



Alumni Mothers Extended Network (AMEN)

NOVEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

AMEN NEWS

Renew Your AMEN Membership Today!

The **AMEN Membership Drive** is underway. Please take a moment to renew your membership today! Continue to be apart of our amazing **LIVE social network**. As a member of AMEN you are an active member of our social network and a valued contributor to our wonderful organization. Thank you for your continued support and participation in AMEN.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Over 250 AMEN members that are united by a common bond of motherhood and friendship
- AMEN has 24 Interest Groups
- AMEN Community Service opportunities
- Bi-annual dinners (Fall and Spring) where the entire AMEN community comes together to celebrate
- Annual Spiritual Retreat in the spring
- AMEN membership fees are donated to **Bellarmino's Direct Tuition Assistance Fund**
- Monthly newsletters announcing all AMEN activities

To renew your AMEN Membership today please go to the AMEN Membership sign up page on Bellarmine's website. The Membership Fee is \$25.00 for either Active or Transitional membership.

Click this link to renew your membership: [HERE](#)

If you have questions about membership, please contact the AMEN Membership Chair
Lisa Christensen: lisa95008@gmail.com

AMEN Webpage on Bellarmine's New Website

As many of you may know, Bellarmine launched a new website in August. Within the new website, AMEN has a new webpage, which is an important informational tool for members, as well as for non-members, informing them what AMEN is all about and how to get involved. Our webpage copy has been updated for the new webpage with more updates and additions coming soon.

To find AMEN's webpage:

- Go to Bellarmine's homepage: www.bcp.org
- Click the three horizontal bars found on the upper right corner
- A pop-out window will appear where the AMEN tab can be located in the lower bottom of the menu – [click this box](#)
- You will be directed to the AMEN webpage

Alumni Mothers Extended Network





A Touch Down for the Kick Off Fall Dinner!

The October Fall Dinner held at Bellarmine was a huge success thanks to Mary Helmers, AMEN's Fall Dinner Chair. There were 95 women in attendance, with many wearing their team pride with jerseys from Bellarmine, their son's college, and pro teams! The evening began in Bellarmine's garden with a pre-game stroll through the garden while sipping rose'. Liccardo Center was a buzz of activity during the social hour where the Interest Group tables resided and members were signing up for new Interest Groups. The BMG Fashion Show Chairs joined us for the evening and donated two tickets for raffle prizes. Dinner was served after, but not before Father Wade said the blessing and fondly reminisced of the beginning of AMEN nineteen years ago! Thanks to Nancy Janda and her team of cooks and student servers, we had a delicious "Tailgate" dinner. During dessert, AMEN Chair Teresa Giovanzana spoke, where she asked the new members to stand and those in attendance applauded a BIG welcome! Teresa's message to the members was, "***The Interest Groups are the lifeblood of AMEN. Get involved! Join Interest Groups. Start an Interest Group. Join the board. The more you get involved the more fun you will have!***" Membership Chair Lisa Christensen spoke of the Membership Drive, which is going on through December 31st. Her simple message was, "***Get your Bellarmine alumni friends to join AMEN with you!***" Interest Group Chair Kathy Armistead completed the evening with news from the Interest Groups, "***Please join the two new Interest Groups this year: Events and Celebrations Groups.***" Kathy is also collecting names of members interested in joining new Gourmet and Book Groups.



A BIG THANK YOU to the many volunteers that worked the event and the donors for the raffle prizes: the Loquaci, Helmers, and Christensen Families, Bellarmine Mothers' Guild, and Kawahara Nursery.

If you were not in attendance at the Fall Dinner and would like to join a new Interest Group, please visit the Interest Group page on the Bellarmine website where you can learn about all the Interest Groups as well as make contact with the coordinators and Kathy Armistead.

[Click this link](#) to go to the AMEN Interest Group page!



