

Peace pole dedication planned

By Steve Kemme

Enquirer staff writer

ANDERSON TWP. — A peace pole sculpture, which bears the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 12 languages, will be dedicated Sunday at Beech Acres Park.

Greater Anderson Promotes Peace, a group that formed in 1999 in reaction to hate literature distributed in the township, initiated the project.

The group, which promotes diversity in Anderson Township, has raised more than \$41,000 so far to cover the \$59,000 cost of the pole sculpture and garden.

In erecting a peace pole, An-

derson joins a worldwide movement that has resulted in the establishment of thousands of peace poles, including a few in Greater Cincinnati. The World Peace Prayer Society is a non-profit organization founded in Japan in 1955.

"The peace pole represents the desire in the human heart for all of us to live together in peace," said Louise Lawarre, co-founder of Greater Anderson Promotes Peace. The organization is donating the sculpture and the garden to the Anderson Park District.

Featured speakers will be Robert "Chip" Harrod, head of the Washington-based National Conference for Community and

Justice, and Racelle Weiman, director of the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

The peace pole sculpture consists of a 9-foot, six-sided piece of granite surrounded by six 6-foot granite monoliths. The monoliths are engraved with "May Peace Prevail on Earth," using eight different alphabets.

The languages are English, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Swahili, Hindi, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Cherokee and Arabic.

"Each engraved inscription is a work of art in itself," Lawarre said.

The peace pole garden isn't completed. Concrete and brick-paver walkways have to be built and a lot of landscaping work still has to be done.

The work will proceed while Greater Anderson Promotes Peace continues its fund-raising efforts.

"We're hoping the beauty of the peace pole will inspire people to want to contribute," Lawarre said.

People wanting to donate to the fund or to pay \$50 to have their family's names engraved on a brick paver can call Greater Anderson Promotes Peace at (513) 588-8391.

The peace pole at Beech Acres

Sunday dedication

The dedication ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. at Beech Acres Park, 6910 Salem Road during the Anderson Park District's "A Fair of the Arts" celebration.

Park is another way to express the community's support for diversity, peace and tolerance, Lawarre said.

"It's important to speak out against intolerance," she said. "You don't want to keep silent and give the appearance of approval."

E-mail skemme@enquirer.com