

Dear Friend,

Since the pandemic, the Friends of the Middleborough Public Library has been actively working to bring people to the library by hosting a variety of engaging community events and continuing to operate the successful Ex Libris Bookstore located in the lower level of the library.

As Middleborough's longest standing bookstore, Ex Libris is a constant source of revenue and assists the Friends as it fulfills its mission to fund the high-quality programs that the staff at the library can offer to the residents of Middleborough and surrounding communities.

Additionally, the Board of Directors for the Friends has hosted numerous events that have brought many of you back to the library or potentially introduced you to the Middleborough Public Library for the first time and provided a new perspective on the role of the library as both a cultural and social asset in our community.

From joining with local food establishments to host the "Fall in Love with Middleborough – A Local Food Experience" to transforming the library into a two-story mini-golf environment, the Board has been constantly finding creative ways to bring all generations into the library while implementing a multi-tiered fundraising strategy.

Many of you have potentially enjoyed our Afternoon Tea events or have attended our Murder-Mystery Dinner Theater evenings which are part of our ongoing fundraising activities. Or perhaps you attended community events such as the Monthly Sunday Concert series that runs from October through March or the Children's Theater production of "Anansi, The Trickster Spider", These are events which have been funded in part through our on-going grant writing initiatives which have positioned both our nonprofit and the Middleborough Public Library to be recognized by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as a "Card to Culture" organization for our ability to fund outstanding experiences in the arts, humanities, and sciences that are free to all. Beginning in calendar year 2025, the Friends are reestablishing our Annual Membership Drive to allow for the ongoing support of programs that our independent 501(c)3 organization funds to ensure the day-to-day operation of the library continues to meet the needs of the community.

Through your support, the Friends are the major funders of the Museum Pass Program, Reading Programs, collaborations between the Library and the Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels Program, collaboration between the Library and the Veterans Services Department's Hometown Heroes' Annual Commemorative Map, and Homeschooling Programs. Additionally, if you look closely at the flyers for most of the events that take place at the library, you will see that they are funded by the Friends of the Middleborough Public Library.

In closing, we ask that you join a special group of individuals, families, and businesses who loyally support the Friends of Middleborough Public Library by supporting our Annual Membership Drive. The link to the online portal is located <u>here</u>.

Together, we make a difference in Middleborough!

Sincerely,

Barbara Chadwick, Diane Fay, Paula Fay, Anthony (Tony) Freitas, Karen Freitas, Samantha O'Connor, Dave Pincus, and Jessica Pincus

Board of Directors Friends of the Middleborough Public Library