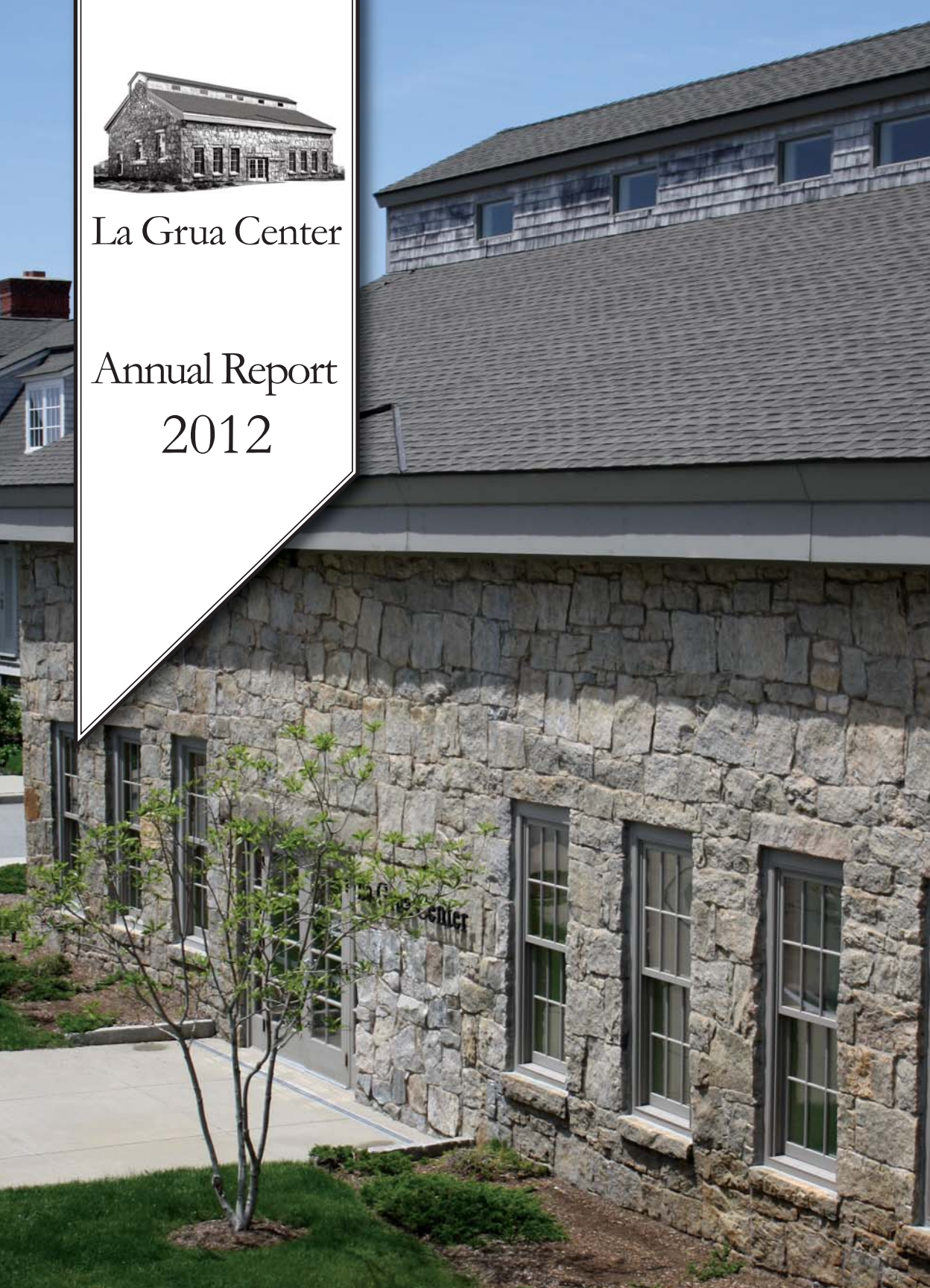




La Grua Center

Annual Report
2012



2012 Annual Report

Table of Contents:

