



LAMOILLE NEIGHBORS

Call Janice at 802-585-1233 if you need help registering for an event or need transportation. **Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-1:00.** You're welcome to stop in and say hello.

Our monthly Coffee Hour, March 1st, 10:00 a.m. at the Congregational Church in Hyde Park. Our only goal is to talk and laugh. If you would like to participate, call 802-585-1233 or register [HERE](#).

Blue Zone Documentary March 1st, 8th, 15th and 29th at the Lanpher Memorial Library 2-4 pm. This 4-part Netflix series travels the world with author Dan Buettner as he travels to 5 unique communities where people live extraordinarily long and vibrant lives. We will be viewing a different segment of the series on each date followed by a discussion. Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones takes members around the world to investigate the diet and lifestyles of those living the longest lives. Explore the original blue zones, be immersed in their culture and lifestyles, and see how Blue Zones is applying the research in communities across the United States. Buettner offers insight on how to benefit from following at least some of their leads, because the only thing better than looking good as you age, is feeling good as you age. Register [HERE](#).

March 15th, 1-2 pm. Aging Together Discussion/support group at the Morrisville Centennial Library meets the third Friday of every month. As we age, we need to adapt to many changes in our bodies, abilities and lifestyle. Join Maxine Adams, facilitator, who is a trained social worker and caregiver as well as a member and volunteer with Lamoille Neighbors, as you talk and support each other through this process. Lamoille Home Health and Hospice has offered to do a series of programs for *Aging Together* on various aspects and issues of aging and how to get the help you may need as you age. Register [HERE](#).

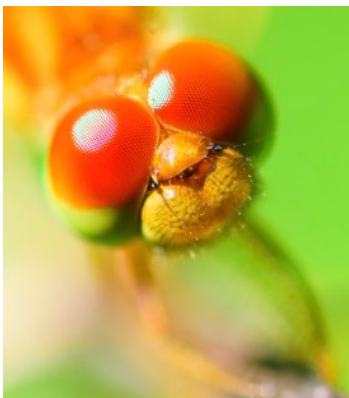


Photo by Bernie

March 20th, 4 p.m. Meet Your Backyard Neighbors, Insects! This presentation will be on Zoom. You can Zoom from your home or join us at the Morrisville Centennial to watch together. Bug-eyed-Bernie (Bernie Parquette), an amateur entomologist, will share the fascinating world that is in everyone's backyard. Bernie has observed over one thousand taxa (many at species level) of invertebrates including 98 bee species, in his 1.3-acre yard over three years.

Now he is researching the lives of each of the taxa of life that live in his yard: life cycle, behaviors, how they sense their world, how they gather food, their mating habits, how they raise families, how long they live and other categories about their existence among us.

Bernie has fascinating photos to share and, interspersed with these visuals, he will offer thoughts on why he finds insect watching rewarding. From close observation grows understanding and caring. We can learn about each taxa's life cycle, their unique behaviors and capabilities. We may even begin to see the world as they perceive it. Register [HERE](#).

March 22nd, Ethnic Potluck 12 p.m. at Sterling View Community Center 292 Sterling View Rd. Hyde Park. Share a dish from your ethnic heritage or one of your favorite dishes from your childhood. Come enjoy each other's company. Please come even if you can't make a dish. There is always plenty of food. Register [HERE](#).



March 25th Full moon Snowshoe, 7:30 pm. Join the band of snowshoers under the full moon. Meet at the far end of Davis Hill Rd in Hyde Park. We will be out for about one hour on an easy trail. Please register so we can notify you with any changes. If you have questions e-mail lisadimondstein@me.com or call 802-233-4179. Register [HERE](#).

On-going Groups:

Article discussion group. Due to our program, Celebrating Connections, we are next meeting March 20th. Normally we meet every other week on Zoom. We limit this group to 8 participants. The group is currently full. Let Janice know if you're interested in being on a waiting list. Call 802-585-1233.

Weekly Yoga with Faith Bieler, Thursdays at River Arts at 9 a.m. All levels welcome. E-mail lisadimondstein@me.com if interested and not already registered. Faith is an extraordinary instructor. We hope you'll give the class a try. Call the office if interested at 802-585-1233.



Chess group will begin in March, with instruction by member, Ted Zilius. If you are interested, call Janice at 802-585-1233. The day and time will be determined by those interested.

Welcome to our new members: Amey Witherbee from Hyde Park, Laura and Jack Wool from Hyde Park, Kate Greenmun and Marge Biery from Morrisville.

And a big welcome to our new volunteers: Kate Greenmun, Marge Biery from Morrisville, Nadia Chudzik from Stowe, Rebecca Doherty from Wolcott.



Laura and Jack Wool



Kate Greemun



Marge Biery



Amey Witherbee



Becky Doherty



Eight members enjoyed a daytime snowshoe led by Michael Wickenden. It was a single digit cold day, but we kept warm with the good company.

SAVE THE DATE

Lamoille Neighbors turns five April 1st. We plan to celebrate May 18th at River Arts in Morrisville from 2-4 pm. This is open to members, volunteers, family and friends. More information to follow but mark your calendars.



