



# AMEN NEWS

## Grateful: Connections

### Letter from AMEN Chair

BETSY NOONEN

Dear AMEN Sisters:

Well, we did it. Hard to believe that my term as chair of this amazing group of women is coming to a close and we did practically nothing that would be considered “traditional” as in the events or gatherings we normally have, but we did everything we could to support each and lift each other up. I couldn’t be more proud of the work that AMEN did this year, the resilience and gumption of my board and the response and support of our members. We are friends, we are women for others. We showed up here when we were needed. I hope that you too made new connections and friends within our community. I pray that when you were down, and at times I certainly was, that you were lifted by the spirit of the bond and love that we share. I know that when you were feeling good, you let your light shine, because I felt it.



Our Eat, Pray, Love series was really a very simple task that could have been, frankly, a nightmare! But there was trust, competence and good humor guiding us and each of the events were enjoyable, educational and really fun. Thank you all for showing up. I have said before that while I could never anticipate what this experience would be like as we started last June, I feel honored to have been at the helm and in any small way that I have helped I hope that I have. I will stay connected with AMEN as Julie Hughes has asked me to be on her board as an advisor and to continue with The Angel Fund as it grows. More on that later.

If this year has taught us anything, it’s to live *in* the moment, live *for* the moment, enjoy life to the fullest and don’t take anything for granted. Lastly, to ask for help when you need it and offer it when you can.

With love and humility, I say GO Bells!  
And I yell....GO AMEN!  
Betsy

# AMEN and The Magis Scholars: A Match Made In...

BY BETSY NOONEN

We cap this year off with some amazing news. AMEN has always been a supporter of The Magis Scholars; students who are low-income, first generation attendees of Bellarmine, traditionally through gift certificates they can use at the campus book store. For the Magis Scholars to participate at Bell, a student needs more than tuition covered to fully integrate into campus life. Sarah Miers is in charge of making sure the boys are assisted in a seamless way. She facilitates public transportation passes, food per diems, funds for sports and events participation to name just a few elements of campus life.

Recently, Patrick Arnold Bellarmine's Director of Development, approached me with an offer that I then brought to our board. He has championed The Angel Fund since I first presented it to him last fall. It was his idea to take our \$2,000 Visa gift cards at Christmas and match them with an additional \$2700 in Visa Gift cards so that every Magis Student got a holiday gift from The Angel Fund.

His suggestion is that The Angel Fund, and therefore AMEN, be dedicated wholly to The Magis Scholars each year. In turn, the Development Department will match the funds we raise dollar for dollar. 100%! I emphasize that AMEN's mission is not changing, we are not a fundraising organization, we are a social organization and though our community events and outreach, we raise money. It's not semantics. It's a difference that we think is important.

The board supports this proposal. We are happy to have focus and to channel our efforts and the funds we raise to this singular group of young men at Bell. We think it will be positive to be aligned with this program and the Development Department. It raises AMEN's profile.

Strengthening and further defining this relationship with the scholars program helps bring AMEN further under the Bellarmine umbrella in a very positive way, as Patrick Arnold comments: "A huge thank you for your support and commitment to the Magis Scholar Program. I think this is a unique opportunity and I look forward to expanding the scope of the program in months and years to come. Last year was a great starting point, and I am excited to build upon what we started".

For now, we celebrate a new road for AMEN and an enhanced opportunity to contribute to the Bell boys! Thanks to all who have made the inaugural year of The Angel Fund a huge success.



## Board Positions - New Titles

BETSY NOONEN

The board recently voted to fold the Historian's role into the event and social circle leads. While planning major events such as the fall and spring celebrations the leads will appoint a woman on the team to be responsible for recording the event (video or photos as appropriate) and sharing with the Communications Chair. Social Circle leads will continue to be responsible for content and photos of their events. The Communications Chair is to be copied on all material so a photo bank for each year can be maintained. There is no longer an Historian Chair on the board.

The Fundraising Chair is now The Merchandising Chair: In March, the board voted to change the name of this role to more aptly reflect the actual task that it entails. That is ordering and supplying the online store with AMEN merchandise. The role also involves reaching out to BMG as we now advertise our AMEN merchandise in their newsletter. Did you know the BMG women are our biggest customer base? Thanks to this outreach this is true! The merchandising chair also works closely with the chair and the treasurer to make sure that the budget and inventory are in alignment.

