



friendship force
BIG CANOE -
NORTH GEORGIA

October
2022
Newsletter

a world of friends is a world of peace

<http://www.ffbcng.org>

Coming Events

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| October 16, 2022, at 4:00 | Wine tasting at Windermere Clubhouse in Cumming |
| November 13, 2022, at 2:00 | Monthly meeting at Beach Club in Big Canoe |
| December 11, 2022 | Holiday party at home of Sherry and Dan |
| February, 2023 | Multi-club Callaway Gardens retreat |
| April 25, 2023 | Outgoing journey to Greater Orlando, Florida |
| May 29, 2023 | Incoming journey from Siberia |
| 2023 | Incoming journey from San Antonio, Texas |
| October 2, 2023 | Friendship Force World Conference Dubrovnik, Croatia |

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.



A Few Words From Sherry

Have you been receiving the **FFI Newsletter**? It is full of updates and helpful information. For example, new board member announcements, guidance on using the Help Center, 2024 journey assignment dates and much more.

FFI will kick off a five-week **Friendraiser** program focused on strengthening clubs on **October 12th**. I will be participating on the panel to discuss club leadership. Please join as many of the events as possible. We need all of our club members to participate in strengthening our club!

Friendraiser Event: Recruitment

Starts: 10:00 am EDT on 10/13/22.

Copy this link into your browser to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461202020>

Friendraiser Event: Tools you can use

Starts: 2:00PM EDT on 10/20/22.

Copy this link into your browser to register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461202020>

Friendraiser Event: Connecting beyond the Journey

October 27, 2022. Contact me for details.



Upcoming Meetings

October 16th – Wine tasting with Ryan Mullins at Windermere Clubhouse in Cumming. We will start at 4:00 with the wine tasting; then we will have a meal and business meeting afterward. We will have sandwiches, chips, fruit and cheese, and dessert. The club will provide all of this. Every person is asked to pay \$12.00 to cover the costs of the meal. Please bring cash or check made out to FFBCNG. Please RSVP to the evite in October so we know how many sandwiches to buy.

To get there, find your way to the intersection of Georgia 400 and Georgia 20. Take Georgia 20 eastbound 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Trammel Road and go 2.0 miles. Turn left onto Front 9 Drive and go 0.1 miles. Turn right onto Marlow Drive. Watch for the clubhouse on the left.

November 13th – 2nd Sunday due to Thanksgiving. We will be meeting at the Beach Club in Big Canoe from 2:00 -4:00. There will be a business meeting, with entertainment to follow. Look for more details in the November newsletter.

December 11th – Holiday Party at the home of Sherry and Dan.



Upcoming Journeys

Orlando

It is not too soon to sign up for the Greater Orlando club Journey April 25-May 2, 2023! Contact Mary Ellen/Alan J.

Visit Us (Taken from the Friendshipforceorlando.org Newsletter)

We love to host ambassadors from both international and domestic clubs so that we can show you the “real” Greater Orlando. Although Orlando is known for its world class theme parks, those of us who make this our home know that many visitors miss the unique characteristics of our area. Our goal when hosting is to show you those places in our community that we are very proud

to showcase. We hope you will see this part of the world in a unique and special way.

In addition to a welcome and farewell celebration, here are some of the places where we may take our visiting ambassadors and we want to offer your club those visits that you find most interesting.

City Tours: Tours of downtown Orlando or nearby cities, such as Winter Park or Sanford.

Scenic Boat Tour Winter Park: Ride along the scenic canals of Winter Park and see plenty of swaying palms, towering cypress trees, lush ferns and a variety of flourishing sub-tropical flowers. Breathtaking views of opulent private homes and exquisite estates sprawling along the shores are also a key feature of the scenic cruise.

Leu Gardens/Mead Gardens: Many of our visiting ambassadors are naturalists and enjoy the array of flora and fauna that Orlando has to offer. Guided walks take visitor through our lush, tropical gardens. The gardens feature paved scenic walkways that take you through fifty acres of southern styled gardens.

