



The Village View

December 1, 2021

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Editor

Coming Up—

- **True Holidays celebration,** Saturday, December 4, 6-10 PM, Mercer Island
- **Pathwork,** Sunday, December 12 – 7PM
- **Third Age,** December 17, 7PM

The “True” in Our True Holidays Celebration

By Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson

As we prepare for this annual event this coming Saturday, December 4, a few of us were gathered recently and enjoyed a bit of time reminiscing about our community’s True Holidays celebration, now in its 33rd year (with one year off because of Covid). I wanted to be sure to include you in those memories and to provide you with a little bit of the history of this event in our community’s life.

With a vision of David Hoff and others, the celebration became manifest in or around 1987 as an alternative to and respite from the hustle-and-bustle/stress of the holiday season and to resolve any additional stress imposed by how/whose holiday parties to attend: Here was one way to have all of your friends, family, and co-workers in one place at one time! In the original vision—and it continues—the True Holidays event has been a way to pause, reflect, and be intentional about the holiday season, taking care to plan in and value experiences over buying “things” and to lend meaning to the season, regardless of one’s faith tradition. Our vision has included honoring those faith traditions and our fellow communarians, and has included activities such as silent auction, contra dancing, libations, food and sweet treats, and a

On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System

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

raffle to lend sustaining support to the educational non-profit that is the Goodenough Community.

This year, the tradition continues, but in light of the year-and-a-half that has just passed, our emphasis this year is on relationship and connection, which is where the *true* in our event title originates. In that sense, we want to make sure that we all—including those of us who work behind the scenes at the event and in preparation for the event—slow down and connect with our guests each other, making that a priority. This also means that we will not be including our traditional Silent Auction this year nor our raffle. Our event title, “Celebrating Community: Love Is What It’s All About,” is highlighted by Colette in her article below and is the theme of our program this year.

Celebrating community, our families, and each other is what it’s all about, isn’t it? After months of Covid, let’s get back in the practice of having a true holiday season! I hope to see you on Saturday. - Elizabeth

I Believe in Christmas

Colette Hoff

I do believe in Christmas, the celebration that requires us to take pause in the dark cold winter and celebrate—relationship, light, party, joy, feasting—whatever our cultural traditions may be.

John Hoff also loved the Christmas season and all that goes into celebrating in December from the True Holidays to New Years. John and I together appreciated sharing Christmas with friends and family. And besides the luscious Christmas treats, John loved holiday music, and it filled our home from morning to night.

We were newly married when I first heard John play the following carol, sung by Glen Campbell and written by Edward Leslie Hamilton in 1972.



I Believe in Christmas

I believe in Christmas
But Christmas isn't snow
Candy, floss, or mistletoe
Or Santa's ho, ho, ho.

Love is what it's all about
And I hope this yuletide rings
With thoughts of love for everyone
And friends of long ago.

Christmas is a feeling
Only children know
Theirs for such a little while
We lose it when we grow.

Christmas comes a winging
Just once a year to you
If all that love would stay awhile
Then Christmas could come true.

A simple yet wonderful reminder that love is what it is all about. The December pause encourages us to value what is most important and keep it going throughout the year. I loved this song and then we lost it as cassettes were replaced by CDs. I found it last December on-line after many attempts to search rare music over a number of years. We are using the line, "Love is what it is all about" as an aspect of our theme for the True Holidays. I still love the reminder of the importance of spreading love in all the ways we can, however small, throughout the holiday season and into the new year.

Hope to see you at the True Holidays Celebration, December 4!

Are you interested in a Winter Bus Trip to Leavenworth in January?

For the past many years we have offered a magical experience with friends & family where we journey via a chartered bus through the mountains to Leavenworth, stopping along the way for snow play and ending up at Eagle Creek Ranch. There, we will be treated to a sleigh ride and a country banquet, returning home that same evening.



Right now, we are assessing interest for this event in 2022. We will, of course, monitor Covid and take that situation seriously in any planning.

If you are interested, please let [Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson](#) know and we will keep you informed. This is a fun event for all ages!



a *celebration* of community

LOVE IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

34th Annual **TRUE
HOLIDAYS**

SAT
DEC
4TH

Food | Libations | Contra Dancing | Treats | Raffle

The Gooodenough Community's annual holiday celebration will be in person this year, and we hope to enjoy it with YOU! This event has always been about bringing together family, friends and communities in an atmosphere ranging from frivolity and feasting to one of marking the holidays in a sacred manner, honoring many faith traditions. *This year, focusing on relationship and our connections seems especially important.* The celebration also provides an opportunity for you to reflect and be intentional about the holiday season, giving pause to remember the experiences you value. We invite our communitarian friends to join us again this year.

Mercer Island Congregational
4545 Island Crest Way

6:00 Doors Open

7:30 Contra Dancing with
Sherry Nevins

8:00 Evening Program

9:00 More Joyous Dancing

For more info please contact
Elizabeth.Ann.Jarrett@gmail.com

True Holidays Campaign

We invite our fully vaccinated friends and those who have had a negative covid test within 72-hours of the event. Masks will be an indoor requirement.

