



Mission Statement:

To increase public awareness and understanding of Mahatma Gandhi, his unique role in world history and his commitment to truth, nonviolence, service and justice. To encourage nonviolent resolutions of conflict among individuals, communities and nations.

Gandhi's 150th Birthday Celebrations in 2019

Gandhi Alliance For Peace celebrated Gandhi's Birthday on September 29 2019 at the Tracy Aviary, Salt Lake City.

The program started with a Moslem Call to Prayer by Serhat Kariparduc. Interfaith Bhajans [sacred hymns] which were favorites of Gandhi, Ragupathy Ragava Rajaram and Honge Kamyam, were sung by grade school children Lhayaashree, Misha, Sahithi, Vanya, Adithi - and led by Subha Praveen, Music Teacher. Classical dances by Divya and Manya Narayanan followed. Vaughn Lovejoy led the proceedings and later organized a tree to be planted (after the rain).



The annual Gandhi Peace Award for 1919 was given to Poor Peoples Campaign Utah represented by Billy Palmer, Franque Michele Bains and River Jude August. The PPC are made up of people of all races, black, brown, white, native, and Asian; old and young; people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; people of all abilities; and they live across this country, from Alaska to Florida, from Maine to California.

Palak Jayswal, Arts Editor- Daily Utah Chronicle of the University of Utah had written an article on this event for the Students Newsletter which can be accessed at

<https://dailyutahchronicle.com/2019/10/02/gandhi-alliance-for-peace-champions-sustainable-change/>

A Special 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated on October 2nd 2019. Producer Director Kell Kearns presented his internationally known documentary 'Gandhi's Gift'. This showed the Master of Nonviolence at the end of his life, on the brink of attaining his lifelong goal of independence from the British but with his heart breaking by the partition of India and the terrible communal violence – with the killing of thousands. Having led masses in nonviolent marches, Gandhi had to walk alone for unity and peace – including a fast to overcome the violence a few days before he was assassinated in Jan 1948.

The program included special Gandhi Bhajans by Julie Ray. The event was well attended at the Nancy Tessman Auditorium of Salt Lake Public Library.

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Mayor Tubbs, Stockton, CA
by Sabine Weil

January 20th, 2020 the day we honored Martin Luther King has just passed as I am writing this article. I'd like to introduce all of you to Michael Tubbs, Mayor of Stockton, California, who is one of the persons carrying on Dr. King's vision addressing inequality, peace and economic justice. (Please view the 2019 Michael Tubbs Ted Talk on "The Political Power of Being a Good Neighbor".



Michael Tubbs was born August 2nd, 1990 in south Stockton, California to a teenage mom and a father who, like too many African American men, is incarcerated on a life sentence. In spite of the inherent obstacles of poverty, Michael attended Stanford University on a need-based scholarship and graduated in 2012 with a BA in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity and an MA in Policy, Leadership and Organization Studies. While a student, Michael Tubbs interned at the White House under President Obama. At age 22 he became Stockton's youngest council member and at age 26 he became the Mayor of Stockton, a city of 320,000 people.

Mayor Tubbs is quick to point out that his academic and political success is a case of "...exceptionalism -- Meaning that we recognize it's exceptional for people to escape the structures (of poverty). Meaning by our very language, we understand that the things we're seeing in our world are by design." (Ted Talk 2019) Tubbs quotes Dr. Paul Farmer when he discusses structural violence as 'the avoidable impairment of basic human needs.' It is the way in which "our institutions, our policies, our culture creates outcomes that advantage some people and disadvantage others."



For several decades, Stockton was a city in trouble. In 2012, it was the largest city in the country to declare bankruptcy and it had more homicides per capita than Chicago. Here's a quote from the 2019 Ted Talk: "So my old council district, where I grew up, is 10 minutes away from a more affluent district. And 10 minutes away in the same city, the difference between zip code 95205 and 95219 in life expectancy is 10 years. Ten minutes away, 4.5 miles, 10 years life expectancy difference, and not because of the choices people are making. Because, no one chose to live in an unsafe community where they can't exercise. No one chose to put more liquor stores than grocery stores in the community. No one chose these things, but that's the reality. I realized, as a councilman, to enact a structural change I wanted to see, where between the same zip codes there's a 30 percent difference in the rate of unemployment, there's a 75,000 dollars a year difference in income, that being a

councilman was not going to cut it. So that's when I decided to run for mayor. "

As Mayor, Tubbs has been courageous in looking for solutions. Grocery stores have replaced liquor stores in troubled neighborhoods. Tubbs is advocating for increased per pupil spending for children in poorer neighborhoods. In addressing violent crimes, he recognizes that those who perpetrate have often been victims themselves – of violence, poverty and trauma. By partnering with law enforcement, businesses and community groups, he enacted two strategies called "Ceasefire" and "Advance Peace". Targeting actual as well as potential offenders, these programs, provide outreach services offering such things as job opportunities, social services, health care and tattoo removal. It's probably not a coincidence that in 2018 Stockton saw a 40 percent reduction in homicides and a 30 percent reduction in violent crime.

