



## President's Message

*Carol Figueroa*



Happy New Year!!

Cheers to the New Year!! I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend time with your family. This year's celebrations were different for many families as we learned how to connect with one another either by zoom or FaceTime. I was thankful for the ability to FaceTime with my family and friends over the holiday.

I am excited to begin a new year and hope that 2021 will be a year of healing and family get togethers. 2020 was difficult year for many people. We have to hope that good things are around the corner for us and hope that we can start to do more activities together. However, for now you may see

more virtual events planned. MFF will continue to follow safety guidelines and protocols in the planning of our events for our members safety and well-being. Please check the calendar and read the evites for information on upcoming events.

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. We would love to hear from you.

Stay healthy and safe.

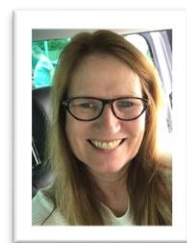
In friendship,  
Carol

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**January calendar**

| DATE                                            | TIME     | EVENT                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Jan 2                                           | 12:00 PM | Winter Warriors #1 @ Wasserman |
| Jan 13                                          | 7:00 PM  | Board Meeting                  |
| Jan 20                                          | 7:00 PM  | Book Club                      |
| Jan 26                                          | 7:00 PM  | Secret Sisters Potluck         |
| Please see the Evite for additional information |          |                                |

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**Vice President**

*Catherine Pepler*



Happy New Year MFF Members!

I am hoping you had a wonderful holiday. We are becoming accustomed to connecting with family and friends in creative ways. Some of the joy found in the season is the way that our community has gone all out to decorate their houses. Hope you were able to ride through town to check out the beautiful and creative displays. I still have the holiday music playing every day! The most precious gift we give each other is staying connected and fortunately in this age of technology along with letter writing we are able to do so.



2021 has the promise of getting past the pandemic with the release of the vaccines. We still have a way to go and more than ever we need to adhere to social distancing, restrictions on gatherings and requirements for facemasks to be worn. We witnessed the rise in coronavirus cases, hospitalizations and deaths after Thanksgiving and the continuation on the rise. This surely has caused increased stress and worry reaching many of us personally with illness and loss of loved ones. We need to keep in touch with one another more than ever. The other concern is the isolation of individuals. Reach out to those you know that are living alone and check up on them. As you know MFF is here to help our community, please let the board know if you or your neighbor is in need and do reach out for support.

It is no surprise current circumstances have certainly had an impact on scheduling membership events. As your Board we are looking for ideas to help keep us all connected. Keep an eye on the calendar for events that may be of interest to you.

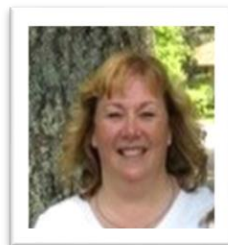
Wishing you and your family a healthy New Year.

Catherine M Pepler, MFF VP

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## Treasurer

*Bev Coelho*



Just a reminder that if you use Amazon when shopping, please use Amazon Smile and select Merrimack Friends and Families as your Charity to donate your 0.5% of eligible purchases.

As of November 2020, Merrimack Friends & Families Charitable Fund has received \$302.12.

Thank you to all who have shopped!

Thanks,  
Bev



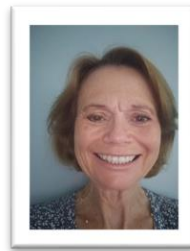
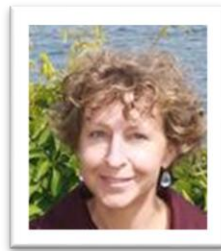
Secretary

*Dorian Walters*

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

Ways and Means

*Julie Akers & Robin Johnson*



The Winter Warrior series at Wasserman Park is three races around the park grounds. MFF will be selling hotdogs, chips, cocoa, coffee and bake sale items at the first race on Saturday, January 2 from 12-2. We'd love to have your help. You can volunteer your time or donate individually wrapped baked goods. MFF will be set up just outside the function hall which is close to where the race will begin and end. 50 runneors have signed up to compete and spectators will be cheering them on from a safe distance. All proceeds from our sale will go to our charitable fund. The other two races in the series will be held on February 6 and March 13 and we'll be asking for help with sales and baked goods when those dates get closer. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Service

*Tammy Ditman & Pat Teden*



Pat and I would like to thank all of you for your continued support of Merrimack and our local neighbors. What a wonderful, thoughtful group of people you all are!



