



AMEN NEWS

Alumni Mothers Extended Network

MAY 2023

Dear AMEN sisters,

This year flew by! This is my last letter, and am excited to pass the baton to an incredible Amen member, Lisa Christensen. Lisa has been an incredibly supportive Chair-Elect this year, and has great ideas to make Amen's membership even stronger and more united!

In reflecting on this past year, I can't help but smile remembering the memories shared with so many Amen members. Most recently, we had our Spring Dinner, and Gigi and Maria put together a beautiful evening. Everyone had a fantastic time and I can't wait until the fall dinner (date tbd).

At the dinner, one of our members shared about emotional and practical support from Bellarmine and Amen members as her family faced very difficult challenges recently. I think it reminded us all that we are indeed a family from the time our boys receive that admissions letter until long after they graduate. Bells forever!

Also, at the dinner the bylaws were voted on, and from the 100 members that voted between the in person vote and the proxy votes, they passed. [View the passed bylaws](#) on our website. One item of concern that arose is the inconsistency of email communications. This is something we are aware of and constantly working to improve! Thank you for your feedback and understanding as we work through this issue.

We also had our final Steering Committee meeting, and at that meeting we looked at our Amen account, and although numbers are not final yet, it looks like we will have about \$7,000 to give back to Bellarmine. We voted to direct the funds to Bellarmine's Tuition Assistance.

Thank you for your involvement in Amen, and don't forget to renew your membership on July 1. Membership allows us to keep you aware and notified on events and able to join interest groups. A strong membership means a strong bond to Bellarmine and those friendships and connections we value so much!

Thank you also for the privilege and grace serving as the Steering Committee chair. It has truly been a wonderful experience, and I look forward to future dinner, retreats, and interest group camaraderie!

Have a lovely summer, and, as always.....

GO BELLS,

Sarah Bonini
Steering Committee Chair

"We become what
we love and who we
love shapes what
we become."
-St. Clare

Events

Annual Spring Dinner Delights

More than 70 ladies attended the Spring Dinner at Bellarmine's Liccardo Center, celebrating each other and our incredible AMEN community.



Interest Groups

Hiking Group

The AMEN Hiking Group hikes most Mondays throughout the year. The hikers visit the many Santa Clara County parks throughout the South Bay. This spring's hikes have been extra special due to an explosion of wild flowers. The group hikes are usually 5 miles on moderately difficult terrain, which take approximately 2 hours to hike. If you would like to receive emails for the hikes please email group coordinator Teresa Giovanzana at teresagiovanzana@comcast.net.



Garden Group

The AMEN Gardening Group has approximately 4-5 events a year, which are instructive and hands-on as well as tours of gardens. This year the group created the pumpkin centerpieces for the Fall Dinner, enjoyed Christmas at Filoli, and attended the Gamble Garden Home Garden Tour in the Spring. If you would like to receive emails from the Gardening Group please email Lisa Christensen at lisa95008@gmail.com.

Garden Group at Gamble Garden. Pictured left to right: Julie Hughes, Lisa Normandin, Kristen Del Biaggio Heffernan, and Kathy Armistead.

Interest Groups

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

Bell Book Babes

The Bell Book Babes Interest Group meets monthly to have lunch, catch up with each other and discuss our book for that month. Most of our choices are popular fiction. We've had some deep but friendly conversations about *The Maid*, *Five Languages of Love*, and *The Measure*.

Knitting Group

The knitting group held a lunch and some Zoom gatherings, and looks forward to the new academic year when they can meet more regularly.

College Mentor Program

The College Mentor Program was popular this year, with lots of interest. Over 20 graduating families wanted to connect with alumni families who had Bellarmine grads attend the schools where they had been accepted. These connections helped assist graduating seniors in making their final college decision.

Book Club

Abby Perr Baker has been running an AMEN book club for 13 years. It is a steady group that meets about every 6 weeks. A highlight this year was that they chose a Silicon Valley Read book, all read it and then attended an event where all the featured authors spoke as a panel. They shared a wealth of information about their writing process, personal history, and their motivations for writing. All enjoyed the experience. The group reads a variety of types of writing. They select as they go, so don't know what's ahead other than great sharing of ideas and interpretations.

Interest Groups



Baking Group

The baking group had four baking sessions this year and our focus was on plant based baking. We learned to make many healthy treats like 30 gram protein smoothies (without protein powder), pumpkin hummus, Pumpkin overnight oats, zucchini brownies (delicious!), and “Kind” bars just to name a few items. Donna Gallo made the most heavenly vegetarian lunches which were paired with the baked goods which delighted and nourished our lovely AMEN Moms.

Our outreach this year was providing scones, coffee cake, zucchini muffins, key lime pie, lemon cheesecake and chocolate cake to the AMEN Moms at the Journey with St. Ignatius retreat. Our bakers also hosted the cookie table at the AMEN Spring dinner.



We ended our year with a foodie tour of the mission district in San Francisco where we enjoyed many breakfast treats at Craftsman and Wolves, sampled small batch chocolate at Dandelion Chocolates, enjoyed an Italian lunch at Beretta’s and had dessert at Tartine Bakery. We worked up our appetites in between stops by visiting Reformation clothing (their dressing room is a must see), and visiting several of the 1,000 SF murals painted by Precita Eyes. Whew! What a day!

Stay tuned for our announcement of what’s in store for next year! If you are interested in joining the baking group please contact Donna Gallo at donna@thegallofamily.com. All level of bakers are welcome!

Fall 2021 Book Club (aka the Dirty Dozen)

Our monthly meetings are consistently a highlight of our month - always fun to catch up on what we've been up to and we really do discuss each book! Something our group is looking forward to this year is seeing one of our favorite books from last year, *Lessons in Chemistry*, come out as a movie. We are also looking forward to making our holiday event actually happen this year.

Interest Groups

Women at the Well Spirituality Group

We have been meeting on Fridays at the St. Francis Chapel at SCU every Friday morning since 2017. This year we used Joyce Rupp's *Return to the Root* as our guide, and we prayed the Ignatian Examen at the beginning of each meeting. We are excited for our retreat in Santa Cruz at the Villa Maria del Mar retreat house in June. If you are interested in starting a spirituality group, please email Sarah Bonini sarahjbonini@gmail.com to help!



Pickleball

Experts and beginners welcome! In AMEN's Pickleball group everyone is welcome to join the fun. This interest group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:30 - 5:30.

This is a weather related sport, please reach out to Kim Loquaci for a confirmation of play during inclement weather and other questions.



AMEN Golf

The Golf group meets the first Wednesday of each month at Pruneridge Golf Course. Currently we play 9 holes but are willing to schedule 18 hole rounds if requested. All levels welcome.

Contact: Catherine Christofferson

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. Memberships are renewed annually in July. Become a member today to be a part of this amazing group!



AMEN provides Bellarmine-themed novelty items for sale online and at select events throughout the year. You may order any of these items by completing the online order form below. If you have any questions, please contact: [Sandra McSweeney](#) or [Cindy Santos](#).

New Items!!

Bellarmine Campfire Mug 16oz \$25
BCP Glass Ornament \$25

BCP Campus Corner

2023 WCAL Track & Field Champions ✓
Next stop: the CCS Finals! Good luck and Go Bells!



To stay up to date with BCP Alumni News click [this page!](#)

Virtual Connections

[AMEN Website](#)

[Interest Groups](#)

[Membership](#)

[Steering Committee](#)

[The Angel Fund](#)

[News & Events](#)

[Merchandising](#)

[AMEN Facebook Group](#)