Black Hills 2017 Program Report
04-13 August 2017
Placerville Camp, Black Hills, USA
Priorities

The priorities of the Satyagraha Institute remain consistent since its origins in 2015 in the U.S. and with the expansion of training programs to Mexico and Nigeria. The intention is fourfold.

One

We want to deepen knowledge about satyagraha and other dimensions of Gandhian thought, as well as the ideas of other practitioners of nonviolence like MLK Jr., and strengthen commitment to practicing nonviolence as a way of life.

Two

We hope to deepen skills in creative conflict resolution through facilitated group activities, as well as through communication with each other and group experiences of resolving conflict.

Three

Believing that a sustainable and committed life of nonviolent action needs a deep spiritual grounding, we strive to help that happen for each participant, whatever their spiritual or religious tradition, or none.

Four

We intend to build an international network of person to person relationships, across the usual barriers and divisions that divide us, that will help sustain and support people in their individual places and nonviolent activities.
# Program

The normal daily schedule in the Black Hills was as listed, except for those days we were in the field. Some sessions were presentation, some activity centered, some more conversational. All centered in our larger purpose of deepening a personal commitment to nonviolence in the midst of the barriers of race, creed, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age, nationality, economic status, etc.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07.00 - 07.45</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>08.15 - 09.15</td>
<td>Inner Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.30 - 10.45</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>11.00 - 12.15</td>
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<td>12.15 - 13.00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>13.00 - 13.45</td>
<td>Personal Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00 - 15.15</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
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<td>15.30 - 16.45</td>
<td>Session 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00 - 17.45</td>
<td>Personal Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.00 - 19.00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<td>19.30 - 21.00</td>
<td>Session 5</td>
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Process

The Satyagraha Institute is committed to a process that is inclusive in reality and in spirit and willing to be flexible to meet the needs of those gathered. Sometimes that means we must change plans and add leadership in order to meet the needs of those assembled. This was especially true at the Black Hills training this summer. The gathering was able to meet the challenge, shifting some of the sessions and themes and with volunteers coming forward to help with daily planning and facilitation.

Although the Black Hills Institute is held two miles off the highway in a pine forest, and we try to unhook from the normal technological distractions, the violence in the world has a way of demanding our attention. So as we were gathered in this sacred place where silence and solitude was possible, "fire and fury" and "locked and loaded" became part of the conversation. As we struggled with our own understandings of how racism impacts nonviolent struggle, the events in Charlottesville loomed large.

As we looked to Standing Rock, where prayerful Native Americans struggled to stop an oil pipeline, we learned of the raid by the FBI on a Catholic Worker community in Iowa, where two of their workers had publicly confessed to damaging a pipeline. The reality is we can’t talk about nonviolence in a vacuum as violence is a part of our everyday life.

In governance, the Institute endeavors to operate by consensus decision making. As a working model of governance develops, responsibility for future training programs lies in the hands of a volunteer, international coordinating committee, working with volunteer coordinators in each location. The Institute grows organically as past participants volunteer to take their learnings back to their own communities. From one training program in the U.S. in 2015, we expect in 2018 to have programs in at least four different countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Mexico and the U.S.
Pedagogy

One of the early observations some made in the Black Hills this year was the different teaching styles represented in the group. Our Gandhian scholar comes out of a University system in India where the students stand when the faculty member enters the classroom and sit when they are given permission. There is visible respect for the teacher. The normal presentation style is lecture, perhaps for the full hour without much opportunity for questions or comments. Our scholar is used to western ways but is still at his best when he can complete his thought processes and prepared remarks without interruption. How he can do it without notes in a logical and comprehensive way is a marvel to watch.

A third pedagogy was represented through Native American cultural traditions. Elders are respected. When elders speak everyone listens, until they are finished. Often in traditional culture, elders will speak more from the heart than the head. Communication may be "stream of consciousness" in nature. The teaching/learning style is unique for many westerners.

Differences in pedagogy raised questions of power in the Black Hills group. Who has power? Is it shared? Is it power over or power with? All of these differences added to the need for creative conflict resolution skills on the part of all involved.

Even more challenging were diverse understandings about racial privilege. Issues of race created intense and fruitful conflict. That conflict provided a meaningful experiential learning opportunity in a safe space for both participants and faculty.
The Black Hills are sacred to indigenous people of the area. Lakota elders have said their people never went into the Hills except for a sacred purpose. Their origin story begins in Wind Cave in the southern hills and many still see the area as a place for vision and medicine.

