



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 18 : NUMBER 7 AUGUST 2008



State Grants for Cornwall

The selectmen are working out how to take advantage of the State of Connecticut's \$150,000 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant to support Cornwall businesses. Currently they are studying how other towns have used similar STEAP grants, but in the fall—after they've finished fine-tuning their ideas and coping with the state's paperwork—they plan to solicit proposals from business owners and other interested citizens. The money could go for things like upgrading storefronts, road signs to call attention to the town's businesses, ways of slowing down traffic in West Cornwall, and any other good ideas that people can come up with.

Other STEAP grants will go toward renovations to the Hughes Memorial Library in West Cornwall and the Cornwall Historical Society's building in Cornwall Village.

—Hendon Chubb

A Different Sort of Religion

Driving down Pine Street on a typical Sunday morning, you've undoubtedly seen cars piously flanking either side of Bolton Hill Road, their owners in UCC or St. Peter's. And if you're very observant, you may also have noticed a motley assortment of ve-

hicles parked near the Town Hall. These cars or pickups have one thing in common: a bike rack.

"One of the main reasons we start early is so we can get back and be with the family," says Billy Gold, a longstanding member of Cornwall's biking band of brothers. "We're also sort of addicted to the fun of giving each other 'verbal abuse' during our rides. And, of course, there is the speed factor. To go 50 mph on some descents, especially on a muggy August morning, is heavenly."

These Lycra-clad devotees get all rhapsodic when talking about that love of the open road. Whether it's time spent in the natural world or time spent chewing the fat, these riders have heard a calling. And it doesn't matter whether you're a year-rounder, weekender, or visitor; the playing field is leveled when helmets are donned, toes clipped in, and bike wheels pumped.

"We all do different things for a living and do it different places," says Peter Busby, another member of the biking brethren. "We enjoy the scenery and the banter. Sunday mornings are quiet and still with plenty of time for stories to fly freely and many a tall tale to get told."

And memories to get made. They have remember-when, entre-nous moments that range from the sublime—century (100-mile) rides to benefit both the Jane Lloyd Fund, which raises money to help support cancer patients, and La Casa, which helps build homes for families in Tecata, Mexico—to the ridiculous. Like the time Mike Root got knocked off his bike by a wild turkey. Or maybe it was an owl. The stories morph as the years go by.

Some regulars include, but aren't limited to, David Cowan, Jeff Lynch, and Larry Zuckerman; others have left the fold for logistical reasons (they moved or can't meet up at the scheduled times) or stamina reasons (they fell out of shape).

"The flock of riders has thinned out over the years," adds Busby. "But a few of us die-hards still meet up. Billy [Gold] is our Yoda. Mike Root has taken the ride to a higher level, finishing 16th in his age group at the World Triathlon last year in Switzerland. We like to think we taught him all we could."

So while some find inspiration in a sermon or hymnal, others find it in the saddle of their LeMond or Bianchi, biking for fun and good causes on roads as near as Rattlesnake or as far as Notch Road, Mt. Greylock.

—Elizabeth England

AUGUST 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Jam Session , 7:30 P.M. Village Meeting House Wednesdays: Stretch Class , 5 P.M. Town Hall; Tai Chi , 7 P.M. Call David Colbert 672-0064 for location Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers , 1:15 P.M. St. Peter's, call Debra Tyler 672-0229 to confirm Sundays: Meditation Group , 1-2 P.M. 672-0229 for location					1 ☀️ Storytime Ages 3-6 11 A.M.-Noon Library	2 ☀️ Keeping a Family Cow 10 A.M.-1 P.M. Local Farm † Art Reception 3-6 P.M. Wish House † Art Reception 3-6 P.M. Northern Exposure Gallery †
3	4 ☀️ Nutmeg Book Discussion 4 P.M. Library Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	5 ☀️ Matica Arts Circus Camp 9:30 A.M.-Noon CCS † Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall	6 ☀️ Matica Arts Circus Camp 9:30 A.M.-Noon CCS † Family Program 6:30-7:30 P.M. Library	7 ☀️ Matica Arts Circus Camp 9:30 A.M.-Noon CCS †	8 ☀️ Matica Arts Circus Camp 9:30 A.M.-Noon CCS † Storytime Ages 3-6 11 A.M.-Noon Library	9 ☀️ Old Style Life Skills Workshop: Canning 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M. Local Farm †
10 ☀️ Art Reception 4-6 P.M. Library †	11 ☀️ Blood Pressure Screening Noon-1 P.M. UCC Nutmeg Book Discussion 4 P.M. Library Democratic Town Meeting 7:30 P.M. Library	12 ☀️ Democratic Primary 6 A.M.-8 P.M. Town Hall † P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	13	14	15 ☀️ Deadline: September Chronicle Copy Iraq Moratorium Pot Luck 6:30 P.M. Foote Fields Pavillion †	16 ☀️
17	18 ☀️ Nutmeg Book Discussion 4 P.M. Library	19 ☀️ Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	20 ☀️ Cornwall Day at Lake Compounce 11 A.M.-8 P.M. †	21 ☀️ Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	22 ☀️ 	23 ☀️ Saw Horses Workshop 10:30 A.M.-3 P.M. Local Farm †
24 31	25 ☀️ ZBA 8 P.M. Town Hall*	26 ☀️ P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	27 ☀️ Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	28	29 ☀️ 	30 ☀️ Cornwall Plains Walking Tour 10:30 A.M. Start at Town Hall †

