

### **Brothers in Business**

B rothers Barry and Brian Jessurun have been in business together since 1989 when together they opened the Vanilla Bean Café along with their sister, Eileen and their mother, Patricia. Since opening day, they have worked through the dynamics of running a family owned business in a small town in CT's northeast quiet corner. Time passed and the economy changed; goals were set and difficult decisions were made as the family business grew and changed.

Today, the Vanilla Bean Café is owned and operated by Barry and Brian Jessurun, who are successful in their work as both brothers and business partners. They remember their parents, who helped them make a start in the restaurant business, as gracious people. Their mother prepared and served meals seemingly all day



long to her family. She and her husband were well known for w elcoming friends into the family home with a European hospitality that

she naturally emulated for her six growing children.

By definition, a winning business partnership capitalizes on the strengths and skills of each partner. Brian explains that he focuses on operations and maintenance and is quick to acknowledge that he is blessed to have Barry as a partner. And because his partner is his brother, Brian feels a sense of commitment that is lacking among most business partners. Barry is the tactical partner. He directs his attention toward strategic and long term business planning. He identifies realistic expectations for one another and open communication as key contributing factors to their success as a sibling partnership. Barry's trust in Brian enhances his freedom to be productive and focused.

Barry and Brian agree that the sibling partnership has its own set of benefits because it possesses all the strengths siblings enjoy: trust, familiarity, shorthand communication and shared values. Most business owners avoid hiring friends and family but Barry and Brian seem to have the right formula for making it work. They reflect their satisfaction with their business relationship by making a practice of hiring friends and family.

Head Chef, Brett Laffert started working at the Vanilla Bean Café in 2004. Scott Laffert is Brett's brother and VBC's Prep Cook. Brett encouraged Barry and Brian to hire Scott indicating that they had

enjoyed working together in the past. Scott says he appreciates the benefits of working with his brother. For example, he says there is a certain comfort level



and that is a draw for him. Brett says that working with his brother enhances his enjoyment at work, allows for a more integrated life and fosters his ability to maintain a connection to Scott.

"It takes two men to make one brother." - Israel Zangwill.



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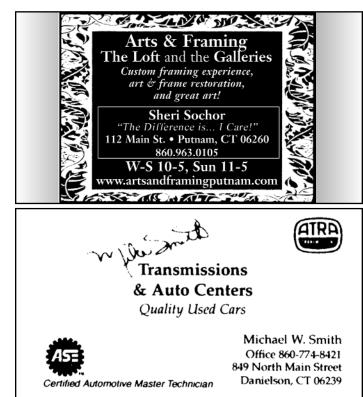


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"I can resist anything but temptation." - Oscar Wilde



#### 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:	Corner of Routes 44, 169 & 97 Pomfret, Connecticut	
Phone:	86	0-928-1562
Music bookir	ıg:	<b>Maria Sangiolo</b> maria@thevanillabeancafe.com
Art booking:		<b>Tiffany Siefert</b> tif@thevanillabeancafe.com
Bean Soup a	ds:	Barry Jessurun barry@thevanillabeancafe.com
<b>BeanSoup</b> is an information and entertainment newsletter published by The Vanilla Bean Café.		
<b>م</b>	М	npiled and written by: Barry Jessurun Lary Murtha Dudley & 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: $\star \star \star \star$ Atmosphere: $\star \star \star \star$

#### **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."

#### **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.

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The belly rules the mind. - Spanish Proverb

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- Arnold Schwarzenegger

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### Subliminal Message... Try us for dinner

"That's something I've noticed about food: whenever there's a crisis if you can get people to eating normally things get better." - Madeleine L'Engle



# **April Entertainment**

Friday - 2 - Open Mic Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Eric Paradine. Feature - Kala

Farnham is "paving the way for alternative folk rock music."

# Saturday - 3 - Andrew McKnight

Audiences are spellbound by entertaining stories delivered by Andrew McKnight with just the right touches of down home humor. His seemingly boundless energy moves around, one moment his dancing fingers, the next his impassioned delivery of a poignant lyric, followed by his playful rhythmic foot stomp to keep time. It begins with a dramatic a cappella vocal, followed by a crisp and concise interlude of flatpicked guitar. Then the warm and supple tenor voice settles in to work, delivering literate and cinematic vignettes of rural Americans and their struggles in memorable melodies and compelling twists of phrase. The between song banter is as much of the show as the music. With a theatrical flair for storytelling, he weaves the music and words into a memorable performance.

