

Please note that due to a production issue, this week's edition includes only one section. The second section will be printed again beginning next week. We have incorporated as much of our second section content as possible into the main section this week and apologize if any of your favorites are missing.

TOWN HALL

Outdoor Dining Approved

The New Canaan Board of Selectmen approved outdoor dining on town-owned sidewalks from May 1st to November 2nd, aligning with nearby municipalities. While the season is slightly shorter, the Planning & Zoning Department will oversee permits and ensure compliance with accessibility regulations.

Public Works Union Contract Signed



Dennis Barron and First Selectman Dionna Carlson signed the Public Works Union Contract for July 1st, 2024, to June 30th, 2027. The agreement establishes employment terms for Public Works employees. Photo credit: Town of New Canaan.

AROUND TOWN

Planned Work in Town

Aquarion Water Company will continue work on the Southwest Regional Pipeline in New Canaan in 2025, causing daily road closures and detours from 7 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Affected roads include sections of Route 106, Silvermine Road, Valley Road, New Canaan Road in Wilton, and South Avenue / Route 124 from Harrison Avenue to Farm Road, with emergency vehicles and school buses permitted access. Detours will be in place, and residents can find specific dates at https://www.newcanaan.info/_T8_R590.php.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

Rothfuss Joins Rotary Club



The New Canaan Rotary

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

New Canaan Earns Championship Berth in a Heavyweight Bout Against Notre Dame Winning 3-1



The New Canaan Rams hockey team gathers on the ice in celebration after securing a 3-1 victory over Notre Dame-West Haven in the CIAC Division I semifinal at Quinnipiac's M&T Bank Arena. The Rams, clad in their signature white, red, and black jerseys, fought through an intense, physical matchup, overcoming a strong defensive effort from Notre Dame and a stellar performance by Green Knights' goaltender Jacob Silva.

By PETER BARHYDT

It wasn't easy. But what a great game last night! It was exactly the kind of win that defines championship-caliber teams.

The New Canaan Rams took the ice against Notre Dame-West Haven in the CIAC Division I semifinals, knowing that nothing would be handed to them. What followed was three periods of playoff hockey at its most intense—hard hits, grinding shifts, elite goaltending, and a late-game dagger that sent New Canaan

to the state championship with a 3-1 win.

A First Period Filled with Chaos and Pressure

From the moment the puck dropped, New Canaan dictated the tempo. The Rams came out flying, immediately applying pressure in the Notre Dame zone. The first few minutes were spent testing Notre Dame's defense, working the puck low, cycling possession, and firing early shots at Green Knights' goaltender Jacob Silva.

Silva, however, was up to the task.

He made key stops, including a glove save on a Brayden Robie wrister from the slot and a quick pad stop on Ethan Kelly, who had snuck behind the defense.

Then came the first real controversy of the night: the face-off battles.

The linesman referee was relentless in his enforcement of face-off positioning. Players on both sides were constantly being tossed from the circle. At one point, even the commentators took notice, as DeMaio threw out both centermen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Firefighters Battle Parkway Brush Fire



A New Canaan firefighters work to control a brush fire along the Merritt Parkway off-ramp to Old Stamford Road on Wednesday, March 19. Crews from multiple departments responded to extinguish the flames, which spread to nearly an acre of woodland due to ongoing dry conditions in Fairfield County. (Photo: New Canaan Fire Department)

By ANNE WHITE

A vehicle fire on the Merritt Parkway off-ramp to Old Stamford Road Wednesday afternoon quickly escalated into a significant brush fire, consuming approximately one acre of woodland near Lapham Road. The incident highlights the increased fire risk due to ongoing dry conditions in Fairfield County.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., New Canaan Fire Department units responded to reports of a fully involved car fire. The driver was able to exit safely without injury. According to a New Canaan official, flames spread into dry brush along the southbound embankment, advancing into the wooded area behind the town's leaf compost site.

Firefighters worked for four hours, deploying multiple hose lines from both the highway and the compost site to contain the fire. Crews from Noroton Heights, Darien, and Pound Ridge assisted on scene, while Wilton and Westport covered New Canaan's fire district during the response.

Officials say the rapid spread of the fire was exacerbated by current drought conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 60.2% of Fairfield County is experiencing moderate drought as of March 11, with the remainder classified as abnormally dry. This lack of moisture has left vegetation more vulnerable to ignition. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has also classified the state's fire risk as "high" in its daily Forest Fire

Danger Report, limiting residents' ability to burn brush. DEEP warns that spring fire season, which runs from mid-March to mid-May, is particularly hazardous due to dry conditions and a lack of green vegetation that would typically slow the spread of flames (U.S. Drought Monitor, March 11, 2025; Connecticut DEEP Fire Danger Report, March 2025).

State officials have issued advisories urging residents to be mindful of fire hazards. "Do not discard smoking materials from a car window or into any organic material around your home," fire officials warned. Open burning regulations—including restrictions on campfires and outdoor fireplaces—must be followed to reduce the risk of wildfires (Connecticut DEEP).

No injuries were reported.

COLUMN

Level Ground

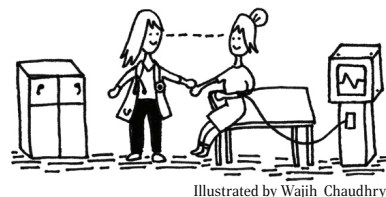
By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

A skilled professional understands that her clients' life experiences are just as important as her own professional expertise. She meets her clients on level ground. Wise leaders do the same with their subordinates.

It is hard to trust a person who towers over others, or one who looks down at us from a lofty platform of expertise or judgment. Level ground is the best place for trustworthy relationships, including professional ones. Level ground is about attitude, not knowledge.

We communicate our attitude by word choices, tone of voice, and especially body position. Others stay calmer when we are eye to eye with them because we are no longer intimidating. Overriding our desire to impress is a powerful way of showing compassion.

Sarah had to fire her employee. Beth was an oncologist with bad news. Both left their desks and took chairs facing the people to whom they were bringing bad news. Being face to face made their difficult messages easier to hear.



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

Zach sat on a stair below his disobedient four-year-old so that he could look into his son's eyes. When he did so, his anger softened and his son was better able to listen because Daddy was no longer twice as tall as he was.

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

COLUMN

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



By DIONNA CARLSON

Town Council Considers Recommended Budget

Last week the Town Council began deliberating over the Board of Finance's Recommended Budget for FY26, which includes a 3.56% increase to the General Fund Budget, along with a 4.35% rise in the amount to be collected through taxation. The Council will hold a public hearing on April 1st and a final vote on April 3rd. For more details, including all related documents, please visit the Budget Documents quick link on the landing page of our website at newcanaan.info. As a reminder, the Town Council may either accept, reject or reduce the budget, it may not add to the budget.

Outdoor Dining

In keeping with the Town's wishes to promote pedestrian traffic and commerce in our attractive town center, the Board of Selectmen approved the schedule for Outdoor Dining on Town-owned sidewalks between May 1 and November 2, 2025. The Planning and Zoning Department manages the permits and enforces ADA compliance, and we all work hard to balance the needs of downtown restaurants, businesses, pedestrians, and other users.

New Chief Building Official

Congratulations to Scott Becker who has been appointed as our new Chief Building Official. Scott's leadership, experience and dedication to our community have made him an asset on our team. Chief building officials in Connecticut enforce building and zoning codes and issue permits – all with an eye on ensuring public safety. They also advise on building projects, and work with architects, engineers, and contractors. We are confident that under Scott's guidance our building department will continue to professionally support the safety and growth of New Canaan.

I'm thrilled to announce that our Human Services Department has launched an Online Donations Portal

Donations to Human Services

I'm thrilled to announce that our Human Services Department has launched an Online Donations Portal to make it easier for residents and friends to support those in need within our community. Human Services relies on generous donations in order to deliver much of its targeted support throughout the year. Now, with just a few clicks, donors can send financial support electronically and designate it for any of these programs:

- Food Pantry – Nutritious meals for individuals and families in need
- Domestic Violence Services – Support and resources for survivors
- Back-to-School – Supplies and support for students to succeed
- Holiday Program – Gifts and essentials for families during the holidays
- Warm-Up Fund – Heating assistance for those facing cold winters
- or,
- "Most Needed" – Allows the department to allocate the donated funds to the program with the most urgent need.

The portal can be found at our website newcanaan.info/departments/HumanServices

Communications

As most people know by now, open communications and an engaged community are priorities for my administration. I am grateful to Beth and Peter Barhydt for providing this space in the New Canaan Sentinel, and this month marks one year since I launched the "News from Town Hall" email newsletter. It's been a pleasure hearing your positive feedback.

Serving on Boards and Commissions

Lastly, in case you missed my communication in January, it bears repeating that it is my responsibility to recommend the appointment of residents to serve on various boards and commissions throughout the Town government. I work closely with both the Republican Town Committee (RTC) and the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) for these recommendations. If you are a registered Republican and are interested in serving our town, I encourage you to reach out to RTC Chair Jon Cheng at jonchengnyc@gmail.com. For Democrats, please contact newcanaandems@gmail.com for more information. Unaffiliated voters should contact my office directly at firstselectman@newcanaanct.gov. We are always looking for fresh perspectives and new individuals to get involved in our community.

Dionna Carlson is the New Canaan First Selectman. Her leadership is guided by a respect for local decision-making and a commitment to keeping residents informed and engaged. Read more from Dionna each month by subscribing to her email newsletter, *News from Town Hall*. To sign up to receive the newsletter visit newcanaan.info and click on the red bar at top. Sign Up for Alerts. To read the current issue of the newsletter visit newcanaan.info and click on the yellow bar at top, *News from Town Hall*.



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Gunnar Esiason Honored with VOICES Building Bridges Award

Voices Center for Resilience is hosting its annual Building Bridges Luncheon on Wednesday, April 9 at the Country Club of New Canaan from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. This year we are delighted to recognize New Canaan resident Gunnar Esiason with the 2025 Building Bridges Award for making a profound difference in the lives of those impacted by rare diseases.

Gunnar, son of NFL legend Boomer Esiason, was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) when he was 2 years old. As a Rare Disease Patient Leader he has dedicated his adult life to empowering patients, shaping health policy, and advancing early-stage drug development. His advocacy, coupled with the remarkable work of the Boomer Esiason Foundation—established by his father during Gunnar's childhood—has profoundly improved the quality of life for those battling the disease. Their efforts have contributed to the development of a life-altering drug that has

eliminated the symptoms and extended the life-span of 90% of CF patients.

