



CORNWALL CHRONICLE



VOLUME 24 : NUMBER 9 OCTOBER 2014

The Little House Conundrum

Priscilla Pavel is puzzled. A real estate agent with Bain, she has many inexpensive houses to show and no takers from among young families living in Cornwall. She remarked that she doesn't "like to sell them to New Yorkers for second homes. Perhaps that's politically incorrect, but young people who want to live here full time should have them."

Pavel says she has tried to help one family purchase a home for under \$200,000. The bank to which she sent them deemed them not creditworthy. She indicated that the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, which helps first-time homebuyers, is a lot more forgiving about credit issues, but this particular family refused to use CHFA. "For some people it's a matter of pride," she said.

CHFA holds monthly home buyers classes in Danbury, where it provides credit counseling and walks people through the various steps of home buying. It also can provide a down payment if necessary.

Pavel and other Realtors in our area have a group of "more than adequate, move-in condition" homes under \$300,000, and a handful of homes under \$200,000. One of the little houses just sold at the beginning of September to "very nice people" as a second home. Priscilla Pavel would have been happier to find local buyers for it.

—Jill Cutler

Why Don't We Do It in the Bridge?

The air around the Covered Bridge on Sunday, September 14, filled with the aroma of meat-tinged smoke. Two lambs roasted over a wood fire in the side parking lot of the Wandering Moose. The lambs came from Tom Levine's farm on Town Street. They had been marinating in oil, peppers, garlic, and parsley at the Community Table restaurant in Washington so that they could become part of the seven-course tasting menu Chef Joel Viehland was going to serve 80 lucky guests as part of the observances around the bridge's 150th birthday.

At 3:55 that afternoon the last gaggle of motorcycles sped through the bridge and the fire department closed access. Members of the junior fire department moved in to rig strings of lights and set the tables according to the decorating scheme of



designer Michael Trapp, involving huge numbers of sunflowers.

The champagne reception began at 4 p.m. with champagne, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres. Young wait staff passed sedum leaves with hazelnut cream and slices of purple potato with crème fraiche and black caviar from plates made by potter Todd Piker. The Switch Factory, a mellow, bluegrass-tinged band from Torrington, played John Prine on the porch of Ian Ingersoll's cabinetmaking shop. The weather was superb and the guests milling about seemed happy except when threatened by the occasional fierce yellow jacket attack.

Dinner was lamb with kale and peaches; heirloom tomatoes; Connecticut royal red shrimp (made with milk from Chris Hopkins); buttermilk custard; and other good things. Most of the food came from our Cornwall neighborhood, if you include Goshen and Washington. The dessert courses were the brainchild of Tom Juliano, a Cornwall resident.

Outside the bridge the Cornwall Fire Department directed traffic and sold fire department mugs. Gordon Ridgway reported that seven permits had to be obtained to make this event possible.

A friend of mine remarked that in the old days Cornwall held square dances right in the bridge. Now that we've figured out

