



friendship force  
BIG CANOE -  
NORTH GEORGIA

February  
2021  
Newsletter

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### Coming Events

February 3, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.	Zoom conference with Open World delegates from Serbia and Macedonia.
August, 2021	Outgoing journey to Des Moines and one other club.
August 29, 2021	Friendship Force International Festival at Sea.
April, 2022	Incoming journey from Des Moines.
October, 2022	Outgoing journey to Peru.

### Comments

Bob Anderson is working with the Des Moines club to schedule the journeys to and from Des Moines.

Phil Waldrop worked with the journey coordinator in Peru and with a travel agent to put together a fantastic journey for 2020. FFI asked that all 2020 journeys be rescheduled for 2022.

The club has established the policy that all ambassadors on journeys and all hosts must provide proof of vaccination for SARS-CoV-2.



### A Few Words From Sherry

Our newsletter is a bit early this month because our activity for February will be the Open World Reunion with the 2014 Serbia and Macedonia delegates. I have invited all the hosts and committee members for that delegation to join the Zoom meeting. If you have not received an invitation and would like to listen to the meeting, please let me know. The Open World program manager will send out the meeting invitation and moderate the meeting.

If you want to ensure that you have received all the FFI emails, here is a link to the Email Campaign Archive, which is a list of the most recent emails. You could bookmark it to make sure you never miss a message from FFI. <https://us12.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=ba1bffc1cec3dcb20c97569d1&id=5feca96946>

I have been enjoying the FFI virtual events and I hope you will visit the FFI website and click on Virtual Experiences to check out what is available. Keep safe and get that vaccine ... Sherry



### Future Meetings

February 3 – Wednesday – we will be zooming with our first Open World guests from Serbia and Macedonia at 12:00 noon. Many of the hosts have kept in touch. The day and time are unusual for a meeting; this is done to accommodate their schedules.

March 21 – Vaccines are moving around Georgia; weather will be getting warmer; hopefully, we will be able to meet in person.



### Upcoming Journeys

We are tentatively planning an outgoing journey to Des Moines and one other club in August, 2021, and an incoming journey from Des Moines in April, 2022.

We are tentatively planning an outgoing journey to Peru in October, 2022.

Friendship Force International announced the following schedule for 2022 planning:

- February 28, 2021—Matches sent out.



### January Meeting

The January meeting was a Zoom conference because of Covid-19. Fourteen club members participated. Here is some of the information provided:

- The February meeting will be on February 3 at noon, by Zoom. It will be a reunion with the people from Serbia and Macedonia who were in our first

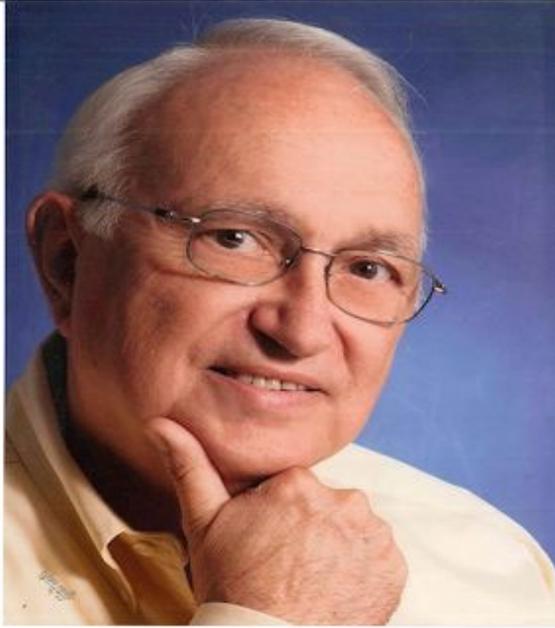
Open World event.

- Mary Ellen Johnson shared that her brother had died that day.
- Phil Waldrop has been infected with Covid-19.
- We are assuming there will not be an Open World event in the first half of this year.
- At this point, the Festival at Sea is still planned. There is obvious risk of canceling the plan, because of Covid-19.



### March Birthdays

- 1 Tom Crawford
- 19 Jeannette Waldrop



### In Memoriam Tom Eubanks

(Honorary Member, Big Canoe/North Georgia Friendship Force)

James Thomas Eubanks, Jr., born in Jasper July 13, 1940, was President of the Big Canoe/North Georgia Friendship Force in the eventful year of 1990, the well-publicized Georgia to Georgia exchange that included two outbound journeys in the spring and the fall to the Soviet Union/Republic of Georgia on Delta Airlines, a sponsor of the journey, with a return to the U.S. by Aeroflot. Aeroflot flew the inbound passengers from the Soviet Union/Republic of Georgia to the U.S. at the same time. There were so many people from the U.S. wanting to be included in that journey to Georgia that a second visit to Georgia was arranged in

the fall. A very busy year for Friendship Force International & Big Canoe/North Georgia! Our daughter, a senior at Pickens High School, was in the first group of travelers on this trip. She was the youngest of the Big Canoe members and was hosted with the oldest member, Wylene Bryant. They had a wonderful time!

