



Le Spiagge

The Beaches:
Fernandina, Mayport, Atlantic, Neptune,
Jacksonville & Ponte Vedra

Volume 6 No. 1

Jan - Feb 2010

website: www.beachesosia.com

2010 Dinners & Meetings

Adele Grage Cultural Center
716 Ocean Blvd, A.B.

3rd Wednesday of each month:

6:00pm Gathering

6:30pm Dining

7:30pm General Meeting

January 20

Lasagna Dinner \$8

February 17

Antipasti

March 17

no dinner - coffee & desserts

April 21

Antipasti

May 19

Antipasti

June 16

Antipasti

July 21

All-American Hot Dog Dinner!! \$8

August 18

Antipasti

September 15

Fried Chicken Dinner \$8

October 20

Antipasti

November 17

no dinner - coffee & desserts

December 15

no meeting - see next column

2010 Social/Ways&Means Calendar

February 13

*Carnevale Dinner Dance \$30/person
Ocean Breeze, NS Mayport, 6:30-10:30pm*

March 13

Hot Dog Sale, Turner Ace Hdwe, 11-2

March 14 ??

Bowling Tournament, 10-noon

(this date subject to change)

March 20

*St. Joseph Covered Dish Dinner
St. John's Parish Hall, A.B., 6:30 - 9:30*

April 10

Yard Sale, 8 - noon, Berengolts driveway

June 19

Hot Dog Sale, Turner Ace Hdwe, 11-2

August 29

Murder Mystery Dinner

St. John's Parish Hall, A.B., 4 - 8pm

September 11

Hot Dog Sale, Turner Ace Hdwe, 11-2

October 16

Yard Sale, 8 - noon, Berengolts driveway

November 6

*Family & Friends Thanksgiving Dinner
St. John's Parish Hall, A.B., 6:30 - 9:30pm*

December 11

Hot Dog Sale, Turner Ace Hdwe, 11-2

December 15

Christmas Gathering: Barbara Othmer's home

*timely details will be within newsletter pages
each issue or by separate e-mail updates*

Hearts and Flowers

**Remember to keep the
following members and their
loved ones in your
thoughts and prayers -**

*Paul Fiore
Bill Johnson
Rose Maher
Geri Mauro
Mary Othmer*

Semi-annual dues are due. Please pay at the January meeting or mail your check, payable to *Beaches Lodge 2821*, to:

Kristin Berg, Fin. Secretary
7 Burling Way
Jax Beach, FL 32250

\$30 / year: seniors 70 yrs & older
\$30 / year: college students
\$40 / year: military member
\$40 / year: military spouse
\$60 / year: the rest of us



Here is Craig's address in Iraq. I know he would love to hear from any and all of you.

CPT Craig E. Russell
HHOC, 3DSTB, 3ID
COB Speicher, Iraq
APO AE 09393

From The Editor

Happy New Year!

2009 was an unusual year, at best. In early June we said goodbye to Neftali Diaz, Mary's wonderful husband. He left a void, but also left his loved ones and friends many really great memories... and then in October, we said our farewell to Mary - one of our very fine social members. Mary had been a member of the original OSIA lodge in Jacksonville and then transferred to the Beaches Lodge in December 2004. She will be missed but lovingly remembered for her fondness of all of us Italians.

New and lingering illnesses, medical procedures and recoveries work themselves throughout our lodge. Wouldn't it be nice if we could now all get ourselves healthy and sound... Jean's new knee is a blessing, Bill's new knee is on the mend, but I don't think either of them will be running marathons anytime soon. We're just happy their pain is almost gone.

The Social Committee has planned our 2010 Calendar of Events. Your new notebook calendar will be distributed by e-mail just as soon as we get our meeting location finalized. It's a Word document, to be printed in color. If you do not have a color printer, just let me know - I'll be happy to print it for your notebook!

