



# AMEN NEWS

## Connections

### Letter from AMEN Chair

BETSY NOONEN

Greetings. I am so uplifted by the solidarity, creativity, compassion and commitment of our board to understand the needs and concerns of our members. We had our August meeting a few days ago. It was a collaborative and productive meeting.

Trust me, we are working to help AMEN. be the safe landing space that all of us need “virtually” and a safe social space in the “real world” for those who want to gather. To that end, thank you for participating in the survey that Kathy Armistead sent to Social Circle leads, we have great ideas on how to proceed. In broad strokes, the sample was about equally split on comfort level for in-person gatherings. We are working on next steps and will likely send out a membership-wide survey soon.

This year, you will notice more integration of Spirituality and Wellness and the Social Circles through a column each month in the newsletter. Our S&W chairs, Sarah Bonini and Gigi Harvey will produce a contribution each month called **“Connecting AMEN Circles: Nourishing our Spirit and Soul”** working in concert with a Social Circle lead and focusing on a different Social Circle. They have developed a set of questions they will ask to help guide each conversation. **“Connecting A.M.E.N. Circles: Nourishing our Spirit and Soul”** is also the theme for our Spring retreat (date and everything coming) We are optimists!

I am so appreciative of their commitment to this and the imagination and creativity that went into producing this new program. Kudos Sarah and Gigi!

I am very excited about the Angel Fund. Months of planning have come to fruition. The announcement is in this newsletter. Please let me know what you think.

Best wishes that you all are safe from the many dangers out there, from the ongoing threat of COVID 19 to the new anxiety producing fires and smokey air concerns and threat. Please reach out if you need any help, emotionally or otherwise.

Please reach out to me via my email if there is anything that I can do to help you or if you have any input about AMEN.

[Betsynoonen2002@yahoo.com](mailto:Betsynoonen2002@yahoo.com).

My Best, Go Bells!  
Betsy Noonan  
AMEN Chair  
2020-2021

# Connections

## The Angel Fund

BETSY NOONEN

What was an kernel of an idea in May is now a reality. The Alumni Mothers Extended Network (AMEN) officially announces the Angel Fund. The Angel fund is the umbrella network for all of AMEN's charitable outreach efforts

The AMEN will continue to contribute to the Magis Scholars, the Tuition Assistance Fund and the Fashion Show through the Angel Fund. This year we are initiating a new focus to our financial support of the Bellarmine Community. We feel this new program reflects the Jesuit values of **Cura Personalis** "care for the entire person." We are initiating this fund to directly support students, faculty and/or staff who are in need of assistance for any reason. Currently, the Angel Fund will provide gift cards to supermarkets and try and meet a specific need if possible.

At the August AMEN Board meeting a small committee was formed to work directly with the Bellarmine Office of Development to frame our roles and procedures for how to best promote the Angel Fund and how to best identify recipients. Identities of Angel Fund recipient's will be confidential and discreet. Board members Sarah Westfall and Rita Mausler will work along Betsy Noonен on this committee.

Donation solicitations will not identify an individual or their personal need. If you would like to donate to the Angel Fund, [click here!](#)

Betsy Noonен, Chair of AMEN has been working out the details of the Angel Fund with senior members of Bellarmine's Development Team and the Office of the President to pursue this charitable outreach program. AMEN is excited to have their blessing and endorsement to introduce to you, the Bellarmine Community to our Angel Fund.

"AMEN 2020 had to reinvent itself a bit and I believe the Angel Fund moves us in this new direction with some great energy, and it's a counter-balance to some of the heavier things we are facing. We are excited." Noonен said.

"The entire Bellarmine community appreciates AMEN's altruistic efforts to support the needs of Bellarmine's students and their families during these challenging times."

- Patrick Arnold, Director of Development @ Bellarmine.

## Invite a Friend, Build a Community

LISA CHRISTENSEN

A personal letter with bookmark was mailed to over 1,800 alumni moms inviting them to join or renew their membership. For those who have already renewed, THANK YOU! Please reach out to friends and encourage them to join. Although activities may not be quite as engaging as in the past, staying connected is more important now than ever.

Those who have been a part of BMG and AMEN over the years have experienced the tremendous community spirit of these organizations. Continuing the connection to Bellarmine through AMEN, brings fulfillment to its members beyond measure. In 2019, over 80% renewed their membership! We are on track to exceed that with your help, we need you to rejoin or ask a friend to sign up.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN!](#)

The elimination of membership dues has expanded our recruitment ability, given the range of donations made when members join, we find our coffers ahead of where we have been in past years.

Over the last five years there have been nearly 250 members that have participated in various Social Circle activities and events. And now, with the Covid-19 pandemic, the significance of connection and community brings new meaning and new practices.

Many of the Social Circles have activities planned for the fall either in person using social distancing protocols or via Zoom. Wine Wednesday via Zoom already has a following...an excuse to drink wine on Wednesday, perhaps?! See you on September 9<sup>th</sup>!

Word is that AMEN is planning a big celebration for when safe and healthful conditions are restored, so take a moment and go to the link, your AMEN sisters will miss you too much if you don't!