Soon, Chair-Elect Julie Hughes will announce her 2021-2022 board. In the meantime, here's a list of the current board titles for your reference as we made some changes in the beginning of my term as well.

- Chair
- Chair-Elect
- Treasurer
- Recording and Corresponding Secretary
- Bellarmine Administration Moderator
- Membership Chair
- Social Circles Chair
- Communications Chair
- Celebration Co-Chair (Fall)
- Celebrations Co-Chair (Fall)
- Celebrations Co-Chair (Spring)
- Celebrations Co-Chair (Spring)
- Spirituality and Wellness Co-Chair
- Spirituality and Wellness Co-Chair
- Merchandising Co-Chair
- Merchandising Co-Chair
- BMG/Alumni Liaison
- AMEN Board Advisor

## 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>

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## *Connecting AMEN Circles, Nourishing Our Spirit and Soul*

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SARAH BONINI & GIGI HARVERY WITH  
COLLABORATION FROM MARIA VAN  
MASSENHAUSEN

*Maria will be joining Gigi, as co-chair of  
Spirituality and Wellness for 2021-22 year.*

**Maria, tell us a little bit about your experience  
with Bellarmine and who and what year your son  
graduated?**

I grew up in San Rafael and my parents believed in single-sex Catholic education. My father and grandfather both graduated from St. Ignatius, and my brother commuted into the city to attend, so I was a huge Wildcat fan. If you know the history, SI and Bellarmine were huge rivals. You could have never told me that I would have a Bell for a son.

Fast forward and my husband and I raise our family in Willow Glen. Bellarmine it is! And I could not be happier! Our son A.J. graduated in 2010 and thoroughly enjoyed his time at Bellarmine. He absolutely loved his teachers, especially for treating him like a peer. He loved the diverse community and the selection of clubs he could join. He played sports and became a Kairos leader. And he really liked the fact that he didn't have to cut his hair.

**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?**

I have admired the work of AMEN through the years, the community they foster with one another, and the support they provide the school and our sons. I work in the Alumni Association at Santa Clara University, so I have a deep appreciation for supporting institutions that you have attended in the spirit of giving back to a place that has given so much to you.

Bellarmino has provided my son with a foundation of being a man for others, lifelong friendships, and a community that he will cherish forever. I am more than happy to give back to Bellarmine and AMEN.

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

Spirituality and Wellness are a continuous work in progress for me. They are not something you can check off of your list and be done with. As they say, it is the journey and not the destination. Now that my children are all grown and living on their own, I have more time to focus on my personal growth and wellbeing. Life can be extremely challenging and I have lived enough to know that I would be lost without my faith. We are all worthy of taking care of ourselves, developing ourselves, healing, and being loved.

**How do you nourish your spirituality and/or  
wellness?**

I try really hard to slow down. It is important for me to unplug and have some quiet time. It might be in the morning with my cup of coffee, or it might be on a hike in the hills of Los Gatos. In those times I try to practice gratitude as a way of keeping my outlook in check.

I am fortunate to work for a Jesuit institution where I am constantly exposed to faith-based workshops, lectures, and normally have the opportunity for daily mass. My favorite thing to do is go to the Mission when it is empty and I have it all to myself. I talk to the angels, who I believe we all have looking out for us.

I could work out more. I could pray more. I enjoy the opportunity to grow in both areas.



# Bellarmino News



On **Saturday, May 8**, the Bellarmine community celebrates Founders' Day – the day Bellarmine first opened its doors for classes 170 years ago – with our annual **BellsGive** campaign! Your support will help assure another generation of Bells the ability to enter the world prepared to excel in their chosen field and serve their communities as men for and with others.

We need your help to make this day of giving a success. Two simple asks:

- Donate on, or before, May 8th. Every gift of every size makes a difference! If you are able, we encourage you to honor Bellarmine's milestone anniversary with a gift of \$170.
- Spread the word on social media! Use #BellsGive and #GoBells, and don't forget to tag us @BellarmineBells. Share your favorite memory of Bellarmine or snap a new photo with your best Bellarmine wear on May 8th and we'll reshare it on our pages. Don't forget to include a link to our donation page ([WWW.BCP.ORG/BELLSGIVE](http://WWW.BCP.ORG/BELLSGIVE)) and tag your friends!

Thank you in advance, and Go Bells!

