

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

MARCH 4TH BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING BRIEFS

Internal Audit Project

The board approved a \$58,500 contract with Clifton Larson Allen LLP (CLA) under the previously approved master service agreement.

Vehicle Accessories

The board approved a \$6,925.08 contract with Specialty Warning to outfit the new Animal Control vehicle.

NCPD Purchase Order

A \$10,000 blanket purchase order with Angel Armor was approved for the purchase of new ballistic vests for the New Canaan Police Department.

Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Grant

The First Selectman, Dionna Carlson, is authorized to accept on behalf of the Town of New Canaan, a 2025 Connecticut STEAP Grant in the amount of \$300,000 funds to construct an All-Abilities Playground in Waveny Park. If the grant is not awarded, officials will reassess options.

Motorola All Band Radios

The board approved a \$29,881.03 contract with Motorola Solutions for the purchase of three Motorola APX8000 All-Band Portable Radios. These radios will enhance communication between emergency responders and improve coordination during incidents.

Softball Field Fence Replacement

A \$40,250 contract with Exterior Living LLC was approved for fence replacements at the Orchard and Water Tower softball fields. The project will be fully funded by the New Canaan Softball Association.

POLICE AND FIRE K-9 Lito Receives Medical Bag



New Canaan Police K-9 Lito received a medical bag from Blue Line Jars, nonprofit supporting police and working K-9 units. The organization provides equipment like ballistic vests and first aid kits through donations. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

NCPD Visits Nursery School



The New Canaan Police Department visited Toddlertime Nursery School to teach students about police work. Children toured police vehicles, learned about fingerprint collection, and saw police equipment. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

TOWN HALL Outdoor Dining Season Shift

The New Canaan Board of Selectmen approved shifting the outdoor dining season to May 1st through the first Sunday of November. Permit fees will stay the same this year.

New Chief Building Official

The New Canaan Board of Selectmen appointed Scott Becker as chief building official for a four-year term.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Fiscal Restraint Defines Public Hearing

By ELIZABETH BARHYDT

At the March 4, 2025, New Canaan Board of Finance public hearing, board members reviewed the proposed 2026 fiscal year budget, detailing reductions in taxation and bonded capital requests while reaffirming the town's strong financial standing. The hearing, intended to gather public input, saw no residents come forward to comment. Chairman Todd Lavieri acknowledged this, stating, "We could simply move on in our agenda, and I suppose if someone joined, we could call an audible, let them speak. Keep us posted."

The meeting can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yOs3aUsEL8>

Lavieri began by explaining the budget process, then outlined three primary goals: "First is to fund all the necessary school needs, police, fire, EMS needs, health and human services, fund the town infrastructure, fund the town buildings, registrar voting, and all the other services that we have. Secondly, manage the debt—and that was a big topic this year—and any other longer-term financial guidelines and objectives. And then thirdly, challenge really and discuss the operating and capital requests that we get in order to represent the taxpayers' desire for services with an eye on the impact of those costs on taxes."

He emphasized the town's financial health, stating, "As we've discussed over the past few years, our town financials remain in very good shape." He noted the school district's continued success: "Our school district was ranked number one after a steady decade-plus-long process of climbing

up the ladder to reach the top spot. This has been a focus of this town for many years, and together with our great administration, terrific teachers, motivated and engaged parents and students, and the support of our taxpayers, we continue to have a great school district." He added that the school budget accounts for 70% of the town's total budget.

Other highlights included the town's investment in infrastructure and facilities: "Our playhouse movie theater won an award for the best refurbished theater in the country. If we want a theater, we need to go to the theater." He pointed to the town's pension funding, stating, "Our pensions remain overfunded, reflecting the ethical responsibility we have always believed as a town to ensure that our commitments are met and that the can is not kicked down the road, penalizing future residents and taxpayers." He also remarked on the quality of public assets and emergency services, saying, "Our other assets—parks, roads, and facilities—continue to meet the high usage and demand that our residents require, and our downtown has never looked better." Additionally, "Our emergency services, including fire, police, and EMS, have collectively responded to thousands of calls and incidents over the past year."

Budget reductions were a focal point, with Lavieri reporting, "We've reduced the amount of taxation by \$4 million from the budget that we received a month ago. We've also reduced the bonded capital request by \$4.8 million." He underscored the primary driver of tax increases, stating, "Interesting fact—and again, we'll clarify this on Thursday—but 94%

of the increase in the amount raised by taxation is driven by salary and benefit cost increases. 94%."

The board also discussed the impact of declining car tax revenues. Lavieri noted, "With the change in the state legislation around car taxes, we lost \$26 million in assessed value of cars, which translates into about a half a million dollar reduction in taxes coming into the town."

Finance Director Josh Kagan provided an update on the town's borrowing, stating, "We bonded just about \$35 million. The total interest cost was 3.34%. The premium was 1.912, and the net interest cost was 11.6." Lavieri reflected on the cuts to capital spending, remarking, "I'm not sure we've ever cut that much capital before. Could be a record."

Board members reviewed the town's debt, noting a total outstanding debt of approximately \$139 million, with \$7 million scheduled for repayment this year.

Members addressed the Dunning Stadium scoreboard project. The proposed resolution reads: "Resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$201,000 for the Dunning Stadium 2026 project and the financing of said appropriation by the issuance of general obligation bonds of the town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$201,000."

Board members reviewed cost estimates and potential fundraising efforts to cover a \$14,000 funding gap, with expected contributions from the All Sports Booster Club and the PFA.

With no additional public comments, the board adjourned and will vote on the final budget on Thursday, March 6, 2025.

BOF Scrutinizes 2026 Budget, Reduces Capital Expenditures

By ANNE WHITE

The New Canaan Board of Finance conducted an in-depth review of the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget on Feb. 27, deliberating on school funding, municipal expenses, and capital project allocations. Officials identified areas for cost reductions and adjusted spending priorities while maintaining essential investments.

Budget Overview and Board of Education Adjustments

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bryan Luizzi presented a comparative analysis of New Canaan's budget requests against neighboring school districts, noting that the town's proposed 4.67% increase aligns with the regional average of 4.65%. Luizzi detailed historical budget trends, demonstrating a consistent return of unused funds to the town, averaging \$690,000 annually over the past decade.

Insurance costs remained a central topic, with Luizzi highlighting differences between New Canaan's self-insured model and Darien's fully insured plan. The Board of Finance emphasized the need for continued monitoring, with Luizzi agreeing to present a deeper analysis at a future meeting.

The Board requested an additional \$550,000 reduction in operating expenses. Luizzi outlined a potential

strategy through staff attrition and operational efficiencies, with final recommendations expected at next week's meeting.

Capital Budget Adjustments

Board members scrutinized capital expenditures, ultimately reducing bonded capital by approximately \$4 million. Key changes include:

Dunning Stadium Project: The \$2 million request was reduced to \$200,000, funding only the design phase, with construction deferred to the following fiscal year.

Irwin Park Guest House: The board opted to allocate \$400,000 for environmental remediation and demolition, eliminating a \$1.3 million restoration plan.

Waveny Park Elevator Project: Finalized engineering designs will allow elevator installation in early 2026, ensuring compliance with accessibility requirements.

Town Hall Repairs and Infrastructure Projects: The board bundled several town building repairs into a single bonded request, consolidating \$486,000 in projects.

Further reductions included reallocations from prior-year capital balances and eliminating redundant requests. The board also postponed energy conservation initiatives, parking facility upgrades, and several minor infrastructure projects.

General Government and Revenue Adjustments

The town's operating budget reflects a modest 1.6% increase, with salary adjustments and departmental reorganizations accounting for most changes. Notable shifts include:

First Selectman's Office: The budget reflects the reassignment of a grant writer and HR generalist, reallocating salaries across departments.

IT Expenses: Service contract costs increased, including a \$65,000 shift from capital to operating expenses for cybersecurity measures.

Registrar of Voters: The budget includes early voting mandates, which have driven election-related costs higher despite the absence of a presidential election in FY26.

Affordable Housing Committee Request: A late addition of \$30,000 for a feasibility study on potential housing sites is pending board review.

Next Steps

The Board of Finance held a public hearing on March 4 (see story above), which will be followed by a final budget vote tonight at 7pm, March 6. Chairman Todd Lavieri emphasized the importance of fiscal discipline, stating, "We've made significant progress in reducing taxpayer burden while ensuring that critical projects move forward."

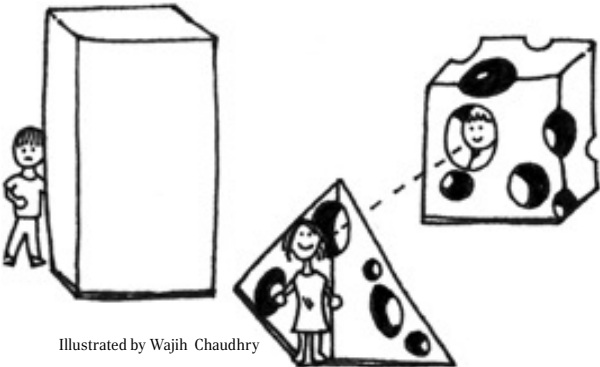
Swiss Cheese

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

We prefer to look like solid blocks of cheddar cheese perfection, but it is through the Swiss cheese holes of our humanity that we connect with each other. It is healthy to let others who have earned our trust see our vulnerabilities.

Cheddar cheeses are lonely. Swiss cheeses are relatable. Our closest friends are those we have invited to see through our "holes." They see us! This is true intimacy. Trustworthy people celebrate our accomplishments and, more importantly, comfort, encourage, and challenge us during times of loss and discouragement. We do the same for them.

André avoided risk and strangers. He liked being a wall of cheddar. His solid wall felt like protection—armor developed during a difficult childhood. In professional settings, his armor worked well, but André was lonely. He



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

wanted a life partner and closer friendships. As he developed the courage to reveal his true self through his human "holes," he grew closer to his friends and found a partner.

Excerpted from Jill Woolworth's book, *The Waterwheel*.

COLUMN

Conversations with the Community: Staying Put

By GERI RHOADES

Over the past decade, I've observed my friends struggling with how to support their aging parents. Some have relocated them closer for easier care, while others have assisted them in staying in their homes and aging in place. The concept of aging in place, a term used to describe people living in their chosen residence as they grow older, began gaining traction in the 1970s and became more prominent in the 1980s and 1990s.

My husband and I did a bit of both. We moved to Florida to be close to my mother. He was retired, and I traveled for work so we could live anywhere while she remained in her home.

Like 86% of people over 65, according to an AARP study, my mother wanted to age in place. However, after suffering several strokes that led to dementia, she could no longer live independently. Consequently, we assisted her in moving from an independent living facility to dependent living and, finally, memory care before her passing.

It was a difficult journey for us all. After she passed away, we left Florida and moved to New Canaan a few years ago. To our surprise, this town is not only wonderful in general but also excellent for aging in place, partly due to organizations like Staying Put.

In 2006, residents of New Canaan who valued the community and its resources and were committed to living independently sought to introduce the aging in place concept locally. Staying Put in New Canaan was founded in 2008 to help seniors live confidently in their homes and actively participate in the community as they age.

Staying Put is regarded as the premiere suburban model of aging in place. They offer innovative programs and services, engage in strategic discussions on aging in place issues, and guide emerging villages.

Here's how Staying Put operates: the organization is open to all New Canaan residents aged 65 and older. It is membership-based, with annual dues of \$400 for individuals and \$500 for couples. Executive Director Gina Blum states, "We never want dues to hinder people from joining, so we have a scholarship fund, which many local philanthropic organizations help to support, ensuring everyone can access our services." The average age is 84, with a male/female ratio of 30% to 70%.

Membership dues cover about 20% of the cost of services. Fundraising covers the rest of over \$400,000 needed for operating expenses. Staying Put conducts a town-wide annual appeal and an annual fundraiser soiree, both critical to their continued success.

As I approach my 65th birthday, aging in place has become increasingly important. In my short time living in New Canaan, I've formed cherished friendships, participated in weekly canasta and mahjong groups, and created meaningful connections. I would love to age in place here and am thankful for an organization that can assist me.

If you think it's too early for me to start worrying about this, recent research indicated that while 86% of adults aged 65 and over want to age in place, only a small fraction of them have considered the changes they would need to make. Experts recommend we start planning well before it becomes necessary—ideally in our mid-50s or earlier.

Experts recommend considering five key pillars for aging in place:

1. Housing: Aging often requires home modifications for safety and accessibility. Essential adjustments include ground-floor bedrooms and bathrooms, grab bars, non-slip flooring, and ramps. Staying Put helps seniors with minor home repairs, technology assistance, and referrals to trusted service providers. Volunteers, including the New Canaan SLOBS, assist with seasonal tasks. Certified specialists evaluate homes for safe, independent living.

2. Health & Wellness: Beyond medical care, aging well includes a balanced diet, physical activity, cognitive health, and chronic condition management. Staying Put offers programs on these topics and collaborates with Meals on Wheels to support members.

3. Finance: Managing retirement income requires careful planning. Seniors must assess long-term care, home modifications, and financial resources. Staying Put connects members with experts and educates them on elder fraud risks.

4. Transportation: Mobility challenges make daily errands and appointments harder. Staying Put provided over 2,100 rides last year but needs more volunteer drivers. They ensure all drivers are well-qualified to assist seniors.

5. Social Interaction: Isolation poses significant health risks. Staying Put combats loneliness through social gatherings, excursions, and an open-door policy for drop-ins and conversation. Their March newsletter featured 11 planned activities.

I would have greatly benefited from a resource like Staying Put to help me navigate my mother's last chapter. At the time, I was unaware of such an option and didn't think of seeking it out. It would have provided both of us with more peace of mind. In a recent survey, 100% of Staying Put members indicated that Staying Put in New Canaan helps them live confidently at home and stay engaged in the community—an impressive result not commonly achieved by many organizations.

Staying Put is supported by a caring, professional staff and a network of local volunteers that provide highly personalized assistance to their members. Additionally, they collaborate with local organizations and resources to maximize member services and opportunities. To learn more about Staying Put, you can reach their staff at 203-966-7762, visit their downtown office at 58 Pine Street (entrance in the back), or explore their resources online at www.stayingputnc.org.



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Doug Zumbach: Coffee Impresario

By JOHN KRIZ

Step into Zumbach’s Gourmet Coffee shop on the corner of Pine and Grove Streets and you’ll get the vibe of a classic New England general store: townspeople discussing local news, greeting neighbors, and fortifying themselves with not just freshly brewed, but just-custom-roasted, coffee. And everyone knows your name.

Overseen by Doug Zumbach, its jovial, eponymous owner, Zumbach’s Gourmet Coffee has become not only a New Canaan – if not regional -- institution, but also an anchor retailer in what has evolved into a vital food hub, with neighbors Tony’s Deli, Miyuki’s Noodle Shop, Dante’s Pizza and Greens On The Go.

How It Began

Hailing from Yonkers, Doug spent his early years working in human resources for Fortune 500 companies, but became “tired of the career path. I wanted to work for myself.” His first step out was managing a small gourmet food store in Mount Kisco. “And in that store were three containers of what we now call gourmet coffee. And this is in 1991.”

Doug observed the shoppers of Mount Kisco and saw them “buying this [gourmet] coffee and not canned coffee -- Maxwell House, Taster’s Choice, Folgers...like everyone was doing.” And then the lightbulb is illuminated. “What is this?” So Doug started doing some research. “The gourmet coffee industry in 1991 was in its infancy. It was just starting when I opened up in 1992. Starbucks had three stores, so I was very fortunate to have discovered the industry in the beginning.”

Doug went to the West Coast where gourmet coffee was developing, eventually finding his way to Oakland, California “where there was a lot of roasting of coffee going on.” He found a roasting school there, and “it was in a warehouse with about four roasters and it was a little guy just teaching people how to roast coffee. And I enrolled and it was like a two-day course and I loved it. I loved that aspect of the business -- the roasting aspect -- because you turn something into your own product. You’re not buying coffee from someone else. It’s my product.” He was hooked.

Returning to Vista, where he was living at the time, Doug just said “I’m going in the coffee business.’ And that’s how it started, not knowing anything about really the industry.” The next task was finding space. Doug would “travel through Westchester towns like Scarsdale, Rye. Then I’d come up into Greenwich, New Canaan and Westport, Southport looking for space.” That’s when he found his location here. “I looked at the space. It’s visible. It has its own parking. And at that time people thought I was nuts for not going up on Elm Street.”

“This was kind of desolate down here,” Doug notes. “It’s not like it is today. So I sat outside in a lawn chair with a clicker, counting cars going north, counting cars going south, and I estimated, well, if I get a certain number each way coming into my parking lot, I could make a go of it.”

“I opened up on a Monday,” Doug recalls, and suddenly “the town closed me down. There was something wrong -- if I remember correctly, the plumbing in my espresso

It seems people make many errors when brewing coffee. But fear not: just ask Doug for advice, and not simply generic advice

machine. It didn’t meet code.” So a plumber was called, the issue was fixed, the town gave its stamp of approval, and Zumbach’s Gourmet Coffee was on its way.

The store re-opened on a Tuesday, and “I stood here all day long and no one came in and I thought, ‘What have I done?’”

“The local newspaper gave me a little blurb, but they called me a delicatessen, not a coffee roaster. Now I’m having people coming in asking for roast beef on rye and stuff, and I’m having to tell them what I am and they just scratched their heads left.” The local newspaper provided a more correct post, and “the next week people started coming in, more out of curiosity. David Letterman, when he was a resident of New Canaan, came in.” News of that visit got out “and it took off.” For the next three months Doug worked on his own, and then hired his first employee and “never looked back. It’s a wonderful industry. It still grows. I meet great people. I’m lucky.”

Though Zumbach’s Gourmet Coffee shop does sell brewed, whole bean and ground coffee, and some tea, “I have always thought I’m a coffee roaster,” stresses Doug. According to Doug, his “main competition has always been not the Dunkin’ Donuts, not the Starbucks, or anyone else who sells coffee. My main competition in New Canaan is the supermarkets.” What Doug emphasizes is that his “business is fresh roasted coffee.”

Doug doesn’t see Starbucks as competition, though he does monitor their prices. Nevertheless, Doug concedes that “Starbucks does a lot for this industry. They’re always in the paper, they’re always promoting and they’ve introduced coffee to multiple generations of kids.” Doug believes Starbucks has “gotten away from coffee.” And then there’s the time it takes to make those concoctions. Result? Barista back-ups.

Another piece of Doug’s coffee business is the wholesale side: “restaurants, caterers, corporations, country clubs -- over probably forty wholesale customers every year,” says Doug. In addition, there’s the mail order side. “We ship it to Florida, Texas, California. I’ve shipped it as far as London. This is a very transient town at times. So people will love my coffee for ten years and then move to California, but they still remain customers.”

C&C

No description of Doug Zumbach is complete without mentioning Caffeine

& Carburetors, which he started as a small gathering of gearheads at his coffee shop, and has since evolved into one of the largest auto enthusiast events on the East Coast. With thousands of attendees and over 1500 vehicles – mostly classic sports cars, but trucks, motorcycles and newer specialty cars, too – C&C has become a signature happening in New Canaan. C&C donates money raised from participants to charities.