## Connections

### Introducing the 20-21 Pinkston Fellow

SONYA ARRIOLA

With AMEN's support, this Endowment was established in honor of the light Mr. Pinkston shone in the lives of thousands of students and families. His legacy lives on through this effort, as the Endowment establishes a teaching Fellowship for an educator of color to begin their teaching career at Bellarmine. Last year's AMEN Board agreed via vote to donate \$1,000 to the fund.

Bellarmino is so proud to honor Mr. Pinkston by continuing his legacy of opportunity for teachers of color through the Pinkston Fellowship. To that end, Bellarmine is excited to announce that we have hired our inaugural Pinkston Fellow, Ms. Monica Collins! We are very excited to welcome Ms. Collins to Bellarmine in the Fall. She will teach full-time in our English department.

A few additional updates:

We have not yet raised the full amount to endow the Pinkston Fellowship permanently. Bellarmine has agreed to support the first five years of the Pinkston Fellowship while the campaign is still active. To date, we have over \$300,000 in commitments and pledges. Our goal is to raise \$2,000,000 by 2025.

The Pinkston Fellowship is for one year with the possibility of renewal. We expect to hire a second Pinkston Fellow in either 2021 or 2022.

Thank you again for your support of this effort to honor Mr. Pinkston and promote faculty diversity at Bellarmine College Prep. As always, please reach out to me with any questions or for additional information.

As Mr. Pinkston would say, Press ON!



In early 2019, the Steve Pinkston Endowment was established by a group of Bellarmine community members who wanted to honor Steve Pinkston's 40 years of service to Bellarmine and the community. In recognition of his work, the Steve Pinkston Endowment was envisioned in order to:

- Promote faculty diversity at Bellarmine;
- Attract African American youth and families to Bellarmine and support them in their time at the school; and
- Inspire young people to enter the teaching profession.

*For more information about the Steve Pinkston Endowment, please contact Sonya Arriola via email at: [sarriola@bcp.org](mailto:sarriola@bcp.org) or by phone at: 408.537.9202.*



## Retiring from Bellarmine

In addition to Steve Pinkston, three more faculty members have retired at the conclusion of the school year. Stepping down after more than 50 years of combined service at Bellarmine are: Kathy Harville, library staff member; Carmela Kong, modern and classical language instructor; and Laurie Pecchenino, administrative assistant.

We are grateful for the positive impact they have had on our students and on the entire Bellarmine community. AMEN would like to recognize one of our special members, Carmela! Congratulations one and all!



STEVE PINKSTON



KATHY HARVILLE



CARMELA KONG



LAURIE PECCHENINO

## Bell News!



The 33rd Annual Bellarmine Golf Classic, benefiting Bellarmine's Direct Tuition Assistance Program, will be held on **Monday, October 12, 2020**, at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club. **THE GOLF CLASSIC IS SOLD OUT!**

You can add your name to the waitlist below and if a spot becomes available, we will contact you. BCP Golf Classic signup –[HERE!](#)



We are excited to announce that the 66th Annual Bellarmine Mothers' Guild Fashion Show for Tuition Assistance will be presented online for the first time in history!

[Click Here for more information!](#)

[https://www.bcp.org/sites/default/files/media/images/20-FAS-01\\_FashionShow-Logo-f.jpg](https://www.bcp.org/sites/default/files/media/images/20-FAS-01_FashionShow-Logo-f.jpg)

# BELLARMINE CLASS OF 2020!



**GO BELLS!**



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## *New Series from Spirituality and Wellness*

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# Connecting AMEN Circles, Nourishing Our Spirit and Soul

SARAH BONINI & GIGI HARVEY, with collaborations from DONNA GALLO and BEV BONAVIDICH

Welcome to our first in a series of articles from your Spirituality and Wellness gals! Our goal, each month, is to highlight a different AMEN Social Circle and share with you how each Social Circle is a way we can all nourish our soul and feed our spirit. AMEN is a vehicle that allows us to foster old friendships and make new ones, all within the Bellarmine tradition of, for and with others. In this unprecedented time of the pandemic, racial discourse and wildfires, we all need to find ways to connect with others and feel supported. We, especially as women and moms, tend to forget that it is imperative that we need to intentionally feed our spirits through these friendships and connections.

Our first social circle to tell us about their group is The Baking Social Circle. Bev Bonovitch and Donna Gallo are the chairs. Bev has been in AMEN for 4 years and her son, Robby graduated in 2016. Donna has been in AMEN for 5 years and her sons, Francesco graduated in 2007 and Nicholas graduated in 2010. Recently they started bringing AMEN baking back via zoom! If you are interested in joining the baking circle, please email Donna Gallo at [donna@thegallofamily.com](mailto:donna@thegallofamily.com). Donna will add you to the distribution list and you will receive Evites to our baking events. Happy baking!

