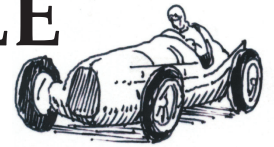
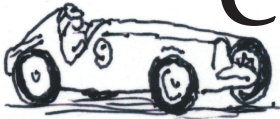


# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 22 : NUMBER 3 APRIL 2012



## The Library is 10

The mission of the Library since it was formed in 1869 has been to provide a cultural foundation and a community center for the town. The building at 30 Pine Street celebrates its first decade this year so it's fitting to take a look at this latest stage in the Library's life.

The Library's collection was shuttled among homes in Cornwall Village during the 1800s. Painstaking records in handsome script recorded membership dues and tiny fines. The first books the Library circulated included *Little Women*, along with the books of grave sermons so loved by our ancestors. In 1908 the Library began sharing the Town Hall building more or less comfortably with the town government. After years of struggles with decreasing space, the Library Board of Trustees, in 1997, began a campaign to relocate yet again, this time to a new building next door to Town Hall.

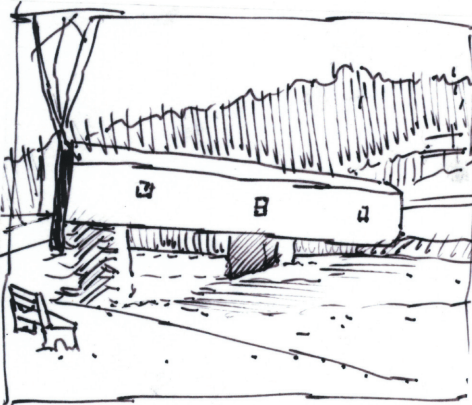
Today *Little Women* lives in a light-filled post-and-beam building. Louisa May Alcott's classic is part of a collection for young readers that has grown to over 8,400 items. *Little Women* itself has multiplied into five versions, which include a video with Winona Ryder and an audio tape for listening.

In the general media section of the Library, 21,500-odd items in this collection

include e-book selections and DVDs to amplify the growing number of books.

"We are selectively weeding all the time," said Librarian Amy Worthington-Cady on a recent winter weekday. "The audio and video collections on tape are being cut back because we're just running out of room." She was cradling a cup of fresh coffee from the new Keurig machine. Nearby, jars of fresh baked goods, made by baker Sarah Prentice, have become so enticing that the UPS driver comes in almost every day for a cookie.

The Library's responsiveness to media trends has been a feature of the last decade. From the opening day, four computers, and now wi-fi, enable patrons to stay in touch



with family and business contacts all over the world.

The new Evergreen circulation program Cornwall shares with most of the other libraries in the state has made it easier for patrons to borrow books from anywhere.

Amy heads a staff which has grown to four part-time employees. Amy Buck directs "one of the best children's collections in the area," according to her boss. Lisa Keskinen takes the desk on Saturdays. Margaret Haske, who holds a master's in gerontology, has a special interest in the aging population. She has created a new reference collection, in collaboration with the Committee on Aging, to assist caregivers or anyone dealing with problems unique to aging. The items are marked with a green dot on the books' spines.

The Library's Board of Trustees, led by President Barton Jones, is responsible for finding the funds to keep this growing cultural institution alive and well. The health of the Library might be judged by this: In 1997 the annual fund raised \$8,057. In 2012 the Library is on track to raise \$65,500 to support a vastly broadened and deepened organization. Such an increase demonstrates the commitment of the townspeople to their Library.

