

Bellarmino Alumni Mothers Extended Network

April 9, 2025



Apr 9 forecast for ZIP Code 95126

This Afternoon: Sunny 80°; Thursday: Mostly Sunny 76°; Friday: Partly Sunny 75° [[click for current weather](#)]



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Alumni Mothers Extended Network

April 2025

President's Message

Hello Bellarmine Alumni Moms!

Spring is officially here! With spring comes increased activity, a sense of renewal and with the sunshine (at least for me) a better mood!

As we step into this season of renewal, I'm filled with deep gratitude—for each of you, for the bond we share through Bellarmine, and for the enduring spirit of community that continues to blossom among us.

Speaking of gratitude, we have had some nice events take place in the past month, with our biggest being a very special day of retreat, "Living with Gratitude". The retreat was held at SCU with over 30 participants and one of the facilitators being one of our own past leaders, Sarah Bonini. It was truly a beautiful day with different activities and a beautiful reminder: to remember to be not only thankful for the graces and blessings we have received but also to pause in gratitude for the graces and blessings that *will* be.

In this month's newsletter, you'll find updates on upcoming events, opportunities to connect, and ways we can continue to support one another in this season of new life. I especially hope you join us for the Spring Dinner on April 15th! (Register and see who's coming below.)

May this Easter and springtime bring peace to your hearts, renewal to your spirit, and many reasons to feel grateful.

GO BELLS!

Gigi



We need leaders like you!

The Bellarmine Alumni Mothers Extended Network (aka AMEN) Steering Committee is looking for **new committee members!** The time commitment is minimal but the fun and impact is huge. The steering committee aims to enrich the lives of alumni mothers by continuing the fellowship and service traditions established during their sons' time at Bellarmine.

The committee is composed of a dedicated group within Bellarmine that oversees various activities and initiatives for alumni mothers. The committee focuses on fostering community, providing mentorship, and organizing social activities including dinners, service/volunteer activities, interest groups, and an annual retreat.

We are looking for leaders to fill the following roles- Chair Elect, Treasurer, Interest Group Liaison, Fall Service Project/Spring Retreat, Member at Large, and more. You can find out more about the steering committee by reaching out to Julie Paulsen at julie.paulsen@earthlink.net or cell at 408-705-7488. You can also find out more on the alumni mothers page at <https://www.bcp.org/amen#panel-2>. We would love to have you as part of our team.

A.M.E.N. Spring Dinner: April 15th!

[Register Here](#) (and you will see who is coming)



Membership Message

Friends are like flowers. They bring joy and color to our lives. When you join AMEN, you become part of a community that cultivates joy, fun and friendship. If you have not yet renewed your membership or are considering joining for the first time, you can do so when you [register](#) for the Spring Dinner (and save \$5!!)

We look forward to welcoming you! Questions? Please contact your Membership Co-Chairs, Liz Page at eapage3@gmail.com or Rhonda Nourse at rnourse@happyhollow.org.

More Upcoming Events

AMEN Book Club:

Monday evening book club meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. We are at 5 members now so have room for a few more.

On April 14, 2025 we will be discussing JAMES by Percival Everett. We will be meeting at Dawn Maxon's home: 1241 Martin Ave, San Jose - 650 796-4509

AMEN/LAMP Hiking Group

AMEN is hiking once a month on the weekend, with the LAMP group from Presentation! If you would like to join the group, please contact Ashley Hopkins at ashleychp66@gmail.com.



April Hike: Saturday April 12 Hike at Mt Diablo State Park

Meet at 8:30 am at Ashley's house for carpool. You have the option to have lunch afterwards in Pacifica.

Please contact Ashley Hopkins Pass at ashleychp66@gmail.com if you want to join this hike and to obtain more details.

A.M.E.N. Pickleball

The AMEN Pickleball Interest group had a fun morning playing pickleball, reconnecting and making new friendships. If you are interested in getting on the list to be invited to future events please email leahschnoor@gmail.com.




Ski Club:

Ski Club Meeting Recap – Exciting Plans Ahead!

Our latest ski club meeting was a fantastic success! We had a great turnout, with a few new members showing interest in joining our adventures. The energy and enthusiasm in the room were contagious as we shared past ski experiences and started planning for upcoming trips.

We're excited to announce that we've already coordinated some dates for spring skiing in Tahoe—the perfect way to enjoy the last of the season's snow! Whether you're an expert skier or just looking to have fun on the slopes, there's something for everyone.