Jeremy Schaap, ESPN's award-winning sports anchor and reporter will moderate a conversation with Gunnar. Jeremy recently interviewed the Esiason family for the inspiring ESPN E:60 documentary *Second Wind* that told the story of Gunnar's journey and his family's perseverance to find a cure. Jeremy is renowned for his in-depth storytelling and investigative reporting. With a career spanning many decades, Jeremy has covered some of the most compelling stories in sports.

The Building Bridges Award honors individuals who make a difference in the lives of others. Mary Fetchet, VOICES Founding Director noted, "We are proud to recognize Gunnar Esiason for his extraordinary courage and unwavering dedication to helping those with Cystic Fibrosis and other rare diseases. His journey of resilience, advocacy, and support for those



VOICES CENTER FOR RESILIENCE
Building Bridges Luncheon
Wednesday, April 9
12:00pm to 2:00pm
The Country Club of New Canaan

Building Bridges Honoree
Gunnar Esiason
RARE DISEASE PATIENT LEADER

Moderator
Jeremy Schaap
ESPN HOST & SPORTS PERSONALITY

Musical Performers
David Friedman & Samantha Talora

facing similar challenges is truly inspiring."

Guests will be treated to a musical performance by composer and songwriter, David Friedman and concert and cabaret artist Samantha Talora.

Join us for this inspirational event! Sponsorship opportunities and tickets for the Building Bridges Luncheon are available at www.VoicesCenter.org.

For inquiries contact: Sarah

Green at sgreen@voicescenter.org or call 203-966-3911.

From 9/11 to today, Voices Center for Resilience has provided long-term support that promotes mental health care and wellness for thousands of victims' families, responders, and survivors, while collaborating with partners to help communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from tragedy.

Master Organist - James O'Donnell - Organist Emeritus of Westminster

The Friends of the Music at St. Mark's Episcopal Church New Canaan, CT Presents

Master Organist - James O'Donnell - Organist Emeritus of Westminster Abbey

Saturday, April, 5pm in the soaring mid-century modern St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Ill Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT.

Internationally recognized as a conductor, organist and teacher, James O'Donnell has performed all over the world. Following a distinguished 23-year tenure as Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, Mr. O'Donnell now holds the post of Professor in the Practice of Organ at Yale School of Music and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music in New Haven CT, as professor to graduate organ majors and other students in sacred music.

In his tenure at Westminster

Abbey Mr. O'Donnell was responsible for all musical aspects of the Abbey's work, training and conducting the Abbey Choir in its daily choral services, recordings, concerts, and broadcasts and at the great national occasions for which the Abbey is known, including directing the music for the September 2022 State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which was broadcast live throughout the world to an estimated audience of over 4 billion people. He has toured extensively with the Choir of Westminster Abbey to the United States, the Far East, Australia, and Europe. Prior to his appointment at Westminster Abbey, Mr. O'Donnell served for twelve years as Master of Music at Westminster (Roman Catholic) Cathedral where under his direction the renowned Cathedral Choir made many



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James O'Donnell
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Professor of Organ, Yale University

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025, 5PM
General admission \$30, students \$10 (\$35 & \$15 the day of the event)

recordings and won the coveted Gramophone Record of the Year award, unprecedented for such a choir.

Selections from the concert will include...

Fantasia and Toccata, D minor, Opus 57 Charles Villiers Stanford

Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572 J. S. Bach

Chorale, No. 2, B minor César Franck

General Admission \$30, Students \$10 (\$35 & \$15 the day of event) a light reception follows.

Embracing the Seasons



By ICY FRANTZ

I love the changing of the seasons.

And this love has kept me tethered to the sometimes-brutal cold that is the Northeast in wintertime.

I don't particularly enjoy the cold days, but I need them because they allow me to anticipate and relish what's coming next.

Experiencing it all—the falling of the leaves, the shortening of the days, the chilling of the air, the excitement of the first snow, and the exhaustion of the last—followed by the arrival of new growth: crocuses peeking out from a thawing ground, trees and shrubbery coming to life, gray growing colorful, and the welcome warmth of the sun—is enriching.

For me, there is beauty in contrast, more specifically, I appreciate beauty more fully because of contrast.

It's early March, and just when it begins to feel like winter will never end, we are gifted these moments that foreshadow what's ahead: longer days, brighter skies, rising temperatures, and the chance to put away that heavily worn and tired down coat.

These moments make trudging through the super cold days worth it. Almost.

These moments feel great, especially against the bleak backdrop of winter.

And while I do not want to give winter bad press, certainly there are many positives associated with the season that is drawing to a close (think skiing and snuggling inside by a fire) and actually there are some who prefer it, but for the rest of us, we are ready for change.

Recently, there's been a lot of buzz about the benefits of a cold plunge. And although the science is real, for the life of me, I can't begin to fathom sitting in frigid water for seven minutes. But I think it proves my point—seven minutes of freezing your proverbial butt off makes the time that follows that much more wonderful.

"Just think how good it's going to feel when I get out," I imagine I would yell if I were willing to take the plunge.

And just yesterday, I was in an exercise class, body contorted upside down on a sweaty yoga mat. The animated, energetic teacher was counting down to the beat of the music when she offered. "When you get through this—the results are going to be worth all of this pain."

Yup, there is beauty in contrast.

And contrast significantly enhances other domains too.

In visual arts, contrasting colors and light create depth and make a piece more impactful. With food, contrasting flavors such as sweet and salty create a more complex tasting experience. (Who can argue with salted caramel?) In literature, contrasting characters (such as a villain and a

hero) can heighten the narrative's tension and move the story forward. And in nature, is there anything more astonishing than a tall, rugged, rocky mountain rising up from a soft, serene meadow?

I have been thinking a lot about this idea and how it is applicable to our life and the human experience.

Last summer was a challenging one for me. Our beloved dog died at the age of twelve. And you know how we have our "people"; well, he was my "dog," and losing him was devastating. A family member was struggling with some health issues, which was scary, and I was not seeing eye to eye with some friends with whom I usually see eye to eye.

And although it was summer—when I typically feel light and free, probably a holdover from my school days and beloved summer vacations—I was not feeling that way at all.

I was forced to sit in the uncomfortable.

I do not like the uncomfortable.

The uncomfortable is the cold plunge.

And yet, I knew from past experiences that the way I was feeling—the grief and the sadness—would not last forever.

Eventually, I would come through it.

Maybe not as quickly as I would have liked—seven minutes in frigid water can feel like an eternity.

But I would come through it.

And when I did, I welcomed the aftermath—time where I was surefooted, happier, and all seemed right in the world, or at least in my little orbit. It was time that I appreciated more fully because of those darker days.

Inevitably, seasons transition, one into another, and darker periods in our lives lighten as well.

It's worth noting that although, I cherish the good times, I tend to learn more during the challenging ones.

Time spent in a cold plunge or in a prolonged contorted yoga pose, creates health benefits that serve us well in the future.

Likewise, challenging periods in life, have always forced me to pause and reflect, become a little more self-aware, reach outside of myself for guidance, and usually grow up a little.

But for the record, I prefer stagnant happiness.

As we stand on the threshold of spring, ready to bid farewell to winter's chill, I feel a blend of relief and gratitude. We have made it through the cold days and now we appreciate the warmth that is ahead of us. The arrival of spring is more celebratory because of winter.

Seasons, much like life itself, remind us that nothing is permanent. Each phase has its purpose, and every challenge holds the potential for growth. Happily, I shed my winter boots, and I am thankful for both the warm and cold moments in life.

So, here's to the arrival of spring, to crocuses pushing through thawing ground, and to the beauty and benefits in contrast. While I may prefer stagnant happiness, I know that the ebbs and flows of life are what truly shape me.

Happy Spring!

YOUR NEWS BRIEFING CONTINUED From Page 1

Club inducted Deke Rothfuss as a new member. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

Hearing Screenings Provided at Waveny



Leslie Ogilvy from Sound Hearing of Westport recently visited Waveny to discuss the benefits of early hearing screenings. She explained how early detection supports communication and may help reduce cognitive decline risks. Screenings were provided for residents and staff. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

Waveny Hosts Irish Dance School Students



Recently, residents of Waveny's Inn and Village attended a St. Patrick's Day themed event with performances by Anam Cara Irish Dance School students and bagpiper Robert Knechtle. Knechtle played a selection of classic pieces, and Anam Cara director Megan Slocum and Knechtle were recognized for their contributions. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

SCHOOLS

NCHS Hosts 2025 Career Night



New Canaan High School hosted its 2025 Career Night with professionals from various industries, including nine alumni. Students engaged in discussions and asked questions about career paths. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

NCHS Student Bognon Awarded Scholarship



Ben Bognon received the Carriage Barn Arts Center's Scholarship Award at Through Our Eyes XIII, an exhibition featuring nearly 100 NCHS student artists. Showcasing work across various mediums, the exhibit is open to the public through March 30th. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

Recycling Program at South School

South School will be launching a food scrap recycling program in partnership with Planet New Canaan which will be funded by a donation from

the Anderson Fund.

NCHS Seniors Resume Workshop



New Canaan High School seniors participated in a Resume Building Workshop as part of the Senior Internship Program. Led by Mrs. Delmazio and guest speaker Jane Lazgin, the session focused on integrating internship experience into professional resumes. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

East School Celebrates



East School students and staff celebrated St. Patrick's Day in festive attire. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

SLS Teacher Receives Award



Jon Shee, Upper School French Teacher and World Language Department Chair at St. Luke's School, was awarded the Ordre des Palmes Académiques for his contributions to education and French culture. Established in 1808, the honor recognizes excellence in promoting French language and learning. Shee received the award at a ceremony in New York City. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

SLS Hosts K9 Training Workshop



St. Luke's School provided training space for 18 K9 teams from across Connecticut during Spring Break. Coordinated by the New Canaan Police Department, the workshop included exercises on the school's turf field, with NCPD's K9, Lito, among the participants. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.

ACROSS CT

Ticks Resurface in Connecticut

Ticks are emerging in Connecticut, including invasive species like the Asian longhorned tick, which carries multiple pathogens. With around 12 tick-borne diseases in the state, including *R. parkeri rickettsiosis* and the Powassan virus, researchers are monitoring their spread. Residents are encouraged to check for ticks, use repellents, and submit specimens for testing if needed.

GM Motors Recall

General Motors is recalling 90,081 Cadillac and Chevrolet vehicles due to a transmission defect that may cause sudden wheel lock-up. Affected owners will receive notification letters starting April 21st, and GM will install monitoring software at no cost. Vehicle status can be checked at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/>.