# Saturday - 10 - Meg Hutchinson



Meg Hutchinson is a lyric-based, contemporary acoustic songwriter. Her influences include poet Marv Oliver, songwriter Shawn Colvin, and David Gray. Originally from western MA, Hutchinson is now based in the Boston area. She has

won numerous awards including recognition from John Lennon Songwriting Competition, Billboard Song Contest and competitions at Merlefest, NewSong, Kerrville, Falcon Ridge, Telluride & Rocky Mtn Folks Festivals. Whether singing about technology, billion dollar bailouts or global warming, Meg Hutchinson makes these big issues personal by showing how they affect our everyday lives. She goes beyond the casual observation of current events and explores the emotion behind the experiences, bringing the characters' inner lives out into the open.

# Sunday - 7 - Cocoa Bean for Kids Bob Bloom - Drumming About You

Kids join an interactive music hoot with a chance to play from an array of shake, rattle, and roll instruments! \$5.00 per child - Free Hot Chocolate

# Sunday - 11 Peter Mulvey



In every aspect of his career, Peter Mulvey draws on a broad swath of influences. He is reading, listening and eager to hear new poetry, modern minimalist composers, old-time fiddle tunes, Argentinean trip-hop, or top-shelf bar bands. Said The Irish Times: "Peter Mulvey is consistently the most original and dynamic of the US singer-songwriters to tour these shores. A phenomenal performer with huge energy, a quick fire, quirky take on life, and an extraordinary guitar style. A joy to see." Whether performing solo, duo

# **April Entertainment**

### **Peter Mulvey**

continued... (with David Goodrich), or even with a band, Mulvey attempts to be the sum of his parts, to draw on all the musical legacies he has studied, to make a fresh, vital moment out of everything he and the audience have brought to the table that night.

### Saturday - 17 - Paul Geremia



For more than forty years, Paul Geremia has survived solely by the fruit of his musical labors, having abandoned all other means of support in 1966. He has been travelling and performing throughout the US, Canada and Europe while earning a reputation as a first rate bluesman,

songwriter, scholar of early jazz and blues, and one of the best country blues fingerpickers. With his six and twelve-string guitars, harmonica, piano and husky soulful voice and with an innate sense of the humor, he keeps his performance of traditional blues fresh and alive. Combining his interpretation of the earlier music of people like Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell, Scrapper Blackwell and Blind Blake, with his original compositions, he has created a style which is very much his own. Geremia's superb recordings have made him a critical favorite and place him firmly among the legends who inspired and influenced him over the past four decades.

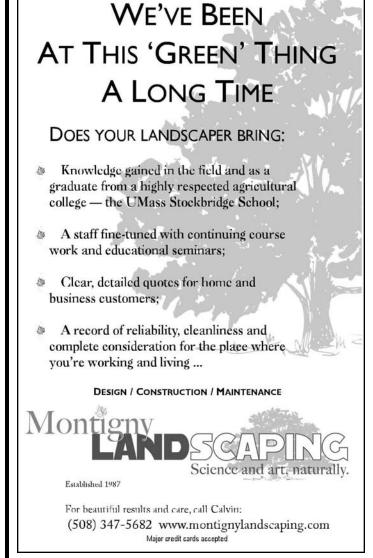
Friday - 23 -**Middle School Open Mic** 

Middle School Open Mic feature Havley Readrdon is a 7th grader from Marblehead, MA. She has been writing her own songs and has her own CD. This Open Mic is open to all performers in grades 5-8. Participants sign up for one or two performance slots as they arrive. Performers must be accompanied by a parent (no drop-offs). This a great opportunity for young people to perform for friends and peers.

# Saturday - 24 - Michael Troy



Michael Troy was born and raised in Fall River, MA. In many ways, his life reflects the lives of the hard-working common folk who populate this part of New England. Having spent parts of his own life as a mill worker, fisherman, laborer and carpenter, and most of his adult years as a husband and father, Michael has traveled many paths, and the experience and wisdom he's gleaned along the way echoes through his music. Michael has won many awards for his music, including most recently the Boston Folk Festival Songwriter's Contest and the Founders Title Folk and Bluegrass Festival Songwriter's Contest in 2004, the South Florida Folk Festival Songwriter's Contest in 2005, and Michael was the winner of the 2006 Wildflower Folk Festival Songwriter's Contest.



