



# AMEN NEWS

## Connections

### Letter from AMEN Chair

BETSY NOONEN

#### Hope and Optimism

Greetings AMEN and welcome to the last month of 2020 -- We made it! My year would never have been as full if it were not for my involvement with AMEN. I hope that through keeping AMEN connections that you feel the same. I consider myself a deeply spiritual and optimistic person. Those two qualities kept me afloat this past year and will help me juggle whatever comes down the path in 2021.

I was reflecting about a talk I heard at a conference and I wanted to share it. The founders of the apparel company Life is Good have a message of optimism and it is embedded in their corporate culture. There's a turn of phrase they use that I find powerful; I hope you will find it helpful too. Instead of saying "I have to" substitute "I get to" and see what happens. I "get" to go to a meeting because I have a job; I "get" to wait in line at Costco because I have money to pay for what I purchase; I "get" to Zoom with my family because I have a broadband connection (even though we wish they were here in person). You have the idea by now. Appreciation of how the things we take for granted or even groan about can be turned around and seen as blessings in disguise. I think it's a nice way to look at things.

As we close out a year like 2020, I really don't feel equipped to put it all into perspective for everyone. I am working on that for me and my family. In my opinion, there remains some truths that will always hold, we look out for each other, we are men, women, boys and girls for each other and as such, we look after our schools, neighborhoods, cities, states, countries and the planet in search of goodness not because we have to, but because we "get" to. That's how I will toast 2021 and say "buh-bye" to 2020....



With love to you and your families for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

Betsy

## Interviews from AMEN Social Circles

### Happy Holidays!

This month we spoke with Linda Chin, Chair of the Community Volunteering Opportunities Social Circle. Linda's son, Will Parissenti graduated in 2010 and has been a member of AMEN since 2010.

### What is your Social Circle?

Community Volunteering Opportunities and Helping Hands

### How does AMEN fulfill you?

AMEN provides a wonderful opportunity to maintain connections with women from our son's years at Bellarmine as well as to make new connections to other amazing alumni moms. There's such a broad range of activities to choose from, and I've really enjoyed meeting women who share my interests. And the Volunteer Group helps us all be Women for Others, reminding us to count our blessings even during Covid!

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

Spirituality for me is reflecting on how we are all connected to each other and to our world, and working to nourish and cherish those connections. Wellness is taking care of my physical and mental health so that I can be at my best, both to enjoy life for myself as well as in support of others.

*Community volunteering during COVID-YAY to HomeFirst volunteer Kathy Pompili who came with kitchen move-in kit donations and willing hands and quick feet. Kathy, Julie, Rosanne & Linda Chin tackled with undaunted enthusiasm that darn last pile of bright white and clean towels.*

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

There are many studies indicating that helping others improves your mental and physical health...and it encourages other people to engage in acts of kindness as well. One of my favorite quotes is from Desmond Tutu: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." I love putting together move-in kits for homeless clients who are moving into housing, especially when it's a family with children!

### How to volunteer right now:

Although hands-on volunteering is difficult during these times, all our local human services organizations desperately need donations, especially during this holiday season. Bellarmine still held the Winter Warmth Drive for HomeFirst, which manages our local homeless shelters - a particularly challenging task given the need to reduce the density of people in each shelter. Donations of blankets, sheets, towels, personal hygiene items, etc. are very welcome. Visit the website of any of your favorite charities to view their wish list - or better yet, send a cash donation, since most organizations can leverage your dollars by purchasing items in bulk.



# The Angel Fund

## Enter to Win! Spanish Wine Basket Drawing on December 9<sup>th</sup>

Since we all can't fly off for a vacation in Spain, we thought we would bring a little Spain to you!

For a \$25.00 donation, you will be eligible to win a basket full of goodies and in turn support, The Angel Fund. AMEN initiated The Angel Fund to provide direct support for students, faculty and or staff in need of assistance for any reason. Currently, The Angel Fund provides gift cards to supermarkets and support of specific needs when possible.

This basket is filled with vino from Spain and the makings for an evening of authentic tapas! Also included are two Bellarmine stemless glasses and two Bellarmine logo masks – the latest in facial coverages. This delightful culinary excursion is valued at \$250. Wines included are a Gran Reserve Rioja and an Albarino from the Rias Baixas. Muy Deliciosa! Deadline to purchase a raffle ticket is Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at noon.