New Businesses

In addition to his current shop, and wholesale and mail order businesses, Doug has two new ventures in the works. One is the Caffeine & Carburetors Café, to be housed in the nearby building that now has Dante’s, Miyuki’s and Greens On The Go. According to Doug, it’s “going to be more geared towards the automotive clientele,” with small events and speakers – and coffee. “Many of my sponsors for Caffeine & Carburetors are interested in having the opportunity for a space to promote their products,” such as the introduction of a new automobile.

Doug’s other new venture is The Factory, a café and roastery on Burtis Avenue, across from the condominiums now being built. The plan is for The Factory to have its own coffee line and merchandise. One of that location’s features that attracted Doug and his daughter Claire Drexler, who works closely with her dad on his businesses, is that “there’s some wonderful space on the outside.” And there’s parking right in front.

Both Caffeine & Carburetors Café and The Factory are scheduled to open soon.

Choosing the Coffee

When choosing which coffees to buy, Doug notes that “they all have different flavor characteristics. And then there are the blends, which he creates himself. “It’s kind of like cooking. You have ten spices, you mix well. Same with coffee.” An African, a South American, an Indonesian – all have “individual flavor characteristics.”

So is there a terroir in coffee, as there is in wine? Yes, declares Doug. Raw coffee is a function of four things: Soil, altitude, sunshine and moisture – rain and mist. Of these, “it’s altitude first. The higher quality coffees are grown at 3000 feet and above, on mountains. If you picture the equator on a globe, a little up, a little down of the equator are all the coffee growing regions.” And “volcanic soil is

important.”

The Roasting

According to Doug, “you start with a green bean full of moisture and starches. So what we do with the roasting process, we change with temperature starches into sugars, and the best example I can give you is a green banana full of starches on your kitchen counter ripens. In three days of room temperature starches have turned to sugars and that’s what we’re doing. We do about 20, 25 pounds each, and it takes about 17 minutes. So now we’ve actually changed the complexity of the green bean and we can roast it kind of light, or a medium roast in color. It’s like a nice mahogany. And then a darker roast, more like an espresso, a darker brownish color. And by doing that I can roast the same bean Colombian light, medium, dark, and I’ve created three different flavors. Not all beans, in my opinion, taste good dark roasted.”

How to Brew Coffee

It seems people make many errors when brewing coffee. But fear not: just ask Doug for advice, and not simply generic advice: Advice that’s specific to the freshly roasted coffee you just bought, and your taste profile. The major mistake people make? “They’re using too much coffee per cup.” Doug advises two heaping tablespoons per 12 ounce cup. Imagine this: One morning you wake up and decide you want something stronger so you put more coffee in. “That’s not what you need to do. Now you’re wasting coffee. You need to change your coffee beans.” You could very well be drinking a mild coffee, but need a stronger coffee, and with the stronger coffee “you can still continue to use just two scoops.”

Should you buy whole bean and grind it yourself, or buy ground coffee? “Let us grind it,” advises Doug. Why? “Inexpensive grinders have blades and they’re just chopping.” On the other hand better grinders have burrs that can be adjusted from course to fine. “And the beans funnel through those burrs which are rotating and you get a much, much better, consistent grind. And the grind has to be consistent. Whether it’s super fine, fine, medium, course, it’s very important to have the right grind for your coffee. It should match your brewing process.”

There are several brewing choices, continues Doug, such as drip, percolator, stovetop espresso and espresso machine. “Your coffee has to be ground properly for



Greenwich Choral Society. Contributed photo.

that brewing method.” How do you determine which grind and brewing method is appropriate for the coffee you’re buying? “You need to ask us.”

Doug notes that “if you grind it too fine, it’ll come out bitter.” For example, for “an espresso grind, which is like a powder and you use it in a drip machine, it’s going to come out muddy and very strong. A drip machine is a medium grind.”

Another mistake people often make is “that they may have a drip machine at home as well as an espresso machine. Two absolutely different grinds. You can’t use the same coffee for each because if you grind it medium for the drip, you can’t use a medium in an espresso machine. It needs to be ground fine.”

Doug’s advice does not end there. Next up: The quality of your water. “If you don’t have a filtration system, your coffee brewer after a year is not brewing hot because the insides are all gunked up with scale.” As well, Doug recommends “Italian machines because they brew the hottest water temperature.” And temperature is “another aspect of brewing. That perfect cup we brew at 180 degrees with the commercial brewers -- that’ll burn you. But by the time it dispenses and goes through the grinds, drips into a cup, it comes down to maybe 160, 165.” To get all of the characteristics out of your coffee, it needs to be hot. “An inexpensive home machine does not brew coffee hot enough, especially after a year. And especially if you don’t clean them.” Although you can try to descale your

machine, at some point all the mechanics in it break down. Recognizing this, “I never recommend like a \$100 or \$200 espresso machine. You have to spend seven to eight hundred to get a quality espresso machine.”

But be careful of water that’s too hot. “Boiling water can scorch and create another flavor characteristic. Maybe not what you want, especially in coffee. So we always recommend boiling water, bubbling, let it sit for five seconds and then pour it.”

If you’re looking to get an everyday coffeemaker, Doug recommends a drip. “Drip is a little easier to brew a good cup of coffee,” Doug says. In a drip machine, the water “flows through the grinds once and it produces a cleaner cup of coffee.”

Staff & Customer Relations

Prior experience is not top of mind when Doug hires. Rather, “what’s so important is the ability to engage an individual.” This includes being able to smile, to communicate. The late afternoon shift at Doug’s shop is mostly high school students. “We’re talking about high school students and they’re talking to adults. A lot of times they’re shy, but after a while it doesn’t hurt and they become very, very comfortable. I enjoy working with the teenagers from the high school just to see them develop, learn other skills than just making a cappuccino.” He calls his current high school crew “one of my top crews I’ve ever had.” And many people want to work at Zumbach’s Gourmet Coffee.

Customers will “tell us their likes and dislikes, and we always ask ‘What are you currently drinking? Are

you drinking a Starbucks? Are you drinking a Dunkin’ Donuts?’ So now we have a base to compare our coffees to and we’ll make subtle suggestions when someone goes from canned coffee to fresh roasted coffee. It’s like a big jolt. It’s a big surprise. And they often say it’s strong. It’s fresh roasted. Anything ... always tastes better if it’s fresh. There’s more flavor characteristics with freshness. So it initially tastes strong, but if they drink it for like three or four days now it’s flavorful.”

It’s “not strong. It’s what you should be tasting. Most people drink stale coffee. My coffee can be two hours old. Some of my competitors, the coffee they’re serving was roasted six months ago.”

Being in New Canaan

One thing Doug emphasizes about New Canaan is that “there is more diversity than you think there is out there in what people do and what their interests are.” In addition, “they respect quality. I have found that great service and then price, in that order” are what drive customers. “I’ve had customers since ‘Day One’ and like I said earlier, I have customers all over the United States that I still talk to who lived here for ten years and now they’re in California or Seattle.” As well, “I’ve seen kids grow up, college, married, kids, and then come back here. So that’s the benefit of being in business so long.”

The Future

“I’m a lucky guy,” says Doug. “I super enjoy what I do. I love getting up in the morning.” Plus, “I enjoy it. I’m sitting here with you, and I like to meet and talk to people.”



New Canaan Chamber Music

Andrew Armstrong, Artistic Director

— ANTICIPATE THE UNEXPECTED —

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Geneva Lewis, violin
Matthew Lipman, viola
Ani Aznavoorian, cello
Andrew Armstrong, piano

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YOUR NEWS BRIEFING CONTINUED From Page 1

AROUND TOWN

CT Rules in Favor of New Canaan Housing

A Connecticut Superior Court ruled in favor of New Canaan, upholding the town’s rejection of an affordable housing proposal at 51 Main Street, and affirming its housing moratorium. The court determined that preserving the historic Red Cross building outweighed affordable housing requirements, while the state Department of Housing denied a request to revoke the moratorium. Developer Karp Associates, which has multiple pending 8-30g applications, plans to appeal both rulings.

‘Anora’ Wins 5 Oscars

“Anora” won five Oscars on March 2nd, including Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Film Editing, Best Director, and Best Actress. Alex Coco (NCHS ’08) worked on the film alongside Sean Baker and Samantha Quan. Photo credit: Mike Coppola/Getty Images.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Pages & Putts Event



The New Canaan Library hosted Pages & Putts, a mini golf event held inside the library. Participants navigated a course set up among the books which offered an interactive experience for visitors. Photo credit: New Canaan Library.

Waveny LifeCare Network Visits Rotary Club



Recently, Kathleen Benevento and Chris DiElsi of Waveny LifeCare Network presented “Navigator: Alzheimer’s and Dementia at Home in New Canaan” to the New Canaan Rotary Club. The program offers 24/7 access to an Alzheimer’s and dementia specialist at no cost. It is funded by the New Canaan Community Foundation and local donors Jim and Dede Bartlett. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

Waveny Hosts Wagner



Waveny residents and staff attended a program featuring Rita Wagner who presented music, crafts, fabrics, and baskets from Uganda. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

SCHOOLS

Saxe Presents The SpongeBob Musical



Saxe Middle School presents The SpongeBob Musical, where SpongeBob and his friends work to stop a volcanic eruption from destroying Bikini Bottom. With time running out, an unexpected hero emerges. Performances are on March 28th at 7:00 pm and March 29th at 1:00 and 5:00 pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.ncps-kl2.org/o/sms/article/2046049>. Photo credit: Saxe Middle School.

NCHS Presents Les Misérables



New Canaan High School will stage Les Misérables from March 20th-22nd. The production includes performances at 7 pm each evening and a matinee on March 22nd at 1 pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.ncps-kl2.org/article/2050931>.

SLS Middle School Costume Contest



St. Luke’s School Middle School advisory groups competed in a costume contest based on the alphabet during Spirit Week. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

NCCS 9th Grade Basketball Victory



The ninth-grade class at Country School recently competed against faculty, staff, and apprentice teachers in an annual basketball game. The Class of 2025 won 40-34. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

SLS Seniors Attend Overnight Lock-In



The St. Luke’s School Class of 2025 attended Senior Lock-In, an overnight event on campus. Students participated in games and watched movies while school administrators, faculty, and senior parents served as chaperones. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

NCHS Students Visit Carriage Barn



Recently, New Canaan High School photography students visited the Carriage Barn Arts Center to view the exhibit, hear from photographers, and complete class assignments. Photo credit: Carriage Barn Arts Center.

SLS Exam Goody Bags



On February 27th, the SLS Parents’ Association distributed goody bags to Upper School students before March exams. The distribution provided materials for exam preparation. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

SLS SoulFest



The St. Luke’s School Black Student Union recently hosted SoulFest to recognize Black history and heritage. The event featured games, music, cultural displays, and a lunch menu with family recipes. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

SLS Finance Club Hosts Speaker



Recently, the St Luke’s School Finance Club hosted Benina Lopez from SROA Capital for a session on private equity real estate careers. Lopez discussed industry roles, internship timelines, and job opportunities. Photo credit: St. Luke’s School.

Guardrails

There is an old truth in American democracy: *decisions are made by those who show up.*

It is a lesson as old as the town meeting, as enduring as the letters John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail, worrying about whether the people of the new Republic would truly understand the responsibility of self-government. It is a lesson found in the words of Thomas Jefferson, who believed that “the government closest to the people serves the people best.”

It is a lesson for New Canaan to remember now.

The Connecticut legislature is in session, and the decisions being made in Hartford will have real and lasting consequences for our town. The state is debating the future of zoning, taxation, education, and energy costs. The fiscal discipline that has stabilized Connecticut’s finances for the past several years is at risk of being undone. There are proposals that would centralize power, reducing the ability of towns to govern themselves. And there are also ideas that could strengthen Connecticut’s economic footing, if they are allowed to succeed.

All of these debates demand engagement, because the future belongs to those who take part in shaping it.

There is an old habit in politics of assuming that the right people, the responsible people, will steer things in the right direction. But that is not how democracy works. It is participatory, or it withers. If history teaches us anything, it is that bad ideas flourish when good people assume they will be stopped by someone else.

Some of the most consequential decisions being weighed in Hartford concern Connecticut’s fiscal policies. The state’s budget guardrails, which have kept spending in check and prevented the return of massive deficits, are under pressure. For years, Connecticut lurched from crisis to crisis—spending beyond its means, raising taxes to compensate, then finding itself deeper in the hole the next year. Then, in 2017, the legislature—Democrats and Republicans alike—agreed to put guardrails in place.

They worked. Connecticut is more financially stable today than it has been in decades. The rainy-day fund is full. The state is paying down its debts. There have been no broad-based tax increases. The system is doing exactly what it was designed to do: prevent a return to fiscal chaos.

And yet, there are calls to loosen the rules. The argument is always the same: this time is different, this need is greater, this moment requires an exception. That argument has been made in statehouses across the country, and it has been the ruin of many. Illinois, a cautionary tale, is held hostage by its unfunded obligations.

It was Warren Buffett who said, “The chains of habit are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken.” Connecticut has finally broken the habit of spending what it does not have. It cannot afford to slip back.

Beyond fiscal policy, other debates in this session will directly affect New Canaan. There are proposals that would erode local zoning control, forcing towns to accept one-size-fits-all housing mandates. There are education proposals that could change how our schools are funded and managed. There are energy policies that could drive costs up or bring them down.

The people of New Canaan should engage—not with outrage or partisanship, but with the conviction that self-governance is a right worth exercising. The legislature is holding public hearings. Testimony can be submitted by email in a matter of minutes. Calls to elected officials are noted. The effort is small, the impact real.

When Alexis de Tocqueville traveled through America nearly two centuries ago, he marveled at the way small towns governed themselves. He saw in the New England town meeting the essence of what made the nation work. “Town meetings are to liberty,” he wrote, “what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people’s reach.”

New Canaan has a voice made strong by thoughtful, engaged, well-educated, remarkable residents. We hope you use that voice to engage, educate, and enlighten Connecticut’s legislators.

Editorial Page

Five Astonishing World-Class Musicians Will Perform with New Canaan Chamber Music March 20 & 21

By JANE FOX

Five stars with incredible musical talent will come from concert halls around the world to perform together in the most extravagant display of musical showmanship in New Canaan Chamber Music’s current season. Andrew Armstrong, piano virtuoso and artistic director, will open the program with “Fantasia in D minor for Piano,” one of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s most well-known and loved works for solo piano.

This concert, with the season’s largest ensemble of players, will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 3 pm and Friday, March 21 at 7:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in New Canaan at 173 Oenoke Ridge. Tickets are available at www.newcanaanchambermusic.org.

Dazzling performers Ani Aznavoorian, cello, and Matthew Lipman, viola, will return to New Canaan to once again captivate the audience, joined by Stella Chen, violin, and Geneva Lewis, violin. They will perform new “rediscoveries” from Erich Wolfgang Korngold and favorite musical classics in film including Samuel Barber’s lush “Adagio for Strings” recognizable from the feature film “Platoon” (1986).

Ani Aznavoorian is known for her “scorchingly committed performances that wring every last drop of emotion out of the music.” Aznavoorian has appeared as soloist with many of the world’s leading orchestras including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic, the Helsinki Philharmonic, the Finnish Radio Symphony, and the Boston Pops.

Matthew Lipman has been praised for his “rich tone and elegant phrasing” as well as his “splendid technique and musical sensitivity” (Chicago Tribune). Lipman has become one of the most sought after instrumentalists of his generation, frequently appearing as both a soloist and chamber musician. He appeared with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, BBC Philharmonic, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Carnegie Hall, and London’s Wigmore Hall.

Stella Chen has quickly risen to prominence in the classical music world, known for her graceful, singing line, gleaming tone and breathtaking use of pianissimo which made the audience at Tully Hall sit bolt upright”(Musical America). She has appeared across North America, Europe, and Asia in concerto, recital, and

chamber music performances. She recently made debuts with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Israel Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and many others.

Geneva Lewis is a musician of consummate artistry whose performances speak from and to the heart. She has been hailed as a young musician who is “clearly one to watch” (Musical America). Since her solo debut at age 11 with the Pasadena POPS, she has performed with orchestras such as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony, and Sarasota Orchestra.

Armstrong, Artistic Director of New Canaan Chamber Music, is praised by critics for his passionate expression and dazzling technique. He has delighted audiences worldwide, performing at Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, London’s Wigmore Hall, the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, and Warsaw’s National Philharmonic.

In just four years, New Canaan Chamber Music has become a thriving new addition to the concert scene. It also provides growing and inclusive programs of outreach with the Children’s Concerts and programs during the year that bring great music to

seniors, youth orchestras, and local schools in New Canaan, Stamford, Norwalk and Bridgeport. NCCM is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

March 20 and 21 2025 Program
Stella Chen, violin
Geneva Lewis, violin
Matthew Lipman, viola
Ani Aznavoorian, cello
Andrew Armstrong, piano

Fantasia in D minor for piano, K 397 (1782), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Requiebros, for cello and piano (1931), Gaspar Cassadó (1897-1966)

Darshan: Charukeshi, for solo violin (2018), Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

Sarabande con variazioni, for violin and viola (1897) mJohan Halvorsen (1864-1935)

Adagio for Strings, from String Quartet Opus 11 (1936), Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

Piano Quintet in E Major, Opus 15 (1921), Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957)

I. Mäßiges Zeitmaß, mit schwungvoll blühendem Ausdruck

II. Adagio. Mit größter Ruhe, stets äußerst gebunden und ausdrucksvoll

III. Finale. Gemessen beinahe pathetisch

Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

for yourself and your family is critical,” stated Mary Fetchet, VOICES Founding Director. “It is an honor to promote the important work of New Canaan Emergency Management, and the efforts of organizations that serve our community.”

Mary Fetchet will be joined by Russ Kimes, New Canaan Director of Emergency Management and Dionna Carlson, New Canaan First Selectman for opening remarks. Stephanie Landau, VOICES Director of Community Programs, will conduct an informative workshop covering the fundamental steps individuals can take to prepare in advance of an emergency, whether sheltering in place or evacuating.

Panelists include: Albert Bassett, New Canaan Fire Chief;

John DiFederico, New Canaan Chief of Police; Nick Jossem, CRI Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Region 1 CT; Susan Morse, 2nd Lieutenant EMS; Jim Davis, CERT Co-Executive Director.

The first 25 registrants will receive a Preparedness Backpack to help them take the first steps toward emergency readiness. The event is generously sponsored by the New Canaan Community Foundation, and the Preparedness Backpacks are provided through a grant from 9/11 Day and AmeriCorps.

Register now! Don’t miss the opportunity to enhance your preparedness by learning from experts. For information and registration, visit voicescenter.org or call 203-966-3911.

About VOICES: VOICES

provides long-term support services that promote mental health and wellness for thousands of victims’ families, responders, and survivors, while collaborating with our partners to help communities prepare for and respond to tragedy. The organization provides support services, including a Parent Helping Parents Support Group in New Canaan for those who have lost a child. Education initiatives include monthly webinars and community-based workshops. VOICES Preparedness Trainings provide a framework to help community stakeholders incorporate a victim-centered approach to respond to traumatic events.

Vaccinations in the Modern Age: Protecting Communities, One Shot at a Time

By TERESA ALASIO MD

In today’s world, vaccinations remain one of the most effective tools in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. From childhood immunizations to booster shots for older adults, staying up to date with vaccines helps protect not only individuals but also the entire community through herd immunity. But with vaccine hesitancy on the rise and many wondering about their own immunity, it’s important to understand how to navigate vaccinations in the modern age.

