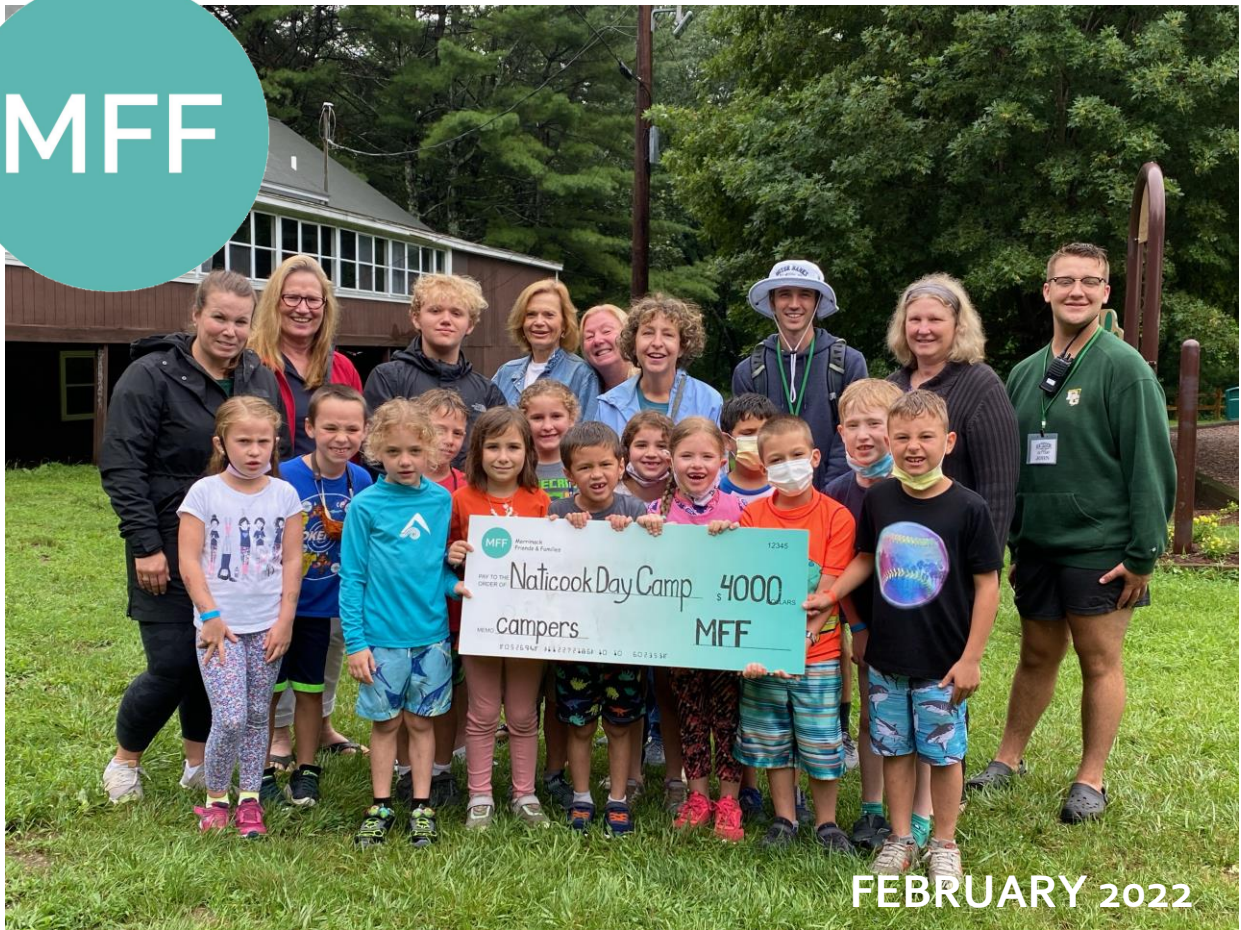


MFF



## President's Message

*Carol Figueroa*



Happy February!!

With Groundhog Day on Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> we should be half way through this winter season. I'm happy to be in February since January for one is not my favorite month. Too long and too cold at times!! Thank goodness the days are getting longer.

We postponed the LaBelle Lights walking event in January because of the cold weather. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the forecast will cooperate and we can visit this light show at the LaBelle location in Derry. If you haven't had a chance to RSVP for this event, please

check out the Evite. The link for more information on the show and to purchase tickets is on the Evite. We hope you can join us for this outside activity.

We hope to plan more events for the membership while keeping your safety and well-being in mind. Please continue to check the calendar and read the evites for information on the events that are planned. As always, please feel free to reach out to any of the board members if you have any suggestions on an activity/event or if you have any concerns.

Stay well, warm and safe!!

In friendship,  
Carol

February calendar

Please note that all activities will follow CDC, state, and local safety recommendations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Feb 5	5:30 PM	Labelle Lights
Feb 14	7:00 PM	Board Meeting
Feb 17	7:00 PM	Book Club
Feb 19	9:00 AM	Information Social @ Buckley's
Feb 26	12:00 PM	Winter Carnival

Vice President

Catherine Pepler



Hello MFF Members!

Here we are dealing with the fluctuating temperatures with snow and ice. Hope you are staying warm! We continue to look to have events to reach out to you and keep fun things planned. With the concern of Omicron and Covid we are being mindful of making plans to come together. The book club



is one event that is done by zoom. Fun group with interesting conversations about the chosen month's read. Sandy George is leading this group. Watch for her evites. The books are made available at the Merrimack Public Library. Hope you will join in!

We would love to hear from you. Share what you are doing to keep the sanity during this pandemic. Are you working on a craft or creating yummy recipes? Love to hear and see. Send in to [info@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org](mailto:info@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org)

Until the next time, stay safe and warm!

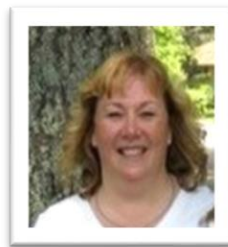
In friendship,

Catherine Pepler  
MFF Vice President



## Treasurer

*Bev Coelho*



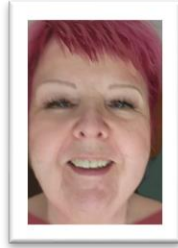
We continue to make deposits to our charitable fund through Amazon Smiles. Thank you to our members who use it.

Bev

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## Secretary

*Leslie Haltback*

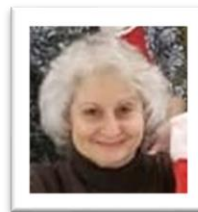


Just a reminder to send me any Friends in Deed needs!

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## Ways and Means

*Julie Akers & Jill O'Toole*



The 30th Annual Winter Carnival is scheduled for Saturday, Feb 26 from 12:00-3:00. This is a free family friendly event that will be held completely outdoors at Wasserman Park. MFF will be selling chili, chips, bottled water, hot cocoa, bake sale treats and we'll have a game for kids to play. We would love to have your help at this fun community event! An evite will come out soon asking for people to sign up 2 hour shifts to help with selling food, running the game or making cocoa. We also need yummy baked goods that are individually wrapped. If you can bake or donate some time we would love to have you join us!

Julie and Jill



## Service

*Tammy Ditman & Pat Teden*



For our February service project, we are thanking medical personnel: the nurses, the doctors and the hospital workers. As the latest Covid-19 variant continues to take its toll on our frontline workers, let's try to brighten their day. Please check the Evite and sign up to write a short note or card offering some cheerful thoughts and/or thanks for their efforts.

We will be distributing the cards among the local hospitals around Valentine's Day, showing our love for all they have done.

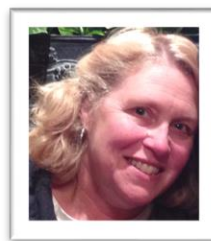
Happy Valentine's Day to all. Stay warm and stay safe.

Tammy and Pat



## Membership

*Robin Johnson & Beth Voorhees*



Happy winter to everyone and stay warm. The Membership Committee has one event planned for February. On Saturday the 19th of February, at 9 am, we will meet at Buckley's Bakery and Cafe for coffee and conversation. Keep an eye out for the Evite and please bring a friend who might be interested in joining MFF.

Robin and Beth

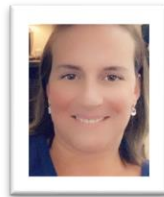






# Publicity

*Beth Milliken*



PLEASE SEND ME PICTURES!! Social media is so important in order for people to learn more about us. If you do anything with members, please make sure that you send me a picture or two, and let me know a little about what you did. The more we share, the more we are seen! It's spring and hopefully you can all get out more and enjoy! Some examples of our social media pictures are here. Pictures really help!

Even if you aren't with other members, but go somewhere nice or special, take an awesome hike, anything else that you think people might enjoy, take pictures and send them my way. It would be great for people to get an even better glimpse into our membership.

