

A Publication of Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc.

Winter 2012

Making History Memorable

In 1513 the Ancient Greeks had long since documented the world was round, but no one had journeyed around it. The Mayflower would not land at Plymouth Rock for 107 more years. VIVA FLORIDA 500 commemorates the diversity of cultures and legacies that shaped Florida after explorer Juan Ponce de León first named this land.

In conjunction with the Florida Humanities Council and Florida Anthropological Society, Lee Trust has embarked on an ambitious initiative that connects Florida archaeology, arts, and history with a focus on how we present that history - indigenous and colonial - and the impact of those representations on our collective understanding of the past.

LTHP ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on February 11, 2013 from 6-8pm at Cristof's on McGregor 10231 McGregor Blvd

Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar \$10 suggested donation

RSVP by Feb. 1 to <u>Meet@LeeTrust.org</u> or call 239.939.PAST (7278)

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Conquistadors and the Calusa: Reflections on Resistance February 9, 2013 -- 1:30-4:30pm

February 9, 2013 -- 1:30-4:30pm Koreshan State Historic Site Art Hall, Estero, FL

Online broadcast at <u>www.leetrust.org</u> on Tuesday, February 12th at 1:30 p.m.

Archaeologists, historians, and literary scholars chronicle Ponce de León's 1513 skirmishes with the Calusa in southwest Florida and the consequences to indigenous populations and Spanish in political, economic, religious, and biological terms. This symposium will bring together lead scholars on south Florida's ethnohistory and those studying collective history and representation in a dialogue about the celebration of La Florida and the impact of commemorations on authentic history.

Archaeologists Jerald Milanich and John Worth will discuss Spanish encounters with the Calusa. Historian Andrew Frank and American Indian literature scholar Gretchen Bataille will address representation of indigenous histories and provoke discussion of how we make history memorable.

Space for this event is limited. Please RSVP at <u>MakingHistoryMemorable@gmail.com</u> or consider attending

Funding for the Making History Memorable program series was



provided through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program series do not necessarily represent those of the Florida Humanities Council or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The mission of Lee Trust is to preserve the sites and buildings of historical, archaeological, and architectural significance to Lee County through both advocacy and acquisition.

Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

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Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc. was founded in 1993 and is dedicated to preserving and developing the heritage of Lee County and its municipalities.

Preservation News is published quarterly (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer). Contributors for this issue include: Gladys Cook, Marsa Detscher, Bill Grace, Susan Grace, Pam Miner.

<u>Newsletter Editor</u>: Marsa Detscher Contact **Newsletter@LeeTrust.org**.

Lee Trust is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation; all gifts made to Lee Trust are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained by the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State of Florida (1-800-435-7352). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.





Board Meeting Schedule

February 11, 2013 -- 5pm -- Election of Board (Cristof's on McGregor)

February 11, 2013 -- 6pm -- Annual Meeting (Cristof's on McGregor)

March 11, 2013

April 8, 2013

May 13, 2013

All Board meetings take place at 5pm at the Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center, unless otherwise noted.

Have You Joined Lee Trust?

NOW is the time to update your membership in Lee Trust for Historic Preservation.

If you have not yet become a member, or if you have let your membership lapse, consider joining LTHP. Send in your membership application or go to <u>www.LeeTrust.org</u> and join today!

Advertising in Preservation News

Preservation News is a quarterly publication of Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc. It is available in print form (400 copies) and on-line at LeeTrust.org to an unlimited audience. We invite you to advertise in Preservation News in our "COMMUNITY RESOURCES" page. We hope to include people interested in sharing our mission, including architects, attorneys, bankers, contractors, educators, homeowners, realtors, and subcontractors.

2013 Introductory Rate

Business Card size (3.5"w x 2" h) @ \$30 per issue (4 individual issues @ \$120)

Discount available: receive 1 year @ \$100 (all 4 issues @ \$20 savings)

Contact <u>Newsletter@LeeTrust.org</u> if you are interested.

Looking to the future with an eye to the past ...

