



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 25 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 2015



Whose Art?

Lights. Cam... Wait. Is it a plane? Is it a bird? No, it's a Condor, an aerial rig up to 170 feet above-ground, providing a nest for lights to turn a Jewel of a street into a gem of a movie set glittering with our local acting stars in action. For several weeks in June, the action was generated by Cornwall resident Laurie Simmons, the internationally acclaimed visual artist and filmmaker, shooting *My Art*, her story about—no, not Superwoman—but a female artist of a certain age who comes to house-sit a friend's small-town home/studio and finds her own work enriched by incorporating the local people into her life and art.

One local, Ian Ingersoll of Ingersoll Cabinetmakers in West Cornwall, though not a participant in Simmons's production, experienced the action firsthand when filming shifted for a full day-into-night shoot at the Wandering Moose. Ingersoll reacted saying, "Our town is a living museum: anything we can do to bring light to and expose our iconic buildings and scenery and have those images portrayed in the public sphere is much appreciated." Even young Cornwallians like Charlotte Buck, Graham Waterston, and Julien Lasseur perpetuate Cornwall and its filmmaking history rolling their cameras on Great Hollow, Essex

Hill, and Furnace Brook.

Moving into the "big house" on Jewel, Simmons was acutely aware she was moving into a town with a rich history of artists-in-residence. In 2005, when John and Sally Van Doren showed the house to her, husband-artist, Carroll Dunham, and daughters Lena and Grace, she "saw all its possibilities for the making of art: the idea for this film came from seeing the house."

Simmons, a teacher of graduate-level visual arts at Yale, opens the film with her character Ellie at a goodbye party with her photography students. Parallels with Simmons's life continue: her film exposes Ellie's artistic evolution as she inhabits new space

and opens herself to being inhabited by new people. Robert Clohessy plays her friend's landscaper; Russ Sawicki, the town restaurant owner; and Rebecca Sawicki, a waitress there.

Just a waitress? Well, here's how the movie finds itself emerging from the larger frame of film history. The art this new space and talent inspires Ellie to produce is video performance incorporating these locals-playing-locals into shot-by-shot recreations of scenes from classic films like *Morocco* and *The Misfits*. Casting herself as both visual artist directing the photography of, and leading lady in the scenes, Simmons shoots video of waitress Sawicki now playing a restaurant patron fanning herself while Marlene Dietrich (Simmons), smoking, singing, and wearing men's clothes, crosses the stage to kiss her on the lips. Simmons's Ellie films Clohessy's landscaper playing cowboy Clark Gable kissing divorcee Marilyn Monroe (Simmons) into staying in his small town.

"When you should be taking it off, you're just putting it on," says Sawicki, more used to musical comedy than precision-lit film, about late-night make-up. But Becky values "being exposed to so many professionals and what other artists do."

Sawicki was not the only young Corn-



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Karate , 6:30–7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 5–7 pm Town Hall call 672-0064 ♦ Thursdays: Toddler Play Group, 10:30–11:30 am Library; Meditation , 4–5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Mah Jongg , 7–9 pm Library call 672-6874; Adult Volleyball , 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library ♦ Saturdays: Farm Market 9 am–12:30 pm Wish House ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation 1 pm call Debra 672-0229						1 ♦ 275th Anniversary Celebration starts 2 pm ♦ Community Contra Dance 6 pm Town Hall
2 ♦ Rain Date for 275th Celebration 2 pm	3	4 ♦ Camp Eureka Sample Local Farm ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	5	6	7 4th Q ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 5–8 pm CCS	8 ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 10 am–5 pm CCS ♦ Yes! You CAN Can! 10:30 am–1:30 pm Local Farm
9 ♦ Paint the Town ♦ Rose Algrant Art Show 10 am–Noon CCS ♦ CCT Guided Walk 11 am Ballyhack Preserve ♦ HVA Riverfest 1–5 pm West Cornwall ♦ Artists' Recep. Paint the Town 4–6 pm Souterrain Gallery	10 ♦ Free Blood Pressure Clinic Noon UCC ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Cornwall Ag Commission 7:30 pm Town Office	11 ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library	12	13	14	15 NEW ♦ Deadline: September Chronicle Copy
16	17 ♦ Children's Summer Camp Session begins 9 am–5 pm Library	18 ♦ Cornwall Day at Lake Compounce 11 am–8 pm ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	19 ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	20 ♦ CCC 6:30 pm Town Hall	21	22 1st Q
23 ♦ CCT Guided Walk 11 am Hart Farm Preserve ♦ Dairy Barns 2 pm Town Hall	24 ♦ Children's Summer Camp Session begins 9 am–5 pm Library ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	25 ♦ Camp Eureka Sample Local Farm ♦ Cornwall Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	26	27	28	29 FULL
30 ♦ Hevreh Ensemble Concert 2 pm Library	31 ♦ Cornwall Ag Commission 7:30 pm Town Office					

