



The Village eView

February 1, 2017

Colette Hoff, Editor

Coming Up:

Pathwork – Sunday, February 5

Council – Monday, February 6

Women's and Men's Conversation

Friday, Feb 24 to 26

Cultivating Feeling through Islam

Colette Hoff

What are your “gods?” What are those things that get in your way – alcohol, money, a house, behaviors, how you look, etc. As we engage the study of Islam, we are experientially trying on what it might feel like to be a Muslim. To have no “god” but Allah, to have a deep, feelingful relationship with Allah that is above all else is one of the gifts of Islam. The relationship to Allah directly impacts human relationships. Passing on the Peace of Allah to another person is one of the purposes of submission to the will of Allah.

Islam teaches to have our relationship to Allah first and foremost in consciousness at all times and this is supported by each aspect of the Islamic culture. The Muslim call to prayer is an illustration. Muslims pray together five times throughout the day according to the phase of the sun. Apps are even available for smart phones to remind a Muslim when to pray! The prayer ritual is enhanced by practices of cleanliness.

While participants in the class offered by Convocation may not pray five times a day, each person will choose some practices that will be their equivalent with the intention to celebrate and deepen relationship with Allah.

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

When I am undone by the news on radio and TV, a deep breath and the words, “There is no true god but Allah” brings relaxation and clarity even if the situation isn’t changing, I can change my response and embrace God in a different way.

Some of the intentions of this course include:

- Deepen our understanding of Islam through:
 - ✚ Exploring the theology of Islam
 - ✚ Understanding the role of prayer in Muslim life
 - ✚ Learning about the Quran and how it is used
 - ✚ Experiencing the culture surrounding Islam
 - ✚ Meeting with people who are drawn to Islam
 - ✚ Understanding Sufism
 - ✚ Integrating Islamic practices into our own spiritual practice
- Confirm our individual spiritual beliefs and theology
- Fulfill the mission of Convocation as an interfaith agency and provide a response to the mis-information many have about Islam.
- Understand the historical tensions in the mid-east.

ADVERTISEMENT

Hi Everyone! It’s time to cut!! A Pruning Experience

Here’s the first two weekends for this year’s Organized Response to Orchard Prep.

February 4, 5

Saturday/Sunday sessions with Video/Training Please RSVP
Consultation with the Aesthetics Team wanted.

BYOB. Be Your Own Bhagwan!!!! or Bring Your Own Beers.

Phil Buchmeier is facilitating the fun y’all

RSVP at buchmeiers1@gmail.com



**The Art of Pruning
Fruit Trees**

The Five Pillars of Islam

Allah is One and like no one,
He has no partner, nor a son,
He is Kind and Just and Wise,
And has no form, shape or size.

His final Messenger to all of us,
Did so much without a fuss,
Muhammad is his blessed name,
As mercy to the worlds he came.

Five times a day we make Salah,
That's when we bow down to Allah,
We ask for guidance when we pray,
And this we do every single day.

We have to share with those in need,
And not give in to thoughts of greed,
Zakah then helps us in this way,
Lest we should err and go astray.

In the month of Ramadan we must fast,
From the first day to the last,
When food and drink we put aside,
By fasting rules we then abide.

And all those who can afford,
Seek the pleasure of their Lord,
They perform their Hajj you know,
When to Makkah the pilgrims go.



Understanding Islam

Excerpted from **A Brief Introduction to Islam**

By Daniel Masters, AbdurRahman Squires, and I. Kaka

The Oneness of God

The foundation of the Islamic faith is belief in the Oneness of Almighty God - the God of Abraham, Noah, Moses and Jesus. Islam teaches that a pure belief in One God is intuitive in human beings and thus fulfils the natural inclination of the soul. As such, Islam's concept of God is straightforward, unambiguous and easy to understand. Islam teaches that the hearts, minds and souls of human beings are fitting receptacles for clear divine revelation, and that God's revelations to man are not clouded by self-contradictory mysteries or irrational ideas. As such, Islam teaches that even though God cannot be fully comprehended and grasped by our finite human minds, He also does not expect us to accept absurd or demonstrably false beliefs about Him.

