



# Bean Soup

## Entertainment & Stuff

To Bean or not to Bean?

Volume 12 Number 3

July 2008 - September 2008

Free\*

## Nineteen Years ~ 1989 - 2008

The Vanilla Bean Café is a family run restaurant in CT's northeast Quiet Corner. On August 26th, it will be 19 years since siblings Barry, Brian and Eileen Jessurun opened a sandwich and ice cream shop in a restored barn on the corner of routes 97, 169, and 44. Eileen has since moved to VT with her family. Early on, their mother worked in the kitchen. It is easy to imagine how proud she would be to see the café in operation today.

Whether coming for a bite to eat or staying to see the show, customers find the Vanilla Bean an easy place to be. With wooden floors below and exposed

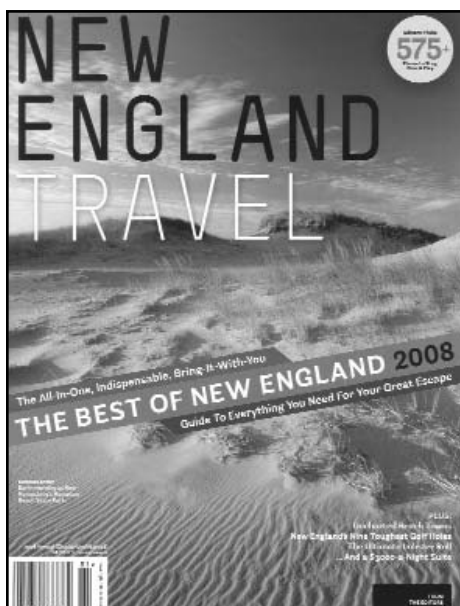


beams above, the restaurant has a warm and comfortable feeling. The main dining room is a gallery displaying artwork by local artists. A four panel installation in the original dining room depicts café life. Customers share in a sense of belonging here as they peruse the history, accolades, pictures and stories that decorate the walls.

People sit and chat, sip tea, drink beer or wine and linger as long as they like. With 19 years behind them and hopefully many years ahead, this corner cafe plenty to offer. The Vanilla Bean Café is a public place where people can really feel at home.

## The Best of New England

The Vanilla Bean Café is a featured restaurants in *Boston Magazine's New England Travel* magazine this year in the Best of New England section. "Our experts scoured the region and their results are in. Presenting your indispensable guide to more than 500 top hotels, restaurants, shops, and attractions from Bristol to Bar Harbor." The Overview of the Bean: "Don't look at the homemade desserts (oh,



those brownies!) until after you order your meal at this area favorite. It's heavy on vegetarian options, but there's always a burger and blackboard specials. The classic soup (in endless varieties) and half-sandwich combo never gets old, and the staff runs food from dawn to well past dusk."

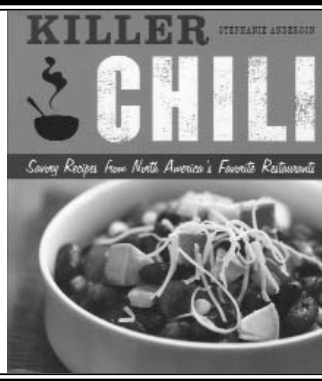
## Our Sister Restaurant

**85 Main** is also a Best of New England featured restaurant this year in *Boston Magazine's New England Travel* magazine. "Staples like fish and chips join updated creations like orange-coriander chicken, smoked salmon risotto, and steaks in a demi-glace at 85 Main in Putnam. Night owls love the late-night bar menu—a constantly changing array of flatbread pizzas and a good selection of beers."

Sign up on our mailing list at [www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com](http://www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com)

Our original chili recipe is now published in a new cook book by Stephanie Anderson called *Killer Chili: Savory Recipes from North America's Favorite Chili Restaurants*.

~Available here - \$15.00~



*"Nothing is produced, no progress is made, by being against or criticizing something. Progress, including personal success, results from being for something and doing something about it"*  
- Ben Miller



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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:

Monday	- 7:00 am - 3:00 pm
Tuesday	- 7:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wednesday	- 7:00 am - 8:00 pm
Thursday	- 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.

We offer an extensive selection of beer and wine.

