



# The Village View

December 7, 2022

Marjenta Gray & Kirsten, Editors

## Coming Up—

- General Circle, December 12, 7pm
- Holiday Open House, December 17, 3-9pm
- Pathwork, December 18, 7pm

## Honoring Joan Valles

### Remembering my 32-year Friendship with Joan

*Marjenta Gray* (I apologize for writing such a long story. I just couldn't fit my description of 32 years into a couple of paragraphs. And still, I feel there is so much more to tell!)

#### Meeting Joan & Inner Child Work

I don't remember meeting Joan. We were probably aware of each other vaguely as fellow learners and members of the Personal Mastery Community in the late 80's. Our real connection began in an Inner Child workshop when we were both on our way out of that group. I had left after a painful breakup with a man I lived with. I was devastated and angry and really needed a friend.

After the Inner Child sessions, which took place in a hot tub in Woodinville, Joan and several of the other women in the class came over to my house for post-workshop cuddling. We all piled onto my bed. I think this evolved as a natural extension of the nurturing we gave each other in the workshop, after screaming anger at our childhood traumas underwater. Huddled under blankets on my bed, I remember talking and howling with laughter, an unusual bonding experience.



Inspired by the Inner Child workshop, Joan and I had the idea of writing our own ideal childhood stories. We hoped these would help us out of the ruts of the old stories we told about our childhoods where everything hadn't been just as we would have liked. We ended up having fun with the stories, and they veered into fairy tales. I don't remember what my story was, but I remember Joan was a princess with golden hair in a tower with turrets on it. The turrets were very important. I believe there was a mote. And probably a prince who came and rescued her. I wish I still had those stories! Joan's had such vivid imagery.

#### 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

## The Creativity Party

When I decided to move out of the house I had shared with Greg, to move into shared housing and rent a studio in Pioneer Square, Joan and I put on a Creativity/Going Away Party. We had so much fun planning it, creating a variety of creative opportunities for our guests to engage in. Joan started a story in a blank book, with the idea that our creative guests join to add a chapter or two. We created a large comic strip, with panels containing scenes of Dragos (half-dragon, half-dog, created by my brother and me when we were growing up) adventuring, with word bubbles spouting from their heads. I drew the pictures and Joan added the storyline. We left panels to be ad-libbed by our friends. Butcher paper was taped to a narrow wall, with oil paint sticks for a collaborative painting. My paintings were also on view in my basement studio.



I had joined an Arts Anonymous group shortly before this, so many of our guests were creative. The wall painting got some attention, and people were entertained by the book and comic strip but didn't add to them. The group's creativity tended to music, which had a life of its own. Drumming and singing continued way past midnight. Both Joan and I felt good and pretty amazed at how fun it turned out. Working together on creative ideas was so energizing for both of us.

## Best Friend During a Hard Time

In the process of my moving out of that house, my Grandmother in New Jersey died, and two days after my sister, Dad and I got back from her memorial, my Dad died. Two days after that, a friend died of Aids. I had just moved into a house with three women I didn't know, and I was reeling from loss and grief. Joan became my best friend during this time. I was needy and expected a lot from her. We got to know each other well, and part of that was how different we were. I was more emotional, and Joan



*Joan & Phil at airport, on way to Europe, 2005*

was more self-contained. I would ask her to spend the night with me, as I was still getting over the breakup with the man I'd lived with for several years. I learned that Joan had a hard time sleeping with another person. I learned she did not like having her hair stroked! In spite of some different likes and dislikes, she was a dear friend. I think we both knew we would be there for the other when needed.

As I was struggling with all the change and loss in my life, Joan suggested I travel with some of the money I'd inherited. Joan loved to travel herself. I took her suggestion and traveled to Europe in May 1992, visiting my brother who lived in Germany at the time, then on to Amsterdam for a "21-days in Europe" tour with Rick Steeves' Europe Through the Back Door. Many years later, I would give Joan and Phil a ride to the airport for their grand trip to Europe. I took some nice pictures of them at the airport. I've never seen them happier! I'm so glad they got to have that wonderful

adventure before they began to have health problems.