OUR NEIGHBORS

UConn Plans BLVD Housing Conversion

The University of Connecticut plans to convert The BLVD apartment building in Stamford into student housing, allowing current tenants to stay until April 2026, with an option to terminate leases early without penalty. The sale is expected to close next month, with UConn able to lease vacant units by fall 2025 and fully transition the building by July 2026.



Come Join Us! Lent & Holy Week Services

Wednesdays at the Well Dinner and Worship during Lent Every Wednesday Mar 12 - Apr 9, 6:00-7:30pm

Palm Sunday Service April 13, 10:00am

Maundy Thursday Service April 17, 7:00pm

Good Friday Service: Seven Last Words of Christ @ NC Community Baptist Church April 18 - (12 noon-3:00 pm)

Easter Sunday Sunday, April 20
7:00am, Sunrise Service
8:00am, Breakfast
10:00am, Easter Service followed by Easter Egg Hunt



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Days Before Splashdown: Astronaut Suni Williams' Message to Us

BY ELIZABETH BARHYDT

The astronauts are home. SpaceX Crew-9 splashed down safely off the coast of Florida on March 18, bringing NASA astronauts Suni Williams, Butch Wilmore, and Nick Hague, along with Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, back to Earth after months aboard the International Space Station. But just days before their return, Williams was floating in orbit, speaking to an audience at Christ Church. Projected onto a giant screen in the sanctuary, she shared insights on resilience, life in space, and the perspective gained from circling the planet 16 times a day.

Suni Williams floated, her hair drifting upward, her movements slow and deliberate as she navigated the confined space of the International Space Station. She was being interviewed by Marek Zabriskie, the rector at Christ Church and a former reporter as well as interacting with the audience gathered there, her image projected onto a giant screen in the chancel, the connection between Earth and orbit clear, the voices steady despite the miles of empty space between them.

"I have actually loved it," she said, moving effortlessly through the station. "Before this occurred, I felt like going up for just a week was very short, and this has given me lots of additional time to learn more about life in space, to conduct experiments, to learn from my fellow astronauts, and to learn more about

myself in the process."

The church pews were filled with parishioners and schoolchildren, watching as she demonstrated how she and her fellow astronauts lived. She showed them where they ate, exercised, and conducted experiments. She described her workout routine, running on a treadmill mounted to the wall while strapped into a harness to keep her from floating away. She explained how astronauts maintain muscle mass and bone density in a weightless environment.

When an American crewmate handed her an apple, it floated between them for a moment before she caught it. "It looked fresh and nutritious and as though she had just been shopping at Whole Foods," Zabriskie observed. Williams demonstrated the process of rehydrating freeze-dried corn, injecting hot water into a vacuum-sealed bag before eating.

She spoke about faith. Her mother is Christian, her father Hindu. She wears a cross around her neck. On previous missions, she had taken a copy of the Bhagavad Gita into space, then later the Upanishads. She described how looking at Earth from space had deepened her sense of perspective.

"The world is completely unified," she said. "There are no boundaries, only one people; no countries, only one human species; no tribes, races, nationalities, religions, economic levels, or genders, only one people created by God."

She described her participation in a triathlon

in space—running on the treadmill, cycling on a stationary bike, and simulating swimming using resistance equipment. She spoke about the astronauts from Russia and Japan aboard the station, how they worked together, sharing knowledge and research in their respective modules.

Her husband and Jack Russell terrier remained in Houston. The dog's paw prints are tattooed on her arm. She speaks regularly with her husband and her mother. She missed taking a shower.

On March 18, she returned to Earth.

The SpaceX Crew-9 capsule carrying Williams, Barry "Butch" Wilmore, Nick Hague, and Aleksandr Gorbunov splashed down off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida, at 5:57 p.m. EDT. Recovery teams aboard SpaceX vessels retrieved the capsule and its crew before transporting them back to shore. They would soon be flown to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, where Williams would reunite with her husband.

In a release, NASA Administrator Janet Petro credited the ground teams and international coordination that brought the crew home. "NASA and SpaceX worked diligently to pull the schedule a month earlier. This international crew and our teams on the ground embraced the Trump Administration's challenge of an updated, and somewhat unique, mission plan, to bring our crew home. Through preparation, ingenuity, and dedication, we achieve

great things together for the benefit of humanity."

Williams and Wilmore had traveled 121,347,491 miles over 286 days, completing 4,576 orbits. Williams conducted two additional spacewalks, bringing her total to 62 hours and six minutes, more than any other female astronaut in history.

The crew had contributed to over 150 scientific experiments. They studied plant growth in microgravity, tested stem cell technology, examined the long-term effects of space travel on the human body. They analyzed whether microorganisms could survive in space, installed patches to repair light filters on an X-ray telescope, and collected samples from the exterior of the station.

The research will continue with the next crew rotation.

The event at Christ Church had been the first time Williams had spoken from space to a faith community. The conversation had been arranged by Len Laporta, a parishioner and her former classmate at the U.S. Naval Academy.

She had been asked about the future—about Mars, about the next step in human space exploration. "Humans will need a successful future on the Moon to resupply and support any future colony on Mars," she had said. "We need to establish that first."

There is hope that Williams will visit in person soon.



NASA astronauts Nick Hague, Suni Williams, Butch Wilmore, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov land in a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft in the water off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida on March 18, 2025. Hague, Gorbunov, Williams, and Wilmore returned from a long-duration science expedition aboard the International Space Station. Credit: NASA/Keegan Barber



NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov are seen inside the SpaceX Dragon capsule as NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 crew members return to Earth on March 18, 2025. Dragon is scheduled to splashdown in the Gulf of America, off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida, at 5:57 p.m. EDT.

Senator Fazio's Policy Priorities: BiPartisan Solution to Energy Costs, Taxes and Zoning

BY TYLER AMORANDO

Affordability is a vital concern for many Connecticut residents, and Senator Ryan Fazio has made it the focus of his legislative efforts. From tax relief to energy costs and local decision-making, Fazio is advocating for policies that he believes will help lower the cost of living and improve the state's economic well-being.

"Some of my top priorities in terms of proposals have been centered around affordability," said Fazio. "This means lowering the tax burden, making sure the budget is fiscally responsible, lowering energy bills, and protecting local control of decision-making for towns and cities over planning and zoning, among other things."

One of Fazio's key concentrations is in energy policy. He has been quite vocal about the need to lower energy rates, particularly by reducing public benefits charges. Although getting broad support for this has been a challenge, he remains hopeful.

"My colleagues on the energy committee and the majority of the Democrats don't support my proposal to take public benefits charges out of the electric bill," he explained. "However, we're going to continue to try to work in a bipartisan way to get some incremental improvements to policy."

Even though his full proposal has not been accepted, Fazio remains committed to making progress. "I am disappointed that they won't take my full proposal, but I'm going to work as best as I can to get as much positive movement as I can," he assured.

Another priority for Fazio is protecting local zoning and planning rights. He has expressed strong opposition to efforts that would shift more control away from towns and cities and to the state level: "I'll continue to try to fight against efforts to take away planning and zoning rights from towns and cities."

However, Fazio believes there is a path forward with bipartisan reform. "I have tried to be proactive in offering bipartisan solutions to reform and to giving towns more local input on housing and zoning issues, while also trying to improve housing affordability and availability in our state."

Fazio has also been a vocal supporter

of fiscal responsibility. He has consistently supported the budget guardrails put in place, which he credits with preventing tax increases and keeping state finances in check.

"On the budget, I've been a strong supporter of the budget guardrails that were passed in 2017 on a bipartisan basis. Those budget guardrails have stopped major tax increases from happening over the last seven years even after we've had many major tax increases in the state."

Fazio has also worked on more targeted measures aimed at reducing costs for Connecticut residents, focusing on lowering occupational licensing fees, which he argues place an unnecessary financial burden on workers.

"For three years, I've been proposing to lower licensing fees on the hundreds of thousands of Connecticut workers who have to pay hundreds of dollars to the state government every year just for the right to work," he stated. After years of advocating for change, he was able to find common ground with Governor Ned Lamont on the issue.

"After three years of proposing it, I'm glad to report that the governor has signed on to a proposal," Fazio said. "We've made a bipartisan announcement, him and I, on our support for that type of policy. We're going to hopefully be able to pass it into law, along with other efforts to find common ground with colleagues across the state."

Bipartisanship remains a key focus in Fazio's approach. While he acknowledges the challenges of working across party lines, he continues to look for areas where cooperation is possible.

"I've been working on some very specific bipartisan proposals to improve quality of life and lower the cost of living in the state," he said.

Fazio's proposals reflect his broader goal of making Connecticut a more affordable place to live while ensuring that fiscal responsibility remains a priority. Whether through energy policy, zoning regulations, or licensing fees, he continues to push for changes he believes will benefit residents across the state. His focus remains on incremental progress and finding bipartisan solutions wherever possible.

199 ELM STREET



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Located in the heart of downtown New Canaan, this pristine 2,210 square foot commercial space offers a prime location directly across the street from the New Canaan Metro-North train station and just 300 feet from the retail center. The space is bright, street-facing, and features six exterior offices with stunning floor-to-ceiling windows, two interior offices, an open workspace, and a kitchenette area. Previously used by a hedge fund and financial management firm, this turnkey office space is ready for immediate occupancy and offers the perfect setting for your business. Just a short walk to the village center, this is an ideal location for those seeking a prestigious, accessible downtown address.

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Grit, Grace, Lessons from Space

One of the great tests of character is how we respond to the unexpected. Do we crumble under pressure, or do we adapt with grace? Captain Sunita Williams, currently stranded aboard the International Space Station (ISS), offers a master class in resilience.

What began as an eight-day mission turned into a ten-month odyssey when multiple helium discs failed on the Boeing Starliner's service module, preventing Williams and fellow astronaut Barry Wilmore from returning to Earth. Now, they await rescue, expected later this month via SpaceX's Crew-9 mission.

Last Thursday, the sanctuary at Christ Church Greenwich became a window into space as Williams spoke via a NASA downlink. Before a rapt audience of parishioners and schoolchildren, she exuded the calm assurance of a seasoned astronaut. "I have actually loved it," she said of her extended mission. "This has given me lots of additional time to learn more about life in space, to conduct experiments, to learn from my fellow astronauts, and to learn more about myself in the process."