**Bean Soup** is the Café's quarterly newsletter and entertainment guide.

**Stella**, the English Mastiff you may occasionally see around the café, is very social and great with children.

**Web site:** [www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com](http://www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com)

**E-mail:** [info@thevanillabeancafe.com](mailto:info@thevanillabeancafe.com)

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

**Phone:** **860-928-1562**

**Music booking:** **Maria Sangiolo**  
[maria@thevanillabeancafe.com](mailto:maria@thevanillabeancafe.com)

**Art booking:** **Randy Markes**  
[randy@thevanillabeancafe.com](mailto:randy@thevanillabeancafe.com)

**Bean Soup ads:** **Barry Jessurun**  
[barry@thevanillabeancafe.com](mailto:barry@thevanillabeancafe.com)

## 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 Cafe 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.”

### **Recipient University of Connecticut's Nozko Family Business Leadership Award**

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

## The Boston Globe

The following is an expert from the May 28, 2008 issue of the *Boston Globe*. The article is entitled; *A bucolic outpost A rural town that's pretty to look at and has plenty to offer*. “Pomfret may be best known for its picture-postcard private boarding schools, the Pomfret School, founded in 1894 on a lush, green 500-acre campus, and the Rectory School, founded in 1920. The schools provide some of the town's most distinctive architecture. A drive along Route 169, the main north-south thoroughfare and a designated national scenic byway, passes rolling meadows and miles of stone walls. Incorporated in 1713 on land purchased from the Owaneco Indians in 1686.

“Fuel...” “Comfort foods in a comfortable place” is the mantra of the family-owned Vanilla Bean Cafe (corner of Routes 44, 97, and 169, 860-928-1562, [thevanillabean-cafe.com](http://thevanillabean-cafe.com), breakfast \$5.50-\$9.50, lunch \$4-\$10, dinner \$12-\$17). Along with homemade and healthy soups, there is an “award-winning chili” in traditional beef and vegetarian versions, and sandwiches, salads, light entrees, and an enticing selection of decadent pastries.” ☺

*“Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”*

- Steve Jobs

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- Margaret Mead



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*New York Times*

**"Relaxed"  
Atmospher**  
*Boston Globe*

**"Truly Bizarre"  
Service**  
*New London Day*

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## July Entertainment

Friday - 4 - No Show



Saturday - 5 - No Show

Saturday - 12

### Anders Vercelli Jazz Trio

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ordinaire **Blake Marquez** perform a live show consisting of a fabulous assortment of songs you will just love to hear! Come early and have dinner at The Bean before the show! Anders Vercelli is a versatile jazz pianist who has been performing since 1996. He plays solo piano and performs with his jazz trio. Originally from CT, Anders has been living in Boston since January 2003, when he began studying piano and songwriting at Berklee College of Music. A Dean's List student, Anders graduated from Berklee in December 2005 with a Bachelor of Music in Songwriting. Anders is the grandson of composer Leroy Anderson, who wrote the music to the Christmas song "Sleigh Ride."



### Saturday - 19 - Anni Clark

In the spring 2006, **Anni Clark** was nominated for



"Female Vocalist of the Year" in the Texas Music Awards, based on her performance on her newest CD release Anni Clark "LIVE"! With thousands of miles, and six solo albums under her belt, this ME native's passion for communication through music continues to build a widespread and loyal audience. Her infectious style might be described as "original folk, pop, & blues with a dash of Maine hume-ah." With glowing reviews and steady airplay to support her, she has toured nonstop with the release of her CD, Big Water. Clark continues to write and perform great songs about this thing called life and she does so with a quiet grace.

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## July Entertainment

### Saturday - 26 - 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 from Lynn, Massachusetts 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. Radio audiences, too, are not safe from the Don White experience. Valerie Adams of WNCS Radio, Vermont said, "I've never seen anything like it. Every time I play I Know What Love Is the phones light up like a Christmas tree. *Stereo Review Magazine* called it "A candidate for song of the year." Don White illuminates the human experience through his writing and performing. Whether he is singing, speaking, or setting up the sneakiest punch line of the night, Don has the hearts of his audience. "...there is an honesty and self-deprecating wit in his material that is an immediate tonic." - *The Boston Herald*



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## 2008 Connecticut Magazine Readers' Choice Awards

- \*Best Lunch\* - Windham County
- \*Best Desserts\* - Windham County
- \*Best Outdoor Dining\* - Windham County
- \*Best Vegetarian\* - Windham County

*Michael W. Smith*

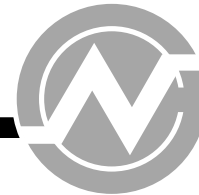
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*"I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable; to be compassionate. It is, after all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have made some difference that you lived at all."* - Leo C. Rosten



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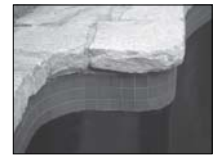
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## August Entertainment

### Friday - 1 - Open Mic



**Host - Bonnie Lee Panda - Feature - Jacqueline Bartlett** is a singer/songwriter from Rhode Island. She plays original folk music with either a traditional or alternative sound. Jacqueline plays acoustic guitar and mountain dulcimer. Her subject matter mostly embraces relationships. The poetic & symbolic style of her music evokes, to the listener, a similar sense of life's journey.

