friendship force
BIG CANOE - NORTH GEORGIA

May 2022 Newsletter

a world of friends is a world of peace

http://www.ffbcng.org

Coming Events

June 5, 2022	Annual club picnic at Wildcat Pavilion of Big Canoe
July 31, 2022	Tater Patch Playhouse and Mule House Restaurant
September 11 at 2:00	Ice Cream Social at Beach Club in Big Canoe
September 28, 2022	Outbound journey to San Antonio, Texas
October 16	Wine tasting at Windemere Clubhouse in Cumming
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, 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

Hello, spring! I am enjoying the spring weather and the opportunity to be in my garden with my chickens and bees. The bees caused me to miss our last club meeting. Many thanks to Diane B. for arranging to have the meeting at Lake Arrowhead and to Peggy A. for providing the games and prizes. I understand that First VP Barry K. filled in for me quite well, as I knew he would.

Here are the details about my bees; skip to the next paragraph if you are not interested. My beekeeper helper and I scheduled that morning to open the hives for the first time this spring. Normally that would not have impacted the rest of my day. However, one hive was so full of bees that it was getting ready to swarm. Half of the bees would have left the hive, along with the queen. So, we had beat them to the punch and split colony into two hives. That is a time-consuming task.

We won't be having a club meeting in May because of the outbound journey to Des Moines. I am wishing a safe and fun time to all of the ambassadors. See you in June at the club picnic … Sherry

Upcoming Meetings

NO MAY MEETING BECAUSE OF OUR JOURNEY TO DES MOINES.

June 5th – Club picnic at Wildcat Pavilion in Big Canoe from 4:00 – 7:00. Save the date! Alan Johnson has agreed to grill hamburgers and hot dogs. We will be looking for picnic donations – baked beans, potato salad, buns, other salads, desserts. Watch for your evite in May and respond with your contribution. I have twisted Pierre's arm to have a cornhole tournament.

July 31st – July-August meeting. We will attend the Tater Patch Playhouse in Jasper. Then we will eat and have a meeting at The Mule House Restaurant in downtown Jasper. The play – a comedy – starts at 2:00.

September 11th – Ice Cream Social/ Recruitment Meeting in Big Canoe at

the Beach Club facility. This will be from 2:00-4:00.

October 16th – wine tasting with Ryan Mullins at Windemere Clubhouse in Cumming.

Upcoming Journeys

The San Antonio Journey is planned for 9/28-10/3. We have 5 spots available for any of our members who wish to travel on this trip.

Cost will be $200 per person for the Journey Fee plus $150 for FFI fees plus an undetermined Host JC fee.

Interested members should contact either Tim A. or Barry K. if they would like to travel on this journey.

April Meeting

The April 2022 meeting was held at the Lake Arrowhead clubhouse in Waleska. Vice president Barry K. presided in the absence of the president.

The following announcements were made:

- Robert L. was unable to attend because he fell and broke some ribs.
- Membership chairperson Robert A. introduced visitors Terri Karvunis and Marilyn Charles.
- Information was shared about some of our friends in Ukraine. Most of them are doing well considering the circumstances, and helping with the war effort.
- Robert A. reported that the outgoing journey to Des Moines is on track.
- Tim A. reported that there are ten slots for the outgoing journey to San Antonio, and five people have expressed an interest in participating.
- Barry K. reported that there is a zoom call scheduled for April 16 to discuss what is happening in the southeast region. Anyone interested in participating in the call, and who doesn't have the link to participate, should call Barry.
- Cares and Concerns lady Jeannette W. reported that her husband, Phil, is scheduled for hip surgery.

The program was a game of identifying the location of many wonders of the world. There were 25 wonders in the list, and the winning team correctly identified the location of 18.

News About our Ukrainian Friends

Sherry W. reached out this week to our five Ukrainian Open World delegates and their facilitator. She did not hear directly from Veronika or Oleksandr this time. Here are their responses, as of May 22:

Olga F. I am also fine and as safe as one can be. We are in the western part of Ukraine together with my parents and a dog. Thank you for asking and keeping us in your thoughts.

