



Bean Soup

Entertainment & Stuff

#70

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

Volume 18 Number 2

April - June 2014

Free*

85 Main - Nine Years in Business

Our sister restaurant in Putnam, 85 Main has an anniversary approaching! On June 22 it will be nine years since the doors first opened for business (6/22/05) in a newly renovated space formerly occupied by the Vine Bistro. Opening with style, 85 Main featured a Raw Bar and was described as a New American Fusion restaurant.

The outside patio area, that was added in front 85 Main and Victoria Station, has brought attention to the restaurant and the downtown area and has helped make Putnam a destination!

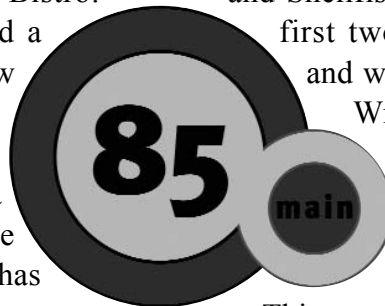
In 2009, the bar area was expanded, creating a space two times the size of the original bar and large enough to accommodate a growing number of customers choosing to drink and dine in the bar. The new area featured a sushi bar designed in consultation with Chef Osaki who is now our sushi

chef. The 85 Main menu takes on new style, dimension and flavors with Chef Osaki's very beautiful creations.

85 Main is the producer of the Shuck-Off Oyster and Shellfish event. Celebrated at 85 Main for the first two years, the event grew in popularity and was moved to Rotary Park the third year.

With attendance at more than 3,000 people during the 4th annual celebration, the event highlighted our restaurant and the Putnam area to local and out of town customers.

This year, 85 Main plans to renovate the downstairs area. The new room will resemble a wine cellar with stone walls and exposed wine storage and will be used for functions as well as for additional seating. Other plans for this room include specialty wine dinners and chef tables. Visit 85 Main in Putnam to find out more.



New Beverages

Beginning in April, the Vanilla Bean Café will be offering a new selection of coffee beverages. Many coffee houses throughout the country have extensive coffee beverages on their menu, to keep current, The Vanilla Bean Café will be expanding the selections of our coffee drinks. New selections will include a number of signature coffee drinks as well as a few of the regularly available coffee drink combinations. Look for the new blackboard featuring our Specialty Coffee Beverages.

Our sister restaurant in Storrs, Dog Lane Café, has been serving smoothies since opening day. Working with the popular recipes developed at Dog Lane, Vanilla Bean Café will be adding smoothies to the daily special lunch menu. Try one of our special smoothie drinks and let us know what you think. Feel free to make a suggestion about the type of drink you want to see on the menu.

VBC Celebrating 25 Years

This year, August 26 will mark the 25th anniversary for The Vanilla Bean Café. Through the years, customers have gathered here in the Café dining room for meals, shows, anniversary and birthday parties and even wedding receptions. The owners have hosted local food tastings and several annual benefit concerts. Coca Cola held their national launching of Vanilla Coke at the Café in 2002. Along the way, The Vanilla Bean Café has become an integral part of life in this community. The Café will be celebrating during the month of August and will be selling 25th anniversary t-shirts and mugs. See the next issue of Bean Soup for more information on anniversary events.



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- Epictetus

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The Vanilla Bean Café is owned by the Jessurun Family

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Business Hours:

Monday, Tuesday	7 am - 3 pm
Wednesday, Thursday	7 am - 8 pm
Friday	7 am - 9 pm*
Saturday	8 am - 9 pm*†
Sunday	8 am - 8 pm

*We may close early during colder months.

†Entertainment night -
we serve dessert, beer & wine until 10 pm

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



Web site: www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com

E-mail: ask@thevanillabeancafe.com

Address: **Corner of Routes 44, 169 & 97
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Phone: 860-928-1562


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

Art booking: **Kayla Murphy**
kayla@thevanillabeancafe.com

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

Bean Soup is an information and
entertainment newsletter.



