

The Village View

June 29, 2022

Kirsten Rohde, editor

Vision and History

A Vision

by Wendell Berry

If we will have the wisdom to survive
to stand like slow-growing trees
on a ruined place, renewing, enriching it
then a long time after we are dead
the lives our lives prepare will live here,
their houses strongly placed
upon the valley sides, fields, and gardens
rich in the windows. The river will run
clear, as we will never know it,
and over it, birdsong like a canopy
On the steeps where greed and
ignorance cut down
the old forest, an old forest will stand,
its rich leaf-fall drifting its roots
The veins of forgotten springs will have
opened

Families will be singing in their fields
In the voices they will hear a music
risen out of the ground...

Memory,
native to this valley, will spread over it
like a grove, and memory will grow
into a legend, legend into song, song
into sacrament. The abundance of this
place, the songs of its people and its
birds,
will be health and wisdom and
indwelling light.
This is no paradisaal dream.
Its hardship is its possibilities.

Coming Up—

- Pathwork, July 10, 7pm
- General Circle, July 11, 7pm

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

I have read and re read Hollis' article about our community history that so well describes a place we in the Goodenough Community are entering. We are grieving the loss of Colette and remembering John's passing also. At the same time we are opening up to each other about past history of our community shadow that now needs to be in the open and fully processed by all of us. Memories of times when we didn't speak up strongly enough for something different or share concerns with each other more fully. Barbara's article from Communities magazine describes the pitfalls and good practices of a community in transition from an older founding generation to younger generations eager to fill positions of leadership. All of this reflects our community's story.

This past Saturday at Sahale, we were very blessed with a grief ritual led by Therese Charvet and Tere Carranza from Sacred Groves on Bainbridge Island. This was an opportunity to be supported and encouraged by poetry, words of wisdom about the grieving process, time to share with a couple other people. We drummed, chanted and each spent time at a lovely shrine to Colette where we could let out feelings, supported by each other. Sometimes great sadness, frustration, sometimes anger at loss that goes beyond the loss of a single person.

Since then my grieving has spread to the realization that, having just turned 73, I will most likely not accomplish all that I had hoped on this land at Sahale. Places where I have planted are getting overgrown with blackberries; the grass is so tall I can barely see my roses! All of this mourning clears out when I read Wendell Berry's poem about memories that will spread over the land; and we will leave legends, song and sacrament. I imagine Colette is leading the way right now down a path at Sahale with John beside her. Reading this poem I am taken by the perspective of loss and of rebirth with the memories of those before permeating the land. I can envision this at Sahale. Already John, Colette, Beaver Chief, and others are permeating the land with their memories. Soon some more of us will follow. We all hope that there will be people who choose to join and carry on into the future. This is part of our work now – how do we re-vision our community to welcome new people and together build new pathways while still honoring the history – all of it. And learn to tell the stories – all of them. *-Kirsten Rohde*



Mindful Mike's Blog: Grief

Mike de Anguera

Prince Siddartha wanted to know why there was sickness, old age, and death. Is that why he was confronted by Mara, the Buddhist version of the devil?

In life I have witnessed old age, sickness, and death. I am afraid of all three. I think all my other fears come from that. I feel like all three are confronting me as Mara in addition to all the other challenges in my life.



When I saw the grief altar covered with the sacred shawl Colette Hoff made I felt a rage within. Rage mixed with pain. I didn't cry because I was taught that guys don't cry. I wish I could have grieved as the others have done. In the center of my rage and pain I felt like a stone. Something comforting was ripped out of me.

How did I find peace? By remembering the time Colette appeared to me in a dream. We were in her apartment watching TV together like we often did except this time I could not see her but I could sense her presence. I reached out to touch her. Then the invisible Colette brought me a sandwich. What was remarkable about the dream was that I was fully conscious knowing Colette had died. I am usually not aware in my dreams. This was Colette's way of letting me know she was

still in my life. Thank you Colette for the dream.

My mother had a similar dream about my dad. He appeared to her in a dream calling her 'dear' which he never did while alive in the body.

Therese and Tere led us in a grief ritual around Colette. Death for me is not something that can be reasoned out. Instead I must find a way to express my grief.

They said grief not expressed can turn into rage which can result in violence and war. Personally I know the cost of grief kept inside. At least I had others to be with like at the funerals for Kathleen Notley and my mother.

