



# Grace

## Grace in not blued eyed or blond!

John L. Hoff

There are some words of strength and power that are so important to us that they show up frequently in everyday speech. That is, there are a few words that are place holders for a variety of words that are similar and more frequently used, but less powerful. My list of powerful words has at the top of it: Love, Trust, Faith, Promise, and our word of the week—Grace!

**She walked across the stage with effortless grace.**

There is (on these first two pages) a smattering of brief statements that shows how we use the word in everyday speech. Grace is a powerful word that is not used often at full power but is scaled down to relational pleasantry.

Prior to the last hundred years the word was used to represent an insight into the soul of how the Divine is influencing human affairs. Referencing it as a theological term, grace is the Divine energy that operates within and through human beings to improve the human world. This divine energy inspires virtuous impulses and imparts strength to endure trials and resist temptations and distractions. Thomas Merton defined Grace as a sense of oneness or unity between ourselves and the Divine. Through Grace God and I are living out my life. Sam Keen describes Grace as more of a

*She handles her problems with grace and dignity.*

# The Village eView

**October 15, 2014**

Colette Hoff, Editor

## *On-Line News of the Goodenough Community System*

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

October 19, Pathwork

October 31 to November 2, Harvest Weekend

November 7, Third Age Gathering

November 13, Conscious Couples Network

November 14, Women's Cultural Program

happening than an achievement and therefore more of a gift than a reward. When I am asked to explain quickly and simply my own faith stance and story, I respond as:

*God in me,  
As me,  
Is me.*

Divine grace are words for our human experience that God is a part of our daily living, "Here is a useful place for me to say that I wish for you this sense of a life lived as an expression of your life's Creator. We are not alone and a better off acknowledging Grace from God and Grace from relationships.

*By the grace of God, no one was seriously hurt.*

To be graced is to be touched, is to feel, is to enjoy feeling and the sense of connection it brings. We are graced by our memories and dreams and we are graced by times when we are fully alive to the present. You already know the power of grace before meals and the value of being openly thankful during good times and special happenings.

I am graced by my granddaughters trust and I am graced through my conversations with my children and I am graced daily from my relationship with Colette. As I think of her grace, my mind goes to appreciation for her touch and her thoughtfulness. Feeling love with her is Grace-ful.

I have a challenge for you this week—I challenge you to be more aware of how your life is graced. Allow yourself to feel graced by relationships, by awareness, by your memories and dreams. Be aware also of everyday blessings, good fortune, and human

kindness. I think Grace is happening and that we often miss it. One thing I know about Grace is that if you are open to it you will have more of it!

Love John

*By the grace of God, no one was seriously hurt.*

*By the grace of God, no one was seriously hurt.*

### **Morning Grace**

Joan Stephen

We thank Thee God  
As we watch  
The distant hills  
Suddenly emerge  
Above the filmy, white mist  
And gently touch heaven—  
Awakening the sun for another day.

### **A Hylander's Blessing**

Thomas K. Hyland

May your heart stay as active  
And young as your mind.

May your kindnesses to others  
Be returned ten-fold, in kind.

May your life's adversities be  
Light, and easy to bear.

May joy and peace quickly  
Dry up each tiny tear.

May you always be able  
To count on one good friend.

May God's Grace light up  
Your road, to its very end.

### **Native American Blessing**

Adapted

O Great Spirit  
Whose voice I hear in the winds,  
And whose breath gives life to all the world.  
Hear me! I need your strength and wisdom.

Let Me Walk in Beauty, and make my eyes  
ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make My Hands respect the things you have  
made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make Me Wise so that I may understand the  
things you have taught my people.

Let Me learn the Lessons you have hidden in  
every leaf and rock.

I Seek Strength, not to be greater than my  
brother, but to fight my greatest enemy—  
myself.

### **Your Gift**

Buddha

Make of yourself a light.



O Lord, help me not to despise or  
oppose what I do not understand.  
~William Penn

### **This fall, 2014**

Colette Hoff

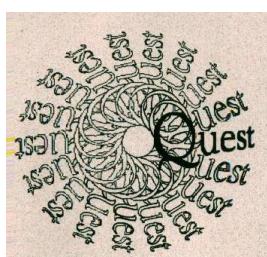
As you read the Village eView, you will notice that in late summer and early fall, our leadership has designed a community program that goes from this fall through spring to next year's Human Relations Laboratory (on Joy) to be held **August 9 to 15, 2015** at Sahale. By program I am referring to monthly meetings of our cultural programs and weekly meetings for people spiritually motivated called Pathwork, which meets on Sunday evenings. On Monday evenings, the organizational needs of our community are dealt with by the boards of the American Association for the Furtherance of Community and the board of Convocation: A Church and Ministry. On Mondays we mostly function as a Council, a council that is empowered to guide our system. Our organizational focus now is on our **True Holidays Celebration on Saturday evening, December 6**. Put this on your calendar now with the knowledge that this evening will help you think through your holiday plans. This celebration is set early in December in order to help us prepare for the holidays.