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OCTOBER 2014

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: Meditation, 4-5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Tai Chi, 6-9 pm Town Hall; ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30-9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group, 10:30-11:30 am Library; Meditation, 4-5 pm call Debra 672-0229; Mah Jongg 7-9 pm Library; Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30-10 am Library ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9-10:30 am Library			1 ☾ 1st Q	2 ♦ Woman's Society 9:30 am UCC Parish House	3 ♦ Namoli Brennet Concert 7:30 pm UCC Meeting House	4 ♦ Farm Market 9 am-1 pm West Cornwall ♦ Community Contra Dance 7 pm Town Hall
5	6 ♦ Region 1 Board of Ed 6 pm Rm 133 HVRHS ♦ Park & Rec 7:30 pm Town Hall	7 ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	8 ☉ FULL	9	10	11 ♦ Cornwall Days ♦ Farm Market 9 am-1 pm WC ♦ Col. Day Book Sale 10 am-2 pm Library ♦ OSLS Workshop 10:30 am -1:30 pm Local Farm ♦ Cornwall Artists' Open Studio Noon-5 pm ♦ Artists' Reception 3-6 pm Scouterra Gallery ♦ Art & Solar Elec. Exhib. & Talk 3-5 pm
12 ♦ Cornwall Days ♦ Susan Hellmann Artist Reception 4-6 pm Library	13 ♦ Columbus Day Book Sale 10 am-2 pm Library ♦ Blood Pressure Clinic Noon-1 pm UCC ♦ Wreath-making workshop 1-2:30 pm Local Farm	14 ♦ Economic Development 8:30 am Town Hall ♦ Senior Luncheon 11:30 am-1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ P&Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Commission 7:30 pm CCS	15 ♦ Board of Ed 4 pm CCS Library ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library ♦ Deadline: November Chronicle Copy	16 ♦ Cornwall Conservation Comm. 6:30 pm Town Hall	17 ♦ Mrs. Doubtfire Movie and Pizza 7 pm Library	18 ♦ Farm Market 9 am-1 pm West Cornwall ♦ Run & Wag 5K Race 11 am Valley Road
19	20	21 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	22	23 ● NEW	24 ♦ Annual Town Meeting 7:30 pm CCS Gathering Room	25 ♦ Forum on Children's Needs 4-6 pm Library
26	27 ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	28 ♦ Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	29	30 ☾ 1st Q	31 ♦ Trick or Treating 5-7 pm Library ♦ P&R Halloween Gathering 5-8 pm Town Hall	

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

For additions and updating, visit www.cornwallchronicle.org

how to close it gracefully there might be all kinds of things we could do in it. Once in a while, of course. —*Jill Cutler*

Sky Hunters and Land Preservers

In a green meadow on a brilliant blue afternoon, 120 visitors celebrated the Cornwall Conservation Trust at the Hart Farm Preserve. They feasted on Dan Evans' hickory-smoked barbecue of ribs (from Hurlburt) and pork (sourced by Tom Levine), served by Barbara and Charles Yohe.

After Don Polk's sweet sing along ("The Bear Went O'er Mohawk Mountain"), Brian Bradley and his raptors took over. First came four binocular owls with triangulated hearing. He brought each elegant fowl out of its box on his magician's table and explained its personality and niche in the natural world. After each performance, he gave treats of raw chicken. ("White meat or dark?" asked John Miller.)

Then came the keen-sighted kestrel and the Harris Hawk. At this point Brian enlisted the help of six-year-old Andrew, one of many eager young volunteers. At a signal, Andrew raced out from under the trees dragging a dummy rabbit lure. The hawk swept over the field, Andrew dropped the lure and escaped as the bird folded its wings and plummeted.

Finally came the show stopper: a mottled white Arctic Gyrfalcon, largest of all falcons, who can fly up to 200 mph. Hooded, leashed by a jess, and with a bell on his leg, he perched calmly on Brian's gloved hand until, unhooded and untied, he exploded, jingling into the air at about 60 mph, soared over the crowd to a tall tree, then back over the field to dive, an arrow of death, down to the falconer.

At last, Brian's two rabbit-flushing long-haired miniature dachshunds ran from their crate, low in the grass. They, of course, unlike the birds, did not completely obey orders.

Bart Jones, president of CCT, congratulated the performers and the crowd. "We couldn't save these farmlands and forests—1,400 acres and counting—without a private-public partnership. Thank you, Roberta Willis, and thank you, donors." —*Ella Clark*

It's That Time

Let us think now about fall, but avoid clichés. No chamber of commerce leaf peeper ad copy. Let's be honest, since of the two seasons of change, fall is the one of perplexity, bringing beauty and dread.

Fall's shortening light, rusting leaves, and startling first days of cold, which feel rather insulting, mean only one thing: hard times are coming. When we lived in Chicago, parents would tell their kids to

enjoy the rare, warm fall days since, "the hawk will be here soon."

Like a roller coaster's long, clanking ascent we move through October and November, knowing what waits on the other side and that knowledge gives a unique, anticipatory sharpness to the season. Yes, everything looks lovely, but this won't last. Every decent late fall day is a day of reprieve; one more of freedom before reporting to the big house.