Childhood Vaccinations: A Lifelong Shield

Routine childhood vaccinations are critical in protecting children from serious illnesses like measles, polio, and whooping cough. These vaccines help build immunity early in life, preventing outbreaks that can put vulnerable populations at risk. Parents should ensure their children receive all

recommended immunizations based on the schedule provided by the CDC and pediatricians.

Booster Shots: Keeping Immunity Strong

Vaccines don’t always provide lifetime immunity. Many require booster shots to maintain protection as immunity can wane over time. Older adults, in particular, should pay attention to booster recommendations for vaccines like Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), shingles, and pneumonia to avoid serious complications.

The Role of Herd Immunity

Herd immunity occurs when a significant portion of the population is vaccinated, reducing the spread of disease and protecting those who cannot receive vaccines due to medical reasons. When vaccination rates drop, diseases once thought to be eradicated can return, putting entire communities at risk.

Navigating a Community

with Unvaccinated Individuals

Living in a community where some individuals are unvaccinated can be concerning, especially for those with weakened immune systems or young children. Here’s what you can do:

- Stay Up to Date: Ensure you and your family receive all recommended vaccinations.

- Encourage Conversations: Educate others on the importance of vaccines in a non-confrontational way.

- Practice Preventive Measures: Maintain good hygiene, avoid exposure to sick individuals, and consider mask-wearing during outbreaks.

Do You Need a Booster? Get Your Titers Checked

A simple blood test called a “titer test” can determine if you still have immunity against certain diseases. If your titers show low immunity, a booster shot may be recommended. Common vaccines for which titers are checked include:

- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Tetanus & Diphtheria

Take Charge of Your Health

Vaccinations remain one of the safest and most effective ways to prevent serious illness. By staying informed, checking your immunity with titers, and encouraging vaccination in your community, you can help keep yourself and those around you healthy. If you’re unsure whether you need a booster, consult with your healthcare provider today.

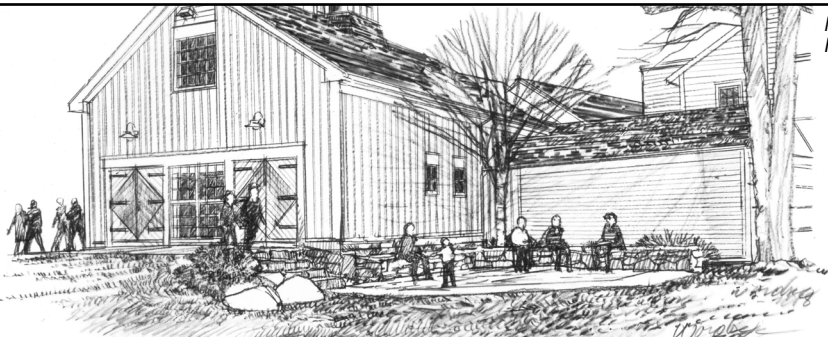
The information presented is for educational purposes only and not intended as a substitute for medical advice. If you have a specific medical concern, please consult your medical provider.

Teresa Alasio MD is the Physician Owner and Medical Director of Intentional Self Aesthetics, located in Downtown New Canaan. She resides in New Canaan, where all family members, including the dog, are fully vaccinated.



Keith E. Simpson
Associates

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LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025, in the Town Hall Meeting Room at Town Hall and via Zoom, for the following purposes:

A. To consider and act upon the resolution entitled:

Resolution Authorizing An Appropriation Of \$201,000 For The Dunning Stadium 2026 Project And The Financing of Said Appropriation By The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Of The Town And Notes In Anticipation Of Such Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$201,000

Copies of said proposed resolution is on file and open to public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk.

B. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS of the Town of New Canaan after a Public Hearing held via hybrid and in person on Monday, March 3, 2025 duly adopted the following resolution(s). Approved applications become effective upon the filing of a copy thereof in the office of the Town Clerk.

1. RESOLVED, 50 White Oak Shade - Zoning Variance - Upon application of Conor McMullan, Authorized Agent for Natalie A. Avellone, owner(s), for a Variance of Section(s) 3.5.D and 3.5.E to allow additions in excess of the permitted building coverage and within the side yard setback in the One Acre Zone at 50 White Oak Shade Road (Map 37, Block 88, Lot 89) is approved with conditions.

Luke Tashjian, Chairman
Dated March 3, 2025

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Agent has approved the following application:

Permit Number (IW-25-8) issued to William S. Timlen, 106 Logan Road, Map 28 Block 31 Lot 90.

Prepare site for construction activities and install all soil and erosion controls. Install temporary construction access road as indicated on site development plan. Remove existing patio and construct two story addition. Fine grade, topsoil and seed disturbed areas upon completion.

LEGAL AD

March 6, 2025
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive sealed bids for "Pave 2025 - New Canaan Fire Department Parking Lot", New Canaan, Connecticut, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time on March 27, 2025, at the Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT, 06840, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Contract documents are available for review at the Department of Public Works Office, TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Copies of the contract documents for the work may be obtained in person during business hours from 7:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the following location: Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840.

Bidders attention is called to the requirements as to the conditions of employment to be observed and to the requirements for the prompt commencement and completion of the work. Due to the nature of the building's operations, all work shall be completed within one (1) week from the start of the project.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 90 days after the actual date of the bid opening.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, to waive defects in the same, or to accept any proposal or any part thereof deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut.

All bidders are requested to note that the award of this Contract is subject to the following conditions and contingencies:

- 1) The approval of such governmental agencies as may be required by law.
- 2) The appropriation of adequate funds by the proper agencies.

TIGER MANN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

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COLUMN

Building “Home” - in Waco, TX, and here in New Canaan

By SARAH DUGAL

Over February break, I had the privilege of serving with the Congregational Church of New Canaan's Youth Group “YG” in Waco, Texas. While Waco is most commonly known for being the home of HGTV's Chip and Joanna Gains, stars of “Fixer Upper,” we spent our time meditating on a very different kind of home, while confronting the daily lived reality of so many who are experiencing homelessness.

Over the course of the week, we partnered with Mission Waco, a visionary non-profit organization that has been serving in Waco for over 40 years through empowering the poor and marginalized, equipping and mobilizing the middle-class to become more compassionately involved among the poor, and engaging the systemic issues of social injustice which oppress their neighbors. Much was to be gleaned from the way Mission Waco was loving, investing in and empowering their community. From their after school programs at “The Rock” – their Youth Community Center – to Jubilee Market, a grocery

store established to address the food dessert of Northern Waco, I couldn't help but remember Jesus's words in Matthew 25:34-40.

As Jesus tells his followers about his future return – when he will finish the redemptive and renewing work he has already begun – he casts vision for a time when he will praise those who treated others as he did, saying, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Likewise, he imagines his future audience's confusion, being applauded for actions they never took – at least, not with Jesus himself as the recipient. It's in this moment that Jesus confirms, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Home is not walls in as much as it is the feeling of being known and loved.

As Christians, caring for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, ill and imprisoned is not a passionate project for the few; it is as essential to our faith journey as breath is to our lungs. It is the very means by which both our heart is molded after God's and God's heart is made evident in our world. Matthew 25:34-40 is a powerful reminder that God identifies with those in need – so much so that our care for them is seen as a direct reflection of our care for Him.

Nowhere was this care more evident than in Mission Waco's plans for Creekside Village, a transformative community that will combine permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless with life-giving community engagement. Creekside Village, which will provide affordable rental tiny

homes for over 300 formerly homeless individuals within the next few years, is leveraging a blueprint first used to build Community First Village outside of Austin, Texas, which you may have seen featured by both the New York Times and the Today Show.

Both initiatives share the core belief that at the center of the issue of homelessness is really the “profound, catastrophic loss of family” – isolation, social disconnection, and a lack of belonging to a supportive community. They've realized that healing isn't found simply in the roof over one's head, but in the relational neighborhood they reside in.

As New Canaan High Schoolers spent the week building the first three tiny homes for Creekside Village, we had many

conversations about “home,” and the people and communities that make us feel at home in their midst. I was struck by the consensus that, even with deep appreciation for the physical spaces where we are privileged to lay our heads, home is not walls in as much as it is the feeling of being known and loved.

So while unconditional community is the life-saving medicine Mission Waco is providing to those most in need in their neighborhood, I wonder if it could also be the multi-vitamin most needed here in New Canaan.

New Canaan is a town of beautiful houses. Most of us are more than willing to invest in our homes – whether that investment is in support of maintenance, repairs or new constructions – with the confidence that they're important investments for the future.

But what if the homes we long for most aren't physical, but relational? What would it look like to invest in our sense of community, with the confidence that they're important investments for the future? For both us adults,

and for our students?

This week, I have two simple goals. First, instead of agonizing over which curtains to hang in my living room, I'm going to choose to participate in community – church, coffee with a friend, book club, etc. Secondly, as I enjoy the presence of others, I am going to choose to be attuned to their needs, as well as represent mine authentically. In this way, I might just have the opportunity to feed someone who is hungry – maybe not physically, but hungry for purpose, love, or direction. And in this small way, I might show my care for God, through my care for others.

Sarah Dugal serves as the Area Director for Young Life in New Canaan. Young Life is a global, ecumenical non-profit that exists to reinforce that adolescents matter through relational youth ministry, create approachable spaces for students to explore faith, and model servant leadership in local communities. To learn more, visit YoungLife.Org. To get involved in New Canaan, contact Sarah at newcanaanyl@gmail.com.

Worship Directory and Services

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints
682 South Avenue
203.966.5849
www.ComeUntoChrist.org
Sunday Service: 12:00 PM

Congregational Church
23 Park Street 203.966.2651
office@godsacre.org
www.godsacre.org
Sunday Services: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM The 10:00 am service is also live streamed and recorded, the video replay will be available throughout the week. Church School is available on Sundays for children ages 3 through 7th grade each Sunday from September through mid-June.

Recurring Events:
Tuesdays at 9:30 AM: Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 9:30 AM: Bible Study
Fourth Thursday from 12-2:30 PM: Meet at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk to serve a meal.
Upcoming Events:
March 28th at 5 PM: A night of family fellowship and BINGO fun. Gather in Smith Hall for some friendly competition. **Pizza will be served, and amazing prizes will be available to win.**

First Church of Christ, Scientist
49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencect.org/newcanaan

Sunday 10:30 AM, in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.
Wednesday Testimony Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656. Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2. Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

First Presbyterian Church
178 Oenoke Ridge Road
203.966.0002

fpnc.org
Sunday Service: 10am in person or via LocalLive. All are welcome. Coffee Hour after the service is also available in person or via Zoom. Dedicated childcare is available for all children via Wee Care Nanny Agency from 8:45-11:30am in the Nursery School. Transcripts of previous sermons are also available via the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan's website. Recurring Events: Every Saturday 9:15am (closed) and 10:30am (open): Alcoholics Anonymous. Every Tuesday 8pm: Men's A.A.
Third Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM: Wednesdays at the Well are intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. Dinner will be served and all ages are invited.

Upcoming Events:
April 6th at 11:30 AM: Adult forum with First Selectman, Dionna Carlson. Discussing: the state of the town.
April 13th at 10 AM: Palm Sunday Service.
April 17th at 7 PM: Maundy Thursday Service.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic
21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020
www.starcc.com
Service Schedule:
Saturday: Vigil for Sunday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Sunday 8:30 a.m. mass is live-streamed and recorded.
Monday-Friday: 7:00 am and 5:30 pm
Saturday: 7:00 am
Recurring Events:
Last Monday of every month 7pm: Women's Praise & Worship Holy Hour
Fridays 7:30am-6pm: Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)
Saturday 8:30am: St. A's Healing Rosary Prayer Group
Upcoming Events:
March 14th at 7 PM: Stations of the Cross For Healing. All who are experiencing any type of chronic medical condition and caregivers are welcome.
March 19th from 9 AM- 4 PM: Connecticut March For Life. Mass will begin at 9, followed by the bus departing at 10 AM.

To register, visit <https://starcc.com/respect-life/>

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515
churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org

www.stmarksnewcanaan.org
Sunday Services: 8:00am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; **9:00am:** Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; **10am:** Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark's website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service. Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.
Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am: Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.
Wednesday at 12:05pm: Noonday Eucharist in the chapel.
Recurring Events:
First Wednesday at 1pm: Laundry Love volunteering opportunity to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.
First & Third Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm: Youth Group
Upcoming Events:
March 8th at 5 PM: For many decades, the St. Mark's Choir has been known for its concerts with orchestra. With this concert St. Mark's will revive that tradition. The Choir and Soloists, accompanied by a full orchestral ensemble, will present these wonderful works. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the show. Visit St. Mark's website for more information.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church
5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913
office@stmichaelslutheran.org
www.stmichaelslutheran.org
Sunday Service at 10:00 am. Following the service there is coffee, cookies and conversation' in the Fellowship Hall.

Recurring Events:
Thursday 12 PM: Alcoholics Anonymous

Trinity Church
New Canaan | Darien
468 South Avenue
203.618.0808
info@trinitychurch.life
www.trinitychurch.life

Join us **Sundays at 11:00 a.m.** at Saxe Middle School for lively worship, thoughtful and applicable teaching, weekly Communion, and an opportunity to make friends and grow in community. Trinity Kids (infants through fifth grade) and Trinity Youth (middle and high schoolers) take place during the service, and coffee and refreshments are served following worship. Trinity also holds services in-person in Greenwich and Larchmont, and on livestream via YouTube on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.; learn more at www.trinitychurch.life.

United Methodist Church
165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
office@umcofnewcanaan.org
www.umcofnewcanaan.org
Sunday Service is at 10:00 am followed by coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service. All are welcome.

Community Baptist Church
174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com
www.cbcnewcanaan.org
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30_Syp_X0KdG
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>
Sunday School at 10:00am
Worship Service at 11:00am
Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

Upcoming Events:
March 10th 7-9 PM: Bishop John R. Thompson presents Revelation, the masterclass. This will be the first day of an 8 week course. Visit CBC's website for more information.
April 18th from 12-3 PM: Good Friday Service: Seven Last Words of Christ.

Grace Community Church
9:30am Service @ New Canaan High School, 11 Farm Road

203-966-7600
info@gracecommunity.info
www.gracecommunity.info

Welcome to Grace Church, where we strive to build a church of action, founded on Biblical truth, characterized by faith, grace, community, service, authenticity, clear thinking, and cultural relevance. Grace Community Church is an exercise in knowing God, knowing truth, and building community that extends to our full lives, not just to our Sunday mornings.
Join us **Sunday mornings at 9:30am** or via GCC's Facebook page or YouTube page. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Coffee and bagels available in the lobby after the service, all are welcome.

Upcoming Events:
April 16th at 6:30 PM: Trivia Night at Dry Dock Bar & Grille in Norwalk.

Talmadge Hill Community Church
870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien
203.966.2314
talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com
www.talmadgehill.org
Ministers: Rev. Carter Via and Rev. Cheryl Bundy
Sunday worship service at 10:00am in person. All are welcome! We encourage everyone to stay for coffee hour after the service. Sunday School is every Sunday during the service and uses the Godly Play curriculum. Please reach out with any questions utilizing information listed above!

Recurring Events:
Thursdays at 9:30am: Bible Study
First Saturday at 8am: Men's Group
Second Saturday at 10am: Women's Circle

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center
137 Putnam Rd
info@chabadnewcanaan.org
www.newcanaanjewish.org
The Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center is dedicated to strengthening and building the New Canaan Jewish Community by offering local Jewish resources that bring more positivity, Jewish

education, charitable activity, good deeds and blessing to our lovely town.

We are about Judaism, not affiliation. Regardless of your background, and however you choose to define your level of Jewish observance or identity, the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center can add spirituality, joy, study, community and connection for you and your family. The programs of the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center are held in various locations, all located in New Canaan.

Upcoming Events:
March 14th at 5 PM: Pi Day Purim. The night will start with supper and a mad science show followed by a Megillah reading. Visit Chabad's website to signup.

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)
458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford
203.322.1649

www.templecinaistamford.org
Service Schedule:
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday – 6pm in person and via zoom
2nd & 4th – 7:30pm
Recurring Events:
Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study
Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar

First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM: Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children
First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodat Halev Discussion Group
Temple Sholom
300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830
203-869-7191

www.templesholom.com
Services: In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am.

Recurring Events:
Saturdays at 9 AM: Shabbat Study via zoom at [https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcxU0EzZUM2VENEZmgyUT09\\$success](https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcxU0EzZUM2VENEZmgyUT09$success)

UPDATE SERVICES AND ADD SPECIAL EVENTS TO THIS CALENDAR AT
www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/worship-calendar-updates



JOAN BRODE

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Joan Turner Brode, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, who

passed away at the age of 88 on February 25, 2025.

Joan was born on September 1, 1936, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, to Elizabeth and John Turner. She was a force to be reckoned with from an early age and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Nursing. Settling in Philadelphia and working as a Pediatric Nurse, it was there that she met and married the one and only love of her life, Edward Brode and together they raised a wonderful family in Orchard Park, NY and Summit, NJ before settling in New Canaan, CT for the last 30 years.

After losing her husband to cancer in 1995, Joan set out to live her life to the fullest. She took pride in her independence right up to the end and enjoyed traveling with friends, reading a good book from the New Canaan Library, her daily walks with whoever could keep up, needlepoint, jigsaw puzzles, and the weekly bridge and canasta games.

Joan was a UCON Women's Basketball team superfan never missing a game and seemingly knowing everything about the young women on the team. Finally, Joan was a woman of boundless kindness, a sharp wit that was honed regularly, and a heart full of love. Her home was always open to friends and family, and she possessed a deep love for her community especially her church where she found peace and was an active member throughout her life.

Her greatest pride, however, was her family who she was so supportive of. She leaves behind her three children, Susan (Dave), Charlie (Ridgely) and Andy (Jen), her ten grandchildren whom she was so proud of and countless friends she made throughout her lifetime.

Joan's life was a testament to the values of love, loyalty, and joy. She taught us all the importance of kindness, how to find beauty in the little things and most importantly,

how life is taking the good with the bad and making the most of it. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

A celebration of her life was held at St. Mark's Church on Saturday, March 1. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the New Canaan Waveny Care Center where she regularly volunteered.

Rest in peace, Mom, Grandma, and Friend. You will forever be in our hearts, and we will cherish the many memories as we move forward. .

The New Canaan Sentinel believes every life deserves to be remembered. We do not charge for obituaries and welcome submissions to honor your loved ones. Please email obituaries to Caroll@SentinelHometownNews.com.



Andromeda Turre Brings From The Earth to Grace Farms with a Performance That Hits Home

By Anne White

Andromeda Turre took the stage at Grace Farms on Saturday night with the kind of quiet confidence that comes from knowing exactly why you’re there. No theatrics, no pretense—just a musician completely locked into her purpose. The audience had come for a concert, but as soon as she started singing, it was clear they were in for something more.

Turre’s *From The Earth* is bigger than an album—it’s a statement. According to *Jazz Views*, the project was inspired by her 2022 trip to Iceland, where she stood under the aurora borealis and found herself thinking about the planet, its fragility, and the role of music in telling that story. That experience shaped the songs she performed at Grace Farms, a venue known for its commitment to blending music, art, and social impact.

