



ANUVRAT GLOBAL ORGANIZATION (ANUVIBHA)

अणुव्रत विश्व भारती (अणुविभा)

(a transnational centre for peace, nonviolent action and sustainability associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations)

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Event / Activity III :

Title : INTERFAITH PRAYER AND NONVIOLENCE DAY

Dates : January 30, 2020 and October 02, 2020

People Involved : 40 and 150

Apart from the above activities organized in India by the members of ANUVIBHA to create awareness among the masses to escape being victimized by the new coronavirus and mitigate their suffering, our representatives in New York associated with UN-Civil Society Unit continued their efforts to hold events / activities aimed at creating a healthy and nonviolent society. ANUVIBHA believes that man's immoral behavior, his lack of sensitivity and greed also contribute to the spread of the pandemic. If people realize their moral duty and behave responsibly human suffering can be minimized. Before the onset of Covid-19 restrictions, Anuvibha UN Representatives took part in prayer services held on January 30, 2020 (Thursday) at the Suffolk County headquarters in Hauppauge. The event was organized by a dozen or so different faiths including the chapter of Anuvrat Global Organization (ANUVIBHA) and its associated organization Shanti Fund. The objective was to promote peace and harmony among the people of diverse backgrounds. More than 150 people attended the event.

Unfortunately the sudden appearance of the pandemic in the world upended many plans and projects in USA and India but our representatives were fortunate

enough since they were allowed to celebrate the International Nonviolence Day on Oct 02, 2020, the birth day of Mahatma Gandhi with Covid-19 restrictions. The event was held with the restricted attendance of 40 prominent people at the Gandhi Peace Garden consisting of 150 trees and at least one from the 50 states of USA. It was inaugurated in the previous year at the natural preserve of more than 50 acres of land with the campus of SUNY (State University of New York) in old Westbury Long Island. The speakers expressed the view that nonviolence alone has the potential to sustain the planet. The teachings of Gandhi can make this world a better place to live in. Morally elevated and responsible human behavior can both prevent and combat the pandemic.

Since COVID menace is continuing in 2021, our representatives in New York have launched through weekly articles being published in a print and online newspaper the need for Anuvrat to promote UN SDG.



By Arvind Vora

Anuvrat means a small vow - *anu* means the smallest and *vrat* means a vow. In the Jain code of conduct, one finds 12 vows prescribed for lay persons of which five are Anuvrat.

The five Anuvrat described in detail in the 7th chapter of the Tattvartha Sutra and prescribed for lay persons are:

1. **Ahimsa** - nonviolence, which means refraining from causing injury to any living being with at least one sense faculty
2. **Satya** - truth, refraining from false statements
3. **Asteya** - theft, refraining from theft or claiming physical things or even written articles not of yours
4. **Brahmacharya** - celibacy, refraining from illicit sexual activities
5. **Aparigraha** - refraining from accumulating possessions more than needed.

The remaining seven vows are meant to strengthen Anuvrats and to inculcate spiritual discipline. The vows for ascetics are similar but more demanding in its observance and practices.

The United Nations represents a hope for humanity to coexist in peace and absence of violence. On January 1, 1942 while World War II was going on, 26 allied nations signed the 'Declaration by United Nations'. India though not yet an independent nation was represented by Shri Girija Shankar Bajpai and signed as Agent General (envoy) of the Government of India. The term 'United Nations' was suggested by the then US president Franklin D. Roosevelt.

At the conclusion of the San Francisco Conference on June 26, 1945, Shri A. Ramaswami Mudaliar signed the UN Charter on behalf of the Indian States and Shri V.T. Krishnamachari signed it on behalf of the Princely States of India at the Veterans' War Memorial Building in San Francisco.

The UN has promulgated 49 declarations of International Decades, starting with 1960 to 1970 as a Decade of Development to the 2022-2032 as International Decade of Indigenous Languages. In September 2015, 193 countries came together at the United

Anuvrat in aid of UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Anuvrat movement and, in a small way the Anuvibha organization has reached out to the world community in many arenas to promote the ideals of United Nations' SDGs and thereby foundational principles of Jainism.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The entire structure of the UN is based on achieving and promoting Ahimsa, the main pillar of Jainism

like one does daily brushing of teeth. Let us all take a small vow to reach out to one person a day or a week or a month or a year to explain the Anuvrat movement and make him/her part of the movement to promote ideals of UN SDGs and thereby foundational principles of Jainism.



Arvind Vora is a main representative of Anuvibha at the UN and has been based in New York since 1969.

Nations to adopt and commit to a long-term, comprehensive strategy to tackle the world's greatest challenges related to global sustainable development. The result was the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), a list of 17 goals to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. These 17 goals are shown in the UN provided goals via symbols.

It is interesting to note that if most of these goals of SDG or part of International Decades are not achieved, one can see either one of the Anuvrat is not followed, particularly the first one, Ahimsa. In fact, the entire structure of the UN is based on achieving and promoting Ahimsa. One may say that the world is still full of violence and the UN has not fulfilled its mandates, but one must also agree that no world war has broken out, nor atomic weapons used. In fact, people all over the world are in much better shape in many respects since the founding of the UN more than 75 years ago. Yes, more challenges are ahead and more needs to be done.

In a small practical way, the ANUVIBHA organization has joined the UN NGO (now Civil Society) to reach out to the world community in many arenas. 10 biennial conferences called International Conference on Peace and Nonviolent Action (ICPNA) have been held in India under the leadership of Shri S.L. Gandhi where a sizable number of scholars and peace activists from various countries have participated. Three adult and two youth representatives in the USA have contributed a lot over the last two decades by participation in workshops, conferences held at the UN and other parts of the world to promote peace, which is a byproduct of

ahimsa. March 1st will be celebrated all over India as the founding of Anuvrat under the leadership of Anuvibha. The goal is amazingly simple: every person should take a daily small vow, like refrain from eating fried food or doing one hour of volunteer work, etc. The beauty of it is that it becomes a habit

Pre-Independence, India did become UN Charter signatory



Shri A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (1887-1976), Leader of the Delegation from India, signing the UN Charter at a ceremony held at the Veterans' War Memorial Building in San Francisco on June 26, 1945. He was an Indian lawyer, politician and statesman who served as a member of the War Cabinet from 1942-1945 and as the Indian representative in the Pacific War Council. He was the Dewan of Mysore State from 1946-1949.

Shri V. T. Krishnamachari (1881-1964),

third from right also signed as a Representative of the Indian States. He was an Indian civil servant, who served as the Dewan of Baroda from 1927 to 1944, Prime Minister of Jaipur State from 1946 to 1949.

Shri K.P.S. Menon (1898-1982), second from left, was a Senior Advisor to the Indian Delegation. He was Dewan (Prime Minister) of Bharatpur and served as the first Foreign Secretary of independent India from 1948 to 1952.

March 1st will be celebrated all over India as the founding of Anuvrat under the leadership of Anuvibha.

The goal is to inspire people to take a small vow, like refraining from fried food for a day or doing one hour of volunteer work and reaching out to others to explain the Anuvrat movement.

Everyday Gita by HerambaStudio with Ashok Vyas

Shrimadbhagwad Gita is eternal. A celestial song, dialog between two friends, the setting is the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Here is the army of Kauravas, sons of Dhritrashtra, and Pandavas, sons of Pandu, one of the 5 being the world class archer Arjun. Arjun opts for the presence of Lord Krishna on his chariot and lets Duryodhan take Krishna's army. Lord Krishna was his cousin as well as dear friend. There was love and respect, but the vastness of the Lord was revealed to Arjun on the battlefield. Krishna accepted to take care of Arjun as his charioteer, thus he got the name 'Parthasarathi'. Sarathi is like a navigator; Parth is another name of Arjun. The setting is interesting and dynamic, demanding and challenging. It is the battle between Dharma and Adharma. Dharma simply means 'righteous action'.

Pandu and Dhritrashtra were brothers, so here are the armies of the same clan pitted against each other. Arjun's dilemma is born out of seeing familiar faces of family members ready to fight.

Savyasachal Arjun is blessed with sensitivity and right before the battle he is caught up in the confusion: Is it necessary to fight? Shouldn't I just leave the battle ground and prevent shedding blood of my kith and kin.

What makes Gita important and interesting is the sincere conversation about 'knowing and living



Ashok Vyas draws inspiration for his video series on the Gita from his guru, Swami Ishwarananda Giri, and reports that PM Modi has recently launched many volumes on the holy scripture. (Photo Provided)

truth' between 'Nara' and 'Narayan'.

There are 18 chapters and 700 verses in Gita. Each chapter is titled a particular Yoga. Arjun is stricken with grief. He argues and tries to make a case for turning back from the fight. He pours his heart out in the first chapter which is titled 'Arjun's Vishad Yog'. Vishad means grief. The word 'yoga' simply means 'to unite'. This sense of oneness with 'Karma' and 'Bhakti' etc is unfolded chapter after chapter in Gita.

