

Village eView

October 25, 2018

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson, Guest Editor

COMING UP

Men's Cultural Gathering, October 26 to 28
Women's Cultural Gathering, October 27, 10a -2p
Pathwork Exploration Series [Sahale Site Planning] with
Tom Gaylord, Weekend of November 16-18

Our Goodenough community is continuing to study and implement **Sociocracy** — a system of governance that uses consent-based decision-making.

Kirsten Rohde, guest editor of the 10/17/18 eView, gave a nice introduction to Sociocracy last week: “Sociocracy is being used in businesses, towns, communities, social agencies, and more around the world. There is a wealth of information available in books and on the web. It can be seen as a game and it can be fun as we figure out the rules. I’d like to think that John Hoff would enjoy knowing that we are using games to organize ourselves, a concept he brought present many times. And because Sociocracy allows for everyone to be involved in deciding and doing, I believe agreements will be taken more seriously, simply because everyone in a circle is involved in making them. Perhaps you’d like to play the Sociocracy game with us!”

The article that follows is the third such about the concept of Sociocracy and introduces a concept called **Double-Linking**. Many thanks to **Pam Jarrett-Jefferson** for her contribution.

If you have comments or questions about Sociocracy and how it can work in our (or your) community, please send them to the editor - next week, Colette (hoff@goodenough.org)

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

Sociocracy: Strong Organizations and Double-links

Pam Jefferson

The principle of *Double-links* is the third such principle Gerard Endenburg developed as the underpinning of sociocracy. The first two principles are consent and circles. From *We the People: Consenting to a Deeper Democracy* (John Buck and Sharon Villines), the authors describe Endenburg's understanding of what is needed to build a strong organization. Excerpts are interspersed throughout this article.

Human organizations respond to more than their environments. They respond to their internal functioning, their members, and the relationships between them. Each part of an organization—each person, each group of people—is self-aware and has aims...Managing a human organization, like a business, that has a collective aim as well as those of each member requires a governance method that will respect and use all its human resources to achieve its purpose.

From his knowledge of cybernetics, Endenburg knew that how a system governs itself, how it communicates, and how it coordinates all its parts determines its power and predicts its longevity. He also knew that a human organization had to be a self-organizing system, one that was self-aware, self-observing. How could this be done?

The common characteristics of strong systems are:

- Resilience, the ability to respond;
- Self-organization, the ability to transform and create new structures; and
- The ability to maintain a coherent structure.

The authors state, “When all three characteristics are present, an organization can grow and change, adapting quickly when necessary. It can recover from adversity, generate new resources, and continuously organize and re-organize itself coherently. It will be dynamic and full of energy. Capable of action.” Pp. 57-58

- **The first principle is consent** which is the absence of objection as the basis for decision-making. Any member of the organization could signal an adverse effect by objecting. The authors use the analogy of a machine having a part that is breaking down will start to “object” by making some noise to indicate something is wrong and needs attention. If the organization is structured to respond quickly it will be responsive and resilient. (See Kirsten's article in eView 10-10-18.)
- **The second principle is circles.** Circle meetings “everyone consented to policies that defined the work process, set aims, defined and assigned roles and responsibilities, and determined how the manager would lead and how they would follow.” P. 60 If each circle is responsible for the decisions necessary to do their work it would enable not just problem solving but also innovation. (See Kirsten's article in eView 10-17-18.)
- **The third principle is double-links.** “Distributing policy decisions to each circle according to the aim of the circle required a means of communication and coordination. Decision that were usually made by boards of directors and high-level managers would now be made in circle meetings by those who be affected by them. Endenburg's solution was to create a

general circle of members of each specialized circle who would (1) make policies that affected multiple circles and (2) do overall planning. Who would represent circles?

In electrical engineering, one wire can't carry information in two directions. Enderburg concluded that dependable communication between circles would require two channels. The leader of operations, the "down-link," would be responsible for carrying information from the organization to the operation unit, and a second, the "up-link," would represent operation unit and carry information up the organization.