Blue Spring State Park: Our Florida state parks give visitors a glimpse of the beautiful landscape and unique wildlife. This visit offer scenic and informative walks and narrated boat tours. For the more adventurous they have canoeing, kayaking, and swimming. If you are fortunate enough to visit us in the cool days of winter, you will likely see the manatees that make

this area their home.

DeLeon Springs: This state park gives visitors a step back in Florida's history. Surrounded by a beautiful setting, these springs reveal hidden treasures in their museum that showcases artifacts found in the springs from various native American tribes who inhabited this area. As a special treat, an old sugar mill is now home to a unique restaurant where visitors cook their own pancake breakfast over individual grills.

St. Johns River Eco Tours: The St. Johns River Nature Tour is considered the most popular nature oriented tour in Florida.

Morse Museum: The world's most comprehensive collection of works by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) is housed at The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art. The Museum's Tiffany collection includes jewelry, pottery, paintings, art glass, leaded-glass windows and lamps, and the chapel interior the artist designed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

In addition, Orlando is home to many other art, historical, and cultural museums. Based on the interests of our incoming ambassadors, we can include a visit to some of these, such as the Cornell Museum, the Orlando History Museum, and the Polasek Museum.

Orlando Wetlands Park: This scenic site is very popular with birders and wildlife viewers. It is the successful

result of developing a wetlands where aquatic plants polish already treated wastewater before discharging it into the St. Johns River.

Fort Christmas Park: At this Orange County park, exhibits show what life was like when Florida was a frontier. You'll see a museum that is a replica of an 1837 fort from the Second Seminole War and restored "Florida Cracker" & pioneer homes.

Black Hammock Restaurant: Experience one of our area's unique restaurants on the banks of the St. Johns River. This natural setting guarantees alligator sightings in a unique fish camp setting home to a variety of wildlife – both animal and human. For a real close up look at nature, hop aboard an airboat ride.

Airboat Rides: An airboat is an ideal vessel for getting around lakes and wetlands. The air boat is a very stable craft, and it's completely safe to be on one when searching for gators. This type of boat is unique because it has the ability to move into narrow creeks and shallow wetlands.

Nearby Famous Atlantic Beaches: Orlando is located only one hour away from beautiful and sunny beaches. We may visit one of our world famous beaches such as Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Cocoa Beach, etc. Each has unique sights that appeal to a wide range of preferences.

Gatorland: Gatorland is a 110-acre theme park and wildlife preserve in Orlando where you can (safely) experience up-close encounters with Florida alligators, birds, and other wildlife.

Kelly Park: Swim, float in a tube down one of Central Florida's spring-fed rivers, or bask in the sun (weather permitting) on the banks of a crystal clear stream, where water temperature is 68-70 degrees year round.

2023

As you may remember, our club was asked to host a journey from the club in Mongolia in 2023. They will not be visiting us. Oyuna Sengeeva is the FFI Regional Support Manager for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Baltic States, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Republic of Georgia and Mongolia. She asked that our club accept a journey from the club in Siberia, Russia, in their place

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. With our board's approval, I accepted the journey, which will include four nights with our club and four nights with the Huntsville club.

At the September meeting, some members expressed concern about hosting ambassadors from Russia while our country is supporting Ukraine against the Russian invasion. A lengthy discus-

sion followed, with the majority of the members approving the journey.

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 Open World committee (Barry K., Bob A. and Sherry W.) submitted two proposals for consideration, stating that we could host either of them but not both. It is likely that the first choice will be approved. The program for Azerbaijan is "Community-level Extracurricular Programming for Promoting Social Change", with the delegates arriving on **April 7, 2023**. "The program will introduce participants to how U.S. communities use extracurricular youth programming in the areas of art and sports to improve social cohesion and engagement at the local level."

MULTI-CLUB CALLAWAY GARDENS RETREAT

A repeat visit to Callaway Gardens is an attractive idea but may be delayed until 2024 if both of the above journeys occur as planned.