This divine dialog is set in a dramatic setting but it is a multi-layered uplifting of consciousness and journey from confusion to clarity. This clarity is not confined to a par-

ticular person, caught up in a particular situation because the wisdom of Lord Krishna transcends time and space.

In the beginning, Lord Krishna chides Arjuna - telling him that he talks like an intelligent man but his arguments are pushing him towards cowardice. This level fails to pump up Arjuna, who couldn't hold his 'Gandhi' (name of his bow). 'I won't fight', he declares. Then, Lord Krishna takes him towards awareness about the purpose of this war, about his role as human being and as a 'Kshatriya'.

Lord Krishna opens up for Arjun a different orbit of consciousness after the latter accepts his inability

to process the situation and takes shelter in Parthasarathi as his disciple.

Lord Krishna is also known as 'Jagadguru Yogeshwar'. His teaching has resonated in all times with people of different mindset. While Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba Bhave, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and many other greats looked up to Gita, Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh were also inspired by the scripture.

The core teaching of Gita is how to understand one's mind, how to become aware of one's true self and act with equanimity. The inexhaustible source of inspiration and eternal empowerment is contained in this small jewel, nestled in the epic 'Mahabharat' by Sage Ved Vyas. The idea is to act without agitation, remember the Lord and do one's duty without attachment and avarice.

While re-reading the book 'Gita Sadhana' based on lectures of my Guru Swami Shri Ishwarananda Giri Maharaj, at one point the light of clarity seemed to envelope me. It didn't last long with that intensity, but it was enough to inspire me to sincerely appreciate and apply Gita's teaching in my life.

Sanatan Hindu traditions have encouraged reading a little bit of Gita every day as it is said to contain the essence of Upanishads and it is to be approached as one approaches one's mother. The meditation Shloka on Gita assures us about dripping of the nectar of one-

ness from Gita.

By the grace of Lord Krishna and my Guru, a sequential sharing of Gitanrut began on January 1 this year. Each 10-minute video presentation with 2 shlokas has become another way of sharing the light of love, joy and strength with a vision of vastness. A few friends and family members have taken to a sincere study of Gita after watching this series: 'Eternal Gita Everyday' from Youtube channel and Facebook page of HerambaStudio.

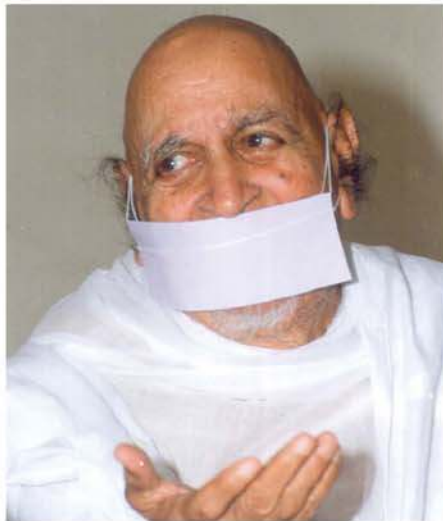
It appears Gita is pulling many devotees towards it this year. Dr Karan Singh's 90th birthday was celebrated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the launching of 11 volumes on Gita based on the commentary by 21 scholars. At the event, Dr Karan Singh spoke eloquently about the significance of Gita and PM Modi also conveyed a sense of his deep understanding of Gita's vision in his address. At another function, the prime minister inaugurated eGita by Swami Chinmayananda ji.

Gita shows the pathway of stress free living with correct orientation towards truth and awareness of the self. May we find our own unique way towards embracing guidance by the glorious Gita in our lives.

Samvit Sadhak Ashok Vyas,
Founder, Heramba Studio,
Insight for Creativity LLC
Poet, Hindu Priest, Program
Director - ITVGOLD

ANUVRAT MOVEMENT

Building a morally strong nation



Acharya Tulsi, founder of Anuvrat movement (Photo courtesy: ravivardhini.com)

People Also Ask: Which is the richest religion in India?
Jains make the richest religious community, with more than 70% of their population in the top quintile.



Acharya Vinoba Bhave



Abul Kalam Azad



M S Golwalkar
(Image courtesy: Wikipedia.org)

On March 1, 1949, a call for 'Real Freedom' was made by Acharya Tulsi. During his conversations with the then top political, social, religious leaders - like Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, President Rajendra Prasad, Abul Kalam Azad, Vinoba Bhave, S Radhakrishnan, Jaiprakash Narayan, C Rajagopalachari, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Madhavrao Golwalkar - of the newly independent India, he emphasized that the need for Independent India is indispensable but more important is character building and instilling moral values which will make each individual strong and hence our

nation. With these objectives, Jain-Acharya Tulsi launched the Anuvrat Movement. Anu means SMALL and Vrat means VOW. Small vows, Anuvratas, are the limited version of the Mahavratas for the monks, based on the five Jain principles Truth, Nonviolence, Non-possession, Non-stealing and Celibacy as applied in their limited version for common people. The movement encouraged people to apply the Anuvratas in their personal lives, even when dealing with non-religious aspects of the society. Anuvrat promotes a lifestyle of self-restraint and self-discipline by adopting small vows in one's day

to day life. It suggests eleven basic vows and practical ways for self-transformation, these will be elaborated upon in our subsequent articles.

The South Asian Times will be frequently publishing articles highlighting a small (anu) story - of how followers of Anuvrat brought systematic changes in their lives which left a significant social impact.

If you have a personal experience or a story of Anuvrat and would like to share you are welcome to send it to arvindvora@gmail.com



By Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj

Mystic poetry and literature is rich in verses addressing the way to a peaceful, calm life. One of the greatest mystic poet-saints of the past century, Sant Darshan Singh Ji Maharaj, has written a verse that captures the way to lead lives in which we reduce stress and anger to produce calm and peace within ourselves and for the whole world.

The verse by Sant Darshan Singh Ji says:

Let this world become a temple of love and peace.

Let love and Truth illumine the world, And the adversaries of peace within us is also in all others, mak-

This sacred land of God has been trampled with the burden of oppression.

Life is not a dagger stained with the blood of hatred:

It is a branch filled with the flowers of love and compassion.

Life itself is restless for peace in the world.

Let its noble dream materialize.

May the garden be illumined with wave after wave of Light.

May the wealth of love grow greater and greater and enrich every heart.

These verses capture the essence of what I consider the purpose of life and have been the inspiration of my life. These penetrating words by Sant Darshan Singh Ji Maharaj, a past master of meditation on the inner Light and Sound, illumine a way to achieve peace through uncovering the Divine within. Once this uplifting peace permeates our being, it can spread to others, bathing this planet in peace.

These verses describe the unity at the heart of all creation. The poet realizes that the same Light of God within us is also in all others, mak-

Life is restless for peace in the world



ing us one human family. Even science points to our ones through the Genome project. Scientists have found that more than 99% of the genes of all human beings are the same, with only less than 1% being different, accounting for differences in our hair, skin, and eye color, or our size and shape. When we realize we are all one family, we would not cause pain or suffering to others. As we would not want to hurt our parents or children, we would not want to hurt any other human being. The walls that divide

us through nationality, social status, or appearance tumble down as we realize that we are all children of the one Creative Power.

Through meditation on the inner Light and Sound within each of us, we can have a firsthand experience of our unity. Through absorption into this Light and Sound current, we experience consciousness of higher spiritual realms. This inner journey leads back to the source of this current and we experience oneness with the Creator. Saints and mystics have

described within us a series of realms. Beyond the physical realm, there is the astral, causal, and supracausal realms, and a purely spiritual realm, called Sach Khand. Each realm contains greater and greater light, celestial music, joy, and love. We ultimately merge back in the source of all consciousness, love, and light. Then, we recognize that all humans and all forms of life are created by the Divine and comprise one family. This nondenominational meditation practice, called Shabd Meditation, or meditation on the Light and Sound, can be performed by people of all cultures. The introductory form of meditation, called Jyoti Meditation can be practiced by anyone at any place. The more time we spend in meditation, the more we realize the unity within each. Spiritual progress is enhanced by an ethical life of non-violence, truthfulness, humility, love for all, and selfless service.

As we gaze at the wonders within through meditation, we can experience the inner light, enjoy its nourishing peace and bliss, and radiate that loving luminosity to all.

ANUVRAT MOVEMENT



Acharya Tulsi Ji

Anuvrat promotes a lifestyle of self-restraint and self-discipline through adopting small vows in one's day to day life. It suggests eleven basic vows and practical ways for self-transformation. In a press meet organized at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi on March 1, 2021 the Union Minister Mr. Arjunram Meghwal said that his morality has helped him greatly in winning elections. Renowned journalist and scholar

Mr. Vedpratap Vaidik dwelt on his vast experience traveling throughout the world and emphasized the need of Anuvrat philosophy for a better society. Mr. Sanchay Jain, President of Anuvrat Vishwa Bharati, also known as Anuvibha, briefed the media about the future plans which include activities focused on young generation and their balanced and all-round development, to eradicate evil social practices, to promote ethical living. He also informed that Anuvibha is associated with the Civil Society wing of the UN and supports many of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) through its activities. Similar press briefing were held at around 50 places throughout India. To propagate this philosophy Anuvibha is going to create a strong network of 500 Anuvrat Ambassadors in different countries.

