



2022

16th 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



Gandhiji's Birthday Celebrations

Saturday, October 2, 2021



Keith Brown, NYS Assemblyman paid floral tribute to the Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the Suffolk County Executive Office, Hauppauge, New York



Harish Thakkar, President of AIA (Association of Indians in America of Diwali fame at the South Seaport in NYC) paid floral tribute to the Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the Suffolk County Executive Office, Hauppauge, New York



L. to R. **Dr. Mary O'Meara**, Supt. Plainview Old Bethpage Schools; **Shri Randhir Jaiswal**, Consul General of India at NY; **Hon. Andrew Garbarino**, Congressman; **Mr. Raj Parekh**, Acting U.S. Attorney, and **Usama Shaikh** of SUNY-OW



Olga El Sehamy paid floral tribute to the Mahatma Gandhi's Statue on behalf of the Suffolk County Executive **Steve Bellone**



Bakul Matalia and Congressman **Andrew Garbarino** at the Gandhi Peace Garden with improvised Happy Birthday Gandhi Ji sign with two roses



The first event to celebrate Gandhi Ji's birthday was a two and half hours Webinar hosted on 9-30-21 where participants from Canada, Costa Rica, India, Turkey and USA made presentation on Gandhi & Environment. The event was kicked off with a five minutes video of Gandhi Peace Garden



SHANTI FUND

December 4, 2021



MESSAGE

I convey my greetings to one and all.

May the New Year bring happiness, peace and joy in your lives. And may we resolve to stand up together as one humanity to take on the challenges facing us. With our collective will and action, we can, and we shall, push the pandemic away.

We are living in an age where we are deeply inter-dependent and inter-connected as human beings. And equally so, with the environment and nature around us. Let us begin the New Year with positivity and enthusiasm.

And in this endeavor we will continue to seek inspiration from **Shanti Fund** as they celebrate the life and legacy of **Mahatma Gandhi**, and other great women and men of the world.

India is celebrating 75 years of its Independence. It is time for us to rejoice in our freedom and in our democracy. I invite all our friends and partners in the United States to join us in our celebrations.

Jai Hind and God bless America!
Consul General Randhir Jaiswal



Dear Friends & Well Wishers of Shanti Fund:

In the current uncertain environment of Omicron and 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 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 1993. Volunteers of Shanti Fund have been working to promote ideals & philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi for the last 24 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 gracing the plaza level of the County Building in Hauppauge, Suffolk County, Long Island, New York.

For three years (2018,2019, & 2020), with your generous supports many activities took place from MAHATMA book to Gandhi Peace Garden - having 150 trees - at the SUNY Old Westbury Campus to celebrate Gandhi 150.

Ongoing projects/events completed are:

- **Gandhi Lecture Series** agreement was signed to enhance existing Gandhi Peace Garden at SUNY-OW.
- **Punya Tithi** observance on January 30th with multifaith prayers was held at the Indian Consulate observing COVID protocols.
- **Peace Poster Art** competition for local school students has been held for many years. This calendar has artworks of winners from the first grade to twelfth. We hope to resume the dignified Award Ceremony, after a two year break, either at the County Executive Building or Stone Bridge Country Club where previous ceremonies were held. Let us know if you like to attend.
- **Gandhi Birthday** was celebrated in multiple ways like Gandhi 150. First was a webinar on September 30 having participants from Canada, Costa Rica, India, Turkey, and USA. On October 1, community leaders paid floral tribute at Hauppauge. On October 2, celebrations took place at the Gandhi Peace Garden and SUNY-OW where wide spectrum of honorees and attendees were present.

Some of the activities undertaken in the past to promote the Gandhian Values are: **Peace Walk, Peace, Chorus of Peace Songs, Peace Skits, Peace Presentations** by students. 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 principal mission to promote a culture of peace & non-violence among school age students, following the ideals of Gandhiji, Father of the largest democracy, India.

This 2022 calendar is our attempt to share the enthusiasm displayed by the children for the poster competition. It is the 16th one in a row to promote peace via students' artwork. 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:

- 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
- 2022 - Peace and Environment**

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









As Gandhi
once said...



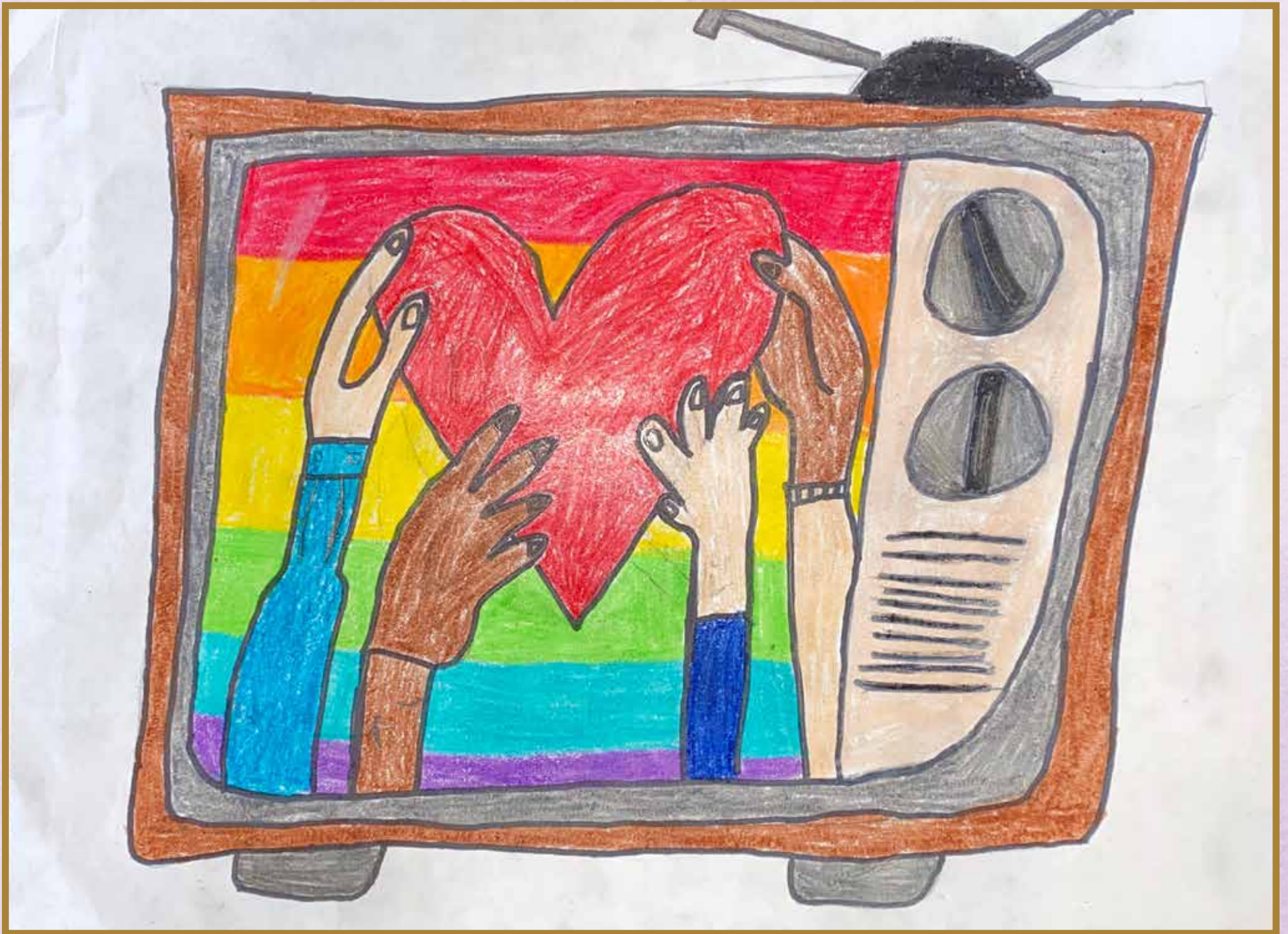
Sudan Belnavis, Grade: 7, Age: 12 years, Valley Stream South High School, Valley Stream Central HS District; Teacher: Roseann Valletti (2021)