"I bought a doughnut and they gave me a receipt for the doughnut... I don't need a receipt for the doughnut. I give vou money and you give me the doughnut, end of transaction. We don't need to bring ink and paper into this. I can't imagine a scenario that I would have to prove that I bought a doughnut. To some skeptical friend, 'Don't even act like I didn't get that doughnut, I've got the documentation right here... It's in my file at home. ... Under "D". " - Mitch Hedberg

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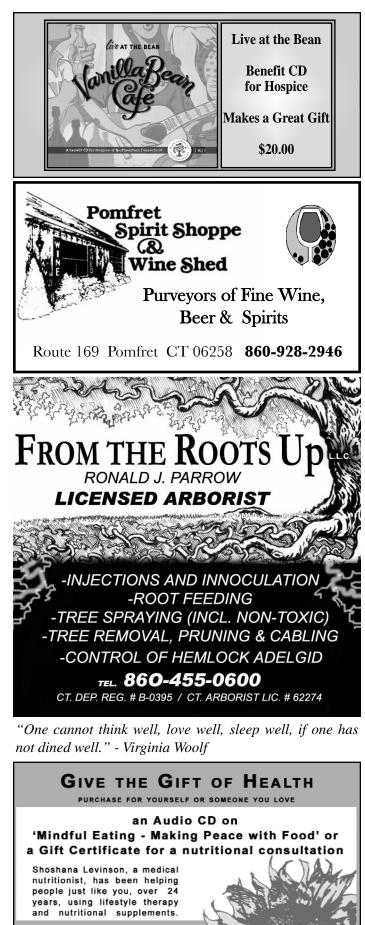
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# May Entertainment Saturday - 1 -Brian Peters & Jeff Davis

**Brian Peters** is a performer of traditional English folk music who combines a high level of skill on 3 different instruments with a great voice and an energetic stage presence. He plays anglo-concertina players, melodeon, and guitar. Brian is also recognized internationally as a leading singer of traditional ballads. Described as "One of British folk music's finest ambassadors", he started out in the folk clubs of England and has taken his performances to stages all over the world, always retaining a deep commitment to the musical traditions of his native country. **Jeff Davis** is one of America's



most respected collectors and interpreters of traditional music. He has traveled far to visit "source singers" -farmers and miners who remembered the old songs and tunes -and closer at hand to libraries

and archives, always look for the best of the music that was once common in out towns and villages. Jeff plays fiddle, banjo, mandocello, guitar, spoons, jaw's harps and a few instruments hand-made by some folk craftsmen. He has toured extensively throughout the United States as well as in Canada, England, Ireland, The Netherlands, and Norway.

## Friday - 7 - Open Mic 🖗 🙀

Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Eric Paradine. Feature -Shawn Taylor - "My intention is to give enjoyment to others. If a song can find a way to your heart, put a smile on your face, or just brighten your day in some way, my goal has been reached!"

### Saturday - 8 -Sally Rogers & Maria Sangiolo

Maria Sangiolo has been enchanting folk audiences with her warm stage presence and mellifluous vocals for the past twenty years. Maria's deeply emotive soprano vocals have inspired comparisons to Joan Baez, Shawn Colvin and Carolyn

Hester. The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* noted that "Sangiolo's voice is clear as crystal." *The Boston Globe* praised her "pure, honest soprano that makes you believe everything she sings." Fueled by her heart warming vocals, rich narrative song writing and deft guitar playing, Maria's albums are intimate and engaging.

Sally Rogers performs an evening of traditional, contemporary and original ballads and song, interwoven



.EatwellUSA.com

with stories taken from her life as a performer, a wife and a mother. Throughout her concerts, she accompanies herself on guitar and Appalachian dulcimer, or performs without

accompaniment in a voice that needs no further enhancement. Reviewer's have described her voice in superlatives ranging from "remarkable" to "mesmerizing." Her performance includes compositions of her own many of which are considered classics of the folk and popular

### **May Entertainment** Sally Rogers & Maria Sangiolo

continued... genre. "She is one of our best traditional singers...her voice strong and gorgeous, her feet firmly planted in tradition, her vision urgent and clear." - The Boston Globe