We endeavor as the Satyagraha Institute to be present in that spirit and with the welcome of Lakota/Dakota elders and spiritual leaders. We hope to provide a space where our gathering can gain insight from indigenous wisdom and be in relationship with a special sacred place.

The Kammerer Ranch

The Kammerer ranch lies just NE of Rapid City, SD and just north of Ellsworth Air Force Base. Ellsworth is home of the B1 bomber and has a nuclear mission. A national nonviolence conference in the early eighties constructed three symbols out of rock at the end of the base runway on Kammerer land. They are the ecology symbol, peace symbol and Native American prayer wheel. They need periodic renewal with white paint. We met with Marv Kammerer, a long time peace and justice advocate in the area, and refurbished the symbols as a B1 and other military planes flew overhead. The site encourages reflection on a nonviolent response to the continuing and escalating threat of nuclear weapons.
Bear Butte

Bear Butte is a sacred place for several Native American tribes. It's a place for fasting and prayer. It can be a special experience for Institute participants to deepen their inner life. It's also a SD state park and more recently, is surrounded by enormous camps hosting the Sturgis motorcycle rally. We went to Bear Butte during the rally, saw the juxtaposition of the sacred and often profane, and had an opportunity to climb and offer prayers.
The Dahl Fine Arts Center

The Dahl Fine Arts Center in Rapid City hosted us for an evening picnic and panel and the SD Humanities Council helped support it. Three Native American women spoke about their experience at Standing Rock and the seeds for change planted there. Their remarks were live streamed and continue to be available at satyagrahainstitute.org/media. Also visit thedahl.org and sdhumanities.org.
One of our participants, Lisa Wagner-Carollo, transported us to the home of Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement with a presentation of her one woman play "Haunted by God." She was also able to perform the play a second time at a Rapid City church. Visit stillpointtheatrecollective.org.
Participants

Twenty six participants in the Black Hills 2017 program came from ten different nations. There were at least that many ethnicities represented. People came from urban and rural environments; from Mexico, France, Liberia and three Native Nations; from the east and west coasts of the U.S. and the enormous mid section. There was not as much religious and spiritual diversity as we would have liked but along with the Inner Life time that respects all traditions, there was enough diversity to engender growth and dialogue for many.

*Presenter

Amanda Fickes  Learning Designer - South Dakota, USA
Andrea Palomo-Robles  Student - Mexico
Andres Conteris*  Coordinator, Spanish Outreach at Democracy Now! - California, USA
Bertha Garcia  Cub/Scout leader - Mexico
Charlotte Krebs  Acupuncturist and Massage Therapist - Minnesota, USA
Chas Jewett*  Tribal Affairs Consultant - South Dakota, USA
Chris Moore-Backman*  The Gandhian Iceberg - California, USA
Darlene Pipeboy*  Dakota elder, pipe keeper and sun dancer - South Dakota, USA
Duane Hollow Horn Bear*  Faculty at Sinte Gleska University - South Dakota, USA
F. Glabor Dennis  Colonel at Liberia National Fire Service - Liberia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fernando Ferrara*</td>
<td>Founder of Mesa de Paz - Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Nichols</td>
<td>Independent Publishing Professional - Iowa, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Irick</td>
<td>Peace Program Associate at SERAPAZ - Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazu Haga*</td>
<td>Founder of the East Point Peace Academy - California, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Brenneman*</td>
<td>Hospital chaplain and visiting religion professor - Illinois, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Wagner-Carollo*</td>
<td>Founder of Still Point Theatre Collective - Illinois, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyla June Johnston*</td>
<td>Co-founder of The Taos Peace and Reconciliation Council - NM, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marvin Kammerer*</td>
<td>Rancher and Activist - South Dakota, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.P. Mathai*</td>
<td>Professor at Gujarat Vidyapith - India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nekeisha Alayna Alexis*</td>
<td>Independent scholar - Indiana, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Gaillard</td>
<td>Student - France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Shaver</td>
<td>Pastor - Iowa, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Terk</td>
<td>Community organizer and lobbyist - South Dakota, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Hill*</td>
<td>Columbia University Community Scholar - New York, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Unzicker</td>
<td>Real estate associate - Texas, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvonne Whitman</td>
<td>Customer service associate - South Dakota, USA</td>
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Prospects for the Future

We are scheduled to return to our Black Hills site at Placerville Camp from 05-14 August 2018. You will be able to apply at satyagrahainstitute.org. Those from the US who might be interested in the Mexico or Africa trainings should contact Carl at carl@satyagrahainstitute.org.
Satyagraha Institute is an independent project. We are grateful to our fiscal sponsor, Dakota Rural Action, a nonprofit corporation who shares our vision and enables us to receive charitable contributions.

