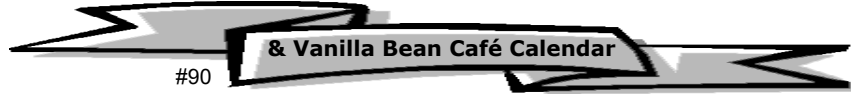




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Northeastern Connecticut

Bean Soup

Information & Entertainment



Issue 23 Number 1

January - March 2018

Free*

Green Valley Hospitality

Green Valley Hospitality (GVH) is the management and marketing company that oversees our 4 restaurants (The Vanilla Bean Café, 85 Main, Dog Lane Café and Fenton River Grill). GVH company was founded in 2015 to create a streamlined approach to management and a more focused approach to marketing. Most of the work handled by GVH are the tasks that would keep the managing partner of each location in the office, and not on the floor managing the restaurant, overseeing staff and keeping the focus on overall quality.

At GVH we also focus on educating our staff and engaging with our local communities. Through training, access to continuing education programs, and creating a friendly and rewarding environment, our staff are provided with a place where they can enjoy working. For our guests, this means immediate, friendly and courteous service by well-trained and educated staff.

Visit Our Restaurants



The Vanilla Bean Café
Pomfret Connecticut
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Real Good Whole Food Since 1989



85 Main
Putnam Connecticut
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Full Bar, Raw Bar, Sushi Bar



Dog Lane Café
Storrs Connecticut
American European Café
Great Food, Coffee Drinks, Desserts



Fenton River Grill
Mansfield Connecticut
New American Comfort Food
Craft Beer, Craft Cocktails

85 Main Wine Tastings

The Wine Cellar at 85 Main has been open for 4 years now and we have hosted many private events, parties and celebrations. This year we will be offering Wine Tastings and Wine Dinners in that warm space that lends itself perfectly for these events. We will be partnering with our purveyors to create a one of a kind offering, all set in the comfortable and inviting surroundings of the wine cellar. Our chefs will work to create delightful pairings with unique wines and fresh ingredients. Dates for 2019 have not been finalized as of this printing, but look for marketing materials in the restaurant, follow us on Facebook, or sign up on our mailing list at www.85main.com. The cellar is also available for private functions any night of the week.

Fenton River Grill Beer Pairings

The bar area at Fenton River Grill is perfect for beer tasting and beer pairing dinners. With 20 beers on tap and a spacious seating area, we can create a special place to offer these types of events. By partnering with local craft breweries, we are able to create unique pairings with creations from our chefs. This year we will invite local breweries to allow us to sample some of their offerings and give insight to the brewing methods and flavor profiles. Look for marketing materials in the restaurant, follow us on Facebook, or sign up on our mailing list at www.fentonrivergrill.com. Watch for Tap Takeovers as well, when we offer reduced prices on local beer.

New Show Time At Vanilla Bean

We began our new show times last quarter with all regular Saturday evening shows beginning at 7:30 (instead of 8:00 pm). This new time will get you home earlier and allow our staff out a little earlier as well. The occasional Sunday evening shows will still be held at 7:00 pm, Sing: The Quiet Corner Song Swap will still be held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Friday of each Month.

Sign up on our mailing list at GreenValleyHospitality.com

The Vanilla Bean Café wants you to know...

The Vanilla Bean Café opened in 1989 with 16 seats

The Vanilla Bean Café is owned by the Jessurun Family

The Vanilla Bean Café is a member of
Green Valley Hospitality

We open 361 days a year. We close on:
Easter Sunday, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving
& Christmas Day

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

Web site: www.TheVanillaBeanCafe.com

E-mail: ask@thevanillabeancafe.com

Address: 450 Deerfield Road
Pomfret Center, Connecticut 06259

Phone: 860-928-1562

Music Booking: Maria Sangiolo
maria@thevanillabeancafe.com

Art Booking: Kayla Murphy
kayla@thevanillabeancafe.com

Bean Soup Ads: Barry Jessurun
barry@gvh-ct.com

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." - Helen Keller

Bean Soup is an information and
entertainment newsletter.



