



Thank you for your interest in Bella Italia.

The idea for an Italian American club in the Golden Isles came from Mark Gagliano, of Harris Teeter, and Sal Cenicola, of Sal's Neighborhood Pizzeria. For many years, they wanted to organize a group of people of Italian ancestry to share the love and the culture of the country of their ancestors. When Mark and Sal met, the wheels began turning. They shared their desire for an Italian American club with everyone with whom they came in contact. They united their efforts, and along with some of the current Executive Board members, a planning/steering committee was formed to try to make the idea a reality.

They started with dinner meetings around the area and were pleasantly surprised to see the large number of Italian Americans living in our area and the number of people who simply loved "things Italian".

The Association's mission is to explore, preserve, and promote Italian culture, language, history, and traditions and to initiate and participate in social interactions through meetings, seminars, excursions, and various events.

Specifically, we strive:

- to promote an appreciation of Italian culture, language, literature, food and music;
- to promote an understanding of the wonderful, unique, and important contributions Italians have made to this country;
- to support Italian-American community activities by sharing in one of the oldest and most captivating cultures in the world.

In the future, we hope to continue hold civic events and fundraisers for our local community. Bella Italia has bylaws, elected officers, and has been incorporated as a non-profit organization in Georgia. There are committees working toward setting up meetings, social gatherings, cultural events, bocce tournaments, etc. Membership rates are \$25 for single memberships and \$50 for couples. One benefit of membership in Bella Italia is that members receive early notice of all association events and discounted prices for any events which may require a fee.

If you have any questions, please contact our President, Joanne DeVincenzo, at jodehome@yahoo.com

Cordialmente,

The Executive Board