Reflections on Our Recent Meditation Retreat

Hollis Guill Ryan

More than 20 years ago, when my son Sam was deathly ill and my life felt turned upside down, I turned to my spiritual advisor, John Hoff, and asked how I could best use this time in my life as a pathway to learning. He responded promptly, “Meditate every morning,” and added nothing else to his instruction.



In those days, I was taking my son to a very early medical appointment every morning so set my alarm for 4:00 a.m., popped out of bed, made breakfast for the rest of my family, got myself ready for work, drove over to Sam’s home, woke him up, made him breakfast ... etc. My mornings were so full! After Sam’s appointment, once I got Sam settled in his home, I would go to work in downtown Seattle. I looked around my office space for a private place to meditate, and I looked for parks and churches nearby where I could go during the day to meditate. Finding a sanctuary proved mostly fruitless – I had found a church that was open during the lunch hour on Wednesdays and I had made arrangements to go there.

A month after my session with John, I returned to him and told him the progress I had made toward finding a way to meditate every day. John interrupted and said firmly, “**No**. You must **start** each day with meditation.”

Oh.

Well, I started sitting for a few quiet moments every morning before setting out on my daily routine. Sure enough, my inner life became calmer and my overturned life no longer oppressed me. My monkey-mind never stopped chattering at me, but for a few minutes I breathed deeply, relaxed my body, and tried concentrating on my breath despite my mind’s activity. For many years I continued my practice of sitting quietly every morning.

Eventually, however, life changed again (though not so dramatically) and I lost my morning routine. Though I regretted the loss, I did not reinstate my practice.

This autumn, along came the opportunity to spend a few days studying meditation with friends, under the tutelage of Joshua DeMers. I had already experienced Joshua’s teaching and knew that this would be a good experience, no matter whether I re-learned to meditate, or simply had a quiet, restful weekend.

I was not wrong. On the grounds of peaceful Sahale, in the company of people I love, I sat quietly, soaking up Joshua’s instruction. Joshua’s manner – humble, knowledgeable, deeply calm and relaxed – permeated our circle, making it easier for me to try out the various forms of meditation he presented. I mostly did not fall asleep while meditating – a first for me! – except during the perhaps most meaningful of the exercises. I had a restorative nap while others meditatively faced their demons, asked questions of their demons, and eventually made friends with them, turning them into allies. At another time, however, I experienced a few moments

without thought, with only cool fresh air and my breath being on my mind. That sole experience has increased my hope that I can learn not only to sit quietly but to also clear my mind.

I have been home five days now and I am happy to report that I have sat meditatively every morning so far. I don't know what difference my minutes of quiet are making in my day, but I know that I look forward to and I treasure those minutes simply for the peaceful experience.

Thank you, Convocation, for sponsoring this meditation workshop, and thank you, Joshua, for your heartfelt guidance.

Membership in the Goodenough Community, Part Four

Hollis Guill Ryan

Often, the Goodenough Community has been compared to a one-room schoolhouse. Why is that?

It is because the community itself is a learning environment, teaching ways of living well and relating well, and all who associate with the community are students of self, relationship, and service/community. As in a one-room schoolhouse, all the community "students" are demonstrating what they have already learned and are at the same time learning from others who have advanced in their studies.

The community's new Service Level structure reflects this model by establishing levels of membership. At each Service Level, a member will be observing and learning from other members. In turn, they will be living in such a way that they are demonstrating what they have already learned.



Levels are distinguished by the type of participation in community programs, events, and offerings; by study and commitment to the community's covenant and lifeways; and by involvement in the community's governance. Through their monthly financial investment in the community and their service commitment to the community, members have the satisfaction of becoming part of the team effort to assure a sustainable future for the Goodenough Community. They also receive small discounts on their program fees, according to their level of membership.

All members join at Service Level 1, the Water Level, where they are encouraged to participate in the community's programmatic offerings as a way to begin orienting themselves to the community's lifeways. This is a comfortable and appropriate level for those who wish to support the community and learn its ways, and many will choose to stay at Service Level 1.

For those who wish to become more involved with their community and its governance, Service Level 2, Earth Level, offers the opportunity for more personalized orientation which will

include training in the community's organizational processes. At this level, a member pursues more serious exploration of the community's covenant and is encouraged to regularly participate in community cultural programs and events.

At the third Service Level, Fire, members are demonstrating their commitment to their own personal growth, to participating in programmatic offerings, to serving and leading in programs and governing circles. At this level, accepting leadership is a way to learn leadership and collaboration skills and to serve the Goodenough Community and beyond.

At all levels, members have opportunities to develop warm, lifelong friendships with others who are committed to similar values and are always encouraged to use their life experiences for personal learning and growth. At all membership levels, they can rest in the assurance they are among people who care for their well-being.

And at all levels, in this one-room schoolhouse called the Goodenough Community, members receive the many intangible ineffable gifts that being with their community friends brings.