President's Letter	1
Letter from the Executive Director	2
Music Matters	3
Arts & Culture.....	4
Burrowing into the Borough	6
Treasurer's Report.....	7
Volunteers, Guest Speakers, Board of Directors and Staff	8
Piano Capital Campaign	9
2012 Contributions	10



La Grua Center

32 Water Street, 7 Stonington Commons
Stonington, Connecticut 06378
860-535-2300



The La Grua Center has completed a fourth, successful year of operation, giving us good reason to pause and reflect. We can now look back on a number of important accomplishments and look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead. Prior to opening our doors in 2008, we purchased and renovated an historic, industrial building that had been vacant for years. By listening carefully to area residents and developing a calendar of events that reflects their interests, we have transformed this once-empty structure into a living space for community programming. Today the La Grua Center hosts upwards of 11,000 visits annually and has established itself as a leading venue for lectures, performances and exhibitions. More important, it has become a place where area residents gather in a shared space to learn, enjoy and celebrate. It is where lives are enriched by color and texture.

While 2012 marks the end of four busy and productive years for the LaGrua Center, it also marks the passing of our visionary founder and major benefactor, Wynne La Grua. Without her foresight, the concept of the Center as we know it today would not have been advanced in 2007. Wynne also provided the financial resources to purchase and renovate our building, and she remained the lead donor to the annual fund since 2008.

Wynne was committed to playing a critical role during the Center's early years. She always felt strongly that in due course, the Center should be supported financially by an expanded group of stakeholders from throughout the community. As we enter a new period in the life of this institution, broadening the Center's donor base remains a high priority. In 2013 it will be critical that we pick up where Wynne left off, and we must do this by making sure that as a community we are fully invested in the Center. Owing to the participation of people from well beyond Stonington, our concept of community has expanded to embrace the entire region.

Over the past four years, we have witnessed the evolution of something very special within the walls of the old foundry building at Stonington Commons. As we gather in this extraordinary space to share our common interests, we find ourselves engaged as members of an active and energized community. Music we must hear, ideas we must share and artwork we must see – this is what brings us together, and this will be the focus of La Grua Center as we forge ahead in 2013 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Peter Castle
President

Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

2012 was my first full year in the position of Executive Director. We have accomplished many things, in large part due to the greater La Grua Center community that has volunteered their time and their talents along with generous contributions to this beautiful space. There are many milestone achievements to celebrate and I am pleased to share them with you!

The Center welcomed a record number of visitors, over 11,000, through its doors, to events including lectures, workshops, art exhibitions, concerts and meetings. We also welcomed our new Program Manager, Kelli Rocherolle, whose talent and energy is a great addition to our always-expanding programming committees.

We celebrated our first annual fundraiser on the green. On a perfect Stonington night in mid September the Center brought together over 200 people under a tent on the Stonington Commons Green. Like so many of our events, volunteers made the evening not only possible but special, lending their culinary expertise and donating a wide variety of delectable hors d'oeuvres. The night concluded with a concert in the great room of the La Grua Center with Vincent Oneppo and his quartet, celebrating the music of Benny Goodman. The evening was a great success, and we raised over \$10,000 that will be used for programming needs.

And lastly, after many months of hard work from our Music Matters committee and a select group of volunteers, we purchased a 1922 Mason and Hamlin salon grand piano. The piano opens many doors for programming at the Center including community recitals and our always-popular concert series. We are thrilled by the piano's arrival in December, bookending a great year of programming for the Center.

As we move into our fifth year of operation and we look back upon all of our accomplishments, I would like to thank the many wonderful volunteers, donors, staff, and loyal audience members whose time and dedication made it all possible. We look forward to celebrating many more years together.