Compiled by Barry Jessurun
Written by Barry Jessurun
Edited by Maria Sangiolo



Layout & Design - Barry Jessurun



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Green Valley Hospitality Pomfret, Connecticut 06258

VBC 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
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**Book Your Next Event
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The Wine Cellar at 85 Main has received many accolades since its opening. The downstairs function room at 85 Main was completely renovated in 2015 and is available for private parties, business meetings, special events and regular dining when it is not booked for a private party. Contact Dawn at 860-928-1660 or send an email to ask@85main.com for more information and available dates.



"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best"
- St. Jerome

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- Mary Oliver

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"I'm just interested in things that move me and make me think, make me laugh."

- Hattie Morahan

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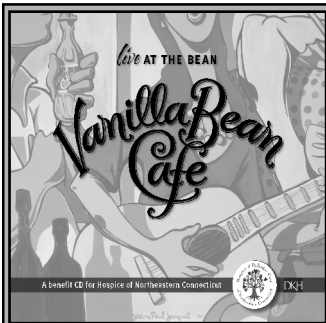
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"Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom."

- Thomas Jefferson



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January Entertainment

Friday - 4 - No Open Mic

Saturday - 6 - No Show

Saturday - 12 - Kerri Powers

From extravagance to simple elegance we went, as **Kerri Powers** took the stage with nothing but a



chair, an acoustic guitar and a tapping tambourine strapped to the toe of her boot. Kerri Powers has been a staple of the New England music scene for the last decade or so, and yet it's been something of a struggle to attain the wider acceptance that's so clearly her due. Powers' supple vocals give these songs a cool caress, creating a quiet aura of authority and conviction only the most accomplished artists have the ability to attain. Powers' own compositions are excellent as always, but the gentle touch she instills in such songs such as Janis Ian's "Jesse" and the oft-covered "To Love Somebody" by the Bee Gees finds these songs sounding like they're being heard for the very first time. Powers is a soulful singer, an extraordinary interpreter and an artist with a decided folk finesse.

Friday - 18 - SING:

The Quiet Corner Song Swap

About... Sing:

Quiet Corner Song Swap

3rd Friday of each Month @ 7:00 pm

After the death of Pete Seeger in 2014, a small group of his admirers joined together to celebrate his life with a sing-along concert at the Hampton Grange. The event was a huge success and gave birth to SING:The Quiet Corner Song Swap. There is no charge and lyrics are available for most songs. They frequently use the folk "hymnal", *Rise Up Singing* and its sequel, *Rise Again* for song lyrics. Participants are encouraged to lead their favorite songs or suggest them to the song leaders of the evening. Bring your voices, your instruments and your ears. This is specifically a night for singing, so please, no fiddle tunes or songs without a place to join in.

"Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same again."

Og Mandino

"Food should be fun." - Thomas Keller

January Entertainment

Saturday - 19 - Howie Bursen & Friends Benefit for NE CT Food Bank

An annual event since the early 1990's. **Howie Bursen** will be joined singer and guitarist **John Bailey**, and **Martin Grosswendt**, who plays anything with strings. Other performers include; **Bennett Hammond**, **Lorraine Hammond**, **Sally Rogers** & **Susanne Salem-Schat**. Bursen is a virtuoso instrumentalist, respected songwriter and an acclaimed true master of the frailed banjo. On top of that, he can sing! Don't miss this great night of entertainment for a great cause!! All proceeds will benefit the Northeast Connecticut Food Bank.



Saturday - 26 - The Wade-Elliott Band

The Vanilla Bean Cafe is happy to present the return of hometown Pomfret based musicians **The Wade Elliott Band**. With their diverse mix of original music ranging from folk, rock, blues and a little country along with a few familiar covers, they are always a crowd pleaser. Their song's lyrics are substantive and homespun, reflecting years of life's experiences. The band brings together creative melodies and chorus hooks and has a great live sound with searing guitar licks, rock-solid drum techniques and tasteful keyboard. Their first album entitled, "Ride This Town", was a part time project and a labor of love for the entire band. The Band has recently completed their second album of entirely original songs entitled "New Tricks." CDs are available for purchase at the show.



