



MERRIMACK
FRIENDS &
FAMILIES

Est. 1973

DECEMBER 2023

Presidents' Message

Julie Akers & Tammy Ditman



Happy Holidays! MFF members decorated a tree on Pine Trail at Joe English Reserve in Amherst as part of their Deck the Trails event. Take your family for a walk to see the handmade garlands and ornaments the wildlife can snack on and enjoy the sparkly, festive ornaments too. Be sure to add a few decorations of your own.

MFF's annual holiday party on Dec. 1 is always a fun way to kick off the season. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and participate in the Yankee swap. Come in your holiday attire, share food, drink and conversation with old and new friends and get in the holiday spirit! Watch for evites to the Cookie Swap, decorating Rose Haven assisted living home, weekend coffee, book clubs, trivia nights, weekend walks at the outlets and lots more. Invite a friend to an event - the more the merrier!

Julie and Tammy

December calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Dec 1	7:00 PM	MFF Holiday Party and Yankee Swap
Dec 2	9:00 AM	Membership Info Social
Dec 3	9:00 AM	Let's Walk
Dec 5	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezers
Dec 6	7:00 PM	Wednesday Book Club
Dec 8	3:00 PM	Holiday Decorating and Cheer
Dec 10	9:00 AM	Let's Walk
Dec 11	7:00 PM	Cookie Swap
Dec 12	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezers
Dec 12	6:00 PM	Library Partnership Night
Dec 15	12:00 PM	Lunch @ Black Forest
Dec 17	9:00 AM	Let's Walk
Dec 18	7:00 PM	Monday Book Club
Dec 19	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezers
Dec 31	9:00 AM	Let's Walk

Please see the Evite for additional information

Vice President

Catherine Pepler



Happy Holidays Everyone

What a wonderful year we have enjoyed. Thanks to you we have made so many significant impacts! There's a saying "many hands make light work". So very true for our club. I am very grateful to be a member of MFF. Once again, thank you for your work, generosity and friendship.

Keep an eye on our calendar and watch for evites. There are many opportunities to come together socially.

Enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends. Catherine



Treasurer

Bev Coelho



Happy Holidays!

Secretary

Sandy George

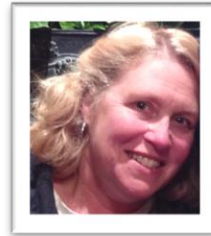


As we enter into the winter season remember to keep an eye out in case any of our members need a helping hand for awhile. We can help with food, rides, or companionship. Have a safe and happy Holiday season!

Sandy

Ways and Means

Carol Figueroa & Beth Voorhees



We wish everyone a happy holiday season and we will see you in the New Year! 🍷

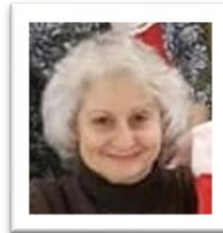
Our next fundraising event is in February at the Winter Carnival. More information on this event will be in the February newsletter and in the Evite that will come out around the same time.

Beth V and Carol F.



Service

Laurie Libby & Jill O'Toole



Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Hard to believe we soon will be wrapping up 2023!

We successfully filled 50 stockings for the troops this year. 1500 items were collected from our group and we had many volunteers attend the filling event. Thanks to all who supported the effort! A few of us attended the Operation Stocking for Troop event at the Nashua Armory. We filled 1450 baggies of donated Halloween candy to be shipped to troops deployed.

On December 8th we will be heading to Rose Haven assisted living facility to spread holiday cheer. We will be decorating a tree and hosting a Bingo game. Volunteers are asked to each bring an ornament with them and of be dressed in your best holiday attire.

In January we will be supporting Habitat for Humanity by serving lunch for the construction crew. More details to follow.



February's event will be in partnership with the United Way volunteering for the Shoebox Project for low income homebound seniors. On 2/7/24 we will be filling goodie boxes with donated items in preparation for deliveries the following day. Watch for the Evite.

Happy Holidays to all! Looking forward to the New Year and providing service to our communities.

Thanks,
Laurie and Jill



Membership

Lisa Casell & Robin Johnson



Wow, has 2023 just flown by. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

A reminder, if you haven't already done so, please send in your membership dues. You can do so by mailing a check to PO. Box 1516 Merrimack, NH 03054 or paying online through our website at: <https://mff-101539.square.site/product/membership-dues/3?cs=true>. Membership dues are \$25 (\$26 online with fee).

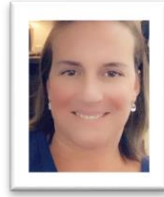
Do you know someone who may be interested in joining MFF. Please let them know about our monthly coffee social at Buckley's Bakery and Cafe on Saturday December 2nd at 9:00 am. Hope to see you there.

Robin and Lisa



Publicity

Beth Milliken



Please remember to send pictures of your MMF related events to Beth so that we can include them on our Facebook and Instagram pages, along with in our future newsletters. It's so nice to be able to share with our members how much fun we have! When you send, please let me know a quick summary of what the pictures are of.

Beth



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 24. 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.

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. Wishing you an early HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Regards,
Jill Mitchell

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## Fitness Friends

Join us for Sunday morning walks!

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Lunch Bunch

Please join us for lunch on Friday, December 15th at 11:30 am. We will meet at The Black Forest Cafe located on Route 101 in Amherst. Please be sure to RSVP on the Evite since I will make a reservation for us.



Book Club

Monday Book Club

We had a great time discussing *The Maid* by Nita Prose at Rose's house. She served delicious stuffed cabbage (a Polish dish) which we all thoroughly enjoyed. Thank you, Rose, for hosting our November meeting. The book is about a maid who finds a dead body in one of the rooms that she has been tasked to clean. It is an interesting story but a bit slow to read. I think almost all of us enjoyed the story and were intrigued with the way it plays out.

Our next book is *The Matzah Ball* written by Jean Meltzer which is said to be a fun romantic comedy book. We will be having a book exchange at our December meeting. Please wrap the book and wrap a bookmark to exchange at the meeting. Books should be something you wish to read or have recently read and you want to share with others. We will discuss the books at our January meeting. Please look for the invite to see the details for our December meeting.

Wednesday Book Club

Next meeting of the Wednesday book club is December 6th at 7pm at Ann Marie's home. We are reading "The Christmas Bookshop" by Jenny Colgan. All participants are bringing a batch of cookies to share. You can take home an assortment to enjoy as well.

Our next meeting is January 3rd. Books are available at the Merrimack library.

Thank you. All are welcome.
Ann Marie

Recipe Swap

Join us for the cookie swap on Dec 11!