



Convergence

Thinking about this year's Human Relations Lab the word *convergence* came to me. One definition of convergence is "tending to move toward one point or to approach each other" (*Merriam Webster*). Every year a group of people come to Sahale in August to explore, inspire, create, transform. This year seemed even more of a convergence in that we had about as many new people as those who had come before. And this year there were many more younger people which was an opportunity for us long term Goodenough folks to experience and join the energy, new ideas and creativity of new generations of people. Although the age range included almost all decades of adult life we adopted the terms "youngers" and "elders" in our conversations. Youngers came to learn about the Goodenough Community and experience the Lab while bringing their own experiences of community, activism, group work and more. Elders came to enjoy and share the Lab experience and to learn new perspectives from the new folks. Thus a convergence of viewpoints, language, ways to learn and grow and more happened.

It was not without bumps. Us older people learned more about what it means to be non-binary including the pronouns "they/them." Youngers were sometimes interested in more energetic expression and less talk about things. And yet the curiosity of new people about the work of our community in relationships and transformation was present. Community members and new people found ways to engage and learn together. My sister, Katie, and I as small group leaders appreciated the suggestions from group members about different ways to engage.

One way to imagine convergence is like two waterways meeting and a lot of splashing and spouting happens before a new waterway forms that includes everything. I appreciate all of us for sticking with it, joining in new ways and finding ultimately a place

The Village View

August 25, 2021

Editor: Kirsten Rohde

Coming Up—

- Sahale 20th Anniversary – Sept 3-6 @ Sahale
- Pathwork – Sunday, Sep 12, 7pm

On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System

American Association for the Furtherance of Community
Convocation: A Church and Ministry / Mandala Resources, Inc.
Sahale Learning Center / The EcoVillage at Sahale

of love and the feeling of a deepening community. I learned a lot and felt respected for who I am and what I have to contribute. Much thanks to Pam Jarrett-Jefferson, Tom George, and Colette Hoff for holding the vision and building the team for many months before we all came together.

Speaking of convergence, another type of convergence will occur when many come together at Sahale on the Labor Day weekend to celebrate 20 years of being at Sahale.

Celebration at Sahale September 3 to 6, 2021

Colette Hoff

Can it really be 20 years since the Goodenough Community acquired Sahale? September 14, 2001, was the first of three weekends that we claimed the land as our own. Creating a path to the Cedar Grove was one of the first tasks. Some women blazed a trail to the river without going through the Cedar Grove on our first weekend. I was so happy to get to know the couple who sold us Sahale: Sue and Cap Capriotti; we also helped the Capriottis move to a retirement center in Medford, Oregon.



Since 2001, Sahale has hosted thousands of visitors who find it a special place. Today as I write I can hear the voices of our current visitors who are valuing the sanctuary we have created. It is evident to our guests that Sahale holds sacred energy.

Come celebrate with the residents of Sahale and the leadership of the Goodenough Community over Labor Day weekend. We'll tell lots of stories, eat good food, and celebrate our accomplishment. As usual, please RSVP by letting Elizabeth know when you are coming, how many of you, and how long you plan to stay. Bringing snacks and beverages to share is encouraged.

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Postcards from the Human Relations Laboratory 2021

From Shani Fox:

My connection with the Goodenough Community has been built largely over Zoom during the last year-and-a-half, so it was with great anticipation that I registered for my first live Lab this August. Finally I'd get to spend 3D time with my online friends.

My arrival at Sahale was a joyful flurry of welcomes and hugs, so nourishing after our time of isolation. But it was the following morning when it really sank in for me where I was. I

woke without an alarm, to utter quiet. That was Sahale’s greeting to me, the silence a luxurious gift in place of the urban noise I’m accustomed to. The quiet stretched deep and wide, a soft, invisible container for what would happen during the week.

While I’m a relative newbie in the Goodenough Community, I’m no stranger to personal development work. Nevertheless I stood in awe over and over, observing how the time-honored community model allowed us to express ourselves fully, yet remain in relationship as differences were worked through and harmony restored.

Along the way I asked myself, “what is it about this model that works so consistently?” By week’s end I had the answer to my question. It is simply this: this community offers unconditional acceptance. Knowing that I am welcome, seen and held in high regard, I feel free to speak from my heart, knowing there’s forgiveness if I mess up. I trust the community to support me in every way as I continue to live into my higher self. I feel the peace of that in my very bones.