JANUARY 2022

"If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable... .. we may ignore him at our own risk"
 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Civil Rights leader, USA and recipient of Nobel Peace Prize in 1964

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"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" - Gandhi



Stellagrace Rathgaber, Grade: 4, Age: 9 years, East Broadway Elementary School, Levittown Schools District; Teacher: Ms. Kaitlyn Judge (2021)

FEBRUARY 2022

*"He completely eschewed hatred"
His Holiness Sri Sankaracharya of Sri Kamakoti Peetham*

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"A nation's culture resides in the heart and soul of its people" - Gandhi



Keren Dial, Grade: 12, Age: 17 years, Valley Stream South High School, Valley Stream Central HS District; Teachers: Roseann Valletti and Edward Lee (2021)

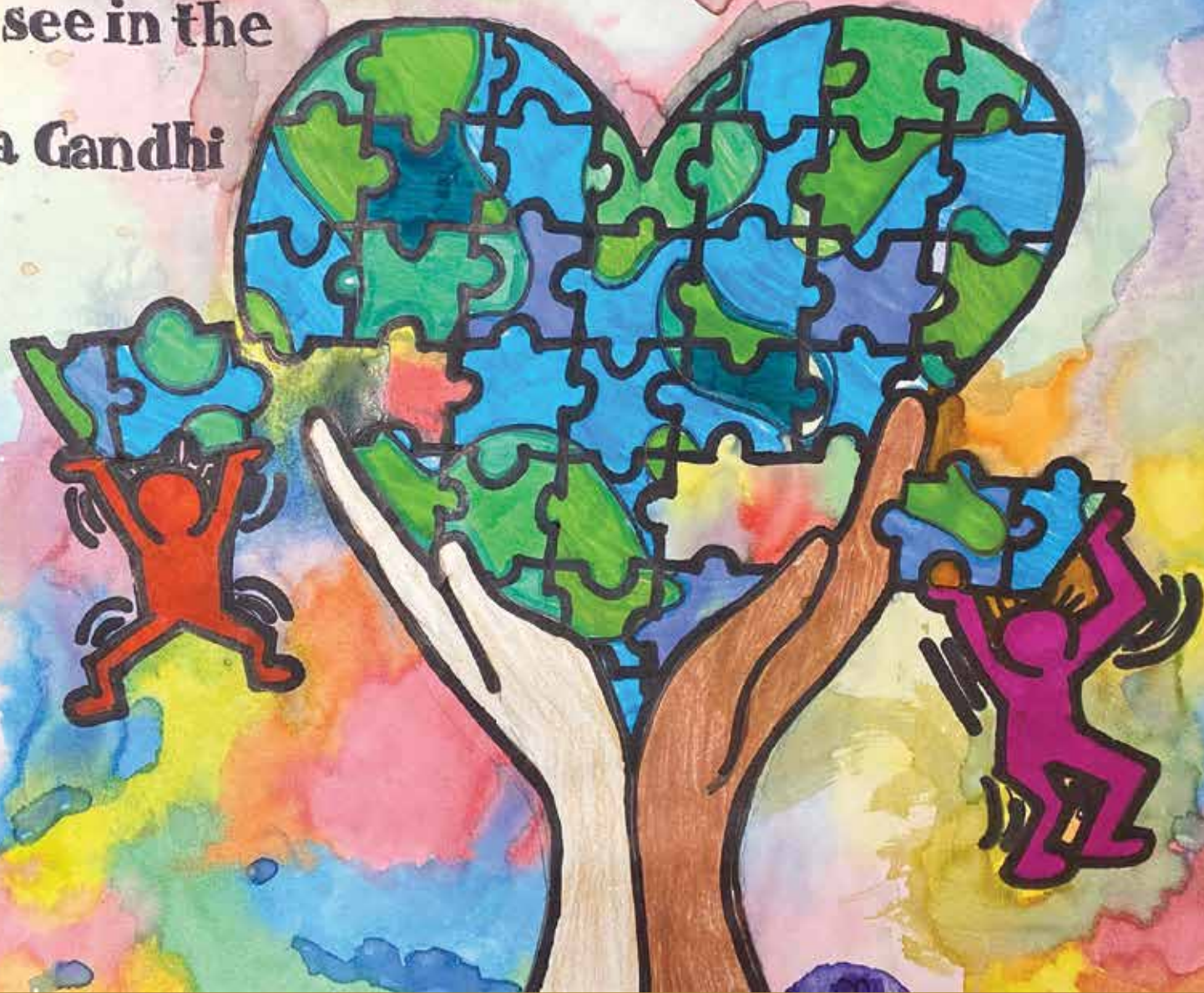
MARCH 2022

"It is alarming and nauseating to see Mr. Gandhi to parley on equal terms with the representative of the King-Emperor"
 Winston Churchill, famous British leader February 23, 1931

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"I believe in the fundamental truth of all great religions of the world" - Gandhi

**“Be the change YOU
want to see in the
world.”
-Mahatma Gandhi**



APRIL 2022

"In Punjab we have 55,000 soldiers and large-scale rioting on our hands. In Bengal our forces consist of one man (Gandhi) and there is no rioting"
Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India August 26, 1947

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<p>10 100/265</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>11 101/264</p>	<p>12 102/263</p>	<p>13 103/262</p>	<p>14 104/261</p> <p> Mahavir Jayanti (Birthday)</p>	<p>15 105/260</p> <p>Passover Begins at Sunset</p> <p> Good Friday</p>	<p>16  106/259</p>																																																																																					
<p>17 107/258</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p>	<p>18 108/257</p>	<p>19 109/256</p>	<p>20 110/255</p>	<p>21 111/254</p> <p>Ram Navami</p>	<p>22 112/253</p> <p>Eighth (Last) Day of Passover</p> <p>Earth Day</p>	<p>23  113/252</p>																																																																																					
<p>24 114/251</p> <p>Orthodox Easter</p>	<p>25 115/250</p>	<p>26 116/249</p>	<p>27 117/248</p>	<p>28 118/247</p>	<p>29 119/246</p>	<p>30  120/245</p>																																																																																					

"I own no property and yet I feel that I am perhaps the richest man in the world" - Gandhi

GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS: Hauppauge, New York

Gandhi Ji's birthday celebrations were kicked off by dignitaries and community leaders with a floral tribute paid at the Gandhi Statue in Hauppauge on Friday, October 1, 2021. On actual birthday October 2, celebrations continued at the Gandhi Peace Garden and at SUNY-Old Westbury- photos in the centerfold.



Harish & Anita Thakkar



Nimmi & Kamlesh Mehta



Nilima Madan



Vyas Dev* and Sudha Sharma *A gregarious and impeccable gentleman Vyas Dev Sharma passed away at the age of 86 on November 9, 2021 (one of his last photographs)



L. to R.: Bakul Matalia, Nimmi Mehta, Olga El Sehamy, Anita Thakkar, Hon. Keith Brown, ILA Vora, Kamlesh Mehta, Harish Thakkar, Suda Sharma, Ved Vyas Sharma, Nilima Madan, and Arvind Vora

GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS: Gandhi Peace Garden



L. to R.: Bela Shah, Raniya Shah, Mina Jadeja, Nutan Matalia (partly hidden), Resha Kachhy, Gopi Udeshi, Tejal Raval, Mona Patel, Mukul Kinariwalla, Yusuf Syed, Amrish Kachhy, Rajan Patel, Bakul Matalia, Akbar Fishman, Andrew Garbarino, Harriet Fishman (behind Andrew), John Di Leonardo, Usama Shaikh, and Gunjan Matalia



L. to R.: Nilima Madan, Jayantibhai Shah, Bakul Matalia, Yusuf Syted, Ahmed Shakir, Kamlesh Mehta, Anthony Santino, Arvind Vora, Brian Song, Mrs. Ahmed, Soh Young Lee, and Hon. Keith Brown



