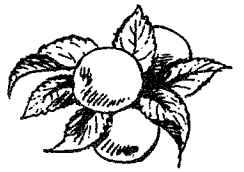




# CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 10 : NUMBER 5 JUNE 2000



## Music and Morale at HVRHS

Hats off to the 44 music students at HVRHS, including nine from Cornwall, who emerged as first-place winners in a national music competition held April 11 to 16 in Anaheim, California. Jazz Band competitors from Cornwall were Winfield Wilson, Alina Lobert, Benjamin Hammond, Jason and Brian Lynn, and Patrick Dinneen. Patrick performed as well with the Jazz/Advanced Choir, along with Dakota Cruse, Megan Cadwell, and Connor O'Shaughnessy. Connor and Dakota also sang along with the Heartbreakers, a boys' group specializing in Doo Wop, which, for the benefit of you ignorant oldies, is a term applied to a certain 1950s singing style. (Remember *In the Still of the Night?*)

According to Kerri Morris, a 35-year-old New Yorker who has been music director at the school for the past eight years, her students were judged on rhythm, tone, stage presence, difficulty of music, and improvisation. They emerged with the highest rating in all departments, along with an Instrumental Ensemble Award for the Jazz Band. But, of course, this year's seniors in the HVRHS music group are old hands by now at this sort of thing, having participated in a dozen school concerts over the past four years, as well as three national tours and a performance tour of Austria.

A disquieting footnote to this success was

provided by a letter published in *The Lakeville Journal* of May 4, and signed by 13 of these same seniors, including three of the Cornwall students mentioned above. The letter expressed dismay at lack of support from the school administration for their efforts, most recently at a standing ovation for the winning music team at a Region 1 Board of Education meeting on April 25, when two members of the audience remained seated; the two were Principal Kathleen Burkhart and Assistant Principal Robert Buckley. Judging by published reports in the press since then, this was only the latest example of a morale problem at the school that first came to light three years ago in an accreditation report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

At a meeting last month, members of the Region 1 Board of Education decided to conduct an independent annual survey, beginning in September, "in order to evaluate the effectiveness of board policy." However, a number of parents subsequently protested the fall date on the grounds that it would not permit current senior students and their parents to participate. On May 15, under the leadership of Chairman Allen Cockerline, the board narrowly approved his motion to allow the mail-in survey to take place before graduation on June 14. This was a welcome

piece of news for the Rev. Peter Hammond and his wife, Jill Gibbons, whose son, Ben, is in the senior class. "It is much better to include the students and their parents who have experienced the school for four years and are acquainted with the environment in which the school and faculty work," Hammond commented. "One of the reactions I've been hearing is that the faculty and students do not feel free to express their opinions. I really think it's a good school, but it will stay that way only if we address problems as they come up. What I hope will come out of the survey is that it will give the board a handle on what this problem actually is. We need that kind of reading." —*Jean F. Leich*

## Cornwall on the Web

Have you found Cornwall's entry into the information world yet? If not, give it a look. This new website has information about Cornwall: town organizations and officials, pictures, calendar of events, new books and videos at the Library, transfer station rules, and more.

The creation of a website to provide and share Cornwall information for residents was one of the goals defined at the Community Profile sessions last fall. Since then a volunteer group now chaired by Steve Senzer with Anne Baren as vice-chair, and Lazlo Gyorsok as webmaster, has put together a working site

(continued on page 2)