Compiled and written by: 
Mary Murtha Dudley & Barry Jessurun



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

Yankee Magazine

Editors' Choice - Best of New England

Connecticut's Best Country Café - 2011

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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Check the hallway by the restrooms - our Hall of Fame - for more articles, letters and awards.

Our Sister Restaurant



85 main



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Worcester Telegram & Gazette, 2010

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- Jadelr and Cristina Cordova

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- Albert Einstein

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April Entertainment

Friday - 4 - Open Mic



Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Kala Farnham Feature - Carolann Solebello is most familiar to folk audiences as a founding member of the celebrated female trio Red Molly. She first fell in love with mountain music while working as an actor in East Tennessee and Kansas.

Saturday - 5 - Heather Maloney

"I always said that if I didn't write songs, I'd be covered in tattoos, because every song I write is something I want to remember really badly," says **Heather Maloney**. Although Maloney's influences are largely rooted in what she calls "adventurous folk," she pushes outward with her songs, digging deeper, and roaming wider, than she has before on songs populated by vivid characters that ultimately trace their way back to her. She uses juicy touches of pop with a little dash of rock 'n' roll.



Friday - 11 - Songwriter Sessions

2014 marks the 5th anniversary of our monthly series, **Songwriter Sessions**. Hosted by Lisa Martin, the sessions bring audiences the chance to see some of the best local, regional and touring singer-songwriters. Intimate, in-the-round performances full of fun and spontaneity, are a hallmark of the series as well as the audience chosen "theme" that each songwriter has to incorporate into a newly crafted song for each show. Starting with the April 11th show, a Hootenanny will be added to each show and will be open to songwriters of all experience levels. Sign ups for the hoot will start at 6:45 pm and the show will begin promptly at 7:00 pm, with the hootenanny preceding the featured songwriters. Show will run until 9:00 pm.

Saturday - 12 - Aine Minogue

As traditional Irish music and dance continue to enjoy phenomenal success both here and in Ireland, **Aine Minogue** is an artist who has long explored its themes and who captures its very essence. Her voice reflects the lyricism and richness to be found in Irish music, mythology and poetry with a voice undeniably her own and a diverse group of instruments that add to the traditional flavor of her work. Aine's large musical family encouraged her to pursue a number of different instruments during her youth, but it was at the age of twelve while at boarding school in County Galway that Aine discovered her true love - the harp - which she decided to pursue in lieu of the others.



April Entertainment

Saturday - 19 -Chelsea Berry

Chelsea Berry is a singer/songwriter with incredible edge, power, and finesse. Her presence has been described by listeners as "compelling... she draws the entire house into her world like moths to a flame." Her vocals are controlled, smooth, and intensely powerful. Her original lyrics are reminiscent of the folk music of the sixties. Chelsea has performed at many of New England's most renowned listening rooms, including Boston's House of Blues, Club Passim in Cambridge, and Carnegie Hall in NY.



Saturday- 26 - Andrew McKnight

Over his fifteen year career, **Andrew McKnight** has enjoyed many accolades within the folk music world. His five solo CDs have earned much critical acclaim and airplay around the world as well as a wealth of NPR stations and several XM/Sirius satellite shows. Andrew's solo performances are like one man theatre; the songs are woven together with humorous stories and poetic drama, and the musical soundscape traverses influences from Appalachia, tasteful slide and jazzy blues, feisty anthems, rustic folk, and even a little fancy flatpicking on a Carter Family tune. Andrew considers many prestigious and eclectic performances along his career to be among the biggest blessings. Each one is a unique intersection of the time and place, the songs and stories, and above all, each person in the audience.



Sunday - 26 -Ellis Paul

Ellis Paul is a leading voice in American songwriting and one of the top songwriters to emerge from the fertile Boston folk scene. Paul helped create a movement that revitalized the national acoustic circuit with an urban, literate, folk rock style which in turn generated a renewed interest in the genre during the 1990's. He has influenced a generation of artists with his charismatic and authentic performance style. Paul strives to preserve genuine folk and avoid the artifice of pop. Though he remains among the most pop-friendly of today's singer-songwriters with his songs regularly appearing in hit movie and TV sound tracks, he has successfully bridged the gulf between the modern folk sound and the populist traditions of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger.