# Saturday - 15 - Hugh Blumenfeld



Hugh Blumenfeld has been called "a songwriter's songwriter," ranging from romantic ballads to biting satire. The Boston Globe described his work as "words and music full of passion and poetry" while Ed McKeon calls him "as sharp

a political and social satirist as any songwriter writing today." Hugh began working as a musician full time in 1994, touring 100-150 days a year and teaching workshops and artist residencies. The CT Commission on the Arts selected him as a Master Teaching Artist in 1995 and named him CT's official State Troubadour for 1999 and 2000. He performed often for the Department of Mental Retardation and volunteered at the American Cancer Society's Camp Rising Sun. Increasingly, his interests in music and teaching/healing led him back to his early interest in medicine. He finished medical school in 2007 with plans to become a family doctor.

### Saturday - 22 - Les Sampou



Les Sampou writes and sings Americana music: twangy, bluesy, rockin', sliding, passionate. Les Sampou's music career has spanned five recordings and countless listening rooms, bars, and festivals, as well as over several hundred

thousand miles of road. Les, with her big voice and big guitar, grabs your attention playing as a solo act or with a band. Whether writing, or performing, she can switch on a dime. Her chameleon style fits any genre. Her lyrics make sense and will hit you hard. It is for these reasons, along with her downright sexy charm, she remains a fixture on the music scene. After a sabbatical leaving a half dozen years between releases, Les Sampou is back with her shiney new 'roots & roll' album "Lonesomeville"...and she's better than ever.

### Saturday - 29 - Joel Cage



"With husky, heart-felt vocals and an aggressive acoustic guitar style reminiscent of Steve Stills, his performances offer more than the standard bill-offare of most folk singers, and more musicality and sensitivity than your average rock band. Somewhere in between, with a comprehensive

knowledge of both, Joel Cage's performances are both powerfully energetic, and subtly moving. He is evocative, mesmerizing, and totally musical, a showman with miles of experience behind him, and an honesty that is truly engaging." - Black Mountain. Joel is a three-time First Prize Winner - USA Songwriting Competition.



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#### Worries go down better with soup. - Jewish Proverb





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Life is the way we must regularly stop whatever it is we are doing and devote our attention to eating". - Luciano Pavarotti

"Cheese - milk's leap toward immortality."

- Clifton Fadiman



"Nothing would be more tiresome than eating and drinking if God had not made them a pleasure as well as a necessity." - Voltaire



# **June Entertainment**

### Friday - 4 - Open Mic 🖗 🙀

Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Eric Paradine. Feature -Martha Reich - Martha's angelic voice, along with her lyrical poetry, will touch you deeply and take you on a hypnotic and soothing journey. soothing journey.

# **Saturday - 5 - Atwater-Donnelly**

Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly, the highly



acclaimed husband-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.

### Saturday - 12 - Rob Lutes



**Rob Lutes** is a soulful singer-songwriter from Montreal with an ever-growing collection of literate, moving meditations on life and love. His ability to encapsulate universal ideas and questions, even the subtle ones, coupled with his gritty, heartfelt delivery and world-

class performance chops, have invited comparisons with several legends in the roots genre from John Hiatt to Fred Eaglesmith. Lutes, a former Kerrville New Folk songwriting winner went into the studio in September 2008 to record his much-awaited fourth CD with noted Boston-area producer David Goodrich (Chris Smither, Peter Mulvey, Jeffrey Foucault). The result, the justreleased CD Truth & Fiction, is his most confident work to date. Widely known for his inspiring and impassioned live performances. Rob Lutes's live shows always feature extraordinary playing, some improvisational magic and Lutes's intense, soulful vocals.

"Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love." - Charlie Brown

**VBC Review Quotables...** 

"Extremely Tasty" Food - New York Times

"Relaxed" Atmosphere - Boston Globe

"Truly Bizarre" Service - New London Day

# **June Entertainment**

### Sunday - 13 - Jake Armerding



The Boston Globe calls singer-violinist Jake Armerding "the most gifted and promising songwriter to emerge from the Boston folk scene in years." "This is organic music," the Boston singersongwriter-violinist offers about his fifth album of originals, Her. "It's a bunch of us

playing our instruments and singing, and getting taped while we're doing it. There's no pitch correction, no chemicals, no nothing." Armerding, along with some of the best players on the East Coast scene, holed up in a studio in North Reading, MA just before last Christmas, got completely snowed in, and made some beautiful, raucous, lasting music. Armerding confides, "For years I've been trying to get away from love songs -- everybody writes them, they're the easiest to write, all that stuff. But then I fell in love and got married, so it wasn't really an option." Singer and songwriter Mark Erelli, a longtime friend and colleague who contributed guitar and vocal tracks to the project, commented, "It's pretty great to listen to a whole record of love songs and not hear any of the usual love song cliches."