The members of Merrimack Friends & Families completed a Christmas donation to FITNH (Families in Transition and New Horizons). Thanks to our amazing members, we were able to purchase many of the items on their high needs list, and in abundance! Thank you so much to all who donated!



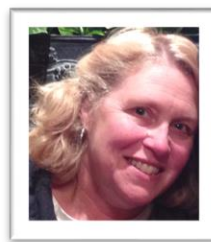
We are taking a break for the month of January but will have a fun new volunteering opportunity for February. Happy New Year!

Tammy and Pat



## Membership

*Wilma Cunningham & Beth Voorhees*



With the holiday season behind us, Beth and Wilma will determine how best to safely move forward with Membership Information Get-Togethers. Stay Tuned and Welcome 2021.

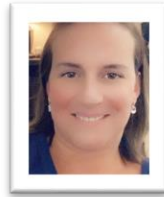
Wilma & Beth





# Publicity

*Beth Milliken*



Just a reminder to reach out to me if you need anything posted, placed in the papers, etc. Happy to help with Evite's as well.

After events, I'm also happy to post on our FB page so make sure you take pictures and send them to me along with a little blurb about what you did.

Beth M



# Happy Birthday!!



Julie G	1/7
Wendy T	1/8
Nicole C	1/14
Heather M	1/23
Sandy G	1/27



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# Interest Group Happenings

## Secret Sisters

Happy New Year, Secret Sisters! If for any reason you did not receive (or deliver) your December gift, please let me know and I'd be happy to assist. Your SS is counting on your full participation, and I know the holidays are such a busy (and often stressful) time for all of us.

Our second Gift Exchange Party will be this month on **Tuesday, January 26**. Be on the lookout for the Evite! To keep everyone safe, this month we'll be doing things *virtually*. This will be new for all of us, so here's what we'll do... Please be sure to *secretely* deliver your gift to your SS before 7:00 PM on the date of the Gift Exchange party. Ladies, **DO NOT OPEN THE GIFT WHEN YOU RECEIVE IT!** Instead, while on Zoom, we'll take turns opening up our gifts for all to see. We can still have a socially distant party and share a cocktail (or two) together.

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 newsletter just to let her know you got it. It is not required, but it is certainly a great gesture. Just send a note to Wilma or Barb, and they would be happy to publish it.

Again, thank you for your participation. I hope that 2021 has only good things in store for you all!

Regards,  
Jill Mitchell

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## Fitness Friends

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

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## Lunch Bunch

Stay tuned for upcoming information.



Ladies Night Out

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

Recipe Swap

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

Crafters Unite

Stay tuned for upcoming information.

Book Club

We had a great zoom meeting on December 16 to discuss the different Christmas books we all read. It was a general consensus that most of these books could have easily been Hallmark Movies, in fact some of them might be. We did have a few books that had a different theme than boy meets girl, etc. Examples of those books are: The Town divided By Christmas by Orson Scott card, Inspector Proby's Christmas by John Gano, Some of the Hallmark type books are: Gabriel's Angel by Nora Roberts, A Christmas to Remember by Rebecca Moesta, The Little Bookshop on the Seine by Rebecca Raisin, One More For Christmas by Sarah Morgan, The Christmas Train by David Baldacci, and The Perfect Christmas by Debbie Macomber.

Our book for the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting is The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Richardson which is available in the library right now. Please note the library is open to the public but is closed from 2 to 3 in the afternoon for cleaning. The current hours for the library are M-T-W-Th 10 am to 2 pm and 3-4:30 pm, Fr. 10 am – 2 pm, Sat 9 am – 12:30 pm. Current procedure: Pop in and pick up! Now open with limited building capacity and modified services, face mask required, no food and drink, curbside pick-up available, return books and media in the book drop.





I look forward to seeing your smiling faces. Please keep an eye out for the evite. I will again attempt to send the zoom link out with the evite and I will also send it as a separate email. Please try the link in the evite to see if it works before trying the email link.

I hope you were able to enjoy the holidays.

Sandy George

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## Member News & Kudos

Do you have some exciting news you'd like to share about yourself or something you're involved with? Have some news about another member, not necessarily club related, that you think deserves recognition? Births, condolences, promotions, new jobs, new homes, jobs well done, well wishes, etc...send an email come newsletter submission time just like you would do a personal and it'll be listed here. Pictures are welcome as well!

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## Don't forget to support us while you shop!

**Support  
Merrimack Friends & Families  
Charitable Fund Inc.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