Warm regards,

Jane Simmons Meiser
Executive Director



Sylvanus Ensemble



Hilary Castle



Guidonian Hand

The Music Matters series has been extraordinarily successful since the Center opened its doors and 2012 was no exception. The series has presented performances ranging from chamber music to classical folk traditions. The monthly concerts are designed to bring people together, young and old, to hear music both familiar and new, in a venue that allows the musicians to communicate intimately with the audience.

Our programs in 2012 continued to offer a breadth of artists featuring an encore performance from The Press Gang, who introduced our audience to new music in the Irish tradition. We also welcomed back our local favorite Hilary Castle on violin, accompanied by the talented Raymond Wong on piano. In addition, we had a great year for classical music including the Sebastian Chamber Players and the Sylvanus Ensemble. To round out our series we welcomed The Guidonian Hand, New York City's leading modern trombone collective and several a cappella groups including a special holiday concert by the U.S. Coast Guard Academy singers.

The Music Matters audience has been remarkably loyal, and we thank everyone who shares their Saturday afternoons with us.

Arts & Culture

The Arts and Culture series presents the largest variety of events with programs ranging from lectures and art workshops to children's book readings and poetry evenings. 2012 was filled with community inspired art at the La Grua Center. Stonington artist David Black, led small groups of participants for a Tunisian Group Painting workshop. Guided by a simple set of rules, participants worked on a single canvas without discussion or planning beforehand. The outcome of this group effort was a work of art that looked like the creation of a single artist. It certainly was a collaborative effort. Kids in our community also had the opportunity to showcase their artistic talents. For the second year the La Grua Center hosted a summer children's art workshop. Run by Juan O'Callahan and working with local artists, kids painted, drew, worked with clay, and created their own masterpieces to share with friends and family.



Collaborative Art Workshop

This series is also the first to offer the community a space for art exhibitions, and the La Grua Center could not be a more accommodating space to showcase art work. This year, the Center in collaboration with the Stonington Historical Society and with participation of the community hosted two successful exhibitions. In July, the famed photograph collection of namesake Maurice La Grua adorned the walls and in October we presented a unique exhibition of vintage merchant signs and memorabilia from Stonington's past.

We also welcomed several authors and poets to the Center to share their latest works, including Jan-Philipp Sendker who read from his first novel "The Art of Hearing Heartbeats." We had a full house entranced by the reading of the poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma. We also hosted a panel of Connecticut poets, including Dennis Barone, Margaret



Stonington Merchant Signs Exhibit

Gibson, J.D. McClatchy, and Vivian Shipley, who discussed the history of poetry in Connecticut and read from “Garnet Poems: An Anthology of Connecticut Poetry Since 1776.” This is the first major anthology of Connecticut poetry to be published since 1844.

In addition, the La Grua Center offered its facility free of charge to local institutions like the Stonington Free Library, the Stonington Historical Society, the James Merrill House Committee, Salt Marsh Opera and others to assist in their effort to reach broader audiences. We hope to continue collaborating with our non-profit neighbors for years to come.



Kids Painting with Artists Workshop



Kids Painting with Artists Workshop

Burrowing into the Borough



Ainslie Turner

We had a very successful 2012 Burrowing into the Borough season. This series offers a glimpse into the lives of neighbors and friends within our community. The talks focus on area residents' unique experiences and endeavors.

The 2012 series offered an array of programming including a presentation by Chris Rose, the son of internationally acclaimed puppeteers, about growing up with Howdy Doody as his brother and a presentation on gender issues in the media with Betsy Wade, the first woman ever hired as a copy editor by The New York Times. One of our largest attended events was a lively walk down memory lane with a panel discussion, including audience participation about grammar school days at the Borough School.

Like most of our programming, this series is made possible by the dedication and volunteer efforts of our presenters who offer their services free of charge. We extend our deep gratitude for their time and commitment to the La Grua Center.



