



D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 9

# the Welcome Mat

## President's Message



*Carol Figueroa &  
Bev Coelho*

Happy Holidays!!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and excited for the upcoming holiday season. Our annual Holiday Party is Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. 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! This year we have a poll for the type of Yankee Swap you want to play so please be sure to vote when you RSVP. The festivities begin at 7:00 pm and Julie Akers has graciously opened her home for our annual event. We hope you can join us for a fun filled evening of joyous friendship and conversation. Please check the evite for more details and to RSVP.

Recipe Swap is also planning our annual tradition – Holiday Cookie Swap. This event will take place on Monday, December 16, 2019. The evite has gone out for that event so please be sure to RSVP if you can attend. It is important to respond so that all participants will know how many cookies to bake. We would like to thank Linda Varela for opening her home to host this event during this busy holiday season.

As you may know the club has a two-part focus - as a social and service club. Julie and Tammy have done a fantastic job in organizing our service projects this year. They have be set up one for December that will assist someone in our community with the Giving Tree from the Post Office. Please see the Evite 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 our Barb, our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP or any of the board members. We would love to hear from you and what social events you would likeplanned!!

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

Yours in friendship,  
Bev and Carol

## December calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Dec 06	07:00 PM	Holiday Party
Dec 11	07:00 PM	Ladies Night Out – gift wrapping
Dec 16	07:00 PM	Cookie Swap
Dec 18	07:00 PM	Book club

Please see the Evite for additional information

## First Vice President

This position remains open. If you are interested in filling the role, please contact [interestgroups@mffnh.org](mailto:interestgroups@mffnh.org). There is plenty of help available!!

## Second Vice

*Barb Gelinas*



## President

As always, if you are interested in running a new interest group please let me know at [interestgroups@mffnh.org](mailto:interestgroups@mffnh.org)! Also, if you are interested in running any other interest groups please let me know.

## Treasurer

*Wilma Cunningham*  
*Bec Coelho*



Your Co-Treasurers are keeping up with State filing requirements. That's the work part. The pleasure

part is in seeing how MFF members come together and support Service and Ways & Means when the call goes out!



## Secretary

*Heather Murray*

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.

Warmest Regards,  
Heather Murray



## Ways and Means

*Beth Milliken and Jill Mitchell*

Ways and Means:

Happy holidays! During this busy time of year, we shift our focus away from fundraising, and focus our efforts on helping the community with their *immediate* needs. Please see more from our Service Coordinators. We will be back in 2020 as we prepare for the Town Winter Carnival. In the meantime, if you do any of your holiday shopping on Amazon, you can continue to support the Merrimack Friends & Families Charitable Fund online! We wish everyone a happy New Year...

[WaysandMeans@MerrimackFriendsFamilies.org](mailto:WaysandMeans@MerrimackFriendsFamilies.org)

Beth Milliken and Jill Mitchell



Merrimack  
Friends & Families



## Service

*Julie Akers and Tammy Ditman*

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.



## Membership

*Wilma Cunningham &  
Beth Voorhees*



Our member directory is being updated and will be sent out soon. We are happy to welcome new members Liz Calabria, Robin Johnson, and Kathy Stack!

Thank you,  
Wilma Cunningham and Beth Voorhees  
2019-2020 Membership Coordinators

[membership@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org](mailto:membership@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org)



## Happy Birthday!!



Holly D  
Carol A

12/18  
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 22nd. 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 Wilma or Barb, our newsletter editors, and they'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 Mitchell



Merrimack  
Friends & Families

## Health and Fitness

In the past we had several members meeting up to walk at The Merrimack Premium Outlets. Lots of fresh air, lots of steps, and shopping before or after if that is your fancy. With the holiday shopping in full swing, let's start this in January. If you are interested and have particular days and times in mind, please e-mail me.

## Ladies Night Out

Do you have gifts to wrap? And would like to wrap outside of prying eyes. Please come to Carol's house on Wednesday, December 11th @ 7pm with your gifts to wrap. I will have paper, ribbons, bows and some boxes along with festive music and goodies to share. Please see the Evite to RSVP.

## Hiking

Merrimack has some fabulous year-round hiking trails. Fresh air, exercise, and comradery. Let's do it! If you are interested in taking a lead in selecting dates and trails, let me know. I'll happily coordinate with you.

Wilma

## Book Club

Book Club will be having their annual Holiday party and book discussion at Jill O'Toole's home this year. Look for the evite for more information. This meeting is special because each book club member has been given a different Holiday book to read and critique for the December meeting. Anyone wanting to participate just needs to pick a holiday book to read and review for us at the December meeting. After everyone has reviewed their book, we will do a yankee swap of a new or used book wrapped with a bookmark that they make or buy. The book can be of any genre. This meeting is great fun and really puts everyone in the Holiday spirit. We only ask that you RSVP as soon as you can, for this popular event. For those MFF members that follow our Book club selections, we did enjoy reading and discussing **The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**. This book let us look at the world from a young black teenage perspective. It was an enlightening read and we highly recommend this book.

Vivian Dano



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Merrimack, NH

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