



N O V E M B E R 2 0 1 8

the

Welcome Mat

President's Message



Carol Figueroa

Happy November!!

I hope you have had a good fall so far! It's been a busy one and the MFF calendar has been filling up with lots of events. It looks like this month is shaping up to be a busy one so please be sure to RSVP on the Evites for the events you are planning to attend. For the month of December there are a couple of annual events you need to mark on your calendar. We will be holding our annual Holiday Party on Friday, December 14th and the annual Cookie Swap on Monday, December 17th. The Evites for these events will come out after the Thanksgiving holiday. To see what's coming up you can always check out our online calendar. The link to the calendar is located on our home page at www.merrimackfriendsfamilies.org. As always, if you have any questions about Evite please let us know.

In October, we had another success fundraising event for our Charitable Fund. Beth M. did a fantastic job coordinating our "concession stand" at the Merrimack Parks and Recreation 26th Annual Halloween Party at Wasserman Park. Some members also participated in the Rotary's Halloween Party costume contest at the Biergarten on Saturday, October 27th. MFF came in first place for our costume. That weekend we raised around \$830 for the charitable fund!! Great job Ways and Means!!

If you are interested in getting more involved with the club, we have a few open positions on the MFF Board - First Vice President, Newsletter and Publicity! If you would like to find out more about these positions please contact us at info@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org or speak to one of our current board members. You would receive lots of support if you chose to fill one of these positions. We would love to have join us on the board!

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and I look forward to seeing you at one of events.

In Friendship,
Carol

November calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Nov-3	9:00am	Coffee Chat @ Buckley's
Nov-5	7:00pm	Board Meeting
Nov-7	7:00pm	Stockings for Troops
Nov-13	7:00pm	Membership Mixer @ The Homestead
Nov-28	7:00pm	Book Club

Please see the Evite for additional information

First Vice President - Position Open

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

How is it November already?!?! 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. With the holidays quickly approaching, it can be a tough time for some folks who could really use our help. 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. Stay warm and stay safe!

Warmest Regards,
Jill Mitchell

Ways and Means

Beth Milliken



We had a very successful fall in terms of fundraising! We raised just under \$630 at the Town Halloween Party at Wasserman and thanks to winning the costume contest, at the Souhegan Rotary Halloween Party at the Biergarten, we raised another \$250 for our charitable fund! That's almost \$880 raised in October. Thank you to everyone that helped to make this possible! A very special thank you to Julie Akers!! Julie donated the items and her time to create our sheep costumes for our winning group costume at the Biergarten. Thank you Julie!

If you have fundraising ideas, please feel free to share them with us at any time. You can reach out to us at WaysandMeans@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org





Service

Julie Akers and Bev Coelho

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at Family OutFITters in October. They sorted donations and stocked shelves in the thrift shop and had fun doing it! Proceeds from the thrift shop's sales benefit their program to help women and their children with housing and getting back in the workforce.

This November MFF is participating in Operation Care for Troops by filling 40 Christmas stockings with personal care items and cards with heartfelt messages. Look for the evite to sign up to donate items and/or to join us at the Town Hall on Nov 7 to help fill the stockings.

Membership

Dawn LeGay & Linda Varela



Happy November friends!

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their dues. If you haven't had a chance to do so yet, you can pay online <http://www.merrimackfriendsfamilies.org/membership---community-partners.html> or mail a check to P.O. Box 1516, Merrimack, NH 03054. There's still time, but we don't want you to miss out on all the fun events coming up! And remember, your membership fee goes into our charitable fund to benefit local charities at the end of our club year.... win-win!

Hope to see you soon!

Dawn and Linda

Happy Birthday!!



Annie R	11/07
Darlene P	11/11
Ceci E	11/20



Interest Group Happenings

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 Barb, our newsletter editor, and she'd be happy to publish it.

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

Regards,
Jill Mitchell

Trivia

Meet us at the Budweiser Biergarten on Tuesday evenings for pub food, beverages and trivia. We combine our knowledge and play as team One More Round so there is no pressure to know all the answers. The game begins at 6:00 and ends by 8:00 so its not a late night out. We promise you'll have a fun time.

Recipe Swap

Our first Recipe Swap of the year is a brunch on Saturday, November 10 at 9:00am. Bring something yummy to share with friends and the host will provide o.j, bottled water and Bloody Marys. Yum! What a great way to start your weekend.

Book Club

For November, Book club is excited to be discussing **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate. This book is a historical fiction but based on events that happened from 1930 to 1950 in the South. During this time frame a woman who ran the (Memphis) Tennessee Children's Home Society, stole poor



children from their families and newborn babies from single mothers and sold them to those that could afford it. This novel takes those facts and relates the story of the Foss children and how they got caught up in this scheme. Look for our evite for more information.

Our October discussion took place at Eileen Herrings house where we discussed **The Lying Game** by Ruth Ware. The overall sentiment was that most members did not like the book. They thought the plot was not believable. Some members thought the author took too much time setting up the story.

We want to thank Eileen Herring for opening her house to us for this meeting. We had a great turnout and Eileen made us feel welcome and at home. She greeted us with a lovely chicken soup and a super amazing marble cheesecake. It was a very fun relaxing evening.

Vivian Dano / Book Club



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