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

Gold in Cornwall

This story is not about the Golds of Cream Hill. Nor panning for gold in one of Cornwall's many brooks. But it's a story you gotta love.

Richard Griggs, one of sculptor Tim Prentice's assistants, is working an industrial-type vacuum cleaner on the balcony of the big Prentice barn on Lake Road on the morning of June 19. The balcony is used to store musical instruments, including an ancient pump organ that Tim inherited from his mom, Dody. Richard is working near the organ when the vacuum nozzle gets blocked by an object. The object turns out to be a moldy, black sock with something in it. Richard opens the sock and takes out a pouch with eight 19th-century gold coins, a bunch of five- and ten-dollar bills from the early 1900s, and several bank deposit slips from 1908 with the name Leila T. Delzell on them.

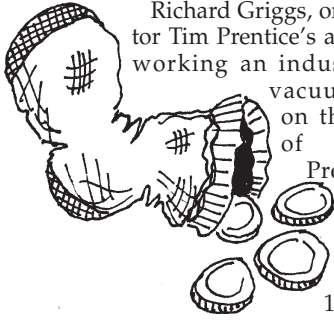
About that time Tim arrives, post-breakfast, and is handed the "treasure," which he stuffs in a pocket with nary a comment nor a hint of excitement. But another of Tim's assistants, Dave Colbert, is excited and goes on the Internet to research the coins and bills. Meanwhile, Tim returns to the house, shows wife Marie the goodies, and promptly throws the moldy sock into a wastebasket. Marie retrieves the sock and discovers the initial "D" on it.

Eventually Tim's daughter Nora takes the found loot to New York to get an expert opinion on its worth. The gold coins, which range in face value from \$2.50 to \$10 and have dates from 1851 to 1895, are valued at about \$2,500. Nora is told that the bills, one five and eight tens, are worth in the neighborhood of \$4,500.

Who was Mrs. Leila T. Delzell? Nora checks on several sources. Kathleen Wieland, a nice lady at the Otis Library in Norwich, finds that Leila was born in Missouri in 1884. Her maiden name was Thomas. Leila was married to a minister named Finis Ewing Delzell. They lived for a time in Old Lyme but never in Cornwall.

Could Dody Prentice's pump organ once have belonged to Pastor Delzell? Unlikely, because Tim thinks it belonged to her family in Canada before she moved to the States. Could the sock and its contents have been hidden in the organ and then fallen out in time to connect with Richard's vacuum cleaner? Tim said he hired Will Calhoun in 1984 for extensive work on the barn and that the organ arrived for storage about two years later after the death of his father, Merrill.

Nora assures us her sleuthing will continue and that she will keep the *Chronicle* informed. Will the mystery ever be solved?



Will Will Calhoun come forward and claim he left the sock in the barn back in 1984? Gentle people, stay tuned.

—*John Miller*

P.S.: You might consider giving your old barn a vacuum cleaning!

Breakfast on Town Street

Enshrined, cholesterol-ridden
forbidden fruit
white with a heart of gold.

Precious eggs poised on my shelf,
I crave you soft or hard-boiled,
over light or upright.

Two eggs a week cruelly meted,
marked on my calendar.

Happiness
is my breakfast on that day.

