



friendship force  
BIG CANOE -  
NORTH GEORGIA

October  
2021  
Newsletter

a world of friends is a world of peace

<http://ffbcng.org>

### Coming Events

October 28, 2021	Inbound journey from Des Moines, Iowa
November 1, 2021	Farewell dinner with Des Moines club
December 12, 2021	End-of-year celebration meeting
May, 2022	Outbound journey to Des Moines, Iowa
October, 2022	Outbound journey to San Antonio, Texas
2023	Incoming journey from San Antonio, Texas

**Sign up for the Friendship Force International web site:** To sign up, connect to [https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign\\_in](https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in), then click SIGN UP.

The club has established the policy that all ambassadors on journeys and all hosts must provide proof of vaccination for Covid-19.



### A Few Words From Sherry

I am feeling fall in the air and seeing the leaves fall in the garden. This is the time of year we often have an incoming journey or Open World delegation. Thanks to Bob A. and Tim A. and their committees, ambassadors from Des Moines will arrive here on October 28<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you at the Farewell Party at West Milford Farm on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. Details about the journey are reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

### FFBCNG CLUB NEWS

Our club needs help with **social media**. Ray B. is already handling the club's Facebook page, newsletter, website, and communications. Could you help to design the new club profile page on the my.friendshipforce.org site? Contact Sherry if you are interested.

November is the time for payment of our **annual membership dues**. Our board recommended dues of \$35 per person for 2022 to offset the increase in FFI dues to \$25. That recommendation was approved at the membership meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

The **Nominating Committee** has recommended retaining the current officers and committee chairs for another year. Since we will not have a November membership meeting, you will receive an email to cast your ballot for the 2022 officers.



### FFI TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Friendship Force International's commitment to a stronger future is most evident in the new online tools and capabilities available to existing members. The launch of myFFI (my.friendshipforce.org) symbolizes a fundamental shift in how journeys, clubs and future members engage with our programming. Here is a brief overview of the latest features and updates coming your way.

**Coming soon!** Friendship Force **multilingual website**. Over the past year, a new website has been in development, geared towards sharing our mission, history, and programs with potential members. The website is in final review with a target launch by the end of December. Since this is a multilingual site, it has taken more time than expected to translate and ensure nothing is lost in translation.

**Coming soon to myFF! Interest Groups.** Coming in the next few weeks is a new feature called ‘interest groups.’ These virtual groups will be found on [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org) and are a way for people to come together around shared interests. Soon there will be a place for groups like the Book Club, Coffee Chats, Field Representatives, Club Admins, language learner groups, and so on.

**Coming soon to myFF! Club-level communications.** Within the club profile page on myFF, there will be a new feature that allows clubs to post messages to be visible on their club page. When these messages are posted, all members of your club will receive a notification in their primary email inbox.

**Coming soon to myFF! myFF Global Club Directory.** All members will be able to browse and view your club profile page and see the photos you’ve posted, your journey history, and learn more about your club.

Last month a new volunteer group of tech-savvy members came together to form FFI’s first Tech Advisory Team. These members come from Australia, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the USA, and will help guide FFI in its ongoing development of [my.friendshipforce.org](http://my.friendshipforce.org) as well as the overall online member experience.

If you sign up for FFI’s new website for members, you will never miss an important announcement or piece of news. All you need is an email address! Sign up at: <https://my.friendshipforce.org/>

[en/users/sign\\_in](#) *IF YOU NEED HELP IN SIGNING UP CONTACT SHERRY.*

## OPEN WORLD NEWS



Do you remember **Aleksandar Stojkoski** (Big Alek) from Macedonia (now North Macedonia)? He visited us as part of the 2014 Open World delegation.

He was recently elected mayor of Gjorče Petrov, one of the ten municipalities that compose the city of Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia.

We had to postpone our **reunion with the 2017 Open World delegation** from the Republic of Georgia. The message from the OW program manager said, “The political climate there is too hot with recent local elections in dispute and controversy, and people are also too focused on trying to live normal lives.”



## JOURNEY NEWS FROM FFI

“Due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the 2023 Journey assignment process will again be different than usual. To account for the uncertainty of travel and border closures we will be undertaking

the Journey assignment process later in the year. This will help us all to have a better idea of what travel in 2023 will look like. We will also have a better idea of how many Journeys will go ahead in 2022.” “Clubs will have the opportunity to ask us to reassign an already established Journey to 2023 if they wish. This is for clubs that have a journey already planned and ready to go when normal travel resumes.”

**What this means for FFBCNG:**

The 2020 outgoing journey to Trujillo, Peru would be eligible to be re-assigned, but that club has gone inactive. We are pursuing reassigning the 2020 incoming journey from Costa Rica, perhaps to combine with the 2023 incoming journey from San Antonio.

We have two outbound journeys scheduled for 2022, Des Moines in May and San Antonio in October. Hopefully we will be hosting an Open World delegation as well. Our request to FFI for 2023 outbound journeys is not due until early 2022. Your board will solicit your suggestions prior to submission.

Bob A., Tim A., and Barry K. have been key to keeping our journey planning on track during the pandemic. *PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING A 2022 JOURNEY PLANNING TEAM AS A CO JOURNEY COORDINATOR.*

In Friendship,  
Your president, Sherry W.



### Upcoming Meetings

November 1<sup>st</sup> MONDAY – Club Event – Farewell Dinner with Des Moines -5 to 9- West Milford Farms (off 372 between Highways 369 and 20). This will be a barbecue with our ambassadors from Des Moines. We promise good food, good drinks, good conversations, and good entertainment! Get in the spirit of the event and wear your jeans! Also, bring a bandanna for a real country effect! (This will be our only meeting in November.)

Here are directions from the intersection of Steve Tate Highway and Georgia 53. Go west on Georgia 53, and turn left on Yellow Creek Road. Go 9.6 miles, and turn right on Georgia 369. Go 1.8 miles, and take the third exit onto Georgia 372. West Milford Farms is on the right.

December 12<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Christmas Party in Canton at the home of Dan H. and Sherry W.



### **Des Moines Journey**

Tim and Bob hope that as many Club members as possible will attend the planned activities below for our Des Moines visitors October 28th to November 2nd. Bob's sister Patrice A. is requesting help with our Pizza Party at the Big Canoe Lodge for Sunday evening (Halloween) October 31st. She requests help in decorating the tables and bringing Halloween cookies or cupcakes. Call her at 708-990-9708 if you can help! We especially hope you will attend the Farewell Party where we will have a catered dinner (need head counts! Call Bob A. at 706-579-1708.) and entertainment in a new centrally located venue. We want to show our guests a good time as they are scheduled to host our Club in May 2022.

### **Journey Activities**

**Thursday October 28,** - Transportation Team to Meet Ambassadors at the Airport (Delta flight #1455 arriving at 2:54 pm)

Welcome Party 6:00 pm – potluck dinner with gift bags at the home of Sherry and Dan. (Ambassadors, Hosts, Transportation, Photographer, Gift Bag committee members)

**Friday October 29** – Meet at Gibbs Gardens at 10:00 am. (All members invited).

**\*Need count for Advance Tix (and Lunch) if Not Season Ticket Holder. Call Bob A. at 706-579-1708 with your response.**

Meet at Chateau Meichtry at 1:00 p.m. for a box lunch and optional wine tasting.

Optional Visit to Mountain Valley (Wright's) Agri-Tourism Farm (gifts, ice cream).

Optional Visit to Apple Orchards and/or Burt's Pumpkin Farm (gifts, ice cream).

Group dinner hosting - 6:00 p. m. – 9:00 p. .m.

**Saturday October 30** – Meet at the Funk Heritage Center on Reinhardt University Campus at 10:00 a.m. for a Trail of Tears presentation/tour, Funk Heritage Center, Waleska (All members invited)

Lunch at Gordy Dining Center, Reinhardt Campus.

Meet at 2:00 pm at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville for a guided tour.

**\*Need count for Advance Tix if Not Season Ticket Holder. Call Bob A. at 706-579-1708 with your response.**

Suggested that Ambassadors take their Hosts to dinner.

**Sunday October 31** – Meet at 3:00

p. m. at the Big Canoe Marina in Big Canoe for a pontoon boat ride on Lake Sconti (Ambassadors and hosts, new Club members).

(Alternate Activity with Rain: Kenesaw Battlefield, Marietta, GA 2:00 – 4:00 p. m).

5-7 p. m. Pizza Party at the Big Canoe Lodge (+Food/Decorating subcommittee)

**Monday November 1** – Meet at the Amicalola Falls State Park Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. to visit the park, the Falls, and the Visitor Center. Lunch on your own with free afternoon (hiking, shopping, wine tasting) in Dahlonega or Ellijay (All members invited).

Farewell party with entertainment at 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at West Milford Farms near Ball Ground (**All members invited and encouraged to attend this new venue**). See directions above under “Upcoming Meetings”.

**Tuesday November 2** – Transportation to the Atlanta Airport.



### **Future Journeys**

Looking ahead, we are scheduled to visit the Des Moines club in spring 2022.

The following schedule has been established for 2023 journeys:

- December 31, 2021—Declare our hosting availability.
- March 18, 2022—Make our outbound requests.
- May 15, 2022—Assignments provided

[See Sherry’s letter about potential changes in this schedule.]



### **Officer Nominations**

The Nomination Committee for elected Club officers traditionally consists of the immediate past three presidents. With the approval of the current (2021) officers, the Nominations Committee unanimously recommends that the current slate below be approved for one additional year in 2022. Per by-laws the formal vote will be via an email in November. The results will be officially announced in the December Newsletter and at the December meeting.

President: Sherry Wileman  
1st Vice-President: Barry Kadechuk  
2nd Vice-President: Tim Anderson  
Secretary: Diane Briscoe  
Treasurer: Robert Logan

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Anderson, Chair



## 2022 Dues

Dues for next year are payable by December 21, 2021. As approved by the membership on September 26, dues for next year are \$35.00 per person, and \$70.00 per couple. The membership form is attached to this newsletter. Please fill it out and mail as indicated on the form by December 21, with your check. If you choose to make a contribution to FFI in addition to your dues, to help them through this difficult time, the treasurer will send any additional amount directly to FFI.



## September Meeting

The September meeting was held at the IHOP Restaurant in Canton.



## From the Cares & Concerns Desk:

This Fall Has Been a Very Sad & Somber Time for Our Club.

- Two of our members suffered the loss of their spouses and our hearts and prayers have gone out to both Monique V. and Fred M.
- Margie B. has had many serious health problems that resulted in hospitalization and a current placement in a rehabilitation therapy. We continue to pray for her return to good health.
- Pierre G. has some very serious heart problems that are being addressed. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out for him and for Beverly who needs our support as well. I know there are others out there not yet mentioned and I will be contacting you.
- This is about Marie and Huw W. He is in terrible pain with urinary problems, for which they have been seeing doctors for over the last two months. Additionally, Marie has a potential liver issue for which she is having an ultrasound.

MEANWHILE, does anyone have any JOYS TO SHARE? Please call 706-268-1072 and I will get back to you.

Your Cares, Concerns, & Joys Lady,

Jeannette W.



### November Birthdays

8	John U.
12	Ches T.
29	Brenda P.

### December Birthdays

2	Robert B.
8	Tom F.
14	Dan Z.
15	Barry K.
16	Monique V.
24	Dan H.
26	Robert L.

### Next Issue

We want input from you. If you have any information that might be of interest to other club members, send it to your newsletter editor:

Ray Bowyer  
raybowyer@earthlink.net  
770-366-3736

Deadline for the December issue is November 28, 2021.



friendship force

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*2022 Membership Application*

*Name(s)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Telephone#* \_\_\_\_\_

*Cell Phone (s)#* \_\_\_\_\_

*Email Address(es)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Birthday: Month* \_\_\_\_\_ *Day* \_\_\_\_\_

*Membership Dues*     \_\_\_ \$35 per year *Individual*

                             \_\_\_ \$70 per Year *Couple*

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