



*"Celebrate Life & The Italian Way With Gusto"*

## Picnic Bella Italia Style!



Sunset Over the Marsh at Epworth Pier

On June 25, 2011, Bella Italia held its first summer picnic at Epworth-by-the-Sea, Gascogne Bluff, under the pavilion. It was a wonderful time, and in our typical Bella Italia style, we added gusto and flair that only Italians can! There are so many thanks to go around; to picnic organizers, volunteers and attendees, and not enough room here to cover them all. First and foremost though, our huge gratitude to Laura Biondi, our Social and Cultural Activities Chair for the amazing way she pulled all the particulars together on a rather short notice, and turned it all into a well-tuned and fun event with the entire Board offering services and gifts. We also owe gratitude to Janice Passaro for

her beautiful designs and table ornaments that made our picnic stand out as something very special. There were volunteers manning the welcoming table, selling raffle tickets, setting up, cleaning up, cooking. Lillian Ehlers, Carol Buckenmeyer and Laura Biondi prepared and served the most wonderful Italian meatballs, Italian sausage, and peppers and onions—I didn't see any hot dogs or hamburgers or fried chicken—thank goodness! Mark Gagliano and Tony Cerrato brought as a gift an entire CASE of very nice wine! Grazie to all!

There were about 50 people in attendance, and considering the short notice of this event, we are pleased that many members joined in on the festivities. Our membership currently stands at about 103 members, so we had roughly half of our members in attendance, which is an excellent number.

As wonderful as the food and wine were, the camaraderie among our group far exceeded the provisions. All seemed to have a good time, with new friends met, and old friends re-acquainted. Our events always remind us of what makes Bella Italia such a special club—it's members! BRAVO!!!

There were several raffles, and the grand prize winner was Denise Trethaway. Congratulations Denise! Denise won a huge basket of goodies that included:

- 4 Bottles Gourmet Sauces
- TCBY 1 Yogurt Pie or Cake
- 1 small bottle of olive oil
- 1 small jar pesto
- 1 small bottle balsamic vinegar
- 1 small box Toblerone chocolate
- 1 small bag of tortellini

- Other raffle prizes included:
- 4-5 Bottles of wine provided by Janice, Mark, Sue and James
  - Hideaway Bistro—Dinner for two
  - TCBY—1 Yogurt Pie or Cake
  - Sal's Pizzeria—\$25.00 Gift Certificate
  - Fireside Tex Mex Bar & Grill—\$10.00 Gift Certificate
  - Pranzo—\$15.00 Gift Certificate



**Denise Trethaway**

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The weather cooperated, with just a little thunder bumper, and some lightning which all of us Georgians are used to by now...we just rode it out, and enjoyed it. The aftermath was a beautiful red sunset over the marsh was well worth it.

All the photos seen here can also be viewed at: <http://bellaitaliapicnic.shutterfly.com/> and/or ordered in a professionally printed 8 x 8 soft cover booklet for the price of \$40.00 for 36 photos and 20 pages. Please e-mail Bella Italia at [bellaitaliagoldenises@yahoo.com](mailto:bellaitaliagoldenises@yahoo.com) if interested in buying a photo-book.



Our Main Table Courtesy of Janice Passaro



Stephanie Perger



Lillian Ehlers



Peg Vivencio



Frank & Fran Cerrato



Leslie & Mario Forcina



Mark Gagliano, Carol Buckenmeyer et al



Lisa Torras



Laura Biondi



Fran, Stephanie & Frank



Kim, Tony, & Sandy



Party Crasher 1



Party Crasher 2



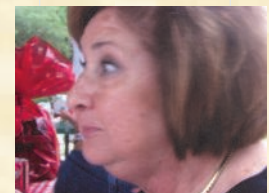
Kim & Sandy



Kim & Sandy



Jim & James Vivencio



Teresa Powell



Janice Passaro



Linda & Randy Norby



Kim



Laura Biondi & Skip Morina



## Bocce Came! It Went! 2 Conquered!

The inaugural Bella Italia Spring Bocce League was a huge success. Every Sunday starting May 15 eight teams met at the beautiful courts at Epworth Center on St Simon Island to play a favorite Italian past-time. Little did we know 8 teams would start the games on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16 friends would finish the season on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The beauty of the game is its universal appeal. Anyone, any age, and any athleticism can play the game, have fun and more importantly enjoy the camaraderie. This was demonstrated by Bella Italia team members and one non-member substitute, Amy Ligon Morris who has our deepest gratitude for filling in on most Sundays & throwing a darn good ball!



