

SICA SECTION

PEACE DAY — AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBUD IN THE WORLD

Latifah Taormina writes...

The United Nations' International Day of Peace — 21 September — challenges all peoples of the world to consider what it means to be human and to rededicate themselves to our shared humanity.

It is also an opportunity to put our latihan into practice out in the world — an opportunity to walk the walk with our fellow human beings.

SICA connected to the UN's work for peace back in 2002 when it became one of the UN's "Messengers of Peace." It launched its Poems for Peace® initiative in 2012 in partnership with Peace One Day and Interpeace, a global coalition of NGOs working for peace. Since then, SICA has also become a member of the Charter for Compassion, and Poems for Peace® has spread to more than 14 countries.

What SICA began with one event in Austin, Texas, has expanded to a city-wide collaborative festival of events called Peace Day Austin featuring workshops, performances, concerts, symposia, exhibitions and prayers. SICA works in partnership with many other organizations in Austin. As a result, we are perceived as good people doing good work for our community. We have been honored each year by The Mayor of Austin and other dignitaries. Last year, Peace Day Austin engaged close to two million people!

Universal occasions like Peace Day, and other major holidays, give SICA, SDIA, SYA, SESI, and local Subud groups an OPPORTUNITY to put our latihan into practice in our communities by doing something for others in accordance with our own gifts, by sharing our gifts with others, by partnering with others — by honoring others.

We can all contribute to Peace Day in our own communities.

These are just ideas, but perhaps SYA could encourage other young people to join with them on Peace Day to form a One Day SYA Peace Corps to provide a service to the community in which they live on that day.

SDIA could share the wonderful film of Erica Sapir's puppet project she did with refugees in Bonn, a project sponsored by SD Germany. The film is available on Vimeo. (<https://vimeo.com/208201360>). It could become an opportunity to speak about values and how we can live together as one human race. SIHA initiatives can remind us to care for ourselves, to bring peace to our physical selves. Enterprises can share their wisdom and showcase good human business practice.



Latifah Taormina with Steve Adler, the Mayor of Austin, Texas. Latifah is wearing her Subud symbol pendant.



PEACE **IS IN OUR HANDS**

SUBUD INTERNAT'L CULTURAL ASSOC.

is named

Messenger of Manifesto 2000

in recognition of his/her contribution to
the Global Movement for a Culture of Peace
and Non-violence

UNESCO, Paris the 06/21/2000

RESPECT		ALL LIFE
REJECT		VIOLENCE
SHARE		WITH OTHERS
LISTEN		TO UNDERSTAND
PRESERVE		THE PLANET
REDISCOVER		SOLIDARITY

2000 INTERNATIONAL YEAR **FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE**



And SICA doesn't have to limit itself to poetry. I confess I'm partial to poems — maybe because all the holy books are in verse, the songs we sing when we are in love are in verse, the songs and rhymes we use as children to learn about ourselves and our world are in verse. The ear of the child in the womb is closest to the heart which beats in an iambic rhythm. A rhythm that's not different from the what Bapak called *sastro jendra* or the writing in you inner heart, writing that if it could be spoken would be "Allah Allah." It's the same rhythm. Is that why we say, "poetry is the music of the soul?" We can each do what is within us to do that comes from that place. It doesn't have to be poetry.

Isn't this what Bapak always encouraged us to do?

“ An opportunity to put our latihan into practice out in ”

A Prayer

We pray to God Almighty
May we receive God's blessing;
The latihan of all of you
May it spread everywhere
May it become the basis for human character
And cover the world;
For indeed, such is the reality.
The duty of all mankind
Is to worship God Almighty
So that their hearts and minds may be peaceful
So that all things on this world
May become peaceful and calm for mankind.
Quickly therefore, worship God Almighty
Let it not happen that at the end of our lives
We will be far from God's power
Because this is God's Authority
That which can truly bring us to peace and tranquility —
A peace and tranquility for the life of man.
Bapak, June 22, 1980 (Podium Translation)

Praying for Peace

In response to a member's question about the lack of peace in the world (following 9/11) Ibu replied:

We should truly face the one Almighty God. After doing the latihan, quiet yourselves for several minutes and pray that God will give peace and quiet to all His creatures. And we should ask forgiveness for every sin and mistake, and ask for His guidance for a life filled with love, peace, and one that is useful for your fellow human beings. If this is sincere and truly comes from a noble feeling I believe God will always listen.

Website links;

Peace Day Austin; <http://www.peacedayaustin.org>
Poems for Peace <http://www.poems-for-peace.org>
SICA site: www.subud-sica.org



“ Good people doing good work for our community... ”