ILA Vora & Keith Brown



Arvind Vora & Keith Brown



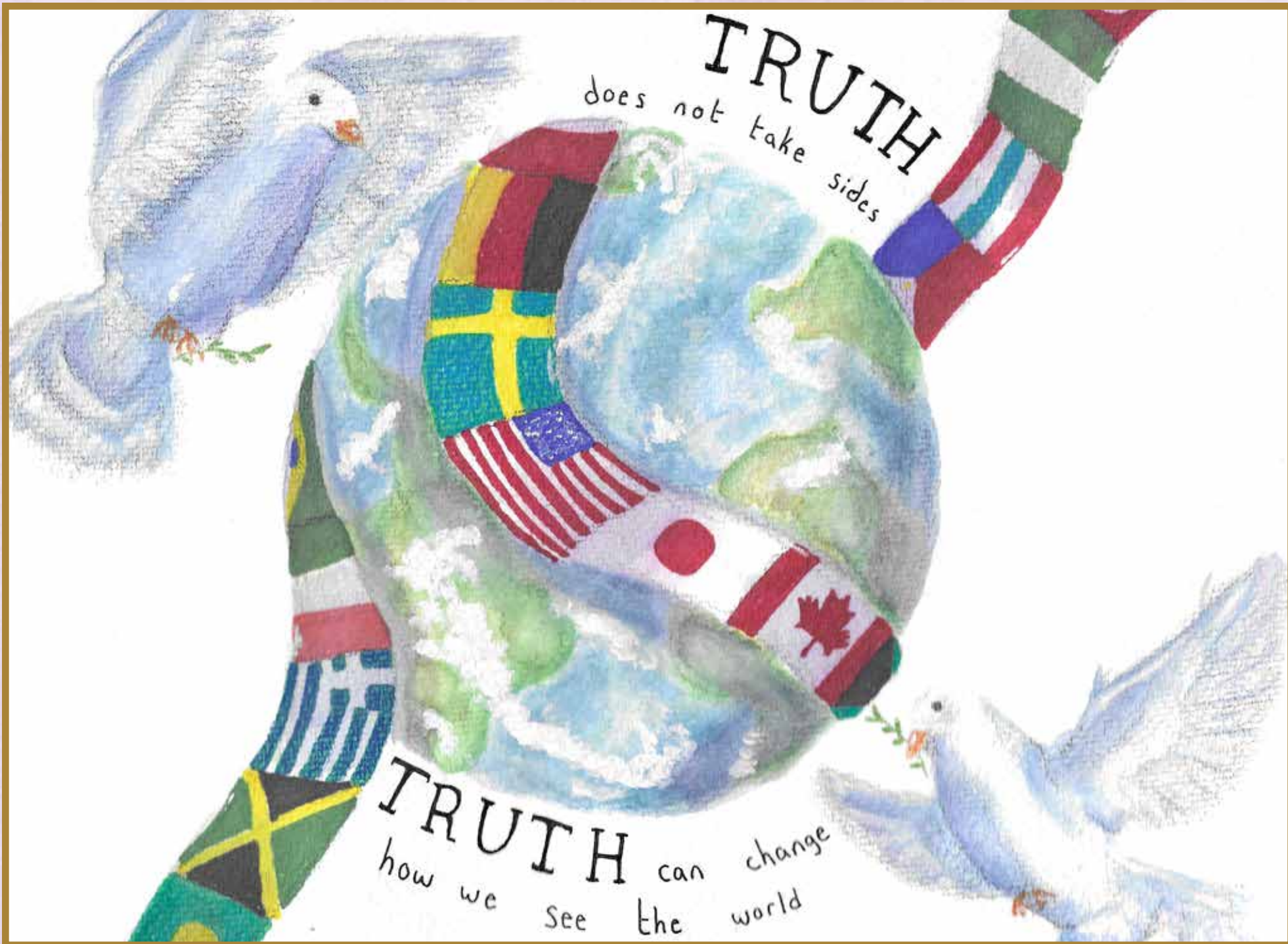
Kamlesh Mehta & Keith Brown



Chandras & Kalpana Gandhi










Stephanie Finney VP of PTO at Jackson Main ES Hempstead places roses with Soh Young Lee



Sydney Flores, Grade: 10, Age: 15 years, Eastport South Manor Jr.- Sr. High School, Eastport South Manor School District; Teacher: Mrs. Michele Morstadt (2021)

MAY 2022

“When Socrates died for his views and Christ for his faith, they believed that they would not get another example like that”
C. Rajagopalachari, First Governor General of India 1948

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“Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind” - Gandhi

"You can chain me, you can torture me,
you can destroy this body..."








...but you will never
imprison my mind."
-GANDHI-

JUNE 2022

"He laid down his life for Hindu-Muslim unity"
THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD, head of the largest princely state and in 1948, the richest man in India

"He died in the discharge of his duty"
Quaid -i-Azam M.A. Jinnah, Founder of Pakistan

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"You must be the change you wish to see in the world" - Gandhi

GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS: Excerpt of Speeches



Andrew R. Garbarino is a Congressman, 2nd District

"It's wonderful to be here to celebrate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, a man whose impact on the world has been profound and lasting. I am honored that The Shanti Fund asked me to speak today, and I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible work that they do in this community. It's easy to watch the news, see what is going on in this country and around the world, and feel that we have fallen far from the ideals of peace and unity that Mahatma Gandhi embodied. But by coming together and engaging with those around us, it becomes clear that there is more that unites us than divides us. The Shanti Fund has done an incredible job of bringing this community together to instill a message of peace and nonviolence in the next generation, through roundtable discussions, community meetings, educational programming, yearly Multifaith Prayers on Gandhi's death anniversary and the annual unique Peace Theme Student events that include "Peace Walk" commemorating Gandhi's Salt March. The Shanti Fund is making sure that Gandhi's philosophy lives on. Gandhi put it best when he said, "the greatness of humanity is not in being human, but in being humane." People who are different from us, people who we disagree with - they don't need to be an enemy. That is the lesson we can take from Gandhi. That is why the work of The Shanti Fund is so important. By keeping Gandhi's message alive and teaching our children the value of peace and nonviolence, they are helping build a better future for our community. India shines as the largest democracy and more importantly celebrating 75 years of a diverse and dynamic democracy. I hope to be with you for the centenary celebrations of India's Independence." - **Andrew R. Garbarino**



Raj Parekh is the acting US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia

"Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and volunteers. I serve within the United States Department of Justice as the Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. I am deeply humbled to be celebrating Gandhi Jayanti—the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi—with you all, which is recognized by the United Nations as the International Day of Non-Violence. In my reflections on Gandhiji's life and tremendous legacy, the path—the theme of the journey—has surfaced many times. Indeed, many biographers of Gandhiji agree that at the start of his journey, he could not be readily characterized as a prodigy. A mediocre student, slight of stature and shy in nature, he did not yet cut the figure of an internationally renowned leader. It was the devotion of his mother, the careful career-steering of his father, and immersing himself in the law even while he was facing discrimination based on his skin color and heritage as he was studying overseas, that informed his reaction to many hardships and set him on the path of advocacy. My parents helped shape my journey, despite financial and physical difficulties but one of us can claim to know the same degree of hardship that Gandhi endured during his arduous journey in seeking change. At the Department of Justice, it is part of our mission to bring peace and justice to the communities we serve, but as Gandhiji's legacy has taught us, we know that we cannot walk that path alone. We have called on our partners—federal, local, and state authorities, non-profits, churches, temples, mosques, community organizations—to work with us to address violence, inequality, discrimination, and the host of other issues we all seek to alleviate. Just as in Gandhiji's journey, there have been and will continue to be stumbles along the way, and those who oppose. But we are committed to walking this path undeterred, one that we hope will generate lasting and positive change for our generation and future generations, and bring us all to a place of peace, together." - **Raj Parekh**



Usama Shaikh welcomed on behalf of SUNY OW President Dr. Timothy E. Sams

"Thank you to the Shanti Fund for their ongoing partnership in peace. Also, thank you for your generous gift to SUNY Old Westbury. Through your donation and partnership, we are able to introduce diverse and critical perspectives on peace through our President's Lecture series and other efforts for all within our campus community and beyond. As we assemble here at SUNY Old Westbury and celebrate the lasting impact of Mahatma Gandhi on his birthday, I cannot help but reflect upon how peace is the core principle that ties all of us, Gandhi, Shanti Fund, and SUNY Old Westbury, together. If these past months and years have taught us anything, it is how much peace is needed more than ever in our world, and it starts with partnerships like ours. As Gandhi said, "The future depends on what we do in the present." My greatest hope is that our partnership will continue and play an even more prominent part in shaping our future leaders that goes beyond the financial but strives to shape the minds and intellect of our students for years to come." - **Usama Shaikh**