Hugh and Marie Paladino



Mark Gaglione and Tony Cerrato



Larry Buckenmeyer and Rodney Scaglione



**Jim Branca and Randy Saal**



Linda Norby and Carol Roberts



Betty and Jack Steinhilber



Mario and Leslie Forcina



Elise Morley and Roberta Saal

As the season progressed several players began to emerge as the team to beat. Mark and Tony, Jim and Randy, and Mario and Leslie held their own being tied several weeks for first place. Larry and Rodney gave each team a “really good game.” Elise and Roberta hold the record for the longest games, losing many by “only one point.” Betty and Jack and Hugh and Marie’s bocce skills steadily improved, Linda Norby could not believe her “four-point” roll, and Carol Buckenmeyer served as the season’s “resident substitute.”

With the final game on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the champion team of Jim Branca and Randy Saal emerged with an undefeated record, Congratulations to both, they truly were unstoppable! They both will receive a Bella Italia polo shirt complete with Bocce Champs included in the logo. But, Look out guys. There will be at least 14 players looking for rematch games when the fall season starts sometime in October.

Watch the newsletter for more information on the upcoming fall season. We hope word will spread and more members will sign up for the fall league. Contact Larry or Carol Buckenmeyer to get your name on the list.

## Message from the President



Dear Members:

Welcome to the second edition of the Bella Italia Newsletter. We have accomplished a lot in our 11 months of existence. We have had several dinner functions that have been very well attended. We have also just finished our Spring Bocce Games, where about a dozen members played on Sunday afternoons for several weeks to earn bragging rights. See the article on this page about Bocce. Please submit any ideas, information, news, suggestions, etc. to Linda Norby or Dick Justice, Membership/Publicity Co-Chairs, at [bellaitaliagolden-isles@yahoo.com](mailto:bellaitaliagolden-isles@yahoo.com).

It's not too late to express your interest in the various activities and committees of Bella Italia. If you would like to become a member of a committee, social/cultural activities or membership/publicity, please send us an email letting us know. The appropriate person will contact you.

We are currently making plans for a function in August and/or October. Information will be sent out as soon as the plans have been finalized.

We have scheduled our Christmas Potluck Dinner for Saturday, December 10, in the parish hall at St. William Catholic Church on St. Simons Island. It will start at 6:30pm. It was a great success last year and we are looking to have another great event this year. If you are interested in helping with the planning and other work to be done to make this a success, please email us.

Sincerely,

Skip Morina, President



Distinti soci di Bella Italia,

Siamo felici di inviarvi la seconda lettera di Bella Italia, e siamo orgogliosi dei progressi fatti dalla nostra organizzazione nello spazio di undici mesi della sua esistenza. Le cene e il picnic organizzati in questi ultimi mesi hanno avuto un grande successo, e molti soci hanno partecipato a queste feste. Inoltre, durante i pomeriggi di domenica c'è stata anche una gara primaverile di partite a Bocce, e circa una dozzina di soci vi hanno fatto parte, vantandosi della loro bravura. Su questo soggetto vi preghiamo di leggere l'articolo in questa pagina' to e se aveste dei suggerimenti inoltrati a Linda Norby o a Dick Justice, entrambi capi del comitato addetto alla Pubblicità/Recrutamento e Servizi dei soci. L'indirizzo elettronico è: [bellaitaliagolden-isles@yahoo.com](mailto:bellaitaliagolden-isles@yahoo.com)

In aggiunta vi facciamo presente che abbiamo bisogno di aiuto e saremmo grati se alcuni di voi consideraste una partecipazione più attiva nella nostra organizzazione divenendo membri di uno dei due comitati: quello Sociale/Culturale o quello del Recrutamento e Servizi dei Soci/ Pubblicità. Fateci sapere la vostra scelta via e-mail e sarete contattati dalla persona addetta.