Mayor Tubbs is also an advocate of Universal Basic Income. Beginning in February 2019, Stockton has been participating in an 18-month pilot program offering 125 residents with low incomes a \$500 monthly stipend with no strings attached. The money is distributed through a debit card so that expenditures can be tracked. This project is being closely watched and analyzed. So far about 40% of the money goes for food, 25% for merchandise and about 12% for utilities.

Michael Tubbs was motivated to serve his community through a tragedy. On November 1, 2010, while interning at the White House, he received a call from his mother that his cousin Donnell had been murdered at a Halloween party. Working through grief and despair, Michael Tubbs decided, "The choice was between action and apathy". Maybe that's a message for our times.

"A Problem from Hell"
by Nancy Haanstad

The title of Samantha Power's 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winning book aptly describes the tragic record of genocidal and mass killings throughout human history. A variety of motives pervade: greed, revenge, competition for land or power, religious convictions, ideological beliefs, racial animus - have generated civilian slaughters committed by perpetrators to the indifference of by-standers.

Atrocities appear throughout human history. Rome's destruction of Carthage by fire, killing perhaps 150,000 people, has been called the first recorded genocide. Other examples include the Genghis Khan-led slaughter of 5% - 10% of the entire human race, the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre of perhaps 30,000 French Huguenots, and the multi-generational decimation of the New World's indigenous populations during European colonialism.

The 20th C. teems with mass murders. The Nazi's belief in their racial superiority led to the death camps that killed 6 million Jews and 5 million 'others' (including Roma, Jehovah Witnesses, the mentally or physically disabled, and homosexuals). Prodded by Jewish refugee Raphael Lemkin, the post-war international community recognized the concept of 'genocide' and outlawed 'the destruction, in whole or in part, of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.' The Prevention and Punishment of Genocide became the first human rights treaty in 1948.

In the same historical moment, Mahatma Gandhi led an unprecedented non-violent resistance campaign that forced the powerful British Empire to concede India's independence. Despite the phenomenal, large-



scale success of the Gandhian way, the Indian sub-continent itself fell into wide-spread group violence costing at least 1 million lives as 12.5 million people physically relocated on the basis of their religious identity into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. (India's minority Muslim population remains slightly larger than the Muslim majority in Pakistan.)

Similar tragedies continued to unfold. Following the American-Vietnamese war, the Khmer Rouge overtook Cambodia in the 1970s and imposed a political ideology inspired by Red Guard Chinese communism. Because cities inevitably highlight stratification, Cambodians were forced into the countryside to live and work as laborers, thus

ensuring strict economic-social equality. Perhaps 1.7 million died in the 'killing fields' of Kampuchea.

After Belgium withdrew its colonial rule in east Africa, the Tutsi-dominated army of Burundi annihilated perhaps 100,000 Hutus in 1972. Then in the 1990s, the majority Hutu government in next door Rwanda slaughtered at least 800,000 Tutsis in a matter of 100 days. Because UN Peacekeepers only use arms in self-defense, their presence had no impact on what Power calls "the fastest, most efficient" genocide in history.

When Yugoslavia collapsed in the 1990s, the resulting states primarily based their identities on their respective religions: Croatia (Catholic), Serbia (Russian Orthodox), and Bosnia (Muslim). Having endured centuries of Turkish rule, Serbia instigated a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing against its neighbors. Despite the presence of UN Peacekeepers and Srebrenica's status as a UN-designated 'safe-haven,' Serbian paramilitary forces overran the city and massacred 8,000 Muslim men and boys right on Europe's doorstep.

People who may be hyper-aware of their own historical tragedies often remain ignorant of similar sufferings by others. Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime* notes that South Africa required newborns to have Western as well as African names. Without comprehending the significance, his friend had been named Hitler. Similarly, most Westerners remain ignorant of the genocidal terror imposed by Belgian King Leopold whose plunder of the Congo destroyed perhaps 10 million lives.

Seventy-five years after the liberation of Auschwitz, the International Criminal Court oversees the prohibition on genocide, crimes against humanity (including ethnic cleansing), and war crimes. Yet the Washington, D.C. Holocaust Memorial Museum catalogs ongoing instances of civilian victims of atrocities in its Country Case Studies web site (<http://www.ushmm.org/learn>).

Gandhi gave us the tools of *Satyagraha* (truth) and *Ahimsa* (non-violence) that embody his wisdom, self-discipline, and humanitarianism. The Gandhian approach to addressing human violence remains the true hope, perhaps the only hope, for a solution to the 'problem from hell.'

