



Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends

Asociación de los Amigos de

Monteverde

Monteverde 5655, Costa Rica

(506) 2645-5302

MonteverdeQuakers@gmail.com

May 2016

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

Since Monteverde was founded 65 years ago, changes have sped up. What doesn't change is our intention to support each other on our spiritual paths, and to respond creatively in adapting to new challenges. We open to new ways and work hard to let go of some old habits that no longer serve.

Changes in our meeting have included welcoming three new members and four sojourning members in the last year. Historically we have been slow to operate bilingually, but now translate all committee reports, announcements, and Meeting for Business. We have added a young teens group to our Children's Meeting.

Lessons from Arthur Larrabee's workshop last year continue to challenge us to practice Spirit-Led Decision-Making. We are learning to listen to each other more deeply; to respect the contrary opinions of others; to open our minds; to put our ideas on the table, then release them; to acknowledge that none of us has the "right answer", but that together, under the guidance of the Spirit, we can achieve unity.

To accept more fully our individual responsibilities, we are creating a culture of shared leadership. We are experimenting with this in rotating clerks of Monthly Business Meetings and greeters after our Sunday Meetings for Worship. In a parallel way, students have been translating messages during Wednesday Meeting and leading the introductions and announcements afterward.

In the past year we have sought to deepen our connections with the Spirit and with each other. The Religious Education committee has nudged us all to question how we are living our faith by sponsoring spiritual discussion groups and Bible study. The many Meeting committees also create opportunities for us to work together and to connect on deeper levels.

Three of our members attended the World Gathering of Friends in Peru whose theme was "Living the Transformation" and focused in part on climate change. That coincides with our own efforts to reduce our carbon footprint by installing solar panels, composting, and increasing the efficiency transporting students. We constantly struggle with the paradox of doing this while we continue to travel by air and consume fossil fuels in so many other ways.

The most recent and difficult change is the passing of Wilford "Wolf" Guindon, one of the founders of Monteverde. He was a lifelong pacifist who was hardworking and humble, with a

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great sense of humor. He became a conservationist and was a founder of multiple conservation and other community organizations. His life is an example of how we can never know how many lives we have influenced.

In Peace,

Katy VanDusen

Network Clerk

Harriet Joslin

Recording Clerk

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