



Monteverde Friends Meeting

Apartado 32-5655

Monteverde

Puntarenas

Costa Rica

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To Friends Everywhere,

The pandemic gave many of us a mandatory pause. It was an opportunity to ground, to tap into the Inner Light, to be more present, to connect with our families and ask ourselves “Am I living my Truth? Am I causing harm by being false? Is how I am living life-giving?”

Many messages in meeting for worship in the last year have referred to Light: its ever presence, its healing power and its exposure of the Truth. One member recalled getting electricity in her house for the first time and seeing cobwebs that she had never noticed before.

Now that we are returning to in-person activities as the pandemic winds down, we are relearning how to connect with people, newcomers and neighbors alike. We are fortunate to have a very open meeting room. With wind blowing through, we have felt safe meeting in-person with masks. But when do we start having potlucks, taking off our masks? Some are more ready than others. We are not the same people that we were two years ago. In many cases, it feels like we are learning how to date again.

The school is overcoming many challenges, especially financial. THANK YOU to those of you, both here and afar, who have helped so generously. The school community is also reaching out to help others. One class [sent messages of support to Friends in Ukraine](#) which quickly went viral.

Some of our gatherings this year have been to say goodbye. Along the side of the road, we waved goodbye to Margaret Adelman as she returned to Canada to live with family. We held postponed memorials for Silvia and Paul Smith and Linda Moller. We also celebrated the lives of one of the community’s founders, Howard Rockwell Jr.; of Jerome Diller and Ignacio Picado. From afar we celebrated Greg Paradise and Marcos Wallace who also died this year.

Light has exposed cobwebs and difficult realities. Jerome’s death brought to the forefront the challenges of addiction. We appreciate the efforts of those who are fixing up a house to support people with addictions in Santa Elena. We marched with others to bring attention to sexual harassment and abuse in the broader community. We are drafting a Meeting Policy on Sexual Abuse as we come to grips with pedophilia in our own Meeting.

We are challenged to see the Light in everyone, including those who have been engaged in violent acts in our community, in the war in Ukraine and elsewhere. We remind ourselves that we are One. As the current war is related to energy resources, many of us are called to accelerate the transition to a fossil-fuel free economy. We are pleased that a growing number of meeting attenders arrive in electric vehicles of all sorts and that others continue to walk or bike.

As we address challenges, we are trying to be more careful about how we communicate. [These are some of the best communication practices](#) that we took away from a workshop we did last year. The first: When tensions are high, pause. Seek to understand. Tap into the Light.

In Love, Light and Peace,

Tim Curtis, Clerk

Harriet Joslin, Recording Clerk

Epistle Committee: Tom Cox, Ran Smith and Katy VanDusen

