



Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends
Asociación de los Amigos de Monteverde
Monteverde 5655, Costa Rica
(506) 2645-5302
MonteverdeQuakers@gmail.com

Fifth Month, 2012
Monteverde, Puntarenas, Costa Rica

Dear Friends Everywhere:

The Monteverde Friends Meeting is coming out of a year of challenges and celebrations, and also a year of deepening understanding and appreciation for the life of the Spirit. We continue to explore the balance between our temporal concerns, most particularly with reference to our commitment to Monteverde Friends School, and our focus on our spiritual lives and care for each other. We feel renewed through sharing the vital spiritual work, internal practices, and discernment of our Meeting. Some have expressed a growing sense of divine expression of care for one another within the Meeting community.

This year Martha Moss and John Trostle turned 90 and Lucky Guindon turned 80. As we celebrate important milestones, we rejoice to see Wolf Guindon's miraculous recovery of strength since a year ago. In addition, we hold in the Light other Friends and dear attenders who have been recovering from accidents or are struggling with health issues.

The Meeting has benefited from the presence of our elders, whose guidance has energized the Meeting's spiritual wellbeing and community involvement. Many members have increased their focus on the place of the Meeting and its work in their lives. In addition, we have been enriched by the Spiritual energy and excitement of new attenders, whose sense of discovery in the Spirit can refresh our vision.

Our Religious Education Committee has played a leading role in nurturing us as a spiritual community through gatherings for Bible study, Friendly 8's, discussion of famous Friends, and the sharing of spiritual journeys. As a result, many of us are coming to know each other more deeply. Our Children's Meeting has been renewed and, thanks to a community volunteer, we have currently added a second children's Meeting in Spanish for our younger children.

Locally, many members and attenders have voiced their appreciation for the Meeting's sincerity and outreach. Gratitude was expressed from members of Alcoholics Anonymous for the Meeting's trust and use of our space. In addition, many took the opportunity to learn

from attender Shannon Young about ways to interact with her son, Giancarlo, who has autism. We also look forward to being stimulated by our members' contacts with the wider world of Friends through Benito Guindon's attendance at the conference of the Friends World Committee for Consultation in Kenya and Vivian Leitón's upcoming participation in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to Europe.

The Monteverde Friends School continues to be the Meeting's primary ministry, and we experience the challenges of being a small meeting overseeing a bi-lingual, bi-cultural K-12 school. Clearly the school is deeply important to most of our active members, yet the sustainability of the Meeting's energy for our current role in the school's governance continues to be a question for many. Financial challenges have led us to strengthen our long-term fundraising and improve our school's communication to the world through a redesigned website (www.mfschool.org). As our current Head of School, John Blount, winds down his time here, we deeply appreciate his three years of hard work. At the same time, we welcome our new Head of School, Francisco Burgos, and his family. The involvement of the Meeting in the School remains focused on Friends' values, and the School's students thrive spiritually and academically. Their contributions in Meeting for Worship bless us.

In this year, as in the last, we honor the contributions of our older members who are no longer able to be as active. We seek to be honest with ourselves about our fears and hopes for the Meeting and this community, listening for the transcendent power of the Spirit to guide our steps with respect to our sometimes overwhelming inheritance, and to lead us to new understandings and care in our relationships with each other and with the world around us.

Yours in the Light on behalf of the Monteverde Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends,

Katy VanDusen (Clerk)

Heather Gosse (Recording clerk)

(2012 Epistle Committee: Ran Smith, Shannon Young, and Jonathan Ogle)

Please inform us about address changes and if you are willing to receive this epistle by email.