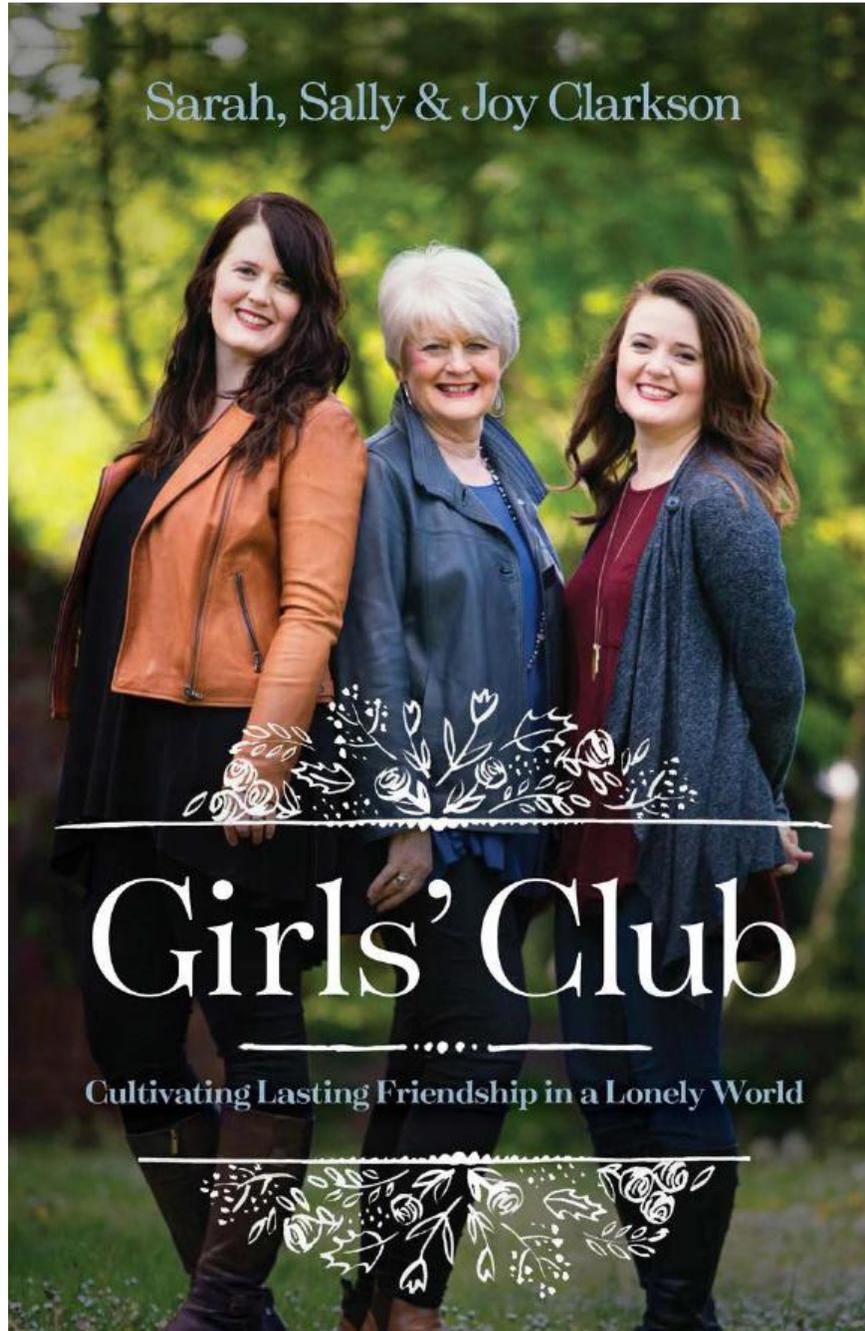
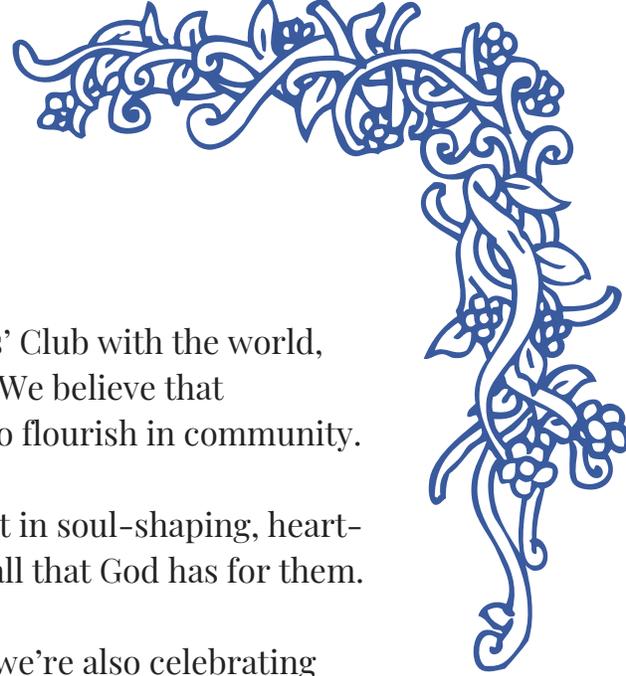


# Girls' Club Launch Party Planner





Dear Friends,

Happy Launch day! We're so excited to share Girls' Club with the world, and we would love to have you celebrate with us. We believe that friendship is fundamental and that God made us to flourish in community.

