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**SHRIMP GASSI:** Shrimp cooked in roasted coconut, coriander and garlic, simmered in coconut milk from Chef Prasad.

COLUMN

# Best Bites: New Canaan

*It's not just the food but the experience of being there. There's nothing else like it in town.*



BY PAUL REITANO

We all make mistakes. Say, maybe your wife asks you to refill the windshield wiper fluid in the car after the refill light's been on for three weeks. You waddle over to the car, pop the hood, and confidently pour half a gallon of windex into the coolant reservoir — all the way to the tippy-top. You will make the excuse that you didn't have your glasses on, but even if you did have your glasses on, you wouldn't have known the difference. Because you are an idiot. You have the car towed to C&H downtown, wait at the library for two hours while someone competent drains the coolant system, then give them three hundred dollars for the indignity.

But that was yesterday, and in time mistakes like that fade along with other memories we choose not to remember. What about mistakes of greater consequence? The ones you live with every day — do they ruin your life? Redirect purpose? Help find meaning? For Nabil West, owner of the N. West Gallery on Main Street, one missed step nearly cost him his life — but he took that mistake and let it refocus his life in a profound way.

**Me:** So what was life like before Connecticut?

**Nabil:** We lived in Williamsburg. I was a music producer, DJ, and lead singer for an Indie Rock band.

**Me:** Band name?

**Nabil:** Mar La Singer. We were totally unheard of.

**Me:** Maybe that explains why you never made it big — no one ever heard you.

**Nabil:** Possibly.

**Me:** Brooklyn must've given you some nice food memories, though.

**Nabil:** I lived off the Graham L stop in Williamsburg. There was a mom-and-pop pasta shop, Savinos. It was definitely one of Williamsburg's best kept secrets; small operation, mid-block surrounded by residential buildings. It was easy to miss walking by — but the pasta was incredible!

**Me:** And now you're in Fairfield County, where a misguided Alfredo costs 35 bucks.

**Nabil:** It's one of the reasons I'm doing a lot of cooking at home these days. Also, I'm vegetarian and it's just easier.

**Me:** My wife is a vegetarian but when the moon is full, she eats bacon. Are you that type of vegetarian?

**Nabil:** No meat for me. I have a list of sixty or so dishes on my phone. I know

the recipes by heart at this point.

**Me:** What about your family — are they also stuck with the beans and kale?

**Nabil:** No, I'm pretty good in the kitchen, so most of the time, I'm making two meals.

**Me:** What do you do for a living?

**Nabil:** I'm a fine art photographer and I own the N. West Gallery in New Canaan.

**Me:** Origin story?

**Nabil:** I started shooting in 2009 after I ... fell off a roof.

**Me:** Like a roof roof?

**Nabil:** You know in Brooklyn, how instead of hanging out in the backyard, you're hanging out on peoples' roofs?

**Me:** Oh wow, like a building roof.

**Nabil:** I reached down to pick something up, stumbled, then fell all the way down.

**Me:** Did you think that was it?

**Nabil:** There was a moment when I was looking at the ceiling of the ambulance and I thought it was the last thing I'd ever see.

**Me:** But it wasn't.

**Nabil:** I was in intensive care for eleven days, went through a ton of reconstructive surgeries. And once I started to come out of it, I just had this new appreciation for the world's beauty. Sounds cliché but it's how it all happened. I was looking around at art, nature — just thinking of how beautiful everything was around me. And I started shooting.

**Me:** What specifically did you want to capture?

**Nabil:** I began to travel the world. I would research a location before I got there. I used Google Earth and an app called Sky Portal to set up my specific location and shoot a very unique moment in time. Say I wanted to shoot the Italian Alps. I would think, *You know what would be cool is if I shot it with the Milky Way behind it. You know what'd be cool is if I shot it with the Milky Way behind it, and with three other planets in that shot.* There is a moment where you can capture it all — you just have to be there for it.

**Me:** Tell me about N. West Gallery.

**Nabil:** It's a fine art gallery. I think it has a very NYC sensibility to it, in terms of the works and the vibe and atmosphere.

**Me:** What will I find in there right now?

**Nabil:** We have a show coming up in March called *Soulsapes* by David Susan. It's portrait and landscape photography from around the world. His portrait work is amazing. David has this uncanny ability to connect with people from vastly different cultures. You have to really see it to get it — it's in the eyes.

**Me:** OK, you've just sold a piece and you want to celebrate with a nice lunch. Where do you go?

**Nabil:** Chef Prasad, no contest. **It's not just the food but the experience of being there. There's nothing else like it in town. You walk through the door and once you're in, there's all this ornate trim and molding, with these blue and white walls. Spices are categorized in massive cylinders on what feels like an elongated kitchen counter. It almost makes you feel like you're walking into someone's home. They have these big tables and you're likely sharing it with a family or a couple you'd never met before. But by the end of the meal you end up having had a great conversation with them. It's a very dinner-party sensibility.**

**Me:** What's the last great thing you ate there?

**Nabil:** Two dishes stand out. **The Onion Bahajia, which is like the best possible version of onion rings. And the Shrimp Gassi, which is shrimp cooked in roasted coconut, coriander, and coconut milk. It's coconuty and it's spicy.**

**Me:** Spicy, spicy?

**Nabil:** Like, for real spicy.

**Me:** Noted.

**Nabil:** It had me on the edge. But I mean, that's where I like it.

**Me:** Indeed. Thanks for the time.

N. West Gallery  
70 Main St. New Canaan, CT  
Thurs-Sat. 12-6pm  
*Soulsapes* by David Sussan  
March 22-April 19  
[Info@nwestgallery.com](mailto:Info@nwestgallery.com)

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## YOUR NEWS BRIEFING CONTINUED From Page 1

by New Canaan High School student artists and showcasing a range of artistic mediums. Photo credit: Carriage Barn Arts Center.

### NCNC Syrup Making



On March 11th, the New Canaan Nature Center boiled tree sap to produce syrup. Visitors observed the process and learned about maple sugaring. Photo credit: New Canaan Nature Center.

### Author Russell Shorto Visited Library



On March 9th, The New Canaan Library hosted author Russell Shorto for a discussion on his book, *Taking Manhattan*. He examined historical events that shaped New York and the United States. Photo credit: New Canaan Library.

### Rotary Volunteers Pack Meals



On February 28th and March 1st, Rotarians

and volunteers packed meals for Feed My Starving Children at an event organized by Grace Community Church. In a two-hour shift, they packed 36,936 meals, contributing to over 100,000 meals in two days. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

### Jeanne Gnuse Shares Memoir



Recently, Rotarian Jeanne Gnuse discussed her memoir, *The Red Mustang*, about her life with her late husband, Tom Gnuse. The book covers his career, their family, and his work with the Tourette's Foundation. Jeanne wrote her memoir to preserve their family history for future generations. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

### PEOPLE IN TOWN SLS Wins Quiz Bowl



St. Luke's Middle School Quiz Bowl team ended their winter season with a win against nationally ranked Middlesex Middle School. The team has been competing for three years and participates in after-school matches during the winter and spring. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

### Keira Named CT Distinguished Young Woman



Recently, Keira Zheng '25, a Rye Country Day senior and New Canaan resident, was named Connecticut's 2025 Distinguished Young Woman. She also received the peer-voted Spirit Award. Zheng will compete for the national title in June. Photo credit: Rye Country Day School.

### SCHOOLS

#### NCHS Juniors Attend Broadway



Recently, New Canaan High School juniors attended a Broadway production of *The Great Gatsby* after studying the novel in class, gaining insight into how it was adapted for the stage. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

#### NCHS Career Night

New Canaan High School's Career Night took place on March 12th, featuring 17 panels with professionals from various industries. Seniors in the Senior Internship Program attended, while other students were encouraged to participate. The event included New Canaan High School alumni and industry experts, with sessions consisting of introductions and a Q&A.

#### NCCS Second Graders Art Class



Recently, second-graders at New Canaan Country School have been practicing color layering by painting Japanese koi fish with watercolors. They apply translucent washes to observe how colors blend and create depth. The lesson covers basic techniques in color interaction and traditional Japanese art. Photo credit: New

Canaan Country School.

### NCCS Celebration of American Indian

On March 3rd, New Canaan Country School fourth-grade students held a Celebration of American Indians, featuring stories, songs, dances, and traditional games. The event marked the conclusion of a half-year study, which included an in-house field trip to examine Indigenous artifacts. Students explored history through research, creative expression, and hands-on learning.

### Book Challenge at Saxe



Recently, Six Saxe Middle School students completed the 40 Book Challenge. Their top book selections included *The Walls Around Us*, *Lovely War*, *I Was Born for This*, *The Inheritance Games*, *The Housemaid's Secret*, and *Keeper of the Lost Cities: Unraveled*. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.


### OUR NEIGHBORS

#### Warehouse Proposed for Former WWE Site

V20 Group has proposed a 112,757-square-foot warehouse on the former WWE production site on Hamilton Avenue, which it purchased last year for \$7.5 million. The facility would accommodate up to three tenants and include parking, loading zones, and infrastructure updates. The city's land use agencies will review the project, which requires site plan approval and a special permit.

#### Recalled Cookie Dough

Wave Hill Breads in Norwalk has recalled four frozen cookie dough products due to undeclared allergens, including wheat, milk, and soy. The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection warned of potential health risks for those with allergies. Customers can return the product for a full refund.



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PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH**

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- Milk (Non-perishable) - powdered or Parmalat
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- Standard size (not large) tubs of oatmeal
- Boxes of oatmeal packets
- Broth
- Canned Fruit in water (no syrup)
- Standard size jars of creamy peanut butter
- Dish soap
- Breakfast Snacks (individually wrapped)
- Rice White or Brown (2 lb. container or less)
- Juice boxes

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Human Services at: 77 Main St, New Canaan CT 06840.  
Please make checks payable to the "New Canaan Food Pantry".

**Grab a bag with list of items from back of Church.  
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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
NEW CANAAN**

# Open Mic Night

FPCNC Open Mic: Diverse Expressions

You are invited to an evening to share  
music and/or poetry (originals and  
covers welcome)!

**Thursday March 20**

**6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

**178 Oenoke ridge,  
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**Walk-ins Welcome**

Contact Nick Depuy at  
[nickdepuysite@gmail.com](mailto:nickdepuysite@gmail.com)  
to sign up and for more information

COLUMN

# The Rising Tide of Cancer in Younger Adults



RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

Cancer has long been associated with aging, as its prevalence increases due to the accumulation of genetic mutations, cellular damage, and decreased immune surveillance over time. Yet, an alarming and underreported crisis is unfolding—colorectal cancer (CRC) rates in younger adults have nearly doubled since the 1990s. This is in stark contrast to the declining CRC rates among older adults.

So why has this seismic shift remained largely in the shadows? The answer may lie in the overwhelming noise of today's media landscape, where critical public health crises can be drowned out by the barrage of global headlines. But when have we ever witnessed such a dramatic surge in cancer among our youth while simultaneously seeing improvements in our senior population? This glaring paradox should serve as a wake-up call, compelling public health agencies to

*An alarming and underreported crisis is unfolding—colorectal cancer (CRC) rates in younger adults have nearly doubled since the 1990s.*

mobilize resources, ramp up research funding, and pinpoint their root causes. Failure to act reflects the growing dysfunction within federal health programs, dwindling confidence in their capabilities, and a fractured system of oversight and funding priorities.

This disturbing trend could be just the tip of a much larger iceberg—one that, if left unchecked, might herald an even broader health emergency for our younger generation.

**A Deadly Shift in Cancer Trends**

According to a recent 2024 report, colorectal cancer has catapulted to the leading cause of cancer death in men under 50 and the second-leading cause in women under 50, trailing only breast cancer. Two decades ago, CRC ranked fourth in cancer-related deaths for both groups. What's driving this shift?

Certain risk factors—family history of CRC or polyps, inflammatory bowel disease—are well-established

contributors, yet genetic explanations alone fail to account for the dramatic rise in early-onset cases. Instead, experts have been left speculating about a range of potential culprits: the modern diet laden with low-fiber, high-fat, processed foods; excessive sugar consumption; chronic inflammation from environmental toxins; sedentary lifestyles exacerbated by screen addiction; exposure to microplastics and chemicals like triclosan; or a surge in inflammatory conditions such as Crohn's disease and irritable bowel syndrome. The sheer breadth of possible factors underscores the urgent need for a more targeted research agenda.

Whatever the cause, the data is undeniable. Early-onset CRC (diagnosed in individuals under 50) has been rising globally at a rate of 2% to 4% annually since the 1990s, with the most dramatic increases seen in those under 30. Notably, 37% of CRC cases in younger

adults originate in the rectum, compared to just 24% in those over 65. The disproportionate impact on younger individuals makes it all the more critical to identify—and mitigate—whatever is fueling this surge.

**The Challenges of Early Diagnosis**

Unraveling the mystery behind early-onset CRC has been frustratingly slow. Most studies have been limited in scope, investigating only single contributing factors rather than the complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle influences.

Meanwhile, younger patients face an additional, deadly challenge: delayed diagnosis. Many are diagnosed at more advanced stages, despite having fewer overall health complications. This suggests that younger individuals may either be dismissing early warning signs—constipation, rectal bleeding, sudden bowel changes—or are not being taken seriously by healthcare providers because of their

age. It also raises another disturbing question: Is the disease itself becoming more aggressive in younger patients? Recognizing this trend, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) and the U.S. Multisociety Task Force on Colorectal Cancer recently revised their screening recommendations, lowering the suggested age for routine CRC screening from 50 to 45. While a step in the right direction, it may not be enough.

**A Tale of Two Generations**

Colorectal cancer is still most commonly diagnosed in individuals over 65, yet paradoxically, incidence in this older cohort is declining. Even more striking, older patients are less likely than their younger counterparts to be diagnosed with advanced disease. What explains this discrepancy?

One factor may adherence to routine colonoscopies. Early detection through colonoscopy allows for the removal of precancerous polyps before they develop into full-blown malignancies, offering a major protective benefit to seniors. Despite the stigma surrounding the procedure's preparation, colonoscopy remains the gold standard for CRC screening—and it

saves lives. Meanwhile, researchers are making strides in molecular tumor profiling, a breakthrough that analyzes the DNA and biological markers of tumor tissues to guide targeted treatment strategies. This emerging field holds promise in improving outcomes, but prevention and early detection remain the most powerful weapons in combating this growing crisis.