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 Black people. We, as mostly white, will educate ourselves and learn to make a difference. We will continue to speak out about the racial injustice in our country.

Josephine Baker

Josephine Baker (born Freda Josephine McDonald, naturalised French Joséphine Baker; 3 June 1906 – 12 April 1975) was an American-born French entertainer, French Resistance agent and civil rights activist. Her career was centered primarily in Europe, mostly in her adopted France. She was the first black woman to star in a major motion picture, the 1927 silent film *Siren of the Tropics*, directed by Mario Nalpas and Henri Étievant.

During her early career, Baker was among the most celebrated performers to headline the revues of the Folies Bergère in Paris. Her performance in the revue *Un vent de folie* in 1927 caused a sensation in the city. Her costume, consisting of only a short skirt of artificial bananas and a beaded necklace, became an iconic image and a symbol both of the Jazz Age and the Roaring Twenties.

Baker was celebrated by artists and intellectuals of the era, who variously dubbed her the "Black Venus", the "Black Pearl", the "Bronze Venus", and the "Creole Goddess". Born in St. Louis, Missouri, she renounced her U.S. citizenship and became a French national after her marriage to French industrialist Jean Lion in 1937. She raised her children in France.

She aided the French Resistance during World War II. After the war, she was awarded the Resistance Medal by the French Committee of National Liberation, the Croix de Guerre by the French military, and was named a Chevalier of the *Légion d'honneur* by General Charles de Gaulle.^[4] Baker sang: "I have two loves, my country and Paris."



Baker refused to perform for segregated audiences in the United States and is noted for her contributions to the civil rights movement. In 1968, she was offered unofficial leadership in the movement in the United States by Coretta Scott King, following Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. After thinking it over, Baker declined the offer out of concern for the welfare of her children.

On 30 November 2021, she entered into the Panthéon in Paris, the first black woman to receive one of the highest honors in France. As her resting place is to remain in Monaco a cenotaph will be installed in vault 13 of the crypt in the Panthéon.

Early life

Baker, c. 1908

Freda Josephine McDonald was born on June 3, 1906, in St. Louis, Missouri. Her mother, Carrie, was adopted in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1886 by Richard and Elvira McDonald, both of whom were former slaves of African and Native American descent.

Josephine McDonald spent her early life at 212 Targee Street (known by some St. Louis residents as Johnson Street) in the Mill Creek Valley neighborhood of St. Louis, a racially mixed low-income neighborhood near Union Station, consisting mainly of rooming houses, brothels, and apartments without indoor plumbing.^[6] She was poorly dressed and hungry as a child, and developed street smarts playing in the railroad yards of Union Station.

Her mother married Arthur Martin, "a kind but perpetually unemployed man", with whom she had a son and two more daughters. She took in laundry to wash to make ends meet, and at eight years old, Josephine began working as a live-in domestic for white families in St. Louis. One woman abused her, burning Josephine's hands when the young girl put too much soap in the laundry.

In 1917, when she was 11, a terrified Josephine McDonald witnessed racial violence in East St. Louis, Illinois. In a speech years later, she recalled what she had seen:

"I can still see myself standing on the west bank of the Mississippi looking over into East St. Louis and watching the glow of the burning of Negro homes lighting the sky. We children stood huddled together in bewilderment . . . frightened to death with the screams of the Negro families running across this bridge with nothing but what they had on their backs as their worldly belongings... So with this vision I ran and ran and ran..."

Youth

Baker's consistent badgering of a show manager in her hometown led to her being recruited for the St. Louis Chorus vaudeville show. At the age of 13, she headed to New York City^[20] during the Harlem Renaissance, performing at the Plantation Club, Florence Mills' old stomping ground, and in the chorus lines of the groundbreaking and hugely successful Broadway revues *Shuffle Along* (1921) with Adelaide Hall and *The Chocolate Dandies* (1924). In *Shuffle along* as well in *Chocolate dandies*, she also played with trumpet player, singer and dancer Valaida Snow.



Baker performed as the last dancer on the end of the chorus line, where her act was to perform in a comic manner, as if she were unable to remember the dance, until the encore, at which point she would perform it not only correctly but with additional complexity. A term of the time describes this part of the cast as "The Pony". Baker was billed at the time as "the highest-paid chorus girl in vaudeville."

Her career began with blackface comedy at local clubs; this was the entertainment of which her mother had disapproved; however, these performances landed Baker an opportunity to tour in Paris, which would become the place she called home until her final days.

Pre War Paris and rise to fame

Baker in her banana costume in 1927

Baker sailed to Paris for a new venture, and opened in *La Revue Nègre* on 2 October 1925, aged 19, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées.

In a 1974 interview with *The Guardian*, Baker explained that she obtained her first big break in the bustling city. "No, I didn't get my first break on Broadway. I was only in the chorus in 'Shuffle Along' and 'Chocolate Dandies'. I became famous first in France in the twenties. I just couldn't stand America and I was one of the first colored Americans to move to Paris. Oh yes, Bricktop was there as well. Me and her were the only two, and we had a marvellous time. Of course, everyone who was anyone knew Bricky. And they got to know Miss Baker as well.