Treasurer's Report

Doherty, Beals & Banks accountants reviewed the financial statements of the Maurice C. and Winifred Glover La Grua Foundation and found that these statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles. The full, reviewed statements can be found at our website, www.lagruacenter.org. We provide, below, a snapshot of our operating revenue and expenses for the year. The board and staff will devote much of the coming year to planning for greater financial stability, including the long-term maintenance and preservation of the landmark stone foundry that serves as the Center's home. While the building is in exceptional condition, the pace of activity at the Center and the historic nature of the structure present unique challenges. Most importantly, we will pursue responsible stewardship strategies to ensure the legacy of this important community asset. In addition to the operating revenue reported below, the Center received a onetime gift upon the death of chief benefactor, Wynne La Grua, in the amount of \$83,000. These funds have been added to the La Grua Center reserves and will be used in part to implement a long-term capital maintenance plan.

Income

Revenue from Direct Contributions	\$ 110,000.00
Revenue from Grants	\$ 5,000.00
Revenue from Program-Related Sales & Fees	\$ 17,000.00
Revenue from Goods Sold (art, books, CDs)	\$ 1,325.00
Revenue from Investments	\$ 67.00
Revenue from Fundraising	\$ 9,350.00
Revenue from Piano Campaign	\$ 11,400.00

Total Income **\$ 154,142.00**

Expenses

Salaries & Related Expenses	\$ 53,000.00
Contract Service Expenses (marketing, accounting, etc)	\$ 18,000.00
Printing, Office Expenses	\$ 5,500.00
Facility & Equipment Expenses	\$ 27,400.00
Business Expenses	\$ 1,800.00
LGC Program Expenses	\$ 14,100.00
Piano Acquisition	\$ 10,400.00
Depreciation Expenses	\$ 22,000.00

Total Expenses **\$ 152,100.00**

Program and Grounds Committee Volunteers

Mary Abramson
John Adams
Carole Barnard
Naty Bush
Betsy Carr
Charles T. Clark
Emily Flint
Ashley Foley
Gloria Gorby
Henri Gourd
Christopher Greenleaf

Sarah Janssens
Paul Janssens
Janice Lamb
Jude Larzelere
Cindy MacNeill
Mary Ellen McCarthy
Dorothea Moore
Juan O'Callahan
Steven Slosberg
Shau-Wen Lucia Sokol

Guest Speakers

Marci Alborghetti
Dennis Barone
David Black
Meredith Brown
Michael Burlingame
Dave Erskine
Alice Fitzpatrick
Karl Frost
Stan Gaby
Margaret Gibson
Bill Hargreaves
Albert Kausch
Noelle King
Joe Marie
Brian McCallen

J.D. McClatchy
Juan O'Callahan
David Palmer
Henry R. Palmer
Chris Rose
Paula Clifford Scott
Jan-Philipp Sendker
Vivian Shipley
Mary Alice Smith
Larry Sullivan
Ainslie Turner
Nelson Vasilchik
Betsy Wade
Rosanna Warren

Board of Directors and Staff *(as of April 1, 2013.)*

Peter Castle, *President*
Charles T. Clark, *Vice President*
Lisa Tepper Bates, *Treasurer*
Janice Lamb, *Secretary*
Harriet Crane
Sarah Janssens
Diana Leslie
Dorothy Papp
Barbara Timken
Wick York

Jane Simmons Meiser, *Executive Director*
Kelli Rocherolle, *Program Manager*

Piano Capital Campaign

In December and after more than a year of careful research, La Grua Center acquired a 1922 Mason & Hamlin AA grand piano. This acquisition was made possible by the generous support of many donors and countless hours of work by our volunteers on the music committee. Having our own grand piano has been invaluable in broadening our community programming and continuing to attract quality performers, including piano recitals, chamber music, jazz, and vocal performances. It has also helped the Center market itself as a venue for special events and receptions.