Gradually, T-shirts are replaced with long sleeves and searching begins for matching pairs of gloves. Well-washed, thin jeans linger longer in the closet, and we dig from the farthest hangers lined Carharts that have the flexibility of sheet steel. Ball caps stay on hooks and I look for the fur-trimmed bomber hat, scalloped chewed years ago by Labrador pups.

Fall is the last party before calling it a day; the last goof-off weekend. It is the time when our hills sigh with relief, looking forward to a rest. It is the time of departure of friends heading south until April, a migration that I view with a confusing mixture of envy, pity, and self-righteousness. When we first moved to Cornwall I was thrown off when asked if we were permanent. It appears that we are. —*Jeff Jacobson*

Uncle John

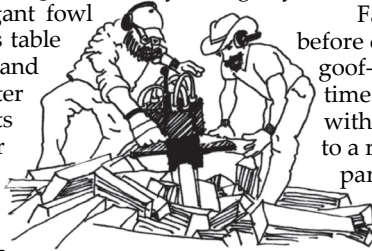
On a weather-perfect first Sunday in September the Cornwall Historical Society presented "Major General John Sedgwick: A Walking Tour" to an audience of 90. The program was expertly narrated by David A. Ward of Civil War Tours.

Beginning at the Sedgwick Memorial, the tour then walked to the general's birth place and planned retirement home at the top of Hautboy Hill Road, and concluded at his gravesite.

Known affectionately by his troops as "Uncle John," Sedgwick was a Cornwall native and the highest ranking Union officer killed during the war. On May 9, 1864, in preparation for the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Sedgwick's staff warned him to move to a safer place, away from active Confederate sharpshooters. However, believing that he himself must supervise placement of the cannon batteries, he insisted on remaining in the danger area. Shortly thereafter he was, indeed, struck under the left eye by a sharpshooter. He died instantly.

David Ward's enthusiastic and detailed commentary during the tour was most impressive. Seven uniformed Civil War reenactors from the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, Company F, provided perfect background color for the event.

—*Dinny Greene*



Welcome

Makayla Mae Dolan to Stacey and Richard Dolan

Goodbye to Friends

Jeanne Russo
Adrienne Z. Kathleen Cowles

Land Transfers

Bank of New York Mellon to Lisa Ross, one acre of land with buildings thereon at 11 Furnace Brook Road for \$92,400.

Avery Chase, Trustee, to S.H. Spencer Compton and Karen Malay Compton, four parcels of land at 67 Dibble Hill Road.

Mary T. McKenna Ahern to James T. Sidey and Lucy Galliher-Sidey, land with improvements thereon at 127 Kent Road for \$165,000.

Cornwall Agricultural Fair

Tents, including Cornwall's own newest tent dressed out in blue and white, sprang up overnight on the village green for the 23rd Agricultural Fair, and an enthusiastic crowd wandered under a sunny sky.

Crowds gathered around Garrick Dinneen at his post at the Wood-Mizer, milling white pine (donated by Duke Besozzi) and black cherry (from the Saccardis) into sweet smelling boards. "It was a fine day," said Garrick, "and everyone likes watching logs turned into lumber."

Antique cars included Gerard Calabrese's 1935 Ford convertible and Dan Cain's 1952 IH Cub tractor. Children wrestled in the hay bale pile at center green, and met the cows, llamas, ducks, and a rabbit in the tent stable. Lynn Scoville organized the judging of the vegetable, flower, fruit, and bakery exhibits. Among many, blue ribbons to Mag Cooley for sweet corn, Debbie Jones for peaches, Jane Bean for those strange, purple noodle beans, and the science-fiction sized beets from Sally O'Connell.

The Chapel of All Saints Episcopal yet again presented an amazing array of bread and butter pickles, corn relish, jams and jellies too numerous to list. All proceeds are donated to local charities.

CVFD's annual cow-chip raffle took place under a now threatening sky. Olivia and Maggie Bickford's twin heifers, Thunder and Lightning, roamed the checkerboard pasture until one hit square number 539 for the \$300 winner for a \$2 ticket. Congratulations Gus Haller!