That mindset—turning disruption into opportunity—offers a powerful lesson. A student disappointed by a rescheduled exam or an adult exasperated by a delayed flight might reconsider their frustrations in light of Williams' experience. The true test is not in what happens to us, but in how we respond.

Williams floated through the ISS as she spoke, demonstrating daily life in zero gravity. She showed the audience where she eats, exercises, and sleeps, explaining that maintaining physical strength is vital in space to prevent muscle and bone loss. She even shared the experience of competing in the first-ever space triathlon, using the treadmill, stationary bike, and resistance exercises to simulate a swim.

At one point, an astronaut handed her a fresh apple, which immediately floated away. She caught it midair and held it up to the camera. It was an ordinary apple, yet a remarkable symbol of human ingenuity—a piece of Earth hovering in the vast emptiness of space.

The ability to maintain normalcy under extreme conditions is a hallmark of grit. Williams, who graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy when only 5% of students were female, understands perseverance. She trained as a helicopter pilot before setting her sights on NASA, proving that success is often the product of steady effort rather than perfect circumstances.

Her personal faith journey also reflects this resilience. Raised by a Christian mother and a Hindu father, she carries religious texts from both traditions on her space missions. She spoke of how seeing Earth from space has deepened her spiritual awareness. "It has greatly expanded my sense of God's majesty and the breathtaking nature of all that God has created," she said.

Orbiting Earth 16 times a day, Williams has witnessed hurricanes forming over the Atlantic, but she has also seen something profound—unity. "From up here, the world is completely unified," she said. "There are no boundaries, only one people; no countries, only one human species."

That perspective is a rare gift. Most of us live in the trenches of the immediate—weathering daily frustrations, unexpected setbacks, and the occasional outright disaster. But Williams reminds us that with perspective, preparation, and perseverance, adversity can be transformed into growth.

When asked what she most looks forward to upon returning to Earth, her answer was simple: "A shower!" After eight months without one, that moment will undoubtedly feel like a triumph.

Williams' story is a reminder that strength is not just about surviving hardship but facing it with grace. Whether in the weightlessness of space or the gravity of everyday life, our best response to adversity is to embrace the challenge, adjust, and move forward with quiet determination.

New Canaan will have the opportunity to hear more from Captain Williams in person after her return, with an event to be announced in The Sentinel. Her story is not just about space—it is about courage, resilience, and the power of perspective.

Editorial Page

DOE is crucial for our Students

Dear Editor,
I am writing this letter to express my concern over very possible impacts to the New Canaan Public Schools due to the loss or slowdown of critical federal funding as a result of the Trump administration's recent cutting of almost 50% of the U.S. Department of Education, and its stated goal of eliminating the Department.

New Canaan's schools currently receive more than

\$1 million in federal funding that is used for its high-quality special education, keeping student-to-teacher ratios low, and other important education and vocational purposes. At a time when our state and local governments are required to keep a close eye on taxpayer dollars and act as responsible stewards of our money, this seeming ideological blunt force being imposed by the new federal

government on municipalities across the country will indeed have local consequences. In addition to direct federal funding to the New Canaan Public Schools, the Education Department administers Pell Grants, federal student loans, repayment and debt forgiveness programs. If you or someone you know could be affected by the loss of student loans, then this issue is for you.

I urge all of our state and local leaders, regardless of political party, to do the right thing by New Canaan and speak up for the huge benefits that the U.S. Department of Education brings to New Canaan and its families. We need your voice.

Sincerely,
Mary Singh
New Canaan

US Department of Education Concerns

I am a parent of two New Canaan High School graduates; one who is out of college and in the workforce, and another who is currently attending college. Like many families, we moved to New Canaan specifically for the outstanding school system. Also like many families, we have had experience with the 504 process, the FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) which is required by many colleges even if you plan to fully pay your child's tuition, and Federal student loans.

Here are a few reasons every New Canaan resident, regardless of whether you

have or plan to have children, should be deeply alarmed about the potential shutdown of the US Department of Education currently proposed by the Administration.

The SIM+ funding provided by the Federal Government to New Canaan, if removed, would result in either a reduction in services (such as 504 and IEP) or an increase in tax burden to New Canaan residents.

The FAFSA process, already a very difficult one and which resulted in delays for many college students accepting offers of admission this past year, would become

even more challenging and dysfunctional without clear ownership and oversight.

YOUR Federal tax dollars underwrite every Federal student loan currently issued (current calculation of this amount by the US Department of Education is \$1.6 TRILLION). With disruption of the owning agency, servicing and collection of this enormous amount isn't likely to improve, to put it mildly. We, the US taxpayers, have funded this and we will be left with lower repayment rates and higher loan defaults for years to come.

If you are a parent, you have many other reasons for

concern including the certainty of higher costs at many colleges and universities and significantly reduced access to graduate school opportunities for your students who want to pursue this path.

Regardless of your political beliefs, this proposal is simply bad fiscal management and will affect us all. Please contact our Congressional Representatives and Senators to share your concerns. The 5 Calls app is a great way to do this.

Sincerely,
Irene Hendricks

Will the Town Council Cut the School Budget?

On April 3rd, the Town Council will approve a final budget for New Canaan Public Schools for 2025-2026. Inquiring minds wonder whether it will be enough to maintain the staff and services that drive our schools' number one ranking statewide (30th

nationally), or whether the budget agreed to in open session by the Board of Finance and the BOE is on the TC chopping block.

If there are to be cuts, will there be time for the public and the BOE to assess and share the consequences before

the final Town Council vote? So far, Town Council leadership adamantly refuses to commit to that, and didn't last year.

Can anyone recall a candidate for Town government who failed to make an unequivocal commitment to transparency

in government? Isn't this a good time to make good on those pledges?

The Town Council's consideration of the 2025-2026 School Budget began on Tuesday, March 18.

Tom Butterworth

Three New Exhibitions Opening at Silvermine

The three exhibitions opening at Silvermine Galleries in late March spotlight Silvermine Art Center's presence as a gallery space, a community space, and an academic center for the visual arts. The annual Instructors Exhibition features special selections and new work from the School of Art's distinguished artist educators. Heide Follin's lush solo exhibition, Botanical Paradigm, reveals the artist's bold new takes on botanical forms and landscape. Pictures from Bridgeport: A Bridgeport Art Trail Sampler presents powerful works by Bridgeport-based artists in a collaboration between Silvermine and the City Lights Gallery. An opening reception for all three exhibits will take place on Sat., March 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. The public is invited.

The Instructors Exhibition Silvermine's annual Instructors Exhibition celebrates the exceptional artists who shape its renowned School of Art. These instructors—many of whom have gained regional and national recognition—bring their expertise, creativity, and passion into the classroom, inspiring students of all levels. This exhibition offers a unique opportunity to experience their latest works—from Andrew Davis's dynamic sculpture, Tricycle and the Hieroglyphic, to Gail Bradshaw's striking Picasso Jasper Pendant, Nancy McTague-Scott's intricate solar etchings, and Nash Hyon's evocative Cloud Bank. Spanning a diverse range of mediums, the show highlights the depth of talent and artistic vision that make Silvermine a leading center for visual arts.

Heide Follin, Botanical

Paradigm

For Heide Follin, botanical specimens and landscapes are a jumping-off point. "Energetic forms call out to me as I wander through the garden. I spy a cluster of shepherd hooks with their fuzzy heads bobbing in the wind, which morph into waving arms. I find delight in what's hidden in the shadows and embrace the vibrant florals and intricate foliage."

Adept with a range of materials—acrylics, acrylic polymers, and black ink—she also layers fabric onto a variety of substrates—"staining, brushing, or pouring paint in a high-key palette that vibrates against neutrals." Her works become compositions of texture as well as color and form. Follin describes her process as "working in the fluid space between control and the need to be free," and her work as "lyrical organic abstraction."

Board Chair Award winner at the 2023 A•ONE Exhibition at Silvermine, Follin is a member of the Silvermine Guild and a

graduate of the School of the Worcester Art Museum. She completed a residency at the Vermont Studio Center and maintains an active studio practice at Wilson Avenue Loft Artists in South Norwalk.

Pictures from Bridgeport: A Bridgeport Art Trail Sampler

In collaboration with Bridgeport's City Lights Gallery, Silvermine features a selection of works by established and emerging Bridgeport artists. The range of mediums and styles is as diverse as the people of the Park City. Among the highlights are Carlos Biernnay's dazzling fiber and mixed media pieces, Will Corprew's paintings that incorporate abstract and figurative elements, Steve Gerber's colored-pencil drawings that expand the view of vintage postcards of Bridgeport, and Iyaba Ibo Mandingo's mixed media works that use mahogany pods in compositions that celebrate music, dance, and wisdom.

City Lights Gallery presents local, regional, and emerging

artists to Bridgeport and its visitors. The gallery hosts various community-based exhibits and events in music, poetry, and the visual arts.

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Silvermine Arts Center, one of the oldest artist communities in the United States, recently celebrated its centennial (1922-2022). Its five-acre campus in New Canaan, Connecticut, consists of a nationally renowned artist guild, an award-winning school of art offering classes for all ages, an arts and fine crafts shop, a permanent print collection, and a gallery offering over 20 contemporary and historic exhibitions annually. Silvermine is a nonprofit 501c3 organization that also offers an Outreach Education Program, Art Partners, and hosts lectures, film screenings, and special events. Silvermine Galleries are open 10am - 4pm, Tues. to Sat. and closed Sun. and Mon. For more information, visit www.silvermineart.org.



COLUMN

The Power of Silence

Softening our complaining voice both inside and out, coupled with a daily practice of silence, can change the trajectory of our lives for the better.



BY RABBI MITCHELL HURVITZ

There's a story about a novice monk who joins a monastery. Every ten years, the novice monk was permitted to break his vow of silence and speak two words. After the first ten years, the new monk tells the head of the monastery: "Food Bad." After another ten years, he pronounces: "Bed Hard." Another decade passes, and the monk finally declares: "I Quit." The head of the monastery looks at the quitting monk and says: "I'm not surprised. You've been complaining ever since you got here."

There is an ancient Jewish tradition of "complaining" and a seeming lack of tradition for silence. The Torah describes the

ancient Israelites as the "ever-complaining" people. The story of the Golden Calf explicitly describes the Israelites as an "ever-complaining, stiff-necked people." Our Biblical heroes also indulge in complaining: Moses, on multiple occasions, complains to God. David complains about feelings of abandonment by God. Jeremiah complains about his frustrations and the heavy burdens he must carry. Habakkuk and Job each complain to God about God.

The Yiddish word for complaining is "kvetch," and kvetching is often a source of Jewish humor.