**A Call to Action: No More Ignoring the Warning Signs**

Despite being a highly treatable disease when caught early, a colorectal cancer diagnosis can be devastating—especially for younger individuals who never expected to face such a battle.

We can no longer afford complacency. The rise of colorectal cancer among younger generations signals an urgent need for increased awareness, research, and prevention efforts. If we fail to act, we risk overlooking the early warning signs of a broader health crisis that could have devastating consequences for our younger generation.

*Russell R. Barksdale, Jr., Ph.D., MPA/MHA, FACHE is President & CEO of Waveny LifeCare Network*

## TV News Editor Bencivenga to Speak at Men's Club

Mike Bencivenga, a three-time Emmy Award-winning editor and producer at WABC's Eyewitness News, will address the New Canaan Men's Club on March 14 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge. His presentation will explore how television news has evolved over the past 40 years, examining changes in newsroom operations, reporting styles, and the industry's adaptation to digital platforms.

The Men's Club meeting begins at 10 a.m., with Bencivenga scheduled to speak at approximately 10:40 a.m. His discussion will draw on his decades-long experience at one of the nation's top local news stations, where he witnessed firsthand the transition from film to digital broadcasting, the rise of 24-hour news cycles, and the impact of social media on journalism.

Bencivenga has received

numerous accolades for his work, including the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award, named after the legendary CBS correspondent who reported from London rooftops during World War II. His expertise spans investigative journalism, live breaking news coverage, and in-depth storytelling, making him a respected figure in broadcast journalism.

Beyond television news, Bencivenga has built a

distinguished career as a writer and director in theater and film. He started in entertainment writing sketch comedy and performing improv in theaters across the country. His play Billy & Ray, which tells the story of how director Billy Wilder and mystery novelist Raymond Chandler collaborated to write the screenplay for Double Indemnity, won the Keith Hedrick Prize for Best Play in New York. The production later

enjoyed critically acclaimed, sold-out runs in both Los Angeles and New York.

His experience in both journalism and entertainment provides a unique perspective on storytelling, whether in the newsroom or on stage. At the Men's Club meeting, Bencivenga is expected to offer insights into the challenges and opportunities that have shaped television news, from ethical dilemmas in reporting to the evolving

expectations of audiences in a digital age.

The New Canaan Men's Club welcomes new members aged 55 and older. The club hosts weekly meetings featuring guest speakers from various fields, fostering intellectual engagement and camaraderie among members. Those interested in joining can email [ncmens@ncmens.org](mailto:ncmens@ncmens.org) for more information.

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# Editorial Page

Hartford Legislative  
Planning & Development Committee

## Local Control Matters

In Connecticut's ongoing experiment with government by central decree, the legislature has once again dusted off the tired playbook of top-down mandates, this time with Senate Bill 1313, a measure designed to impose high-density housing by fiat. The bill would strip municipalities of the authority to govern their own land-use policies, mandating as-of-right development within a half-mile of transit stations. Local public hearings? Eliminated. Local environmental and infrastructure reviews? Obsolete. Local zoning discretion? A relic of the past.

This legislative effort, which differs from the "Work, Live, Ride" bill in that it requires no affordable housing component and is not an opt-in program, is a blunt instrument of state control. It is a decree that density, unmoored from considerations of infrastructure or community planning, is inherently good and must be imposed. Towns such as Greenwich and New Canaan, which have spent decades cultivating careful zoning strategies to balance growth with environmental protection, school capacity, and public infrastructure, would be reduced to passive recipients of state directives.

Such measures are not new. Over the years, Connecticut's municipalities have repeatedly repelled similar attempts to override local governance, successfully arguing that growth should be dictated by those who understand their communities, not by Hartford bureaucrats eager to legislate uniformity. But this time, the outcome may be different. Connecticut's government is now a single-party apparatus, a trifecta and triplex of one party control, rendering opposition an exercise in futility. What was once merely an overreach is now the natural trajectory of a legislature that neither seeks nor requires consensus.

This bill, whether or not it advances in the full legislature, is an unmistakable sign of that trajectory.

The practical consequences of Senate Bill 1313 are obvious to anyone who has given a moment's thought to municipal planning. Infrastructure in many Connecticut towns is already stretched thin. Roads are congested. Sewer systems are at capacity. School districts, already responsible for funding most of their infrastructure, will be left scrambling to accommodate surging enrollment numbers.

At a recent public hearing in Hartford, one official posed the obvious question: "How are we supposed to accommodate this level of growth when we don't even have the infrastructure?" The response from legislators was silence. No plan was offered, because none exists.

Beyond the financial and logistical implications, Senate Bill 1313 represents an erosion of the public's role in governance. An attorney who testified at the hearing articulated this plainly: "As-of-right means no public hearing. No public comment. No ability for a town's zoning commission to do a site-specific or project-specific review. It removes all oversight."

This bill is a manifestation of a governing philosophy that sees municipal decision-making not as an essential feature of governance, but as an inconvenience to be swept aside.

This philosophy was on full display during the public hearing, when one legislator, rather than engaging on the bill's substantive failings, sought instead to diminish those who dared to object. Fixated on the price of homes in affluent towns, he repeatedly asked, "When was the last time you sold a \$250,000 home?"

The question implied that towns with high property values have forfeited their right to self-determination, that their concerns about infrastructure, school capacity, and environmental impact are mere posturing, that their resistance to Hartford's heavy hand is rooted not in governance but in privilege.

Such exchanges make plain the hostility with which some in Hartford view the state's well-run towns, not as models to emulate but as obstacles to overcome. The impulse is not to elevate struggling municipalities to the standards of those that flourish, but to strip excellence of its advantages, to impose a dull uniformity in which every town is governed, taxed, and planned in the same uninspired manner.

Localism has long been Connecticut's strength. It has been the foundation upon which towns have built their economic vitality, preserved their landscapes, and cultivated their schools.

This fight has been waged before, it will continue to be waged, and each time the outcome is far from certain.

You may watch the testimony from the February 19th hearing—particularly from 1:46 to 2:30 here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BgcBT7REfo> online.



"I'll be honest ... there are books by James Joyce that are easier to follow than these bad boys."

## Budget Letter from Board of Finance Chairman

By TODD LAVIERI

This week, the New Canaan Board of Finance passed the FY 2025-2026 budget. This budget now goes to the Town Council for their review, and approval.

When the Board of Finance received the budget from the First Selectman's office in January, we set three goals to accomplish with our review: one, to reduce the amount paid in taxation by \$3 million; two, to reduce the total amount of capital expense by at least \$3 million; and three, to reduce the amount of taxpayer-supported capital expense by \$1 million. Working collaboratively with each department, we accomplished all three goals.

We reduced the amount raised by taxation by \$4.1 million, we cut the capital expense by \$4.8 million, and we reduced the taxpayer-supported capital (not bonded), by \$1.2 million. Our total town expenses will rise by 3.56%. Of this increase, 94% is driven by contracted increases in salaries and benefits for Town, Police, and Fire department employees and school district teachers, administration and other school-related employees.

In addition to those financial goals, we focused on achieving our overall strategic goals. Those include the funding of all the necessary school needs, full support

for our Police, Fire and EMS needs, Health and Human Services, and funding other required Town infrastructure expenses including roads and buildings, and other Town of New Canaan services and support. We also focused on managing our debt and other longer-term financial guidelines and objectives.

We have made many needed capital investments over the past 15 years for our schools, the Town Hall renovation, improvements and repairs for the Waveny House and grounds, annual road repairs and paving, new or improved athletic fields, and a renovated Police Department building among many other investments. We will push hard, starting this year, to go on a Debt Diet so we can absorb our investments, while continuing to pay down our debt on a straight-line basis. The average interest rate we pay on our debt is 3.67% after several refinancings over the past five years, not including our recent offering that we took to market March 5th this year, and closed at 3.34%.

As always, our goal is to challenge and optimize the operating and capital requests in order to represent the taxpayer's desire for services, with an eye on the impact on taxes. The town residents and taxpayers want as much value for the taxes paid as we can collectively deliver.

As we have discussed over

the past few years, our Town financials remain in very good shape.

Highlights from the budget process thus far

As you know, our school district was ranked Number 1 in the State of Connecticut after a steady, decade-long process of climbing up the ladder to reach the top spot. A high-quality, high-performing school district has been a focus for 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. The entire school budget represents 62% of our total budget.

Our Playhouse movie theater won an award for the best refurbished theater in the country. To have a thriving theater, we need to continue to go out and support this great new asset.

Our pensions remain over-funded reflecting the ethical responsibility we have to ensure that our commitments are met, and that the 'can is not kicked' down the road penalizing current and future residents and taxpayers. Prudent financial pension management and investment over the past 20 years will be a long-lasting achievement for this town.

Our other assets, parks, roads, and facilities continue

to meet the high usage and demands that our residents require. We have a Aaa rating by Moody's.

Our emergency services including Fire, Police and EMS collectively responded to literally thousands of calls and incidents in the past year.

I could go on – suffice it to say, we strive as a board and as a Town to deliver value and results for every dollar we collect and manage.

I would like to thank all the departments for the work they did to prepare their budgets for our review. And I would like to also thank the hundreds of volunteers in this town who truly help make this town a success. Not just those on the boards and commissions, but the volunteers who help make all of our parks and Town assets including Irwin Park, Bristow Bird Sanctuary, the Powerhouse Theater, the Carriage Barn, and Waveny look so incredible each year. Coaches, C.E.R.T. volunteers, and so many others who volunteer their time, or generously donate their money to invest in maintaining and improving our town, including our Library among many other assets and activities ... thank you.

We will continue to monitor any final financial assumptions as this current year ends in June. At that time, we will set the new mil rate and adopt a final 2025-2026 Budget.

## Fazio is Correct on Immigration and Safety

In 2013, Connecticut enacted the so-called "Trust Act" to foster trust between illegal immigrants and state law enforcement. The idea was simple: unless you're a criminal, local police wouldn't report you to federal immigration authorities. In 2019, Connecticut Democrats went well beyond this. They pushed through a change to the law taking away the ability of local police to cooperate with federal agencies—over the objections of every Republican in the state legislature and even some in their own party. Now, with a new legislative session underway, several senators, including our own Senator Ryan Fazio, have proposed a common-sense amendment to this law. Some have responded to that proposal with a lot of overheated rhetoric. To cut through the noise, let's focus on the facts.

Senator Fazio's amendment targets two gaps in the latest version of the Trust Act. He proposes that illegal immigrants convicted of Class C, D, and E felonies—crimes including manslaughter, sexual assault, burglary, arson, or identity theft—or those with judicial warrants can be turned over to federal authorities at the state's

discretion. This isn't a mandate; it's an option. But you wouldn't know that from the hysteria whipped up by Democrats, who warn of ICE raids that have no relevance to this law one way or another. The Trust Act already blocks ICE from freely operating in jails, courthouses, or schools—a fact conveniently ignored by those peddling sanctuary ideology over public safety.

Opposing Fazio's amendment means implicitly endorsing some ugly outcomes. Take Sanjay Silvan Walsh, a Jamaican national convicted of sexually abusing two minors in Connecticut. After serving just 21 months of a 10-year sentence, the state ignored an ICE detainer and released him back into our communities. ICE had to track him down a risky and costly move that could've been avoided with cooperation. Or consider Emerson Eduardo Ferreira, a Brazilian national convicted of sexual assault and violating restraining orders. Connecticut let him walk free after his sentence, forcing ICE to arrest him later in Brooklyn, CT. Then there's Alejandro-Martinez, who killed Nicholas Diaz, a father of three, in a drunk-driving crash. The state shrugged off a federal deportation request, leaving a

dangerous offender among us.

These aren't isolated cases—they're symptoms of a broader failure. Open borders and sanctuary policies, championed by the Democrat Party, have unleashed a humanitarian and public safety crisis across the country. Millions have flooded in, exploited by traffickers and political opportunists who see them as nothing more than a voting bloc to lock in power. The cost? Suffering for migrants and citizens alike—crime, strained resources, and eroded trust in government. Democrats cloak this in folksy platitudes and avuncular assurances, but their refusal to address the consequences exposes a cynical agenda.

Fazio's amendment isn't off base—it's a modest fix. It empowers law enforcement to hand over serious offenders without turning Connecticut into a deportation mill. Republicans, independents, and pragmatic Democrats should see it for what it is: a step toward accountability and safety. The left's reaction—shrill and unhinged—reveals their priorities. They'd rather protect criminals than citizens, clinging to a sanctuary dogma that's crumbling under scrutiny and lived experience.

The real question is trust. Do you trust the architects of this mess—the Democrat Party who've spent years excusing lawlessness under the guise of compassion? Or do you trust leaders like Fazio, who offer solutions rooted in reason and respect for the rule of law? For too long, politicians have chased the approval of activists and ignored the voters who put them in office. Connecticut deserves better. We need public servants who secure our communities, not just their electoral futures.

As citizens of common sense, we believe in law, order, and sovereignty. Fazio's proposal aligns with those principles, especially balancing state autonomy with federal responsibility. It's not about fearmongering—it's about facing reality. The Trust Act can protect the innocent without shielding the guilty. In the end, trust belongs to those who prioritize the safety and will of the people over ideology. That's a choice Republicans and others of good will have always stood for, and it's one Connecticut should make now with this much needed public safety amendment.

David Lancaster



By Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz

I started reading from my local daily printed newspaper when I was young.

However, it was a bit of a challenge because I was required to wait for my father z'l to get his initial access. He would hand me each section when he had completed his reading, and would always read in the order of the paper itself. I would wait impatiently for the sports section so I could review the box scores along with the news articles.

When I was 12 years old, I secured a paper route. Besides the earned income, the daily bonus was the ability to secure my free copy of the newspaper for myself. I found that I too flipped through the sections of the paper in order. I would review each headline and usually read at least a few of the lines of most articles.

When I started college, my printed newspaper habit grew to three papers. However, early in my marriage, this practice introduced tension between me and Roseanne because she disliked the ink of newspapers "getting on everything." I held out for a few years longer when online news and digital papers became the norm.