Sono anche in fase di sviluppo dei piani per eventi che avranno luogo nel mese di agosto e possibilmente anche in ottobre. Vi daremo notizie più precise quando i piani saranno completati. Grazie al grande successo dello scorso anno, la cena di Natale sarà simile a quella dell'anno precedente, e si terrà luogo il 10 dicembre, alle ore 6:30 p.m., nella chiesa cattolica di St. William a St. Simons Island. Vi saremmo grati se poteste aiutarci in qualsiasi maniera, sia per organizzare la cena sia che per decorare la sala. Vi preghiamo di farci sapere le vostre intenzioni via e-mail.

Cordialità,

Skip Morina, Presidente

(Translated by Teresa Tozzi Powell)



**Reminder.** Our Bella Italia Logo shirts are now available in red, green, black or white, in a variety of styles and sizes for both men and woman. The shirts are excellent quality with beautiful materials and workmanship. Show your Bella Italia colors. Contact Skip for info & to place an order.

[bellaitaliagoldenisles@yahoo.com](mailto:bellaitaliagoldenisles@yahoo.com)



<http://www.niaf.org/education-and-culture/essay/index.asp>

Alfio Releases new CD!

Famed Italian-Australian singer and songwriter Alfio is back with a brand new cd, "tutta Italiana." Following the success of his previous album "Classic Rewinds," Alfio now pays special homage to his Italian heritage and takes us on a sentimental journey through an album of Italian songs.



In "tutta Italiana," Alfio, who performed at the Chairman's After Hours event following the NIAF's 35th Anniversary Awards Gala last October, includes some of his own original songs along with classic Italian favorites.

Check out his tour dates, hear song clips and purchase the new cd at his website: [www.alfiomusic.com](http://www.alfiomusic.com)

WHO ARE THESE ITALIAN ENTERTAINERS? BET YOU KNOW THE FIRST ONE!



**Italian Meatballs by Lillian Ehler**



- 1lb ground Beef
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1/2 tsp salt
- dash black pepper
- 3tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese

Mix all ingredients together. Shape into balls the size of an egg. Place on roasting pan with rack and bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes.

Let meatballs drain on a paper towel then add to sauce.

**Sauce**

- 1 lg can of plum tomatoes, pureed
- 1 sm can of tomato paste
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 2 cloves of garlic minced
- 3 tsp fresh basil
- 1 tsp salt

- 1/4 tsp pepper (black)
- a pinch of sugar
- 3 tbsp olive oil

Sauté' onion and garlic in olive oil until translucent, not brown. Add plum tomatoes that have been pureed & let come to boil. Add can of tomato paste. Fill empty can with water & add to sauce. Add salt and pepper and a pinch of sugar.

Let come to boil stirring frequently. Lower heat & simmer for 1 hour, stirring frequently.

Add meatballs to sauce and simmer for 30 minutes. Best if made a day or two ahead so that meatballs can absorb the sauce.



**Italians in Georgia's Genesis**

**Inscription.** When James Oglethorpe left England to begin the new colony of Georgia, in 1732, one of the passengers was Paul Amatis, an Italian artisan, skilled in producing silk. He was later

placed in charge of Trustees Garden. Later, more Italian families came to pursue the task of producing silk. Joseph Ottolenghe is responsible for erecting a public filature in Savannah, on what is now Reynolds Square. It was at this filature that a record number of 15,212 pounds of cocoons were delivered for processing into raw silk. High hopes for success in this undertaking is exemplified on one side of the original Georgia Seal which depicts a mulberry leaf, a silkworm, and a cocoon, with the encircled words: "Non sibus sed aliis": "Not for ourselves but for others."

**Location.** 32° 4.754' N, 81° 5.336' W. Marker is in Savannah, Georgia, in Chatham County. Marker is on Abercorn Street, in the median. [Click for map.](#) East side Reynolds Square at Abercorn and St. Julian Streets. Marker is in this post office area: Savannah GA 31401, United States of America.

Dear Members, we need your help in volunteering your time and skills to Bella Italia in order for our club to remain successful and thriving. Please e-mail [bellaitaliagoldenisles@yahoo.com](mailto:bellaitaliagoldenisles@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering .