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**Award-Winning and Revealing Film on Kasturba Gandhi to be Shown
in Santa Barbara
October 7, 2023, 7–9 PM at Unity Auditorium
227 East Arrellaga Street, Santa Barbara, California**

*Director-Producer Cynthia Lukas will present a new, revealing documentary about Mahatma Gandhi's wife, **KASTURBA GANDHI: Accidental Activist**, for the Institute of World Culture. (See website: www.worldculture.org). The hour-long film has been nominated and awarded by 12 global film festivals and is being distributed by American Public Television on PBS stations across the country. This documentary reveals insightful information about the relationship and shared mission of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife.*

KASTURBA GANDHI: Accidental Activist is the first feature documentary about Gandhi's wife, who has remained in his shadows until now. *Now she emerges.* Born in 1869, she was the wife of 62 years to an icon of the 20th century, whose disciples include Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. But Mahatma Gandhi, the Master of Nonviolence in theory and practice, credited *her* with teaching *him* about Nonviolence. She also became one of the first women activists in modern history, thereby creating a legacy for women today to follow her by taking action in their communities for freedom and human rights. *History missed this story.*

The film's subtitle, "Accidental Activist," suggests how unlikely this true story is. When Kasturba Gandhi was growing up in a traditional Indian town in the late 19th century, she expected to become a traditional Indian wife and mother. But when she was married to Mohandas Gandhi at the age of 13, her life was turned upside down. She became a wife and mother, but much, much more. She became Gandhi's teacher and an early woman activist, leading a march of women for women's rights and going to prison in 1913. *History missed this story.* A sequel, currently in production, will document how she epitomized courage and compassion as an equal partner with Gandhi for decades, during the struggle for Indian independence, which was attained in 1947 after her death (1944). To see a trailer (2:45): <https://vimeo.com/688584416>
Password: **peace**

The story of this unique and powerful woman is resonating with audiences. **KASTURBA GANDHI: Accidental Activist** has been awarded the "Best Historical Subject" Award at the Global Nonviolent Film Festival, "Best Biographical Film" Award at the Toronto International Women Film Festival and "Best Documentary Feature" winner at the Art Film Spirit Awards (Toronto). It won "Best Story" at the prestigious Santa Fe Film Festival, an Award at the Berlin Women Cinema Festival, the Remi Winner (Bronze) for "Best Documentary" at the WorldFest Houston International Film Festival and "Best Producer" and "Best Feature Director" at the LA Independent Women Film Awards. At the Tagore International Film Festival (India), it garnered the "Best Feature Script" and "Best Women's Film" Awards. It also received "Best Documentary Film," "Best Director" and "Best Film on Women" Outstanding Achievement Awards from that Indian Film Festival. Lukas has dedicated the film, about a woman called "Mother" by all in India, to her own 96-year-old Mother.

The film is capturing large audiences when it is broadcast on PBS stations. American Public Television is handling its distribution both nationally on PBS and internationally on APT Worldwide. The PBS website estimates 100 million people watch PBS programs each month. When accepting *KASTURBA GANDHI* for broadcast on PBS, Tom Davison, Director, American Public Television, said, “We are so happy we have your insightful and groundbreaking film to share nationally with public television stations and viewers.”

Filmed on location in India, South Africa and the UK, *KASTURBA GANDHI: Accidental Activist* was produced by the non-profit educational media organization, Sweet Springs Productions, and directed by Cynthia Lukas. She is the Co-Producer of *GANDHI’S AWAKENING* and *GANDHI’S GIFT*, biographies of Mahatma Gandhi, also broadcast on PBS. She frequently presents her films at universities, conferences and at peace and cultural gatherings. She believes that the nonviolent message in all the Gandhi films is crucial for the world and all its people. For details about these films, see www.kasturbagandhi.org.

Admission to this IWC Film Event is free, but donations to support the costs of producing this film and the part 2 sequel, now in production, are gratefully appreciated. Contact Cynthia Lukas at gandhisgift@gmail.com or call 505-501-2600 for more information. See the website, www.kasturbagandhi.org to learn more or to purchase a DVD.