

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ATLANTA



FFGA

FIVE PAGES

DECEMBER 2018

Coming up

Dec. 8: FFGA Holiday party, Petite Violette, 2948 Clairmont Road, 12:30 p.m.

April 26, 2019: FFGA trip to Bogota, Columbia, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

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Visit northern England in 2020. Page 2

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Still time to sign up for the Holiday Party. Choose your menu and mail your choices and your check by Dec. 5. Page 6.

President's Corner

The Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta has many remarkable people among our members and one of them is John Wilhelm.

Those of us that had the opportunity to travel on our recent journey to visit FF Cairo, to see ancient Egyptian sites and the Treasury of Petra in Jordan and to traverse the many historical sites of Israel had an experience of a lifetime. Going into this holiday season, my experiences mean so much to me now that I have touched the holy site where Jesus is believed to have been born and followed in his steps throughout the country, as he spread his love and teachings.

A big *thank you* to John for all of the planning and execution of coordinating 20 ambassadors from around the globe.

The day after we returned, Bonnie Evans and I headed to Charleston, S.C., for the FF East Coast Super Regional Conference 2018. There, we met FF members from Connecticut to

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Robin Scott



Finding Pharaohs

Egypt: Is it all about the head-gear? FFGA's First Couple — President Robin Scott and treasurer Ron Scott — view things pharaonic during the club's recent trip to Egypt, Jordan and Israel. Twenty people took part on the trip. For the reactions of FFGA members John Wilhelm, who organized the journey, and Cynthia Williams, please turn to Page 4 .

Photo from Ron Scott



Joe Earle

Boxing Day? Harvey Young gets into his work as he sorts books in a box during FFGA's volunteer work day at Books For Africa. At rear, Anne Lawing looks on. For more photos, please turn to page 3.

Clip and save

In 2020, we'll travel to County Durham, England

From Bonnie Evans

We have great news for 2020! The Friendship Force club in County Durham, England, has accepted our club for a reciprocal journey for 2020.

Since they are a small club, space on the trip will be limited to a maximum of 14. Priority will be given to FFGA members who have hosted ambassadors, especially those from the County Durham club, or who have volunteered for committees and leadership.

The board is taking applications for one of our members to be the Journey Coordinator. Contact Robin Scott at sronald@comcast.net or Bonnie Evans at kbemje@bellsouth.net if you're interested in the position. Applications will be accepted until Dec. 15.

News from FFI

You can nominate a club or member for a Friendship Force award.

At the heart of Friendship Force International are 365 clubs in 63 countries, hosting and traveling with the goal of building peace through friendship. As the world changes around us, clubs and members continue to find new ways to reach potential members, experiment with innovative approaches to journeys, and contribute extraordinary efforts of time and talent to make sure Friendship Force shines.

The impact of these efforts goes well beyond what words can express, but when we can, we should take time to celebrate these accomplishments together.

This year, in our lead up to the 2019 World Conference in Boulder, Co., we invite you to nominate yourself or others to be recognized. Do not worry if your nomination doesn't fit neatly in a category. Just tell us about the club, person, or experience you believe is deserving of recognition and our team of volunteers will take it from there.

Please check out website to find detailed blog post about the awards process revision, a Frequently Asked Question document, and the 2019 Award Nomination Form. Nominations are due Jan. 15, 2019. — *FFI*

President's Corner

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Florida and surrounding states. We discussed, shared and learned from each other, the struggles, practices, and successes that each club has experienced. Each attendee strongly believed in the purpose and goals of Friendship Force and wanted to continue to evolve and adapt to the changing world while growing our clubs locally and around the world. Every club is faced with the challenge of recruiting new members, finding ways to involve everyone within our local community and through our global experiences, and then retaining those members.

In the coming year, we would like to have more gatherings of our club for dinners, socials, programs and activities of fellowship and volunteering. The vast area of Greater Atlanta does make it difficult to bring us all together. I would like to see more events spread through Atlanta where everyone can come together can have an opportunity to attend. If you know of any locations where we can have an event or meeting, if you know of speakers or would like to speak on topics relating to FF, if you know of opportunities where we can share the experiences and purpose of FF, and finally, if you would be willing to help make us a bigger and better club, please let me or a board member know. We welcome you.

I hope to see everyone at our holiday party, on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Petite Violette. I encourage you to bring a guest or two and introduce them to our globe-trotting ambassadors.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Robin Scott
President FFGA

Remember: dues are due

2019 looms just weeks away, so it's time to pay your FFGA dues. Bring a check to the Holiday Party on Dec. 8, or mail your check to made out to FFGA to Linda Foley, 1010 Freedom Lane, Roswell, GA 30075.

An individual membership is \$35. A family membership (defined as two or more persons living at the same address) is \$50.



By the book

On Nov. 15, FFGA members gathered in a west Atlanta warehouse to sort donated books for shipment by the charity Books for Africa. The volunteers worked through big boxes of books, sorting them by topic and by the recommended ages of their readers.



Booking it

Harvey Young, above at left, and John Wilhelm, above, work from inside boxes as FFGA members sorted Books for Africa.

At far left, Cynthia Williams gets into her work while Mary Brickley, center, and Glenda Wilhelm, right, are all smiles.