Mary O'Meara, Ed. D., Superintendent of Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

"Thank you for including me in this special day; it is a privilege and a responsibility to be speaking at an event honoring one of the most influential leaders and speakers in history, Mahatma Gandhi. His goal to wipe every tear from every eye has been realized in many areas; however, there is much work to do to realize his vision of a better world. The education system has been tasked with bringing more teaching and learning to students about diversity, equity, and inclusivity. We leaders know that the teaching of inclusivity and equity is an imperative. Shanti Fund's mission to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence among children is aligned to NYS education's initiative. But, as The Mahatma has modeled for us all, teaching and learning is just the beginning. Without action, there will be no change. One needs not look beyond the borders of Long Island to know that change is needed, for without inclusivity and equity, we cannot enjoy peace. Our children need to live within a culture of peace and nonviolence to execute the lessons on peace and nonviolence learned in the classroom. To be included in today's celebration is an action. I am included in a holiday (Diwali) that is not celebrated by my own family. The influence of your leaders, Mr. Vora and Matalia, on the POB School community and I are great. Their actions and commitment to Gandhi's calling for peace and inclusivity resulted in hundreds of people gathering at our school for a Pathways to Peace celebration where religious leaders from Plainview joined our students, staff, and families to learn more about The Mahatma, enjoy cultural foods & Diwali sweets." - **Mary O'Meara**



Brian Song is a student at Roslyn HS in 11th Grade

"Gandhi's Bravery - Freedom, bravery, and the achievement of a world-changing purpose. That is what people associate with Gandhi. It seems like someone like him must have been born for that role. However, if we look into his early life, he was actually very shy, even sleeping with the lights on. He was also very rebellious, stealing change, smoking, and eating meat. When he became older, he decided to become a lawyer. His shyness continued. In his very first courtroom case, he fled out after being too nervous. He departed to South Africa to continue practicing law after having trouble finding a job in India. In this new country, he faced a life changing event. As it is famously told, in 1893, he was on a train in the first class coach when he was told to leave because a white man did not want him there. Even though he had a ticket! He was forcibly removed, but that day, he vowed that he would not stand still. He formed the Natal Indian Congress, an organization that sought to protect the rights of Indians in South Africa. It seems a little strange that Gandhi would take the initiative to form this civil rights movement if we study how he was previous to that point. How can it be that the shyest can be the bravest? There are many ways to determine if someone is brave. Perhaps someone raises their hand in a large class. Maybe they watch a scary movie. These are all signs that someone may be brave. The key word is "may." If I can watch a scary movie without flinching, am I the bravest person in the audience? What if I'm desensitized to these types of movies after watching hundreds? If I raise my hand, am I the bravest person in the room? What if that is part of my personality, and it's natural to me? In these two examples, there was nothing to fear in the first place. True bravery requires two things. The first is being fearful and reluctant to take some sort of action. The second is doing it anyway. Every person that is shy or scared to speak up may actually be the ones to first take the initiative, despite their fears.

I was very shy, angry, and depressed after there were some bullies in my school. However, I learned to speak out and stand up for myself. Which led to me standing up here right now. I see Gandhi as my role model to persevere. To me, he is someone who constitutes true bravery since he realized if he even wanted a chance to accomplish his seemingly impossible goal of fighting against discrimination, he needed to overcome his shyness, which was ingrained in him even through adulthood. He taught me that every person has the potential to be truly brave and become a leader, no matter how they currently appear. They just have to take that one small step forward." - **Brian Song**

FELICITATIONS OF HONOREES



Gunjan Matalia presenting Shanti Fund plaque to **Congressman Garbarino**



Ila Vora presenting Shanti Fund plaque to **Consul General Jaiswal**



Gopiben Udeshi presenting Shanti Fund plaque to **Superintendent O'Meara**



Kamlesh Mehta presenting plaque to **Acting US Attorney Parekh**



Bakul Matalia presenting Shanti Fund plaque to **Usama Shaikh, V. P. at SUNY-OW**

MAHATMA: Gandhi's Life in Colour

was launched by the prime minister of India Shri Narendra Modi at his residence to kick off Gandhi 150. It is 11"x16"x2" coffee table book that has over 650 pages and 1300 photographs and weighs 15 lbs.



Dr. Suchi Matalia and her son Arjun presenting MAHATMA to **Andrew R. Garbarino**



Consul General Randhir Jaiswal delivering speech



Usama Shaikh, V. P. at SUNY-OW



Soh Young Lee presenting MAHATMA to **Dr. Mary O'Meara**



Dr. Vinod and Anu Gulati presenting MAHATMA to **Raj Parekh**



Bakul Matalia introducing Cong. Andrew Garbarino










Event was kicked off with **Arvind Vora**



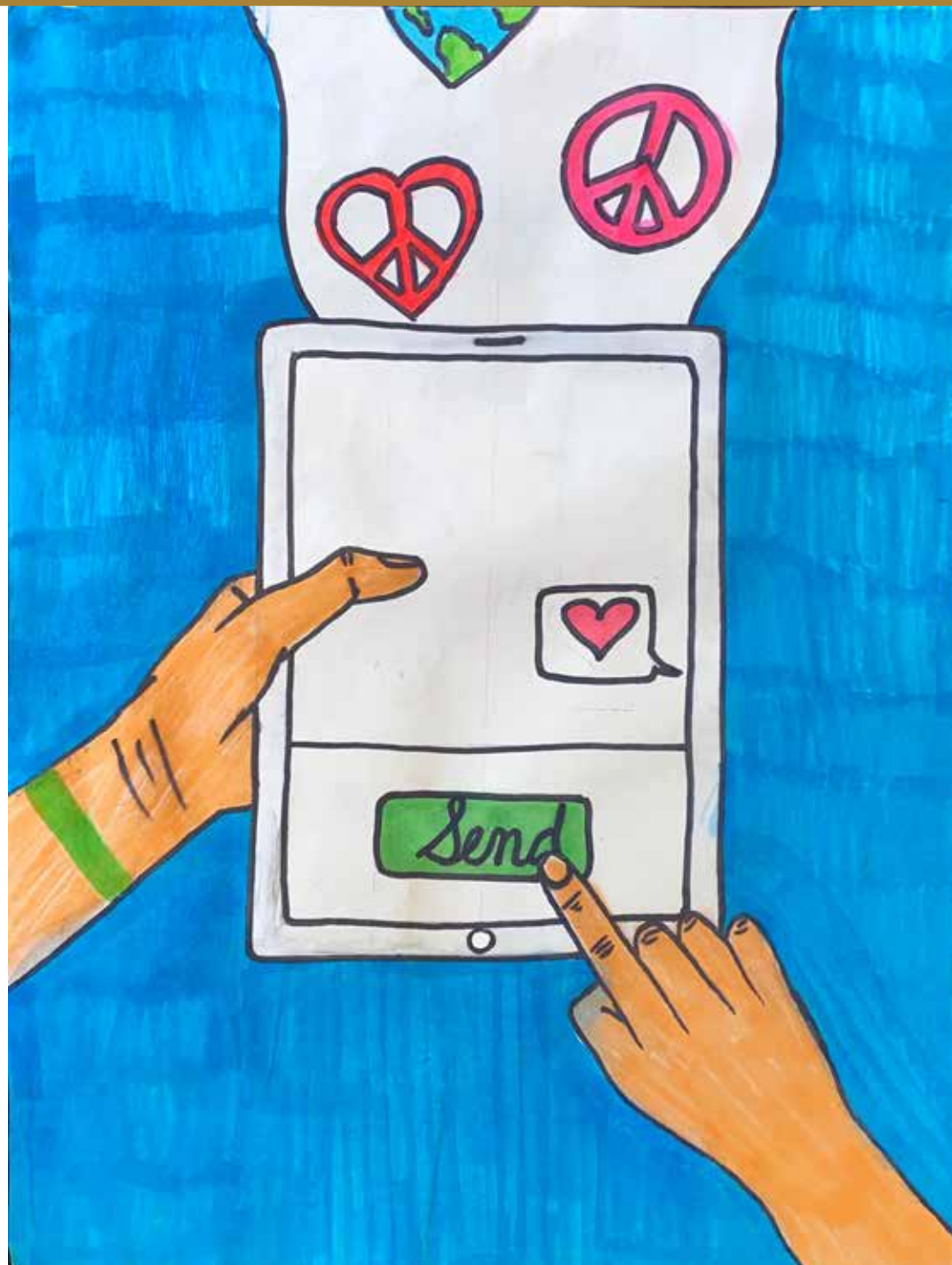
Faith Tomasello, Grade: 1, Age: 6 years, Fort Salonga Elementary School, Kings Park School District; Teacher: Mrs. Jessica Ryan (2021)