According to the teachings of Islam, Almighty God is absolutely One and His Oneness should never be compromised by associating partners with Him - neither in worship nor in belief. Due to this, Muslims are required to maintain a direct relationship with God, and therefore all intermediaries are absolutely forbidden. From the Islamic standpoint, believing in the Oneness of God means to realize that all prayer and worship should be exclusively for God, and that He alone deserves such titles as "Lord" and "Saviour". Some religions, even though they believe in "One God", do not make all of their worship and prayers for Him alone. Also, they also give the title of "Lord" to beings that are not All-Knowing, All-Powerful and Un-Changing - even according to their own scriptures. Suffice it to say that according to Islam, it is not enough that people believe that "God is One", but they must actualize this belief by proper conduct.

In short, in the Islamic concept of God, which is completely based on Divine Revelation, there is no ambiguity in divinity - God is God and man is man. Since God is the only Creator and continual Sustainer of the Universe, He is transcendent above His creation - the Creator and the creature never mix. Islam teaches that God has a unique nature and that He is free from gender, human weaknesses and beyond anything which human beings can imagine. The Quran teaches that the signs and proofs of God's wisdom, power and existence are evident in the world around us. As such, God calls on man to ponder over the creation in order to build a better understanding of his Creator. Muslims believe that God is Loving, Compassionate and Merciful, and that He is concerned with the daily affairs of human beings. In this, Islam strikes a unique balance between false religious and philosophical extremes. Some religions and philosophies portray God as just an impersonal "Higher Power" who is uninterested, or unaware, of the life of each individual human. Other religions tend to give God human qualities and teach that He is present in His creation, by being incarnate in someone, something - or even everything. In Islam, however, Almighty God has clarified the truth by letting mankind know that He is "Compassionate", "Merciful", "Loving" and the "Answerer of Prayers". But He has also

emphasized strongly that “there is nothing like unto Him”, and that He is high above time, space and His creation. Finally, it should be mentioned that the God that Muslims worship is the same God that Jews and Christians worship - because there is only one God. It is unfortunate that some people mistakenly believe that Muslims worship a different God than Jews and Christians, and that “Allah” is just the “god of the Arabs”. This myth, which has been propagated by the enemies of Islam, is completely false since the word “Allah” is simply the Arabic name for Almighty God. It is the same word for God which is used by Arabic-speaking Jews and Christians. However, it should be clarified that even though Muslims worship the same God as Jews and Christian, their concept of Him differs somewhat from the beliefs of other religions - mainly because it is based completely on Divine Revelation from God. For example, Muslims reject the Christian belief that God is a Trinity, not only because the Quran rejects it, but also because if this was God’s true nature, He would have clearly revealed it to Abraham, Noah, Jesus and all of the other prophets . . .



The Islamic Way of Life

In the Holy Quran, God teaches human beings that they were created in order to worship Him, and that the basis of all true worship is God-consciousness. Since the teachings of Islam encompass all aspects of life and ethics, God-consciousness is encouraged in all human affairs. Islam makes it clear that all human acts are acts of worship if they are done for God alone and in accordance to His Divine Law. As such, worship in Islam is not limited to religious rituals.

The teachings of Islam act as a mercy and a healing for the human soul, and such qualities as humility, sincerity, patience and charity are strongly encouraged. Additionally, Islam condemns pride and self-righteousness, since Almighty God is the only judge of human righteousness.

The Islamic view of the nature of man is also realistic and well-balanced. Human beings are not believed to be inherently sinful, but are seen as equally capable of both good and evil.

Islam also teaches that faith and action go hand-in-hand. God has given people free-will, and the measure of one’s faith is one’s deeds and actions. However, human beings have also been created weak and regularly fall into sin. This is the nature of the human being as created by God in His Wisdom, and it is not inherently “corrupt” or in need of repair. This is why the avenue of repentance is always open to all human beings, and Almighty God loves the repentant sinner more than one who does not sin at all.