From Katie Sullivan:

I spend a lot of time in the summer watching the succession of wildflowers I have planted in my yard. I really enjoy the pollinator insects that show up on cue for their favorite blossoms: fritillary and monarch butterflies on the echinacea and asters, bumblebees on the hyssop and joe pye weed, honey bees on the goldenrod, and exotic looking golden digger wasps on the “mystery mint” growing next to my deck. A convergence of insects and plants, each finding in the other what they need to live. Lab was like that for me this year- a beautiful demonstration that people from different generations and backgrounds can come together to listen to each other and learn from each other. Were there surprises? Of course! I felt challenged to let go of my expectations and join in creating a larger community. Finding, in that coming together and creating space for conversation, there is hope for the future.



News about an upcoming convergence experience:

**NW Permaculture Convergence 2021:
Sahale Shindig!!! October 15-17**

In Tahuya WA. [Open Space Format](#) Bring yourself and ingredients to contribute to Shared meals, music, art, skill-shares and discussions. Let's have a good time! Want to help shape the event, let us know on the NW Permaculture 2021, Sahale Shindig Questionnaire and preview our potential schedule.

*This is a wonderful opportunity to meet some of our local permaculturists as well as learning about a variety of aspects of permaculture. Let Colette know of your interest.
(hoff@goodenough.org)*



STAND UP
SPEAK UP.

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 People of Color. We, as mostly white, will educate ourselves and learn to make a difference. We will continue to speak out about racial injustice.

This past week my sister and I went to the Tacoma Art Museum to see the Kinsey Collection: African American Art & History. I recommend this exhibit to everyone; it will be at TAM until December 3rd. -Kirsten

The exhibit of collections by Shirley and Bernard Kinsey, curated by their son Khalil, is filled with a wonderful variety of art by Black artists, some from free artists at the time that many who were sold or born into slavery were still enslaved. The exhibit rooms are filled with historic letters, books written by enslaved people who found freedom, artifacts, "property" lists and sales documents that are about human beings, and much more. The exhibit not only documents in great detail the lives of people brought from Africa and sold, but also the accomplishments of those who were freed or never enslaved. Our country is literally built by African Americans and many inventions, literature, leadership, politicians, culture, art and more exist because of African /Black Americans.

From the introduction to this exhibit by Bernard Kinsey:

“Shirley and I have set about telling a story of the African American experience. We want to grant to our ancestors voices, names, and personalities, so that we and others can better understand their triumphs and accomplishments, despite the challenges and obstacles they faced. Since 2008, we have presented our lecture series, “What You Didn’t Learn in High School History,” to more than 30,000 people across the country and abroad. We have witnessed the transformative power of the objects and underlying stories contained in the Kinsey Collection.”

“In the course of our work, we have come to employ a different lexicon from that commonly used in the study of our history and race. These words enhance our personal connection to individuals and events. Instead of “slave” we use “enslaved person,” recognizing that our ancestors were human beings forced into slavery. Instead of “mercantilism” we use “kidnapping,” in place of “wilderness,” “home” – for America was already inhabited by millions of native Americans before the arrival of the Europeans. Instead of “discovered” we use “conquered,” instead of “plantation,” “prison” – for what was a plantation to whites was a plot of land that our ancestors were born on, confined to, and forced to work on until their deaths.”

The following document is at the entrance to the exhibit:

In American history, as in American life, Black Americans are invisible presences. They are not seen, not because of their absence but because of the presence of a myth that prepares and requires their absence. The myth of absence, which expresses this idea and intention, operates not by misinterpretation and slander but by silence and exclusion.

By simply not mentioning certain realities and by removing Black actors from scenes in which they played supporting and sometimes starring roles, the manipulators of the myth change the color of the past and control perceptions and acts in the present. It is not by accident, therefore, that the dominant images of popular history, the images of Minutemen, Pilgrims, Cowboys and Soldiers in Blue, are *white* images. But these images, which are the staples of mass media, are selections from a multicolored whole which included both Black and white actors. And to grasp the American experience in its fullness, we have to remember that Blacks were present and acting at almost every major event in American history.

Lerone Bennett Jr., American (1928-2018)



**August
2021**

**There will be NO Fall NICA Gathering
NICA's Spring Gathering 2022
Will Be In-Person!!!
We will announce a date and place
as our as plans develop.**



**We look forward to our
Collective Re-emergence**

Please join us for Community Networking, Updates on Existing and Forming Communities, Online Companionship, Tips on Building Resilience, and Promoting Intentional Communities as a Public Good.



Mindful Mike's Blog: Work
Mike deAnguera

One very important part of Lab is work. This includes the work necessary to maintain our grounds, cook our meals, do laundry, and carry out the garbage. When we held our Labs at Seabeck Retreat Center all these tasks were done for us. We brought our stuff to set up and at the end of Lab we took it down. We paid others who maintained Seabeck to do it for us. Now we have work parties to take care of the tasks needing to be done. Nobody else was going to do them. This is what it takes to operate our own place. As a result we put down roots which we never could at Seabeck.



Here Aliki Serras and Marley Long cut a birthday cake. As you can see Aliki, Colette Hoff, Marley, and Barbara Brucker take great pride in their work preparing meals for us.

Work gets us deepening our relationship with each other. It actually brings us together including our workaways. This is where the skills learned at Lab get put to the test. If we can't work together Lab is not working.

I love our teamwork. I never felt such teamwork anywhere else. On the outside we all compete against each other and hardly know each other as a result. Our careers actually function to drive us all apart from each other.

In my previous life I felt like I was on an assembly line. My work was not appreciated. One day I would be let go in spite of my best efforts. I let my work determine everything else in my life and I became very isolated as a result.

Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations* said that by what people do all day long forms them. And if you give them mindless work they become mindless people. He could see this over 200 years ago. In my case I never really filled out as a person until I came to the Goodenough Community. Was I mindless? No but I certainly was limited.

Working for an employer is not like working for each other. I am just a factor of production as far as the employer is concerned. This is why I could be laid off.

The concept of the "working class" to me implied a social structure where all the real work, the manual work was done by one class of people. Those that managed them were the next

layer up. The “middle class”? Our politicians talk a lot about helping the middle class. One usually went to college to even be allowed into this next layer up. It was a place I aspired to be.

What do I do now? Carry out the garbage, clean up after meals, water the gardens, and mow the grass. Today I just got done cleaning the hot tub by Kloshe. Almost all my work is physical. Some jobs such as cleaning the hot tub are harder than others. Does this mean I have lower status? Not in our community. We don't have a working class nor a leisure class. We all share in the work as we are able. That's what tribal people do. It is only in civilized cultures where we see the emergence of classes of people. The owners and those working for them. Often those working for the owners were exploited. Lack of community is what enables exploitation.



From Stellar Dutcher

I am full of love and gratitude for this community and our time together, as post-event integration unfolds and we step back into our wider lives.

I'm blessed to be standing on sacred land, with a community of people that has opened my heart and kindled my hope that the change necessary to create a thriving world is actually possible. I'm amongst the deep wisdom of extraordinary elders, the fire and passion of my friends and peers, and a kind of cross-generational Reaching for each other that I've never been privileged to experience or witness. I feel a sweet, deep gratitude for my time here, and a knowing that I'm leaving changed and transformed - and of course, already looking forward to my return.

I promised several people I would send links to the songs I sang:

- Your Heart Knows The Way Home, composed and sung by Te Martin: <https://wrenbird.bandcamp.com/track/you-heart-knows-the-way-home>
- I Am Me, composed by Paul Barton: <http://www.paulbartonmusic.com/i-am-me.htm>

Also, **so many** of you asked how you can follow and support me and my work, and I'm humbled and grateful. Here's a few ways to get involved and keep in touch:

- My Kickstarter is officially over, but many of you expressed a desire to still pledge to it. You can! Just [visit the campaign](#), choose your tier, and PayPal your pledge to stellarsings@gmail.com, or get in touch with me about your preferred payment method. The project is funded, but post-campaign pledges go directly towards the creation of a music video for "Enemy," the song I sang in the Swamp on Monday night!
- To directly support my work, as well as get the ongoing insider's scoop on my creative journey, you can join my Patreon, a platform that directly connects creators with fans and enables us to get paid to create. I would love to have any of you along for that ride: <https://patreon.com/stellarsings>
- And to simply stay in the loop about my upcoming album and other musical endeavors, you can join my mailing list! <https://mailchi.mp/351d6d34f431/subscribe>

Abundant blessings to all of us along our paths. May our roads meet again sooner rather than later. :)

Love,
Stellar

Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Notice: Updated for the Fall, 2021

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



Human Relations Laboratory, August 7 – 13, 2022 – Mark your calendars now

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. Next summer we will celebrate 53 years! Contact: Colette Hoff or Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, hoff@goodenough.org, elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com



The Goodenough Community’s governing body, the General Circle, meets monthly, 7:00 PM, via Zoom:

- *September 20, 2021*
- *October 18*
- *November 15*

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.

- *September 25, 2021, Saturday, 10AM via Zoom*
- *October 23, Saturday*

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. Fall dates: October 8, December 10. 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. For information, contact Norm Peck, shkwavrydr@aol.com



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. Participants come together under the leadership of Pastor Colette Hoff and find support and encouragement, 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.

- *September 12 and 26*
- *October 10 and 24*
- *November 7*



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.



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).*