JULY 2022

“... .. Gandhiji, however, was one of those prophets who lived far ahead of the times”
General Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief, Allied Forces in Japan 1948

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“Believe in the truth, think truth, and live truth” - Gandhi



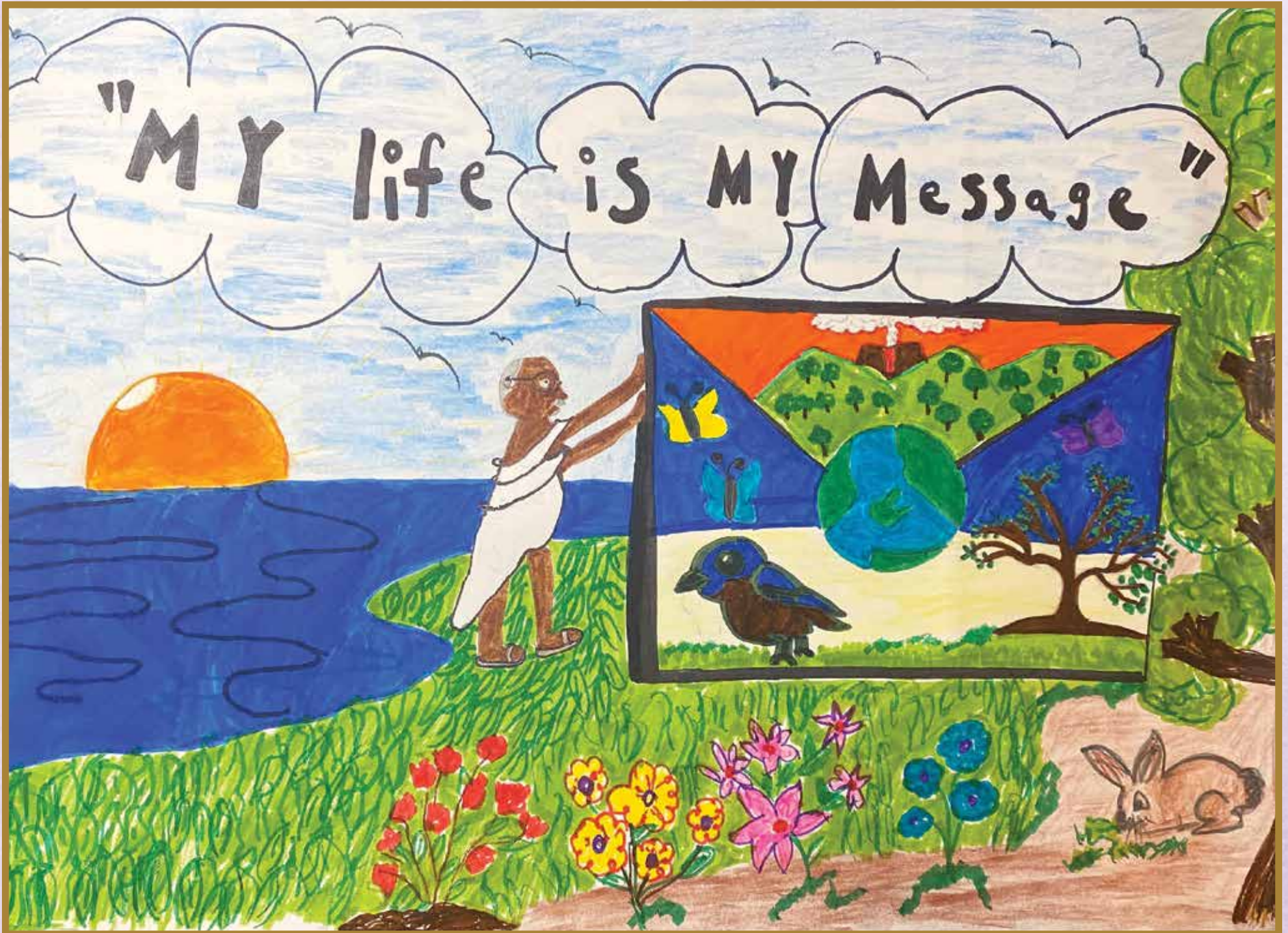
Katie Zhao, Grade: 5, Age: 9 years, Stratford Elementary School, Garden City School District; Teacher: Ms. Ashley Howard (2021)

AUGUST 2022

“On this day our first thoughts go to the architect of this freedom, the Father of our Nation”
Jawaharlal Nehru, First Prime Minister of India on the eve of India's Independence August 14, 1947

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“Each one has to find his peace from within” - Gandhi



Cecilia Santos, Grade: 3, Age: 8 years, Greenport Elementary School, Greenport School District; Teacher: Mr. Brady Wilkins (2021)

SEPTEMBER 2022

“Gandhi holds the key to the future of mankind, follow him with all your determination”
Nelson Mandela, First President of South Africa and recipient of 1993 Nobel Peace Prize

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“An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind” - Gandhi



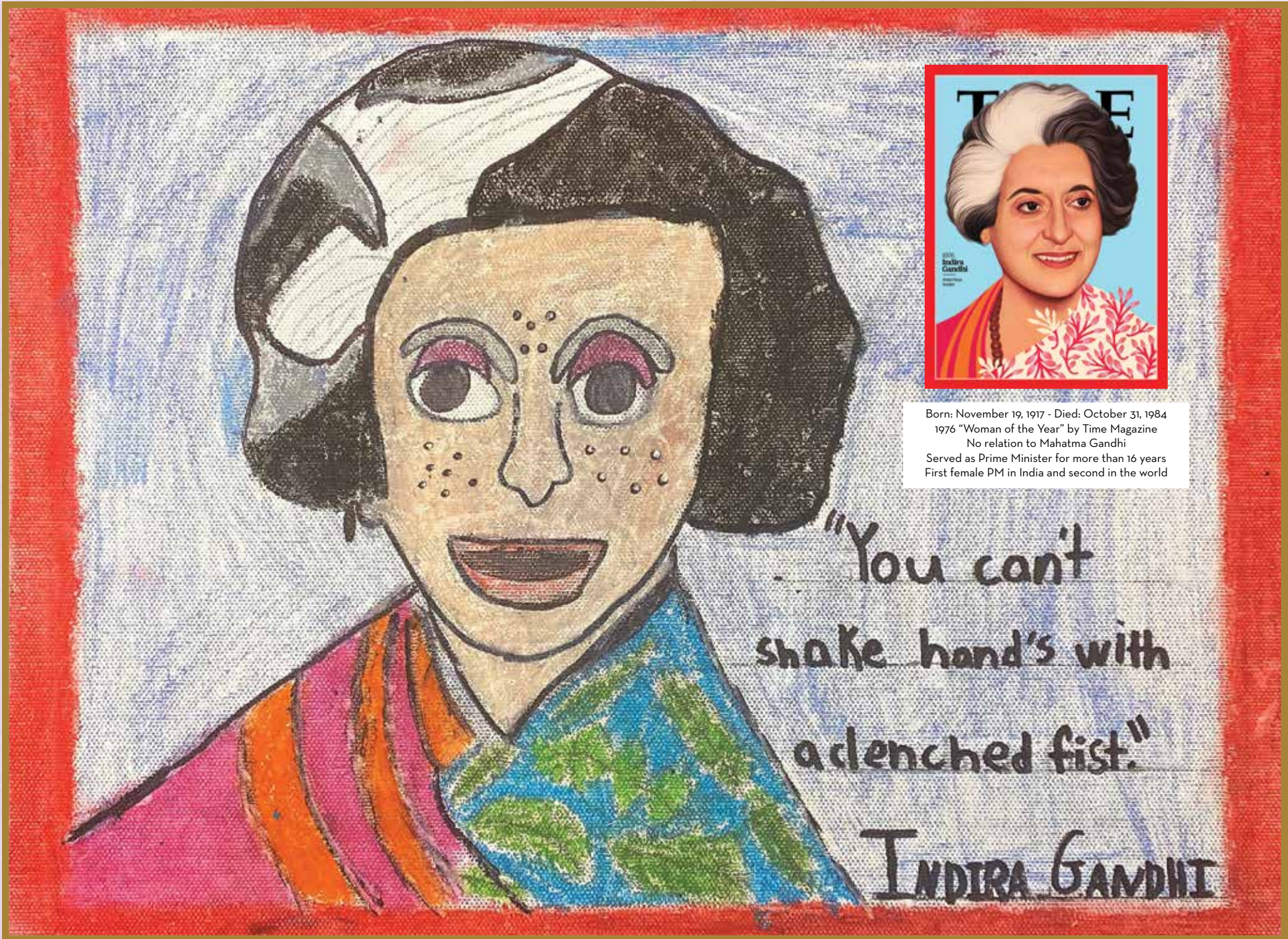
Siting Xiao, Grade: 11, Age: 16 years, Gen. Douglas MacArthur High School, Levittown Schools District; Teacher: Mr. Tom Bobal (2021)