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"A man should always consider how much he has more than he wants."
- Joseph Addison

VBC Review Quotables...

"Extremely Tasty" Food - *New York Times*

"Relaxed" Atmosphere - *Boston Globe*

"Truly Bizarre" Service - *New London Day*

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- Shay Mitchell



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- John Muir

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- Pat Conroy*

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*"The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of
our own ignorance."
- Benjamin Franklin*



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rparrow.arborist@gmail.com

February Entertainment

Friday - 1 - Open Mic



**Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Peter Lehndorff -
Feature - Emerald Rae - Fiddler & Folksinger** Emerald Rae brings the duo of strings and song to a new plateau with mesmerizing dexterity.

Saturday - 2 -

Podunk Throwbacks

The **Podunk Throwbacks** began as a duo in 2012 and evolved into a 5-piece band over the years. They



have taken their 3 hours of originals from coffeeshops and hardware stores to the Meriden Daffodil Festival, Podunk Bluegrass Festival

Acoustic stage, the Durham Fair and more. They released their first cd, "Emotional Hemophilia" in 2017, and are getting ready to record their second in the upcoming months. "Throwback" to a time when songwriters did not "woo" listeners with familiar covers while slipping their own works in between but believed in their songs enough to allow them to stand on their own.... that's The Podunk Throwbacks. Songwriter, Todd Skilton, combines life experience with jazz, rock, country, folk & classical influences, providing a little something for everyone to relate to. Together, the Podunk Throwbacks take these musical perceptions of life and "throw them back" with a unique sound, no "gimmicks" or formulation & an energy that keeps the audience engaged.

Saturday - 9 - Vance Gilbert

Vance Gilbert burst onto the singer/songwriter scene in the early 90's when buzz started spreading



in the folk clubs of Boston about an ex-multicultural arts teacher who was knocking 'em dead at open mics. Born and raised in the Philadelphia area, Vance started out hoping to be a jazz singer, and then discovered his affinity for the storytelling sensibilities of acoustic folk music. Once word got out about Gilbert's stage-owning singing and playing, Shawn Colvin invited him to be special guest on her Fat City Tour. Noted not only for being the ever consummate performer, Gilbert has recorded 12 albums, including 4 for Philo/Rounder Records and a duo album with friend Ellis Paul. Along with being opener of choice for artists as varied as Aretha Franklin, Arlo Guthrie, and Anita Baker, 2006 and 2007 found Gilbert opening 140+ shows for comedian George Carlin. Daphne Lee Martin opens the show.

February Entertainment

**Friday - 15 - SING:
The Quiet Corner Song Swap**

**Saturday - 16 -
Spoken Word Night**

Join us for our first Spoken Word Night. The evening will consist of a few writers who have been booked to share their stories and poems, then the mic is open and it's your turn to share a story. This is not only a great opportunity to share work with an audience if you are writer – but it's also well worth being part of the crowd, for a truly unique night out. The suggested donation is \$5.00 and the revenue for the evening will benefit TEEG.

Saturday - 23 - Slograss

The seeds of **SloGrass** were sewn in the summer of 1989 when Dave, Mark and Fran started getting



together once a week to play fiddle tunes for fun and a musical challenge. In the summer of 1993, Bob officially joined the band as its heartbeat on the standup bass. Slo-

Grass plays a mix of vocal and instrumental songs, drawing on various traditions including Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, Folk, American Songbook, Americana, World Music and a few originals. While the name implies a strong connection to Bluegrass music, we love all kinds. Roughly three quarters of our repertoire comes from outside of Bluegrass. Over the past 20 years, SloGrass has performed at the Old Vienna Coffeehouse, John Henry's Hammer Coffeehouse, the Vanilla Bean Coffeehouse, the Grassroots Coffeehouse, Rotman's Club Fantastique, Hezekiah Stone's Coffeehouse, First Night Worcester, weddings, professional events, and many New England summer town gazebo concerts.