## JUNE 2000

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 School Building Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	2  Preschool-K Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Farm Forest Open Space Group 5:30 P.M. CCS Library	3
4  Stretch Exercise Every Sunday 10 A.M. Town Hall	5  Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	6 Park and Rec. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall	7 Play Group 10-11:30 A.M. Every Wed. St. Peter's Ch. Annual Meeting W. Corn. Library Assn. 2 P.M. Hughes Library Jubilee & Cornwall Children Entertainment 7 P.M. UCC (p.4) Democratic Town Comm. 8 P.M. Town Hall	8  Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:15 P.M. Kugeman Village Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Library Pack 15 Leaders/Parent Meeting 7:15 P.M. UCC Parish House	9 Preschool-K Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	10 Kevin Phillips UCC 4:30 P.M. (p.4)
11 	12 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House P&Z 8 P.M. Town Hall	13 CCS Graduation 6:30 P.M. CCS (p.2) Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	14 HVRHS Graduation 6:30 P.M. (p.2)	15 <b>Deadline: July Chronicle Copy</b> Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	16  Pack 15 Meeting Nature Walk 3 P.M. River Road	17 Hammond Beach Opens (p.4) Cornwall Association 10 A.M. UCC Day Room
18  FATHER'S DAY	19 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Library Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	20 SUMMER BEGINS  Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall School Building Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	21 Rec Cross Blood Drive 2-7 P.M. UCC Parish House (p.4)	22	23	24  Book Sale 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Hughes Library Hazardous Waste Collection 9 A.M.-1 P.M. HVRHS, Pre-registration Required 672-4959
25 	26 ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office	27 Park and Rec. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	28 Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	29	30 Family Picnic Party 5:30-8:30 P.M. Cream Hill Lake Assoc. (p.4)	July 1 July Fest 10 A.M.-1 P.M. Cornwall Village Green (p.4)

(continued from page 1)

and invites you to visit it. At present the group is on its own but is talking about the possibility of affiliating with the Cornwall Association.

Last year Virginia Brecher had the foresight to secure the URL of [cornwallct.org](http://cornwallct.org) and is donating it to the Cornwall website. Necessary paper work to transfer ownership of the site, however, has delayed its use, hence the temporary location at:

[www.kentdesign1.com/cornwallct/](http://www.kentdesign1.com/cornwallct/)

A website, unlike a book, a painting, or a movie, is never finished or frozen in time. It is regularly updated, added to, changed. The Cornwall website is of, by, and for the people of Cornwall, and the committee wants input from everyone. So take a look and let us hear from you. —Ralph Gold

## The Untrashing of Cornwall

On the Cornwall Association and Park and Rec.'s Spring Cleanup Day about 30 volunteers garnered enough junk from Cornwall's roads and streets to fill an entire dumpster. There were almost enough car parts and tires to build a small pickup truck, including the tailgate. The oddest find was a stuffed Tasmanian Devil in a black leather jacket. Garbage and trash were less widespread than in earlier years, but pockets of severe litter were more frequent. —John Leich



## Moving On

Seventeen eighth graders will graduate from Cornwall Consolidated School on June 13. Fourteen will attend Housatonic Valley Regional High School: Robin Cantoni, Alexandra Collins, Li Ming Dolan, Will Evans, Amy Ingvertsen, Justin Julian, Amanda Kennedy, Cody Oznowicz, Shanna Pilgrim, Luke Root, Rebecca Savan, Cale Williamson, Robert Williamson, and Stefan Wolf. Adriane Davis is going to Berkshire School, Tim Freydyberg to The Gunnery, and Ben North to Kent School. Max Scoville, graduating from Wellspring, will attend HVRHS Alternative School.

On June 14, ten Cornwall students will be graduating from HVRHS. Of these, eight are headed for college: Heather Dinneen, Concordia College; Heidi Gantner, Bryant College; Benjamin Hammond, Pacific University; Jason Lynn, University of Connecticut; Connor O'Shaughnessy, Colorado Mountain College (or Americorp); Amanda Stevens, Champlain College; Michael Sterzl, Northwestern Community College; Winfield Wilson, Brown University. Nicole Geyselaers will spend a post-graduate year at Berkshire School, and Bret Mason has a job selling books in London, England.

In addition, Dillon Bracken, who went to high school in California, will be going to

Rutgers or the University of California at Davis; Richard Dolan, who is graduating from Oliver Wolcott, will be working at Maple Hill Farm in West Cornwall; Maja Gray, a Hotchkiss graduate, will stay on there for a post-graduate year; Mark Sager, an Oliver Wolcott graduate, will be going into the Army; Kira Sandmeyer, a Rumsey graduate, will go to Rollins College.

—Winfield Wilson

## Veterans Carry On

Despite rumors to the contrary, Cornwall's Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9856 is very much alive and played a leading role in this year's Memorial Day ceremonies as it has for many years. It is true that because of a decline in membership—as the ranks of World War II veterans dwindle—and a rise in the cost of insurance, the Post has had to sell its building and move to the Cornwall Bridge Firehouse for meeting space.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded in 1913, and the Cornwall Post in 1946. It now has 38 members. VFW membership is confined to veterans of the U.S. armed forces who have seen combat service overseas. Peace-keeping actions are not included.

