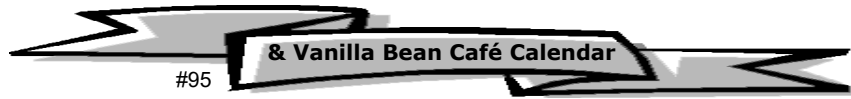




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Information & Entertainment



Issue 24 Number 2

April - June 2020

Free*

85 Main - Celebrating 15 Years in June

This June 22nd will be the 15 year anniversary of our restaurant in Putnam. Opening with style Fifteen years ago, **85 Main** featured a Raw Bar (the only one in Northeastern Connecticut at that time) and offering New American Fusion cuisine.

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 was our sushi chef for a number of years. The creation of a sushi menu added a new dimension, flavors and beautiful creations to our existing menu offerings.



85 Main was 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 and fourth 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 outside of the area customers.

The outside patio area, that was added in 2008, this

addition brought further attention to the restaurant and to the downtown area and helped make Putnam a destination!

In 2014, **85 Main** renovated the downstairs function room. This new room is now a wine cellar function room with stone walls and exposed wine storage and is used for private events as well as for additional seating. Some of the events that have been held in this space include, corporate functions, wedding rehearsals, baby showers, wine dinners, and chef pairings.

Much has changed since 2005 in the town of Putnam and **85 Main** is proud to be a part of the revitalization of this old mill town. Visit **85 Main** in Putnam and see what they have been up to to create a truly exceptional dining experience in Putnam. And check out the rest of Putnam while you are there!

Visit All of Our Restaurants



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Shout Outs

What began as a small café in 1989 has gone on to become a 4-location restaurant group that has created over 40 full-time jobs and over 100 part-time positions in the area, and has employed well over 1000 people since that time.

Every company is shaped by the culture that is created by the owner's vision and daily execution along with the attitude and passion that employees bring to the table (pun intended). While it is the owners who make the entire entity possible, it is the employees who really make our restaurants the standout places that they are, for both the customers and their fellow employees.

continued on page 8

The Vanilla Bean Café wants you to know...

The Vanilla Bean Café opened in 1989 with 16 seats

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The Vanilla Bean Café is a member of
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*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
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Phone: 860-928-1562


Music Booking: Maria Sangiolo
maria@thevanillabeancafe.com


Art Booking: Kayla Densmore
kayla@thevanillabeancafe.com

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

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world."* - Anne Frank

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

We Thought You Should Know

October 1st of 2019, the State of Connecticut implemented a new 1% additional Sales Tax on restaurants. That means the consumer at restaurants will be paying 7.35% sales tax. The State has also implemented a 10% Spirit Excise Tax that will be passed onto restaurants and package stores in wholesale costs. Not only that, but beginning at the same time, the state Minimum Wage increased from \$10.10 per hour to \$11.00 per hour. It will increase every 11 months by \$1.00 until it reaches \$15.00 per hour on June 1st of 2023. In 4 years, this will increase the minimum wage by 48%. This will in turn cause menu prices to increase a minimum of 25% in that time frame, but most likely more than that as the increases incurred by our suppliers are passed along to us as well. Throughout this time, we will hold true to our commitment to high quality, hand-prepared foods at all our restaurants. We will implement price increases throughout this time to keep up with this rapid rising cost of business. We are completely unsure how this will play out for our business model. ☹

"Music is an outburst of the soul."

- Frederick Delius

"The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. The fears are paper tigers. You can do anything you decide to do. You can act to change and control your life; and the procedure, the process is its own reward."

- Amelia Earhart

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- Oprah Winfrey*



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April Entertainment

Friday - 3 - Open Mic



Host Peter Lehndorff - Feature - Lara Herscovitch is a gem of a modern American troubadour. A singer-songwriter-poet and performer, her highly original modern folk is spiced with blues, pop and jazz influences.

Saturday - 4 - The Revenants

Bluegrass Gospel Project alums Taylor Armerding, Andy Greene, and Kirk Lord have come together to



present original, time-honored, and contemporary Americana music to venues throughout New England.

The Revenants showcase compelling, intricately braided vocals, richly textured instrumental work, and solid, innovative rhythm, the three band members bring decades of performing experience to the stage. Through their many years of musical collaboration, they speak soulfully with one voice.

Saturday - 11 -

Songwriter Showcase

Singer/Songwriters in the Round

We turn our stage over to artists we have met through our long-running Open Mic nights. **Lisa Martin** ran the Hootenanny/Songwriter Sessions at The Vanilla



Bean Café for several years.

