



Bean Soup

Entertainment & Stuff

"To Bean or not to Bean...?"

Volume 14 Number 1

January 2010 - March 2010

Free*

2010 Connecticut Magazine Readers' Choice Awards

Many thanks to those who participated in the Connecticut Magazine Readers' Choice Awards survey. We appreciate your votes! Each year, we strive to improve the services and products we offer to our customers. We value your continued patronage and your willingness to help us extend our hospitality to others.

The Vanilla Bean Café

Best Lunch - Windham County

Best Vegetarian - Windham County

Our Sister Restaurant Awards...

85 Main

Best Bar - Statewide Runner-Up

Best Bar - Windham County

Best Sushi - Windham County

Best Outdoor Dining - Windham County

Best Continental - Windham County

Best Seafood - Windham County

Advertise On The Card

We use enlarged playing cards to connect the items made in the kitchen to the customers seated in the dining room or on the patio. This system works well as long as our customers turn the card suit side up and our employees distinguish between clubs and spades! Our customers enjoy the freedom to choose their seats after ordering. We are now offering the top half of the playing cards as advertising space. Ads will run for an entire month on all 52 cards. The cost of advertising on our cards will vary according to our business history for each month. Advertising will cost less on the months we have fewer customers and will increase during our busiest months. We are now reserving advertising space for 2010. For information about rates and availability, e-mail your inquiry to ask@thevanillabeancafe.com.



Cocoa Bean for Kids



We are running our acoustic music series just for young people here in January, February & March. Each month we host a musician who performs a children's show encouraging participation and movement. The shows are always on Sunday at 4:00 PM. See the calendar listings on the last page for the specific dates and hosts for this quarter. We serve complimentary hot chocolate and/or chocolate milk to every guest. Get the kids and yourself out of the house and come to the next Cocoa Bean for Kids!

Our Prices Include Tax

Our menu prices include the 6% Connecticut sales tax. The prices on our menu are actually a total of the price of the menu item plus the sales tax. No additional amount is added when you pay. This pricing method may appear to inflate our prices but we have continued this practice because we view it as a service to our customers (and ourselves). Using this system we avoid handling dimes, nickels and pennies. We don't have to give our customers a handful of change and we don't have to count change at the end of the day. See page 11 for more information about our pricing practices. It has been a good system for us and for our customers for the last 20 years.

Over the years, our menu prices have been driven up by inflation (what's new). Increased prices cause increased sales tax as well, further inflating our posted prices. In 1989, a sandwich price of \$4.50 was really \$4.24 plus \$.26 in tax. Today that same sandwich is priced at \$9.00, which is really \$8.96 plus \$.54 in tax.

In the year 2020, if inflation continues as it has for the last 20 years (and if we are still in business), the projected price of a sandwich is (get this) \$13.00 or \$12.26 plus \$.74 tax.

Perhaps at some point, we will have to post prices that do not include sales tax. **What do you think?** We are interested in your comments. Please speak to a manager while your are visiting us or take the time to send us an e-mail to ask@thevanillabeancafe.com.

Open New Year's Day
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sign up on our mailing list at www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com

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The Vanilla Bean Café

Things we would like you to know...

The Vanilla Bean Café opened in 1989 with 16 seats.

The Café is owned by the Jessurun Family.

The Café is open 361 days each year - we close on:
Easter Sunday, Fourth of July,
Thanksgiving, Christmas Day

Business Hours:

Mon - Tue	- 7:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wed - Thur	- 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday	- 7:00 am - 9:00 pm*
Saturday	- 8:00 am - 9:00 pm*†
Sunday	- 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

*We may close early during colder months.

†Entertainment night - serving dessert, beer & wine until 10:00 pm.

Stella, the English Mastiff you may have seen around the Café, passed away in August 2009.



Web site: www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com

E-mail: ask@thevanillabeancafe.com

Address: **Corners of Routes 44, 169 & 97
Pomfret, Connecticut**

Phone: **860-928-1562**

Music booking: **Maria Sangiolo**
maria@thevanillabeancafe.com

Art booking: **Randy Markes**
randy@thevanillabeancafe.com

Bean Soup ads: **Barry Jessurun**
barry@thevanillabeancafe.com

Bean Soup is an information and entertainment newsletter published by The Vanilla Bean Café.