With this book we hope to inspire women to invest in soul-shaping, heart-satisfying friendships that call them to grow into all that God has for them.

So, we're celebrating the release of our book, but we're also celebrating the wonderful women in our lives, and the beauty of friendship. We will do a facebook live party at 9:00 PM Eastern Time at <https://www.facebook.com/therealsallyclarkson/> and at the same time, an Instagram Live Party @sally.clarkson (It will pop up on Instagram when we start and you can click on the notification to watch.)

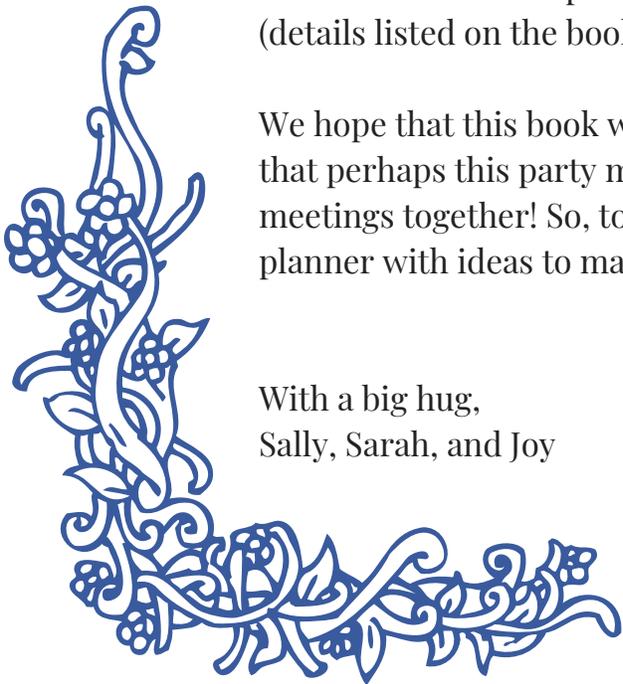
So, invite your friends to come to your house an hour before our live presentation begins! Make something tasty! Use the printables we provide as a point of conversation or some suggestions from the party guide. This will give people time to settle in, to eat something and to introduce themselves to the women there.

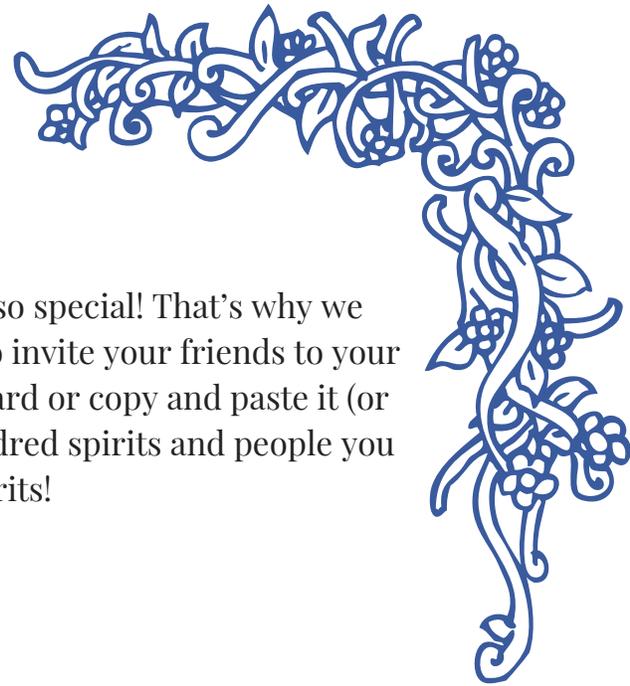
And let's celebrate the beauty and power of women as friends together!

It will be during this time that we will announce the winner of the \$1000 toward an Oxford trip to visit us! So listen up--maybe you will win. (details listed on the book website)

We hope that this book will inspire you start your own Girls' Club, and that perhaps this party might be the first of many fun, encouraging, meetings together! So, to help you celebrate we've put together this planner with ideas to make your evening delightful.

With a big hug,  
Sally, Sarah, and Joy





### **Invitation format:**

Being formally invited to a party makes me feel so special! That's why we thought we'd include a beautiful pdf you can use to invite your friends to your launch party. You can print it out and put it in a card or copy and paste it (or screenshot it) into an email. So get to it! Invite kindred spirits and people you think might be kindred spirits!

Joy

Dear Friend,

I think you're special, interesting, and worth knowing. On February 5th I'm hosting a party to celebrate the release of *Girls' Club*, a book about the profound importance of women's friendship. I would love for you to join me. There will be delicious snacks, activities to help us grow in friendship, and a live cast with Sally, Sarah, and Joy Clarkson, the authors of the book. It's a time for us to celebrate the power of women bonded together in friendship.