HAPPENINGS AT KORESHAN STATE HISTORIC SITE

by Susan and Bill Grace

As another winter season begins, so do activities at the Koreshan State Historic Site. Join volunteers for *Afternoon Tea on the Planetary Court Porch*. The quintessential afternoon tea is to be savored with freshly cut sandwiches, home baked scones served with cream and homemade jelly, a selection of tea pastries and deserts, and fine English tea. Two more Teas are planned for January 8 and March 12.

The Art Hall in the Historic Settlement comes alive with professional classical music during the *Estero Concert Series at Koreshan*. This is an experience that will enhance your Sunday afternoon. Please check the website for dates.

Ghost Walks at Koreshan are always fun and educational to attend. Enjoy a play of 9 scenes of day-to-day life of the Koreshans. This is a night-time guded tour from scene to scene by moon light and luminaries. Space is limited to 28 per walk and sells out fast. Dates are January 25 and 26, February 1 and 2.

A new activity this year is *Love Our Park Art Show*. On February 16, renowned local artists will display multimedia works on the grounds of the Koreshan Settlement. Music will feature Michael Simmons World

Music Band. Food and beverage will be available. Local artists may still register to participate for this event.

A Taste of History Lunch with the Koreshans will be held on Saturday, February 23. There will be a gift auction. The luncheon menu is from Koreshan Archives. Entertainment will be provided.

Other events that the Park hosts are a Vintage Car Show, an Antique Engine Show, and Earth Day.

The Afternoon Teas, Concert Series, Ghost Walks, and Taste of Koreshan History require reservations. For more information or reservations, please call 239-992-0311 or visit the Park website at <u>http://www.floridastateparks.org/</u><u>koreshan/events</u>

Events proceeds are used towards the continuing restoration of the buildings and gardens.

Celebrating the Holidays

Neighborhoods throughout the county celebrated the holidays in different ways. The Dean Park Historic District celebrated with lighting of luminaries, an event that has continued for over 15 years. The Edison Park neighborhood also celebrated with twinkling luminaries throughout the historic district on Christmas Eve.

Does your community commemorate events or celebrate holidays? Send us a description of your community's celebrations at <u>newsletter@LeeTrust.org</u>.



This is a Community Newsletter!

If you are a member of a group or organization that has news or information of interest to Lee Trust members, please share! We invite you to partner with us by contributing to Preservation News.

Contact us at <u>Newsletter@LeeTrust.org</u>.



Spotlight: MOTI (Museum of the Islands)

a place where a little bit of Paradise called Pine Island preserves the past for the future by Gladys Cook

The Museum of the Islands is located at Pine Island Center on Pine Island and is a jewel box of island treasures, ephemera and exhibits on early island life, the Calusa archaeological sites and a quaint book shop. Pine Islanders visit to catch up on displays and to bring winter visitors for a good introduction to Pine Island and the islands of Charlotte Harbor. The Museum is hosted by enthusiastic volunteers and supported by donations from local businesses.

The Museum recently opened a new exhibit on the Matlacha Pine Island Volunteer Fire Department. A treasure trove of documents and photos was shared by the Fire Department with the Museum to build a display to tell the story of the men and women who built a community while fighting fires in home made trucks and operating a volunteer ambulance service with a couple of donated hearses. Ambulance rides were unlimited for purchasers of a \$5.00 annual ticket. Not bad for a ride to Lee Memorial in Fort Myers, a ride home, and a visit back to the doctor. The fire department was manned by men and boys who built their engines from scrap and salvage. The fire department put on the annual July 4 fireworks show and parade bringing everyone together to celebrate their island independence. Even if you didn't want to go to the parade, you had to as the event blocked traffic for hours at Pine Island Center.

The Museum invites visitors to come and explore the many displays and curiosities, learn something unique, and pick up a book or two on island history or nature. There are four rooms, filled with much to see, including an 1882 one-horse buggy, tools that were used by the original settlers,

dollhouses, and a collection of animals found on the island, as well as pictures of many of our island pioneers. A standing display includes pictures and information on some of the first families of the island. The Gift Shop has a large selection of Florida books and other one-of-a-kind products made by local artisans.

