



Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends

Asociación de los Amigos de Monteverde

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Fifth Month 2017

Dear Friends Everywhere,

The past year has been full of activity as we continue to work on deepening our connections within our Meeting, with the greater community and with Spirit. The Religious Education Committee continues to support in organizing small sharing groups, spiritual journey and discussion events and friendly Bible study. We have had active participation in First Day School for both younger children and teens, including an overnight retreat and a community service project. Wednesday Meeting for Worship has been enriched with students creating queries, closing Meeting and translating.

The rise of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has expanded our focus beyond Monteverde. As we reflect on the state of our world and work to strengthen our global community, we strive to be aware of social issues, understand the root causes of those issues and recognize our part in them. We were overwhelmed by community support as we participated in the Women's March, Climate March and organized visits to refugees at a border camp.

With the support of Overseers and treasured members, we have been actively working on conflict resolution and healing relationships. We continue to learn how to express ourselves and to listen with love, openness and humility. In February, Tibetan monk Lama Wangchen spoke to us of peace, happiness and being a good person. Lama Wangchen's visit, as shared by a Meeting member, was "an important spiritual turning point, bringing joy, presence and compassion back to the forefront."

The Monteverde Friends School and the Meeting are more deeply entwined than before; a clear honoring of the importance of the school to the Meeting and vice-versa. Friends, alumni, former teachers and community members came together to celebrate the school's 65th anniversary with a vibrant, activity-filled week; one where we could reflect on how our community began and where we are going. Our School and Meeting community extends far and wide.

This year we welcomed several new and sojourning members as well as celebrated the return of 4 members who had been living outside of the country. We rejoiced in the birth of Abigail Welch Arce into our community, and also mourned the loss of beloved Meeting and community members: Stratton Ray, Bill Powers, Stella Wallace, Kyle Wainwright, Martha Moss and Jean Patterson. We are grateful for the fellowship and sense of Spirit we feel in times of both joy and sorrow. We continue to hold in the light our friends near and far who are struggling with illnesses and difficulties. As people of faith we are charged with being leaders in finding ways to better love each other and address ways to make the world a better place.

In the light,