### Saturday - 2 - Ray Cooke

**Ray Cooke** sings with deep passion and gorgeous vocals when he performs his original songs inspired by life experiences and love. A native Rhode Islander who now resides in Foster, Ray began writing in his teens and completed his first song, Lonely Gerl, at the age of 18. He's been honing and refining his acoustic music ever since. His first CD, Chasin' the Bliss, has been well received locally and showcases Ray's strong vocals and haunting lyrics. Performing around the New England area for the past twenty years, Ray has been compared to Cat Stevens and James Taylor. He has an amazing stage presence and it's easy to get lost in his lyrics. Ray's repertoire includes covers from Eric Clapton to the Rolling Stones but it's his original melodies that make him a unique talent. "I still search for the song everybody dreams of writing. I write about life and love and hopefully my songs touch people in some way. I've always believed that good vocals make a band - good vocals combined with a good story. I hope I have both." - Ray Cooke.

### Saturday - 9 - lloyd Thayer

Blues for Boston is **lloyd Thayer's** much anticipated third album, released in response to constant requests by his fans for an "all blues" cd. And so these 13 songs are just that, all blues, played in Thayer's incredibly unique style, which combines elements of old time Delta masters with modern ideas and stories of today. Endless hours of playing on street corners and subway platforms have honed his songs and skills the old fashioned way, one song, one note, one heartbeat at a time. With the release of BLUES FOR BOSTON, lloyd Thayer is sure to emerge from the underground, one song, one note, one heartbeat, one friend, at a time.....



### Saturday - 16 - Erica Smith Band

**Erica Smith** and the 99 Cent Dreams first came together in 2003 when Erica, feeling all hotsy-totsy after the warm reviews of her Americana-laced Friend or Foe, somehow managed to shanghai Dave Campbell on drums, Alan Young on bass, and Dann Baker on guitar to play some spicy live shows around New York City. Together they play the downtown clubs of New York City.



*"A bad habit never disappears miraculously; it's an undo-it-yourself project."*  
- Abigail Van Buren

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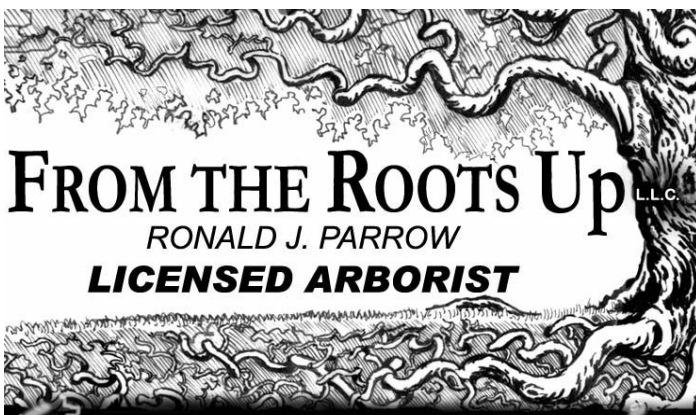
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## August Entertainment

### Saturday - 23

## Carl Cacho & Chris Thompson

**Carl Cacho** has firmly established himself as one of the most talented and respected singer/songwriters in New England. Boston Music Award Nominee for Outstanding New Singer/Songwriter, winner of the Rose Garden Coffeehouse Singer/Songwriter Competition and finalist in both the Telluride Troubadour and Sierra Songwriter's Festival songwriting contests, his songs and disarming performing style have made him a favorite at venues across the Northeast. Tom Rush personally selected Carl to perform with him at Harvard University's Sanders Theater.



**Chris Thompson** is the guitar and lead vocalist for the duo Chris and Meredith Thompson. Together the Thompsons have released 6 albums and played festivals such as the Clearwater Hudson Revival, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, and the Boston Folk Festival. The Thompsons are best known for their close sibling harmony, and as Chris now steps out on her own, she demonstrates her powerful clear vocals and percussive, riff driven guitar work.

