

Bellarmino Alumni Mothers Extended Network

January 22, 2026



Jan 22 forecast for ZIP Code 95126

This Afternoon: Mostly Sunny 66°; Friday: Areas Of Fog then Mostly Sunny 61°; Saturday: Areas Of Fog then Sunny 62... [\[click for current weather\]](#)



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A.M.E.N. Monthly Newsletter

January 22, 2026

President's Message

Dear Bellarmine Alumni Moms,

As we welcome 2026, January offers a natural moment to pause, reflect, and look ahead with renewed energy and intention. The start of a new year invites fresh beginnings, and I'm grateful to begin it alongside such a thoughtful, engaged, and supportive community of Bellarmine alumni mothers.

Whether you're easing back into routines after the holidays or setting personal intentions for the months ahead, I hope AMEN continues to be a source of connection, inspiration, and friendship. Our time together through events, shared interests, and meaningful conversations reminds us how valuable it is to stay connected.

We have several gatherings and opportunities planned for the months ahead, and I encourage you to stay tuned for details on upcoming events. I look forward to another year of coming together, strengthening friendships, and building new memories as part of this wonderful community.

Wishing you a healthy, joyful, and fulfilling start to the new year.

Warmly,

Julie Paulsen

Chair, Alumni Mothers Extended Network (A.M.E.N.)

Make your connection to A.M.E.N. official - become a member!

January is for fresh starts, and for reconnecting with the moms of Bellarmine who share in a history of raising sons together. An A.M.E.N. membership is an invitation for our alumni moms to come together again, creating new memories rooted in community and friendship. From our twice-a-year dinners to activity groups that fit every interest and schedule, membership is an easy, joyful way to stay connected in the year ahead.

Make a New Year's resolution that's actually fun—say yes to A.M.E.N. **Join HERE**

Upcoming Events

Spring Dinner - April 30th



AMEN SPRING DINNER

APRIL 30, 2026

BELLARMINE COLLEGE PREP

Pickleball 9am on Mondays

Our Pickleball group has kicked off the new year welcoming some new faces, along with



our regular players. We meet the second and fourth Monday of the month at 9 am at new courts in downtown San Jose (next to the Shark Tank). Join our mailing list to get updates—we look forward to playing with you! Contact Liz Page and Mary Lavelle, cookiefisher08@gmail.com. Join the Pickleball interest group to be added to the mailing list for scheduling updates. All are welcome—the more the merrier!

A.M.E.N. Needlepoint Group Events

Needlepoint News - [Grannie hobbies are so in!](#)

- Soup & Stitch, **Thursday January 29, 6:00 pm** at the home of Maria von Massenhause in Willow Glen
- Meet up at [Old World Designs](#) in Menlo Park for a bag charm pop up on **Friday, February 13th**. We will be there at noon and continue on to lunch in town.
- Just stitch, **Sunday February 22, 1:00 pm** at the home of Maria von Massenhause in Willow Glen



A.M.E.N./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.

The latest hike: The SF Stairs on January 17th.

Tasting at Testarossa on February 5th at 3pm

Join us under the redwoods at Testarossa Winery (Los Gatos) for a relaxed afternoon of great wine and good company! The tasting is complimentary (a \$25 value). Please bring \$5 cash for a tip. If you'd like to join us, please email Michelle at wow123@me.com to be added to the invite list. We'd love for you to come and enjoy some great wine with us!

Thirsty Thursday - back by popular demand! March 12th at 5pm

Meet other A.M.E.N. moms for a casual Happy Hour at [Hapa's Brewery](#), 460 Lincoln Avenue on Thursday, **March 12th from 5 - 7pm**.

Ski Club

We're looking for intermediate and advanced skiers who want to enjoy fun day trips and extended adventures on the slopes, tearing it up together! When you contact us, let us know what kind of season pass you have (Ikon, Epic, or other) so we can plan groups based on memberships. Let's hit the mountains together for an unforgettable ski season! If you're interested in joining, please reach out to Michelle at 408-656-1399.

A.M.E.N. Event Highlights

The AMEN Knitting Group:



In November, the AMEN knitting group celebrated the 94th birthday of Bellarmine mom and grandmother, Charlene Fulhorst.

For many years, Charlene hosted the group in her home before moving to her senior residence. She is such a cherished member of our group!

Santa Cruz Wellness Retreat with the Bellarmine Moms

Our annual wellness retreat in Santa Cruz this past November was a truly restorative and memorable experience for the Bellarmine Moms. The day began with a beautiful breakfast together, setting a warm and welcoming tone for the morning ahead.

We then gathered on the beach for an energizing yoga session led by Maddie. With the sound of ocean waves, seabirds overhead, and the fresh coastal air surrounding us, the practice felt grounding, peaceful, and deeply renewing.



Afterward, we returned to the house for a serene sound bath guided by Ilana. Her calming approach with chimes, gongs and sound bowls created a meditative atmosphere that allowed everyone to fully relax and reset.