Photos by Joe Earle

Travel: Reports from the field

Two views of Egypt

Finding Indiana Jones and Agatha Christie in one trip

By John Wilhelm

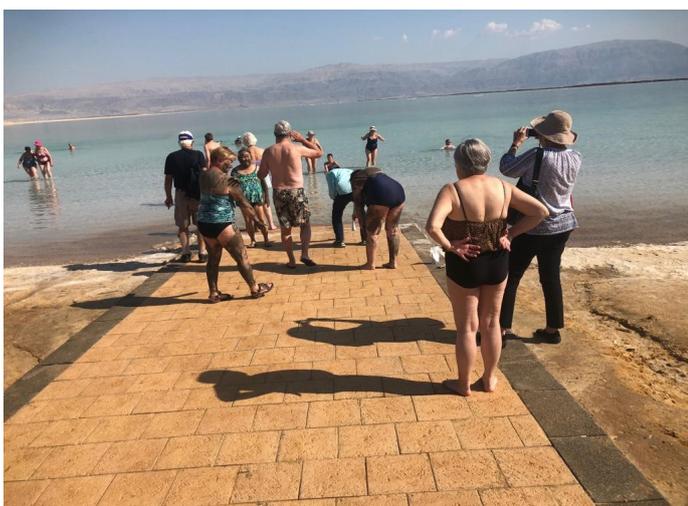
Early November found 20 intrepid travelers weary but happy returning from the Middle East journey. Over the course of three weeks we got to know Cairo, cruised down the Nile with visits to historic tombs and temples, visited Petra (which you might remember from *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*) and spent a week in Israel, where we visited religious sites and stayed at a kibbutz for a couple of nights.

There were so many highlights it would be difficult to name them all. One meal that stands out in my mind was an optional dinner at The Old Cataract Hotel in Aswan. This is where Agatha Christie wrote "Death on the Nile." It was a beautiful old colonial hotel with grounds that tapered down to the river. Once in a lifetime!

Our group was eclectic. It included two Australian sisters, couples from Boston and Sacramento, and three travelers from Winnipeg, Canada. We meshed nicely and although we had a few glitches, everyone took them in stride with little or no griping.

Our hosts in Cairo could not have been nicer, and we saw the pyramids, the national museum, the library in Alexandria and even an indoor ski slope in one of their new malls. It lived up to most of our expectations and was a noteworthy trip.

A good time was had by all.



The travelers visited Acre in Israel, top, and the Dead Sea.

Photos submitted by John Wilhelm and Ron Scott



Check another one off the bucket list

By Cynthia Williams

Led by our almighty Pharaoh John Wilhelm (aka Wilhelm-hotep I) and assisted by his most wondrous spouse Glenda (aka Glendapatra, Queen of the Nile), members of the Friendship Force of Greater Atlanta and of several clubs around the world went on a great expedition to Egypt, Jordan and Israel from Oct. 15 to Nov. 6. For many of us, Egypt had been a bucket-list destination for most of our lives, and our journey did not disappoint our expectations.

We were hosted by the wonderful Friendship Force of Cairo, who welcomed us into their homes and hearts and provided an amazing program of cultural experiences and sightseeing. We were most certainly well fed, although having lunch at 4:00 or 5:00 p.m. took a little adjustment. And Cairo traffic makes Atlanta traffic look like a stroll through the park!!!!

Our cruise on the Nile and the many excursions we did from the ship were led by a delightful guide, Ahmed, who made every stop so interesting with his energetic descriptions and history lessons. He calls his tour groups "Habibi", which means "darlings" in Arabic, and we continued to call ourselves "Habibi" even after we left Egypt. We had an entire course in Egyptian archaeology in one week!!!

Our stay in Jordan was very brief, but we did get to see the amazing structures at Petra.

Israel was also a very thorough history lesson, with stays at a kibbutz hotel, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv. It is most interesting to see how Egypt and Israel deal with water-access issues, and it makes us more aware of how vital water is to the survival of human civilization.

Several members of our group experienced a dip in the magical waters of the Dead Sea, and some even tried the miraculous mud applications that are reputed to have potent powers of rejuvenation. If you see some very young people at the holiday party, they are probably those who got down and muddy in the Dead Sea!

Our journey was long and at times strenuous, but well worth the effort! We have a wealth of memories and stories and dreams fulfilled!

Celebrate! Celebrate! It's time again for calling birds, maids a-milking and *five goolden rings*

FFGA's annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Dec.8. We will gather at Petite Violette, a French restaurant at 2948 Clairmont Road, just off I-85 in DeKalb County. from 12:30 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Come out and celebrate with us! And bring a friend! And, of course, come prepared to sing your part of "Twelve Days of Christmas."



Before you come, check the menu below and mark your choices for dinner. Mail your choices and a check for \$30 per person to

Cynthia Williams
1923 Claremont Street NW
Atlanta, GA 30318

Here are your choices:

First course

Salade de Noel (Fresh-cut mixed greens topped with walnuts, cranberries, grape tomatoes, feta cheese and garlic herb croutons. Served with house French vinaigrette.)

Main course (choose one)

Boeuf Bourguignon (Herb-rubbed, slow-roasted and thinly sliced beef short rib, topped with cremini and button mushrooms, ripe tomato and green onion.)

Saumon grille (Fresh grilled salmon topped with basil butter, served over rice pilaf.)

Chicken piccata (Pan-seared chicken breast topped with an herb lemon caper sauce, served over rice pilaf.)

Dessert (choose one)

Strawberries Romanoff (Vanilla bean ice cream with fresh strawberries, port wine sauce and topped with whipped cream.)

Gateau au chocolat sans farine (Chocolate flourless cake topped with chocolate mousse and drizzled with raspberry coulis.)

Complimentary coffee and iced tea. Entrees served with bread and butter.



Fancy feast!

While we're thinking about fine dining and FFGA's annual Holiday Feast (see above), here's one last look at the group that traveled to Egypt, Jordan and Israel. They seem to be having a fine, and filling, time.

Photo submitted by John Wilhelm