



#BeBoldForChange

International Women's Day celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. Yet progress has slowed in many places across the world, so global action is needed to accelerate gender parity. In 2016 leaders across the world pledged to take action as champions of gender parity - not only for International Women's Day, but for every day. www.internationalwomensday.com **#IWD2017**.

How appropriate that this week we are continuing to share reflections on the recent Men and Women's conversational weekend, Finding keys to a new relationship. You will find articles and quotes celebrating international women's day throughout this issue. I appreciate all who are willing to send in their reflections.

We are also preparing for the Annual Weekend where the work of the community continues—looking forward.

The Village eView

March 8, 2017

Colette Hoff, Editor

Coming Up:

Annual Weekend – March 10 to 12

Pathwork – Sunday, March 19

Council – Monday, March 20

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

A Big Metaphor: Sharing from Men and Women in Conversation Weekend



Drai Turner

My name is Draí. I am Irish. I have giant red hair. GIANT = thick, waist-long, wild curly and loads of it. I am a bit like a cat. Get my hair wet and it nearly disappears, thin, straight, nominal. But once it dries...

krikey! It can appear that I am wearing a hormone-infused lion on my head. When one has hair like this, it become somewhat like a living family member and certainly it requires a noteworthy amount of care, focus and attention.

So, I suppose it is not surprising that as I was washing my hair today, some pretty amazing analogies revealed themselves about my experience at the Goodenough Community Weekend “Men and Women in Conversation.” I welcome you to my thoughts. And if you are a person who has little hair, or no hair...I invite you to your imagination about my hair as you read.

#1 AVOIDING THE HAIR.

I hate washing my hair. It takes a long time and frankly is a pain in the ass. So I avoid washing my hair as long as I possibly can. This generates new problems. After long avoidances my hair is not only dirty but daily gets more tangled, unruly, unattractive, messy and unmanageable. Insert references to brambles, birds nest, rats nests, chaos etc. Then of course, over time, it itches... so constantly, at some level, my hair won't allow me ignore it...the itch always alerts me that there is a problem.



REVELATION #1. For me, for all my 49 years, delving into a deep, open, heart-centered conversation between men and women, *about* men and women, was something to be avoided at all costs! All the stories in my head told me that a conversation with men and women was dangerous, “dirty”, tangled, unruly, unattractive, messy and unmanageable... a rat’s nest. Even knowing that a men’s and women’s dialogue it was imperative to my growth, healing and wellbeing, I avoided it. Then of course, over time, it ‘itched’ my insides.

Blessed be, and hallelujah to right timing, when this Goodenough Community weekend for a conversation with men and women arose, I decided to face in and, I said YES. (it was a scared, nervous, curious, did I mention scared, yes.)

#2 WASHING THE OBVIOUS ROOTS

After getting my hair wet and ready to wash, I take a huge handful of shampoo and blop it on the top of my head. I scrub it around and it works on the obvious and accessible roots...at my forehead, crown and temples. Then I grab ALLLLL that other hair and slosh it around in the remaining suds. I have done this for years. It is a good beginning. And it is not enough. There is so much more that has been left unattended and cared for.

REVELATION #2

During the Conversation with Men and Women, we began washing of the obvious roots. For me, it was astounding, difficult, powerful and helpful! It started washing away the dirt, started answering the itch and began visions of manageability.

We poured our voices and our hearts straight into some very core stories and ideas about gender roles, many of which are templated for us by society from cradle to grave. It was all at once interesting, enlightening, sorrowful, and hopeful (insert 20 other adjectives here) to wash off some of these obvious roots. We began to navigate where they vary generationally; from a man's perspective; from a women's perspective; through history; We massaged out what languaging or reactions this information (or mis-information) evokes from us and what harm or care we can visit upon one another based on these stories.