Similarly to giving up my beeper several years after everyone else, I relented with going digital. I found that the transition prompted me to read many more headlines, but I started to read significantly fewer articles.

Too often, I read what I think I'm interested in without paying much attention to other items. Realizing this is the case, I try to force myself to pick at least ten articles a day to read that I wouldn't normally read.

# “Dress Like a Mensch”

## *Jewish law emphasizes that to dress immaculately is a way of honoring the Divine within ourselves.*

Entertainment news is especially forced is; but, as with most of my experiences, it often delivers unexpected benefits when I try something new.

I never once paid attention to the Oscars, but the day after the event, I noted a headline: “Oscar Night’s Naked Dresses and History of the Sheer Look.” I’m not sure it was a rabbinically approved article, but I clicked and read about a new style aesthetic of “How naked can I look?”

The naked-dressing theme was interesting because it an illustration of how a secular ethos can be in such a great conflict with traditional Jewish teachings. Within the article, the argument for “pushing the envelope with naked fashion” was articulated as a concrete response against those who might commit the “sin” of body shaming. I had a compassionate response to this stated intention.

When it comes to one’s body, no one should ever be made to feel anxious or self-conscious. From personal experience, I can describe the hurt that can come with being a victim of fat shaming or other critical comments.

Temple Shalom articulates within our Bar/Bat Mitzvah handbook a policy on a ritual dress code for those who attend worship services:

- It is appropriate to dress in nicer clothes when attending synagogue.

1. Jacket and tie and/or skirts & dresses (of an appropriate length).
2. Women are invited, but not required, to cover their heads while on the bimah.
3. We ask that girls and women do not come to the bimah with bare shoulders.

After articulating the dress code, it concludes with the statement: “For further guidance, feel free to speak with Rabbi Mitch.”

Over the years, dress code was a hot topic at ritual committee meetings. Temple members with

a more traditional upbringing often feel our dress code policy is too liberal. Members who are more progressive in their upbringing often feel that all we should articulate is the suggestion that it is “appropriate to dress in nicer clothes when attending synagogue” and leave it up to the individual to discern what “nicer” means to them. I confess to an initial inclination toward the more traditional perspective.

While growing up, my mother z'l demanded that my brothers and I always attend synagogue with a jacket and tie. When we protested that the other children were often not doing the same, my mom would dismiss the objection and tell us we needed to “dress like a mensch.”

Later in life, I learned the midrash:

He who walks in the marketplace with his shoes unlaced is among those who are of the haughty spirit.

He who walks with his cloak thrown over his shoulder or his cap tilted back or sits crosslegged...

He is among those with a haughty spirit.

When we walk outside, how we dress matters.

Jewish law emphasizes that to dress immaculately is a way of honoring the Divine within ourselves. Dressing well is considered part of healthy spiritual self-esteem. We dress for success in a way that reflects well on us and God.

In the creation story, we witness the first consequence of Adam and Eve’s sin of eating the forbidden fruit: “The eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.” Adam and Eve became self-conscious about their bodies. Before their sin, they did not recognize any feeling of shame.

A sense of modesty is a significant variable that separates us from the animal kingdom. Before eating from the forbidden tree of knowledge of good and evil, human beings were not more than animals.

With knowledge comes a sense of the Divine and

how we are all created equally in God’s image. Shame and guilt can be productive when they prompt us to live on a much higher plane than the physical animal kingdom.

An old conflict between Jewish and non-Jewish values was emphasizing the internal vs. the external regarding “true beauty.” The ancient Greeks focused primarily on aesthetics and held physical beauty above all. Judaism always asserted that we can discover true beauty only within holiness.

However, the ancient sages understood that how we appear on the outside has the potential to train us to emphasize the need for inner moral beauty, and thus, why we need to “dress like a mensch.”

The new popular mode of “naked dress” is seemingly a minor twist on the ancient Greek beauty ethos. Suppose we dress intending to raise ourselves to a more outstanding moral character; I think most would then consider more carefully when and how to dress appropriately in “nicer clothes.”

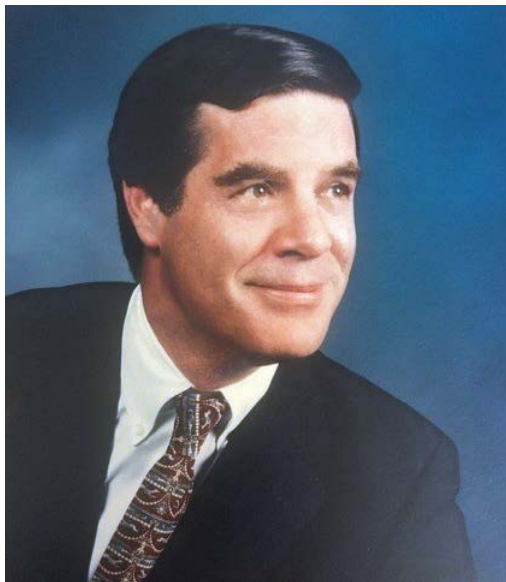
I would never go to someone at a worship service and tell them they did not dress nicely enough. The sin of embarrassing another individual is much more grievous than how someone chooses to dress. However, when not in the moment, I think it is appropriate to teach the lesson on why and how we can “dress like a mensch.” Maybe this ethos can be next year’s Oscars’ fashion theme.

Shabbat Shalom.

*Temple Shalom’s Senior Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz is a scholar, teacher, community activist and preacher, and is recognized as one of the prominent religious leaders in the Greenwich area and beyond. A frequent guest speaker at synagogues and churches, study groups, community institutions and universities, he is a charismatic personality who engages individuals and stimulates hearts and minds. His teachings can be found in Greenwich Sentinel and in other local and national publications.*

## Obituaries

*The Sentinel does not charge for obituaries because every life in our community deserves to be honored and remembered without financial barriers. By providing this service at no cost through our Sentinel Foundation, we ensure that families can share their loved ones’ stories freely, preserving their legacies as part of New Canaan’s history. To submit an obituary email [Caroll@NewCanaanSentinel.com](mailto:Caroll@NewCanaanSentinel.com)*



### JAMES CARTY

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, James H. Carty, affectionately known as “Rico,” on Sunday, March 9.

Born on June 12, 1944, in Cambridge, MA, Rico was the son of the late Thomas J. Carty and Agnes Carty. He attended the Fessenden Day School and later graduated from the Buckingham Browne & Nichols School, where he distinguished himself as an exceptional athlete, excelling as a pitcher in baseball and a quarterback in football. Rico continued his academic journey at the College of the Holy Cross before studying International Relations at the London School of Economics. Additionally he served in the Air National Guard during the Vietnam War. His passion for global issues led him to Gambia, where he worked to improve the quality of life for its people. Upon returning to the U.S., he furthered his studies in international economics at The New School in New York and embarked on a successful career in the financial industry.

In his later years, Rico found joy in being deeply involved in the New Canaan community, where he and his family settled. He was a devoted father, actively participating in his children’s sports activities-sometimes even in sports they weren’t involved in. Rico was also an avid golfer and a proud member of the New Canaan Men’s Club, where he served as Vice President and played an active role in the Bridge and Book Clubs. He was deeply devoted to his faith, proudly active in the RCIA and Emmaus programs, and served as president of the PTA at St. Aloysius School. He loved being with his family, especially during summer gatherings, where laughter and shared memories abounded. A loyal New Englander, Rico also found great joy in cheering for the Red Sox and Patriots, with a win from either team often coming in a close second to his love for his family.

Rico is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, Sarah; his children, Philip (Denise), Chris

(Megan), Anne (Brian), and Liz (PJ); and his nine cherished grandchildren: Taylor, Finley, Madelyn, Ryan, Soda, Emmett, Caitlyn, Noah, and Liam. He is also survived by his brother Thomas J. Carty Jr. and nephew Thomas J. Carty III.

A man with an ever-positive spirit, Rico touched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His warmth, generosity, and love for his family and friends will never be forgotten. He will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on in the hearts of all who loved him.

A receiving line will take place on March 14, from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. in the Narthex of St. Aloysius Church in New Canaan, followed by a funeral Mass at 10:00 a.m. Burial will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in his memory with the Wounded Warrior Project or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



### GEORGE MARANIS

George M. Maranis, age 91, long time resident of New Canaan, CT, died peacefully on March 3, in Tucson, Arizona, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Boston, Mass., on February 23, 1934, the only child of the late Nicholas George Maranis and Cleopatra Sarmaniote Maranis.

George graduated from Boston Latin School in 1951, and went on to Harvard University, where he graduated with a degree in economics in 1955. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he proudly served his country for two years. After his discharge, he matriculated at Columbia University, where he received his MBA degree. Shortly thereafter, he received his CPA certificate from the State of New York.

It was in New York that he was recruited by Deloitte, Haskins & Sells and began his 35-year career with the firm. He met his wife-to-be, Linda Weisner, at International House in New York City and they were married on June 25, 1960.

During his career with Deloitte, he had assignments Boston, MA, where he was admitted to the partnership in 1971; White Plains, NY; Stamford, CT; Barcelona, Spain; Providence, RI and New York City. George was in his office on the 102nd floor of the World Trade Center at the time of the first bombing, in the basement of the building, in 1993. He survived the evacuation from the building without any serious harm.

George and his family moved to New Canaan in 1976. He was active in town affairs, including membership on the Board of Finance and the town’s audit committee. After his retirement, he served six years as the Town Administrative Officer. He was also active in the Round Table and Senior Men’s Club, where he was appointed

auditor, and served on the board of directors and as treasurer of the Merritt Parkway Conservancy.

George never lost his love of Boston, where he was a member of the St. Botolph Club and a fervent fan of the Boston Red Sox and the New England Patriots. Another love of his was gardening and attending to his property. His greatest priority, however, was always his family.

George is survived by his loving wife, Linda, of 65 years, daughter, Susan Maranis Boisvert of Plano, Texas, daughter, Diane Maranis Wade of Culver City, CA, and three granddaughters, Claudia and Julia Boisvert and Kate Wade. He was predeceased by a daughter, Alexis Mankin Maranis, in 1975.

George wrote: “I cannot leave this earth without thanking my Lord for the blessing of 65 years with my dearest Linda, and I also was blessed with the gift of my daughters, Susan and Diane, who exceeded my expectations in every possible way.”

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.



### ELIZABETH PAULEY

Elizabeth (Bette) Pauley, 100, passed away peacefully on February 27. Born on September 17, 1924, in Winsted CT, she was the daughter of Dominick and Christine Alipranti. Bette and her husband James Pauley built their home in New Canaan, CT where she lived for 64 years.

Bette was employed by Conde Nast Publishing Company for 50 years and worked in New York City. She loved the fashion industry and once retired she started her own business Years Gone By, purchasing, repairing and selling vintage clothing. She also enjoyed working part time at premiere antique auctions and estate sales.

Bette enjoyed gatherings. She was an excellent cook and hosted many family holiday gatherings throughout the years. Tuesday nights were always Canasta Night with her good friends, and she looked forward to their annual travel events. She enjoyed being outside, working around her yard, gardening and spending time on the beach relaxing or walking searching for shells. She had an affection for animals and always had dogs in her home, including her last, beloved Cody.

Bette is survived by her brother Frank Alipranti, nieces, stepson, grandchildren, great grandchildren and close friends. She was predeceased by husband, James Pauley, parents, sister, brothers and stepson.

The family will receive friends at 11:00am at

Hoyt Funeral Home, New Canaan on March 24, 2025, with burial to follow at Lakeview Cemetery at 11:30. Memorial donations can be made to Best Friends Animal Society or a charity of your choice.



### PHILIP EIDELBERG

Philip G. Eidelberg, 87, of New Canaan, CT, passed away on February 22, in New Canaan, CT.

Philip was born in Nancy, France to Ludwig and Marthe Eidelberg on March 6, 1937. His family escaped from Europe to the United States in the early 1940s and he attended high school at Riverdale Country School, graduating in 1954. He went on to earn a B.A. degree in History from Harvard University in 1958 and a PhD degree in History from Columbia University in 1970. Philip worked as a lecturer for the University of South Africa for 29 years. He enjoyed French cuisine, reading and spending time with his family.

Philip is survived by his stepson, Dietrich Moor of New Canaan, CT, his daughter-in-law, Heather and grand-children, Nathaniel, Andrew and Elizabeth Moor. He is preceded in death by his wife, Martha, and parents, Ludwig and Marthe.

### ANNE WARD

Anne Sullivan Ward, 74, of New Canaan, CT, died peacefully on March 8, after a long illness.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Richard S. Ward; her two sons, Daniel S. Ward and Andrew A. Ward; her two stepsons, John S. Ward and Brian A. Ward; and 8 grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Louise S. Bagby of NJ, and her brother, Jack Sullivan of VA, and two nephews.

Anne was born in Glen Ridge, NJ, and graduated from the Glen Ridge School system in 1968. While she was at Glen Ridge High School, she spent a term in France as an American Field Service Exchange Student. She attended Earlham College in Richmond, IN, and spent her junior year abroad in France. Her love of French served her well during her professional law career in NYC as a paralegal at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. She met Dick Ward while working on a case in Europe. They married in 1979, and she joined him in Belgium, where both Daniel and Andrew were born. They moved back to the States to Virginia in 1987, and to New Canaan in 1992, where she was active in the New Canaan League of Women Voters. She enjoyed her legal work, her travels, her sculpting avocation, and being at their second home on the beach in Lavallette, NJ; but she loved her family the most.

Her extended family and circle of lifelong friends loved her back for her passionate will to make life better for all of them. We will all miss her forever.





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**LEGAL AD**

March 13, 2025

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive **sealed bids** for "Vine Cottage ADA Accessible Ramp" 61 Main Street, New Canaan, Connecticut, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time on Thursday, April 10, 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. Digital Copies of the contract documents must be obtained by contacting Tiger Mann, Director of Public Works, DPW via email tiger.mann@newcanaanct.gov

A mandatory PreBid Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 10:00 AM. Meet in front of the Playhouse Theatre.

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.