73rd Foundation Day of Anuvrat Movement celebrated

Thousands of Anuvrat workers reaffirmed commitment to work ceaselessly towards a more peaceful, nonviolent and inclusive society



(L to R): Kusum Lunia (Convener, Foundation day Program), Bhikham Surana (General Secretary, Anuvibha), Tej Karan Surana (Trustee, Anuvibha), Sanchay Jain (President, Anuvibha), Ved Pratap Vaidik (renowned journalist and expert international relations, Honorary Patron, Anuvibha), Avinash Nahar (Senior Vice President, Anuvibha), Indra Bengani (Joint Secretary, Anuvibha)

People also ask: How do Jains believe the world was created? What do Jains believe about God?

Nothing in the universe is ever destroyed or created, everything simply changes from one form to another. Jains believe that the universe has always existed and will always exist. It is regulated by cosmic laws and kept going by its own energy processes. Jains do not believe that the universe was created by any sort of God.

There is no need of someone to create or manage the affairs of the universe. Hence Jainism does not believe in God as a creator, survivor, and destroyer of the universe. However, Jainism does believe in God, not as a creator, but as a perfect being. When a person destroys all one's karmas, one becomes a liberated soul.

*Some of our faces may have changed,
But our service to our neighbors
remains the same. We deeply
respect esteemed traditions and values*

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"IT IS MY HONOR TO JOIN
A TEAM THAT, FOR OVER 95 YEARS,
HAS SERVED THE FAMILIES
OF OUR COMMUNITY.
I WILL CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF
EXEMPLARY SERVICE."

—GLORIA A. BISCHOFF—



By Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj

As people around the world focus on the economy and in budgeting their finances to make ends meet, there is another budget that each of us can consider. Besides what we amass in this physical world, we also are given a certain number of breaths by God to use in our physical existence. We analyze how we are budgeting the use of our finances, but how often do we look at how we are budgeting the capital of our life's breaths given to us as a gift of the Divine?

This is a good time to analyze how we have been spending our precious breaths and time, and whether we can make better use of them. Are we spending our

time haphazardly and wastefully, or are we spending it with purpose?

How can we make best use of our time?

We have twenty-four hours in the day to budget to our life's purpose. Just as some of our finances go to the necessities of life such as food, clothing, and shelter, so do some of our breaths go into activities relevant to our physical survival. We have to spend time taking care of the body, such as in eating, bathing, dressing, sleeping, and other bodily activities. We also need to spend time earning a living to pay for the necessities of life. We have to go to school or college or get training for our jobs as well. If we have a family, we need to take care of them. We also want to be a contributing member of our community and be of service to others. Beyond this, we are left with time we can spend any way we like. How can we budget that time to make the best use of it?

Those on the spiritual path have set self-knowledge and realization of the Divine as a goal within this very lifetime. Saints

and spiritual Masters teach that we do not have to wait until this life ends to discover what lies beyond. We can witness the realms beyond in this lifetime by sitting in silence, focusing our attention within, and exploring the inner spiritual treasures. This involves spending time in meditation whereby we invert our attention to find the Divine within us. Do we budget enough time for this?

Caring for the soul

Meditation takes practice, whereby we can connect with the divine Light and Sound within and soar on it to explore realms beyond. The practice of concentrating within takes repetition to become adept at it. As in all tasks in life, daily practice will help us achieve success. In planning our spiritual budget—the capital of our life's breaths to achieve the goal of union with the Divine—we need to allocate some time daily for meditation. Just as we want a balanced financial budget, we also want a balanced budget of our time. Balancing our time means spending time developing our physical, mental, and spiritu-



al side of life. While attending to our responsibilities of taking care of our body and mind, we also need to care for our soul.

As we look ahead to 2013, let us spend time analyzing how we want to budget our time. We can make a chart of how much time we need to spend in the various activities necessary for our life to survive in this physical world and how much time we need to put into our spiritual practices. Mostly, we allocate everything on our to-do list first and then put in the time for meditation last. This year, we can try allocating our time for meditation first, and then fit in all the other responsibilities we have. In this

way, we can ensure that our meditation is not an afterthought, but as important a part of our day as our other duties.

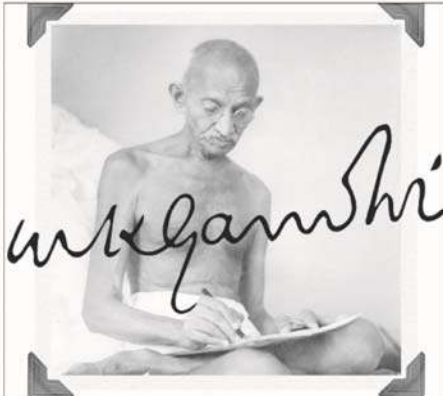
Some people find that meditating in the beginning of the day, right after we awaken, ensures that we always get that meditation time in and do not leave it for last, when other responsibilities may take so long we never get to our spiritual practices. If we make meditation an essential part of the day, we will find it becomes a habit. We will be making the best use of our time and find that the spiritual gains we achieve will enrich all aspects of our lives.

www.sos.org

ANUVRAT MOVEMENT

One day, after much frustration and helplessness, a mother decided to seek advice from Mahatma Gandhi who

happened to be in a nearby city. Her problem was that one of her children was eating too many sweets a day. She knew it was not



good for her child but every effort she made bore no satisfactory result. She sought help from her older children, neighbors and even teachers at school. She knew nothing about Gandhi Ji except that many people always talked about him as a living saint.

Knowing she had nothing to lose and being made aware that it is not easy to meet Gandhi Ji, she sets out with her child in tow to the nearby city where he was expected to visit. Finally, she was able to reach where Gandhi was staying. She felt good when she saw with her own eyes how many people were waiting to see him. With her luck she was able to meet him in person. Teary eyed she explained her problem. Gandhi Ji smiled at the child, asked a few questions, and told the mother to bring her child next week.

The mother and her child went to see him a week later. Gandhi Ji



smiled and lovingly looked at the child. After a chit chat Gandhi Ji told the child why sweets are not healthy and asked him to quit.

The child promised Gandhi Ji and his mother to abide by his instructions. Mother left with happiness and saw changes in the child's eating habits.

The mother makes a trip by herself to meet Gandhi Ji and inquires why he could not tell the child the first time they came to see him.

Gandhi Ji told her that before giving the advice, he himself quit eating sweets. What Gandhi Ji did is called ANUVRAT.

People also ask:
Do Jains drink alcohol?
In Jainism alcohol consumption of any kind is not allowed, neither are there any exceptions like occasional or social drinking. The most important reason against alcohol consumption is the effect of alcohol on the mind and soul.

Some of our faces may have changed,
But our service to our neighbors
remains the same. We deeply
respect esteemed traditions and values

