

SALUTE TO AVON MATTISON

Kosmos honors Avon Mattison for her ability to transcend and synthesize the many facets and levels of peace leading to the International Day of Peace.



On September 11, 2001 Avon Mattison was at the United Nations preparing for a special Day of Peace which was to begin with Secretary General Kofi Annan ringing the Peace Bell, launching what was to be the first annual Culture of Peace Week. She was just doing her “job” that day, representing inter-generational and inter-cultural peace-building organizations around the world at an annual UN Conference. But just at that moment, terrorists attacked the World Trade towers, and many feared the UN would be the next target. While the UN was being evacuated Avon decided to stay.

She went to the meditation room, past the flags of all nations on the planet, and prayed for the protection of the UN and for Peace for all beings. She affirmed her willingness to serve in whatever way was needed. She felt an unearthly calm and thought, “If this is my last moment on earth, I want people to know what we stood for — Peace.”

That day Avon renewed her commitment: to work with others to bring forward the highest good for all beings, especially the children. Pathways To Peace, (PTP) the organization she founded, has coordinated a Peace-building initiative since 1983 involving 288 global organizations with the annual highlight of the International Day of Peace.

Over the last 22 years people in diverse organizations throughout the world have focused on a Minute of Silence for Peace at Noon in each time zone on the International Day of Peace, in what PTP calls a “Peace Wave.” Last year, 98 countries held local Peace-building activities such as supporting a Global Ceasefire, teaching conflict resolution, and organizing 24-hour vigils for Peace.

The official history of the International Day of Peace begins in 1981 when it was first established by a United Nations Resolution. For Avon it began with a commitment to world peace in 1945 and again in 1962 when she convened international students and encouraged them to discuss the idea with their political leaders. “I have also maintained a meditative focus on the establishment of an annual Peace Day,” she says. “As with all divine ideas, they

come through many people either simultaneously or over time.” Thus, an initial seeding process began.

In establishing the International Day of Peace, the United Nations General Assembly resolved “to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as of the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of Peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to Peace in all viable ways. (The International Day of Peace) should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of Peace both within and among all nations and peoples.”

In recognition of the growing significance of Peace Day, a UN International Day of Peace Steering Group was formed at the request of the Secretary-General. One seat was assigned for NGOs, and Pathways To Peace was asked to take this seat on behalf of the UN-NGO community.

With strong international backing The International Day of Peace is gaining in momentum. The concentrated focus on one day, September 21, is like a magnifying glass that illuminates a single point of global significance, allowing the energy to maintain its clarity and intensity. Like Earth Day it will become a day of unity and celebration for the whole world community.

Peace Day is an opportunity to choose to become Peacebuilders, to practice Peace on a daily basis, to build a culture of Peace in our organizations, our communities, our nations, and our world, and to realize that personal and planetary Peace are inseparable.

Avon believes that in planetary intent there is the potential for triggering “unitive consciousness.” She says, “It’s sending out an imprint, a conscious thought that links with others who carry the same purpose, will and intention. We fortify the field with one another because we are literally thinking, meditating, invoking and acting in concert. And when one begins at the intuitive, spiritual level with dedicated intention, one aligns with a higher Will-to-Good. We magnify the effect by creating a field of peace that permeates all levels for all times.” ■