



Alumni Mothers Extended Network (AMEN)

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

AMEN NEWS

Traveling on an Epiphany Journey Together!

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR AMEN'S 2020 RETREAT!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11th

Spirituality Group

Please join a day of reflection, fellowship, and celebration as we take an Epiphany journey together at the *AMEN 2020 Retreat!* The retreat will feature Sr. Rebecca Shinas, OP, a Dominican Sister of Mission San Jose. Sr. Rebecca is a musician, composer, singer, prayer leader, storyteller, and artist. She will lead us in a day filled with spiritual presentations, inspirational discussions and joyful conversations as we reflect on Epiphany and the transitions in our lives. AMEN moms will share stories of transition in their own journeys. Gather with us as we begin the New Year by giving ourselves the gift of time spent with fellow AMEN travelers! Space is limited so please register ASAP! Click [HERE](#) to register online.

For more information please contact:

[Elaine Bakan](#) or [Sarah Bonini](#)



Date: Saturday, January 11, 2020
Time: 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Place: Dominican Sisters Motherhouse
West Assembly Room
43326 Mission Circle
Fremont, CA 94539
Cost: \$50 per person (Price includes continental breakfast and lunch)

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Contact or Webpage
Jan. 8	Say AMEN to Wine Wednesday! 20Twenty Cheese Bar 1389 Lincoln Ave in San Jose, Ca 95125	Betsy Noonan
Jan. 11	AMEN 2020 Retreat - Register HERE!	Sarah Bonini Elaine Bakan
Jan. 13	Daytime Movie Group - movie TBA	Pat Gray
Jan. 14	Evening Movie Group - movie TBA	Amy Tashjian
Jan. 21	AMEN Board Social & Meeting	AMEN BCP
Jan. 30	Annual AMEN and DOGs Social Event - Register HERE!	Betsy Noonan

AMEN/DOGs Annual Social Event!

AMEN Steering Committee

Please join the Annual AMEN/DOGs Winter Social with our brother Bellarmine organization (Dads Of Grads) on **Thursday, January 30th, at Campo di Bocce, in Los Gatos.**

The fun includes a buffet dinner, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic drinks, as well as playing bocce! Please make sure to purchase your tickets for this popular event as soon as you can and to join the fun and support this annual social event with the DOGs. *This is a casual night of fun with friends!*

Sign up with your spouse or come with another AMEN friend. Please note, this is not a couples-only event.

DATE: Thursday, January 30th
TIME: 6:30 - 9:00pm
PLACE: Campo di Bocce,
565 University Ave, Los Gatos
COST: \$50 per person



Click [HERE](#) to register for this event on the AMEN webpage. For more information contact [Betsy Noonan](#)

Thank You For Your Support!

Membership

Dear AMEN Members,

Our Membership Drive is now over and the Steering Committee is pleased to announce that **AMEN is 248 members strong!** We want to thank you for your continued support in AMEN and Bellarmine.



We hope you have been happily enjoying [AMEN Interest Group](#) events since September – there has been many! And 2020 promises to be another fun filled and fantastic year! And to let everyone in on a little sneak-peak for the year....

2020 is AMEN's 20th Anniversary! Stay tuned!

Thank you members of AMEN!
The AMEN Steering Committee

AMEN INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES

A Joyous ADVENT Retreat at Santa Clara University

Spirituality Group

Before Christmas the AMEN Spirituality Group, with the Alumni Office at Santa Clara University, co-sponsored an afternoon of Advent reflection with Sr. Rebecca Shinas at SCU. The women participants enjoyed a joyous and celebratory afternoon where Sr. Rebecca shared her many talents of guitar playing, singing her songs, storytelling, her captivating animation, and poignant paintings, to beautifully illustrate her message of hope, joy, peace, and love. Everyone felt the true message of Advent and Christmas! To conclude your Christmas journey, **please join the 2020 AMEN Retreat “Traveling on an Epiphany Journey Together,” on Saturday, January 11th**, at the Dominican Motherhouse in Fremont. Sister Rebecca Shinas will continue to lead us where participants will explore the transitions of their lives.

Click [HERE](#) to register online. For more information please contact [Elaine Bakan](#) or [Sarah Bonini](#)

A Magical Christmas at Filoli!

Gardening Group

Thirty members of the Gardening Group gathered at dusk at Filoli to visit the home and gardens before Christmas. Each room of the home was decorated with magnificent Christmas trees decorated by the professional staff florists at Filoli. An extraordinarily decorated tree greeted us in the entry – the ornaments on this tree were silica-preserved flowers harvested from the Filoli gardens throughout the year! Truly magnificent! For the second year, Filoli has festooned their gardens and trees with a litany of Christmas lights in all colors as well as white. The effect is truly magical! Filoli set up a bar next to the house serving hot and cold holiday beverages, where the AMEN members ordered drinks to enjoy while strolling the gardens. The ladies enjoyed a little shopping in the Clock Tower Garden Shop before settling down to enjoy dinner together in the Filoli Café. It was a beautiful and magical evening!