“Andromeda’s performance truly moved forward the mission of Grace Farms by giving voice and sound to issues of the earth,” said Chelsea Thatcher, Founding Creative Director and Chief Strategic Officer. “It was profound to witness

Andromeda’s journey at Grace Farms, which started by an invitation by Marcus G. Miller to perform early portions of her album during our winter Songs of the Season in 2022.”

Saturday night felt like the full-circle moment.

When she performed *Cryosphere*, a track about the loss of the polar ice caps, the effect was immediate. The song, which is nominated for Best Social Awareness Song at the 2025 World Entertainment Awards, according to AndromedaTurre.com, doesn’t beg for attention—it commands it. Before starting, Turre simply said, “Everything we do leaves an imprint.” Then, as the slow, deliberate arrangement unfolded, her voice floated through the space, carrying both the weight of the message and the ease of a seasoned jazz artist.

Grace Farms, with its expansive glass walls and open design by SANAA, felt like the ideal setting for a performance like this. According to Thatcher, “Music at Grace Farms offers an exceptional live experience, demonstrating how music and space enhance one another. Every program is crafted to

Saturday night’s performance was part of Music at Grace Farms, a series designed to make music feel like something you don’t just hear, but something you feel.



foster connection, making music not just something to hear, but something to feel and share.”

Turre’s reach extends far beyond the stage. According to *Paris Move*, she has performed in 17 countries and collaborated with some of the most respected musicians in jazz. *From The Earth* includes contributions from her father, trombonist Steve Turre, as well as pianist ELEW and vibraphonist Chien Chien Lu. These influences could be heard throughout the night—her sound moves seamlessly between classic jazz phrasing and contemporary global rhythms, never feeling forced or out of place.

Beyond her music, Turre is also an advocate for inclusion in the arts. According to AndromedaTurre.com, she is a Cornell University-certified Diversity & Inclusion consultant who has been working with schools, arts organizations, and municipalities since 2007 to

create conversations about culture and representation through music. That passion for connection was evident throughout the performance—she wasn’t just singing; she was drawing people into the larger story she’s trying to tell.

She also composes for film, television, video games, and theater, because, of course, she does. According to *Jazz Views*, her work in different mediums follows the same guiding principle: music should make people think, feel, and engage.

By the time the performance ended, there was a brief, meaningful silence before the applause—a moment where it felt like the audience wasn’t quite ready to let go of what they’d just experienced.

Some artists put on a great show. Some leave people thinking long after the last note.

On Saturday night at Grace Farms, Andromeda Turre did both.



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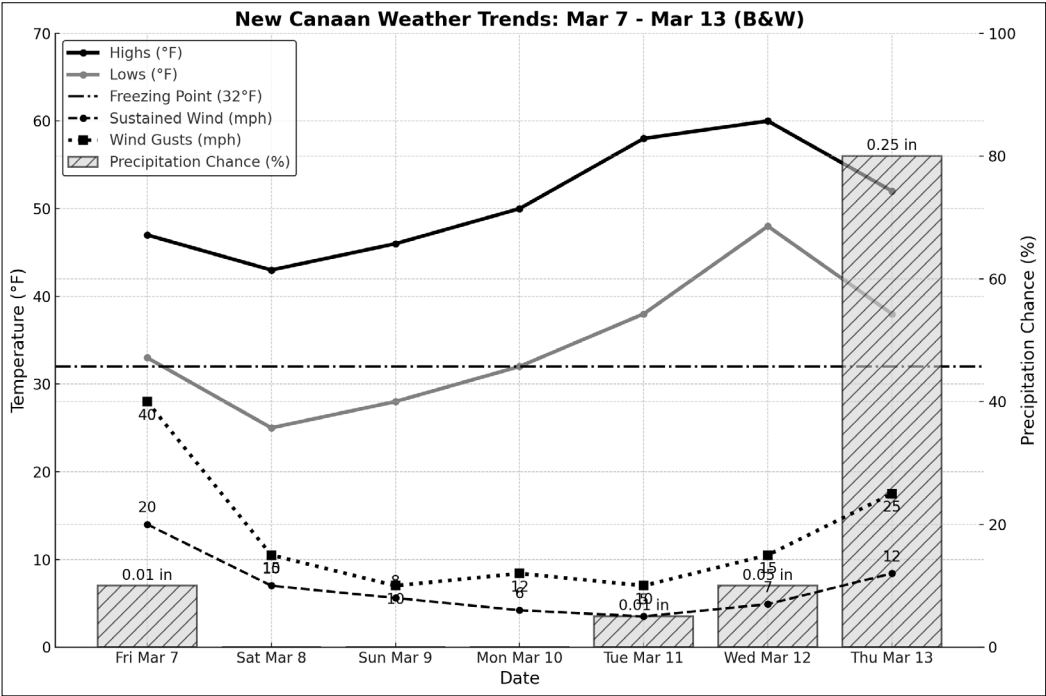
CinemaLab.com

New Canaan Weather Forecast: Here’s What to Expect

By Emma Barhydt

As March settles in, New Canaan residents can expect a dynamic weather pattern, swinging from crisp, late-winter days to a taste of spring warmth before a cool and rainy close to the week. With temperatures gradually climbing and a midweek surge into the 60s, the forecast offers a mix of sunshine, breezes, and eventual showers.

Friday, March 7 will bring plenty of sunshine but gusty winds. Highs will reach 47°F, but west winds at 15–25 mph, with gusts up to 40 mph, will make it feel much colder, especially in the morning. Drivers of high-profile vehicles should be cautious of crosswinds, especially on open roads. By evening, clouds increase, and temperatures dip to 33°F. A few sprinkles or flurries may pass through after midnight, but no accumulation is expected. Roads will remain dry.



On Saturday, March 8, a lighter breeze will make Saturday feel more comfortable despite a cool high of 43°F under mostly sunny skies. Travel conditions will be smooth, with no rain or snow expected. Saturday night will be notably cold, with lows dropping to the

mid-20s. Expect patchy frost in the morning but no major travel concerns.

Sunday, March 9, continues the dry and calm pattern, with mostly sunny skies and a slightly warmer high of 46°F. Winds remain light, making for an ideal day for outdoor activities. Nighttime temperatures will dip to 28°F,

with clear to partly cloudy skies. Roads remain dry, making for excellent travel conditions.

Monday, March 10 starts the transition to spring like temperatures, with highs reaching 50°F. Winds will be light, and travel conditions will remain ideal. The overnight low of 32°F keeps

things seasonably cool, but warmer air continues to move in.

Tuesday, March 11 will be the first truly mild day, with sunny skies and highs climbing into the upper 50s. A gentle southwest breeze will make it feel even warmer. Morning commuters may still feel a slight chill with lows in the upper 30s, but by afternoon, lighter jackets will be enough. Travel impacts remain minimal, aside from potential sun glare on the roads.

Wednesday, March 12 will bring the warmest temperatures of the week, with highs near or above 60°F. Sunny and pleasant conditions will dominate, though clouds will increase by evening as a cold front approaches. Mild overnight temperatures in the upper 40s will keep things comfortable.

Thursday, March 13 will be cloudy and cooler, with highs in the low 50s. Showers are expected throughout the day, with rainfall totaling up

to a quarter-inch. Roads may become slick during heavier showers, so allow extra travel time for the afternoon and evening commutes. Winds will shift westward and strengthen by evening, bringing gusts up to 25 mph as the front passes. Nighttime lows will dip to the upper 30s, with potential patchy icing on wet roads overnight.

With winter’s grip loosening, layers are still necessary, but lighter jackets will make an appearance by midweek. Whether you’re savoring a sunny afternoon walk or cozing up inside on a rainy Thursday, this week’s weather offers a little something for everyone. Forecasters are monitoring a potential storm system that may impact the region after March 13. If it tracks closer, stronger winds and heavier rain could develop late Thursday into Friday. Travelers with late-week plans should check for updates, as conditions could become more unsettled.

Traveling? Check The Week Ahead Nationally

By Emma Barhydt

Northeast: The Northeast will experience a mix of chilly and mild conditions, with temperatures ranging from the 30s°F in the north to the 50s°F in the south. A cold start to the week will transition into a significant warm-up by midweek, with some areas even reaching the 60s°F. A few light snow showers are possible in northern areas over the weekend, but most of the region will remain dry. Gusty winds will accompany the early cold front, but calmer conditions will settle in as high pressure builds. By the end of the week, the region will see unseasonably mild temperatures under mostly dry skies.

Southeast: The Southeast will see warm and unsettled weather, with highs ranging from the upper 60s°F to the upper 70s°F and lows in the 50s°F to low 60s°F. A slow-moving storm system will bring widespread rain and thunderstorms, some potentially strong, over the weekend into early next

week. Heavy downpours could lead to localized flooding, especially in low-lying areas. The rain will taper off by midweek, allowing drier and warmer conditions to return as high pressure builds. Late in the period, the region will experience calmer weather with seasonably warm temperatures.

Midwest: The Midwest will experience a dramatic warm-up after a chilly start, with temperatures rising from the 30s°F and 40s°F early in the week to the 60s°F and even low 70s°F in some areas by midweek. A weak system may bring light snow showers to the far northern Midwest over the weekend, but overall, precipitation chances will be low. Gusty winds will accompany the warming trend, leading to rapid snowmelt in some areas. The region will remain dry through midweek, though increasing cloud cover could signal the next potential storm system toward the end of the forecast period.

Southwest: The Southwest will see fluctuating

temperatures, with highs starting 15–20°F below normal in some areas before rebounding to the 50s°F and 60s°F, with lower deserts reaching the 70s°F. A dry weekend will give way to unsettled conditions early next week as a Pacific system moves inland, bringing scattered rain showers to lower elevations and significant mountain snow to the Rockies and Sierra Nevada. Gusty winds will develop ahead of the storm, followed by improving conditions mid-to-late week as high pressure returns, leading to a warming trend and mostly dry weather to close out the period.

Northwest: The Northwest will experience a wet and unsettled pattern, with temperatures ranging from the mid-40s°F to mid-50s°F, while higher elevations remain in the 30s°F. A series of Pacific storms will bring periods of rain to the lowlands and heavy snow to the Cascades and northern Rockies. The first system over the weekend will bring moderate precipitation, followed by a brief lull before

a stronger storm midweek delivers heavier rain, mountain snow, and gusty winds. Expect persistent cloud cover and occasional breaks in precipitation, but overall, the region will remain in a classic wet early-spring pattern.

West Coast: The West Coast will face an active storm pattern, with temperatures ranging from the upper 50s°F to mid-60s°F along the coast and colder conditions in the mountains. A significant atmospheric river event early next week will bring heavy rain to central and southern California, with flash flooding possible in some areas. The Sierra Nevada will see multiple feet of snow, while coastal regions will face gusty winds and soaking rainfall. After a brief dry spell, another strong Pacific system will arrive midweek, bringing another round of heavy precipitation and mountain snow. The stormy pattern will dominate the period, with only short breaks between systems.

Grace Farms to Host International Women’s Day Event Featuring Kerri Walsh Jennings

By Anne White

Grace Farms will celebrate International Women’s Day with Beyond the Game, a special program focused on the future of women in sports, featuring three-time Olympic gold medalist Kerri Walsh Jennings. The event, set for Saturday, March 8, 2025, will bring together leading voices in the sports industry to discuss the progress of women’s athletics and the opportunities ahead for female athletes and professionals.

Walsh Jennings will be joined by Danette Leighton, CEO of the Women’s Sports Foundation, and Jasmine Robinson, Co-Founder of Monarch Collective, a firm dedicated to investing in women’s sports. The conversation will be moderated by Karen Kariuki, Grace Farms’ Managing Director of Strategic Initiatives.

The event follows a volleyball clinic led by Walsh Jennings, where middle and high school girls will have the opportunity to learn from the decorated Olympian.

A Platform for Change in Women’s Sports

The discussion will address key issues surrounding women’s sports, including increased

visibility, funding, and the expansion of professional opportunities. Walsh Jennings, a household name in beach volleyball, has been a vocal advocate for female athletes and equal opportunities in sports.

Leighton, whose organization champions gender equity in athletics, brings decades of experience working to expand opportunities for women and girls in sports. Robinson, through Monarch Collective, has been instrumental in channeling investment into women’s sports, signaling a shift toward a more sustainable and profitable landscape for female athletes.

The panel aims to highlight both the challenges and the momentum behind women’s athletics. Topics will include the growth of women’s professional leagues, sponsorship opportunities, and the role of advocacy in shaping the future of sports.

A Unique Opportunity for Young Athletes

The volleyball clinic preceding the panel will offer young athletes hands-on instruction from Walsh Jennings, who has competed in



five Olympic Games and remains a powerful figure in her sport. The clinic is designed to inspire and equip young players with skills and confidence both on and off the court.

Saturday, March 8, 2025; Volleyball clinic in the afternoon, panel discussion from 4–5 PM at Grace Farms, 365 Lukes Wood Rd, New Canaan and tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 for Grace Farms members.

Grace Farms, a cultural and humanitarian center in New Canaan, is dedicated to fostering community engagement across sectors, including sports, justice, and human rights. More information can be found at gracefarms.org.



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Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
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Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
243 White Oak Shade Road	\$2,599,000	4,653	\$558.56	2.48	4	1
181 Lambert Road	\$3,650,000	9,049	\$403.36	2.10	5	2

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Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
173 Heritage Hill Road	\$995,000	\$995,000	\$995,000	16	2	3	
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20 Hoyt Street	\$1,695,000	\$1,695,000	\$1,825,000	21	4	3	0.29
73 Turner Hill Road	\$2,359,000	\$2,359,000	\$2,260,000	35	6	3	2.91
197 Carter Street	\$4,395,000	\$4,395,000	\$4,600,000	19	5	6	1.40

A Room With a View



BY JOHN ENGEL

A Room With a View is the 1908 novel by E.M. Forster and a 1985 Merchant & Ivory film starring Helena Bonham Carter and Julian Sands. The novel opens in Florence with Lucy and her chaperone, Charlotte, complaining about their rooms at the Pensione Bertolini. They were promised rooms with a view of the River Arno but instead have ones overlooking a drab courtyard. Another guest, Mr. Emerson, interrupts their “peevisish wrangling” by spontaneously offering to swap rooms. He and his son, George, both have rooms with views of the Arno and he argues, “Women like looking at a view; men don’t.” Mr. Beebe, an Anglican clergyman, persuades Charlotte to accept the offer; Charlotte suggests that the Emersons are socialists. You’d have to be a socialist to give up the view.

Most real estate agents will tell you that “ocean view” is the most valuable phrase in the English language. But it is not the only view which commands a premium, and it begs the question, what’s a view worth? And, has that changed? Both can be measured.

For most of man’s time on this earth, waterfront property was undesirable — either dangerous, indefensible, smelly, or dominated by commercial businesses such as fishing, transport, and manufacturing. In places of wealth like Nantucket, Charleston, or New York City, the best homes were located on the “high street,” far from the polluted waters of the harbor. Maps of the Loire Castles and Newport mansions show us that while the very rich appreciate the sea air, our fascination with the ocean view is a recent phenomenon.

How about today and closer to home? According to appraiser Jonathan Miller, “New Yorkers are generally willing to pay 10 to 25 percent more for an apartment that allows them to wander over to the window and take in the sights.” If that sounds low, consider that in New York, the view could be of water or a park, but in most cases it is a view of an important building, of which there are hundreds.

New York is unique, however, one of the rare cities where water views do not command the highest premium. That honor goes to Central Park, where premiums run higher than those for river views, the exception being that expansive vistas of the city are valued just about the same as limited or narrow views of Central Park.

Higher is better. The rule of thumb is that views along the same sight line typically increase in value at about 1% per floor until you reach the penthouse — pricier still.

In the newly renovated Four Seasons Hotel, the Ty Warner Penthouse on the 52nd floor has soared to \$80,000 a night from the previous rate of \$50,000, making it the priciest view in the Big Apple, eclipsing the Mark Hotel’s penthouse that goes for \$75,000, according to the *New York Post*.

A room with a view brings the outdoors in, creating the illusion of more space. Is it worth a 10% premium if your mind perceives you to have 10% more space? It’s a bargain when you think of it that way.

Where is the trend? In New York City, the most expensive views (\$50 million to \$100 million) are clustered together on Billionaires Row: 57th Street, blocks from Central Park and more than a mile from the two rivers. Often above the clouds, these apartments are quiet, far from the noise of the city, with unobstructed views of the horizon and of the weather, where everything is far away. It is for me the difference between a landscape and the unfamiliar calm of a “modern” abstract painting.

For many, the view is the only thing that matters. “The very first thing I did was walk to the window,” said Dr. Bovino about purchasing on Central Park. “I took one look at the view and said, ‘I’ll take it.’”

They say you can’t buy happiness. Whoever said that probably doesn’t have water views. The Mappiness study tracked over a million responses on the happiness of 22,000 people. We learned people are happier outdoors in nature than in any kind of urban environment. The highest increase in happiness in an outdoor environment occurred when people were near water.

What about Connecticut generally, and New Canaan specifically? For one thing, we don’t measure the value of the view with an algorithm (1% per floor and 30% for water). Height is limited by zoning, as are setbacks. Here are my observations — which are over-generalizations based on thousands of showings over 20 years — on what constitutes a desirable view in our area:

- 1. View of the lawn.** Large front lawns provide a buffer between house and street, but that’s the public’s view. The trend has been a large, private, and green back yard. Formal rooms, located in the front of the house, have the less important view, while the kitchen and family room in the rear of the house are often graced with oversized windows to enjoy a view of the back yard.
- 2. Views of the neighbor-hood.** The most expensive condominiums in New Canaan, both median price and price per foot, are downtown. Take for example new development on Forest Street, Park Street, and South Avenue in the last few years. While not exactly city views, the view there is full of cars and pedestrians and shoppers. I previewed a \$4 million house in Darien yesterday and counted 14 other houses from the bedroom window. In-town living is still trending, and with it in-town views.
- 3. Wetlands.** So often mis-understood, wetlands are those spaces where you can’t install a lawn, build a barn, or park a vehicle, so naturally for many of us, the wetlands are what we look at, providing us some of the best views of nature in the neighborhood. Any high, flat, buildable land probably has a house and lawn on it.
- 4. Window Size.** This has been trending larger and larger for years. Not just for waterfront homes, it’s a way for builders to communicate luxury.
- 5. Ridges and Valleys.** Houses up on Oenoke Ridge, Ponus Ridge, and Smith Ridge have unparalleled views of some amazing sunsets. My sister’s house on Brushy Ridge has a clear view south to Long Island Sound. It was Tom Gorin who taught me in my first year of real estate the difference in price between the low side of North Street and the high side. Houses on the high side of the street are preferred because they tend to have more light and a better view.

These distinctions were not lost on architect Philip Johnson in the late 1940s. Upon securing a job in New York City, he could settle anywhere. Why New Canaan, Ponus Ridge in particular, for his Glass House? He chose the site on a knoll with a view of the valley below:

“The Glass House started because of the land that was there. That was my hardest job by far. I worked for three or four years throwing out ideas. And it was all conditioned by the landscape itself. In finding that little knoll, I was in the middle of the woods in the middle of the winter and I almost didn’t find it.”



“The very first thing I did was walk to the window,” said Dr. Bovino about purchasing on Central Park. “I took one look at the view and said, ‘I’ll take it.’”

