



INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN FOUNDATION

News Release
Batavia, NY

February 21, 2017
Contact: Paula Savage peacegarden@ipgf.org

2017 International Peace Garden Dedication Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Batavia resident and International Peace Garden Foundation President Paula Savage, recently returned from Puerto Vallarta where she participated in the dedication of the 2017 International Peace Garden located at the Vallarta Botanical Garden. Mexico was nominated for the honor because of its substantial contributions to the UN in areas such as peaceful settlement of disputes, struggle against apartheid, promotion of disarmament and halting of climate change. Puerto Vallarta is known to be a leader in Mexico for respecting diversity of cultures and human rights. Paula Savage "It was a unanimous decision to select the Vallarta Botanical Garden to convey the message of world peace believing the Botanical Garden of Vallarta is a place of calm, comfort and healing of body, mind and spirit".

Inclusion and unification was the message of the day. During the dedication ceremonies on February 16th several representatives from the interfaith community addressed the audience with wide praise for the mission of the International Peace Garden Foundation. The new International Peace Garden adorns the slope that rises towards the entrance of the recently constructed Chapel of multiple doctrines. The Chapel is a replica of the well-known Franciscan mission in San Juan Capistrano. The plants, together with Mexican wildflowers, represent the Mediterranean region of the Holy Land, a geographical region that gave birth to some of the most prolific religions in the world. Bob Price, Curator of the Vallarta Botanical Garden "the intention is to cultivate them harmoniously, to create a sanctuary for prayer and meditation without disturbance."

The International Peace Garden Foundation is a charitable organization established to advance global friendship through the creation of worldwide Peace Gardens. Since 1990 these Peace Gardens span five continents. Residents and visitors to our community have enjoyed the Batavia Peace Garden since it opened in 2011 to celebrate 200 years of friendship with Canada. The Batavia Peace Garden flies the flags of all the recipient countries and is registered as an Honorary International Peace Garden. There are nine Honorary International Peace Gardens in New York State along the Bicentennial Peace Garden Trail. More information about the Foundation can be obtained by visiting www.ipgf.org.

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