



## President's Message

*Carol Figueroa*



Happy December!

It is hard to believe that the holidays are here. This year has certainly flown by quickly with all the uncertainty in the world as a backdrop. I am hoping for a better 2021 like everyone else.

I along with the board were saddened by the decision to cancel the annual holiday party. But with the increase in covid-19 cases it truly is not the time to be gathering indoors. I will miss this celebration. It is always a fun event for the membership especially the Yankee swap.

The car trunk holiday cookie swap that is planned for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> should be lots of fun. My family loves all the cookies I bring home from this event. Sometimes they are all eaten before the Christmas holiday is even here. Let's hope the weather cooperates and it is a sunny afternoon for this event. 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 lots of great cookies to choose from in the past. I'm sure this year's Holiday cookie swap will be just as good!!

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and were able to spend some time with your family. 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.

Take care of yourselves and be well.

In friendship,  
Carol



## December calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Dec 13	2:30 PM	Trunk Cookie Swap
Dec 16	7:00 PM	Book Club
Please see the Evite for additional information		

## Vice President

*Catherine Pepler*



Hello MFF Members!

I am hoping you had a nice Thanksgiving and were able to connect with family and friends. This is a holiday we would gather with family and friends to enjoy one another and breaking bread together. This year is different, we are not gathering in our typical way. Some approaches that help



like telephone calls, Zoom meetings or FaceTime are utilized to keep the connection with family and friends.

2020 has been a year of many hurdles with the pandemic resulting in creating a new way of life for us requiring social distancing, restrictions on gatherings and requirements for facemasks to be worn. Unfortunately, the coronavirus continues to be troublesome with cases on the rise. This surely has caused increased stress and worry. Some of us have personal experiences with illness and loss of loved ones as a result of the coronavirus. We need to keep in touch with one another more than ever. Please remember we are here for you and do reach out for support.

We are fortunate for the dedicated health care and emergency medical professionals working on the front lines. Remote schooling has been a challenge for our teachers and parents alike, juggling changes in schedules and keeping everything on track. This is a great time to reach out with a note of appreciation to them. Our children are feeling the burden of the remote learning, social distancing and not being able to be with extended family and friends. What are you doing to bring fun into your household, reduce the stress and stay connected with your family and friends? What sort of things are you doing with your children to keep them engaged? It would be fun to hear from you. Just pop a note to [info@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org](mailto:info@merrimackfriendsfamilies.org) for the newsletter.

It is no surprise current circumstances have certainly had an impact 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. I am pleased to announce Sandy George has taken on Lead for the Book Club to be held virtually. The first Zoom meeting was held on November 18. Lots of great discussion. If you are interested in joining, watch for the invite and hop on with this fun group of members. There are hikes/ walks being scheduled also. This is a great way to get out in the fresh air, be socially distance wearing masks and keeping connected with other MFF members. Hope you will take part in this.

We do have the ability to have more activities with your help. I am wondering if you may have something we could do remotely. Do you have a craft like making a door wreath or special recipe you could demo on line? This could be a fun! Don't be shy, reach out to me and I will help you with ideas and getting the ball rolling. There is lots of support with ideas, planning, inviting members among us. It's a great way to connect with friends, meet new friends and have fun.

In closing I am wishing you and your family a joyous holiday filled with good health and building of wonderful memories.

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

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## Secretary

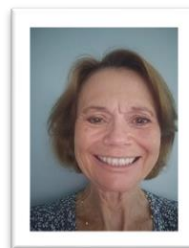
*Dorian Walters*

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

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## Ways and Means

*Julie Akers & Robin Johnson*



Happy Holidays! Ways & Means understands that everyone is probably feeling the excitement and stress that comes with the holiday season so we're taking a breather for December. Relax and enjoy time with your family.





MFF will be partnering with Parks & Rec in Jan, Feb and March on the Winter Warriors events at Wasserman Park. This is a series of family friendly runs/walks around the park grounds, each with a fun theme. MFF will be selling food and drinks to coordinate with the themes and to make some money for our charitable fund. Please consider volunteering at one or all three events. Robin and Julie hope your holidays are happy and healthy and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!

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## Service

*Tammy Ditman & Pat Teden*



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the troops overseas. The brave men and women serving our country will receive cheerful Christmas stockings full of treats, personal care items and holiday cards. A special thanks to Pat for stuffing all 30 stockings and delivering them since I was out of commission at that time.

Now it is time to help someone closer to home. Pat and I are looking into several options for local holiday gift giving. Watch for an Evite soon.

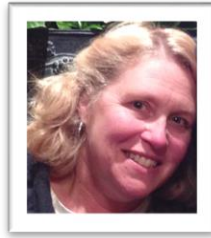
Happy Holidays to all.  
Tammy and Pat





## Membership

*Wilma Cunningham & Beth Voorhees*



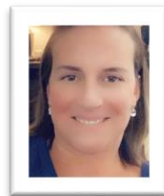
With the holidays upon us and Covid still not contained, Membership will not host any informational sessions for the remainder of this calendar year. We shall re-group and decide how best to move forward come 2021! Our best wishes to you and your family for this holiday season. Stay Vigilant! And don't forget your Mask!

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



Merrimack  
Friends & Families

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# Happy Birthday!!



|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Holly D | 12/18 |
| Carol A | 12/19 |

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## 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 26. 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 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. Here's wishing you an early HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Regards,  
Jill Mitchell



## Fitness Friends

Stay tuned for upcoming information.



## 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 very productive Zoom meeting of Book Club on Wednesday. It was awesome to see so many smiling faces and there seemed to be no technical issues. We made use of the chat feature on Zoom to share book ideas. That may be a way for others concerned about Zoom seizing up for them





to join us in our meetings. Chat messages may be sent to everyone or just to a specified person. I would love others to join us. Another way others may be able to join in our meetings is to read (or not completely read) the book and send an email with their thoughts to me prior to the meeting. If they access email during the meeting I will attempt to share some of what is being said.

We made some decisions during the meeting. One thought is that we will continue Zoom meetings until we all feel safe meeting in person. Our meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm with our next meeting on December 16. We will be reading a bunch of different Christmas books for this meeting which I am delighted to announce may be picked up at Rose Shajenko's house from a bin on her front porch. If you want you may choose a Christmas book of your own to share. We need to be reading uplifting books at this time when so many will not be sharing the Holidays with loved ones.

I am hoping to have Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Richardson available for our January 20 meeting. The book title will be in the December evite if at all possible.

I hope you are all able to enjoy the coming Holidays whether your family meets in person or via some electronic means.

Sandy

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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!



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Charitable Fund Inc.**

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