Compiled and written by:

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Mary Murtha Dudley

Layout & Design - Barry Jessurun



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The Vanilla Bean Café Pomfret Connecticut 06258

Accolades and Awards

The New York Times

"The food...is freshly made, well seasoned and extremely tasty."

The Boston Globe

"...great food - homemade soups, sandwiches, burgers, and the best fish cakes around - in a relaxed atmosphere."

Yankee Magazine's Travel Guide to New England

"Editors' Pick" 1997, 2003 & 2004

"One of the outstanding reasons to visit New England."

Connecticut Magazine Readers' Poll

Windham County - Various years

Best Family Dining - Best Sandwiches

Best Desserts - Best Business Lunch

Best Vegetarian - Best Outdoor Dining

Norwich Bulletin - Dining Guide

Food: ★★★★★

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

The Hartford Courant

"This is a place that serves excellent food and brings in some of the better performers on the New England coffee house circuit..."

"The Vanilla Bean Café in Pomfret is one of those rare places that truly has something for everyone..."

Oh, yes - the food is truly delicious, too."

The New London Day

★★★

"The soups are homemade and delicious, the sandwiches unusual and served on breads that are positively delicious..."

www.VisitingNewEngland.com

"the Vanilla Bean Café is one of those places you simply don't want to leave."

www.HiddenBoston.com

"This impossibly funky Connecticut restaurant is full of character (and characters), and is truly in a class by itself."

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it's the people you don't."* - Harvey Mackay



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uses these skills to accomplish his goals."* - Larry Bird

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- Phillips Brooks

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January Entertainment

Friday - 1 - No Open Mic

Saturday - 2 - No Show

Saturday - 9 - Jeffrey Foucault

Since the 2001 release of his critically acclaimed debut, *Miles from the Lightning*, WI native **Jeffrey Foucault** has built an independent career touring extensively in the US, Canada, and the UK. His 2006 release, *Ghost Repeater* garnered praise from publications such as *The New Yorker*, *No Depression*, *MOJO*, *The Chicago-Sun Times*, and *The Irish Times*. Jeffrey's repertoire is pure Americana poetry, a mix of country blues, country, and folk music that the *Boston Globe* noted for its "rolling, reflective ballads (that) shimmer with blue shade, everyday images, and the quiet strength of hard-earned wisdom." Raw and intimate, *Shoot the Moon Right Between the Eyes* covers both familiar and lesser-known songs spanning twenty years of John Prine's career. You can hear the amplifiers pop, the heater tick on, and the chairs creak as Foucault settles down to capture Prine's timeless simplicity and depth while leaving his own indelible stamp.



Sunday - 10 - Cocoa Bean for Kids
Alastair Mook - 4:00 PM Show

\$5.00 per child - Free Hot Chocolate

Friday - 15 - PCS Open Mic

Saturday - 16 - Don White

If you laugh and cry within the same ten minutes, you either need a vacation or you are sitting in the audience at a **Don White** show. This working class family man has emerged as the thoughtful songwriter of the decade whose relevance to our lives is evidenced by the powerful reaction he evokes at every concert. "No artist on the coffeehouse circuit today is better than Don White at combining the heartfelt aesthetics of the singer-songwriter with side-splitting laughs. He mines the same regions for his jokes as he does for his serious songs: his street-wise, sometimes warring, sometimes loving family in Lynn." - *Boston Globe*. Don White illuminates the human experience though his writing and performing. His motivation for doing so is eloquently expressed in the spoken word piece he performs after singing *Heartbeat of Heaven*. Whether he is singing, speaking, or setting up the sneakiest punch line of the night, Don has the hearts of his audience. They know they have his.



January Entertainment

Saturday - 23 -

Howie Burson & Friends Benefit for NE CT Food Bank

Join **Howie Burson** along with **Martin Grosswendt**, **John Bailey** and **Jeff Davis** for a great night of entertainment for a great cause. Howie always lines up some top-notch talent for this benefit evening. Joining him will be Jeff Davis playing fiddle and Martin Grosswendt, a blues guitarist, who cites John Bailey as one of his guitar heroes. Howie is acclaimed as a true master of the frailed banjo, but his guitar playing is pretty cool too. And on top of that, he can sing! All proceeds will benefit the Northeast Connecticut Food Bank.