If you're interested in joining us for a trip, feel free to reach out to me—we'd love to have more people hit the mountains with us! Stay tuned for more updates, and we'll see you on the slopes!  michelle at 408-656-1399

Wine Club:

The wine club had a lovely gathering at Testarossa in March, and we enjoyed a great showing! Stay tuned for our next tasting in April, also at Testarossa. AMEN Members only pay \$5, which covers the tip for service. We're excited to welcome more members—it's a fantastic, social way to meet people. All happening in beautiful Los Gatos, California! To be added to the Evite list, text Michelle at 408-656-1399



Interest Group Highlights

Spring Retreat

A Beautiful Day of Connection and Gratitude at the Bellarmine Mothers' AMEN Retreat

The Bellarmine Mothers' AMEN Retreat, held on Saturday, March 22, was a truly memorable and meaningful experience. From 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, a group of intelligent, compassionate women came together for a day dedicated to reflection, creativity, and community.

The retreat centered around the theme of *gratitude*, which resonated throughout the day in various forms—from thoughtful presentations and guided meditations to hands-on artistic expression during the popular collage workshop. Participants created meaningful pieces using paper, pens, and markers, exploring their personal journeys through creativity and reflection.



The day was enriched with beautiful live music, featuring soulful instrumentals by a talented guitarist. A candle lighting ceremony closed the event with a sense of peace and

shared connection, leaving many feeling inspired and renewed.

Of course, no retreat is complete without delicious food. The day began with a fresh continental breakfast, including fruit and warm beverages, followed by a healthy and flavorful Mediterranean lunch that nourished both body and spirit.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the gracious women who volunteered their time and energy to make this retreat possible. It was a day of new friendships, deep reflection, and joyful community.

Stay tuned for next year's retreat—we can't wait to gather again.

AMEN Wednesday Gourmet Cooking Group



The first AMEN gourmet cooking group started in 2006. Over the years as members moved on & hugged thanks for the memories, the group welcomed new members who brought an infusion of different perspectives to cooking with food-minded Bell alumni moms. At each rotation, 4 teams are formed and each team hosts 4 luncheons stretching over a year and half, with - always a surprise - different themes & featuring different cultures. This photo was taken at the **Gourmet Glindas** February luncheon, where all were princess "tiated" as they enjoyed an afternoon of "in the pink" food

& friendship.

More AMEN Interest Groups

AMEN College Mentor Program: If you are interested in helping a BCP graduating senior and his family make a final college decision, please join the College Mentor Program so your name can be added to the database. After the first of the year, as graduating seniors start receiving their college acceptances, this service puts them in contact with BCP alumni families who have had a son attend that school. If interested in being added to the database, please send your name, cell phone and email address along with the name(s) of the colleges your son attended to Susan Munne, susan@munne.com

Support Group for Aging Parents: This group helps us support each other as we care for and empower our parents. Our parents raise us to be independent. Now we learn to surrender as they surrender their independence, from the driver's license, the finance, then day-to-day activities until the last breath. We witness and help them journey through these adjustments and acceptance with grace and dignity. Be patient and gentle with them and ourselves. To join, call/text Alice at 650-255-1838 or scan1230@comcast.net.

Knitting Group: We will meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 12-2, rotating the location amongst our members. Newbies welcome! Lead by Katherine Pompili, kpompili@pacbell.net.

Hiking Group: Meets Monday mornings at 8:15, locations vary. Lead by Teresa Giovanzana, teresagiovanzana@comcast.net.

Spirituality Group: Changing format and will meet 1X per month now. Lead by Sarah Bonini, sarahjbonini@gmail.com.

Book Club: We meet every 6 weeks (approximately) and have enjoyed the friendship as well as the book review. We meet on Tuesday evenings at Aquí in Cupertino and currently

have 2 openings. Lead by Abby Baker, baker20045@comcast.net.

Home First and Helping Hands: Lead by Linda Chin, chindalin@aol.com.

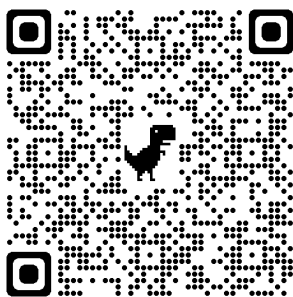
Golf Group: Lead by Catherine Christofferson, catherine@icreatemovies.com.

Mahjong Group: Lead by Rose Simon, simon143@comcast.net and and Bik Wah, calpolyglot@aol.com. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 2-4pm in O'Donnell 205.

Get involved! Join an Interest Group

Hiking? Reading? Golfing? There is a group for you! **Sign up for an interest group with this FORM** (or use the QR code above) and remember to renew your AMEN membership before joining an interest group! Contact Chrissy Brinck, chrissybrinck@hotmail.com, for more information or if you would like to start your own group.

Want to be part of the fun? Scan this QR code and join an interest group (or two or three!).



Go Bells!



Bellarmino Alumni Mothers Extended Network; San Jose, California 95126-1215

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