



friendship force
SARASOTA

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Friends Connection

Friendship Force of Sarasota

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org

November, 2013

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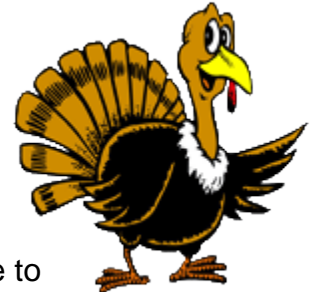
Sister Cities: Carol Booffer

Past Pres. - Jack Vendeland

President's Message

Where has the year gone? It's already time for our November general meeting, and soon the holiday season will be upon us. And that means it is also time to renew your membership for 2014. Please complete the renewal form in this newsletter and send it with your check to Treasurer Bob Joyce before the end of the year. Affiliation fees for FFI have increased for 2014, and accordingly our dues have increased as well but are still a great value.

Our ambassadors to Greater Yalta, Crimea, and Rostov-on-Don, Russia have returned from our club international outbound exchange and will share their perceptions with you at our meeting 11/7. Four members of our club participated in the Alberta Canada global themed exchange "Prairies to the Rockies" in August, and Phill Price will do a presentation on that exchange too. The presentations promise to be diverse and quite interesting, and I hope to see you in attendance in great numbers.



A small group of ambassadors from La Libertad club of Trujillo, Peru will arrive November 7, a week earlier than originally expected, and unfortunately EDs Mary and Walt Prouty are delayed in their return to Florida from Indiana by medical testing. We certainly hope they can be here in time to enjoy our Peruvian ambassadors. Heartfelt thanks to Judy and Bob Joyce who have volunteered as Acting EDs and to the members of the host committee who have really stepped up to the plate to organize the details of the exchange. Please contact the Joyces if you would like to volunteer to help with the exchange in any way.

2014 will certainly be a very busy and stimulating year for our club. Each exchange provides a unique opportunity to create friendships across barriers of distance, and language, and culture, and I urge all of you to take advantage of these multiple opportunities and get involved. 25 outstanding ambassadors for our club's first global themed inbound exchange, Experience the Arts of Greater Sarasota, will arrive January 31. ED Gloria Grenier and her committee are counting on everyone's help in home hosting, day hosting, and dinner hosting for this exciting event. ED Mary

McClendon and her mentor Bonnie Frey are putting together a host committee and plans for an international inbound exchange from Hamburg, Germany March 24-31.

Our international outbound exchange for next year will be a cooperative one with the Greater Orlando club. Central Coast, Australia, and Whangarei, New Zealand will host us in October 2014 before the World Conference in Auckland, and touring in both countries will be offered. In April ED Don Nicholson will lead a domestic exchange to Albuquerque NM, and Sarasota will host ambassadors from Albuquerque in a reciprocal visit in November.

Thank you to those of you who completed our ballot of international outbound exchange destinations for 2015. Your votes have been tallied, our requests have been submitted, FFI will send our exchange matches by the end of January, and a new round of opportunities to gain a new way of looking at things will begin.

Judi

One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things.
Henry Miller

Calendar of Eventsmore info inside*****

November 7	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
November 7-14	Inbound Peru Exchange****
November 22-25	FFI World Conference at NOLA
November 26	Board Meeting at home of Margaret Mills 7pm
December 5	Holiday Party****
January 2	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm
January 30	General Meeting at Waldemere Fire Station 7pm (in lieu of February meeting due to Global Exchange)
Jan 31-Feb 9	Inbound Global Themed Exchange****



Meet Our New Members

Please welcome **Joan Emrich** who joined at the October Dinner meeting. Joan is a friend of **Vivian McNamara** who invited her to the dinner.

Sunshine Corner



- **Pat Quinn** is in treatment for a declining progression of her medical issues. Please support her in your prayers and thoughts.
- A speedy recovery goes out to **Mary McClendon** who is having some serious back problems.
- **Bonnie Frey** was badly injured when a glass table broke. She has now returned home after staying with her daughter following the

accident. Get well soon, Bonnie!