Once, Mr. Goldberg got very sick and was immediately rushed to the best hospital in his town. There, he received a private room and the most attentive medical care. He stayed there for two days but then insisted on being transferred to a lesser hospital with no private rooms and a strained medical staff trying to care for all their patients.

When the transfer occurred, Mr. Goldberg was placed in a three-patient room with

boisterous "roommates." There, he was visited by a harried young intern on her rounds. She noted, "Mr. Goldberg, I see you transferred from our city's most prestigious hospital. I guess that place doesn't live up to its reputation." Mr. Goldberg replied: "No, the medical care there was wonderful; I can't complain." The Doctor said, "It must have been the nurses then." "No, the nurses were fantastic; I can't complain." "Then it must have been the food." "No, no, the food was sensational. I can't complain." "Something must haven't been good?" "No, everything was perfect; I can't complain." The young doctor is bewildered. She asked, "Then why did you switch to this hospital?" Mr. Goldberg looked at the young doctor and said with a broad smile: "Here I can complain!"

Everyone understands the

humor of this story. But, we must acknowledge that too much complaining often isn't good for us. Kvetching too much warps our life perspective. Seemingly, humans are hard-wired to focus on what is wrong vs. right. Our negative bias must be trained to step back so that our initial response to any challenge isn't disabling. It is best to try and perceive the "big picture." We need to effectively address genuine needs without becoming mired in the quixsand of complaining.

The best way to train ourselves to stop complaining is to practice gratitude. Rabbinic tradition taught two thousand years ago that one should ensure each day to articulate a hundred items for which we are grateful, big or small. Part of our self-discipline is to utilize silence to help us focus on our gratitude. Rabbinic Judaism

teaches that the midbar (desert) is a place of silence where distractions do not confront you. The prophet Elijah didn't perceive God in the "whirlwind, fire, or the earthquake. Instead, in the sound of silence."

Silence isn't always easy. Liturgically, Jews are to engage three times a day in silent devotion, a time for non-distracted focus within our hearts and minds. Silence is supposed to create an incubator for holiness. Our willingness to embrace silence and focus without distraction helps us hear God's whispers. Silence and willingness can soften the complaining noises that interfere with our full enjoyment of God's blessings.

Rabbinic Judaism teaches that silence is a "fence to wisdom." If words are worth one coin, then our silence is worth two. Softening our

complaining voice both inside and out, coupled with a daily practice of silence, can change the trajectory of our lives for the better. It will also help us better hear God and help God better hear our most genuine heartfelt hopes.

Let's do less complaining and more silence.

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.

COLUMN

A Mother's Love is the Best Window into God's Love



BY MAREK ZABRISKIE

One of the most poignant passages in the gospels occurs when Jesus is walking to Jerusalem. He already knows what lies ahead of him - bitter conflict, a showdown with Jewish leaders, and most likely his death at the hands of the Roman occupying forces.

He is aware of what happens to prophets who speak truth to power, yet he anguish for his people. As Jesus descends Mount of Olives, he surveys the city skyline and then unleashes a cry from the heart, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it. How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Luke 13:34)

He suddenly sounds less like a prophet and more like a mother in anguish, as he imagines himself as a hen longing to comfort and protect her brood under her wings. Perhaps more than fathers, mothers carry this immense burden and weight within them, a yearning to protect their children, to see them grow and thrive, aching when they ache, and desiring for them to get along. There may be no greater grief in life than a mother's anguish.

Jesus looks out and wishes that he could gather all of God's children and the wings of God's love. While this was Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, the same tragic scene could unfold today in Jerusalem or in countless other places.

Perhaps guessing correctly that he would be next prophet to die within its walls, Jesus wept. Luke uses a word that actually signifies uncontrollable sobbing and grief. Jesus had risked his own life to bring the kingdom of God to Jerusalem, but the city of God was apathetic.

Instead, the inhabitants followed the "fox," as Jesus called Herod. Herod Antipas governed harshly. He had John the Baptist beheaded. His father, Herod the Great, had 45 Sanhedrin members, 300 officers, his wife, uncle, and four of his closest friends killed.

Barabara Brown Taylor suggests that the story of Jesus' lament for Jerusalem gives us two contrasting ways of leading people. "...Jesus has disciples; Herod has soldiers. Jesus serves; Herod rules. Jesus prays for his enemies; Herod kills

The word "compassion" means "to suffer with" or to enter into the chaos of another person's life. This is what Jesus always did - with a Roman centurion, a hated Samaritan, an ostracized leper, the sick or poor. Compassion and empathy were at the heart of his ministry and must be at the heart of our lives, if we dare to call ourselves "Christians."

his." She asks, "In a contest between a fox and a chicken, whom would you bet on?" adding, "the contest between the chicken and the fox turned out to be the cosmic battle of all time... And God bet the farm on the hen."

"Depending on whom you believe, she won," notes Taylor. "It did not look that way, with feathers all over the place and chicks running for cover. But as time went on, it became clear what she had done." She had sacrificed her life for the chicks and returned from death to show them the price that she had paid for them.

Perhaps that is why we call this blessed institution "Mother Church," for like a hen Mother Church shelters her vulnerable chicks and confronts the foxes of this world. She stands firm, does not equivocate, and reminds leaders to act with grace, mercy, and compassion. She is at her best when she refuses to run from the foxes or become one.

On the western slope of the Mount of Olives is a Franciscan church called Dominus Fleuit, a Latin name that means "the Lord wept." This modern church is in the shape of human tear. It was built over the spot where Jesus wept for Jerusalem.

He wept because, as God, he knew the danger of men like Herod and because he had great compassion and empathy on the crowd, who he knew would abandon him.

Inside this church is a large window which looks out at the skyline of Jerusalem, where 2,000 years later, Jews, Christians, and Muslims live in tension and hostility. The brokenness of this ancient city mirrors the brokenness of our world today.

Outside Bethlehem lies an enormous, ugly wall covered with graffiti, that makes the lives of Palestinians almost unbearable. Several years ago, our guide, pointed out to us the illegal Jewish settlements, clusters of new condominiums erected in the Palestinian territory.

We listened to Palestinian Muslims describe the constant harassment and humiliation and economic pressures they face that seemed designed to drive them from their homeland,

where they are treated as strangers and outcasts.

We heard Palestinian Christians describe their desperate situation. In 1900, they were 15% of the population. Today, they are less than 2%. Christians have been in the Holy Land for 2,000 years, but now they are caught between traumatized Israeli Jews and traumatized Palestinian Muslims. It is likely that one day there may be no Christians left in the Holy Land.

Some of us gathered one evening to hear two women tell their tragic stories. An Israeli Jew, whose sister had served in the Israel Defense Force, described how her sister was blown up at a bus stop by a Palestinian terrorist. The room was silent.

Then a Palestinian Muslim mother, whose son suffered a seizure, described how she rushed him to the hospital, but was turned back at three Israeli checkpoints. When she finally got him to a hospital, she was told that she had to leave her son. The hospital would notify her about his condition. When the call came, she was told him that he was dead. The room was silent.

Today, Jesus' cry from the heart is directed to the whole earth, where divisions among religions, races, and countries are tragic. It is ironic that the three great Abrahamic religions speak of a God whose essence is love and who call their followers to love one another, but they cannot get along. Sometimes something occurs that turns these religions into the opposite of what they profess, and faith becomes a force for hatred and exclusion.

Islamic fundamentalists do not just disagree with us, they hate us, and Christian and Jewish fundamentalists return the favor. Muslim fundamentalists call for the elimination of Israel. Jewish fundamentalists declare that God gave them all of the Holy Land, and Christian fundamentalists fiercely support Israeli militarism because they believe that Israeli's success is essential for the Messiah to return. It's crazy.

What is missing in all of this is a sense of humility and compassion, a belief that the love of neighbor should trump all the jockeying for

land, resources, and power. The late Chief Rabbi of Great Britain Jonathan Sachs said that we need more than tolerance. We need to affirm the diversity of God's world and the multiple paths of faith, and to harness our faith traditions so that we can come together and build a more peaceful world for all.

In his poem, "September 1, 1939," W.H. Auden notes in this powder keg of a world that "We must love one another or die." To love one another doesn't mean to like each other, agree with each other, or approve of each other. It means that we must respect, honor, and have compassion on those who are different from us. This kind of love is our only hope.

Empathy and compassion are deeply lacking in our world today. Empathy allows us to understand how others feel. Fr. James Martin, a Jesuit priest, notes that "a lack of empathy is at the heart of our mistreatment, mockery, and demonization of the poor, of migrants and refugees, of LGBTQ people and of all those on the margins." Empathy led our government to create safety nets, but now many of those nets are now being shredded.

The word "compassion" means "to suffer with" or to enter into the chaos of another person's life. This is what Jesus always did - with a Roman centurion, a hated Samaritan, an ostracized leper, the sick or poor. Compassion and empathy were at the heart of his ministry and must be at the heart of our lives, if we dare to call ourselves "Christians."

That's why Jesus wept, because he didn't want the foxes like Herod to ravage the world, for God is like a hen who longs to protect her chicks. Yes, there's nothing quite like a mother's love to remind us of God's yearning heart, pleading for us to exercise compassion and empathy.

The Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie, is Rector of Christ Church in Greenwich, an author, editor of The Bible Challenge series, founder and executive director of the Center for Biblical Studies. He loves time with his wife and daughters, walking his Corgi, fly fishing, tennis, travel, walking caminos in Europe, studying languages, and sharing God's Word.

Obituaries



LESLIE SHEPPARD

Leslie Davis Sheppard, 84, of New Canaan, CT, passed away on March 7, 2025, after a brief illness.

Leslie (Les) was a global pioneer in direct marketing as the Chairman & CEO of Wunderman International in London, and as General Manager, Direct, UK for Ogilvy & Mather in the late '70s and early '80s. Upon returning from London, he continued his distinguished career in Boston, Naples, FL, Pasadena, CA and New Canaan, CT focusing on direct marketing and consulting until his death.

Les was born in East Orange, NJ, to the late Merrill Davis Sheppard and Dorothy Helen Richards on November 12, 1940. He grew up in Roselle Park and graduated from John Jay High School. He went on to study at Wesleyan University in CT and Thunderbird School of

Global Management in AZ. Les was a lifelong athlete. He was the captain of the Roselle Park basketball team, quarterback on the John Jay football team, played Varsity lacrosse for Wesleyan, an avid squash, tennis and platform tennis player.