This fall, the activities of the community are largely focused on supporting human development—helping people learn, grow and play. Our cultural programs are opportunities for men, women, couples, families, third agers, etc. to develop themselves. Programs support the interest and growth of those involved. The leaders of programs and organizations are encouraged to support each other in their leadership ad to develop the training resources to do the job. John and I facilitate learning wherever we can and support leaders in the performance of their responsibilities.

### **Pathwork:**

**Sunday, October 19,** we are **inviting all interested** to participate in a “**Pathwork Process**,” a process of sharing our own faith journeys and problems with development. The focus is on what is happening in our lives now and not on earlier history. It is a process in which we **coach each other** and elicit insights from those who have done psychological and relational work with themselves. John and Colette Hoff have been asked to provide leadership and to resource us thematically. **John and Colette would each welcome meeting with anyone interested in attending.** Email [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) to RSVP.

Pathwork will be meeting in West Seattle at the home of Joan, Phil, Barbara, and Jim 7723 13<sup>th</sup> Av SW, Seattle 98106.



### **Quest: A Counseling and Healing Center**

Our belief is that mental and emotional health are prerequisites for spiritual well-being, 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 be more effective in relationships. **Call John (206 963-4738), Colette (206 -755 8404).**

### **Where are you working, you might ask?**

Currently, John and Colette are doing home visits and utilizing community homes for individual sessions and group meetings. We are especially appreciative to pam and Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson and the West Seattle household of Joan, Phil, Jim and Barbara.

### **Quest is currently offering a group focused on relationship:**

Beginning on **Tuesday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.**, we will be meeting with couples. Some of these couples will be married, some will be committed, some will be living together, some will be serious friends that want a chance to work with themselves and their personal development yet within a relationship with someone else. If you can think of someone you would like to work on self-development with—let them know. Also let us know (John and Colette Hoff) that you are interested in a relational counseling approach to personal development.

This group will be meeting at the home of Pam and Elizabeth who have found that their own relationship has deepened in recent months.

**Your Gift**

Buddha

Make of yourself a light.



O Lord, help me not to despise or oppose what I do not understand.  
~William Penn

## **What's with the "big" meetings?**

### **Community Reformation!**

Colette Hoff

On October 24 to 26, a group of people who have both offered themselves and have been chosen by each other are meeting at Sahale for training. They will be making a coherent statement that re-introduces our Goodenough Community to the world. Part of their job will be designing a community formation process for approximately one month later, **November 21 to 23**. If you are interested in the work of the Goodenough Community we encourage you to attend the November weekend as an opportunity to learn about us and where you will see some roles and programs and services in which you may have something to offer. If you are intending to come and wondering about bringing children and childcare, please let Colette know at [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org)

The Goodenough Community is mostly an idea or vision. Historically our community was influenced by an idea of a British psychiatrist named Donald W. Winnicott. In research he had done in the First World War, he and his staff discovered that orphan children would refuse the help of several caregivers and would fail to thrive until they decided a caregiver was acceptable or "goodenough." In the Goodenough Community we offer a relationship and a social space that is goodenough or acceptable to the average member.

### **Are you coming?**



### **Harvest Weekend, October 31 to November 2**

This year, our apples are ripening early! In fact, we've decided to hold our harvest weekend on October 31 to November 2. While some trick or treaters may not be able to attend, there will be cider-making and lots of applesauce as well as good meals. Feel free to join for the day or overnight. Email [hoff @goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) with your plans.

## True Holiday Celebration Saturday, December 6

### Our True Holidays' "Silent Auction"

*Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson*



I am pleased to announce that we will again be featuring our **Silent Auction** at our annual True Holidays event this year, to be held

*Saturday, December 6, at the Mercer Island Congregational Church, beginning at 6:00PM* (mark your calendars & note the time). This event is a wonderful part of the True Holidays celebration because the spirit of warmth, generosity and creativity that surrounds the Auction is deliciously palpable—and sometimes even edible! Tonight I have been reviewing some of the donations that came in last year and continue to marvel at both the uniqueness and wonderfully-tried-and true offerings that reflects the generous free-spirit nature of the event. A day-long, catered sailing event, donated by Leslie Norman and Jodine Hatfield, has continued over the years to be an important, much-sought-after item at the Auction. Organic fresh fruit, heirloom silver pieces, home-made delectables, objects d'art were some of the featured items last year...and many others.