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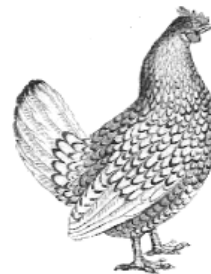
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May Entertainment

Friday - 2 - Open Mic



Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Kala Farnham Feature - Curtis Brand performs what he calls Locally Grown Organic Music and his music is an effort to reach out to people he has not yet met and present some of what he has learned in along the way.

Saturday - 3 - Brooks Williams

Ranked one of the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists, singer-songwriter **Brooks Williams** writes groove-laden songs and delivers them with an easy-going vocal style and monstrous guitar chops. Walking the line between blues and Americana, Williams has worked stages worldwide for over 25 years, amassing a staggering back-catalogue of songs, recordings and tales. With nearly 20 CDs to his name – and more on the way – this Statesboro Georgia native is, according to americanaUK, “impossible not to like.” In recent years Brooks Williams has made his home in Cambridge UK and has dedicated a portion of each year to leading workshops on blues and Americana guitar. “A slice of Americana at its finest!” - *fRoots*



Friday - 9 - Songwriter Sessions

Saturday - 10 - Kevin Briody

Internationally recognized singer and songwriter, **Kevin Briody** has shared the stage with talented artists ranging from Art Garfunkel to Aimee Mann. Briody earned two Emmy Awards in Best Original Song - in 2008, with “Little Starr” a tune that also earned him a BMI Film & Television Award and in 2009, with “We All Fall Down.” Briody has released four CDs to date: “When No One’s Watching”, a Music Row DISCOVERY Award winner; “Familiar”, produced with help from a National Endowment for the Arts Artist Fellowship Grant; “Buddy Up”, a tribute to his Dixieland jazz trombone-playing father; and “The Gathering: A Christmas Collection.” The CT Special Olympic Summer Games opened with Briody’s song “We’re All Heroes” and national organization Autism Speaks commissioned his song “Bring Them Back” to help raise awareness. Briody served as CT’s Official State Troubadour from 2000–2002 and was named a Master Teaching Artist by the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. He teaches songwriting workshops to aspiring songwriters of all ages.



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May Entertainment

Saturday - 17 - Joel Cage

Joel Cage is an award winning veteran singer and songwriter from Boston. A one-time member of the internationally acclaimed rock & roll group Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, Joel has performed as a soloist - regionally and nationally for the past fifteen years. He has performed at the renown Club Passim in Cambridge, where he was invited to perform at their 40th Anniversary Concert. At the Kerrville Folk Festival in TX, he was awarded top prize in the Kerrville New Folk Competition, and is a top prize winner in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and three time winner of the USA Folk Songwriter's Competition. A virtuoso guitarist and an impassioned vocalist, Joel Cage's music is both evocative and raucous.



Saturday - 24 - Lui Collins

Folk singer/songwriter **Lui Collins** has been performing, writing and recording since the 1970s, earning international acclaim for her music. A native Vermonter, Collins' early music education included classical studies on piano, violin and French horn, followed by a major in music theory at the University of Connecticut. *The Boston Globe* has described Lui as "one of New England's first and brightest stars," and *Sing Out! Magazine* calls her "incomparable."



Saturday - 31 - Atwater-Donnelly Trio

The highly acclaimed husband and wife duo, **Aubrey Atwater** and **Elwood Donnelly**, 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. Their performance is features humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence. The trio is formed when Aubrey and Elwood are joined by **Cathy Clasper-Torch**. Cathy adds a deeply rich third dimension with fiddle, cello and vocals. The Atwater-Donnelly Trio has become extremely popular in Southern New England.



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June Entertainment

Friday - 6 - Open Mic



Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Kala Farnham Feature - Ian Fitzgerald - From early twentieth century field recordings through Woody Guthrie, Hank Williams, Bob Dylan, Townes Van Zandt, Gillian Welch, and hundreds of artists in between, Ian has been influenced by one of the sturdiest strains of American music.

