



MERRIMACK
FRIENDS &
FAMILIES

Est. 1973

DECEMBER 2025

50+ YEARS OF CELEBRATING MERRIMACK!!
1973-2025



Presidents' Message

Julie Akers & Tammy Ditman



Seasons greetings! Your friends at MFF are spreading holiday cheer this December!

We'd love to see you at the Holiday Party on Friday, December 5. It's a potluck dinner, optional Yankee Swap and a lot of festive fun. The annual Cookie Swap is Monday, December 15. Bring your favorite homemade cookie to share and copies of your recipe and take home a big variety of delicious desserts. Story Time and photos with Santa at the library will be a magical event so spread the word to parents of little ones. MFF members will be at Rose Haven Assisted Living to decorate cupcakes, play bingo and maybe sing a Christmas Carol or two with the residents, and we'd love to have you join us.

As always, watch for evites to weekend walks, Tuesday trivia at the brewery, coffees and conversation upstairs at Buckley's Bakery, book club, lunch at a local restaurant, and more.

Julie and Tammy

December Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
December 2	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezer
December 3	9:00 AM	New Member Coffee @ Buckley's
December 5	6:30 PM	Holiday Party Potluck & Yankee Swap
December 6	9:00 AM	Membership Coffee @ Buckley's
December 8	6:30 PM	Book Club
December 9	4:00 PM	Fundraiser & Snack Pantry Drive @ Thirsty Moose
December 9	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezer
December 10	5:00 PM	Membership Social @ Homestead Restaurant
December 11	2:00 PM	Christmas Cheer @ Rose Haven
December 15	7:00 PM	Holiday Cookie Swap
December 16	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezer
December 20	9:15 AM	Storytime with Santa @ Library
December 23	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezer
December 30	6:00 PM	Trivia @ Able Ebenezer

Please see the Evites for additional information.

Vice President

Catherine Pepler



Hello Friends! Wishing you a joyous Thanksgiving with family and friends. Still looking for hosts for our monthly Recipe Swap. Don't let the thoughts of hosting scare you away. The host provides their home, a theme, and paper plates and utensils. The guests are asked to bring a dish to share and a copy of the recipe. Interested, give me a call and I can help with the theme, details and evite. It's lots of fun and generally 8 - 12 attend.

On another note, looking for ideas to include significant others and children. We are a club that promotes connecting folks and it would be grand to have you join in the social activities.



Watch for a special evite to bring your child to meet Santa!

Happy holidays,
Catherine

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## Treasurer

*Bev Coelho*



No updates this month. All is well!

Bev

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Secretary

Sandy George

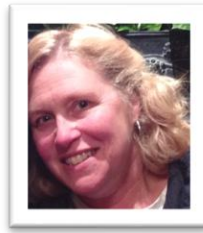


Hi, I hope everyone is having a great year. Remember if you know someone needing an extra bit of help please let me know. The club is always willing to cook meals, give rides, or just be a friendly person to talk with.

Sandy

Ways and Means

Beth Voorhees & Karen Contos



Happy Holiday Season,

The Ways and Means committee has no activities planned in December although there will be a lot of MFF holiday activities over this month that we hope you can attend.

The Winter Carnival's date has not been announced so it likely will happen either late January or early February. We will update you in the January newsletter.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who have helped over the last few months.

Have a safe and fun holiday season.

Beth and Karen

Service

Robin Johnson



Wow, has 2025 flown by. Merry Christmas to everyone. In November, MFF filled and delivered 30 Christmas stockings to Operation Care for Troops. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort. This month we will be hosting a Christmas party for the residents of Rose Haven Assisted

Living Facility. Please join us on Thursday, December 11th for cupcake decorating, bingo and Christmas music. It should be a blast. If anyone has any ideas for future MFF service projects, please let me know.

Robin

Membership

Laurie Libby & Cat Lansman



Greetings,

Hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

We have a couple membership events for December on the calendar...

Membership coffee upstairs at Buckley's Saturday 11/6 at 9:00

Membership social at The Homestead Wednesday 12/10 at 5:00.

Stop by and take a break from the busyness of the season and join friends for some Holiday Cheer! The Evites are out.

Wishing you all a very Happy Holiday with your loved ones.

Laurie and Cat

Publicity

Carol Figueroa



Please remember to send pictures of your MFF related events to me so that I can include them on our Facebook and Instagram pages. 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.

Carol

Happy Birthday!!



Holly D.	12/18
Carol A.	12/19
Cat L.	12/27

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. 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 or your designated "delivery person" can help out if needed, too! I will send a reminder email mid-month in case you forget.

Our second Gift Exchange Potluck will be on **Wednesday, January 28**. 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 an email to Heather, our newsletter editor, and she'd be happy to publish it.

Again, thank you for your participation. I hope that everyone enjoys their holidays!

Regards,
Jill M.

Monday Night Book Club

We had a great discussion about the book *Unlikely Animals* by Annie Hartnett. Some of us liked it and some of us did not. We read about life and death from a different perspective with a bit of magic thrown in. We also found out about a private Millionaire's Hunt Club that is really located in NH which is still in existence to this day. This club is home to many wild and exotic animals and some animals close to extinction. In fact, the club is noted as a place where bison were able to flourish again in the US.

Next month is our Holiday Party with a book and ornament exchange. We will be discussing *The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom at that meeting. The party will start at 6:30 instead of 7:00 so we have time to party, do the exchange and eat. Please check out the evite for where we will be meeting.



In January, we will talk about the books we received at the exchange.

I have ordered the books for next year to be available from the Merrimack Library. They are:

- To be picked up by January 19 and due back on February 16: Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
- To be picked up by February 16 and due back on March 16: Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler
- To be picked up by March 16 and due back on April 20: Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris
- To be picked up by April 20 and due back on May 15: Dark Matter by Blake Crouch

A decision will be made about our June book at our next meeting. We are looking at a biography or autobiography for the end of the club year.

Please join us whether you have time to read the book or not.

Sandy G.