I would love for you to join me!

### **Suggested Menu:**

Food has always been an important element of any Girls Club get together. When bellies are full, hearts are open, and when tea is in hand, the heart is warm to friendship. So make sure to plan some delicious goodies into your launch party festivities. These are some of our suggested dishes, but add and subtract as you see fit.

Add your own flare!

Sally

### **Girls' Club Menu:**

Course One:

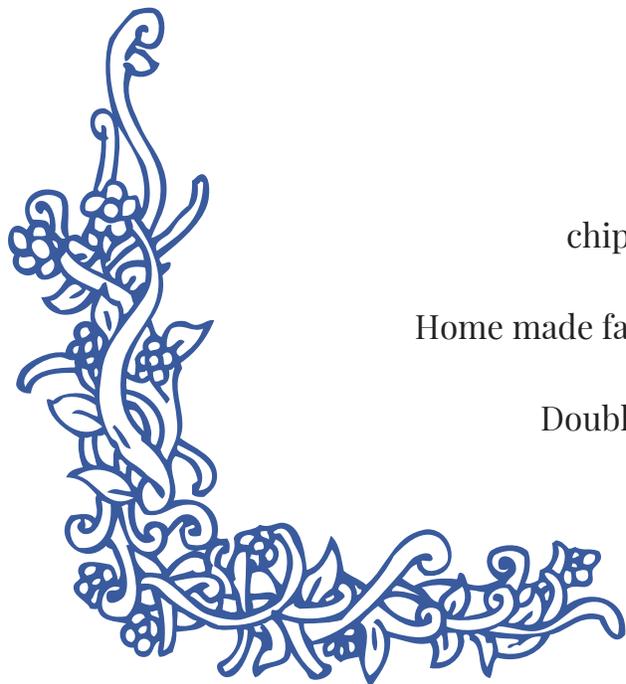
chips + guacamole and home made salsa

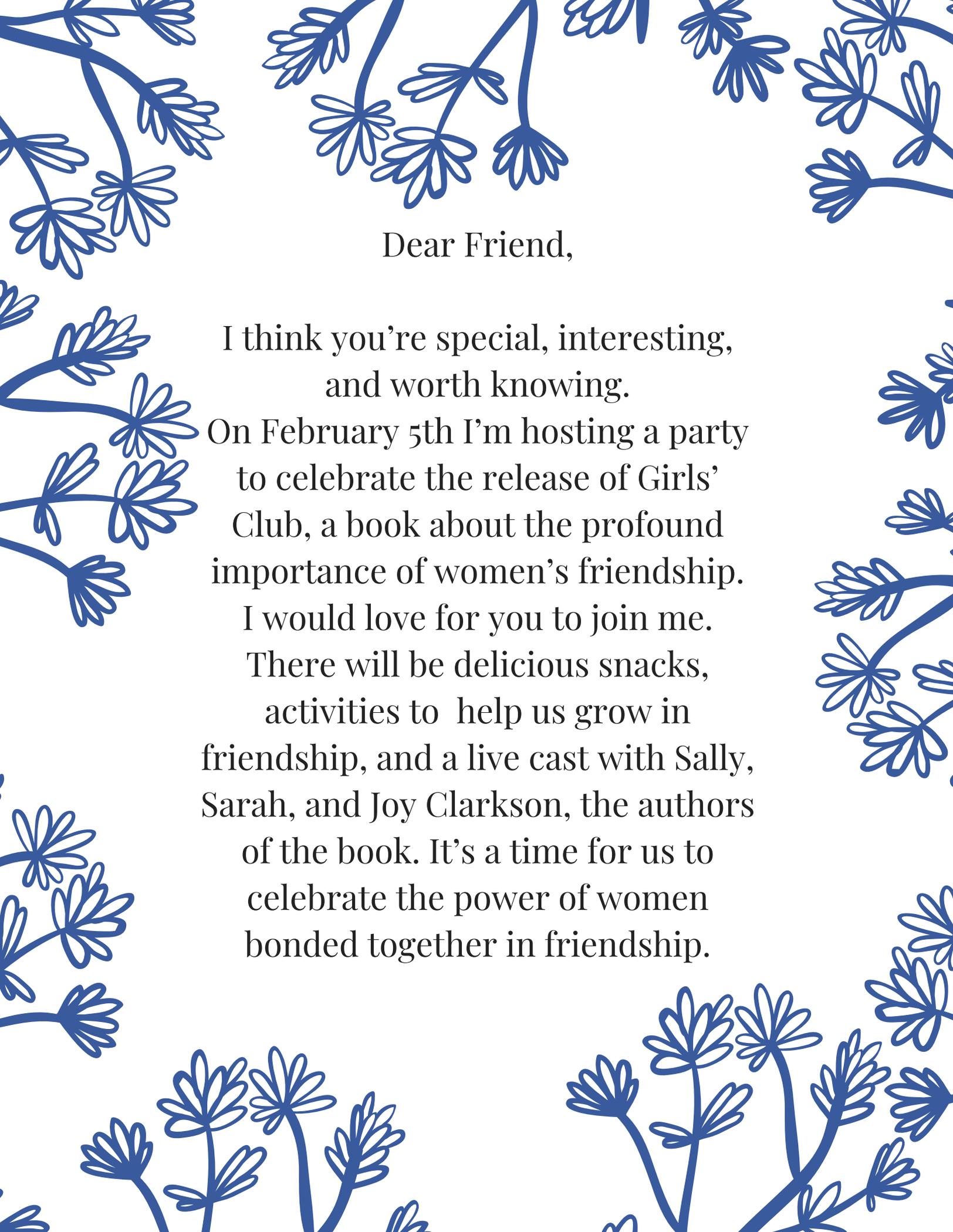
Course Two:

Home made fajita bar with sautéed veggies and refried beans

Course Three:

Double chocolate brownies and decaf coffee



The page is framed by a decorative border of blue line-art flowers and stems. The flowers have multiple petals and are arranged in clusters along the edges of the page.

Dear Friend,

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and worth knowing.

On February 5th I'm hosting a party  
to celebrate the release of *Girls'  
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# *Girls' Club Menu*

## *Course One:*

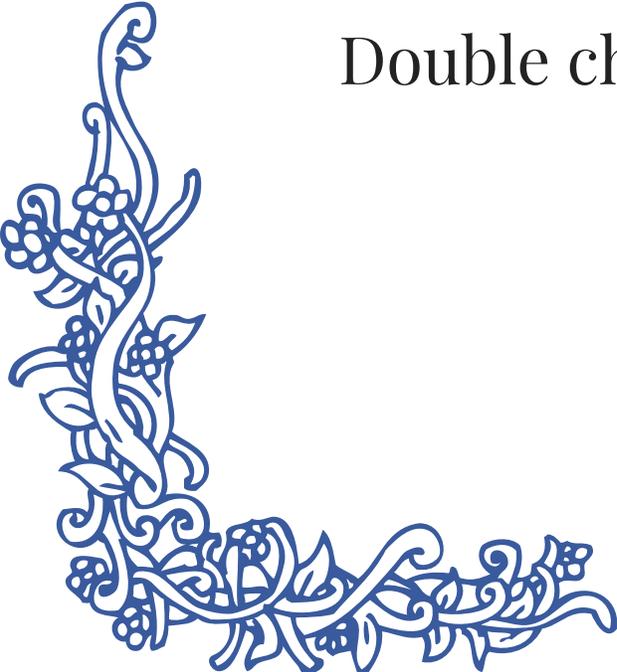
chips + guacamole and home made salsa

## *Course Two:*

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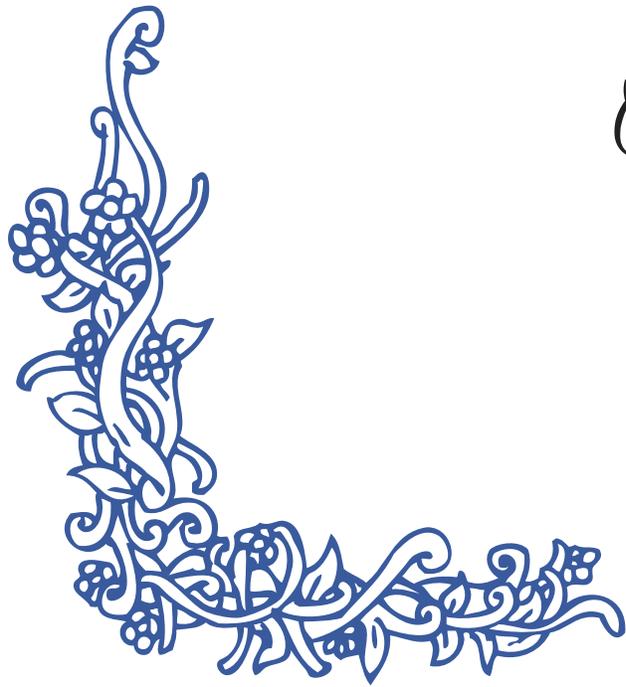