OCTOBER 2022

“Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth”
Albert Einstein, he received Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 1921

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<p>2  275/90</p> <p>Mahatma Gandhi's 153rd Birthday 16th International Day of Non-Violence</p>   	<p>3 276/89</p>	<p>4 277/88</p> <p>Yom Kippur Begins at Sunset</p>	<p>5 278/87</p> <p> Dussehra (Vijay Dashami)</p>	<p>6 279/86</p>	<p>7 280/85</p>	<p>8 281/84</p>																																																																																				
<p>9  282/83</p> <p> Milad-Un-Nabi (Birthday of Mohammad) Id-e-Milad</p>	<p>10 283/82</p> <p> Columbus Day</p>	<p>11 284/81</p>	<p>12 285/80</p>	<p>13 286/79</p>	<p>14 287/78</p>	<p>15 288/77</p>																																																																																				
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<p>30 303/62</p>	<p>31 304/61</p> <p>Halloween</p>																																																																																									

“What seems impossible is not always really so” - Gandhi



Born: November 19, 1917 - Died: October 31, 1984
1976 "Woman of the Year" by Time Magazine
No relation to Mahatma Gandhi
Served as Prime Minister for more than 16 years
First female PM in India and second in the world

"You can't
shake hand's with
a clenched fist."







INDIRA GANDHI

Olivia Georgiou, Grade: 2, Age: 7 years, Vanderbilt Elementary School, Half Hollow Hills School District; Teacher: Mrs. Claudia Brunhuber (2021)

NOVEMBER 2022

"And I am mindful that I might not be standing before you today, as President of the United States, had it not been for Gandhi"

Mr. Barack Hussein Obama addressing a joint session of Parliament of India Nov. 8,2010

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<p>6 310/55</p> <p></p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends (set clocks back one hour)</p>	<p>7 311/54</p>	<p>8  312/53</p> <p>Election Day</p> <p> Guru Nanak Deb's Birthday</p>	<p>9 313/52</p>	<p>10 314/51</p>	<p>11 315/50</p> <p> Veterans Day</p>	<p>12 316/49</p>
<p>13 317/48</p>	<p>14 318/47</p>	<p>15 319/46</p>	<p>16  320/45</p>	<p>17 321/44</p>	<p>18 322/43</p>	<p>19 323/42</p>
<p>20 324/41</p>	<p>21 325/40</p>	<p>22 326/39</p>	<p>23  327/38</p>	<p>24 328/37</p> <p> Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>25 329/36</p>	<p>26 330/35</p>
<p>27 331/34</p>	<p>28 332/33</p>	<p>29 333/32</p>	<p>30  334/31</p>			

"If we are to teach real peace in this world, we shall have to begin with children" - Gandhi




*When I admire the wonders of a sunset or the beauty of
the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the creator
- Gandhi*

DECEMBER 2022

"He is another Christ"

Romain Rolland, French novelist, essayist who received Nobel Prize for Literature in 1915

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 Christmas Day	<p>Hanukkah Ends First Day of Kwanzaa Kwanzaa Ends 1-1-23</p>					<p>BEST WISHES from Volunteers of Shanti Fund for 2023</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p>																																																																																				

"The greatest help you can give me is to banish fear from your hearts" - Gandhi

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Sneh Agarwal
Mita Alreja
Dr. Nutan Anand
Dr. Cecily Anto
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Rama Patel
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Chandani Shah
Gargi Shah
Jyoti Shah
Dr. Shahin Shaikh
Dr. Sashi Shukla
Priyanka Singh
Dr. Kuntala Sinha
Marcia Spector
Vimla Sutaria
Kusuma Tanguturi
Ila Vora
Pratima Vora
Rita Vora

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." - Mother Teresa

2021 SHANTI FUND DONORS (Cash, Check, Online, In Kind)
Donations as of December 4, 2021. Additions/corrections in next publication.

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." - Mother Teresa

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Levy H. & Diana McIntyre
Dhiren C. & Ranjana Mehta
Jayant B. & Mina Mehta
Kamlesh & Nimmi Mehta
Mukund G. & Padma M. Mehta
Carolyn Shah Moehringer

Daniel & Peter Moloney
Ashok K. & Mita Mukherjee
Sudesh & Sudha Mukhi
Hallegere & Myetraie Murthy
Uma V. Mysorekar
Veena J. Naidu
Kiritkumar & Sucheta Naik
Sharon L. Oliver-Murthy
Peter E. & Diana M. O'Neill
Ashwin & Parul A. Pandya
Nokul & Kaumudi Panigrahi
Purnima Parekh
Tejas & Bela Shah Parekh
Parimal & Smita Parikh
Bhanu Patel
Pravin R. & Faith E. Patel
Elizabeth D. Pessala
V Krishna & Arunakuma Polavarapu
Rajendra Prasad
Andali V. Raghunath
Paresh N. & Tejal Raval
Joseph P. & Karen Ma Renna
Sridhar & Saraswathi Rookam
Prakash C. & Rita Saharia
Jay M. Sarkar
Thomas & Denise Schmidt

Gerald M. Selya
Atul N. & Sangita Shah
Indravadan & Saroj I. Shah
Jayantilal B. Shah
Mayur J. & Aruna Shah
Nayan B. & Harsha N. Shah
Prakash A. & Gargi P. Shah
Pravin P. & Kailash Shah
Rajani C. & Asmita R. Shah
Haresh J. & Suryaben H. Sheth
Kersi & Alberta Bertuzzi Shroff
Dinesh & Sashi Shukla
Peter B. & Faith Skelos
Manmohan & Shantilata Subudhi
Bernice Suplee
Yousuffuddin Syed
Suresh & Geera S. Tanna
Mahendra K. & Usha M. Thakkar
Maulik & Manisha Thakkar
Jagdish & Urvashi Trivedi
Harsha & Radha Vardhan
Aditya Vora
Arun & Rita Vora
Maria Williams
Paul R. & Georgette P. Wilson
Youwang & Youzong

Abundance Health Care
Center for Asthma & Allergy
CSM Engineering
Consulate General of India, NY
Fidelity Charitable
First Baptist Church
International Buddhist Progress Society
International Vedic Vision for Humanity
Moloney's Lake Funeral Home
Oakdale Florist
RCF Giving Fund
Renaissance Charitable Fund
Scope Foundation
Signs & Decal Corp.
SUNY-Old Westbury
Swasti Foundation
Swedesboro Shell
The South Asian Times
Vanguard Funds
Wireless Products of NY
XF Capital



Zoom volunteer **Mihir Matalia**



Zoom volunteer **Paresh Raval**



Consul General with some of the participants at the Gandhi Punya Tithi event

Multi Faith Prayers Services on Gandhi Punya Tithi - (Death Anniversary)

January 30, 2021 Saturday At the Indian Consulate in New York City

Heavy restrictions due to COVID-19, only 25 persons were allowed including zoom team. As such only presenters of seven faiths participated as opposed to normal dozen or so. Everyone were maintaining six feet distance and wearing a mask most of the time.