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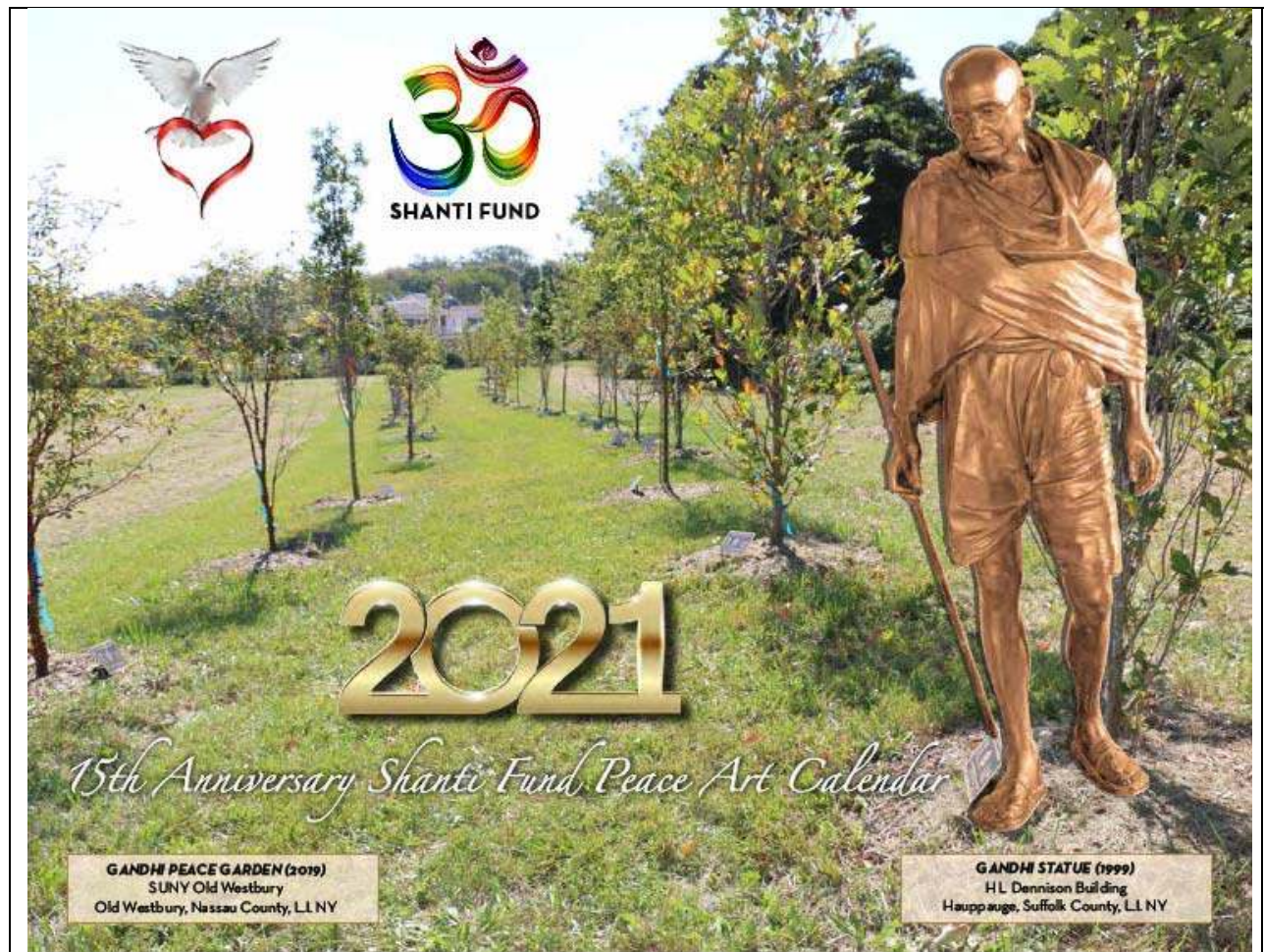


2021

15th Anniversary Shanti Fund Peace Art Calendar

GANDHI PEACE GARDEN (2019)
SUNY Old Westbury
Old Westbury, Nassau County, L.I. NY

GANDHI STATUE (1999)
H.L. Dennison Building
Hauppauge, Suffolk County, L.I. NY



Gandhi 150 Grand Finale

Thursday, October 1, 2020



The poster features logos for the Government of India, the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Shanti Fund, and SUNY Old Westbury. The text reads: "Consulate General of India, New York in collaboration with Shanti Fund & SUNY College, Old Westbury celebrates Gandhi@150 Grand Finale At Gandhi Peace Garden On October 01, 2020 | 10:00 - 11:00 am Please join us virtually f LIVE @indiainnnewyork".

Consulate General of India, New York
in collaboration with
Shanti Fund & SUNY College, Old Westbury
celebrates
Gandhi@150 Grand Finale
At Gandhi Peace Garden
On October 01, 2020 | 10:00 - 11:00 am
Please join us virtually
f LIVE @indiainnnewyork



Top Right: Consul General Randhir Jaiswal paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's Statue at the Suffolk County Executive office, Hauppauge, New York.

Bottom Right: Consul General cutting the cake to celebrate Gandhi Ji's 151st Birthday at the Gandhi Peace Garden, SUNY - Old Westbury



SHANTI FUND

December 4, 2020



Dear Friends:

Hi, I am Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, and I would like to welcome you all to the Gandhi 150 finale celebration.

Tonight, we commemorate the life's work of Gandhi and remember his innumerable contributions to humanity. Typically, we would all join together in front of the Gandhi statue, in the lobby of the H Lee Dennison Building, but the COVID - 19 pandemic has forced us to alter some of our most cherished celebrations. While we have to gather virtually this year, I want to thank the Shanti Fund for continuing to keep this important event alive in a safe manner.

Suffolk County is enriched by countless immigrants from South Asia and I've had the distinct pleasure of participating in many events hosted by The Shanti Fund, to not only celebrate their contributions but to instill messages of peace, nonviolence and human dignity. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my deep appreciation to all those who are being honored by the Shanti Fund tonight. Your dedication to service is unmatched and I thank you all for your continuing efforts to promote a culture of peace. Enjoy the festivities tonight.

Steve Bellone
Suffolk County Executive

Pre-recorded message for Zoom event held on Friday, October 2, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Dear Friends & Well-Wishers of Shanti Fund:

In the current uncertain environment of COVID-19 pandemic we trust you and your loved ones are keeping well and staying in good spirit. Volunteers of Shanti Fund (VOSF) had plans for many activities to cap Gandhi 150 finale, however like most institutions we were affected but able to celebrate couple of events in a pandemically muted manner.

Shanti Fund, a charitable organization based on Long Island New York is in existence since 1995. Volunteers of Shanti Fund have been working to promote ideals & philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi for the last **25** years. At the invitation of the Suffolk County Government, a life size statue of Mahatma Gandhi was commissioned by Shanti Fund & sculpted by an American sculptor, Tobias Mendez. With numerous pictures of his life and peace movement as well as his well-known quotations in the background, the life size bronze statue of Gandhi is currently grace the plaza level of the County Building in Hauppauge, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York.

Last three years were busy celebrating Gandhi 150. With your generous supports many activities took place from MAHATMA book to Gandhi Peace Garden - having 150 trees - at the SUNY Old Westbury Campus.

Ongoing projects/events completed are:

- **Punya TIRK** observance on January 30th with multi-faith prayers fortunately not affected by COVID-19
- **Peace Poster Art** competition for local school students has been held for many years. Till 2017 Award Prize of dollar amount was the years of Gandhi was alive. Since 2017 as in the past twelve winners, one for each grade were selected by a panel of three judges. Art works were published in the 2018 calendar. Award prizes were increased for three-year celebrations of GANDHI-150. \$101 is given for the first grade winner and increasing in \$100 increment in each grade level so 12th grade winner receives \$1201. A dignified ceremony was held at the Stonebridge Country Club in the presence of community leaders, teachers and school administrators on April 25, 2018.
- The process was repeated for 2018 artworks that were included in 2019 calendar and ceremony took place on April 4, 2019.
- Unfortunately COVID-19 precluded planned 2020 celebrations at the Stone Bridge Country Club as in 2018 and 2019. Before year-end we hope to reach out to 12 winners to present Awards in an acceptable manner to school officials and the winners.
- COVID-19 also precluded Peace Poster Competition in 2020 and our inability to have winning entries for 2021 Peace Art Calendar. In this confusing and unpredictable environment, VOSF decided to select 12 posters from the more than 50 posters published in the calendars over the last 14 years.
- Promote Culture of Peace through Schools students' presentations on September 28, Saturday before Gandhi Jayanti had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.

• **Gandhi Birthday** was celebrated in a scaled down version to comply with COVID-19 regulations. Approximately 40 people were present at the Gandhi Peace Garden on October 1 at the outdoor celebration under a spectacular sunny blue sky weather. In an even more scaled down version taken inside ceremony took place at the HLD Building in Hauppauge by the Gandhi statue, where restrictions precluded more than 10 people. Fortunately celebration was streamed in-person by the Consulate and more than 1000 people witnessed it. Shanti Fund had celebrated on Zoom as if it was taking place in-person on October 2 as in the past many years. It was joined by as many people as if it is on site.

Some of the activities undertaken in the past to promote the Gandhian Values are: **Peace Walk, Peace Poster Competition, Chorus of Peace Songs, Peace Skits, Peace Presentations, Peace Movie** like "Force More Powerful" is screened during the weekend for the high school students, teachers & all adults. In a symbolic way each year Volunteers of Shanti Fund have taken it as a principle mission to promote a culture of peace & non-violence among school age students, following the ideals of Gandhi, Father of the largest democracy India.

This 2021 calendar is our attempt to share the enthusiasm displayed by the children for the poster competition. It is the **19th** one in a row to promote peace via student artwork. We invite all peace lovers to join us in this celebration each year. Please join us in making peace resonate all over Long Island.

We take this opportunity to thank many supporters, former & otherwise without whose continuous involvement many activities simply speaking would not take place. We look forward to welcoming new supporters & contributors.