The crowd was exuberant at the arrival of six Belgians pulling the hitch wagon from Richard and Gail Dolan's Maple Hill Farm. The family was there in full-dress regalia; Richard and grandchildren driving between fairgoers lined at both edges of Pine Street. Gail and family walked alongside.

Bill Dinneen, chairman of the Cornwall Agricultural Advisory Commission and coordinator of this one-day event, was "pleased with the attendance,



vendors, and fire department and the general success of the fair." He also expressed thanks to the many volunteers and other commission members.

—Phil Hart

Newcomers' Tea

In the library on the afternoon of the Ag Fair, eight bold newcomers (and about 40 geezers) heard all about the enchanted town of Cornwall and were encouraged to pitch in.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway welcomed them: "The census shows our population is down; we need you!" He emphasized that "weekender" or "full-timer" labels don't mean much; "We all work together to accomplish things in this special place of hills and valleys."

Presenters highlighted some of those accomplishments: the Cornwall Child Center (enrollment up!); Cornwall Conservation Trust ("Take a hike!"); Cornwall Historical Society; Cornwall Library (30,000 items, activities from art to yoga); Cornwall Foundation (grants, grants); Cornwall Association (non-partisan forums like this one); Cornwall Housing (Bonney Brook full, Kugeman Village has major facelift); the Woman's Society (rummage!); and Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department (207 calls last year).

Final speaker Terry Burke, emergency preparedness guru, sprinted to the podium. "We moved to Cornwall two years ago. And we're still here!"

—Ella Clark



Coming to America

A family will soon arrive in New Haven to settle into a new home in America. IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) places immigrants with groups willing to help them begin anew. The UCC in Cornwall and the Cornwall community have already helped to settle an Iraqi family in New Haven, mostly with financial gifts. Now it is time to help another family. Spearheaded by the Church of Christ UCC in Goshen, the program has churches in Cornwall, plus other folks, joining forces with IRIS to welcome a family to the area to live and work.

During the first months after the family's arrival, volunteers are needed for rides, help with banking and budgets, lessons in English, and assistance getting health care. But by far the greatest need is for funds to rent an apartment, probably in Torrington. Rent and a security deposit will require \$5,000. Through IRIS, each family receives six months of federal subsidy for housing. In most instances, families then become self supporting.

If you would like to contribute to the Refugee Resettlement Fund, make a check to the UCC in Cornwall and put RRFund in

Letters to the Chronicle

NEW APPROACHES?

Thanks are owed to Ed Ferman for his excellent and sobering reportage on the economically struggling in Cornwall. We need to do more for our less affluent neighbors. In some towns the equivalent to the Food and Fuel Bank has a board of advisors that can organize fundraising campaigns or relieve the professional staff of some administrative burdens. Maybe Cornwall should consider this. Whatever the approach adopted, as a community and individually, we should open our wallets to provide more assistance for our neighbors in need.

—Jim Fishman

REGION ONE REP NEEDED

The Board of Education would like candidates interested in serving as Cornwall's representative to the Region One Board of Education to contact the CCS Board of Ed. This is a four-year term, and the representative will be

selected in November by the CCS BOE. The position involves attendance at regular monthly meetings at HVRHS, with additional meetings during budget season, and special meetings whenever called. Applicants should write a letter to the BOE expressing their interest in education and knowledge of Region One. This position is open to anyone. Send letter to the Board of Education, c/o CCS, 5 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall CT. 06796.

—Janet Carlson Sanders

HELP!

Drivers are needed for Cornwall residents who need to get to medical appointments at nearby destinations. The current crew of FISH (Friends in Service Here) drivers is stalwart, but small. We would welcome volunteers who might provide essential trips for those who cannot drive. Please contact me at ellac373@gmail.com or 672-4817.

—Ella Clark

the memo line. For questions, contact Peg Keskinen at kpkkeskinen@optonline.net or visit irisct.org. Your contributions are tax deductible.

