



friendship force
BIG CANOE -
NORTH GEORGIA

April
2023
Newsletter

a world of friends is a world of peace

<http://www.ffbcng.org>

Coming Events

April 7, 2023	Open World Delegates from Azerbaijan arrive
April 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.	Farewell party at Sherry and Dan's home in Canton. ALL FFBCNG MEMBERS ARE INVITED.
April 25, 2023	Outgoing journey to Greater Orlando, Florida
June 11, 2023	Annual club picnic at home of Tim and Lenna A.
October 2, 2023	Friendship Force World Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia
November 1, 2023	Outgoing journey to San Antonio, Texas
2024	Incoming journey from Siberia

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.



President's Letter

In recent information, we mentioned that there was a possibility of the Montreal, Canada Friendship Force Club visiting our club in 2023. We have received word that this journey will not occur this year.

Our Open World Visitors from Azerbaijan will soon be visiting us. Thanks to Sherry and her team for putting an excellent program together for this delegation. Hopefully, you will get a chance to meet our visitors either during the program or at the Farewell Party.

We are visiting the Orlando Club April 25th thru May 1; let Mary Ellen or Alan know if you have an interest.

Registration is still open for the World Conference in Dubrovnik this October; check our web-site for more details. We have 5 people registered for the Conference from our club at this time.

Barry



Upcoming Meetings

April 14th – Friday – 6:00 All club members are invited to a Farewell Party for our Azerbaijani guests held at the home of Sherry and Dan. This will be a catered affair so please RSVP so we have an accurate count.

OPEN WORLD FAREWELL PARTY ON
FRIDAY, APRIL 14 AT 6:00 PM

All FFBCNG club members are invited to meet the Azerbaijani Open World delegates at the Farewell Party at **Sherry & Dan's home**. The club will furnish the meat dishes and members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. Contact Peggy A. for ideas of what to bring. The delegates will give a presentation about their country.

To get there find your way to the intersection of I-575 and Georgia 20. Go east on Georgia 20. Georgia 20 here is under construction. The construction has finally reached the entrance to Sherry & Dan's subdivision, **Autumn Brook**. There is a digital sign pointing to the temporary exit off Georgia 20. You will drive onto the old highway be-

fore turning into Autumn Brook. Hopefully, your GPS will know about that! Go 0.4 miles and turn left on Evie Lane. Go 0.4 miles to their house on the left—number 341.

There will be no April or May meetings due to our Open World and Orlando Journeys. The club annual picnic will be on June 11th at the home of Tim and Lenna A. Look for further details in the next newsletter about the menu and directions to the location.



Upcoming Journeys

OPEN WORLD DELEGATION FROM AZERBAIJAN

Our club will be hosting Open World delegates from Azerbaijan for a week in early April, with a program theme we have not encountered previously. The Open World planning committee is preparing a program to illustrate how theater in the US impacts the community and to consider all aspects from education to production and fund raising.

The delegates are actors, actresses, singers, musicians, costume and set

designers, and producers who produce plays under the name Jam Group. They want to learn from their counterparts in our country.

The delegates are ages 19 to 42, so some of the delegates are just starting their career and one delegate (the one age 42) is more advanced in his career and works with the artists and develops plays as a team leader. Only the team leader is a fulltime theater professional.

The delegates will arrive in Atlanta on Friday, April 7th, after spending two days in Washington D.C. They will leave on Saturday, April 15th. All the delegates speak English, some better than others. A translator will accompany them throughout the week.

Club members will receive a copy of the program by separate email so that you can see how different this program is from our incoming FFI journeys. **All club members are invited to the Farewell Party for the delegates on Friday, April 14,** at the home of Sherry and Dan in Canton. The food will be catered, so there will be a cost for club members that attend. Look for an evite closer to the date with full details.

