

N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 7



the Welcome Mat

Presidents' Perspective

Happy Thanksgiving!!

I don't know about you but I cannot believe it's already the first day of November. It's been a very busy fall for me and I'm sure for you too!! The MFF calendar has had a lot of events planned and it looks like November is shaping up to be another busy month. Please be sure to RSVP on the Evite for the events you are planning to attend. The link to our calendar is on our home page at www.merrimackfriendsfamilies.org. If you have any questions about Evite please let us know.

We had another success fundraising event for our Charitable Fund. Beth M. did a fantastic job coordination our "concession stand" at Merrimack's 25th Annual Halloween Party at Wasserman Park. The board usually has two people to share in the responsibility of Ways and Means but Beth is running this position on her own. If you would like to help her out with our future fundraising events please let us know. We also have two other open positions - First Vice President and Newsletter Editor. If you are interested in any one of these positions or would like to find out more about them please contact us at info@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org. You would receive lots of support if you chose to fill one of these position. We would love to have join us on the board.



*Carol
Figueroa*

Lastly, the board has been discussing the possibility of re-naming the club. Merrimack Friends & Families was organized as the Newcomer's Club of Merrimack on November 15, 1973. The name was changed to the Welcome Wagon Club of Merrimack and then changed again in October 1998 to Merrimack Friends & Families. It's been almost 20 years since we became MFF and the club has gone through many changes over the years. We would like to invite you to a meeting on Monday, November 13th so that we can get your feedback and also discuss possible names for the club. We hope you will have time to come by the Lowell Room at the Merrimack Public Library at 7 pm. An Evite will be going for your RSVP. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please be sure to contact one of the board members.

In Friendship,
Carol



First Vice President - Open

The First Vice President position is currently open. This position organizes our monthly membership mixers. Some of these meetings are coordinated with service – for example: Stockings for the Troops and filling Easter Basket’s for the Welfare Department.

If you are interested in being on the MFF board and filling this position please let us know. We would love to have you.

On November 16th we will be filling stockings – please see the Service entry on page 3.



Second Vice President

Barb Amaral



Secretary

Jill Mitchell



Many events are being planned. Please see the club calendar for the events. You should receive an Evite to RSVP.

interestgroups@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org



Town Halloween Party at Wasserman Park



Beth Milliken

Ways and Means

-We had success raising money for our Charitable Fund in October! The Town Halloween Party was a fun time and we raised just under \$550!! Thank you to everyone that made cupcakes for us to sell, or that volunteered their time that night. It was really a great event and I must say that Parks and Recs does an amazing job organizing these town events.

-The Souhegan Valley Rotary Club Halloween Party. This was the first year they have held this bash at the Biergarten so we didn't really know what to expect. They offered \$5,000 to the charity that had the most people come to the event. We put in a great effort, but didn't quite make it. However, we were the runners up!! It was such a fun night so we hope many more people will join us next year!

We have more fundraising thoughts in the works, but are always looking for ideas. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me to discuss anything, even if not a fully formed idea, and we can look into it. Let's see how much fun we can have while helping our town at the same time!

Service

*Julie Akers and Bev Coelho*

Operation Care for Troops NH (OCT) supports our service men and women overseas by sending care packages. Our goal is to prepare 40 Christmas stockings to send to the troops. Filled stockings will be delivered to OCT who will send the gifts to our troops in time for some holiday cheer. OCT carefully decides on the contents of each stocking and we must stay within their definition. There is a list of items and quantities needed on the Evite. On the list of needed items are holiday notes so that each stocking includes a message of Christmas cheer and appreciation. Please consider writing a holiday note from your family to be included in the stockings.

Join your MFF friends in the conference room at The Town Hall on Thursday, November 16th at 7 pm so that we can assemble the stockings. If you can't participate on November 16th, try to deliver your donated items to a member who is attending, or call Julie Akers at 305-5270 or Bev Coelho at 440-8244 and they'll arrange a pick-up/drop-off.

Membership

Dawn LeGay



Happy November Everyone!

Again, thank you to everyone who has already paid their annual dues.

We will be updating our directory very soon so, please get those dues in so you don't miss out! You can easily do so on our website www.merrimackfriendsfamilies.org or mail in a check to PO Box 1516 Merrimack, NH.

There are 2 coffee chats this month, Saturday the 18th and Wednesday the 29th, both at 9am at Buckley's Cafe. Coffee chats are a great opportunity to relax and catch up with other members over coffee, tea or snack. We hope you can join us.

Best regards,
Dawn LeGay

Publicity

Nicole Castronovo



November EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Nov-2	7:00pm	Ladies Night Out at Cinemagic
Nov-6	7:00pm	Board Meeting
Nov-13	7:00pm	MFF Meeting at Library
Nov-14	7:00pm	Recipe Swap
Nov-15	7:00pm	Book Club
Nov-16	7:00pm	Operation Care Service Project
Nov-17	11:30am	Lunch at Portofino Italian Restaurant
Nov-18	9:00am	Coffee Chat
Nov-23	8:00am	Merrimack Rotary Turkey Trot
Nov-29	9:00am	Coffee Chat

Community Partners

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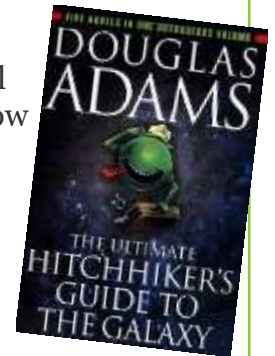
Interest Group Happenings – Member Only

Book Club

This year, book club has taken on the challenge to read books from different genres. In November, we will be reading **The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy book #1**. This is a comedy science fiction book by Douglas Adams. This series has been around for a while and we are very excited to get to discuss this book. Look for the evite to get further details.

Last month we discussed **Lilac Girls** by Martha Hall. Our group thought this historical fiction was a good book, we learned a lot, but we were not a fan of the writing style. Some members thought that you could tell that it was Martha Hall's first book. We still had a spirited discussion.

Every month we start our meetings with a half hour of social hour. I want to thank all the members that brought snacks. The girls could have written a book on how to throw a party on store bought treats. It was fantastic and a job well done. I hope to see everyone soon.



Recipe Swap

This month's Recipe Swap theme is "Everything but the Turkey" so bring a side dish or dessert to share. This way we can all get some new ideas for our Thanksgiving dinners instead of serving the same old mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. Bring copies of your recipe and a container for leftovers.

I hope you'll be able to join us on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00pm. When you sign up on the evite let us know what you're planning to bring.



Lunch Bunch

Please join us for lunch at Portofino Italian Restaurant on Friday, November 17th at 11:30 am. This restaurant is located at 456 Daniel Webster Hwy in Merrimack. Please see the Evite to RSVP.

Hope you can join us before we get busy with the holiday season.

See you on the 17th!!



Secret Sisters

Secret Sisters is off to a great start! Our October gift exchange was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated, and thank you for all of the wonderful goodies you provided for our potluck dinner. Our next potluck gift exchange will occur in January. In the meantime, you are on your own getting your November and December gifts to your SS. If you need any help coordinating, do not hesitate to contact me. I'd be happy to assist!

Sometimes your SS wants to make sure you received your gift from her, but for obvious reasons, she cannot come right out and ask you! So it is always nice to submit a quick "thank you" note in our monthly WELCOME MAT newsletter to let her know you got it! It is not required, but it is certainly a great gesture. Just send a quick note to Wilma, our newsletter editor, and she'd be happy to publish it.

Again, thank you for your participation. Let's continue on with the fun!!!