There is some value in a view of the changing seasons. In places where leaves change color, that is the best and priciest view. In Vermont, they call it “stick season” once the trees lose their leaves and the tourists go home.

Views of the mountains and the stars above have their fans, too. Big Sky Resort in Montana has views of Glacier National Park, the most photographed place in the state.

John Engel is a broker with the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman and he has a golden retriever named Callie. Last week the Superbowl of dog shows, Westminster, was held, and the golden retriever failed once again. The golden retriever, America’s most popular dog, has never won the big prize but New Canaan has. John Oulton, currently the bartender at Cherry Street East, won the Superbowl of dog shows in 1999 with CH. Loteki Supernatural Being the Papillon. If you have a golden retriever, you’re already a winner.



The March Sky: Eclipses, Equinox, and Planetary Alignments

By Emma Barhydt

March is a month of celestial drama, with the night sky offering a total lunar eclipse, a partial solar eclipse, the arrival of the vernal equinox, and a planetary dance visible to the naked eye. These events, long observed by civilizations past, continue to shape scientific understanding of Earth's place in the universe.

The Blood Moon: March 14's Total Lunar Eclipse

In the early hours of March 14, a total lunar eclipse will grace the skies of North and South America. As Earth moves between the Sun and the Moon, the Moon will darken, turning a deep red as it falls into Earth's umbral shadow. This "Blood Moon" effect occurs because Earth's atmosphere scatters shorter wavelengths of light while allowing red hues to reach the lunar surface.

The eclipse will last for about 66 minutes, with peak totality occurring at 3:00 a.m. EST. Skywatchers in the western hemisphere will have the best view, with the Moon high in the southwestern sky. Ancient civilizations viewed such events with awe, often interpreting them as omens of change. Today, scientists use lunar eclipses to study Earth's atmosphere, noting how particles like volcanic ash influence the Moon's color during totality.

A Sunrise Spectacle: The Partial Solar Eclipse on March 29

Just over two weeks later, a partial solar eclipse will unfold at dawn on March

29, visible from parts of North America and Europe. The Moon will obscure a portion of the Sun as it rises, creating a dramatic effect along the horizon. Observers in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States will see as much as 40% of the Sun covered at maximum eclipse.

Unlike lunar eclipses, which can be viewed safely with the naked eye, solar eclipses require protective gear such as eclipse glasses or solar filters. The entire event will last less than an hour, with the Sun emerging fully by 7:05 a.m. EST.

The Vernal Equinox: March 20

March also marks the vernal equinox, the moment when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, signaling the start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. At exactly 4:59 a.m. EST on March 20, day and night will be nearly equal worldwide.

Equinoxes have been significant throughout human history. Ancient cultures aligned monuments like Stonehenge and the Mayan pyramids to the Sun's position on these days. Modern calendars still reflect the equinox's importance, influencing holidays such as Nowruz, the Persian New Year, and determining the timing of Easter.

The Planetary Waltz: Venus, Mercury, Mars, and Jupiter

While eclipses steal the spotlight, the planets are engaging in their own celestial dance. Venus and Mercury will form a rare conjunction just after sunset in early



March. Venus, the brighter of the two at magnitude -4.5, will help locate Mercury, which will sit just below it near the western horizon. The two will be at their closest around March 11. By March 22, Venus will fade into the Sun's glare, leaving Mercury visible for only a few more days.

Mars lingers in Gemini, steadily dimming as it moves across the constellation. By mid-March, it will shine at magnitude 0, forming a triangle with Castor and Pollux, the twin stars of Gemini. Jupiter, still bright at magnitude -2.2, remains in Taurus, setting around midnight. Through a telescope, viewers can observe its four largest moons casting shadows on the planet's cloud bands.

Saturn and Neptune, however, will be

out of sight. Both reach conjunction with the Sun this month, meaning they are too close to the solar glare to be seen. With these planets absent, the morning sky will be noticeably emptier, offering a clearer view of deep-space objects.

The International Space Station and Tiangong Passages

March also provides opportunities to spot artificial satellites. The International Space Station (ISS) will be visible in the evening sky starting March 10, appearing as a bright, unblinking point of light moving across the heavens. Under the right conditions, it can outshine even Jupiter. Meanwhile, China's Tiangong space station, though fainter, will also make several visible passes. Unlike airplanes,

these stations move in steady arcs and do not blink, reflecting sunlight as they orbit about 250 miles above Earth.

The Owl Nebula: A Deep-Sky Gem

For telescope users, March presents a chance to observe Messier 97, the Owl Nebula, in Ursa Major. This planetary nebula, the remnant of a dying star, appears as a ghostly sphere with two dark voids resembling an owl's eyes. Though faint, it reveals intricate details under dark skies with an OIII filter.

The Slow Motion of the Heavens: Precession and Celestial Coordinates

Beyond these immediate spectacles, the sky itself is shifting. Earth's axial precession, a slow wobble in its rotation, gradually alters the positions of celestial objects. The "First Point of Aries," a reference point for celestial coordinates, no longer resides in Aries but in Pisces due to this drift. Over the next 26,000 years, the North Star will change, and constellations will shift. The night sky, long thought to be fixed, is in constant motion.

A Cosmic Calendar in Motion

March 2025 is a showcase of celestial rhythms. Eclipses highlight the precision of planetary orbits, the equinox signals seasonal balance, and the planets stage their silent performances. Even as the sky appears unchanged, the grand mechanics of the cosmos continue their steady transformation, reminding Earth-bound observers that time, like the heavens, is always in motion.

Winners of the February 2025 Writing Competition

A CONTEST FROM JOE DAWSON

Ages 15 & UNDER WINNER: KAYLA KICZEK, NEW CANAAN

Entry: *"Dearest Green Eggs and Ham, I fear there has been a big misunderstanding. You see, I only pretended not to like you because I was afraid you did not like me back and Sam would tease me. In fact, I not only like you, I LOVE you!"*

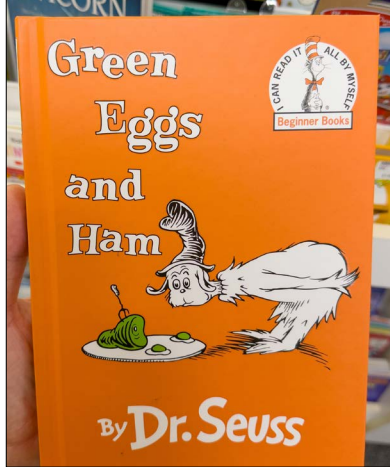
This entry stood out because it took a well-known story, flipped the perspective, and added a heartfelt and humorous twist. The simple miscommunication trope, combined with the exaggerated stakes of Sam-I-Am's relentless enthusiasm, made for a clever and endearing Valentine's Day message.

We were doubly pleased because it celebrated Dr. Suess whose birthday was March 2.

AGES 16 & UP WINNER: ERICA BLAIR, GREENWICH

Entry: *"The Winter's Tale: Don't trust old friends. Or wives. Or peddlers. Or statues. Or bears."*

This entry brilliantly condensed an entire Shakespearean play into twelve words while maintaining the essence of its plot. It's witty, direct, and captures



the sheer absurdity and betrayals of *The Winter's Tale* in a delightfully concise format. The final twist—throwing bears into the mix—was the perfect touch.

RUNNER-UP: ANDREA KICZEK, NEW CANAAN

Entry: *"The Real Housewives of Verona's reunion show is going to be lit!"*

This entry brought contemporary humor to Shakespeare, imagining *Romeo and Juliet* as a reality TV disaster waiting to happen. The choice to reframe the drama of Verona's feuding families in the context of a modern reality show was

"Deep "Dearest Green Eggs and Ham, I fear there has been a big misunderstanding. You see, I only pretended not to like you because I was afraid you did not like me back and Sam would tease me. In fact, I not only like you, I LOVE you!"

unexpected and hilarious.

A LOOK AT THE ENTRIES

This month's submissions covered the full spectrum of love—tragic, hilarious, and bizarre. Shakespeare's most famous doomed romance, *Romeo and Juliet*, naturally dominated the entries, with multiple takes on its themes of miscommunication, family interference, and poetic tragedy. Some took a more poetic approach, while others embraced dark humor or modern satire.

Other plays received clever treatment as well: *The Winter's Tale* became a masterclass in betrayal, *Twelfth Night* was reduced to the unpredictability of Illyria's weather, and *King Lear* was reframed as a probate nightmare. Many entries leaned into brevity as a comedic tool, proving that sometimes, less really is more.

In the under-15 category, creative

takes on literary friendships and unlikely love stories led the way. The best ones found humor in famous characters' relationships—whether it was *Green Eggs and Ham* revealing a secret admiration or *Winnie the Pooh's* love letter to honey. Ages 16 & Up Winners

HONORABLE MENTIONS

John Kriz
Entry: *"Twelfth Night: 3-way with Twins, Cross-dressing, Greatness Thrust"*

This entry won for its sharp economy of words, irreverent humor, and double entendres that perfectly encapsulate Twelfth Night's themes of mistaken identity, ambition, and romance. Shakespeare would approve of the bawdiness.

Chris Lengle
Entry: *"She pursues, he resists. Love wins through wit and will." (Much Ado About Nothing)*

Calling all sophisticates, literary enthusiasts, and our very clever Sentinel readers!

Enter to Win Cash Prizes in our Cross-Over Contest!

Sentinel Literary Competition

MARCH Writing Challenge #325: Literary Finds

March is a month of transitions and spring cleaning—winter turns to spring, the old gives way to the new, and change is everywhere. We throw open the windows and clean out the closets. This month's contest embraces transformation and lost things.

For Ages 15 & Under: "Letters from the Other Side"

Winner receives \$25 and publication in the Sentinel!

Prompt: If other things could talk, what would they say? Write a letter from an unusual point of view—maybe it's from a snowman to the sun, a worm to a robin, or a pencil to its owner. Whether it's heartfelt, hilarious, or completely bizarre, tell us what the world looks like from their perspective—in 50 words or fewer.

Example 1: A Snowman Writes to the Sun

Dear Sun,

Your warmth is wonderful, but every time you come out, I lose a little more of myself. My carrot nose fell off yesterday. My left arm is now just a soggy mitten in the slush. But still, I can't help loving your warmth.

Meltingly yours, Frosty

Example 2: A Book's Lament

Dear Reader,

Remember me? You used to take me everywhere—under blankets, to the park, even to the kitchen (I still have a spaghetti stain on page 42). But now I'm under your bed, all dusty and lonely.

Waiting (and sneezing), Your Book

For Ages 16 & Up: "What's Left Behind"

Winners receive \$100 and \$50 and publication!

Prompt: Someone—or something—has disappeared. All that remains is an object, a letter, or a single clue. In 150 words or fewer, tell the story of what was lost and what it left behind. It could be a person, a civilization, an animal, a way of life—anything that once existed and is now gone. Make it haunting, funny, mysterious, or

deeply human, but above all, make us feel the absence.

Example 1:

The archaeologist found it buried under layers of sand—an ornate drinking cup, its gold edges dulled by time. Someone had lifted it once, filled it, toasted with it. But to whom? A king? A god? They translated the inscription. It read: Drink deeply and remember. Remember what?

Example 2:

A single, lonely sock lay crumpled in the corner, its mate nowhere to be found.

"Another one," Detective Whiskers muttered, adjusting his tiny detective hat. "That's the third this week."

He sniffed the sock. A faint trace of fabric softener... and betrayal.

Mrs. Jenkins stood in the doorway. "I put both in."

They always say that. Whiskers narrowed his eyes. This wasn't an accident. This was organized crime. The Great Sock Heist had gone on for too long.

He turned back to the dryer. A draft of warm air whispered through the vent. Whiskers felt the fur on his back prickle.

Could it be? Were the legends true?

The Sock Dimension.

A place where single socks vanished, sucked into a swirling vortex of static electricity and lost laundry.

Whiskers flicked his tail. He'd crack this case. No sock left behind.

Deadline: Midnight, Friday, March 28, 2025. Winners announced in the April 3, 2025 issue.

How to Enter: Craft your clever response to this month's prompt, then visit www.NewCanaanSentinel.com/sentinel-writing-competition to submit it. Multiple entries are welcome, and pseudonyms are accepted—giving you the freedom to be as inventive as you like.



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Submit your events at:
[newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/](https://www.newcanaansentinel.com/submit-an-event/)

TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, March 10

[Affordable Housing Committee](#)
7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Tuesday, March 11

[Board of Assessment Appeals](#)
9 a.m., Town Hall Conference Room B

[Pension Committee](#)
11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

[Fire Commission](#)
7-8 p.m., Fire Headquarters

Wednesday, March 12

[Board of Assessment Appeals](#)
9 a.m., Town Hall Conference Room B

[Parks and Recreation Commission](#)
7-8 p.m., Lapham Center

Thursday, March 13

[Police Department Building Committee](#)
8-9 a.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

[Board of Assessment Appeals](#)
11 a.m., Town Hall Conference Room B

[Conservation Commission](#)
12-1 p.m., Town Hall Board Room & via Zoom

[Town Council](#)
7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

March 7
Terra Nova
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

March 8
Principles of Cooking: Meat
10 AM at the New Canaan Library, Kend Kitchen + Community Room
Unlock the secrets to perfectly cooked meat in this engaging demonstration-style class. Whether you're a home cook looking to refine your technique , properly season your meat or gain new insights, this session will cover essential methods for achieving juicy, flavorful results every time. Registration for this event will open tomorrow, March 1st, at 9 am. To register, visit <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-cooking-class-113466>.

Writing Tips: The Importance of Revisions
10:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
In Writing Tips, the necessity to revise your work will be discussed along with the technical elements: cohesion, depth of character, POV and word integration, plus more that polish the narrative. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/writing-tips-98278>.

Woven Necklace Event
2-4 PM at the Little Plucky
Join for an afternoon of necklace making; bubbly and nibbles with artist Erika Burling. Create your own sustainable, handcrafted necklace that blends

modern trends with vintage charm and timeless style using sustainable and eco-friendly materials. Tickets are \$55 and available at <https://www.thelittlelucky.com>.

Schubert: Mass No. 2, G Major, D 167
Mozart: Vesperae solennes de Confessore, K 339
5 PM at St. Mark's Episcopal Church
For many decades, the St. Mark's Choir has been known for its concerts with orchestra. With this concert St. Mark's will revive that tradition. The Choir and Soloists, accompanied by a full orchestral ensemble, will present these wonderful works. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 on the day of the show. Visit <https://www.stmarksnewcanaan.org> for more information.

Terra Nova
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

March 9
Taking Manhattan: Best-Selling Author Russell Shorto
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Russell Shorto, best-selling author of The Island at the Center of the World, offers up a thrilling narrative of how the brash, bold, archetypal city of New York came to be—just in time for the 400th anniversary of its founding as Nieuwe Amsterdam. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-russell-shorto-nyc-books-116540>.

Terra Nova
2 PM at the Powerhouse Theatre
In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the Earth. Only the Norwegians returned. Terra Nova is the story of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and available at <https://tpnc.org>

March 10
VITA Free Tax Preparation
11 AM- 5 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Get your 2024 taxes filed for free at New Canaan Library through SimplifyCT. SimplifyCT uses VITA, a secure, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) certified program that's been developed to connect individuals to volunteer IRS certified tax preparers who can give you advice and file your taxes. Drop-ins are welcome. Register at <https://shorturl.at/KDebZ>.

March 11
Images of the USA and Canadian Rockies
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Local photographer, Mike Tomashefsky, will be presenting his shots of awe inspiring American and Canadian landscapes and culture, from New England, across the Canadian Rockies, all the way to Hawaii. Refreshments served. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Open Tech
2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

March 12

A Literary Tour of Ireland with Ned: A Lively Reading to Celebrate St. Patrick's Day
10 AM at the Lapham Center
Ned Monaghan, will regale everyone with the poetry and anecdotes of his beloved homeland. Celebrate Ireland's rich cultural history with this engaging recitation. Irish treats served alongside the poetry of the Emerald Isle. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

March 13
Shamrock Quilling
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Get in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day with this festive craft. Quilling is the art of rolling and shaping paper into beautiful forms. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Ask the Attorney with Nedder and Associates, by appointment
2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
An attorney from Nedder and Associates, LLC will be available for a free, private, fifteen-minute consultations to answer your legal or financial questions. Free event. Please call 203-594-3620 to schedule your appointment.

The Films of David Lynch: Lecture by Film Historian Greg Blank
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
David Lynch was an American artist and filmmaker known for creating one of the most surreal and distinctive bodies of work in cinema history. Greg Blank is a New York-based filmmaker and film historian with over 15 years of experience. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-historian-greg-blank-130095>.

SAVE THE DATE

March 14
Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. This is a free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Microsoft Word Basics
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you are new to Microsoft Word or want to learn about the latest version of Word, this class is for you. Learn the basics of navigating the Office 365 version of Word, from creating a new document and formatting fonts to adjusting paragraphs, changing margins, and saving and printing your files. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/microsoft-word-basics-130078>

March 15
Syrup Saturday
8:30- 11:30 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Bring the whole family and join the NCNC for their annual syrup season celebration. There will be pancakes & PJ's party, complete with tons of fun syrup-related activities. Tickets are \$15/person and registration will be open soon at <https://newcanaannature.org/syrup-saturday/>.

Gardening Workshop | Soil & Compost
11 AM at Grace Farms
Deepen your knowledge of soils and composts with Director of Horticulture Kimberly Kelly. Discover how to create and feed soil, a crucial element of a resilient ecosystem, and learn about how to make and properly use compost. Tickets

are \$16/members, \$20/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org>.

Jazz & Wine Night with Michael-Louis Smith & Brooklyn Circle
7 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
An evening of wine and music featuring original jazz/world/groove. Featuring Saxophonist Stacy Dillard, Bassist Diallo House, Guitarist Michael-Louis Smith, and Drummer Ismail Lawal. Tickets are \$35 through March 13th. After, tickets are \$40. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/>.

March 17
Irish Dance: Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Performance by the Anam Cara Students
10:30 AM at the Lapham Center
The Lapham Centers favorite Irish dancers will return to help celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style. Enjoy Irish treats while being awed and entertained by these talented young performers. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

VITA Free Tax Preparation
11 AM- 5 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Get your 2024 taxes filed for free at New Canaan Library through SimplifyCT. SimplifyCT uses VITA, a secure, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) certified program that's been developed to connect individuals to volunteer IRS certified tax preparers who can give you advice and file your taxes. Drop-ins are welcome. Register at <https://shorturl.at/KDebZ>.

March 18
Open Tech
2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

March 19
Tour: William Louis-Dreyfus Collection & Katonah Museum of Art
11 AM - 2 PM in Mt. Kisco, NY
Join for a visit to the William Louis-Dreyfus Foundation, in Mt. Kisco, NY, for a tour of the extensive collection made up of pieces by contemporary, emerging and self-taught artists. After, there will be lunch and a visit to the Katonah Museum of Art for a tour of their new Ali Banisadr exhibition. Tickets are \$50 for members and \$65 for non-members. More information and tickets are available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/william-louis-dreyfus-kma/>.