Volunteers of Shanti Fund

THEME FOR GANDHIJI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

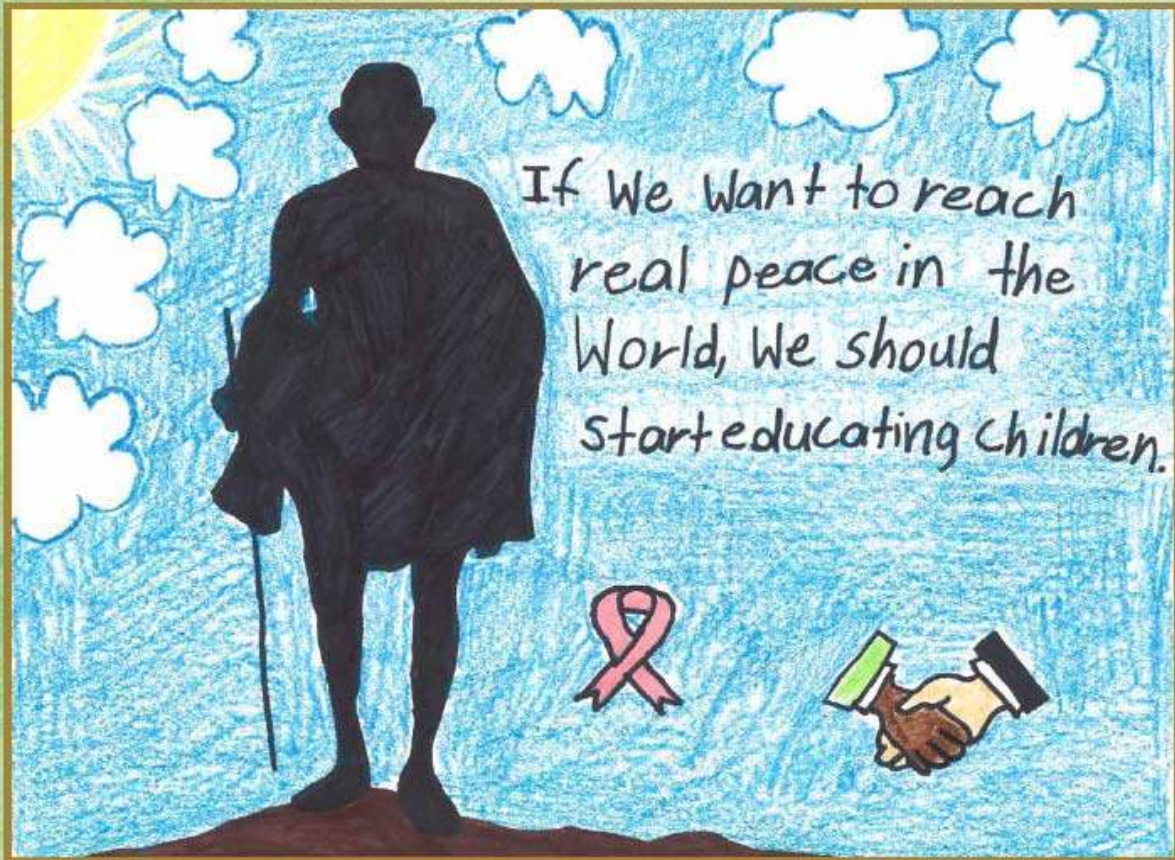
Past Topics:

- 2005 - Peace in our Schools
- 2006 - Peace and Unity
- 2007 - Peace Quest
- 2008 - Peace in our Community
- 2009 - Pathways to Peace
- 2010 - Peace for the Planet
- 2011 - Love and Peace
- 2012 - Peace Possibilities
- 2013 - Peace and Harmony
- 2014 - Youth for Peace
- 2015 - Peace and Security
- 2016 - Peace and Wisdom
- 2017 - Peace and UN SDG17
- 2018 - Peace and Gandhi
- 2019 - Peace and Nonviolence
- 2020 - COVID-19
- 2021 - Peace and Truth/Media

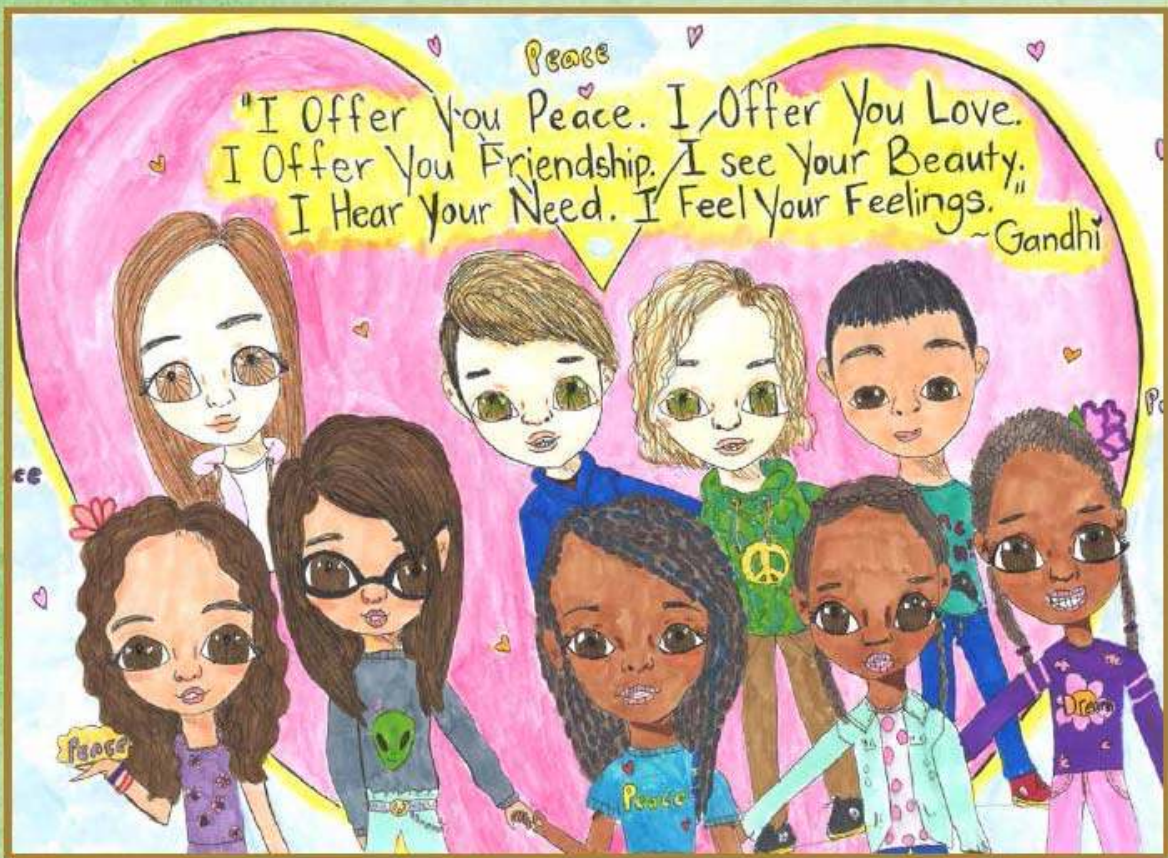
Indian Government offices in USA also usually observe and remain close for Memorial Day, American Independence Day, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day.

We have followed Govt. of India's official website india.gov.in/calendar

Enlightenment & Peace Thru Education



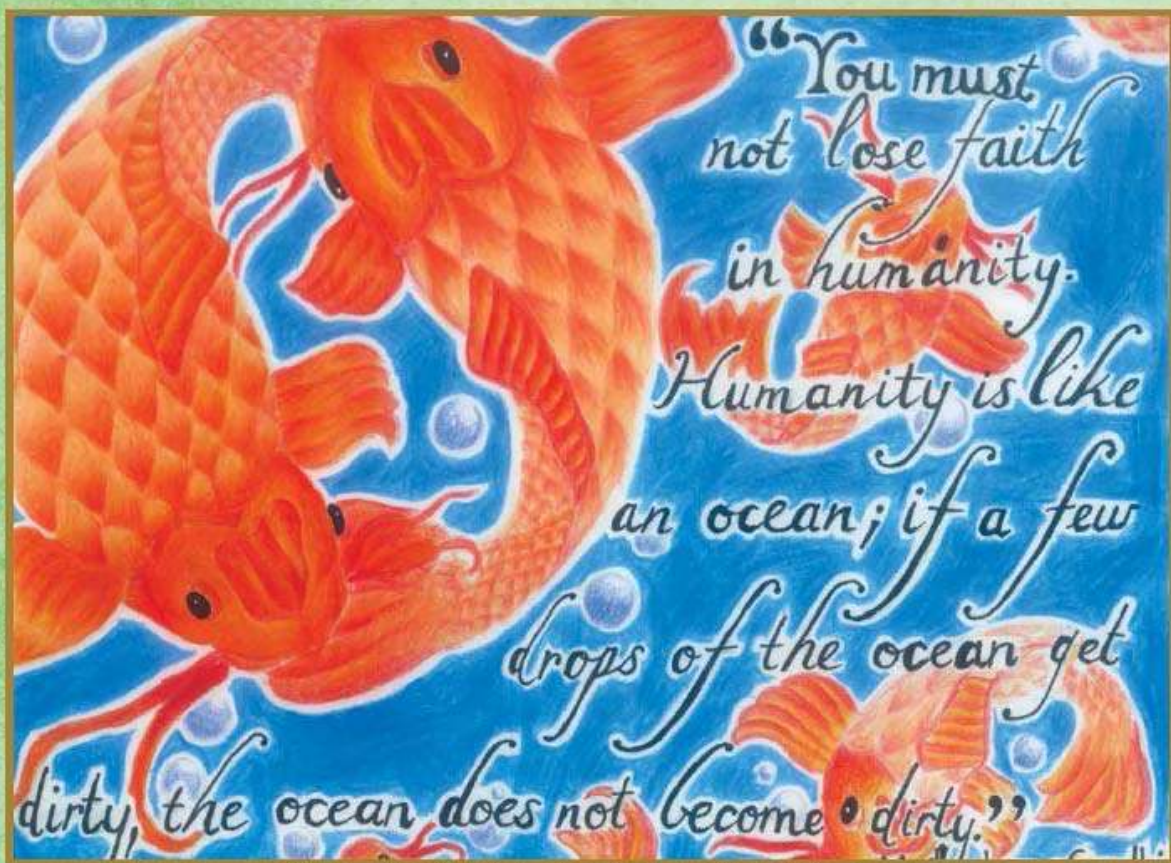
Kraig Benson, Grade: 3, Age: 8 years, William Floyd Elementary School, William Floyd School District, Teacher: Ms. Linda Francis (2019)