### **Entering the Goodenough Community**

One person who came to the memorable “creativity party” was Denise Traylor, a massage therapist we both had come to rely on. She had been referred to us by one of the women in the Inner Child workshop. I noticed at the party that Denise joined in very easily with people she didn’t know and seemed very comfortable in a non-flirty way with men. Joan and I were both intrigued about the community she belonged to. She didn’t talk openly about it. After some conversation, Denise invited us to a women’s Saturday gathering. She was our guiding light into the Goodenough Community.

We went to a Women’s Weekend at Seabeck in the spring of 1992. When we driving to the weekend, we got into an argument about a book we were both reading, *Women Who Run with the Wolves*. This was the first argument I remember having with Joan. Uncomfortable as it was, I think it showed that we trusted each other enough to bring anger out into our relationship. I think it surprised us both.

Beginning the Private School for Human Development in Fall 1992 was the start of many years of intense involvement with the Goodenough Community. Joan and I met different people and had different growth paths. We weren’t as close as we had been, but still got together fairly frequently. We still would meet for dinners or breakfasts. The breakfasts were interesting, as I didn’t eat eggs and she didn’t eat fruit.

Joan seemed to bloom and was liked and respected by everyone. She wasn’t outspoken but when she did voice her thoughts, she always added a new perspective, a bit of wisdom, something that brought sometimes conflicting ideas into harmony.



*Joan & Marjenta,  
leaders of the GEC Women's culture*

### **Women’s Leadership Team & Joan’s Croning**

Joan and I both joined the women’s leadership team early on, and stayed there for decades, up to the present. I remember the women’s weekend of 1994, where at some point on Saturday, there was some divisiveness. Joan and I slipped out and went to the hotel hot tub. We did our old thing of screaming into the water like we had in the rebirthing community. We finally burst into laughter, feeling much better. I somewhat excuse our unhelpful leaving to the fact that we were still new to the community. Still, the experience was bonding to our friendship.

In the late 90s, Joan became the focal of the Women’s Culture when Hollis took a sabbatical to tend to her son, Sam, who had developed a brain tumor. I enjoyed seeing Joan work closely with Colette, learning to bring her natural grace, intelligence, and



caring out, to become a good leader. Her vulnerability and willingness to learn made her a great model of being in leadership as a way to grow oneself in the Goodenough Community.

Joan was the first Crone in the Goodenough Community's Women's Culture. She claimed she wanted to learn to be a Crone. She worked with Colette, who established some learning goals specifically for Joan's development, for her to become more fully herself as the wise woman she was, a mature, beautiful Crone. When her learning had reached an understanding, she had a Croning ceremony. She asked me and Jerry Ricks to create a ritual for her. We created a silly chant for Joan to jump over a broomstick:

*Who's the youngest of the crones?*

*J-O-A-N Valles Joan!*

*With sparkling eyes and hair of gold,  
It's hard to believe that she's that old.*

Everyone chanted and clapped as Joan jumped over her broomstick. Reggae music celebrated her initiation and accomplishment. I hadn't been sure about the light tone of the chant, but Joan loved it. Joan usually seemed very collected and elegant, but she loved to laugh. It was perfect, really.

Joan set a great example for the process of becoming a Crone, or wise elder woman in the Goodenough Community. This model is not based just on age, but more on whether the woman has completed developmental tasks appropriate to this time of life. Joan always demonstrated an eagerness to learn, and maturity, while being able to laugh at herself. She was a role model many admired and loved.

### **Writing, Books, Collaboration**

One of the bonds of our friendship was that we both had writing skills and appreciated good writing and good books. Joan worked as an editor for the Olympian, when she lived in Olympia before moving back to Seattle. Her Vassar schooling had trained her well. In the past several years, she and I were co-editors of this GEC newsletter. We made a really good team.

