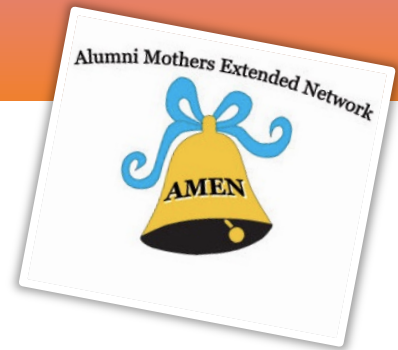


Alumni Mother's Extended Network (AMEN)

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER



AMEN News

Are you looking for a new activity for the New Year?!

Happy New Year AMEN Members! It is always fun to start the New Year off with something new! How about trying a new activity within the many AMEN Interest Groups?! Many of our interest groups have open membership, such as the Hiking Group I lead on Monday mornings! But if hiking isn't the activity that is calling your name then let me suggest a few other fun and busy groups: play a round of golf, volunteer with our community service group at local organizations, attend Gallery shows around the bay area, discuss travel with the Globelles, attend movies, enjoy fabulous food and wine with our Supper Club or our Wine & Food Tasting Group, break bread with our Baking Group, dig up an adventure with our Gardening Group, or learn new recipes from our new Vegetarian Gourmet Group. If you are interested in joining any of these fabulous interest groups please contact the AMEN Interest Group Chair, Teresa Giovanzana, at teresagiovanzana@comcast.net.

College Mentor Moms Wanted

AMEN offers to Bellarmine graduating seniors and their families a service that allows them to connect with Alumni parents and their sons to ask questions about the colleges / universities to which they have been admitted to assist them in making their final college decision. This program requires very little of your time and is considered high-value by the families who take advantage. If you are interested in being a College Mentor, please email Susan Munne (susan@munne.com) and identify the college that your sons or daughters attended and the years they were there as well as academic majors and other activities they took advantage of while on campus.



AMEN Interest Groups

Happy New Year!

AMEN Supper Club

Benvenuti! Please join the AMEN Supper Club as we visit ***Doppio Zero***, in Cupertino on Thursday, Feb 7, 2019. Doppio Zero ~ where you'll find comfort, conversation, and the best Neapolitan pizza and Southern Italian cuisine Cupertino has to offer! We will enjoy the taste of fresh, top-notch ingredients brought together in traditional Campania recipes, from polipetti pulled straight from the Mediterranean Sea to pizzas pulled from the wood-fired oven. *Doppio Zero claims to be the best cuisine from Campania and the rest of Southern Italy that you'll find within 100 miles of Cupertino. It's how good food, good wine and good company is to be enjoyed!* If you would like to attend this event or would like to be added to the Supper Club list, email Sandra.lanoie@gmail.com.

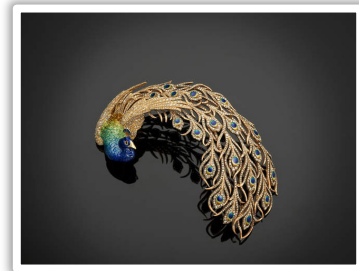


East Meets West: Jewels of the Maharajas from The Al Thani Collection

February 6 at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco

Gallery & Luncheon Group

This exhibition explores the cultural and material exchanges between India and Europe through jewelry and precious objects ranging from the seventeenth century to the present. It features more than 150 pieces made in India or Europe associated with Mughal emperors, maharajas, and their courts. These objects include jewelry to be worn on ceremonial occasions, weapons such as swords and daggers, and precious works of art for display or use. We will leave San Jose at 8:30 am and will have brunch after viewing the exhibit. Carpools will be available. If you would like to join, please contact Mari Donnelly maridonnely@mac.com or Rita Janda RFGJ@aol.com.



Golf Dates for January 2019!

Golf Group



Happy New Year! The AMEN Golf Group had its first outing Dec. 2nd. Thank you to the ladies those who were able to attend. We are looking forward to scheduling more golf outings in 2019. There are two scheduled outings in January. Please check your calendars:

- #1 Sunday, Jan. 13th at 10:00 AM, Pruneridge Golf Course**
- #2 Thursday, Jan. 24th at 10:00 AM, Sunken Garden Golf Course**

Both Pruneridge and Sunken Garden are 9-hole courses. Pruneridge offers lessons for new golfers and we could coordinate a group rate if there is interest. If you would like to join either of the golf dates, have your name added to the email list, or have questions, please email Catherine Christofferson at catherineamengolf@gmail.com.

