



LAMOILLE NEIGHBORS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Upcoming Events for December

If you need transportation or help registering for an event call Bonnie at 802-585-1233.

December 6th, 4-5 pm Butterflies! More than a Pretty Face. Zoom from home or gather together to watch the presentation at the Morrisville library. Nathaniel Sharp is a staff biologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies. Nathaniel has been fascinated by butterflies and insects since he was a child. His presentation is about the world of butterflies and will cover their various types and life cycle. Also included in his talk and slide show will be the upcoming Vermont Butterfly Atlas project he is coordinating. We asked him to tell us what we as individuals can do to support butterflies, including the particular flowers to have in our gardens. Register [HERE](#)

December 8th, Full Moon Walk from 6:30-7:30 pm. Great time to be outdoors, exercise and visit with friends. We will meet at the Cricket Hill trails on Cricket Hill Rd in Hyde Park. If you need further directions or have questions text or call Lisa at 802-233-4179. Register [HERE](#)

December 14th, Tea Party at the Governor's House. 3-5 pm, 100 Main St. Hyde Park. Member Suzanne Boyden, owner of the Governor's House has generously offered members a tea party. This 1893 mansion features original woodwork, hand painted murals and period furnishings. Come join the fun as we enjoy tea and good company. Register [HERE](#).

December 19th, Christmas Lights, 4 pm. We'll pick you up and do a drive to view holiday lights. We will then return to our new office in Morrisville for hot chocolate. Call Bonnie at 802-585-1233 to sign up.

Ongoing Events

Article Discussion Group on Zoom, every other Wednesday from 9-10AM.

We take turns choosing articles, and no matter the topic it's a lively discussion. We are at our maximum amount of participants, but let us know if you're interested and we can start a second group or put you on a list for when there's an opening.

Our monthly Coffee Hour, December 2nd, 10:00 a.m. at the Congregational Church in Hyde Park. Our only goal is to talk and laugh. Masks are strongly recommended. If you would like to participate, please call Bonnie at 802-585-1233 or register [HERE](#) .

Yoga for members and volunteers. Weekly classes are Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. at River Arts. Faith Bieler is an amazing teacher. All levels are welcome. Please e-mail lisadimondstein@me.com if interested and not already registered.

Currently, we have 11 folks participating in the weekly yoga class.



We welcome Wiffy Brooks to the Lamoille Neighbors board! We are excited to have her experience and her commitment to our vision.



Wiffy returned home to Hyde Park when she retired in 2019. She and her late husband moved here in 1969. Her first job was teaching French at Lamoille Union High School. She left teaching to become the clinic coordinator of Planned Parenthood of Lamoille County, which she helped found. Subsequently, she served as the Executive Director for both the Vermont Association of Independent Colleges and the United Way of Lamoille County. She also was a grant writer and fundraising consultant with E. H. Turkle and Associates.

In 1994, Wiffy left Vermont to become a wireless technology analyst in Boston, then worked as a product marketing manager at an Internet start-up. In 2003, she became a Development Officer for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University, a position she held until her retirement.

With a long history of community involvement in Lamoille County, Wiffy is putting her “found retirement time” to good use. She is currently serving on the board of Lamoille Home Health and Hospice and as a volunteer for several community projects. She enjoys photography, gardening, reading, needlework, pickle ball and tennis, but most of all, babysitting for her grandchildren. She is deeply appreciative of the programs that Lamoille Neighbors offered during the pandemic - they kept her engaged and provided her an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

10 members enjoyed a full moon walk on November 7th followed by mulled cider and an "election" cake made by Barbara Percy. We were unable to have a bonfire due to wind but we visited together on Lisa and Mary's porch.



Lamoille Neighbors has rented an office space 3 days a week!! Stop in Monday and Wednesday 11-2 or Fridays from 9-12. Address is 92 Lower Main St. Suite #3, Morrisville, Vt. There is handicap parking on the side of the building with a ramp. We are on the first floor. We are excited to have a space for our office staff, for meetings and trainings and gatherings in small groups. We'd like to thank Peter Bourne for working with us to make our office space possible.



HomeShare Vermont reached out to Lamoille Neighbors as they thought our members might be interested in what they had to offer. Here is what they wrote up for us.



How Homesharing Can Help With Bills and Provide Help

Costs have been rising for all of us and many Vermonters face the prospect of larger fuel bills this winter. One way to help with the effects of inflation is through homesharing.

HomeShare Vermont is an organization that, for the past 40 years, has been matching people who have a room in their home with those seeking an affordable place to live. If you're interested in having more income to pay for this winter's heating bill, learning about the tax benefits of homesharing or getting some help around the house, we'd love to speak with you about how we go about finding a compatible homeshare guest for you.

