

Alumni Mother's Extended Network (AMEN)

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



AMEN News

LETTER FROM YOUR NEW AMEN CHAIR!

Welcome AMEN members to another fabulous year of fun!

My name is Teresa Giovanzana and I have volunteered to be your AMEN 2019-20 Chair. I have been an AMEN member since 2015 when my son Domenic graduated from Bellarmine. My first introduction to AMEN was a wonderful experience with the College Mentor Moms. I am an active member of a number of Interest Groups and joined the AMEN board two years ago as your Interest Group Chair. I have enjoyed meeting an amazing group of ladies in the process! Truly, AMEN has had such a wonderful impact on my life. I am so excited about this AMEN year as your Chair!

There is much in the works for this year that is new or different, which you can read about in the following articles in both NEWS and ACTIVITIES. It is my goal to lead our AMEN group to be fun, exciting, inclusive, expanded, and social, where we can all make new friends and reconnect with our old friends.

I challenge all of you to try something new this year! Try a new group, join the board, coordinate a special event, make a new friend, start a new Interest Group, or lead an event in one of your Interest Groups. We all have amazing talents that we could be sharing with our AMEN community of sisters! Share your talents with us! If you have a talent that you would like to share but do not know where to begin, please contact me where we can find an opportunity for you to shine!

Welcome ladies to another great AMEN year!

Teresa Giovanzana
AMEN CHAIR 2019-20

Add Some JOY to Your Life, Renew your AMEN Membership Today!

The **AMEN Membership Drive** has begun. Please take a moment to renew your membership today! Continue to be a part 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 Bellarmino'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 at: Lisa95008@gmail.com

Come spread the **JOY** and renew your membership Today!

AMEN Kickoff Fall Dinner! Come Meet the Gals!

Come celebrate with the gals at AMEN's Kickoff Fall Dinner on **Wednesday, October 16th**, in the Liccardo Center. Come to reconnect with old friends and meet new friends! Good food and great friends — an evening not to miss!

Pregame Garden Tour starting at 5:00pm

Meander through Bellarmino's new garden with instructor Patrick Adams and meet Bella and Clara, the garden's mascot goats! Purchase a glass of Rose Wine for \$5 at the garden tour.

Social hour in Liccardo Center at 5:30pm

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine while visiting the Interest Group tables, shop at AMEN's gift table, and visit with friends. Raffle tickets for purchase.

Dinner to follow at 6:30pm

Current 2019-20 members - \$25 (see note)

Guests - \$30

Wine will be available for purchase at the event.

To register for the Fall Dinner event online click this link: [HERE](#)

Note: Please renew your AMEN membership today to get the discounted pricing for this event. To renew your membership click this link: [HERE](#)

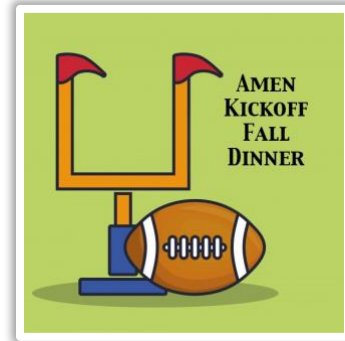
If you have any questions or want to reserve a table of 10 please contact the event co-chairs:

Mary Helmers: mary.helmerts24@gmail.com

Debbie Newcomb: dwnewcombfamily@gmail.com

Winter Warmth Drive

Please support Bellarmino's Winter Warmth Drive by bringing to the Fall Dinner new or gently used bedding (especially twin size), new socks, and hotel-size toiletries. They will be brought to HomeFirst to support their homeless shelters.



Google It! AMEN!

AMEN now has the capability to share our dates, photos, important documents, and newsletters... via our new **AMEN Gmail site**.



Our AMEN Gmail site has a central calendar that every member should log on to and check out! Interest Group Coordinators will be posting all their scheduled events to minimize events on the same day. In addition, all-group AMEN event dates will be posted for the whole year – such as Fall Dinner, Spiritual Retreat, Spring Dinner, as well as AMEN Board Meetings. All members can go to the Gmail Calendar and see what's going on for the week, month, and year; finding more activities to participate in.

If you haven't already, you will soon receive an invitation to join our shared Gmail site. Once you accept the invitation, you will have access to the Gmail site - the main application is the calendar, but there is so much more.

To get to the calendar and other apps on the Gmail site, look in the upper right corner of the page next to the "A" where you will see a grid of dots – click here to open the apps.

CALENDAR – See what's coming up! If you are an Interest Group Coordinator, add all your events. If you are member looking for a new activity, browse the events and pick something new! Contact the Interest Group Coordinator for more information.