Laiyla Salmone-Diaz, Grade: 4, Age: 9 years, New Visions School, Freeport Public Schools, Teacher: Mrs. Nancy Williams (2019)



Anabel Miller, Grade 2, Age: 8 years, Old Mill Road School, North Merrick School District; Teacher: Ms. Jessica Marciana (2020)



Jenna Guevrekian, Grade 8, Age 13 years, William T. Rogers Middle School, Kings Park School District, Teacher: Mrs. Patricia Daly (2017)

Award Winning Artworks & Descriptions



Jillian Zhang, Grade 7, Age 12 years.
Plainview Old Bethpage Middle School

"Peace is its own reward" was a quote stated by Mahatma Gandhi. It is true, as peace is both a reward and a journey in the center of my art piece, there is a peace sign. The white birds symbolize the pursuit of peace. The green plants signify the journey for peace. Surrounding the peace sign, I drew many symbols that represent peace. This includes the apple, hand sign, music, dolphin, dove, and the white/pink poppies. But in a bigger picture, the colors represent peace. Though each color is individual, all of them equally coexist with each other. The pink symbolizes harmony. The blue depicts loyalty. The green signifies growth. Yellow expresses optimism. The purple represents peace. We need harmony, loyalty and growth to attain peace. With peace, satisfaction can be found. I wanted to display the bliss in peace, but also the essence of humankind. In the end, humans have desire and aspirations that can destroy the world. But exceeding the atrocities in the world, there are deeper ideas. Ideas of harmony, integrity, and eventually peace. These ideas of peace were represented by Mahatma Gandhi's quote. To wrap it up, peace represents the wholeness in the world. The ecstasy, and the strife. To the boundaries of human nature, peace is something you need to struggle for. So we should fight for peace, as Mahatma Gandhi had done before."



Matias Archer, Grade 4, Age 9 years.
Stratford Elementary School, Garden City

"Peace leader, Mahatma Gandhi, inspired my artwork. Gandhi was and still is an inspired leader who paved the way to India's independence. Through his values of truth and non-violence he was a symbol of hope and peace not only for India but the whole world. I decided to draw a contour portrait of Gandhi with pencil then sharpen and later paint the background with watercolor paint. While drawing this portrait I explored different lines, shapes and contrast. This portrait represents Gandhi in an abstract way in that you don't see a lot of detail in his face rather just shadows. The colors I chose blend in the background are subtle and subdued in a way to show calmness and serenity. Overall this portrait represents peace leader Gandhi and was inspired by his peaceful teachings."



Emily Alvarenga, Grade 12, Age 17 years.
Freeport High School

"Peace can be displayed in a million different ways, however, my favorite way is showing peace through art. Art to me is the epitome of peace. It brings people together and creates harmony. Throughout the process of designing my art piece, I wanted it to be clear that serenity can be achieved with children. The mandala, symbolizing peace, is a representation of tranquility, the beauty being an image of love. The little girl is holding the mandala as if there is chaos behind her, signifying that peace and love are above all. Although there is a lot of negativity and division in this world, it is never impossible to rise from our differences and unite for the greater good. The message I wanted people to perceive from my art is that anyone can stand for peace, no matter how young someone is. I unequivocally believe that in this world we can encourage the blossoming generation to strive for prosperity and unity within our communities, creating endless possibilities to better our society. I am sincerely honored to be a part of the Shant Fund calendar and I hope that my artwork touches people, motivating them to create art that truly means something to them."



COVID - 19 forced Volunteers of Shant Fund (VOSF) to postpone the April 1, 2020 Award Ceremony at the Stonyridge Country Club in Hempstead. Unfortunately, the cruel grip of COVID - 19 made it impossible to have any dignified event as Gandhi - 150 final. Usually Shant Fund Peace Art Calendar has very lively photos of students, parents, teachers and administration. Also, inspiring speeches by school superintendent, diplomat and elected officials. At the Award Ceremony, a program booklet is distributed in which it has student's winning artwork along with student's photo and meaning of the artwork as students visualize.

On this page VOSF have provided a glimpse of three students' contributions. On the opposite side are some of the photos of students, with teachers, administrators, family members and VOSF. Students were presented with Award Check, photo-op large dummy checks, certificate and calendars. To be safe from COVID - 19, all in a hands-on observed wearing masks.

Award Presentations



Blair Award presentation: From L to R: Mr. Richard Montenegro, Art Director, BlackPoint; Awarded Artist, V&A; and, L to R: Mr. Ted Hendon, Art Teacher, & Dr. Kevin Simons, Principal, Southtown HS East, Southtown SD.



Share Award presented on front left. Back of Medal: Joy with her
Dad, Jordan Arab Piller, Piller's Dad Force her mother:
Mrs. Laura DeLara, Principal, & Mrs. Jessica Piller
Art Teacher, Clifton Road School, North Merrick SD



Editorial class of Davis Lingo joined for Award Ceremony. Top Row: L. to R Mrs. Kerry Anne Chance, Principal, American Davis Lingo (holding awards, in a black mark) R Mrs. Cheryl Silver, Art Teacher, George McWay ES, East Meadow SD



David Lugo of Georgia's McGraw-Hill Education receiving Award from Georgia State.



All an Award presented in front of Mr. E. A. Young, School Vice, Assistant City Mayor, P. V. J. Hernandez, Art Teacher, Bakul Prashad, Co. Bakul, C. Williams, Jodi, Sept. 8 Mrs. Lauren Moreno, Principal W.H. Middle School, Kings Park CD.



* In award presentation from L. R. Jayarambalal Shri, Raju of Madala, Dr. K. Suresh Babu, Super. of Gender City SD Hecle
Lajjala, Mr. Tejasa Gargi Shree Valandare Carr, Award Recipient, Dr. Nara Prasad, District Coordinator for Health & Family
Welfare, & Paul Gary Fether of Nidaland Carr



*Angela Chai Shih presenting Award to Valentina Carr of
Local Primary School, Garden City*



Mr. David presented on front. To R. Mr. Joseph Miller, MS Principal Mr. Ruth Broadbush, Director of Arts, Mr. Sakal Mahala, Emily Shvarga, Award Recipient, Ms. Lauren Larkin, Art Teacher, & Dr. Kishore Kishore Supri. CVF Prospect School



*Bakidfeld is promoting award to Early Achievers of
Frederick H. S.*



The McGowen of WTR Middle School, Kings Park, receiving award from I.L.A. Vice



Karen Dial, Grade: 7, Age: 13 years, Valley Stream South Jr.-Sr. High School, Valley Stream CHS District, Teacher: Ms. Roseann Vallotti (2018)

GANDHI 150 AT SUNY - OLD WESTBURY

Prominent Speakers



Hon. Consul General Shri Randhir Jaiswal



Dr. Bhupendra Patel, Community leader and Trustee of SUNY-OW



Hon. Andrew Raia supporter of Shanti Fund for decades



Carolyn Bennett of SUNY - OW welcomed all



Hon. Chad Lupinacci, Huntington Town Supervisor



Shanti Fund Honoree Jayantibhai Shah



Arvind Vora conducted the event introduces Consul General



Bakul Matalia presented activities report of Shanti Fund

Consul General is honored by Shanti Fund with a plaque and MAHATMA Book
 Consul General honors prominent community members with a gift of The Story of MY EXPERIMENT WITH TRUTH: An Autobiography



