

Merry Christmas from Barranco!



Those are my Christmas decorations in Barranco. I am very happy here. I am calling this my transition year as my landlady's lease on Caye Caulker ends June 2020. I should get an apartment in a Senior Center in downtown Decatur, Georgia (Atlanta) by then. I plan to spend April – October there and November – March here.

Barranco is the southernmost village on the coast of Belize, a small Garifuna village, and the site of my healing (4 pm August 6, 1998). They call me "Baranguna" which means I "belong to Barranco." I just got my own Internet system a couple of days ago which makes my life here complete.

2019 has been full of visitors. My sister Becky comes every year and we usually go somewhere in Belize. This year we went to Placencia, a resort area on a peninsula further south in Belize.

The first weekend in March the Belize City Friends Meeting hosted the Friends United Meeting Board (U.S. and Caribbean). I was honored to host Dale Grave's family (Sylvia, Maria, and Eric) on Caye Caulker. At the same time Anne Mitchell was vacationing on Caye Caulker.

Later in March my oldest grandson, Ray, came to visit. My friend and publishing partner, Dorothy Beveridge, and I took Ray on a special birthday birding trip. Her birthday is two days

after mine. And I took advantage of his help and hired Jason Joseph, who has a van, to take a load of things to Barranco, along with Dorothy, Ray, and me. I share a birthday with Amanda Zuniga in Barranco. I am blessed because her family always throws us both a big party with lots of food, drumming and dancing. Ray had a great time!

On the way back on the bus, Dorothy and I stopped in the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary to launch the second edition of *Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary: Its History, Flora, and Fauna for Teachers, Visitors, and Scientists*. The first edition had been published in 1996 and had been out of print since 2000.

In April my friends Claudia Huff and Bill Riall came to visit and then I went to Barranco for Easter and stayed four weeks. The 4th of May was Global Big Day, a major birding event. I recruited Alvin Loredo to help me represent Barranco. He and I have been birding each morning 6 - 8 am that it isn't raining.

From mid-August to mid-October I wandered on the train through the U.S. visiting grandchildren: first Ollie and Arlo in Portland, Oregon; then Ray, Dean, Frankie, and Billy in Maple Grove, Minnesota. I attended the Quaker Institute for the Future's Summer Research Institute in Cape Cod. and Quaker Earthcare Witness in Pendle Hill, Pennsylvania.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good Night!
Love, Judy