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- Rumi

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- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe


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March Entertainment

Friday - 7 - Open Mic



Hosts - Faith Montaperto & Peter Lehndorff - Feature - Boston area singer-songwriter **Mark Stepakoff** is widely admired on the local folk and roots music scene for his trademark mix of wry humorous material and poignant ballads.

Saturday - 1 - Dean Stevens & Maria Sangiolo

For twenty five years **Dean Stevens** has delighted audiences of all ages throughout the Americas. An exuberant performer of distinctive style and wit, he combines an intricate, self-taught guitar style with a versatile and expressive singing voice. He has established himself as a formidable creator and interpreter of a wide spectrum of songs in English and Spanish. His own material explores a variety of personal and social topics, paints sketches of people and places, celebrates the Earth, and annoys the narrow minded.



Maria Sangiolo was awarded a 2016 Artist in Residence Fellowship at the home of Edwin Way Teale, the Teale Memorial Sanctuary, managed by Connecticut Audubon in Hampton, CT. In November, of 2017 she spent a week amidst the birds, wildflowers, trails, trees and ponds, walking, resting and writing. This experience informed a new collection of songs about Teale and his wife Nellie and some of their friends. Some of the songs were co-written with her friend, Alison Davis, a country neighbor to the Teales. She is excited to be writing for adults again, with her newfound creative space.



Saturday - 9 -

Atwater ~ Donnelly

Every performance is surprisingly different and always entertaining, exciting and educational with the award-winning duo **Atwater~Donnelly**, who provide a unique and thrilling blend of traditional American and Celtic folk music and dance, along with original songs and poetry. The highly praised husband-wife duo blends gorgeous vocals with an astounding array of instruments including the mountain dulcimer, old-time banjo, tin whistle, guitar, mandolin, harmonica, limberjacks, feet and more. Their performance is appealing to all ages with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence.



March Entertainment

**Friday - 15 - SING:
The Quiet Corner Song Swap**

Saturday - 15 - Cashel Rock

The Irish band, **Cashel Rock**, features veteran New England artists Peter Lange and Ed Clement, on guitar and vocals, Rachel DiMartino and Carol Sansoucy on vocals, Tim St. Jean, vocals and mandolin, Vikki Baker, vocals, flute and tin whistle, Cathy Day, fiddle and vocals, and, Ned Lange, bodhran. According to Victor Infante of the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, "If you want straight-ahead traditional music with a vibrant feel, then it's hard to do better than Cashel Rock. There's a great spirit about this band, a joyous energy that makes listening to them a great occasion."



According to Victor Infante of the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, "If you want straight-ahead traditional music with a vibrant feel, then it's hard to do better than Cashel Rock. There's a great spirit about this band, a joyous energy that makes listening to them a great occasion."

Sunday - 24 - Peter Mulvey

Peter Mulvey is a veteran singer and songwriter from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He began his career on the streets of Dublin, Ireland, as a busker, and from there moved on to performing in the subways and streets of Boston, Mass. This led to his first record deal and a leap to full-time national and international touring, beginning in the early Nineties. Mulvey is an iconoclast within the singer/songwriter world. Restless and inventive, he has made 17 records, spanning rock and roll, folk, Jazz, spoken word, and Americana. A long-standing gig at the National Youth Science Camp led to a spoken word piece, "Vlad the Astrophysicist", which became a TEDx talk, and then an illustrated book. He has taught songwriting and guitar workshops at the Swannanoa Gathering and at various folk festivals across the U.S. He is best known for his warmly wry songwriting and his intense percussive guitar style.



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"Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom."

- Francis Bacon

Saturday - 30 - Brooks Williams

At the crossroads of blues and American roots music you'll find **Brooks Williams**. The ultimate



triple threat, he is at the top of his game as a guitarist, singer and songwriter. Born in Statesboro, Georgia, the town made famous by the classic Statesboro Blues, Williams did his apprenticeship in the small bars and coffeehouses of New York and New England. With each year and each subsequent album his tours took him further and further afield. The result is an unflagging career that goes from strength to strength. Twenty-eight albums later and his tour schedule has never been busier with shows throughout Europe, North America and the UK. He's ranked in the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists, and "has a beautiful voice," says AmericanaUK, "that you just melt into." That voice earned Brooks a nomination for Best Male Vocalist by Spiral Earth, one of the UK's most respected roots music publications. The San Antonio Light says that Williams is a "fret monster who has to be seen to be believed!"

