

DECEMBER 2024



The MariElders

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marielders.org

december

MariElders Board Members

Jed O'Connell, President
Sally Coffman, Vice President
Diane Sabo, Secretary
Ralph Blasi, Treasurer
Suzanne Bischoff,
President Emeritus
Ed Berkich
Sandra Garland
Alissa Gormley
Becky Jones
Alica Stock
Linda Swensson,
Member Council President

MariElders Staff

Erin Rothfuss,
Executive Director
Lynn Beirl
Activity Coordinator
JD Dorger, Sharon Boyles
Transportation
Coordinators

From the Director's Desk

As we wrap up an exciting 2024, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your support. This year, we've come together to create lasting memories, strengthen our community, and provide essential services to our members. From learning French for the Fun of It, to social events, and card games, your involvement has been vital in making 2024 a year to remember. Looking ahead to 2025, we are thrilled for the opportunities to expand our programs and continue offering a welcoming space where seniors can stay vibrant, be engaged: connect with MariElders.

But we can't do it without you. Your generous donations make all the difference in ensuring our center remains a place of support and joy for our community. Whether a one-time gift or monthly contribution, your support helps us provide vital services and programs.



Board Member Spotlight



Meet...Board Member Ed Berkich

A lifelong “Sherlockian and aspiring Baker Street Irregular”, Ed Berkich brings a broad perspective, life experience, and a sense of excitement to our Board. Ed is a retired general surgeon and was also an Associate Professor of Surgery with UC for 35+ years. He loves to travel, with Russia and Scotland being his favorite countries. His other hobbies include reading, baseball, working with his hands, and hunting. He and his wife, Karen, have lived in Mariemont for 25 years, and they have three adult children and four grandchildren.


Last year, Ed was invited by Ralph Blasi to join the Board. “My hope is that I can get more men to become interested in the activities of MariElders,” he says. Ed is a person who lives life out loud, and one of his goals as a Board member is to bring a dedicated sense of excitement and stimulus to the Center, with new ideas and activities to anticipate. Now that’s something to look forward to!

Meet...Board Member Alicia Stock

Alicia Stock became a member of our Board earlier this year, and she’s excited about her new role with the Center. “It was an easy choice to join the board this year,” she says. “I have really enjoyed working with this wonderful group and helping to positively impact the lifestyle of the MariElders community.”

Alicia's connection with MariElders began in 2022 as a volunteer business consultant, and she treasures the friendships she’s made through MariElders. She’s impressed by how staff and the Board truly care about the members and are constantly striving to ensure that the membership experience is best-in-class.

She and her husband moved from Dallas to Mariemont in 2017, and they have three girls, ages 6, 4, and 2. She is now a stay-at-home mom, but her previous career in corporate retail with Nieman Marcus gave her valuable skills that she’s adapted for consultation with non-profit and start-up businesses. In her free time, Alicia enjoys traveling with her family, attending theatre productions (she loves the Broadway in Cincinnati season subscription!), and playing the piano.



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December

BIRTHDAYS

Linda Silvati,	Dec 2
John Mullan,	Dec 4
Nancy Powell,	Dec 5
Richard Cocks,	Dec 6
Lynda Reis,	Dec 6
Karen Kennedy,	Dec 10
Drue Johnston,	Dec 11
Maria Heredia,	Dec 12
Wes Iredale,	Dec 13
Terry Gaines,	Dec 14
Karen Schofield,	Dec 15
Carole Bowman,	Dec 17
Noma Jewell Bellissemo,	Dec 19
Patricia Craig,	Dec 20
Patty Laube,	Dec 21
Sally Neff,	Dec 22
Gary Gerwe,	Dec 27
Susie Gray,	Dec 27
Janice Falstrom,	Dec 28
Barbara Morgenstern,	Dec 29
Holly Mc Cormack,	Dec 30
Patricia Van Stone,	Dec 31
Shirley Carpenter,	Dec 31

Honoring Judy Kagrise

MariElders is forever in debt to the countless hours of effort that Judy has contributed to our center. After 32 years of service as Recording Secretary, Judy has stepped down. Forever a MariElder, As you see Judy, please take a moment to thank her.

Sponsoring MariElders

MariElders is now accepting sponsorships in our newsletter and website. Email marielders@yahoo.com for more information. Newsletter acknowledgements artwork is needed by the 7th of the month prior to publication. Sponsorships are one year in length.

Support MariElders by donating Stocks in Kind

When you donate stocks-in-kind to MariElders, you receive double the tax benefit. You do not have to pay the capital gains on the increased value, and you are able to write off the fair market value of the contribution. If you decide that you would like to donate stocks to MariElders, just check with Erin who can provide your financial advisor with the needed information to make a contribution.

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Mondays

Scrabble and Board Games

10:30am; first floor of MariElders

Come play Scrabble at MariElders! Did you know a game of Scrabble can stimulate the brain, improve memory, promote positive emotions, and lower blood pressure? This activity is for anyone who enjoys casual word play- all skill levels are welcome. *No Scrabble Dec 2.*



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 Dec 2.

Canasta

1pm; first floor of MariElders

If you are interested in playing, but don't remember how to play or would like to learn, the group would be glad to bring you up to speed.

No Canasta Dec 2.

Tuesdays

Chair Yoga with Helene

12pm; lower level of MariElders

Chair Yoga, led by certified instructor Helene Everhart, combines breath work and seated or standing poses with chair support. This class is perfect for all abilities. All our fitness classes, the first class is always free. Come try it out and see what you think! Cost: \$5 per class

No Yoga Dec 24

Art Club

1pm via Zoom

The WACC/Art Barn continues the weekly art class sessions teaching various techniques using a variety of mediums and platforms. This group meets via Zoom from the comfort of your home.

Meeting ID: 830 7675 8809

Passcode: DAVE

Mah Jongg

1pm; first floor of MariElders

If you're interested in playing or learning this fun, ancient game of strategy, call Kelly Pharmed at (513)831-7309.

No Mah Jongg Dec 24.



Melissa M. Bales

Providing Insurance Products for Seniors

513-733-9090 (office)

513-733-0130 (fax)

email: melissa@balesins.com

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 difference being that the game is played with a 20-inch bouncy ball and players are always seated during play. New players are always welcome!

No Volleyball Dec 25

Balance and Strength with Diane

11:30am; lower level of MariElders

Enhance balance and strength to prevent falls with exercises targeting legs, core, and upper body. Body weight, handheld weights, and balls will be used. Led by Diane Sabo, a 41-year fitness instructor, the class is both beneficial and enjoyable! For all of our fitness classes, the first class is always free. Come try it out and see what you think!

Cost: \$5 per class *No Balance and Strength on Dec 25.*

Mexican Train Dominoes

1pm; first floor of MariElders

No Dominoes Dec 25

Hand and Foot

1pm; first floor of MariElders

If you are interested in playing, but don't remember how to play, or would like to learn, the group would be happy to bring you up to speed. [Please contact Helen Whitling at \(513\) 646-3349](#), if you're planning on playing this week. *No Hand and Foot Dec 25*

Wednesdays cont.

Movies at MariElders

1pm, lower level of the MariElders

December 4: ***Miracles from Heaven***
109 min

is based on the incredible true story of the Beam family. When Christy (Jennifer Garner) discovers that her 10-year-old daughter Anna (Kylie Rogers) has a rare, incurable disease, she becomes a ferocious advocate for her daughter's healing as she searches for a solution.

December 11: ***The Polar Express***
100 minutes

This is the story of a young hero boy who boards on a powerful magical train that's headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus' home on Christmas Eve night. During this ride, he embarks on a journey of self-discovery which shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe. Starring Tom Hanks

December 20: ***Message in a Bottle***
126 minutes

A woman finds a romantic letter in a bottle washed ashore and tracks down the author, a widowed shipbuilder whose wife died tragically early. As a deep and mutual attraction blossoms, the man struggles to make peace with his past so that he can move on and find happiness. Starring Robin Wright and Kevin Costner

Men's Lunch

If you would like to join a group of MariElder men who meet one day a month for lunch and socialization, let us know! For details, date, and location, call Ralph Blasi: 513-257-6288.

Thursdays

Bingo

10am; first floor of MariElders

Led by Kent State Broadcasting Major Linda Swensson!

Remember to bring your quarters!