Saturday - 30 - Mark Erelli

Mark Erelli embodies many of the best qualities of the folk populist lineage that began with Woody Guthrie, and is carried today by Bruce Springsteen and others. His songs are unwaveringly and powerfully sincere, carrying the force of his experiences and passions, and applying them to emotions that are universal to us all. His voice, a beautiful combination of wine and whiskey, is as intimately conversational as a fireside chat. And, by exploring some of the big themes of American life-family, redemption, war and love, among others-and by describing how those themes affect a single life, he makes topical songs personal. Since the release of his self-titled debut at age 24, Mark Erelli has exhibited an uncommon musical maturity. From twangy roots rock through fingerpicked folk, rollicking blues, western swing, rockabilly, nineteenth century ballads, lullabies and songs of social and political commentary. Now 34, with well over 1000 concerts under his belt, multiple awards and growing notoriety as an accompanist, he has one of the most impressive and varied reputations in modern roots music.



"Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses." - Alphonse Karr

VBC Review Quotables...

"Extremely Tasty" Food - *New York Times*

"Relaxed" Atmosphere - *Boston Globe*

"Truly Bizarre" Service - *New London Day*

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"I am convinced that the world is not a mere bog in which men and women trample themselves and die. Something magnificent is taking place here amidst the cruelties and tragedies, and the supreme challenge to intelligence is that of making the noblest and best in our curious heritage prevail."

- C.A. Beard



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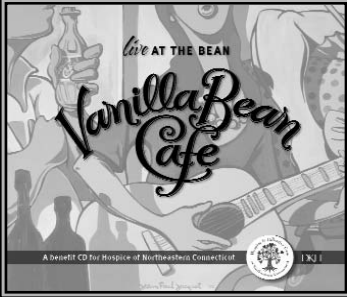
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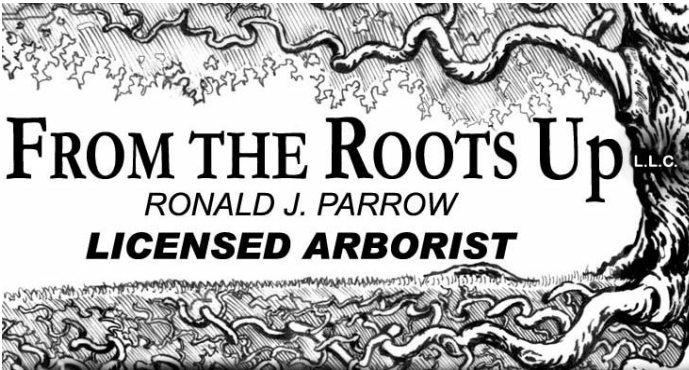


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-Frank Lloyd Wright*

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February Entertainment

Friday - 5 - Open Mic



Host-Bonnie Lee Panda - Feature - The Electric Trains came together in '02 as a Duo featuring Jack Collins and Duke York. Their repertoire now includes all kinds of train and transportation songs (Trucks, Busses, Horses/Mules, Stockcars, and Flying Saucers) from folk, blues, rock, and country styles, an infectious mix of good time roots music.

Saturday - 6 - Dan Stevens

Termed "Connecticut's hardest working bluesman"



by the *New York Times* in 2002, **Dan Stevens** plays over 200 engagements a year, including concerts, clubs, festivals, coffeehouses, community and private events and educational programs.

He has appeared at Long Island's Riverhead Blues Festival, the Berlin Blues Festival in CT and was the closer in the acoustic section of the Fleet Blues Festival in Albany, NY. Dan was a finalist at the International Blues Challenge '08 on Beale Street in Memphis TN with partner Chris D'Amato and has been chosen to be included on the roster of the Music Under New York program enabling him to perform in prime locations throughout the MTA system such as Times Square and Grand Central Station. He lives in Old Lyme, CT with his wife Gail and daughter, Haley.

Sunday - 7 - Cocoa Bean for Kids Maria Sangiolo

\$5.00 per child - Free Hot Chocolate

Saturday - 13 - Becky Chase

Becky Chase believes that music should be used as a tool



to bring people together. Like her idols, Dylan, Springsteen, and Lucinda Williams, she has always believed there is more than one way to get her message across. Whether

by rocking the house playing rock and blues or by playing in an intimate setting with just an acoustic guitar and her voice to communicate her message, Chase proves genres and styles don't matter as long as the singer expresses herself with passion. Having sold over 8,000 plus copies of her independently released CDs, it is obvious that her fans believe this passion comes across on CD as well. Chosen Best Local Female Vocalist 5 times by the readers of the *Providence Phoenix* Best Music Poll, Becky has been said to have "the voice of an angel who just got her heart ripped out by the devil." - *The New Haven Advocate*.