The double links thus established feedback loops that connect and guide all units of the organization. Double-linking circles establish a coherent governance structure.[P. 60] This is the element of the third characteristic of a strong organization—it is structured coherently to be understood by all of their parts.

Granted, I find these concepts fascinating, seeing how this all works and fits together. And I'm instantly challenged when I have to apply these principles in practice at a General Circle (council) meetings. It just occurred to me---It's no wonder, when I'm in role as a Lab small group facilitator, that I dislike having to report back to the large group: I'm like a wire that can't carry information in two directions. A new excuse is emerging!

- *Pam*

News & Events

Men's Fall Gathering October 26 to 28, 2018 @ Sahale

We're nearing our fall retreat weekend time and will again be combining our retreat with our annual Event Tent deconstruction project.

For the guys who can, we'll be downing the tent beginning on Friday morning, October 26, 10:00 AM. We'll need a crew of at least 8 for this project so, look for my calling to confirm a team. The tent lowering project will complete by lunchtime on Saturday. For those who cannot join for the tent lowering, please do join in for a hearty meal on Friday evening and the beginning of our men's gathering.

- Men's Retreat** - Friday, October 26 evening through Sunday afternoon, October 28
- Event Tent Down** - Friday, October 26, 10 AM - Saturday lunchtime

For now, please mark your calendars, RSVP, and share this with men friends of yours you'd like there. If you're able and interested, let me know of your desire to participate in the tent down.

In brotherhood,
Bruce

The Woman in Your Life Is You!

Colette Hoff

You are invited to the next gathering of our women's culture on **Saturday, October 27, 10:00 AM**, at the home of Elizabeth and Pam's on Mercer Island (3446 77th Place SE). Our theme for the day will be based on a Holly Near song. After her recent concert in Seattle in September, the song, *The Woman in Your Life Is You*, came to the attention of the planning team. We think it will provide a rich structure around our gathering. You are also encouraged to bring whatever is on your mind and heart. As is our custom, a donation of \$20 is appreciated. Lunch is provided. Hope you will join! *Please email Elizabeth to RSVP at elizabeth.ann.jarrett@gmail.com.*

Site Planning for Sahale with Tom Gaylord and the Weekend of November 16-18 at Sahale

Colette Hoff

Tom Gaylord, former center director of the Seattle Shambhala Meditation Center and a student of contemplative psychology in the Seattle Karuna Training Program, is leading a group of interested individuals (you are welcome to join us) to further a site-planning process with the main focus of Sahale. The group has been meeting since September 14, 2018. Our next step is to make new decisions for the future.

The practices of meditation, compassionate exchange, and body speech and mind are some of the methods we use under Tom's guidance. He provides an opportunity to join a unique blend of spiritual and community contemplation while planning for the future.

You are welcome to join us at the Sahale weekend, November 16-18. At our first site planning discussion October 7, physical entrances to Sahale were discussed from perspectives of appeal and functionality. It was a lively discussion!

For more information: Colette Hoff at hoff@goodenough.org

Thanksgiving Is Coming!

The Goodenough Community is sponsoring a Thanksgiving meal at Sahale this year. You and yours are welcome to journey to Sahale and join the potluck fun! We will provide Turkey and stuffing and you are asked to bring along your favorite contribution. ***Please RSVP with Irene Perler - irene_perler@hotmail.com.***





Remember What Is Important:
The 31st Annual True Holidays Celebration
December 1, 2018 - 6 to 10 PM

Elizabeth Jarrett-Jefferson with Kirsten Rohde

We are happy to announce that our annual True Holidays Celebration--a tradition of more than 30 years in our beloved Goodenough Community--will be held again this year on **Saturday, December 1, 6 to 10PM**, at the **Mercer Island Congregational Church on Mercer Island, 4545 Island Crest Way**. This event has always been about bringing together family, friends, other communities & colleagues in an atmosphere ranging from frivolity and feasting to one of marking the holidays in a sacred way, honoring many faith traditions. Importantly, the celebration also provides an opportunity for you to be reflect and therefore be intentional about planning for the holidays, giving pause to remember what you value over the holidays; we'll lend a practical hand to help you make an actual plan. We'll have our Silent Auction again this year and feature exclusively handcrafted items and experiences (since we've learned over time that these are the most valued and bid-on items). Sherry Nevin and her musical contradancing colleagues, also a favorite tradition, will again be with us.

