



friendship force

BIG CANOE -  
NORTH GEORGIA

**March  
2021  
Newsletter**

a world of friends is a world of peace

<http://ffbcng.org>

### Coming Events

March 23, 2021, at 12:30 p.m.	Regular monthly meeting at Gibbs Gardens
April 18, 2021	Regular monthly meeting
August 29, 2021	Friendship Force International Festival at Sea.

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

Remember our fun time at Callaway Gardens with the two clubs from Alabama? That was over a year ago! We have been Zooming ever since, except for the picnic in July. Dan and I did not attend the picnic due to our concern about the coronavirus. Here's hoping we see each other this month at our OUTDOOR activity. Search the newsletter for details.

While I have been hibernating, I have been busy Zooming with FFI. Please look for separate articles about FFI Online, Open World Update, FFI and Coronavirus Vaccines and FFI Brand Refresh. Please contact me if you have any questions.

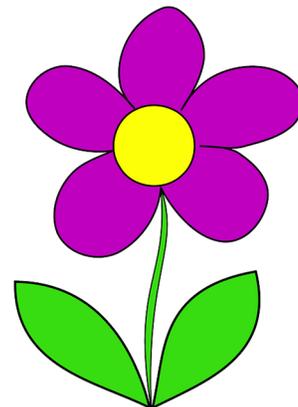
I am hoping that all of you have successfully registered for and received your coronavirus vaccine! Virtual hugs to you ...  
Sherry

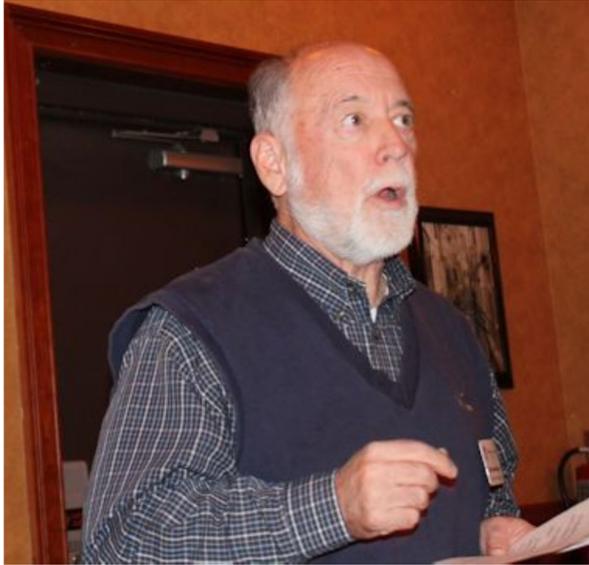


### Future Meetings

**March 23** – Vaccines are moving around GA; weather will be getting warmer hopefully; we have decided to meet in person. Our plan is to gather at Gibbs Gardens on March 23 – a Tuesday. We are not going to meet on a weekend day because the Gardens will be too crowded. We will meet at the large tent on the right after the bridge after you enter the gardens. Let's meet at 12:30 – this will give us the warmest part of the day – and your choice for lunch. Eat before you come or eat at the Arbor Café on the premises. We will have a short meeting and then enjoy the daffodils. It will be nice to gather in person.

April 18 – Once again, we will plan on meeting outside in person. Details will follow.





newal and support of the concept of Friendship Force!

Bob Anderson  
Membership Chair



### A Word from our Membership Chairperson

I would like to personally thank all those who renewed their memberships for 2021. Besides renewing friendships by Zooming with the Mid-Willamette Valley Friendship Force club and our Open World friends from Ukraine, Serbia and Macedonia, we have not been able to do much face-to-face meetings. FFI has been busy with updating their website and offering several virtual meetings online; Sherry, Tim and Barry have kept us up to date with the changes at FFI. With everyone vaccinated (or near vaccinated) our Activities Committee is planning some "outings" for March and April. If all goes well, perhaps we can schedule an event in the Fall with the Lake Hartwell and Atlanta clubs. Everyone is itching to travel safely again.