### Saturday - 30 - Jason Spooner

This multi-award winning New England-based songwriter discovered his father's collection of eight-track tapes as a child and never looked back. After early exposure to legends like Neil Young, Paul Simon, Jim Croce and Van Morrison along with Motown heavies, **Jason Spooner** was inspired to start making the rounds on coffee house stages in his teens. He then spent time in Europe performing in folk & blues clubs and on the streets of London and Spain. Before long, Jason jumped head-first into the Northeast's burgeoning songwriter scene. Jason's writing style continues to emerge as a crucial strength that sets this ME based artist apart. Admittedly far from content with the majority of songs dominating today's radio charts, Jason hovers in a unique space between the literal and the psychological. As a writer, he often provides enough detail to ignite the listener's imagination while enabling them to deliver some personal experience to the equation. Whether you're a fan of great songwriting or power-house live performance, Jason Spooner is an emerging songwriter to watch closely.



*"When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure."*  
- Peter Marshal



## Editor's Choice

2008 YANKEE MAGAZINE TRAVEL GUIDE

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*"I suggest that the only books that influence us are those for which we are ready, and which have gone a little further down our particular path than we have gone ourselves."*  
- E. M. Forster



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## September Entertainment

### Friday - 5 - Open Mic



**Host - Bonnie Lee Panda - Feature - Donna Dufresne -**

Donna is an eclectic singer, songwriter and performer from the Quiet Corner of Connecticut. Passionate and forthright about her songs and their subjects, her story-filled originals are singularly clever, most often amusing and always rich in lyric content and images. She has developed an original repertoire that is distinctly her own, drawing from the era of early western swing, American Songbook, and a little gypsy jazz to create a romantic, vintage sound.

### Saturday - 6

### Lissa Schneckenberger Band



The traditional music of New England can be as warm and comforting as a winter fire or as potent and exhilarating as a summer thunderstorm. Fiddler and singer **Lissa Schneckenberger** is a master of both moods, a winsome, sweet-voiced singer who brings new life to old ballads and a skillful, dynamic fiddler who captures the driving rhythm and carefree joy of dance tunes old and new. Lissa tours primarily with a trio consisting of Corey DiMario on double bass, and a revolving carousel of guitarists including Keith Murphy, Dave Cory, and Matt Heaton. For festivals and larger performances the band is sometimes augmented by Stefan Amidon on percussion. They play traditional New England fiddle tunes and folk songs, with some original and contemporary music thrown in. The boys provide rock solid back up and let Lissa go to town on all her favourite fiddle tunes. A truly sparkling acoustic music creation!

### Saturday - 13 - Atwater-Donnelly

The highly praised husband-wife duo, **Aubrey Atwater** and **Elwood Donnelly** present delightful programs of traditional American and Celtic folk songs, a capella pieces, hymns, 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. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence, they explain song origins to create a deeper understanding of the music and its cultural history. "A dazzling duo ... the epitome of local folk music." - *Good Times*




## September Entertainment

### Sunday - 20 - Kevin Briody



Kevin Briody's study of songwriting began at The New School in NYC under one of Nashville's premier writers, Hugh Prestwood. His style is spiritually founded, and rooted in real life. His songs are honest and accessible. What differentiates Kevin from the sea of singer/songwriters out there is his emphasis on the song. His passion is in the story telling; each verse carefully crafted, each word hand picked. His voice is all about honesty. His performances are intimately understated, allowing the song to stand in the spotlight. Connecticut songwriter Kevin Briody is cut from the honest, artful cloth of the best Yankee ballad-writers. His narrative songs are personal yet cinematic, filled with vivid, pastoral imagery and useful wisdom. He seems to earn new fans and folk-biz boosters wherever his songs travel" - Scott Alarik, *Boston Globe*, Newport Folk Festival

### Saturday - 27 - Last Fair Deal



The band features Paul Howard on vocals and guitar; Tom Hagymasi on vocals, fiddle, and bouzouki; Phil Zimmerman on vocals, mandolin, and banjo; and Todd Howard on vocals and five-string bass. These four stellar musicians have shared the stage with the likes of John Hartford, Doc Watson, Aztec Two-Step Jonathan Edwards, and Stephane Grappelli. **Last Fair Deal** has an eclectic repertoire drawing on old-time string-band, bluegrass, swing, and pop music. The band's live performances feature originals from True Tales and from their previous three releases. They also put their own spin on songs from such diverse songwriters as John Hartford, Hank Williams, Dan Hicks, John Hiatt, Lennon/McCartney, Nat King Cole, and Bob Dylan.