EXAMPLE. One of the many "obvious root" topics we delved into at some length was "The Patriarchy." There was of course a great deal of familiar dialogue in this arena that we had in common. And then perceptions grew as more information came through sharing of our experiences. For example, I have spent a lot of time in anger over my being repressed under patriarchy and what they (men) have done to us (women.) ***Never before had I really considered the soul stealing onus put upon men, the expectations and the COSTS to men who are born to and corn-fed the intense patriarchal teachings as truth and law.*** I heard stories of what men are told they HAVE to do and WHO they are SUPPOSED to be under the patriarchal model, (a model I now understand ALSO removes MENS right to Self, to original thought, to being different, softer, kinder, or "other" if they want to be. It removes both women's and men's rights to choice outside of the scope of patriarchy.) Through the generous, honest, vulnerable and kind sharing of the men, I began to grow an understanding of the harm the patriarchy can and has done to BOTH genders. ***I also heard the deep heart-rending pain and damage that comes from the generalization of men.*** Many men shared experiences of many women in their lives assuming them to be ugly patriarchs. I.e.: controlling, toxic masculine and mission bound to subjugate and obviate women. They expanded by sharing the actions that many women take against men based on these pernicious assumptions. Those stories were not relational, holistic or tenable – in fact many of us women found ourselves holding our belly's with our hearts leaking out our eyes in tears. It was recognized that yes, there are abusers, subjugators, haters, toxic patriarchs, no question. And there is more. There are all 41+ flavors of men that we are

being invited to know, to choose and relate too based on their Self as an individual vs. just their gender role.

Both of the above examples were heart-cracking AHA moments for me.

(side note: It goes without saying their were equal and powerful revelations, sharings and discovery about misconceptions regarding the women's stories too! I am only sharing here some of the bigger 'shockers' I experienced.)



The weekend and the myriad "obvious root" discoveries was so rich and full for me, eye-opening which leads to life-changing. On the cusp of my 50th birthday, JUST BECAUSE OF THIS BEGINNING OF WASHING THE ROOTS...I am certain in my next half century, that I will ask questions of men and women differently, I will listen to men and women differently, recognize heart in women and men differently and lean into sideby-ing with men and women differently than I have until now.

It was a good beginning. And it is not enough. There is so much more that has been left unattended and cared for.

(side note: the above comment is not a judgment nor is it reflective of something I thought should have been handled differently, or more that should have been done. We all agreed when to stop with varying degrees of max capacity. This sharing is more noticing where all this fits in my brain, on my path, and from where my expectations, hopes and vision are born.)

#3 SEEKING THE DEEPER ROOTS

So of course, once the obvious roots of my hair are being cared for, cleaned up and attended... the itch from the deeper roots becomes more perceptible. "There is more under here" the itch says to me in my hair! I have to get another great big glob of shampoo, maybe even three blops...and put them behind each ear, all along my occipital ridge, on the back of my head...more to attend!

REVELATION #3

In the Conversation with Men and Women, each root we focused on revealed immense amounts of sub context, variables, causes and effects. Of course it did, it has all gotten rather complicated!! I believe when humans designed all these maps/rules/regulations/directives/edicts and commandments to guide our lives (head space), I think that caused us largely to depart the heart space. We made this perhaps far more complicated than it was intended to be. In the journey of washing our roots, it seems to me we are climbing a ladder down through the past history and herstory...unpacking it all...revealing it all...questioning it all – as we desire balance, return to source/heart with mutuality of respect, love and service.

All that said, I have become a bit hyper aware that there is so much more. I look forward to finding and washing deeper roots together with the trust and faith-worthy men and women of the Goodenough community circle. I am eager to satisfy more of this itch inside me through the Sideby Conversation with Men and Women.

