



# The Village View

March 31, 2021

Kirsten Rohde, Guest Editor

## Response

### Upcoming Events, on Zoom:

*Women's gathering, April 10*

*Pathwork, April 11*

*Third Age, April 16*

*Annual Meeting, April 24*

Kirsten Rohde

I was reading about two news events in this past week. One, an elderly Asian woman was beaten on the street in New York City and apparently no one stepped in or tried to stop it. According to the news, even after her attacker left there didn't seem to be anyone who came to her aid. This incident is part of a much larger picture which has to do with the history in our country of discrimination and violence against Asians going back to the 1800's and earlier. How do we respond?

The second story is about Black farmers who testified in Congress about the diminishing farmland available to them. There has been longstanding private and institutional discrimination against Black, Native American, and other socially disadvantaged farmers. For example, in 1920 Black owned farms operated 45 million acres, primarily in the South. By 2017, that shrunk to just 1.1 million acres - a much higher loss rate than for white farmers. See more on page 7.

Then there is climate change and the need for actions to respond to this very present threat that is impacting all beings on the Earth.

### 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

We, in the Goodenough Community, can make these issues part of our conversations including looking at what our responses could be going forward. The Foundation of Intentional Communities (FIC) has an ongoing funding initiative to support BIPOC communities and forming communities. Sky Blue, a former board member of FIC says, “In all of this, a couple things I learned is that it’s a lot about showing up, going to spaces that are defined and led by people of color, and it’s a lot about relationships, being authentic and vulnerable, making personal connections, being friends.” FIC provides a list of resources and links to recent workshops: <https://www.ic.org/white-supremacy-intentional-community/>

How do I as an individual and we as a community respond? There is no one right way. What is clear is that no response as in the examples of the woman beaten on the streets of New York or the many decades of taking land from Black farmers, isn’t right. I hope to have more conversation about this topic, how our community can be part of the awakening, and I welcome your thoughts. [krohde14@outlook.com](mailto:krohde14@outlook.com)

## Goodenough Community Annual Meeting

By Kirsten Rohde and Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson



**It’s annual meeting time!** On **Saturday, April 24**, our community will host its annual meeting, both a tradition and a requirement in our organizational charter. We will be meeting this year via Zoom. While we will sorely miss gathering in person, Zoom can enable other people to join us who would not be able to otherwise, and we have learned that we can have fine, intimate conversations via this platform. This will be true for April 24, a day of reviewing our year just passed, sharing highlights, and talking about the future. We have lots of good news to share; and we can look forward to getting updated with each other about the strange year we have just lived through...and what a year it has been!

Our plans thus far include having two- to three meeting times with good breaks in between. And perhaps we’ll have time in the evening – if we wish. We know zoom sessions need to be time limited to keep our energy fresh and vital; and we also know that break out groups can work well to change things up and increase connection and intimacy. Those of us on the General Circle are planning intentionally to have light and humorous play times interspersed throughout our day. Have a one-person zoomable skit to offer? Are you able to play the harp in those serious, disconsolate times during our on-line discussions? Are you *the* one whose cat took over their Zoom ID? Bring your own talents and year of truth along to the meeting!

We hope you will join us. There is plenty of good news to share and some important decisions to be made. This meeting is all about us---each of us individually and of our collective-- your input and thoughts are what make our Goodenough world go round. We will send out the Zoom invitation about a week prior to the meeting. We hope to see you then.

## Highlighting Sahale Guests Adventures Cross Country “ARCC” Gap-Year Students

By Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson



**T**he ARCC Gap Year Program is an American organizational entity that offers “global and domestic adventures” to students while providing an educational and cultural bridge between high school and college. ARCC is headquartered in Bend, Oregon, but hosts programs world-wide. Sahale has had the privilege of hosting a total of six, one-week rotations of students from this organization--four back-to-back weeks in October of 2020, and two weeks of students in March of 2021.