For years the VFW has campaigned for the rights and benefits to which veterans and their widows and children are entitled by virtue of the veterans' service to their country. VFW posts participate in civic activities like the Memorial Day observations in Cornwall. The local post also gives scholarships to college-bound high school students.

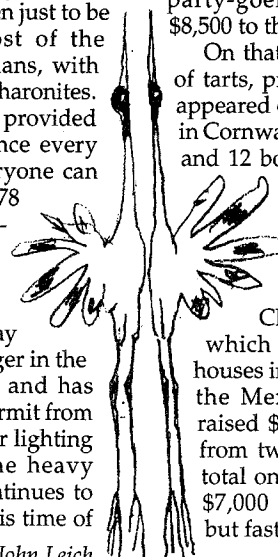
Post 9856 is actively seeking new members. They would like to increase the amount of their scholarship grants and in general expand their service program. —John Leich

## Anyone for Horseshoes?

The Cornwall Horseshoe League was founded in April of this year, and consists of seven teams of two players each. The League meets and plays every Thursday evening at 6:15 P.M. at Housatonic Meadows State Park. Its founder and moving spirit is Tom Baird of Cornwall Bridge, who one day got tired of driving all the way to New Haven just to be able to toss horseshoes. Most of the League's players are Cornwallians, with just a sprinkling of Kenters and Sharonites. Additional players are welcome, provided they are willing to stand by once every four or five weeks so that everyone can have a turn. Tom Baird at 672-6578 will welcome hearing from prospective pitchers. —John Leich

## Fire Hazard

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway has issued a warning of fire danger in the woods and fields of Cornwall and has asked us to be sure to secure a permit from the town before burning brush or lighting any outdoor fires. Despite the heavy spring rains, the fire hazard continues to be high, as is often the case at this time of the year. —John Leich



## Welcome

Dartanian Maurice to Sarah Russ Oyanadel and Maurice Oyanadel  
Sophia Jane to Sarah and Alex Prud'homme  
Evan William Saxe to Melissa Renee Dirck and Todd William Saxe

## Good-bye to Friends

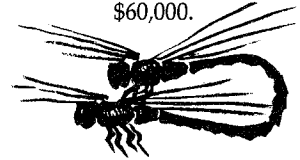
Andrew Choa  
Robert T. MacDonald  
Fannie Pond  
Charles Watts, Jr.  
Clifford A. Wojan

## Land Transfers

Todd Aichele to David M. Dolinsky, building and 2 acres at 73 Scoville Road for \$95,000.

Todd Aichele to Marvin and Susan Johnson, house and 3 acres at 263 Town Street for \$200,000.

Armand and Carol Marchand to Danielle Martin, 4 acres on Great Hollow Road for \$60,000.



## The Benefit of Benefits

Now's the season for benefits, and in terms of size the Cornwall Child Center Auction, held April 30 at the Mohawk Ski Lodge, heads the list. Some 240 people showed up, many of them out-of-towners, to bid on 220 items in silent and live auctions, which resulted in proceeds of \$28,000; about \$4,000 more than this eight-year-old event has yielded in any previous year. (See *Letters*.)

With May came a spring cluster of smaller benefits, starting off with a performance of *Mame* on May 11 for the Jubilee School (see *Letters*), followed two days later by a Spring Frolic, again at the Ski Lodge, to benefit the Cornwall Library. The turnout was about the same as last year, a little over a hundred party-goers, who contributed a total of \$8,500 to the cause.

On that same date, a toothsome display of tarts, pies, and cakes of all descriptions appeared on the front porch of Baird's store in Cornwall Bridge, provided by the friends and 12 board members of Extras for Kids and netting precisely \$804.75.

And on the following day, eight intrepid Cornwallians cycled 100 miles up to Egremont and back to benefit the United Church of Christ's La Casa project, which this summer will provide two houses in Tecate, Baja California, just over the Mexican border. The bike-a-thon raised \$3,000, which with money netted from two previous benefits brought the total on hand to \$6,000, still short of the \$7,000 required for building materials but fast nearing that admirable goal.