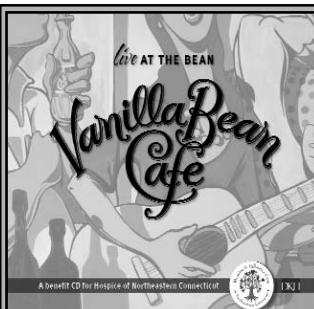
Saturday - 7 - Marc Berger

Marc Berger's life has been about pursuing twin passions: creating and recording his American roots songs, and exploring remote areas of the desert and mountain West. After signing his first publishing contract while in law school, he fronted rock bands and performed regularly in New York City clubs like CBGB, Wetlands, and The Knitting Factory. He got thinking about using his travels to create a set of songs in the cultural tradition of writers like Guthrie and visual artists like John Ford and Frederick Remington. Marc and co-producer Mike Ricciardi now present RIDE, ten cinematic recordings reflecting his romantic connection to the American West and exploring the value of its myths to contemporary culture.



Saturday - 14 - Carolyn Walker

Violin teacher by day, singer-songwriter by night, **Carolyn Walker** merges her classical music training with her love of popular music to create songs that are thoughtful and sincere. Born and raised in western MA, Carolyn draws upon the imagery of the New England landscape to inspire her lyrics, using the turning of the seasons as metaphor for personal change and discovery. In her debut album, Resolution, Carolyn artfully combines heartfelt lyrics and lush instrumentation to craft a story of love found, lost, and rediscovered. Carolyn has played extensively in her home area of western MA including venues the Iron Horse Music Hall, the Montague Bookmill, the Rendezvous and the Thirsty Mind Cafe.



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June Entertainment

Friday - 13 - Songwriter Sessions

Saturday - 21 - Nine6teen

Nine6teen is a Pomfret-based band featuring music that ranges from bluegrass to Badfinger and Van



Morrison to James Taylor, plus original works. Led by

keyboardist/vocalist Donna Bessette and drummer/vocalist Andre Bessette, the band also features David Carter on lead guitar, flute and vocals, Putnam native Greg Nichols on rhythm guitar and vocals, Brian Bastow on bass, and Patrick McCarthy on lead and backing vocals. The band blends solid musicianship with tight vocal harmonies. Benefit Concert for Deary Memorial Cancer Fund. Advance tickets are available at WINY, Longmeadow Automotive and The Vanilla Bean Café.

Saturday - 28 - Steve Tilston

Ask anyone on the English acoustic scene who their favourite guitarist, singer, songwriter and entertainer is and nine times out of ten the same name will crop



up in the top three of every department. Steve Tilston is one of our most celebrated song-smiths; widely recognized within the world of folk and contemporary music: the words, arrangements and subtle, quite superb guitar playing could be no one else. The writer of the classic songs The Slipjigs and Reels, Here's to Tom Paine and The Naked Highwayman, has turned author. Steve has recently published his first novel – full of colourful characters All for Poor Jack is an historical tale set in Bristol and the New World and it's a mighty good read and has been enjoyed by the likes of Bob Dylan no less!

"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps."

- Confucius

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- Michael Jordan



POMFRET,
New England
to the roots...

SCENIC • HISTORIC • GRACIOUS • DELICIOUS



www.VisitPomfret.com

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 recent items like Fishcake Benedict, Basil Feta Omelet, and Artichoke Spinach Scramble. We use only 100% maple syrup and top-quality Hormel bacon. ☺

Dinner at The Bean

We are open for dinner Wednesday - Sunday. Each night we run four or five dinner specials. Recent items include: Wild Mushroom Ravioli, Garden Vegetable Risotto, Steak Medallions and Shitake & Arugula Mac & Cheese. 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.

April - Northeast Art Guild

May - Windham Art Guild

June - Joyce Maurice ☺

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 6.35% Connecticut Sales Tax. The prices listed on the menu are exactly what you pay. Our prices may seem to be inflated; however, a \$10.00 menu item is actually \$9.40 + \$.60 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?