Lisa's music bridges the elements of folk, rock, country and blues with her pop sensibilities, heartfelt delivery and quick wit. **Gracie Day** was our September featured artist. Her EP, the Nashville Sessions, is

"a remarkably dense and richly textured piece of work, one that showcases Day's smoky vocals and extraordinary phrasing." -*Worcester Telegram & Gazette*. **Steve Dedman**, frontman for Americana band "Plywood Cowboy," writes heart-born songs that interweave country roots with singer-songwriter traditions. He was most recently featured in March.

Bob Chabot was a Kerrville finalist and a member of the Fast Folk Songwriting community. He will be the Open Mic Feature in June.

Friday - 17 - SING:

The Quiet Corner Song Swap

April Entertainment

Saturday - 18 - Lui Collins

Folk singer/songwriter **Lui Collins** has been performing, writing and recording for over 40 years,



her early Philo and Green Linnet recordings earning international acclaim and establishing her as a respected voice in the folk world. Lui has shared the stage with such notables

as Pete Seeger, Bonnie Raitt, Stan Rogers, Dar Williams, and John Gorka. Renowned guitarist Dave van Ronk called her "one of the best guitarist-arrangers I have heard in years." From playful 4-string arrangements of some favorite original songs, to the fabulous jazz chords in American standards and bossa nova, Lui translates her rich and complex guitar arrangements onto her tenor ukulele to create something unexpected and delightful.

Saturday - 25 - Andrew McKnight

Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, award-winning



folk/Americana artist **Andrew McKnight's** musical journey has traced nearly a million miles of blue highways, and earned him a wealth of critical acclaim and enthusiastic fans for his

captivating performances and nine recordings. Andrew's solo performances are powerful and entertaining one-man theatre, delivered with warmth and down-home comfort. He weaves his finely-crafted songs and nimble flatpicking together with humorous stories and poetic drama, while the musical soundscape traverses influences from Appalachia, spooky slide and jazzy blues, feisty anthems, and rustic folk.

Sunday - 26 - Kala Farnham CD Release Show!

Nestled away in the Quiet Corner of rural Connecticut, a pint-sized songstress set out into the world



with one vision: to inspire and heal through the transformative power of music. Decades later, Kala has performed at listening rooms across the country, garnering numerous awards

and media attention, including The Rose Garden Performing Songwriter Contest 2019 winner and alumni of the prestigious Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project. Drawing from a classical education and a professional background in musical theater, Kala presents a hallmark reinvention of the folk tradition.

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- Bernard M. Baruch

About... SING: Quiet Corner Song Swap

3rd Fridays* 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.

*Things happen - Check the calendar for exact dates.

"We must not allow other people's limited perceptions to define us."

- Virginia Satir

"Music is the shorthand of emotion." - Leo Tolstoy

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 - Helen Keller

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May Entertainment

Friday - 1 - Open Mic



Host Peter Lehndorff - Feature - Lisa Martin - Bridging the elements of folk, rock, country and blues, Martin's music has an intense back beat rarely found within the folk genre. Her songs are melodic and catchy. She has a knack for wringing out all the passion that can possibly fit into a 3-minute song.

Saturday - 2 - 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.



Saturday - 9 -

Kat Wallace and David Sasso

Kat Wallace and David Sasso met playing hard and fast bluegrass with New Haven string band Five 'n Change. Their shared background in classical music and affinity for all things trad brought them together to form an intimate and virtuosic duo. With fiddle and a variety of mandolin-family instruments, Wallace and Sasso orbit around traditional folk, original songwriting, and the ever-evolving Americana movement. Their effortless vocal lines and innovative harmonization command the stage while allowing space for each song to tell its story.



Friday - 15 - My Word!

This one is going to be a lovely night of female poets. The evening will consist of reading by published writers, followed by an Open Mic for any writers or storytellers who want to join the fun and share a story. Christine Kalafus will be the emcee for this evening of storytelling. The featured readers will include Emilee Kilburn, Danielle Pieratti (CT Book Award for poetry), Claudia McGhee, Jessie McEntee, and Luisa Caycedo-Kimura. Benefit for TEEG.

May Entertainment

Saturday - 16 - Sally Rogers

Folk singer, songwriter and educator **Sally Rogers** has performed from coast to coast for forty years!



She has performed for audiences around the world at festivals, concerts, schools, and most any other public place you can imagine. Sally is equally talented at stirring a crowd to sing, or at using music to draw out even the shyest child in a classroom to become an active and enthusiastic participant. Widely known for her crystal clear voice, Sally accompanies herself with guitar, banjo and mountain dulcimer. As an accomplished songwriter, Sally's most beloved songs *Lovely Agnes*, *Circle of the Sun*, and *What Can One Little Person Do?*, have become staples in the folk world.