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

**LEGAL AD**

March 13, 2025

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive **sealed bids** for "Intersection Improvements 2025 - Conrad Road", New Canaan, Connecticut, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time on April 3, 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. Work shall begin on or after June 23, 2025 and shall be completed by August 22, 2025.

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.

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

**LEGAL AD**

March 13, 2025

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive **sealed bids** for "Playhouse Theatre ADA Ramp/Stair/Compactor - Dumpster Enclosure" New Canaan, Connecticut, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time on Thursday, April 10, 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. Digital Copies of the contract documents must be obtained by contacting Tiger Mann, Director of Public Works, DPW via email tiger.mann@newcanaanct.gov

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

**LEGAL AD**

**TOWN OF NEW CANAAN**

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 this hearing is scheduled as a hybrid meeting to be held in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street. Access to this Public Hearing will be in person and via an on-line system at 7:00 p.m. to hear and decide the application(s) as follows:

1. 31 Oak Street - Upon application of Robert Lourenco, owner(s), for Special Permit approval pursuant to Section(s) 3.7.E to allow a garage structure that will exceed the maximum building coverage by 662 sq. ft. and in return will deed restrict the height of 1,311 sq. ft. of various structures on the property to 18' or less in the B Residence Zone at 31 Oak Street (Map N, Block 61, Lot 934).
2. 89 Chichester Road - Upon application of David Rucci, Lampert, Toohey & Rucci, LLC, Authorized Agent for New Canaan Beautification League, Inc., owner(s), to allow a modification of conditions to a Special Permit dated March 31, 2016 in the Two Acre Zone at 89 Chichester Road (Map 26, Block 22, Lot 1.)

**LEGAL AD**

March 13, 2025

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive **sealed bids** for "New Canaan EMS Ambulance, 2025", New Canaan, Connecticut, until 2:00 p.m. Local Time on April 10, 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.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within 45 days after the actual date of the bid opening.

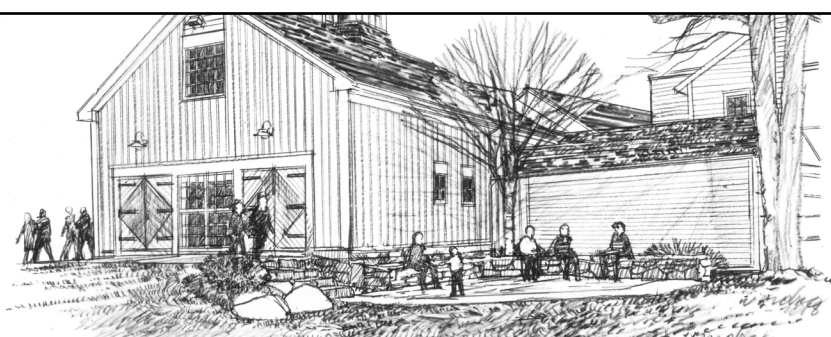
The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, to waive defects in the same, or to accept any proposal or any part thereof deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut.

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- 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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# REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

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## NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
151 Butler Lane	\$1,399,000	3,078	\$454.52	1.00	4	3
9 Twin Pond Lane	\$2,250,000	5,460	\$412.09	2.00	4	4
277 Indian Rock Road	\$2,300,000	2,460	\$934.96	3.24	3	2
33 Stonehenge Drive	\$2,695,000	7,116	\$378.72	2.00	6	5

## NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
378 Valley Road	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,575,000	12	4	3	2.89

## FEATURED OPEN HOUSE

Get Your Open Houses Into the MLS by Wednesday at Noon for a Listing Here

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
151 Butler Lane	\$1,399,000	SAT & SUN	12:00-2:00PM	Coldwell Banker
9 Twin Pond Lane	\$2,250,000	SAT & SUN	2:00-4:00PM	William Raveis
232 Park Street #17	\$515,000	SUN	1:00-3:00PM	William Raveis
23 Benedict Hill Road	\$2,899,000	SUN	1:00-3:00PM	Douglas Elliman

# Things I Think I Think



BY JOHN ENGEL

In today's Gospel, Jesus, sounding annoyed, says, "This is an evil generation, it seeks a sign." It made me wonder what He would have said about *this* generation and about the New Canaan real estate market.

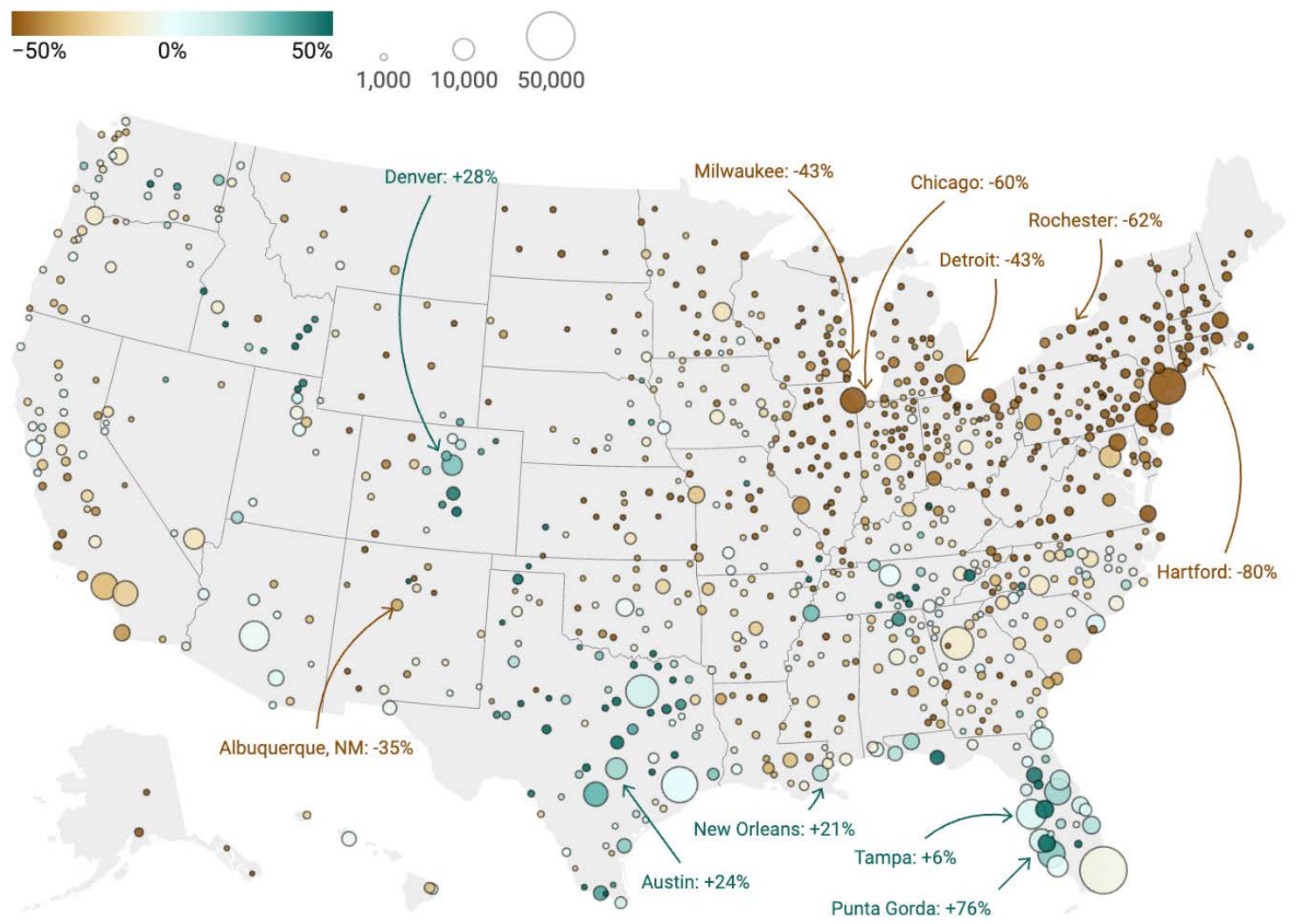
In the month or so since Trump took office, in the month since the Spring market started, it seems everybody is looking for a sign. Are we going into a recession? Are we really annexing Greenland, Panama, and Canada? Are we serious about tariffs? And how will all of this affect New Canaan's real estate market and MY equity in MY home? Give me a sign!

First, why are we demanding a sign? There's so much volatility. It's a week where Wall Street has already given back all the gains of the last six months. The S&P index fell 2.7% and the Nasdaq fell 4% on Monday. What do modern-day prophets like Warren Buffet say?

Buffet, in his latest shareholder letter (February 22, 2025) says, "Focus on Long Term Value over Market Noise." The real estate translation of this advice is to own the best quality you can afford to hold and maintain for the long haul. Buffet writes, "Your company is 100% American, and we believe in America," reinforcing his confidence in the resilience of the U.S. economy despite the current volatility. The fact that he highlighted long-term holdings like Coca-Cola and American Express as examples of "fishing where the fish are" is a nod to finding enduring value. The real estate equivalent is investing in Greenwich, New Canaan, Darien, and Westport, the four best performing stocks in

## Active housing inventory for sale compared to pre-pandemic levels: Metro shift between February 2019 and February 2025

Metro sized by number of active listings for sale



***"In the month since the Spring market started, it seems everybody is looking for a sign."***

Fairfield County, over the long term. Sound obvious? The contrarian approach would be to invest in those markets that have shown the greatest gains in the last two years, including Stamford and Norwalk, which are each up 20%. I believe Buffet is telling us to invest in the house you know you can sell in a good market or bad market. I believe Buffet is a New Canaan kind of guy.

Buffet says, "Adapt to Change." He used the example of his shift from avoiding railroad stocks to recognizing their value as the industry consolidated, saying, "When the world changes, you must change." The real estate lesson here came to me yesterday when a Darien seller said he was ready to list his house. He has two pools, a tennis court, a sport court, three acres of lawn, and a beautiful house. But his life has changed, his job has changed, his children are older, and this is no longer the right home at this stage of his life. Many of us are holding on to good homes because of the memories, because these homes have been good investments, because we want a place "the kids" can come home to, but I think my Darien friend has realized Buffet's lesson, that it's okay to change your mind about what is the right home, what is the right size, and be willing to let go. With only 22 houses for sale in Darien today, this seller should do well, downsize, maybe buy some of Buffet's railroad stocks.

Let's go back to today's Gospel because there is an interesting history lesson in there. When Jesus said, "The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment ... and She will condemn them," it made me wonder who is this Queen of the South and what's her story? Jesus was referring to the Queen of Sheba, who packed up her camels with gold, spices, and jewels in Yemen and traveled about 1,600 miles through the rugged Hijaz mountains to visit Jerusalem's wise king Solomon to get the answers to "hard questions." Traveling 20-30 miles per day, the journey took 80 days each way, assuming no major delays from weather, bandits, or diplomacy. It's said she returned home "with all she desired." Three thousand miles to get the answers you can get right here each week for free.

The point of the Gospel is one of frustration. Exasperated, Jesus uses several examples, including the Queen of Sheba story, to make the point that when we don't like the advice, many of us just move

on to the next prophet. He is saying, *I have given you the answers and yet you stand here asking for some great sign.*

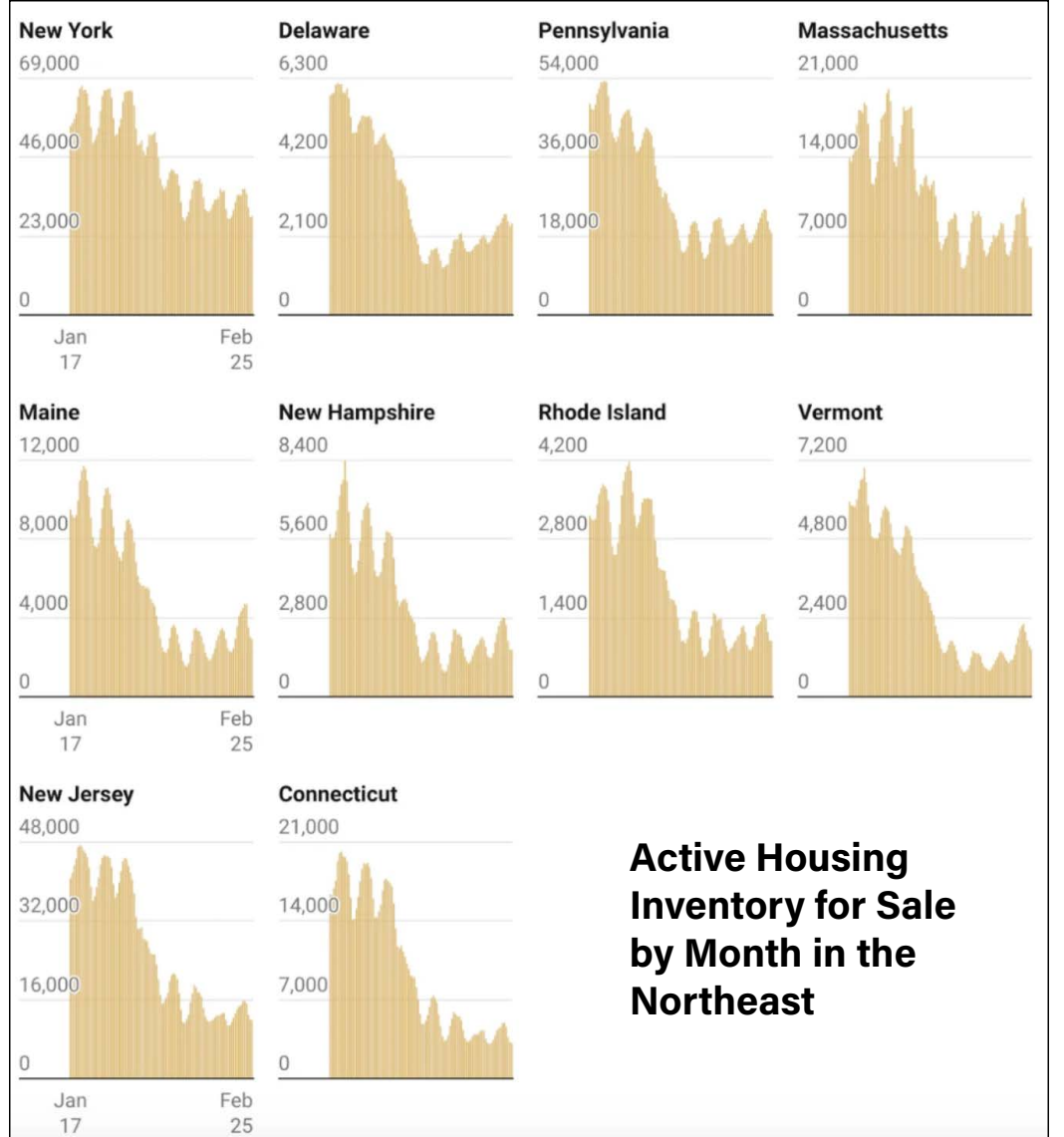
So too from Buffet we hear the same advice he has always given: Invest in quality and stop trying to time the market. Be willing to let go of long-held beliefs as the situation changes. So too in real estate, the analogies are clear:

1. Don't wait for interest rates. They should not be driving your decision. It is amazing to me how many times the word "rates" is a part of the conversation when buyers are considering a purchase. Buy the best real estate you can afford, in a well-run town, in the generally positive U.S. economy. 7.25% rates are the historical average, and most modern-day prophets are predicting that if rates move, they won't move much.
2. Don't hold on to a house for too long because it was a good idea when you bought it. Said differently: Don't hold on to the wrong house too long because you're locked into a low interest rate, because the kids might come back, or because inertia is difficult to overcome.