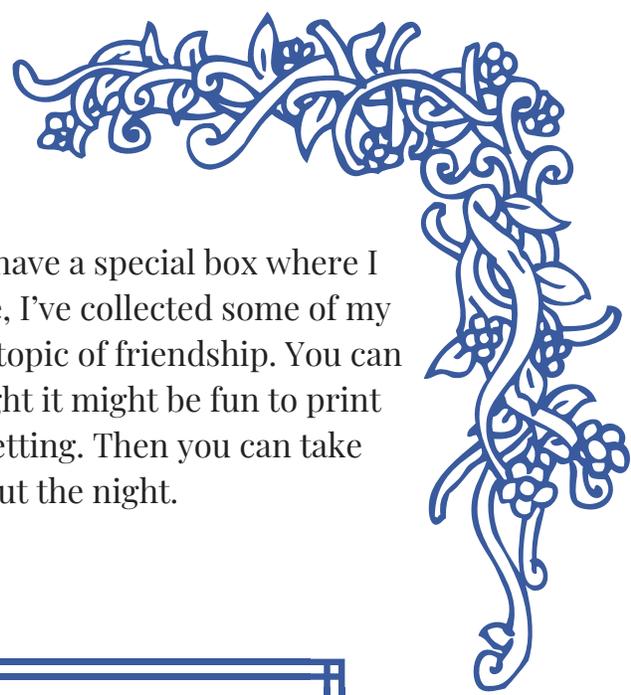
# *Girls' Club Menu*

*Course One:*

*Course Two:*

*Course Three:*





### Quotes on Friendship:

I have always loved collecting beautiful quotes. I have a special box where I keep quotes that I have jotted down by hand. Here, I've collected some of my favourite quotes by some favourite authors on the topic of friendship. You can do whatever you to with these quotes, but I thought it might be fun to print them out and leave one at each person's place setting. Then you can take turns reading them aloud throughout the night.

“There is nothing I would not do for those who are really my friends. I have no notion of loving people by halves, it is not my nature.”

— Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*

“I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light.”

— Helen Keller



“Friendship ... is born at the moment when one man says to another "What! You too? I thought that no one but myself . . .”  
— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

“Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.”  
— Anais Nin, *The Diary of Anais Nin, Vol. 1: 1931-1934*

“Don't walk in front of me... I may not follow  
Don't walk behind me... I may not lead  
Walk beside me... just be my friend”  
— Albert Camus

“There is nothing better than a friend, unless it is a friend with chocolate.”  
— Linda Grayson

“Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art.... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival.”

— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

“You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes.”

— A.A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

“Why did you do all this for me?’ he asked. ‘I don't deserve it. I've never done anything for you.’ ‘You have been my friend,’ replied Charlotte. ‘That in itself is a tremendous thing.’”

— E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

“It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like “What about lunch?””

— A. A. Milne, *Winnie-the-Pooh*

“Why is it,” he said, one time, at the subway entrance, “I feel I've known you so many years?”

“Because I like you,” she said, “and I don't want anything from you.”

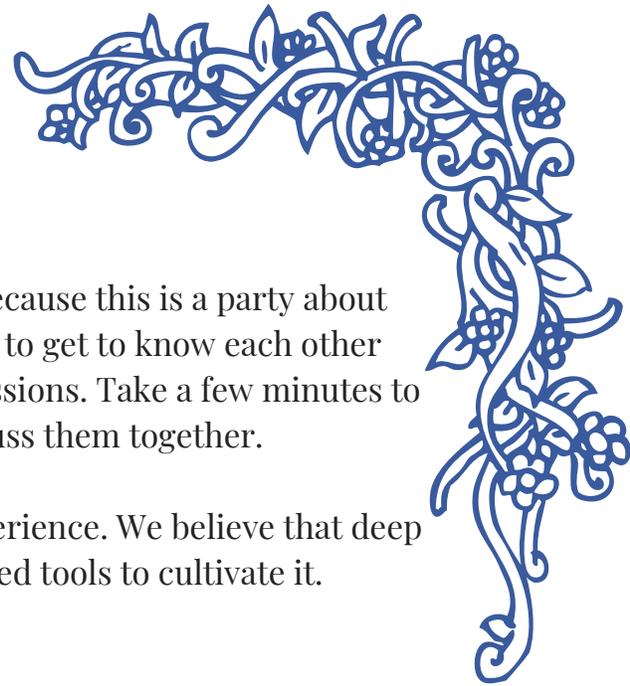
— Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

“The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them”

— Thomas Merton, *No Man Is an Island*

“When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares.”

— Henri Nouwen, *Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life*



### **Discussion Questions:**

To really know someone is to know their story. Because this is a party about friendship, we wanted to give you some activities to get to know each other better. To know each other's stories, values, and passions. Take a few minutes to think over these questions and then discuss them together.

These questions come from the The Girls' Club Experience. We believe that deep friendships don't happen on accident—we need tools to cultivate it.

### **Tell your story!**

Take five minutes to come up with a “minstro” (a minute intro) where you tell the story of your life. Here are some things you can think through as you write your mini life story:

“Once upon a time...” where did your story begin?

Who are the main characters in your story?

What are the obstacles you've overcome?

Divide your life into “seasons.” Which season are you in now?

Think about the significant things in your life (people, work, passions), when did they begin?

Where has God shown up in your story?