## The Steve Pinkston Endowment

Mr. Pinkston's work at Bellarmine has been an expression of his ministry. He served thousands of students and families over 40 years as teacher, coach, administrator, mentor, and spiritual leader, and made deep connections with so many people. Mr. Pinkston shaped so many lives in ways that remain to this day. In recognition of his work, the Steve Pinkston Endowment was envisioned in order to:

- Promote faculty diversity at Bellarmine
- Attract racially and culturally diverse 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 and to donate please visit [The Steve Pinkston Endowment web page](#) or contact Sonya Arriola [sarriola@bcp.org](mailto:sarriola@bcp.org) or 408 537-9202

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## Bellarmino College Preparatory has been recognized as a 2021 California Green Ribbon School Gold Level honoree by California Green Ribbon Schools!

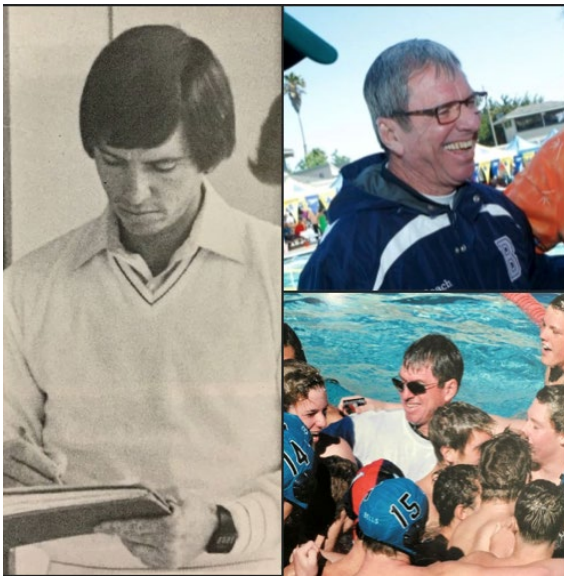
This honor is in recognition of Bellarmine's exemplary achievement in reducing our environmental impact as well as providing an effective multi-discipline environmental education to our students. Read the press release at [www.bcp.org/news/greenribbon](http://www.bcp.org/news/greenribbon) to learn more about our sustainable initiatives, including our unique garden, the replacement of single-use plastic on campus, and the use of renewable energy sources.



## Bellarmino News

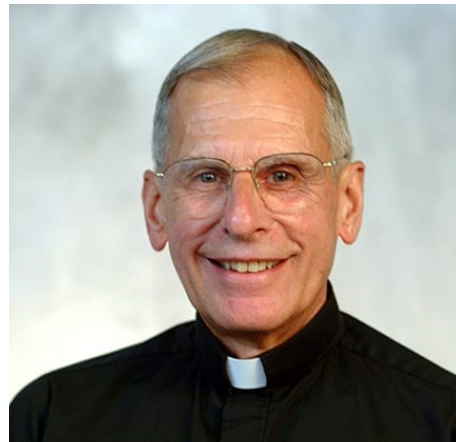
April 1, 2021- Bellarmine announced the death of longtime teacher and coach Larry Rogers, who passed away in his sleep Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Coach Rogers led the Bells to a record 31 straight Central Coast Section swim titles, and he captured a total of 55 CCS championships in swimming and water polo, the most of any coach in any sport in California history.

Please keep Larry's wife, Nancy, and his children Brook '98 and Drew in your prayers.



Father Russell J. Roide, S.J. died peacefully in his sleep on April 13, 2021 at Sacred Heart Jesuit Center, Los Gatos. He was 82 years old. Father Roide's Jesuit ministry spanned 60 years and included high school teaching and administration, university campus ministry, and parish and retreat work throughout the western states and beyond. Father Roide taught at Bellarmine College Prep, San Jose (1965-1967, 1973-1975, where he also served as President in 1975), and Loyola High School, Los Angeles (1979-1980). He served in many capacities at St. Ignatius College Prep, San Francisco, over the years: Assistant Principal for Student Affairs (1970-1972), Rector-President (1975-1979), and member of the Adult Spirituality Team (2008).

Fr. Roide was a WONDERFUL priest and led many AMEN retreats years ago.



Rev. Russell J. Roide, S.J.  
December 10, 1938 - April 13, 2021



## Updates from AMEN Social Circles

### Bellarmino Book Group

BETSY JOHNSON

The Bellarmino Book Group has continued to have monthly meetings via Zoom. The group is hoping to restart our in-person discussions in June.