Museum Address 5728 Sesame Street, Pine Island Center Website www.museumoftheislands.com Phone number 239-283-1525 To volunteer 239-283-5050 (ask for Ced – pronounced Sid)

MOTI: History of the Museum

The museum is housed in what was once the first public library building on Pine Island. It was built by volunteer labor in the early 1960's and opened in 1966. After serving Pine Island as a library for 20 years the building became too small for the book needs of the island. It had been abandoned when the new library was built in 1985, and was destined for demolition to make room for a parking lot.

Fundraising events and donations by generous islanders interested in preserving Pine Island's colorful past provided funds for repairing the building. Volunteers went to work to put on a new roof, install new air conditioning, paint the interior and exterior, clean the badly stained terrazzo floor and ready the building for the first museum on Pine Island. This took several years of fundraising and renovation. Finally, in late 1989, the building was ready to start assembling a museum.

A scavenger hunt for furnishings, artifacts and appropriate material for exhibits had been going on sporadically during the years prior to really putting a museum together, and a few things had been collected. People began to bring in contributions and loans for display. These were taken from storage and cleaned for display. However, there was the problem of finding suitable showcases for exhibits.

The Naples Historical Museum of Collier County contributed 6 large, lighted 8-foot-high wall cases no longer needed by their museum. These were transported to Pine Island and reconditioned. Then the St. Petersburg

Winter Hours: November 1 - April 30 Tues-Sat 11-3 Sunday 1-4 Closed Mondays

Summer Hours: May 1 - October 31 Tues, Thurs, Sat 11-3

by Gladys Cook

Historical Museum, in the midst of reorganizing and expanding, offered a wonderful collection of antique showcases. A trip to their storage area produced gifts of an adequate supply to complete furnishing Pine Island's fledgling museum. Several trips were made to St. Pete to bring the furnishings back to the island. Again, cleaning and renovation were necessary to get them in place for exhibits.

Volunteers worked long hours to get the museum ready to open. The ribbon was cut on Sunday, February 4, 1990, and the museum opened its doors to the public. It was very well done, considering there were limited items, but as time went on people began bringing in more contributions and loans for display. There was, and still is, a continual search for Pine Island's past - and wonderful discoveries have been made. The search goes on though - there is much to find on this rural island of fishing villages and early history of its people.

Today, the museum is a colorful, interesting place to visit. A new addition has recently been completed, with most of the labor being donated by dedicated volunteers!! There are now four rooms, filled with much to see, including an 1882 one-horse buggy, tools that were used by the original settlers, dollhouses, and a collection of animals found on the island, as well as pictures of many of our island pioneers. A standing display includes pictures and information on some of the first families of the island. We have a lovely Gift Shop with a large selection of Florida books and other one-of-a-kind products made by local artisans.

More than an "Old" Building by Pam Miner

The sentiment, "Florida continues to offer its citizens and visitors alike the chance to experience the adventures and memories of the past alongside the escapes and everyday life of the present.," is related by the authors of *Contributions of Historic Preservation to Quality of Life of Floridians, University of Florida, Executive Summary: Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation in Florida, 2006, update 2010.* Moving from expressive observation to hard facts, the study noted that Historic Preservation activity contributed \$6.3 billion annually to the state. Further examination of the relationship illustrates where dollars are being generated.

In 2011 the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation completed a significant report, "Measuring the Economics of Historic Preservation." Though lead author Donovan Rypkema disclaimed it is difficult to identify what Historic Preservation actually is within other industries, enough information is available to begin to chart the course of connections.

The Advisory Council suggested there are four major impact areas forming a relationship between Historic Preservation and Economic Development: jobs, heritage tourism, property values, and downtown revitalization. The team also noted the importance of environmental impacts, effectiveness of state tax credit & grant programs, affordable housing production, and environmental/social measurements of walkability.

Lee County's impact areas continue to reflect the national selections with a minor shift in priorities. The local ranking is: jobs, property values, heritage tourism, environmental impact, and downtown revitalization. The idea of walkability appears as "social impact" in Lee County's consideration of the relationship between Historic Preservation and Economic Development; though the final subject on the local list as well, the sense of place and culture is recognized to be vital for its citizens' quality of life.