So, for now, prepare to engage in our annual event where friends, fun, feasting, connection, and tradition are the important things to remember and cherish.

- *Elizabeth*

The Solstice Bus Trip to Leavenworth: What Happened?

Colette Hoff

For the past two years, our magical day in the mountains, resplendent with a horse-drawn sleigh ride at Eagle Creek Ranch, has had a big problem: TRAFFIC! While we have been delayed over the years by avalanches, bus mechanical issues, chaining up, etc., we can't find a way around the growing amount of traffic traveling in and out of Leavenworth. We have checked in with the Chamber of Commerce in Leavenworth; and while they are very aware of the situation, no solution is forthcoming within the foreseeable future. So it is with sadness that we are canceling this event for now. I will miss my annual walk in the snow and the beautiful lights in Leavenworth as will miss, as well, Susan, the manager at Eagle Creek Ranch. Rather than substitute another event, we are encouraging all to attend the True Holidays Celebration (December 1) and New Year's Eve at Sahale.



More Community News



Celebration of a life well lived

Susan Eleanor Smith

June 22, 1934 — Sept. 14, 2018

Come join Susan's Family in celebrating the life of Susan Eleanor (Winter) Smith, mother of Liz Zebold, grandmother to Ariana and Brynn. There will be stories, food, music, slides and displays of things she enjoyed and the ways in which she touched our lives. It will be held **1-5pm on November 10 at the Lodge at Beaver Lake, 25201 SE 24 Street, Sammamish WA 98075**. No need to bring anything but yourselves, your memories and your love. Please RSVP at: <https://everloved.com/life-of/susan-smith/>



Susan with Daughter Cyndy

Watchcare

Several weeks ago our dear friend, **Janet Walker**, called to say she was having difficulties with the cancer she has had. We learned last week that Janet is now in hospice. Please send Janet your love and prayers and an email to jlwalk1956@yahoo.com. You may also send your cards to Janet at 44 White Church Court, Germantown, MD 20874

Happy birthday!

- ✚ Happy 21st Birthday to **Molly O'Connor**, October 21
- ✚ **Max Fain** – October 30. Happy 74th birthday Max!

Jeremy David Hyland, recent WorkAway program participant living and working at Sahale this summer, completed his stint at Sahale and then joined the staff of Paradise Lodge @ Mt Rainier as a Chef. As Paradise Inn has closed now for the Winter, Jeremy plans include heading to New York State for a visit before he heads to Belize on November 3. **FB Flash on 10/24:** Jeremy is "jumping on plane and will be heading to Japan for a week."



Happy 21st birthday, Molly!

Class Reunions and More

Barbara Brucker & and Jim Tocher

This has been the final week of our trip, and we'll be home the end of this week. Last Saturday was Jim's class reunion. I've included a picture of Jim and his two high school buddies below. Everyone enjoyed the reunion, and we are glad we went. While we were in Fresno we went to the Forestiere Underground Gardens. They are quite amazing. The gardens are incorporated in an underground home that was excavated by one man over 40 years. The



ground is hardpan and he excavated with a pick axe. He was an Italian immigrant who bought a large parcel with the intention of growing citrus fruit. He discovered it was hardpan so he worked as a laborer during the day and excavated his property after work, eventually growing citrus trees there. I have attached a picture of one of the trees growing up through a skylight.

Before going to Fresno we were at Joshua Tree National Park. The park is beautiful with fascinating rock formations and, of course, a lot of Joshua Trees. The park and surrounding area had experienced a severe rain storm (3 inches in 4 hours or the other way around) just a few days before we arrived. They were still clearing dirt from the streets and highways when we were there, and all of the dirt roads in the park were closed as was the tour we had signed up for. It was disappointing to miss some of the things we had anticipated and yet we thoroughly enjoyed our time in that beautiful park. Given the limitations in activity, we decided to leave a day early and explore Mojave National Preserve. The Preserve is fascinating and we wished for more time there. We'd never heard of it prior to this.



