



AMEN NEWS

Connections

Letter from AMEN Chair

BETSY NOONEN

This is our time. It's fall 2020. I no longer try to use a "normal" or "COVID-19" lens. Or at least I am trying not to! Given that, October is when we have our Fall Celebration Dinner for AMEN members to gather and connect. It's also the opportunity for new AMEN members to select Social Circles to join and our legacy members to expand their current participation with AMEN. The sign up/info tables for Social Circles (formerly known as Interest Groups) has always been a highlight of the Fall Dinner.

In recognition of this, we dedicate the October issue of Connections to Social Circles and we include a virtual sign up at the end of this newsletter. Please sign up for what intrigues you and the leader of the SC will contact you within a few days to welcome you. There's a lot here that's fun, especially some of the one-off events. Choose a Social Circle you never thought you would! We are taking all of the virus-required precautions into consideration in our planning and hope to have events up and going soon. In fact, our Gardening Circle has two fabulous events planned. If you have any questions about the Social Circles, contact the Chair, [Kathy Armistead](#).

Remember that our membership drive is open and very vital. We want and need a robust roster. Please go to our website and rejoin if you have not already. I am pleased to report the success of dropping the mandatory \$25 membership fee. By transitioning to an optional donation, we now find ourselves ahead by total dollars collected. Meaning, the same number of members have generated more money for AMEN, than if we required everyone to pay \$25. The membership donations are used to accrue for our contributions to the Magis Scholars, Bellarmine's Financial Assistance Fund and the Fashion Show. Until we are able to host revenue-producing events, donations at the time of sign up are our main fundraising vehicle. So, thank you! If you have not joined or re-joined AMEN, please use our [Membership Link](#) to do so.

And last but certainly not least, The Angel Fund was launched last month. This is a separate fund and does not mix with donations made at sign up. We will use these funds to directly support the Bellarmine Community, be it families of staff or students. Bellarmine's Development Team is working in close coordination with AMEN on The Angel Fund. We are so happy to have their support. If our members made a small donation now, it would make such a difference. Thanks!!!

DONATE

Go Bells! With Love and Patience.....Betsy
Betsynoonen2002@yahoo.com.

Connections

From our Spirituality and Wellness Circle

GIGI HARVEY



“Hope is a gift, but it is also a choice. Hope is not naïve optimism: to the contrary, it is grounded in reality with all of its complexities, even losses. It’s easy to fall into cynicism and despair, easy to blame and divide rather than to come together. So we must choose hope. To be frank, this is easy for me to do on good days when the path is clear but so much harder on those bad days, when I doubt, struggle, or mess up. Especially then, I choose hope by drawing on deep wells of creativity and talent in our community, deep wells of persistence and hard work, faith and kindness that are present here among us. I choose hope by relying on you, knowing that we are in this together and no one carries any burden alone.”

Fr. Kevin O’Brien, 2020 Convocation, Santa Clara University

New Series from AMEN Social Circles

Connecting AMEN Circles, Nourishing Our Spirit and Soul

SARAH BONINI & GIGI HARVEY, with collaborations from LISA CHRISTENSEN, Co-Chair Garden Social

Welcome back to our monthly Spirituality and Wellness article! This month we spoke with Lisa Christensen, Co-Chair of the Garden Social Circle. Normally, the Gardening Circle meets five times a year for a variety of outdoor activities. In the past they have attended garden tours, planting events, floral design classes, farm visits, vegetable workshops, and a garden party. The circle mixes up their events to be hands-on as well as tours of gardens.

Lisa has been a member of AMEN for five years. She and her husband, Brian, have two sons that graduated from Bellarmine, Austen in 2013 and Cameron in 2015.

How does AMEN fulfill you?

LISA: AMEN brings me joy staying connected and participating with a community that does so much good for both the Bellarmine and AMEN members.

What does Spirituality and Wellness mean to you?

LISA: It means paying attention, listening and doing the work needed...not easy, but worth the effort.

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

LISA: I love collaborating with my co-chair Teresa to plan events that will bring new experiences to our members. We have experienced and created so many beautiful things together.