Raj Vora presenting plaque to Consul General



Rajesh Thakkar, President of IAS



Nisha Mehta, President of De La Salle South Indian Club



Ramesh Mehta, Publisher of South Asian Times



Bala Prasad presenting MAHATMA Book to Consul General



Joshi Anant, President Indian American Forum



Ajay Jay Singh, Publisher of New Hindustan



Bala Subasingh, PDI



Anil Saxi, Webmaster



Arvind Saxi, Marketing Team Clerk



Carolyn Bennett, Director of Consular Affairs, SUNY-CW



Parash Ram, Subgroup



Chandresh Panchan, who sang Vaisnav Jan



Dr. Bhupendra Patel, Teacher at SUNY-CW



Chad Lupinski, Huntington Town Supervisor



Ashok Vora, Ambassador of ITV



Aravind G. Sethi, Immigration Attorney



Ajay Bhatia, Treasurer of De La Salle South Indian Club

Good morning, everybody. Thank you very much for this very cordial invitation. I'm delighted that we are brought together here in Long Island to celebrate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. I would like to specifically recognize the people who brought us together: Mr. Arvind Vora, The Shanti Fund, the lead force behind Gandhi Peace Garden and Gandhi represents here; Madam representative Mrs. Carolyn Bennett from the State University of New York, thank you very much for your presence and all your support. Honorable Mr. Chad Lupinski, Huntington Town Supervisor who spoke a while ago, for his support. Honorable Andy Saxi who left a while ago because as a Town Clerk he needed to officiate a wedding. I thank him also for his support. Jayantibhai Shah congratulations. You have done very well, and we seek guidance from you and all your achievement. Bala Bhai and other distinguished members of the community here in Long Island.

You know, I feel a different sense celebrating the life of Mahatma Gandhi in these surroundings. He was a man who talked about how close we were to the nature long before the world became so alive and wanted environmental protection to care for nature. So in that respect, he was ahead of his times. He connected with nature very deeply and I really appreciate the efforts gone into bringing the value of Mahatma in this university. This beautiful project where you have trees from every part of America, every state of America in this particular garden. The 50 trees that we have from the 50 different states of America symbolize unity, unity of purpose and togetherness, and that is what Gandhi stood for, unity of humankind, and togetherness of humankind. So no better way to celebrate Gandhi than this beautiful garden, many, many congratulations.

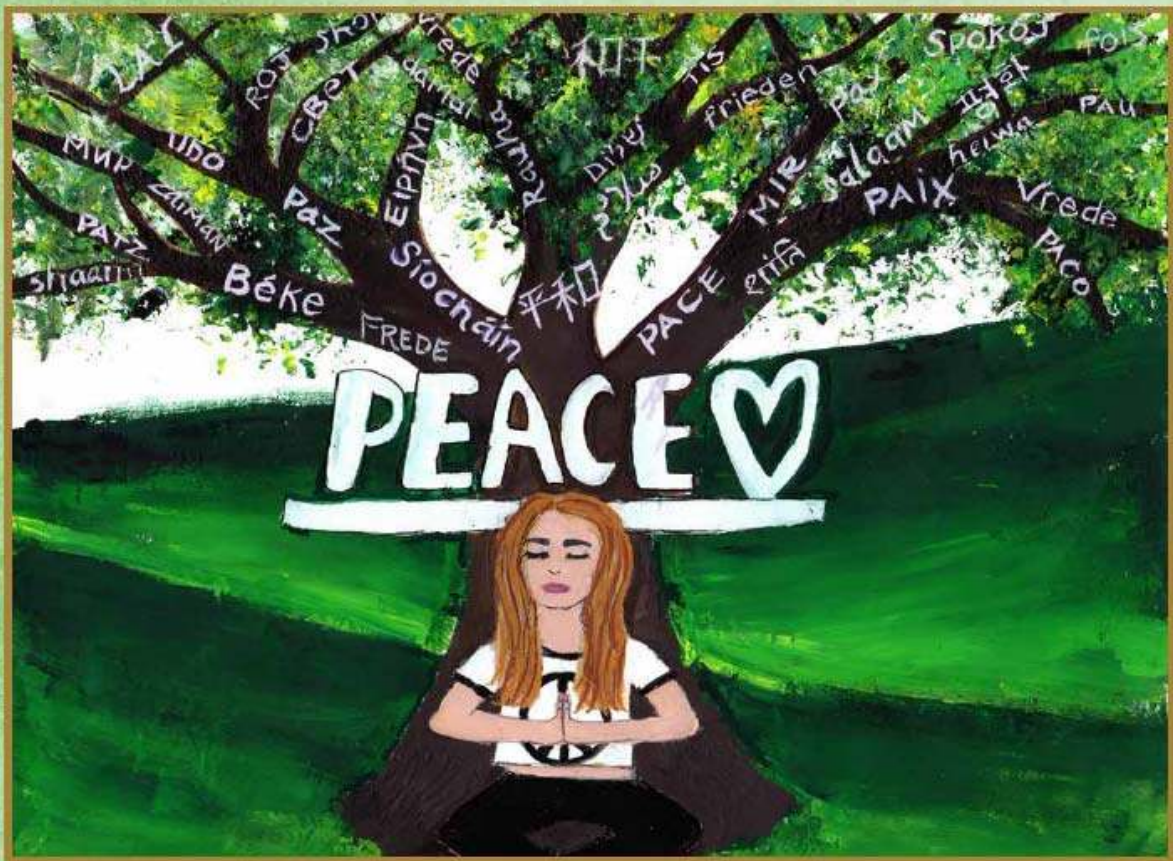
The second thing that I would like to say is that the Mahatma is availed the world, in Africa, Europe. He did not come to America. But America has taught him philosophy, his developments include one key man that he always admired and from whom he borrowed such ideas or was encouraged by his ideas of civil disobedience, peaceful protest, fight for justice is Henry David Thoreau. That was the influence of this land of United States of America on Mahatma and through Mahatma who influenced India in our freedom struggle, but that is only one part of the story.

He, in turn, also influenced life and development and history and the trajectory of the United States in the life and the legacy of Rosa Parks, life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. So, in a way, it's a complete bond. Even though physically he's not here, but his soul is here, and his soul has contributed in connecting one another.

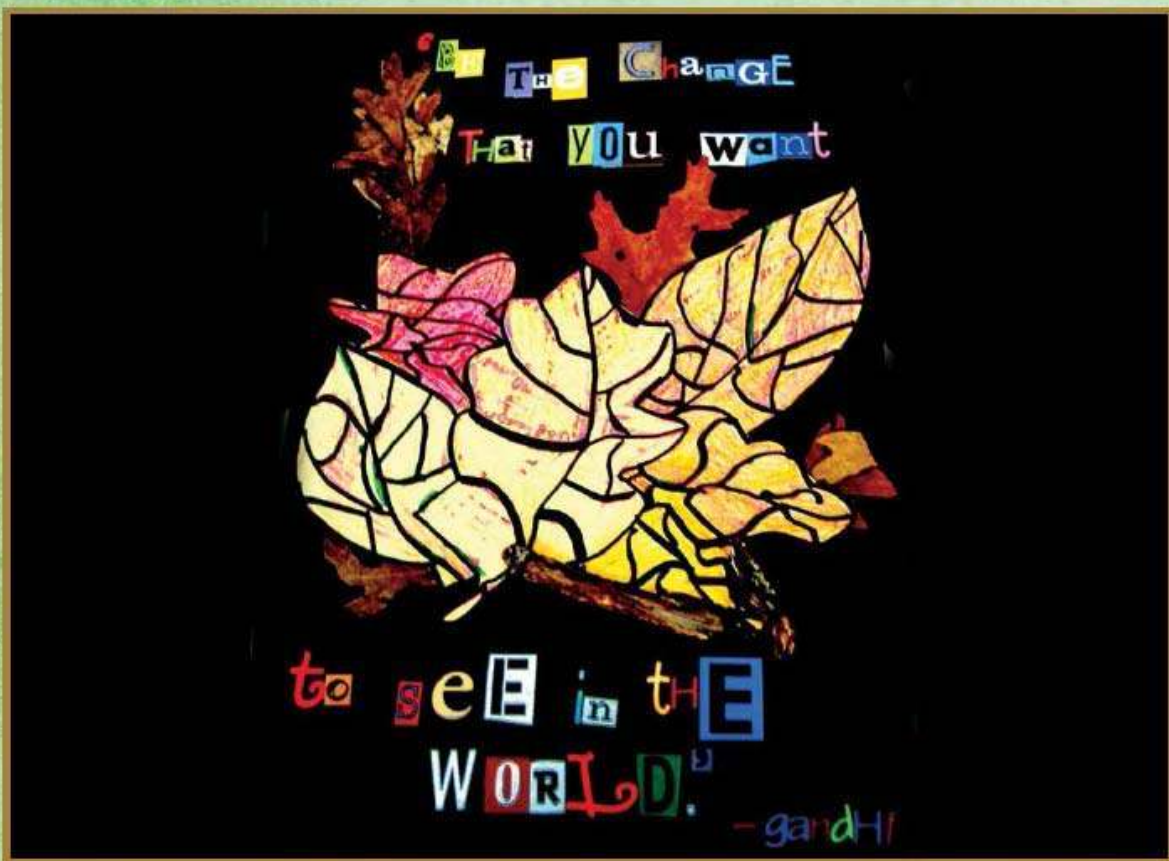
A while ago we had two beautiful singings of his favorite Bhajans, Vaisnav Jan Toh ... It is good that we sang, and we had a very beautiful rendition of it. Thank you so very much and Raghu Padi Raja Ram as well. It is important that we sing, but it is more important that we understand the deeper meaning of Vaisnav Jan Toh. It means to understand pain and sufferings of others and try to do whatever you can to eliminate these things. So that is the message of Mahatma and we must seek his blessings of his legacy and take it forward.