### **What do you enjoy?**

This one is fun! Knowing what a friend loves draws us closer... and helps us know what kind of chocolate we should bring them when they're having a bad day! Discuss your favorite things.

favorite color

favorite clothing style

favorite home décor

favorite food

favorite way to spend an evening

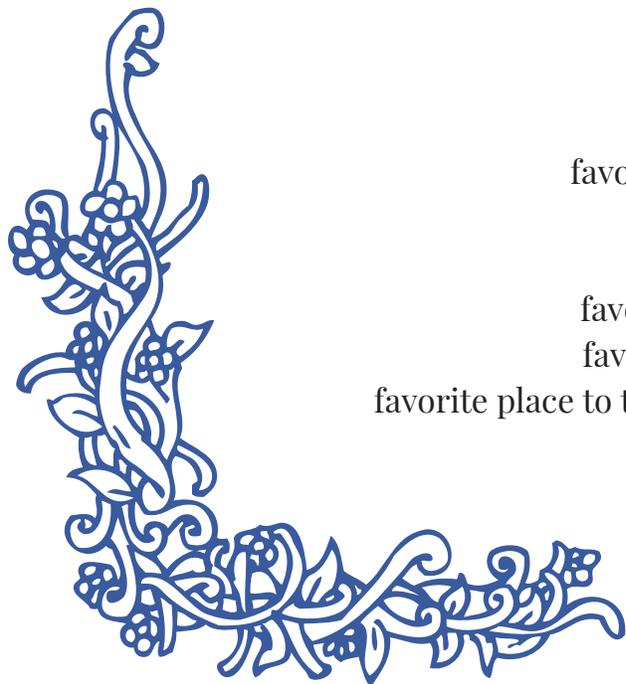
favorite thing to save for

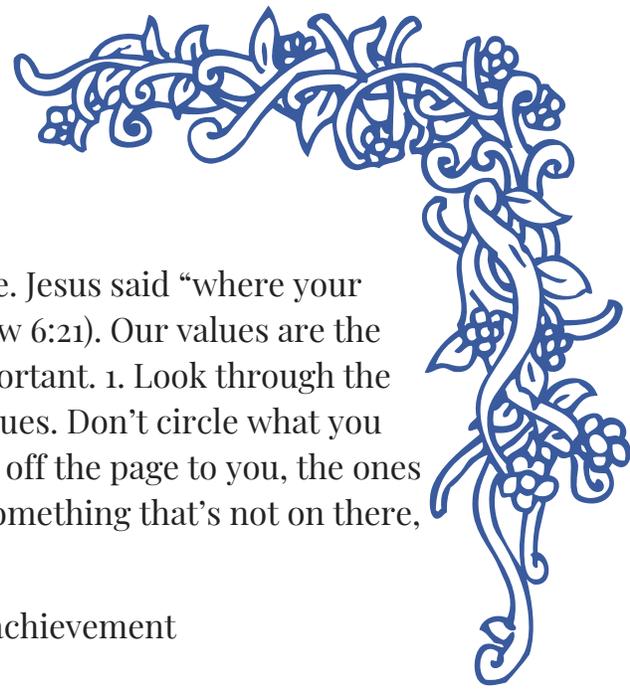
favorite way to relax

favorite thing to do with people

favorite place to live (in theory)

favorite place to travel (or where you wish you could travel)





### What do you value?

What we value will shape the contours of our life. Jesus said “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21). Our values are the things we treasure, and the things we hold as important. 1. Look through the following list of words and circle your top five values. Don’t circle what you think you ought to value; circle the words that jump off the page to you, the ones that capture your imagination. And if you think of something that’s not on there, feel free to add it.

honesty, humor, harmony, family, achievement

hospitality, integrity, wisdom, education

adventure, authenticity, compassion, fairness

friendship, fun, simplicity, loyalty

hard work, openness, piety, kindness

justice, creativity, competence, independence

With your friends, discuss the values you circled, working through the following questions:

Why are these values particularly important to you?

When in your life has this value has taken priority?

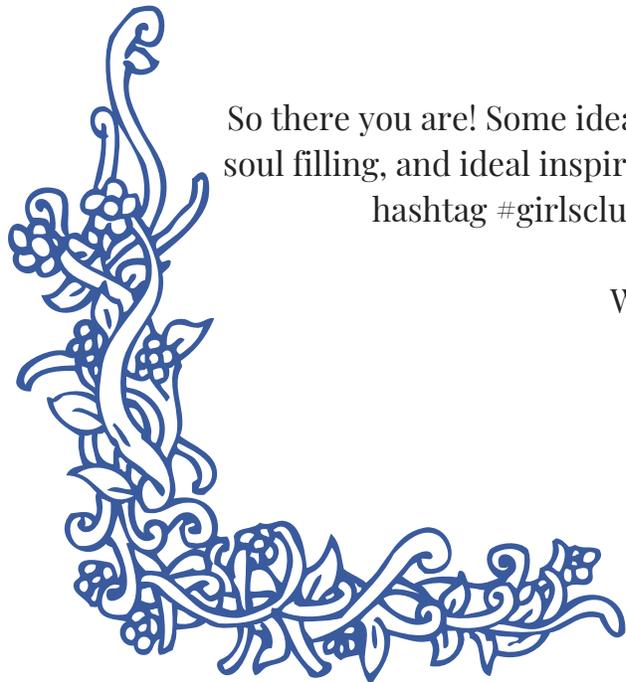
How do you see these values working themselves out in your life?