If you would like to join the Gardening Group please email Lisa Christensen at: lisa95008@gmail.com



Wine Wednesday **Open to All AMEN Members**



Say AMEN to Wine Wednesdays! January 8th, 2020

As the calendar page turns to 2020, AMEN is beginning a new tradition; a tradition to foster and create friendships.

All AMEN members are invited on the second Wednesday of each month to gather at 20twenty Cheese Bar in Willow Glen at 5pm. This is an open invitation and a way to meet each other informally on a regular basis. Bring a friend or come alone. No need to RSVP. On Wednesdays, 20twenty Cheese Bar offers a discount on their wines. They also have food, a full bar, and non-alcoholic beverages. 20Twenty Cheese Bar is located at 1389 Lincoln Ave in San Jose, Ca 95125, 2020cheesebar.com. For more information email Betsy Noonan at: betsynoonen2002@yahoo.com

A Christmas Cookie Celebration!

Celebrations Group

The Celebrations Group hosted the Annual AMEN Cookie Exchange before Christmas at Bellarmine.

AMEN members joined the celebration in Coffey Costa in Liccardo Center where Nandini Shankar and Tama Montgomery served mimosas and prepared a lovely light lunch.

Serendipitously, Santa dropped in to entertain the ladies and belted out a few holiday tunes! Bellarmine was hosting children from Sacred Heart Community Services and Santa was there to entertain them (event sponsored by the



Bellarmino Alumni Assoc.). The ladies enjoyed chatting and lunch, followed by the Cookie Exchange where they shared their baked goods. Everyone went home with a large plateful of cookies!

If you would like to join the Celebrations Group please email Nandini Shankar at: nanshanks@gmail.com

The Celebrations Group's next event is for Valentine's Day on February 9th at 11:30am. Members interested in more information and/or to sign up for this event please contact Nandini Shankar at: amencelebrationclub@gmail.com

Upcoming Celebration Club calendar:

- 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 the Year Party

AMEN Holiday Angels

Community Service

Let's kick off the new year with gratitude for all the AMEN moms who participated in December's volunteer events!

Carmen McHugh, Joan Packer, Liz Goesseringer, Rosanne Reed, Susan Wickler, Theresia Binder, and Linda Chin sorted over 500 blankets plus many bags of clothing from **Bellarmino's Winter Warmth Drive** to benefit the clients at **HomeFirst's** cold weather shelters. They fearlessly attacked a mountain of bags that were quickly sorted for immediate distribution!

Lizabeth Yee, Rosanne Reed, Susan Wickler, Theresia Binder, and Linda Chin contributed and assembled gifts for the annual **Veterans' Christmas Party at HomeFirst**. The bags were overflowing with brand new throw blankets, scarves, socks, books, candy, gift cards, and other assorted items. Thirty-five lucky veterans enjoyed a little extra cheer this year!



And finally, Becky Durstenfeld, Bev Gorshe, Christine Lourie, Diane Bordoni, Ellen McGuire, Jane Creech, Janet Benson, Judy Murillo, Kathi Oliverio, Linda Chin, Linda Crotty, Lisa Christensen, Liz Goesseringer, Lynn Hillebrecht, Maryellen Shapiro, Patricia Ngo, Sandy Lanoie, and Susan Munne were delighted to volunteer at the annual **Gifts for Teens** event. They greatly enjoyed putting together brand new duffel bags filled with sweatshirts, T-shirts, socks, games, and more that were given to underprivileged teens through multiple local agencies - a joyful and heartwarming morning!

Thanks to all who volunteered their time, talent, and treasure to help our communities!!

Holiday Lights and Movie Nights!

AMEN Evening Movie Group

In December the Evening Movie Group met at Santana Row, where they enjoyed a delicious dinner together at Maggiano's. After dinner, they strolled down the street to CineArts@Santana Row, while gazing at the beautiful Christmas lights and festive shop displays, which put them in the Christmas spirit. The group saw the movie, *Dark Waters*, which they all really enjoyed!



Please join the AMEN Evening Movie Group for the next two Movie Nights: Tuesday, **January 14th**, and Tuesday, **February 11th**. (Dinner and movie times/locations TBD.)

If you would like to be added to the Evening Movie Group email list, please email Amy Tashjian at: amy.tashjian@comcast.net, or by phone at (408) 420-3209.

Daytime Movie Group Upcoming Dates

Daytime Movie Group

Please join the Daytime Movie Group every second Monday of the month for lunch and a movie! Lunch location, movie, and meeting time are announced early the previous week. To join the Daytime Movie Group please email Pat Gray at: pat@patgrayincolor.com

Mark your calendars for our next dates:

- Monday, January 13th
- Monday, February 10th
- Monday, March 16th

