



friendship force
BIG CANOE -
NORTH GEORGIA

**June
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
November 4 to 12, 2022	Open World exchange from Ukraine
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

From the reports I have received from the ambassadors, the journey to Des Moines was a huge success! Thank you, Bob A. and Tim A. for making certain our club's responsibilities were completed. Tim A. and Barry K. have the arrangements for the journey to San Antonio well underway. Thanks to them for taking the initiative.

Our calendar includes an Open World delegation from Ukraine for a program on National Parks Management and Mapping from November 4 to 12. The Open World Leadership Center plans to be able to field this program as they are "planning to go back to a robust Ukraine program as soon and as aggressively as possible/helpful." Since these programs require a lot of advanced planning, we will be asking for volunteers very soon, probably at our June picnic.

We will need volunteers for many of the same committees as our journeys: Transportation, Hosting, Program Development, Communication, Activities and Public Relations. Personally, I love taking part in the Open World programs and making a very important contribution to the delegates' careers and their understanding of our country.

I have been taking part in a monthly Zoom meeting with Rob Kilpatrick, our regional field rep. This month those taking part in the call discussed what their clubs have been doing over the past year. Thanks to our wonderful journey directors and activity committee members, our club has been much more active than most of the clubs in our region. Way to go FFBCNG!!



Upcoming Meetings

June 5th – Club picnic at Wildcat Pavilion in Big Canoe from 4:00 – 7:00. Alan Johnson has agreed to grill hamburgers and hot dogs. The club will supply meat, buns, water, tea, and lemonade as well as paper goods. If you want anything else to drink, bring it

yourself. We are asking the club members to bring a salad or a dessert to share. I have twisted Pierre's arm to have a cornhole tournament. Be sure and RSVP with the evite so we can give the North Gate your name.

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.



Outgoing Journey to Des Moines

The club had a wonderful journey to Des Moines, Iowa, May 3 to May 8. A complete writeup is on the club web site (www.ffbcng.org, click on “Journey

to Des Moines”), which is too extensive to include in this newsletter. Many thanks to Bob A. for providing the report.

Outgoing Journey to San Antonio

An outgoing journey to San Antonio is scheduled for September 28 to October 3. The journey is full and we have a standby list.

Possible Future Journeys

Our club has been offered the following journeys for 2023: inbound from Mongolia in October, and outbound to Greater Orlando in June. No action has been taken with regard to these potential journeys.



Open World

We just received word that we should expect to receive an Open World delegation November 4 to 11 this year. We will need volunteers to work on various committees:

- Transportation
- Hosting
- Program development
- Communication
- Activities

- Public Relations



From the Cares & Concerns Desk

Thoughts and Prayers go out to longtime member Tom Ficht. Tom fell in his bathroom on May 15th.

He was taken to the ER where it was determined that he had cracked the 7th vertebrae in his neck. His daughter, who lives in Snellville, came to be with him for a couple of days. When I talked to Tom on Thursday morning, he was waiting for Home Health Care to arrive. He is scheduled for an MRI to see if there is further damage. He is experiencing pain in his right arm.

Our thoughts and prayers are also needed by Bob Anderson's sister, Donna. While on a flight from Amsterdam to the US, she began having physical problems generally associated with a stroke. The plane landed in Atlanta and she was taken to Grady Memorial Hospital.

It is my understanding that she has flown home to Greenville. We will follow-up in the next newsletter.

Good News From Phil Wal-drop! Not only did Phil's hip replacement surgery go well, but he has not experienced any pain. He is even able to walk without a cane or

walker.

On another note, some of our members attended a presentation by an area cardiologist where this presenter told the audience that we all should know our plaque number, calcium number, and cholesterol numbers. The cholesterol numbers weren't a surprise, but why should we know the other two as well? We will get back to you on this next month.

Finally, several calls were made as wellness check-ins this month. Time and space do not permit sharing all that was learned.

I will mention Von and Joe Crawford. Von and Joe can use some cheerful words and positive voices in their lives right now. These are dear people whose presence is greatly missed by those who know them. Please let them hear from you if you are so inclined.

All for now!

Take care of yourself and each other,

Your Cares and Concerns Lady,
Jeannette W.



OUR UKRAINIAN FRIENDS

The facilitator for the 2019 Open World delegation, **Veronika G.**, visited Washington, D.C. in May with a Ukrainian delegation. Here is the information posted on Facebook by the Open World Leadership Center: “Our agency had an important week hosting three Ukrainian members of parliament to discuss the war in Ukraine. All three members of the Verkhovna Rada are alumni of the Open World program and represent the majority party and its opposition.”

“A highlight of the visit was a breakfast with the Congressional Ukraine Caucus. Members attending included Caucus Co-chairs, Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, Rep. Michael Burgess, Rep. Mickey Sherrill, Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, and Rep. Debbie Dingell. Throughout the week they also met with Senator Joni Ernst, Deputy Assistant Secretary Robbin Dunnigan, Representative Adam Kinzinger, and Representative Steve Womack. They were also able to attend a House Foreign Affairs Committee, where the group received a round of applause from those in attendance, including Secretary of State Antony Blinken. During their visit to Washington, D.C., the delegation discussed the current war Russia is waging in Ukraine, appropriate responses to this aggression, and planning for a post-war Ukraine.”

Bogdan D. reports: “Hi! I have been in Kyiv several times, but I still con-

tinue to stay with my family in Poltava region, in central Ukraine. However, many of my colleagues are already in Kyiv. Yesterday a rocket exploded near our city, so in general we can't say that some regions are now more or less safer in Ukraine, of course, except for regions where hostilities are now.”

Oleksandr L. says: “I and my wife returned to Kyiv two weeks ago - the situation in Kyiv is quite peaceful now, so we are safe! I continue working with our soldiers to help them meet their needs, and organize humanitarian transport to Ukraine! In addition, I am also a member of the international expert group on strengthening sanctions against Russia: <https://fsi.stanford.edu/working-group-sanctions> Sherry, thank you and all our FF friends for your support.”

Nataliia B. is currently living in free accommodations in Brussels and is so happy to feel fully safe. She is working for a charitable organization to help internally displaced persons to know their rights. She thanks our club members for all of their help. She says it will be a difficult “psychological” decision to return to Kyiv.

You may remember **Eka G.** from the 2017 OW delegation from the Republic of Georgia. She worked for an organization in Tbilisi that aided in-

ternally displaced persons (IDPs). Before the Russians invaded Ukraine, she was living in Kyiv and working for another IDP. She and her young daughter left Kyiv four days before the invasion. She returned to a western city in Ukraine this week but left her daughter in Tbilisi with her husband and sons.

We will have the opportunity to make new friends from Ukraine in early November, when an Open World delegation visits FFBCNG!

The Friendship Force of Big Canoe/North Georgia has a strong connection to Ukraine (as does the Big Canoe Chapel). In October 2019 we hosted several young delegate leaders from Ukraine. For most, it was their first time to visit America. We have kept in contact with our friends via Zoom and most recently social media.

Most of us have seen the wanton and reckless destruction of entire cities such as Mariupol as well as the tragic indiscriminate killings of unarmed civilians, including women and children in Bucha, as well as those attempting to flee the war zones. Most of us cannot comprehend that such an unprovoked war can occur in the 21st century. The current crisis in the Ukraine requires an update from our delegates in the war zones.



July Birthdays

2	Margie B.
7	Sharon M.
21	Floyd H.



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 July issue is July 3, 2022.