While living in England, he and his partner became the first national platform tennis champions after the introduction of the sport. He enjoyed playing tennis in the local leagues up until his passing.

Les met Constance McCune during his freshman year at Wesleyan. They married in 1962 and had three wonderful daughters and adored their six grandchildren.

Leslie is survived by: Kirsten (Michael) Sheppard-Hyatt, Merrill (David) Flood, and Stacey (Scott) Essex. His beloved grandchildren: Alex Falk, Olivia and Sarah Lam, Hunter, Sydney

and Campbell Essex. Sibling, Susan (Dave) Norris and sisters in law, Betsy (John) Vinton, Anne (Andrew) Hogeland, Heather McCune and brother-in-law Joseph (Gigi) McCune. He also had many wonderful nieces and nephews.

Leslie is predeceased by his loving wife of 61 years, Constance McCune Sheppard. He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

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

Everyone Is Looking for You

By Rev. Msgr. Rob Kinnally

Everyone Is Looking for You! In speaking with a great number of our teens recently, I was reminded how busy they are every day doing the things that they do: school, sports, theater, music, and –hopefully– enjoying friendships! We are all busy, and even Jesus was busy. There is a wonderful story in the Gospel (Mark 1:37) about a busy Jesus being sought by “everyone.”

Rising very early before dawn, [Jesus] left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, “Everyone is looking for you.”

In all of the Gospels, it seems like Jesus can’t get any “down time.” Every time He is at a wedding or at the home of his friends, he winds up working. At the wedding at Cana, his

celebration is interrupted so he can perform his first public miracle – turning water into choice wine. His sleep while on a boat ride with some of the disciples is cut short to calm the sea and allay the fears of his fretting friends. At the home of Martha and Mary the dinner and chatting are delayed so He can teach a lesson about choosing “the better part” (i.e., being attentive to Jesus and not being “anxious about many things”). Poor Jesus – He just doesn’t get a break. Or does He?

How many times have we heard someone say, “Glad you’re back – so and so was looking for you.” Many of you have heard the familiar, “Mom/Dad/Honey/Dear/ can you come here?!” proclaimed the second you step away for “just a moment.”

Jesus knows that He is no good to anyone who is looking for him unless he has his time

Being busy is a fact of life, but life is too precious to spend just being busy.

away – in prayer. Those who seek Him need healing, freedom from burdens, good counsel, and His uncompromised presence. In order to be truly present and effective, He needs prayer to refresh and restore the energy it takes to be “all things to all.” (cf. a few of St. Paul’s letters). Away from the crowd and completely caught up in his God-the-Father-time, Jesus gets what He needs to return from the desert or come down from the mountain truly ready to minister to those who are waiting.

It must have been tough to be Jesus when he came down from the mountain to face thousands

who looked up at him with eyes and hearts pleading to hear good news, to receive the gift of healing, to make sense of this life that is at times so complicated, and to be assured that Heaven is a real place and we can catch a glimpse of it in the here-and-now! Tall order for Jesus, and tall order for us when the ones we love ask much of us as we navigate a complex world, manage relationships, and seek meaning.

So how did Jesus do it? He trusted in God to give him what he needed to be fully present to those who long for love and meaning. How can do it? By first asking, “What keeps me busy and

does any of it compromise my availability to the ones I love?” Then we walk with God through the busy times and ask God to give us what we need to get done what God wants us to do, and then take care of everything else.

I’m writing this column at the end of my day off. I wound up working for most of it and I’m rushing a bit to meet my deadline; but thankfully I took some time to pray and “chill” before I set about writing. I am trying to be better about taking my days off and dedicating larger blocks of time to prayer. It makes a difference in the way I minister. All of us need that time away in prayer and in God’s loving presence. These Lenten days provide an ascetic context that remind me that down-time is as close as the nearest “desert” and easier than we think: it can be a brisk or leisurely walk, a blanket on the beach on a winter afternoon, a

comfortable chair by the fireplace, a pew or chair before in church, or a few deep breaths with our eyes closed at our desk.

If Jesus thinks it’s important to step away and pray before He takes care of everyone else, then we should think it’s important before we try to do anything for those who need us. I like what St. Ignatius has to say about all of this: “Work as if everything depends on you. Pray as if everything depends on God.”

Being busy is a fact of life, but life is too precious to spend just being busy. We need to do the work of depending more on God and finding in God the peaceful moments of rest and reflection that bring us to an understanding of who we are – with God.

Monsignor Rob Kinnally is the pastor of Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Parish in New Canaan and the Vicar General of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Worship Directory and Services

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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

Congregational Church

23 Park Street 203.966.2651
office@godsacre.org
www.godsacre.org

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

Recurring Events:

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM: Women’s Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM: Bible Study

Fourth Thursday from 12-2:30 PM: Meet at the Open Door Shelter in Norwalk to serve a meal.

Upcoming Events:

March 28th at 5 PM: A night of family fellowship and BINGO fun. Gather in Smith Hall for some friendly competition. Pizza will be served, and amazing prizes will be available to win.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencet.org/newcanaan

Sunday 10:30 AM, in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.

Wednesday Testimony Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656. Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2, Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
fpnc.org

Sunday Service: 10am in person or via LocalLive. All are welcome. Coffee Hour after the service is also available in person or via Zoom. Dedicated childcare is available for all children via Wee Care Nanny Agency from 8:45-11:30am in the Nursery School. Transcripts of previous sermons are also available via the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan’s website. Recurring Events: Every Saturday 9:15am (closed) and 10:30am (open): Alcoholics Anonymous. Every Tuesday 8pm: Men’s A.A.

Third Wednesday from 6-7:30 PM: Wednesdays at the Well are intergenerational opportunities to learn and grow in faith together. Dinner will be served and all ages are invited.

Upcoming Events:

March 20th from 6:30-8:30 PM: Open Mic Night. An evening to share music and/or poetry. Walk-ins are welcome.

April 6th at 11:30 AM: Adult forum with First Selectman, Dionna Carlson. Discussing: the state of the town.

Now through April 13th: Annual Lenten

Food Drive. Bags with a list of items are available in back of Church.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020
www.starcc.com
 Service Schedule:

Saturday: Vigil for Sunday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Sunday 8:30 a.m. mass is live-streamed and recorded. Monday-Friday: 7:00 am and 5:30 pm

Saturday: 7:00 am

Recurring Events:

Last Monday of every month 7pm: Women’s Praise & Worship Holy Hour

Fridays 7:30am-6pm: Eucharistic Adoration (September-June)

Saturday 8:30am: St. A’s Healing Rosary Prayer Group

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515
churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org
www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

Sunday Services: 8:00am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite I; 9:00am: Outdoor Holy Eucharist Rite II; 10am: Indoor Holy Eucharist Rite II (Live Stream also available on the St. Mark’s website). Coffee Hour follows the 10am service.

Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.

Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am: Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.

Wednesday at 12:05pm: Noonday Eucharist in the chapel.

Recurring Events:

First Wednesday at 1pm: Laundry Love volunteering opportunity to come alongside people who are struggling financially by assisting them with their laundry.

First & Third Wednesdays from 6-7:30pm: Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

April 5th at 5 PM: Master Organ Recital with James O’Donnell. Former Master of Music at London’s Westminster Abbey, now Professor of Music at the Yale School of Music. This recital will be enhanced by a video screen, giving us a view of his virtuosity at the organ console. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/WTFZ4>.

April 19th at 7:30 PM: The Great Vigil of Easter.

St. Michael’s Lutheran Church

5 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.3913
office@stmichaelslutheran.org
www.stmichaelslutheran.org

Sunday Service at 10:00 am. Following the service there is coffee, cookies and conversation in the Fellowship Hall.

Recurring Events:

Thursday 12 PM: Alcoholics Anonymous

Trinity Church

New Canaan | Darien

468 South Avenue 203.618.0808
info@trinitychurch.life
www.trinitychurch.life

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

United Methodist Church

165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
office@umcofnewcanaan.org
www.umcofnewcanaan.org

Sunday Service is at 10:00 am followed by coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service. All are welcome.

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com
www.cbcnewcanaan.org

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30_Syp_XOKDg
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>

Sunday School at 10:00am

Worship Service at 11:00am

Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

Upcoming Events:

April 18th from 12-3 PM: Good Friday Service: Seven Last Words of Christ.

Grace Community Church

9:30am Service @ New Canaan High School,
 11 Farm Road, New Canaan
 203-966-7600

info@gracecommunity.info
www.gracecommunity.info

Welcome to Grace Church, where we strive to build a church of action, founded on Biblical truth, characterized by faith, grace, community, service, authenticity, clear thinking, and cultural relevance. Grace Community Church is an exercise in knowing God, knowing truth, and building community that extends to our full lives, not just to our Sunday mornings.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30am or via GCC’s Facebook page or YouTube page. Nursery care and Sunday school/teen programming is available for babies through 12th grade. Coffee and bagels available in the lobby after the service, all are welcome.

Upcoming Events:

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

Talmadge Hill Community Church

870 Hollow Tree Ridge Road; Darien, CT
 203.966.2314

talmadgehillchurch@gmail.com
www.talmadgehill.org

Ministers: Rev. Carter Via and Rev. Cheryl Bundy Sunday worship service at 10:00am in person. All are welcome! We encourage everyone to stay for coffee hour after the service. Sunday School is every Sunday during the service and uses the Godly Play curriculum. Please reach out with any questions utilizing information listed above!

Recurring Events:

Thursdays at 9:30am: Bible Study

First Saturday at 8am: Men’s Group

Second Saturday at 10am: Women’s Circle

Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center

137 Putnam Rd

info@chabadnewcanaan.org
www.newcanaanjewish.org

The Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center is dedicated to strengthening and building the New Canaan Jewish Community by offering local Jewish resources that bring more positivity, Jewish education, charitable activity, good deeds and blessing to our lovely town.

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

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)

458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903
 203.322.1649

www.templeainaistamford.org

Service Schedule:

1st, 3rd & 5th Friday – 6pm in person and via zoom
 2nd & 4th – 7:30pm

Recurring Events:

Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study

Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar

First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM: Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children

First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodat Halev Discussion Group

Temple Sholom

300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830
 203-869-7191

www.templeholom.com

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

Recurring Events:

Saturdays at 9 AM: Shabbat Study via zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcXU0EzZUM2VENEZmgYUT09#success>

Dina Powell McCormick, Former US National Security Advisor, in Conversation on *Who Believed in You?*

Dina Powell McCormick, former U.S. Deputy National Security Advisor and longtime business executive, will visit New Canaan Library on April 2, 2025, to discuss her latest book, *Who Believed in You?*, co-authored with her husband, David McCormick. The event, hosted by Library CEO Ellen Sullivan Crovatto, will take place in the Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Attendees must register in advance, with tickets available through Eventbrite, and each ticket includes a copy of the book. A book signing, facilitated by Elm Street Books, will follow the discussion.