We would like to thank the following people for their dedication and financial support to this special project:

Scott and Lisa Tepper Bates
Shirley Beal
Josephine Bump
Betsy Bump Carr
Peter and Deborah Castle
Tom and Dorrit Castle
Charles T. Clark
Jack and Marcia Fix
George and Emily Flint

Howard and Sandy Fromson
Christopher Greenleaf
Paul and Sarah Janssens
Stuart and Casey Malcolm
Rick and Mary Ellen McCarthy
Dorothy Papp
James P. Quinn
Martha Snyder
Steve and Bernadette Wade



1922 Mason & Hamlin AA Grand Piano.

2012 Contributions

The following list of donors represents those who gave between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

WYNNE LA GRUA MEMORIAL FUND

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Ackley, III
Norman Bailey
Shirley Beal
David Black and Anne Rivers
Meredith and Sylvia Brown
Peter Brown and Alexandra Stoddard
Paul and Martha Busse
Ellie Casey
Peter and Deborah Castle
Charles T. Clark
Frank and Virginia Colassano
Richard and Katherine Gildersleeve
Malcolm and Diana Leslie
Amanda Lindberg
Peter and Prudence Meehan
Dorothy Papp

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Robert and Mary Abramson
Shirley Beal
Josephine Bump
Betsy Bump Carr
Peter and Deborah Castle
Tom and Dorrit Castle
Charles T. Clark
Tony and Harriet Crane
Declan and Dorothy Doogan
William Fowler and Mary Wolf
Howard and Sandy Fromson
Bill Hargreaves
Stuart and Casey Malcolm
Rick and Mary Ellen McCarthy
Dorothy Papp
David and Cheryl Purvis
James P. Quinn
Martha Snyder
Steve and Bernadette Wade
James and Karen Wittliff
Eugene and Georgia York

ANNUAL FUND

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John W. and Judith B. Alexander
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Anderson
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Robert and Teresa Banas
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Priscilla Winn Barlow
Brian and Carole Barnard
Anne Bartholet
Scott and Lisa Tepper Bates
Deborah Beal
Shirley Beal
Randy Bean and Beth Black
Alan and Anne H. Bentz
Bruce and Betsy Biddle
Bill and Natalie Billing
Douglass Bjorn
Mary Blanton
Neal Bobruff and Jane Lassen
Marion Bodde
John and Jenny Boone
Kevin Bowdler and Anne Fix
Randall Brooks
Elizabeth Tobin Brown
Meredith and Sylvia Brown
Charles and Ann Buffum
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Peter and Deborah Castle
Tom and Dorrit Castle
Samuel and Beth Chapin
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The Chester W. Kitchings Family Foundation
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Tony and Harriet Crane
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Chris Daniels and Laurel Butler

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Stanley Joseph Gaby
Gary Gerstein and Phyllis Weaver
Andy and Barbara Gildersleeve
Marc and Barbara Ginsberg
Peter and Dawn Glinkoff
James Goodman and Jennifer O'Brien
Henri Gourd
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Garrison F. Lane
Saren Langmann
Judith Larzelere
Malcolm and Diana Leslie
Bruce and Catherine Littman
Michael and Ann Lobdell

Beatrice K. Lombardo
Tim and Kate Love
Rebecca Lynch
Diane MacFadyen
Rita Madison
Stuart and Casey Malcolm
Landine L. Manigault
Jane Martley
Anne Ford Matthews
Michael and Kathy McKinley
Daniel and Jane Meiser
Sabine Moffett
Robert L. and Virginia Montgomery
Alexandra Moore
Dorothea Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Moore
Claire Morse
Robert E. and Judith A. Nist
Ben and Betsy Norman
John and Joan O'Brien
Mr. and Mrs. Juan O'Callahan
Cormac and Moira O'Malley
Cynthia Palmer and Bill Kavanagh
Henry R. Palmer
Wright and Anna Maria Palmer
Francis and Joyce Pandolfi
Dorothy Papp
Gillian Patrick
Tony and Jane Pellegrini
Geoffrey and Beverly Phillips
Bill Quirk and Coralie Shaw
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Ann and Paul Rath
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Norma Vyse
Steve and Bernadette Wade
Beth Walker
Harriet Watsky