—Jean F. Leich

### Art at the Dump

Cornwall's first annual Earth Day show of *Art at the Dump* on April 22 was a resounding success. Notices printed on old brown paper bags and posted around town brought out local trash connoisseurs who created 45 entries from discarded items of wood, metal, fabric, electronics, cans, boxes, and mystery materials. Works ranged from the whimsical and casual to the serious and formal, and each entry carried a label with title and listing of materials used.

The big sand shed was a spacious gallery, with art on the walls, on saw-horse tables, and on top of or stuck into the sand pile. Visitors, voting as often as they liked, chose 15 People's Choice Awards. Trophies consisting of recycled cans and other odds and ends were created by Gail Jacobson, the artist whose idea the show was. Awards included one for "Artcraft Carrier," made of cardboard boxes, juice cans, and Styrofoam by children of the Cornwall Child Center, and another for "Stalker," a handsome driftwood and cast-off-lumber bird by Ken Keskinen.

Gail conceived of the show after years of hearing people say "see Art at the dump." She was thinking of a more formal event several months down the road until she met and talked to Lib Tobin Terrall, our enthusiastic Recycling Coordinator, who convinced her that the show would be a perfect celebration of Earth Day, then only a few weeks away.

Seven pieces were sold with \$217.00—30 percent of the proceeds—going for improvements to the recycling program.

Start thinking now about what you can make for the second annual *Art at the Dump* show next year on Earth Day. —Anne Baren

### Historical Doings

At the annual meeting on May 13, officers of the Cornwall Historical Society outlined an ambitious plan for the coming year. The Society's major project at the moment is a 192-page illustrated history of Cornwall from 1868 to 1941. These dates were chosen because the first known photographs of Cornwall were taken in 1868, and since 1941 Cornwall has changed dramatically in both its appearance and its daily life. A Connecticut Humanities Council grant will be solicited to cover some of the cost of preparing the book.

A \$1,000 grant recently received from SNET will be spent on computerizing the historical data which the Society has in its possession. These include such treasures as the first cash books of some Cornwall businesses which date back as far as 1750.

Structural repairs and improvements such as the installation of a burglar alarm and the creation of more exhibit space are planned.

—John Leich



### WATCH FOR TURTLES

*Early last June while walking, I passed two dead snapping turtles, their shells crushed by passing vehicles. A third turtle made it safely across Rattlesnake Road with a little help from me.*

Jim Rod, Audubon manager of the Constitution Marsh Sanctuary in New York, claims that snapping turtles are one of the most misunderstood animals in the U.S. "Almost everyone thinks they are aggressive animals that eat baby ducklings and baby muskrats, but in fact, they are primarily vegetarians with 90 percent of their diet green plants. Most of the animal matter they eat, they scavenge."

Each spring in early June, female snapping turtles emerge from shallow ponds and mud bottomed lakes to lay their eggs in fields and sandy spots along our roads. They dig a nest about five inches deep and lay their eggs—usually from 20 to 30—and head home. The eggs hatch in 90 days and those turtles that survive may live more than 25 years.

In the next few weeks, if you see a snapper on the road, do not try to pick her up. She can be very aggressive on land when bothered. Observe her for a few moments to determine where she is headed, then gently nudge her in that direction from behind, either with your foot or with a stick. Snapping turtles originated 200 million years ago and managed to survive the disaster that did in the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. They deserve our respect. —Carla Bigelow

### SERVE WITH WHITE WINE

*We live on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor of a high-rise facing the Hudson River. Manhattan's pigeons occasionally wing past but rarely above the 15<sup>th</sup> floor. That is, except for one tough old bird who seems each time to want to climb higher.*

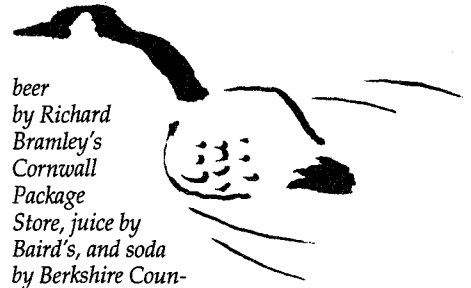
I heartily appreciate Marc Simont's advice on what to do when we hear the inevitable crash against our terrace sliding door (see Letters, *May Chronicle*). I suspect a 96<sup>th</sup> St. pigeon is going to need a lot more tenderizing than a Litchfield dove, nonetheless thanks for the recipe. —Jerry Ross

