



OCTOBER 2018

the

Welcome Mat

President's Message



Carol Figueroa

Happy Fall!

Fall is definitely here with the cooler weather in the air and with it is the beginning of the new club year. As a social and service club we are making plans for the upcoming year and the calendar is starting to get filled with lots of activities. At this time, I would like to thank all the board members and the interest group leaders for stepping up to volunteer and plan the events for our club members. The link to our calendar is on our home page - www.mffnh.org. You will also receive an Evite for each of the events planned so please be sure to RSVP. Hopefully you will participate in some of these fun activities. It's always fun to get together with our MFF friends.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who contributed to the yard sales success by donating items, tarps, tables and most of all their time. A big thank you goes to Beth Milliken who pulled it all together. We made \$1,300 for our charitable fund! This is a fantastic start to the new club year!! The next fundraising event will be held at Merrimack's 26th Annual Halloween Party at Wasserman Park on Friday, October 26th from 5 pm – 8 pm. This is a big town event. We will be setting up a Halloween prop photo booth and will also sell hot dogs, chips, cupcakes and water at the event. More information will be coming soon via Evite.

This is also the time to get your membership dues in. Your dues help run the club so it is important to either send a check to our P.O. Box 1516 or pay online via our website. Any questions regarding membership please contact membership@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our October events!

Oct-6	9:00am	Service – Family Outfitters
Oct-14	11:00am	Corn Maze @ Elwood Orchards
Oct-15	7:00pm	Board Meeting
Oct-17	7:00pm	MFF Book Club Meeting/Social
Oct-18	6:30pm	Member Meeting – Mandala Art Workshop
Oct-23	7:00pm	Secret Sisters Potluck
Oct-26	5:00pm	Parks & Rec Halloween Party

Please see the Evite for additional information



First Vice President

Kara Pitcher



Happy Fall everyone!

Thank you to everyone that attended our Fall Wreath Project last month. The wreaths came out beautiful and it was a lot of fun!

I am looking forward to you joining me for our next monthly meeting! This idea came from one of our own club members, Eileen - Thank you!

Mandala Art Workshop

Local artist Kathryn Costa will be offering a mandala art workshop at our next meeting on Thursday, October 18th from 6:30 to 9 p.m in the Memorial Room in the East Wing of Town Hall. In this workshop, you'll immerse yourself into beauty, color, and form in a practice that fosters mindfulness and awakens your creativity. The mandala is a circular art form that anyone can learn how to draw. Kathryn has taught thousands of people all over the world how to draw mandalas in her popular YouTube videos, workshops, and book, "The Mandala Guidebook." She is an expert at opening up the door to creative joy for those who say, "I can't draw." or "I'm not creative." You'll leave with a completed work of art that is as unique as you!

Watch for the Evite for more details!



Second Vice President

Barb Amaral

The social aspect of the club is run by the interest groups leaders. Please consider stepping up and running one of our groups this year. These events are a great way for our membership to get together.

Or, if you are interested in running a one-time event I can help you set up the evite. These events could be anything from going to the movies are visiting a museum. Please contact me at interestgroups@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org for more information.





Secretary

Jill Mitchell

Happy Autumn, my friends! If you know of any club member that could use our support with meals, rides, or any other assistance that a friend might provide, please let me know and I'd be happy to ensure those needs are met. New babies, injuries, illness, or a death in the family all warrant such a response. Even if that person does not require any assistance, we at least would like to reach out and let them know we are thinking of them. As they say, "If you see something, say something." Otherwise, we'll never be able to help out our extended family. We need to look out for each other! After all, we are "Friends-in-Deed."

Warmest Regards,
Jill Mitchell

Jill.Mitchell@fmr.com

Ways and Means

Beth Milliken



Our Fall Yard Sale was a big success!! We raised just over \$1,300.00 for our charitable fund!!

Thank you so much to everyone that donated items, picked up donations, stored donations, donated tables, tarps, tents, and baked goods. Thank you also so much to everyone that donated their time to help setup, work the sale, and help cleanup. We couldn't have raised this money for our town without you!!

I also want to add a thank you to Liv Mitchell. Liv donated her time to sell lemonade and the donated baked goods. The food tent raised \$76 towards our total!



Service

Julie Akers and Bev Coelho

Last month a bunch of us volunteered to clean up Lawrence Rd (the road to the dump) as part of the Adopt-A-Road program. We filled 25 bags with trash and the road looks terrific! A few neighbors and passersby even paused to thank us for making the road look so much better. Kudos to everyone who helped.