Furthermore, the town budget for the year ending in July included a grant of

(continued on page 2)

## APRIL 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	3 ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall	4 ♦ Let's Get Growing 5:30-7 pm Library	5 ♦ Yoga Nidra Class 5:30-6 pm Library	6 FULL	7 ♦ Country Dance 7-10 pm Town Hall
8	9 ♦ Blood Pressure Clinic noon-1 pm Parish House	10 ♦ P & Z 7 pm Library ♦ Voter Registration 2-4 pm Town Hall	11 ♦ Let's Get Growing 5:30-7 pm Library	12	13 1st Q	14 ♦ OSLS Workshop 10:30 am-1:30 pm Local Farm ♦ Big Little Kid Dance 4-5 pm Town Hall
15 ♦ Deadline: April Chronicle Copy	16	17 ♦ Board of Education 3:30 pm CCS Library ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	18	19 ♦ Yoga Nidra Class 5:30-6 pm Library ♦ Cornwall Conservation Commission 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	20	21 ♦ Let's Get Growing 10 am-noon Library NEW ♦ Art @ the Dump 10 am Transfer Station ♦ Dem. Cong. Candidates 2-4 pm CCS ♦ Lisa Keskinen Art Reception 4-6 pm Library
22 ♦ Art @ the Dump 10 am-noon Transfer Station	23	24 ♦ Republican Presidential Primary 6 am-8 pm Town Hall	25	26	27 ♦ Story Hour 1:30 pm Library	28 ♦ Talk & Tea Joe Ellis & Scott Heth 2-3 pm Historical Soc
29 4th Q	30	<b>Every Week This Month:</b> Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6-9 pm CCS; Karate 6:30-7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball, 7:30 pm CCS gym Sundays: Meditation, 1-2 pm, call Debra for location, 672-0229				



(continued from page 1)

\$33,000 to support the Library.

The librarians are thankful for the volunteers who manage the circulation desk, shelve books, run the book sales, and do all the extra little tasks that keep the Library humming.

If you don't already come to the Library, it's easy to make it a habit. Grab a cup of coffee, a cookie, and the latest book and settle in for the afternoon. —*Lisa L. Simont*

## The World of Marc Simont

If this were Japan, Marc Simont would already have been declared a Living National Treasure. That option is not available in Cornwall, but fortunately there's a local equivalent: the Library's month-long celebration of "The World of Marc Simont."

The evidence is plentiful. Marc has illustrated dozens of children's books written by himself and others; published political cartoons and sports-related illustrations; and made many, many portraits. He's received Caldecott honors – the profession's most distinguished – from the American Library Association. His artistic line is unmistakable: bold and energetic, as in the now-iconic self-portrait that shows him speeding ahead on a unicycle, arms jauntily crossed, scarf flying in the wind as if he were the Red Baron.

The festivities on Saturday, March 17, began with a gathering of children who came to the Library for some Simont-related activities. After Amy Buck read from *The Stray Dog* and some other works, Marc himself stood at the easel and did the bidding of his audience. ("Draw *Nate the Great!*" – and he complied, starting with the buttons on Nate's coat.) The children finished the morning at the craft table, each making a stray dog out of stray cardboard.

The afternoon event was a presentation of narrative and images from Marc's life and works. First, a film clip: the artist in 1959, talking to the Camera Three interviewer about the power of an illustrator to shape our understanding of a book. If you closed your eyes, he sounded just like the Marc of 2012, master of the serious comment with a humorous inflection.

Tom Walker delivered Lisa Lansing Simont's biographical text, beginning in Paris, where Marc was born in 1915, and following him to Barcelona, New Rochelle, the Bronx, the National Academy of Design, the U. S. Army, marriage to Bee, and – at last – Cornwall.

Pictures accompanied the narrative: portraits of the artist and his amazingly photogenic family. Marc endured all the tributes with patient modesty. Later, asked by a reporter to comment on the early spring, he answered with characteristic diplomacy, "I'm not going

to stand in its way."

In November, Marc Simont will achieve the age of 97. Celebrate his birthday now with a thorough look at the Library's exhibition of illustrations, portraits, and "treasured ephemera" from his oeuvre: on view through April 14. —*Franny Taliaferro*

## Supporting Cornwall Businesses

The Cornwall Economic Development Commission is officially in existence and has had its first two meetings.

According to Chairman Todd Piker, the EDC has decided to focus its energies on two projects. The first is the installation of signs on the access roads into town that alert drivers they are entering a village center. Not only welcoming, these signs would help define the business areas, lessen confusion as to which "Cornwall" is where, and direct people to businesses. The second project the EDC is going to undertake is to improve the business presence on the Cornwall website by creating a "virtual" visitor center. This would be an easily accessible, interactive page where visitors can click on links to get more information about local businesses.