—Micki Nunn-Miller

Cornwall Briefs

•**Kudos to Crew:** As the summer slides into fall, it's time for a shout-out to the town highway crew for its hard work. Dibble Hill

was partly repaved, for a hefty \$100,000, along with several other rough spots. Culverts were unplugged, roadsides mowed, and the dam engineering work of the beaver on Cream Hill Road was kept in check by the crew's excavator.

•**Train Talk:** Berkshire County planners continue to court Connecticut with promises (actually funded by the Commonwealth) to rebuild the Berkshire end of the railway line for passenger service. Connecticut has been reluctant to commit to restoring the southern section of the line. Reasonably so. The state's federal railroad funds are badly needed along the Metro-North commuter line on the coast. The Council of Governments has snagged a grant to hire a planner to do a feasibility study of the Connecticut piece of the project.

Massachusetts has a more compelling interest in the promised economic benefits of passenger service. Berkshire County is expecting to lose about a third of its population over the next generation or so. The 1.87 million one-way passenger trips the new line would allegedly produce in its first five years must look pretty good to local merchants.

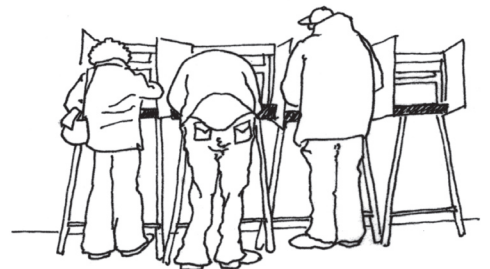
•**Nickels Add Up:** Steve O'Neil, manager of the transfer station, urges local charities and civic groups to apply to receive the dollars and cents available from redeeming bottles and cans left at the station. For more

information call the first selectman's office at 672-4959.

•**Yearly Event:** Make a note to get to the annual town meeting on Friday, October 24, at 7:30 P.M. In addition to hearing reports from the town's boards and commissions, there will be an update (and a possible vote) on the GE \$200,000 settlement which the Housatonic Valley Association proposes to use to upgrade the CL&P property along the river in West Cornwall. Possibilities include a boat access ramp and public toilets.

•**Shopping Around:** Speaking of new stuff for Cornwall, it's time to shop for another ambulance. The CVFD gets a new one every 10 years mostly because of upgrades required by the state. And the price just about doubles every time, something to remember when the fundraisers come calling. A committee is kicking the tires of various models down at the West Cornwall Firehouse. Sometimes pizza is served.

—Lisa L. Simont



Events & Announcements

November Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 4, at town hall, 24 Pine Street, from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. to cast votes for governor, lieutenant governor, representative in Congress, state senator, state representative, secretary of the state, treasurer, comptroller, attorney general,

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judge of probate, and registrar of voters. Absentee ballots will be available after Friday, October 3, in the town clerk's office, Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to noon and 1 to 4 P.M.

At the Cornwall Library:

An autumn book sale will be held Columbus Day weekend: Saturday, October 11, 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. (early bird, 9 to 10 A.M. for \$10); Monday, 10 A.M. to noon, half price; noon to 2 P.M., fill a bag for \$5.

Middle-school movie and pizza is on Friday, October 17, 7 P.M. The feature is *Mrs. Doubtfire* with Robin Williams. Please call ahead so we have enough pizza.

Cornwall Foundation Forum on children in Cornwall is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 4 to 6 P.M.

Open for Halloween trick or treating on Friday, October 31, 5 to 7 P.M.

Concert: Folksinger-songwriter Namoli Brennet will perform on Friday, October 3, at 7:30 P.M. at the UCC on Bolton Hill Road. Cost is \$10 at the door. All are welcome.

Traditional New England Country Dance at the town hall, Saturday, October 4, 7 P.M. Music by Still, The Homegrown Band with teaching caller David Kaynor. All are welcome. Donation requested. For information call 672-6101.

Old-Style Life Skills Series workshop, EGGSp-erience Chickens: From egg to table, Saturday, October 11, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Local Farm. Cost is \$35/family. Bring a dish to share for potluck lunch. Must preregister with Debra@motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

Free Wreath-making workshop at Local Farm, Saturday, October 13, 1 to 2:30 P.M. Bring ribbons, dried flowers, etc. to decorate your wreath. We'll supply twine and tools. Please call ahead to Debra Tyler at 672-0229.