The true balance of an Islamic life is established by having a healthy fear of God as well as a sincere belief in His infinite Mercy. A life without fear of God leads to sin and disobedience,

while believing that we have sinned so much that God will not possibly forgive us only leads to despair. In light of this, Islam teaches that only the misguided despair of the Mercy of their Lord.

Additionally, the Holy Quran, which was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, contains a great deal of teachings about the life in the hereafter and the Day of Judgment. Due to this, Muslims believe that all human beings will ultimately be judged by God for their beliefs and actions in their earthly lives. In judging human beings, Almighty God will be both Merciful and Just, and people will only be judged for what they were capable of.

Sufficient is it to say that Islam teaches that life is a test, and that all human beings will be accountable before God. A sincere belief in the life of the hereafter is the key to leading a well-balanced and moral life. Otherwise, life is viewed as an end in itself, which causes human beings to become more selfish, materialistic and immoral.

Islam for a Better Life

Islam teaches that true happiness can only be obtained by living a life full of God-consciousness and being satisfied with what God has given us. Additionally, true “freedom” is freedom from being controlled by our base human desires and being ruled by man-made ideologies. This stands in stark contrast to the view of many people in the modern world, who consider “freedom” to be the ability to satisfy all of their desires without inhibition. The clear and comprehensive guidance of Islam gives human-beings a well-defined purpose and direction in life. In addition to being members of the human-brotherhood of Islam, its well-balanced and practical teachings are a source of spiritual comfort, guidance and morality. A direct and clear relationship with Almighty God, as well as the sense of purpose and belonging that one feels as a Muslim, frees a person from the many worries of everyday life.

In short, the Islamic way of life is pure and wholesome. It builds self-discipline and self-control through regular prayer and fasting, and frees human-beings from superstition and all sorts of racial, ethnic and national prejudices. By accepting to live a God-conscious life, and realizing that the only thing that distinguishes people in the sight of God is their

Over the course of the next few weeks, expect to read more about Islam as we continue our study of Islam and the culture that supports it.

May the peace of Allah be with you!





*A bit beyond perception's reach, I sometimes believe I see
That life is two locked boxes, each containing the other's key.*

Piet Hein, poet and scientist, 1905-1996

Dialogue with Men and Women: Finding the Keys to Better Relationships February 24 to 26, 2017

In these times, we see many examples of male and female roles and styles. How can we understand each other better and work well together?

Join stimulating intergenerational conversations, exploring:

- Your own inner masculine *and* feminine, patriarch or goddess.
- How men and women perceive and respond differently.
- How to express personal power respectfully.
- How cultural gender stereotypes affect us.
- What traditions do we value, and how do we want to transform?
- Healing ourselves and our relationships.

A weekend workshop
sponsored by the Goodenough Community

This weekend for women and men will be held on the peaceful and beautiful
Sahale Retreat Center on Hood Canal.

While this is not a couples' event, it will provoke creative conversation for committed couples.

For further information, please contact: Bruce Perler (bruce_perler@hotmail.com),
Hollis Guill Ryan (hollisr@comcast.net), or Colette Hoff (hoff@goodenough.org).

Costs:

Individuals: \$175

**Two or more registering
together:** \$150 each

Cost includes room, board, and
learning materials.

Limited scholarships are available.

Contact Colette Hoff,

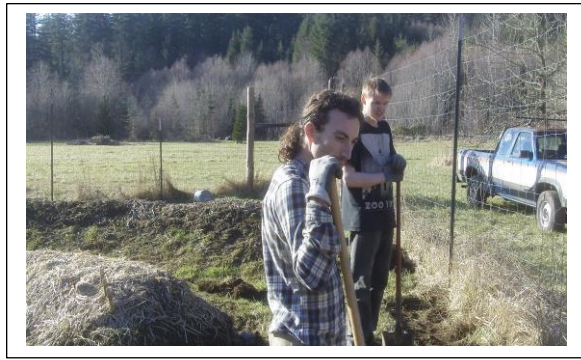
hoff@goodenough.org

To register: [Insert link here.](#)





The deAnguera Blog: Unity Applied



What do you do after the historic Seattle Womxns' March? You dig a hole! Zach and I dug this big hole to expose sewer pipes right next to the Hot Tub deck in front of Kloshe. We are getting ready to install a new sewer line because the present one has tree roots growing in it.

