Meredith McWaters and Lois Silverberg quickly named their new venture Harriet’s Favorite Things and gathered the namesake’s inner circle to create an advisory group for the series of annual luncheons. In addition to raising funds for a different nonprofit each year, an honoree, who represents the spirit of philanthropy, is selected. Each honoree puts together her own group of supporters to plan, promote and execute.

In previous years the honorees and recipients have included Tricia Earl and the Orlando Ballet; Lyn Steinmetz and the Eden Spa at Florida Hospital Cancer Institute; and Annette Ford and Orlando Health’s Level One Trauma Center. In those three years, Friends of Harriet raised nearly $500,000 for local organizations. For the 2012 Harriet’s Favorite Things the honoree is Margery Pabst and the recipient is Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies NICU.

To get a picture of the extravagant event, here’s what is in store on April 27 at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel downtown: you can join Harriet Lake and 2012 honoree Margery Pabst for an elegant brunch, fabulous silent auction, drawing of chance, orchestral and Orlando Ballet performances, and much more to benefit the tiny babies at the Alexander Center for Neonatology at Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies.

Margery Pabst is a speaker, facilitator and co-author of several books on life transitions. Her most recent book, Enrich Your Caregiving Journey won the Caregiver Friendly Award. Margery also writes several monthly articles for various medical websites and hosts the radio show, Caregiver and Physician Conversations. Her goal is to help readers and listeners achieve personal resiliency for anything life may throw at them.
Her work is also an integral part of her philanthropy — all her income goes directly to The Pabst Charitable Foundation for the Arts, which she founded with her late husband, Mark, in 2004. The mission of the Pabst Foundation is to nurture artists and art forms that are interdisciplinary, innovative, diverse, and have ongoing impact in communities.

“We select our recipients based on what they have done and will do to share their creativity and knowledge with others. A high standard of excellence is also a must,” Margery explains. “It’s the ripple effect we look for, kind of like fishes and loaves if viewed spiritually.”

The Pabst Charitable Foundation supports both organizations and individuals who fit these criteria. The Foundation has recently applied this interdisciplinary concept beyond the arts and funded projects that use the arts to impact wellness, community well being and medical research. Margery’s websites are pivotalcrossings.com and pabstfoundation.org.

Of Harriett Lake, Margery says, “She is my mentor; brilliant in all respects. What I admire most is Harriett’s keen interest in people; never was there a bigger heart!”

Margery’s board members, who are all community volunteers and recognized leaders, are: Rita Adler, president of the Rita and Jeffrey Adler Foundation; Nancy Bagby, real estate professional with Fannie Hillman & Associates; Candace Crawford, a management and political consultant; Lynn Conte, interior designer and marketing professional; Charlotte Everbach, interior designer; Annette Ford, Covelli Family Limited Partnership (Panera Bread franchisee); Dr. Deborah German, dean of UCF College of Medicine; Deborah Hessler, Edyth Bush Charitable
Foundation; Joan Pohl, community volunteer; Alexis Pugh, community volunteer; Barbara Sorensen, sculptor and artist; and Deborah O. Taylor, wealth manager with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

To purchase tickets by phone or for information contact Meredith at 407-774-9671 or visit friendsofharrriet.com for online ticket purchase.