- **Bobbie Jabas** is recovering from a fall at Publix which required a trip to an Urgent Care Center for 7 stitches in her forehead.
- Also hospitalized for other illnesses this month were **Ramona McGee** and **Mary Prouty**. Cheerful wishes go out to all our members who are experiencing difficulties.

Election of Officers for the 2014 Friendship Force of Sarasota

Voting will take place at our annual meeting in December. The following slate of officers for 2014 was selected for a one-year term and has accepted the nominations:

President –Katy Goodwin

Secretary – Donna Schaeffer

Vice President – Reeta Dean

Treasurer – Dona Brannan

Other nominations may be offered from the floor at the December meeting.

Nominating Committee:

Chairpersons – Jack and Linda Vendeland

Committee members – Gary Kuhns, Peg Hayden, Bonnie Frey, Katy Goodwin



NEWS FROM THE WEB

Check out our Website and Facebook page for the great photos taken by our members who were on the Rostov-on-Don, Russia & Yalta, Ukraine exchange. If you were on this exchange, and would like to share some of your photos, please send them to me. Thanks.

www.friendshipforcesarasotaflorida.org.

Linda Vendeland, Web Administrator linvende@aol.com

WINE TASTING GROUPS – for members only!

We had a very successful wine tasting at our home on October 17. We tasted 6 different bottles of Sauvignon Blanc from four different countries. Following the tasting we went to the Bangkok restaurant for dinner. The next tasting for Wine Group 1 will be on November 21 at Debbie Boyd's home.

Jack and Linda Vendeland linvende@aol.com



REPORT OF Russia and Ukraine Exchange

Ten Sarasota and six Austin Ambassadors returned from our exchange to Rostov-on-Don, Russia and Yalta, Ukraine on Oct. 13th. This was a most eventful experience, starting with 6 of our ambassadors exiting the airport in Moscow in error. Thank you to the foresight of the agent who obtained our Russian visas and suggested we get duplicate entry visas, all could continue to Kyiv for our three-day tour and then continue to Rostov-on-Don. At our hotel we met the other 6 ambassadors from Austin at our hotel who had arrived a couple of hours earlier. Kyiv is an interesting and beautiful city with many gold domed churches, the blue River Dnipro and beautiful green parks. Many ancient churches have been restored to their original glory after being destroyed or converted to other uses during the time of Russian control. Our tour guide was a lovely young lady who took us to visit many sights, such as St. Sophia's Church, The Kyiv Pecherska Lavra, St. Michael's Church and Museum of Historical Treasures of Ukraine. Also, there was time to explore other museums, the market and some shopping on our own. Some of us had a hard time keeping up with our gloves. Who wears gloves in Florida?

We then flew to Rostov-on-Don where we were met at the airport by our smiling home hosts. The weather in Rostov was very rainy and cold, but our hosts were all filled with warmth. Took a boat ride on the Don River to visit a Cossack Festival in Starocherkassk where we enjoyed the dancers. We visited Azov historical, archeological museum where we were amazed to learn of the large animals that



roamed the area in ancient times. The birth place of Chekhov was visited in Taganrog. Other locations were visited, but one thing that amazed all of us was the traffic - Rostov is of city of 1.6 million people. As the number of cars has greatly increased over the past ten years, the infrastructure has not been maintained for the increased traffic. Our farewell dinner was a real highlight to give us a royal "send-off". There were tables laden with food, wine, brandy and vodka, live music and dancing, plus a large floor show of entertainers-acrobats, bubble blower, showgirl & belly dancers, etc.

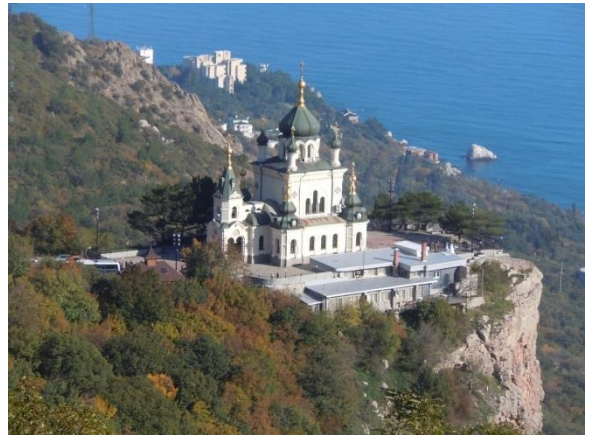
On Saturday evening, we departed by an overnight train to Simferopol, Ukraine - an experience! Boarding the train with many suitcases plus picnic bags of food supplied by our hosts, getting into our little compartments, storing all away for the night (most of us were 4 to a compartment) proved to be a real struggle. Then we had the border crossings. Thanks to Judi who was able to speak Russian we managed to deal with 2 sets of border crossing agents. They wondered why 16 elderly Americans were on the train, what Friendship Force was, etc. Finally, Judi convinced them we were only tourists on holiday!

