

Merry Christmas 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

For me, 2018 has been full of visitors. The word is out that I am leaving Belize, at least Caye Caulker, in 2020, so visitors are lining up to visit before it is too late.

My sister Becky comes every year. This year we explored the north of Belize: Corozal, Sarteneja, and Shipstern. I had done this trip with my friend Bea Petite the November before, except this time we slept in Shipstern Conservation and Management Area,



too. We visited Maya sites Santa Rita and Cerros. To get to Cerros, we crossed the New River on a hand-cranked ferry.



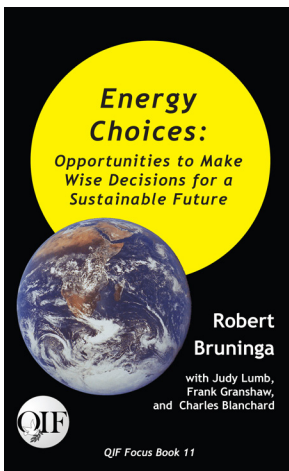
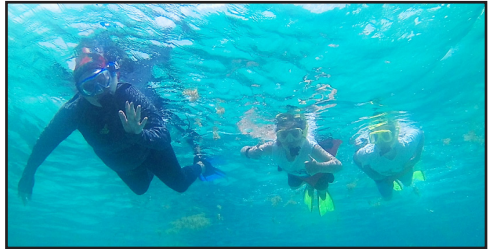
In March Dorothy Beveridge (my friend and publishing partner) and I had a wonderful trip, celebrating our 70th and 75th birthdays with my friends Geeta and Bob McGahey from North Carolina, who asked for a “super birding trip.” So we hired Roni Martinez, our favorite birding guide, a great opportunity for birding in La Milpa, Lamanai, and Crooked Tree.

In April Ellen Armstrong came back for a visit and I was still in Cockscomb after the March trip, so she and I met in Hopkins, a great visit.

The first week of August I had a wonderful visit from the three families of my son Jeff, and Mark and Andrew Cummings. Those three had been to Caye Caulker together 30 years before when they were teenagers and now they have children, mostly teenagers. It was the 20th anniversary of my healing, so it was a grand celebration.

From the left are my two grandsons Arlo and Ollie, then Laura, Ricardo, Amo, Mark, Branson, Jeff, Aracely, me, and Glee. Andrew was taking the photo.

Here I am snorkeling with Ollie and Arlo.

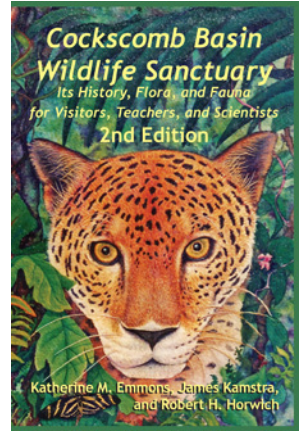


We finished an important *QIF Focus Book* (Quaker Institute for the Future) called *Energy Choices* and launched it at Friends General Conference. I also went to Friends Association for Higher Education and gave a presentation on the *QIF Focus Books*. *Energy Choices* is by Bob Bruninga, an aerospace engineer. He argues that every year or two homeowners have to make an energy choice—when their water heater or furnace need repairs, they buy a car, etc. He shows how all these choices can now be made with renewable sources that are cheaper in the long run and much easier.

When I was visiting my son Tim and his family in Minneapolis, my grand-daughter Frankie and I went to the Prince Musium. It is a great museum, gives a real understanding of his talent and contributions.



We are about to finish the second edition of the Cockscomb book, which I published in 1997 and has been out of print since 2002.



I took a second trip to the U.S. West Coast in October for a Quaker Earthcare Witness meeting in Washington, was in Portland for Ollie's 12th birthday party, and visited friends in San Francisco—Bill Prince and Christopher Jones who are in the midst of producing the documentary film, "The Boys Who Said No" about those who went to jail to protest the Vietnam War. I saw a rough cut—it is wonderful! I spent time with Rolene Walker, my dear friend whom I accompanied in 2008 in Ecuador during her Walk for the Earth from San Diego CA to Santiago, Chili. I finished in Iowa with my sister Becky for the election.



Laura Ward Holliday and her friend Sundra Spears came to Belize for the 19th of November, Garifuna Settlement Day. Here we are at Thanksgiving dinner, Laura on the right and Sundra next to me on the other side of the table.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Judith