The sun shines for all the world. - French proverb

February Entertainment

Saturday - 20 - Delta Generators

As their name implies, **The Delta Generators** combine the urgency and soulfulness of delta blues with the power and energy of early rock 'n' roll. While, in the broader sense, they could be classified as a blues band, there is room on that big blue canvas for brush strokes of Memphis soul, LA funk, and classic rock 'n' roll. The combination of clever songwriting and inspired performances on their new CD "Devil in the Rhythm" shows why critics and audiences are calling them the best new blues band in New England. Taking top honors at the Blues Challenge last summer was no small achievement: The Delta Generators bested seven of the most popular bands in the region to earn the right to represent the Hub in the Blues Foundation's prestigious 2009 International Blues Challenge in Memphis.



Saturday - 27 -

Blackstone Valley Bluegrass

Together 10 years, **Blackstone Valley Bluegrass** features renown banjo picker Dave Dick, his brother Bob Dick on guitar, Dan Nowlan on mandolin and Ken Taylor on upright bass. Blackstone Valley plays great bluegrass music; the fast ones fast - and the slow ones with lots of feeling. Good friends all, they have the best time when they're on stage. With powerful three and four part harmonies and fast but tasteful picking, these musicians are blazing new ground throughout the Blackstone Valley and beyond. If you want to hear some great bluegrass music, and love a good time, you owe it to yourself to catch the Blackstone Valley Bluegrass Band live. You will not be disappointed! Their audiences always have a blast, guaranteed!



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March Entertainment

Friday - 5 - Open Mic



Host-Bonnie Lee Panda - Feature - Sarah Blacker will make you dance a jig in the street, while she stomps, claps, and cheers you on! She'll treat you like an old friend before a show and stop you dead in your tracks once she starts to sing.

Saturday - 6 - Donna Dufresne
Gypsy Romantique'

Gypsy Romantique', whose slogan is: *a little Django, a little Tango, a little Swing, A LOT OF FUN!*, is just all that. Whimsical and romantic with a lot of the humor infused in Dufresne's lyrics, the band takes the audience on a magical tour through the jazz and swing era in a brightly wrapped package of new and original material. You might think you've heard the songs in an old black and white film (all the material is written by Donna Dufresne). Melding the gypsy inspired Paris hot club jazz of the 1930's and American western swing of the same era, with their Latin influences and a touch of unabashed schmaltz, Gypsy Romantique' is able to carry you away to the magic of the silver screen when it really was silver and not Technicolor. What you end up with is an entertaining cabaret of music that spans multiple generations. You are sure to enjoy the eclectic repertoire of these seasoned musicians.



Sunday - 7 - Cocoa Bean for Kids
Music Together - Amy Apperson
\$5.00 per child - Free Hot Chocolate

Saturday - 13 - Cashel Rock

Cashel Rock, an 8-piece band named after the 4th century castle in County Tipperary, Ireland, is a fluid configuration of musicians and friends from Connecticut's Northeast corner who have been playing Celtic music together for a dozen years. Some of the instruments you will hear are concertina, mandolin, fiddle, guitar, penny-whistle and the bodhran - the traditional Irish drum.



Friday - 19 -
**Pomfret Community School
Morning Chorus**

March Entertainment

Saturday - 20 - Homegrown String Band

The **Homegrown String Band** members Rick, Georgianne, Erica and Annalee Jackofsky have been performing together since 1997. Inspired by early 20th century rural string bands, this incarnation of the traditional family band utilizes unique instrumentation including guitar, banjo, fiddle, dulcimer, mandolin, banjo-ukulele, harmonica, jawharp, doumbek, and percussive dance to put their own stamp on a repertoire drawn from the classics of rural American music, blues, bluegrass, country, and folk. Their original music has been lauded as "heartfelt, original, insightful, and impressive" by *Sing Out!*



Saturday - 27 - Atwater-Donnelly

Aubrey Atwater and **Elwood Donnelly**, the highly acclaimed husband and wife duo, present delightful programs of traditional American and Celtic folk songs, a capella pieces, old-time gospel songs, dance tunes, and original works. Elwood and Aubrey blend gorgeous and unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, mandolin, tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, bones, spoons, limberjacks, and other surprises including Appalachian clog dancing, French Canadian footwork, and Tap. "Atwater-Donnelly are marvelous musicians. Their voices blend beautifully, their instrumental work is sparkling, and they are captivating performers. I could listen to them for hours." - Frank Dudgeon, WUMB, Boston, MA.



