



friendship force

BIG CANOE -
NORTH GEORGIA

January
2023
Newsletter

a world of friends is a world of peace

<http://www.ffbcng.org>

Coming Events

January 8, 2023, at 2:00	Regular monthly meeting at Beach Club in Big Canoe
February 19, 2023	Regular monthly meeting
April 8, 2023	Open World Program (Azerbaijan)
April 25, 2023	Outgoing journey to Greater Orlando, Florida
May 29, 2023	Incoming journey from Siberia
October 2, 2023	Friendship Force World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia
November 1, 2023	Incoming journey from San Antonio

Sign up for the Friendship Force International web site: To sign up, connect to 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 and at least one booster for Covid-19.



President's Letter

It was great to see you on December 11th at our Holiday Party. Thanks to Dan and Sherry for hosting us. Several new members were present, and we welcome them to our club.

It is exciting to see that our organization is returning to Pre-Covid activities. We will be able to participate in both inbound and outbound Journeys during 2023; we will be discussing these Journeys in more detail at our January Meeting.

Orlando Outgoing Journey

Alan and Mary Ellen J. are the Journey Coordinators for our Outgoing Journey to Orlando April 25th-May 2nd 2023. An exciting trip is being planned and spots are still available. Call Alan or Mary Ellen at 706-253-4891 or 770-893-9109 for more information.

Siberia

We are still waiting on details concern-

ing a possible Inbound Journey from Siberia to Huntsville, Alabama and our club. If this trip is confirmed, it will be scheduled in Late May.

Open World

We will be hosting an Open World Delegation from Azerbaijan from April 8-15, 2023. Prior to their arrival to our club, they will be visiting Washington, DC for a few days.

The Theme of the delegation is "Arts as a Tool for Social Change in the U.S."

Sherry W. has offered to be the coordinator for this program. It involves a lot of effort and Sherry will need assistance. In the past, we have organized sub-committees working on hosting, professional development, transportation, social events, media relations, etc. If you are interested in working with Sherry on this exciting Open World Program, please contact her at 404-386-9224.

2023 World Conference Dubrovnik

The Friendship Force World Conference is scheduled for October 2-5, 2023 in the exciting city of Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Check your copy of the FFI newsletter dated December 22nd for details on this conference. The newsletter has information including accommodations, registration, pricing, additional paid options as well as pre or post conference tour experiences.

Conference registration will open in January, 2023.

San Antonio

We will be hosting the San Antonio Club, November 1st thru 6th. Please mark your calendars.

On behalf of our club members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sherry W. for her service as President as well as to Robert L. for his service as Treasurer. We appreciate your commitment and dedication.

Barry K.



Upcoming Meetings

January 8th – Our New Year's meeting will be early on the SECOND SUNDAY as we have much to discuss. We will meet in Big Canoe from 2:00 – 4:00 at the Beach Club. The menu will be soups, breads, and ice cream. We have a variety of soups to choose from; Peggy will email you with what you signed up to bring. If you did not sign up at the December meeting, please bring a bread or crackers to go with our soups. Everyone is to bring your choice of drink. Club will supply all paper products and ice cream.

February 19th – TBD – Activities Committee will be meeting to plan year.



Upcoming Journeys

Greater Orlando

There are 5 couples signed up for the Greater Orlando Club's Outbound Journey to see the non-touristy area of Orlando -- 16 can be accommodated. We may be asking southeastern clubs if there is interest there (Lake Hartwell, Western NC, Birmingham, Huntsville) after Christmas, if we don't hear from anyone else in our Club. Call Alan or Mary Ellen (Co-Journey Coordinators) @ 706-253-4891, cell 770-893-9109 for more information.

The Orlando club is planning the details of our journey now. Stay tuned.

Siberia

Oyuna Sengeeva, the FFI Regional Support Manager for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Baltic States, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Republic of Georgia and Mongolia, asked that our club accept a journey from the club in Siberia, Russia. We have done so.

Oyuna was born in Siberia but now lives in the United States. The president of the Siberia club is her mother. Oyuna is well acquainted with many of the ambassadors. The journey will include four nights with our club and four nights with the Huntsville club.

As Bob A. discussed in his presentation at the meeting, governments may disagree, but Friendship Force members can still agree to meet and share their culture. Our organization declares “a world of friends is a world of peace” and this journey will give our club the opportunity to live that message.

