



2019

Newsletter May

SPRING RETREAT: A GIFT FROM THE SEA BY SARAH BONINI



AMEN's annual retreat was held on March 27-28 at the beautiful Villa Maria Del Mar, a retreat center in Santa Cruz overlooking the ocean. This was the first time AMEN had an overnight retreat with 17 women attending. The retreat was based on the book, *Gift From the Sea*, by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. In addition to a Taize prayer service and an Ignatian meditation, retreatants had group discussions exploring different chapters in the book, such as simplifying our lives, solitude, relationships, and new directions as we approach the time when our children leave the nest. We walked on the beach, colored mandalas, and experienced a guided meditation while

practicing yoga led by AMEN member Jane Savignano. Santa Clara University student Casey Xuereb played the piano during the prayer sessions. Most importantly, we strengthened friendships, made new friends, and celebrated fellowship with one another. It was a wonderful respite away from the frenetic lives we all have, and we all left feeling refreshed and replete.

AMEN COLLEGE MENTOR PROGRAM UPDATE BY SUSAN MUNNE

As graduating Bellarmine seniors are making their final college decisions, the AMEN College Mentor program has been in "full swing". Over 20 families of Bellarmine graduating seniors have reached out and have been connected with families who have a son (or daughter) attend the college/universities to which they have been admitted (e.g., Fordham, UCBS, Case Western Reserve, Loyola Chicago, Loyola Marymount, University of Oregon, Boston University, Boston College, UCLA, etc.). A big thank you to the BCP Alumni families who are willing to participate and support this program.





JOIN AMEN & LAMP AT THE THEATRE BY ASHLEY HOPKINS-PASS

Please join AMEN and LAMP (Loving Alumnae Mothers of Presentation), with the Broadway San Jose Group, and attend the Broadway hits, **Wicked**, on Sunday, September 1st, at 6:30pm, and **Waitress**, on Wednesday December 18th, at 7:30pm, showing at the Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose. The Broadway San Jose Group is a group of theater loving alumni parents from Presentation High School and Bellarmine. Section #2 tickets for **Wicked** are \$79. Section #1 tickets for **Wicked** are \$108. Tickets for **Waitress** should be similar. The group will receive a ticket discount and priority seating. Spouses and friends are welcomed to join. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact AMEN and LAMP member Ashley Hopkins Pass at: ashleychp66@gmail.com

SPRING HAS FINALLY SPRUNG BY ROUCHAND BUSH



AMEN's annual Spring Dinner was held on April 15th. Even with the unexpected spring showers, the AMEN spirit couldn't be dampened. We were blessed with the attendance of 110 AMEN alumni mothers. Additionally, we were excited to welcome 20 mothers from Bellarmine's 2019 graduating class - each of whom received a special AMEN welcome gift!

Once again the Spring Dinner proved to be a fabulous and fun event! A social hour filled with great conversation among old and new friends was enjoyed with fun appetizers and great wine, which was preceded by a delicious Thai-themed dinner prepared by the Bellarmine kitchen. Great raffle prizes and centerpieces were won by a number of lucky ladies.

Many thanks to all who came out to support the event and we hope to see you next year!

Rouchand Bush and Chrissy Brink, Spring Dinner Co-Chairs

EASTER BRUNCH IN THE GARDEN

BY DENISE BRIDGEMAN

On a perfect spring day on April 13th, the Second Saturday Gourmet Group had Easter Brunch in the beautiful backyard garden of Bev Bonovich's home. Her assistant chefs were Lori Krouse, Rose Simon and Rayanne Gustlin.

The brunch started with a pancake bar with various toppings, followed by an assortment of delights that adorned our plates: Sonoma chicken salad, crust less quiche with vegetables, bacon and cheese, small rounds of hash browns, and a baked apple in pastry. Thank you to our chefs Bev, Lori, Rose, and Rayanne for the sumptuous brunch.



AGEDA WAS AMAZING BY SANDRA LANOIE

The AMEN Supper Club visited Adega in San Jose for our April dining experience. Thanks to award-winning Chef David Costa and Adega Owner-Partner Carlos Carreira, we were treated to a delightful evening. Artful, creative, simple and delicious - is Adega with a quiet, soft-lit ambiance. What started as a 5 course tasting menu of Portuguese cuisine, turned into eight courses with Chef David treating us to three surprise amuse bouches. David was born in Portugal and graduated from the Escola de Hotelaria e Turismo de Lisboa culinary school and is an experienced Chef mastering the art of Portuguese cuisine. David has



been creating classic dishes with a new twist and presentation for the past ten years, awarding him a one-star by the Michelin guide and the first and only restaurant in San Jose to receive this honor. We refer you to the AMEN Facebook page to view his amazing and beautiful works of art. It was a one-of-a-kind experience, terrific service, wonderfully memorable, and all while enjoying the company of AMEN friends. We definitely recommend Adega - two thumbs up!