We were met by Pavel, our ED from Yalta, in Simferopol, but not without another experience. As we were maneuvering our suitcases across a parking lot to assemble all, one of the many buses sideswiped Nancy Rehbock and she went face down on the pavement. An ambulance was called and other ambassadors assembled in MacDonal'd's for coffee. Nancy & Dick in ambulance, Pavel & I following in his car went to the emergency room, X-rays were taken, face cleaned & bandaged and we returned to the rest of our group.

Pavel had our group with all suitcases taking a public bus for an hour's ride through the mountains to Yalta - an experience of traveling the local way. I rode with Pavel and the

Rehbocks - a beautiful ride, sometimes fresh snow could be viewed.

This was the first attempt in forming a club in the Yalta Region. Pavel thought they had found home hosts for all except six people. However, when we arrived home hosts were only available for 2 people. As Pavel was the former mayor of Alupka, a friend of his had offered to provide us rooms in a small hotel that he is gradually remodeling. We were in rooms for 2, 3 or 4 persons. However, all were clean and had adequate heat, hot water and a refrigerator. Steps were very old and in various needs of repair, but we managed. Rooms were only about \$15 per night per person. We ate at a restaurant across the plaza. Pavel gave me a card for a 30% discount, so food was inexpensive and good. Usually, we were the only people in the restaurant for breakfast and dinner. Sure the staff is talking about the crazy Americans. Streets were narrow and winding as the mountains go nearly to the sea as in many of the Mediterranean villages. I thought of the movie, "Mama Mia" where Meryl Streep was continually climbing over rocks. Pavel came each day, picking up the two ladies who were home hosted along the way. He had hired a bus to take us to visit the many sights, Alupka Palace and Museum, Livadia Palace where Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met for the 1945 Yalta Conference, to Sevastopol to visit a panorama of the Crimean War and one of World War II, the Resurrection Church which sits high on a mountain top above the town of Foros and overlooking the Black Sea, a monastery built into the mountainside and many other sights. The whole costal area is just one breath-taking view after another, with the rugged mountains, blue sea, and trees turning to golden fall colors. This was a different week due to the people he had located to home host who then declined, but we will all look at it as a memorable experience. Pavel is a very nice young gentleman - and a brave one - with limited knowledge of the English language, but did the best he could for us. Thank you again to Judi for her translation. I believe he may work with a younger club in Kyiv for some possible joint exchanges and possibly with some younger European Clubs. I do wish him the best in getting a Friendship Force Club in the Yalta Region!



To our newer members: this was NOT a typical exchange!
Ramona McGee, ED

Please renew your FF Membership for 2014 by filling out this form as soon as possible!

All dues run from January to December and need to be paid for the coming year by **December 31, 2013**. We try to put our Membership Directory out by the first of the year so it is important for you to **renew now**. Please send the following form, one per household, with your check. **Please update with current information and indicate if it is new.** Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email(s) _____

Dues \$ 25 per person x _____ = _____

Name Badge \$ 12 per person x _____ = _____

Total \$ _____

Please mail with check made out to FF of Sarasota to Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd. Venice FL 34285

Exchanges

Outbound

Albuquerque, New Mexico – April 24-30, 2014

Don Nicholson is the ED for this exchange and has a full slate of ambassadors.

