

# FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF GREATER ATLANTA



MEETING THE WORLD

THREE PAGES

FEBRUARY 2019

## Coming up

**Feb. 22-March 2:** Hosting Open World delegates from the Ukraine visiting metro Atlanta to learn about legislative budget processes.

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



**August 13:** FFGA trip to Mid-Willamette Valley and Portland, Oregon.

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## President's Corner

By Robin Scott

*President, FFGA*

January 2019 has flown past us with some help from the "Polar Vortex." While Atlanta was very fortunate in having milder effects of the storm, my thoughts are with everyone, in other parts of the country, affected by its extreme cold weather. Remember, it is only 47 days until spring.

February starts with Super Bowl LIII here in our area and FFGA will close out the month by hosting a Open World delegation from Ukraine, Feb.22 through March 2.

Joe and Anne Earle and Cynthia Williams are busy making all the arrangements for this group of young people and there will be several opportunities for all FFGA club members to meet and greet the delegates. If you would like to help out during this week, please let Cynthia or the Earles know.

The FFGA journey to Bogota, Colombia; Quito, Ecuador;

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OPEN WORLD  
LEADERSHIP CENTER

## Make friends with some Ukrainians!

By Joe Earle

Five Ukrainian officials, their traveling escort and a translator arrive in metro Atlanta on Feb. 22 for a nine-day tour that will include visits with state lawmakers, county officials and city officials, including three local mayors.

The tour — arranged through the Open World Leadership Center, a creation of the U.S. Congress — will focus on how our local governments operate and how they prepare their budgets.

FFGA volunteers arranged the meetings and are hosting the visitors. They will stay in the homes of FFGA members and be escorted about town by club members. Several members plan to host small dinner parties for the delegates

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## Where we're going, what we're doing

Here's the schedule, as of Feb. 1, for the Ukrainian visit.

**Friday, Feb 22** – The Ukrainian delegates arrive. In the evening, they are treated to a welcome party by their hosts.

**Saturday, Feb 23** – Delegates and hosts tour Center for Civil Rights and the Martin Luther King Jr. Historic Site with lunch at the Auburn Avenue City Market. A special

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# Where we're going with the Ukrainians and what we plan to do when we get there

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"Evening with the Ukrainians" party starts about 6 p.m. All FFGA members are invited to attend the party to hear a presentation from the Ukrainians about their country.



**Sunday, Feb. 24** Delegates and hosts meet with Dr. Joseph Knippenberg at Oglethorpe University for an overview discussion of local governments and taxation followed by a chat with Oglethorpe students.

**Monday, Feb. 25** Delegates and hosts spend a morning at the Georgia Capitol (at right), where they will tour the historic building and meet with Sen. Elena Parent and Rep. Scott Holcomb at their Capitol offices. In the afternoon, delegates visit Decatur to meet with Mayor Patti Garrett and attend a City Council meeting.

**Tuesday, Feb. 26** Delegates and hosts attend a DeKalb County Commission meeting and meet with Commissioner Jeff Rader. In the afternoon, delegates and hosts will meet at MARTA HQ with MARTA board member Bob Dallas, who also chairs the Dunwoody Planning Commission.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27** Delegates and hosts meet with Dunwoody City Councilmember Terry Nall and Dunwoody Budget Director Chris Pike at Dunwoody City Hall and with Sandy Springs Mayor Rusty Paul at Sandy Springs' new City Hall and Performing Arts Center. (at left)



**Thursday, Feb. 28** Delegates and hosts meet State Labor Commissioner Mark Butler at the Georgia Department of Labor and Atlanta City Councilman Amir Farokhi at Atlanta City Hall. In the evening, several FFGA members host small dinner parties in their homes for delegates.

**Friday, March 1** Delegates and hosts tour Atlanta History Center in the morning and delegates spend the afternoon with hosts. A farewell party featuring the Peavine Creek String Band, dancing and barbecue begins at 6.

**Saturday, March 2** Delegates depart.

## Ukrainian delegates arrive Feb. 22; meet them while they're here

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on Thursday, Feb. 28.