2024

The following dates have been established for 2024 journeys:

Hosting availability form submitted: October 30, 2022

Outbound request form submitted: January 1, 2023

Journey proposals distributed: April 14, 2023.

Acceptance/change requests: May 1, 2023



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



Nominating Committee

The Nominations Committee submits the following candidates for election at the November Meeting:

President—Barry Kadechuk
1st Vice—Tim Anderson
2nd Vice—Rich Glaser
Secretary—Mary Ellen Johnson
Treasurer—Sherry Wileman

Submitted By
Bob Anderson



News from Southeast Region Club Leaders Meeting

From Rob Kilpatrick, Regional Representative

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
FFI previously allowed a waiver for ambassadors to DECLINE travel insurance. That has been eliminated. Now everyone is expected to get insurance when traveling on any FF journey, either domestic or international. The application form has been updated to delete the possibility of waiving insurance.

Full payment of FFI fees is due 60 days prior to departure and is non-refundable, so insurance is highly suggested, including cancellation insurance. FFI was refunding up to the day of departure and it caused a frequent

loss of income for FFI.

Question: Can a journey coordinator refuse an ambassador if they decline to purchase travel insurance? YES

MEMBERSHIP POLICY FOR JOURNEYS

Everyone who participates in a Friendship Force Journey must have a Member ID Number. Your member ID number is assigned when you register at my.friendshipforce.org (myFF). To be approved on myFF, you MUST be a member of a local club or a global member.

FFI CHARTER

The FFI board policy committee is working on a new charter document. A law firm is reducing the charter to a more simplified document. The policy will refer people to a more simplified handbook.

CLUB BYLAWS

Now is a very good time for clubs to be going over their by-laws for updates. Points to consider include clarifying whether meetings can be conducted by video conferencing or other type of digital meetings; what constitutes a quorum and whether the quorum can include video participants.

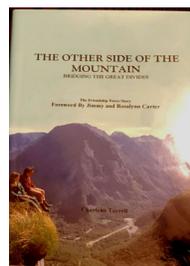
PAYMENT METHODS

When making payments to FFI there is a credit card transaction fee of 3% which can be avoided by paying online from a checking account.

Choose e-check (a button at the bottom of the payment window) and provide the routing and account number of the checking account.

FFI will also accept a check by mail. Allison Lindsey checks the mailbox weekly and sends the checks to the new director of finance, Sherry O'Hara, who is a fulltime employee.

my.friendshipforce.org - *HELP CENTER* is designed to help current members to easily find information.



FFI Book Club

The Other Side of the Mountain
Many of our members remember the book about the origins of FFI written by Charlene Terrell, an early member of FFBCNG. We also remember Charlene as a fantastic storyteller. If you do not have a copy of the book, let Sherry know and she can bring it to the October club meeting. Please consider joining the book club discussion on October 27th at 2PM ET. Please register for FFI Book Club: "The Other Side of the Mountain: Bridging the Great Divides" by Charlene Terrell on October 27 on https://my.friendshipforce.org/en/users/sign_in



From the Cares and Concerns Desk

On Friday, September 2nd, Pierre Grimes, Bob and Peggy Anderson, and Phil and Jeannette Waldrop attended the memorial service for new member, Leroy Yount at Big Canoe Cemetery.

It was a beautiful service for a man who, by all accounts, was a kind, and gentle man-a loyal friend, devoted father to his three sons, and a loving husband to wife, Dale. He also was a world class engineer, supervising projects and taking his family with him to assignments in Egypt, England, Japan, Singapore, and Malaysia.

What a wonderful background and legacy Leroy leaves and what a wonderful example his life has been!

We feel honored that one of his last acts before his final illness was to join the Friendship Force. He was in good company and knew it because of our pledge to promote peace, understanding, and friendship wherever we go in this world. Rest well, dear Leroy.

Dale, we love you, dear friend.



November Birthdays

- 8 John U.
- 12 Patrice A.
- 12 Ches T.
- 28 Brenda P.



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 November issue is October 30, 2022