Collaborating with Joan was a fun and fulfilling process, probably the best collaboration experience I've ever had. We trusted and respected each other as writers, and both knew the other would do what they had committed to and produce thoughtful, well-written articles. Her learnings from her Buddhist studies, her long

growth journey (which she referred to as a "hobby"), her love of family, and her sharp intelligence all contributed to her being a wonderful writer and person. She loved New Yorker cartoons. She delighted in adding them and jokes to Elizabeth's "Cabbage Patch" humor editions. Though her energy was diminishing in recent months, pushing herself to do her part of the newsletter always seemed to lift





*Joan, after Colette gifted her a handmade Crone shawl*

her spirits.

### **Buddhism & Dying**

I so respected Joan's many years' of Buddhist practice. She quietly joined a Buddhist sangha, where she practiced meditation, learned Buddhist teachings, and went on silent retreats. She didn't talk about it extensively, but she seemed to mellow and become more confident in herself. She had always had a habit of diminishing herself, but finally, let go of that somewhat.

Joan was very conscious of her age and that her body was on a gradual trajectory toward death. She talked about it and how it affected her priorities and outlook. She studied *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* with her Buddhist sangha. And still, she told me several times that she was afraid of dying. I am grateful that it happened effortlessly for her, where she fell asleep and didn't wake up. When I visited her in the hospital several days before she passed, I put my hand gently on her shoulder, remembering her long-ago dislike of having her hair stroked. I told her how grateful I was for our long-time friendship and that we'd gotten past the petty irritations of our early years together. I told her I loved her. Whether or not she heard me, I know she knew.

I miss you, dear Joan.

## **Loving and Missing Joan Valles**

*Kirsten Rohde*

I remember when I first saw Joan. It was at a Goodenough Community class called the Private School for Human Development. I remember exactly where Joan was sitting across the circle from me. Wow that was a long time ago. Joan held many roles over the years of her involvement, besides engaging in all the various learning programs we provided with John and Colette Hoff. Joan was very kindhearted and present to whoever she was talking with. She also



didn't mince words when she did have an opinion about something. She had worked for a newspaper and cared that things were written well. Many of John's writings were typed as he spoke and then edited by Joan. Joan worked for many years at the University of Washington, Department of Physics. She was close with her bosses, a married couple and well-regarded scientists. She went to operas and other outings with Lillian, after her husband had died.

Joan was very involved in the Goodenough Community. She served on various committees and was on the Women's Program team. When we acquired Sahale, our retreat and planned ecovillage, she pitched right in; whatever needed to be done she took it up. I enjoyed peeling potatoes or cutting apples with her in the Sahale kitchen many times. I remember a photo taken soon after we acquired Sahale. Joan and I are standing in our work clothes, holding shovels and wet with the rain that was pouring down but we were working outdoors anyways. More recently, Joan helped coordinate with Barbara and me our program for people 60 and over, the Third Age. Joan always had good ideas about topics and said sometimes, "let's not talk about illness, death and dying again!" Joan had some chronic conditions that limited her mobility, but she rarely complained and didn't use her failings as an excuse to not be active.



Joan and Phil Stark were partners for many years. They shared together a love of reading, good food, and travel. Joan had an adventurous spirit. I remember her telling a story of leaving her hometown, Seattle, getting on a train with one bag and her new dress to go across the country to Vassar. Joan, Phil and Barbara Brucker decided in the early 90's to find a living space together and, joined by Jim Tocher, they have lived together as a household in several homes in the Seattle area ever since. When Phil died, I think being in a household with Jim and Barbara was good for Joan. When I had my knee replacement surgeries, they offered their home as a place for me to recover. Recently I enjoyed visiting Joan in their house in Tukwila when I was in town. We would sit on the living room couch and talk about all sorts of things.

Whenever Joan was around, I felt comforted by her presence. Colette said that same thing once when the three of us were together at Sahale. It was hard to put words to how we had that feeling being with Joan. I think part of it was that she cared for each person she was with. She cared deeply for her family and visited until she was not able to travel. She was a great observer of people and responded with genuine friendliness to others. I knew her to be a person who didn't feel the necessity to always speak up but when she did have an opinion, she stated it without taking sides or being unkind. Just the "truth by Joan." She was a true elder.