The impact and experiences we have had with these students---each class approximates seven women and seven men, with two leaders---appears to have had significant impact on our community and on Sahale residents and individual staff in particular.

Colette, as manager and chief marketing contact for Sahale, received the original query from ARCC last year mid-year. She knew we had something to offer; we needed them as much as they needed us. She said yes right away to ARCC in offering Sahale as a place where permaculture was being studied and practiced. The stage was then set for an experience that would shape the ARCC students and staff and residents of Sahale.

This March, given Colette’s current health situation requiring her to step back temporarily from coordinating events on-site and given our “practice runs” last fall with ARCC, I personally was able to informally step in for her, largely because the role needed filling and it felt like the right thing to do.

Last October, for example, I had been the one who had initially greeted the students and leaders upon their initial arrival at Sahale, getting them Covid-oriented and helping them settle into their accommodations. This year, based on last October’s experience, I found myself naturally again in that role, but this time was asked by Colette to present elements of the Kindness Project to the students, something she personally had done the previous October. Despite being a bit hesitant (e.g., “No”) about my ability in that regard, I eventually said yes because the kindness curriculum had played an important part of the October experience. And Colette had asked me.

There were other duties that seemed to naturally follow from that role--now being the contact for ARCC and therefore fielding questions from them and from our own staff; communicating with the whole about the daily and weekly schedule tweaks; keeping in close text touch with the ARCC teachers/leaders; clarifying handoffs between activities; being responsive to Sahale team requests; initiating staff meetings; consulting and communicating with Colette; coordinating check out instructions; communicating in general. The artform of communication has always been important to me and was a key feature of my professional life. I



*Atlas, October ARCC student & March intern, with Cooper*

loved the role, particularly as it grew organically out of a need to fill that role. My confidence grew and has remained.

Hosting Gap students seemed to bring out the best in the Sahale residents as well. We as a group knew we had the responsibility of providing a service to the ARCC students and we needed to deliver. Joshua, in collaboration with the team, built and filled in the week's work and permaculture "class" schedule and co-enabled the rationale and content of the permaculture curriculum. Irene, collaborating with the permaculture curriculum and carrying the logistical and managerial responsibilities for food, planned the weeks' dinner menus & support schedule; Marley joined Joshua in presentation of the curriculum and ceremony portion of the weeks, including working with Draï for the Saturday evening drum circle & other ceremonial events connected to the land. Kirsten facilitated two formal lectures on Permaculture from Alex Féthière, a reporter from the *Mason County Journal* and who ended up modifying his own knowledge and presentation based on Joshua's own permaculture knowledge. Carly skillfully wove yoga into the morning blocks of time that imparted daily energy and focus to the students.

Because of Covid restrictions, our two pods—ARCC and Sahale---could not interact as much as we would have otherwise. We look forward to post-Covid times where we can hang out more with those who come to Sahale.

A side note: In our current envisioning process as a community, it feels to me as if a sea change has occurred: From "What should Sahale be doing and offering?" to "We're already doing and offering; and it's time to acknowledge the work, embrace it, and build on it."





Kirsten Rohde

For the ARCC visitors we invited Alex Féthière from Harstine Island to come talk to the young people about permaculture. Alex writes a weekly column in the Mason County Journal about many ways to work with land and farming that are healthier for us and the land. He explained the history and principles of permaculture and his own experiments on his land which he has been homesteading for a number of years. We enjoyed the conversations with him, adding in our own experiments at Sahale. The term “permaculture” was coined by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in 1978, who formulated the concept in opposition to Western industrialized methods and in congruence with Indigenous or traditional knowledge. Alex pointed out that these were two white guys, bringing forward many practices already known to indigenous cultures. We can still appreciate all that they have brought forward into our modern practices while being sure to acknowledge the origins of this knowledge. A good course correction.