To which I extend my invitation to you to donate to this very worthy cause, the work of the Goodenough Community, which supports programs that help real people and real lives. We need the work of communities like ours now, these days, more than ever. There will be a bid form included each week with the eView, and [I invite your contribution](#). I am excited to see what magic this event brings to us this year; I will keep you posted!



Hello, Editors,

When there is space, would you please insert this thank you from Emma Staatz?

"A few weeks ago, I sent out an appeal for funds on behalf of Sam Staatz' sister who participated in a fundraising walk to raise awareness of suicide ... and you really responded! Here, in brief, is Emma's thanks:

You and your friends & family are a FORCE to be reckoned with!

I add my own thanks to Emma's. I really appreciate your help and support.

With love,

Hollis"

## To Wonder at Beauty...

By Rudolph Steiner

To wonder at beauty,  
stand guard over truth

Look up to the noble,  
resolve in the good

This leadeth us truly,  
to purpose in living

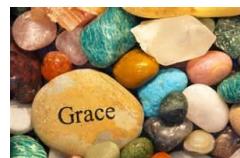
To might in our doing,  
to peace in our feeling

To light in our thinking,  
and teaches us trust

In the working of God,  
in all that there is

In the width of the world,  
in the depth of the soul.

The Leadership Council is using this  
verse to prepare for the upcoming  
training, **October 24 to 26.**



## The deAnguera Blog: Masters



Last week I talked about the essence of who I am. This week I can expand on that. How much should I expand? A whole book? A whole theology? Could I develop a whole theology based on my relationship with the Divine?

We've had teachings passed onto us by Jesus the Christ. Our Messiah or the One Who Will Put Everything Right. A superman who will kill off the bad guys.

Then God's revelations came to us via Mohammed. We were told he was the last prophet. He fasted in a cave and wrote down the Koran from the angel Gabriel.

Other prophets and Masters have included Paramhansa Yogananda, Joseph Smith, and Baha Ulla. In our time we have Neal Donald Walsh who didn't fast. He had gone through two divorces and had a pile of angry questions for God. Much to his surprise God answered them! Another prophet or Master? Actually he's just an average guy like you and me trying to figure stuff out. He had no special qualifications.

Apparently any of us could be a Master. Yogananda simply decided as a kid that he wanted to follow the path of the renunciate. Eventually he became a Swami, a Hindu order of renunciates.

Does one have to be a renunciate in order to be a Master? I believe Masters are found everywhere in all walks of life. One is a personal friend of mine.

It is not that Masters know all the answers to life's questions. It is the way they carry themselves. They are the most approachable people in the world and know how to put me at ease. They care at a deep level. I am not even sure a Master needs to follow a particular path unless he/she wants to. I suppose it can help that person gain credibility like Yogananda. But Mastership I think is a relationship between the Master and the Creator. Religions can capture it in their own way but every person is unique.

There is a Master inside every one of us. That's the message of Durckheim, a German mystic. A Master can connect us with the Absolute.

Why can't the connection with the Divine be just simply explained? It can but does it seems to take more than that to have a lasting effect on me.

A Master can also help me stay out of trouble. As I know spiritual exploration can sometimes be risky. Native people know this and it is why they have medicine people working in the spirit world with them. I am not a Master but I think it would be a worthy goal. I can be helpful to others on their journey in growing their own inner Masters. Working together we can help wake up the whole world.



Earlina, my familiar perpetually winds herself around my legs. Is she reminding me that to meditate one only needs a purring cat?



## Bite O'Fall

*Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson*

### **Birthdays - Have a wonderful day, everyone!**

**Carla James** - October 10. Happy belated birthday, Carla!

**Tom James** – October 12. Hope you had a great day, Tom!

**Darlene Finney** – October 13. Hope you had a wonderful day, Darlene!

**Rachel Faasuumalie** – October 18. Happy birthday to our Association Bookkeeper!

**Jodine Hatfield** – October 19. Happy birthday, Jodine!

**Kate Martin** – October 22. Happy birthday, Kate!

**Leslie Norman** – October 22. Happy birthday, Leslie!

## Fall Humor - Leafs one laughing?

Two guys walk into a bar.

One looks at the other and says, "You didn't see it either, did you?"

--From Tom James

**Q: What do you call the guy with no arms and no legs in the fall?**

A: Disarming.

**Q: What do you call the guy with no arms and no legs in a pile of fall leaves?**

A: Rustle.