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

For additions and updating, visit www.cornwallchronicle.org

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wallian employed by Simmons for *My Art*. Francesca Ott and Sofie Randall and eight others from surrounding towns gained professional experience on crew. Local businesses (nine in all) that profited from the filming ranged from Cornwall Country Market for food on the set to the Cornwall Inn for beds for the crew. Simmons and her producer Andrew Fierberg agreed: any time there was a choice between a New York-based or local service, local won.

As the film moves to its end, the "locals" have an unexpected but congenial cultural collision with the artist's New York friends (one played by actress Blair Brown of West Cornwall!) as they come to town for a surprise birthday celebration. Even under the lights, as the New Yorkers walk in on the locals' recreation of *Some Like It Hot* they do not even blink at guys in drag: they embrace them as the artist Ellie has. Ellie, as Simmons admits is true for herself after this production, realizes that she has "found her artistic voice" moving in and out of cinema frames and personal relationships with the people from this town: will Ellie now dare to expose her art to the big lights of New York in a gallery opening? As Ian Ingersoll "formally requests," the town should throw "a gala premiere at The Moviehouse to celebrate *My Art*." First Selectman Gordon Ridgway seconds that motion, but will vie to keep the red-carpet venue at our town hall. Naturally, we are evolving from our Corndance Film Festival days. So: "Cornywood"? "Hollywall" for us? Or might we, enlightened, just embrace all our possibilities with *Our Art*. —Catharine Clohessy

Free-Range

The hardship of raising free-range ducks and chickens is not new. On a new farm it's a constant struggle to keep your birds from becoming feast to local predators. Our fox neighbor here on Great Hollow has become more brazen: no longer does he visit just at dusk or dawn.

Past our two horses masked from flies, the fox flew from the bottom field to snatch the smallest duck, its companions quacking wildly, circling in distress, one of their own gone. We ran yelling to the field's edge hoping for signs of captor and duck. And there she was, dropped: "Are you looking for me? I'm right here."

This story has a happy ending (one of the few I have had with the fox). The duck went to my newly created duck hospital in the dog runs of the old Little Guild behind our house: sanctuary. We had to carry her in and out twice every day to intense duck

therapy in her kiddie pool. With visiting hours for duck socialization and lots of rest, she made a full recovery.

The fox still ranges free along the Hollow, and our birds cannot be as free-range as I would like. Nothing new, the cycle comes round: we hope to raise our barn this summer, my unfenced broccoli, zucchini, squash, tomatoes, peppers, beets, carrots, cucumbers, peas, string beans, lettuce, and pumpkins grow up untroubled by all the rabbits. But my grandmother always told me that when you had a year with lots of rabbits, there would be lots of foxes too. Next year, maybe fewer rabbits. —Beth Dinneen

H₂O: Quality Not Quantity

Some folks around here have been wondering if Cornwall is in any danger of having a California-style water crisis. Not to worry, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway says, not under current conditions. We can wonder what problems global warming will create. A 2010 Connecticut state report talks of the possibility of more frequent droughts and at the same time the possibility of more intense rainfall events! Nobody really knows what will happen, but for the present we have enough water for all our needs.

The main source of our household and gardening water is Cornwall's many aquifers—water-carrying underground layers of sand, pebbles, and the like—replenished by rain seeping down from the surface. There are aquifers just about everywhere below Cornwall and especially along the Housatonic and Hollenbeck valleys. In drought years a few shallow wells run dry but never for long. We have enough water for our restaurants and Mohawk's snow making. Gordon can even irrigate his plantings in the rare drought years.

For our recreational water we have Cornwall's numerous rivers, streams, and lakes. We can swim in Mohawk Pond and Cream Hill Lake. Fishermen and boaters can also use the Housatonic.