**Expenses**

- Kitchen Staff and Food / $10,253.69
- Facility Rental / $8,640
- Faculty and Staff Travel / $8,578.01
- Nigeria Program / $5,000
- Faculty and Staff Expenses / $4,288.75
- Honorariums / $3,145.60
- Administration / $2,061.74

**Income**

- Individual Donors / $20,026
- Businesses and Organizations / $13,150
- Participant Fees / $4,545
- Grants / $4,500
The Satyagraha Institute to me is one of many efforts to bring together those of us who feel a connection to the Gandhian approach to nonviolence, to get together and really dig in together to discover what Gandhi’s teaching has to say to us in our current situation. I’m excited to be in spaces where that conversation is happening.

Chris Moore-Backman, Presenter
Chico, California

I really felt inspired by the integral nature of the approach to nonviolence that I felt wasn’t being done in any of the other work or spaces that I had participated in, in Mexico. ...it felt like a real answer.

Kate Irick, Participant
Mexico City, Mexico
Partners

Endorsers

Dr. Paul Baggett  Peace & Conflict Studies Coordinator, South Dakota State University
Betty Berg  Internationalist and Humanitarian
David Hartsough  Peaceworkers
Frank James  Staff Director, Dakota Rural Action
John Paul Lederach  Prof. of International Peacebuilding, Kroc Institute, Uni of Notre Dame
Jerry Leggett  Executive Director, Dayton Peace Museum
Rabbi Michael Lerner  Tikkun
Joanna Macy  Work That Reconnects
Kristi McLaughlin  Executive Director, SD Peace & Justice Center
Matt Meyer  Coordinator, War Resisters International
Frank Pommersheim  University of South Dakota School of Law
Rabbi Victor Reinstein  Nahar Shalom Community Synagogue, Jamaica Plains, MA
Michael True  Center for Nonviolent Solutions
Grant Providers

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute is a nonprofit charitable foundation established in 1974 to honor the legacy of pacifist leader A.J. Muste and to further his belief that nonviolent action is the means to achieve social and economic justice. They do this by providing grants, resources and a wide range of support to activist organizations that use nonviolent strategies to oppose war and promote justice and by publishing and distributing educational materials about nonviolence.
Donors

Satyagraha Institute is fortunate to have the support of the following individuals.

**Benefactors**
$5000+

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**Sustainers**
$2500-$4999

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John & Rosita Kline

**Advocates**
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Carl & Brenda Kline
Pat Fishback
South Mountain Company
Wayne & Sherri Tellinghuisen

**Supporters**
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Allegra

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Michael Mortvedt
Dave & Mona Dykhouse
Chandradhar Dwivedi
Barbara Christwitz
Gail & Rosemary Robertson
Phil Baker
Charles Woodard
And these lectures have impacted my life and have given me new direction in how best, or how to go and conduct myself in the area of nonviolent approach to issues in my home.

F. Glabor Dennis, Participant
Monrovia, Liberia

I was always very mesmerized really when our teacher, Mathai, would talk about Gandhi. And it was just...felt very much like I was part of a tradition from the time Gandhi set out his principles...and just coming down through the decades to us now, and to me now, and what I'm trying to live in my work in Chicago.

Lisa Wagner-Carloilo, Participant and Presenter
Chicago, Illinois
## Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Abhay Mistry</td>
<td>IT Strategist and Designer - South Dakota, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Novotney</td>
<td>Black Hills Program Coordinator - Wisconsin, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carl Kline</td>
<td>Coordinator - South Dakota, USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erika Tritle</td>
<td>Coordinating Committee Facilitator - South Dakota, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lois Andersen</td>
<td>Treasurer - South Dakota, USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melinda Williams</td>
<td>Cook/Kitchen Manager - South Dakota, USA</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<td>Abhay Mistry</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Andrea Novotney</td>
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<td>Andrea P Robles</td>
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<td>Chris Ehidiamen</td>
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<td>Clare Hanrahan</td>
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<td>David Hansen</td>
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<td>Erika Tritle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karla Hernández</td>
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<td>Kate Irick</td>
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## Coordinating Committee

This globally represented committee meets virtually once per month to discuss updates and make executive decisions that impact all facets of the Institute. All members are past participants.
Acknowledgments

Author          Carl Kline
Photography     Tom Unzicker
Report Design   Abhay Mistry
Cover Photo     Andrea Palomo Robles

Connect

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