### **Mindful Mike's Blog: Seeds**

*Mike deAnguera*

Building a more sustainable world involves planting a lot of seeds in people's minds. We helped the second ARCC group plant redwoods and sequoias. My the seedlings are so small. We were gifted with 30 more trees which we planted at the edge of the meadow near the entrance to the Cedar Grove. Each one has its own protective tube and the redwoods got metal cages to keep the deer out.

This is the most number of trees we have ever planted out here at Sahale. Maybe in another 10 to 15 years we will see quite a forest growing. Trees receiving this much attention usually have a much higher survival rate than those growing in the wild.

I can remember the forest that was devastated by the Mt. St. Helens eruption. Mostly bare ground with some wild flowers. But soon the woods of planted trees were growing very nicely and were quite tall. So we can make a huge difference by planting and caring for trees.



We took our work of planting these trees very seriously. In the left hand photo Drai Schindler is getting the students ready for our tree planting ritual. We actually made offerings of tobacco and sage to the surrounding planted trees.

Then came the planting of the 30 redwood and sequoia trees. As you can see from the above photo some of the students got quite emotional over putting the first redwood tree into the group. Each tree also got an offering of milk, a nice Irish tradition.

We are an example of how people should be treating the forests around here. These trees are living beings deserving of our respect and care. They are not timber about to be 'harvested.' This is very Earth conscious work.

Likewise Sahale is about seed planting a new world. I want that new world right now. Patience is not a virtue of mine. What I am seeing is that this new world needs to be planted like our small saplings. They will take a long time to grow. Want a forest like the ancient ones in Northern California? That will take many lifetimes.

The new world is being planted in the minds of our young people. This is work they want to do. That's important. When young I certainly was not as awake as these young people and feel a bit envious of them.

We at Sahale are living in a next paradigm right now. More and more people are coming to experience Sahale every year. They are open to the magic of the land because of the relationship with the land we have built over the years. Irene Perler talks to her garden and is excited at what it will grow this year. That garden also needs to grow inside me. Like the redwoods and sequoias it is very slow work. But I believe the results will be worth the effort. And we can have fun too. I have never had as much fun in my entire life as these young people are having in the back of the blue truck. Next year very likely we will have more young people.



**STAND UP**  
**SPEAK UP**

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.**

Here are excerpts of an article in Kitchen Table, issue 3, 2020, “The Resist Issue.” It is by Leah Penniman, a Black Kreyol farmer, author, mother, and food justice activist. She is one of the founders of Soul Fire Farm ([www.soulfirefarm.org](http://www.soulfirefarm.org)) and the author of “Farming While Black.” The mission of Soul Fire Farm is to “reclaim our inherent right to belong to the earth and have agency in the food system as Black and Brown people.”

“Racism is built into the DNA of the United States’ food system. It began with the genocidal theft of land from First Nations people, and continued with the kidnapping of my ancestors from the shores of West Africa...

“But the story doesn’t end with the Emancipation Proclamation. Later came convict leasing, a form of legalized slavery that kept many Southern Black people on plantations – in some places until the late 1920’s. Just a few decades later, Congress created the migrant guest-worker program, which imported agriculturalists from Mexico and other countries to labor in the fields for low wages.

“Farm management is among the whitest professions, while farm labor is predominantly Brown and exploited. Meanwhile people of color tend to suffer from diet-related illnesses such as

diabetes and obesity, and to live in *food apartheid* neighborhoods – high-poverty areas flooded with fast food and corner stores but lacking healthy food options....

“After decades of discrimination by the federal government, Black farmers have lost almost all of our land. In 1920, 14% of all land-owning U.S. farmers were Black and today less than 2% of farms are controlled by Black people, a loss of over 14 million acres. In 1982 the US Commission on Human Rights determined that discrimination from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) was the primary reason Black farmers were dispossessed from our land. Reparations for past harm are the first steps to justice.”