OFF TO THE RACES BY JANET BENSON



On April 10th the Original Gourmet Group was off to the races celebrating the Kentucky Derby. There were big hats and plenty of mint juleps! The event was hosted by our Derby Darlings: Jody Knauf, Mary Dana, Sandy Gruwell and Janet Benson. The luncheon was at Jody Knauf's beautiful home, which was all decked out for the races with bronze horse sculptures, racing memorabilia, and a multitude of red roses. Of course we began the day with mint juleps, which was accompanied by Kentucky Herb Cheese Bread and Bourbon Cocktail Meatballs. There was no shortage of bourbon that day! Even the Kentucky Bibb Lettuce salad was dressed with a

bourbon vinaigrette that was wonderful! For our main course, we were served the traditional Kentucky Hot Browns. Think Croque Monsieur Southern style! Melt in your mouth delicious! For dessert the ladies prepared Blue Ribbon Butter Cake topped with fresh berries and cream...rich and yummy! It was a terrific day. Thank you ladies for a fantastic luncheon - we all came away winners!

TRADITIONAL HOT CROSS BUNS FOR EASTER BY BEV BONOVICH



In mid April, the baking group learned how to make hot cross buns for Easter. They were easy and delicious! We celebrated the ending of the school year with a springtime tea party where we enjoyed quiche, finger sandwiches, baked Brie and much, much more. We voted on desserts to learn during the next school year. We will focus on making cast iron desserts, French macrons, Yorkshire pudding, homemade pizza and pasta, and more. No baking experience is required for the baking group! We all learn new skills together. If you are interested in joining our group please email bakedbybells@gmail.com. We hope you have a fun filled summer!

Nandini Shankar and Bev Bonovich

AMEN FOOD & WINE



BY TERRI CHAPMAN

The AMEN Wine group gathered to taste some delicious wines at Joseph George Wines in Willow Glen on Thursday, April 11th. It was a delightful evening, providing a great opportunity to catch up with other AMEN moms while enjoying some yummy appetizers and sipping wonderful wines. If you couldn't make it, don't despair as we are planning an additional gathering for the fall – location TBD! If you would like to be notified of future wine events, please contact Terri Chapman (terrichapman3@gmail.com) to be added to the list. Cheers to all...

APRIL MOVIE NIGHT!



On Tuesday, April 9th, the Evening Movie Group met for a casual dinner at Pizza My Heart in El Paseo de Saratoga. After dinner, the group walked next door to AMC Saratoga 14 to see *The Mustang*, which everyone really enjoyed.

The next Movie Night will be Tuesday, May 14th. (Specific movie and restaurant details/times TBA.)

If you would like to be added to the Evening Movie Group email list, please email Amy at: amy.tashjian@comcast.net

TOUR OF BELLARMINE'S NEW GARDEN CLASSROOM

BY TERESA GIOVANZANA



In April, Bellarmine Environmental Science instructor Pat Adams invited the Gardening Group to come tour the new student garden located on Bellarmine's campus. The gardening group had 14 members attend the tour. The garden classroom was very impressive! The design of the plot is based of the Jesuit cruciform with a lovely fountain in the center. Four paths lead off the fountain. The garden has many fruit trees (both old and new plantings), two rows of grape vines, raised planter beds, a chicken coop housing 10 chickens, a goat pen with two female black and white goats named Bella and Clara, and the garden has its own bee hives. The space also has a large tool shed, a number of gravity-fed water reservoirs, a compost pile, and a covered

outdoor classroom with picnic tables. The entire garden is new professional construction with wonderful elements for design and function. The Bellarmine students will be responsible to plant, tend, harvest, and maintain the garden with Pat Adams as their Master Gardener. All the food grown in the garden will be donated to Second Harvest. Pat Adams has asked the Gardening Group to make suggestions on how the group would like to help with the garden. If you have any ideas for a group gardening project, or would like to help Pat Adams over the summer, please contact Lisa Christensen at: lisa95008@gmail.com

MEANT FOR OTHERS

BY MARIAM BOGART, AMEN CHAIR 2018-19

The first Jesuit school was founded in Messina in Sicily in 1548. It can be said that the Jesuits opened the school, and many others after, to forward the Catholic cause. After spending 4+ years in the Bellarmine community, we know

that the Jesuits had a grander plan, and continue to carry out their mission through education. Part of their goal has been to enlighten students, helping them to reflect inward and act outward.

As we move into summer, we can continue to practice these ideas in our own lives. Let's remain open and create a relationship with our world around us. Let's invite new cultures and new ideas into our day, so we can better understand all the people God placed on this Big Blue Marble. Let's go even further and act on these ideas by helping our environment, helping our friends and family, and helping others less fortunate.

Have a wonderful summer!