**Q: What do you call the guy with no arms and no legs in front of the door on a fall, blustery day?**

A: Matt

# The Goodenough Community:

## Cultural Programs & Events in 2014

*For the Goodenough Community, cultural life is an arena for creative expression.*

*All programs and events are open to the public. We welcome your interest and participation.*

*Over thousands of years human communities have organized not only their work life but also their relational and cultural life. The Goodenough Community organizes its cultural life around encouraging human development—through our programs for men, women, committed couples, families and around age groupings. Cultural programs usually encourage maturity, responsibility, and the development of valued relationships. Some of our programs bring everyone together with a seasonal emphasis. Following, are program offerings for the next period on our calendar.*

### Third Age Gathering, Friday, November 7

*Joan Valles*

**"Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long."** *W. Somerset Maugham*



**The next Third Age gathering will be Friday, Nov. 7,** at the home of Barbara, Jim, Phil, and Joan in West Seattle. Our evenings start with a social time and potluck meal at 6 p.m. followed by guided conversation on the themes we are exploring.

In future gatherings of our group, ages ~60 to 80—and not altogether unrelated—we want to explore issues of old age, sickness, dying, and death. We know as a group, and as a community, that talking it through helps us get through it. We also know that in sharing our worries and joys, we find comfort.

Call Joan Valles for more information at 206 763 2258, or email me at joanvalles70@yahoo.com

### Women's Culture, Upcoming Next Gathering, Saturdays: November 15



Saturday, November 15

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will meet at the home of Rose Buchmeier:  
9033 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Seattle, WA 98106

For directions, call Rose: 206 764 0193

## The Conscious Couples Network presents: An Evening for Committed Couples



**Friday, November 14**

We will explore the joys, challenges, and effective processes for committed relationship and offer the kind of support that can only come from a network of couples. This group will meet at the home of Pam and Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson on Mercer Island.



**Mark your calendars for 2015!**

**Human Relations Laboratory**

**August 9 to 15, 2015**

***The best event to experience the Goodenough Community!***

Seven Fun-filled Days of Social Creativity & Experiential Learning about Friendship and Effective Relationship

**Sahale Learning Center**

A 68-acre retreat on Kitsap Peninsula

## Family Enrichment Network Parent Group

If you are interested in developing a supportive parent circle for study and conversation about family life, to begin this fall, please contact *Irene Perler at 206-419-3477 or email [irene\\_perler@hotmail.com](mailto:irene_perler@hotmail.com).* Topics could include: simplifying and organizing life, creating a family culture, development stages and sibling dynamics, understanding roles within the family.

## True Holidays Celebration - Saturday, December 6



Our annual celebration will be held on Saturday, **December 6, 2014**. This event has more than 25 years of history and is set early in the holiday season in order to deepen and enrich the winter holidays for people of all faith traditions. This interfaith celebration will again be at the **Mercer Island Congregational Church** and commences at 7:00pm. Kirsten Rohde will be our host and guide.

## Winter Solstice Bus Trip – Saturday, December 20

Old fashioned fun for all ages! With your friends and family, enjoy this day-long journey that embraces the longest night of the year.

We will board a chartered bus and travel over Snoqualmie and Blewett Passes to the beautiful Bavarian Christmas village of Leavenworth. Then we'll head to Eagle Creek Ranch, just outside of Leavenworth, where a horse-drawn sleigh ride awaits us, followed by a buffet dinner.



## New Year's Eve Weekend at Sahale!



This year New Year's Eve is on **Wednesday** night. You are invited to come to Sahale for the weekend to join in saying goodbye to 2014 and hello to 2015. You are welcome to come as early as Friday. We plan to have our usual times in good conversation, winter walks, hot-tubbing, making meals together and celebrating the change of year. **Dinner will be served at 7:30pm** on New Year's Eve. Of course, we will have our **7<sup>th</sup> annual** Train Dominoes Tournament. Time will also be given for serious reflection and joyful celebration.

Email Kirsten, Bruce or Elizabeth: [krohde14@outlook.com](mailto:krohde14@outlook.com), [bruce\\_perler@hotmail.com](mailto:bruce_perler@hotmail.com), [elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com)

### Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a soul like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
and Grace my fear relieved  
How precious did that Grace appear  
the hour I first believed.  
Through many dangers, toils and snares  
we have already come.  
'Twas Grace that brought us safe thus far  
and Grace will lead us Home.

When we've been here ten thousand years  
bright shining as the sun  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we've first begun

Amazing Grace has set me free  
to touch, to taste, to feel  
The wonders of accepting love  
have made me whole and real.