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Crisis at the Border by Sabine Weil

What is happening to the thousands of people waiting for US asylum with the current stay in Mexico policy? And why are they seeking asylum in the first place?

Many of those needing protection come from the infamous “Northern Triangle” region of Central America. This is the region of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador that is plagued with poverty and violence. Chronic political instability (some of which can be traced back to 20th Century US actions protecting US banana companies), and civil war have given rise to notorious transnational criminal networks such as 18th Street (M-18) and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). Drug cartels and gangs such as these operate through threatening and leveraging violence as a way to control families. Women and girls are frequently targeted. In 2016, according to International Rescue Committee, Honduras and El Salvador had some of the highest murder rates of women in the world.

In 2018 and 2019, many of these families fleeing violence in their home communities organized into caravans for protection and undertook the long, arduous and dangerous journey hoping to find safety in the United States. After the horrors of WW II, the US helped to create international law to protect refugees such as these. But now the Trump Administration has imposed barriers and policies that require migrants to stay in Mexico while they wait to be processed in search of asylum.

In August of 2019 more than 26,000 people were waiting across the border for hearings. And once they are processed, they must return to Mexico under the current administration’s “Remain in Mexico” policy. According to Vox, more than 56,000 refugees have been returned to Mexico to await decisions on their applications. Where do these people go after they are turned back?

Many of them return home to face the violence and the terror that they fled from. Some are lucky and find protection in hotels or rooms for rent. The Mexican government has opened a small number of shelters in various municipalities. But as of December 2019, some 5,000 migrants were camped under tarps or tents clustered along the Rio Grande River.

For various political reasons, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees cannot manage these camps. So these camps don’t offer the protection given to refugees in other parts of the world. The migrants themselves run these camps with some oversight of the Mexican Government. But there are no fences, so people –including predators, gang members, etc. come and go as they please. There are many reports of kidnapping, sexual violence and human trafficking. People go missing and nobody knows what happened. There are few, if any, public toilets and there is no running water. Thousands of families are living in hazardous and deplorable conditions in view of US soil waiting for their turn to be seen and processed.

What is being done to help these people? There is currently no coordinated approach to responding to this humanitarian crisis.

In some instances, the United Nation’s International Organization for Migration (IOM) is funding a limited number of shelters and providing food, water and sanitation. The Mexican government has enlisted the aid of its national guard to improve security in some border cities. But the majority of basic health care services are provided by nonprofit groups, church groups and individual volunteers who bring in food, water and educational resources for children. Is this enough? The obvious answer is “no”.

The solutions are complicated but learning about the crisis, applying political pressures and, of course, voting are essential first steps.

Mahatma Gandhi's Writings from 100 years ago
[Collected works of Mahatma Gandhi -VOL. 20: 25 MARCH, 1920 - JUNE, 1920- p 39-40]

*The term **satyagraha** was coined by me in South Africa to express the force that the Indians there used for full eight years, and it was coined in order to distinguish it from the movement, then going on in the United Kingdom and South Africa under the name of passive resistance. Its root meaning is “holding on to truth”; hence, truth-force. I have also called it love-force or soul-force.*

In the application of satyagraha I discovered in the earliest stages that pursuit of truth did not admit of violence being inflicted on one’s opponent, but that he must be weaned from error by patience and sympathy. For what appears to be truth to the one may appear to be

error to the other. And patience means self-suffering. So the doctrine came to mean vindication of truth, not by infliction of suffering on the opponent, but one's own self.

Satyagraha differs from passive resistance as the North Pole from the South. The latter has been conceived as a weapon of the weak and does not exclude the use of physical force or violence for the purpose of gaining one's end; whereas the former has been conceived as a weapon of the strongest, and excludes the use of violence in any shape or form.

This doctrine of satyagraha is not new; it is merely an extension of the rule of domestic life to the political.... It is this law of love which, silently but surely, governs the family for the most part throughout the civilized world... Nations can be called civilized only to the extent that they obey this law.... This law of love is nothing but a law of truth.... Satyagraha has therefore been described as a coin, on whose face you read love and on the reverse, you read truth. It is a coin current everywhere and has indefinable value.

*Satyagraha is self-dependent. It does not require the assent of the opponent before it can be brought into play. Indeed, it shines out most when the opponent resists. It is therefore irresistible. A **satyagrahi does not know what defeat is**, for he fights for truth without being exhausted. Death in the fight is a deliverance, and prisons a gateway to liberty.*

We need to overcome Fear, especially during the present crisis of Covid19-Pandemic. Consider the following quotations from Pace a Bene Nonviolence Service:

"I am so glad to be alive in a time that came after Gandhi. He revealed the enormous leverage of the human heart when you take it seriously. He also trusted people. People would find themselves capable of enormous, stalwart steadfastness and personal sacrifice. Just amazing."

