

# Pinion

Benefiting Special Olympics  
Broward County and its Athletes

# O'Pinion

NEWSLETTER

[www.pinioninc.com](http://www.pinioninc.com)

SPRING 2009

## THAT'S AMORE FUN

**D**id you know there is a little corner of Tuscany in Fort Lauderdale? Full of charm, Hugh's Culinary Venue is the perfect place for Pinion's next exciting Italian affair!

*'That's Amore Fun'* conjures up an evening of delicious Dining, Dancing and enjoying the company of good friends. Couple and Singles, a good time is guaranteed to all.

Picture a Mediterranean table brimming with Cheeses, Pate's, Olives and Roasted Artichokes & Peppers marinated in extra virgin olive oil, aside wafer thin crisp breads.

Six delicious Entrée Stations to follow the Cesare Insalata, round it out with a Chocolate Fondue, Fresh Fruit and Champagne. Yum, Yum!

Dancing to Good Vibrations will work off the calories!

Please join us and bring your friends.

Have fun and support our Special Olympians.

*"Make sure you show up or we may have to send the Boys over"!*



*Christine Hurlock, Linda Danoff & Pam Nowatka*

### ..... 'THAT'S AMORE FUN' .....

**Saturday February 14, 2009**

**7:00 - 11:00 PM**

Hugh's Culinary • 4351 Northeast 12 Terrace, Fort Lauderdale 33334

\$75 p.p. Includes Dinner, 2 Drink Tickets and I 'Amore' Raffle Ticket  
A full bar will be open.

*Chairs: Linda Danoff • Birgit Fillingame • Christine Hurlock • Pam Nowatka.*

Reservations online at [www.pinioninc.com](http://www.pinioninc.com)

More Information call Linda 954 981-7190

Need an invitation call Christine 954 567-1966



# A Mediterranean Holiday Night

Once again, Pinion hit the right note and a truly Mediterranean night unfolded. The Co-Chairs, Leslie Fischer, Debra Lieberman and Mirtha Toledo-Hackley, together with staunch Pinion volunteers decked the house inside and out with coordinated decorations, linens and accessories to compliment the festive and tropical holiday theme.

Special thanks must go to **Bennett Gamel** for being so gracious and opening his fabulous home, and to **Alice Harry** for her friendly assistance with helping secure and coordinate such a wonderful home for the event.

Visiting Chef Michael, encouraged by Valerie Kowanetz, Cuisine Chair and her husband, Charles Kowanetz, carved the most stunning ice sculpture using the Pinion Logo, which was surrounded by mountains of fresh succulent shrimp. What a treat! Chef Gregg Salman and the McFatter Culinary School outdid themselves this year with delectable hors d'oeuvres, filet mignon and an excellent pasta station, all food donated by Freshpoint – South Florida. Indeed Charlie Kowanetz was found late in the evening concocting his own gourmet pasta dish, which this editor can attest was delicious.

The libations as usual were flowing at our open bars. Champagne, martinis, wine, and mixed drinks were enjoyed by guests on this beautiful tropical night. Silent Auction Co-Chairs, Janea Caldarone, Ginny Fujino and Terry Witcher put together an extravagant array of trips, themed baskets, artwork, and, of course, exquisite jewelry by Jon Paul Jewelers. Topazz entertained us while we danced under the stars, and our own president, Linda Spaulding White, serenaded us with her beautiful voice.



*Back row Terry Witcher, Leslie Fischer, Valerie Kowanetz  
Front row Mirtha Toledo-Hackley, Janea Caldarone, with Linda Spaulding White*



*Marcey Allard with Birgit Fillingame and Cheryl Gorman*



*President Linda with her husband Tripper White*

It was a perfect night which raised \$65,000.00 for Pinion benefiting Special Olympics Broward County and its Athletes. We are especially grateful this year for all of our sponsors and generous donations, as well as the support of our friends in Pinion.

The Co-Chairs would like to thank everyone on the Board and friends who came out to help set up, break down and coordinate the event.