A number of years ago Joan started studying with two Buddhist teachers, Tenzin Jesse and

Venerable Dhammadinna at the BodhiHeart Sangha on Capitol Hill, Seattle. Joan went on several silent retreats with them. She joked that she was the oldest person in the sangha, late to the process of learning about Buddhist practices. While she, in her usual modesty, minimized her progress on the path, I know she took the teachings very seriously and had a meaningful and deep connection with her teachers. I think her Buddhist outlook and practice led her to accept aspects of growing old with equanimity. Her engagement with Buddhism was helpful to me in my own more recent engagement with the practice.

I will really miss Joan as will all of us who knew her. She was 87 and I'm glad that her time of dying was relatively short and peaceful. I wish she could have lived forever but I think also she was ready. I recall hearing her say, "Live forever? I don't think so!"

*You are Invited to a*  
**Holiday Open House**

**Saturday, December 17, 2022**

3:00 PM to 9:00 PM

*Home of Tom George*

8708 182nd Place SW, Edmonds WA 98026

Join us in celebrating the holidays, our friendships, and  
community wherever you find it.

Bring your favorite holiday beverage and a hearty appetizer to share

Please RSVP [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](#)

*Sponsored by the Goodenough Community*





## Our Governance System Using Sociocracy

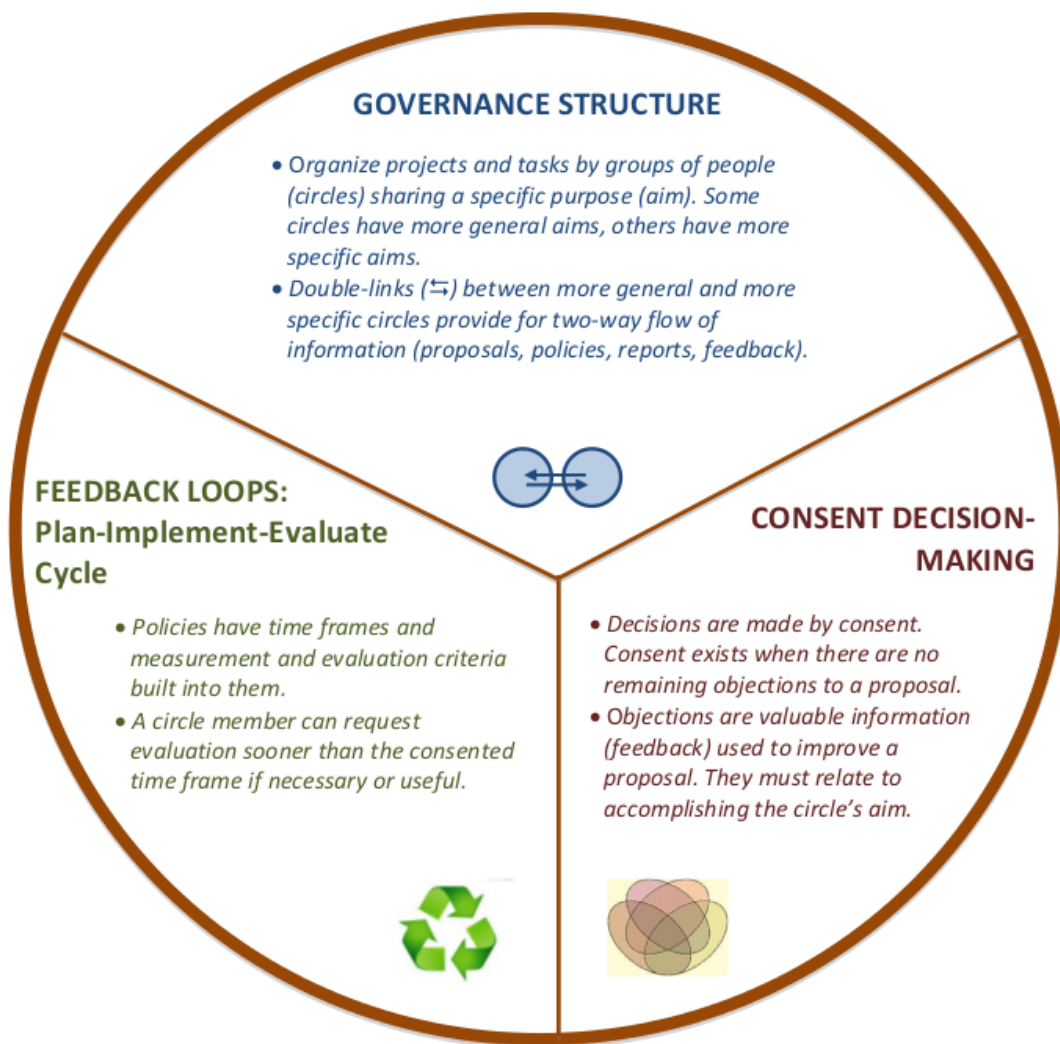
Pamela Jarrett-Jefferson

The Goodenough Community has been using sociocracy for four and a half years. We have found it to be clear, flexible, and effective in organizing ourselves to accomplish the management necessary for the nonprofit, our programs, and Sahale. The General Circle wants to inform you of how we've applied it and describe our circles with a diagram on the next page. Let's start with a brief overview of sociocracy.

### Seven Elements of Sociocracy

(1) Double-linked circles with clear domains (areas of responsibility) and aims (ongoing objectives), (2) Feedback loops built into proposals, (3) Consent decision-making, (4) Proposal-forming, (5) Selecting people for roles/elections, (6) Role-improvement feedback, and (7) Consenting to circle members.