### Things I Think I Think:

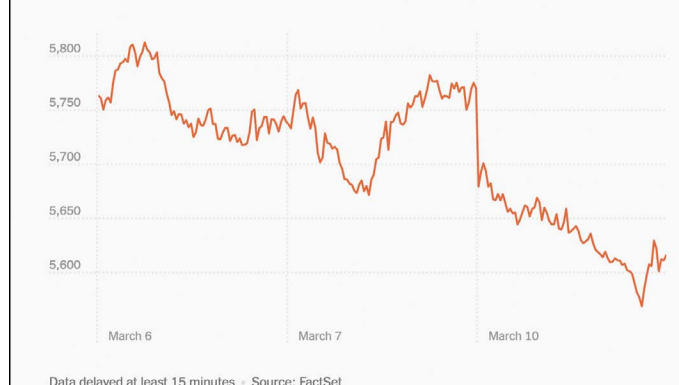
Wall Street has its worst day this week with the S&P index falling 2.7% and the Nasdaq falling 4% on Monday. Does this affect the real estate market? Yes, the Fairfield County high-end real estate markets correlate closely with Wall Street. A jittery stock market will have a negative impact on higher-end real estate sale prices in lower Fairfield County. A good deal of the wealth pouring into our real estate over the last four years came at first from pandemic-era stimulus and then from several successive years of stock market gains. Any contraction in the stock market will be felt at the top end of the range, particularly in deals over \$3 million.

According to *Fast Company* magazine, housing inventory was up 27.56% this February, compared to one year earlier. That's a substantial gain. Should we panic? No. The national picture is still one of low inventory, 23.1% below the pre-pandemic levels of February 2019. Inventory is rising, and prices are falling, but it's particularly felt in some of the most overheated markets of the past five years, particularly in Sunbelt states. Five Connecticut real estate markets made *Fast Company's* Top 10 list of



**Active Housing Inventory for Sale by Month in the Northeast**

### Stocks continue falling as recession worries surface.



markets in the country where inventory levels are 72% to 81% lower than they were six years ago. The Fairfield County (#1), Hartford (#3), Norwich (#5), New Haven (#7) and Waterbury (#8) markets lead their list of the 50 markets with the greatest drop in inventory, bucking the national trend.

Why no inventory in the Northeast, and

particularly Connecticut? Connecticut was less reliant on pandemic-era migration and built fewer new homes, and we continue to build fewer homes now. I think low inventory levels will persist here, resulting in fewer transactions and agents leaving the business. We will continue to experience modest price increases in Fairfield County while the nation's hottest markets (Texas and Florida) experience a correction.

*John Engel is a broker with the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in New Canaan, and he is wondering where the birds went. Two weeks ago, there was snow in his yard and dozens of birds feeding. Now, the crocus and daffodils are popping out and the birds have alternatives. No doves this week. Like the doves, John adapts to the changing seasons.*

## A NEWS ARTICLE JUST FOR KIDS ON THE BUDGET

### Where Would You Spend the Town's Money?

Imagine you had \$100 to spend on anything in New Canaan. Would you buy new books for the library? Fix up a playground? Add more ice cream shops? Every year, town leaders have to make big decisions like this—but instead of \$100, they decide how to spend millions of dollars!

### Why We're Writing This for You

At the New Canaan Sentinel, we believe that everyone in our town, including kids, should understand how our community works. That's why we created this special article just for you!

New Canaan is a great place to live, with excellent schools, parks, and friendly neighborhoods. But did you know that it takes a lot of planning—and money—to keep everything running? Grown-ups in our town meet every year to decide how much money should go to

schools, roads, police, firefighters, and other important services.

Even though kids don't vote or pay taxes, this affects you, too! The decisions made now help shape the town where you live, learn, and play. We want to help you understand how these choices are made so you can be part of your community. Let's dive into how New Canaan's leaders decide where the town's money goes!

### How Does New Canaan Decide How to Spend Money?

Every town needs money to run smoothly, and New Canaan is no different. The town needs to pay for schools, parks, police officers, firefighters, and many other services that help keep people safe and happy. The way the town decides how to spend its money is called the budget process.

#### Step 1: Planning the Budget

Each year, New Canaan's Board of Finance meets to figure out how much

money the town needs for the next year. They talk about big things like:

How much money schools need for teachers, books, and sports.

How much to spend on fixing roads and sidewalks.

How much is needed for firefighters, police officers, and emergency workers.

They also look at how much money the town has and how much they will need to collect from taxes. Taxes are the money that adults pay to the town to help cover these costs.

#### Step 2: Listening to the People

New Canaan's leaders hold meetings where people in town can share their thoughts about the budget. Sometimes, people ask for more money for schools or parks, and sometimes they want the town to spend less so their taxes don't go up.

This year, at a public meeting, no one showed up to share their opinions. That meant the Board of Finance had to make

decisions based on what they thought was best for everyone.

#### Step 3: Where Does the Money Go?

Most of the town's money—about 70%—goes to schools. This pays for teachers, books, and school buildings. The rest of the money helps take care of things like:

Parks and playgrounds so kids have safe places to play.

Police and firefighters to keep everyone safe.

Fixing roads to make sure cars and buses can drive safely.

#### Step 4: Keeping Taxes Fair

New Canaan's leaders try to make sure people don't pay too much in taxes. This year, they worked hard to cut \$4 million from the budget. Even though they made these cuts, some costs—like paying teachers and firefighters—still increased.

One challenge the town faced was a loss of money from car taxes because

of a change in state laws. This meant the town had to adjust its budget to make up for that missing money.

#### Step 5: Final Approval

Once the Board of Finance finishes the budget, they send it to the Town Council, another group of town leaders. The Town Council can make changes before the final budget is approved. This year, the final vote will happen on April 3, 2025.

#### Why This Matters

The budget might sound like something only adults care about, but it affects everyone—including kids. The choices made today will help decide what your school, parks, and town look like in the future.

By learning how New Canaan spends money, you are learning how your town works. Talk to your parents and let them know what you think!

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.GreenwichSentinel.com/sentinel-writing-competition](http://www.GreenwichSentinel.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.



## POWERHOUSE THEATRE IN WAVENY PARK

### Ooh! Acting Classes and Fun Event!

**7-WEEK CLASS TUESDAYS** **\$210**  
**MARCH 25 - MAY 6** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
TOWN PLAYERS OF NEW CANAAN

**SCENE STUDY FOR ALL**  
with DEBORAH BURKE

[TPNC.ORG/CLASSES](http://TPNC.ORG/CLASSES)

**JOIN THE FUN!!** FINAL STOP ON THEIR 13 CITY NATIONAL TOUR...  
MAX DAVIDSON & TESS TRIGELLAS

## STAND-UP MAGIC

**NEW CANAAN, CT**

**COMEDY + MAGIC = ONE GREAT EVENING!**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 5 at 7 pm**

PLAYING THIS WEEK AT

# THE PLAYHOUSE

**NOVOCAINE**

THE DAY THE EARTH BLEW UP:  
A LOONEY TUNES MOVIE

93 Elm Street  
New Canaan

And Join Us in the Pub!

**CINEMALAB.COM**  
for showtimes and tickets

## New Canaan Chamber Music

Andrew Armstrong, Artistic Director  
- ANTICIPATE THE UNEXPECTED -

---

### The Link from Mozart to Film

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

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March 20 at 3:00 pm | March 21 at 7:30 pm  
 First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Tickets at  
[newcanaanchambermusic.org](http://newcanaanchambermusic.org)

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## Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

### TOWN MEETINGS

#### **Tuesday, March 18**

**Pension Committee - Special**  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

#### **EMS Commission**

6-7 p.m., NCEMS Headquarters

#### **Town Council**

7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

#### **Wednesday, March 19**

#### **Housing Authority**

5:30-6:30 p.m., Town Hall Board Room

#### **Police Commission**

6-8 p.m., Town Hall

#### **Thursday, March 20**

#### **Town Council**

7-9 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

### **March 13**

#### **Nutrition, Wellness & Fitness For Teens with Dr. Katie**

10 AM in the NCHS Wagner Room  
Join CARES & NCHS PFA for an interactive session with Dr. Katie Takayasu. Learn about smart nutrition tips for balanced meals & snacks, the connection between food & energy, and more. Give your teen the tools to fuel their body and mind for a healthier future. Register at <https://newcanaancares.org/dr-katie/>.

#### **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.

#### **Opening Reception Annual NCHS Exhibition: Through Our Eyes XIII**

5-6:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center  
Join the opening of a new exhibit, featuring live chamber music by NCHS students: Niyathi Iyengar and Samuel Wang, violin, Anne-Eva Ritter, viola and Claire-Helene Ritter, cello. There will be a presentation of a scholarship award by the Carriage Barn Arts Center Board of Directors. This annual award is presented to an exceptional aspiring artist to further artistic pursuits. The exhibit will be open from March 14th through March 30th.

#### **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>.

### **March 14**

#### **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

8:30 - 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center  
Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

#### **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.

#### **Community Preparedness Training**

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium  
Voices Center for Resilience is offering a Community Preparedness workshop to provide individuals with strategies to prepare in advance of an emergency. The program includes an overview of the basic components on how to be better prepared in your home, work and community, whether sheltering in place or evacuating. Register at <https://voicescenter.org>.

### **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. 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**

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**

1 PM 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/>.

#### **Les Misérables- Day One**

7 PM at New Canaan High School  
Les Misérables, the world's longest-running musical, is a powerful story of passion, redemption, and resilience set against the backdrop of revolution. With its unforgettable score and timeless themes, this Tony Award-winning masterpiece has captivated over 70 million people worldwide. Now, talented students are bringing this iconic production to life in what promises to be a breathtaking performance.

## SAVE THE DATE

### **March 21**

#### **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

8:30 - 9:30 AM at the Lapham Center  
Sponsored by the New Canaan Sentinel for a weekly community coffee and conversation.

#### **Why & When Developmental Milestones Matter with Georgette Harrison**

4:30 PM at the New Canaan YMCA  
Join Georgette Harrison, a psychotherapist specializing in early childhood and parenting, for an informative talk on developmental milestones for parents and caregivers of children ages 0 to 4. Learn about the various ways babies and young children develop, and discover how you can support them in reaching important milestones. Parents will also learn how to effectively communicate concerns with pediatricians and community providers. Register at <https://newcanaancares.org/developmental-milestones/>.

#### **Les Misérables- Day Two**

7 PM at New Canaan High School  
Les Misérables, the world's longest-running musical, is a powerful story of passion, redemption, and resilience set against the backdrop of revolution. With its unforgettable score and timeless themes, this Tony Award-winning masterpiece has captivated over 70 million people worldwide. Now, talented students are bringing this iconic production to life in what promises to be a breathtaking performance.

#### **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 22**

#### **Les Misérables- Day Three**

1 & 7 PM at New Canaan High School  
Les Misérables, the world's longest-running musical, is a powerful story of passion, redemption, and resilience set against the backdrop of revolution. With its unforgettable score and timeless themes, this Tony Award-winning masterpiece has captivated over 70 million people worldwide. Now, talented students are bringing this iconic production to life in what promises to be a breathtaking performance.