Sunday - 28 - Molasses Creek

Together since 1993, **Molasses Creek** has toured the US, released 9 CDs and received worldwide radio airplay. Members of the Southern Arts Federation and award-winners from Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," they have been featured at Our State magazine's "Best of NC," frequently headline at 'First Night' Williamsburg and opened for Garrison Keillor at ECU's concert series in 2008. This high-energy acoustic group, including members Gary Mitchell, Fiddler Dave Tweedie, Marcy Brenner, Lou Castro, and Gerald Hampton-continues to win loyal followings with their captivating stage presence, elegant harmonies, blazing instrumentals, and a quirky sense of humor.



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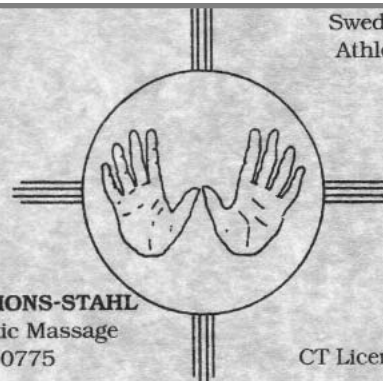
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- Abraham Lincoln

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Weekend Breakfast

A full breakfast menu is served Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon. We offer a variety of specials including Brie Benedict, Ham and Jalapeño Burrito, and Pumpkin Cranberry Pancakes. We use only 100% maple syrup and top-quality bacon. ☺

Dinner at The Bean

We are open for dinner Wednesday - Sunday nights. Each night we run four or five dinner specials. Recent items include: Sweet & Sour Beef Skewers, Shepherd's Pie, Baked Eggplant, and Maple Glazed Scallops. We offer a truly quality dinner at a great price, in a warm and friendly atmosphere. If you haven't tried us for dinner yet, it's time you did. ☺

The Artwork Gallery

The Café displays artwork by local artists year round. Some shows have openings and some do not. Most of the artwork displayed is for sale and often prices are listed with the piece or on a list located in the room. One hundred percent of the sale price goes to the artist.

January - Elise Fargnoli

February - Dan Roy

March - Peggy & Dick Traskos ☺

Entertainment

The Café is on the National Folk Music Circuit and attracts talent from all over the United States while featuring mainly New England performers. The majority of the shows are on Saturday night and start at 8:00 PM. Our Open Mic night is on the first Friday of each month. During shows, a theatre curtain separates the listening room from the tiled dining room and kitchen in an effort to keep the music in and the kitchen noise out. ☺

On-Site WiFi

We provide complimentary wireless internet service. Bring your lap top to the Café, search for available networks and log on to the VBC. Get some work done or check your email while you eat lunch! ☺

Gilly's Art

Classes for
adults & kids
in
painting, drawing,
mixed media



1 mile from the Vanilla Bean

Gilly Gordon 974-1140

Our Pricing Practices

1. Sales Tax Included - Our prices include the 6% Connecticut Sales Tax. The prices listed on the menu are exactly what you pay. Our prices may seem to be inflated; however, a \$8.50 menu item is actually \$8.02 + \$.48 sales tax. Furthermore, this practice makes it easier for the customer, especially if that customer is a child who has exact change for a cookie. What you see is exactly what you pay - what could be simpler?

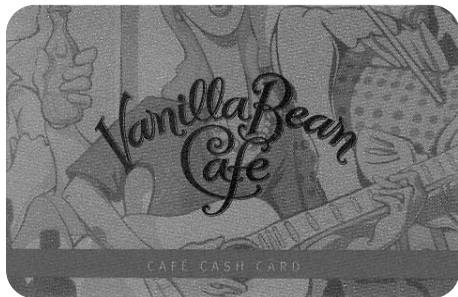
2. Not Market Standard Pricing - We are not trying to fool the customer into thinking that \$7.95 is less expensive than \$8.00. We find this type of pricing insulting to our customers. However, the reason it is used so extensively around the nation is that it works effectively. We don't like that practice, and we also like to believe that our clientele is not so easily fooled.