If the ambassadors from **Siberia** are approved for US visas, their visit with us will be on or about **May 29, 2023**.



Open World Program

The program for Azerbaijan is "Arts as a tool for social change in the United States", with the delegates arriving on **April 8, 2023**. "The program will introduce participants to how U.S. communities use extra-curricular youth programming in the areas of art and sports to improve social cohesion and engagement at the local level."

World Conference

FFI is organizing a World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia this year (October 2-5, 2023). Pre and Post conference excursions will also be offered. Details to follow.

2024

The following dates have been established for 2024 journeys:

Journey proposals distributed: April 14, 2023.

Acceptance/change requests: May 1, 2023



Dues Time

Hi everyone! Yes, it is past time to renew your club membership to the Friendship Force of Big Canoe/North Georgia. Since FFI has delayed increasing their dues, we are also able to keep our club dues the same this year--a very reasonable \$35 per person. If you haven't already done so, please fill out the attached renewal application form; please complete and send in with your check (FF Big Canoe/North Georgia) to Sherry W. at the address on the renewal form.

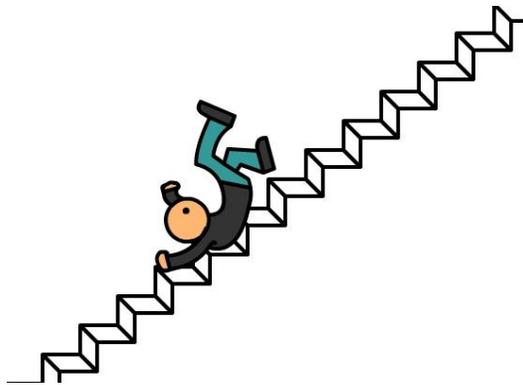
Let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks!

Bob A.
Membership Chair



February Birthdays

- 1 Jeanette C.
- 5 Marie W.
- 11 Sherry W.
- 17 Bob V.
- 23 Huw W.



Cares and Concerns

Adieu 2022

We are a hardy, resilient, and optimistic group, but with the large number of falls resulting in injuries, hospitalizations and illnesses related to COVID, plus the number of loved ones we have lost, who could blame us if we want to give good ole

2022 a swift kick out the door.

Yeah, having gotten that off my chest, let me just say what we all believe will be the case--2023 will be better!

With grateful hearts and renewed spirits, we will make it so.

WELCOME 2023!

Your Cares & Concerns Lady,
Jeannette W.



Travels by Tim A.

Tim is presently in Israel with a program called Volunteers for Israel. He is working at a medical supply base at an undisclosed location. This base keeps an abundance of portable medical kits which can be dispatched all around the world in the event of emergencies. Tim has participated in this program every year since 2008 with the exception of last year.



Next Issue

We want input from you. Have you been on a journey with another club? Have you traveled on your own? 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
8592 Roswell Road #420
Sandy Springs, Georgia 30350

Deadline for the February issue is February 5, 2023.

News from Jeremi Snook



As President & CEO of Friendship Force International, it's my honor to share some exciting news as we continue on our road to recovery.

FFI is here because of you! Thank you for continuing to support us financially, for embracing technology to contin-

ue meeting with your club, for seeing the important role FFI plays in the world beyond the pandemic. Throughout this pandemic we held true to two important goals, 1) to keep FFI operational, even minimally and 2) to build towards a stronger future.

With half the staff but twice the passion and dedication, FFI remains today an important force against prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, and hate. Being here and surviving as an organization is not enough. Here is a recap of some important developments that took place during the pandemic.

FFI Members-Only Site

Launched for you in 2021, the members' website at my.friendshipforce.org (myFF)

- Available in eight different languages
- Read the latest news from FFI and clubs around the world
- Access the new keyword searchable FFI Help Center
- Create and view your club profile
- Post and attend events, and read announcements from your club
- New features and functionality being added regularly

Simplifying Fees

To create flexibility and simplicity in future programs of FFI, a new nightly fee was introduced. Now it is easier to form smaller, shorter, or more flexible journeys and invite individuals to take part.



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2023 Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone# _____

Cell Phone (s)# _____

Email Address(es) _____

Birthday: Month _____ *Day* _____

Birthday: Month _____ *Day* _____

Membership Dues ___ \$35 per year Individual

 ___ \$70 per Year Couple

**Return To: Sherry Wileman, Treasurer, 341 Evie Lane, Canton, Georgia
30115**