—*Bee Simont*

Never Had a Lemon

Thirty of us here in Cornwall use the Chore Service, calling on workers to help clean house, garden, sew, discover newborn fawns, scrub screens, whatever. Ken and Peggy Keskinen, who've had a number of Chore workers over the years, say they've "never had a lemon."

Chore, as many of you know, has kept hundreds of our elderly and disabled neighbors safely and independently at home. It matches caring and competent workers with people who can't do chores anymore. They get to stay at home, and students, housewives, and anyone wanting part-time work gets flexible hours with appreciative clients (and gas money!). Ella Clark founded it over 15 years ago, and it's grown like crazy, serving the seven towns in the Northwest Corner, with a budget for 2008 of over \$376,000. In Cornwall alone, clients got over 2,000 hours of service last year. If they can't pay the full fee, Chore makes up the difference.

What do clients say about it? Natasha Eilenberg: "If I need anybody I can call Ella and she produces somebody. Josh Bate drove for me, and we got to be great buddies. He also helped on the computer, and I gave him credit in my book" (on Khmer art, to be published soon). Other workers helped her with sewing on buttons, hemming, and gardening. Thalia Scoville on her worker: "Came on time, washed the woodwork, and dead-headed the poppies. No problems." Ken Strobel, whose wife died in November: "My worker has been a lifesaver. She keeps watch over me (I'm kinda sloppy!) and mothers me a little bit. I'm 78." Ursula Dinneen said her worker will "tackle just about anything; she even brought my collection of thimbles down and cleaned them all up. And her mother copied a pair of mittens for me."

And the workers? Helen Hare, a college senior studying for the LSATs this summer, says the "attitude about Chore is so positive—people are excited to meet their workers. I feel that way, too. After studying all day, it's nice to work with people." Helen does housework and gardening, and brings

her laptop to type one client's poetry.

Trish was laid off by TWA after 35 years, "so I had to reinvent myself. This gives me something to take my mind off things. I love helping people and love the fact I can make my own schedule." Her clients rave about her.

Chore is having its annual fundraiser on August 2 in the Blums' barn in Lakeville: great views, great food, dance music by Eliot Osborn, kinetic feathers by Tim Prentice. Call Ella *fast* at 364-1003 if you want to buy tickets—only \$75 for eats and dancing—and you'll be supporting a wonderful cause.

—*Phyllis Nauts*

Good-bye to a Friend

Betty A. Bailey

Congratulations

Rachel Gall and Jay Wolfe

Jane-Anne Worthington and Jerome Roth, Jr.

Land Transfers

G.A.G.S., Inc. to JACET, LLC, land and buildings thereon at 103 Cemetery Hill Road for \$650,000.

Arnold and Nilda Perez Leichtman to Kenneth A. and Lorraine Heber Brause, land, buildings, and improvements thereon at 19 Whitcomb Way, and 1/3 interest in parcel designated as "Open Space 10.908 acres" for \$960,000.

John R. and Damaris S. Horan to Daniel D. H. Horan and Julie Beglin, land and buildings thereon at 45 Rexford Road for \$350,000.

Estate of Frank Palumbo to Yoshihiro and Rachel Matsudairo, 5.24 acres on Popple Swamp Road for \$60,000.

Joseph F. Urner, Trustee, to Edward and Laurie Shelasky, land, buildings, and improvements thereon at 12 Town Street for \$345,000.

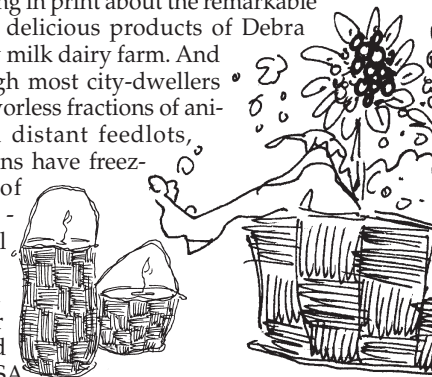
LeeAnn McCarthy to Robin Lee Bolton-Smith, Trustee, and Lydia E. Lawless, Trustee, land, buildings, and improvements thereon at 108 Warren Hill Road for \$475,000.

Audrey F. Morris, Trustee (Zerbe/Morris Family—Survivor's Trust), to Stephen Kilroy and Grace Jaihee Yoon, 5.409 acres and buildings thereon at 25 Cherry Hill Road for \$217,500.

