



A P R I L 2 0 2 0

the Welcome Mat

President's Message



Carol Figueroa & Bev Coelho

Happy Spring!!

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family well during these unprecedented times. These past couple of weeks have been crazy with all the changes that are going on in our town, state and country. Just trying to keep up with the news and information can be overwhelming. But we hope that by next month we will see a change in the social distancing standards and be able to once again plan events for our club members. Please be safe and we look forward to seeing you real soon.

With April comes the important task of putting together the Board of Directors for the 2020/2021 club year. Therefore, this is your time to give input on who you would like to see on the board of directors. You can do this by completing the nomination ballot that was sent along with the newsletter. You can even nominate yourself especially if you are interested in helping run the club. You can also nominate a friend and work the position together. Beth Milliken is our election officer and you can send the ballot to her at beth.milliken@gmail.com. Please return the ballot to her by Sunday, April 12th.

Stay well and if you need anything please be sure to reach out to any of the board members.

In Friendship,
Bev and Carol

April calendar

| DATE | TIME | EVENT |
|--------|----------|---------------|
| Apr 14 | 07:00 PM | Board Meeting |
| Apr 15 | 07:00 PM | Book Club |

Please see the Evite for additional information

First Vice President

Hopefully we will be back with group events in May!! Stay tuned.

If you have any questions please reach out to the board at info@mffnh.org

Second Vice President

Barb Gelinis



As mentioned above, election ballots are due! Due to the craziness that is our world right now, we've extended the deadline. Please consider being on the board!! There is a lot of help and support for newcomers always!!

Treasurer

*Wilma Cunningham
Bev Coelho*



We have a few of the new MFF T-Shirts available. Our website has a picture if you would like a reminder of how it looks, and you can order and pay right on the website. All sizes are available – Small to X-Large. Check it out!

Bev & Wilma



Secretary

Heather Murray

Hopefully this newsletter finds you and your family well! With the current COVID-19 limitations, our ability to fulfill Friends In Deed requests is very limited, but please do let me know if we can be of any comfort or service to you or another MFF member. Perhaps we could drop off groceries or medications if a member's home is in quarantine. 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.

Warmest Regards,
Heather Murray

Ways and Means

Jill Mitchell and Jill O'Toole



As you're aware, the town had to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt this month. That bake sale is usually a significant fundraiser for us, sadly. So we are optimistically keeping our fingers crossed that our semi-annual spring YARD SALE will still be a go! Please SAVE THE DATE for Saturday, May 16. And continue with your spring cleaning – we hope to be able to take those gently used goods off your hands soon!

Don't forget, for those of you who want to contribute, but simply do not have time to volunteer, we will *happily* accept monetary donations to help offset the upfront costs of running these charitable events. You can give your donation to any MFF Board member, or donate directly on our secure site at: <https://mff-101539.square.site/product/ways-means-contribution/1?cs=true>

We want to thank you in advance for all that you do to help with our wonderful town events! Support us while you shop at <https://smile.amazon.com> @ **Merrimack Friends & Families Charitable Fund Inc!**

WaysandMeans@MerrimackFriendsFamilies.org

Jill Mitchell and Jill O'Toole



Service

Julie Akers and Tammy Ditman

Our annual Service project of creating Easter baskets for the Welfare Department seems even more important this year because these Merrimack families truly need something happy and positive in their lives right now. Our wonderful and generous members are signing up to donate books, baskets, stuffed animals and more to brighten children's Easter mornings. We want to thank all the MFF



members who contributed to this wonderful project. In light of social distancing we will not be able to gather at the library to fill the baskets and socialize but rest assured that the assembled baskets will be delivered to the Welfare Department in time.

Every Fall and Spring MFF cleans Lawrence Road (the road to the dump) to fulfill our Adopt-A-Road commitment. We will check with the Town Hall and when it is safe for us to be outside together we will send out an evite. We hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy at home and we look forward to seeing everyone again.

Julie and Tammy

Membership

Wilma Cunningham & Beth Voorhees



As we get within a few months the stay-at-home order, Membership has nothing on the the time when we can gather again!

of our club year end and with agenda. We will look forward to

Membership does have two projects that we can work on during this stay-at-home order. Using Real Estate Sales from the local paper, we are preparing Welcome letters with information about MFF. We can have these ready to mail once we are able to be active again. Merrimack Library has let us know they are ready for another batch of Welcome letters with rack cards for their new residence goodie bags.

Please be safe Friends,
Beth and Wilma

Happy Birthday!!



| | |
|---------|------|
| Jill O | 4/08 |
| Barb G | 4/20 |
| Sue G | 4/21 |
| Deana H | 4/24 |
| Linda V | 4/25 |



Interest Group Happenings

Secret Sisters

Hello, Secret Sisters! If for any reason you did not receive (or deliver) your March gift, please let me know and I'd be happy to assist. I know March was likely a struggle for many of you to **secretly** drop off those gifts, as everyone practiced social distancing in their homes. :-)

For April, you are once again on your own delivering your gifts to your SS. Keep doing what you're doing – it's working! We still plan to get together on Thursday, May 23, for our final "Reveal" potluck party, so please save the date! Fingers crossed...

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 our newsletter editors, and they'd be happy to publish it.

Again, thank you for your participation. We hope everyone remains healthy!

Regards,
Jill Mitchell

Fitness Friends

Hope to be back to events in May!

Lunch Bunch

Hope to be back to events in May!

Melissa Winters & Wilma Cunningham

Ladies Night Out

We will plan a night out when the local restaurants are reopened for sit down service. In the meantime, stay well and we hope to see you in May!!



Recipe Swap

Hope to be back to events in May!

Crafters Unite

With the governor's stay at home directive, the new Crafters Unite interest group will be on hold until May. Watch for an Evite coming in then.

Thanks - Tammy

Book Club

Our April selection for Book Club is **The River by Peter Heller**. This selection is a thriller. It is about the story of two college friends on a wilderness canoe trip that takes a dramatic turn. We will be exploring some online platforms for an online discussion of this book.

Last month we discussed **The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See**. This book introduced us to the remarkably strong and spirited female divers of Jeju Island. We loved this multigenerational family saga which highlighted the matriarchal haenyeo society where women make the money and the men take care of the kids. Our members felt it was the most interesting book we have read this year. We definitely recommend this book.

We want to thank Eileen Herring for arranging an online discussion of **The Island of Sea Women** on the messenger app. It was a beautiful distraction from the world around us.

Vivian Dano



Community Partners

Brian Bradish
Master Plumber 424-9562



Merrimack, NH NH Lic # 6158
ME Lic # 5985