No Bingo Dec 19

Chair Yoga with Helene

12pm; lower level of MariElders

Cost: \$5 per class

No yoga Dec 19

Murder Mystery TV Series:

1:30 pm; lower level of MariElders

No murder mysteries Dec 19



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; lower level 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 new restaurants and visit old favorites! We leave MariElders at **12:30 pm**. You must sign up by the **Wednesday** before each lunch so we can finalize our reservations and organize transportation. When you sign up, please let us know if you:

- 1) Need a ride
 - 2) Will meet us at the restaurant or
 - 3) Are willing to drive and take others
- Pay your own way.*

December 6: Tokugawa Japan Steakhouse

December 13: Hawkers Alley

December 20: Arnold's Bar and Grill

December 27: Monkey Bar and Grill

You may sign up for these activities starting on Monday, October 21. Spots are limited on some events so don't delay!

Monday, Dec 2

Birthday Party

1:00 pm; first floor of MariElders

Celebrate November and December birthdays with the musical stylings of Jim Lindenschmidt.

Tuesday, Dec 3

Book Club

10:30 am; first floor of MariElders

The Art Thief. In this true story of love, crime and a dangerous obsession, Michael Finkel writes a this spellbinding portrait of obsession and flawed genius, Michael Finkel gives us one of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of our times, a riveting story of art, theft, love, and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost.

Monday, Dec 5

Resource Minute: Swipe & Dine

11:00 am; first floor of MariElders

Swipe n Dine is a program that can help people make connections and get a bite to eat. Learn more about this program hosted by Episcopal Retirement Services.

Tuesday, Dec 10

Holiday Workshop w Kindergarteners

9:45 am am; Mariemont Elem

Join members as we help them select gifts for their families. It's a fun time helping 5 year olds make consequential decisions about how to express caring through gifts.

Thursday, Dec 12

Tour of Sandra Garland's House

1:30pm; Sandra's house

Sandra's primitive house is decorated with more than 700 Christmas trees and a plethora of Santas. She's been featured in the Town Crier for her commitment to primitive and Christmas decor.

Friday, Dec 13

Member's Meeting

11am; first floor of MariElders

During our members' meeting, we discuss the business of MariElders. Take the time to influence the program offerings. Your thoughts and opinions matter to us. Participants are entered to win \$25 in MariElders bucks.

You may sign up for these activities starting on Monday, Oct 21. Spots are limited on some events so don't delay!

Friday, Dec 13

Holiday Pops and Hawkers Alley

11:00am; leaving ME at 10:15 am

Get into the holiday spirit by enjoying the music of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra in the beautifully decorated Music Hall. Then satisfy your appetite at Hawker's Alley restaurant. Cost: \$65 + lunch

Tuesday, Dec 17

Newsletter Packing Party

9:15 am; first floor of MariElders

Get a first look at next month's happenings while helping to fold, stuff, stamp and label the newsletters. Sign up if you can help!

Tuesday, Dec 17

Panic Shopping @ Walmart

10:00 am; leaving ME at 9:30 am

If you left some of your holiday shopping to the last minute or just realized you forgot someone on your list, join us for a Walmart trip.

Wednesday, Dec 18

Krohn Conservatory Solstice Glow and Lunch Out at the Terrace Café

11:45am; leaving ME at 11:15

Celebrate the magic of winter with the Solstice Glow at the Krohn Conservatory. Cost: \$15 + lunch

Thursday, Dec 19

Holiday Party

Noon; Fairfax Recreation Center

Join MariElders members for a spirited holiday meal! Sign up to bring side dishes, and for a white elephant gift exchange. Cost \$10

Thursday, Dec 26

Servatii Christkindlmarkt

12:30pm; leaving ME at 12:00

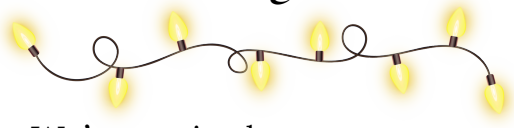
Join us for this outdoor German-American holiday festival featuring food, beverages, merchandise, holiday lights, music & an ice rink.



From the Jewelry Sale to Parties, MariElders are always accessorized



Holiday Workshop with Mariemont Kindergarten



We're excited to announce the Holiday Workshop is back! This is a wonderful opportunity for Kindergartners to choose special gifts for their families this holiday season. We invite you to contribute regift or purchase new items. Please talk with Janet K, Giselle W or Pat A for more details. Ideas include: candles, nail polish, mugs, puzzles, card games. Sometimes it is easier to contribute, so if you prefer, monetary donations are also welcome! A dedicated group of volunteers will use the funds to purchase needed items.



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Heating Assistance Available Application Deadline: May 31, 2025

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 seven members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of eight 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, 2025.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Erin at MariElders at (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.