Sarasota/Orlando to Central Coast, Australia & Whangarei, New Zealand

Sept 29 -October 27, 2014

We have condensed a bit the dates for this cooperative exchange. Departing Florida Sept 29 we will arrive in Sydney Oct 1 for 2 nights for an excursion to the Blue Mountains UNESCO World Heritage site as well as free time to explore the city on your own. Two official 5 night homestay exchanges will follow Oct 3 - 8 in Central Coast AUS (north of Sydney), Oct 8 - 13 in Whangarei NZE on the North Island, followed by the FFI World Conference in Auckland. A fabulous tour of NZE will follow the conference including Rotorua and Wellington and the many highlights of the South Island known for its scenic beauty and unique flora and fauna. Ambassadors interested in optional pre-exchange touring in AUS including Kuranda, the Great Barrier Reef, and Uluru would depart Florida Sept 25. Both groups will return to the USA Oct 27.

If you are interested in this exchange and have not yet added your name to the sign up list, please contact me. Our first meeting of interested ambassadors will be Thursday, November 7, 6 PM, an hour before the general meeting, at Waldemere Fire Station.

ED Judi Stratton jaspetite@comcast.net

Inbound

La Libertad, Peru – November 7-14, 2013

Peru Exchange Program, November 7-14, 2013

Fees: Ambassadors' admissions are covered through the exchange budget. Sarasota FF members pay their own way for activities as noted below.

Thursday, 11/7 – Arrival Day. No exchange activities planned. *(Sarasota FF members attend regularly scheduled monthly meeting.)*

Friday, 11/8

- 10:00 **Myakka State Park** including boat ride. Meet as a group at the parking lot just inside state park entrance at 10 AM. We will do the Canopy Walk. Then, we'll have free time to explore the park & have lunch (can bring a sack lunch or buy at the snack bar on-site). At 12:30, convene for the boat ride at the dock. Park admission is \$6 per carload (hosts pay). Sarasota FF members pay \$12 each for boat ride.
- 6:00 **Welcome Dinner at Pinetree Village Clubhouse** near Sarasota Mall. \$15 for Sarasota FF members (Directions on reservation form provided to members. Reservations required by 11/4.)

Saturday, 11/9

- AM **Sarasota Farmer's Market** - Hosts take ambassadors on their own – rather than this being a group activity with a set schedule. Lunch is on your own.
- 1:30 **Museum of Art & Whimsy**, 2121 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34234; FREE but donations accepted - \$3 to \$20 per person. Docent led tour of 1-hour.
- 6:00 **Dinner parties** (see schedule in exchange booklet)

Sunday, 11/10

- AM Free time
- 1:00 **Selby Gardens** tour (Sarasota FF members admission \$17 each)
- Mid-PM After Selby Tour, drive out to **Siesta Key** to enjoy the beach & then watch the **Drum Circle** that generally starts around 1 hour prior to sunset. Bring folding seats & towels as desired.

Monday, 11/11

- AM **St. Armand's Circle** - Hosts take ambassadors on their own – rather than being a group activity on a set schedule. Lunch on your own – but must finish in time to be at Mote by 12:30.
- 12:30 **Mote Aquarium** - Meet at front of aquarium to get organized for boat ride at 1:30 (board by 1:00). Please be there at 12:30. After boat ride, time to explore aquarium until it closes at 5:00. (Sarasota FF members admission \$39 each for a combined aquarium/boat ride ticket.)

Tuesday, 11/12

- 10:00 **The Ringling** – Meet in the lobby by the Members' desk. Walk the grounds & gardens. Tour the Ringling mansion, the Ca d'Zan. Ambassadors & hosts then have time on their own to visit art museum, circus museums & gift shop with lunch on the grounds either at the café or at Treviso.

Wednesday, 11/13

- 9:30 **Robinson Preserve** – Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the preserve in Bradenton (directions are easy on google). Hike the 3-mile trail (all or part) through salt marsh & mangroves including ascending tower to see Tampa Bay & Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Free.
- Noon **Cortez Fishing Village** – Directions will be provided for people to travel about 15 minutes to visit this fishing village on their own, have lunch on the waterfront, look through shops, &/or visit the Florida Maritime Museum (free, donations accepted).
- 5:00 **Farewell Dinner** at Libby's Restaurant on Osprey Ave between Hyde Park & Hillview & across from Morton's Grocery. Parking on Hillview, Osprey & Hyde Park. \$15 for Sarasota FF members (Directions on reservation form provided to members. Reservations required by 11/9.)