Omnivore's Paradise

It is a truth seldom observed—let alone gloated over—that Cornwall has long been in the forefront of the local food movement. When Gordon Ridgway's organic vegetable farm became a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in the late 1980s, it was among the first in the nation. Before sometimes-local-boy Michael Pollan became journalism's leading proponent of small farming, he was rhapsodizing in print about the remarkable ethics and delicious products of Debra Tyler's raw milk dairy farm. And now, though most city-dwellers still eat flavorless fractions of animals from distant feedlots, Cornwallians have freezer full of pasture-raised local meat.

Jonathan Kirschner has started his own CSA



growing vegetables on the land of Chris Hopkins's Stone Wall Dairy. "Cornwall is a great place to farm. People here are highly educated and interested. It does require a little bit of work to be a CSA member, but it's worth it," he says.

To deal with the problem of seasonal abundance, he offers seasonal cookbooks at his stand at the West Cornwall Farmers' Market. Debra Tyler's Motherhouse has another approach. It has scheduled a course on canning on August 9. (See Events and Announcements for details.)

For people who want to buy locally without joining a CSA, the West Cornwall Farmers' Market offers local vegetables, meat, and ready-to-eat foods every Saturday.

There was a time not all that long ago when every last Cornwallian ate locally, says Ginny Potter of the Cornwall Historical Society. The only food that used to travel, she says, was cheese making its way from East Cornwall to New York City.

Is it a sign of things to come that Stone Wall Dairy, whose pastures were secured with community support, is now sending milk and eggs to New York City? Cornwall is quietly leading the way, again.

—Jessica Marshall

Are We Really The People's Republic?

Cornwall has tended to vote increasingly for Democrats in recent major elections. Does that mean that we deserve the sarcastic title that some wags award us: "The People's Republic of Cornwall"?

At the August editors' request, I checked recent election results. The ones that seemed to me most likely to reveal any trends are those for Congress and the president. We have also had nominally party-based elections for local officials like selectmen and Planning and Zoning, but I think most of us see those as more personality-based than partisan.

Two years ago, Cornwall recorded a lot of Democratic votes for Chris Murphy in his race against Nancy Johnson. Almost three-quarters (74 percent) of our votes were cast for Chris, or maybe against Nancy. We were more heavily Democratic than any of the eight towns in the Northwest Corner. But Chris got a majority in every Corner town, including such normally Republican strongholds as Warren and Goshen. We weren't the only ones who loved him, hated her.

In 2004, Cornwall favored John Kerry over George W.

Bush, but by a somewhat smaller margin (68 percent). In that election, we were edged out in our percentage of Kerry votes by, of all places, Salisbury.

No People's Republic there! And even when it comes to voter registration, according to the Secretary of the State's office, Norfolk



Letters to the Chronicle

A BURNING MATTER

Please allow me to respond to your June article entitled "A Burning Matter." Open burning is both a public safety and environmental matter, as well as the cornerstone of conventional agricultural practices. To address this potential conflict, most states have enacted "agricultural exemptions" consistent with public safety but reflecting the land mass and nature of farming. Connecticut has no such agricultural statutes and instead looks to each municipality to establish such ordinances.

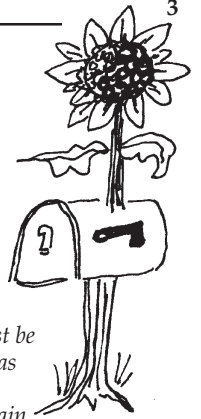
As passersby on Cream Hill Road know, a twenty-year goal has been to restore the historic footprint of Hedgerows Farm by clearing to the original stone walls. With over 200 fires, we have had five violations, albeit all with valid burn permits and fire marshal notifications. Each cited violation was accompanied by a contribution made to CVFD. My "arrest" was settled with a CVFD contribution, but bigger!

Lessons have been learned, even by a repeat offender like myself. Litigation, however, is not the appropriate means of resolution, especially in Cornwall, if dialogue and pre-conditions are available and less expensive solutions.

We also love Cornwall and hope to reside and farm here long after this "open burning" dispute

has been resolved. Farmland preservation is a community responsibility as well as a benefit. As rural America adapts to a more regulated society, farming practices, including open-burning, must be judged by its aggregate good as well as the societal costs.

