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fly doves and plant peace

celebrating Peace Day with LA kids

words JO PERRY

“There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they grow up in peace.”

—Kofi Annan

in 1981, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution declaring an International Day of Peace for “commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace within and among all nations and people.” But it was a decade before that the U.N. General Assembly established a date, September 21st, for this annual tribute to nonviolence. This year the Day of Peace will be observed worldwide through organized vigils, community celebrations, the dedication of peace poles, service projects, and private contemplation. At noon, adults and children will gather for a worldwide moment of silence, and then will recite the peace prayer, “May peace prevail on Earth.”

Help Peace Take Flight

LA kids and their families can join Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots members at the colorful 17th Annual Day of Peace celebration and parade at the Santa Monica Pier. The festival is family-friendly and free. Kids will be invited to place their messages on a large Peace tree, create nature drawings, and learn the art of making Peace Dove puppets, which they'll fly during the festival's 2 pm finale, the Giant Peace Dove Parade.

The festival will also feature a raffle, musical performances, celebrity appearances, eco-activities, environmentally themed games, and community exhibits. Kids can explore an authentic Gombe tent similar to the one Dr. Goodall used when she



studied chimpanzee behavior in Tanzania.

Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Day of Peace, Sunday, September 20, 11 am - 4 pm, Santa Monica Pier.

You can find instructions for making a small or giant peace dove at the Roots & Shoots website: rootsandshoots.org.

Kids interested in becoming a member of Roots & Shoots, a global environmental and humanitarian youth program, or organizations interested in establishing their own LA Roots & Shoots group may visit rootsandshoots.org/findagroup.

Plant Peace

A peace pole is a hand-crafted monument that displays the message and prayer “May peace prevail on Earth” on each of its four or six sides, usually in different languages. The first peace pole to be erected at a major American University is right here on the UCLA campus, outside Kerckhoff Hall. The phrase “May peace prevail on Earth” is inscribed on the eight-foot tall limestone pole in Arabic, English, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. >

social studies



> At Hart High School in Newhall, students erected a peace pole in 2007 to represent their dedication to cultural diversity and ethnic harmony after students engaged in racial clashes.

The World Peace Prayer Society sponsors peace poles throughout the world and reports that there are more than 200,000 Peace Poles in 180 countries standing as monuments to peace. Their website, worldpeace.org/peacepoles.html, offers instructions on peace pole construction or purchase, and offers

tips on organizing a school, neighborhood or community peace pole planting.

Celebrate the Day of Peace by helping your kids create and dedicate your own family peace pole or peaceful garden. Let kids discuss ways to enjoy a day without fighting or anger. Inscribe your family peace pole with your children's ideas about peace and let it stand as a monument to your family's commitment to a peaceful world. ✨