Share with us your favorite garden destination or gardening tip.

LISA: My favorite garden destination is my own garden. I love creating different areas of focus for me and others to enjoy. The work is never done and that means every day brings new opportunities. I'm a total novice but that makes it all the more fun. It's sort of like wine, you don't have to be a sommelier to enjoy it.



If you are interested in joining the Gardening Circle, please email Lisa Christensen at lisa95008@gmail.com. Lisa will add you to the distribution list. Happy gardening!



Upcoming Gardening Events - Orchard Days at Fioli Gardens, Saturday Oct. 24th and Holiday Air Plant Terrarium Workshop, Saturday Dec. 5th. Contact [Lisa Christensen](mailto:lisa95008@gmail.com) for more information.



BELL NEWS

66th Annual BMG Fashion Show

“B Vision” The theme the 66th annual Bellarmine Mothers’ Guild Fashion Show for Tuition Assistance will be presented online for the first time in history!

The virtual show will feature live models walking the runway in a socially distant “fashion” with only essential production crew, staff, and volunteers in attendance. The online format guarantees everyone has a virtual front-row seat — while keeping our Bellarmine community safe. The format also enables our Bellarmine family across the globe to tune in and support Bellarmine's tuition assistance program.

They can’t wait to show you their Vision! Plan your evening of entertainment and reserve Saturday, November 14th at 8pm for fashion show viewing! Underwriting packages include dinner and wine for 10 delivered to your home. If you would like more information, contact [Shanan Resop](#). Individual tickets for access to the virtual sho



SEEING THE PAST BECOME THE FUTURE

Office of Campus Ministry

MISSY SCOTT-FLOREZ

The Bellarmine Office of Campus Ministry is in the process of creating small faith communities of past and current Bellarmine parents. Missy Scott-Florez reached out to AMEN share the request for facilitators in these new faith communities. More information can be found in this form: [Facilitator Signup](#)

Please reach out to [Missy Scott-Florez](#) if you have additional questions or suggestions.



Mitch White '13 Makes Major League Baseball Debut

Mitchell White '13 became the 15th Bellarmine alumnus in the school's history to play Major League Baseball when he appeared in his first career big league game on Aug. 28th. The right-hander pitched one scoreless inning for the Los Angeles Dodgers in relief against the Texas Rangers, recording his first career strikeout in the process.

Check out this [FEATURE STORY](#) on Mitch and his family that was produced by ABC News earlier this week.

Updates from AMEN Social Circles

Orchard Days at Filoli and a Special Holiday Craft

LISA CHRISTENSEN & TERESA GIOVANZANA

ORCHARD DAYS AT FILOLI IN WOODSIDE

Please join the Gardening Circle for a tour of the gardens, orchards, and beehives on Saturday, October 24th at 10am. Each weekend in October, Filoli will be celebrating the harvest and all things autumn. Each attendee will need to make their own reservation online or call Filoli reservations. Please make your reservation early to ensure you get a reservation as close to 10am as possible.

Please let Lisa Christensen know that you will be attending our tour via email Lisa95008@gmail.com
Reservation link: [Reservations for Orchard Days at Filoli](#)



HOLIDAY AIR PLANT TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

Please join the Gardening Circle for a hands-on holiday terrarium workshop via Zoom on Saturday, December 5th at 10am. Everyone will build a terrarium during the Zoom workshop! This terrarium idea is envisioned from the Filoli mansion of Christmas past! We will demonstrate how to build a festive air plant terrarium festooned with your favorite holiday items such as branches, pinecones, moss, rock, corks, and mini holiday lights. Many of the suggested items can be gathered on walks, hikes or even around your home.

Start gathering your supplies now. Sign up with [Lisa Christensen](#) and receive the supply list.

Bell Book Babes Social Circle

HEIDI BURKE

The Bell Book Babes Social Circle has continued to read through the summer. Everyone enjoyed "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett, a National Book Award nominee, where twin sisters take different paths in life as one secretly passes as a white woman.