The other members of the EDC are: Dana Beecher, Janet Sanders, Ralph Dzenutis, Carol Lugar, Richard Bramley, Mark Hampson, David Dolinsky, and Fred Scoville. They meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except for July, August, and December). They plan to have public comment periods at each meeting. They also hope to have an open-house forum later in the spring to introduce the members and to solicit input from Cornwall business owners and residents. —*Annie Kosciusko*

## Grow Your Own Energy

In this Chinese Year of the Dragon, auspicious for new projects, the Cornwall Energy Task Force is launching a year-long gardening project about "growing your own energy" at the Library. The program will feature the sustainable organic vegetable garden and will outline, through a series of lectures and demonstrations, how to get started growing your own food.

The task force, as a learning tool, will build a raised bed garden behind the Library and host workshops on construction, soil, planting, maintenance, and harvesting.

An important element of the program will be succession planting, whereby the new farmer can reap bountiful harvests by intensively planning and planting his crops. The program is designed for the beginning gardener but all are welcome and discussions can accommodate all levels.

To kick off the project, the Library

will host a lecture and film screening in early April. A series of further workshops will follow in April and early May (for details see Events and Announcements).

—*Debby Bennett*

## A Powerful Proposal

The green town of Cornwall has been approached by a California company, Cell You Light (CYL), to join in an innovative endeavor that it describes as a win-win concept. While the company is well known on the West Coast for its environmentally safe and ecologically sound work, this would be its first project east of the Mississippi.

CYL's plan is simply to combine a grid of solar panels with a wind turbine hosting a cell tower. The technology is already developed and tested. The installation

would not only provide power for the village but also ensure reliable communication service in the entire area. In addition, the suggested location for the project is judged as ideal: the former Rumsey Hall School land is open and ready for its next use. An initial informational meeting with CYL representatives is planned for April 1.



## Welcome

Halley Emely Villa Arpi  
to Flor Esperanza Arpi  
and Silvio Geovanny Villa Aguilar

Cole James Kendrick to Lauren Kendrick

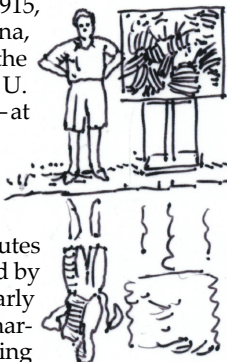
## Good-bye to a Friend

Natasha Eilenberg

## The Snow Must Go On

2012 marks the 65<sup>th</sup> year of skiing at Mohawk Mountain. Started in 1947 by Walt Schoenknicht, Mohawk is ideally located for day skiers from southern Connecticut and Manhattan. The biggest drawback to the location is the lack of consistent snowfall. As early as 1949 Walt saw the need to help Mother Nature with the creation of the snow needed for skiing. He experimented with chipping blocks of ice and blowing them on to the ski slopes. At the same time he also worked with Tey Manufacturing Co. of Milford, Conn. to produce snow with a combination of naturally cold nights and mixing compressed air and water.

By 1951 Mohawk announced that it could make snow whenever the night air was cold enough, thus becoming the first ski area in the world to use this technology. Over the



ensuing 60 years snow making has evolved to the point that a year like this one with virtually no natural snow can still allow thousands of skiers the convenience of skiing after work and close to home and provide jobs for over 100 local people. Modern snow-making equipment is far more efficient and can be used in a much broader range of climatic conditions than its early versions. Without the foresight, perseverance, and determination of Walt this would not have been possible. The snow-making crew, now headed by Don Hedden, still works primarily at night, but can and does use daylight when possible. The assurance of good skiing conditions that snow making allows has permitted Mohawk to continue to grow and add to its investment in Connecticut tourism and to brighten Cornwall's winter employment picture. —Ralph Gold

## Cornwall Briefs

• **Good news first:** the State of Connecticut has reimbursed the town \$423,000 for its share of replacing the bridge in West Cornwall wiped out in the October storm. The town is paying the remaining \$141,000 which isn't nothing, but considering the fine structure we got for it, it's hard to complain. Add to this the handsome fish ladders and pools below the bridge which look pretty invulnerable to a Housatonic in full flood.