Throughout most of the week we found ourselves enjoying the stark beauty of the desert, and there is a picture of Jim at a lunch stop from one of our days across the desert. Another day we found ourselves in the tiny town of Amboy where they have to bring in water and gas is \$4.99/gallon! It's quite amazing the diversity of the land.



This is our last day in Medford, where we've been staying in an Airbnb with friends Chuck and Trish Mainard (from the high school reunion). Tonight we're going to Ashland to see the musical Oklahoma. We'll be joined by Jim and Chuck's other buddy, Hal, who lives in Medford now, so it's one more get together before we all head home.



The deAnguera Blog: Musings

What shall I write about this week? Usually I have some idea of what to write but this week nothing has appeared to me. Well, maybe I should just start writing and see what happens. My writing will suggest something. Something I definitely have been thinking about but not consciously.

Love? Is that a good topic for this week? I know we are still exploring Sociocracy. A wonderful way to organize a community or a whole world.

What I like about Sociocracy is it does not concentrate power into the hands of a small group or an individual. It is not a hierarchy.

Oh that's such a nice birthday picture of me and my chocolate cake. Thanks, Pedge Hopkins! Of course I took the one of the relaxing fall colors.

What's it like to work within a hierarchy? It is a place where other more important people make all the decisions. Guess I am less important?

I wonder if maybe I don't value myself very much. I have been reminded of this habit many times by fellow community friends. (Notice I didn't say members.) Could I take the positive feedback I do get more seriously? I do have something to contribute to Sahale and that is myself in all that I am.

Amanda, one of our Workaways, offered to blow the leaves off our driveway for me because I am feeling fatigue from the radiation treatments. I am in the middle of my fourth week of treatments and side effects are appearing.

Amanda also played gin rummy with me a couple of nights ago. She does value my company.

Guess maybe love is a good topic for this week. How about Love with a capital "L"? I could think of it as a practice.

In the past it was supposed to be those feelings I had for a special girl. I never thought of it as a practice. People around here have shown me Love every time they hug or massage me. Every time somebody does something nice for me because they want to.

Love is the glue holding our community together. We would fall apart without it. Sociocracy would be meaningless for me.

Love allows others to mean something to me. Faces and names. Ideologies treat me as an abstract part of the masses. I am more important than that. I want people to take me seriously as an individual. I also need to do the same for the others around me.

Love as a practice. Is that such an original idea? Imagine a yoga involving several people gently energizing each other?

For me I am used to thinking of Love as a means to possess another person. Dating becomes a game. Can I win over her heart? As if a heart was something to be won over instead of freely given.

But Love can only be freely given. I cannot win somebody else's Love no matter how hard I try. My motives are all wrong.



At 63 I am worthy of Loving and being Loved. Getting older does not change that. If I wish to be Loved I must believe I am worthy of being Loved. Then I can Love another.

I know what my goal is now. I wish to become a Master in the Art of Love. I want to have a better understanding of how to cultivate Love in my relationships. It is something this world does not value and desperately needs.

Guess I had something to write about after all.



Musing on those quack-a-doodle chickens. Wait a minute! Chickens don't quack!



Spatialist for Hire

Pam Jefferson

Do you need help with organizing a room for more efficient storage and use of the space? Do you need help sorting and organizing your stuff? I can do all of it for you or just give you some ideas for you to work with. My hourly rate is \$25.00. You can reach me at **206 372 9801**.