**The Incredibells! Everyday Superheroes
Last week to buy tickets to Bellarmine Fashion Show!**

Don't miss it! Saturday, November 16th at the Santa Clara Convention Center. (Nov 6th is last day to reserve). [CLICK HERE TO RESERVE!](#)

Reserve your centerpieces today and take home from the show!
To buy now, click [HERE](#)



AMEN November & December Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Contact or Webpage
Nov. 10	Baked by Bells Cast Iron Desserts	Donna Gallo
Nov. 11	Evening Movie Group-MOVIE TBD	Amy Tashjian
Nov. 14	LUNA Mexican Kitchen 5pm The AMEN Supper Club	Sandy Lane
Nov. 16	Fashion Show "The Incredibells". Lunch and Dinner show.	Fashion Show Tickets
Dec. 6	Advent Joy! 1:30 - 4:00 PM Santa Clara University	Sarah Bonini
Dec. 7	AMEN Annual Cookie Exchange Coffey Costa in Liccardo @11:30am	Nandini Shankar
Dec. 10	BCP / BMG Diwali Celebration	Register Here
Dec. 11	Annual Gifts for Teens Event! 9am-noon	Linda Chin
Dec. 13	Filoli 4pm - Dinner following The Village Bakery & Cafe Woodside	Lisa Christensen
Dec. 18	Events Group-Theatre production Waitress (guests welcome)	Ashley Hopkins

AMEN INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

AMEN's Annual Cookie Exchange Celebrations Group

Please join the Celebrations Group for some holiday cheer! The Cookie Exchange will be held in Coffey Costa in Liccardo Center at Bellarmine at 11:30am on Saturday, December 7th. Light refreshments will be served. A donation of \$5 would be appreciated to cover the cost of the refreshments. To learn more about the Cookie Exchange, what to bring, and to attend the event, or to join the Celebrations Group, please email Nandini Shankar at:

amencelebrationclub@gmail.com

The Celebrations Group's inaugural gathering took place in September at Nandini Shankar's home to celebrate the beginning of the year and the birthdays of members born in August and September. Nandini served a delicious lunch and surprised the members with a birthday cake. In October, the group gathered in festive wear at The Yard House in Santana Row for a Halloween themed dinner.

Future 2019-20 calendar of gatherings:

- December 7th, 11:30 am, AMEN Cookie Exchange
- February 9th, 11:30 am, Valentine Sweets
- April 4th, 2:00 pm, Easter Tea
- May 16th, 11:30 am, Mother's Day Picnic
- July 18th, 11:30 am, End of Year Party International Donuts



Theater Production of *Waitress* Events Group



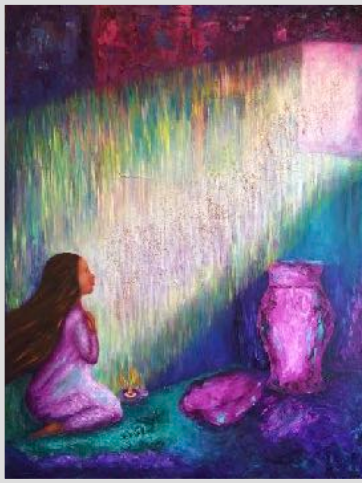
Join the Events Group to see the theater production of *Waitress* at the Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown San Jose, on December 18th, 2019. Tickets are \$68.00 per person. Husbands and guests welcome! For additional information and to purchase tickets contact Ashley Hopkins Pass at: ashleychp66@gmail.com

Annual Gifts for Teens Community Service Group

Please join your fellow AMEN Volunteers for the ever popular Gifts for Teens event on Wednesday, December 11, from 9am to noon. The event location is not yet firm but has been in the Cambrian Plaza at Union and Camden for the last couple of years. Volunteers will be helping to assemble gift bags for underprivileged teens. There are 20 slots available on a first-come, first-served basis, and this event always fills quickly.

There will also be a couple of special events for HomeFirst, helping to organize donations for the homeless shelters. One will be scheduled immediately after Thanksgiving to sort the blankets from Bellarmine's Winter Warmth drive, and we will also be scheduling donation sorting events at both the main HomeFirst shelter and the HomeFirst family shelter in Sunnyvale. And finally, we will be collecting and wrapping gifts for HomeFirst's veterans Christmas party in December.

Please contact Linda Chin at chindalin@aol.com if you would like to sign up for the Gifts for Teens event, or to be added to the AMEN volunteer email list. Linda will be sending details on the HomeFirst events as dates are finalized.