• **The budget for 2012-2013** is working its way through hearings, calculations, and tweaks to an April 20 budget hearing. The bad news is that the HVRHS population lurched downward a big 10 percent this year, from 503 students to 460. No matter, the fixed costs of the high school stay steady and even though Cornwall will add only three students next year the tuition charged will increase 20.5 percent. A lot of this is the result of the formula devised to determine the shares paid by each of the six towns in the region. Cornwall has been bumped up from a 9.5 percent share of the total regional budget to 11.3 percent.

Back in the day—1842 to be exact—Cornwall scholars in a summer term paid just cents a day to be instructed. A fragment of the school bill for the 12<sup>th</sup> District of Cornwall, faded script on fragile rag paper, was sent to Gordon Ridgway by a history buff in Winsted. Needless to say that was a long time ago, when a lot of people didn't wear shoes to school. What our high school offers are undeniably state-of-the-art programs and facilities.

• **Early news** on the recent revaluation of our property here in town indicates that the grand list has declined about 15 percent. The figures are incomplete because the appeals process is still underway. The reasons are various but the housing slump is a big contributor. First Selectman Ridgway isn't making any serious bets about the



**THE GAVEL HEARD ROUND THE WORLD**  
Although it didn't start a revolution, Dave Cadwell's gavel certainly kicked off a festive night at the West Cornwall Train Depot. On March 3, the Cornwall Child Center hosted its first ever Winter Social/Vacation Home Auction. Special thanks go to the hosts, CCC Board President Janet Sanders and her husband, John, for having the event in their home. With dramatic staging by R.T. Facts, reflecting images of the movie Hugo, this was a new and somewhat daring take on the Child Center's traditional auction.



Although the auction had been a mainstay on the May calendar for years, the board felt it deserved "a rest." But how to replace the \$30,000 typically earned each year? After some head scratching, the board of directors aimed to combine a wine tasting with a vacation home auction — hoping that early March would be a good time to lure supporters for a drink and to dream of a sunny vacation. Homes, from Maine and Florida to Ireland and Spain, were graciously donated by many supporters of the Center. And for those who weren't inclined to travel, Emilie Pryor organized a raffle of door prizes donated by local merchants. Adding in ticket sales, the night was a big success, raising over \$14,000 after expenses. The board hopes to organize additional events, in the summer and fall, to

mill rate, but he thinks as of mid-March that it might be up a nudge, not more.

—Lisa L. Simont

## Region One Champs

This year's Region 1 boys basketball championship featured the two smallest schools in the league, Falls Village and Cornwall, battling to become champions. Cornwall, led by coach Mike Pierce, had compiled a 9-2 record up to that point, with two close losses coming at the hands of Sharon. Though the game was hard fought by both teams, CCS boys came out with a decisive victory after controlling the vast majority of the game, ending in a 52-42 score.

A balanced scoring attack was led by Pat Considine, who consistently knocked down tough outside shots or floaters. Seventh-grader James Nicholas played solid defense on the perimeter, limiting Falls Village's leading scorer, while Pierce's "Most Improved Player" Malcolm Scott contested any shots inside the paint. The combination of Considine, Nicholas, and Cian Kalmes provided an assortment of quick defenders, forcing Falls Village to commit turnover after turnover. Scott and Jake Hurlburt led defense, boxing out

# Letters to the Chronicle

complete its task of raising the funds needed to keep our Child Center running well.

—Karolene Carlson

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOREST EXHIBIT

The Cornwall Historical Society's next exhibit, "Out of the Woods," will explore 260 years of our town's relationship with its forests. Can you help us? We would love to hear your Cornwall camping/hiking stories and see photos of outdoor expeditions, camps, Arbor Day, memorial trees on the green, and items such as pre-1940 camping equipment. Please call Raechel Guest at CHS, 672-0505. Thank you.