The membership application is attached to this newsletter.

Again thanks for your membership re-

### February Meeting

The February meeting was a zoom conference reunion with the participants in the Open World Serbia-North Macedonia event in 2014. There were 32 participants. It appeared that everyone enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce and to learn what had happened to each person since 2014.



### FFI AND CORONAVIRUS VACCINES

Friendship Force International has been

asked many times to take a position on establishing travel restrictions. Almost always, their response is this: “we rely on Journey and Host Coordinators to make those determinations.” For more information, visit <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/ffi-and-coronavirus-vaccines/>

### REFRESHING THE FFI BRAND

As FFI works to evolve the way that Friendship Force serves our global community, they unveiled a glimpse of FFI’s refreshed branding. The new brand style incorporates a simple, slightly vintage approach that pays homage to the history of the organization. To learn more about how the rollout will effect our club, check out a recording of our recent new brand announcement webinar, which was hosted by Friendship Force CEO Jeremi Snook. Visit this link for more information: <https://blog.friendshipforce.org/a-stronger-way-forward-qas-and-faqs/>



### FRIENDSHIP FORCE ONLINE

Friendship Force International (FFI) has finally implemented a member account log-in. President Sherry says “finally” because she was amazed

there was no log-in when she and Dan joined Friendship Force in 2014.

Barry, Tim, and Sherry were offered an opportunity to preview the new log-in capability, along with club leaders around the world. Jeremi created a Friendship Force member account and then showed the member home page and dashboard.

Jeremi then went over some frequently asked questions so that the club leaders will feel confident in assisting you, our members. Quite honestly, it is all very straight-forward and easier than creating a Facebook account.

First, you can be assured that the online account will be secure. FFI must be compliant with the European Union’s data protection regulations, which are stricter than US regulations. When you create an FF online account, you need only enter your email address and your name and create a password. You also select your local club.

You will receive an email to verify your email address. When you respond to that email, you will create your account. You can then complete other account information if you wish. Our club administrator will review and accept your log in.

Creating an account will also give you a unique member ID which the system will use to track your journey and financial transaction history. Believe it or not, that information is NOT readily available now. For the first time, FFI will have a record of members’ names,

email addresses and local clubs.

If a member does not have an email account and/or a computer, the administrator can create the account. Every member must be assigned a member ID to keep their information organized in the system.

If a couple shares an email address, one of them will have to establish a new email account, perhaps on Google or Yahoo. Emails sent to the new account can be forwarded to the original email address.

This system will not only be secure; the interface will be multi-lingual. Two thirds of FFI's members do not have English as their native language but the FFI website has always been in English.

The launch of the member log-in will be step one. Eventually, all member forms, procedures, etc. will move to the member area of the website. A separate area of the website will be available to visitors who want to explore FFI. The new website will have public and member-only areas.

There is much more to tell/explain; this is only an introduction. Our club will appoint an administrator to approve member accounts and take care of answering questions. At this point, Sherry will be happy to fill that role.

If you have questions, please send them to Sherry at [slwileman@mindspring.com](mailto:slwileman@mindspring.com). There is no rush to get your account.

**If you did not previously sign up for emails from FFI, you will not**

**automatically receive the email from FFI about creating an online account.** If you did not receive their email, please let Sherry know at [slwileman@mindspring.com](mailto:slwileman@mindspring.com) and she will send the instructions to you. If you have any problems creating your account, please ask Sherry for help.



## OPEN WORLD UPDATE

The Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) will continue their focus on virtual programming until travel can resume. Our club hopes to have reunions with our delegations from the Republic of Georgia in the second half of the year.

OWLC is awarding administrative funds to clubs that held virtual programming this year. Our club will receive \$600 for our two virtual programs, Ukraine Reunion and Serbia/Macedonia Reunion. We did not expect these funds and are happy to add them to our treasury.