In Paris, she became an instant success for her erotic dancing, and for appearing practically nude onstage. After a successful tour of Europe, she broke her contract and returned to France in 1926 to star at the Folies Bergère, setting the standard for her future acts.

Arrival of Baker in The Hague in 1928

Baker performed the "Danse Sauvage" wearing a costume consisting of a skirt made of a string of artificial bananas. Her success coincided (1925) with the Exposition des Arts Décoratifs, which gave birth to the term "Art Deco", and also with a renewal of interest in non-Western forms of art, including African. Baker represented one aspect of this fashion. In later shows in Paris, she was often accompanied on stage by her pet cheetah "Chiquita," who was adorned with a diamond collar. The cheetah frequently escaped into the orchestra pit, where it terrorized the musicians, adding another element of excitement to the show.

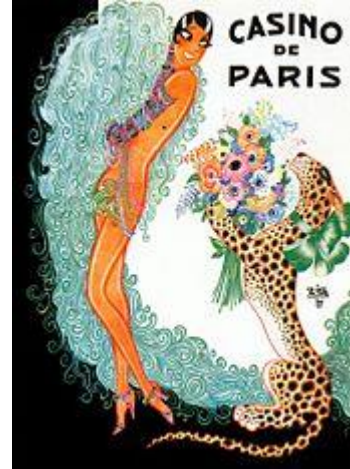


After a while, Baker was the most successful American entertainer working in France. Ernest Hemingway called her "the most sensational woman anyone ever saw." The author spent hours talking with her in Paris bars. Picasso drew paintings depicting her alluring beauty. Jean

Cocteau became friendly with her and helped vault her to international stardom. Baker endorsed a "Bakerfix" hair gel, bananas, shoes, and cosmetics amongst other products.

Depiction, drawn by Louis Gaudin, of Baker being presented a flower bouquet by a cheetah

Under the management of Abatino, Baker's stage and public persona, as well as her singing voice, were transformed. In 1934, she took the lead in a revival of Jacques Offenbach's opera *La créole*, which premiered in December of that year for a six-month run at the Théâtre Marigny on the Champs-Élysées of Paris. In preparation for her performances, she went through months of training with a vocal coach. In the words of Shirley Bassey, who has cited Baker as her primary influence, "... she went from a 'petite danseuse sauvage' with a decent voice to 'la grande diva magnifique' ... I swear in all my life I have never seen, and probably never shall see again, such a spectacular singer and performer."



Despite her popularity in France, Baker never attained the equivalent reputation in America. Her star turn in a 1936 revival of *Ziegfeld Follies* on Broadway was not commercially successful, and later in the run she was replaced by Gypsy Rose Lee. *Time* magazine referred to her as a "Negro wench ... whose dancing and singing might be topped anywhere outside of Paris", while other critics said her voice was "too thin" and "dwarf-like" to fill the Winter Garden Theatre.^[42] She returned to Europe heartbroken. This contributed to Baker's becoming a legal citizen of France and giving up her American citizenship.

Baker returned to Paris in 1937, married the French industrialist Jean Lion, and became a French citizen. They were married in the French town of Crèvecœur-le-Grand, in a wedding presided over by the mayor, Jammy Schmidt.

Between 1933 and 1937 Baker was a guest at the start of the Tour de France on four occasions.

World War II

Baker in uniform in 1948.

In September 1939, when France declared war on Germany in response to the invasion of Poland, Baker was recruited by the Deuxième Bureau, the French military intelligence agency, as an "honorable correspondent". Baker worked with Jacques Abtey, the head of French counterintelligence in Paris. She socialised with the Germans at embassies, ministries, night clubs, charming them while secretly gathering information. Her café-society fame enabled her to rub shoulders with those in the know, from high-ranking Japanese officials to Italian and Vichy bureaucrats, reporting to Abtey what she heard. She attended parties and gathered information at the Italian embassy without raising suspicion.



When the Germans invaded France, Baker left Paris and went to the Château des Milandes, her home in the Dordogne *département* in the south of France. She housed people who were eager to help the Free French effort led by Charles de Gaulle and supplied them with visas. As an entertainer, Baker had an excuse for moving around Europe, visiting neutral nations such as Portugal, as well as some in South America. She carried information for transmission to England, about airfields, harbors, and German troop concentrations in the West of France. Notes were written in invisible ink on Baker's sheet music. As written in *Jazz Age Cleopatra*, "She specialized in gatherings at embassies and ministries, charming people as she had always done, but at the same time trying to remember interesting items to transmit."

Later in 1941, she and her entourage went to the French colonies in North Africa. The stated reason was Baker's health (since she was recovering from another case of pneumonia) but the real reason was to continue helping the Resistance. From a base in Morocco, she made tours of Spain. She pinned notes with the information she gathered inside her underwear (counting on her celebrity to avoid a strip search). She met the Pasha of Marrakech, whose support helped her through a miscarriage (the last of several). After the miscarriage, she developed an infection so severe it required a hysterectomy. The infection spread and she developed peritonitis and then sepsis. After her recovery (which she continued to fall in and out of), she started touring to entertain British, French, and American soldiers in North Africa. The Free French had no organized entertainment network for their troops, so Baker and her entourage managed for the most part on their own. They allowed no civilians and charged no admission.