Do you know that we have volunteers who can be MedPals? How often have you returned home from an appointment and realized that you forgot to ask an important question or were not clear on follow up plans? There is a vast amount of information received during a medical visit, and it is often difficult to remember all of it. The MedPal can just be a note taker, so you have a reference after your appointment, and/or they can meet with you prior to your appointment and help organize a list of questions and goals for your visit.



There's excitement as Celebrating Connections gets under way.

Solar eclipse glasses will be available in the office. Call Janice to make a time to pick them up or to schedule a volunteer to deliver a pair. **We will be hosting a solar eclipse party on April 8th for those who want to gather together during this unique event.**



The knitting group has been busy with a lot of support from the instructor Jan Roy and her assistant Karen Weeks.

Our first “neighborhood” brunch was in Stowe and was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Paula Ratchford, member and volunteer, who hosted and cooked all the delicious food. We spent time getting to know each other and telling stories about our lives.



Maggie Stewart, Lamoille Neighbors Member

Interviewed by Sue Moore February 2024



Maggie was born in December 1941 five days after Pearl Harbor, 82 years ago. She was born in Burlington, Vermont. Her family moved to Johnson when Maggie was 6 years old. Her given name is Marguerite, but some of her cousins dubbed her “Maggie”, and that name stuck, much to her mother’s dismay.

She was one of eleven children, eight of whom survived. Her father passed away when she was 13 years old. After that, her mother Gladys worked various jobs and figured out how to keep her family together and provide for them. She kept journals telling about many of the times and events in the family’s life.

Maggie and her sisters and brothers all had to learn how to work when they were young. As soon as they were able, each one learned to do small jobs to support the family. They developed a work ethic that has been an important part of their lives. One summer Maggie and one of her brothers walked several miles to a nearby farm to pick vegetables. Other summers they were “farmed out”. This meant that they lived and worked on farms farther from home. She says this was “actually fun”. She learned new things and got to meet different people.

When she was thirteen Maggie attended the Ithiel Falls Camp. This had a profound effect on her life. Her belief in God and the Trinity has shaped her life. As an adult, being a member of the First Congregational Church in North Hyde Park helped define her spiritual life. She notes, “We grew with the Church and we grew old with the Church”.

After high school, Maggie worked at Copley Hospital for three years. During that time, she met Dexter Stewart. Two years later, they got married in Hyde Park. Maggie and Dexter rented their first house, and six months later they bought the farm where they lived and brought up their children.

Dexter and Maggie were blessed with two children, Danny and Sandi. Maggie is grateful that their children grew up knowing they had parents and grandparents who loved them. Dexter’s parents and Maggie’s mother played an important part in the family’s life. They started their married life on the farm with 250 chickens and an egg business. After leaving the egg business in 1968, they bought the general store in North Hyde Park and ran the Stewart’s General Store for three and a half years.



When they sold the store, Maggie began to work as an early childhood teacher for the Lamoille North Supervisory Union's first Chapter I Preschool Program. She visited local homes, providing educational activities to parents and children. This was one of the first-of-its-kind home-based programs in Vermont. This was a dream job for Maggie; being with children was "her thing". She loved everything about being with the children and their parents: playing, cooking, reading, visiting.

As an early educator, Maggie met and worked with a great team of home-based early educators, supervised by the Education Department at Johnson State College. Some of these colleagues became lifelong friends. Many people in Hyde Park have fond memories of Miss Maggie going to their homes when they were small children. This job entailed continual training, including classes at Community College. She retired in 2000.

Danny died in an automobile accident in February 1984 when he was 20 years old. This was a great sadness for the entire family. Maggie joined a grief sharing group, and later started another grief sharing group for parents who had lost a child. People joined who had lost a child many years before but who hadn't had a place to talk about their grief.

Dexter passed away in June 2016. He had developed dementia nine years before that. He spent his final years in a nursing home. He had a great sense of humor that endeared him to many people and occasionally drove Maggie crazy. He was a kind man who was always ready to help anyone in need.

When she reflects on how she has changed over the years, Maggie notes that when she was young, she was very naive. It took years for her to learn that she could actually stand up for herself. Maggie started writing in journals when she got married. She has made the time to write throughout her adult life, composing poetry or reflecting life in her writings. In addition to writing, Maggie enjoys painting. She has taken classes in acrylic painting and watercolors.

Maggie especially enjoys getting together with her family and spending time with her 2 1/2-, year-old great, great granddaughter. She has two granddaughters, four great grandchildren and one great, great granddaughter. She loves getting together with friends. She likes being part of her church and joining Lamoille Neighbors activities and events. Maggie is most proud of her daughter Sandi. Although Sandi has experienced many challenges in her life, she has always been there for her mother.

Maggie's secret for a happy life: never give-up, see the best in people, and keep your sense of humor!

Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for Lamoille Neighbors. We commit to creating an environment that welcomes and values the contributions of each member, volunteer and staff person and respects their identity, culture, background, and abilities, thus enriching Lamoille Neighbors.



March Birthdays

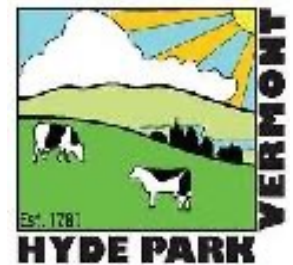
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