DRIVE - This is where AMEN shared documents are stored. There are folders here for newsletters, Board Position Descriptions, AMEN History, Interest Group information with contacts, etc. DRIVE will grow as the year progresses.

PHOTOS - Share photos of you events here. Interest Groups create a folder for your group and upload your photos!

2020 AMEN Spring Retreat

Save the Date! The annual AMEN Spring Retreat will be held on March 26, 2020 at the Dominican Sisters Motherhouse in Fremont. Sr. Rebecca Shinas, a very popular BMG speaker and retreat leader, will facilitate the retreat. An overnight option will also be available. Space is limited so be sure to sign up early. Stay tuned for more details and registration information in the upcoming newsletters! For questions, please contact Elaine Bakan (gebakan@comcast.net) or Sarah Bonini (sarahjbonini@gmail.com).

The IncrediBELLS! Everyday Superheroes



Join Bellarmine and friends for **The IncrediBELLS! Everyday Superheroes** Fashion Show on Saturday, November 16th, at the Santa Clara Convention Center! This year's theme celebrates the core of Bellarmine - the students, faculty, staff and wider community who do extraordinary things every day to develop our young men into *Men For and With Others*. Truth, Justice, Strength, Compassion, Community and Commitment are values we will celebrate during this memorable event in ways that will surprise and delight all who attend!

Tickets go live online on October 2, 2019 at www.bcp.org/fashionshow. Lunch and dinner shows will be available. See you there!

AMEN Life Happenings

New to AMEN...our Board Secretary will be collecting news from our members featuring the many milestones that our families make, such as weddings, births, anniversaries, misc. celebration, and remembrances. These milestones will be gathered in a new column in our monthly newsletters called, **AMEN Life Happenings**. If you would like to share a milestone in your life in our monthly newsletter, please email Kim Loquaci at: kimloquaci@gmail.com

In addition, AMEN would like to inform its members that you can request notes of support, congratulations, or condolences to be sent out on AMEN's behalf to any member of our BCP community. To request a note to be sent on AMEN's new personal stationery, please email Kim Loquaci at: kimloquaci@msn.com

Moms in Prayer

Moms in Prayer warmly welcomes all Bellarmine Alumni Moms each Tuesday from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in St. Robert's Chapel of Wade Hall. *Moms in Prayer* is a ministry dedicated to connecting Bellarmine moms through prayer and fellowship.

Come as often as you're available, and there is no cost to attend. If you can't join in person, and would like to be included through the distribution list, please email [Elizabeth Montgomery](mailto:Elizabeth.Montgomery). This is a lovely way to join in spirit!

Save-the-Date MIP Fall Welcome Mass & Guest Speaker

Tuesday, September 10th
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
St. Robert's Chapel in Wade Hall

- Fr. Ralph Metts, will preside over the welcome mass
- Director of Campus Ministry, Missy Scott-Florez, will share the opportunities Bellarmine Campus Ministry has planned this year
- A coffee social will follow in the Coffee Costa room from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

AMEN Interest Groups

NEW "Events" Interest Group This Year!

By popular demand, AMEN is launching a new concept in an Interest Group this year... **An Events Group!** The group will consist of a changing list of annual activities that the members suggest. The group will have 4-5 events a year, which can range from sports, to theater, to concerts, to cooking classes, or weekend get-aways! It all depends on the interests and the willingness of members to coordinate an event. *Thank you to this year's coordinators Ashley, Kathy, and Betsy for volunteering.*

If you have an idea for a special event please contact Interest Group Chair Kathy Armistead at: kathy.armistead@gmail.com

This Year's Line Up of Events:

September 29th – Kayaking on Elkhorn Slough

Join the Events Group at 9:00am at Kayak Connection (2370 Highway 1, Moss Landing) to paddle Elkhorn Slough with a guide for a two-hour adventure. Participants are guaranteed to see harbor seals, sea lions and the real crowd pleasers: The Southern Sea Otter! Husbands or guests are welcome. Cost is \$65/person. This is an introductory tour. No kayaking experience is necessary. After kayaking, the group will go to lunch at Phil's Fish House in Moss Landing. Sign up online at kayakconnection.com to make a reservation. For more information contact Kathy Armistead to let her know you are attending the event. Her email is: kathy.armistead@gmail.com

December 18th, 2019 – Theater Production of *Waitress*

Join the Events Group to see *Waitress* at the Center for the Performing Arts in Downtown San Jose. Tickets are \$68.00. Husbands and guests welcome! For additional information and tickets contact Ashley Hopkins Pass at: ashleychp66@gmail.com

February 2020 – Ladies Ski Weekend in Tahoe Donner

Join the Events Group for a ski weekend in the Tahoe Donner area. Date TBD in 2020. This is an AMEN members-only event. Betsy Noonan is coordinating this event. More information to come.