So what do deeper roots look like to me? I will use the previously mentioned topic of patriarchy to continue on with my example of DEEPER roots:

I have started to identify a surprising amount of life experiences wherein ME, MYSELF AND I moderated, quieted, diminished, reduced, or deleted parts of ME, as directed by the patriarchal corporal voice in MY head. I cannot tell you how many times I did not need a man to tell me to tame it down, I did a great job shutting myself down, hiding my own self, beating my own self up before a man opened his mouth. Ik. Deep roots. I have begun to deal with the deep rooted discovery of what now looks like some misplaced unhealthy pride in my early years where I was a self-admitted woman hater and focused only on “being one of the boys” in fortune 500 corporate America. If I was given 2 people of equal status to hire, I would always hire the man first because I did not want to deal with the woman’s emotions. (that was hard to admit to you reader.) And then add in the fact I was not being even vaguely honest about that until THIS weekend. Hm. Deep roots. I am finding my accountability in my relationships with both men and women and am sorting through both the constructive and non-constructive words and feelings flying around in my head about MYSELF. I am asking myself to be far more specific about who taught me what. Did ALL men teach me XYX? Or did my Dad? Or my male teacher? Did XYZ come from my mother. These deep roots are helping me not only with my own accountability but also reopening my heart to larger bodies of people as I stop blaming “everyone” and defining who I have challenges with, who I get support from, who is safe, who is not etc.

#4 THE COMB OUT

I literally have two and a half to 3 feet of hair from my crown to my waist. Combing through this is no small feat. It can be difficult to have my arms over my head that much and that long. Picking through tangles hurts my head. I get frustrated, impatient and angry often. In the last few years, others have solved this problem for me. I have learned that for their very own reasons, some other people LOVE to comb hair...and so now, I have aligned myself with them...My friend Willow loves to comb my hair out, it is a mothering experience of a daughter that she never got to have. The love of my life John combs my hair out too... He lost most of his hair in his 20s, so my hair is a joy and a mystery for him to ‘play in’. After nearly 40 years of anger and frustration about combing my hair out, I learned I did not have to do it alone.

REVELATION #4

I have thoughts, curiosities, pain, inquiries, clarifications, mystifications spinning around in my head and effecting my heart and body with regard to these newest concepts, truths, perceptions inside of the Men's and Women's Conversation, inside of Men's and Women's hearts. It is a lot to carry, tend and sort. Using my beautiful hair as a teacher... I leave this story to you reader with this ending...

Blessed be...We don't have to do it alone.

Thank you to the love of my life, John, who was willing to attend this weekend with me, willing to take the risk, to share his truth, to hear, to grow and to BE with me. Thank you babe.

Thank you to every man and woman who sat in that circle with me.

Thank you to the leadership team, you built an arc of a structure to hold us.

A special thank you to our "lead root wranglers" Colette, Bruce and Hollis...

You hold a container like no other, while allowing your humanness, vulnerability, truth, your work, story and light to be in the container with us. I find that rare. Because of that quality of love, skill and leadership, I felt safe, present and available. Bless you. Slainte, Drai

"The difference between a broken community and a thriving one is the presence of women who are valued." - - Michelle Obama

Happy International Women's Day!

The Den - a place for manly thoughts

by Bruce Perler

The Women's and Men's weekend continues to impact my daily consciousness in all of the spheres of my life. And, today is a day that, around the globe, organizations and individuals are asked to take an in-depth look at themselves and commit to doing more to help women and girls achieve their ambitions, challenge conscious and unconscious bias, strive for gender-balanced leadership, ensure we are valuing women's and men's contributions equally, and support inclusive flexible cultures.

The World Economic Forum predicts the gender gap will not close entirely until 2186. 2186 seems too far and, after all the centuries of oppression, it's good to see this kind of progress, however slow.

I am pleased with the efforts that I see around Microsoft and am grateful that I get to work for an organization that is focused on ensuring all of its staff feel valued and able to do their best work. This morning I read a post from Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella on LinkedIn where he talks about the impact on his life his mother had. As an employee, I am encouraged to read the post from Satya and do two things: 1) reflect on the people in my life that have had profound impact – and if I can make sure they know how much I appreciate them. And 2) reflect on any conscious or unconscious bias I may have and look for ways to ensure I am doing what I can to make Microsoft the most inclusive and supportive culture possible.

I continue to appreciate the wakeup call our weekend intensive offered us and the insights into our shared and different perspectives it opened to me. My heart feels softened and my mind more open to ways I'm both part of the problem and part of the solution to the issues of patriarchy. I'm also more aware than I've been about the cost patriarchy has on men, as impacted people. The more I let this all settle into me the more I see the useful reframe of the issue from one of gender polarity to one of ego and spirit. Ego would have me and all not in the power elite subjugated and controlled. Spirit has no such agenda and it is this world that I will continue to strive for, in peace, with persistence.