### **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**

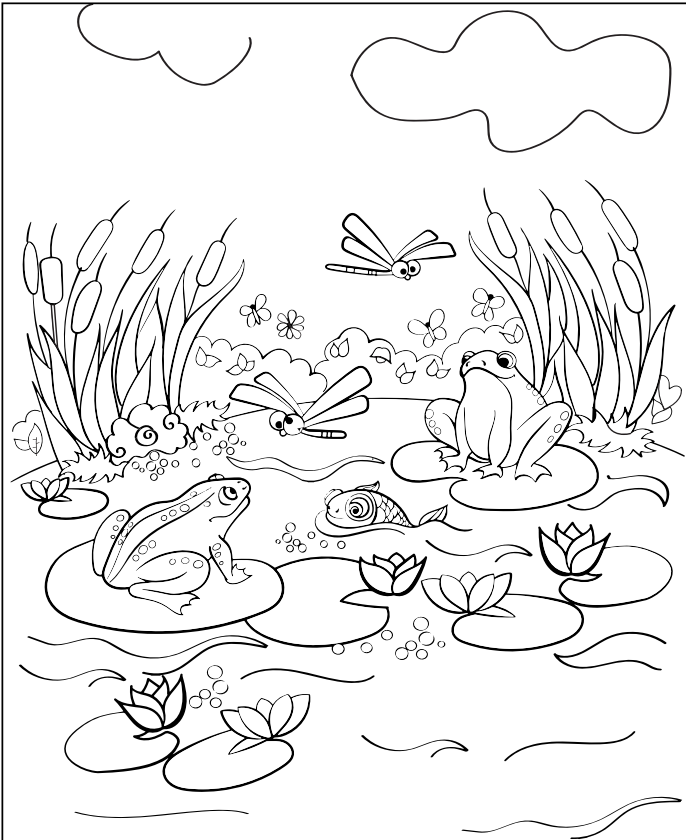
10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center  
It's the perfect time of year to create an abundant spring bulb arrangement to take home and enjoy for weeks to come. Natalie McPartland of Bloomcraft will provide an array of vibrant spring bulbs like tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths. Perfect for beginners 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**

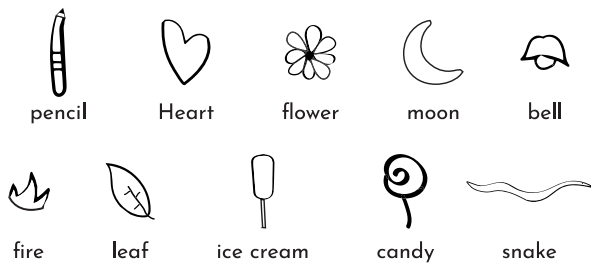
12:30 PM at the Lapham Center  
Join for lunch and a program with Jen Cipriano from Copia Home and Garden. Jen will talk about indoor planting techniques, different types of herbs and how to care for them. Enjoy the benefits of growing



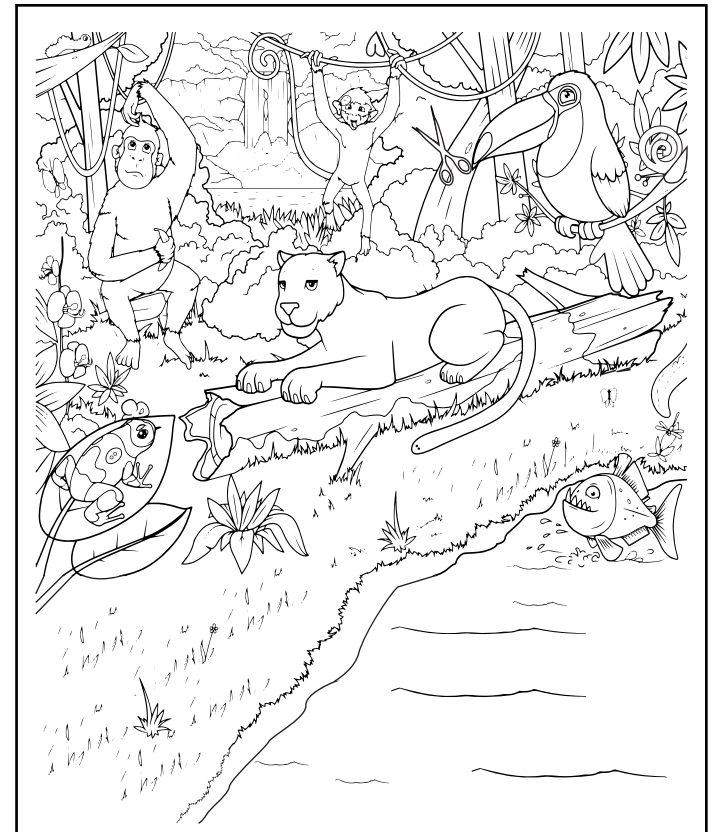
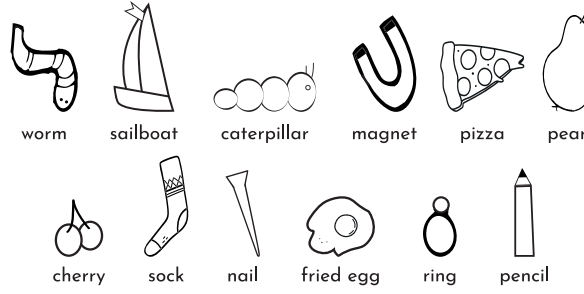
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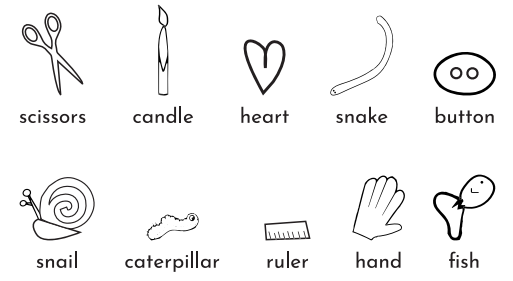
## FIND ALL HIDDEN



## FIND ALL HIDDEN



## FIND ALL HIDDEN



## Sudoku for Kids

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

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

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

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

# SUDOKU

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

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

### Very Hard

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

### Easy

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

### Hard

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

### Very Hard

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

### Sudoku answers

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



# This Week in History & Fun Things to Celebrate

## This Week in History & Fun Holidays (March 15 – March 20)

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

### This Week in History

**March 15, 44 B.C. – The Ides of March & Julius Caesar's Assassination**

Beware the Ides of March! On this day, Roman leader Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of senators, including his friend Brutus. This event changed Roman history forever.

**March 16, 1926 – The First Liquid-Fueled Rocket Launch**

American scientist Robert H. Goddard launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket in Auburn, Massachusetts. His work laid the foundation for modern space exploration.

**March 17, 461 – St. Patrick Passes Away**

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is believed to have died on this day. His legacy is celebrated around the world with parades, shamrocks, and a whole lot of green!

**March 18, 1965 – The First Spacewalk**

Cosmonaut Alexei Leonov became the first person to walk in space. He spent 12 minutes floating outside his spacecraft, paving the way for future space missions.



**March 19, 2003 – The Iraq War Begins**

The United States and its allies launched military action against Iraq, marking the start of a conflict that lasted for years and reshaped global politics.

**March 20, 1852 – 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' is Published**

Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, was published, bringing national attention to the horrors of slavery in the U.S. The book fueled the abolitionist movement and had a profound impact on American history. Fun and Wacky Holidays This Week!

**March 15 – Everything You Think Is Wrong Day**

A humorous day to embrace mistakes and rethink everything you thought you knew!

**March 16 – National Panda Day**

A day to celebrate these black-and-white icons of conservation. Watch

panda videos, visit a zoo, or learn about efforts to protect them.

**March 17 – St. Patrick's Day**

Get your green on! Celebrate Irish heritage with parades, traditional food, and maybe even a lucky four-leaf clover.

**March 18 – Awkward Moments Day**

Ever had an embarrassing moment? Today is all about laughing at those awkward situations and moving on!

**March 19 – Let's Laugh Day**

A day dedicated to humor and joy. Tell a joke, watch a comedy, or share a laugh with a friend!

**March 20 – International Day of Happiness**

A day to focus on what makes you happy. Spread kindness, enjoy the little things, and appreciate the good around you.

Other Fun and Wacky Celebrations Coming Up!

**March 15 – World Consumer Rights Day**

A day to learn about your rights as a consumer and how to make informed purchases.

**March 16 – Freedom of Information Day**

Promoting transparency and the public's right to access government records.

**March 17 – Submarine Day**

A day to recognize the deep-sea explorers and military submariners who navigate the depths of the ocean.

**March 18 – Supreme Sacrifice Day**

Honoring those who have given their lives for others in acts of bravery and selflessness.

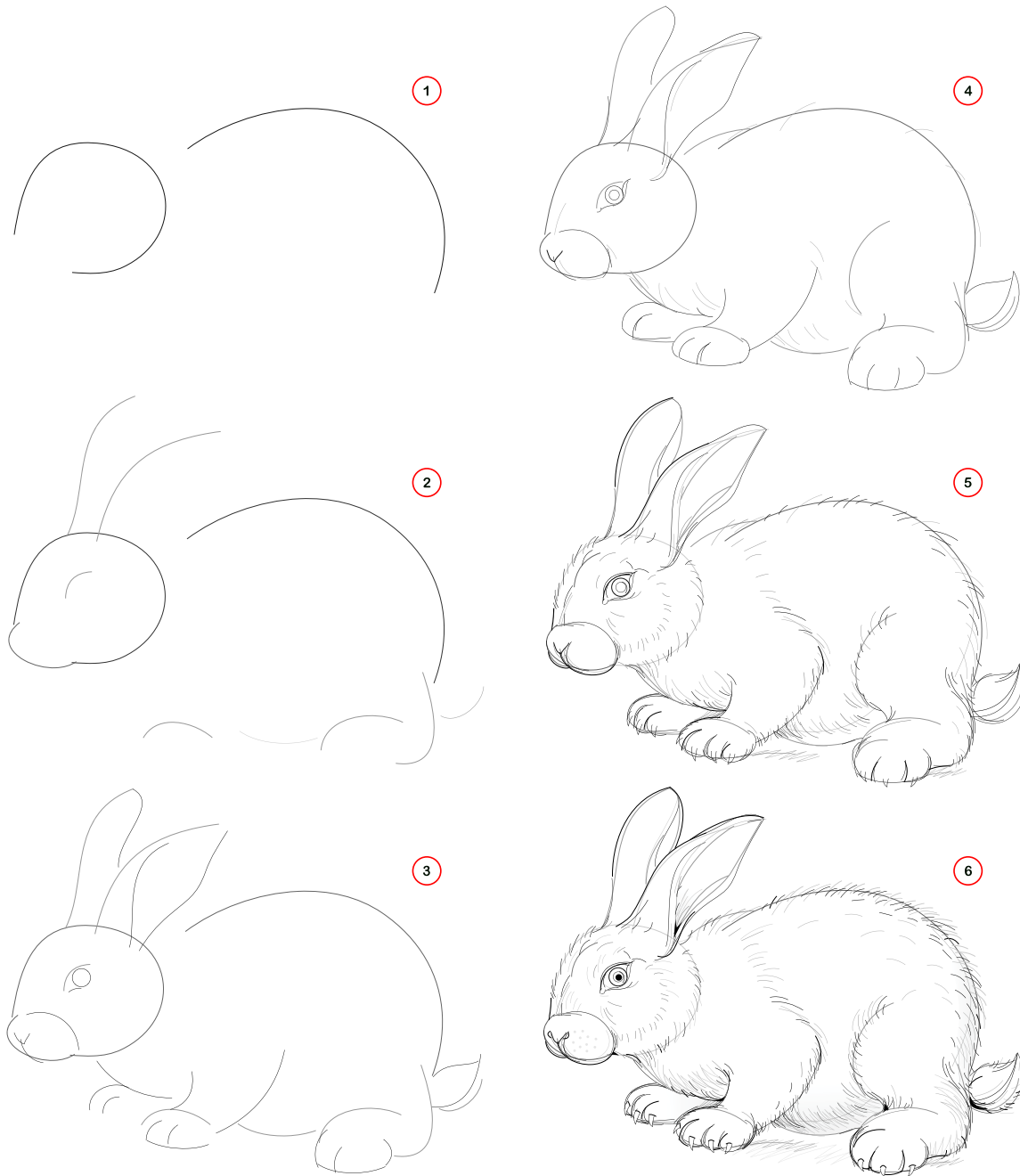
**March 19 – National Poultry Day**

A celebration of chickens, turkeys, ducks, and all things poultry-related!

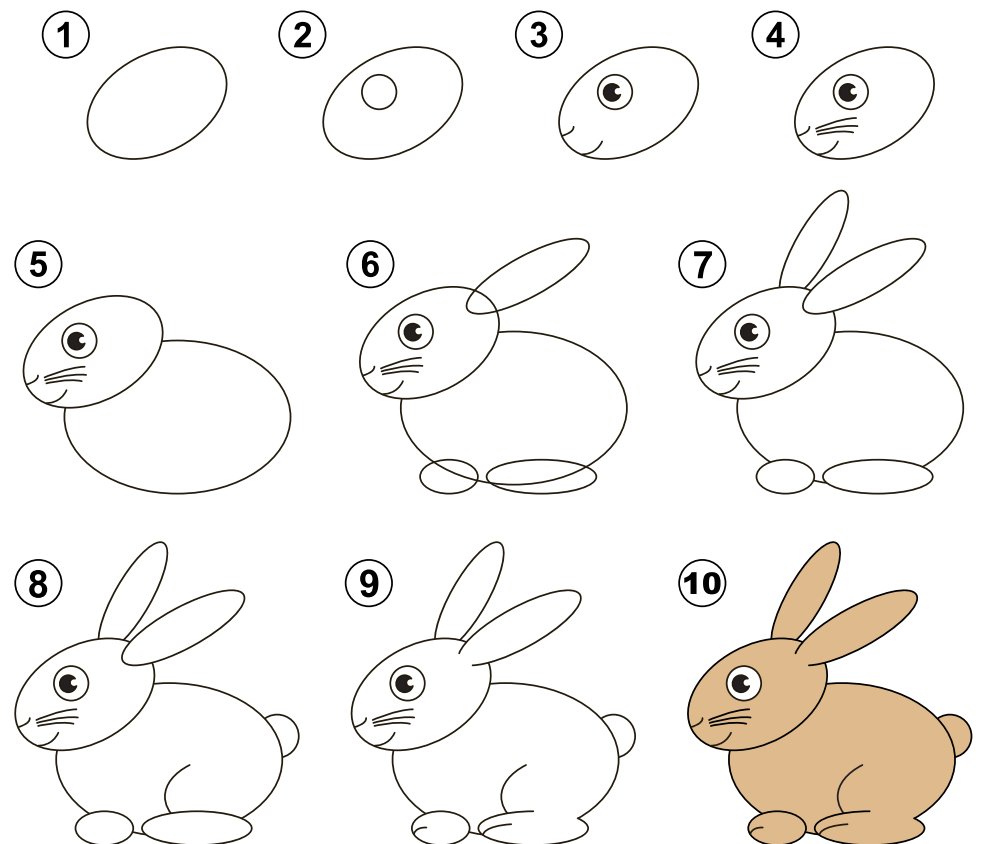
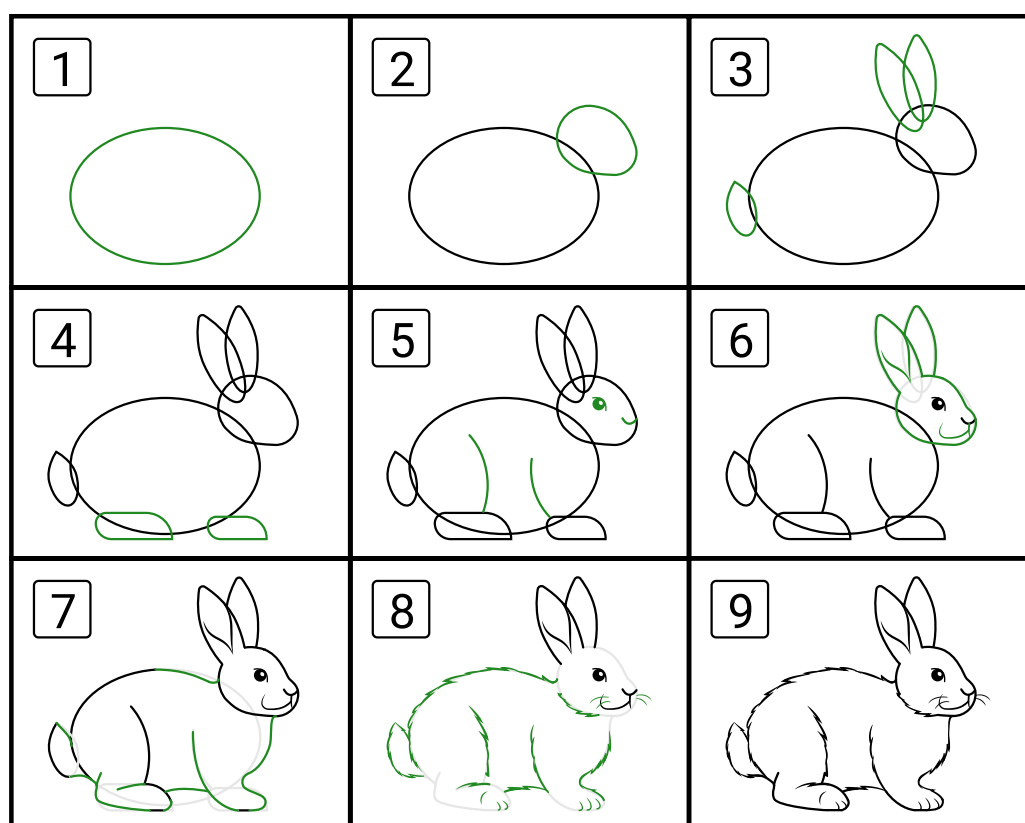
**March 20 – First Day of Spring (Vernal Equinox)**