Calendar for the Goodenough Community – Fall and Beyond

- Pathwork** dates include October 21, and November 16 to 18 will be a weekend program at Sahale. The focus is site planning for Sahale.
- The **Community Council** (The *General Circle*, in Sociocracy vernacular) meets Mondays at 6:30 for light dinners & business at hand. The next meeting will be November 5 at the home of Tom George (8708 182nd Place SW Edmonds, WA 98026. Thank you, Tom, for welcoming the Council to your home!
- The **Third Age** meets at the home of Joan, Barbara, and Jim. We had to cancel the October 19th date; a November date is TBA and December 14 is the next proposed date after that.
- The **Women's Culture** will gather on **October 27, from 10:00 to 2:00** at the home of Elizabeth and Pam Jarrett-Jefferson on Mercer Island.
- The **Men's Culture** will gather on the weekend of **October 26 to 28**.
- True Holidays Celebration** - Saturday, December 1, 2018
- Thanksgiving at Sahale!** Please contact Irene Perler if you would like to join.
- irene_perler@hotmail.com
- Christmas Day dinner** at Sahale is becoming tradition. Make your plans.
- New Year's Eve** at Sahale will be a Monday night. Plan to come for the weekend!
- The **Friends of Sahale** Fourth Annual weekend will be **January 18 to 20, 2019**.
- Sahale Summer Camp** - June 23 to June 29, 2019.
- The 50th Annual Human Relations Laboratory** - August 4 to 10, 2019.

Programs and Events of the Goodenough Community

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 newfound friends ... working together in a creative endeavor ... collaborating in 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.

In the Goodenough Community, we recognize such ways to connect as expressions of living life fully and in communities of all kinds. Throughout the year we offer programs that help you participate in your own development, learn about relating well with others, and discover your potential to have a good time in life and with others.

We welcome your interest and your participation, and hope that you will join us at any – or many! – of this year’s events. More information about programs and upcoming events can be found on our website: www.goodenough.org

The Third Age - Those of us age 60 and older have been gathering every other month, Friday evenings in Seattle. **Future meetings:** November to be determined, December 14. Contact Kirsten Rohde for more information: krohde14@outlook.com



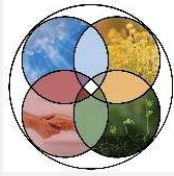
The Women’s Program is a long-established and ever-growing way for women to enjoy each other’s company, learn about themselves as women, and even perhaps to experience the Divine Feminine. Gatherings this fall include Saturday October 27. Contact Elizabeth for more information and directions to our meeting place at their Pam and Elizabeth’s.

The Men’s Program is an expression of the best wisdom men have gathered from their life together—about what is a good man and how he could best express that in his own life. The Fall Men’s gathering will be **October 26 to 28**. Contact Bruce Perler for more information: bruce_perler@hotmail.com



Pathwork, a Program of Convocation: A Church and

Ministry On alternate Sunday evenings an interfaith circle of practice meets between 7:00 and 9:30 PM under the leadership of Colette Hoff. This is a time to learn together about our personal development, to talk out our chosen practices for the development of a spirit filled life, and to learn the skills of joining with others in service. **Gatherings are in Seattle.** October 21 and November 16-18 – a weekend at Sahale. Contact Colette Hoff for more information: hoff@goodenough.org



The Goodenough Community Council meets alternate Monday evenings in Seattle to discuss the day-to-day activities of the community and engage in planning, evaluation, and more. Contact Colette Hoff if you are interested: hoff@goodenough.org



True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 1, 2018

Be part of this fun-filled family-oriented evening, and prepare yourself for the winter season (whatever faith tradition you follow) that fills your heart. Contact Elizabeth for more information.

Work and Play Parties throughout the Year

Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work parties over Memorial Day weekend as well as other times throughout the year, 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 information about what may be coming up. It is a great time to bring friends to share Sahale!



Quest: A Counseling and Healing Center

Our belief is that mental and emotional health is a prerequisite 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 more effective in relationships. Call Colette (206-755 8404) for an appointment.



The Truth is changeless.