Thinking Ahead

As the days get shorter and the winter closes in, it may be a good time for a personal inventory of the ways we work to support the volunteer activities of our town. One opportunity is to work with the *Chronicle* to publish this newspaper. There's a lot to do and we'd love to hear from you. Failing that, of course, you may write us a check! Thanks.

The Ninth Annual Cornwall Artists Open Studio will be held Saturday October 11, 12 to 5 P.M. A list of the participating artists, directions to their studios, and maps will be on the Cornwall website. Go to cornwallct.org and click on "Cornwall Artists." The list and map will also be available at the library and local stores one week before the event.

Cornwall Days, sponsored by the Economic Development Commission and funded by local businesses and grants, is all set to go on October 11 and 12. See Insert.

The Cornwall Energy Task Force and Litchfield Hills Solar will join artist Curt Hanson at his Cornubia Hall studio (400 Cornwall Hollow Road) on Saturday, October 11, 3 to 5 P.M. for an exhibition of paintings and a celebration of his new solar electric system. Giovanni Ciarlo, product development coordinator for Gaia Education and a pioneer in ecovillage design, will speak at 4 P.M.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Monday, October 13, noon to 1 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. For information, contact VNA Northwest at 860-567-6000 or vnanw.org.

Senior Luncheon on Tuesday, October 14, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Wandering Moose Cafe. No reservations necessary. Contact Jane at 672-6101.

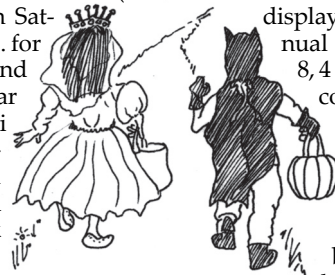
Run & Wag 5K race in Cornwall Village to benefit the Little Guild of St. Francis, Saturday, October 18, at 11 A.M. on Valley Road. Proceeds from the race will help fund the operating costs of the guild, which gives shelter to countless dogs and cats in northwest Connecticut. Dog massages and a vet will be on site courtesy of Sand Road Animal Hospital. Erin Hedden is heading up food booth sales. No canine? No problem. The race is open to homo sapiens running or walking, with or without a dog. Children wanting to get in on the fun, who are not old enough to compete in the 5K, can register for \$5 on the green the day of the race to run/walk the Kids' One-Mile Fun Run starting at 10:30 A.M. Go to littleguild.org for race information and to preregister for \$20.

Park & Rec will host its annual Halloween gathering at the town hall on Friday, October 31, from 5 to 8 P.M. Soups, salad, sandwiches, and cider will be provided. To

donate a homemade pot of soup or stew, contact Becky Hurlburt at prcornwall@gmail.com.

Men's Basketball. There is interest in resurrecting a weekly men's basketball night at CCS, probably for players 40 and older. Wanna play?, Contact Steve Spertuto at 860-619-8097. Will likely be on Mondays, but date is to be determined.

"Bear Challenge": You don't need to wrestle a bear to enter the Cornwall bear contest. Just send a photo or drawing of a bear to the Cornwall Conservation Trust at bears@cornwallconservationtrust.org. CCT will announce winners, give out prizes, and display photo and art entries at its annual meeting Saturday, November 8, 4 P.M. at town hall. Prizes include coffee mugs made for the occasion by Cornwall potter Susan Fox. Youthful winners will get teddy bears. Winners of all ages will receive a CCT T-shirt featuring a photograph by Betty Spence of a Lake Road bear in profile.



Art in Cornwall:

At the National Iron Bank: Peter Barrett.
At the Cornwall Library: Returning to Cornwall, works by Susan Hellmann, October 7 through November 22. Artist reception Tuesday, October 14, from 4 to 6 P.M.
At the Souterrain Gallery: works by Christopher Michael and his mother, Linda Fusco, CM and Mom Art, collaborative artwork by a special needs artist to benefit others with special needs. Reception Saturday, October 11, 3 to 6 P.M.

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