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Cedar Key Woman's Club's 33rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner draws a crowd of diners;
Spaghetti becomes the tie that binds souls together with love



Greeting everyone at the front door were CKWC Second Vice President Linda Kimball and Past President Jane Moore.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Feb. 10, 2019 at 5:09 p.m.

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CEDAR KEY -- For the 33rd year, the Cedar Key Woman's Club attracted islanders, off-islanders, members, guests, families, friends and humans from all walks of life to enjoy another extraordinary spaghetti dinner on Saturday evening (Feb. 9).



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This winter tradition includes some established aspects, and every year the club makes the event a little different.

Held at the Cedar Key Community Center, 809 Sixth St., the fundraising dinner lasted from 5 to 7 p.m.

Patrons who stayed at the Community Center for the meal enjoyed attractively decorated tables, complete with appropriately designed tablecloths, Italian flags, fresh roses and carnations, various Italian-bistro themed bottles and other knickknacks.



The duet *Shade Tree* – comprised of Bunny Hand and David Norden -- perform. Joe Hand served as the sound man for the event.

One new aspect this year was live musical entertainment, including *Shade Tree* – a duet comprised of Bunny Hand and David Norden. Another set of musicians are the trio of Doug and Sandy Lindhout and John Thalacker.

People who used the take-out option to enjoy their meals found the same \$15 donation buying them a wonderful spaghetti dinner with salad and garlic bread, with a selection of homemade desserts and iced tea or coffee. (Children's meals cost \$7.)

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Eileen Senecal and Judy Duvall, were each acting as a sommelier, or a wine steward, as they served patrons wine from the Low Hanging Fruit Winery, with varieties that included Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, White Zinfandel, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot.

The Cedar Key Woman's Club was formed in 1960, and members volunteer at various community events, with proceeds from fundraising supporting Cedar Key at places like the Cedar Key School, the Cedar Key Library, the Food Pantry, Another Way, and the Cedar Key Volunteer Fire Department.

The members of the Woman's Club also have been active in raising funds for Fisher House at the Veterans Hospital in Gainesville. One of those fundraising side events is the sale of tickets to win a prize-winning quilt.



Janet Ramsey sits behind the table where tickets were sold for the quilt that is scheduled to be awarded during a drawing at the Fashion Show on March 14. The quilt being raffled by The Cedar Key Woman's Club this year shows an ongoing commitment to help The Fisher House, which is a facility for injured veterans' families. The title for the quilt this year is *Dolphins At Play*.

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This 2019 quilt is unique beyond all of the other previous CKWC quilts. All previous quilts were not completed entirely by Cedar Key Woman's Club members. This one is, however. Therefore, when it is entered in competition in Gainesville for the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) District Art Show in early 2019, *Dolphins At Play Quilt* is a blue-ribbon award-winner. Funds from this quilt raffle go to help Fisher House of Gainesville, a place for families of veterans being helped with medical issues.

Diners presented tickets at the pass-through kitchen window to receive their meals. Drinks, including water, tea and coffee were at another bar. Wine was available and a donation was requested for those folks enjoying this libation.

As one may anticipate, from the food perspective, the spaghetti sauce is perhaps the most vital element in a spaghetti dinner.

Cedar Key Woman's Club's own Susan Rosenthal heralded her seventh consecutive year as the chef of the sauce for this part of the meal. Joining President Rosenthal on spaghetti duty were Rosemary Danesi and Jan Hendricks, President Katherine Dunlap said.

Robin Jocelyn and Nancy Reed were the Bread Committee this year. The Salad Committee was Cindy Leiner, Kathy Salkaln, Kathy Freidenfelds and Gini Barss.



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President Katherine Dunlop and First Vice President Teri Brennan are the two top leaders of the Cedar Key Woman's Club and they are among the people who made every guest feel welcome to enjoy the evening at the Community Center.



Desserts galore were the proverbial icing on the cake for the meal, and the cakes, cupcakes and other baked goods included -- literally -- icing. This table, one of two for desserts, included tateful decorations as well.

Of the 52 CKWC members, many of them must have been among the donors to create the impressively vast array of homemade desserts. Two diners mentioned the coconut cream cake was worthy to be put into competition; however the long list of various desserts were all delightful.

Every seat was filled Saturday night when the Cedar Key Woman's Club celebrated its 33rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner.

The 25 to 30 members who

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prepared meals for up to 250 guests once again conducted the perfect spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

There may be a "first this" and "then that" formula to the ladies' perfect dine-in or take-out dinner of wonderful homemade spaghetti, however it probably is just the big dose of community spirit and love for people that puts this event up beyond the highest notch for excellence.

In fact, from a metaphoric perspective, with the wonderful food, and kindhearted welcoming tenderness in the building, one could say that spaghetti that night served as the tie that binds souls together with love for each other.

Certainly, the food pleased all of the patrons' palates, and the festive friendliness made for an enchanting evening.

Every person was made to feel at home by the friendly CKWC members.

And with so many members participating in the building and behind the scenes (and perhaps some husbands, boyfriends and others volunteering as well), there are those many other unnamed individuals who gallantly put forth the effort and yet remain in the hallowed halls of anonymity as part of the absolute success of the fundraiser.

There really is a point beyond the food and ambiance for this spaghetti dinner. There is the camaraderie among the members that extends to their hundreds of guests as well.

Each guest enjoyed that certain *je ne sais quoi*, a quality that cannot be described or named easily, from each hostess to make the whole evening a spectacular event.

Meanwhile on Saturday evening (Feb. 9), another wonderful group in southern Levy County conducted a similar fundraiser.

The Yankeetown-Inglis Woman's Club held a Pasta Bar at the YIWC Bistro. Diners there created their own dinners with pasta choices of penne, bow-tie or spaghetti.

Like the more-established fundraiser in Cedar Key, this event in Yankeetown included opportunities to dine-in or take-out, as well as to enjoy wine with the meal.

The clubs in in Cedar Key and Yankeetown are both part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The GFWC was founded in 1890 during the Progressive Movement. It is a federation of more than 3,000 women's clubs in the United States of America, which promote civic improvements through volunteer service