In the old days Cornwall had gristmills, saw mills, a shear shop, and other small factories that were powered by water. You can see an old millpond on Mill Brook at the corner of Cream Hill Road and Cogswell Road; the Scotts' house below it was once the mill house. Water from the brook also supplied the blast furnaces farther down. There was a recent presentation in the library about the possibility of bringing back local hydro-energy. It aroused interest but so far no one has come forward to say, "I want to build a dam." We can wonder if the wetlands agency would approve.

But if the town has enough water for everything, we do

have problems around the quality of our water. Perhaps the gravest of these is in West Cornwall.

The closeness of the buildings in West Cornwall and the nature of the soil scarcely ever allow what nowadays are considered adequate septic systems. The septic systems of the buildings that are there now are grandfathered in, but adding even one bedroom is impossible for most West Cornwall houses because that would mean enlarging and bringing up to code the house's septic system, an impossible task. There has been some talk of creating a West Cornwall sewage system, but the cost would be painful.

Cream Hill Lake may have issues as well. Water washes fertilizer from farming and gardening into the lake. This introduces both possibly harmful bacteria and nitrogen. Nitrogen encourages algae growth, which makes the water cloudy and unattractive. Fortunately there aren't many lawns in the watershed or the problem would be much greater. But the quality of the water, which we monitor year by year, is declining. In addition there is an unending battle to control the pondweed.

We have plenty of water in Cornwall. Our task is to help it stay pure.

—Hendon Chubb

Welcome

Leonardo Francisco Aguilar to
Rebecca Aguilar and Pedro Aguilar-Solis

Alice Ninette Rachel Mager to
Sophie and Michael Mager

Linus Ernest Lane to
Megan Cadwell Lane and Matt Lane

Goodbye to a Friend

Robin Lee Bolton-Smith

Land Transfers

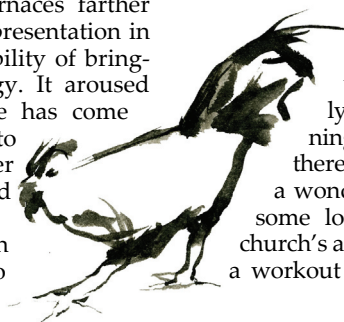
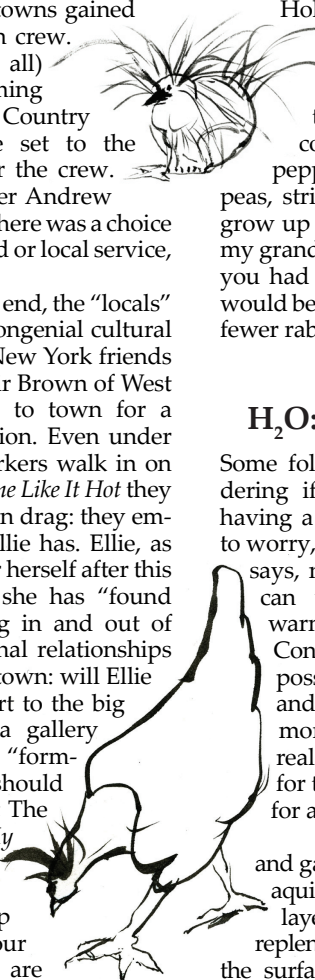
Leslie Willard Whitney and Lorraine P. Whitney to Nicholas W. Sainz-Xatzis, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 7 Railroad Street Annex, for \$7,587.02.

Colby Cornwall Gravel Bank, LLC to Town of Cornwall, a 90' x 335' parcel of land on Sharon Goshen Turnpike, for \$12,500.

Thomas & Luanne Awlaszewicz to Lisa A. Hornberger and Robert B. Burke, 7.425 acres on Cornwall Hollow Road, for \$16,000.

Some TLC for the Old Meeting House

Some of you go there in the summer to congregate while others park up (quietly) outside for a Sunday morning loop walk. Some have been there to listen to Tom Walker read a wonderful Boxing Day story and some look forward to hearing the church's acoustics by giving their lungs a workout singing candlelit Christmas



Eve carols. A few probably remember the mysterious bell ringer heralding in the new century on New Year's Eve 1999. Whatever the occasion—weddings, memorials, lectures, or “sharings” of all sorts—the North Cornwall Meeting House is home to everyone and all denominations. And it needs a steeple and spire facelift. And a lot more.