Consul General Randhir Jaiswal greeted the participants and made welcoming remarks



Arvind Vora, Chairman of the Long Island Multi Faith Forum coordinated and conducted Punya Tithi event



Dr. Yousufuddin Syed made a short and succinct speech representing Islam



Angad and Arjan Singh twin brothers have represented Sikh faith since 2014 at the Punya Tithi observances



Soh Young Lee sang Amazing Grace representing Christianity and also Gandhiji's favorite bhajan Raghu Pati Raghav Raja Ram



Bakul Matalia offered thanks to all, specifically hosts Consul General Jaiswal and Deputy Consul General Sinha for their presence and support



Yomesh Sharma sang Gandhi's favorite hymn Vaishnav Jan Toh Tene Re Kahiye



Rev. JoAnn Barrett enlighten with spiritual offering from Gathering of Light Interspiritual Fellowship



Chandni Rodriguez a second generation Indian American represented Yoga Spirituality



Imam Ibrahim Atasoy offered Call to Prayer (Adhan)



Nikhil Trivedi made a very outstanding Hindu presentation by reciting slokas and Gayatri Mantra



Nitin Ajmera, currently Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Parliament of World Religions offered Jain peace messages

GANDHI LECTURE SERIES- SUNY OLD WESTBURY - Thursday, September 2, 2021

SUNY – Old Westbury and Shanti Fund signed an agreement on Thursday September 2, 2021, to establish Gandhi Lecture Series-under Social Justice Lecture Series for undergraduate students. Despite the lingering effects of major hurricane Ida, event took place an hour late. As is the tradition with Shanti Fund to celebrate Gandhi's birthday on October 2nd and Punya Tithi on January 30th, a mainstream vegetarian lunch was served to everyone's great amazement for its deliciousness.

This is the second project at SUNY – Old Westbury. The first one is the establishment of Gandhi Peace Garden where 150 trees are planted including at least one from each of the 50 states. It was a fitting gesture to celebrate Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary in 2019, at the Gandhi Peace Garden while observing COVID protocols.



"This is a home of Shanti Fund. But nevertheless, it's my responsibility to say welcome back. Welcome home and most especially to His Excellency, the Consul General. Welcome to Old Westbury. We are honored that you are here. And we are even more honored, because you did not allow the travails between Midtown and Old Westbury to keep you from making it here. And for that, we are humbled and high and very appreciative of your being in here. So, thank you, and welcome to SUNY Old Westbury. Back to Shanti Fund. I don't know exactly what the impetus was some years back for creating and forging this relationship. But what I'm clear about is that in a life of a college, these kinds of relationships are integral, as it seeks to not only maintain its commitment to excellent, but to maintain its commitment to relevant education. To be very clear about the ways in which we train our students to be able to move about the world, and to be relevant, not offensive, and impactful all at the same time. Teaching is the centrality to humanity. The work of Mahatma Gandhi and constitution is made not just any of us, all of us, particularly us who consider ourselves disciples of nonviolence. At some point, and those who are serious about training new students, to transform the world, being part of that curriculum with your presence, which are urging with your assistance; one day we make sure God and His teaching, and his work becomes a central part of the curriculum here, a central part of life here and part of our identity here. So, thank you, thank you for the donation for our Speakers' Fund. It functions as an excellent start to that which I'm speaking about with regard to making normal. Particularly you think about the world today normal to talk about peace. And we really appreciate it (donation) and I hope you will be impressed with what we do with it, and what comes forth as a result. So, thank you very much. Thank you to all of you. And welcome home, again." - **Dr. Timothy E. Sams, President of SUNY- Old Westbury**



"Good afternoon, everybody. First of all, thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for the invitation. Thank you for all you have done so far for us in connecting this university with Mahatma Gandhi; Madam Vice President and head of Shanti Fund Mr. Vora, members of the Shanti Fund, there are distinguished members of the Indian American community and very strong supporters of Shanti fund. We maybe in a very small gathering today. But let me tell you what we are doing is very far reaching. You know, we all are human beings. We live in a society; we live together as a community and for that reason, the fundamentals of our society of our daily existence, our basic human values, togetherness, friendship, kindness, compassion; these are all human values and universal values. With these values, we prosper and progress on a daily basis, that is how civilizations are moved from the Stone Age to today's Machine Learning Age. And because universal values are so deeply embedded in our existence, it is important to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi, it is important to celebrate Martin Luther King, it is important to celebrate Nelson Mandela and likes, all global icons; today and for all times to come. With them with their values with their legacy, we are much better off than otherwise. Especially at a time in 21st century when we live in a machine world where humans are interacting less with human beings and more with machines. Our fundamental existence we must realize is that first and foremost, we all are human beings and for that reason, it's important that we have the size of the legacy and life of Mahatma Gandhi and all our leaders who made pride to the lives and who continue to shine their lives. I was here last year at the Gandhi Peace Garden to celebrate Mahatma's birthday, will come again this year, on October 2. Thank you very much for bringing him closer to the student community here to bring his legacy in our lives. You know, as we talk of Mahatma Gandhi, in October, as Mr. Vora just referred to it that this year happens to be the 75th Independence Day of India. And for that reason, it's important that

we remember him fondly in our midst. So, thank you very much. You know the project that we have signed today, it will continue to build on the Gandhi peace project that we launched in as a tribute to 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi, and we hope this collaboration continues to grow and prosper. **We will, you can count on all our support, we try to do our best as far as Gandhi Lecture Series is concerned.** And we once again want to thank SUNY under your leadership. I hope the projects will continue to enhance our efforts towards a better tomorrow for one and for all." - **Hon. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India - NY**



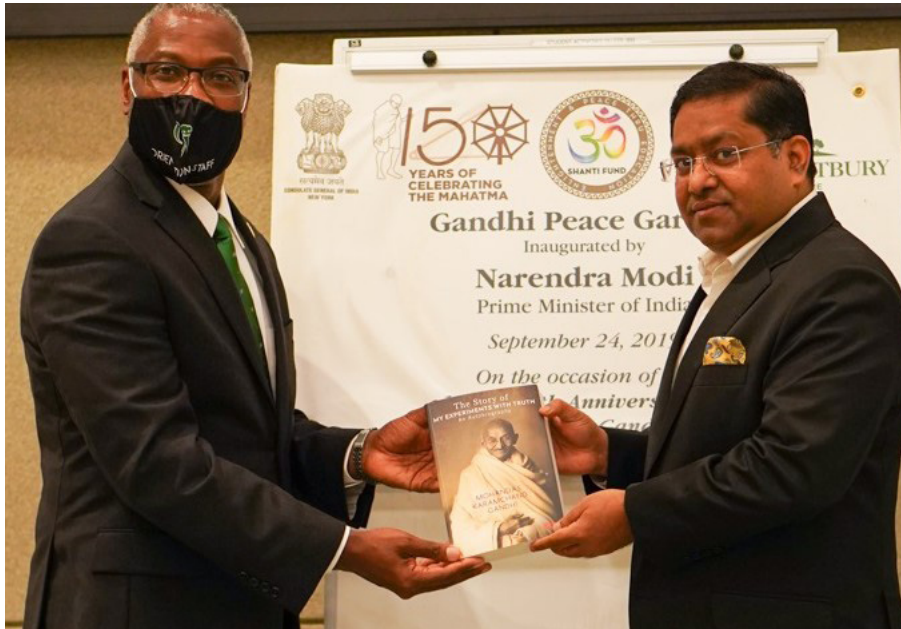
"My dear friend, Dr. Timothy Sams, his new middle name is nonviolence. Based on my meetings and everything that he has done he is a good partner to promote Gandhi's ideals at the right place, at the right time, the right person. Dr. Jo-Anne Robinson, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff; Michael Keenan, Vice President for Communications and College Relations; Mr. Usama Shaikh, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; who has been working harder than I have worked for this today's event, and now, he just stepped out to get the copies for our agreement so each one of you can have a copy of it. Dr. Wayne Edwards and Mr. Randy Daniels both live in the Bronx and Yonkers and things are horrible over there with flooded roadways and abandoned vehicles. They have extended their regrets. And now allowed me to introduce my friends who managed to come over here despite their other schedules and with a short notice. Dr. Bhupi Patel, he is a member of the SUNY Foundation and our community leader; Ravi Bhooplapur, who is following Patel's footsteps as a member of the SUNY Foundation and doing more than many, at least from Indian community for education. He is president of the St. Xavier's Medical College. My good friend Mr. Kamlesh Mehta, he is a publisher of The South Asian Times, and he is doing wonderful job to keep his newspaper civilized, means you can give him a million dollar and he will not publish the advertisements for gambling and vices. We have Dr. Sharda Jayagopal, she is with Shanti Fund from almost its inception and my partner and second in command of Shanti Fund, Bakul Matalia. Once more I like to extend thanks to SUNY for allowing Gandhi Peace Garden (GPG) two years ago on this 600-acre beautiful campus. Gandhi Peace Garden is a unique partnership where SUNY provided space, Indian government through the Consulate General of India, New York initiated the project, community members and organizations donated \$500 per tree, and Shanti Fund, did overall coordination and completion. That was to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary celebrations with the planting of 150 trees, of which at least one is from each of the 50 states of the United States. Now to make Gandhi