The circle also read "The Other Einstein" by Marie Benedict, the story of brilliant physicist Mileva Einstein who lives in the shadow of husband Albert. Bell Babes have enjoyed reading other books by Benedict as well, such as "Carnegie's Maid". Our next book is "OSS: The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency" by Richard Harris Smith.

Spending half the Zoom call discussing the book and the other half discussing life in the pandemic, this Social Circle found it important to meet regularly.



Daytime Movie Circle

PAT GRAY

Since movie theatres are still closed, the Daytime Movie SC is not able to meet in person. The circle has started to gather virtually on Zoom for coffee in order to gather and chat.

The next coffee hour is Thursday, October 15, 10:30-11:30 am. Contact [Pat Gray](#) for the Zoom meeting link.

Shelter Shopping

SANDY GRUWELL & JULIE HUGHES

We are thrilled to share that we have raised over a \$1000 in merchandise sales this year. We could not have done this without the Mothers' Guild and our creative fundraising chairs. Typically, AMEN would have a table at beginning of the school year events. As we all know, Covid restrictions have moved everything to on-line. Kelly Rainey, Mothers' Guild President, graciously shared our AMEN Fundraising Store through the BMG newsletter. Much appreciation to Kelly, Sandy, and Julie for the huge success of our on-line Fundraising Store.

Soon we will be switching gears to fall weather, baking and comfort food. Wear your AMEN apron as you prepare your treasures in the kitchen!

[The apron](#) is navy and has three front pockets (\$35). Top of the apron says "Love is the Secret Ingredient"



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

Orders can be placed directly through the AMEN website and will be delivered to your front door. If you have any questions please email [Sandy Gruwell and Julie Hughes](#)- Fundraising Chairs

Virtual Connections

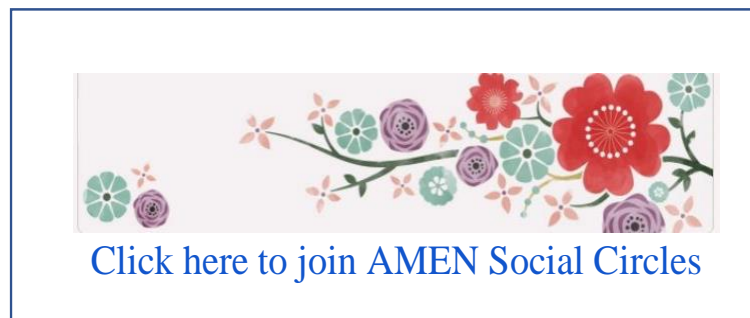
AMEN Social Circles Sign up Form

Welcome to the FUN!

AMEN has a variety of Social Circles for its registered members. There are no additional fees associated to to be an AMEN Member or participate in these groups unless the group has a cost associated for an event, which would be stated.

Please note, the Social Circles are described pre-COVID-19 conditions. AMEN will move forward with adjustments to the Social Circles appropriately as they decide to meet in person in accordance with all safety guidelines. If you sign up for a Social Circle that's not meeting now, the leader will reach out and let you know what they are doing instead. For instance, the Baking Social Circle may not be baking together, but they are sharing recipes. Common circles of fun and community and adaptation! Plus a little wine.....wink, wink.

An overview of each Social Circles is provided [in this form](#). THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SIGN UP! If you have questions about a group, please contact our Social Circles Chair, Kathy Armistead (Kathy.Armistead@gmail.com). Kathy can answer your questions regarding the Social Circles, as well as assist you in creating a new Social Circles.



AMEN Facebook Page

Did you know that AMEN has a Facebook group? [Like us today](#)

There are so many ways for us to all stay connected!

AMEN 20th Anniversary

This spring will be AMEN's 20th Anniversary. We are optimistically planning to celebrate this spring. Until we can actually set a date for this event, we thought you might enjoy a stroll down memory lane with this long lost video of AMEN's 10th Anniversary. Thank you Catherine Christofferson for finding and sharing this video!

[AMEN's 10th Anniversary Video](#)