All are welcome to enter the raffle, and you don't need to be an AMEN member to participate. Proceeds from the raffle directly supports The Angel Fund. We encourage you to share the raffle information with others outside of AMEN!

The drawing (of your name in Spanish, of course) will be on Wine Wednesday, December 9th at 5:30pm. The Zoom link is below. You don't have to be present to win. Basket can be picked up/or dropped off locally.

[Donate here](#) for the AMEN Angel Fund Spanish Wine Basket. Any questions please contact Betsy Noonan.

[Click HERE to join the Zoom call.](#)





# Ways to help during Covid

## Directory of Essential Businesses Owned by Bellarmine-Related Families

The COVID-19 health crisis is also having an economic impact on many businesses, some of which are owned by families related to Bellarmine and considered to be “essential businesses,” as categorized by government and health agencies. As a school community “for and with others,” we are creating a directory of such essential businesses and hope that you will keep them in mind, as your support is appreciated especially during this time of need. If you are affiliated with Bellarmine, own an essential business, and would like to be included in the directory, please complete and submit the form below.

### For a Directory of Essential Businesses

[Click Here](#)

### Form to add your business to the Directory

[Click Here](#)



Among the organizations serving those in need in Santa Clara Valley is [Hunger at Home](http://hungerathome.org) (hungerathome.org), doing so in strategic and creative ways as it partners with local convention centers, hotels, and sports stadiums throughout Silicon Valley to collect excess food and goods, which are then distributed to hungry and homeless individuals through a nonprofit network. To date, Hunger at Home has donated some four million meals locally and has helped distribute towels, blankets, kitchen items, and hygiene kits.

The success of Hunger at Home is its chief operations officer, Bellarmine alumnus Dinari Brown '98. The former hotel executive chef, who also helmed the culinary program at Levi's Stadium, has put his skills and compassion to great use in service to others.

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## *Updates from AMEN Social Circles*

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### Gardening Social Circle Filoli Holiday Lights Pop-up Event

LISA CHRISTENSEN

Holidays at Filoli is the perfect time to take a stroll and enjoy the beauty of the winter garden adorned with lights and colorful decor. Cozy up to a fire pit under twinkling lights and sip on hot cider or mulled wine. Since the weather can be unpredictable this time of year, the date of this event has not been determined. Advance notification will be emailed 3-5 days prior to the chosen date. The event will be held on a weeknight. Hours are from 4pm to 8pm.

The cost of this event is usually \$38, but will be discounted for our group at \$25 per person. Friends and family are welcome too. If you are interested in being notified of this “Pop-up Event”, please email [Lisa95008@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa95008@gmail.com) to join the email distribution list.

For more information visit the Filoli website [HERE](#).