## Newsletter

The following article was included in the newsletter of the Open World Leadership Center:

On February 3, the Center hosted a joint virtual event for alumni from Serbia and North Macedonia to reunite with their local host organizers, host families from Friendship Force of Big Canoe, and professional counterparts from the state of Georgia. This delegation traveled to Big Canoe, Georgia, in October 2014 on the theme of U. S. Elections.

The virtual event featured remarks from Mr. **Kwanza Hall**, former U. S. Representative for the 5th Congressional District of Georgia, from December 2020 to January 2021, after winning the special election to serve the remainder of the late **John Lewis**' term in Congress. Our alumni had the opportunity to meet Mr. Hall when he served as an Atlanta City Councilman. Mr. Hall spoke about his time as a U. S. Congressman and how he went from acting in a city council to Congress.

The virtual program concluded with a session focusing on an overview of the recent U. S. Elections to connect the event to their original program theme. The alumni were elated to reconnect with the host community in Big Canoe and hope to continue this virtual dialogue. The reunion of program alumni with their host families is featured in the picture [They used the same picture shown in the report on the same meeting on page 3 of this newsletter.]



### Birthdays

Two sharp-eyed readers noticed that the January issue of this newsletter erroneously listed the January birthdays, instead of February, as it should have. So to keep records straight, here are the February birthdays:

- 1 Jeanette Crawford
- 5 Marie Williams
- 8 John Paolino
- 9 Barbara Schneider
- 11 Sherry Wileman
- 23 Huw Williams

Continuing on, here are the March birthdays:

- 1 Tom Crawford
- 19 Jeannette Waldrop

And to get back on track, here are the April birthdays:

- 3 Nancy Davis
- 4 Bob Anderson
- 9 Jean Goggin
- 18 Ray Bowyer

Your editor apologizes for the error.



Cares and Concerns

Sherry and Dan want to thank all of you who kept their grandson, William, in your thoughts and prayers. He went to school face-to-face on 3/8 for two classes. He has not recovered from long covid, but is managing it with medications. Hopefully,

he will continue to progress; his school is being helpful in meeting his needs.

Please call me at 706-268-1072 if you are aware of any cares or concerns.

Your Cares and Concerns lady, Jeannette Waldrop



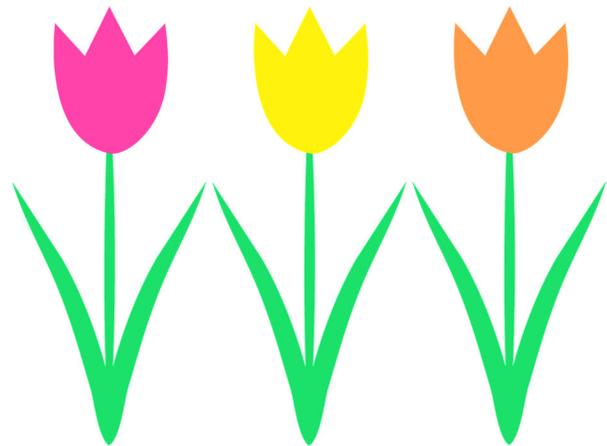
We welcome information for future issues of this newsletter. To make it informative and interesting we need information about what is going on in the club. If you have something you could share, such as committee updates, member updates, or photos of your recent travels, please share it. Send by e-mail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

Ray Bowyer

[raybowyer@earthlink.net](mailto:raybowyer@earthlink.net)

770-366-3736

Deadline for the April issue is April 4, 2021.





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*2021 Membership Application*

*Name(s)*

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*Address*

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*Telephone#*

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*Cell Phone (s)*

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*Email Address(es)*

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*Membership Dues*     \_\_\_ \$30 per year *Individual*

      \_\_\_ \$60 per Year *Couple*

**Return To: Robert Logan, Treasurer, 741 Oakdale Rd, Canton, GA 30114**