Greater Orlando

There are 10 ambassadors driving to the Greater Orlando club to be home-hosted for seven nights; four couples

and two singles, seven from the Big Canoe/North Georgia club, and three from the Southwest Florida club. The Matching Form is completed and we have communicated with each other. Alan is planning the presentation at the Farewell Party.

We have a tentative itinerary that will include a Welcome Picnic, a guided tour of the Morse Museum, a WP Boat tour, dinner on Park Ave. at Bosphorus; the Cape Canaveral National Seashore visit including a Midden walk/ beach time/a meal at JB's fish house/possible kayaking and manatee watch/Sugar Mill ruins; Airboat ride and wetlands park & tour; Lake Eola guided walk with lunch at Relax Grill and Game Night; the play *Kinky Boots* on our Free day at the Phillips Auditorium; and the Kelly Park (natural springs) day with picnic and the Farewell Party.

We are all excited about our Journey to the Orlando area and getting to know a wonderful club who are also friends who do things together! Alan and Mary Ellen were table partners of the president and another member of the club, along with other FF members, on our Friendship Force Festival at Sea cruise in September to northern Europe.



March Meeting

Barry K., President, opened the meeting on March 19, 2023 at 2:10 at the Windermere Clubhouse in Cumming with the Pledge. Twenty people were present. He introduced Erin Magda, chef and presenter and her toddler Colin.

There will be no Montreal incoming Journey in 2023. The FFI World conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia will have 5 representatives from our Club - - registration is still open.

Journey coordinators Alan & Mary Ellen J. reported on the Journey to Orlando (7 from our club and 3 from southwest Florida) April 25 - May 2; and Tim A. reported on sign-up committees available for the outbound to San Antonio Nov. 1-6.

Treasurer Sherry W. assured us the treasury was healthy due to the Open World's recently received budget monies. As Open World coordinator, she welcomed all to the Farewell Party on April 14.

Peggy A. explained the Azerbaijani

menu for the meeting and welcomed us to come into the kitchen and eat. After our meal, Erin presented her talk on Uganda in general and young girls' issues in the country. A side room of native fabrics fashioned into bags, purses, etc were displayed as a fundraiser for NGO's she supports and works with.



World Conference

The FFI World Conference will be in Dubrovnik, Croatia October 2-5, 2023. Pre and Post conference excursions are also offered.

To learn more about the conference, copy the following address into your favorite browser:

https://mailchi.mp/friendshipforce/wc2023update_030323?e=74b1ce724e



May Birthdays

2 Carolyn S.

31 Tim A.



Cares and Concerns

Good News! Bev Grimes is recovering well from her March 21st back surgery.

Marilee Laufenberg continues to heal after her fall. She is now out and about in Big Canoe and elsewhere.

Margie Bowyer continues to improve. She recently started having meals in the dining room, instead of in her apartment. She has walked up to about 50 feet.

As always, I urge you to make it known if someone in our group would benefit from a card, a call visit, call, or other contact.

We want people to know that we truly care about them.

Your Cares & concerns Lady,
Jeannette W.



Next Issue

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 May issue is May 7, 2023.



Matching Process

In case you're curious about how journeys get established, here is a description of the matching process:

Journey assignment forms are sent to clubs each year following the annual journey matching process. This usually takes place at the end of each calendar year.

Clubs are invited to submit an Inbound hosting form and an Outbound destination request form. FFI then 'matches' clubs based on the information provided by clubs in their forms.

If a club does not receive an assignment, it will be placed on a wait list in case another club cancels its journey. While we try our best to find every club a great journey, there is usually more demand for an outbound journey than there are host clubs able to host. This is especially true in popular destinations such as Europe.

We can also request a journey at any time throughout the year. If our club wants to do that, the president (Barry K.) should contact our assigned staff member (Allison Lindsey, **allison@friendshipforce.org**) and she can let us know which countries and clubs still have hosting available. Similarly, if our club decides it wants to host, Barry should let Allison know.

As an example, here are the dates 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