Friday - 22 - SING: The Quiet Corner Song Swap

Saturday - 23 - 'eck 'n Call

'eck 'n Call was co-founded by David Hagan and John Woolfenden in 2011. They met and reconnected with future members of



the group at a monthly bluegrass jam. They play eclectic Americana, including Bluegrass, Celtic, Blues, Gospel, retro pop and originals. Hailing from Woodstock are members David Hagan (mandolins, guitar), Janet Lamarre (alto, flute), and Rick Lamarre (guitar). Jen Beck (soprano) lives in Mansfield Center, John Woolfenden (banjo, guitar) in Willington, and Paul Bernier (bass) in Brooklyn.

Saturday - 30 - Joel Cage

Joel Cage is an award winning veteran singer/songwriter from Boston. Once a member of the internationally acclaimed rock & roll group



Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes, Joel has been performing regionally and nationally as a soloist for the past 2 decades. He has performed at some of the most prestigious folk & acoustic venues & festivals in the country, including the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas where he was awarded top prize in the Kerrville New Folk Competition. A virtuoso guitarist and an impassioned vocalist, Joel Cage's music is both evocative and raucous. He spans the gamut from sounding like a full rock band to 'hear your own heartbeat' intimacy.

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Shout Outs (cont. from page 1)

We want to take a few moments here to shout out to some existing employees and partners who really make a difference to our organization.

James Martin, our managing partner at 85 Main began as a dishwasher at the Bean in 1990. He went on to work many other places until he came back to us as a manager in 2000. After spending an additional 3 years with us, he moved to Florida to attempt a restaurant of his own. That did not work out as he intended, and he returned to Connecticut in 2005 to open 85 Main with us. Fifteen years on, the place speaks for itself.

Kayla (Murphy) Densmore began with us as a babysitter when she was 13 years old. She began working at the Cafe in 2002. In 2006 she transitioned to 85 Main to be the Bar Manager. She left that position to become the Restaurant Manager at the Bean in 2010. She is currently the GM of the Bean and acts as a Regional Manager for all the other restaurants due to her vast knowledge of operations. She can function in just about every position at all the restaurants.

Tiffany Siefert, the General Manager at Dog Lane Café, began working with us at the Bean in 2004. She left to work at one of the Casino's in 2008 and left there to open her own business in Putnam in 2010. She came back to work with us when we opened Dog Lane Café in 2012 and has helped that restaurant with its success.

Scott Fredrich, our Head Chef at Dog Lane Café, began working at the Bean in 2008. And worked with us for 3 years before moving into a Head Chef position with a new restaurant closer to his home. He came back to us in 2012 to help open Dog Lane Café. He was also as our startup Head Chef at Fenton River Grill for its first year of operation and then transitioned back to Dog Lane Café because he liked the fast-paced style of service that we offer at that location.

Steve Smith joined our organization as a managing partner at Dog Lane Café, and he brought with him a wealth of experience for his 20+ years with a restaurant group in Mystic. Steve was instrumental in the start up of Dog Lane Café and is now the managing partner of our newest location in Mansfield, Fenton River Grill, that opened in 2018. Steve still oversees the operations at Dog Lane Café and you will see him at both locations throughout the week.

Donna Ayres LaPointe has been our bookkeeper since 1999. She makes it look easy handling the books for 4 restaurants and 2 property accounts – all in a part-time capacity.

While this space is too small to shout out to all of

June Entertainment

Friday - 1 - Open Mic



Host Peter Lehndorff - Feature - Job Chabot - was a Kerrville Folk Festival finalist and a member of the Fast Folk Songwriting community. He resides in Northampton and is often at the Open Mic at Luthier's Co-op in Easthampton. He is also a member of the songwriting group, Song Spinners.

Friday - 19 - SING: The Quiet Corner Song Swap

Shout Outs (cont.)

our employees who have helped us become what we are today, we want mention a few more here; Jennifer Coomey, current Kitchen Manager/Chef at the Bean who began working with us in 1997 and has worked for us on and off both at the Bean and 85 Main throughout that time. Lynn Poulin, lead server at 85 Main has been with us since day 1 of the operation (2005). Diane Petre, head of maintenance at 85 Main (2005). Dawn Hehir, Event Coordinator and day bartender at 85 Main (2008). Eric Marrish, Head Chef at 85 Main has worked with us at that location on and off since 2006. Sarah Matteau, Restaurant Manager at the Bean (2015). Zack Brown, Sous Chef at 85 Main began working with us at the Bean in 2004. We thank and appreciate you all, and all those employees we have enjoyed working with over our 30+ years in business.

"Creativity is intelligence having fun!"
- Albert Einstein.

"Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."
- Carl Bard



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Goings on ... at The 'ean

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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 Bayou Scallop Benedict, Roasted Mushroom Omelet, and Almond Joy Pancakes. 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: Seared Duck Breast, Thai Shrimp Bowl, Seared Scallops, and Roasted Mushroom 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.

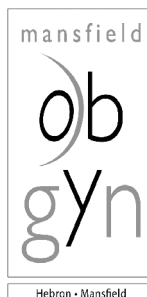
April – Denise Melucci

May – NECT Art Guild

June – 'lanche Serban ☺

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. ☺



Hebron • Mansfield

Roa Alammari, MD, FACOG
Robert Gildersleeve, MD, FACOG
Lesley Gumbs, MD, FACOG
Veronica Helgans, MD, FACOG
Yvette Martas, MD, FACOG
Devon Root, CNM, W.H.N.P.-B.C.
Stephanie Welsh, CNM

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Our Pricing Practices*

1. Sales Tax Included - Our prices include the 6.35% Connecticut Sales Tax + the 1% Restaurant Tax. The prices listed on the menu are exactly what you pay. Our prices may seem to be inflated; however, a \$14.00 menu item is actually \$13.04 + \$.96 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 \$11.95 is less expensive than \$12.00. 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.

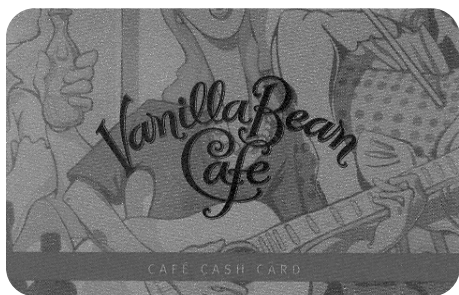
*The Vanilla Bean Café & Dog Lane Café only ☺

"Success comes not from having certainty, but from being able to live with uncertainty."

- Jeffrey Fry

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



All shows start at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted

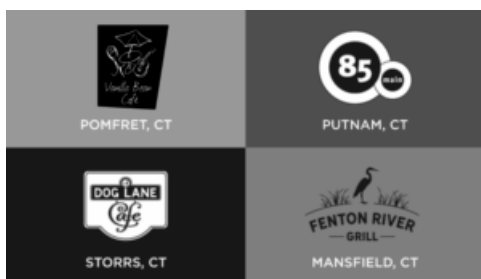
- | | | | | | |
|--|---------|-------|---|---------|-------|
| ● Friday April 3rd | - | 5.00 | ● Friday May 15th | - | 5.00 |
| Open Mic - Lara Herscovitch | | | My Word! - Spoken Word Night | | |
| ● Saturday April 4th | - | 15.00 | TEEG Benefit | | |
| The Revenants | | | ● Saturday May 16th | - | 15.00 |
| ● Saturday April 11th | - | 15.00 | Sally Rogers | | |
| Songwriter Showcase | | | ● Friday May 22nd | 7:00 pm | Free |
| 'ob Chabot, Lisa Martin, Steve Dedman & Gracie Day | | | SING: The Quiet Corner Song Swap | | |
| ● Friday April 17th | 7:00 pm | Free | ● Saturday May 23rd | - | 12.00 |
| SING: The Quiet Corner Song Swap | | | 'eck n' Call | | |
| ● Saturday April 18th | - | 15.00 | ● Saturday May 30th | - | 15.00 |
| Lui Collins | | | Joel Cage | | |
| ● Saturday April 25th | - | 15.00 | ● Friday June 5th | - | 5.00 |
| Andrew McKnight | | | Open Mic - 'ob Chabot | | |
| ● Sunday April 26th | 6:00 pm | 15.00 | ● Friday June 19th | 7:00 pm | Free |
| Kala Farnham - <i>CD Release</i> | | | SING: The Quiet Corner Song Swap | | |
| ● Friday May 1st | - | 5.00 |
** <i>Special Appearance in September</i> **
..... | | |
| Open Mic - Lisa Martin | | | ● Saturday September 19th ● | | |
| ● Saturday May 2nd | - | 15.00 | Pierce Pettis | | |
| Atwater~Donnelly | | | Call ahead, shows are subject to change
Cash or Check Only for show Admissions | | |
| ● Saturday May 9th | - | 12.00 | | | |
| Kat Wallace and David Sasso | | | | | |



P O ' ox 206
Pomfret CT 06258

2020 ... What's Happening at The Bean ... 2020 ~ April, May & June ~

- **Saturday - April 18th - Lui Collins ****
****Saturday - May 2nd - Atwater~Donnelly ****
****Saturday - May 16th - Sally Rogers ****



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