Winter is over! Today marks the official start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, bringing longer days and blooming flowers. How Will You Celebrate?

Will you wear green, laugh a little more, or learn about space history? With so many important events and fun holidays, there's something for everyone this week! Enjoy the celebrations!



## Learn to Sketch Like a Pro 3 Different Ways





# How Many?

Count the similar animals and write the number



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	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>
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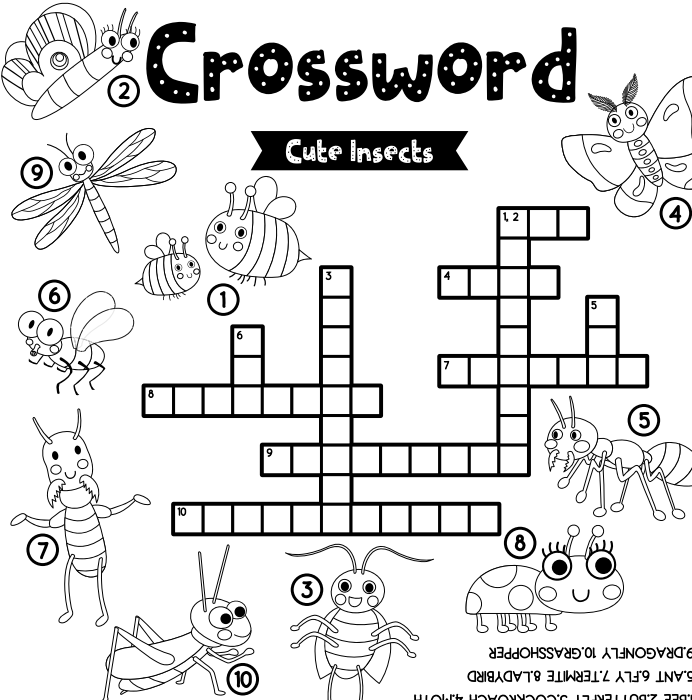
## CODEBREAKER

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3	4	1	5	6	7	8	R	O	M	E
	12		10		8		3			8
13	9	14	4	2	15	1	4	8		12
	13		16		10		1			1
17	11	18	11	1		19		20		
	8		19	4	21	22	9	8	6	
20		5		19		4		4		
8	11	19	23	4	15	8	4	6	23	
11		1		16		24		24		
25	15	4	5	6	23		3			26
15		6		4	8	8	5	13	11	
11	6	7	19		4		4			2
6		11		7	5	6	6	11	8	
23	11	8	10		6		9			4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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## Crossword

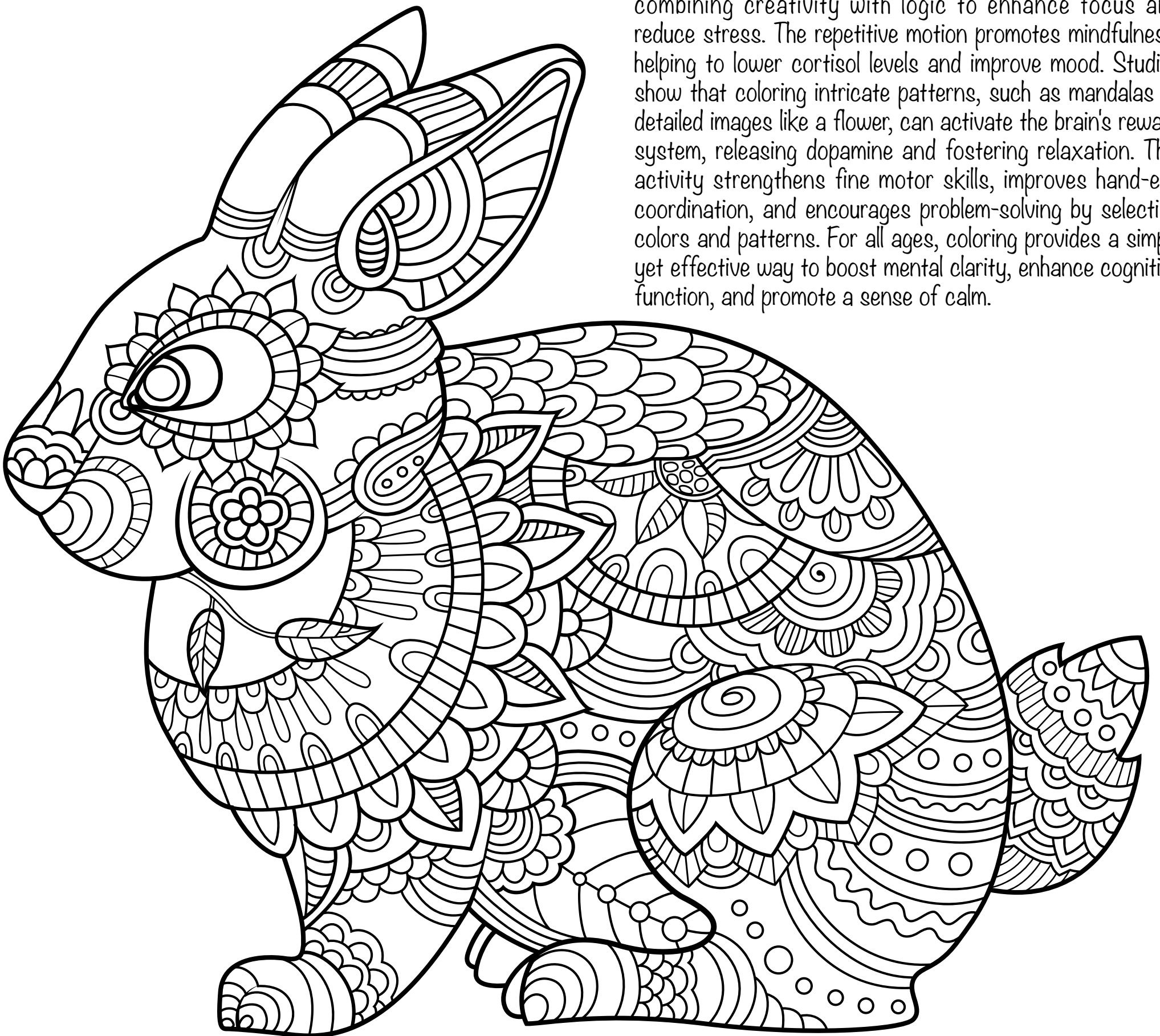
### Cute Insects



1. Bee 2. Butterfly 3. Ant 4. Moth 5. Spider 6. Fly 7. Grasshopper 8. Ladybug 9. Dragonfly 10. Grasshopper

## 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.



# Eastern Cotton Tail Bunny Hop

By JIM KNOX

Perhaps no animal is more synonymous with spring than the rabbit. Throughout recorded history, it has served as both harbinger and metaphor for the season of life, renewal and growth. Though active year 'round, rabbits breed, reproduce and flourish with the coming of the spring season.

To most, the rabbit is a generic creature identified across cultures by its small brown body, long ears and hind legs, and overall adorable appearance. A closer look in our own backyard reveals a creature which deserves special attention, and even study.

If you ask most Connecticut residents the identity of the cute bunnies doing their utmost to eat the contents of their gardens, they'd identify the "Cottontail" as the culprit. They'd be right, at least generally. But there is more to this little beast than a casual glance may render.

The Eastern Cottontail Rabbit, "*Sylvilagus floridanus*", is abundant throughout Connecticut, and does indeed make return trips to Fairfield County's all-you-can-eat suburban salad bar. This is the species we see grazing along the green shoulders of the Merritt Parkway and zipping into hedgerows at the slightest approach. Yet, despite its familiarity and seeming omnipresence, this creature is no native New Englander.

That distinction is owned by its discrete, more reclusive cousin. The New England Cottontail, "*Sylvilagus transitionalis*", is the only rabbit native to Connecticut, New England and neighboring New York. It was the rabbit known to English colonists as a "coney", and is thought to have inspired the name Coney Island, for its great abundance on the island in the 1600's and 1700's.

While this native New



England rabbit was uniquely adapted to the habitats and natural habitat succession of New England, development and land practices altered the landscape. With the introduction of the more adaptable Eastern Cottontail from other regions of the country in the early 1900's, the native found itself with stiff competition for limited

resources. Closer scrutiny reveals two distinct creatures. The New England Cottontail is a creature of forests, specifically transitional forests, known as thickets. Naturally, these occur in the aftermath of forest fires, floods and severe storms. These rabbits thrive in the dense cover of these

regrowth areas. They rarely stray far from that cover and their eyesight is designed to detect potential predators at close range. The Eastern Cottontail, by contrast, is a creature of open spaces. They prefer grasslands and meadows, as well as their manicured counterparts such as parks, lawns and golf courses. In

short, they were practically designed for suburbia.

While these close-cousin species share excellent hearing, sense of smell and swiftness of foot, one key adaptation makes a world of difference - eyesight. With eyes approximately 50% larger than their thicket-dwelling cousins, Eastern Cottontails hold the advantage in human-altered New England. With such distance vision, they can venture further from cover to access plentiful grasses while still tracking potential predators from a safe range. Likewise, they are the look-alike cousins who invade our gardens and scurry under our fence lines.

Though both species are approximately 14-19 inches in length and up to 2.5 pounds in weight, the unique traits of the New England Cottontail include: smaller ears, fine black fur lines along the edges of those ears and a black star at the crown of the head. Sadly, these specialists have lost approximately 85% of their home range in New England and they need our help.