Advent Joy! Afternoon of Reflection with Sr. Shinas Spirituality Women at the Well Group

Take some time before the rush of Christmas preparations are upon us to focus on ADVENT JOY...a time to celebrate God's full name! ~ GOD WITH US ~. Experience Sr. Rebecca Shinas contagious and inspirational joy as she helps retreat attendees encounter the true meaning of Advent. Dec. 6th from 1:30pm - 4:00pm. The afternoon will be held at Santa Clara University in the St. Joseph's Hall Multifaith Sanctuary. [Visit the online link more information and to register.](#) All are welcome to join in noon Mass in the Mission Church and a lunch before she speaks at Bannan Alumni House. [To register for lunch follow this link.](#) For more information email Sarah Bonini at: sbonini@scu.edu

LUNA Mexican Kitchen The AMEN Supper Club

The AMEN Supper Club hopes to see you at LUNA Mexican Kitchen for authentic Mexican food on **Thursday, November 14, at 5pm!**

LUNA's mission is simple: *to share their passion for authentic Mexican food made with clean ingredients that nourish our bodies and our spirits.* No matter the season, their menu will always revolve around the Mexican trinity tradition of corn, chili, and beans.

To sign up for this dinner, please contact sandra.lanoie@gmail.com. Thank you to Denise Bridgeman for Chairing this fine dinner



Christmas at Filoli! Gardening Group

Everything shines brighter at Christmas! The garden at Filoli Historic House and Garden is no exception. Enjoy the elegant garden shining bright with festive lights.

And, if the weather gets chilly, hot apple cider and mulled wine is available for purchase at the Terrace Bar. After a stroll through the garden, dine with AMEN friends at The Village Bakery and Cafe in Woodside. Bring some jolly to the holidays and join the AMEN Gardening Group,

Event details:

Friday, December 13th

Meet at 4pm at Filoli Visitor Center to check-in
Dinner at The Village Bakery and Cafe at 6pm

For more information or to receive an Evite / rsvp for the event, contact Lisa Christensen Lisa95008@gmail.com.

International Donuts Baked by Bells Group

In October, sixteen members from Baked by Bells had a baking event featuring international donuts. German Berliners filled with raspberry, lemon and chocolate, Indian- Julab Gumans served with rose water and a cardamon sauce, and Spanish Churros with chocolate dipping sauce, were baked and enjoyed by all. Sunita Maheshwari lead the group in baking the most delicious Julab Gumans imaginable! Donna Gallo provided a festive fall lunch consisting of butternut squash and apple soup, arugula salad, hummus, and zucchini and cheese roll-ups. The bakers enjoyed the day!

In November, Baked by Bells will be baking in Cast-iron skillets. Everyone will learn to make pumpkin pies and apple cobbler just in time for Thanksgiving!

If you are interested in joining Baked by Bells then please email Donna Gallo at donna@thegallofamily.com Happy Baking!



Movie Night! AMEN Evening Movie Group



On October 9th, the Evening Movie Group met for dinner at Straits in Santana Row where we enjoyed a wonderful dinner. The group walked down the street to CineArts@Santana Row to see the movie, *Downton Abbey*. It was a fun and relaxing evening!

The next Movie Night will be **Monday, November 11th.**

If you would like to join the Evening Movie Group please email Amy Tashjian at: amy.tashjian@comcast.net

Pumpkins and Succulents Go Beautifully Together! Gardening Group

On a beautiful October day, the Gardening Group members gathered for the second year to create the pumpkin and succulent craft. The members brought many decorative flat-topped pumpkins and their succulent cuttings to create magnificent centerpieces. Everyone shared their succulent cuttings and their gathered twigs, moss, seed pods, pine cones, and a whole host of nature items that were collected on walks and hikes. The results were stunning! It was a creative and inspiring event. The ladies enjoyed refreshments of pumpkin bread, spiced cider, coffee, and tea. If you would like to join the Garden Group please forward your email address to Lisa Christensen at: lisa95008@gmail.com



October in Paris!

Wednesday Gourmet Group

The Wednesday Gourmet Group enjoyed their first luncheon of the year, called *Oktoberfest in Paris*, hosted by Sheree Williams, Terri Chapman, Rita Janda, and Kathy Pompili. The menu, inspired by a traditional German meal, but with a Parisian flair, included French and German beer tastings, mini tarts flambees, quiche au fromage, brats wrapped in puff pastry, sweet and sour red cabbage, and black forest cupcakes.



Of course, no gourmet luncheon would be complete without the hostesses dressing in theme related attire, such as the traditional Bavarian dirndl, braids, and a Parisian Pretzel hat!



Thank you to all of our interest group chairs and members!

We hope to see you soon at an event!