McCormick's book explores the crucial role of mentorship in shaping lives and careers. Drawing from her own experiences—beginning with her family's immigration to the United States from Egypt—she examines how strong mentorship has influenced not only her own journey but also the paths of some of the country's most accomplished leaders.

During the conversation, McCormick will highlight the book's central themes: trust, shared values, meaningful commitment, and instilling confidence. She will share insights from industry leaders, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, fashion entrepreneur Tory Burch, Maryland Governor Wes Moore, and film producer Brian Grazer. The book serves as both a testament to the power of mentorship and a guide for those seeking to foster impactful professional relationships.

A Career Shaped by Mentorship

McCormick's career spans both public service and the private sector. She spent 16 years in leadership roles at Goldman Sachs, serving on the management committee and as President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation. In that role, she developed major mentorship initiatives such as 10,000

Women, 10,000 Small Businesses, and One Million Black Women—programs designed to provide education, capital, and mentorship to underrepresented groups.

In 2017, she joined the Trump administration as Deputy National Security Advisor, focusing on diplomacy and economic development. She later returned to finance and is currently Vice Chairman of BDT & MSD Partners, an investment firm advising businesses and entrepreneurs.

Her work in both government and business has reinforced her belief in the power of mentorship to change lives, a message central to *Who Believed in You?* The book details stories of mentors who identified potential in young professionals and guided them toward success, emphasizing that leadership is often built on the encouragement and support of others.

The Library's Ongoing Commitment to Lifelong Learning

New Canaan Library has long been a hub for education and cultural enrichment. By bringing in authors, thought leaders, and industry experts, the library continues its mission of fostering lifelong learning and meaningful community engagement.

"Dina Powell McCormick's career is a testament to the transformative power of mentorship," said Heather Cimino, the library's Adult Programs Coordinator. "Her insights will inspire attendees to reflect on the role mentorship has played in their own lives and consider how they might pay it forward."

With mentorship a central theme in professional growth across industries, the event is expected to draw a broad audience, from business professionals to young leaders seeking guidance in their careers.

For more information, contact Heather

Cimino at hcimino@newcanaanlibrary.org or visit newcanaanlibrary.org.

Tickets: Available on Eventbrite, includes a copy of *Who Believed in You?*

Event Details:

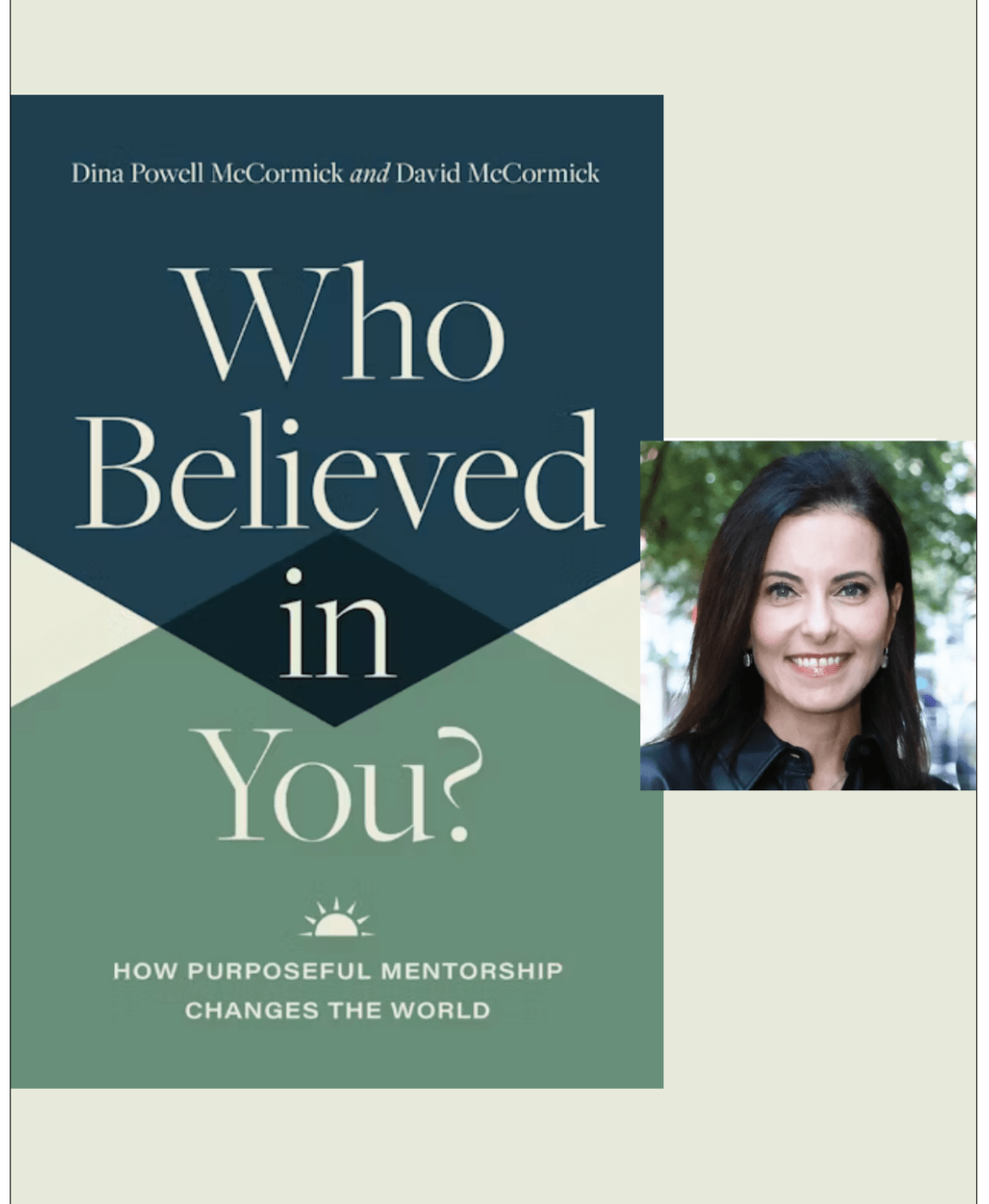
Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium, New Canaan Library

Book Signing: Hosted by Elm Street Books following the event

McCormick's visit marks another significant event in the library's calendar, reinforcing its role as a center for intellectual exchange and professional development.



Sen. Ceci Maher to report on Legislature at Men's Club



State Sen. Ceci Maher, now in her second term representing the 26th district, will update the New Canaan Men's Club on the issues before the General Assembly when it meets Friday, March 21, at 10 a.m. in Morrill Hall at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge.

Maher recently joined with Sen. President Martin Looney, D-New Haven, and Majority Leader Bob Duff, D-Norwalk, in expressing outrage at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's cancellation of programs supporting schools, food banks and farmers nationally. The programs provided funds enabling schools and food banks to purchase locally grown produce, resulting in the loss of \$5.6 in future funding in Connecticut for fresh food for schools and child care facilities.

The legislature is again discussing the high cost of electric rates, a proposal to advance affordable housing near railroad stations, multiple initiatives relating to book bans in libraries and proposals aimed at addressing how the state budget is increasing relying on property tax revenues.

Sen. Maher's presentation will begin around 10:40 a.m., after the business portion of the Men's Club meeting concludes.

Her district includes portions of several Fairfield County towns, among them New Canaan, Wilton, Darien, Redding, Ridgefield, Stamford, Weston and Westport.

With a masters in Social Work, before running for Senate, Maher was interim executive director of Sandy Hook Promise, a well-known organization dedicated to gun safety formed in the aftermath of the school shooting in Newtown.

Before that, she was a board member and held several positions with A Better Chance of Wilton and was CEO of Person-to-Person, a volunteer social service agency serving lower Fairfield County.

The Men's Club has openings for new members, men 55-years old and above. For membership info, email ncmens@ncmens.org.

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

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

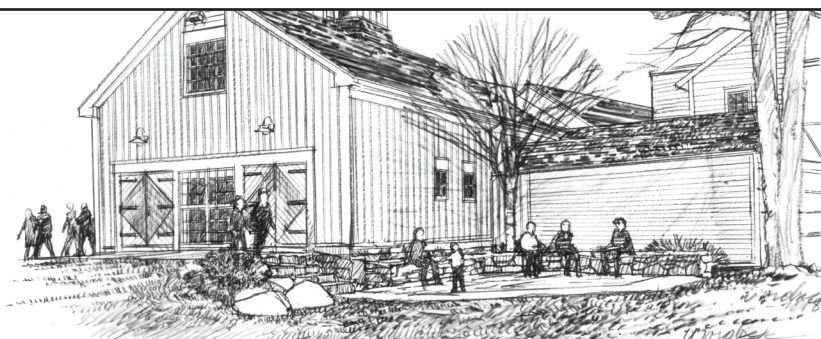
Notice is hereby given that the Inland Wetlands Agent has approved the following application:

Permit Number (IW-25-9) issued to Martha Hennig, 94 Indian Rock Road, Map 33 Block 34 Lot 37. Prepare site for construction activities and install all soil and erosion controls. Demolish existing house. Remove existing patio and walkways. Abandon existing septic system. Abandon existing well. Drill new well. Remove trees as indicated. Remove portion of existing driveway loop and re-grade area. Construct new single-family house with attached patio. Install new septic system. Install 540 s.f. rain garden as indicated. Install new driveway configuration. Re-grade portions of property and stabilize with lawn. Remove erosion controls upon project completion.