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai from New Canaan's Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Retirement Plans: Leave It, Move It, Roll It, Take It
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join a pizza lunch with a program presented by Nadine Vargas, Edward Jones Associate. Learn to handle your 401(k), pension or other employer-sponsored retirement plan when you leave a job. Learn about the most common distribution options, how to avoid having the IRS withhold 20% of your retirement distribution, how taxes, penalties and investment options factor into your decisions. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Virus and Malware Basics

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

2:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Join to learn more about the different types of malicious software, how to tell if your computer is infected, and what you can do to protect your computer from viruses and malware. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/virus-and-malware-basics-130558>.

March 20

Life Reimagined
1PM at the Lapham Center
Purposeful living promotes happiness, longevity, a healthier heart and reduces the risk of Alzheimer’s and other diseases. Hosts Marcy Rand, LMSW, Director, New Canaan’s Human Services Department, and Robin Rockafellow, LCSW, lead an informal and friendly group discussion. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

The Link from Mozart to Film- Day One
3 PM at the First Presbyterian Church
New Canaan Chamber Music concert featuring Stella Chen, Geneva Lewis, Matthew Lipman, Ani Aznavoorian, and Andrew Armstrong. Ticket prices start at \$50 and are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

March 21

The Link from Mozart to Film- Day Two
7:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church
New Canaan Chamber Music concert featuring Stella Chen, Geneva Lewis, Matthew Lipman, Ani Aznavoorian, and Andrew Armstrong. Ticket prices start at \$50 and are available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

March 24

VITA Free Tax Preparation
11 AM- 5 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Get your 2024 taxes filed for free at New Canaan Library through SimplifyCT. SimplifyCT uses VITA, a secure, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) certified program that’s been developed to connect individuals to volunteer IRS certified tax preparers who can give you advice and file your taxes. Drop-ins are welcome. Register at <https://shorturl.at/KDebZ>.

March 25

Spring Bulb Arranging Workshop with Bloomcraft
10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
It’s the perfect time of year to create an abundant spring bulb arrangement to take home and enjoy for weeks to come. Natalie McPartland of Bloomcraft will provide an array of vibrant spring bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. Perfect for beginners or flower enthusiasts, you’ll learn the art of combining various colors, scents and textures. Tickets are \$125 for members, \$ 145 for non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

Growing Herbs Indoors for Beauty and Use With
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join for lunch and a program with Jen Cipriano from Copia Home and Garden. Jen will talk about indoor planting techniques, different types of herbs and how to care for them. Enjoy the benefits of growing your own fresh herbs at home. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Open Tech
2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

An Evening Dance Experience with Appetizers and Wine

5-7 PM at the Lapham Center
Amy and Marko from New Canaan’s Fred Astaire dance studio will lead everyone in a dance lesson. No dance partner required. Come dance, sip and enjoy. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

March 26

Understanding Real ID
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join a lunch and learn presented by Jeanthony Brito, AAA. The presentation will cover what Real ID is, why and when it is being enforced, and the requirements to obtain a Real ID driver’s license or state ID. After the presentation, there will be a short Q&A session. Anyone who brings their documents can also meet with an AAA representative to review them and ensure they have everything needed to complete the process. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai from New Canaan’s Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

March 27

Breakfast with the First Selectman
8 AM at Chef Luis Restaurant, 129 Elm St
Join the Chamber as they welcome First Selectman Dionna Carlson where she will provide her first annual address to the business community. Dionna will update everyone on a variety of issues her office is working on and take questions. Tickets are \$45 per person and available at <https://newcanaanchamber.com/2025/02/21/breakfast-with-the-first-selectman-2025/>.

Backyard Birds Presented by the Connecticut Audubon Society
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Learn to identify backyard birds by sight and sound, who is at the feeder during each season and what their feeding habits are. There will be samples of bird feeders and seed that can be used in your backyard to attract birds. Coffee and treats will be available. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

March 28

Lecture & Reception with Katharine Earnhardt
6 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join for a special reception and lecture with Katharine Earnhardt, Founder of Mason Lane Art Advisory. Katharine will lead an engaging conversation around art appreciation as a way to fuel personal and professional growth. There will be a reception followed by the presentation with a Q&A. More information is available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

April 1

Open Tech
2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mahjongg: An Introduction
6 PM at the Lapham Center
Join Aggie for this helpful overview of the game that is sweeping the country. Find out just what makes Mahjongg so popular, and learn the basics of this exciting, low-pressure, social game. PowerPoint presentation followed by a brief Q&A. There will be chips & dips and small nibbles. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 2

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai from New Canaan’s Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 4

Medicare Basics with Medicare CHOICES Counselors
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Medicare can be overwhelming and what you don’t know can negatively impact your healthcare. This presentation will provide an overview of how Medicare works, coverage options, enrollment periods and key benefits. Dick Neville has been providing volunteer Medicare Counseling for over 20 years. Coffee and treats will be served. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 6

2025 Unite to Fight 5K Run/Walk
7:30 AM at Waveny Park
Join Filling in the Blanks at their Seventh Annual Unite to Fight 5K. Check in will begin at 7:30, Kids Fun Run at 8:15 and the 5K walk/run beginning at 8:45. Show your support, register as a fundraiser, walker, or runner, and spread community awareness of Filling in the Blanks’ mission. There will be prizes, t-shirts and food. To register, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/NewCanaan/UnitetoFight>.

Spring Awakening Retreat with Grounded Meditation
9 AM- 1 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
This half-day retreat is designed to celebrate the arrival of Spring and embrace the theme of new beginnings. An immersive experience that will connect you to nature, your body, and your inner self through a variety of restorative practices. Tickets are \$150 before March 30th, \$175 after, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

April 8

Open Tech
2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
If you need help with email, smartphones/tablets, social media, or accessing the digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. All technology-related questions are welcome. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

A Night of Needlepoint
5 PM at the Lapham Center
Whether you are a total novice or an old pro, come in and join Aggie and friends for an evening of needlepointing. If you have questions about a work in progress or if you want to learn to stitch, Aggie will be available to provide assistance and offer “pro” tips. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 9

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Ellen Samai from New Canaan’s Department of Health provides in-person blood sugar and blood pressure testing. Walk-ins welcome. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 10

Faux Faberge Eggs with Clever and Crafty
1 PM at the Lapham Center
Spend the afternoon with friends, as you create beautiful “Faberge” eggs for the holiday. Free event. Registration is limited, call 203-594-3620 to register.

Ask the Attorney with Nedder and Associates, by appointment

2-4 PM at the Lapham Center
An attorney from Nedder and Associates, LLC will be available for a free, private, fifteen-minute consultations to answer your legal or financial questions. Free event. Please call 203-594-3620 to schedule your appointment.

April 11

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. This is a free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 12

Adaptive Circus Program
3 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join Circus Moves for a special adaptive program for children with special needs and their families. Balancing, bouncing, tossing, trying, spinning, smiling, jumping, juggling, and lots of clowning around. Circus is for everyBODY. Best for families with children in grades K-6th. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/copy-copy-adaptive-circus-program-94306>.

April 17

Life Reimagined
1PM at the Lapham Center
Purposeful living promotes happiness, longevity, a healthier heart and reduces the risk of Alzheimer’s and other diseases. Hosts Marcy Rand, LMSW, Director, New Canaan’s Human Services Department, and Robin Rockafellow, LCSW, lead an informal and friendly group discussion. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Glass House Presents Andrew Heid, Author of Glass Houses
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Glass Houses presents 50 stunning architect-designed homes that utilize glass to maximum effect. Each house is celebrated with awe-inspiring photographs that showcase the dynamic, light-filled living spaces that only glass can deliver. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-glass-house-glass-houses-131397>.

April 30

Bytes and Bites: AI Insights, Appetizers and Wine
5 PM at the Lapham Center
In this session, find twelve ways AI and ChatGPT can help you with browsing, writing, summarizing, fact-checking, playing, sketching, translating or repairing photos. Be sure to bring your device to try these things first-hand. Presenter, Gary Webster, is a dynamic technology integrator and certified teacher, with over 15 years’ experience teaching technology and design in the classroom. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

May 1

Sip and Paint
5 PM at the Lapham Center
Join this low-key evening of art, wine, and good cheer. Unleash your inner artist and have some fun. This event is \$10 per person. Space is limited, call 203-594-3620 to register.

May 9

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Meet up with Shannon and Ellen from the Health Department for coffee, conversation and snacks. This is a free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

BLOOD DRIVES

Saturday, March 8

United Church of Rowayton
210 Rowayton Ave
Norwalk, CT 06853
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sunday, March 9

Greenwich Blood

Donation Center
99 Indian Field Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Tuesday, March 11

First Congregational Church of Darien
14 Brookside Road
Darien, CT 06820
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Greenwich Hospital
5 Perryridge Road
Greenwich, CT 06830
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Friday, March 14

American Legion
60 County Road
Norwalk, CT 06851
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

United Church of Rowayton
210 Rowayton Ave
Norwalk, CT 06853
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

March 21

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer - the 3 simple steps anyone can use to help prevent suicide. Those trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-128080>.

March 26

Alzheimer’s Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Join an informative and supportive group session to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. This event will be facilitated by Chris DiElsi, a Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) and an Alzheimer’s Navigator at Waveny LifeCare Network. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-dementia-support-group-93006>.

Lifestyle Medicine: Mental Health
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
In this workshop, lifestyle medicine specialist, Dr. Raquel Harrison will discuss mental health issues and how and where to get help. Dr. Raquel Harrison (MD, FACEP, dipABLM) is dual board certified in emergency medicine and lifestyle medicine. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-lifestyle-medicine-112567>.

April 1

The Connection Cure: A Conversation on Social Prescribing
6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Author Julia Hotz draws on scientific studies to show how social interactions can significantly reduce stress and anxiety, improve mood, boost immune function, and elevate our sense of purpose and inner peace. Presented in a panel with community partners including Silver Hill Hospital and the New Canaan Community Foundation. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-silver-hill-library-author-talk-127930>.

April 2

Caregiver Support Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementias
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join this group of experienced and compassionate experts to

learn more about what help is available and how to access the services offered. Moderator: Shannon Vallerie, New Canaan Health Department. This lunch and presentation is free. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 25

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer - the 3 simple steps anyone can use to help prevent suicide. Those trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/suicide-prevention-training-question-persuade-and-refer-128081>.

Every Friday

AA Speaker Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Fridays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

Every Saturday

AA Meeting-Sober Citizens Group
Saturdays at 9:15 AM
First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

AA Meeting-Laundry and Dry Cleaning Group
Saturdays at 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Lost Then Found NA Meeting
Wheelchair Accessible
Saturdays at 7 PM
United Methodist Church (back entrance)

Every Monday

AA Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Mondays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

Adult Child Al-Anon Meeting
Mondays at 12 PM
St. Mark’s Church, Youth Room

Every Tuesday

Adult Child Alanon Meeting
Tuesdays at 12 PM
St. Mark’s Parish House, Conf. Room

Every Wednesday

AA Step Meeting
Wheelchair Access
Wednesdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

Al-Anon Parent’s & Newcomer’s Mtg.
Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Silver Hill, Jorgenson House
208 Valley Rd., New Canaan

Every Thursday

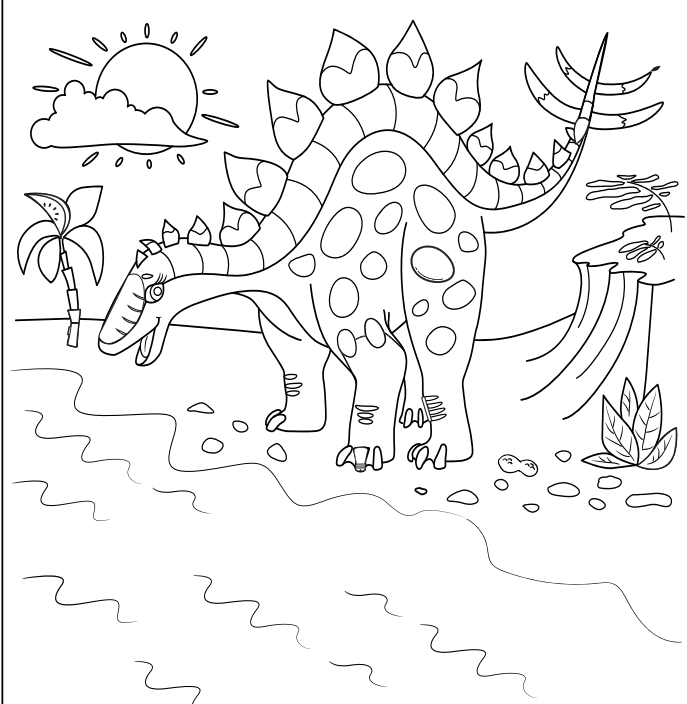
AA Big Book Meeting.
Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan
New Canaan Parent Support Group
7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
New Canaan

Our Neighbors

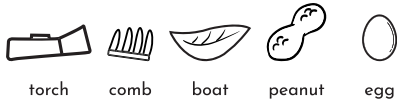
March 9

The Irish Tenors with the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra
7:30 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
The Irish Tenors have been Celtic music icons since their 1998 debut, boasting ten best-selling CDs and captivating audiences across the U.S. with their enchanting performances. They reignited America’s love for Irish music, consistently drawing full houses and standing ovations. Tickets prices start at \$86 and are available at <https://ridgefieldplayhouse.org>.

Find and color.



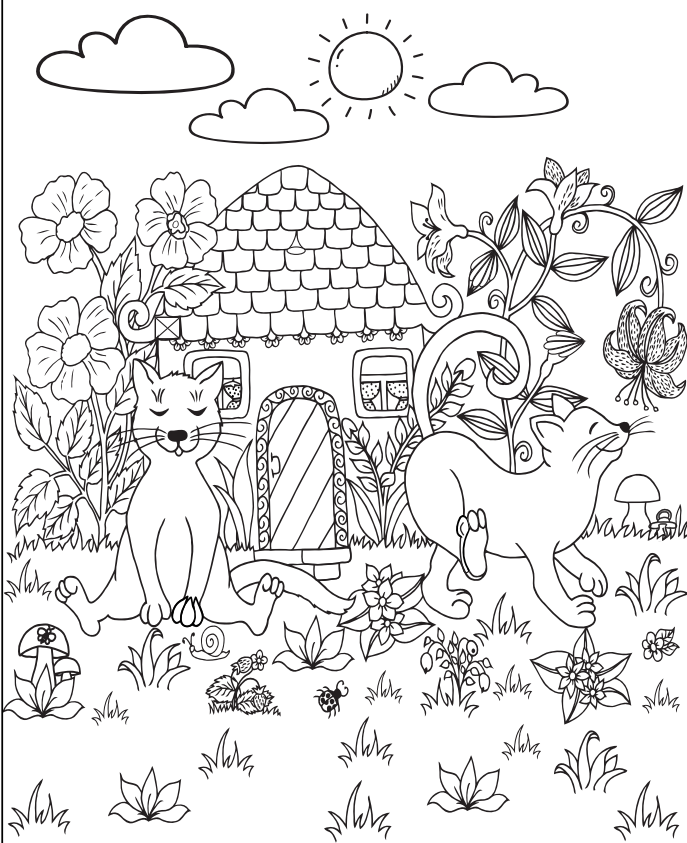
FIND ALL HIDDEN



torch comb boat peanut egg



salt watermelon bread glasses brush



FIND ALL HIDDEN



groin fried egg fastener oyster pacifier



Strawberry cap olive garlic envelope



FIND ALL HIDDEN



garlic domino ice cream paper clip balloon



banana clasp fishing rod book radish

Sudoku for Kids

5		4		3	
1			4		6
2			6	1	
	1	3			4
3	5		2	4	
	2			6	

	2			5	6
5		4			2
4		2	6		3
	3			2	
		6		4	
2		5	3		1

3	6			2	
		1		6	5
5	1		2		6
		6		3	
6				1	
	3	4	6		2

		2	5		3
5		6		4	
	1		4		
4	6			1	2
		4	1		
3	5			2	4

SUDOKU

Each row, column, nonet can contain each number only once. Answers below.

Easy

					3			4
4		5				1		
			9	1			7	
2	3			5		7		
	1		8		6		2	
		8		3			9	1
	4			9	8			
		2				9		8
5			3					

Hard

4	9		8	2				6
		5		1		2		3
8					3		1	
		7				5		
	1		6					8
2		8		3		7		
5				7	1		6	4

Very Hard

		6		9				
	4		8					
							3	
					5		6	
7	1	4	6	3	8	2	5	9
					9		1	
							9	
	2		9					
		7		4				

Easy

		3	5			4		
			6				9	
	7	5						2
	4						5	7
1		6	2		3	9		8
2	9						3	
4						3	1	
	3				5			
		2			4	7		

Hard

		2	7					1
8								
			4			5	3	
7		4				3	6	
2			8		4			5
	6	8				9		4
	1	7			2			
								3
6					7	4		

Very Hard

	7	4	2		8	3	5	6
2								
					3			
	4	2						
		5		3		9		
						7	3	
			9					
								8
8	3	9	4		1	5	6	

Sudoku answers

7	9	6	1	5	8	3	4	2
8	3	5	6	1	9	4	2	7
9	1	4	7	3	2	6	8	5
6	9	8	5	1	4	7	3	2
5	7	3	2	8	6	1	9	4
4	2	1	9	6	8	5	3	7
3	8	6	7	5	3	4	1	2
2	5	4	3	2	7	9	8	6
1	6	3	8	9	5	7	4	1

Bottom row – Very Hard

2	1	4	7	3	5	8	6	9
3	8	6	7	5	4	2	1	9
4	2	1	9	6	8	5	3	7
5	7	3	2	8	6	1	9	4
6	9	8	5	1	4	7	3	2
7	5	4	3	2	7	9	8	6
8	3	5	6	1	9	4	2	7
9	1	4	7	3	2	6	8	5
6	9	8	5	1	4	7	3	2

Bottom row – Hard

9	7	8	3	4	1	5	2	6
8	6	5	2	7	4	1	3	9
7	3	1	8	9	5	6	2	4
6	4	2	5	3	1	7	8	9
5	1	3	4	6	8	9	7	2
4	9	7	2	1	5	3	6	8
3	8	6	1	4	2	7	9	5
2	5	4	3	9	6	8	7	1
1	6	9	8	7	5	2	4	3

Bottom row – Easy

6	1	5	2	7	4	8	3	9
9	8	7	3	4	1	5	2	6
8	6	5	9	6	7	4	8	1
7	3	1	8	9	5	6	2	4
6	4	2	5	3	1	7	8	9
5	1	3	4	6	8	9	7	2
4	9	7	2	1	5	3	6	8
3	8	6	1	4	2	7	9	5
2	5	4	3	9	6	8	7	1

Top row – Very Hard

6	9	8	5	1	7	4	3	2
5	7	3	2	8	6	4	1	9
4	8	6	1	4	2	7	9	3
3	9	7	5	1	3	6	8	2
2	4	5	3	6	8	9	7	1
1	6	3	4	9	7	5	2	8
9	8	7	2	1	5	3	6	4
8	5	4	3	6	1	7	9	2
7	1	2	9	8	6	5	4	3

Top row – Hard

2	9	1	6	4	8	3	5	7
3	7	5	8	2	1	9	4	6
4	6	3	1	7	5	2	8	9
5	8	4	9	3	6	7	1	2
6	2	7	4	8	5	3	9	1
7	1	5	6	9	4	2	8	3
8	3	2	5	1	7	9	6	4
9	4	8	7	3	6	5	2	1
1	9	6	4	2	8	3	7	5

Top row – Easy

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 South American caffeinated brew
- 5 Wired up onstage
- 10 Covert “Over here!”
- 14 Dell competitor
- 15 What Marx and Engels told workers of the world to do
- 16 Mosquito bite aftermath
- 17 Affordable fish?
- 19 Reid of “Sharknado”
- 20 Dojo instructor
- 21 Gradually weakens
- 23 After ex-penses
- 24 PC’s bailout key
- 25 Thwarted, as an evil plan
- 27 Lead-in to “climate”
- 30 Fish topped with cheese?
- 33 Granite State sch.
- 34 Amble
- 35 Sandy hill
- 36 Sit there brooding
- 38 Herb used to flavor pizzelle
- 39 Victoria’s Secret merchandise
- 40 Bay or beech
- 41 Ralph who finished third in 2000
- 42 Onetime RCA competitor
- 43 Some fishing cords?
- 45 Shoelace tip
- 47 Ipecac, e.g.
- 48 Bay Area airport code
- 49 Much-used pencil
- 50 ___ platter (Polynesian appetizer)
- 53 Consume, like sashimi
- 57 Country once ruled by the Pahlavi dynasty
- 59 Tough, chewy fish?
- 61 The Golden State, to LL Cool J
- 62 Villain, to a hero
- 63 Where a fall came early?
- 64 Fitzgerald dubbed the First Lady of Song
- 65 Horns’ home country
- 66 “Did u solve 66-A?,” e.g.

