

FOR RELEASE: November 8, 2009

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Competition Heats up for 2009 Mamma Mia Cook-off

Entries for the upcoming Mamma Mia Cook-off on November 14 read like a menu at a fine continental restaurant – Crespelle alla Firoentina, Lasagna with Bescialmella White Sauce, Greco Cozza Verde.

Mamma Mia guests will sample all these and more when the gates open at 7 p.m. on Saturday at Daphne City Hall. Twenty-nine culinary teams representing corporate and non-profit groups from throughout the Baldwin-Mobile area will vie for top honors in four categories – Carne (meat), Pollo (chicken), Frutti di Mare (seafood) and Senza Carne (meatless).

Presented by Supporting Educational Enrichment in Daphne's Schools (SEEDS), the 2009 celebration of Daphne's Italian heritage will be hosted by Dr. Glenn Glass of Baldwin County Orthodontic Specialists and made possible by support from more than seventy local businesses and organizations.

Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 on event day. Two glasses of wine and a choice of all entries are included in the ticket price with additional wine and authentic Italian desserts available a la carte. Randy Davis and the Jubilee Orchestra will provide musical entertainment while football fans can enjoy both the Alabama -Mississippi State and the Auburn-Georgia game on big screen televisions provided by Miller's Grand Events, Wired for Sound and Power Productions. A first-time People's Choice Award winner will be selected from among local restaurant entries. A strolling auction and door prizes will round out the evening.

Advance tickets are available all week at Daphne City Hall, Daphne Recreation Department, Will Hughes Catering and Market, the Frame Corner, Baldwin County Orthodontic Specialists, Riviera Utilities, the Neighborhood School and in all Daphne schools. Online tickets may be purchased through Thursday, November 12 at seedsindaphne.org

Proceeds from the Mamma Mia Cook-off benefit SEEDS' Classroom Enrichment Grant Program that has provided more than \$130,000 to the five Daphne public schools and Christ the King Catholic School since 2005. Some 2009 SEEDS grants are helping to restore programs and services eliminated by recent funding cuts. This year's Mamma Mia profits will address continuing classroom needs in 2010.

Contact SEEDS at (251) 656-7333 or by email at info@seedsindaphne.org for more information.

Cut-line for photograph - Organizers of the 2009 Mamma Mia Cook-off are putting the final touches on plans for the fifth annual celebration of Daphne's Italian heritage to be held Saturday night from 7-10 p.m. on the grounds of Daphne City Hall. The event is sponsored by Supporting Educational Enrichment in Daphne's Schools. Among the event volunteers are (from left) Kelly Hughes, planning committee co-chair; Ashley Hammond, SEEDS president; Dr. Glenn Glass, Mamma Mia'09 title sponsor; and Lori Menefee, co-chair.