Some facts: The church is old. It was built in 1826 and is still sporting the same steeple and spire. The church's architecture is done in the style of Sir Christopher Wren, one of England's most notable architects, who designed St. Paul's Cathedral, among many other famous structures. Local architects concur that the structure is an “architectural gem” and some would argue it's the “most beautiful building in Cornwall.”

The United Church of Christ (UCC) owns and maintains two churches, including the North Cornwall Meeting House, a parsonage, and a parish house, so its coffers are tapped.

Since 2013, a campaign led by the Friends of the North Cornwall Meeting House and the UCC in Cornwall has been underway to raise funds for much-needed preservation work. Aside from the steeple, a long list waits patiently to be attended to: roofing, siding, shutters, ceilings, walls, floors—nearly everything requires bolstering.

The UCC has been given a generous STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant. Additionally, renovation plans by a historical architect will help the project qualify for further state grants. Another encouraging development: a \$50,000 challenge grant offered by an anonymous neighbor. Donations up to that amount will be matched dollar for dollar. But more funds are required to give this jewel in our town crown a new topper. To donate or for more information, please call Jim Longwell at 672-6175 or visit <http://www.preservethenorthcornwallmeetinghouse.org>.

—Elizabeth England

The Path to Graduation 2015

Soles scuffle as strapped-on platform shoes pave the way to the gym; onto the floor squeak neon blue sneakers under whispers of long chiffon skirts; turning the sharp corner around standard bearers in a shaft of door light and into the dim, the crinkle of khaki, a last zip of mini-skirt all under fleeting cover of blue robe and gold tassels swinging to the right, Kaitlyn L. Buckley, Amelia Margaret Budny, Hope Carlson, Kit Ryan Fitch, Caroline Emily Hurlburt, Mitchell Peter Kosciusko, Manuella Matsudaira, Donovan L. McCray, Nicholas V. O'Neil, Lancelot Charles Oyanadel, Jasper

Christian Randall, Dean Louis Saccardi, Caleb Stephen Shpur, Olivia Rose Woods, and Sophia Katherine Woods walk straight up their final path onto the stage of Cornwall Consolidated School.

Our anthem, recorded, struggles to sound; today's technology stumbles. Then the experience of a long past and much practice moves in: voices of elders rise in song from the audience as the hands of Mrs. S. on piano smooth over holes in the canned music. The show moves forward as Principal Croft reminds the graduates to look back the way they came, smooth or rocky, that led them here today. Calling the names of their grandmothers in a long and winding list, Croft advises, “Keeping them in mind will help you reach your future. Part of your mission is to live for them and make them proud. Then they will follow you.”

Dean Saccardi, the first student speaker, takes up the emerging metaphor with his look back at “the long hike” it's been for these eighth-graders: “At first we couldn't even see the trail,” then notes how many other peaks to climb they now see from this vantage point, the top of CCS.

Croft, momentarily losing his way in the ceremony progression by jumping ahead to introduce the guest speaker, directs us back on course: awards to Manuella Matsudaira for Outstanding Academic Achievement, the VFW Citizenship Award to Dean Saccardi, the Dottie Hermann Memorial Award to Caroline Hurlburt. And, under your chairs! Gifts from the Parent Teacher Partnership, BOE, and CCS (*If I Never Forever Endeavor* by Holly Meade).

Again, Croft gracefully leads us back onto this road so well traveled: Kaitlyn Buckley, the second student speaker, challenges her peers to reach back for memories of bonding on class trips and of singing and playing on teams together and to reach forward for “opportunities that lead us onto the long path of growing up.”

This path becomes vivid to all with guest speaker Matthew Mulberry, CCS class of 2002, who now, after pursuing a B.A. from Susquehanna University and an M.A. from Budapest, works as program administrator for the Washington-based International Center on Non-Violent Conflict. Mulberry, intimately and often hilariously, retravels his climb through the wilderness of coping with his learning disabilities in the first special education programs here at CCS and his wrestling with the old discipline program of “rap sheets on binders” bearing stars (material rewards!) or checks: “CCS detention rates soared!” The attention of the graduates is palpable. Do they muse on the Coyote

Coupons of *their* time? Do they grasp Mulberry's message: if he could endure the “rocky road” at the beginning and find his way to “join teams” that sustain him, they, too, have “plenty of time to get it right.”