Christmas Fun at Santana Row Evening Movie Group

On Wednesday, December 12th, the Evening Movie Group met for dinner at Mendocino Farms in Santana Row, where they enjoyed a great meal together. After dinner, the group walked "The Row" to enjoy all the beautiful Christmas lights. At CineArts @Santana Row, the group saw *Green Book*. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the movie. The next Movie Night will be Tuesday, January 8th. (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.



Gourmet Lunch Group Looking for a New Member First Saturday Gourmet Lunch Group

Are you looking for a new group to join for 2019? The First Saturday Gourmet Lunch Group has an opening. With a total of sixteen women we meet eight months out of the year (we skip summer and the winter holidays). You would join a team of four to choose a theme, learn new recipes, and prepare food twice during the year. It is a great way to socialize, make new friends, and add to your repertoire for entertaining. If interested, please contact Linda Crotty (lbcrotty@gmail.com). Our next gathering is the beginning of February.

It's a Movie Date! Daytime Movie Group

The Daytime Movie Group met in December at Santana Row, where they had a delicious lunch at Left Bank. After lunch the group went to CineArts and saw *The Favourite*.

Mark your calendar!

Our upcoming movie dates are January 14, February 11, March 11, and April 15. CineArts Santana Row, AMC Saratoga, or The Pruneyard Cinemas are our usual movie theaters with lunch within a very short walking distance. If you would like to be added to the Daytime Movie Group email list please email Pat Gray at pat@patgrayincolor.com.



Holiday Wreath Workshop Gardening Group



In early December, twelve members of the gardening group participated in a wreath-making workshop at the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy in San Jose. The Conservancy provided all the materials needed for the workshop, including a number of Master Gardeners to teach and assist in the wreath making. The supportive base of the wreaths were made from freshly cut grape vines, which are wound together to create a strong base to build upon. The AMEN Gardening Group had a fantastic time, learned a lot, and created beautiful wreaths to take home and enjoy over the holidays. If you would like to be added to the Gardening Group's email list please email Lisa Christensen at lisa95008@gmail.com.

AMEN Elves

Community Service

In December, AMEN moms helped bring Christmas cheer to those less fortunate. Putting together Christmas backpacks for underprivileged teens at Gifts for Teens is always so fun and rewarding! Volunteers also sorted the Bellarmine Winter Warmth Drive blankets for HomeFirst's homeless shelters, gathered gifts for a Christmas party for veterans in HomeFirst's client programs (which both the program managers and veterans said was the best Christmas party they've ever had), and ran a last-minute Christmas shopping boutique for residents of HomeFirst's main shelter due to plentiful community donations. The holidays were brighter, thanks to so many wonderful Women for Others! If you would like to have your name added to the Community Service Group email list please email Linda Chin at chindalin@aol.com.

YEAR #1 IS A WRAP

Belle Book Babes

The Belle Book Babes closed out our first full year with a lunch meeting at Mendocino Farms in Santana Row and discussed *Manhattan Beach*, by Jennifer Egan.

This past year, our group read a variety of books as we got to know each other and our likes and dislikes; titles included *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles, *The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas and *The Sympathizer* by Viet Than Nguyen. We are kicking off 2019 with *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. Betsy Noonan retired as the administrator for group and Elaine Bakan will lead the group in 2019. We currently have a waitlist for new members.



Meant for Others

By Miriam Acosta Bogart, AMEN President

Here are 3 New Year's resolutions grounded in the counsel of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits.

1. **Give others the benefit of the doubt** – Ignatius said to “be more ready to put a good interpretation on another’s statement than to condemn it as false”. We may be tempted to correct others when we think they’re wrong. Ignatius tells us that we don’t have to passively accept what others say. Instead, we should ask questions and try to understand why the other person would say something or do something a certain way. If we still feel that they should be corrected, it should always be done in kindness. God loves everyone, and kindness expresses that truth.
2. **Resist desolation** – When times are bad, we may feel like hiding under a rock! Ignatius wanted us to remember that God loves all of us, and God loves all parts of us. Feeling good all the time is not part of growth. Bad times and good times allow us to mature and grow spiritually. Desolation can confuse our decision making. But if we continue to pray and believe, good things will come.
3. **Follow God’s will without condition, that is, freely** – We may be tempted to control God (note to self: not possible.) We may have been hurt or deceived by other human beings many times in our lives, and that makes it hard to trust. You can trust God; he is reliable and trustworthy.

Let God into your life and trust him to help you make 2019 a wonderful year for you and your loved ones!