*"Better than a thousand useless words is one word that gives peace".*  
- Buddha



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- Thomas A. Kempis

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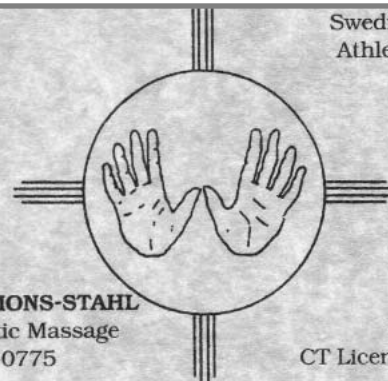
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- George Moore

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*Hold a true friend with both hands. - Nigerian Proverb*

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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 Chipotle Benedict, English Bangers with Mushroom Gravy and Pumpkin Spice 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: Pan-seared Red Snapper, Baked Cod Provencal, Wild Mushroom Ravioli 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. The shows are one or two months in duration. Some shows have openings and some do not. Most of the artwork 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.**

July - Harvey Edwards  
August - Blanche Serban  
September - Judith Meyers ☺

## Entertainment

The Café is on the National Folk Music Circuit and attracts talent from all over the United States, drawing mainly New England performers. The majority of the shows are on Saturday night and start at 8:00 pm. The Open Mic night is the first Friday of each month. During the shows we separate our listening room from the tiled dining room and the kitchen with a theatre curtain. This helps 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. Get a little work done or check your mail 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

## The Café Cash Card

Our Café Cash Cards are always available for purchase at the register. This card works just like the popular gift cards available in most stores today. The Café Cash Card makes a great gift for friends and family members and is ideal for students at the local



schools. Purchase a card in any amount and it can be used to purchase any item on our menu. Also, you can add to your card balance at

any time. As a bonus, we give you an additional 10% when you purchase \$100.00 or more. This is our way of thanking our frequent diners (and people who don't mind paying in advance). With our register system, you must have your gift card with you in order to make a purchase, so carry it with you all the time!

*"Your purpose explains what you are doing with your life. Your vision explains how you are living your purpose. Your goals enable you to realize your vision."* - Bob Proctor

## 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.

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*"I don't ask for the meaning of the song of a bird or the rising of the sun on a misty morning. There they are, and they are beautiful."* - Pete Hamill

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*"Take action every day - some small dose at a time."*

- Jeffrey Gitomer



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

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Mary Murtha Dudley

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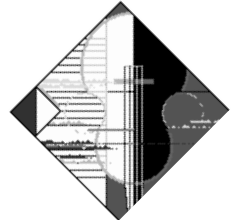
Music Booking - Maria Sangiolo

e-mail: [maria@thevanillabeancafe.com](mailto:maria@thevanillabeancafe.com)

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The Vanilla Bean Café Pomfret Connecticut 06258

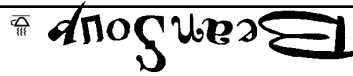
**Did you know...**

We have been open for over 19 years. 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. We have another restaurant in Putnam - 85 Main - 85 Main Street. *The Vanilla Bean Café* has been written up in the *New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *Connecticut Magazine* and many other notable publications. We have a WebCam for live internet viewing of our Saturday night entertainment.



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

Pomfret CT 06258  
P O Box 206



WiFi available in Dining Room

<p>Live at the Bean Benefit CD for Hospice Makes a Great Gift \$20.00</p>	
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2008... What's Happening at The Bean ... 2008  
July, August, September 2008 Calendar listings  
\*Saturday July 26th - Don White\*  
Sign up on our mail list at [www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com](http://www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com)

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



All shows start at 8:00 PM unless otherwise noted

- **Friday July 4th**  
no show
- Saturday July 5th**  
no show
- **Saturday July 12th** - \$10.00  
Anders Vercelli Trio
- **Saturday July 19th** - \$10.00  
Anni Clark
- **Saturday July 26th** - \$15.00  
Don White
- **Friday August 1st** *Show Time 7:45* - \$5.00  
Open Mic - Jacqueline Bartlett
- **Saturday August 2nd** - \$10.00  
Ray Cooke
- **Saturday August 9th** - \$10.00  
lloyd Thayer



Call ahead, shows are subject to change

- **Saturday August 16th** - \$12.00  
Erica Smith Band
- **Saturday August 23rd** - \$12.00  
Chris Thompson & Carl Cacho
- **Saturday August 30th** - \$10.00  
Jason Spooner
- **Friday September 5th** *Show Time 7:45* - \$5.00  
Open Mic - Donna Dufresne
- **Saturday September 6th** - \$15.00  
Lissa Schneckenberger Band
- **Saturday September 13th** - \$15.00  
Atwater-Donnelly
- **Saturday September 20th** - \$12.00  
Kevin Briody
- **Saturday September 27th** - \$12.00  
Last Fair Deal

Shows streaming on the internet via our Webcam - [www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com](http://www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com)

The Vanilla Bean Café ♦ Corners of Routes 44, 169 & 97 ♦ Pomfret, Connecticut 06258 ♦ 860-928-1562