The ceremony winds up with a memory movie featuring parents' candid photos of their children's experiences and faculty tributes to each unique individual moving forth from CCS today. Mulberry's opening statement echoes on this pinnacle: “Cornwall has produced a diverse and dynamic cast of characters” on this path up through the years. Bearing diplomas, this cast files from the stage, momentarily traveling the trail they took to reach it; then, turning right, they recess—by another way than they had come—to celebrate outside, their pasts already new presents unique to every one. We followed them to the gathering room.

—Catharine Clohessy

Going Home

(for Rusty Cheney)

The river, rapid, curling
Lapping at the wreck,
Taking a bit of life,
An infinitesimal bit,
Perhaps only a smell
A thousand miles to the sea,
Carrying the bit of life home,
To live forever,
With no more worlds to conquer.

—Tom Hubbard

Cornwall Briefs

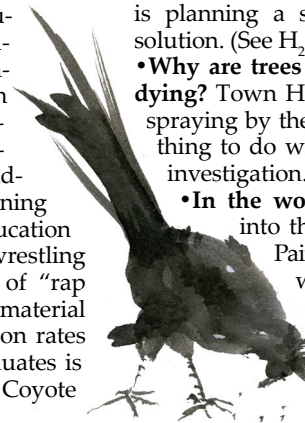
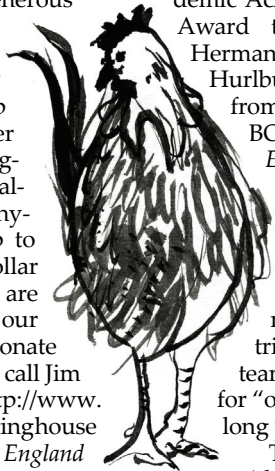
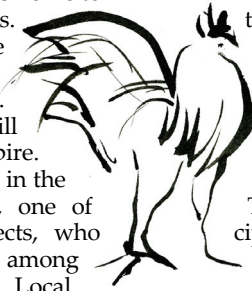
•**Summer Construction:** The Board of Selectmen has accepted bids on a new generator for the West Cornwall Firehouse and work was expected to get started in July and may be done before autumn. And for a list of Cornwall roads that will be resurfaced this summer, there's Bolton Hill in the village, Allyn Road atop Mohawk, plus some fresh asphalt for Wright Hill and Cherry Hill.

•**Waste Water Issue:** The problem apparently exists in downtown West Cornwall where many septic systems are considered substandard and some houses and restaurants are limited on how they can solve their septic problems by small lots. So the Board of Selectmen, at the urging of P & Z, is planning a study that would seek a solution. (See H₂O article above.)

•**Why are trees along the railroad tracks dying?** Town Hall suspects that herbicide spraying by the railroad may have something to do with it and there will be an investigation. Stay tuned for that one.

•**In the works:** The town is looking into the possibility of joining the Paint/Care State Program that would allow folks to drop off excess paint at our transfer station rather than lug it to a nearby

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town on one of those semi-annual collection cycles.

•**Sidewalks:** We were supposed to get sidewalk links between the Bonney Brook senior housing building and the Cornwall Country Market and also a link connecting the Wandering Moose and the Pottery Store in West Cornwall. The town has a \$70,000 grant from the state, but it's apparently not enough to do the whole job. So, it's either find some more \$\$ or cut back on the plan.

—John Miller

An Apology

Last month the *Chronicle* published a blame-the-victim letter from a bear that had gotten in the way of a "balding geezer" and caused an accident that "put the SOB's car out of commission." Many people recognized the "geezer" as Cornwall's John Miller. The *Chronicle* wishes to apologize to Mr. Miller for publishing such a libel and go on record that while he may be missing some of his hair, he is a lively and distinguished gentleman and certainly no geezer.

