



# AMEN NEWS

## Connections

### Letter from the AMEN Chair

JULIE HUGHES

February is the month for celebrating romance and love but this year, I encourage you to add one additional day of celebration (and we can all use another reason to celebrate!) - Galentine's Day! February 13th. Valentine's Day Eve.

A day to honor ladies celebrating ladies. A day to thank those friends who have been there with us during all the ups and downs that this crazy past two years have shared with us. Heck, how about all the ups and downs that life brings! AMEN has helped foster some of these unique and wonderful bonds that we share with our best gal pals. Make the time to reach out to that special person or people. Tell her, from the bottom of your heart, what she/they mean to you and how grateful you are to have them in your life. Go to brunch, go to lunch, schedule that hike! Wish the amazing women in your life a happy Galentine's Day.

*A special shout-out to those special friends of mine who surround me with love and support! Thank you for making every day a bit brighter!!!*

XOXO  
Julie Hughes  
AMEN Chair 2021-2022

*"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another 'What, you too? I thought I was the only one!'"*—C.S. Lewis

*"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you; spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."*—Amy Poehler



## Spirituality and Wellness



*The feast of the Annunciation marks the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he told her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is celebrated on 25 March each year.*

**Save The Date:**

RETREAT

Listening like Mary

Friday, March 25, 2022

Please join us to experience a day of prayer and reflection, Mass and lunch in celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation.

More info to come...

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## *Special Thanks!*

Thank you to Denise Bridgeman and the Second Saturday Gourmet Group. Through the years you have had some wonderful meals and provided much enjoyment to your group. Thank you for the donation to the “Angel Fund” and looking forward to seeing you ladies soon!



## Circle News!

### Join us for a private event at Montalvo Arts Center for our AMEN Group

Silence your cellphones, spit out your gum, and sit up straight: America's beloved ruler-wielding nun is back in the habit and headed for Montalvo!

April 9, 2022

\$115/person (6 ticket limit)

Deadline to purchase tickets : April 2

[Click Here to join in the fun!](#)



#### Package Includes:

- 1 ticket to Late Nite Catechism: Sister's Easter Catechism
- Pre-Concert wine and hors d'oeuvres from 6- 7:30 PM
- Parking (carpooling encouraged!)



#### 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.*

*The following documents will be accepted as evidence of vaccination: vaccination card, photocopy of vaccination card, digital photo of vaccination card, or State of California digital vaccination card.*

*All patrons will be required to be masked while indoors at any time unless eating or drinking during the pre-concert reception.*

**stART here**<sup>®</sup>  
Montalvo Arts Center

## Circle News!



Pickleball members have been taking advantage of the beautiful January weather by getting in lots of time on the courts. Many of the gals have decided to meet at Willow Glen Middle School most Wednesdays at 3:30 to play.

While the official AMEN days to gather and play will remain the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, it is great to have an enthusiastic group gathering and playing more frequently!

Location: [Willow Glen Middle School](#) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

All are welcome!

Contact: [Kathy Armistead](#)



Let's resume the festivities!

Meet up on **Wednesday, February 9th** for laughs, fun and a cheers to 2022! Toasts to our AMEN friendships will start at 5pm.

Location: **LOS GATOS**

**Rootstock Wine Bar**  
 217 North Santa Cruz Avenue  
 Los Gatos, CA  
 (408) 354-7668

<https://www.rootstockwinebar.com/>

Any questions, contact Julie Hughes at [julievhughes@gmail.com](mailto:julievhughes@gmail.com)

## Circle News!

### AMEN College Mentor Program

If you have a graduating senior, please be aware that the Bellarmine AMEN (Alumni Moms) Group has a College Mentor Program service, which connects graduating seniors and their families with alumni Bellarmine families who have had son(s) attend the colleges or universities to which your son(s) have been accepted to and can answer questions or provide insights as your son(s) make their final college decision.

Please contact Susan Munne ([susan@munne.com](mailto:susan@munne.com)) if your family is interested in connecting with the families who are in the College Mentor Program database.

If any AMEN members are interested in becoming a college mentor, please contact Susan Munne and she can include you in the database and connect you with graduating seniors and their families if there is a request that arises.

Thanks,  
Susan Munne



### A New AMEN Book club- to be named

The newest AMEN Bookclub held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday evening, January 19, at the home of Margaret Randazzo (son Jack, class of '21). Eight of its nine members attended and enjoyed fellowship and a discussion of a very lovely book, "The Island of Missing Trees," by Elif Shafak. The book is a novel about the forbidden love between two teenagers (a Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot) on the island of Cyprus in 1974, where they meet secretly at a tavern with a fig tree in its center.



Highlighting some of the delicious fig-themed food and beverages that were enjoyed and the "bundled up" group since the discussion was held outdoors on a brisk, but beautiful starry evening.



Next month's meeting will be at the home of Kathy Armistead and the club will be discussing "House of Gucci: A Sensational Story of Murder, Madness, Glamour, and Greed," which was also recently released as a motion picture starring Lady Gaga.

