

## **What's a Basket Auction? AND Everything Else You Want to Know about the Auction**

*Doors open at 4 p.m. with wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres as we are entertained by a band of rowdy pirates and roving musicians regaling us with a hearty sea chanty or two.*

*Silent basket auction will be open for bidding during Happy Hour.*

*Dinner buffet begins at 5 p.m. Entertainment continues!*

*Auction begins at 6 p.m.*

*Intermission begins at approximately 7 p.m. Thrill to a live action pirate drama! (Silent Basket Auction closes.)*

*Auction resumes at 7:30 pm*

*Last call at 8:30 pm. Checkout time begins at approximately 8:45 pm, when bidding ends.*

*Note: There will be up to a **10-minute break** between the end of bidding (to allow our checkout team to compile the bids), and the start of checkout. While you wait, we will all join in singing and start to swab the decks.*

*We will be calling folks up, by tables, to prevent a long line and chaos for our auction checkout team.*

*The "early checkout" bid winner goes first, followed by folks with mobility, hearing or vision needs, **prior** to the first full table being called to check out! All tables will be called **randomly**.*

*Payment is by cash, check or credit card.*

*If you cannot attend but would like to bid, someone can submit a proxy bid for you using a separate bidder number.*

*To make things easier, please pre-register using this link: <https://uuhfc-serendipity-2026.auctria.events/>*

*While there is no charge to attend the auction, donations to offset the price of food, beer & wine, are always welcome! There will be a donation box by the registration table should you wish to contribute.*

**Silent Basket Auction:** Basket contents are not listed in the catalog. They are a delight surprise for most of us. On the night of the Auction, they will be displayed with contents listed and separate bid sheets for each basket. All items will have a minimum bid. You can continue to raise your bid and outbid others until the Silent Basket Auction closes during Intermission and dessert. The winning bidder number will be placed on each basket after the Auction Team enters your info into the bidding system, and the baskets will be available for pick-up at the end of the Auction.

**Bidding at the Auction:** When you check in you will be given a bidding number. To bid, hold up your number so the Auctioneer can see it. At the end of the bidding for each item, the auctioneer will announce the winning bid and the bidder's number. Mark your catalog when you win so you know which items are yours for easy reference when you checkout.

**Stand-up Auction:** For services or events with a limited number of spaces, everyone interested in bidding on one or more of those spaces should stand up. As the auctioneer increases the bid, bidders will sit down when the price exceeds what they are willing to pay. The bidding stops when there are enough bidders standing to fill all the spaces.

**Bell Ringers:** The best kept secret! Occasionally a donor will decide they are willing to secretly offer a donation more than once. When this occurs, after the bidding is over, and it appears the item is won by the highest bidder, a bell rings! Now the item is offered not only to the highest bidder but also the next highest bidder(s) for the *second* highest bid price. Only the donor and the Auction Team knows which items are Bell Ringers. Note- there can be no more winners than the donor has agreed to, so sometimes this sets off another fun round of bidding!

**Have Fun!**

Drink moderately!

**Spend lavishly!**