



D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 8

the
Welcome Mat

President's Message



Carol Figueroa

Happy Holidays!!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and excited for the upcoming holiday season. Our annual Holiday Party is on Friday, December 14th. It is always a fun time especially the Yankee Swap. You never know if you will go home with the present you picked or if someone will swap with you! The festivities start at 7:00 pm and Julie Akers has graciously opened her home for this event. Please see the Evite for more details and to RSVP. We hope you can join us for a fun filled evening of joyous friendship and conversation.

As you may know the club has a two part focus - a social and service club. Bev and Julie have done a fantastic job in organizing our service projects this year. They will be setting up one for December that will assist someone in our community with the Giving Tree/Adopt-a-family program through the library. Please see the Evite when it comes out to participate. Social events are always being planned but if there is something you want to do and haven't seen it set up please let us know. As a club member you can also organize an event with the help of Barb, our 2nd VP or any of the board members. We would love to hear from you and what social events you would like planned!!

Have a safe and wonderful holiday. See you in the New Year for more exciting club fun!!

Yours in friendship,

Carol



December calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Dec-3	2:00pm	Holiday Parade
Dec-8	9:00am	Coffee chat @ Buckley's
Dec-12	11:30am	Lunch @ Kahunas
Dec-14	7:00pm	Holiday party @ Julie's
Dec-15	8:00am	Ugly Sweater 5k
Dec-17	7:00pm	Cookie swap
Dec-19	7:00pm	MFF Book Club Meeting/Social

Please see the Evite for additional information

Second Vice President

Barb Amaral



The social aspect of the club is run by the still interest groups needing owners. Or, come up with your own! Please consider stepping up and running one of our groups this year. These events are a great way for our membership to get together.

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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 Holidays! 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 here, 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



Ways and Means

Beth Milliken



Thank you so much to everyone that donated to the Facebook Fundraiser! It is going on thru the 9th, so there is still time if you haven't had a chance yet. You can ask me for details.

Also, while you are doing your Holiday Amazon shopping, and beyond, please go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and pick Merrimack Friends & Families Charitable Fund as your charity of choice. A portion of everything you spend will go to our charitable fund and there is NO increase in your cost.



Service

Julie Akers and Bev Coelho

Thank you to everyone who donated items or helped stuff stockings for the troops overseas. Our brave men and women serving our country will receive cheerful Christmas stockings full of treats, personal care items and holiday cards.

For December we will help some Merrimack residents by getting names from the library's giving tree. Watch for an evite to find out which items will brighten their holiday.

Membership

Dawn LeGay & Linda Varela



Happy December friends!

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in their dues!! We will be hosting a coffee on Saturday, December 8th at 9 am. Meet upstairs at Buckley's Bakery & Café located on DW Highway near the Merrimack Firestation.



Happy Birthday!!



Holly D	12/18
Carol A	12/19

Interest Group Happenings

Secret Sisters

Hello, Secret Sisters! If for any reason you did not receive (or deliver) your November gift, please let me know and I'd be happy to assist. Your SS is counting on your full participation. The month of December flies by for everyone, so be sure to take care of your SS before it slips your mind. Again, I'd be happy to help out if you need me! I will send a reminder email mid-month in case you forget.

Our second Gift Exchange Potluck will be on Wednesday, January 30th. If anyone would be willing to host, please let me know. Otherwise, I'm happy to do so again. We'll send the Evite after the New Year! This means that in January, all gifts should be exchanged at the potluck. If you cannot make it, have no fear – ask me or any other member to help get your gift to the party. I promise we won't lose it! 😊

Remember, 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 the monthly Personals section of the newsletter just 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. I hope that everyone enjoys their holidays. Here's wishing you an early HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Regards,
Jill M



Trivia

Join us for trivia, food and drinks with friends at the Budweiser Biergarten Tuesday evenings 6:00-8:00. Our MFF team always welcomes new players!

Book Club

It's our favorite time of the year in Book Club. We will be doing our annual **Book Club Yankee Swap/Holiday Social/Book discussion** at our December meeting. Members wanting to participate, need to bring a wrapped book with bookmark. The book needs to be in good condition with a bookmark that can be homemade. This book can be on anything you think other members would enjoy reading. This meeting has always been our favorite with plenty of food and Holiday cheer. Look for the evite for more details on this event.

During the December Book Club meeting, we will be discussing in an abbreviated fashion, **Born A Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood** by Trevor Noah. This book contains a collection of 18 personal essays by Trevor. He tells us about his unlikely path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show and how it all began with the criminal act of his birth. Trevor was born to white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. It looks like a very interesting book to discuss.

Book Club would also like to thank Ann Marie Wellman for opening her house to us to discuss **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate. The book was sad but eye opening. I would recommend it for anyone who likes historical fictions.

Vivian D / Book Club

Fitness Friends

Fitness Friends "Back on Track Fitness Challenge" will be starting with the New Year. So, sit back, relax and enjoy your Holiday season before getting back on track to a healthier you!


If you haven't done so already, please join the Facebook group "MFF Fitness Friends" to start.

Dawn L



Community Partners

Brian Bradish
Master Plumber 424-9562



Merrimack, NH
NH Lic # 6158
ME Lic # 5985



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