Filoli Gardens, Woodside, CA



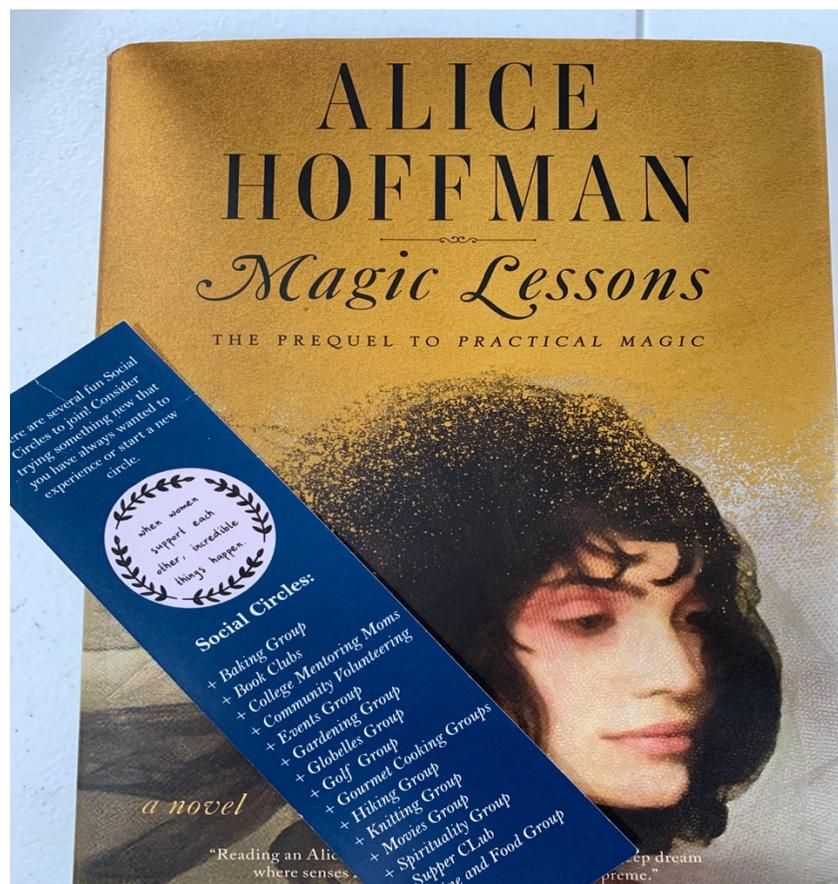
# The Bell Babes Book Circle

## Lessons Learned and Looking Forward

HEIDI BURKE

The Bell Babes Book Circle read Alice Hoffman's "Magic Lessons" which got mixed reviews for its tale of healing magic entwined with love. The book ends with the lessons learned: "Drink chamomile tea to calm the spirit. Feed a cold and starve a fever. Read as many books as you can. Always choose courage. Never watch another woman burn. Know that love is the only answer." Good lessons for life!

Wow! 2020 is almost finished, the book circle is looking forward to in person social days ahead. Bell Babes have supported each other throughout the year, gathering remotely once a month and more often when needed as the lockdown dragged on. Bell Babes are "more than just books" as they chatted their way through the hardships of the corona virus.



## Top Holiday Gifts From AMEN

SANDY GRUWELL & JULIE HUGHES

It is that time of year! Looking for that special gift for the holidays? Don't forget [AMEN Merchandise is available online!](#) Orders can be placed directly through the AMEN website but no later than Dec. 7th for Christmas and will be delivered to your front door.

The perfect stocking stuffer?

Sterling Silver "Bell" Necklace



Bellarmino Glasses or Carrier for New Years?



Trimming to Tree? Bellarmine Ornaments!



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](#) - AMEN Fundraising Chairs

## Bellarmino Fashion Show

The Annual Bellarmino Mothers' Guild Fashion Show for Tuition Assistance was streamed on November 14.

One of the highlights of the fashion show was welcoming Daniel Borca '04 back to campus! Daniel is a Deputy District Attorney for Santa Clara County and shared his love for Bellarmino and how his education at Bellarmino impacted his life. Here's an [excerpt of his captivating speech](#) in case you missed it!



(And yes, there is still time to contribute to the tuition assistance program!) Donate [here!](#)

If you would like to [enjoy a backstage peek from the fashion show](#), it was an extraordinary evening!



Thank you to all who volunteered and contributed to this wonderful event! Go Bells!!!

## Virtual Connections

AMEN Website	<a href="https://www.bcp.org/amen">https://www.bcp.org/amen</a>
AMEN Membership	<a href="https://www.bcp.org/amen/membership">https://www.bcp.org/amen/membership</a>
AMEN Social Circles	<a href="https://www.bcp.org/amen/socialcircles">https://www.bcp.org/amen/socialcircles</a>
The Angel Fund	<a href="#">Donate</a>
AMEN Merchandise	<a href="https://www.bcp.org/amen/fundraising">https://www.bcp.org/amen/fundraising</a>
AMEN Facebook Group	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/663667830385009/about/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/663667830385009/about/</a>

## A Special Thank You!

CATHERINE CHRISTOFFERSON, Communications Chair and AMEN Golf Group Chair

For those who don't know me, I am the publisher of the AMEN newsletter. I would like to take this moment to thank our AMEN community for their generosity during this challenging year. Each and every person I have had the pleasure of working with through Bellarmine these last couple of years, really are so giving of their time and I appreciate it! I hope that this holiday season will fill your home with love and laughter! To the AMEN Golf group, you ladies rock! I love to hit things outside with you! LOL!!