*Knowing the Truth and experiencing it
gives us an intoxication
which never abates,
never passes away.*

*Just as the Truth is changeless,
the Way to Truth is equally unchanging.*

*The wines of this world intoxicate us
for an hour or two, or perhaps for a night,
but then the effect wears off.*

*The intoxication of the Word of God
never passes away.*

*Those who have been blessed
with it are mad forever.*

*In reality, they are not mad,
but are the wisest of the wise.*

*They know what ultimately matters.
If they seem mad,
it is because they are oblivious
of themselves.*

*~Sant Darshan Singh Ji Maharaj
(1921-1989, founder and head
of Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission /
Science of Spirituality,
Indian mystical Urdu poet)*

MUSINGS

FROM MY CORNER OF THE YURT

drai bearwomyn | city girl gone rogue at sahale



1

The Sahale Creature Feature

It is really an honor to witness the abundant life at Sahale. This is especially true for this City Mouse turning Country Mouse! And, especially true this time of year when everything is on a mission, in the rut, on the move, storing up and getting ready for winter. Here is what John and I have seen in the past few weeks...

Of course we see many does and babies. It is the time when the mothers are shooing the young 'uns away toward their independence, as the mothers in estrous get ready to receive the bucks that we now see in the yurt yard every night. Boy these bucks are spectacular, huge, noble and randy! It is amusing to watch each buck follow the does everywhere. He stays within 10 feet of her and then literally, stealthily, tries to sneak up behind her without her noticing. He gets within 5 feet and she tigger-bounces across the yard to get away, him bolting after her. I think it is the fall rut dance.

I am pleased to report the yellow jackets are out of season. That has been nice.

We had a week of a surge of hobo spiders and then they disappeared, to be replaced by orb and garden spiders. The two that live on the yurt porch we have named Oz and Hermando.

My favorite new thing is the birth of baby praying mantus. I discovered one on my scarf yesterday and one on my arm in bed today. They are tiny and slow, methodical and interesting to watch. I think they have rather sticky legs as they are a tad difficult to blow off or remove. They are brown and about as long as my pinky fingernail.

The great-horned owls are having a love affair across the river. At night you can hear him calling. She responds with an array of unusual sounds from the tree in the yurt yard. She is VERY excitable. Thinking soon we will hear baby owls.

Our newest addition last spring to the 'aviary' are homing pigeons. In the beginning they built their nest on top of the chimney bricks inside the log building. I have named them Talula and Bob. Well, as would be normal we made noise in the barn and they departed. It seems they did not go far because I've since seen them with their children, now they coo and run and play on TOP of the metal roof of the log building. They are a very small kit, soon to expand I would imagine.

We had a bevy of doves move through. How absolutely beautiful.

The summer Chum salmon run has ended. The Salmon Enhancement people told John these fish are considered virtually extinct in the Tahuya. The fish count in the Union River in Belfair, for the 2 month run, only tallied slightly over 3,000. Now, the Coho and Fall Chum are beginning to run and we eagerly await them.

John has successfully caught some very nice sized trout in the Sahale pond. They were delicious!

The eagles twitter their hellos and goodbyes to their mates all through the day.

Mama racoon and her 3 babies visit the apple trees in our yard nightly. I actually have come to feel a little sorry for them. They work pretty hard to climb the tree and shake out a few apples for themselves...once the apples hit the ground the deer come running and eat the fruits of their labor, while the coons remain treed, paralyzed in waiting. Seems unjust!

For some reason in the fall I see an influx of Stellar Jays. I always like this, their color is grand! Their cackling and complaining...not so much.

Blue Herons are nesting on in the trees. It amuses me to no end how graceful and elegant they are...until they speak?!

The coyotes are a yappin' and a singin'. I have grown quite fond of their song. Especially after I learned there are not nearly as many of them as it sounds. Apparently Mom, Dad and Babies have an special kind of voicebox. When they make their sounds, MANY sounds come out of each animal, up to 3 or 4 sounds...so a small family sounds 3-4x larger than it is. That was comforting. Now I can just relax in bed at night and track their movement through the woods based on their calls and yips. The only time my cat and I don't like this is when they move through the yard, which has only happened twice this year thankfully.

The bear. Yes, the bear poops in our yard every single night. Right at the porch steps the other night right next to where it stepped on my wee solar panel for my porch holiday lights. We heard it yawn in the woods behind the yurt a few weeks ago. Often I can hear it thumping around and sometimes it thumps the sides of the yurt. Finally last night, John saw it. He said it was a fat round bear, decent size. Once he shined a light on it, it left the yard and wandered down the road toward the maintenance shed. Then this morning, in the upper orchard John found an exceptionally large bear poop about 3x larger than average. He is thinking it is a male coming to mate with the female we are used to having on the land.

