



MFF



President's Message

Carol Figueroa



Happy December!

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. Coming up on Friday, December 3rd is the MFF holiday party. It will be fun to get together and celebrate with our MFF friends after missing this event last year. It is always a fun event for the membership especially the Yankee swap. We hope you have RSVP'd and are able to attend. We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you!

The holiday cookie swap is planned for Monday, December 13th and as always should be lots of fun. My family loves all the cookies I bring home from this event and they are usually all eaten before the Christmas holiday is even here! Please be sure to RSVP when you receive the Evite so that those who want to participate will make the correct number of cookies. We've had a lot of great cookies to choose from in the past. I'm sure this year's Holiday cookie swap will be just as good!!

In January we would like to do an outside event at the Derry LaBelle Winery location. We would like to attend their Fire and Ice lights festivities on Sunday, January 16th. Please save the date for this event. Tickets have to be purchased ahead of time. You can go online to purchase your ticket directly from LaBelle Winery - <https://labellewinery.com/lights/>
An Evite will go out after the Christmas holiday so that you can RSVP so that we know you will attend. Looking forward to this fun night out with friends.

I would like extend best wishes for a wonderful upcoming holiday season no matter how you spend it.

Have a healthy and safe holiday with your family.

In friendship,
Carol



December calendar

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Dec 3	7:00 PM	Christmas Party
Dec 5	9:00 AM	Walk at the Outlets
Dec 13	7:00 PM	Cookie Swap
Dec 16	7:00 PM	Book Club
Please see the Evite for additional information		



Merrimack
Friends & Families

Vice President

Catherine Pepler



Hello MFF Members!

Hope your Thanksgiving was joyful, filled with laughter and love of family and friends. Much to be thankful for this season!

I know I always mention COVID19 and sadly we are on the rise again with cases. Please take the added precautions to protect you, your family and community.

Can we say Christmas is around the corner? Not sure about you – I am feeling this year has flown by for me. Need to get a move on decorations and special gifts. Although, the best gift I can receive it having time with family and loved ones. The best gift I can give is supporting the food banks and picking up that gift wish of a child or providing a warm coat for one in need. Through MFF we are able to accomplish so much in giving back to the community. Through your membership dollars, the donations we receive, the annual yard sale, selling food at Merrimack events aids us in doing this through MFF. Hoper you are feeling the pride knowing you are behind our giving. Thank you!

Hope you have been watching the MFF Calendar and receiving the evites to activities and able to join in the fun. I would like to extend an invitation to you to reach out to someone to come to one of our Informational gatherings or join in some to the activities planned. This is through our collective membership we are able to do so much. Some may worry they will be caught up in too many requirements. Concerns I have heard is being too busy, not enough time to join a club, or not knowing about MFF. The beauty of our club is you are able to pick and choose what you would like to join in doing. This is important to convey to potential new members you are working on recruiting. I urge our members to share information, point to our webpage, invite that friend to a meeting.

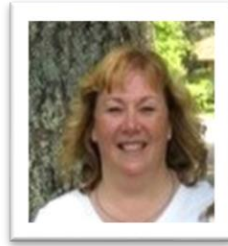
Do you have interest in a particular activity to engage MFF club members? We would love to hear and work on scheduling the event. I do hope you will be joining in the upcoming activities. All calendar events are followed up with evites with the details of the activity. Through your active participation our organization get more visibility aa well as making a positive impact in our community. Come join in with like-minded people that like to have fun, volunteer and give back to the community.

In friendship,
Catherine Pepler
MFF VP



Treasurer

Bev Coelho



It's that time of Year!!

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.

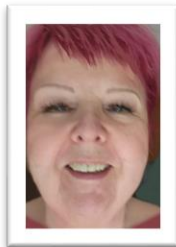
In 2021, Merrimack Friends & Families Charitable Fund has received \$141.62.

Thank you to all who have shopped and Happy Shopping!

Bev

Secretary

Leslie Haltback



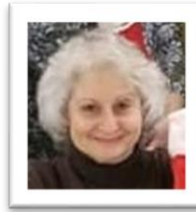
Just a reminder to send me any Friends in Deed needs!