The housemate can contribute to rent and utilities and/or provide help with household tasks, such as cooking, yardwork, housekeeping, snow removal, pet care or running errands. We conduct background and reference checks and interviews. Then, you decide which of our pre-screened candidates you'd like to live with.

We're available to speak with you about how homesharing can be a benefit to you. Call us to learn more at (802) 863-5625 or visit our website at HomeShareVermont.org.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Classes, offered by Central Vermont Council on Aging

Learn to balance caring for yourself while caring for others during this free course. Our next six-week Powerful Tools for Caregivers class will meet on **Zoom**: Thursdays January 12- February 16, 10-11:30 am

Participants will also receive a free copy of the Caregiver Helpbook. Visit <http://cvcoa.org/powerful-tools-classes> to learn more.

Lamoille Neighbors is hiring. After 3.5 years our dedicated employee Bonnie McDermott will be departing on January 31st. The position will begin at 5 hours during training and increase to 12-17 hours by February 1st. The primary objective of this position is to perform all office/administrative duties associated with members and volunteers. We are seeking an independent, motivated employee who has an interest in working with older adults and has excellent office, computer and communication skills.

If you or anyone you know is interested, please e-mail lisadimondstein@me.com for a job description.

Meet Trudy Collins, our Lamoille Neighbor

Trudy is someone worth chatting with. When you get her reminiscing, you discover she has always been an adventurer and had an exciting life full of twists and turns.

She recalls her childhood as the third of six daughters. Her father was a “jack of all trades” - he built houses and boats, fixed all kinds of motors, even made shoes. The family was Polish/Catholic. Her grandmother spoke only Polish. Although Trudy can understand Polish, she is not a fluent Polish speaker. Today, her sisters live in TX, CO, PA, NV and, although one sister has passed, they still have reunions.

Trudy always knew she wanted to leave her small town in Pennsylvania, so after she got her nursing degree, she joined the Air Force at age 21. She was stationed in France where she met her husband who was an “Irish/Frenchman.” She calls him her “finishing school.”



The couple lived in France, Germany, and other places in Europe for about 30 years and raised their son and two daughters there. They eventually moved to Louisiana where Trudy worked as a nurse in a nursing home. Sadly, her husband died and she moved to Stowe to help her daughter run her Bed and Breakfast in the Lower Village.

Deciding that she wanted to do something on her own, she became a Peace Corp volunteer in Madagascar for sixteen months. It became time to retire so she returned to Vermont to enjoy cross country skiing and snowshoeing. She has lived the past 20 years in Stowe.

Looking back, Trudy is most proud of raising children who were “well educated and well brought up.” Her only regret is that they didn’t get to experience their grandparents because of living abroad. Trudy now has 8 grandchildren who are all adults. Two of the boys live in Stowe, and she gets to see them on occasion.

Now, in her 80th decade (Trudy had a birthday November 14) she attributes her long life to “Polish heritage, good Polish food (pierogies are her favorite) and a bit of garlic every day.”

She enjoys the company of every one of her many friends, braiding rugs with her rug braiding group, and participating in her Yoga and Bone Builder classes. She is grateful to be healthy enough to continue these friendships and activities and to be living in Vermont.

When asked the secret of her happy life, Trudy says, “live every day to the fullest; yesterday is gone; don’t worry about tomorrow.”

11 members had a blast in the intuitive painting class led by Megan Bisbee at Sterling View Community Center.

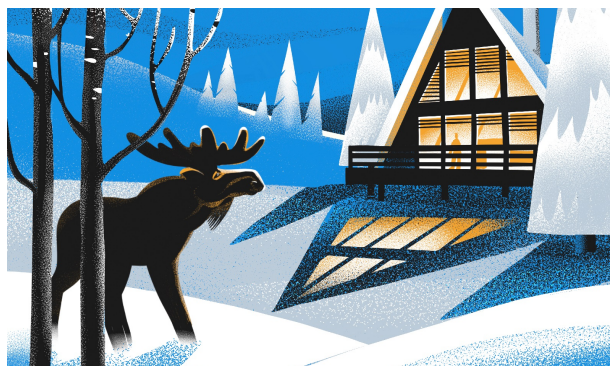




December Birthdays

Sharon Anderson
Dusty Boynton
Carmen Campbell
Joan Greene
Claire Hancock
Betty Polow
Nancy Banks
Maggie Stewart
Bonnie McDermott

Welcome to our New Members: Lindy
and Chris Date from Hyde Park



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS AND BENEFACTORS



Howard Manosh



**Lanpher Memorial
Library**



Peter Bourne

**Thank you to all the individual donors who help make Lamoille
Neighbors successful.**