scheme and the ribbon complimented it perfectly. "
- "I loved the way Colette reminded me of abalone mother of pearl. "

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

- “Reflecting on Colette, her written word, our conversations, and on recent and past events enhances or helps bring clarity to each of our unique experiences.”
- “Most of us who work on our crafts would probably agree that the time spent with Community....provides us with... reflective time.”
- “As a reflective [individual], Colette diffuses light. Colette absorbs and bounces back the light around her and can change according to the level and direction of light. “
- One layer of Community is fragile, but by [having joined] three or more layers at high temperatures, we achieve a final product that is smooth, resilient...and very resistant to breakage.”
- “Unlike mass-produced [jewelry], Colette is unique. Colette and community both... reflect back to you your individualism, your unique sense of color and style.”

A toast to you, Colette, and glasses raised to a warm and *infusiastic* Goodenough Community Annual Meeting on April 24! Read more on the next pages.

- Elizabeth

Op-Ed: Infusion Needs Self-Regulation

By Pamela Jarrett-Jefferson

Words are cool. The Letters within words can be arranged in different configurations, infused with meaning, and bang!--an idea is expressed. D, G, and O is *God* to some and *dog* to others--Unless you're a dog owner who thinks your dog is infused with God qualities.

See how I did that? I infused your mind with the thought that dogs could be gods. I knew that if you read what I just wrote, you would either agree or disagree. As we've been hearing a lot lately, words matter. Or, more accurately, words impact the listener.

In the information era, all manner of thought and ideas are infused in a way to help us see the truth or to hide it. Convenience of information seems to have shed responsibility for what is communicated and its impact on all sentient beings; e.g., people, plants, and pets. Clearly, quantity isn't quality and knowledge isn't wisdom. Wise people care about their



audience and believe the message is more important than themselves, the messenger. Tone, style, meter, vocabulary, and environment are chosen carefully as vehicles to infuse the message so it can land effectively and be heard. Most importantly, the messenger wants the message to be delivered and received.

Since *infusion* is defined as the introduction of a new element or quality into something, and since human beings are processors, what is absorbed must eventually be released. It follows then that taking great care to discern and choose what to absorb becomes even more important because it—whatever you chose to let in-- will eventually leak out, flow out, or blast out into words, energy, and actions. With all the information coming our way through the media and the internet, our challenge is to balance the information with its newness and its educational and/or nutritional value. Will it sustain and grow me into an expanded and enlightened person? Is this information tonic or toxic? I have the responsibility to decide and choose; It might even be wise to consult elders to double check the nutritional value and healthfulness of certain information. Then I can choose again or choose something else. Only then am I truly free to fully absorb what will now become my truth; I can then rest assured that when my truth is expressed, it will be good for my audience.

Cheers,

Pam

Goodenough Community Annual Meeting

By Kirsten Rohde and Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson



It's annual meeting time! On **Saturday, April 24**, our community will host its annual meeting, both a tradition and a requirement in our organizational charter. We will be meeting this year via Zoom. While we will sorely miss gathering in person, Zoom can enable other people to join us who would not be able to otherwise, and we have learned that we can have fine, intimate conversations via this platform. This will be true for April 24, a day of reviewing our year just passed, sharing highlights, and talking about the future. We have lots of good news to share; and we can look forward to getting updated with each other about the strange year we have just lived through...and what a year it has been!

Our plans thus far include having two- to three meeting times with good breaks in between. And perhaps we'll have time in the evening – if we wish. We know zoom sessions need to be time limited to keep our energy fresh and vital; and we also know that break out groups can work well to change things up and increase connection and intimacy. Those of us on the General Circle are planning intentionally to have light and humorous play times interspersed throughout

our day. Have a one-person zoomable skit to offer? Are you able to play the harp in those serious, disconsolate times during our on-line discussions? Are you *the* one whose cat took over their Zoom ID? Bring your own talents and year of truth along to the meeting!

We hope you will join us. There is plenty of good news to share and some important decisions to be made. This meeting is all about us---each of us individually and of our collective-- your input and thoughts are what make our Goodenough world go round. We will send out the Zoom invitation about a week prior to the meeting. We hope to see you then.



Mindful Mike's Blog: Infusion

Mike deAnguera

How to get new ideas into an old culture? Infuse them with the work we do in the Goodenough Community. The best way to do it is one person at a time via the Human Relations Laboratory. Friendships can take care of so many problems provided I am really open to my friends. Am I?

Of course, we also produce various written materials such as this Village View, but that is not the same as building relationships in person. Reading something is one way to learn, but having relationships infuse ideas into you is much more effective.

Protests are one way to get attention from authorities. But government arises from the consent of the people. It is much better to infuse good ideas into the governing authorities by showing them what we do at Sahale.