### Saturday - 19 - Mad Agnes



Mad Agnes is not one person, but three, and they're mad in only the most inventive way. Margo Hennebach, Adrienne Jones and Mark Saunders stir up elements of classical and folk, cross singer/songwriter poignancy with street-theatre smarts and

infuse it all with courageous harmonies, complex counterpoint and rich storytelling in a powerful live performance. Their lyrics are intelligent, their delivery warm, and insightful. Not surprisingly, each has arrived at the trio from a long list of solo accomplishments. Their lyrics, vocal intricacies and instrument prowess make their music "music for thinking people." They've been called genre-bending - with classical, rock and old-world backgrounds they play everything from contemporary original to madrigals, to Celtic traditionals, to harmonydriven folk pop.

# Saturday - 26 - Chuck E. Costa



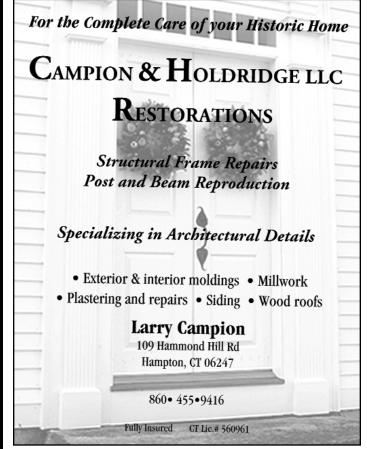
Chuck E. Costa's candid and visceral delivery of literate and well-crafted contemporary folk tunes has steadily raised his profile on the national club, coffeehouse and festival circuits. Last year, Chuck released his third independent release

"Where the Songs Come From." Chuck teamed up with Mark Thayer of Signature Sounds to create an album of rich arrangements that stay true to the heart of each of Chuck's candid and visceral songs. The opening track was selected to be featured on a compilation released by Hear Music in every Starbucks in North America. The album appeared on Billboard charts its first week of release.

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"In order to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first create the universe." - Carl Sagan



"Why does Sea World have a seafood restaurant?? I'm halfway through my fish burger and I realize, Oh my God....I could be eating a slow learner."

- Lynda Montgomery



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#### "Life's uncertain, eat dessert first."

"Worthless people live only to eat and drink; people of worth eat and drink only to live." - Socrates



### 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**

W e 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**

T he 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 - Denise Melucci June - Marcia Donofrio

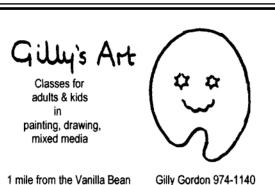
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### **Entertainment**

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**

W e 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!



### **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.

"There is no Love sincerer than the Love of Food." - George Bernard Shaw

"What is patriotism but the Love of the Food one ate as a child." - Lin Yu Tang

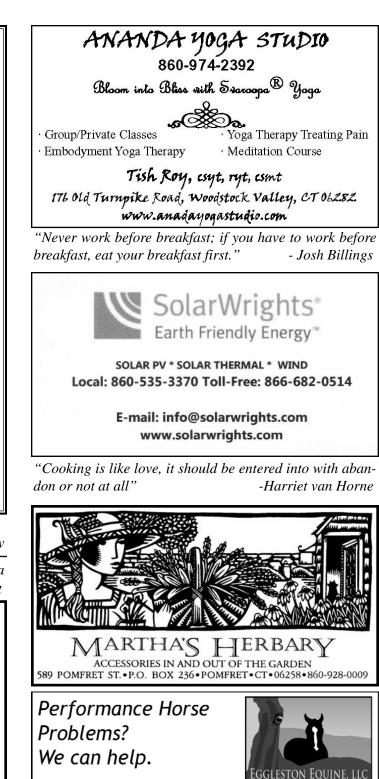
### The Café Cash Card

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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