These impact areas and their dollar values will become clearer as the study of the relationship between Historic Preservation and Economic Development continues at the federal, state, and local levels. The experts will carry on their mission. We will move though our day with buildings forming the backdrop of our lives. Maybe along the way we will become more aware of how these homes, offices, churches, and schools engulf our existence, as well as fill our pocketbooks.

Organization Profile: National Trust for Historic Preservation

President Harry Truman signed legislation creating the National Trust for Historic Preservation in October 1949. Since then, the National Trust has maintained historic sites, helped secure passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966), and created the Preservation Services Fund in 1969 to provide financial assistance to local preservation projects. The National Trust opened its first field office in San Francisco in 1971 and now operates 13 such offices in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

The National Trust created the *National Main Street Center*, transforming preservation into a revitalization tool for traditional business districts. A similar program for historic residential neighborhoods - *Community Partners* - followed. There are special programs for rural preservation and heritage tourism, and statewide organizational development.

The highly acclaimed Preservation magazine has been published by the Trust for over 60 years. The National Trust recognizes noteworthy individuals, organizations, and projects (*Preservation Honor Awards*) and publicizes the nation's historic sites that are most threatened (*America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* and *National Treasures*). The Trust's website contains links to extensive resources, a preservation leadership forum and blog, and links to preservationnation.org, Main Street, and grants opportunities.

The National Trust's "Preservation Priorities" include the following: Building sustainable communities, promoting diversity and place, protecting historic places on public lands, and re-imagining historic sites. Stephanie Meeks is the current President and CEO. The Board of Trustees consists of 33 members and includes leaders in the field of historic preservation as well as strong supporters of historic preservation, including Laura Bush, Gloria Estefan and Diane Keaton. You can access the National Trust for Historic Preservation at www.preservationnation.org/.

Books of Interest: The Caloosahatchee River

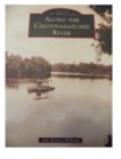
Images of America: Along The Caloosahatchee River by Amy Bennett Williams. Charleston SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2011. (128 pages).

Caloosahatchee River Guidebook -- A guide to the history and sites by water and land from Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf of Mexico by Kevin McCarthy. Sarasota FI: Pineapple Press, 2012. (181 pages).

Those wishing to understand the very significant ways the Caloosahatchee River has shaped and continues to influence the history, politics and culture of this area are in luck. There are two wonderful new books about this topic. Even as we rely on overland transportation, these books remind us we are still influenced by the Caloosahatchee.

The river was named after the Calusa Indians, the original inhabitants of southwest Florida. In the Seminole language "hatchee" means river -- hence Caloosahatchee means river of the "Caloosa" (Caloosa being the English spelling of the Spanish Calusa). The Caloosahatchee runs roughly 75 miles from Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf of Mexico and has three locks: Moore Haven, Ortona and W.P. Franklin.

Typical of books by Arcadia Publishing, Amy Bennett Williams' book is an impressionistic wonder and lots of fun to browse through. It includes lovely and interesting photographs showing us how the river and its landscape changed over time – with changes happening even as the first settlers arrived. Williams notes that when he first saw the Caloosahatchee, naturalist W.S. Blatchley commented it was a



beautiful river winding through dense wilderness. When he returned in 1918 Blatchley saw the river had changed for the worse -- the cabbage palmettos had been cleared away for agriculture and the shorelines were "filled with dilapidated or half sunken boats and other debris of civilization."

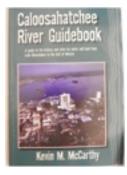
Williams includes rare photographs of the river and magnificent landscape. The photograph of the legendary "rapids" on the Caloosahatchee was a special treat. Williams' caption is most informative: "Before entrepreneurial developer Hamilton Disston began dredging the river in 1881, its headwaters were near Lake Flirt in what is now Hendry County. During the rainy season, water spilled from the lake down small rapids ...and then began slowly winding course to the Gulf of Mexico. "

Williams' photographs provide a virtual history tour of the river. She shows how for years the river was a commercial highway dotted with small settlements. There are photos of steamboats, bridges, ferries and ferry landings; houses, piers and packing houses; and portraits of pioneers like Peter Nelson, Francis Asbury Hendry, Manuel A. Gonzalez, Louise Bonniwell and Flora English. For landlubbers interested in locks, Williams provides numerous photographs to satisfy that curiosity.

