



friendship force
BIG CANOE -
NORTH GEORGIA

May
2023
Newsletter

a world of friends is a world of peace

<http://www.ffbcng.org>

Coming Events

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	Incoming journey from San Antonio, Texas
June 2024	Outgoing journey to Calgary, Canada
September 2024	Outgoing journey to Sacramento and Napa Sonoma and/or Salt Lake City
October 2024	Incoming journey from Tallahassee

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

The Orlando journey was a great success. Thanks to Mary Ellen and Allen for their work as Journey Coordinators. An excellent program featured the "Non-Disney" attractions in the Greater Orlando Area (Air boat ride, Parks and Hospitality) just to mention a few highlights.

We have been assigned an outbound journey to Calgary, Canada in mid 2024, as well as another outbound journey to the Western USA. We have also been offered a second outbound journey to Sonoma Valley, California and/or Salt Lake City Utah. We will be finalizing this second journey in June after our June Membership Meeting. On or before the June meeting, we will be discussing the options associated with this 2nd trip.

We will be asking our travelling members whether they prefer:

1. Sonoma alone

2. Utah alone

3. Sonoma and Utah combined

In addition, Tallahassee is scheduled to visit us in October, 2024.

Thanks to Sherry and her committee for preparing a great Open World Program for our delegates from Azerbaijan. Most of you had a chance to meet the delegates at the Farewell Party. Also, Thanks to Diane, Joe/Marilee, Bob/Peggy, Scott/Sharon and Dan/Sherry for hosting our Azerbaijan Visitors

Barry



Upcoming Meetings

June 11th – Potluck picnic at Tim & Len-na Anderson's house (4920 Churchill Ridge Drive, Cumming). This will be from 4:00 to 6:00. The club will supply the fried chicken, dessert, soft drinks, and paper goods. If you would like something other than tea or soft drinks, BYOB. Please bring a dish to share.

July 23rd – We will meet at Schoolhouse Playhouse in Cumming for the 2:30

matinee performance of The Producers. Afterwards, we will go to the Golden Palace Chinese Restaurant. If you would prefer to just meet us at the restaurant, our reservations will be around 5:30. Check the June Newsletter for more details.



Upcoming Journeys

Tim A. is journey director for an incoming journey from the San Antonio Friendship Force Club November 1 to November 6. The San Antonio club is so excited to be coming that they are already making travel arrangements. Tim is in the process of forming a journey committee, and he would appreciate hearing from volunteers to be on the committee. He would also appreciate an assistant journey director. Please contact Tim and offer your services in the best way that matches your interest.



Journey to Orlando

Ten ambassadors (seven from our club and three from Southwest Florida) had a wonderful journey to Orlando April 25 to May 2. The hosts created a jam-packed schedule, which was enjoyed by everyone who was there. Here are a few of the highlights:

- Mead Gardens
- Morse Museum
- Pontoon boat ride
- Canaveral National Seashore
- One hour airboat ride on the St. Johns River.
- Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando.



World Conference

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

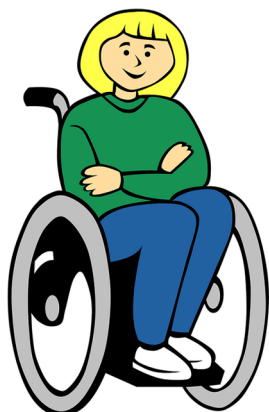
To learn more about the conference, copy the following address into your favorite browser:

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



June Birthdays

1	Marilee L.
4	Sharon D.
8	Linda K.
16	Charlotte H.
29	Becky U.



Cares and Concerns

I have received a flyer from the Benevolence Committee at Big Canoe Chapel. I am including this as an attachment to the newsletter.

In speaking by phone to an office staff member at The Place, formerly called Ric Rack, the Thrift Store in Dawsonville, I was told that they had served over 200 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES. I did not know, before reading this attached announce-

ment, that there were refugees in the area. Phil and I will contribute to this drive. Will you? For more information the following may be helpful.:

Address of The Place/ Ric Rack is 829 Highway 9, and the telephone number is 706-265-1371.

