



# AMEN NEWS

*Alumni Mothers Extended Network*

APRIL 2023

Dear AMEN sisters,

Welcome April! After a long and arduous winter enduring record breaking rain and snowfall, we are on the other side - finally! About ten of us braved the torrential rainstorm and met in Willow Glen for Thirsty Thursday. Several new members came, and we had a great time getting to know one another.

Another amazing retreat was enjoyed by thirty members, and despite predictions of rain, we were treated by a gorgeous sunny day. SCU didn't disappoint, and we were able to walk through the mission gardens appreciating the lovely campus and offering up prayers of gratitude. Our retreat facilitators introduced Ignatian spirituality with beautiful images and reflective meditations. The baking group provided incredible goodies for breakfast and dessert! Many thanks to Bev Bonovich and Becky Muise for offering a grace filled day where we all left feeling restored and at peace, and to the SCU Alumni Association for providing a lovely venue for the second year in a row. There are already plans for next year's retreat, so don't miss out!

By the time this letter goes out, we will have had our Amen/Dogs annual bocce ball gathering with about 40 registrants, and I know it's safe to say it was an incredible night filled with laughter, good food, and some friendly competition.

So March ends, and we look forward to April: Thirsty Thursday next week, which will be our final one of this year, and our grand finale, the Spring Dinner on April 25! At the spring dinner we will be introduced to the Amen steering committee for 23-24, vote on Amen's updated bylaws, and just have fun celebrating another fantastic year of friendship.

Thank you for your participation and support of this really terrific group of women!

GO BELLS,  
Sarah Bonini  
Steering Committee Chair



"Know your own happiness. Want for nothing but patience – or give it a more fascinating name: Call it hope."

— Jane Austen

# Upcoming Events

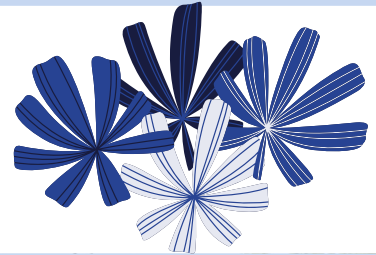
## Join Us for the Annual Spring Dinner

Join us for a beautiful evening focused on gratitude as we celebrate one another and our incredible AMEN community. Find out what the Interest Groups have been doing this year! Did you know you can reach out to us about creating your own interest group? This is the last big AMEN event before the summer - don't miss it!

Tuesday, April 25th at 6:00 PM  
The Liccardo Center Balcony  
\$40 per person (includes wine)

As a special addition to the annual Spring Dinner, join us in the Bellarmine Garden to meet Bella and Clara along with their two new dwarf, Nigerian goat-mates, Cora and Flora. See what the current botany class is growing, as well as an orchard full of flowering fruit trees. There is a greenhouse with plant starters, native California plants and an herb garden not to mention chickens and rabbits. Patrick Adams, retired Chair of the Bellarmine Science Department and Green Initiatives Coordinator and Collin Del Carlo will host all who want to learn and enjoy all that grows in the Bellarmine Garden from 5:00 to 6:00pm. The garden is located adjacent to the soccer/lacrosse field near the student parking lot.

**Register Now**



# Upcoming Events

DATE	AMEN EVENT	CONTACT
Thurs. April 13th 5:30 PM	Thirsty Thursday <u>ENOTECA LA STORIA</u> 416 N Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos	<u>Sarah Bonini</u> <u>Becky Muise</u>
Tues. April 25th 5:00 PM (Pre-Party) 6:00 PM Dinner	<u>Bellarmino Garden Pre-party</u> <u>Spring Dinner</u> <u>Liccardo Center Balcony</u>	<u>Gigi Harvey</u> <u>Maria von Massenhausen</u>
Friday April 28th 9:30 AM	Garden Group at Gamble Garden	<u>Lisa Christensen</u> <u>Teresa Giovanzana</u>

COMING SOON!  
NEW MERCHANDISE!!



## Virtual Connections

[AMEN Website](#)

[Interest Groups](#)

[Membership](#)

[Steering Committee](#)

[The Angel Fund](#)

[News & Events](#)

[Merchandising](#)

[AMEN Facebook Group](#)

# Interest Groups/Events

## Get Involved! Interest Groups

Hiking? Baking? Reading?  
Golfing? We've created an easy way to express that you want to get involved in an Interest Group. Just scan the QR code on your phone, and it will direct you to a form to complete. Your information will be shared to the Interest Group chair and she will reach out about joining the group. Contact [AMEN BCP](#) for more info!



