



Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends

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

12 May 2013

To Friends everywhere,

In 2012 our appreciation of community has grown. We have found a regeneration of community through working together on our timberframe Meeting house and have enjoyed the tireless effort of many volunteers. Members and nonmembers have helped redefine how we relate to each other. Working together has acted as a catalyst to better understanding. We have given and received much and recognize the need to be generous to ourselves as well as others. Experiencing community can be powerful, wonderful and stressful as we have grieved and celebrated life this year, embracing change.



We experienced the loss of two Meeting members, Doris Rockwell and Meg Wallace. We mourn the sudden passing of Adriana Salazar, beloved student at Friends School and Pati Ortiz, the mother of one of our students. We joyfully welcomed our new members: Claudia and Samir Araya Stuckey and Ran Smith. We celebrated the wedding of Evelyn Rockwell and Aníbal Torres on the playing field at the school. The community has contributed a significant amount of time, energy and love to provide pastoral care to friends. We are blessed with many long and short term visitors who share gifts of themselves and of the Spirit.

We are grateful for, and honor the decisions of the founders of Monteverde who set aside the forest at the top of this beautiful mountain as watershed. That decision has truly made our human, plant and animal community thrive. They also structured a way of doing business that would benefit not just their families but their Costa Rican neighbors.

Religious renewal has been manifested in various ways this year: first day school, adult education and sharing, highlighting the testimony of integrity as a focal point at school, and written quotes to help us center in Meeting. We have come together, with different ages and various religious beliefs and backgrounds, and shared spiritually in community. We have joined together for spiritual sharing groups, Bible study, a study of John Woolman's journal and spiritual journeys sharing as well as other activities. We have felt a deepening of the Spirit as we have shared our journeys and learned the journeys of others.

The Monteverde Friends School continues to be a central focus of the Meeting. We welcome our new director, Francisco Burgos and his family. Francisco brings new energy and enthusiasm to school. This year we built our long awaited kinder building. Teachers and students helped in various ways moving dirt, sacrificing play area to construction space and doing post construction cleaning to provide a safe play area for students and community.

We have had a busy year, one full of community, spiritual renewal, and sharing. We are full of appreciation for the many blessings we have received. Through the many activities and participation of Monteverde friends, the experience of community continues to enrich our lives.

In Peace,

Katy VanDusen, Clerk
Heather Gosse, Recording Clerk



epistle committee: Judy Witt-Croswhite, Rick Mera, Jean Stuckey