We all live here at Sahale and from time to time stuff like this comes up. Things wear out or break. The same is true for relationships. We can take each other for granted and wear against each other. Time for maintenance and repair.

I appreciated the article on Democracy by Parker Palmer in last week's Eview but I have to wonder: is the United States really a democracy? Was it ever a democracy? Is it possible for a civilization like ours to be a democracy?

There is a lot of talk about how corporations are taking over our government. I believe the corporations or their fore bearers created the United States. It happened on July 4, 1776. According to Howard Zinn our Founding Fathers were 55 white rich men, many of whom were slave owners. The American Revolution was not a spontaneous uprising against the injustices of the King of England. It was planned possibly by the same rich men who later met at the Pennsylvania State House to draft the Declaration of Independence. Rich men who wanted to no longer answer to the British Parliament? Could those 55 white rich men create a democracy for the rest of us?

Civilization has always been a hierarchy. Usually those with the most money were the rulers or determined who ruled in their place. Does that sound like democracy?

Why do we let ourselves be ruled by the rich? They have been at for thousands of years. Why do so many of us go along with their program? We are giving them our support when we vote for them and buy their stuff or bank with them.

Julius Caesar was very popular with working people when he trashed the Roman Republic. An early populist?

Bankers have helped start wars the rest of us are told to fight and often finance both sides making a killing. The same is often true for defense contractors. According to Smedley Butler, a major general, the highest ranking Marine in 1935 war is a racket. It has always been a racket to serve the rich.

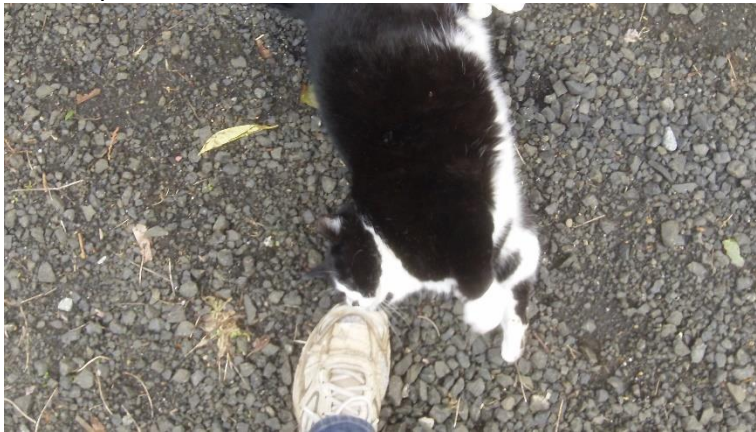
I have spent a lot of time trying to understand the election. It is helpful to appreciate the true nature of our society. This is the way a civilization usually is. This is because it takes community to enable democracy, rule by the people. Community always get shortchanged in our culture.

The Seattle Womxn's March was a good response to the election results. We need to work together to figure out how we got into this mess and what it's going to take to get out of it.

We are studying Islam. If approached as a practice I believe it can be useful to help create community. It will certainly give us something in common with Middle Eastern folks.

Sometimes in trying to repair a major problem one needs to do something radical like installing a new sewer line. That's going to be a lot of work!

We need to value relationship and have a **stake** in each other's success. That's what it means to have community. We will build on what we value as a society. The Goodenough Community has the tools necessary to help people build tribal societies. It isn't a question of what we should do but rather what do we want to do.



A unique purring rollover cat. Right at my left shoe. That's Bumpy, the cat I feed every morning at the Homestead Cabin.



we ask; He gives.
we cry; He listens.
we sin ; He forgives.
we repent; He accepts.
we knock; He opens.
we attend; He welcomes.
we request; He gives.
we question; He solves.
we insist; He grants...
Everything we do, is about us;
and everything He does, is about us..
So "which of Allah's favours can we deny?"
SubhanAllah!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

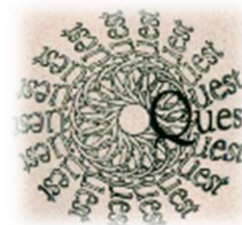
- **Happy birthday – Kathleen Buchmeier – February 3! (25 years old)**
- **Aric Hamilton Jarrett – February 4 (37 years old)**



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 be more effective in relationships.