—Dimmy Greene

## WOE IN HONOLULU

Your piece about the old telephone exchange takes me back to October 1945.

The war was over, America was pulling back its vast fleet from the far Pacific. My ship reached Honolulu and telephone communication with the mainland. We stood in line on the dock waiting our turn in the blazing sun and never-ending wind.

"I would like Cornwall, Connecticut, number 3, please". Pause. "Yes, that's right, number 3". "Tommy?" It was Florence Benedict. "Your mother just went by on her way to the store. I'll tell her you called." Click.

"All DDs, DEs, and ships in the Middle Lock." It was time to return to my ship, but the war was over and I was on my way home.

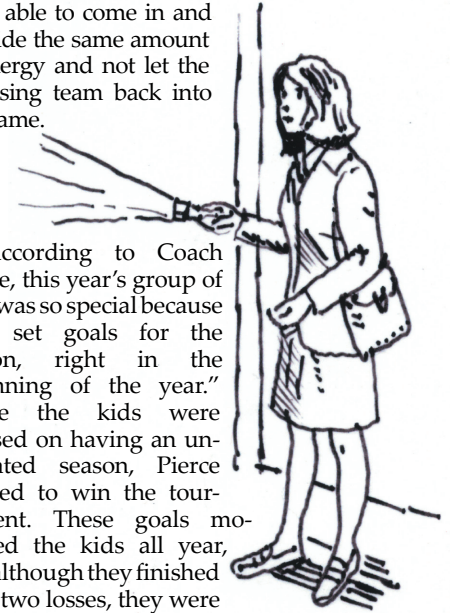
I hoped it was raining in northwest Connecticut.

—Tom Hubbard

the Falls Village big men and getting rebounds. Plus, when the five starters (Considine, Nicholas, Hurlburt, Scott, and Kalmes) were out of the game, the substitutes were able to come in and provide the same amount of energy and not let the opposing team back into the game.

According to Coach Pierce, this year's group of kids was so special because "We set goals for the season, right in the beginning of the year." While the kids were focused on having an undefeated season, Pierce wanted to win the tournament. These goals motivated the kids all year, and although they finished with two losses, they were victorious in the tournament and won the league for the second year in a row, the first time in Cornwall Consolidated School boys basketball history.

—Wilson Terrall



## Events & Announcements

**Garden Project at the Library:** "Let's Get Growing" lecture at the Cornwall Library on April 4 from 5:30 to 7 P.M. Debby Bennett will present portions of the *Gardening Girl* film about making your own raised beds.

On Wednesday, April 11, Debby will discuss soil, compost, fertilizer, and will present a composting film. Soil test kits will be available.

The actual garden construction event will be held on Saturday, April 21, from 10 A.M. to noon. Saturday, May 5, begins the planting season from 10 A.M. to noon.

**Free Yoga:** On April 5 and April 19, free yoga Nidra classes will be held at the Library from 5:30 to 6 P.M. Call Nancy Opgaard for more information at 860-248-3147.

**Art in Cornwall:** The Wish House will host an exhibit titled "Young Talent," selected artwork from CCS fifth- through eighth-graders and the advanced art class, April 7 through May with an opening reception Saturday, April 7, from 3 to 5 P.M.

"The World of Marc Simont" continues at the Library until April 14. Beginning April 17, Lisa Keskinen's recent work will be shown, with a reception for the artist Saturday, April 21, from 4 to 6 P.M.

Art @ the Dump comes to the Transfer Station Saturday, April 21, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday, April 22, 10 A.M. to noon. Check [www.artatthedump.homestead.com](http://www.artatthedump.homestead.com) for how to enter your recycled original art.

Carl Hermann will have his artwork on display at the National Iron Bank for the month of April.

**Motherhouse Activities:** Community Country Dance with Patricia Campbell calling on April 7, 7 to 10 P.M. at the Town Hall, with Still the Homegrown Band. Cost is \$3/child, \$5/adult. For more info, call Jane or Jim Prentice at 672-6101.