*Pinion Gals still having fun!!*

*And the fun continues...*



*Chef Michael – the Ice Carver with  
Billie Sue and Paul Engel*



*Tania Desir with Brenton Wright*



*Sonja Mayo with her stunning name tags*



*Barbara Parrigin, Shelli Lieberman with Linda Eckert*



*Burton Benrut, Bobby DeLoach with Tom Walters*



*Debbie Hanley, Paul Sallarulo and  
Randy Brandenburg*



*Rob and Eliana Mazza*



*Bill Kurau, Lee Sheffield, Tonie Farnum  
with Host Bennett Gamel*



*The Clean Up Crew celebrating another successful event*

# Victory Living Shopping and Christmas Party



A record number of Pinion members and friends went shopping for the clients of Victory Living just before Christmas. The mission: to provide essential and wish list presents, and to bring a little Christmas cheer. Victory Living is ably headed by Bobbi Wigand, and provides guidance, education and assistance to persons who have developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries and other special needs. A Christmas Party was held on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> December to distribute the gifts, and bring Christmas Greetings to all. Charles Kowanetz played Santa, and Riley Moran, Linda and Bob Eckert's granddaughter sang and entertained everyone. Pinion was represented by Charles and Valerie Kowanetz, Debra and Alan Lieberman and their children Sarah and Joshua, Riley Moran, Linda Eckert, Janea Caldarone, Terry Witcher, Sandy Clobus, Marian DeLoach, Brenda Eldridge, Sonja Mayo and Barbara Corrao.

**Everyone enjoyed the party!!!**

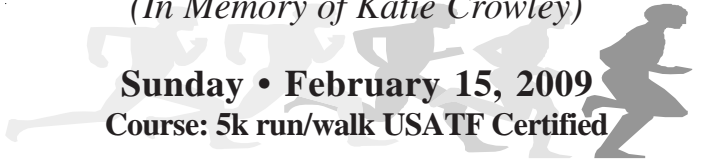


# 2009 Sallarulo's Race For Champions 5K Run/Walk

(In Memory of Katie Crowley)

**Sunday • February 15, 2009**

**Course: 5k run/walk USATF Certified**



5K Run/Walk 8:00 a.m.

start at Nova Southeastern University.

More information call:

Linda Mills, *Director*

Special Olympics Broward County

954-486-7464

954-816-4612 cell

[www.specialolympicsbroward.org](http://www.specialolympicsbroward.org)

lmills4411@aol.com

## Welcome New Members

**P**INION is pleased to welcome New Members:

**Ava Marie Diaz**

**Jackie Johnston**

**Eliana & Rob Mazza**

**Patricia McCarthy**

**Marnie Santaniello**

**Christine & Paul Tocci**

## Pinion Inc.

It is the mission of Pinion, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, to conduct charitable drives and social events within our local community to raise funds for its chosen recipient, Special Olympics. The Broward Special Olympics program provides year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for individuals eight years of age and older with mental handicaps, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.pinioninc.com](http://www.pinioninc.com).

# President's Corner

by Linda Spaulding White

What a wonderful December Pinion had! I hope that you were all able to be a part of at least one of our wonderful events and that you will join us next month for an evening of "That's Amore Fun."

We started out with a "Mediterranean Holiday Night" at the magnificent waterfront home of our host, Bennett Gamel. What a great way to kick off the season and get in the holiday spirit. Chef Gregg Salman and his representatives from the McFatter Culinary School simply outdid themselves this year as the cuisine was exquisite and the Pinion ice sculpture was magnificent. And, of course, the libations were flowing along with the holiday and dancing music provided by Topazz Entertainment. To top it off, the silent auction was filled with wonderful art, baskets of goodies, and much more. Thanks to all of you and our co-chairs and committee members, the evening was a huge success and we raised a significant amount for Special Olympics Broward County and its athletes.

And a big thank you to Wal-Mart for once again providing Pinion with a discount on our holiday shopping for the residents of the Victory Living Programs so that each of them received something special or something that they really needed or desired for the holidays. Our holiday party at Victory Living is always a very heartwarming and special day. There is no better gift than to see their eyes light up and their faces beaming when they open their gifts. Thanks to Sonja Mayo, Mirtha Toledo-Hackly, and Sandy Clobus for organizing this special day.