### Sociocracy Model

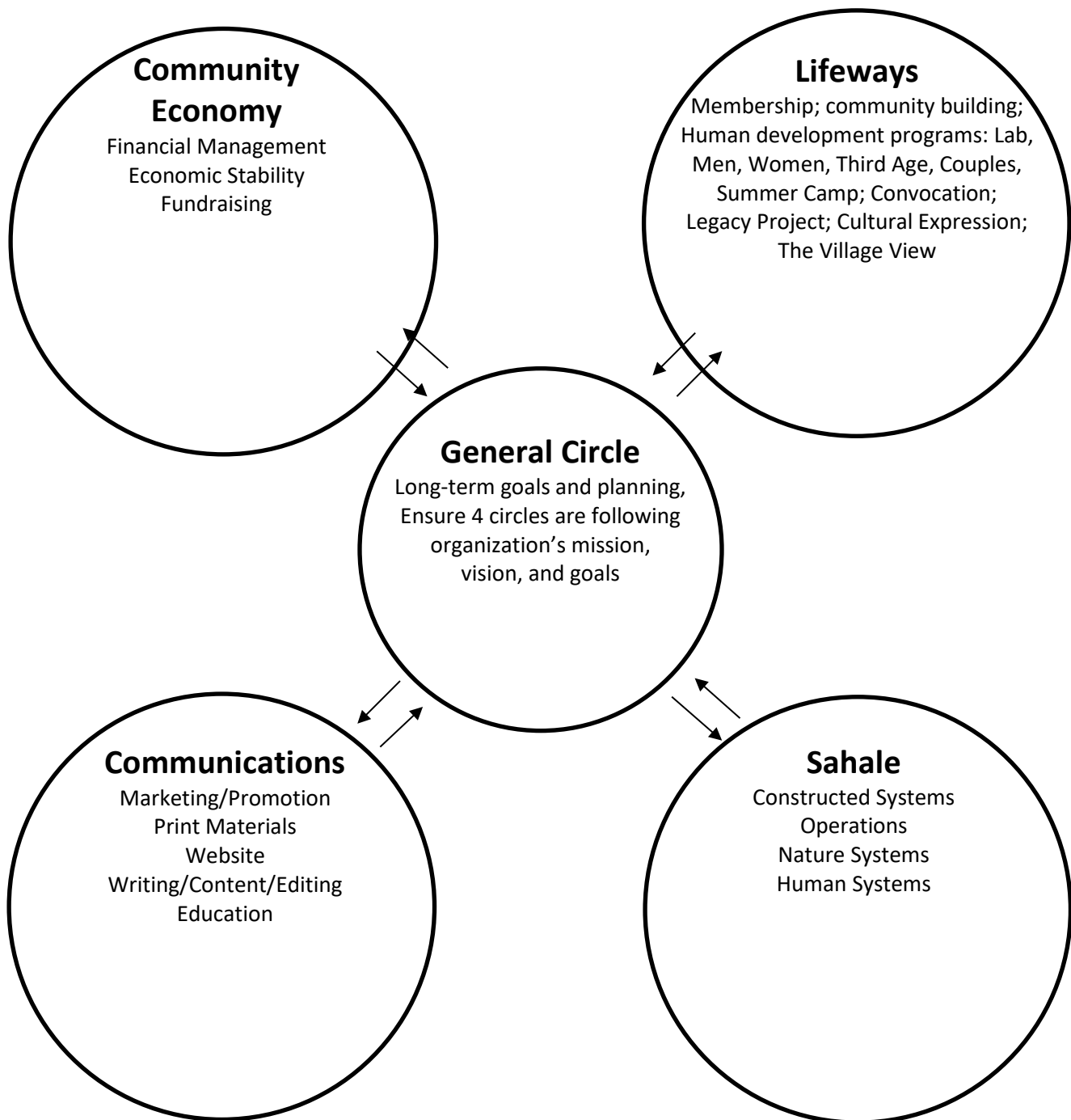


2016 The Sociocracy Consulting Group LLC



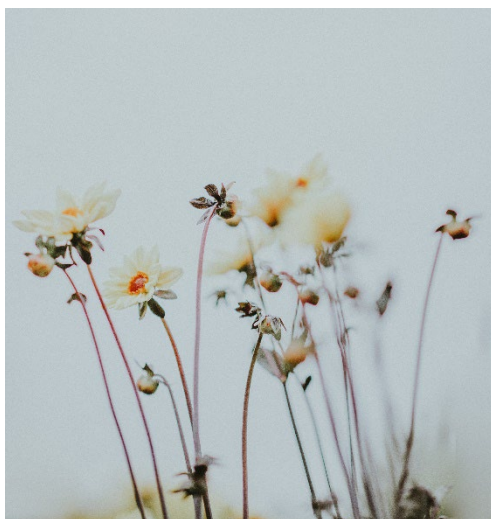
## GEC Organizational Structure Using Sociocracy

For the next few editions of the Village View, we will introduce each of these circles, the work that is accomplished in each one, the roles and the people who hold those roles.





We are sad to announce that  
David Hoff, John Hoff's eldest son and stepson of Colette Hoff,  
has died after a lengthy illness.  
Let Kirsten Rohde know if you would like more information.  
You may reach her at (206) 719-5364





## Mindful Mike's Blog: Thanksgiving 2022

*Mike deAnguera*

As I write this blog it is snowing outside. Just Thursday last week I shared Thanksgiving with my brother Paul and his wife Pat. It was mostly sunny with very little traffic driving around the Sound. West Seattle is about 100 miles from Sahale. The usual turkey, mashed potatoes, asparagus, and cranberry sauce. What's a turkey dinner without cranberry sauce? We all stuffed ourselves silly.

What to be thankful for? The fact that I can still be with Paul's family. We can play games, read books, watch movies. I am reading *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler. It is his first novel about Detective Philip Marlowe in Los Angeles. A grittier version of Perry Mason which was also written in L.A. in the 1930s. I find I am more interested in the details of the story rather than the case itself. Lots of Mafia types. Like every other detective novel sooner or later the dead bodies appear along with gun shots.



I am thankful for the mysterious mist rising up in the meadow in the evening. The mystery of Life.

Here is another mystery: a mushroom growing out of the side of a tree. Pat loves to take pictures of things like this. Artistic in its own way. This tree is probably dead since live trees usually don't host mushrooms. Notice the sun poking out around the tree.