The creativity continued with an inspiring art session led by Taylor. Her instruction encouraged each of us to explore our artistic side, and the results were both meaningful and joyful.

We ended the one day retreat with a wholesome, nourishing lunch shared around the table—bringing the perfect close to a day centered on connection, wellness, and rejuvenation.

This wellness retreat was a wonderful event from start to finish, and we are grateful to all who shared this special experience.

The AMEN Angels: Gifts for Teens



Our group packed holiday goodies into duffels on October 11 and 18 for Gifts for Teens! This year, 855 duffels will be given to teens and young adults who would otherwise be forgotten at Christmas. Thanks again for making the holidays brighter for so many young people this year!

Holiday Creativity at Bottle & Bottega

In December, members of the Alumni Mothers Extended Network Committee gathered at Bottle & Bottega for a festive holiday social centered on creativity and connection. Together, we painted

winter landscape scenes while enjoying conversation, laughter, and a relaxed evening away from the busy holiday season.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to strengthen friendships, welcome new connections, and celebrate the spirit of community that brings our committee together. Everyone left with a completed painting—and a renewed appreciation for the joy of spending time together.



Are you interested in joining the A.M.E.N Board? Contact current chair, Julie Paulsen at juliehpaulsen@gmail.com

BCP Events & Activities

Bellarmino Golden Bell Auction: March 14th



Visit the Golden Bell [website](#) for more information

Winter Theater Production: The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Performance Dates: March 6th, 7th, 8th, 12th, 13th & 14th. Tickets go on sale mid February

Bellarmino 175th Anniversary Celebration: May 9th

Celebrate Bellarmine's 175th anniversary at the **Bell-A-Palooza** - celebrating 175 years of the Bellarmine Tradition, Saturday, May 9th in the afternoon. Bellarmine Campus.

Join an Interest Group!

Hiking? Baking? Reading? Golfing? There is a group for you! **Below is a list of the A.M.E.N. Interest Groups along with the contact person.** Remember to renew your AMEN membership before joining an interest group! Contact Maggie Pecoraro at jammpec@yahoo.com, for more information or if you would like to start your own group.

Book Clubs: We have 5 active Book Clubs! See below for the contact information.

College Mentoring is looking for a new lead! Contact Maggie Pecoraro (jammpec@yahoo.com) **if you are interested:** This group connects graduating BCP students and their families with families who have had sons (or daughters) attend the college or university they are considering. Led by Susan Munne, susan.munne@gmail.com.

Community Volunteers/Helping Hands: Led by Linda Chin, chindalin@aol.com

Elderly Parents Support Group: providing an opportunity for us to seek advice and vent our frustrations. Topics include but are not limited to: Fall prevention. What to do when our parents are hospitalized? How to choose a rehabilitation center? What are the differences between home health agencies and home care companies? How to choose between Palliative and Hospice care? Contact Alice Ng, OTR/L, otaliceng@gmail.com or 650-255-1838.

Gardening Group: Led by Lisa Christensen & Teresa Giovanzana, lisa95008@gmail.com

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

Gourmet Groups: Each group has 4 cook teams of 4 women each, for a total of 16 women in each Gourmet group, rotating hosting duties amongst all members. Gourmet skills are not required! If there are multiple women on a waiting list, the next member is chosen by blind lottery.

The Wednesday group meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. To be added to the wait list, email Jody Knauf, jodyknauf@gmail.com

The Saturday group meets the first Saturday of the month. To be added to the wait list, email Betsy Leff, bleff75@gmail.com

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

Mahjong Group: Led by Nancy Janda and and Bik Wah, calpolyglot@aol.com.

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

Needlepoint Group: All levels welcome! Led by Maria von Massenhausen, mtvonmassenhausen@gmail.com.

Pickleball Group: Led by Liz Page and Mary Lavelle, cookiefisher08@gmail.com

Ski Club: Led by Michelle Abene, wow123@me.com

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

Wine Tasting: *Meet at Testarossa for private wine tasting and charcuterie. Dates TBD.* Led by Michelle Abene, wow123@me.com

Book Clubs: To join one of our many Book Clubs, email Maggie Pecoraro, jammpec@yahoo.com

Renew Your A.M.E.N. Membership

It's a new year! AMEN is an opportunity to come together in fellowship - a time to come together in friendship- new and old.

As a member, you'll have access to:

- **Fun & friendship** through interest groups like Hiking, Golf, Book Club, and Wine Tasting
- **Spiritual growth** through A.M.E.N. retreats and prayer opportunities
- **Service projects** that make a difference in our community
- **Connection** to a network of amazing women who share a meaningful bond

Recommended membership fee is \$25. Memberships must be renewed annually to enjoy all the benefits. Please [click here](#) to join now!

AMEN supports itself through membership donations, the Fall and Spring Dinners, and purchases from our online store. Any funds left over at the end of year are donated to support our Bellarmine students.

Go Bells!



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