We are looking for another member or two. If you are interested, please email:

[margaret.randazzo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:margaret.randazzo@sbcglobal.net)

# Updates From Amen Social Circles

## Gardening Social Circle

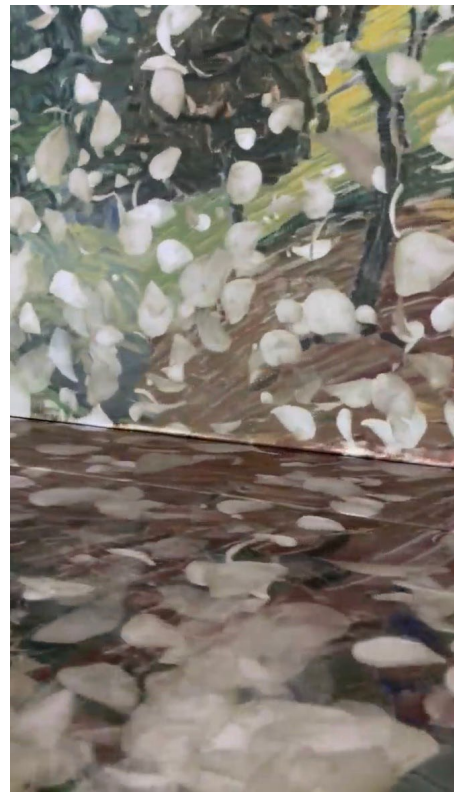
### Attends the Beyond Van Gogh exhibit

TERESA GIOVANZANA

Last October the Gardening Social Circle put down their gardening gloves and ventured out to see the splendor of the *Beyond Van Gogh* exhibit at the McEnery Convention Center in downtown San Jose. For those who have not witnessed the exhibit, Van Gogh's life work is brought to life in an amazing multi-media exhibit, which includes video, still photography, music, and animation. The Van Gogh exhibit is being viewed around the world in various versions. Many people are visiting the exhibit in other locations to get a different presentation. The exhibit includes Van Gogh's beautiful painting from his early work in Holland through his work in Paris, the south of France, followed by his seminal work created at the St. Remy Hospital and all work through the end of his life. Many of the paintings were animated including portraits, with changing expressions of the person.



A favorite animated moment was when the room's four walls were in an orchard in spring bloom with blush pink blossoms, which were gently falling all around. It felt as if we were in the painting!



After the exhibit, the group walked to Bellarmine family owned Five Points Bar where we had cocktails and light appetizers and we enjoyed some live jazz music! What a spectacular evening!

# Updates From Amen Social Circles

## Gardening Social Circle

### Created Holiday Wreath at Succulent Gardens – Moss Landing

TERESA GIOVANZANA

In December the Gardening Social Circle visited Succulent Gardens in Moss Landing where they attended a workshop and learned how to make a succulent holiday wreath. Succulent Gardens provided a grape vine wreath to each participant, succulent cuttings, as well as much greenery and adornments to make any Christmas crafter happy! Each wreath was so unique and celebrated the joy of creating with friends. The group enjoyed the workshop immensely.



After the workshop the ladies went to Phil's Fish Market in Moss Landing for a lovely lunch. What a beautiful day at the beach to enjoy AMEN friends!

# Updates From Amen Social Circles

## Baking Social Circle

BEV BONOVICH AND DONNA GALLO

Dear Bakers,

Very unfortunately, we canceled our February baking event due to Omicron.

We are hoping to go forward with our March 13th Pi Day event so keep an eye out for an email.

It's always good to perfect baking skills thus we are passing along the Sugar Cookie and Royal Icing recipes that Elaine shared in December. Look at how adorable (and simple) the sugar cookies are below! They are perfect for your special Valentine! These cookies freeze beautifully too so they are a perfect make ahead treat! Ann Clark has wonderful cookie cutters!

[You can find them here](#)

Happy Baking!

We look forward to baking with you soon!

Donna Gallo and Bev Bonovich



### Sugar Cookies

#### **Ingredients:**

1 c. of unsalted butter, softened  
 1 1/2 c. confectioner's sugar  
 1 egg  
 2 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract  
 2 3/4 c. all-purpose flour  
 2 tsp. baking powder  
 1 tsp. salt

#### **Instructions:**

Cream together softened butter and confectioner's sugar. Add the egg and vanilla extract to the butter sugar mixture and mix until thoroughly incorporated. In a separate bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt, then gradually add to the mixture. The dough is ready when it no longer sticks to the sides of the bowl.

Roll out on parchment to 1/4 inch thick and use flour for dusting as necessary. Cut and bake at 400 degrees for 7-8 minutes.

### Royal Icing

#### **Ingredients:**

2 pounds confectioner's sugar  
 5 tablespoons meringue powder  
 2-3 teaspoons vanilla extract  
 1/2-3/4 cups warm water

#### **Instructions:**

Begin by stirring the vanilla extract into half the water.

Using a paddle attachment, gently mix the sugar and meringue powder.

With the mixer on its lowest setting slowly add the water/vanilla mix to the dry ingredients.

Continue to add the remaining water (this may or may not be the entire amount) until the mixture reaches a thick, honey like consistency. At this point, turn the mixer to medium speed and whip 2-4 minutes until this icing is thick and fluffy. Mixing time can vary greatly so watch carefully and stop mixing when the icing forms a soft peak.



## Updates From Amen Social Circles

### Golf Social Circle



The Golf circle meets the first Wednesday of each month. Currently they play 9 holes but are willing to schedule 18 hole rounds if requested. Contact [Catherine Christofferson](#) to join the AMEN golf circle.

### Upcoming Events!!

February 9 - Wine Wednesday  
 March 9 - Wine Wednesday  
 March TBD - Bocce with AMEN/DOGS  
 April 9 - Late Nite Catechism - Villa Montalvo  
 April 13 - Wine Wednesday  
 April 26 - AMEN Spring dinner

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

## 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>