

DECEMBER 2025



The MariElders

6923 Madisonville Rd Cincinnati OH 45227

513-271-5588

marielders@yahoo.com

marielders.org

December

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From the Director's Desk

This holiday season is our time to come together and celebrate the warmth, joy, and community that make us who we are. Let's embrace the festive spirit with open hearts and create cherished memories together.

We're planning special holiday gatherings filled with laughter, delicious treats, and the kind of meaningful connection that makes this season truly magical. Whether hosting our bake sale, enjoying The Nutcracker, or simply being present with one another, these moments remind us of the bonds we share.

Your presence brightens our center every day, and the holidays are the perfect time to celebrate that light. Let's make this season unforgettable! Filled with the cheer, comfort, and togetherness that define our MariElders spirit.



Thank you for your generosity!



Marilyn Mendez	Kathy Tomain	Avis Geygan
Sharon Lally	Robert Porter	Alan Miles
Carl & Janice Falstrom	Frank & Thale Herschede	Nira & Vina Shah
Christina Smith	Adele Beiting	Roselyn Smith
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Need Help?

In this abundant time of year, things can be overwhelming. If you need help, reach out.
 call or text 988 anytime

New Year Updates



In 2026, newsletters will continue to be available free of charge and emailed to members. If you'd like your newsletter mailed, then there is a \$12 annual fee.



Snacks and a Speaker costs will increase to \$15 per session.



For those who started attending MariElders after March 2025, membership renewal will be the month that you joined.



MariElders follows the Mariemont City School inclement weather policy. If there is no school due to weather, we'll also close.



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December BIRTHDAYS

Linda Silvati	Dec 2	Douglas Jose	Dec 14
Mary Ann Sontag	Dec 2	Karen Schofield	Dec 15
John Mullan	Dec 4	Wendy Havlick	Dec 17
Nancy Powell	Dec 5	Patricia Craig	Dec 19
Lynda Reis	Dec 6	Sally Neff	Dec 20
Nancy Duran	Dec 6	Tim Schopmeyer	Dec 22
Michael Smith	Dec 6	Charlotte Wiseman	Dec 24
Sharon Boyles	Dec 9	Gary Gerwe	Dec 25
Soon Hyun	Dec 12	Susie Gray	Dec 27
Maria Heredia	Dec 13	Janice Falstrom	Dec 27
Wes Iredale	Dec 13	Pat van Stone	Dec 31
Terry Gaines	Dec 14	Shirley Carpenter	Dec 31



Cheryl Jeffers | Senior Care Advocate

P: 513-712.4849 | C: 513-448.6590 | F: 513-436.1498

E: cherylj@amadaseniorcare.com | Web: www.AmadaCincinnati.com



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Mondays

Balance and Strength w/Diane**11:00am; lower level of MariElders**

Improve your agility and reduce your risk of falls in these fabulous Balance & Strength classes with our world-renowned instructor, Diane Sabo! Handheld weights and balls will be used to supplement a variety of exercises that target your leg, core, and upper body muscles. As with all our fitness classes, the first class is always free. Come try it out and see what a difference it makes!

Cost: \$5 per class***Duplicate Bridge****12:30pm; lower level of MariElders**

If you are interested in playing Duplicate Bridge, please contact Monica Walker at (434) 282-4963 or email her at andoverconsultants@gmail.com

No Duplicate Bridge on December 1.*Canasta****1pm; first floor of MariElders**

If you are interested in playing Canasta but don't remember how or would like to learn, the group would be happy to share their experience and expertise!

***No Canasta on December 1.**

Tuesdays

Chair Yoga with Helene**12pm; lower level of MariElders**

This class, led by certified instructor Helene Everhart, is open for all abilities.

Cost: \$5 per class; first class is free.**NOTE:** Helene will be on vacation on 12/30, so there will be no Chair Yoga.**Mah Jongg****1pm; first floor of MariElders**

If you're interested in playing or learning this fun, ancient game of strategy, contact Kelly Pharmer at (513) 831-7309. Call ahead of time to schedule lessons.

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Wednesdays

***Chair Volleyball**

**10am; RG Cribbet Recreation Center
5903 Hawthorne Ave., Fairfax, OH 45227**

Chair Volleyball is the best kind of physical activity--competition with lots of laughs! It is played similarly to volleyball, with the differences being that the game is played with a beach ball on a smaller court, and you only need to get out of your chair to chase down stray balls!

***Balance and Strength with Diane**

11:30am; lower level of MariElders

Improving our balance is an important tool in helping prevent falls. Rest assured that this class is not a biology lab! It is an energizing workout that manages to combine exercise and laughter.

Cost: \$5 per class

***Mexican Train Dominoes**

1pm; first floor of MariElders

The object is for a player to play all the tiles from their hand onto one or more "trains" emanating from a central hub or "station".

***Hand and Foot**

1pm; first floor of MariElders

Any week you are planning to play, please contact Helen Whitling at (513) 646-3349 so we know how many tables to set up. And if you need a refresher on how to play, this group would be happy to help!

***MariElders will be closed Wed. Dec 24.**

Movies at MariElders

1pm, lower level of MariElders

December 3: *Buttons*

87 minutes

Follow this heartwarming journey of two orphan girls whose only wish is to find a home for Christmas. With a little help from their guardian angels, they discover that miracles really can happen when they find the power to believe.

December 10: *It's a Wonderful Life*

130 minutes

A man is saved from a suicide attempt by an angel and is then shown how important he is to the people who love him.

December 17: *Miracle on 34th Street*

96 minutes

The lives of three people are forever changed by an old man who insists that he is Santa Claus.

December 31: *The Poseidon Adventure*

117 minutes

En route from New York City to Greece on New Year's Eve, a majestic passenger ship is overtaken by a tidal wave. With the captain dead, surviving passengers band together to avert fires, flooding, structural instability and mechanical malfunctions as they make their way through a maze of ladders and tunnels in their desperate attempt to escape a watery grave.

Thursdays

Bingo

10am; lower level of MariElders

This energetic game is led by our very own Kent State Broadcasting legend Linda Swensson. Don't forget to bring your quarters!

NOTE: *The bingo schedule is flexible for the holiday season, so please check the December calendar.*

Chair Yoga with Helene

12pm; lower level of MariElders

Cost: \$5 per class

NOTE: *The Chair Yoga schedule is flexible for the holiday season, so please check the December calendar.*

Five Crowns

1:00pm; first floor of MariElders

In this card game, similar to rummy, players try to get the lowest score after 11 rounds.

Five Crowns 12/4 and 12/11.

British Murder Mystery

1:30 pm; lower level of MariElders

Come improve your sleuthing skills while you watch a murder mystery!

Murder Mystery 12/11 this month.

MariArtists

3:00pm; first floor of MariElders

NOTE: Zoom only 12/18; no class on 12/25.

Fridays

Party Bridge

12pm; first floor of MariElders

If you enjoy Bridge and just want to play for fun, please contact Barb Hampton at (513) 403-3110.

Competitive Bridge

12:30pm; first floor of MariElders

If you enjoy Bridge but take it a bit more seriously, please contact Barb Smith at (513) 546-6015.

Lunch Bunch

Fridays at 1pm

Join members as we sample some newer restaurants and visit old favorites! Unless otherwise indicated on the monthly calendar, we leave MariElders at 12:30 pm. Please sign up by the Wednesday before each lunch so we have time to finalize our reservations and plan transportation.

December 5: Copper Blue

December 12: Kreimer's Bier Haus

December 19:: No lunch out

December 26: :The Pacific Kitchen



Melissa M. Bales
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513-733-0130 (fax)
email: melissa@balesins.com

You may sign up for these activities starting on Monday, November 24.
Spots are limited on some events so don't delay!

Monday, December 1

Quarterly Birthday Party **1:00 pm; first floor of MariElders**

Come help us celebrate birthdays for the last quarter of 2025. Members with October, November and December birthdays will be the guests of honor, but all are welcome for the celebration and snacks!

Tuesday, December 2

Book Club **10:30 am; first floor of MariElders**

Join our discussion on ***The Lost Story***. As boys, best friends Jeremy and Rafe went missing in a vast WV forest, only to reappear six months later. Years later, as a famed missing persons' investigator, Jeremy is called upon to help a friend find her sister, who vanished in the very same forest as Rafe and Jeremy.

Set Up for Kindergarten Shopping **1:00 pm; lower level of MariElders**

Come help us sort the gifts for Thursday's kindergarten shopping.

Thursday, December 4

Tech Talks: Cooking Websites **9:00 am; first floor of MariElders**

Overwhelmed by all the cooking websites out there? Come share your experiences

Thurs & Fri, December 4 & 5

Bake Sale Prep, ME lower level

Thurs, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Fri, 10:00 am - Noon

We will be packaging the items for our 12/6 bake sale.

Saturday, December 6

Bake Sale at the Scouts' Tree Sale **12 pm-4pm; 6907 Wooster Pike** **Mariemont, Ohio 45227**

Help us sell the delectable items that our members baked! Join in this festive holiday tradition.

Tuesday, December 9

Holiday Shopping **10:00 am; Oakley Station**

Join us for an outing to Meijer, Target, At Home, and other nearby retailers.

Thursday, December 11

Kindergarten Shopping **9:15 am; Mariemont Elementary**

Let's help our local kindergarteners select holiday gifts for their family!

Friday, December 12

Members' Meeting **10:30 am; first floor of MariElders**

Come hear our latest updates on our plans for 2026.

You may sign up for these activities starting on Monday, November 24.
Spots are limited on some events so don't delay!

Friday, December 12

Armchair Travels: Germany

1:00pm; Kreimer's Bier Haus

We will be combining the weekly Lunch Out with the Armchair Travels--Germany, with lunch at Kreimers.

Cost: transportation + lunch

Tuesday, December 16

Newsletter Packing Party

9:15 am; first floor of MariElders

Be the first to learn about our plans for the start of the new year!

Thursday, December 18

MariElders Holiday Party

sponsored by the Mariemont Care Center

12:00 pm; Fairfax Rec Center

Join the festivities as we celebrate the holidays with a delicious lunch consisting of lasagna, salad, and a variety of delicious side dishes and desserts! A White Elephant gift exchange is optional. Gift limit \$10.

Cost: \$10

Friday, December 19

The Nutcracker/Cincinnati Ballet

10:30 am; Cincinnati Music Hall

Join us for the Nutcracker Student Matinee dress rehearsal!

Cost: \$35

Wed, Dec 24 through Thu, Dec 25

MariElders will be closed for the Christmas holidays! We will re-open on Friday, December 26.



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Tuesday, December 30

Hamilton

1:00 pm; Aronoff

Hamilton is the epic saga that follows the rise of Founding Father Alexander Hamilton as he fights for honor, love, and a legacy that would shape the course of a nation. In addition to its 11 Tony Awards, it has won a Grammy®, an Olivier Award, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and an unprecedented special citation from the Kennedy Center Honors.! We will be leaving MariElders at 11:45.

Cost: \$145

Heating Assistance Available
Application Deadline: May 31, 2026

The Ohio Department of Development and MariElders want to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to eight members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of nine or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs. Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application. They may also visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2026.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Erin (513) 271-5588.

To be connected to your local Energy Assistance Provider, call (800) 282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.

