



**FRIENDS OF ADIN BALLOU**

*presents*

**HOPEDALE'S ANNUAL**

# **'PEACE PICNIC'**

*In the tradition of the Early Hopedale Community which met each year to celebrate the abolition of slavery in the British empire with speeches & a picnic at Nelson's Grove.*

**SUNDAY: August 6, 2017**

**TIME: 3 to 5 pm**

**PLACE: Adin Ballou Park, Hopedale St., Hopedale**

Join us as we rally to:

**WAGE PEACE ~ SEEK JUSTICE ~ END WAR**

**OPEN MIKE**

We welcome:

**Poetry~Peace & Protest Music~Social Justice Statements**

*Special event: Winning essays from the Adin Ballou Peace Essay Contest will be read aloud*

**Please Bring: 1. A chair or blanket, 2. Food & Drink, 3. Your friends**

Visit our Website at [www.adinballou.org](http://www.adinballou.org)

 Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AdinBallou](https://www.facebook.com/AdinBallou)

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*Friends of Adin Ballou*



**Adin Ballou's Birthday Peace Essay Contest:** Adin Ballou said, "Times and generations are coming that will justly estimate me and my work. For them I have lived and labored, rather than for my contemporaries. To them I appeal for vindication and approval." The essay contest has proven Rev. Ballou's prediction true! Each spring Friends of Adin Ballou sponsor an essay contest for students in grades 7 through 12 are invited to submit an essay on "**What does peace mean to me?**", "**How can one person help spread peace?**", or "**What I will do for peace!**". This contest serves to engage our youth in our goal to keep Rev. Ballou's legacy alive in the modern world. As part of the next generation of leaders, our youths' interest in peace and their eloquence in voicing what peace means to them can provide great solace to older folk who question our youth's social activism. It also helps them serve as an example to their own generation, showing that peace is a vital social concern worth time and effort!



**History of the Peace Picnic:** The Anti-Slavery Picnic, commemorating the emancipation of slavery in the British Empire on August 1, 1834, was one of the most beloved traditions of the Hopedale Community. The first was held in 1842, only four months after the Community took up residence in Hopedale. The members, still living in cramped and uncomfortable quarters, set aside a day for an event that was part celebration, part

demonstration against social injustice. The Community's newspaper, the *Practical Christian*, reported, "In a humble manner a few names gathered beneath a rude bower in His temple who fills all space, to commemorate the glorious First of August." The event grew until, by the mid-1850s, it was attracting between one and two thousand people, with well-known speakers such as Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass.



Friends of Adin Ballou revived the tradition with "Poetry for Peace in the Park" in 2010. The "Picnic in the Park" is a family event with an open mike to speak on social issues, play music, share poetry or other

readings. Like the Hopedale pioneers, in August we gather "in a humble manner, beneath a rude bower" to express our visions of peace and our aspirations toward justice.

**Fall Lecture:** The Fall Lecture is held each year in October. In recent years this lecture has been well attended by peace activists, history buffs, students from local schools and community activists. Past lectures include: "**Frederick Douglass and the Slave Narrative**" Guy Peartree presents a dramatic narrative exploring Douglass' life and relationship with the abolitionist movement; "**Creating Community**" Linda Hixon discusses her research into the Hopedale Women's Sewing Circle and their socially progressive attitudes and deeds; "**Abby Kelley Foster Returned to Hopedale after 150+ years!**" Historical interpreter Victoria Belisle presented the thoughts and ideas of the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century abolitionist and suffragist Abby Kelly Foster; "**Hoping Still: Carrying Adin Ballou's Peace Torch into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**", highlighted modern efforts to address Ballou's 19<sup>th</sup> century concerns, such as war resistance and the building of a culture of peace; "**Abolitionism in Hopedale**", about Hopedale's legacy of sheltering runaway slaves and promoting freedom before the Civil War; "**Women in the Early Hopedale Community**", focused on the prominent women and the powerful role they played in furthering equal rights in America; "**The Tragedy of Adin Ballou**", which highlighted Ballou's frustrations and failures; "**Theorists of Nonviolence: Ballou, Tolstoy, Gandhi & Sharp**", which described Ballou's influence on some of the greatest peace advocates of modern times.