June 2020 – Theater Production of *Come From Away*

Join the Events Group to see *Come From Away*, A New Musical, at the Center for the Performing Arts in downtown San Jose. Dates June 16th -21st, 2020. AMEN date TBD. Tickets are \$68.00. Husbands and friends are welcome! For additional information and tickets contact Ashley Hopkins Pass at: ashleychp66@gmail.com

A New And Exciting Year Of Good Eats!

The AMEN Supper Club

The Supper Club's new season is off and running! Please see the list below of delicious restaurants that the group will dine at in the coming months. For additional information or to sign up for one of the dining events contact Sandra Lanoie at: sandra.lanoie@gmail.com. The Supper Club is looking forward to a great year!

Thursday, September 5 - 5pm

Hero Ranch Kitchen, Saratoga
Housed in the former Sent Sovi digs, Hero Ranch is the latest restaurant from Angelo Heropoulos, whose Almaden Valley ranch supplies much of the produce and some of the wine. He is best known for the Opa! brand, with six bay area locations.

Thursday, November 14 - 6pm

L U N A - Mexican Kitchen, San Jose

Thursday, February 13 - 6pm

Naschmarkt Restaurant, Campbell
New Austrian Cuisine

Thursday, April 9 - 6pm

ASA - Los Gatos

Thursday, June 11 - 6pm

Testarosa Winery, Los Gatos

Summer Movie Night Fun!

Evening Movie Group

The Evening Movie Group had several great outings this summer. In June, they met for dinner at Pluto's in Santana Row and then walked down the street to see *Rocketman*. In July, they saw the movie *Yesterday* after eating at Rock Bottom Brewery in The Pruneyard. In August, they went to dinner at Santana Row's Pizza Antica and saw *The Farewell*. All three nights were great fun!

The next Movie Night will be Tuesday, September 10th (Movie/Restaurant TBD). The Evening Movie Group meets 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, or call (408) 420-3209.



Baking Around the World

Baked By Bells

Baked By Bells is excited to start it's 4th year of delicious baking! This year's theme is *Baking Around the World*, where the group will be baking and devouring some amazing international dessert. Baked By Bells hopes you can join them for the following baking sessions:

Sunday October 20th at 11:30 – International Donuts

Germany Berliners, Mexican Churros, Indian Gulab Jamun, and American/New Orleans Beignets.

Sunday November 10th at 11:30– American Cast-Iron Skillet Desserts

Cast-iron Pumpkin Pie, cast-iron apple cobbler, cast-iron chocolate chip cookies

Sunday, December 15th at 11:30- Scandinavian Yule Logs

Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30 – French Macarons

Sunday March 22nd at 11:30 – Italian Tiramisu

Sunday April 26th International Foodie & Bake Shop Hop

Mission District, San Francisco

Locations and cost will be announced in March 2020

If you would like to join our group, please email the Interest Group Coordinator, Bev Bonovich at: bevbonovich@gmail.com

All levels of bakers are welcome!
Baked By Bells looks forward to baking with you!



Summer Vacations

Globelles

Are you interested in travel? Do you enjoy hearing about other people's travel adventures and experiences? Do you have questions about travel related topics? If so, the Globelles Travel Discussion Group welcomes you! The group meets three times during the school year, Fall, early in the New Year, and late Spring. Our meetings are during the day on Thursdays from 1:00-2:30. And in case you are wondering, the group talks travel but does not plan travel together. The group has learned so much travel related information from each other, AND, has made many new friendships along the way.

First 2019-20 Globelles Fall Meeting

Thursday, September 12

1:00-2:30

1467 Cherry Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 (home of Carmen McHugh)

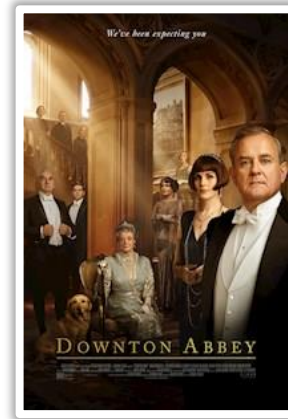
The Downton Abbey Movie

Daytime Movie Group

It's the movie we've all been waiting for!
The Daytime Movie Group will see
Downton Abbey on **Monday, September 23,**
1:25 pm, Santana Row. Purchase your ticket
ahead of time at Cinemark.com.

Daytime Movie Group chair, Pat Gray will be sitting in seat F-8.
An email will be sent out the week before to confirm the time
and announce pre-movie lunch arrangements.

