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September 3 and 17: Ferrisburgh Selectboard Meetings 6:30 PM
September 6: First Friday Movies Paddington 2 6:00 PM Bixby
September 7: Friend's Book Sale 9:00 AM Bixby
September 8: When the Church and Republicans Were Radical: 3:00 PM Rokeby
September 9: Mary Brevda Photography exhibit Bixby
September 14: Cook the Book 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Bixby
September 14 and 28: Ferrisburgh Grange King Pede card parties 6:30 PM
September 15: Engaging Across Difference 3:00 PM Bixby
September 21: Rokeby Century Trees 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Rokeby
September 22: Black is the Body Stories 3:00 PM Rokeby

Interested in trying a new recipe and sharing it? Join the Bixby's Cook the Book Club! Every month, home cooks can sign up and receive a recipe from a cookbook that is housed at the Bixby. Then just make the recipe and bring the final dish to share at a potluck event at the Bixby. This month the recipes will be from *One Pan Wonders (America's Test Kitchen.)* A special challenge, in coordination with the 2nd Annual Exploring Food in Your Backyard (A partnership between the Vermont Department of Libraries and Rooted in Vermont (www.vtfarmlandplate.com/network/rooted-in-vermont), is to use as many local ingredients as possible. At the potluck, cooks can share about which ingredients they grew in their own garden, bought at a local farmer's market, or even foraged while out on a hike! To register and for more information, call 802-877-2211.

The "King Pede" card parties as held by the Ferrisburgh Grange are scheduled for the Saturdays of August 3 and 17. These get-togethers are held at the Ferrisburgh Town Hall and Community Center and begin at 6:30 PM with a sandwich supper and then on to an evening of fun and card games. King Pede is an unusual game that involves "trick-taking" techniques such as in Hearts and Spades or Pitch. This is a game of fun and skill so come prepared to use your strategic thinking!

On Sunday, September 8 at 3:00 PM, Dr. Elise Guyette will present an illustrated talk entitled *When the Church and Republicans Were Radical: Reconstruction 1862-1895*, delving into the widely misunderstood history of Reconstruction using South Carolina as an example. Dr. Guyette focuses on Radical Republicans and missionaries who flocked to South Carolina even before the war ended to assist freedmen and women in creating better lives. The talk features Vermonters, including a man who once worked at Rokeby, and explains many actions and policies still affecting the nation today. Elise Guyette is the author of *Discovering Black Vermont: African American Farmers in Hinesburgh, 1790-1890* (2011), and is the co-founder of the Burlington Edible History Tour.

Difficult conversations — are there ways to bridge the differences? Renee Wells (director of education for equity and inclusion at Middlebury College) will lead a discussion entitled *Engaging Across Difference* on Sunday, September 15 at 3:00 PM. The

workshop will explore the difficulties and tensions associated with trying to talk across difference — difference in race, religion, gender, nationality, sexuality, morality, ethics, faith, or politics. Structured as a facilitated dialogue, participants will identify the conversations that are most challenging for them and will focus on identifying ways to bridge difference and build community with others.

On Saturday, September 21 at 11:00 AM join naturalist Jacob Holzberg-Pill on a nature hike to Rokeby's massive oak trees, each well over 100 years old. These trees provided shade to otherwise open fields long before new growth filled in the surrounding areas. Learn about how large trees survive and prosper, how the environment affects them, and how they benefit the environment. Participants will help to take critical measurements (circumference, height, crown width) of the trees for the Vermont Big Tree registry. With degrees from Yale and Harvard, Jacob Holzberg-Pill teaches ecology and land stewardship in a variety of settings, and he's back at Rokeby due to popular demand. *Participants should dress for the outdoors.*

Dr. Emily Bernard will present *Black is the Body: Stories from my grandmother's time, my mother's time, and mine* on Sunday, September 22 at 3:00 PM. "I am black—and brown, too," writes Dr. Bernard. "Brown is the body I was born into. Black is the body of the stories I tell." In a collection of twelve deeply personal and interconnected essays Bernard explores the nuances and paradoxes of her identity — as a woman who grew up black in the south and who married a white man from the north, as a black professor teaching mostly white students in Vermont about race, as a mother who adopted two babies from Ethiopia. Emily Bernard author of *Remember Me to Harlem: The Letters of Langston Hughes and Carl Van Vechten*, and is professor of Critical Race and Ethnic studies at the University of Vermont.

Our area schools are now in session for the year and we wish the best to all the students and their families. Please visit the schools' websites and social media to learn of events and volunteer opportunities and other ways in which we, as a community, can support our children and schools. Ferrisburgh Central School: www./ferrisburghcentral.org. Vergennes Union Middle/High School: www.vuhs.org.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has a full agenda of tours, classes and workshops throughout the fall. Visit their website for the dates and detail of their rowing trips, blacksmithing and bladesmithing workshops, and many more opportunities to learn about our Lake Champlain and its history. The Lake Champlain Celebrating Sacred Waters Canoe, Paddle and Trail Walk will be on September 7. This will be an opportunity for paddling a canoe up river or exploring nature trails. Educational and spiritual activities will be guided by faith leaders, field naturalists, educators, artists, and other talented souls. On September 7 and 8, there will be a weekend rowing trip to Westport, NY. On September 12 and 13, the museum will host an overnight Moonlight Row. Also, remember to visit the ongoing exhibits and demonstrations as listed on www.lcmm.org.

NOTE: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related news in this column, so if you have news that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at smwkersch@comcast.net. You are able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh Town Website at www.ferrisburghvt.org.