I thank all of you for your presence here and look forward to your continued support as we try to nourish and nurture the legacy in the United States of America. Long live India-US friendship and long live the contributions and the success of the community. It truly represents the best of the East - the best of India and the best of America. The best of the East and the best of the West, which was what Mahatma was.

Speech by Shri Randhir Joshiwal, Consul General of India, New York at Gandhi Peace Garden on October 1, 2020



Ella McGowan, Grade: 5, Age: 10 years, RJO Intermediate School, Kings Park School District; Teacher: Mr. VJ Hannemann (2020)



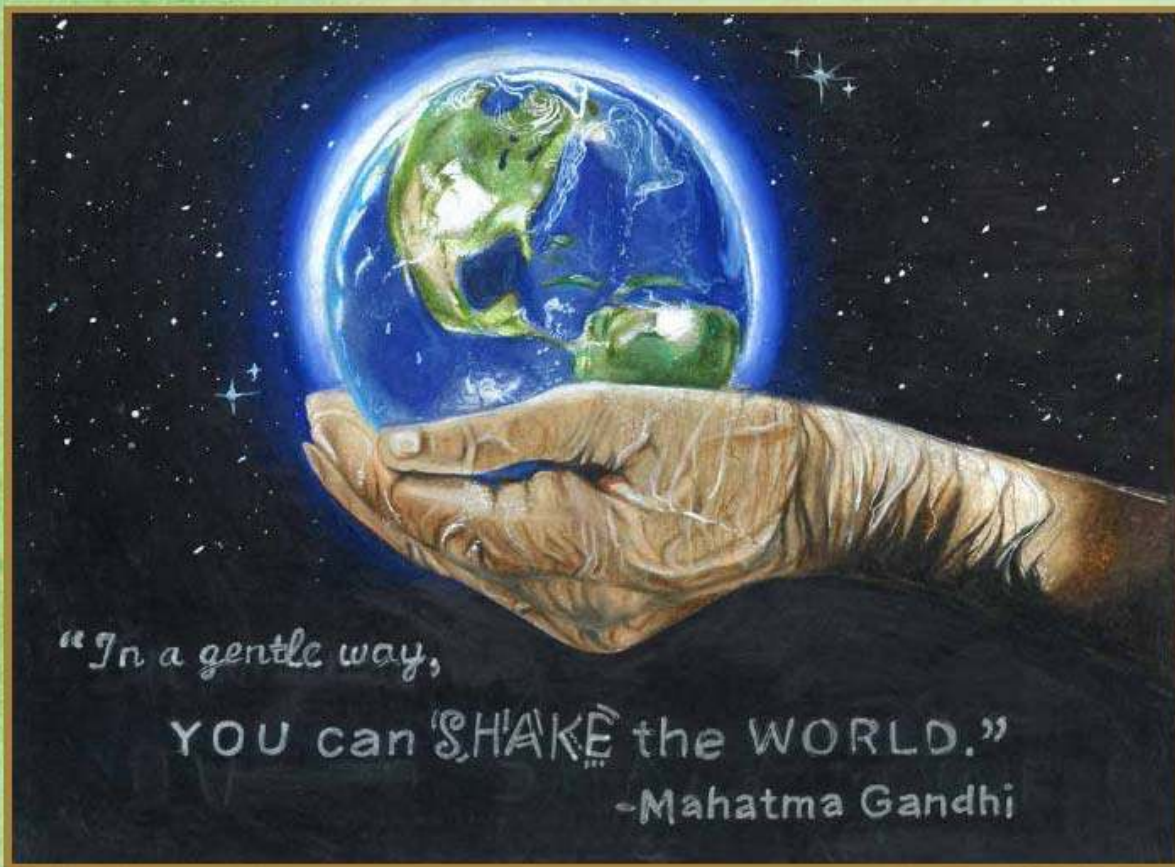
James Hachadoorian, Grade: 1, Age: 6, Forest Brook Elementary School, Hauppauge School District, Teacher: Mrs. Beth LaVelle (2010)



Ilysa Sinota, Grade: 12, Age: 16, Smithtown High School East, Smithtown Central School District, Teacher: Mr. Tim Needles (2018)



Nina Stola, Grade: 6, Age: 12 years, William Paca Middle School, William Floyd School District, Teacher: Ms. Elizabeth Samperi (2007)



"In a gentle way,

YOU can 'SHAKE the WORLD."

-Mahatma Gandhi

Karen Dial, Grade: 9, Age: 14 years, Valley Stream South High School, Valley Stream Central HS District, Teacher: Ms. Roseann Valletti (2019)

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Rohit & Kashmira Vyas
Maria Williams
Yousang & Youyoung

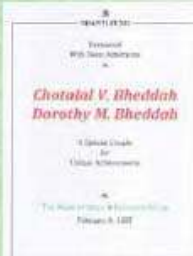
Accountants World
Attri Enterprises
Avatar Charitable Foundation
Bright Funds
Capital One Bank
Center for Asthma & Allergy
Consulate General of India
East End Mental Health
Empire National Bank
Fidelity Charitable
Happy Montessori School
International Buddhist Progress Society
Maloney's Lake Funeral Home
Oakdale Florist
Planet Travels & Tours
Stanley, Marion, Paul & Edwards
Bergman Family Foundation
State Farm Insurance
Suffolk Dental Smiles
SUNY-Old Westbury (American Studies)
Swasti Foundation
The South Asian Times
Vanguard Funds
Vascular Diagnostics

2020 SHANTI FUND DONORS (Cash, Check, In Kind)

Donations as of December 4, 2020. Additions/corrections in next publication.

We will acknowledge all donations from now on in our January 2021 Newsletter. Please note that we will not be able to acknowledge donations from the second quarter due to our 6-month delay in publishing the newsletter.

A pillar of the Indian Community and Honoree of Shanti Fund, Shri Datta Bhaddah (November 24, 1954 - July 22, 2020) passed away peacefully leaving behind his wife, two daughters and four grandchildren. He was a successful entrepreneur and a generous donor to too many organizations. May his soul rest in perpetual peace.



Dr. Sanjaykumar Singh passed away due to COVID-19 on April 14, 2020 at the Shanti Brook University Hospital. He was a prominent dental research expert credited with the development of two drugs, Resolvent and Chocor. He had more than two dozen patents and numerous research papers to his credit. He was married to his wife Shri Devi Murthy, also a Shanti Fund Volunteer, two daughters and five grandchildren. A longtime supporter of Shanti Fund, updating Facebook page of Shanti Fund, invariably sending articles on Gandhi published in the leading Indian newspaper, particularly during Gandhi's birth and death anniversaries, will always be willing to do work for Shanti Fund. Volunteers of Shanti Fund will be honored by his presence and sharing of his knowledge and wisdom. May his soul rest in perpetual peace.



Top Left: A Gift from Volunteers of Shanti Fund giving the reception area of Consulate General of India Grant, Illinois. Top Right: Two Stamps of different denominations issued by the United States of America. In honor of Chotatal V. Bhaddah with inscription of "Symbol of Resilience & A Champion of Liberty".

Multi Faith Prayers Services on Gandhi Punya Tithi (Death Anniversary)
Bahai, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Sikh, Unitarian Universalists, Yoga Spirituality, Zoroastrian and GOL
 (H. Lee Dennison Building, Hauppauge, NY Thursday, January 30, 2020)



HINDU
 Students of Gayatri Gyan Kendra of Long Island



ZOROASTRIAN



BAHAI



CHRISTIAN
 Students of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church



SIKH (above)



BUDDHIST (above)



Deputy Consul General Shatrughan Sinha
 in Red Tie



Enjoying after event dinner
 (Curry Club & Bagel Chai)



BRAHMAKUMARIS - Erik Larson also MC



Pareek & Tajal Ravai



Dr. Jay Serhan, one of the sponsors



Joyce & Rev. Jack King



Suresh Udeshi, photographer