Please send to [publicity@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org](mailto:publicity@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org) and/or [Beth.milliken@gmail.com](mailto:Beth.milliken@gmail.com).  
Enjoy the warming weather!  
Beth



# Happy Birthday!!



Leslie Halkbakk 2/20



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## Personals

To my Secret Sister - I see my last thank you did not make the newsletter. Thank you so very much for the Christmas theme gifts. Love the towels and decorations carrying my black and white kitchen theme. You surely do delight me! ~- As much as we love to get together, the Zoom Secret Sister gathering was lots of fun. Just love getting to see and hear all about what you are doing! To my Secret Sister, thank you again for the black and white fleece blanket and Cajun snacks! They sure do deliver warmth! Catherine

It was great seeing all the secret sister crew on Zoom for our January get together. Thank you Jill for organizing the event. And thank you again to my secret sister for my gifts - the wonderfully warm socks and wine. The socks are so comfy. Carol

To Wendy's Secret Sister - I am so remiss in thanking you but I have enjoyed every one of your gifts. The room oils make our home smell so festive. Those recycled mittens are some of the warmest I've ever put on and I love that they have removed waste from the environment. And that Christmas wreath!!! So creative, everyone who saw it commented on it. Thank you for all you've done, you have made me smile so many times. Wendy

Thank you to Anne-Marie for being so flexible when we needed to go to a zoom meeting instead of an in-person meeting at your house. Sandy

Thank you to Jill for providing some great-tasting crackers that were just the right touch alongside the soup we craved as my family negotiated our fit with Covid. Sandy

To Sandy's Secret Sister, thank you so much for the bottle of wine, the magazines, the Vera Bradley wallet, and the hot cocoa. I look forward to perusing the magazines and drinking hot cocoa as we face our first N'ortheaster this weekend. I love wallets and I look forward to using this new one with the bright cheerful design. It was awesome to see your face especially as I opened my gift package..I look forward to many more exciting gifts from you. Sandy

Thank you Secret Sister for the coffee and chocolates!! Nothing beats a fresh cup of coffee when I return from hiking. (I never drink coffee before I go hiking.) Thank you for the chocolates, also. With my husband in Covid isolation, I did not have to share!! So good!!  
Tammy

Dear SS ~ Thank you so much for my beautiful throw pillows (I'm ready for Spring)! You certainly know how to make a gal feel special! ~ Love, Jill

Dear Secret Sister, thank you so much for the coffee, truffles and mug. I love that the mug not only has a cat theme (purrfect!) but is also the same color as all my other mugs. FYI: my foster kittens



found the sparkly tissue paper during our zoom party and had a little party of their own pouncing on it and rolling around in it! – Julie

Dear SS, thank you so much for the warm blanket. It is so soft!! Barb

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## Interest Group Happenings

### Secret Sisters

It’s hard to believe that January is over! The holidays have come and gone. The hustle and bustle has settled down. However, Secret Sisters just keep on giving! Isn’t this fun?

Our second (virtual) Gift Exchange Potluck occurred in January, and it was another success. As always, we had a good time. It’s hard to believe that at our next potluck in May we get to tell our Secret Sisters who we are!

Remember, if you’d like to submit a quick “thank you” note in the monthly newsletter Personals section to let your SS know how much you loved your gift, please send a quick note to [barbasketh@comcast.net](mailto:barbasketh@comcast.net) or [cunninghamwilma@hotmail.com](mailto:cunninghamwilma@hotmail.com), and we will ensure it gets published!

For February, you are on your own delivering your gift to your SS. Keep doing what you’re doing – it’s working!

Again, thank you for your participation. Here’s hoping that 2022 has started off on the right foot!

Regards,  
Jill Mitchell

~~~~~

### Book Club

NOTE: our meetings from now on will be on the third Thursday of the month.

We had to change to a zoom meeting for our January book club because Covid numbers are on the rise. We discussed The Invisible Husband of Frick Island by Colleen Oakley. It was a light-hearted book of hope that was a pretty quick read. Some people said they got bogged down by all the descriptions in the beginning but I thought it enhanced my ability to picture the scenes. The book was





recommended on Goodreads as a summer read and we all agreed that it would be a good summer read. Let me know if you read it and like it.

I am not sure at this time if the February 17 meeting will be a zoom meeting or in person. Please check the evite when send out for any updates as to what type of meeting it will be. We will be talking about the books we got in December when we did the book swap. If you were not here in December, you are more than welcome to tell us about any books you have read recently.

Sandy George



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