Thursday, 11/14 – Ambassadors depart.

Peru Exchange Welcome & Farewell Dinner Reservations

WELCOME DINNER at Pinetree Village Clubhouse near Sarasota Mall, **6:00 on Friday, November 8**

Menu: Hor D'Ouerves; Asian Chicken Salad; Mediterranean Salad; Grilled Chicken Penne with Fresh Mozzarella, Arugula, Calamata Olives, & Pesto; Bowties Boscaiola...Bowtie Pasta tossed with Smoked Ham & Petite Peas in a Creamy Alfredo Sauce ending with Zabaglione with Fresh Berries...Sweet Custard & Fresh Berries topped with Whipped Cream + coffee, tea & etc. BYOB

From US 41

- Turn north at intersection of US 41 @ Beneva. Westfield Sarasota Square Mall is on corner.
- As you pass mall, next street is Sarasota Square Blvd.
- Continue to next light & turn onto Timberwood Circle.

From I 75

- Exit 205 Clark Rd/Route 72 & continue west toward gulf.
- Drive to Beneva Rd (several lights).
- At Beneva turn left (south).
- 5th light is Timberwood Circle, turn left.

Inside Pinetree

- Go straight past lakes on each side. *(Disregard clubhouse on your left when you first come into neighborhood. That one is Timberlakes Club House.)*
- Continue straight ahead & just before the street starts to turn left, you will see a pool & clubhouse on the right.
- Try to carpool to take pressure off limited parking.

FAREWELL DINNER at Libby's Restaurant on Osprey Ave between Hyde Park & Hillview & across from Morton's Grocery. Parking on Hillview, Osprey & Hyde Park, **5:00 on Wednesday, November 13** (in small private dining room & limited to the 1st 24 people who register).

Menu: Appetizer; choice of 5 interesting meals; dessert + assorted drinks including 1 wine or beer.

From US 41

- Go to Hillview Ave light & turn west (Traveling south it will be on your right as you pass Sarasota Memorial Hospital & left if you are headed north.)
- Hillview intersects Osprey Ave. Libby's will be on your left.

From I 75

- Exit Bee Ridge Rd to the west (toward gulf).
- Follow it to US 41.
- Turn right & continue north to Hillview Ave. light.
- Turn left & continue to Osprey Ave.

Welcome Dinner ____ tickets @ \$15 = _____. Deadline for these reservations November 4.

Farewell Dinner ____ tickets @ \$15 = _____. Deadline for these reservations November 9.

TOTAL Enclosed \$_____

Name(s): _____

Make check payable to FFS & mail to: Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd., Venice, FL 34285.

Global Themed Exchange Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, 2014

EXPERIENCE THE ARTS OF GREATER SARASOTA FL
PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 - ARRIVAL DAY - NO ACTIVITIES PLANNED

SAT. FEB. 1 - 11:00AM - WELCOME BRUNCH AT WHISPERING SANDS TIKI BAR

8:00 PM - SARASOTA ORCHESTRA AT THE VAN WEZEL

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

7:00 PM - SARASOTA BALLET AT THE FSU PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

MONDAY, FEB 3

Guided tours of Ringling College of Art & Design, Bradenton Riverwalk, Venice Art Center, Clyde Butcher's Studio & Gallery & other sightseeing.

TUESDAY, FEB 4

Same as above (2 groups alternating visits on Monday & Tuesday)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5

10:45 AM - Backstage tour of the Asolo (FSU Performing Arts Center), lunch and matinee performance of "Other Desert Cities"

6:30 PM - SMALL DINNER PARTIES IN HOMES

THURSDAY, FEB 6

10:00 TO 4:30 - VISIT THE RINGLING MUSEUM COMPLEX

5:30 PM - CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT HOLLY HALL

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

OPTIONAL MUSEUM AND GALLERY VISITS

2:00 PM - LE BARGE CRUISE

5:00 PM - PALM AVE WALK

8:00 pm Florida Studio Theater "Daddy Long Legs", a musical

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

12 NOON - FAREWELL LUNCHEON AT ROSEBUD'S RESTAURANT

7 PM - CIRCUS SARASOTA IN THE BIG TENT AT 12TH & TUTTLE

SUNDAY, FEB. 9 - DEPARTURE DAY

Friendship Force of Sarasota members, and especially home or day/evening hosts are encouraged to accompany their guests as often as possible. Listed below are the tickets available. All tickets are discounted 20-30%.