### CHILD CENTER AUCTION

*Our thanks to the legions of volunteers who cheerfully gave their time and energy to make a resounding success of the ninth annual auction to benefit the Cornwall Child Center.*

With Carol Lugar's generous donation of the Mohawk Ski Lodge we have had the perfect setting for the event for many years. Donations of food by parents, wine and

## Letters to the Chronicle



beer  
by Richard  
Bramley's  
Cornwall  
Package  
Store, juice by  
Baird's, and soda  
by Berkshire Coun-  
try Store all keep our costs  
at a minimum so that nearly all of the money  
raised goes to support the Child Center.

Many people come to the auction just because it is a great gathering with a good show and delicious food. After nine years, this event seems to have become a Cornwall institution. If you missed it you can see some auction scenes on the Cornwall website and you can always come next year. Again, our thanks to all and kudos to auctioneer Dave Cadwell.

—Jean Vitalis and Emilie Pryor,  
auction co-chairs

### ACCESSORY APARTMENTS

Lingering in my mind is the talk Pat Hare gave a month or so ago on the subject of accessory apartments. I was taken by his idea that an apartment created in one's house would not only bring in rent, but could enable one to trade some of the rent for services: help in the garden, house sitting, pet sitting, or perhaps running an errand or helping prepare a meal for an ailing owner.

Apartments within houses are a good deal for tenants as well, for the tenant can get below-market rent in a nice neighborhood.

A major concern expressed was the question of compatibility. Pat's answer was "Mrs. Murphy's law," which allows the householder landlord to reject an incompatible applicant. It seems many tenants of choice are teachers.

Pat presented the subject so convincingly that many of us thought it was an idea worth looking into. —Anne Zinsser

### MISSING VOTERS

On Tuesday, May 2, I worked as a checker for the referendum for the Housatonic Valley Regional High School budget. The polls were open from noon to 8 P.M.

On that day there were 917 registered voters in the Town of Cornwall. In addition, many more were eligible to vote—any U.S. citizen owning property valued at at least \$1,000. Absentee ballots were obtainable.

When the polls closed at 8 P.M. 64 votes had been cast. Forty-eight were in approval of the budget of \$9,628,117, 16 opposed.

Seems to me a sad lack of interest in our high school. —Ann Peterson



## Curriculum Questions

The Cornwall Board of Education held a special meeting on May 8 on curriculum. Assistant Superintendent Al Suttles explained the process used to develop the curriculum for each field of study, and how it is updated regularly. All elementary schools in Region 1 have agreed to use the same curriculum, though there is some difference in the way the material is taught.

In addition to the board, eight parents attended the meeting. In the question-and-answer period that followed the presentation, some of the parents expressed concern that their children were not getting enough grounding in traditional subjects such as grammar, arithmetic, and basic science. Dr. Suttles promised to look into these concerns, and to report back in the near future.

—David Samson

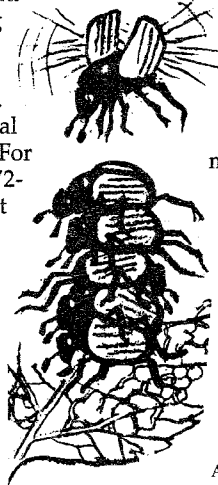
## Events & Announcements

**Public Tennis in Cornwall:** Thanks to the combined efforts of Park and Rec., the Cornwall Community Tennis Association, and Tom Hubbard (the new owner of the courts), two clay courts in Cornwall Village have been refurbished and are ready for play. Please wear smooth-soled sneakers and always sweep the courts after playing. More ambitious players are encouraged to make use of the manual roller. Clinic group lessons for beginners (ages 6 to 17) will start June 26, and will run weekly, Mondays through Thursdays, through July. Each age group will have a beginner and an intermediate level. Watch for information on times and costs which children will bring home from school. There will also be some inter-town tournament play for older children. From 11 A.M. to noon daily adult and/or individual children's lessons will be available. For enrollment, call Todd Piker at 672-6545, or register by E-mail at [TPIKER@msn.com].

**Blood Drive:** The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the UCC Parish House on Wednesday, June 21, from 2 to 7 P.M. Blood donors may make appointments by calling the church office (672-6840) Monday through Friday, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., but walk-ins are always welcome.