More resources:

From NPR Morning Edition, August 2020: **Barriers to accessing funding and land persist**

There is a growing movement of young farmers led by people of color in the Northeast, but barriers to accessing funding and land persist. Black farmers have historically faced race-based lending discrimination when applying for loans from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which often denied loan applications from Black farmers, delayed the loan process or allotted them insufficient funds. This systemic discrimination was the subject of the 1999 class-action lawsuit [\*Pigford v. Glickman\*](#), which resulted in a \$1.25 billion settlement to Black farmers.

From the National Young Farmers Coalition ([www.youngfarmers.org](http://www.youngfarmers.org)):

The contributions to agriculture made by people of color in the United States are immense. At its founding, this country’s wealth was built on the agricultural labor of black slaves. Latinos, Latino immigrants, and other foreign-born farmworkers of color currently undergird the U.S. food system and produce the majority of the food we eat. More than 60% of the world’s food supply comes from crops originally cultivated by Native American farmers. Chicano farmers have led the charge for farm worker rights and continue to be leaders in grassroots farmer organizing. African American farmers modeled today’s intensive and profitable small farms fifty years ago, and pioneered farmer cooperatives and community land trusts. And Hmong American farmers are now at the forefront of popularizing local food in the Midwest. However, these vital contributions to agriculture by people of color go largely unacknowledged within the dominant narrative of farming in this country.

Some ways Penniman suggests to support farmers of color are: implement a system such as in Costa Rica, where the government pays responsible farmers to protect pollinators, sequester carbon in the soil, and preserve waterways, funding it through a tax on large-scale farms that driving climate change, extinction, and soil erosion; make education for farmers more affordable and with sites closer to urban and rural farms owned by Black, Latino, and Indigenous people; and increasing funding and offering technical assistance to apply for the USDA’s Socially Disadvantaged Farmers Grant.

**Now Updated through June 2021**

## **Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community**

*Because of our unpredictable times,  
dates and descriptions shown represent our plans for now.*

**What makes community meaningful and fun?** The richness of life in community comes in many ways – getting together informally over a meal ... celebrating a significant birthday with long- time and new-found friends ... working together in a creative endeavor ... collaborating during a work party ... thinking deeply with others about what it means to be fully alive and connected with ourselves, each other, and Spirit ... and more.

**Of course, 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](http://www.goodenough.org)



**The Goodenough Community's governing body, the General Circle, meets twice monthly, 7:00 PM, via Zoom. Below are dates for our spring meetings:**

- April 12, 26
- May 10, 24
- June 14

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.

*Saturdays, 10AM to 2PM:*

- April 10, Saturday
- May annual gathering – May 8, extended day event.

Times TBD. For more information, contact [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](#) for more

information.

- April 16, 2021    May 21

**The Men's Program** - Our Men's Circle is an expression of brotherhood and practice with wisdom, gathered from own lives, other men's work advocates and the founders of this circle. A weekend is planned from June 4 & 5, 2021.

**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. We come together under the leadership of Pastor Colette Hoff and find support and encouragement as we clarify our personal goals and develop the practices we choose for a spirit filled life, gaining wisdom from the world's faith & wisdom traditions. All are welcome to join. Meetings are

held via Zoom on alternate Sundays from 7pm to 9pm. Contact Colette: [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) for Zoom information.

- April 11 and 25
- May 9 and 23
- June 13



**True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 4, 2021**

We are planning our 2021 event! Hold this date on your calendar. We traditionally hold this event on Mercer Island. Stay tuned for details.



**Human Relations Laboratory, August 8 to 14, 2021**

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. This summer we will celebrate 52 years! Contact: Colette Hoff, [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org)

**Work and Play Parties throughout the Year.** Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work parties over Memorial Day weekend as well as other times to express gratitude for the presence of our beloved retreat center, Sahale, and to experience the satisfaction of playing and working together. Please email [hoff@goodenough.org](mailto:hoff@goodenough.org) with questions during these times of the Pandemic.



**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) if you find you need to talk out your feelings regarding the pandemic crisis.*

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