They have been busy the last few months reading and enjoying a wide array of novels.

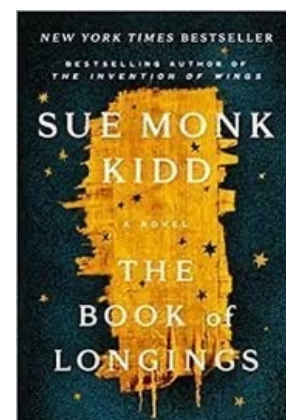
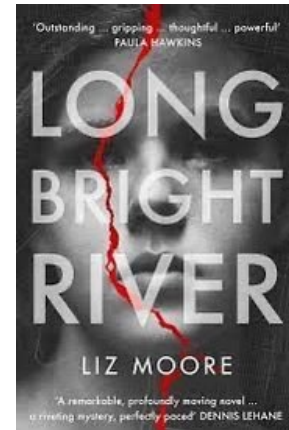
Everyone enjoyed Long Bright River by Liz Moore which delved into the opioid crisis by examining two sisters intertwining lives in Philadelphia with the exciting backdrop of a serial killer on the loose.

On a different note entirely, everyone also enjoyed The Midnight Library by Matt Haig which delved into paths not taken and the what ifs of life.

Their latest selection by the always enjoyable Sue Monk Kidd is The Book of Longings. It explores the possibility of Jesus having a wife and what her story might be.

The Bellarmino Book Club has read, enjoyed and discussed an eclectic but wonderful collection of novels!

Fingers crossed they will be in person to discuss their new selections this Summer!



## Silent Lenten Hiking Retreat

TERESA GIOVANZANA

On a beautiful April morning, the AMEN Hiking and Women's Spirituality Social Circles sponsored a Silent Lenten Hiking Retreat at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Eighteen ladies attended the event. The morning started with readings, prayers, and a guided meditation to prepare for a 2-hour silent, moderately strenuous, hike in the mountains. The participants were spaced 100 yards apart for solitude and silence. The theme of the retreat was, "Be still and listen," to hear the silent message of nature and receive God's wisdom and grace. The majority of the ladies had never hiked alone before, which was a new challenge to leave their comfort zone. The spacing of the ladies apart provided a safe place to try hiking alone. After the hike, the ladies wrote in their journals followed by small group discussion to share what they had experienced. There was much gleaned from their personal experiences that was unique and enlightening. Many of the ladies commented that they were in awe of how much they noticed with flora and fauna that they usually don't notice when hiking in a group. The morning concluded with closing prayers, building a communal cairn (stacked stones), and a shared picnic lunch around the lovely pond on the property. It was so wonderful to be together again!





## AMEN Gardening Circle

TERESA GIOVANZANA

In April, members of the Gardening Social Circle attended a floral arranging workshop at GraceHope Flower Farm in San Martin. Wholesale flower farmer Jessica Woodworth introduced us to her flower fields and spring flower varieties in a brief discussion. For our workshop Jessica had us pick Ranunculus, Anemones, Billy Balls, Fama Scabiosa, Cerinthe, and Eucalyptus greenery. To walk in a field of sherbet colored ranunculus was a feeling of pure joy; such beautiful and happy flowers! Then there is the question, "What colors shall I pick for my arrangement?!"

Our workshop was held in the open-air barn on property, which is owned by Lavender and Birch Homestead, where the flower fields are located. Homestead hosts Mike and Carolyn Garner assisted during our morning workshop. Their adorable barn is available for events.

San Jose based floral designer Wury Glende of Graceful Garland Company was the instructor for the workshop. Wury discussed the proper care of floral arrangements for longevity, demonstrated building our arrangement, and color, texture and size in designing our arrangement. Once Wury had everyone begin arranging their flowers, she wandered around and helped participants with their arrangements. All materials and supplies were provided.

After the workshop, the AMEN ladies enjoyed a picnic lunch together where they sat outside among the flower fields and a view of the beautiful mountains. It was so wonderful to be together again!

GraceHope Flower Farm annually has seasonal You-Pick Flower Days. For more information regarding You-Pick Flower Days or inquiring about the barn for an event, please contact Mike Garner at (408) 326-9976.