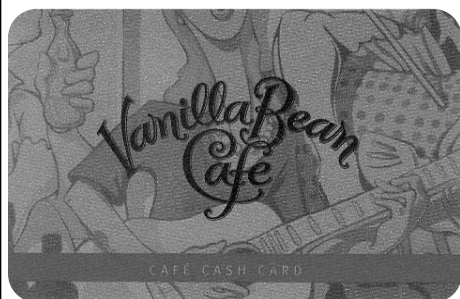
2. Not Market Standard Pricing - We are not trying to fool the customer into thinking that \$9.95 is less expensive than \$10.00. We find this type of pricing insulting to our customers. However, the reason it is used so extensively around the nation is that it works effectively. We don't like that practice, 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.

"Tomatoes and oregano make it Italian; wine and tar- ragon make it French. Sour cream makes it Russian; lemon and cinnamon make it Greek. Soy sauce makes it Chinese; garlic makes it good." - Alice May Brock

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.

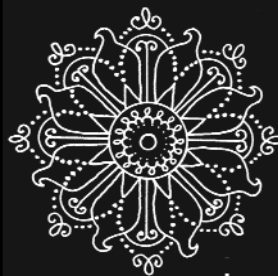
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"A wise man is superior to any insults which can be put upon him, and the best reply to unseemly behavior is patience and moderation." - Moliere



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"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart." - Nelson Mandela

DR. MURRAY BUTTNER

Quiet Corner Family Practice



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Just around the corner from the Vanilla Bean

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



All shows start at 8:00 pm unless otherwise noted

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|------------------|
| ● Friday April 4th
Open Mic - Carolann Solebello | 7:30 pm - \$5.00 | ● Saturday May 10th
Kevin Briody | - \$15.00 |
| ● Saturday April 5th
Heather Mahoney | - \$10.00 | ● Saturday May 17th
Joel Cage | - \$15.00 |
| ● Friday April 11th
Hootenanny/Sessions - Lisa Martin Hosts | 7:00 pm - \$5.00 | ● Saturday May 24th
Lui Collins | - \$15.00 |
| ● Saturday April 12th
Áine Minogue | - \$12.00 | ● Saturday May 31st
Atwater-Donnelly Trio | - \$15.00 |
| ● Saturday April 18th
Chelsea Berry | - \$12.00 | ● Friday June 6th
Open Mic - Ian Fitzgerald | 7:30 pm - \$5.00 |
| ● Saturday April 26th
Andrew McKnight | - \$15.00 | ● Saturday June 7th
Marc Berger | - \$12.00 |
| ● Sunday April 27th
Ellis Paul | 7:00 pm - \$20.00 | ● Friday June 13th
Hootenanny/Sessions - Lisa Martin Hosts | 7:00 pm - \$5.00 |
| ● Friday May 2nd
Open Mic - Curtis Brand | 7:30 pm - \$5.00 | ● Saturday June 14th
Carolyn Walker | - \$10.00 |
| ● Saturday May 3rd
Brooks Williams | - \$15.00 | ● Saturday June 21st
Nine6teen (Advance Tickets Available) | - \$20.00 |
| ● Friday May 9th
Hootenanny/Sessions - Lisa Martin Hosts | 7:00 pm - \$5.00 | Benefit Concert - Deary Memorial Cancer Fund | |
| | | ● Saturday June 28th
Steve Tilston | - \$15.00 |

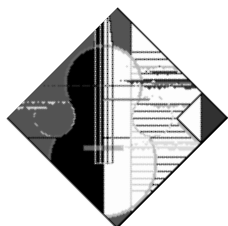
Cash or Check Only for show Admissions

Call ahead, shows are subject to change

WiFi available in Dining Room



P O Box 206
Pomfret CT 06258



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



2014 ... What's Happening at The Bean ... 2014

~ April, May & June ~

** Sunday - April 27 - Ellis Paul **

** Saturday - June 28 - Steve Tilston **



The Vanilla Bean Café
Connecticut's Best Country Café
~ Yankee Magazine - Editors' Choice ~



Get the calendar listings on your smart phone.