Events & Announcements

Cornwall's 275th Anniversary, August 1 (rain date August 2), Cornwall Town Green

•2 P.M. Grumbling Gryphons Theater Camp presents an adaptation of *The 13 Clocks* by James Thurber, illustrated by Marc Simont

•3 P.M. Games for Kids by Park and Rec

•3 P.M. "Discovering History in Our Cemeteries," Panel Discussion at the UCC

•3 to 4 P.M. and 5 to 6 P.M. Share a Story will record stories, Cornwall Historical Society, Library Meeting Room

•3 to 4 P.M. Salisbury Band Hot Shots

•4 P.M. Parade

•4:30 P.M. Historical Remarks, Flag Presentation, Guest Speakers

In Memory Of

We're always grateful to get a donation in memory of a loved one. If you don't have a departed friend at the moment, you could send something in memory of Chuckles the Clown. Chuckles died in season six of the Mary Tyler Moore show, but it seems like yesterday that we attended his memorial service and heard his philosophy of life: "A little song, a little dance, a little seltzer down your pants."

•5 P.M. 275th Cornwall Anniversary Dinner on the Green

•5 to 6 P.M. Share a Story (see above)

•6-ish. Community Contra dance. With music by Still, the Homegrown Band; H. A.T., featuring three rising CCS eighth-graders as warm-up band; and calling by Robert Livingston.

Art in Cornwall

Catherine Noren's photo exhibit, "Kitchen Light," continues at the Cornwall Library through September 12.

Sari Goodfriend's exhibit, "Home & Away," runs through August 7 at the Souterrain Gallery.

"Paint the Town!" Sunday, August 9. A day-long event hosted by the Souterrain Gallery in collaboration with the HVA RiverFest. Artists of all ages and artistic backgrounds are invited to paint or recreate scenery of the Cornwalls in any medium. Drop off your masterpiece at the Souterrain Gallery by 2 P.M. An artists' reception will be held from 4 to 6 P.M. The spontaneous exhibit will remain on display through September. For info contact Bianca at 672-2969.

The Rose Algrant Show: Friday, August 7, from 5 to 8 P.M., Saturday, August 8, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., and Sunday, August 9, from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. at the Cornwall Consolidated School (see insert).

Motherhouse Events

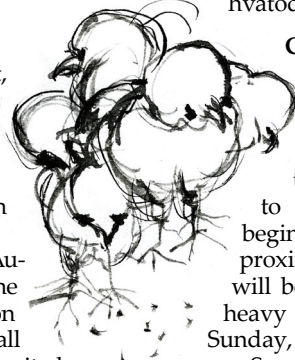
Saturday, August 8, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Local Farm: Yes! You CAN can! Harvest fresh veggies and herbs from the Local Farm garden. Learn how to use a pressure canner so you can eat local all year long! Potluck lunch included; \$35/family. Must preregister with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

Camp Eureka is offering two one-day samples of camp experience. Camp In Ajam on August 4 and Camp Mil-Ka-Kow on August 25; for information call Debra at 672-0299 or CampEureka.us.

Meditation held Sundays at 1 P.M. and Thursdays at 4 P.M. All levels of experience welcome. Call Debra for location.

HVA RiverFest. The Housatonic Valley Association and the Town of Cornwall will host a Housatonic RiverFest in honor of the Town of Cornwall's 275th Anniversary, Sunday, August 9, from 1 to 5 P.M. by the river in West Cornwall. The family-oriented day will feature games, live music, exhibits, and displays from a river outfitter and local organizations, fly-fishing and water-safety demonstrations, cookout, and art show.

The grand finale will be a "Funny Boat Float," a paddle parade of homemade, decorated watercraft on a still-water section of the river. Distinguished judges will award prizes to winners of this non-competitive, fun flotilla. Come along! Make a boat! Free. For more information go to hvatoday.org or call 672-6678.



CCT Guided Trail Walks.

The Cornwall Conservation Trust will offer a series of guided trail walks to showcase trails maintained by CCT and friendly to hikers of all ages. Walks begin at 11 A.M. and last approximately 45 minutes. Hikes will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain and thunderstorms. Sunday, August 9: Ballyhack Preserve; Sunday, August 23: Hart Farm Preserve. Trail maps with parking locations at cornwallconservationtrust.org.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic. Monday, August 10, noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC Day Room. For information contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Senior Luncheon. Newcomers always welcome for great food and fine company. At the Wandering Moose on Tuesday, August 11, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. No reservations necessary. Questions? Call Bob Potter at 672-6191.

The Hevreh Ensemble. Sunday, August 30, at 2 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. The compositions can best be described as "classical with a jazz/world music sensibility." Concert will include a wine reception. Donation: \$25. For reservations, call 672-6874 or cornwalllibrary@biblio.org.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE cornwallchronicle.org

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