

An Afternoon Tea with Rhys Bowen

A few weeks ago, we hosted a charitable tea with New York Times Bestselling author, [Rhys Bowen](#). The monies raised from that afternoon go the [Family to Family Foundation](#). This foundation provides scholarships to students in rural El Salvador who, due to lack of funds, would otherwise be unable to receive an education.



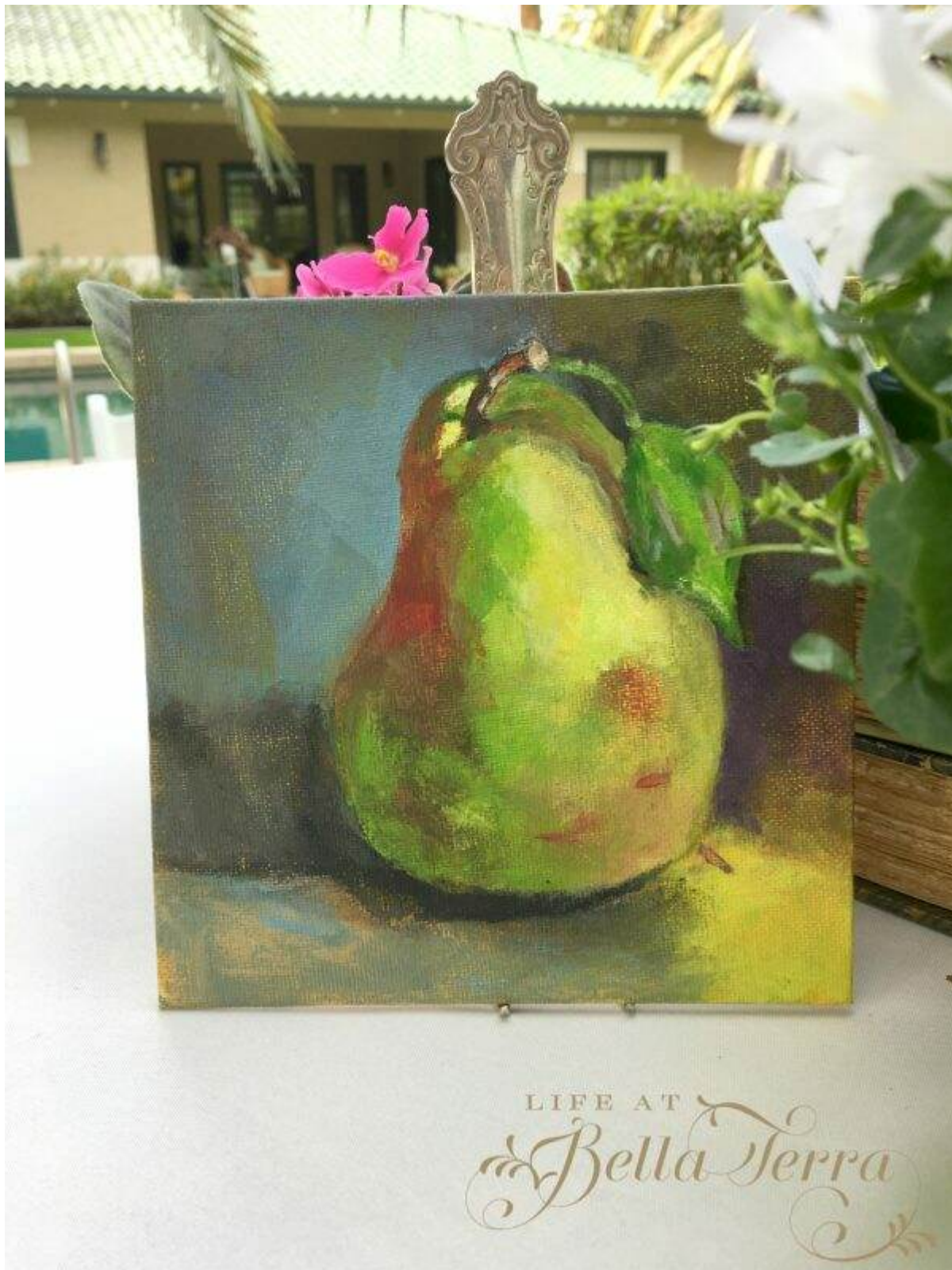
When my son was in high school, he was selected to go on a Family to Family trip out of the country and we were very impressed with the good work this organization does.



My friend, Susan Charlton and I created the centerpieces out of old books, fresh flowers, potted plants, and antique linens.



Some of the tables had small paintings that were available to purchase. Note the fun stand my husband made from an old silver-plated fork. Paintings done by Susan Charlton and moi!



Rhys provided books for all the guests as a thank you for attending.



LIFE AT
Bella Terra



The food, tea and service was spectacular. [Julie Greder](#) once again provided beautifully displayed tea sandwiches and scones with Devonshire cream.



LIFE AT
Bella Terra



And GORGEOUS desserts.



While the tea was flowing, we were entertained by Rhys and her

delightful stories of England and how she develops the characters in her book.





What is an afternoon tea without a great hat? With a wide variety of fascinators to wide brim.....





Even a vintage 1920s dress, hat and shoes!



And the winner of our hat contest is.....



The weather was perfect and the cause was worthy. Such a civilized way to spend a Saturday afternoon!

Many thanks to Ashley Rekittke from [Ashley Rose Media](#) for graciously photographing and capturing the day!

Mary

This post shared with Tablescape Thursdays 618th by [Between Naps on the Porch](#)