AMEN Interest Groups Sign Up  
[docs.google.com](https://docs.google.com)

## Join the AMEN Garden Group at Gamble Garden



Hello Garden Enthusiasts! Join the AMEN Garden Group at Gamble Garden for its 37th Annual Spring Tour! Each year, this popular event features tours of local private gardens, along with free activities at Gamble Garden including a silent auction, vendor marketplace, Over The Garden Fence, live music, and more.

This was a very popular event for many of our members a few years back and we're so happy to be returning again this year. Don't delay, purchase your tickets before they sell out.

Friday, April 28th at 9:30 AM

Purchase tickets and lunch online at [Gamble Garden Tickets](#)

Please email [Lisa95008@gmail.com](mailto:Lisa95008@gmail.com) if you plan to attend so we can gather and experience this event together. Teresa will share her tips for enjoying all that Gamble Garden has to offer. We will gather to have lunch, and yes, we want your smiling face in our group photo.

Amen is self-sustaining and supported through membership contributions, the fall and spring dinners, and purchases from our online and pop up store sales. Any money that is remaining at the end of the school year is given to Bellarmine's tuition assistance scholarship programs including the Angel Fund which provides Magis scholars with additional support for needs such as books and activity fees. Memberships are renewed annually in July. Become a member today to be a part of this amazing group!

# Interest Groups/Events



## AMEN RETREAT INSPIRES

Our annual AMEN retreat took place on Saturday, March 11th. We had 36 AMEN ladies participate in the Journey with St. Ignatius retreat at Santa Clara University. The day was led by Terry Jelly and Katie Metzger who inspired us through their wisdom of St. Ignatius' and his Spiritual Exercises. There were many wonderful conversations and sharing amongst the participants.

Vicki Pope then walked the group through a mini El Camino journey while practicing St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises at SCU. A delicious continental breakfast and Mediterranean lunch was served at the retreat.

We are grateful to Maria von Massenhausem who organized the beautiful room at SCU. We are also grateful for the baked goods prepared by the AMEN Baking group.

It was a very special and spiritually fulfilling day planned by Becky Muise and Bev Bonovich, retreat coordinators. We hope you can join us next year for a continuation of the Journey with St. Ignatius. Our retreat leaders were Terry Jelly and Katie Metzger.



## The Baking Group

In March, the Baking Group had our annual "giving project". Patricia, Ruth, Jeanne, Donna, Kuiwon, Bev, Jacqueline and Bik Wah, not pictured Roseanne (left to right) baked zucchini muffins, coffee cake, and chocolate chip scones for the AMEN retreat. They also baked key lime pie, lemon cheesecake and chocolate cake for dessert.

Donna created a beautiful charcuterie board for the bakers to share. We had a fun and busy morning serving our AMEN community.

## Bellarmino's Michelle Toy Recognized as State Strength Coach of the Year

Coach Toy, who began her position at Bellarmine in 2012, received endorsements for the honor from both Mr. Chris Meyercord, Bellarmine's president, and from Mr. Patrick McCrystle, teacher and head coach of Bellarmine's track and field and cross country programs.

Those attributes are certainly evident in Coach Toy's passion for health and fitness and her positive, enthusiastic spirit. "She has taken the position of strength and conditioning coach and turned it into a school-wide position with far-reaching positive effects for our whole 1,650-person student body," noted Mr. McCrystle in his letter of recommendation to the NHSSCA on behalf of Coach Toy.

## Bellarmino College Prep Announces New Principal



After a nationwide search and a very comprehensive process, Roderick D. "Rod" Jemison has accepted the offer to become the principal of Bellarmine College Preparatory, effective in July 2023.

In the announcement made to constituents on February 3, Bellarmine president Chris Meyercord noted, "I'm absolutely thrilled to have Mr. Jemison become Bellarmine's next principal. He brings a wealth of experience in all aspects of high school work, and a deep desire to give back to his roots in Catholic education, which was so formative in his own life."

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