

Alumni Mother's Extended Network (AMEN)

JUNE 2019 NEWSLETTER



AMEN News

Farewell from our AMEN Chair

Thank you for another wonderful AMEN year! The year brought numerous opportunities to connect with our fellow Alumnae Moms. Being a part of the Bellarmine community is a blessing. We are approaching our 20th year anniversary of AMEN. I hope you will continue to enjoy everything AMEN has to offer, and that you will sing its praises to your friends who are not yet members. It has been a joy and privilege to serve as AMEN Chair for 2018-2019. I am excited to have Teresa Giovanzana take over and continue the tradition of fun and fellowship as Women For Others.

-- Miriam Bogart, AMEN Chair 2018-2019

2019/20 Membership Drive

After Bellarmine's graduation, and the new alumni moms begin to think about their sons going off to college, AMEN typically begins their Membership Drive in July. This year Bellarmine is launching a new website in time for the new school year. AMEN depends on links for all their sign ups that have a fee attached - such as: membership, Spring and Fall dinners, the retreat, and the AMEN/DOGs event. Due to the new website installation over the summer, the Membership Drive will begin on September 1st. Our 2019/20 Membership Chair, Lisa Christensen, will be communicating with you throughout the summer and fall with updated news on our Membership Drive. When a membership link becomes available, please renew your AMEN Membership as soon as possible. Your quick action will ensure a smooth process for all.



We look forward to another year of AMEN activities and continued fellowship as part of the wonderful Bellarmine community.

AMEN Interest Group Events

AMEN Summer Fun!

Most of AMEN's interest groups operate from September through June and take the summer off. But there are a few interest groups that meet throughout the summer to keep the fun going!

HIKING GROUP – Meets weekly on Monday mornings at 8:15am for hikes in the local mountains. (Photo →)
Email: teresagiovanzana@comcast.net



GOLF GROUP – Meets for planned golf dates at local golf courses. Usually 9 holes.
Email: damamajama@mac.com

DAY TIME MOVIE GROUP – Meets monthly on Mondays for lunch and a movie.
Email: pat@patgrayincolor.com

NIGHT TIME MOVIE GROUP – Meets the second Tuesday of every month.
Email: amytashjian@comcast.net

WOMEN AT THE WELL: Women's Spirituality Group
Ongoing book reading, book discussion, prayer, and fellowship
Email: sarahjbonini@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE & HELPING HANDS – The group visits HomeFirst Homeless Shelter every Tuesday morning throughout the year.
Email: chindalin@aol.com

Please email any of the group coordinators to be added to their email list where you can join in on some summer fun!

Movie Night!

AMEN Evening Movie Group



On Tuesday, May 14th, the Evening Movie Group met for fun and casual dinner at The Counter in Santana Row. After dinner, the group strolled through the Main Street of Santana Row to CineArts to see the movie, *Long Shot*. It was a fun and relaxing evening!

The next Movie Night will be Tuesday, June 11th. (We meet the second Tuesday of every month.) If you would like to be added to the Evening Movie Group email list, please email Amy at: amy.tashjian@comcast.net

GARDEN TOUR AT ELIZABETH GAMBLE GARDEN

Gardening Group

On a beautiful day this past April, the Gardening Group attended Elizabeth Gamble Garden's Annual Garden Tour of Palo Alto homes. The five-acre Gamble estate was in full spring bloom and set up for their **BIG** two-day event! The gardening group enjoyed touring the estate's many gardens, exploring the plant sale, browsing the boutique in the mansion and estate sale, and perusing the silent auction. But the main attraction was the five private Palo Alto gardens, which are in walking proximity to the estate. Each year the garden tour features five uniquely different residential landscape design styles. This year the gardens included: a whimsical artist's retreat, a formal floral white garden, a contemporary Japanese oasis, a driftwood sculpture garden, and a free-form wild flower garden. Each was beautiful and showed the personality of the homeowner. The gardening group ladies enjoyed lunch together back at Gamble Garden in their rose garden. It was a lovely event! One that the group will attend again in coming years!



May you have many happy and delicious summer days in your garden!
Lisa and Teresa

If you would like your name to be added to the Gardening Group email list please contact Lisa Christensen at: lisa95008@gmail.com

Vegetable Seedling Donation to Bellarmine's Student Garden

Gardening Group



In May, Gardening Group members, Ashley Hopkins Pass, Donna Gallo, and Teresa Giovanzana, donated 70 extra vegetable plant seedlings to the Bellarmine Garden. The ladies had attended Love Apple Farm's Summer Vegetable Workshop in March where they each came away with a tray of planted seeds. The seedlings consisted of tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, okra, lettuces, melons, squash, broccoli rabe, and cucumbers. Instructor Pat Adams' Botany class planted the seedlings in the school's new garden. The produce harvested from the garden will be donated to local food banks. Bellarmine has a student Gardening Group who will care for the garden and the chickens and goats throughout the summer. In Pat Adams' thank you email to the Gardening Group he said, "*What a generous and thoughtful gift from the AMEN Moms.*"

Join AMEN & LAMP at the Theater!