DOWN

- 1 They don’t have Windows
- 2 Tylenol target
- 3 Typical TikTok user
- 4 It may be full of chalk
- 5 Pop or rock
- 6 Printer supply
- 7 Optima and Sorento

- 8 James who sang “At Last”
- 9 Appliance at a fair
- 10 Hollow out, as an olive
- 11 Oliver Hardy’s co-star
- 12 Anonymous, say, for a troll
- 13 “OK, you’re in trouble now!”
- 18 Baja bar tender?
- 22 “Hamilton” Tony nominee Phillipa
- 26 Where to look up the cast of “CSI”
- 27 “Aren’t you lucky!”
- 28 Like dorm dodgeball leagues
- 29 Corny to the max
- 30 “Catch and Kill” author Farrow

- 31 Parenthetical comment
- 32 “Ja” and “oui”
- 34 Jobs that involve much filing?
- 37 Cornel who wrote “Race Matters”
- 44 Back talk
- 45 Many miles off
- 46 Prepared oneself
- 48 “So long!”
- 51 Small and insignificant
- 52 App that disrupted the taxi business
- 54 Traveled by horseback
- 55 Late host Trebek
- 56 Took off
- 58 Actress Vardalos
- 60 Stat based on weight and height

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	A	B	L	O		P	R	A	M		M	A	R	A
I	D	E	A	L		H	A	H	A		I	R	O	N
G	R	A	B	D	I	N	N	E	R		R	A	T	A
L	E	S	S		C	O	D	A		C	A	B	A	L
E	N	T		B	O	M	B	D	I	G	G	I	T	Y
T	A	I	W	A	N				N	I	E	C	E	S
S	L	E	E	K		C	A	S	K			A	D	T
			B	E	A	D	Y	E	E	S				
C	P	U			C	R	E	W		D	U	S	T	Y
O	R	N	A	T	E				Y	I	P	P	E	E
L	O	W	C	A	R	B	D	I	E	T			E	X
E	V	I	C	T		R	U	N	T		V	E	T	O
M	I	N	E		T	A	B	D	I	V	I	D	E	R
A	D	D	S		E	D	I	E		A	D	O	R	N
N	E	S	S		L	Y	N	X		L	A	S	S	O

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www.upuzzles.com

9/3

Sea What I Mean? by John-Clark Levin

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20							21			22		23		
			24						25		26			
27	28	29				30	31	32						
33					34						35			
36			37		38						39			
40					41							42		
43				44						45	46			
47									48					
49				50		51	52		53			54	55	56
57			58		59			60						
61					62						63			
64					65						66			

Horoscopes

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Self-worth and relationships take center stage as Venus retrograde forces you to examine your values and desires. You may feel moments of self-doubt, but this period is guiding you toward greater self-empowerment. The lunar eclipse in Virgo brings a turning point in partnerships, illuminating truths about a significant relationship. Whether a connection deepens or ends, trust that it’s part of your soul’s growth. Set clear standards for how you wish to be treated in love and business, enforcing healthy boundaries. Each morning, recite affirmations of self-love and abundance, reinforcing your worth and attracting relationships that honor your highest self.

Aries (March 21 - April 19): Venus retrograde in your sign forces you to rethink love, values, and personal direction while stirring up impatience and passion. Mercury in Aries adds urgency, but breakthroughs come when you embrace patience and balance. The lunar eclipse in Virgo reveals necessary changes in your routines, work, or health, illuminating what needs release. Trust this cosmic reset to refine your path, clearing old habits for greater alignment. Channel frustration into creative outlets or movement, like exercise or journaling, to avoid burnout. To stay grounded, practice daily rituals like breathwork or walking barefoot on the earth, allowing you to move forward with clarity and purpose.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): You’re in an introspective phase as Venus retrograde stirs up hidden emotions, unresolved wounds, and financial reassessments. Past lovers or old insecurities may resurface, asking for closure or clarity. The lunar eclipse in Virgo highlights romance, creativity, and self-expression, revealing a hidden desire or reigniting a forgotten passion. Prioritize rest and personal reflection—slow down, write out your feelings, and reconnect with hobbies that bring you joy. Engage in heart-centered meditation or wear rose quartz to release past pain and amplify self-love, reminding yourself that you are worthy of both passion and peace.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Venus retrograde shakes up friendships and social connections, prompting you to rethink your inner circle and the dynamics within partnerships. Misunderstandings may arise, but they reveal deeper truths about your values in relationships. Meanwhile, the lunar eclipse in Virgo illuminates your home and family sector, bringing revelations about your living situation or emotional foundations. Old wounds may resurface for healing, offering a chance to create a more stable personal life. Declutter your space, remove anything that no longer resonates, and set firmer boundaries with those who drain your energy. Cleanse your home with sage, palo santo, or sound vibrations, infusing your space with fresh, protective energy to invite harmony and security.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Career and reputation are under Venus retrograde’s scrutiny, making it a tricky time for professional relationships or long-term goals. Miscommunications at work require patience, and old career doubts may resurface. The lunar eclipse in Virgo brings transformative conversations, unveiling long-hidden truths or pushing you to express yourself more authentically. A shift in how you communicate can bring clarity and healing. Set clear boundaries in professional and personal discussions, ensuring your voice is heard without compromising your integrity. Before important conversations, meditate with a blue crystal like lapis lazuli to enhance clarity and ensure your words align with your highest truth.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Venus retrograde challenges your beliefs and sense of purpose, asking you to reevaluate personal philosophies and relationship expectations. Disillusionment may arise, but it leads to deeper authenticity. The lunar eclipse in Virgo highlights financial matters, self-worth, and material security, revealing where you need to realign your resources with your values. Review your spending habits, cut out unnecessary expenses, and refine financial goals to reflect what truly brings you stability and fulfillment. Each morning, speak

affirmations about your worth while looking in the mirror, reinforcing your confidence and inviting prosperity into your life.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Relationships, shared finances, and deep emotional bonds are under scrutiny as Venus retrograde exposes imbalances in give and take. Power struggles or past emotional debts may resurface, demanding resolution. The lunar eclipse in your sign acts as a personal reset, pushing you to shed an outdated identity, belief, or emotional weight. Assert your needs in financial and emotional exchanges—be direct about what you require to feel valued and secure. Perform a cleansing ritual, such as a salt bath or journaling exercise, to release limiting beliefs and step fully into your next chapter.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Relationships are in focus as Venus retrograde shakes up your partnership sector, stirring old dynamics, karmic lessons, or second chances in love. Conflicts reveal where balance is needed, pushing you toward healthier, more reciprocal connections. The lunar eclipse in Virgo uncovers hidden truths in your subconscious, bringing dreams, intuitions, or past wounds to light. Engage in honest, open dialogue with loved ones, but don’t overextend yourself to keep the peace. Release past relationship wounds by writing them down and burning the paper as a symbolic gesture of letting go, clearing space for love that truly serves you.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): Venus retrograde disrupts routines, work-life balance, and health habits, showing where you’ve been overextending yourself. It’s time to prioritize self-care and create better boundaries in daily obligations. The lunar eclipse in Virgo spotlights friendships and long-term goals, revealing whether your social connections align with your evolving self. Say no to commitments that drain you, and remove yourself from social groups that no longer serve your growth. Cleanse your energy field with sound healing, a singing bowl, or visualization techniques, allowing only aligned and supportive connections to remain in your orbit.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Romance and creative expression feel uncertain as Venus retrograde forces you to reassess love, pleasure, and personal passions. You might question whether a relationship or artistic endeavor truly fulfills you. The lunar eclipse in Virgo brings a turning point in your career, possibly signaling a shift in your ambitions or workplace dynamics. Speak openly about your romantic and professional desires, ensuring your passions align with your goals. During meditation, visualize your ideal career path, asking the universe for guidance on your next steps and staying open to unexpected opportunities.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Venus retrograde stirs unresolved family dynamics, home-related issues, or childhood wounds, prompting emotional reflection and healing. You may need to redefine what security means to you. The lunar eclipse in Virgo urges you to expand beyond old limitations, possibly through travel, education, or a spiritual awakening. Address lingering home or family concerns with honesty and take action to establish healthier relationships or living conditions. Say yes to new experiences—whether travel, a spiritual retreat, or deep study—allowing fresh perspectives to liberate you from the past.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Your communication style is shifting under Venus retrograde, making conversations more intense or emotionally revealing. Be mindful of your words, as they hold extra weight now. The lunar eclipse in Virgo highlights financial or intimate matters, possibly bringing hidden debts, emotional baggage, or shared resources into focus. Think twice before speaking on sensitive matters, ensuring your words align with your highest intentions. Perform a heart-healing meditation or carry rose quartz to release fear and welcome deeper emotional connections built on trust.

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

1. (K) Finds a sum
5. Playful little rascals
9. (K) Mountain with a snowcap
12. (K) Take a little peek
13. Part of the Atlantic Ocean (2 words)
15. (K) Straightened up
16. Bumps off the TV schedule
17. (K) It has a lot of X’s and Y’s
19. Give off, as potent gases
20. (K) Alternative to sordough
21. (K) With plenty of machine lubrication
23. Be a gentle masseuse
25. Dark places to explore
26. (K) You’ll find them in a Monopoly set

27. Typos now corrected, in a book
30. Made up, as a new phrase
32. (K) It encircles blood
33. (K) We support them with screams
35. “The Tell-Tale Heart” author’s initials.
36. Speeds, in notated music
37. (K) School org.
40. Kind of IRA
42. Marsh plant
44. Seriously overwhelmed
46. (K) Chomp down hard
47. War prisoner
48. (K) Speak indirectly
49. Special type of poem
50. (K) Shake hair all over the place
51. “Hey! Over here!”

DOWN

1. Union station?
2. (K) Item at a fancy dinner setting
3. (K) Sidestep
4. Terrier’s island?
5. (K) How secrets are told (2 words)
6. (K) Team spirit
7. (K) Attachment to “school” or “vent”
8. Stately, powerful horse
9. Headache aid
10. (K) It’s in your salad
11. Speaker systems, for short
14. “I’m thinking ...”
18. (K) You can swim from it
22. Crazy adventures
24. Bunk thing
25. (K) Is able to
26. (K) Attachment to “appear” or “approve”

27. (K) Lady No. 1
28. Hit the brakes too late (2 words)
29. Swift, snappy comeback
31. (K) Fail to name
34. (K) Game show hosts
36. 100,000-Btu unit
37. (K) Holders for sand, milk and lunch
38. Bible book of the New Testament
39. (K) Far from asleep on the job
41. (K) It leads to overtime
43. Baker’s abbr.
44. My story, or yours
45. (K) Antelope with a young-sounding name

Can you find the answer to this riddle within the solved puzzle?

Prefix recently viewed?

Look for the answer in next week’s paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

1	F	A	S	T		5	S	L	A	M		13	B	A	R
2	O	B	O	E		6	H	A	L	E		14	E	R	A
3	A	L	O	E		7	E	V	I	L		15	D	I	N
4	M	E	N	T		8	A	L	A	G	E	16	S	A	G
5						9	H	I	T		17	A	T		
6						10	S	D	E	W		18	W	E	P
7						11	M	O	T	H	E	R	O	F	P
8						12	P	O	R	E		19	D	E	A
9						13					20	W	O	E	
10						14	A	R	C	H		21	R	A	W
11						15	D	O	T		22	C	E	T	R
12						16	E	V	E		23	A	C	K	
13						17					24	I	C	O	N
14						18	L	E	G		25	S	H	O	E
15						19	T	R	Y		26	T	Y	P	E
16						20					21				
17						22					23				
18						24					25				
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22						32					33				
23						34					35				
24						36					37				
25						38					39				
26						40					41				
27						42					43				
28						44					45				
29						46					47				
30						48					49				
31						50					51				

Previous riddle answer:

Common thing to slip on?
56-A) Shoe

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The answers to this week’s puzzles can be found in next week’s issue.

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7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

- 1 what an unpopular inn has (7)
- 2 “Friends” star Cox (9)
- 3 mesmerized state (6)
- 4 comedian & actor Mac (6)
- 5 sets of letters (9)
- 6 divert, as train of thought (6)
- 7 communiqué (7)

SOLUTIONS

AL	EY	CY	VAC	RT
AN	BER	MES	TRA	PH
EN	ABE	NIE	COU	DER
TS	GE	AIL	SA	NCE

Previous Answers: 1. LYRICS 2. PAJAMAS 3. BOATHOUSE
4. SUMMONING 5. ATHENIANS 6. BEARDED 7. PRETZELS

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This Week in History & Fun Things to Celebrate

This Week in History & Fun Holidays (March 7 – March 13)

Exciting events from the past and some fun and wacky celebrations coming up!

This Week in History

March 7, 1876 – Alexander Graham Bell Patents the Telephone

Ring, ring! On this day, Alexander Graham Bell received a patent for the telephone, changing how people communicate forever. His first words on the device? “Mr. Watson, come here—I want to see you!”

March 8, 1917 – The Russian Revolution Begins

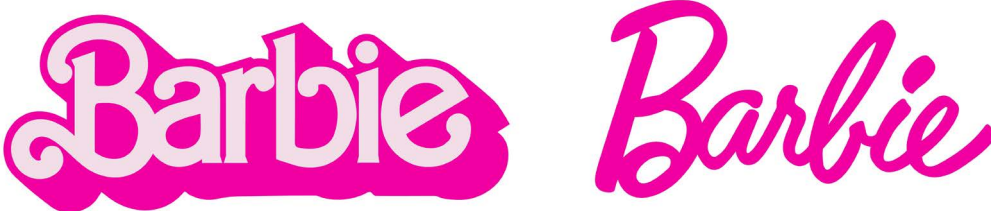
Big changes were happening in Russia! The people protested against their government, leading to a revolution that would change history. Eventually, the Russian monarchy ended, and a new government took over.

March 9, 1959 – Barbie Makes Her Debut

The very first Barbie doll hit the shelves! Created by Ruth Handler, Barbie became one of the most popular toys ever. Since then, she’s had hundreds of careers, from astronaut to doctor to president!

March 10, 1876 – The First Telephone Call

Just three days after receiving his patent, Alexander Graham Bell made the world’s first phone call to his assistant, Thomas Watson. This moment paved the way for the smartphones we use today!



March 11, 1918 – The First Cases of the Spanish Flu Are Reported in the U.S.

One of the deadliest pandemics in history began spreading across the world. The Spanish flu affected millions of people, and it changed how doctors and scientists handle viruses today.

March 12, 1912 – The Girl Scouts Are Founded

Juliette Gordon Low started the Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia. She wanted girls to have fun, learn new skills, and help their communities. Today, millions of Girl Scouts sell cookies, go on adventures, and make the world a better place!

March 13, 1781 – The Planet Uranus is Discovered

Astronomer William Herschel discovered Uranus—the first planet found using a telescope! At first, he thought it was a comet, but soon realized it was a new planet beyond Saturn.

Fun and Wacky Holidays This Week!

March 7 – National Cereal Day

Start your morning with a big bowl of your favorite cereal! Whether it’s fruity,

chocolatey, or full of marshmallows, today’s the day to enjoy it.

March 8 – International Women’s Day

A global celebration of women’s achievements in history, science, politics, and more. It’s a great day to learn about inspiring women who’ve changed the world!

March 9 – National Meatball Day

Spaghetti’s best friend gets its own special day! Time to enjoy some tasty meatballs—whether in pasta, on a sandwich, or just by themselves.

March 10 – National Mario Day

It’s-a me, Mario! March 10 (Mar!O—get it?) celebrates Nintendo’s most famous plumber. Play a Mario game, watch a Mario movie, or just say, “Wahoo!”

March 11 – National Johnny Appleseed Day

Johnny Appleseed traveled across the U.S., planting apple trees and sharing stories. Celebrate by eating an apple or planting something in his honor!

March 12 – National Plant a Flower Day

Spring is almost here! Today is the perfect time to plant some flowers and add a little

color to the world.

March 13 – National Good Samaritan Day

A day to do something kind for someone else. Hold the door open, help a friend, or simply share a smile—small acts of kindness make a big difference!

Other Fun and Wacky Celebrations

Coming Up!

March 7 – National Be Heard Day

A day to speak up, share your ideas, and make your voice count!

March 8 – Proofreading Day

Perfect for checking your spelling and grammar before hitting send!

March 9 – Panic Day

A silly holiday to acknowledge stress—but don’t panic too much, it’s all in good fun!