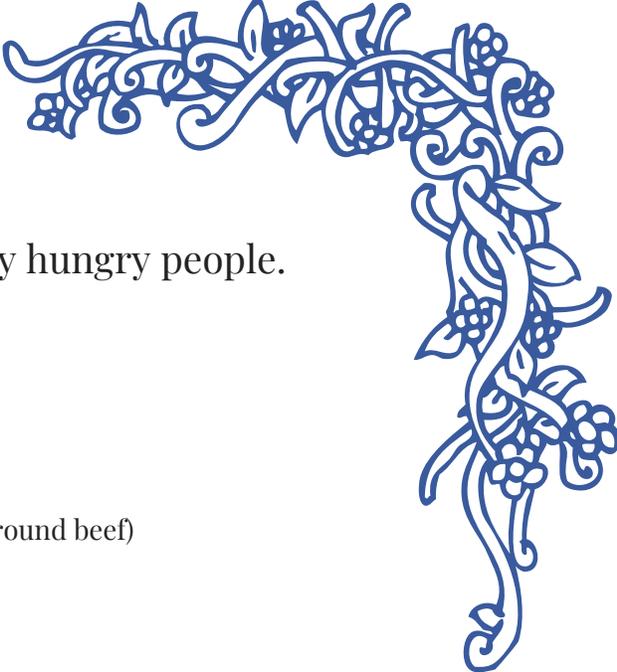
Did any of your friends’ values surprise or interest you? Why?

So there you are! Some ideas for your party! We hope your time together is fun, soul filling, and ideal inspiring. Don’t forget to post your party pictures with the hashtag #girlsclubbook so we can join in on your festivities.

Welcome to the Girls’ Club!

Sally, Sarah, and Joy





# Spaghetti Pie

This is a crowd pleaser and feeds many hungry people.

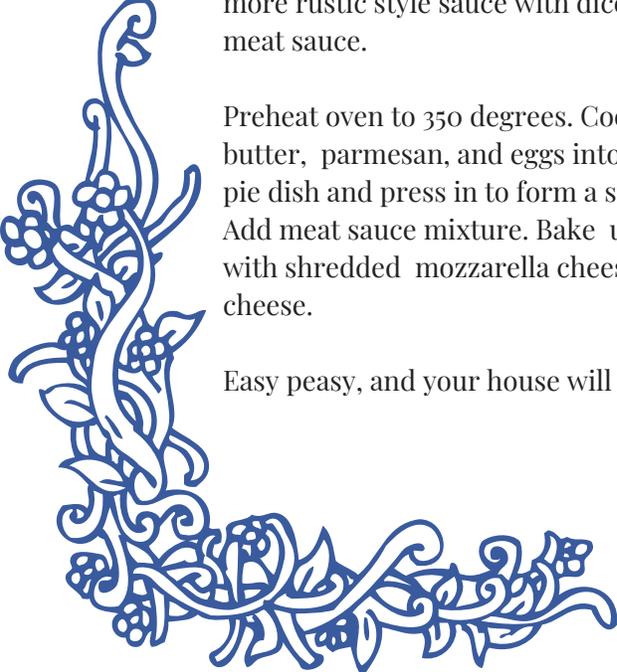
## Ingredients:

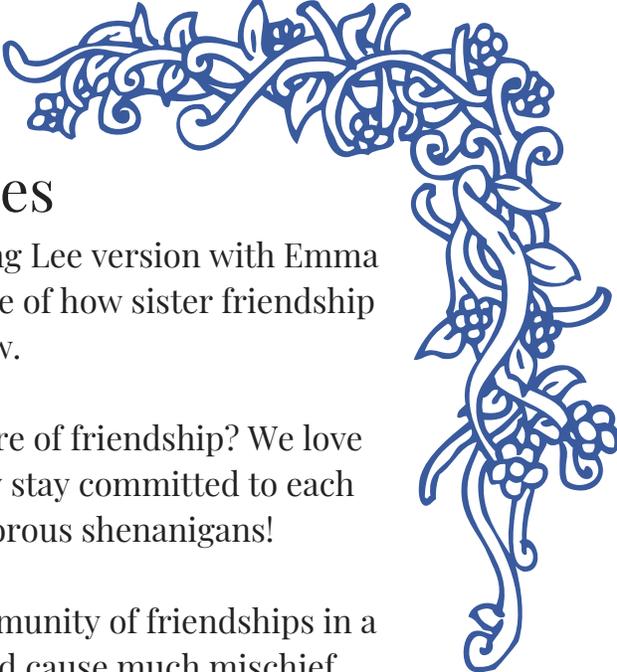
2 tsp olive oil  
1/2 cup onion - diced  
8 oz baby portabella mushrooms - diced  
1 pound ground beef (or 1/2 pound Italian sausage 1/2 pound ground beef)  
1/2 tsp garlic salt (or 1 clove fresh minced garlic)  
1 tsp dried oregano (or Italian seasoning)  
1 tsp dried basil  
Salt and pepper to taste  
6 - 8 oz. spaghetti noodles (depending on your pie dish)  
2 Tbsp butter (optional)  
3/4 cup parmesan cheese  
2 eggs - well beaten  
1 cup cottage cheese - blended  
1 8 oz can of diced tomatoes  
1 6 oz can of tomato paste OR 1 small can of tomato sauce  
1 tsp sugar  
1 - 2 cups fresh mozzarella cheese - grated  
\*Optional: pinch of Italian seasoning to finish on top of mozzarella