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



A Low Country Boil First Gourmet Group



The First Gourmet Group enjoyed its final luncheon of the academic year in Liz Yee's beautiful backyard garden, where the gourmet group experienced a "Low Country Boil." Liz, along with her cooking team, Linda Chin, Mari Donnelly, and Teresa Giovanzana, treated everyone to a delightful and fun experience. To entice their appetites, cheesy corn fritters topped with remoulade sauce a la New Orleans, creole deviled eggs and Bloody Mary's were served. The Low Country Boil included crawfish, shrimp, grilled Andouille sausage, small potatoes, pearl onions, garlic, artichokes, and corn on the cob. All of the ingredients were tossed in a pot of boiling water with creole seasoning and boiled. Once it had finished cooking, it was drained, dumped onto a newspaper-topped dining table and eaten by hand! The food provided a beautiful centerpiece and it was a super delicious feast. After lunch was over, the ladies got up from the table and the chefs rolled up the entire top layer of newspaper, plastic ware, and plastic tablecloth to reveal a coral linen tablecloth. They quickly placed seashells and fresh flowers down the center of the coral linen tablecloth and added sage linen napkins. The ladies were then served a scrumptious maple praline cheesecake and coffee. It was truly one of the most memorable and creative experiences!

Group Visits Historic Boudin Bakery & Museum Baking Group

Baked by Bells ended the 2018-2019 year with a fun 'Bake Shop Hop' trip to San Francisco where they visited the Boudin Bakery & Museum in Ghiradelli Square on June 1st. The museum's exhibits demonstrate the growth, development, and history of baking at Boudin for the past 200 years. The group was able to view the bakers working in Boudin's large bakery. The group enjoyed the tour very much!

EVENTS 2019/20 – Mark your calendars!

August 24 - Pizza n Pasta Summer party
October 19 - Cast Iron Halloween desserts
December 14 - AMEN Cookie Exchange
February 9 - Valentine Macaroons
April 4 - Easter Tea n Soufflé
May 30 - Bake Shop Hop Trip to Carmel



If you would like to join the group Baked by Bells, please email Nandini Shankar at: nanshanks@gmail.com

The AMEN Supper Club

There were three goals in creating The AMEN Supper Club a little over a year ago; the first was to experience the passion of food through the innovative and creative talent located in our own backyard - the Bay Area. There is a wealth of amazing culinary expertise in the bay area, and so far, the Supper Club has found that to be true.

Second, what better way to dine and experience fine dining than with the sisters of AMEN. Friends who feel like family are the best kind of friends and nothing matters more than family. Every AMEN member is welcome to join - come together or alone - you will feel like family immediately.

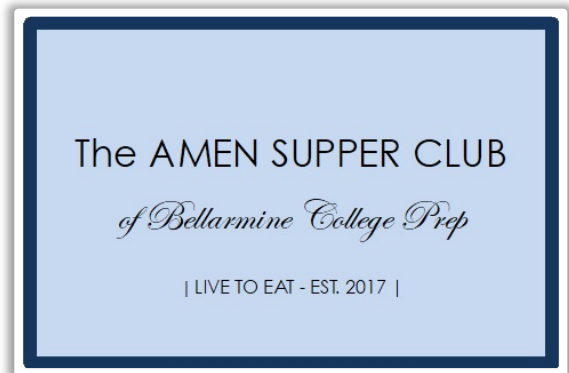
Third, in seeking balance between hustle and rest, the members of the Supper Club try to find those moments of rest in our experiences of amazing and savory flavors.

The Supper Club hopes to see you in the fall, Thursday, September 5 when they kick-off the new year at **The Hero Ranch Kitchen** in Saratoga! More to follow in the summer months!

If you would like to join the Supper Club please email Sandra Lanoie at: sandra.lanoie@gmail.com

Happy Summer to all!

Rita Mausler
Denise Bridgeman
Sandra Lanoie



Happily Reading Together
Fourth Generation Book Club

The Fourth Generation Book Group recently met to discuss their most recent book selection, *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova. It is an amazing view into what the journey is like for someone afflicted with ALS as well as the impact on family members.

Our next read will take us to Cuba. The group is enjoying a new meeting location at DishNDash in Sunnyvale. The Fourth Generation Book Group has been together for nine years where they read about 8-9 books a year.

Keep reading!



Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy summer!