In many traditional cultures people gather together to cry and wail sometime tearing their clothes

I suspect we have religion to deal with death and challenges in life. Religious folks usually don't care to hear how I relate to the cosmos. Instead they relate to the cosmos for me. They tell me God will punish me if I am not right with God. There are times when I don't feel right with God. I can experiment with different ideas about my purpose in life but that old fear of death can still rear its head. Am I worthy? Did I fall away? So Colette appeared to tell me she was fine and that I was fine as well.

I still remember Kathleen Notley's description of being with God when she was in a coma following her auto accident. He was not at all like the fire and brimstone God of the Bible but a loving compassionate man. She had an appointment with Him every day and they could talk about anything.

I hear about more suffering and death among people we know than I ever have in my life. I guess this is a sign I am getting older. Nobody is spared the ordeals of life including the final one.

Later there was drumming and singing just as there has been for thousands of years whenever somebody has departed the body. We brought our Mother Drum for the occasion.

Grieving together shows how deep the connections between us really are. John and Colette Hoff were a gift to us bringing us all together.



Blessing for the Brokenhearted

—Jan Richardson

Let us agree
for now
that we will not say
the breaking
makes us stronger
or that it is better
to have this pain
than to have done
without this love.

Let us promise
we will not
tell ourselves
time will heal
the wound,
when every day
our waking
opens it anew.

Perhaps for now
it can be enough
to simply marvel
at the mystery
of how a heart
so broken
can go on beating,
as if it were made
for precisely this—
as if it knows
the only cure for love
is more of it,
as if it sees
the heart's sole remedy
for breaking
is to love still,
as if it trusts
that its own
persistent pulse
is the rhythm
of a blessing
we cannot
begin to fathom
but will save us
nonetheless.





Black women denounce wholesale attack on human and civil rights

- June 24, 2022
- [In Our Own Voice](#)
- [Abortion Rights](#), [Press Release](#), [Statement](#)

Statement by In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda
President and CEO Marcela Howell

WASHINGTON — Today, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda President and CEO Marcela Howell issued this statement in response:

“As promised by the leaked Alito draft, the highest court in the land struck a devastating blow against women’s civil and human rights. In overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the court eliminated any pretense that women are equal under the law. They have made clear that the founding fathers’ declaration the right to ‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness’ did not — and does not — include women or birthing people.

“Black women and birthing people will continue to be disparately impacted by attacks on our reproductive health. Eliminating abortion rights in many states will be an inconvenience for women and birthing people of means — mostly white — who will be able to afford the high cost of accessing safe abortion. Many Black women and birthing people will lose all access — for them, the cost may be their health, lives or livelihood.

“Today, the conservative, activist justices of the Supreme Court have turned their backs on justice and reimposed the greatest injustice of my lifetime: the declaration that women’s bodies — especially Black women’s bodies — are under the complete control of the state. When combined with the court’s attacks on voting rights, the future is bleak.

“Black people already face the multiple oppressions. Our children are routinely imprisoned or murdered by those who are supposed to protect us; our neighborhoods are denied access to clean air, clean water, fresh food and safe housing; our basic health needs are denied, as we are forced to seek care from a system riddled with racism; and our right to vote, allowing us to change this system, is increasingly denied.

“The intersection of racial and sexual oppression is not new. For Black women, the fight for reproductive rights has always been about more than abortion and birth control; it is, and always has been, about having control over our own bodies. For us, achieving Reproductive Justice means having the power and resources to live and raise our families with dignity in a safe and healthy environment. Reproductive Justice means the human right to control our bodies, our work, our community, our gender and our reproduction without government’s oppressive interference.”

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda is a national-state partnership focused on lifting up the voices of Black women leaders at the national and regional levels in our fight to secure Reproductive Justice for all women, femmes, and girls. Our eight strategic partners are Black Women for Wellness, Black Women’s Health Imperative, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, SisterLove, Inc. SisterReach, SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW, The Afiya Center and Women With A Vision.



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. This has enabled people from outside our area to participate in community events. Throughout the year we 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



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: [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](#) or [Kirsten Rohde](#)



The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle,

currently meets weekly on Monday evenings, 7 PM on Zoom. **Spring Dates:** Weekly in June. 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. For more information, contact [Hollis Ryan](#).



The Third Age - Those age 60 and older have been gathering monthly, Friday evenings, 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. 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. We 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: 7 to 9 PM

Contact [Brucker Brucker](#) for Zoom information.



Work and Play Parties Throughout the Year. Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work 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.