"Of all the evils for which man has made himself responsible, none is so degrading, so shocking or so brutal as his abuse of the better half of humanity; the female sex." - - **Mahatma Gandhi**

12 Things About Being A Woman That Women Won't Tell You By Caitlin Moran

Except Caitlin Moran, who will. For International Women's Day, we revisit the most popular esquire.co.uk story of all time.

Hey, I'm not going to womansplain feminism to the readers of *Esquire*! That's not happening on my watch! You're sophisticated, 21st century men with a copy of the *El Bulli* cookbook, a timeless pair of investment brogues and a couple of Joni Mitchell albums — for when you want to sit in your leather armchair, and have a little, noble, necessary man-cry.

You don't need me lecturing you — because you're not hanging out the back of a bus shouting "CLUNGE!" at a bunch of terrified 15-year-old girls. You've got sisters, mothers, lovers — female friends and colleagues — and you've never once gone up to any of them shouting, "Blimey! You don't get many of those to the pahnd!" while honking on their breasts, in the manner of Sid James. You're down with the sisterhood. You've got eyes. You know what's going on out there. You've noted that while society's happy for a famous man to age, and become distinguished, and generally wander around looking like a fucking wizard, the women generally still seem to be 20 years younger, and standing there on the cover of magazines, all like, "Oh! My clothes... they fell off!" EVEN IF IT'S DAME JUDI DENCH.

You know the pay disparity; still 20 per cent less for women in this country, and not a single prosecution, even though it's literally illegal. You know babies come out of vaginas and it fucking stings, and that the vaginas are having a hard time anyway, what with all the waxing they get. (That's £20 a pop, my friend. Every single month. Just to feel normal. It's basically VAT on your minge. Imagine if you had to get your bum-hole stripped every 30 days — lest the mean girls at school corner you on the bus home and go, "I've heard you're like Catweazle down there. Someone who fingered you said it was like diddling a Gonk. Ugh.")

You've seen Amy Schumer's brilliant, edgy sketches on contraception and rape, and laughed along with them. You've called Donald Trump "a twat" for his sexist comments about a female news anchor being on her period. You've watched the whole Caitlyn Jenner trans thing unfold and gone, "You know what — this all seems fair enough. I am down with the trans thing."

So, no. I'm not going to womansplain feminism to you. It's the 21st century and you are, most assuredly, not a dick. You like women being equal to men — which is all that feminism means. Not all the penises being burned in a Penis Bonfire. Just women being equal to men. You are like my friend John, when he talks about dating alpha-women: "Feel intimidated by them? Christ, no. Dating and marrying powerful women is like big game hunting. I fuck tigers and panthers. Not... chihuahuas."

No. You get feminism. You don't need Tits McGee here to take you through it one more time. So, what I am going to do, instead, is tell you 12 things about women that women are usually too embarrassed to tell you themselves. Because I am a chronic over-sharer, and incapable of keeping secrets. I'm like that other Deep Throat. The chatty Watergate one. That's the Deep Throat I am.

1. No mumbling

Like you, we feel a bit embarrassed about saying the word "feminism". It's the same as when you say the word "environment". They both have that slight implication of, "I'm now going to launch into a speech that's basically about what a great person I am".

Unfortunately, in both cases, the entire future of the world does rest on people being able to say those words properly, and not mumbling "femernism", or "envibeoment".

You just have to shut yourself in a cupboard and say them over and over again — "FEMINISM! ENVIRONMENT! FEMINISM! ENVIRONMENT!" — until they feel as normal as saying "pina colada", or "Michael Fassbender". Which are both, when you think about it, much odder-sounding.

2. 'The Man'

So, when women talk about "The Man", we're not talking about you. You're just a man. You're not The Man. Similarly, when we talk about the patriarchy, that's not you, either. You're not the

patriarchy. You're just... Patrick. When we're doing those "MEN!" chats, we're just identifying the general locus of the problem, ie, most of the power and influence being held by a small amount of men.