There are also photographs that give pause: a monument dedicated to the 2,000 people that died in the hurricane of 1928; a single-hulled barge carrying oil to the FPL plant (there was never an accident and the facility now uses natural gas instead of oil for fuel); a massive dredge used to straighten the river; and an aerial view after all vegetation was cleared and canals were dredged in what would be the city of Cape Coral.

The book is dedicated to Charles Edgar Foster. Williams describes him as a lifelong educator and one the river's most ardent champions. No doubt he would be well pleased to see Williams continue his legacy of stewardship.

While Williams' book is a photographic essay, Kevin McCarthy's book is methodical and fact-filled. It is a guidebook for the contemporary explorer. McCarthy is quick to remind us that today, the Army Corps of Engineers formally calls the river: C-43 (Canal 43) and that it is part of the Cross-Florida Shipping Channel and the Cross-Florida Waterway which join Stewart on the Atlantic Ocean to Fort Myers and the Gulf of Mexico.



The book is divided into eight chapters, each covering a specific geographic segment of the river. The first part of each chapter describes trip by water as one would boat from one section of the river to the next, and includes information on the history and natural history of that area of the river. The second part describes the trip by land as one would drive by car along the river.

McCarthy points out that the Caloosahatchee is different from most Florida's rivers. It has locks and dams and has been dredged and straightened. It also has a variety of competing uses: it is used to discharge waste water, provide drinking water, serve boaters and fishermen, provide water for agricultural uses and provide water to the estuaries. It has problems associated with drainage, salinity, pollution, flooding, agricultural runoff and urban runoff. He concludes by saying, "We can only hope that with better coordination among the many disparate groups overseeing the river that it will be seen as a vital part of the ecological health of south Florida not just as a waterway to be abused by parochial interests."

This book is chock full of information and new material seems to reveal itself even after several readings. It is more than a great travel guide as it includes a readable history of how "engineers straightened out the Caloosahatchee" and what that means to us today.



Revolving Fund

Lee Trust was established on February 15, 1993 with a mission, in part, to buy endangered historic properties and sell them to buyers who would restore them. In the Fall 2012 Newsletter, we reintroduced our first two Revolving Fund projects. This is an update.



The Flint House

The Flint house is on a roughly triangle-shaped lot at the corner of Bird and Buckingham Roads. This early 20th century two-story house was the residence of the members of the Flint family - a prominent Lee County pioneer family who settled mainly in the Buckingham and adjoining area.

In 2001 the land on which the Flint House is located was part of the Verandah, a single family development by Bonita Bay Properties. After realizing the historic significance of the subject structure, the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc., worked with Bonita Bay Properties to preserve the house. As a result in 2001 a .75 acre tract was carved out of the original tract and acre then the property has had two owners who have worked to rehabilitate it

deeded over to the Lee Trust. Since then the property has had two owners who have worked to rehabilitate it.

Thomas Cook, the current owner has fully stabilized and rehabilitated the house – including the interior and exterior finishes. In 2011 Mr. Cook rezoned the property to allow cultural facilities. Generally Mr. Cook's plans entail the following: 1) preserving the Flint House as is and making it handicap accessible with the addition of a ramp at the rear, 2) adding a 1,500 sq ft school house building, and 3) adding a 576 sq ft barn building.

<u>Preserving the Flint House as is</u> -- The house is a two-story gable-front-and-wing house with a metal roof. The house features a main front facing gable roof and a side gabled wing on the south elevation. The exterior cladding material is horizontal wood siding and the roof material is metal. The house is elevated above grade on piers. There are exposed brick



chimneys on the north and west elevations the house. On the front (east) elevation the house (under a partial hip roof) is the single story front porch with knee walls. The 2-story house features single and paired 2/2 windows. In general, the elevations feature identical numbers of windows and window spacing on the first and second floors.