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Ways and Means

Julie Akers & Jill O'Toole



Ways & Means participated in the postponed Halloween Party at Wasserman Park on Saturday, November 6. Members decorated lots of delicious baked goods with a spooky Halloween theme and we sold coffee, cocoa, juice boxes and bottled water as well. The bake sale raised \$353.00 for MFF's charitable fund! Fantastic job, ladies!

December is a busy month for everyone so we're taking a break from fundraising. Thank you to Jill O'Toole for volunteering to partner with me as the Ways & Means team! Happy holidays to all from Julie & Jill.

MFF Weekend Walks has been meeting at the Merrimack Outlets at 9:00am before the stores open and shoppers arrive. Sometimes on Saturday, sometimes on Sunday we gather at the rear parking lot and do a few laps around the property. Members, friends and family are always welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 2 members met to walk the Joe English Trails in Amherst. Everyone brought holiday ornaments to decorate a tree along the trail as part of the park's "Deck the Trails" event. We'll post a selfie with our tree on social media. During December trail walkers can vote for their favorite tree. I hope you can join us and have fun decorating and getting in the holiday spirit.

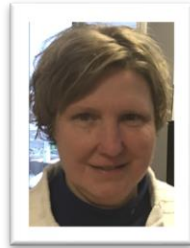
Julie Akers
Jill O'Toole



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Service

Tammy Ditman & Pat Teden



BRRRR, it is cold outside so in December we will finish the Veteran's Outerwear Drive that we started in November in partnership with the Manchester VA. This is a large project to help veterans who are now facing a return to civilian life and could use a bit of help. MFF was given many (68) brand-new men's winter jackets, and we'd like to complete the men's outfits with hats, gloves (can be new or almost new) and warm socks (new). Five female veterans are also included in the drive and need the same: coats (almost new and purchased), hats and gloves (can be new or almost new) and warm socks (new). Monetary donations are used to fill in gaps. See the What To Bring portion of the event for details.

The proposed date to distribute the outerwear is the morning of Thursday, December 16th, which gives us some time to continue to collect outerwear. We are in good shape with coats (although more gently used coats for women are appreciated --- it is nice to offer women options --- my thought is that just because a coat is the correct size, doesn't mean it looks good on me 😊). Our biggest gaps currently are for men's hats and gloves (new or almost new) and warm socks (new). Please look through your closets to see if there are items you might donate, or offer a donation, to help brighten and warm the holidays for those who have served our country. Items not taken by veterans on distribution day will be further donated to appropriate charities. Donations welcome up to Wednesday, Dec 15th.

Have a wonderful holiday season and thank you for your support of MFF's service projects in 2021!

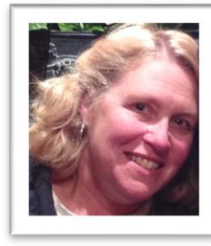
Tammy and Pat



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Membership

Robin Johnson & Beth Voorhees

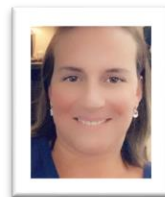


The Membership Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah. Please check the January newsletter for January Membership Committee events. Hope to see you at future events.

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.

Enjoy the warming weather!

Beth



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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 Tuesday, January 25. 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



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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

Our first potluck gift exchange was fun for all! Forgot to put the pictures in last month. Barb



Book Club

Thank you Tammy for being such a gracious host. We had a great discussion about the book Vinegar Girl written by Anne Tyler as a part of the Hogarth Shakespeare project which was an effort by Hogarth Press to retell works by William Shakespeare for a more modern audience. The link to other books in this series may be found at <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/series/HSR/hogarth-shakespeare>.

Next month for our December book club we will be having a book and bookmark exchange along with our annual Christmas party. We will be starting our meeting a bit earlier to hopefully fit everything in. Please check evite for details. The book we will be discussing is Come Fly the World by Julia Cooke. This book is a retelling of the stories of some of the women of Pan-Am. For those who do not know Pan-Am, it was once the largest international Airline in the US. It ceased operations on December 4, 1991.

Looking forward to seeing you all in December!

Sandy George

Don't forget to support us while you shop!





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