



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 8

the
Welcome Mat



Carol Figueroa

Presidents' Message

Happy Labor Day Weekend -

The new club year has begun and I am looking forward to the many events that are being planned. Our service coordinators were busy these past couple of weeks putting together 21 backpacks for Merrimack's Welfare Department. This is one of the many projects that we are involved in that supports the Town of Merrimack. Julie and Bev are putting together additional projects that will continue our mission of service along with Beth and Wendy who are putting together our fundraising efforts for the Merrimack Friends & Families Charitable Fund.

Over the summer, our Charitable Fund donated over 5K dollars to local charities and organizations. Without the efforts of Ways and Means this would not have been possible. Our first big fundraiser of this club year is coming up on Saturday, September 15th - Fall Yard Sale. The two yard sales we host every year are important events for raising monies for the charitable fund. I hope you will have time to help out with this event.

We also need volunteers to help out with the social aspect of our club. The interest group leaders put together the events for our members. We have a few groups that were active last year that will continue with their current leaders. But if there is interest group you would like to head up or would like additional information regarding this, please be sure to contact Barb, our 2nd VP, at interestgroups@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org. These groups could not exist without the membership leading them.

I hope to see you at our first membership meeting on Thursday, September 20th. Please be sure to check out the Evite for additional information.

See you then
Carol



September EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sep-4	6:00pm	MFF Trivia - Biergarten Anheuser Busch
Sep-9	9:00am	Service - Adopt-A-Road
Sep-10	7:00pm	Board Meeting
Sep-15	7:00am	MFF Annual Fall Yard Sale - Town Hall
Sep-17	7:00pm	MFF Book Club Meeting/Social
Sep-20	7:00pm	Member Meeting - Fall Wreath Project
Sep-26	TBD	Membership Social for new and old members

Please see the Evite for additional information



First Vice President

Kara Pitcher

I am so excited for our first club get together! We will be making a Fall wreath for you to hang on your front door or anywhere in your home. We have a lovely instructor that will be helping us for the evening and her name is June. The cost for the materials is \$12.75 per person if paid by cash, check or online (see lin). If you would like to pay that night by cash or check, please make the check payable Kara Pitcher. Please see the Evite and respond by Monday, September 10th so we have an idea of how many wreaths and supplies we will need for you.

<https://squareup.com/store/mff/item/fall-wreath>

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 or visiting a museum. Please contact me at interestgroups@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org for more information.



Secretary

Jill Mitchell



Welcome back to another MFF club year! I'm looking forward to serving as your 2018/2019 Secretary. It will be my pleasure to keep all official minutes/notes from the Board of Director meetings. I will also be responsible for organizing any "Friends-in-Deed" requests. Should there be a need to support a club member 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! We are always here to help...

Warmest Regards,
Jill Mitchell

Jill.Mitchell@fmr.com

Ways and Means

Beth Milliken



Our Fall Yard Sale to benefit our charitable account fund is coming up on Saturday September 15th! Please save the date as we will need plenty of help that day and hope to see you. If aren't able to help that day, please consider donating items for us to sell. We are also looking for hangers that we can use at the yard sale. The Evite with the full details was sent out August 28th, please look for it.

If you have items to donate, please feel free to reach out to me if you need your items picked up contact WaysandMeans@MerrimackFriendsFamilies.org or 978-729-7831



Service



Julie Akers and Bev Coelho

Please join us on Sunday, 9/9 for our September Service project. Meet us at 1 Fearon Road (entrance to the dump) and we'll clean up Lawrence Road (the road to the dump). MFF has been cleaning this road every Spring and Fall for many years and our efforts are always appreciated - there's even a sign with our name on it! The town will supply reflective vests, trash bags and trash grabbers and will put up signs letting drivers know we are there. We choose to do this project on a Sunday because the dump will be closed. It only takes an hour or two and the road looks so much better when we're done! Please see the Evite to RSVP.

Membership

Dawn LeGay & Linda Varela



Happy September MFF!

With the changing of the season comes a fresh new MFF Club Year! 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 at <http://www.merrimackfriendsfamilies.org/membership---community-partners.html>.

Membership dues is just \$25. and goes into our charitable fund which gets dispersed to many worthy local causes.

Hope to see you at an event soon!

Treasurer

Wilma Cunningham

A huge thank you to MFF Member Sue Geyer for her generosity in donating a new cash box for our charitable fund raisers. Bringing us into the 21st Century – our old cash box has given us (and the Newcomers before us!) over 20 years of faithful service – rust spots and all. Thank you Sue!



**Support
Merrimack Friends & Families
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When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

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Interest Group Happenings

Secret Sisters

Are you interested in joining *Secret Sisters*? It is so much fun!

Here are the details in a nut shell. Each Secret Sister will complete a questionnaire about herself (available on the MFF website and via email). The deadline to submit your **completed questionnaire** is **Friday, September 21st**. After we receive them, we will match everyone up with a Secret Sister. That person may use the information provided in your questionnaire to pick out a special gift for you each month! We will get together three times throughout the club year for gift exchange potlucks (see the Evites for more info). In May 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!

The gift exchanges will occur anonymously every month from October through May, and every participant should give AND receive a gift each month. 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. But try your best to keep yourself a secret - that's what makes this so much fun! The value should be kept around **\$15 for your monthly gift**. And we also ask that no one "double dip" and buy one large, more expensive gift to count for multiple months.

We would love to have you in this group, but also want to make mention that unlike our other interest groups, **this is a commitment for the entire club year**. We ask that once you join us, you understand that a very special woman (your Secret Sister) is counting on your full participation. There is **no fee to join Secret Sisters**. However, we ask that you pay your annual membership dues to the club before participating.

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact Jill Mitchell! You can print the questionnaire from the website. Or we recommend typing/saving a copy to your computer so that you have it handy for next year – trust us, you'll have so much fun you'll want to join the group again! You may send completed questionnaires via email, snail mail, or in person to any Board Member.

Here's to another great club year!

Jill Mitchell

Jill.Mitchell@fmr.com

Lunch Bunch

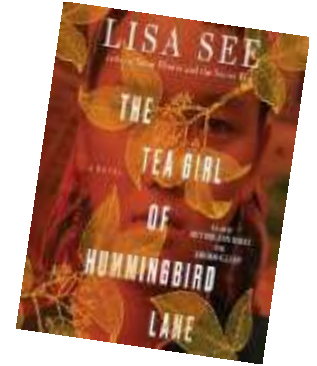
Monthly lunch events will start up either at the end of October or in November. I enjoy meeting up once a month for food and friendship. If there is a restaurant that you enjoy and would like us to visit please send me an email. I am open to suggestions to where to go for lunch or even breakfast. I can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

Carol Figueroa



Book Club

Book Club is starting in September with the discussion of **The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane**. In this stirring coming of age novel, written by Lisa See, a young Chinese woman finds purpose, passion and the key to a new life in the tea growing traditions of her ancestors. This book has been reviewed as a moving novel about tradition, tea farming and the bonds between mothers and daughters. For September, we will be meeting on Monday evening, September 17th. Book club unusually meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month.



Please see the evite for all the details and to RSVP.

Vivian Dano

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