



AMEN NEWS

Connections

Letter from the AMEN Chair

JULIE HUGHES

Dear AMEN Sisters,

As we head into the holiday season and approach the end of 2021, I wanted to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. May your upcoming weeks be filled with love, surrounded by family and friends who bring laughter and smiles to the table and may your new year be flowing with good health and happiness!

Love,
Julie Hughes
AMEN Chair

A Prayer About the True Gift of Christmas

The gifts I'd leave beneath your tree,
Aren't those that you can touch or see,
No toys meant just for pointless play,
But gifts to bless you every day.
The gift of friendship warm and true,
Is one that I would leave for you.
Good health and happiness and cheer
To keep you smiling through the year.
The gift of peace that comes from God,
With prayer to guide each path you trod.
And when your heart has lost its song
The gift of hope to cheer you on.

—Kay Hoffman



From Spirituality and Wellness Chairs –

GIGI HARVEY & MARIA VON MASSENHAUSEN

There are two activities this holiday season we wanted to would like to share.



It is open to all faiths and can be a nice spiritual activity to find peace during the busy holiday season.

[Taize | stone-church \(stonechurch.org\)](https://stone-church.org)

TAIZE

Taizé during Advent

Taizé services will held in person only at 6:45 p.m. each Tuesday of Advent: Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14 and 21. The prelude begins at 6 p.m. All attendees must wear masks. Covid policies are subject to change.

Taizé when you want it

Our pianist, Pamela Hood, has recorded a video Taizé service video for your meditation between live services on Zoom. Just click on the video box at left.



**THE JESUIT
RETREAT CENTER
OF LOS ALTOS**

Non-Silent Retreat for Women and Young Mothers

Honoring the Sabbath seems to have practically disappeared from our frenetic lives as women and mothers. Take a respite with God through psalms, meditation, and art, to find ways to enjoy Sabbath moments every day alone and with our families. Enjoy a restorative weekend and return home rejuvenated with a fresh outlook.

Be Still and Rest in God: Reclaiming the Sabbath in our Daily Life

January 28-30, 2022

\$320 per person



Ms. Sarah Bonini works at Santa Clara University in the Alumni Association on the Community Engagement team offering service and spirituality opportunities to SCU alumni. She earned a J.D. and M.A. in Pastoral Ministries from SCU. Sarah's time in the Pastoral Ministries program helped her discern her love of planning retreats and spiritual opportunities for others to connect with each other and God.

In Memoriam



Justin Ebner 2001-2021

We are very saddened to share that the beautiful life of Justin Ebner, Class of 2019, has ended on this earth due to a tragic accident. Justin was a 6'7" gentle giant with a kind soul who always made time for others. His engaging and empathetic spirit left a lasting impression on everyone he met. He was truly a man for and with others.

His parents, DeDe and John Ebner, and his brother, Ryan Ebner, Class of 2016, welcome the Bellarmine community to join them at Justin's funeral Mass on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at 12 noon at Santa Clara Mission Church.

Justin was a junior at Santa Clara University, excelling in accounting and was always willing to spend his time tutoring others. To honor Justin Ebner's memory, the [Justin Ebner Endowed Accounting Scholarship](#) has been established to provide scholarship assistance for junior accounting majors who show a love of accounting and work to help and inspire others. Please join AMEN in celebrating and honoring Justin's life by donating to his scholarship to support Santa Clara students in perpetuity.

<https://mysantaclara.scu.edu/Giving/Ebner>

or

JustinEbner.com

Upcoming Events From AMEN Social Circles

Join AMEN for a private event at Montalvo Arts Center

The holidays kick off at Montalvo with Damien Sneed's "Joy to the World: A Christmas Musical Journey!"

December 8, 2021, 6:00 pm

\$100/person (spouses invited!)



Package includes:

- 1 ticket to Damien Sneed's "Joy to the World: A Christmas Musical Journey"
- Pre-concert wine and hors d'oeuvres from 6-7:30 pm
- Parking (carpooling encouraged)



Deadline to purchase: December 1- Check him out:

<http://concerts.theurbanmusicscene.com/2021/10/damien-l-sneeds-joy-to-the-world-a-christmas-musical-journey-tour/>

A multi-genre recording artist, Sneed is a pianist, vocalist, organist, composer, conductor, arranger, producer, and arts educator. He has worked with jazz, classical, pop, and R&B legends, including Wynton Marsalis, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, and Aretha Franklin, has served as artistic director for numerous award-winning gospel performers, and is a 2020 Dove Award winner.

Joy To The World: A Christmas Musical Journey takes us through Sneed's original arrangements of gospel, jazz and classical favorites. The performance features a cast of 10 singers and musicians performing well-known holiday tunes such as "Silent Night," "This Christmas," "O Come Emmanuel," "Little Drummer Boy," and of course, "Joy To The World."

COVID-19 Protocols: Patrons ages 12 and older are required to provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination and valid photo ID prior to entering the theatre or bar/gallery.