After the war, Baker was awarded the Resistance Medal by the French Committee of National Liberation, the Croix de Guerre by the French military, and was named a Chevalier of the *Légion d'honneur* by General Charles de Gaulle.

Baker's last marriage, to French composer and conductor Jo Bouillon, ended around the time Baker opted to adopt her 11th child.

Post War

Baker in Havana, Cuba, in 1950

Baker in Amsterdam, 1954

In 1949, a reinvented Baker returned in triumph to the Folies Bergère. Bolstered by recognition of her wartime heroism, Baker



the performer assumed a new gravitas, unafraid to take on serious music or subject matter. The engagement was a rousing success and reestablished Baker as one of Paris' pre-eminent entertainers. In 1951 Baker was invited back to the United States for a nightclub engagement in Miami. After winning a public battle over desegregating the club's audience, Baker followed up her sold-out run at the club with a national tour. Rave reviews and enthusiastic audiences accompanied her everywhere, climaxed by a parade in front of 100,000 people in Harlem in honor of her new title: NAACP's "Woman of the Year".



In 1952 Baker was hired to crown the Queen of the Cavalcade of Jazz for the famed eighth Cavalcade of Jazz concert held at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles which was produced by Leon Hefflin, Sr. on 1 June. Also featured to perform that day were Roy Brown and His Mighty Men, Anna Mae Winburn and Her Sweethearts, Toni Harper, Louis Jordan, Jimmy Witherspoon and Jerry Wallace.

An incident at the Stork Club in October 1951 interrupted and overturned her plans. Baker criticized the club's unwritten policy of discouraging Black patrons, then scolded columnist Walter Winchell, an old ally, for not rising to her defense. Winchell responded swiftly with a series of harsh public rebukes, including accusations of Communist sympathies (a serious charge at the time). The ensuing publicity resulted in the termination of Baker's work visa, forcing her to cancel all her engagements and return to France. It was almost a decade before U.S. officials allowed her back into the country.

In January 1966, Fidel Castro invited Baker to perform at the *Teatro Musical de La Habana* in Havana, Cuba, at the seventh-anniversary celebrations of his revolution. Her spectacular show in April broke attendance records. In 1968, Baker visited Yugoslavia and made appearances in Belgrade and in Skopje. In her later career, Baker faced financial troubles. She commented, "Nobody wants me, they've forgotten me"; but family members encouraged her to continue performing. In 1973 she performed at Carnegie Hall to a standing ovation.

The following year, she appeared in a Royal Variety Performance at the London Palladium, and then at the Monegasque Red Cross Gala, celebrating her 50 years in French show business. Advancing years and exhaustion began to take their toll; she sometimes had trouble remembering lyrics, and her speeches between songs tended to ramble. She still continued to captivate audiences of all ages.

Civil rights activism

Although based in France, Baker supported the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s. When she arrived in New York with her husband Jo, they were refused reservations at 36 hotels because of racial discrimination. She was so upset by this treatment that she wrote articles about the segregation in the United States. She also began traveling into the South. She gave a talk at Fisk University, a historically black college in Nashville, Tennessee, on "France, North Africa and the Equality of the Races in France."

She refused to perform for segregated audiences in the United States, although she was offered \$10,000 by a Miami club (The club eventually met her demands.). Her insistence on mixed audiences helped to integrate live entertainment shows in Las Vegas, Nevada. After this incident, she began receiving threatening phone calls from people claiming to be from the Ku Klux Klan but said publicly that she was not afraid of them.

In 1951, Baker made charges of racism against Sherman Billingsley's Stork Club in Manhattan, where she had been refused service. Actress Grace Kelly, who was at the club at the time, rushed over to Baker, took her by the arm and stormed out with her entire party, vowing never to return

(although she returned on 3 January 1956 with Prince Rainier of Monaco). The two women became close friends after the incident.

When Baker was near bankruptcy, Kelly—by then the princess consort—offered her a villa and financial assistance. (During his work on the *Stork Club* book, author and *New York Times* reporter Ralph Blumenthal was contacted by Jean-Claude Baker, one of Baker's sons. He indicated that he had read his mother's FBI file and, using comparison of the file to the tapes, said he thought the Stork Club incident was overblown.

Baker also worked with the NAACP. Her reputation as a crusader grew to such an extent that the NAACP had Sunday, 20 May 1951 declared "Josephine Baker Day." She was presented with life membership with the NAACP by Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Ralph Bunche. The honor she was paid spurred her to further her crusading efforts with the "Save Willie McGee" rally. McGee was a black man in Mississippi convicted of raping a white woman in 1945 on the basis of dubious evidence, and sentenced to death.^[56] Baker attended rallies for McGee and wrote letters to Fielding Wright, the governor of Mississippi, asking him to spare McGee's life.^[56] Despite her efforts, McGee was executed in 1951.^[56] As the decorated war hero who was bolstered by the racial equality she experienced in Europe, Baker became increasingly regarded as controversial; some black people even began to shun her, fearing that her outspokenness and racy reputation from her earlier years would hurt the cause.