Emily Wharton
William and Shelley White
Marianna Wilcox and Bertrand Bell
Andrew Wilson
James and Karen Wittliff
Clem and Sally Wood
Christine Wright
Eugene and Georgia York

MATCHING GIFTS

The following companies have matched the charitable donations their employees have made to the La Grua Center.

Pfizer
Dominion



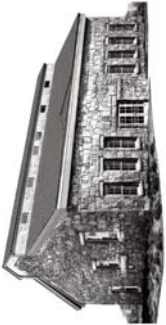
Burrowing into the Borough: Stan Gaby

Enriching Arts & Culture in the Community

The La Grua Center's mission is to serve and strengthen community in an historic space where a diverse array of activities creates opportunities for people to come together and connect.



La Grua Center, February 2013

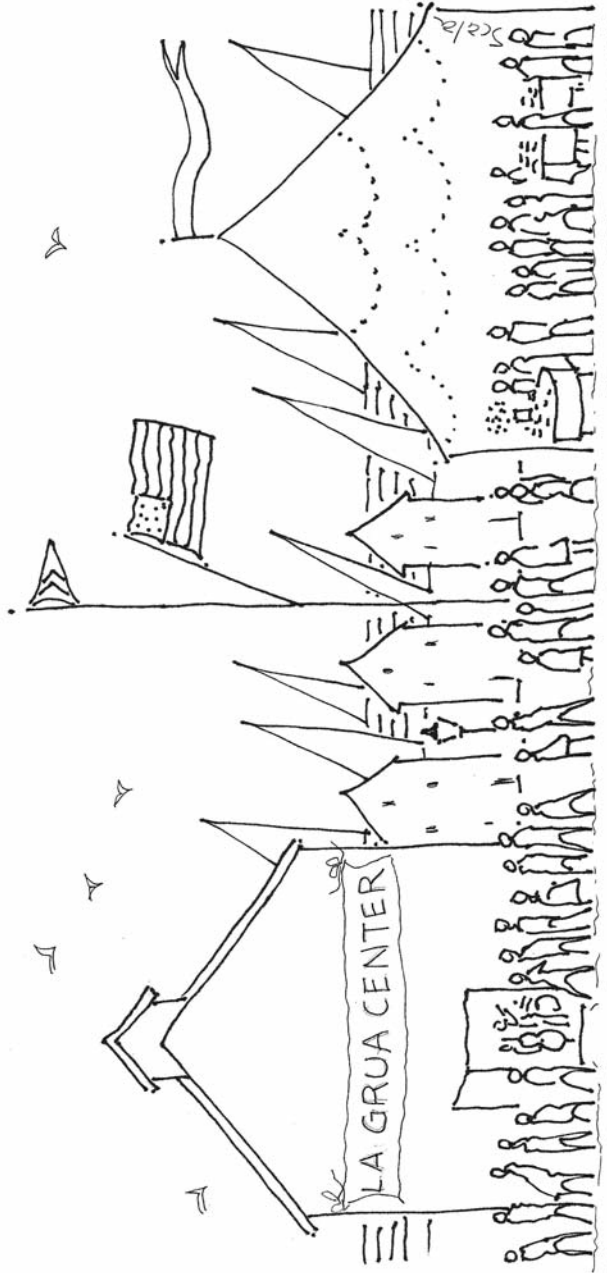


La Grua Center

PO Box 342, 32 Water Street
Stonington, CT 06378

www.lagruacenter.org

La Grua Center is a 501(c) non-profit organization



Graphic created by Stonington artist Susan Pfeifer-Scala for the La Grua Center 2012 Annual Fundraiser