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- Henry Ford



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Goings on ... at The Bean

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 Wild Boar Sausage Scramble, Roasted Mushroom Omelet, and Chili and Cornbread Benedict. We use only 100% local maple syrup. ☺

Dinner

We are open for dinner Wednesday - Sunday. Each night we run four or five dinner specials. Recent items include: BBQ Chicken Flatbread, Sesame Ahi Tuna Bowl, Seared Scallops, and Korean Pork Mac'n 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.

January – Jane Collins

February - Scott Rhodes

March – Nancy Barrett ☺

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 7:30 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. ☺

"Be Impeccable With Your Word. Speak with integrity. Say only what you mean. Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others. Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love." - Don Miguel Ruiz

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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 \$12.00 menu item is actually \$11.28 + \$.72 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.

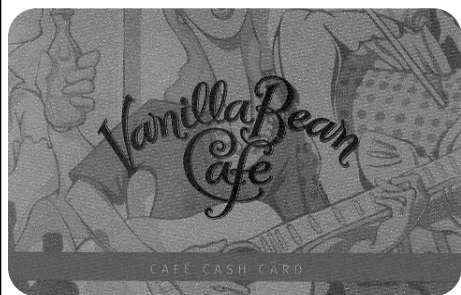
*The Vanilla Bean Café & Dog Lane Café only ☺

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

- Nelson Mandela

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 can be purchased in any amount at the restaurant or online and



are reloadable - add to the card balance at any time! Cards can be used to purchase any menu item at Vanilla Bean Café. **Note:** A bonus of 10%

is added to the card balance when you purchase a card for \$200 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.





*VBC only ☺



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- Phyllis Theroux

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"To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him."
- Buddha

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



All shows start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted

● Friday January 4th No Open Mic		● Saturday February 23rd	-	15.00					
● Saturday January 5th No Show		● Friday March 1st	-	5.00					
● Saturday January 12th		-	10.00	● Saturday March 2nd	-	15.00			
● Friday January 18th		7:00 pm	-	Free	● Saturday March 9th	-	15.00		
● Saturday January 19th		-	20.00	● Friday March 15th	7:00 pm	-	Free		
● Saturday January 26th	-	10.00	● Saturday March 16th	-	15.00	● Saturday March 23rd	-	15.00	
● Friday February 1st	-	5.00	● Sunday March 24th	7:00 pm	-	20.00	● Saturday March 30th	-	15.00
● Saturday February 2nd	-	10.00	● Saturday March 30th	-	15.00				
● Saturday February 9th	-	15.00							
● Friday February 15th	7:00 pm	-	Free						
● Saturday February 16th	-	5.00							

Call ahead, shows are subject to change

Cash or Check Only for show Admissions



P O Box 206
Pomfret CT 06258

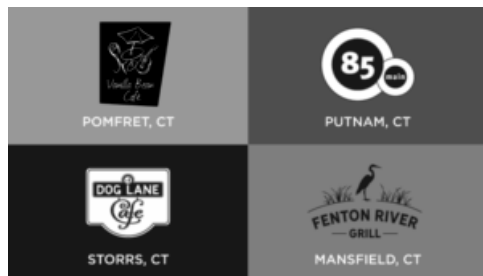
2019 ... What's Happening at The Bean ... 2019 ~ January, February & March ~

****Saturday - January 19th - Howie Bursen & Friends ****

****Food Bank Benefit Show****

****Saturday - February 9th - Vance Gilbert ****

****Sunday - March 24th - Peter Mulvey ****



New Show Times!

All shows start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted

*The Vanilla Bean Cafe will be closing at
3:00 pm on Sundays in January and February*



**Calendar Listings
on your
smart phone**

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