Margie Bowyer fell again on April 30. As this is written, she is in Northside Hospital-Atlanta, working hard at regaining the ability to walk.

Your Cares and Concerns Lady
Phil & Jeannette Waldrop



FFI Announces Individual Journeys

Friendship Force International
April 17, 2023

In addition to our Club-to-Club and Special Journeys, Friendship Force is introducing a new program called Individual Journeys. This new program will give our members more opportunities to form friendships in between in- and outbound group hostings. We have always had requests for this type of journey and the interest has risen during the past few years when group travel wasn't

always possible.

So we are excited to finally offer this new program to you as another way to make new friends! Spaces are limited on Club-to-Club and Special Journeys and members who want to travel and host sometimes don't get the chance to do so.

Individual Journeys also serve our mission of meeting new people around the globe and doing our part to make this world a more peaceful place - one friendship at a time. Much like with Club-to-Club and Special Journeys, FFI assembles a list of the individual hosting opportunities. Those opportunities are announced on the Journey Catalog so that members can apply and be selected by the host.

Please copy the following link into your favorite browser https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TQMdEpgZQHbVXwZSroWHofhzDoxOpD_K/view for the Individual Journey guidelines and some FAQs about this new program.

At the time of publishing this article, 34 Individual Journeys have already been advertised in our catalog and seven matches have been made!



Next Issue

We want your material! 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 June issue is May 28, 2023.

Big Canoe/North Georgia Friendship Force hosts young professionals from Azerbaijan



Aziz Azizov is focused on raising the level of musical theater in Azerbaijan.



Rasul Hasanov is a sound engineer. photos/provided by N. Ga. Friendship Force



Fargani Aliyev, cultural affairs specialist, U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan, is the facilitator for the group.



Dilara Mursalova is a choreographer and stages musicals in a variety of styles.



Andrey Perepyolkin is a stage director, dancer, and actor.



Solmaz Ozguven is a scriptwriter, dancer, and actress preparing musicals for children and adults.

By Mary Ellen Johnson
Publicity Chair
Big Canoe/North Georgia
Friendship Force

Five young professional delegates plus a facilitator will fly to Atlanta from orientation meetings in Washington D.C. to meet their North Georgia hosts and committee members for a week's homestay and study, sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center, an arm of the U.S. Congress that seeks to introduce young leaders from post-Soviet countries in creating and sustaining democracies.

The study program for these delegates is "How The-

atre and the Arts Can Promote Social Change".

Leaders in the field of theater (actors, singers, dancers, set designers, choreographers, sound engineers, scriptwriters, etc.) are selected by the U.S. Embassy.

The delegates will experience how theater (especially musical theater) and education in the cultural and performing arts are used, and hopefully gain ideas they can use when they return home.

From April 7-15, some of the hangouts around Pickens County will be Tater Patch Players production of *Steel Magnolias*. Big Canoe venues, Dos Margaritas, and Woodbridge Inn. Other ven-

ues will be Kennesaw State University campus, including the play *Rent*, 7 Stages/National Center for Human and Civil Rights/Centennial Park all in Atlanta, Off Broadway Children's Theater in Milton, Cumming FoCAL Center's Penguin Project in Cumming and plays in rehearsal at North Forsyth High School, Dawsonville's Bowen Center for the Arts, Georgia Ensemble Theatre in Roswell, including a performance of *Bright Star*, and a Farewell party in Canton with club members before they fly back home.

Fargani Aliyev, Cultural Affairs Specialist, U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan, is the

Facilitator for the group.

Friendship Force is all about individuals getting to know each other by sharing stories, enjoying a meal together, and finding out what we have in common.

These delegates will be learning about our common interests and dreams, sharing many meals with their hosts and others, and hopefully realizing we are more alike than different across cultures. Sherry Wileman is the coordinator for the group, Barry Kadechuk is club president, and Bob Anderson is club membership chair, 706-579-1708, or bobanderson48@windstream.net.