Joanna, Barbara, Dennis and I attended the Grand Lodge Quarterly Meeting Jan 8-9 in Altamonte Springs. Our Grand Lodge is under "new" leadership as of the June biennial convention: Ed Mattola is our state president, with a shift of positions by several other previous Grand Lodge council members.

Dan Cositore, former Grand Lodge president, and two former Council members - 1st VP Joann Colonna and Orator Anthony Cagliostro - have been banned by the Supreme Lodge from membership for a period of three years. Treasurer Angela Harrington (now 1st VP), Immediate Past President Dennis Piasio, Vincenza DiLiberti and Rocco Cafaro were obligated to make a public apology to the National level before their membership would be reinstated. All seven were found guilty in June 2009 of withholding Foundation Charity funds from the Supreme Lodge Foundation, in total violation of the Supreme Lodge bylaws. They, instead, diverted some of these monies to local downstate charities. We wish Mr. Mattola the very best in cleaning up what had become a disgraceful mess in our Grand Lodge!

Ed, with the cooperation of many of his new council members, is making major changes in the business dealings of the Grand Lodge. He has asked every filial lodge to join the Grand Lodge by utilizing the electronic world of the 21st Century. Two major, immediate changes:

- ***The Floridian*** - our quarterly state newsletter - will no longer be printed and mailed to members; instead, we will receive an electronic newsletter via our grand lodge website... a savings of over \$6000 per year. Ed has asked that we make arrangements in our lodges to get this electronic newsletter to those with no computer access.

- Filial Financial Secretaries will now communicate electronically via Excel spreadsheets and state forms (including Membership Applications) to the Grand Lodge Financial Secretary. Our lodge uses Quicken for our data entry, then data is transferred to Excel, so we are already in compliance and can make the transition without much effort. The only thing that hasn't been updated is the means to electronically transfer our per capita funds from our bank account to the Grand Lodge account. I'm certain this will be the next Grand Lodge venture.

Another big change still in committee: the Quarterly Meeting agenda items will now take place on one day. There was considerable discussion about getting all business done without having enough "discussion time". Ed advised that since ALL reports were sent to filial presidents for complete review prior to the quarterly meeting, the need for endless discussion could now be minimized. It seems that we still have members who enjoy basking in the limelight of a captive audience as they use the microphone.

We will use our newsletter to keep you abreast of Grand Lodge updates as they occur... our lodge covers an overnight expense for the president; anyone can attend the quarterly meetings - Dennis & I use it as a 'getaway weekend' at our own expense. I have included the future dates & locations of these meetings on our Calendar of Events. We will let you know when the reservation information packet comes from the Grand Lodge - I'll forward by e-mail to everyone.

A new Member Roster will be sent soon - you will want the update for your Member Notebook.

Cheryl

Grand Lodge Calendar Sales

see Dennis at the meetings

Our lodge has been lucky with winners in the past...
make sure you're one of them!

\$50 per calendar

(our lodge gets a nice return when we purchase
these calendars - good operating funds for us)

From our State Deputy via e-mail:

Thank you for the news and activities. I'm glad Bill is doing well with his knee surgery. I wanted to let you all know that my daughter Linda had her final visit at Shands Hospital and is permitted to get on her feet and will rehab at home. Thank you for all your prayers, Also, wanted to let you know that I am going for a Cardiac Catherization Friday, Jan. 15 at Florida Hospital, Ormond Beach. Tests determined that I have blockage in an artery near my heart that need to be taken care of. Love you all. Frank Palmieri, State Deputy.

ed note: Frank & his friend joined us at our Murder Mystery - they loved it!!

Charities

Our next **Hot Dog & Italian Sausage Sale is Saturday, March 13th, 11-2** - Turner Ace Hardware parking lot, Jax Beach. Joe has planned for four sales this year; **see the front page calendar listing**. He and his able and rowdy crew of Hank, Dennis and Igor keep things humming along, while Guard Michelle handles the money box. She does a great job of keeping it all separated!

