



# *The Village View*

*May 5, 2022*

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Editor

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

*Kirsten Rohde*

**A**s 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 youngsters 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!

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.



**On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System**  
**[www.goodenough.org](http://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

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.**



ur 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 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: The Dream of Life**

*Mike de Anguera*

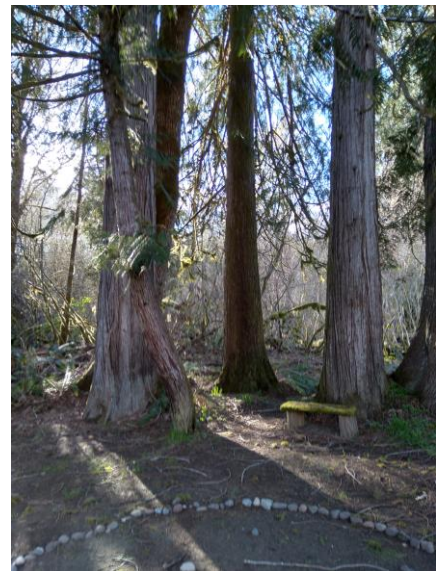
Colette Hoff has left us. Where did she go? I don't believe she went anywhere. She just woke up from a dream she thought was real. A dream where I am fully plugged into my mortal body's 5 senses. That seems to be the main difference between a regular dream while I sleep at night and the dream of a mortal life time.

I remember a dream about reenlisting in the Navy and ending up in boot camp. I thought if I went back to sleep I would wake back up in my regular life. Boot camp was hard so I had nightmares about it for 10 years after I got out for the final time in 1988. Is it possible for a dream to be so real that my 5 senses would be active? Yes. I believe so.

Usually my dreams are self contained. I can't remember that they are just dreams from which I wake up. My level of awareness is often much lower.

Often my dreams are of Fauntleroy or Vashon Island. Sometimes they seem mixed together. My mind can conjure up all kinds of images from my waking life.

My mortal life is different. It seems to be like a continually running something for the hours I am awake.



What is the secret? I am not my body. My brain is not my mind. It is merely the control center for my mortal body. My mind has to work through the restrictions of a mortal brain. A brain which restricts it to the life stages of the body.

All of life is a mystery. The trees, the very Earth I live on. I enter via the mystery called birth and exit it through the mystery called death.

I believe Colette will recognize the setting in which she awakens. After all it is where she went to sleep to live a mortal lifetime. Did she receive guidance? It is possible her lifetime was designed with her as the central character role. Colette's movie.

Here is one of the character roles in my lifetime movie, Ashley Shields. Quite an expressive face, don't you think? Ashley is in a supportive role for me and I am in a supportive role for her. Colette and John Hoff were Goodenough for the role of teacher and master they both played for us. In among the potted plants is Matlock. A Goodenough cat. His only job is to be cute and silky and catch mice.



## 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.





April  
2022

### Registration Link and Details for NICA's Spring Gathering Saturday May 7, 2022

Join us In-Person on Vashon Island from 10 am to 5 pm.  
Vashon CoHousing, 10421 SW Bank Rd, WA 98070

**Featuring Yana Ludwig on Cooperative Culture  
& Betty Martin on the Consent Wheel**

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

NICA's 2022 Spring Gathering, themed: **"Renewing society through community"**, brings together experienced community members with community seekers to learn about, engage with and practice the cooperative living skills that will enable everyone to survive and thrive during challenging times. Speakers Yana Ludwig and Betty Martin will share from their wealth of knowledge and experience, and we'll interact in small groups to model the ideas we've gained.

- **Please bring food to share for a potluck lunch or food you can eat.**
- Existing communities: please select a spokesperson to report briefly on your community's recent history and current status.
- Carpooling is encouraged, public transportation is convenient for most. [note: both Eventbrite and Facebook event pages include maps with directions]

**Pre-Registration is required as the space is limited.**  
**We are looking forward to being together again.**



## 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: Colette Hoff or Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org), [elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com)



### 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. The next meeting is April 19.

#### Spring Dates

Weekly in May and June.

For additional information including location, contact [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](mailto: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](mailto:Hollis.Ryan).



**The Third Age** - Those age 60 and older have been gathering monthly, Friday evenings, 7PM. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](mailto: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 Barbara [Brucker Brucker](#) for Zoom information.

**Spring Dates:**

- ☐ May 8 and 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. Please email [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) with questions.



***Colette officiating Amie/Colin Wedding 2012***