Saturday, Feb 1 Sarasota Orchestra, 8 pm at the Van Wezel \$55.20

Sunday, Feb. 2 Sarasota Ballet 7 pm at FSU Performing Arts Center \$60

Wednesday, Feb 5 Asolo Rep - tour, lunch and matinee \$59.00

Thursday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 pm Chamber Orchestra at Holly Hall \$23.20

Friday, February 7 at 2:00 pm LeBarge cruise \$17.00

Friday, February 7 at 8:00 pm FST "Daddy Long Legs" \$27.20 (limited availability)

Saturday February 8 at 7 pm Circus Sarasota \$25.00

Please reserve your tickets now by sending your check to Ramona McGee, 5316 Dominica Circle,
Sarasota FL 34233. Make the check payable to Ramona.

Questions? Email ggrenier@tampabay.rr.com

Deadline for ticket purchase for global exchange events: December 15.

Welcome and Farewell Parties information will be published in the December issue.

PROGRAM DETAILS (TO DATE)

Saturday, February 1 – Masterworks Series

Sarasota Orchestra at the Van Wezel 8:00PM

Tito Munoz, Conductor Giora Schmidt, violin soloist

REVUELTA Homage to Lorca

MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4

BERLIOZ Symphonie Fantastic



Sunday, February 2 – 7:00 PM

Sarasota Ballet at the FSU Performing Arts Center (Asolo)

BALANCHINE Four Temperaments (Company Premiere)

WILL TUCKETT World Premiere

SIR FREDERICK ASHTON Sinfonetta (Company Premiere)

Wednesday, February 5

Asolo Rep – Matinee at 2 PM “Other Desert Cities” by Jon Robin Baitz

This riveting new play by the creator of TV’s hit drama “Brothers & Sisters” brings dysfunctional family drama to new heights. Ex-Senator Lyman Wyeth and his wife Polly have it all – wealth, fame and power. When they welcome their family home for Christmas for the first time in years, the reunion seems hopeful, until their daughter announces she’s written a memoir about the incident that changed their lives. With biting wit and razor-sharp insight, Other Desert Cities is “the most richly enjoyable new play for grownups in many a season” (NY Times)

Thursday, February 6 – Chamber Soiree at Holly Hall at 5:30 PM

EWALD Brass Quintet No.2

FAIROUZ Jebel Lebnan

MARTINU Piano Quartet #1



HOLIDAY PARTY AT LIBBY'S CAFÉ & BAR

1917 S. OSPREY, SARASOTA

THURSDAY, December 5 AT 6 PM

MENU CHOICES:

APPETIZER

Cup of organic & vegetarian tomato bisque, toasted orzo

Lemon arugula Caesar, shaved Romaine, crushed croutons, pickled radish, reggiano cheese

LCB Green Salad, baby spinach, cress, arugula, haricot verts, cucumber, pea shoots, green goddess dressing

ENTRÉE

Citrus Rosemary Rotisserie Chicken breast, toasted faro-grilled zucchini panzanella, kalamata olives, foccacia croutons, banyuls vinegar

Honey Balsamic Roasted Pork "Filet Mignon", black truffle'N broccolini corn, shaved reggiano

Filet Mignon and Asparagus Negimaki, Shiitake, ginger chile jus, steamed jasmine rice

Roasted Atlantic Cod fillet, crawfish-black eyed pea succotash, lemon brown butter



DESSERT

Four Cheese and Pear Tortelloni, white truffle crema

Organic Hand-picked Berries, served with whipped cream

Mint Key Lime Pie served with Gummi Bears and whipped cream

Classic Chocolate cake with whipped cream

BEVERAGE: Soft drinks, Ice tea and coffee included

Cash Bar

Cost: \$30 for members

\$38 for guests

Please make your check payable to **FFS** and mail it to:
Bob Joyce, 1232 Pine Needle Rd., Venice FL 34285 before December 2.

Menu selections will be made at the restaurant that evening.