To be included, email Pat Gray, at pat@patgrayincolor.com



AMEN Golf Group Has Room for More Members

AMEN Golf Group

The AMEN Golf Group is excited to be in their second year. This is a 9-hole group that plays at local golf clubs and alternates between Thursday or Sunday tee times. There were several rain outs last year but in June the group played at the Pruneridge Golf Club and had a great day. The Golf Group is looking forward to outings with all current and new golf enthusiasts!

If you are any questions or would like your name added to the email list please email Catherine Christofferson at: Catherineamengolf@gmail.com



New Celebrations Group Formed Celebrations Club

AMEN's new Celebrations Group is a spinoff from the Baked By Bells Group. The new group will be a festive club that will celebrate annual holidays, such as Halloween, Valentine's Day, and Easter, through the art of holiday traditions and the baked goods that are enjoyed at each holiday. The Celebrations Group will also host two non-holiday celebrations; one at beginning of the school year and one at the end. The Celebrations Group will host **AMEN's Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange**, which is open to all AMEN members. For more information, or to join, email Nandini Shankar at: nanshanks@gmail.com

October TBD	Halloween Treats
December 7 th at 11:30 am	Annual AMEN Cookie Exchange in Bellarmine's Cofey Costa Room in the Liccardo Center
February 9 th , 2020 at 11:30 am	Valentine's Sweets
April 4 th , 2020 at 2:00 pm	Easter Tea
May 16 th , 2020 at 10:00 am	Carmel Field Trip

AMEN Women for Others Community Service

If you're looking for opportunities to give back to our community with other Bell Moms, look no further! The AMEN Volunteers/Helping Hands Group is open to ALL Bellarmine Alumni moms. Our longest-standing event is assembling gift bags for the Gifts for Teen program, an organization (started by an AMEN mom!) that provides over 1500 gift bags to underprivileged teens each holiday season. We are also asked to volunteer for Bellarmine/BMG events a few times each year, and typically have a couple of special events with HomeFirst, one of the recipients of Bellarmine's Winter Warmth Drive. And if an AMEN family is struggling due to a catastrophic event, we reach out to our Helping Hands to provide meals and other assistance as needed.



To join AMEN Volunteers/Helping Hands, send an email to Linda Chin at chindalin@aol.com, and you'll receive emails about volunteer opportunities - you only need to respond if you would like to help with a particular event.

Gardening Group Volunteers at Bellarmine's Garden Gardening Group



This summer the Gardening Group joined instructor Patrick Adams in Bellarmine's new instructional garden to help with a little needed work. Eight ladies came together on a hot Monday morning to pick plums and weed the expansive garden. The ladies enjoyed working together by helping with the unrelenting summer tasks of a vegetable garden. Patrick Adams has less student volunteers during the summer to tend the garden. He was very appreciative of the ladies' time and gave them plums as a "thank you." The group of ladies enjoyed the time and work together very much and all said they would love to return.

AMEN Garden Group 2019 to 2020 Season

Gardening Group

Every season brings a reason to rejoice! Please join us for a new season of events. This year your Garden Group Co-chairs have put together new experiences sure to "**grow your spirit**". More information will be available closer to the event dates to those on the Garden Group email list. To be added to the email distribution list, please email Lisa95008@gmail.com

Sunday, October 6 - Fifth Crow Farm, Pescadero, at 11:00 am

Field Day with lunch, farm tour, apple tasting, cider pressing, and U-pick vegetables
Bring your spouse (\$20/person)

Wednesday, November 6th, Petite Petal, Campbell, 7 - 8:30pm

Floral Arranging Class, Cost TBD

December (Sat/Sun TBD), Holiday Tea at Filoli, Woodside

March (Date TBD), Seed planting @ Teresa's home in Willow Glen

How to grow vegetables and flowers from seed

April/May (TBD Saturday), Hakone Gardens, Saratoga

Wisteria and Rhododendron Docent Tour & Tea Demonstration
(\$28/person)



AMEN Life Happenings

** AMEN member Linda Chin and her husband John Parissenti are having a banner year - they were thrilled to celebrate the marriage of their son Will Parissenti (class of 2010) and the arrival of their first grandchild Kai...and are looking forward to the upcoming marriage of their daughter Liz in September. Truly a year to remember!

** The Olugbode Family are pleased to announced the marriage of their eldest son, Kyle Olakunle Olugbode, Class of 2010 to the love of his life, Ms. Madison Patricia Meade (Auburn, California) on April, 27th 2019 at St. Martin of Tours Parish in San Jose. Rev. Father Jerry Wade officiating the ceremony followed by a private celebration at The Ritz Carlton Hotel in Half Moon Bay. The newlyweds are going great! (see photo →)

