Shop Small Business Saturday, Nov. 28







A Festive Peek into the Many Holiday-Themed Offerings Hosted by The Friends of the New Fairfield Library

Article and Photos
by Sarah Opdahl

NEW FAIRFIELD - The Friends of the New Fairfield Public Library (Friends) continue to outdo themselves with a remarkably packed schedule of joyful events and activities. One such offering on a recent Wednesday evening was "Holiday Nutcrackers" during which a happy group of crafters listened to merry tunes, casually chatted, and got into a flow state while dolling up the classic,



two-foot wooden soldiers.

Many participants are regulars at these events, though a few were in attendance for their first Friends' activity. All were ultra-engaged, having chosen a Nutcracker—there were a handful of style options including drumming and sword- or staff-wielding—and pre-loaded their palettes with favored acrylics, glitter, and more. A couple of ambitious crafters had pulled out the mod podge and were working to carefully decoupage tissue paper garments onto the unpainted soldiers. Though a table full of paints and potential accessories was offered, participants were also encouraged to bring their own decorations, if they would like.

While more than a dozen New Fairfield residents were crafting away in the library's Community Room, active Friends' members Anne Marie and Richard Manz were busy attending to their guests. At one point, Anne Marie listed an impressive plethora of future activities and events that are open for registration. Val, who was painting a traditional color-blocked nutcracker, is looking forward to the Yankee Book Swap, Friday, December 11,

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6:30pm at which each participant will bring a wrapped book, sometimes with a little additional gift, and play a white-elephant-style game. Patti, one of the aforementioned decoupagers, was intrigued by the sound of the Annual Cookie Walk, Saturday, December 12, 10:00am-1:00pm at which people can fill a bakery box of homemade cookies for $15.

Stephanie shared that she likes to sign up for the crafting nights, all of which are typically free, especially on the evenings that involve painting, which she finds therapeutic. Jessica, Marianne, and Tiziana—all young moms who have children in the same grades—love that it gives them a night out, it's a simple meet up, and they are glad to support local activities. Some of their favorite Friends' offerings are game nights; and Jessica and Marianne are legendary for having solved one of the most difficult murder-mystery activities.

A great way to support the work of the Friends would be to shop at their annual Holiday Boutique this Saturday, November 28, 10:30am -3:30pm in the Program Room in the Children's Library. There will be a wide range of gifts available and it's the perfect destination for shoppers of all ages. The littlest shoppers can also get gifts—maybe for mom, grandpa, siblings—wrapped up (for free, of course) to take home and put under the tree. All proceeds go to support the library and future Friends' offerings.

Manz explained that residents are welcome to join the Friends at an upcoming member meeting at the library! The more the merrier! Meetings are the second Thursday of each month, alternating mornings and evenings. *The next meeting is December 10 at 10:00am.*