## Now's the Time

June rhymes with moon, and also with soon—which is when we would dearly love to get your check.



**License Alert:** The State of Connecticut requires that dogs six months old or older be licensed once a year in the month of June. Licenses will be issued only to dogs with a current rabies certificate. The cost is \$6 if a dog has been spayed or neutered, \$16 if not. Late fees apply after July 1. The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., or you can register your dog by mail if you send a SASE, certificate, and fee to POB 97, Cornwall, CT 06753. A list of low-cost rabies vaccination clinics is available at the Town Office.

**Kevin Phillips**, best-selling author of nine books on American politics and history, will speak on Saturday, June 10, at 4:30 P.M. at UCC to benefit the Cornwall Library Capital Campaign. A resident of Goshen, Phillips spent time in Cornwall as a child.

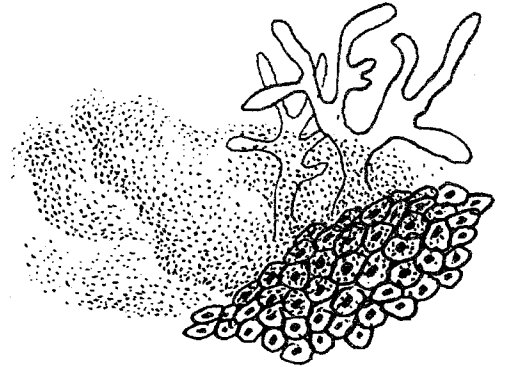
He will talk about the Revolution and the Civil War and how Connecticut participated, using his most recent book, *The Cousins' War*, as a starting point. The Cornwall Historical Society will mount an exhibit of period artifacts, including General Sedgwick's uniform and sword.

The Library will host a champagne and strawberries reception on the Village Green after Phillips' talk. Admission is \$20 a person. Copies of *The Cousins' War* will be available for purchase and signing. For more information call Lisa Simont at 672-2659.

**Hammond Beach** will be open from June 17 through September 4, 11 A.M. to 7 P.M., seven days a week. Sign-up times for swim lessons and swim team will be June 19 to 24, 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. at the beach. Season passes are \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families, available at the First Selectman's Office or through the mail at P.O. Box 205, Cornwall, CT 06753. Please make checks payable to the Town of Cornwall. Pre-purchase of passes is strongly recommended. For information, call Jane Prentice, 672-6101.

**July Fest:** Park and Rec. invites you to celebrate the Fourth on Saturday, July 1 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on the Cornwall Village Green. The Patriotic Bike Parade opens the festivities, followed by games, including the now famous Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest. New this year is the Kids Fun Run around the village. Sign-up at 10:30 A.M.; kids 6 and under run then and 7 and older run at 11:15 A.M. Prizes! This year the Democrats have challenged the Republicans to a tug of war and a volleyball game. So bring your picnic and join the fun.

**Art in Cornwall:** Beginning May 30 and continuing through July 1, Ira Barkoff will be exhibiting impressionistic oil paintings of the Cornwall landscape at the Cornwall Library. This month, Danielle Mailer's vibrant prints and collages can be seen at two venues in Cornwall. Her current show at the Wish House continues through the month, and at the National Iron Bank Danielle is the featured artist for the month of June.



**"Jubileers" Arrive June 5:** The sixth annual UCC-sponsored visit to Cornwall by 50 Jubilee School students, parents, and teachers will take place June 5 to 9. Twenty Cornwall families will provide bed and breakfast for the Philadelphians. An extended visit to Cornwall Consolidated School is planned for June 6. Everyone is invited to an informal entertainment by Jubilee and Cornwall young people on Wednesday, June 7, at 7 P.M. at the UCC. Thanks to all who helped to pay for the trip by contributing to the Jubilee Partnership Fund and by buying tickets to *Mame*. Over \$3,200 was raised. For information, call Peg Keskinen (672-6486) or Danielle Mailer (672-0239).

**A Family Picnic Party** featuring music by the Caribbean Beach Bums will be held on Friday, June 30, from 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. at the Cream Hill Lake Association. A grill will be set up for your favorite picnic foods. Sponsored by Park and Rec.

## CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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