The five delegates are: a 24-year-old city financial official; a 31-year-old consultant to local governments; a 29-year-old analyst with an NGO; a 27-year-old public policy advocate; and a 24-year-old assistant to a member of the Ukrainian Parliament.

As an FFGA member, you'll have a number of chances to meet the Ukrainians and to join in part of the program. Here are some events you may find especially appealing:

—An "Evening With the Ukrainians" Party planned for Saturday, Feb. 23. We're still working out final details, but members are invited to come join us for supper and a chance to hear the delegates talk about their country. There may be a nominal charge for food. More details to come via email.

—Delegates, hosts and any FFGA members also are invited to strap on their square-dancing shoes for the Farewell Party at the end of the visit. The party, on Friday, March 1, will feature barbecue and dancing to music played live by the Peavine Creek String Band. More details to come via email.

Any club members also may join the program for a day or a part of the day as delegates meet with lawmakers and officials. A schedule of meetings and events appears above in this issue of club newsletter. Anyone who would like to take part or who wishes to receive more specific information about an event should contact Joe Earle at [joeearle715@gmail.com](mailto:joeearle715@gmail.com) or Cynthia Williams at [madamew@hotmail.com](mailto:madamew@hotmail.com).

## News and notes from FFI

By Allison Lindsey

*Director of Program Operations*



What is the Friendship Force?

Whether you are a seasoned Friendship Force member or a first timer, it's important to know what the Friendship Force is and how to participate!

friendship force  
INTERNATIONAL

Friendship Force is a cultural exchange organization with home hosting as its cornerstone. We have a world-wide network of approximately 360 clubs in about 70 countries. One club goes to stay in the homes of members of another club in another country to see what their life is like.

Our mission is to break down the barriers that separate people and our tagline is "Experience Different Views. Discover Common Ground." I use this description often and consider it my "elevator pitch," a quick and succinct way to tell people about the Friendship Force.

There are many ways to be active with Friendship Force both on the local and international level.

You can participate by being a home host, a dinner host, a day host or even a Host Coordinator, the person who facilitates the program and home hosting assignments for an inbound journey together. You can travel outbound with your local club or another club or with people from all over the world on a globally recruited journey.

To see journey opportunities, go to <https://friendshipforce.org/our-catalog-of-upcoming-journeys/>. To view undersubscribed U.S. outbound journeys, click on the the <https://www.friendshipforce.org/resources/> and view the U.S. eFlyer. And to receive these notices of opportunities straight to your email box, sign up using this link: <https://friendshipforce.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe/post?u=ba1bffc1cec3dcb20c97569d1&id=a5eb5f7351>. If you are subscribed already , reconfirm your information to make sure you are receiving the information you want to see.

Journey assignments for 2020 will be going out soon. Now is a great time to think about how you want to be involved in bringing our mission to fruition both this year and next!

## President's Corner

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and the Galapagos Islands will start April 26. There will be five members from our club. Many other FF members that have traveled with us in the past will be joining the group. If you have traveled to any of these locations and would like to share your adventures, please let me or Bonnie Evans know. We also are looking into restaurant locations that feature cuisine of these countries and hope to have a dinner for all to experience a taste of the culture.

Our next journey will be to the Pacific northwest from August 13 through August 26 .The visit will be to Mid Willamette Valley for a week followed by a week in Lower Columbia. FFGA hosted many of their ambassadors in 2017 and I look forward to visiting their part of the country. Please contact Judy Hausmann [judyhausmann4437@att.net](mailto:judyhausmann4437@att.net) or Sue James [jsuejames@aol.com](mailto:jsuejames@aol.com) if you are interested in joining the group.

Friendship Force International will host a World Conference from July 23 to July 27 in Boulder, CO. Accommodations and sessions will be on the campus of the University of Colorado at Boulder. Registration forms are located on the FFI website. Several club members may make an extended vacation during these two events by driving through that part of the US.

Volunteering as a group has been an important activity that many members enjoy. If you have a special organization that might be an opportunity where we could participate, please let me or another board member know.

I look forward to seeing you soon.