In 1963, she spoke at the March on Washington at the side of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Baker was the only official female speaker. While wearing her Free French uniform emblazoned with her medal of the Légion d'honneur, she introduced the "Negro Women for Civil Rights." Rosa Parks and Daisy Bates were among those she acknowledged, and both gave brief speeches.^[59] Not everyone involved wanted Baker present at the March; some thought her time overseas had made her a woman of France, one who was disconnected from the Civil Rights issues going on in America. In her speech, one of the things Baker said:

I have walked into the palaces of kings and queens and into the houses of presidents. And much more. But I could not walk into a hotel in America and get a cup of coffee, and that made me mad. And when I get mad, you know that I open my big mouth. And then look out, 'cause when Josephine opens her mouth, they hear it all over the world ..

After King's assassination, his widow Coretta Scott King approached Baker in the Netherlands to ask if she would take her husband's place as leader of the Civil Rights Movement. After many days of thinking it over, Baker declined, saying her children were "too young to lose their mother."



Relationships

Baker's first marriage was to American Pullman porter Willie Wells when she was only 13 years old. The marriage was reportedly very unhappy and the couple divorced a short time later. Another short-lived marriage followed her marriage to Willie Baker in 1921; she retained Baker's last name because her career began to take off during that time, and it was the name by which she

became best known. While she had four marriages to men, Jean-Claude Baker writes that Josephine was bisexual and he also writes that she had several relationships with women.

During her time in the Harlem Renaissance arts community, one of Baker's relationships was with the Blues singer Clara Smith.^[1] In 1925, she began an extramarital relationship with the Belgian novelist Georges Simenon. In 1937, Baker married Frenchman Jean Lion. She and Lion separated in 1940. She married French composer and conductor Jo Bouillon in 1947, and their union also ended in divorce but it lasted 14 years. Later, She was involved with the artist Robert Brady for a time, but they never married.^[64] Baker was also involved in sexual liaisons, if not relationships, with Ada "Bricktop" Smith, French novelist Colette, and possibly Frida Kahlo.

Children

During her participation in the Civil Rights Movement, Baker began to adopt children, forming a family which she often referred to as "The Rainbow Tribe". Baker wanted to prove that "children of different ethnicities and religions could still be brothers." She often took the children with her cross-country, and when they were at Château des Milandes, she arranged tours so visitors could walk the grounds and see how natural and happy the children were in "The Rainbow Tribe". Her estate featured hotels, a farm, rides, and the children singing and dancing for the audience. She charged an admission fee to visitors who entered and partook in the activities, which included watching the children play. She created dramatic backstories for them, picking them with clear intent in mind: at one point, she wanted and planned to adopt a Jewish baby, but she settled for a French one. She also raised them in different religions in order to further her model for the world, taking two children from Algeria and raising one child as a Muslim and raising the other child as a Catholic. One member of the Tribe, Jean-Claude Baker, said: "She wanted a doll."

Baker raised two daughters, French-born Marianne and Moroccan-born Stellina, and 10 sons, Korean-born Jeannot (or Janot), Japanese-born Akio, Colombian-born Luis, Finnish-born Jari (now Jarry), French-born Jean-Claude, Noël and Moïse, Algerian-born Brahim, Ivorian-born Koffi, and Venezuelan-born Mara. For some time, Baker lived with her children and an enormous staff in the château in Dordogne, France, with her fourth husband, Jo Bouillon. Bouillon claimed that Baker bore one child, it was stillborn in 1941, an incident that precipitated an emergency hysterectomy.

Despite Baker's own bisexuality, she forced Jarry to leave the château and live with his adoptive father, Jo Bouillon, in Argentina, at the age of 15, after discovering that he was gay. Moïse died of cancer in 1999, and Noël was diagnosed with schizophrenia and is in a psychiatric hospital as of 2009.^[73] Jean-Claude Baker committed suicide in 2015.

Later years and death

In her later years Baker converted to Catholicism.^[75] In 1968, Baker lost her Château owing to unpaid debts; afterwards Princess Grace offered her an apartment in Roquebrune, near Monaco.

Baker was back on stage at the Olympia in Paris in 1968, in Belgrade and at Carnegie Hall in 1973 and at the Royal Variety Performance at the London Palladium and at the *Gala du Cirque* in Paris in 1974. On 8 April 1975 Baker starred in a retrospective revue at the Bobino in Paris, *Joséphine à Bobino 1975*, celebrating her 50 years in show business. The revue, financed by Prince Rainier, Princess Grace and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, opened to rave reviews. Demand for seating was such that fold-out chairs had to be added to accommodate spectators. The opening-night audience included Sophia Loren, Mick Jagger, Shirley Bassey, Diana Ross and Liza Minnelli.