I am very pleased and proud to announce that the 1000+ Club of the American Cancer Society has once again selected Pinion as one of its 12 outstanding organizations to be honored at its Women of the Year 2009 luncheon being held on May 5 at the Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel. Our board has selected Valerie Kowanetz, and we are very proud to have Valerie represent Pinion as our "Woman of the Year." Best of luck and wishes to Valerie, her family, her liaison, Pam Nowatka, and her hostesses and they move forward to prepare for the luncheon.

"That's Amore Fun" being held on the evening of Saturday, February 14 at Hugh's Culinary should be another fabulous evening. It's not really a Valentine's Day celebration, but just another reason for all of us to join together for fun, dancing, companionship, great food and libations. And a special thanks to Linda Danoff, Christine Hurlock and Pam Nowatka for organizing this social and working with Hugh McCauley to come up with a magnificent menu for the evening. I can't wait for the evening and I hope that all of you will join us and in the fun.

On a sadder note, Pinion has suffered many losses this year. We lost our longtime friends and supporters, Nate Plotkin and Billy Fillingame, as well as other family members of our Board members. Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy go out to Birgit Fillingame, Teresa Plotkin, Debra and Alan Lieberman, and Linda Mills and David Reisen as they work through and recover from their losses.



If you have not yet become a member or have not yet become involved, I encourage you to join our wonderfully supportive group. And don't forget that the Summer Games are being held on Saturday, March 14. We would love for you to help us on that day too. Please feel free to call me at (954) 745-5251 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. Pinion and I thank you.



Pinion has lost special friends over the past few months. We extend our sympathies to their families.

**Nate Plotkin**

**Billy Wayne Fillingame**

Birgit Fillingame's mother

**Anna Gertrud Hansen,**

known affectionately as Mutti,

and

her sister **Ute Scheer**

Debra Lieberman's father

**Marvin Widis**

David Reisen's mother

**Mary Reese**

Get Well Wishes to...

**Marcey Allard**

**Priscilla Dorr**

**Polly Mayo**

# Calendar of Events



## 2009

**Saturday, February 14** ..... That's Amore Fun  
7:00 - 11:00 PM  
*Hugh's Culinary*  
4351 NE 12 Terrace, Ft. Lauderdale

**Sunday, February 15** .... Sallarulo's Race for Champions  
5K Run/Walk  
*Nova Southeastern University*

**Saturday, March 14** ..... Special Olympics  
Summer Games  
*Cypress Bay High School, Weston*

**End of April** ..... Hot Shots Social  
*Ernie's Bar-B-Que and Lounge*

**Thursday, June 4** ..... End of Year Luncheon  
*Runway 84*

## Board of Directors 2008-2009

President ..... **Linda Spaulding White**  
President Elect ..... **Terry Witcher**  
V. P. Fund Development ..... **Christine Hurlock**  
**Marian McCray-DeLoach**  
V. P. Membership ..... **Barbara Corrao\***  
V. P. Newsletter ..... **Wendy Walters\***  
V. P. Publicity ..... **Lisa Scott-Founds**  
Secretary ..... **Janea Calderone**  
Treasurer & Past President ..... **Sylvia Andis**

Anne Allen*	Sonja Mayo
Nancy Block*	Kitty McGowan
Jane Brand-Eagon*	Linda Mills
Sandy Clobus	Pam Nowatka*
Linda Danoff	Lee Sheffield*
Linda Eckert*	Arlette Spilotros Spaniak
Billie Sue Engel	Mirtha Toledo-Hackley
Birgit Fillingame	
Leslie Fischer	*Advisory Council
Ginny Fujino	Lynda Amorello
Patricia Kearson	Grace Antonello
Valerie Kowanetz*	Kim Bentley
Debra Lieberman	Teresa Plotkin
Lori Lincoln	Laurie Sallarulo
Polly Mayo	Lois Schmatz

## PINION, INC.

1203 Oakmont  
North Lauderdale, FL 33068

[www.pinioninc.com](http://www.pinioninc.com)

New on the web site:

- Print & Mail Membership card
- All of the upcoming events.
- Photos of recent past events.

Coming Soon:

- The e'PINION electronic newsletter.

Visit our website today at [www.pinioninc.com](http://www.pinioninc.com)  
Celebrating Eighteen Years of Community Service!