Anna P. Evening! I am safe as of now 🤲 Big hugs 😤

Bogdan D. I'm fine. My wife and I are now in central Ukraine, in Poltava region. It is about 300 km from the battle zone. My parents were occupied by Russian troops in the Chernihiv region for almost a month. Fortunately, the occupiers have been expelled by Ukraine military forces since the beginning of April.

Nataliia B. Dear Sherry, I am safe and starting working 😊

Veronika G. "So, my friends, we can't just watch it, and together with a bunch of wonderful souls, we are launching the non-profit Illuminate Foundation. We aim to help families and children who are internally displaced or forced to flee Ukraine & provide them with mental support & mentorship."

Oleksandr L. from his post on Facebook: "Andriy Yermak and Michael McFaul just have presented The Action Plan to Strengthen Sanctions Against Russia developed by the International Expert Group.

The Group was established pursuant to the initiative of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and consists of more than 50 recognized Ukrainian and International experts.
I am proud to be a member of the International Expert Group, perhaps even the youngest member 🤔
.
The sanctions we have proposed will be able to weaken the enemy. I hope that the whole list of sanctions against Russia will be implemented asap!"

From Oleksandr on April 25: "FRIENDS, URGENTLY

!! I OPEN THE COLLECTION OF COSTS FOR THE NEEDS OF BOYS FROM THE NATIONAL

GUARDIA'S SPECIAL FAMILY
Tomorrow, for just two days, a couple of guys from the NSU special purpose unit will return from the battle zone. These couple of days they, in particular, will use to get the equipment they need.
Asked to help them with the purchase:

1. Thermal visors - 3 pcs (they already have a proven seller). The cost of the 1st thermal visa 1700 euros
2. Portable hard discs on 1 tb - 7 pcs
3. Micro SD memory cards for 128 gb - 30 pcs

If you want to support Oleksandr (Sasha) in his effort to buy supplies for the Ukrainian fighters, you can send a check to Sherry and she will send the funds to him via PayPal.

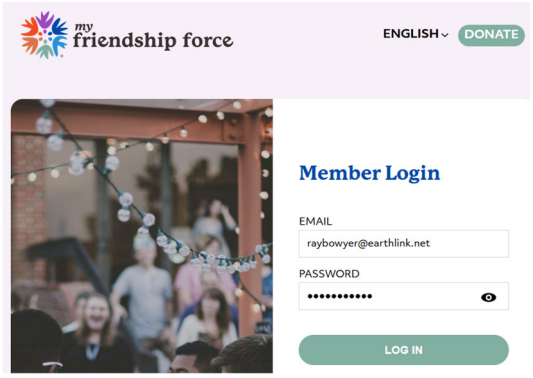
More News From Ukraine

Bob A. wrote a wonderful article on the Ukrainean people with whom we have become acquainted, for the May issue of Big Canoe Smoke Signals. It is available in the history section of the club web site (www.ffbcga, click on “history”, click on “2022”).

If anyone is moved to make a contribution to benefit the people of Ukraine, more information is available form Bob or from Sherry W.

June Birthdays

8	Linda K.
8	Janet V.
16	Charlotte H.
21	Karen B.
29	Becky U.



Other News

The Friendship Force International web site has been divided in two. The old address, www.friendshipforce.org, now takes the user to an external-facing web site, meant for non-members. The web site for members is my.friendshipforce.org. Information on that web site is on the front page

of this newsletter. Ambassadors must have a login on this web site in order to go on a journey. If you want to go on a journey, but are unable to obtain a login for any reason, speak to the outgoing journey coordinator, and he or she can work out an alternative.

As an incentive for outgoing journey coordinators, Friendship Force International now waives part or all of the journey fee for those who hold this important position. More details are available from president Sherry W.

FFI News

Our Field Rep, Rob K., holds a Zoom meeting for the club officers in our region after the monthly national call with Allison L. That meeting led to exploring FFI's member website: my.friendshipforce.org.

Yes, that is the site that all members have been asked to join. There have been some additions to the site, including the ability to print an ID card, investigate the journey catalog, and select your time zone. Check it out and choose your preferences for communications from FFI.

In the near future, all member resources, such as journey forms, will be moved to my.friendshipforce.org. The original website (friendshipforce.org) will become outward facing for non-members.

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:

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Deadline for the June issue is May 22, 2022.