Earth is where mystery lives. All other planets in our Solar System are lifeless as far as we know. Rock, dust, and sand. I am thankful for the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Thankful for my tiny house in the woods as well as all the good folks living out here at Sahale. My nice warm house.

Drai Schindler is cooking tonight. I remember all the Marie Callender and Hungryman dinners I ate over the years while living at my condo. Yes I am thankful for all the meals cooked for me over at Sahale.

I see lots of snow outside. Looks like I will be shoveling again. Early this year. Around 8 inches. Guess I won't be going anywhere anytime soon.

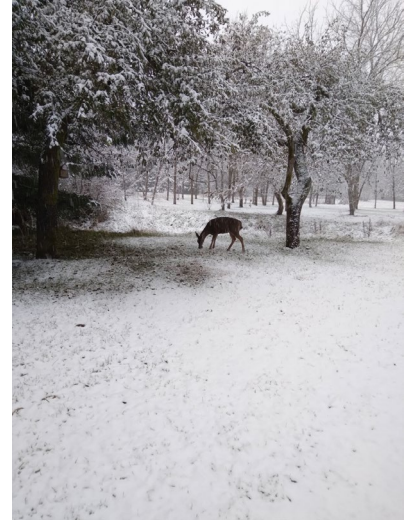
How do I feel about snow? It is mostly a lot of work clearing it out. It almost makes my arms ache. I am getting too old for this stuff. Well, just one day at a time. Maybe we won't get anymore snow. I do admit it can be beautiful. And it sure lights up the night. Of course we don't have any Christmas lights up yet. Seems a little too soon. Summer was just a few weeks ago. Remember Smoktober? It stayed in the eighties until halfway through the month.

Global warming? I dread next summer. Maybe it will be a rainy one like we used to get when I was young.



I am still not ready for Christmas yet. Santa music has been playing for several weeks now in various stores and restaurants. Guess I am in denial about it all. Maybe the fact that Collette Hoff and Joan Valles are no longer with us has affected me. I just want to stop this train. Please! Maybe stay at October for a while.

How about the deer? What do they think? They seem not to care one way or the other. Must be insulated unlike me.



---

## Christmas and New Year's

The community will not be hosting formal gatherings for these holidays this year.

While we are not hosting formally at Sahale over the holidays, let Elizabeth know of your interest in spending time at Sahale over any of these time periods.

*Solstice Bus Trip to Leavenworth – This has been canceled for this year.*

**From the** Goodenough Community Lifeways Circle-- Barbara Brucker, Rosemary Buchmeier, Marjenta Gray, Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Pam Jarrett-Jefferson, Hollis Guill Ryan

## Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

*Community is about adapting to change, and that has been the case with Covid 19, the pandemic, as we adapted many of our ways to connect, most of which have been held on Zoom. This has enabled people from outside our area to participate in community events. Now we are adapting to change following the death of our co-founder Colette and our need to learn from the past and look toward the future of our community.*



Throughout the year we offer programs and events 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. As we work through this period of transition, we have limited or changed our offerings, but check this page for the latest information. Information about future programs and events also will be found on our website: [www.goodenough.org](http://www.goodenough.org) and in future Village Views.



### **Human Relations Laboratory, August 2023**

**This event was cancelled in 2022. Please look forward to Human Relations Laboratory 2023**

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.

Contact: [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](#)



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

Currently meets weekly on Monday evenings, 7 PM on Zoom. Next meeting **December 12**. 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. The Women's Program will meet from 10 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, **January 28, 2023**, via Zoom. For information, contact [Hollis Ryan](#)



**The Third Age** - Those aged 60 and older have customarily been gathering every other month, Friday evenings, at 7 PM by Zoom. Stay tuned for an email about our next meeting date. 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. 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. Next meeting: **December 18**. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](#) for more information.



**New: Founders Day Celebration** This new event is designed to celebrate our shared community life and to honor our founders, John and Colette Hoff. The first Founders Day celebration is scheduled for the weekend of **April 22, 2023**, at Sahale.



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