Big Canoe/North Georgia Friendship Force to host Azerbaijan delegation

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts.
-Mark Twain

BY BOB ANDERSON

The Congressional Office for International Leadership will send a delegation of five young professionals plus a facilitator from Azerbaijan to North Georgia. Home-hosted by members of the Friendship Force, these delegates will study how theater and the arts can promote social change.

After a short orientation in Washington, D.C., where they hope to meet with congressional staffers, these delegates will arrive in Atlanta on Friday, April 7. The delegates are actors, actresses, singers,

dancers and choreographers—leaders in their chosen profession—who have been carefully selected by the U.S. Embassy.

They are coming to the U.S. (many for the first time) to study and contrast how theater (especially musical theater) and education in the cultural and performing arts are used in North Georgia vs. their country. By studying and learning all aspects of the cultural arts at all levels, they hope to implement some of these ideas in Azerbaijan.

An ambitious itinerary developed by members of the Friendship Force will include exposure to the performing arts at all levels from young children (Off Broadway Children's Theatre) to high school (North Forsyth High School) and college productions (Kennesaw State University) to community theatre (Tater Patch) profes-

sional productions (7 Stages and Georgia Ensemble Theatre). The delegation will also view three plays during their stay including: "Steel Magnolias" at the Tater Patch Theatre, "Bright Star" at the Georgia Ensemble Theatre and "Rent" at KSU. Planned activities include viewing rehearsals and meeting and asking questions of the directors and the performers backstage. They will also attend drama classes at KSU and contrast curriculums with those in their country. In addition, they will visit the FoCAL Center in Cumming and get exposure to the "Penguin Project," which explores the creative and artistic talents of children with disabilities.

Their stay in Big Canoe will include a pontoon boat ride on Easter Sunday and a lunch-and-learn session with several members of the newly formed Wolfscratch

Performing Arts group. Also on the docket is a visit to the National Center for Human and Civil Rights and a meeting with a Georgia senator or staffer. The members of our Friendship Force Club hope to expand our horizons through active dialogue with the delegates—and make new friends for life.

The objective of Friendship Force is to build goodwill through personal friendship. The committee chair for this visit is Sherry Wileman; Barry Kadechuk of Big Canoe is the current president. Bob Anderson is membership chair and can be reached at 706-579-1708 or bobanderson48@windstream.net. We welcome new members and all inquiries regarding the Open World program and/or our Friendship Force Club.

“Help our Neighbors” Drive May 8-15

Benefitting The Place of Dawson Co.

Cousins Hall Collection Zone

“The Place” (formerly known as Ric-Rack) supports Dawson Co. residents with essential needs and encourages self-sufficiency. In addition to a food pantry, they offer financial assistance, parenting classes, youth and senior outreach programs (Aging in Place), and workplace and education development.

In 2022, The Place began assisting Ukrainian refugees; helping them acclimate to life in the US, including obtaining work permits, job search/resume writing/interviewing, English as a second language (ESL classes), housing, clothing and basic essentials.

We are accepting much-needed donations of the following:

- *Non-perishable food items
- *New or gently-used spring/summer clothing for men, women and children – all sizes
- *Linens: Sheets, towels, blankets, pillows, curtains
- *Kitchen: Cookware, flatware, tableware (plates, bowls, etc.), glassware, coffee makers and mugs, utensils, mixing bowls, sharp knife sets, kitchen towels, plastic food storage and 13-gallon trash bags
- *Misc: Cleaning supplies, buckets, etc.; bar soap, dish soap, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, razors
- *Baby: wipes, baby food, formula, all-size diapers and pull-ups
- *Senior: Boost/Ensure, wipes, hospital pads, adult diapers (all sizes)

Hours and locations for drop-off:

Monday- Friday May 8-12): 8:00 – 4:00 in Cousins Hall

Saturday May 13: 8:00 – 5:00 outside main entrance to Big Canoe Chapel.

Sunday May 14: 8:30 – 1:00 in Cousins Hall

Monday May15: 8:00 – 4:00 in Cousins Hall

Thank you for helping assist our neighbors in need!

Big Canoe Chapel Benevolence Committee