Call John or Colette (206-755 8404) or Colette and John at Sahale – 360 275-3957. In Seattle, John and Colette meet with clients at the community center, 3610 SW Barton Street, Seattle 98106, as well as at Sahale.



Cultural Programs in the Goodenough Community are created for visitors and they are developed as opportunities for our members and friends to practice our lifeways and apply them to contemporary issues and problems in our lives. For instance, the men’s program must be an expression of the best wisdom men have gathered from their life together—about what is a good man and how he could best express that in his own life. Similarly, women must return to the essentials of being a good woman in this day and age.

Calendar of Programs and Events, 2017

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 newfound friends ... working together in a creative endeavor ... collaborating in a work party ... thinking deeply with others about what it means to be fully alive and connected with ourselves, each other, and Spirit ...

In the Goodenough Community, we recognize such ways to connect as expressions of **community culture**. Throughout the year, we offer **cultural programs** so that you can engage with the community, participate in your own development, and have a good time. We **welcome your interest** and your participation, and hope that you will join us at any – or many! – of this year’s events.

A Weekend for Men and Women . . .

February 24 to 26, 2017

Men and Women Together: A New Relationship

Annual Membership Meetings

March 10 to 12



Men’s Culture will be joining the women’s culture for creative conversation February 24 to 26, 2017. A weekend for men is being planned for the spring. Focal Person: Bruce Perler, bruce_perler@hotmail.com

Women’s Culture

Next Saturday gatherings are January 21 and April 8, 10 am -2 pm, at the community center in West Seattle

Women’s Weekend, May 5-7, 2017 at Sahale

Women of the Goodenough Community have been gathering intentionally and regularly since 1983 to discover in themselves and each other the essence of womanhood at any age and the presence of the Divine Feminine.

Focal Person: Hollis Guill Ryan, hollisr@comcast.net



Third-Age Gatherings

Next gatherings will be Friday evenings, January 20; March 31 and May 12 at the community center in West Seattle. Focal Person: Kirsten Rohde, krohde14@outlook.com

Annual Goodenough Community Memberships Meeting: March 10 to 12 at Sahale. It's a good time to support the organization that surrounds all our activities. We will share accomplishments in the prior year and join in visioning the future. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Kirsten Rohde 206 719-5364 for more information. And RVSP to??.

Work Parties throughout the Year

Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work parties over Memorial Day weekend (**May 26 to 29, 2017**), as well as other times throughout the year, to express gratitude for the presence of our beloved retreat center, Sahale, and to experience the satisfaction of playing and working together.

Focal Person: Colette Hoff, hoff@goodenough.org

Summer Camp for Youth, June 25 to July 1

A wonderful opportunity for children 9 to 12 to have a full camp experience in a beautiful setting with loving leadership.

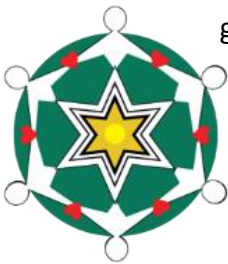
Focal Person: Irene Perler, Irene_Perler@hotmail.com



Human Relations Laboratory, August 6 to 12, 2017

This intense and joyous week-long event is a communal experience of personal growth, and has been presented annually and is now in its 48th year!

Focal Person: Colette Hoff, hoff@goodenough.org



True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 2, 2017

Be part of this fun-filled family-oriented evening, and prepare yourself for a holiday season (whatever faith tradition you follow) that fills your heart.

Focal Person: Kirsten Rohde, krohde14@outlook.com



Winter Solstice Bus Trip, Saturday December 16, 2017

Board a bus, play in the snow, shop in Leavenworth, have a horse-drawn sleigh ride and enjoy an abundant dinner

Focal Person: Colette Hoff

New Year's Eve at Sahale, 2017 – 2018

Sunday will be New Year's Eve and Monday will be New Year's Day next year.