Four days later Baker was found lying peacefully in her bed surrounded by newspapers with glowing reviews of her performance. She was in a coma after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. She was taken to Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, where she died, aged 68, on 12 April 1975.

Baker received a full Catholic funeral at L'Église de la Madeleine, attracting more than 20,000 mourners. The only American-born woman to receive full French military honors at her funeral, Baker's funeral was the occasion of a huge procession. After a family service at Saint-Charles Church in Monte Carlo,^[80] Baker was interred at Monaco's *Cimetière de Monaco*.



Legacy

Place Joséphine Baker (48°50′29″N 2°19′26″E) in the Montparnasse Quarter of Paris was named in her honor. She has also been inducted into the St. Louis Walk of Fame, and on 29 March 1995, into the Hall of Famous Missourians. St. Louis's Channing Avenue was renamed Josephine Baker Boulevard and a wax sculpture of Baker is on permanent display at The Griot Museum of Black History.

In 2015 she was inducted into the Legacy Walk in Chicago, Illinois. The Piscine Joséphine Baker is a swimming pool along the banks of the Seine in Paris named after her.

Writing in the on-line *BBC magazine* in late 2014, Darren Royston, historical dance teacher at RADA credited Baker with being the Beyoncé of her day, and bringing the Charleston to Britain.^[88] Two of Baker's sons, Jean-Claude and Jarry (Jari), grew up to go into business together, running the restaurant Chez Josephine on Theatre Row, 42nd Street, New York City. It celebrates Baker's life and works.

Château des Milandes which she rented from 1940 before purchasing in 1947.

Château des Milandes, a castle near Sarlat in the Dordogne, was Baker's home where she raised her twelve children. It is open to the public and displays her stage outfits including her banana skirt (of which there are apparently several). It also displays many family photographs and documents as well as her Legion of Honour medal. Most rooms are open for the public to walk through including bedrooms with the



cots where her children slept, a huge kitchen, and a dining room where she often entertained large groups. The bathrooms were designed in art deco style but most rooms retained the French chateau style.

Baker continued to influence celebrities more than a century after her birth. In a 2003 interview with *USA Today*, Angelina Jolie cited Baker as "a model for the multiracial, multinational family she was beginning to create through adoption." Beyoncé performed Baker's banana dance at the Fashion Rocks concert at Radio City Music Hall in September 2006.

Writing on the 110th anniversary of her birth, *Vogue* described how her 1926 "danse sauvage" in her famous banana skirt "brilliantly manipulated the white male imagination" and "radically redefined notions of race and gender through style and performance in a way that continues to echo throughout fashion and music today, from Prada to Beyoncé."

On 3 June 2017, the 111th anniversary of her birth, Google released an animated Google Doodle, which consists of a slideshow chronicling her life and achievements.

On Thursday 22 November 2018 a documentary entitled *Josephine Baker: The Story of an Awakening*, directed by Ilana Navaro, premiered at the Beirut Art Film Festival. It contains rarely seen archival footage, including some never before discovered, with music and narration.

In August 2019 Baker was one of those inducted in the Rainbow Honor Walk, a walk of fame in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood noting LGBTQ people who have "made significant contributions in their fields."

Panthéon in Paris

In May 2021 an online petition was set up by writer Laurent Kupferman asking that Joséphine Baker be honoured by being reburied at the Panthéon in Paris or being granted Panthéon honours, which would make her only the sixth woman at the mausoleum alongside Simone Veil, Geneviève de Gaulle-Anthonioz, Marie Curie, Germaine Tillon and Sophie Berthelot. In August 2021 the French President, Emmanuel Macron, announced that Baker's remains would be reburied at the Panthéon in November 2021, following the petition and continued requests from Baker's family since 2013. Her son Claude Bouillon-Baker, however, told AFP that her body would remain in Monaco and only a plaque would be installed at the Panthéon. It was later announced that a symbolic casket containing soil from various locations that Baker had lived, including St. Louis, Paris, the South of France and Monaco, would be carried by the French Air and Space Force in a parade in Paris before a ceremony at the Panthéon where the casket will be interred. The ceremony took place on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, and Baker thus became the first black woman to be honored in the secular temple to the "great men" of the French Republic.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Mindful Mike's Blog: Thankful Meditation *From Thanksgiving Week*

Mike deAnguera

As the weather gets colder this is the season, I am thankful for a warm, dry house as well as warm friends. I pray for the people who are sleeping outside on city streets because they have nowhere else to go. I always think of the street people whenever I am in my tiny house. City life can be a life of disconnection in the extreme. We are all in competition for our food and housing. Our careers define us. I am glad I am no longer in such a place. Now I can be simply Mike.

Of all the meditating we did during the Meditation Weekend what stands out for me is simply being thankful. To the Divine Within. To all of us. We have something very special out here at Sahale.