Upcoming Events From AMEN Social Circles

Garden Circle December Event

LISA CHRISTENSEN & TERESA GIOVANZANA

December Event - Succulent Garden Wreath Crafting at Succulent Gardens in Castroville

Celebrate the beginning of the holidays by crafting a Christmas Grapevine Wreath that will last through the season! 🎄 Succulent Gardens in Castroville will provide fresh Christmas greens, succulent cuttings, lichen, pinecones, and other dried botanicals to create a beautiful 12" wreath to display in your home. Learn all of the tips and tricks from in-house designer Simone, to create a beautifully composed design. This event will be a private class for AMEN participants only. Class cost is \$37.71 (includes taxes) and includes all materials needed. If you would like to make two wreaths, cost will be \$75.42. **Group limited 20 participants.**

Monday, December 6th, 10:00 AM to 12 PM at Succulent Gardens Nursery + Lunch at Phil's, Moss Landing (immediately following class)

2133 Elkhorn Road, Castroville

Email Lisa95008@gmail.com if you would like to attend and reserve with your payment via check or Venmo.



Monthly Events From AMEN Social Circles

Pickleball continues to be a lot of fun as the group welcomes new members each week. Beginners and intermediate players are all enjoying the opportunity to play with a variety of new friends while improving their games. With the arrival of daylight savings, the group will now begin to play at 3:00pm at Willow Glen Middle School.

While the group will **continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month**, the next game day will overlap slightly with the AMEN Christmas event at Montalvo. For those unable to attend the event, Pickleball will still meet at 3:00pm at Willow Glen Middle School

For more information and to sign up, please contact either Kathy Armistead (kathy.armistead@gmail.com) or Kim Loquaci (kimloquaci@msn.com)



We will be hitting the **pause button for December** as this falls on the same evening as the Montalvo event. Details included in newsletter!! January's Wine Wednesday will be held on January, 19th (3rd Wednesday). Details will be provided in the next newsletter. Happy Holidays to all!!



Updates From Amen Social Circles

Baking Social Circle

A YEAR OF SWEET AND SAVORY

BEV BONOVICH AND DONNA GALLO

In November, the baking social circle had its second savory event titled “Grazin’ through the Holidays”. Donna Gallo shared so many amazing tips and techniques about how to build the most beautiful and simply divine Charcuterie boards. The group learned how to bake four scrumptious crackers and breadsticks from scratch. How to cut and fold meats and cheeses to bring your board to life. How to arrange the boards for beauty and functionality. How to include meat, cheese, dips, fruit/veggies, crunch and garnish on the boards.

The group then built a meat and cheeseboard, Mediterranean board and a dessert board which was devoured at lunch. The day was simply perfect!



Up next is Christmas Sugar Cookies!!!

Our next gathering will take place on **Sunday, December 11 at 11:00.**

Please note the date change. Elaine Bakan will be leading our Christmas Sugar Cookie Class!! We are so excited to have Elaine Bacon share her yummy cookie and icing recipes and her finest sugar cookie decorating ideas. Everyone will be decorating a variety of cookies that we will pre-bake for the participants. A festive lunch will be served along with a festive drink. **The cost is \$15 per person.**

We look forward to baking with you!





Bellarmino News

The theme for this year's Thanksgiving prayer service was Creation and Gratitude; furthering our commitment/theme of Caring for our Common Home. Held outside, one student reflection paid gratitude to the beautiful nature around campus and appreciation that he gets to be a part of it. Thank you to The Unity Council and Campus Ministry for planning today's Thanksgiving Prayer Service and to CSP for collecting blankets for the Winter Warmth Drive.





Bellarmino News

GO BELLS!!! Instant classic: Bellarmine wins thriller over Los Gatos to reach CCS Division I semifinal

Thomas Di Vittorio returns an interception 94 yards for a touchdown in final minute as the Bells went from the brink of defeat to the thrill of victory



LOS GATOS, CALIFORNIA – NOVEMBER 12: Bellarmine College Prep celebrates after winning against Los Gatos High School in the fourth quarter at Los Gatos High School in Los Gatos, Calif., on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021. (Shae Hammond/Bay Area News Group)

LOS GATOS — Bellarmine’s season was eight yards from being over Friday night. That’s what separated Los Gatos from the end zone in the final minute with the score tied in the opening round of the Central Coast Section Division I playoffs.

But defensive back Thomas Di Vittorio turned the emotions for both teams upside down when he intercepted a tipped pass by linebacker Brandon Broch and started running.

“I was in the right place at the right time,” Di Vittorio said.

The senior’s 94-yard pick-six with 43.6 seconds left lifted Bellarmine to a 34-27 victory over Los Gatos that moves the third-seeded Bells into the semifinals.



Bellarmino News

We are excited to partner with Buoncrisiani Family Winery for a very special and limited-time wine sale. This is a great opportunity to access great wine for a great cause – raising funds for our Direct Tuition Assistance Fund!

The Buoncrisiani Family Winery is offering two of their best wines — 2017 Buoncrisiani O.P.C. Napa Valley Proprietary Red and 2019 Buoncrisiani Napa Valley Chardonnay — at an amazing 40% discount AND will donate \$60-\$100 for every case purchased through our wine sale. You don't want to wait, this offer is only valid until tomorrow (Friday, November 19)!

Head over to <https://www.buonwine.com/Wines/Bellarmino> to make your purchase today. Thank you and Go Bells!



Virtual Connections

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