Clearly because it is nearly Halloween...we have been seeing more bats. haha. It has been a great bat year. It was really interesting during that eclipse when the light got dusky in the middle of the day, the bats came out, confused. A baby racoon too. Then the light came back and the bats were seen acting kind of drunken, trying to get back inside.

I saw a hippopotamus in the Tahya the other day. ha. Just kidding...I just wanted to know if anyone actually reads my articles. I have actually been seeing a great many beaver slides on the banks, they certainly are busy, and rather invisible.

On our drives to Bremerton, as we mosey down North Shore road, we had the privilege to see a large river otter, a red fox and of course blue herons abound.

The other morning I looked up the Perler's driveway and watched two weasels chasing each other in circles. They were really cute, but I am thinking the Perler chickens might not agree!

Lastly, John is on the mend! He falls under the "OX" category, thus can be included in this report.

Thank you Mother Nature for gracing us with these gifts in this magical place we call home! AHO.

2

The Season of Gratitude - Thanksgiving. YOU ARE INVITED!

A few weeks ago, at a really fun residents meeting that Irene hosted, we played a super fun game together and learned even more about one another. We laughed and had a few surprises. It was great. Then we began our discussion about Thanksgiving.

She asked us what our plans might be and then she asked us what we especially like to do on this particular holiday.

We learned that some people will be away with family and others will stay, perhaps having our family and or friends joining us HERE.

We discovered that several of us really enjoy taking the pause, a moment, to sink into our feelings of gratitude and then having some sort of sharing ritual. A ritual of thanks. We talked about our favorite foods. I added that I especially delight in watching the Macy's Day Parade, I DO love the Radio City Music Hall Dancers!

So yes, we are planning a gathering and a meal here. We may have a ritual, perhaps even a drumming at the fire depending on the weather and our desires. We want to include YOU, please join us!

If you have questions or you wish to come, please RSVP (SOON) to Irene at irene_perler@hotmail.com. Likely we will do some semblance of a potluck, which also helps us manage different food needs. Small or large it will be a sweet time with beloved friends, great food in a gorgeous peaceful setting.

Years ago, I discovered a Mohawk Prayer of Thanksgiving that was deeply meaningful to me. It is very earth centric and speaks many things that my heart feels but my mouth could not articulate as well as this. A gift for you today.

Namaste Draï



Mohawk Prayer of Thanksgiving

Today we have gathered, and as we look around at each other we can see that the cycle of life continues as our Creator intended. We, the people, have been given the duties and responsibility to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things around us. We now bring our minds together as one, and with one mind we give greetings and thanks to each other as people.

We now turn our heart and mind to our Mother, the Earth. She has been given the duties and responsibilities to support us and all forms of life. She supports our feet as we walk about upon her. She provides us much joy that she still performs these duties and responsibilities that were bestowed upon her by our Creator. When we, as people, complete the tasks here upon the Earth, our bodies will be placed back in her arms for safe-keeping. We now bring our minds together, and with one mind we give greetings and thanks to our Mother Earth.

We now turn our heart and mind to the water. We give thanks to all the waters of the world for performing their duties and responsibilities as given to them by Creator. We give greetings and thanks to these waters for quenching our thirst and for providing us with strength. We know water in its many forms such as rivers, streams, waterfalls, rain, mist and oceans; and with one mind we send these greetings and thanks to the waters of the world.

We now turn our heart and mind to all the fish life in the water that still carry

out their duties and responsibilities to cleanse and purify the water. We also acknowledge that the fish give of themselves in order that we may gain their strength to carry out our responsibilities in their cycle. With one mind we send greetings to the fish life.

We now turn our heart and mind to the plant life. As we look around and about us, we see that the plant life still follow their original instructions given to them by Creator, so it is with one mind that we now send greetings and thanks to all plant life.