On the left Presley Harrington and Irene Perler at collecting dandelion flowers. Their yellow petals will make dandelion jam. I am told they have a nice honey flavor. Now I have had positive knowledge of what to do with dandelions infused into me. I don't always have to murder every dandelion I see in our lawns.

I also joined Marley Long and Presley in re-potting such common vegetables like bok choy and red cabbage. Such tender green shoots. I even talked to some of the young plants just like I talked to our trees as I planted them.

Good ideas grow in good soil. Good people grow in good soil. The soil can actually be infused by good plants. Comfrey, for instance, can prevent the growth of bindweed, which we don't want.

And we grow good cats like Bumpy, a great feline predator who just tried to get into my lap. He infuses our community with his fat presence.

Life is a journey of waking up and understanding what I need to be a good person. Like the Buddha, I want to have a good influence on all who meet me. That way they will be open to whatever I have to say.

We just had a nature circle meeting. We are planning to infuse others around us with our wonderful Sahale products such as jams and possibly goat cheese. How about a dairy cow? Our guests can drink fresh milk from one a doe eyed cow.



Infusing people with good ideas and dreams is far better than arguing with them. Arguing just makes me and others angry which accomplishes nothing except for hard feelings. I just get worked up and have a stomach ache. Does the Dali Lama ever argue and get angry? Is he likely to admit he does? Being angry usually means I am forcing somebody to see things my way.

We just had a chance to see two hornets battling it out in our green house. That's what arguing really is. Is this the way to convince others I am right?



*Our heartfelt condolences go to
our dear friend and
long-time community member,
Marjorie (Marjenta) Gray,
whose sister Linda passed early on Saturday
morning, April 11.*



Women's Program

On Saturday, May 8, in lieu of our annual women's weekend, we'll share a Zoom-Day together. It will be an extended program with a long lunch break.

Closer to the day we'll send out the times. Meanwhile, please mark your calendar and set aside the day for a joyous and replenishing time with women.

A zoom link will be sent the week of May 1.

Third Age

Our next Third Age gathering is set for Friday, **April 16 at 7:00**, and we hope you'll be able to attend. Last time we had a short video talk by Jane Fonda referring to this stage of life as the "Third Act." How is your Third Act going? What's been happening in your life that you'd like to share? Our meeting will begin on Zoom at 7 p.m. and the Zoom link will be sent out on Friday. Looking forward to seeing you. Warm regards, Kirsten and Joan



Save the date!

This summer's Human Relations Laboratory will be held
August 8 to 14, 2021.

We are praying for an in-person Lab.

Let Elizabeth know of your interest.





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.

The Kind of Heroes We Need to Actually Save the Planet

By Rena Priest

Excerpted from *Yes! Magazine*

Reprinted from April 7

Storytellers are the makers of culture and the shapers of consciousness. The word “author” is from the Latin word *auctus*, which translates literally to “one who causes to grow.” As storytellers, we plant beliefs that blossom into the structure of the world. In these times, we need a new structure—a narrative built on climate justice.

Think of all the books you’ve read, the movies you’ve seen, the male voices who’ve spoken to you from pages and screens. Think of times when athletes, celebrities, and fictional characters have been your heroes. Did they look like you?

Elvis Presley once said, “When I was a child, ... I was a dreamer. I read comic books, and I was the hero of the comic book. I saw movies, and I was the hero in the movie. So every dream I ever dreamed has come true a hundred times.” He identified with heroes who looked like him. He grew up to be the King.

For millennia, storytellers have written about the hero’s journey to celebrate men (particularly men of means or athletic ability) and to uphold the status quo. They become heroes by vanquishing villains who are almost always Brown, foreign, or feminine. The fight for climate justice requires a shift away from stories that elevate the White, male warrior or protector. In these times, the war they are fighting is not against the forces of evil. These supposed heroes today are fighting against the forces of change—much-needed change. Though the faces they’re fighting are the same.

What if none of the heroes in books or movies ever looked like you? What if you always resembled the villain? What if you and everyone else in the world believed in that vision, so when you placed your Brown body in front of a wall of armored police, by default you became the villain and the police became the heroes? And when you cried out from your Brown face, “Water is life!” Your message was not heard as a profound truth, but as defiant madness to be put down. When they tear gas you, turn fire hoses on you, and beat you on live TV, then take you to jail, society looks on and believes justice is being done. This is the tragedy we are living.

Climate protesters are collectively identified as agitators. At the same time, cops are seen as heroes based solely on their chosen occupation. Changing the mythology requires changing how we identify a hero.