March 10 – Pack Your Lunch Day

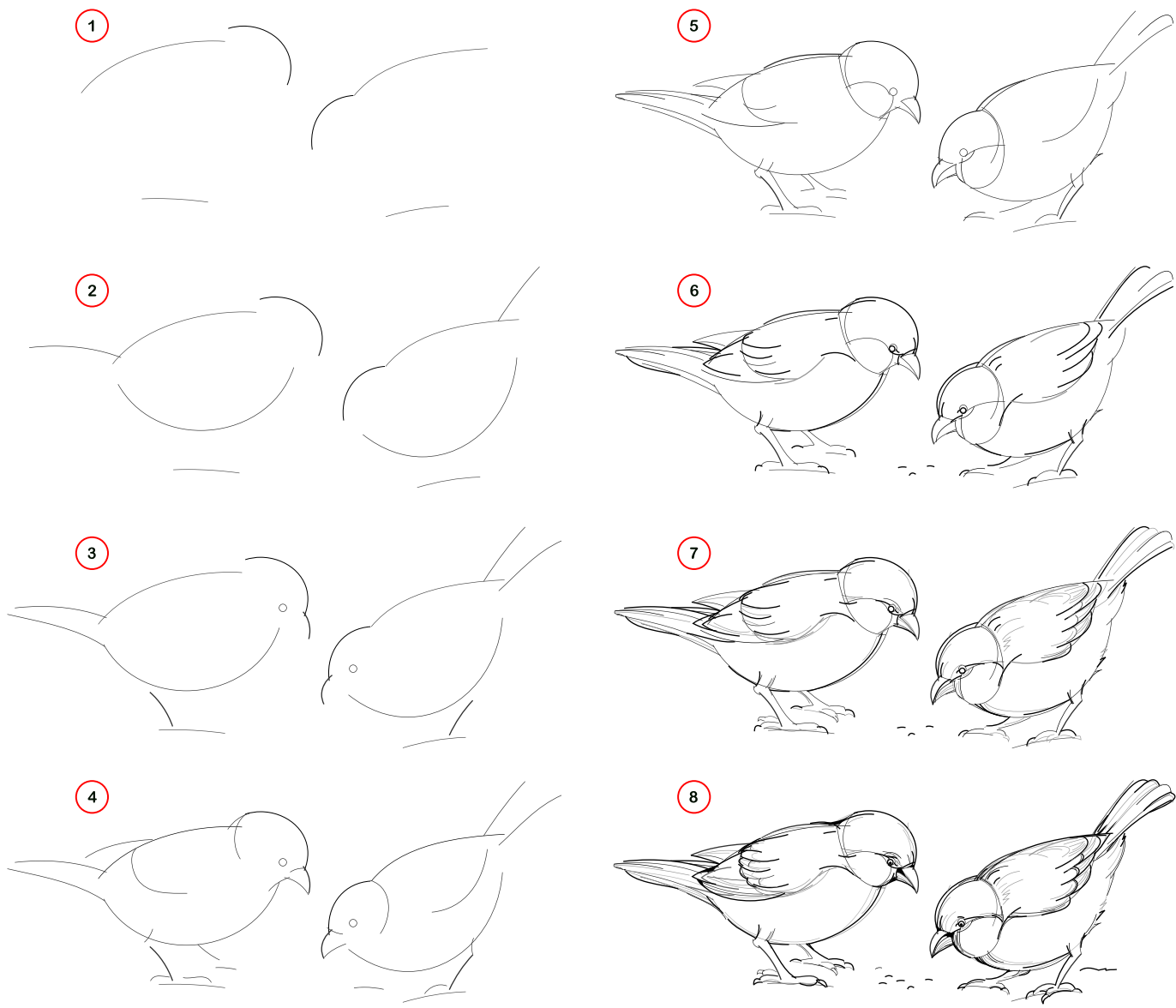
Skip the cafeteria or takeout—today is all about bringing your own homemade meal!

March 12 – National Working Moms Day

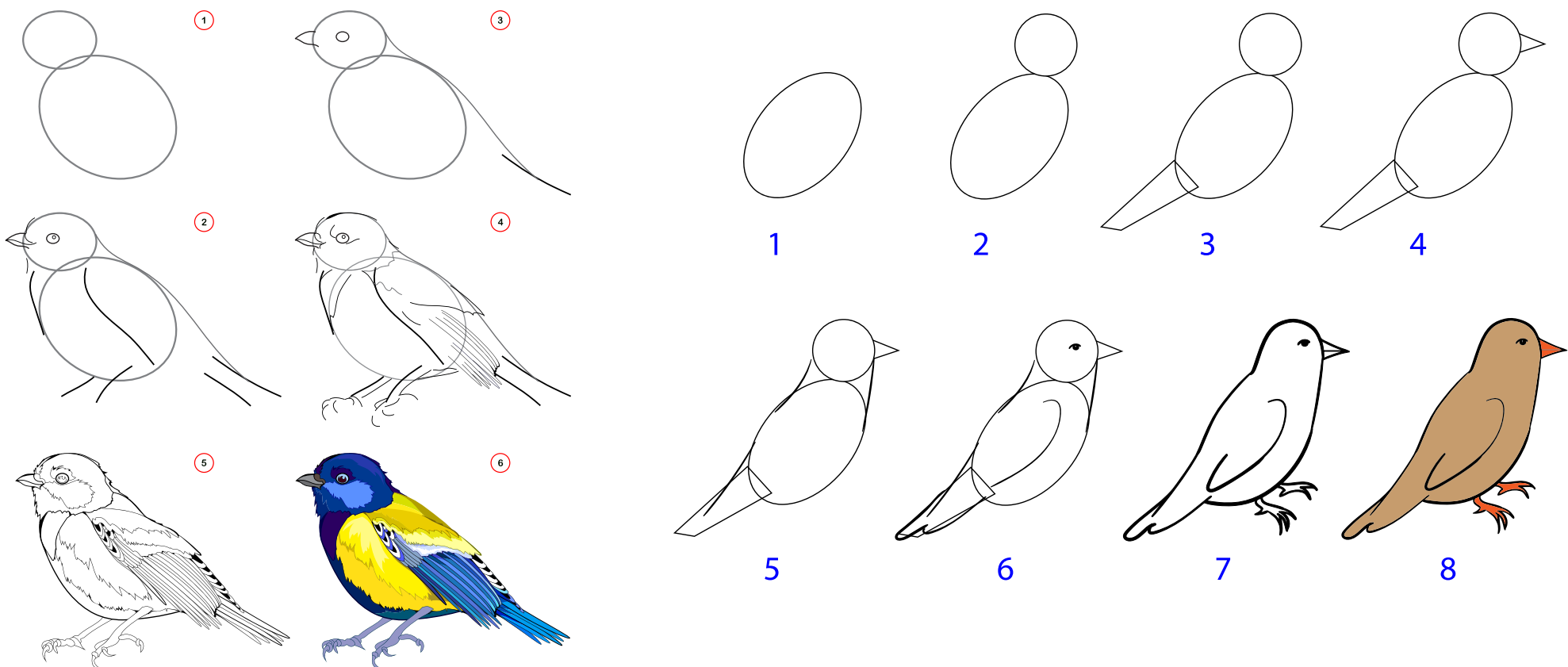
A day to celebrate hardworking moms who balance careers, families, and everything in between.

How Will You Celebrate?

Will you munch on cereal, play a Mario game, or plant some flowers? With so many cool things that happened this week in history and so many fun holidays, there’s something for everyone. Enjoy the week ahead!



Learn to Sketch Like a Pro 3 Different Ways



KIDS games

9 10 11

HOW MANY LEFT & RIGHT?

LEFT

?

RIGHT

?

[illegible]

CRACK THE CODE

•••• Musical Instruments ••••

Crack the code to reveal the names of 23 more musical instruments.

The grid contains the following numbers and letters:

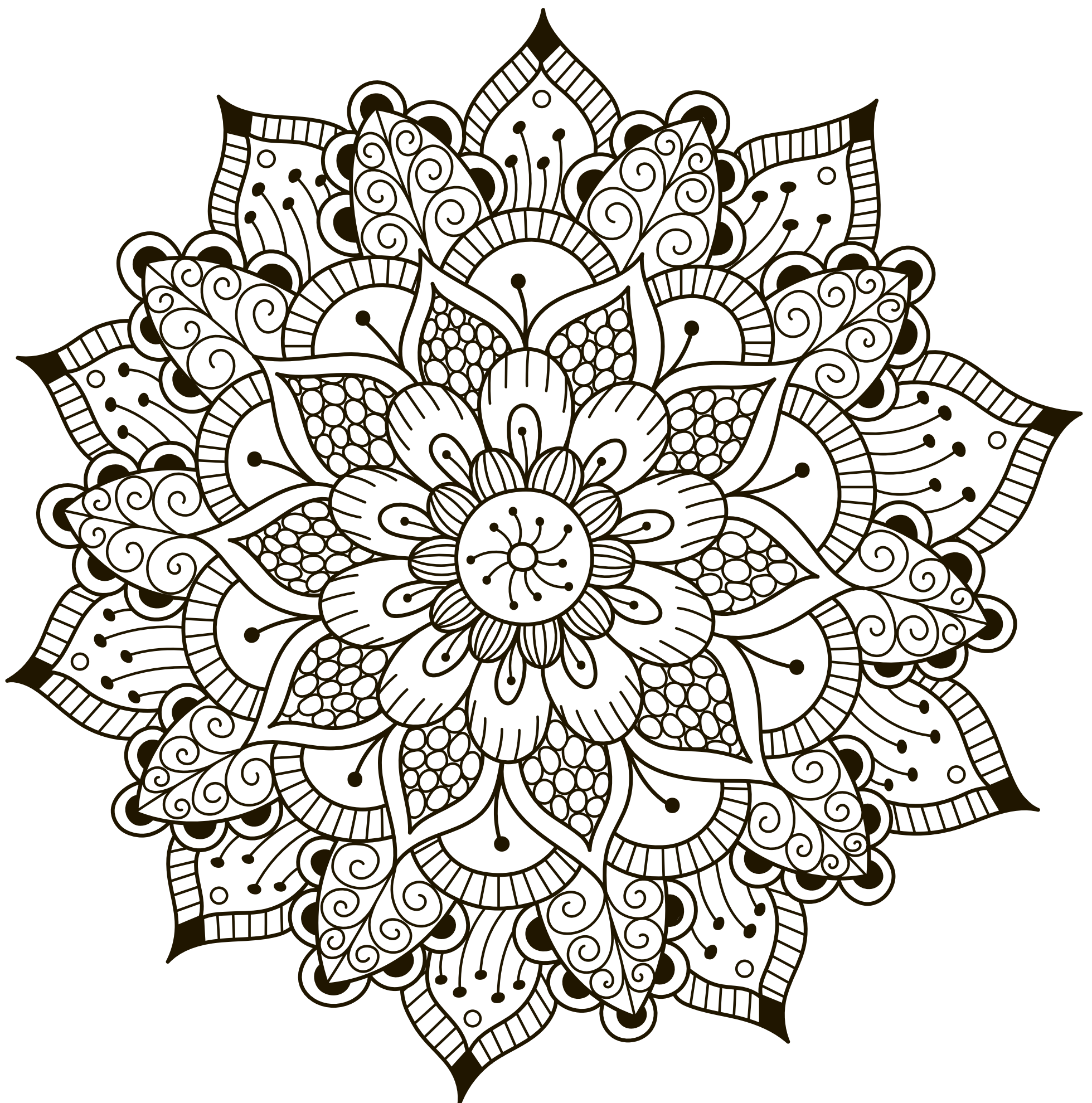
1	2	3	4	2	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	8	11	12	
						D	R	U	M						
13	14	14	3	7	6	2	3	5	11	7	8	9	15	12	11
14	12	4	4	3	16	8	2	11	13	7					
18	13	19	3	15	20	3	5	12	14	12	4	12	18	11	13
17	13	5	21	3	15	2	13	5	3	3	7	16	13	5	
20	3	7	5	3	14	13	7	2	5	13	3	17	3	12	
19	22	4	3	15	20	3	5	12	8	23	8	4	12	4	12
14	4	13	7	2	5	12	11	11	7	3	9	17	3	5	12
20	13	7	15	16	4	3	14	23	12	5	18	15	2	12	4
14	22	9	17	13	4	18	10	4	13	16	12	3	4	12	11

ANSWER: 1=v, 2=i, 3=o, 4=l, 5=n, 6=d, 7=r, 8=u, 9=m, 10=f, 11=t, 12=e, 13=a, 14=c, 15=p, 16=g, 17=b, 18=s, 19=x, 20=h, 21=j, 22=y, 23=k.

Color This Mandala

Coloring engages both hemispheres of the brain, combining creativity with logic to enhance focus and reduce stress. The repetitive motion promotes mindfulness, helping to lower cortisol levels and improve mood. Studies show that coloring intricate patterns, such as mandalas or detailed images like a flower, can activate the brain's reward system, releasing dopamine and

fostering relaxation. This activity strengthens fine motor skills, improves hand-eye coordination, and encourages problem-solving by selecting colors and patterns. For all ages, coloring provides a simple yet effective way to boost mental clarity, enhance cognitive function, and promote a sense of calm.



Fearless: The Red-Winged Blackbird

By JIM KNOX

Spring comes in many guises. The first stirrings of life after a long frigid winter season are often subtle, yet undeniable. From the crocuses edging up through a fresh coating of snow, to the breezes that have lost their sting, spring arrives with a whisper.

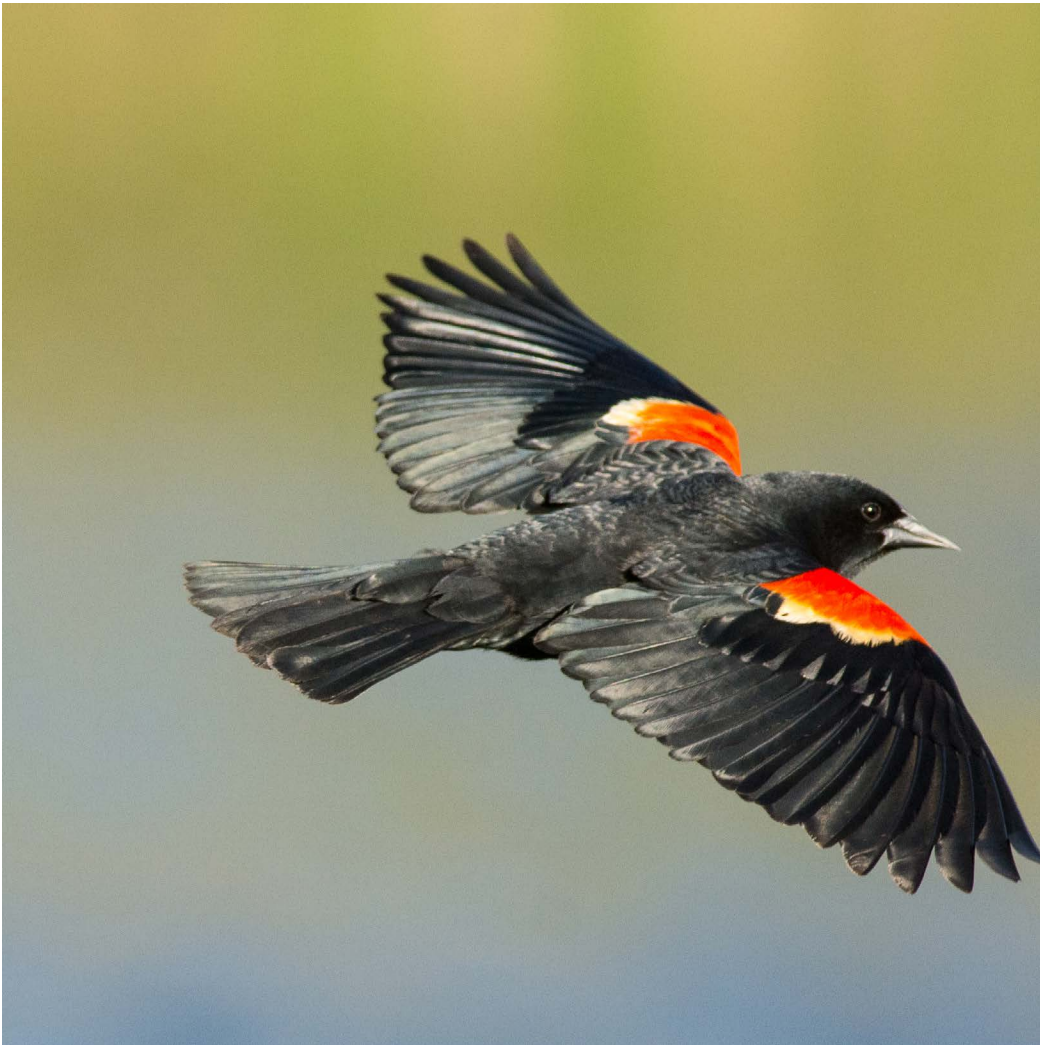
Yet, just as the ice is thawing on the ponds, and winter is releasing its grip, spring’s second chorus loudly proclaims its colors like no other season. The creature behind this proclamation is bold, beautiful, and far from shy.

The Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, is a true and unfailing harbinger of the spring season. Its telltale song is nature’s promise of warmer, greener days. Known as the small birds that make a big entrance, Red-winged Blackbirds are among the most abundant bird species in the United States, occurring in every state but Hawaii. Though they are a year ‘round Connecticut resident species, these blackbirds favor warmer conditions, with our many northern birds migrating up to 800 miles to more southerly climes during the harshest winter cold to return with slightly longer days as the mercury nudges upward.

Intermediate in size between a House Sparrow and an American Robin, the Red-winged Blackbird is a stocky bird with short, rounded wings and a slender conical bill. While females are streaked with a camouflaging brown plumage and sport a yellowish tinge around the base of their beak and upper neck, males are coal black with brilliant scarlet wing epaulettes, sporting bright gold borders. While the blackbird’s colors



Male red-winged blackbird feeding a female



are striking, its distinctive three note call seems disproportionately loud and never fails to get one’s attention.

For me, the blackbird’s mere presence seems to shout, “Hey! Look at me! Spring is here!” It is declaration that the blackbird ushers in, that is one of

its most endearing traits. What’s more, the blackbird’s solo song often grows into a chorus as these strong and agile flyers form large flocks in the thousands.

Favoring open wetland habitats such as marshes, salt marshes, and rice fields for the breeding season, Red-winged Blackbirds establish

themselves in these habitats early and both forage and hunt for plant and insect food as it becomes available. While males utilize the tops of cattails, Phragmites, and sedges to sing and proclaim their territory, females construct their nest deep within the dense vertical shoots of these wetland

plants. Due to scarcity of appropriate habitat, up to 15 females will nest in proximity to the territorial male. Nests are normally concealed near ground level or the waterline and are intricately woven and packed with mud to form a deep cup in which to hold the pale blue-green eggs with cryptic brown streaking and speckles. While both males and females vigorously defend their nests from predators as well as intruders, the females maintain a low profile to avoid detection, slinking among the dense wetland vegetation, hunting for insect prey for their rapidly developing chicks.

Like many extraordinarily successful species, Red-winged Blackbirds leverage their hallmark adaptability to thrive, shifting from insect protein in spring and summer to seeds and grains in winter. Likewise, as seasonal conditions change, these birds shift from living in small nesting clusters in spring to form truly massive interspecies flocks with Cowbirds, Grackles, Starlings, and other blackbirds in winter. Such

flocks confer the benefits of both safety in numbers, and countless eyes scanning for predators, and can grow to reach more than one million birds in size! Though it is one of the most abundant native birds in North America—with an estimated population approaching 200 million birds, it too has experienced population declines over recent decades, reminding us that even abundant species need monitoring.

The Red-winged Blackbird has much to teach us. Like so many creatures that thrive, it draws upon its diverse traits, delivering what the situation dictates. A solitary bird at times, it forms enormous social groups as needed. It is simultaneously a bird of bold prominence and a bird of cryptic guise and nature, yet it cooperates with its mate and with others of its kind to protect itself and its young. A versatile creature, it arrives in advance of the competition, staking out territory and accessing nature’s abundance as the season progresses.

Tapping into our diverse abilities is a healthy thing. Alternating between personal and social time, or between bold actions and quiet progress as the situation calls for it, serves us well. Recognizing the advantages of timeliness and cooperation toward accomplishing our objectives is invaluable. Life often demands that we progress industriously, unnoticed, yet there are also those times when it calls for us to spread our wings, show our colors, and burst into song.

Jim Knox serves as the Curator of Education for Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo and as a Science Advisor for The Bruce Museum. A Member of The Explorers Club, Jim enjoys sharing his passion for wildlife with audiences in Connecticut and beyond.