On Saturday, October 6 from 9:00-12:00 we are looking for volunteers to help at Family OutFITters Thrift Store. We will be sorting through donations and stocking shelves. 100% of proceeds from this store benefit Families In Transition which helps with food, clothing and housing for homeless families and individuals. OutFITters relies on volunteers to make this non-profit work. We are planning to carpool so let us know on the invite if you can join us.



Membership

Dawn LeGay & Linda Varela



Happy October MFF!

As a reminder, if you haven't done so already, please send in your membership dues so you don't miss out on all the fantastic upcoming events. You can easily do so by mailing a check to PO Box 1516 Merrimack, NH or you can pay online.



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Interest Group Happenings

Secret Sisters

It is time to begin the fun! For those of you who have signed up for Secret Sisters, you will receive your Secret Sister's questionnaire in the mail soon (with some basic instructions)! Remember, half the fun is trying to keep yourself anonymous. Don't let her know who you are!

You may use the information provided in your Secret Sister's questionnaire, or use your own judgment, to bring your Secret Sister a small gift each month from October through May. We will get together three times throughout the club year for gift exchange potlucks, with the first potluck happening this month on **Tuesday, October 23rd** (see the Evite invitation for more info). At the May potluck we will reveal who each person's Secret Sister has been. And then in June, you will give a "thank you" gift to the not-so-secret-anymore Sister who had been giving gifts to YOU for the previous eight months! Remember, when a potluck occurs in a given month, this is where the gifts should be exchanged – no need to deliver them anywhere else. If you cannot attend a potluck, be sure to arrange something with me or another member so that everyone still gives and receives a gift!

In October, January, and May, you should bring your gift to the potluck events in an unmarked brown grocery bag (with the recipient's name on the inside so that I know who to give it to). On non-potluck months, you can slyly bring your gift to her house when you think she won't be home, you can ask another member to help make your delivery, or watch Evite and bring it to an event that you know she will be attending... you have plenty of sneaky options.

Remember, unlike other interest groups, this is a commitment for the entire club year. A very special woman (your Secret Sister) is counting on your full participation. Make sure you've paid your annual MFF membership dues! And if you still have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me! This is going to be so much fun!

PS. No, I do not know who my OWN Secret Sister is – I had help in randomly assigning the Secret Sisters for this very reason. Hey, I want to be surprised, too!

Jill Mitchell

Trivia

MFF team One More Round came in first place last Tuesday and we'd love to have you join us. The Budweiser Beirgarten has pub food, drinks and begins the trivia game at 6:00. The game is over by 8:00 and it is a lot of fun! Come check out the venue and have a fun evening with friends. We'll save you a seat.



Lunch Bunch

Monthly lunch events will start up either at the end of October or in November. I enjoy meeting up once a month for food and friendship. If there is a restaurant that you enjoy and would like us to visit please send me an email. I am open to suggestions to where to go for lunch or even breakfast. I can be reached at cmfigs603@gmail.com. See you in the fall.

Carol Figueroa

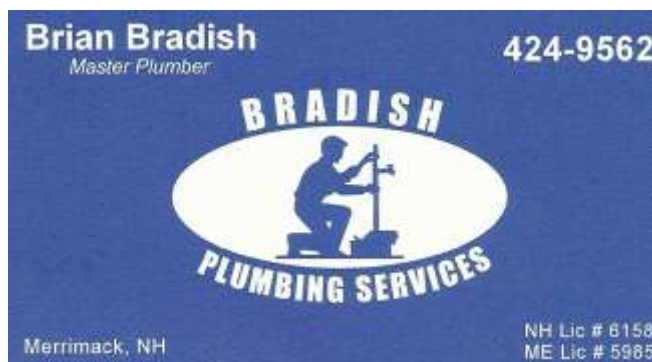
Book Club

October's book club selection will be **The Lying Game by Ruth Ware**. This selection is a thriller about 4 friends who are bound together by lies. These friends made a pact when they were in high school. Now they are reunited in their 30's when a shared secret threatens to emerge and shatter their peaceful lives. An evite will be coming out with more information. Please join us for our next meeting.

In September we were very excited to read **The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane**. We highly recommend this book. It transported us to another world. Everyone learned so much about Pu'er tea, the Akha people who harvest this tea, and how Chinese adopted children feel about being adopted by American families. It was a very moving story that did not disappoint.

Finally, we need to thank Bunny Knight for opening her house and hosting us in September. It was such a treat to discuss a Chinese themed book surrounded by beautiful Asian décor. She feed us an amazing Indonesian Chicken with an Asian salad. I even got to taste what real Pu'er tea tastes like. She made our meeting a memorable event and we thank her.

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