—Dan Cain



HELP THE CCS PLAYGROUND

Having spent the last few years on the Cornwall PTA hearing about the playground running out of time, I am delighted by the initiative taken by one child and one organization.

Madison Frith and her mother Rose began selling popcorn at games to give the PTA our very first donation of \$81.63 to open our account. The Fund for Excellence followed with a very generous donation of \$7,000.

It is normally the responsibility of the local PTA to raise money for new playground equipment. I urge everyone who can to follow their leadership in putting up our new community playground housed at CCS.

—Laura Kirk
VP, Cornwall PTA

has a slightly higher percentage of Dems (62 percent) than Cornwall (61 percent).

In 2002, in the race for a seat in Congress between two incumbent representatives whose districts were being merged, Cornwall was the only Corner town to give Jim Maloney a majority (55 percent) over Nancy Johnson. And in the three-way presidential race of 2000 among George W. Bush, Al Gore, and local son Ralph Nader, Cornwall gave Gore 62 percent and Nader another 5 percent of the vote.

There are more elections that one could look at, such as those involving Senators Joe Lieberman and Chris Dodd, but enough is enough. The bottom line is that Cornwall is pretty heavily Democratic in its preferences and has become more so over the years. The record hardly shows us to be a "People's Republic" capable of displaying majorities of 99 percent or more.

But maybe now that Cornwall's Democratic majority approaches three-fourths, it will be able to prevail in more national elections. (Note that only in the most recent one were we on the winning side.)

Anyhow, November is nearly upon us, and we have a chance to try it all over again. Will Barack Obama get Cornwall to break 75 percent?

—David A. Grossman

The 2008 Community Picnic

The fourth annual Cornwall Community Picnic was held at Foote Fields on July Fourth. The picnic was presented by Park & Rec. and the Cornwall Association. Among the events

were the Cornwall Cup, four bouncy house activities for the young, and food made by the CCS eighth graders to raise money for their June 2009 class trip to New York City. They made about \$750.

In an attempt to promote community unity, the method of dividing players by zip codes was replaced. This year Coach Kosciusko evenly dispersed the teams for the 2008 Cornwall Cup according to (dis)ability. Skip Kosciusko, Aaron Pequignot, Jim Vanicky, Dan Simons, and John Calhoun provided homerun fireworks. Tyler Cheney was serenaded by "Happy Birthday" moments before his out-of-the-park blast. Some of the most enjoyable moments were when some of the outfielders jumped/fell over the outfield fence in attempts to prevent home runs. The "home" team came away with the win, 17-10.

There were four blow-up bouncy house games. When asked which one was his favorite, Odin Beardsley, age 6, replied, "the laser tag," which was played in a blow-up area with small rooms to hide in. Anna Geyselaer's favorite activity was the obstacle course, because she was often victorious.

—Elizabeth Ridgway

The Ghost of Red Barn

Everyone in Cornwall has heard of the legend of "haunted" Dudleytown. And we all know it isn't true. But until the police cracked down a few years ago, Dudleytown was invaded every Halloween by hordes of rowdy ghost-seekers. To this day the members of the Dark Entry Association, which

owns the land where Dudleytown used to be, shudder whenever there is any publicity about Dudleytown.

In 2006 a company called Red Barn Films announced that it was going to do a film on Dudleytown. Its website proclaimed: "Red Barn cautions everyone—Do not dare venture into Dudleytown! It is owned by private landowners, and trespassing is strictly enforced by the Connecticut State Police!" But in spite of this thoughtful warning, the members shuddered again.

Good news. Although there is still a Red Barn website, if you call the contact number it lists, you get a recording saying that it's not in service. A new legend is going around. If you go to Dudleytown on the night of the new moon, you will hear the forlorn howling of the ghost of Red Barn Films.

—Hendon Chubb

Events & Announcements

Cornwall Park and Recreation will sponsor a Matica Arts circus camp from August 5 to August 8 at the CCS gym from 9:30 A.M. to noon each day. Open to anyone age eight and up. Camp will focus on unicycling, juggling, acrobatics, and more. Cost is \$90 per person. To register contact Bethany Thompson at cornwallparkandrecreation@yahoo.com or 248-3009.

Democratic Primary for State Senator will take place on Tuesday, August 12, from 6 A.M. to 8 P.M. at the Town Hall. Absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk's Office.