Peace Garden more meaningful, volunteers of Shanti Fund have decided to have Gandhi Lecture Series here at the SUNY Old Westbury campus. I cannot thank enough President Dr. Tim Sams, Dr. Wayne Edwards, Dr. Jo-Anne Robinson, Mr. Usama Shaikh, and staff members. This project was initiated right after this new president took the office. Though this kind of projects take time but thanks again for expediting it. Like our great nation that embarked upon an experiment almost 250 years ago, an ancient nation of India also embarked upon an experiment of modern democracy 75 years ago. Both nations were ruled by the British Empire, one had to sacrifice lots of blood and bodies to secure independence; and other, may I add, when British Empire was the mightiest, through nonviolence. Shanti Fund contributions are noteworthy: two years ago, for Gandhi 150, and now to initiate Gandhi Lecture Series during the 75th anniversary celebration of India's independence. Many people suffered and sacrificed a lot for the independence of India, but it was the Gandhi's leadership that won people's heart and people call him Mahatma and Father of the Nation. Today, Thursday is a very auspicious day, many of us in India were brought up with a Sanskrit saying, **Vidhyabhayse Guru Shrestham**, it means a teacher, a guru is the greatest impartor of knowledge and education. There is even a day of the week that begins with Guru; hence, it is considered auspicious to initiate education related matters on Thursday and for which I appreciate the Consul General and the President to have this event take place on Thursday. More than 25 years ago, Shanti Fund started by volunteers who benefited because of their education and peaceful nature. Most of the activities undertaken over the years has a common denominator - EDUCATION, for Shanti Fund. I thank all of you for joining, most with a short notice. Your presence means a lot for this humble and noble beginning of educational partnership. Many well-wishers of Shanti Fund have provided suggestions and hopefully, many of them may become reality, something that President just alluded to us. As they say stay tuned. Thank you again very much." - **Mr. Arvind Vora, Shanti Fund**

Gandhi Lecture Series Agreement Signing at the State University of New York – Old Westbury

Thursday, September 2, 2021

GANDHI LECTURE SERIES AGREEMENT signing ceremony was held on Thursday September 2, 2021 and hosted by SUNY-OW. GANDHI Lecture Series (GLS) is an extension of the Gandhi Peace Garden (GPG) on the campus where 150 trees, including one from each of the 50 states, were planted to commemorate the Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary celebrations in 2019. GPG was a unique collaborative undertaking where SUNY-Old Westbury provided space, Consulate General of India-New York took the lead, individuals and organizations donated funds by sponsoring each tree while Shanti Fund, a local NGO coordinated all elements to make it possible in a very short time.



"The Story of MY EXPERIMENTS WITH TRUTH - An Autobiography Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi" was presented to President **Timothy E. Sams** by the Consul General **Randhir Jaiswal**



Consul General **Jaiswal** appreciated the partnership and extended cooperation of his office for Gandhi Lecture Series
***All photos courtesy of State University of New York – OW**



President **Timothy E. Sams** delivered a welcoming speech to distinguish audience, emphasizing partnership with Shanti Fund to promote peace and nonviolence



Dr. **Timothy E. Sams**, President SUNY-OW, Hon. Consul General **Randhir Jaiswal** and **Arvind Vora**



Dr. **Timothy E. Sams**, President signing the GLS Agreement on behalf of SUNY and **Arvind Vora** signing on behalf of Shanti Fund



A check of \$20,000 to the SUNY Old Westbury Foundation for holding lectures on Mahatma Gandhi. Pictured (from left) Consul **Vipul Kumar Dev**, **Dr. Bhupi Patel**, **Ravi Bhooplapur**, **SUNY President Dr. Timothy E. Sams**, Consul General **Randhir Jaiswal**, **Arvind Vora**, **Kamlesh Mehta**, **Dr. Sharda Jayagopal**, and **Bakul Matalia**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited India with his wife Coretta King & Lawrence Reddick from February 9, 1959 to March 10, 1959

"I have a dream"
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**"You gave us Gandhi,
we gave you Mahatma"**
Nelson Mandela



"My life is my message"
Mahatma Gandhi

**"I am president
because of Mahatma Gandhi"**
President Barack Hussein Obama visited India with
his wife Michelle from November 6 to 9, 2010

"If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought, and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our own risk." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



DIRECTIONS TO GANDHI PEACE GARDEN (GPG):

- Take Long Island Expressway (Route 495) Exit 41 North for Rt. 106/107 North, or
- Take Northern Parkway Exit 35 North for Rt. 106/107 North
- Stay left and take Route 107 when it separates from Route 106
- Stay left again, pass school, and church and turn left at the traffic signal into SUNY
- Stay on a long circuitous road and turn right at the first STOP sign
- Follow the road for a mile or so and Gandhi Peace Garden on your left

NOTE: Due to COVID-19 Campus shutdown precludes entry from other entrances. This is the only way to reach Gandhi Peace Garden.

"Today (Tuesday, September 17, 2019) on State University of New York Old Westbury Campus we had an opportunity to celebrate one hundred fifty years, remembering Mahatma Gandhi; one of the greatest ambassadors for peace, in fact an apostle for peace, across this entire world.

The Ambassador from India is here with us, the Shanti Fund a major sponsor, 25 years of hard work on Long Island promoting peace and justice.

So, we celebrate today with this beautiful planting of one hundred fifty trees, this beautiful landscaping. This is the proper place to come and meditate and think about the great work of Gandhi and all peace makers. Blessed are the peacemakers for there is the kingdom of God."

Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, President of SUNY - Old Westbury

"It is rarely that a local nonprofit organization (Shanti Fund), a university (SUNY-Old Westbury) and a foreign government (Republic of India) collaborates to do something. This is not a common thing that has happened. It is a rare thing and I think we should cherish it; we should understand it.

One more thing which I would like to highlight is the way we have financed this project it has been financed by everyone of you, everyone has a tree in the memory of their loved one, in the memory of their guru and some in affection of their God. It is an amazing financing model."

Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India, New York

"Motto of Shanti Fund is "Enlightenment and Peace thru Education". Most of us are very successful, our success is because of good education and that good education achieved in a peaceful environment; there were no wars, no terror. Those are the two important elements, education and peacefulness. Volunteers of Shanti Fund are working to promote education and peace in our neighborhood of Long Island."

Mr. Arvind Vora, Key Volunteer of Shanti Fund

"This is home of Shanti Fund" "Thank you Shanti Fund for the donation for our Speakers' Fund. It is an excellent start as regards to 'making normal', particularly in the world today, making normal is to talk about peace. And we really appreciate it (donation) and I hope you will be impressed with what we do with it, and what comes forth as a result."

Dr. Timothy E. Sams, President of SUNY-OW at the agreement signing on September 2, 2021