3. No Pennies, Dimes or Nickels - Because our prices include tax and we do not price in the standard way, we do not have to use pennies, dimes or nickels. This is a service to both the customer and to us. We don't give you lots of change, and we only have to use quarters and fifty-cent pieces. This also helps our staff to be more efficient performing transactions, which saves time and money. An added bonus is that we don't have to count change at the end of the business day. ☺

"In every person who comes near you, look for what is good and strong; honor that, try to imitate it, and your faults will drop off like dead leaves when their time comes."
- John Ruskin

The Café Cash Card

The first Café Cash Card was introduced in 1997. The appearance of the card has changed since then, but our card still works like the gift cards available in most stores today. Café Cash Cards may be purchased in any amount at the restaurant or online and

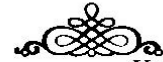


are reloadable - add to the card balance at any time! Cards may be used to purchase any menu item at Vanilla Bean Cafe. A bonus of 10% is added to the card balance when you purchase a card for \$100 or more. The card must be presented to redeem it at the time of purchase. The Café Cash Card makes a great gift for friends and family members and is ideal for students at the local schools. Café Cash Cards have no expiration date. ☺

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- Harvey Mackay

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- Gandi

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Did you know...

We have been open for over 20 years - 1989-2010. We serve breakfast on Saturday & Sunday. The Bean offers a variety of vegetarian specials. You can view our Daily Specials on our website. All of our menu prices **include** 6% CT Sales Tax. **85 Main** in Putnam is our sister restaurant. We have Gluten free items available. We are open 361 days each year.



"To Bean or not to Bean...?"
...is it really a question?

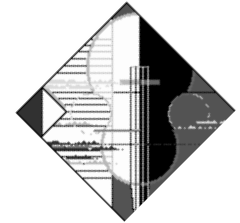
Pomfret CT 06258
P O Box 206



WiFi available in Dining Room



Find us on Facebook



* Cocoa Bean for Kids - January, February & March *

2010... What's Happening at The Bean ... 2010
2010 Calendar listings

What's Happening at "The Bean"...



All shows start at 8:00 PM unless otherwise noted

- Friday & Saturday January 1st & 2nd-No Show
- Saturday January 9th - \$15.00
Jeffrey Foucault
- Sunday January 10th Show Time 4:00 pm - \$5.00
Cocoa Bean for Kids
Alastair Moock
- Friday January 15th Show Time 7:00 pm - \$5.00
PCS Open Mic
- Saturday January 16th - \$15.00
Don White
- Saturday January 23rd - \$20.00
Howie Bursen & Friends
Northeast CT Food Bank Benefit
- Saturday January 30th - \$17.00
Mark Erelli
- Friday February 5th - \$5.00
Open Mic - The Electric Trains
- Saturday February 6th - \$12.00
Dan Stevens
- Sunday February 7th Show Time 4:00 pm - \$5.00
Cocoa Bean for Kids
Maria Sangiolo
- Friday February 12th - \$5.00
Songwriter Sessions

Call ahead, shows are subject to change

- Saturday February 13th - \$12.00
Becky Chase
- Saturday February 20th - \$12.00
Delta Generators
- Saturday February 27th - \$12.00
Blackstone Valley Bluegrass
- Friday March 5th - \$5.00
Open Mic - Sarah Blacker
- Saturday March 6th - \$12.00
Gypsy Romantic?
- Sunday March 7th Show Time 4:00 pm - \$5.00
Cocoa Bean for Kids
Music Together - Amy Apperson
- Friday March 12th Show Time 7:30 pm - \$5.00
Songwriter Sessions
- Saturday March 13th - \$10.00
Cashel Rock
- Friday March 19th - \$5.00
PCS Morning Chorus
- Saturday March 20th - \$12.00
Homegrown String Band
- Saturday March 27th - \$15.00
Atwater-Donnelly
- Sunday March 28th Show Time 7:00 pm - \$12.00
Molasses Creek

Checkout our Webcam - www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com