Cornwall Hollow Union of Minor Poets announces a \$100 prize for the best sonnet (strict Italian or Shakespearean rhyme scheme) celebrating real estate developers. Email entries to sonnet@chump.us. Deadline: August 30.

The Cornwall Iraq Moratorium Network will host a peace festival on Friday, August 15, at 6:30 P.M. at Foote Fields. The festival will feature a potluck picnic supper and live music by the Biocentrics Brass Band and le Special. Everyone is invited to bring family, friends, peace songs, and picnic food to share. For information call 672-0183.

Keep It Coming

Response to the "money pitch" slows in the heat of summer. Who knows why? Our readers may be blissed out by the lovely hot weather. But don't you forget us. Send along a check with the coupon below. Thank you.

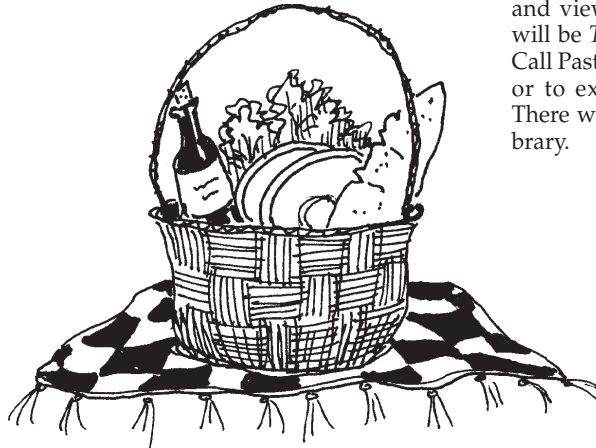
Art in Cornwall: The Wish House Gallery will host an opening reception for artist Magaly Ohika on Saturday, August 2, from 3 to 6 P.M. For a preview of her colorful work, go to theitsybitsyspill.blogspot.com.

At the Cornwall Free Library, Verne Henshall's photographic exhibit *Morocco and More...* will continue through August 7. *Hendon—Paintings and Mezzotints* will begin on August 8 and run through September 4, with a reception on Sunday, August 10, from 4 to 6 P.M.

The Masters show at the iO Gallery continues through August 31.

At the Northern Exposure Gallery, a new show, *In Black and White*, will run from August 2 to September 21. The opening reception is on Saturday, August 2, from 3 to 6 P.M.

Cornwall Day at Lake Compounce: Enjoy a day of rides, fun, and food at Lake Compounce on Wednesday, August 20, from 11 A.M. to 8 P.M. The cost is \$20 per person; children three and under are admitted at no charge. For reservations contact Bethany Thompson at 248-3009 or cornwallparkandrecreation@yahoo.com. Leave your name, phone number, and the number of tickets needed.



Guided Tour of Cornwall Plains: Walk with Ann Schillinger and hear about life in Cornwall in the 1800s, including the story of the controversial Foreign Mission School. The tour and descriptive map are sponsored by the Cornwall Historical Society. Meet in front of the Town Hall at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, August 30.

Cornwall Child Center: Registration for both the pre-school program and the new infant/toddler program will take place during the week of August 25. Please call ahead for an appointment with Director Pam Brehm at the Child Center (672-6989) or at her home (626-1289).

Motherhouse Events

• August 2: *Keeping a Family Cow* workshop, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. at Local Farm. Learn about finding, feeding, fencing, and caring for your own cow. Try your hand at milking. Make cheese, butter, ice cream, and MOOre! \$35/person or \$50/family (of up to four members).

• August 9: Old Style Life Skills Series workshop, *Yes, We Can Can*, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at Local Farm. Learn how to preserve the summer's harvest by canning, and go home with a few jarsful of your own. \$35/family.

• August 23: *Building Saw Horses*, 10:30 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Local Farm. Learn basic woodworking skills, and go home with your own pair of sturdy saw horses. \$50/family. Please contact Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229 to pre-register or for more information.

New Book Club: Starting Thursday, September 4, a new book club will begin meeting from 7 to 8:30 P.M. at the Cornwall Free Library to discuss different pieces of literature and their connection to daily life and the life of faith. Pastor Steven Broers of St. Peter's Lutheran Church will facilitate the discussion. People of all faiths, ages, backgrounds, and viewpoints are invited. The first book will be *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Call Pastor Broers at 672-6897 with questions or to express your interest in attending. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the library.

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AUGUST ISSUE

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SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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