**Can you give us a little history and share with us your journey to becoming a member of AMEN and explain what AMEN means to you?**

**BEV:** My husband and I have moved quite a bit over the past 30 years (NY, L.A., S.F., and Silicon Valley). Because of our moves, and because we did not live by family for most of our journey, we have had to make new friends over and over again. We relied on the Catholic Church to make friends and develop social circles throughout the years. Through our journey, we have realized the importance of healthy activities and being inclusive. When new to an area, we did not wait to get invited places, we created a lot of our own fun and invited all those interested in various activities to be fellow travelers. Thus, when I became an empty nester, I knew AMEN was the next right thing -positive activities, fellow travelers, and an inclusive group of amazing ladies! The positive side of empty nesting is having free time. Amen has SO many AMAZING social circles to choose from to fill our free time! My lifelong focus has been on body, mind, and spirit, and Amen has social circles to fill all three areas! I belong to the hiking circle, gourmet lunch circle, supper circle, garden circle, travel circle, Women at the Well spiritual circle, and Donna Gallo and I lead the baking circle.

**DONNA:** Teresa Giovanzana happens to be a good friend of a very good friend of mine and she had invited me to attend a Women's Lecture Series with a few of her acquaintances. She mentioned AMEN and the hiking group and as my work situation slowed, I thought it might be good for me to reach out and connect with others while doing something I really enjoyed.

I had the good fortune to meet Bev at this same event and she encouraged me to join the baking group. The irony is I don't bake. Or I should say I did not bake at the time. My life circumstance was such that I had more time and Bev was so darn positive, uplifting, and encouraging that I felt this was a connection I should embrace. I was off and running with AMEN and was so inspired by the amazing group of women that I was meeting and connecting with. I added the Gardening group and a Gourmet Lunch group to my list and again the collective group of women were so joyful, kind, positive, fun you name it.... It is funny how you think you have a cup that runs over with family and friends only to find that there was not only room for more but a need for more.

### **What does Spirituality and Wellness mean to you?**

**DONNA:** Spirituality.... such a powerful word. When I think of what it means to me I think of how embracing it is. Regardless of your belief, embracing your spiritual being feels like looking inward to your inner goodness, that connection of seeing goodness even when faced with hardship. To me, faith (personal to each person) and spirituality tie together to bring peace and with peace comes wellness.

### **How does your social circle nourish your spirituality and/or wellness?**

**BEV:** The baking circle has been such a great experience over the past four years as I have always LOVED to bake! I originally joined as a participant and then moved to co-leading the group. Donna and I are not professional bakers (although I have a small shortbread business) but we have the best time trying out recipes and techniques with our AMEN friends! This past year our theme was Baking from Around the World. We learned recipes from various countries. All the recipes were so delicious! At the baking events, everyone bakes side-by-side, shares their baking experiences and ideas with the group, and then brings home their delicious baked goods for their family/friends to enjoy. Donna is an incredibly talented chef! She makes a special seasonal lunch for all the ladies to enjoy at each session. This special time gives us the opportunity to get to know and support one another and learn more about other AMEN social circles and events.

**DONNA:** My personal life hit a bump in the road about a year and 1/2 ago and without these amazing women knowing they helped me journey through a very difficult time. I look back and reflect on how God's presence was with me and by the grace of God I had AMEN for not just the social but the spiritual aspect that my soul needed. Nurturing is truly apart of AMEN.

With Bev's inspiration the Baking Social Circle is simply sweet!! We bake, we laugh, we nourish our body (lunch is my gift to the group) and we nourish our souls through human connection.

### **Can you share with us your favorite comfort recipe?**

This summer I came across this yummy lemon and blueberry cake recipe that is heavenly! I use a different lemon frosting recipe than the one listed in the cake recipe. I've included both recipes below.

<https://sugargeekshow.com/recipe/lemon-blueberry-buttermilk-cake/>

<https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/lemon-buttercream-frosting/>

Thank you ladies! See you on the next Social Circle interview!



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## *Summer Updates from AMEN Social Circles*

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### “Fall” Into Your Garden

LISA CHRISTENSEN & TERESA GIOVANZANA

The Garden Circle has been sowing seeds of ideas to bring us together again...

**Fall at Filoli** will not disappoint. Every season at Filoli Garden in Woodside brings a celebration of color.

In addition to the garden, life-size wire sculptures by Kristine Mays are featured throughout the property. Sculpted from thousands of pieces of wire hooked and looped together, each garment embodies a fleeting gesture or expression. Date coming soon and advance reservations are required.

The **Holiday Craft (see photo below)** takes inspiration from Holidays at Filoli last year. Beginning in October, a list of possible items to gather for the craft will be provided. Many of the items can be found around the house, garden or on a hike. We need corks...so open some wine! Demonstration will be via ZOOM and the date will be announced.



If you have any questions or if you want to be added to the Garden Circle email list, please email [Lisa95008@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa95008@gmail.com) Garden Circle Co-Chair.

## Shelter Shopping

SANDY GRUWELL AND JULIE HUGHES

It's time to elevate your quarantine wardrobe. What a better way to compliment your face mask than a brand new necklace!

Wear this beautiful sterling silver "Bell" necklace (\$80) to showcase your Bellarmine pride.

Orders can be placed directly through the AMEN website and will be delivered to your front door.

For additional items you can purchase from The AMEN Fundraising Store- [CLICK HERE!](#)



If you have any questions please email [Sandy Gruwell and Julie Hughes](#)- Fundraising Chairs