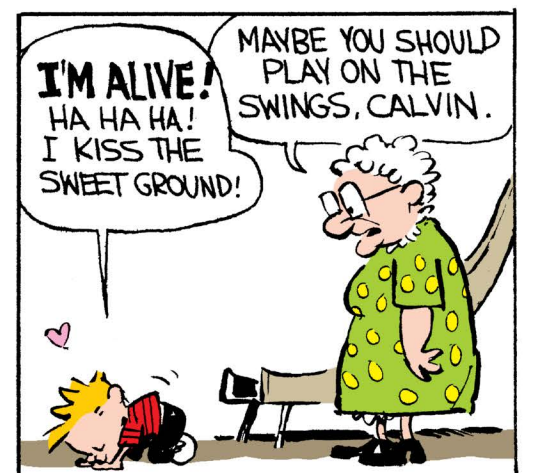
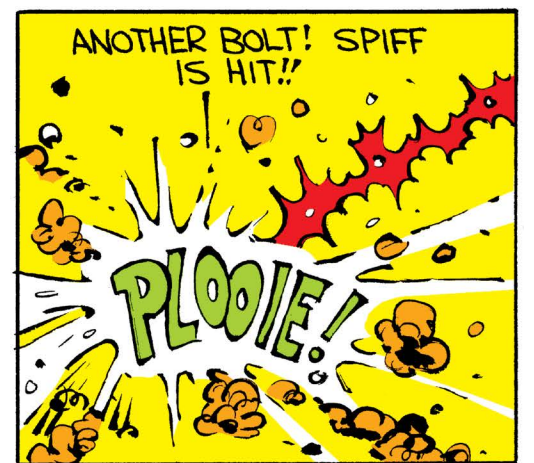
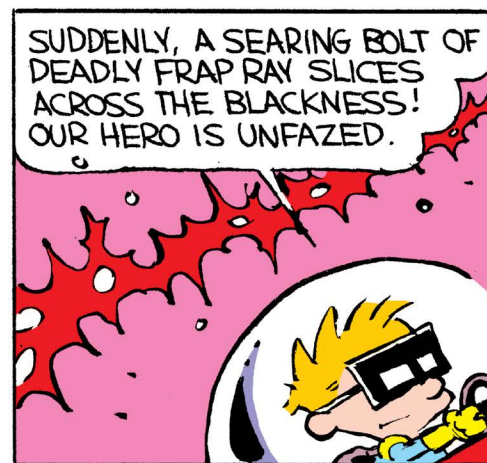
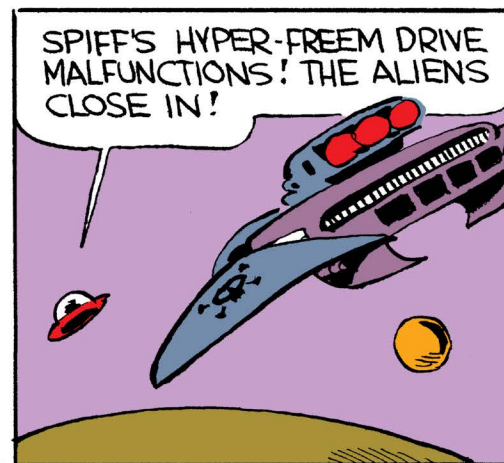
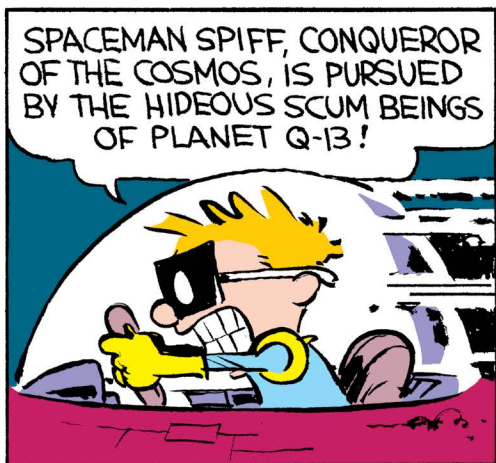
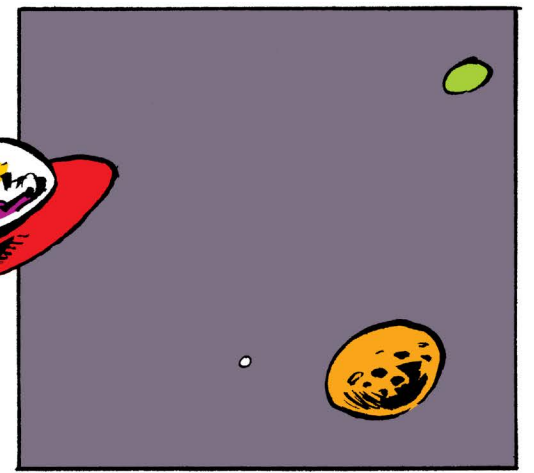
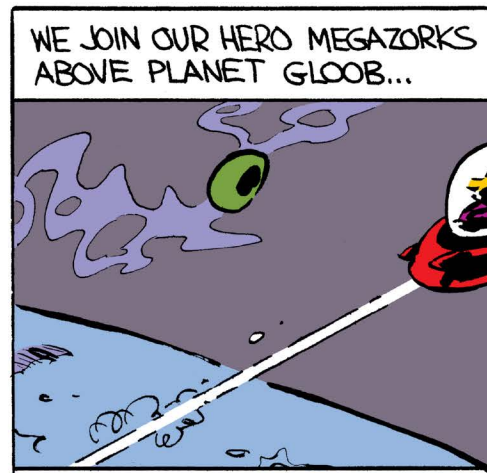
Thankfully, there is hope for their recovery. Study

has revealed no evidence the species are hybridizing, and there are those who are coming to the aid of their wild neighbors in need. Through programs like the Young Forest Habitat Initiative and other restoration efforts, The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is conserving essential rabbit habitat. Given that 90% of our state's land is privately owned, citizens are making all the difference. By working with our state wildlife agency, our neighbors are managing their land to benefit New England Cottontails, along with native songbirds and amphibians. Additionally, groups such as The Catherine Violet Hubbard Wildlife Sanctuary have adopted land use practices which actively conserve native rabbit habitat right here in Fairfield County.

While an adorable appearance never hurts a marketing campaign, it doesn't speak to conservation merit. Yet the evolutionary wealth of native species is not to be dismissed. The plants and animals native to a region are the ones uniquely designed to survive amidst the conditions and environmental challenges of that region. More specifically, protection from introduced diseases and species often reside within the physical and behavioral makeup of our wild neighbors. By protecting them, we not conserve native biodiversity, we also promote our own resilience.

So the next time you see that adorable icon of spring, remember there's more to them than meets the eye... and the ears.

*Jim Knox is the Curator of Education for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo and serves as a Science Adviser for The Bruce Museum. He has a passion for sharing his work with endangered species here in Connecticut and beyond.*



**THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT**  
**AUTHOR: BEATRIX POTTER**

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Once upon a time there were four little Rabbits, and their names were—  
 Flopsy,  
 Mopsy,  
 Cotton-tail,  
 and Peter.



They lived with their Mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir-tree.



'Now my dears,' said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, 'you may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden: your Father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor.'



'Now run along, and don't get into mischief. I am going out.'



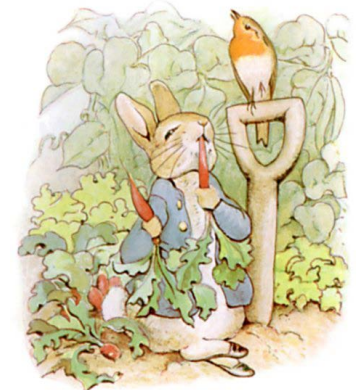
Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella, and went through the wood to the baker's. She bought a loaf of brown bread and five currant buns.



Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail, who were good little bunnies, went down the lane to gather blackberries:



But Peter, who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden, and squeezed under the gate!



First he ate some lettuces and some French beans; and then he ate some radishes;



And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley.



But round the end of a cucumber frame, whom should he meet but Mr. McGregor!



Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out, 'Stop thief!'



Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate.

He lost one of his shoes among the cabbages, and the other shoe amongst the potatoes.



After losing them, he ran on four legs and went faster, so that I think he might have got away altogether if he had not unfortunately run into a gooseberry net, and got caught by the large buttons on his jacket. It was a blue jacket with brass buttons, quite new.



Peter gave himself up for lost, and shed big tears; but his sobs were overheard by some friendly sparrows, who flew to him in great excitement, and implored him to exert himself.



Mr. McGregor came up with a sieve, which he intended to pop upon the top of Peter; but Peter wriggled out just in time, leaving his jacket behind him.



And rushed into the tool-shed, and jumped into a can. It would have been a beautiful thing to hide in, if it had not had so much water in it.



Mr. McGregor was quite sure that Peter was somewhere in the tool-shed, perhaps hidden underneath a flower-pot. He began to turn them over carefully, looking under each.

Presently Peter sneezed—'Kertyschoo!' Mr. McGregor was after him in no time.



And tried to put his foot upon Peter, who jumped out of a window, upsetting three plants. The window was too small for Mr. McGregor, and he was tired of running after Peter. He went back to his work.



Peter sat down to rest; he was out of breath and trembling with fright, and he had not the least idea which way to go. Also he was very damp with sitting in that can. After a time he began to wander about, going lippity—lippity—not very fast, and looking all round.



He found a door in a wall; but it was locked, and there was no room for a fat little rabbit to squeeze underneath.

An old mouse was running in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood. Peter asked her the way to the gate, but she had such a large pea in her mouth that she could not answer. She only shook her head at him. Peter began to cry.



Then he tried to find his way straight across the garden, but he became more and more puzzled. Presently, he came to a pond where Mr. McGregor filled his water-cans. A white cat was staring at some gold-fish, she sat very, very still, but now and then the tip of her tail twitched as if it were alive. Peter thought it best to go away without speaking to her; he had heard about cats from his cousin, little Benjamin Bunny.



He went back towards the tool-shed,

but suddenly, quite close to him, he heard the noise of a hoe—scr-r-ritch, scratch, scratch. Peter scuttered underneath the bushes. But presently, as nothing happened, he came out, and climbed upon a wheelbarrow and peeped over. The first thing he saw was Mr. McGregor hoeing onions. His back was turned towards Peter, and beyond him was the gate!



Peter got down very quietly off the wheelbarrow; and started running as fast as he could go, along a straight walk behind some black-currant bushes.

Mr. McGregor caught sight of him at the corner, but Peter did not care. He slipped underneath the gate, and was safe at last in the wood outside the garden.



Mr. McGregor hung up the little jacket and the shoes for a scare-crow to frighten the blackbirds.

Peter never stopped running or looked behind him till he got home to the big fir-tree.



He was so tired that he flopped down upon the nice soft sand on the floor of the rabbit-hole and shut his eyes. His mother was busy cooking; she wondered what he had done with his clothes. It was the second little jacket and pair of shoes that Peter had lost in a fortnight!



I am sorry to say that Peter was not very well during the evening.

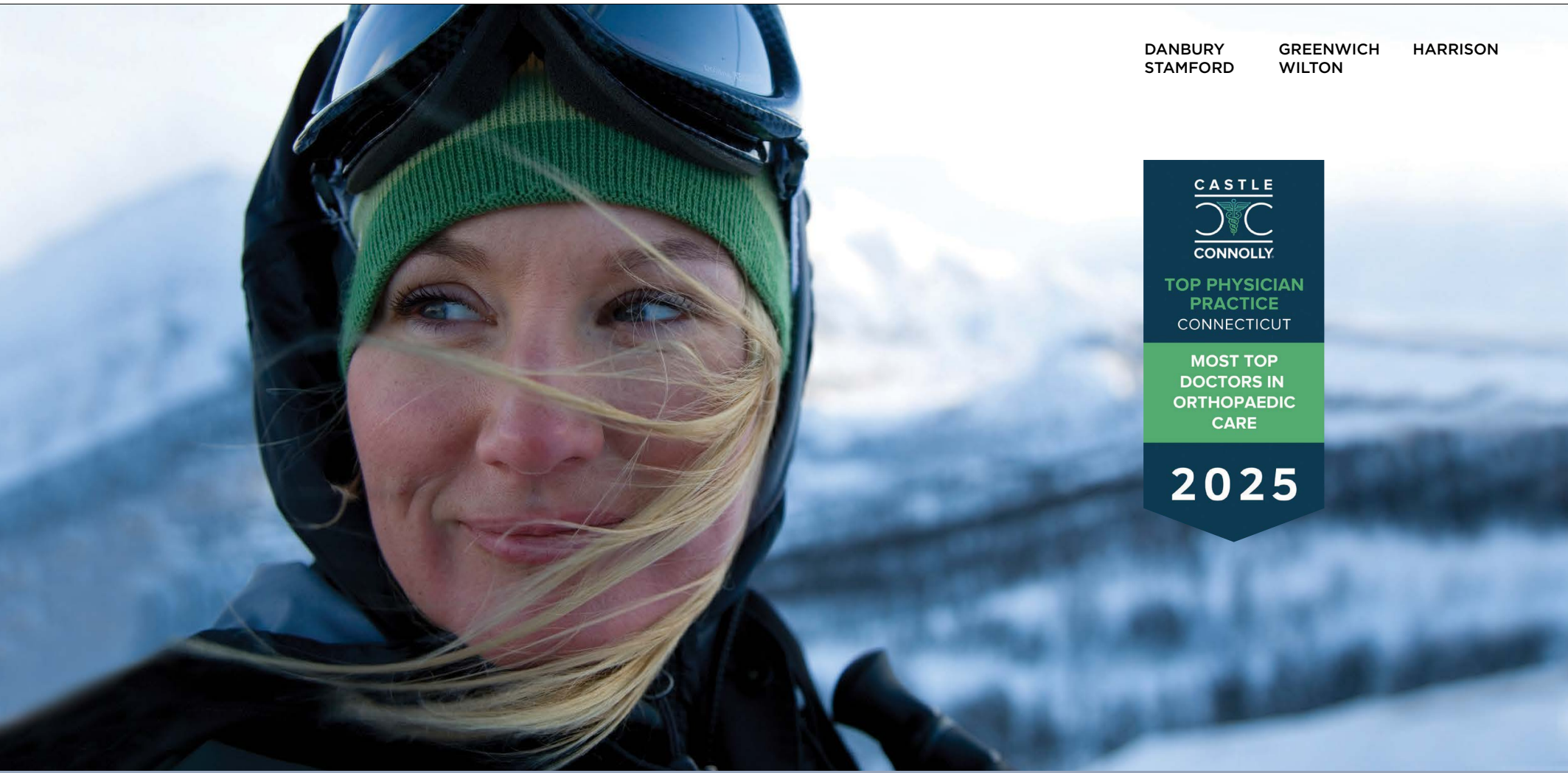
His mother put him to bed, and made some camomile tea; and she gave a dose of it to Peter!

'One table-spoonful to be taken at bed-time.'



But Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cotton-tail had bread and milk and blackberries for supper.

DANBURY STAMFORD GREENWICH WILTON HARRISON



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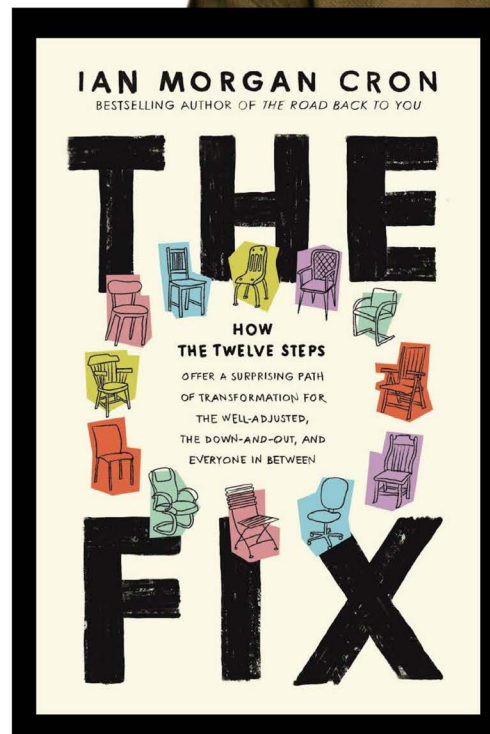
# COURAGE & FAITH

## Ian Cron is back for one night only! Free Author Talk & Reception

### Thursday, March 20 6:30 pm

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Bestselling author and speaker Ian Cron will explore the wisdom of the Twelve Steps that can transform not only those in addiction recovery but anyone longing for deeper freedom, joy, and spiritual connection.



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