- Joanna Macy, Feb 12 2020

"There is no greater illusion than *fear*, no greater wrong than preparing to defend yourself, no greater misfortune than having an enemy. Whoever can see through all fear will always be safe."

- Tao Te Ching, Verse 46 Feb 22, 2020

Gandhi survived the 1918 Pandemic Spanish Influenza. He was one of many who recovered from 'Bombay Fever' as it was called, and later alluded to as 'Spanish Influenza' worldwide which had a death toll of 10 million in India and over 50 million worldwide. It is unfortunate that after 102 years, with all the chemical cleanliness worldwide, we are undergoing a new viral pandemic – CoVid19.

In his letters from early August 1918 to January 1919, Gandhi noted that he had dysentery and was suffering from debilitating illness for a long time. In *Chapter XXVIII in My Experiments with Truth* he refers to this time as "Near Death's Door". More from letters: August 17, 1918, Gandhi wrote, '*Dear Mr. Henderson, I am on my back. I am passing through the severest illness of my life and I was incapable of sending you a letter earlier.*'

Around that time, he writes to his sons Harilal and Devdas how weak he has been – almost to the point of imminent death. October 2, 1918, *I have a feeling that I am now going. I have very little time left. The body is becoming weaker and weaker. I am not able to eat anything. But my heart is at peace and so I do not find the going at all difficult. I think whatever inheritance I am leaving to you brothers is appropriate. What would you have gained if I had left money? But the inheritance of character which I am leaving to you is invaluable in my view.*

Gandhi on his 49th birthday - Oct 2 1918, wrote to his son Devdas, "*I have sent you a telegram today. It must have scared you. I want you not to be scared. I cannot expect you to have that degree of equanimity. My health, instead of improving, is steadily declining.*"

He alludes to influenza 3 times – once referring to relatives of his son Harilal's wife and family in November 1918. *Bhaishri Harilal, I have your letter and the translation. I am still confined to bed.... I felt sad for a moment when I learnt that your family were afflicted with influenza and there was even a death. But such news is pouring in from everywhere so that now the mind is hardly affected.* In 'Gandhi-the man, his people, and his empire', Raj Mohan Gandhi notes that Harilal's wife Gulab and their 3 year old son Shanti died of influenza, they were the persons Gandhi was referring to.

In a letter to his friend C. F. Andrews on January 10, 1919, Gandhi wrote, *My Dear Charlie, So you have been suffering from influenza.....* Some of the treatments Gandhi practiced during his illness were part of his experiments in truth.

Ken Roach, our board member, suggests to look into 'Inequality may lead to violence and extremism and other ramifications' at <https://www.sv.uio.no/psi/english/research/news-and-events/news/inequality-may-lead-to-violence-and-extremism.htm>

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Buzz From The Board – By Deb Sawyer

The Pace a Bene Nonviolence Service quotes Albert Einstein "*No Problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.*"

Our government and our culture need our insights and creativity. We have fantastic examples to study: Gandhi, Dorothy Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. being a few of the more prominent ones. Each surely responded to the injustices before them from a deeper consciousness than that used to perpetrate those injustices. With the challenges imposed on us now by this new virus, let us reevaluate our national priorities. Let us affirm a different consciousness that embraces love and compassion.

The Gandhi Alliance for Peace and the United Nations Association of Utah (UNAU) already did just that with our Adopt-a-Future campaign. Starting in the fall of 2018 and ending in late summer of 2019, we raised funds so that more children living in Kakuma Refugee Camp will have the opportunity for an education. Altogether, we organized three fundraisers, two "Evenings of Music" and one play, "The Post Office" performed by students of Granite District with amazing support from Plan B Theatre. Our efforts were well worth it. With a matching grant from a local foundation and lots of support for the production of "The Post Office" Utah sent over \$25,000 to the United Nations Association of the U.S.A for Adopt-a-Future. That amount was in turn matched by Educate a Child Foundation, so more than \$50,000 is

being put to excellent use in Kakuma Refugee Camp. More refugee children are receiving an education because of our efforts. Thanks to all who helped and contributed!

Gandhi Alliance is now joining with the UNAU and the Utah Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to host discussions with the gubernatorial candidates for Utah. Given our current limitations, these meetings will need to be on-line. Still, our idea is that each meeting includes only one candidate so that we can begin a meaningful relationship with whoever might be Utah's next Governor. If you are interested in attending one of these gatherings, please check our website or Facebook page for up-to-date information. We expect these discussions during May and June, before the June 30 State Primary.

Even as we cope with the daily challenges of maintaining physical distance from one another, we can seek to guide our country by a different set of values that push forward from a different level of consciousness than that which has created war, poverty, and racism. Gandhi wrote, "*A satyagrahi does not know what defeat is, for he fights for truth without being exhausted.*" I for one have felt exhausted. But, exhaustion need not have the last word. We can rebound. We can persist, as we continue to learn.