There are many kinds of plants, and we now turn our heart and mind to the food plants. We acknowledge the three sisters (corn, beans, and squash), the grains, berries and all the other food plants that they too still carry out their original instructions from the Creator in order that we may draw our strength and health from them. We bring all these foods together, and with one mind send our greetings and thanks to these food plants.

We now turn our heart and mind to all the medicine plants and herbs of the world. These plants were instructed to take away our sickness. These plants are always ready and waiting to perform their original instructions. We are happy that these plants are still among us, and we now bring our minds together as one and send greetings and thanks to these as well as to the keepers of these medicine plants for their knowledge and their ability to care for the plants.

It is now time to turn our heart and mind to the animal life of the world.

Many of these animals give themselves as food in the whole cycle of life. Each animal has many things to teach us as well in the preservation and balance of life. We see and hear them near our homes and in the forests. We are grateful that these animals still carry out their original instructions as given to them by our Creator. We now, with one mind, send our greetings and thanks to these animals.

We now turn our heart and mind to the trees. Our Mother is covered with many families of trees: some provide us with fruit, some with syrup, some with nuts, some with medicines, some with roots to bind things, some with boards to build things, some with wood for heat and cooking; and all [the trees] that provide us with clean fresh air to breathe. It is with one mind that we extend our greetings and thanks to the trees, for they too still carry out their original instructions.

We now turn our heart and mind to the birds of the world. They fly about us and bring sweet music to the ear. Each day they remind us of the beauty and simplicity as well as the vastness of the world, for they are the travelers of the world. We send greetings and thanks to these birds that they return to us each year, which also provides us with wonder of the vastness of this world and the creations within. We now bring our minds together and extend our greetings and thanks to the birds of the world.

We now turn our heart and mind to the four winds. We hear the voices of the winds as they pass through the trees

and refresh and purify the air we breathe. The winds help to bring the changes in the seasons, and with one mind we send greetings and thanks to the four winds.

We now turn our heart and mind to where our Grandfathers, the Thunder Beings, live. The thunder and lightning bring with them the waters that renew life. We now with one mind send greetings and thanks to the Thunders.

We now turn our heart and mind to our elder brother, the Sun. Each day the sun passes overhead, bringing us a new day which begins a new life cycle. The sun brings us heat and is the source of all fire. With one mind we send thanks and greetings to our eldest brother, the Sun.

We now turn our heart and mind to our Grandmother, the Moon. She provides us with the night-time light. She is the elder of all women and controls women all over the world. With her power she controls the tides that bring new life to the waters of the world. She watches over the planting cycle and harvest of our gardens. She controls the birth of our people, so it is

of one mind that we send greetings and thanks to our Grandmother, the Moon.

We now turn our heart and mind to the stars of the sky. They are a wonder as they spread their beauty across the night sky. They humble us with their vastness and extend their life to a far-off place. They help the moon with providing the morning dew which helps our gardens. They provide guidance for our travelers. Let us now bring our minds together and send greetings and thanks to the stars of the universe.

We now turn our heart and mind to our enlightened teachers. It is with their knowledge that we are able to be here today with these thoughts of greetings and thanks that have been passed down through the ages. They remind us of our duties and responsibilities that must be carried out to continue the cycle of life. Let us be of one mind as we give greetings and thanks to our teachers.

Let us now turn our heart and mind to the Creator. It is our Creator who allows us to know life as we do. It is

the Creator who gives us all the beauty and all that we spoke of in our Thanksgiving Address and more. It is our Creator that gives us the ability to love. It is now time for us, each of us, to think of anything that was not addressed in our thanksgiving

Let us now gather our thoughts that we had this day as we spoke of this thanksgiving and send that greeting and thanks to the Creator.

Let us now carry on our purpose here, and it is our hope that any decision made here today will benefit the next seven generations without hurting them in any way, shape, or form.

Quoted From "Earth's Blanket: Traditional Teachings for Sustainable Living" written by Nancy J. Turner
Quoted of Laurie Montour, raised at Kahnawàke, who said this prayer, or one similar to it, is recited at any meeting when Mohawk people come together to make decisions or to celebrate some event in their lives.