Adding a 1,500 sq ft school house building -- This new school building will be a multiple use building; proposed uses include: school house, museum and place of worship. The proposed building will be located north of the Flint house and in line with the Flint house's front setback. The building will be rectangular and feature a front facing metal gable roof on Buckingham Rd. It will have metal shed roof porches on the front and rear elevations. The wall material will be horizontal hardi board with corner trim boards. The height of the building is roughly 22-ft from grade to roof peak or roughly 19-ft from finished floor to roof peak. By comparison the historic Flint house is roughly 2-ft higher.

<u>Adding a 576 sq ft barn building</u> -- The plans are for the construction of a barn on the western portion of the parcel. It will be a square shaped building, roughly 14-ft high from grade to roof peak. It will be setback roughly 15-ft from Bird Rd. It will feature a metal hip roof and horizontal wood siding. For ventilation there will be roughly a 1-ft opening between the roof and the top of the wall. The building will house 2 stalls, a tack area and an open area.



The Sumner Hall Residence

The Sumner Hall Residence is the second revolving fund project. This 1915 bungalow is located in Dean Park on Providence Street. After the Detschers acquired the property from Lee Trust for Historic Preservation in April 2003, they undertook a complete restoration of the home. The ca. 1970s additions were removed and a new 1,500 square foot addition was constructed in the rear. The house was re-roofed using galvalume shingles similar to the original roof. The owners repaired

the original windows and doors, replaced the wood wrap-around porch decking, and corrected extensive termite damage. The home retains its original characterdefining features while accommodating a contemporary lifestyle.

The Detschers have taken advantage of the City of Fort Myers' Ad Valorem Tax Abatement Program, saving them hundreds of dollars in property taxes. The Detschers continue to deal with the challenges of owning this 97-year old home. Would they do it again? Well, they restored another home in Dean Park and they are now restoring a



100-year old home in East Fort Myers. Hopefully others will recognize the value in restoring our old classic buildings.

The Future

The future of the Revolving Fund is promising. The housing market has dramatically adjusted the price of homes making it more affordable for people to preserve their piece of history. Unfortunately, the increase in foreclosures and abandonments also means that many homes are vacant, leaving them vulnerable to vandalism and neglect. That is where Lee Trust can help.

If you know of a threatened property that should be preserved, let us know. Also, if you are aware of someone interested in buying a property to rescue, please forward their contact information. Lee Trust wants to match threatened properties with interested purchasers to rescue our important historic resources: We are looking for partners! Contact us at <u>RevolvingFund@LeeTrust.org</u>.



33902-1035

Lee County Celebrates History in 20/20 Purchase

Lee County Commissioners will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Wild Turkey Strand Preserve on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 3pm. This 3,100-acre site is part of the Conservation 20/20 program and provides a critical wildlife habitat from State Road 82 extending south of the SW Florida International Airport (RSW). The preserve also sits atop portions of the WWII-era Buckingham Army Airfield. The Wild Turkey Strand Preserve maintains the remnants of the Buckingham Army Air Field and *Gunner's Trail* leads to historic relics and interpretive panels that describe this important gunnery training facility.

The Wild Turkey Strand Preserve is located at 11901 Rod and Gun Club Road, off State Road 82 east of Gunnery Road. The Preserve provides opportunities for bird watching, hiking along a boardwalk and hiking along marked trails, nature study and photography, and picnic areas.

Downtown Fort Myers Updates

The City of Fort Myers has agreed to a **limited** archaeological survey of the Library site. Work is underway. The Hall of 50 States is on the City Council Meeting Agenda for January 22. The City Council will be asked to accept the Selection Committee's rankings for proposals submitted for the restoration/moving of the Hall and direct staff to negotiate with the highest-ranking proposer.

There are plans in the works for the conversion of the old Amtel/Ramada hotel on Edwards Drive in Downtown Fort Myers. The developer proposes to convert the structure into a 55-and older rental, with retail, restaurant, and personal services at the ground level. The plans go before the City Council in February.

Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

Annual Meeting

Monday, February 11, 2013 (6pm-8pm) Cristof's (10231 McGregor Blvd) *\$10 suggested donation* Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

RSVP by Feb 1 to <u>Meet@LeeTrust.org</u> or call 239.939.PAST (7278)



Looking to the future with an eye to the past ...