As always, two canopies will be set up, with lodge members yucking it up under one of those canopies and the actual workers under the other one. It has become a social gathering for the lodge, while we (I) make little piggies of ourselves, wolfing down the food as fast as the passing customers! Come and eat, and don't forget to talk it up to your friends. Let them know we raise our money for Alzheimer Foundation and Cooley's Anemia, as well as various local charities!

Prayers for good weather are always a nice thing. See you there!

Scholarship

The October **Murder Mystery Dinner** turned out to be our most successful fundraiser to date - we raised over \$1000, ensuring that we can provide two \$750 scholarships this year! All the dinner and performance kinks will be worked out before the next mystery. The room will be arranged so everyone can hear the cd of clues - no dead spots (no pun intended).

Thank goodness we had a great location with a very large kitchen. Hank Kendrick came to our aid in the kitchen, just as Joneanne and Cheryl were going under...and grateful thanks are also extended to those who assisted in the clean-up. Michelle and J.R. made great bartenders - hats off to them and to Michelle's suggestions for this year's dinner.

The cast was really into the characters (pictures will be posted on our website soon). PLEASE mark your calendar for Sunday late afternoon, August 29th, this time with a summer barbeque theme... it'll be another 'to die for' meal while we all try to figure out who did it. We keep the cost reasonable at \$20/ticket, so help us sell many of them in advance - this is our biggest means of raising funds. Just think, if it gets more successful each year, we might be able to provide larger scholarship amounts. BTW: Bill was our October culprit. Eloise, Leslie and Cody guessed who did it.

We will provide an early summer e-mail with characters to be cast, along with costume suggestions. Talent is not necessary; your role gets a booklet to follow along!

Reminder: we need your finest household cast-offs for our **April 10th Yard and Bake Sale**. As in past years, Kristin will take in the goods and will let us know when she can start receiving them in her garage. Organizers: Michelle and Kristin. Please let them know if you're able to help!

April Book Reading

We have scaled down to four book readings this year, with the meeting dates listed on your notebook Calendar of Events.

The April book selection is "A Thousand Days in Venice" by Marlena De Blasi. The author visited Venice, met a Venetian, fell in love, married him, and then lived in his city for three years before moving on to Tuscany (book two and our June selection).

No, this is not a travelogue (Barbara has become our barometer!) - it is an American view of every corner of this beautiful Italian city!! De Blasi has a flowery style of writing, far more than Frances Mayes, but discovering Venice through her writing is a unique experience.

Since we don't have enough members ordering the book, feel free to choose the bookstore of your choice to obtain your copy.

**Who's Coming To Dinner
On Wednesday???**

**We need our head count quickly -
if you haven't already let me know,
call me today... 242.4929**

thank you thank you

La Pizzeria **22 Mayport Rd, A.B.**

Harley's restaurant has a definite flavor of Napoli and a fun Italian setting!

I highly recommend their Fettuccine Alfredo and the Chicken Piccata, but I don't think there are any wrong choices on his fantastic menu! His mom, Bianca, does her own homestyle cooking thing on Monday evenings: Mama Mia's Night!



**Italian-Americans:
Proud of Our Heritage and Culture**

Please support our vendors!

The Beer Haus **2292 Mayport Rd, Pan Am Complex** **A.B. (left of NEX)**

Billy Johnson has perfect Italian beer for your perfect Italian dinner or any other occasion! Okay, he has German, Irish, Mexican... but we're Italian!!

Hours: 12noon - 9pm
Mon - Sun

He will also order whatever you might be looking for - just let him know....

Bella Gelato **13475 Atlantic Blvd, Jax (at San Pablo)**

Hours: *check their website for hours & flavors at:*
www.bellajax.com

If you can't get to Italy any time soon, this is a great place to hang out for your gelato or Italian ice fix - don't count the calories! But our resident lodge member Kristin will tell you it's healthier to eat gelato instead of ice cream....

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