Because remember that patriarchy's bumming you as hard as it's bumming us. We're bulimic, objectified and under-promoted. You, meanwhile, are unable to talk about your feelings lest you get punched in the nuts by "a lad" telling you not to be "a bender". You are unlikely to get custody of your kids, and are three times more likely to commit suicide. Feminism's about sorting all this stuff out. Because it's about equality. Not burning the penises. I can't emphasise enough how much it's not about burning penises. No burnt penises here.

3. Periods

We're still pretty traumatised about our periods, even though we're now 40. Being a woman doesn't make "being a woman" any easier. All that womb-shit is nuts. It's like having an exploding, insane blood-bag of pain up in your business end — nothing really prepares you for when it all kicks off. One day, you're just a kid on your bike. The next, you're suddenly having to wedge a tiny Barbie mattress in your knickers, crying while you watch *Bergerac*, and eating Nurofen Plus like they're Tic Tacs.

Men, imagine if, some time around your 12th birthday, some manner of viscous liquid — let's say gravy — suddenly appeared in your pants, in the middle of a maths lesson. And then it turned up every month for the next 30 years. You'd be all like "NO!" and "WTF?!?!!" and "SRSLY??? THIS???" That's what we're like, too. We're not wise, or in touch with nature, or down with it. We're just people with a whole load more laundry issues than you. Have you ever tried to scrub blood out of a Premier Inn sheet at 6am, using just travel shampoo and your toothbrush? It's one of the defining aspects of being a woman.



4. Abortion

Likewise, imagine accidentally getting pregnant at 16, then having to run past a barrage of anti-abortion protestors outside your local clinic, all holding up pictures of dead fetuses. We're not dealing with this in a special, noble lady-way. We're like, "THIS IS ALREADY A REALLY, REALLY SHIT DAY. I PRESUME YOUR CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN EXTENDS INTO A LIFE SPENT VOLUNTEERING IN CARE HOMES, FOSTERING AND DONATING YOUR WAGES TO THE NSPCC — AND DOESN'T SOLELY REST ON HARASSING AND ABUSING TEARFUL, POSSIBLY RAPED WOMEN WHO ARE TRYING TO GET A SAFE, LEGAL MEDICAL PROCEDURE SO THEY DON'T FUCK UP THE REST OF THEIR LIVES."

Here's another thing we're too embarrassed to say: we'd love it if a big bunch of pro-choice men turned up at these clinics, and helped escort the scared women in. That would be some top bro solidarity.

5. Talking

In the last year or so, we saw this study, from America, and it broke our hearts a bit, because it explains so much: in a mixed-gender group, when women talk 25 per cent of the time or less, it's

seen as being "equally balanced". And if women talk 25–50 per cent of the time, they're seen as "dominating the conversation".

And we remembered all the times on social media, or in conversations, an angry man has said, "Women are WINNING now. Women are EVERYWHERE. It is MEN who are being silenced", and it all made sense.

6. Fear

We're scared. We don't want to mention it, because it's kind of a bummer, chat-wise, and we'd really like to talk about stuff that makes us happy, like look at our daughters — and we can't help but think, "Which one of us? And when?" We walk down the street at night with our keys clutched between our fingers, as a weapon. We move in packs — because it's safer. We talk to each other for hours on the phone — to share knowledge. But we don't want to go on about it to you, because that would be morbid. We just feel anxious. We're scared. Given the figures, we can't sometimes help but feel we're just... waiting for the bad thing to come. Because that would be a realistic thing to think, and we like to be prepared. Awfully, horribly, fearfully prepared.

7. Tired

We're tired. So, so tired. From the moment we grew our tits, we've been cat-called in the street; commented on by relatives ("Ooooh, she's big-boned"; "Well, you'll be a heart-breaker") as if we weren't standing there in front of them, hearing all this. We've seen our biggest female role-models and icons shamed in the press, over and over: computers hacked and nude pictures released; sex-tapes released. So we know even success, and money, will not protect us from the humiliation of simply being a woman. We know we must have our babies when we're young — the eggs are running out! — but we must also work for less money, as discussed above. So that makes us tired. This is why, maybe, women can become suddenly furious — why online discussions about feminism suddenly ignite into rage. Tired, scared people are apt to lash out. Anger is just fear, brought to the boil.



You will find the rest of this entertaining and relevant article at
<http://www.esquire.co.uk/culture/advice/a9641/things-men-dont-know-about-women-caitlin-moran/>

"If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman." --
Margaret Thatcher

Consider the Annual Weekend, March 10 to 12

Reflections from John Hoff in preparation for the Annual Meeting at Sahale

Interview by Kirsten Rohde

In 1981 the Goodenough Community became formally organized and a non-profit was formed shortly afterwards. I'm interested in the process that has led to the organizations that we have now as part of the community. I've heard that leading up to this process, there were Human Relations Laboratories every summer and that people got together informally throughout the year as a way of continuing the social and cultural experiences they enjoyed at Lab. What was the reason for becoming more formally organized?

One reason for organizing a group like this is so it is a learning experience for everybody; i.e. the experience of learning together, learning why we're organizing, and how to do it better. As we began to organize it was clear that some people at least were aware of the value of becoming an organization. Not everyone came from a background of working in organizations. Organizing added to the learning process and helped everyone learn together.

One reason I'm generally for organizing is it's always a process of learning how to participate in an organization well – an organized response to authentic human life.

I know that learning about organizations and working well in them can be useful wherever we are involved, not just in our own community.

Yes, I know that's true of many people.

As I understand it, there was a decision to create two non-profit organizations. One was the American Association for the Furtherance of Community, formed to demonstrate the value of community formation and to sponsor the Goodenough Community.

Yes, and some people were more interested in the spiritual development of people, which explains the desire to have Convocation: a Church and Ministry. A ministry stands for "in service"; the ministry is the idea that the organization wanted to be of service to people.

*I learned through pathwork and spiritual direction (*processes offered by John and Colette through Convocation) to value inwardly a desire to serve and to understand more the meaning of being in service.*

Yes, Convocation helped people learn to be there not just for themselves and their own learning but to inspire and encourage others. The community was a place to practice service.

We used the terms live, love and serve. Why in that order?

First you have to decide to live. As you're living you learn to love. As you learn to love you realize the motivation for serving is love.

Is that concept, to live, love, and serve, key to the curriculum of working with self, working with relationship and learning to serve within an organization or community?

Yes. In our community, I feel people are much more educated now about the purpose of the organizations and how being more organized can further the purposes of the community as a whole. It seems to be going along pretty well now. 'Bouncing' along on its own energy.

It will be important that the community get together and re-motivate themselves from time to time. Motivation comes from certain things that happen naturally and there will then be a natural response.

That's a good explanation for why we have an Annual Meeting.

"A woman is like a tea bag--you never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water." - - Eleanor Roosevelt

Editor's Note: I appreciate Joan's comments as we work together with understanding Islam. Colette



Impact of Our Study of Islam

Dear Colette,

Your pointing out that the patriarchy has left us motherless really hit home. I appreciate your wisdom and skill as a teacher and how you have used our study of Islam and the role of women (thank you, too, Barbara) to continue (revitalize) our work as men and women together. And I'm beginning to understand better your deep dismay about Hillary Clinton's "losing" the election. I've been reading Joseph Campbell's "Hero with a thousand faces" chapters about the goddess. It occurs to me that it may only be through woman (the feminine, the goddess, the mother) that our planet may be saved. Time is running out and Donald Trump is an infantile man with great power, and it is terrifying. Thank you for being such a great teacher. Love, Joan

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Roots of Conflict conference submitted by Hollis Ryan

"We are a group of American Muslims and our goal is to launch campaigns for a better understanding of Muslims and the Islamic world.

WE ABSOLUTELY OPPOSE ANY INFRINGEMENT AGAINST A PERSON'S RIGHTS ON THE BASIS THAT GOD MADE US FREE!

TODAY LET US ALL STAND UNITED IN DENOUNCING TERRORISM



ROOTS
OF CONFLICT

Heritage of Colonialism in Arabian Peninsula

**ENTRY IS FREE—TO REGISTER
YOUR ATTENDANCE PLEASE REFER TO:
<http://rootsofconflict.org/>**

Saturday, March 18th

2:00pm-6:00pm

KANE HALL 120, UW

4069 SPOKANE LN, SEATTLE 98105

One day Seminar devoted to an in-depth, historic look at Islamophobia from its roots in the post-Prophet Mohammed period. It will then go over the history of intolerant ideologies deliberately created in the name of Islam

"In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders." - - **Sheryl Sandberg**



The deAnguera Blog: Rose Buchmeier's 60th Birthday



We usually go all out for decade birthdays and 60 is definitely a major milestone. Lots of good food and cake, especially chocolate cake, my favorite. Many family relatives were present. It made all of us feel like we were part of Rose's family. Some of Rose's work associates also dropped by.

I have known the Buchmeier family since the beginning of my journey with the Goodenough Community over 17 years ago. The Community gives all of us a chance to grow together. We have all benefited from their hard work and dedication. I remember the many times Rose and Phil pruned our fruit trees.

With 60 comes major transitions such as retirement. How does one prepare? These are things I find difficult to handle on my own so it is good to have Community members to consult with. We can help with life transitions making them easier.

Families usually celebrate birthdays by themselves. If people are living alone they have nobody to share their lives with. Nobody to celebrate their birthdays and let them know they are important. As I have learned society feels like a vacuum. If we don't spend time developing our relations with each other, sharing our lives together becomes extremely difficult. I can't really empathize with people on any level. If I am aware somebody's having a birthday which I am usually not, it doesn't mean very much to me.

Society is filled with institutions performing many functions for us. For most of these institutions I am just a source of cash. Nobody to appreciate me being me. Nobody to value my accomplishments. As a result I feel much less as a person. What can I offer to another person?

People in our age range can fill a very valuable role: that of elder. Elders were the leaders in tribal society. Everybody looked up to them. They were necessary to raising young children. I became more valuable as I grew older. In our society elders are often disposed of. They become unemployed and isolated. Life becomes a real struggle. At the other end young people miss the guidance they so sorely need to develop. In tribal culture the most important connection is that between grandparents and grandchildren.

Birthdays are one of the ways we acknowledge each other. This is especially true as we age.

I value Rose as a friend, maybe a family member? A Goodenough family member? That's why I made the effort to come into Seattle to help celebrate her birthday. We need to do this for each other simply to stay mentally healthy. If there were lots of communities like ours across the land we could fill the painful vacuum in our society.



Jodine Hatfield is removing a block from our giant Jenga tower. Will it fall? It falls with a mighty crash!

"Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights." - - Hillary Clinton

Hi from Tahoe,

Hard to believe I arrived here one week ago this evening. The amount of snow this year is amazing. I'm glad I know where I'm going or I'd be lost a lot. The buildings are hidden by the snow berms. Already I've seen pretty much all weather conditions: spring mush (today), full out blizzard (Saturday) and everything in between. Some sun, some skiing in the invisible (also known as skiing by braille). One day the wind was so severe everything was closed – including interstate 80. There's not a lot to report other than snow conditions, and I've said enough about that already. My drive down was uneventful, and the weather was mostly nice. It's nice to be here and to reconnect with my "Tahoe friends". One of them helped me escape a tree well yesterday. Fortunately I didn't go in head first. The experience reinforces why it's important to ski with another when not on clearly established runs, which is consistently my practice.

Thinking of all of you and wishing you a very successful annual meeting.



Snow walls in the driveway



Skiing in the invisible.
Me on right



My new friend the tree!

Hello Friends

Kaitlin Benner-Kenagy

I am writing on behalf of my newest alma mater, the **Peace Corps Coverdell Program** at Bowling Green State University. We are in the midst of the first crowdfunding campaign and still need to make our target before the end in 10 days. I would like to ask if you would be able to donate a little to help future Fellows earn their masters degrees. Gifts help provide tuition assistance, textbooks, research materials and more for Fellows.

Below is a link to our crowdfunding page and a video about our program. No amount is too small and all us BGSU returned Peace Corps Volunteers really appreciate all your help.

You can also help out by sharing this project with others who may be interested.

Thank you so much, take care and have a wonderful rest of your day!

Hugs,

BGSU PCF crowdfunding link: <https://falconfunded.bgsu.edu/project/3563>

“I love to see a young girl go out and grab the world by the lapels. Life’s a bitch. You’ve got to go out and kick ass.” —Maya Angelou

Birthdays

🎉 !Happy birthday, PAMELA JARRETT-JEFFERSON – March 17

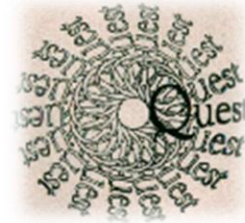


Women belong in all places where decisions are being made... It shouldn't be that women are the exception." —*Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

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 be more effective in relationships.

Call John or Colette (206-755 8404) or Colette and John at Sahale – 360 275-3957. In Seattle, John and Colette meet with clients at the community center, 3610 SW Barton Street, Seattle 98106, as well as at Sahale.



Cultural Programs in the Goodenough Community are created for visitors and they are developed as opportunities for our members and friends to practice our lifeways and apply them to contemporary issues and problems in our lives. For instance, the men's program must be 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. Similarly, women must return to the essentials of being a good woman in this day and age.

Calendar of Programs and Events, 2017

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 ...

In the Goodenough Community, we recognize such ways to connect as expressions of **community culture**. Throughout the year, we offer **cultural programs** so that you can engage with the community, participate in your own development, and have a good time.

We **welcome your interest** and your participation, and hope that you will join us at any – or many! – of this year's events.

Annual Organizational Meetings **March 10 to 12** This weekend is foundational to all programs and events within the community. Come and be curious! Please contact Kirsten Rohde 206 719-5364 for more information.



A weekend for men is being planned for the spring. Focal Person: Bruce Perler, bruce_perler@hotmail.com

Women's Culture

Next Saturday gathering is April 8, 10 am -2 pm, at the community center in West Seattle

Women's Weekend, May 5-7, 2017 at Sahale

Women of the Goodenough Community have been gathering intentionally and regularly since 1983 to discover in themselves and each other the essence of womanhood at any age and the presence of the Divine Feminine.

Focal Person: Hollis Guill Ryan, hollisr@comcast.net



Third-Age Gatherings

Next gatherings will be Friday evenings, March 31 and May 12 at the community center in West Seattle. Focal Person: Kirsten Rohde, krohde14@outlook.com

Work Parties throughout the Year

Traditionally, the Goodenough Community sponsors work parties over Memorial Day weekend (**May 26 to 29, 2017**), 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.

Focal Person: Colette Hoff, hoff@goodenough.org

Summer Camp for Youth, June 25 to July 1

A wonderful opportunity for children 9 to 12 to have a full camp experience in a beautiful setting with loving leadership.

Focal Person: Irene Perler, Irene_Perler@hotmail.com



Human Relations Laboratory, August 6 to 12, 2017



This intense and joyous week-long event is a communal experience of personal growth, and has been presented annually and is now in its 48th year!

Focal Person: Colette Hoff, hoff@goodenough.org

True Holidays Celebration, Saturday, December 2, 2017



Be part of this fun-filled family-oriented evening, and prepare yourself for a holiday season (whatever faith tradition you follow) that fills your heart.

Focal Person: Kirsten Rohde, krohde14@outlook.com

Winter Solstice Bus Trip, Saturday December 16, 2017

Board a bus, play in the snow, shop in Leavenworth, have a horse-drawn sleigh ride and enjoy an abundant dinner

Focal Person: Colette Hoff

New Year's Eve at Sahale, 2017 – 2018

Sunday will be New Year's Eve and Monday will be New Year's Day next year.