Yesterday I helped Kirsten Rodhe and Rose Buchmeier clean up mason bee larvae and the tubes in which they were. Again, I noticed how cold and dark it stayed all day as we worked. We want to be as helpful to our bees as we can possibly get because they are having a really rough time with climate change and pesticides. If we lose our bees, we will have no more fruits and vegetables. Prime candidates for scurvy!

Tomorrow we will have our Thanksgiving turkey dinner. I see Draí Schindler hard at work in the kitchen getting parts of it ready. Other folks will make their contributions. My Goodenough family. I remember when Phil Stark used to bake our turkey dinner and he was quite the chef.

A group of us will be hosted by Bruce and Irene Perler in their yurt for dinner like we were last night.

I always love visiting with them in their yurt which now has a new addition. Like me, the community assisted with helping them get settled out here at Sahale. I am thankful for the vision of community as a way of life we are helping pioneer.

The local Tahuya St. Nicholas Church has connected us with the local Tahuya community through Jay and Susie Allen. They have been really nice neighbors to us.

I am thankful for the privilege of being Mike who is not like anyone else. My lifetime is unique and so is my perspective. Supportive friends are what make a good life possible. I am a mystery to myself and the others around me.

Is life about suffering? I believe life is an adventure since every lifetime is a chosen one. Nobody would choose to suffer although plenty of folks choose adventure because the alternative is boredom.

Earth is a delicate miracle as space travel has shown all of us including William Shatner of Star Trek fame who had the chance as a 90-year-old to fly in space for 10 minutes aboard a Blue Origin space ship. No other planet in our solar system can support us like Earth. I don't need to fly in space. I just need to see the photo of the Earth hanging in the blackness of space taken by Apollo 17.

Life is a mystery. Every being has its own version of the reproductive cycle as shown by the salmon spawning under our bridge. This is a spectacle we are treated to every year at this time.



Smile Foundation:

One way to send a little extra to our community

Kirsten Rohde

For the Goodenough Community Economy Team

Through their foundation, Amazon makes it possible for donations to go to selected nonprofits with every purchase. The Goodenough Community is listed with this program, and you can follow the instructions below to participate. There are many opinions about Amazon, and it is also true that our community received \$500 in donations through this program last year!

Expediency, cost, availability can all be reasons any of us use Amazon.com for purchases. For myself I usually try to find a local store for purchasing. Many of us who purchase for Sahale try to shop locally whenever possible. Three tries is my limit and then I go online but I still try to order directly from companies, especially smaller ones. For some smaller companies, Amazon.com makes it possible to increase sales. So sometimes Amazon is the only option. Then I use *smile.amazon.com* to make purchases so that a small percentage of the price is donated to the Goodenough Community.

Thank you to all of you who think of the Goodenough Community when you shop at Amazon!

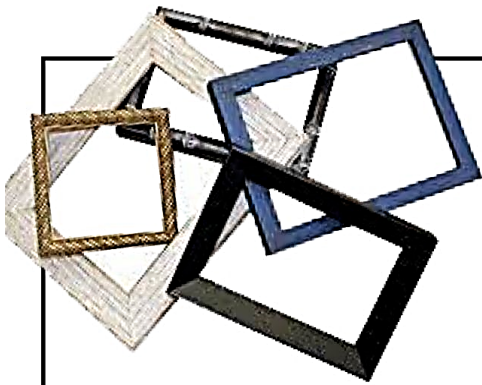
Here are the details:

The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchase. It's easy to shop through Amazon Smile if you already have an Amazon account. On your first visit to Amazon Smile, select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon remembers your selection and then every eligible purchase you make will result in a donation.

*We ask that you please select
The Goodenough Community.*

TO SIGN UP LITERALLY TAKES ABOUT 30 SECONDS

- 1 Visit www.smile.amazon.com. Provide the email address and password that is already attached to your amazon.com account.
- 2 Choose Goodenough Community as the organization you wish to support. Agree and Save.
- 3 Every time you shop login to smile.amazon.com! *Remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com (not amazon.com or the mobile app) support donation*



Sahale Walls of History PICTURE FRAMES NEEDED

If you are cleaning out the attic or redecorating a room and you find picture frames you wish to get rid of...

If you are at the thrift store or a garage sale and see great picture frame values...

Please consider donating them to Sahale for a really cool historical project! We would like all kinds of frames in any style or material: metal, wood, plastic, leather, pleather — preferably with glass and hardware to hang on a wall. We would like an abundance of 5x7 and can work with other sizes too.

If you have questions or wish to arrange a donation, please contact Drai: goddessdrai@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

Fall, 2021 – Winter dates announced soon

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:

January dates to be announced

For additional information, 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.

Winter Dates to be Announced Soon. For more information, contact [Hollis Ryan](mailto: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. Contact [Kirsten Rohde](mailto:Kirsten.Rohde) for more information. Next date: December 17.



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: 7pm to 9pm. Contact Colette: hoff@goodenough.org for Zoom information.
Next fall date: December 12



True Holidays Celebration - Saturday, December 4, 2021

See enclosed invitation



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).*