**Directions:** In your skillet, over medium high heat, saute onions in olive oil until translucent. Add the mushrooms and saute until cooked through. If using fresh garlic, add garlic and stir into the onion and mushroom mixture for 1 minute. Add ground beef to the skillet and stir until completely cooked. Add dried herbs, salt & pepper to taste. In a colander, carefully drain off any excess oil. Return the meat mixture to the skillet and return to a medium heat. Add diced tomatoes, tomato paste, sugar and garlic salt if not using fresh garlic. Turn off heat and set aside. You can also use immersion blender for sauce if your kids are not fond of a more rustic style sauce with diced tomatoes. This will make your sauce a smoother spaghetti meat sauce.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cook spaghetti per instructions on package. Drain. Then stir in butter, parmesan, and eggs into the warm spaghetti. Pour spaghetti mixture into a 10 inch pie dish and press in to form a spaghetti crust. Spread the cottage cheese on top of the crust. Add meat sauce mixture. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes then remove from oven and top with shredded mozzarella cheese and return to oven to bake for 5 minutes longer to melt cheese.

Easy peasy, and your house will smell like an Italian restaurant.





## Friendship Movies

- **Sense and Sensibility.** We grew up watching the Ang Lee version with Emma Thompson (who wrote the script!). A beautiful picture of how sister friendship supports us through difficult times and helps us grow.

- **Anne of Green Gables.** Is there a more iconic picture of friendship? We love Anne and Diana's bosom friendship and the way they stay committed to each other through many seasons of life... and many humorous shenanigans!

- **Cranford.** This delightful miniseries centres a community of friendships in a small English town. They grieve, celebrate, gossip and cause much mischief together! You will love this series.

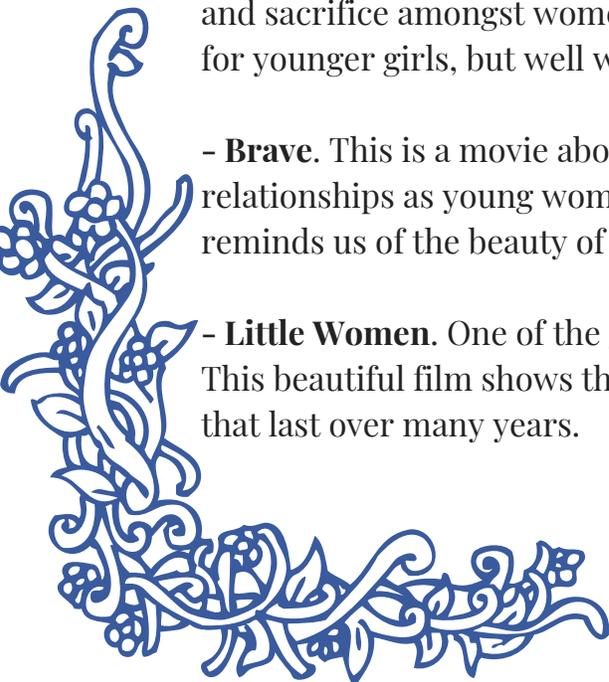
- **Pride and Prejudice.** This is a movie about good, bad and squirly friendship. It gets to the heart of the reality of imperfect families, who through love and integrity can grow stronger.

- **Call the Midwife.** This is a show about women bonded in friendship around one of the greatest purposes in the world: bringing and caring for new life in the world. We love how this show follows women in many stages of friendship—single, married, and nuns galore!

- **Julia.** This was a friendship movie that captured my (Sally's) imagination when I was a young woman. Much of it takes place in Vienna where I lived for many years. This movie speaks to the ways women, as friends, can sacrifice for each other during difficult times. The movie takes place in World War 2. It shows love and sacrifice amongst women of very different strengths and personalities. Not for younger girls, but well worth watching for older girls and women.

- **Brave.** This is a movie about the natural tensions of mother and daughter relationships as young women grow into their independence. It ends in love and reminds us of the beauty of mother daughter connection.

- **Little Women.** One of the greatest bonds in life one can have is with a sister. This beautiful film shows the delights, griefs, and forgivenesses of friendships that last over many years.





# Community

IS NOT ABSTRACT;  
IT HAPPENS IN THE  
HERE AND NOW  
OF THE PEOPLE  
AROUND US.

#GIRLSCLUBBOOK || [SALLYCLARKSON.COM](http://SALLYCLARKSON.COM)



*Friendship*

IS SOMETHING  
WE BOTH  
CREATE & GIVE,  
A WORK  
& AN ART.

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WOMEN MUST HAVE BEEN

*kissed by God,*

BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN CREATED WITH

*immeasurable  
potential*

TO ACCOMPLISH

*beautiful feats.*