As Winona LaDuke said, “Someone needs to explain to me why wanting clean drinking water makes you an activist, and why proposing to destroy water with chemical warfare doesn’t make a corporation a terrorist.” You may have seen this quote before. It’s made the rounds on the internet, but it bears repeating. Every advertiser knows the power of repetition. If you have the money or leverage, you can repeat your message a hundred times an hour. You can repeat it until everyone gets it and buys what you’re selling.

As a culture, we need to learn to celebrate climate defenders as heroes. We need stories that reflect the Brown, foreign, and female among us in a positive light so that their strength is passed on to those who might be inspired to become real heroes. This is how climate defenders, as the heroes they are, will truly save the world.

The “Indian” Story

Fifty years ago, the taming of the Wild West was among the most widely told stories on the planet. On any given weekend, a boy could turn on the TV and see his blue-eyed hero gun down Indians in the street. Classic movie networks rerun these stories in movie marathons so you can watch White men protecting their townsfolk from “savages” all day long. Repetition is how the cowboy and Indian story was sold to the generation of baby boomers who now govern. Yes, it’s fiction, but it’s also the only representation of Indigenous identity that some people have encountered. Duncan McCue, creator of the journalist’s guide to “Reporting in Indigenous Communities,” was once told by a tribal elder that the only way an Indian would make news “is if he or she were one of the 4Ds: drumming, dancing, drunk, or dead.”

To correct this, and to better steward this planet on which we depend, we must tell stories that celebrate Indigenous world views and values. And then we must repeat them, not just during Indigenous history month, but all day, every day, all week, every week, all year round, every year for decades, until the oversold fallacy that nature must be subdued and “settled” is dispelled and replaced by the truth that nature must be restored and protected.

Elevating Indigenous voices addresses the climate crisis because Indigenous issues are environmental issues, which are human rights issues. When tribes win fights against pipelines and coal trains, your rights to a healthy sustainable world are protected too. When the rights of nature are restored, your rights are restored too.

Scientists usually categorize Indigenous cultures as “hunter-gatherer” societies, but the truth is that before ecological disruption wrought by newcomers, we were more like permaculturists. The Earth cultivates a beautiful variety of sustenance. Before nature was “conquered,” it provided a prosperous way of being, which required a civilized amount of effort together with a deep understanding of the behaviors of native flora and fauna. To be reliant on delicately balanced ecosystems requires an understanding that the consequences of disrupting the balance are hunger, or struggle, or death.

Collective Heroes

We fight to protect our treaties and the environment because our traditional stories tell us that we are a part of the environment and that people exist within a finite set of circumstances. Part of maintaining those circumstances is celebrating the heroic sacrifices of the beautiful plants and animals that give themselves as food. Yes, salmon as a collective can be heroes, too. And why not? They embody all the characteristics that qualify a hero as worthy of celebration.

Adventurous and brave, they swim from the shallows of their natal rivers out into the perils of the open ocean where their bodies soak up the rich nutrients of the sea. Persistent, resilient, and strong, they swim upstream against swift currents for hundreds of miles to return home to spawn and complete the cycle of life. When they die, the marine-derived nutrients are transferred from their bodies to all the animals, insects, soil, and plants of their original forest home. In this way, their hero's journey powerfully transforms barren inland landscapes into lush ecosystems. They are a keystone species, meaning without them, the whole system could collapse.

How can storytellers shift global perspectives to make us love salmon and pollinators and clean water more than we love John Wayne or Tony Stark? Keystone species are the heroes we need and should turn to.

People say the youth will solve the climate problem. But if we let matters play out as we wait for our children to create a cultural shift, we are shirking our responsibility to their future. We are also ignoring the risk that climate disasters will become so normalized in their lives that they may not feel a need to take up the mantle of an unsung climate hero, especially when they have only upholders of the status quo as role models.

Renowned Nisqually hero Billy Frank Jr. said, "We have to work together, all of us. ... In the status quo we don't have long. We have to somewhere make a transition." Collectively, we can embody a new type of hero that challenges mainstream iconography. We can begin by embracing mythologies aimed at exalting environmental sustainability and social equality in order to have heroes who truly do save the planet.

About the author



RENA PRIEST is a writer and enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She is a National Geographic Explorer and holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. On April 1, 2021, she was named the Washington State Poet Laureate, making her the first Indigenous person to hold the title. Learn more at renapriest.com.

Updated through June 2021

Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

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

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 twice monthly, 7:00 PM, via Zoom. Below are dates for our spring meetings:

- April 26
- May 10, 24
- June 14

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.

May annual gathering – May 8, extended day event. Times TBD. For more information, contact [Hollis Ryan](#).



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

- April 16, 2021 & May 21

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.



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

- April 25
- May 9 and 23
- June 13



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.



Human Relations Laboratory, August 8 to 14, 2021

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. This summer we will celebrate 52 years! Contact: Colette Hoff, hoff@goodenough.org

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 wellbeing, 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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