Garden Guards workshop on Saturday, April 14, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Work together as a family to create your own scare-a-crow. Make a wind-catcher which vibrates to discourage moles, voles, and chipmunks. Start seedlings of insect-

## April Themes

We're usually chirping away in this corner about the coming of spring as a hoped-for thing. This year it seems we're already having it in the middle of March. Since the season is so beforehand, won't you be too? Write a check to the *Chronicle* today. Thanks!

repelling plants. Discuss creative ways to protect plants from hungry freeloaders. Potluck lunch. Cost is \$35/family. Please contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or call 672-0229 for location and in order to preregister.

Big Little Kids Dance with Tom Hanford calling on April 14, 4 to 5 P.M. at the Town Hall, followed by a finger food potluck. Donations appreciated to help pay Tom. Call Rachel Gall for more info at 824-8404.

### Meet the Candidates:

On Saturday, April 21, from 2 to 4 P.M. at Cornwall Consolidated School, the Democratic Coalition of Northwest Connecticut (DCNC) will host a forum for the four Democratic candidates vying for Connecticut's Fifth U.S. Congressional District: Chris Donovan, Elizabeth Esty, Dan Roberti, and Randy Yale. The moderator will be our own Norman Dorsen. Admission is free although donations to the DCNC will be accepted. Light refreshments will be served.

### The Republican Presidential

Primary will be held on Tuesday, April 24, from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. at the Town Hall. Only registered Republicans are allowed to vote. A registration session for new voters will be held on April 10 from 2 to 4 P.M. Registration application forms are always available from the town clerk; the cut-off date for voting in the primary is April 19. Absentee ballots will be available starting April 3 during office hours from the town clerk.

**Library Story Hour:** For kindergartners and second-graders, Friday, April 27, at 1:30 P.M.

**Historical Society Talk and Tea:** "Whoos's Tweeting: Cornwall Birds, Why Are They Here, Why Do We Care?" Cornwall's Joe Ellis and Audubon Sharon's Scott Heth introduce the birds to look for, where to find them, and why they matter. Free handouts. Saturday, April 28, 2 to 3 P.M. Refreshments. Information: CHS 672-0505.

**Woman's Society Scholarship:** A reminder to high school seniors that application forms for the Woman's Society Education Fund are available at the HVRHS guidance office and from Thalia Scoville at 672-6288. The application deadline is May 15.

**The Woman's Society of Cornwall** is seeking new members. If you are young or young at heart, have ideas and skills to share and would like to be involved in

planning the annual Rummage Sale, please think about joining. Started in 1925, the Woman's Society is looking for the next generation of members to carry the baton forward into our 100th year. Meetings are held at 10 A.M. in the Parish House of the United Church of Christ on the first Thursday of the month. Camaraderie, conviviality, and a warm welcome await you. For more information, call Brenda at 860-248-3089.

**Public Announcement:** The Town of Cornwall, has a proposed project for the reclaiming with bituminous concrete of approximately 1.8 miles of Great Hill Road from the intersection of College Street to the Goshen town line. The project is in the final design stage. This project, if supported by the community and Town of Cornwall officials, will be designed by the Town of Cornwall and the work will be done in the summer of 2012.

It is anticipated that the project will be funded under STP - Rural Program with 80 percent federal funds.

It is important that the community share its concerns to assist in the project's development. Anyone interested in obtaining further information or providing input may do so by contacting Roger Kane, project manager, PO Box 97, Cornwall 06753, 672-4959.

**Senior Spring Social,** open to senior citizens living in Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Salisbury, and Sharon, will be held Friday, May 4, at the Grove in Lakeville. The event will feature a buffet luncheon, music and dancing to Jive by Five, and door prizes. The free social is hosted by the Region One recreation departments. Seating is limited and reservations are required by calling Mike Beck, 860-435-5191 or email to [mbeck@salisburyct.us](mailto:mbeck@salisburyct.us).

## CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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