Tom was also involved as Co-Exchange Director (ED) in 1989 in an incoming exchange from Egypt, and as ED of the incoming exchange in 1991 from Japan. His most memorable exchange occurred as ED, along with his wife, Barbara, of the Bridge Builder architectural exchange to St. Petersburg, Russia, in collaboration with the Chief Architect of the Hermitage, their host. Tom and Barbara, a retired teacher, welcomed Friendship Force ambassadors into their home, hosting more than 20 groups from 15 different countries. Their home, the Cagle House, was originally built by Tom's great-grandfather in 1871, and carefully restored by Tom and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. He loved showcasing the home to anyone who visited – a masterpiece of design! We were fortunate to be able to hold two Big Canoe/North Georgia ice cream social meetings in the summer outside, the second one after Barbara passed away (hosted by Tom's niece). He gave us all the full tour the first time.

Tom was active in Rotary and was Optimist President in Jasper and Smyrna. He also served as Georgia Gover-

nor of Optimist International, co-chair of Georgia Marble Festival, a volunteer at Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center, and a founding member of Marble Valley Friends, working on the architectural design of the Tate Depot and other projects. Tom was a member of Big Canoe Chapel. He designed and renovated homes in Big Canoe and other areas of North Georgia through his company, T. Designs. He will be missed by his family, friends, and members of Big Canoe/North Georgia Friendship Force. The full obituary from Carmichael Funeral Home in Marietta can be viewed at

<https://www.carmichaelfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/James--Thomas--Eubanks-Jr?obId=19603109#/celebrationWall>

Mary Ellen Johnson



### Cares and Concerns

The Atlanta Journal Constitution reported on January 17 the death of Bev Reilman. She was known by many of our old-time members. She was on the

staff of Friendship Force International for many years, and was the author of the Friendship Force Cookbook. She is survived by six children.

### A TIME OF LOSS & SADNESS

Tom Eubanks, a longtime member of our club, passed away at a nursing facility in Kennesaw, Georgia, on January 8th. A Graveside service was conducted at Cool Springs Baptist Church on January 15th. We are asking our members who knew Tom and may have travelled with him and his wife to send cards with words of comfort and remembrance to his niece. Her name is Heather Golden and her address is 4050 Carissa Trace in Cumming, Georgia 30040.

A second passing to report is that of Mary Ellen Johnson's brother, Jim Rumpf, who passed away on January 10th in Greenwood Springs, Louisiana. Jim was 71 and death was the result of untreated cancer. It is a great sadness for Mary Ellen that she did not get to visit him before his passing. Your words of comfort in the form of notes and cards would be most welcome. We hope this message finds you well in body and spirit. If you know of locations with vaccines that are taking appointments., please share that information.

Be Very Careful, my Friends,  
your Cares & Concerns Lady  
Jeannette W.

If



## LINKS FOR INFORMATION ON FFI WEBSITE

Sign up for a Pen Pal from FFI (<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/ffi-pen-pals-beta/>).

FFI staff has been busy with creating the News and Media blog (<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/>) and the new Virtual Experiences page (<https://blog.friendshipforce.org/virtual-experiences/>). These provide an excellent way to stay in touch with the international community.

Are you signed up for the FFI newsletter? If not, you can sign up here <https://friendshipforce.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=ba1bffc1cec3dcb20c97569d1&id=a5eb5f7351>

We welcome information for future issues of this newsletter. To make it informative and interesting we need information about what is going on in the club. If you have something you could share, such as committee updates, member updates, or photos of your recent travels, please share it. Send by e-mail or telephone call to the newsletter editor:

Ray Bowyer

raybowyer@earthlink.net  
770-366-3736

Deadline for the March issue is March 7, 2021.

## Friendship Force WhatsApp

Hello Friend!

As part of our commitment to communicate more quickly and directly with members, we have created a broadcast list on WhatsApp, the world's most popular free messaging app.

If you join, you'll receive occasional short messages, directly to your smartphone or tablet. These messages, sent in English, will contain important news from FFI, reminders, or updates about Virtual Experiences and Journeys.

### HOW TO JOIN:

1. Visit the Google Play Store (Android) or App Store (Apple) and search for Whatsapp.
2. Click on "Install" to download Whatsapp on your phone or tablet for free.
3. Open Whatsapp and add the number +1 404.965.4336 to your phone's list of contacts.
4. Name this number "FFI Messages".
5. Send us a "Hello" with your name and club name so we can add you to our broadcast list. This number will not receive further messages.
6. You are ready! You will start to receive our updates directly on your phone or tablet .

***Please note:*** If you need to contact us, or wish to remove yourself from the Whatsapp broadcast list at any time, please email [support@thefriendshipforce.org](mailto:support@thefriendshipforce.org).

FOR TRAINING IN USING WHATSAPP: <https://vimeo.com/436810228>