**Keith E. Simpson
Associates**

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
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RESIDENTIAL DESIGN
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NOTICE AND WARNING TOWN OF NEW CANAAN Town Council Public Hearing on 2025-2026 Budget

Notice is Hereby Given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Council of the Town of New Canaan in the Town Hall Meeting Room and via Zoom, on **Tuesday April 1, 2025 at 7:00 PM** on the tentative budget recommendations for the Town and the Sewer Utility for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Notice is Also Hereby Given that pursuant to Section C5-10 of the Town Charter, a Town Council meeting will be held at the **Town Hall, in the Town of New Canaan, CT on Thursday April 3, 2025 at 7:00 PM**, to hear and act upon a Report and Recommendation made by the Board of Finance under date March 6, 2025, relating to Town Appropriations for the budget period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 the following being a full and complete copy thereof:

LEGAL AD

Expenditures	2024-25 Approved Budget	2025-26 Proposed Budget	\$ Change From FY25 Budget	% Change From FY25 Budget
General Government				
Selectmen	607,591	677,798	70,207	11.55%
Finance	1,243,047	1,209,906	(33,141)	-2.67%
Assessor	382,635	425,451	42,816	11.19%
Tax Collector	274,349	188,888	(85,461)	-31.22%
Legal	400,000	425,000	25,000	6.25%
Human Resources	435,173	474,884	39,711	9.13%
Information Technology	521,994	756,925	234,931	45.02%
Town Clerk	517,813	520,158	2,345	0.45%
Registrar of Voters	236,717	200,461	(36,256)	-15.32%
Parking	384,845	391,161	6,316	1.64%
Town Commissions	-	68,250	68,250	-
Conservation Commission	11,000	-	(11,000)	-100.00%
Total General Government	5,115,164	5,338,682	223,518	4.37%
Benefits and Insurance				
Health & Security Benefits	6,342,317	6,672,778	330,461	5.21%
Pensions & Other Post Employment Benefits	405,250	612,465	207,215	51.13%
Insurance Liability	1,628,111	1,572,924	(55,187)	-3.39%
Total Benefits and Insurance	8,375,678	8,858,167	482,489	5.76%
Public Safety				
Police	7,885,300	8,063,967	178,667	2.27%
Animal Control / Park Ranger	100,500	95,179	(5,321)	-5.29%
Fire & Fire Marshal	4,656,457	4,789,020	132,563	2.85%
EMS	642,888	640,805	(2,083)	-0.32%
Emergency Management	200,174	154,737	(45,437)	-22.70%
Building	553,101	543,813	(9,288)	-1.68%
Land Use	596,618	611,445	14,827	2.49%
Total Public Safety	14,435,038	14,898,966	463,928	3.21%
Public Works				
Administration	351,783	353,997	2,214	0.63%
Highway	3,860,946	3,981,635	120,689	3.13%
Engineering	400,990	504,160	103,170	25.73%
Town Buildings	1,338,733	1,489,261	150,528	11.24%
Town Utilities	581,743	600,460	18,717	3.22%
Transfer Station	1,910,442	1,903,461	(6,981)	-0.37%
Parks	2,266,350	2,385,475	119,125	5.26%
Nature Center	80,972	69,057	(11,915)	-14.71%
Tree Service	539,413	539,489	76	0.01%
Total Public Works	11,331,372	11,826,995	495,623	4.37%
Recreation				
Civic Activities	16,500	-	(16,500)	-100.00%
Administration / Programs	576,835	590,276	13,441	2.33%
Wavy	123,228	103,978	(19,250)	-15.62%
Paddle Tennis	31,900	26,900	(5,000)	-15.67%
Park Buildings	288,290	289,800	1,510	0.52%
Lapham Comm Center	357,127	370,558	13,431	3.76%
Kiwanis Park	81,693	82,996	1,303	1.59%
Total Recreation	1,475,573	1,464,508	(11,065)	-0.75%
Health & Human Services				
Health	583,154	582,921	(233)	-0.04%
Human Services	489,731	448,225	(41,506)	-8.48%
Total Human Services	1,072,885	1,031,146	(41,739)	-3.89%
Human Services Agencies				
Getabout	50,000	25,000	(25,000)	-50.00%
Kids in Crisis	96,000	70,000	(26,000)	-27.08%
New Canaan Cares	8,000	5,000	(3,000)	-37.50%
Child Guidance Center	5,000	-	(5,000)	-100.00%
Domestic Violence Crisis Centre	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Meals On Wheels	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%
Community Program Mental Wellness	2,500	1,500	(1,000)	-40.00%
New Canaan Urgent Assessment	25,000	15,000	(10,000)	-40.00%
Total Human Services Agencies	201,500	131,500	(70,000)	-34.74%
Other Agencies				
Health/Welfare	228,000	250,000	24,000	10.62%
Day Care Center	32,000	32,000	0	0.00%
New Canaan Historical Society	25,000	25,000	0	0.00%
Trans Private Schools	280,000	280,000	0	0.00%
Channel 79 TV	40,500	40,500	0	0.00%
Probate Court	12,000	12,000	0	0.00%
Total Other Agencies	615,500	639,500	24,000	3.90%
Library				
Library Operating	2,791,235	3,013,500	222,265	7.96%
Total Library	2,791,235	3,013,500	222,265	7.96%
Town Only Operating Expense	45,413,945	47,202,964	\$ 1,789,019	3.94%
Contingency	725,000	691,084	(33,916)	-4.68%
Volunteer Tax Abatement	62,156	80,000	17,844	28.71%
BOE Pension	100,730	168,427	67,697	67.21%
BOE 401A Match	187,000	208,060	21,060	11.26%
Total Operating Expense	46,488,831	48,350,535	\$ 1,861,704	4.00%
Tax Supported Capital Projects				
Transfer to Tax Funded Capital Projects	384,325	472,500	88,175	22.94%
Total Interfund Transfers	384,325	472,500	88,175	22.94%
Debt Service				
Town	10,439,122	12,834,742	2,395,620	22.95%
School	7,680,153	4,904,029	(2,776,124)	-36.15%
School IT Lease	795,000	646,401	(148,599)	-18.69%
Total Debt Service	18,914,275	18,385,172	(529,103)	-2.80%
Board of Education				
Operating Expense	91,402,053	95,535,365	4,133,312	4.52%
Health Internal Service Fund Transfer	17,743,435	18,411,906	668,471	3.77%
Total Board of Education	109,145,488	113,947,271	4,801,783	4.40%
Total Town Operating, All Debt Service, All Capital Expenditures and Board of Education Operating Expenses	174,932,919	181,155,478	\$ 6,222,559	3.56%
Revenues				
Parking Permits, Fees, Tickets	978,200	918,700	(59,500)	-6.08%
Investment Income	2,000,000	1,800,000	(200,000)	-10.00%
Conveyance Fees	1,500,000	1,600,000	100,000	6.67%
Tax Collections - Prior Yrs	300,000	300,000	-	0.00%
BOE Excess Cost Grant	916,577	916,577	-	0.00%
Building Permits	850,000	900,000	50,000	5.88%
Educational Cost Sharing	437,012	473,399	36,387	8.33%
Tipping Fees	415,000	415,000	-	0.00%
Other State Aid	215,940	188,985	(26,955)	-12.48%
Bond Premium	1,961,000	1,800,000	(161,000)	-8.21%
Transfer from Other Funds	807,634	380,000	(427,634)	-52.96%
All Other Revenues	1,553,063	1,513,627	(39,436)	-2.54%
Total Estimated Revenue	11,832,426	11,206,288	(626,138)	-5.29%
Contribution from Fund Balance	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	0.00%
Amount to be Raised by Taxation for General Fund	158,100,493	164,949,190	\$ 6,848,697	4.33%
(Budgeted Expenses Less Est. Revenue)				
Capital Projects - Town				
Information Technology				
IT-Hardware/Software	90,000	40,000	-	40,000
WAN Software / Hardware	80,000	30,000	-	30,000
Cyber Security Mitigation	55,000	-	-	-
Parking				
Replacement of current 2 camera, 8 year old LPR	-	91,100	91,100	-
Parking Pay Machines - Elm Street/South Ave (9)	62,000	-	-	-
New Permitting/Ticketing Software Program	-	-	-	-
Replacement of current 2 camera, 6 year old LPR	-	-	-	-
Fire				
Personal Protective Equipment	40,000	47,500	7,500	-
Radio Replacement	12,000	12,000	-	12,000
Fire Hose Replacement	-	10,000	10,000	-
Equipment / Tools	15,000	15,000	-	15,000
Staff Vehicle Addition	80,000	-	-	-
Water Supply Improvement	-	10,000	10,000	-
SCBA Replacement	-	450,000	450,000	-
Water Rescue	3,325	-	-	-
Utility (Pick up Truck) replacement	-	105,000	105,000	-
Station Exhaust System	15,000	-	-	-
Gear Washer	12,000	-	-	-
Security Cameras	-	15,000	15,000	-
Search maze	20,000	-	-	15,000
Emergency Management				
Motorola Radio Hardware & Software Update Agreement	139,226	143,403	4,177	-
Motorola Tri-Band Radios	33,000	-	-	-
EMS				
New Ambulance	-	390,000	390,000	-
Police Department				
Police vehicles	52,500	213,500	161,000	213,500
Equipment for new vehicles	26,600	-	-	

HOCKEY SEMI-FINALS CONTINUED From Page 1

before the puck was even dropped.

"Every face-off tonight, this linesman has thrown somebody out," DeMaio remarked on the broadcast.

The game had everything: bruising hits, jaw-dropping saves, tense special teams battles, and a shorthanded goal for the ages.

It started with Anthony DelCarmine, who put the Rams on the board 7:45 into the first period by finishing a crisp pass from Bauer Gammill in front of the net. The Rams controlled play early, outshooting the Green Knights 13-6 in the first period.

But Notre Dame adjusted, ratcheting up the physical play and taking advantage of some questionable officiating. By the second period, the Rams were on their heels, hemmed in their own zone as Notre Dame tested Brendon Harmon in goal.

Then, the whistles came.

A tripping call on Rogan Lowe was quickly followed by a slashing penalty on Bryce Lyden, giving Notre Dame a 5-on-3 power play midway through the

second period. Ethan Kelly struck at 7:22, slamming home a loose puck in front of the crease to tie the game 1-1.

From there, it was a battle of wills.

New Canaan's defense—led by Cameron Lyden, Patrick Saxe, and Jackson Crowell—weathered a relentless Notre Dame forecheck. Harmon made one save after another, stopping 19 shots on the night, keeping the Rams alive as the minutes ticked away.

Cam Lyden's Shorthanded Magic

And then, with under four minutes left, came the moment that may define New Canaan's season.

Notre Dame had a power play, another chance to put the Rams away. But instead, they made one mistake too many.

A misplayed pass at center ice gave Cam Lyden the window he needed. The junior defenseman jumped the passing lane, chipped the puck ahead, and took off like he'd been shot out of a cannon.

One-on-one with Notre Dame goalie Jacob Silva, Lyden didn't hesitate. A quick cut to the left, a flick of the wrists, and the puck snapped past Silva's blocker into the back of the net.

2-1, New Canaan.

"That's what you call a game-changer," said George

DeMaio on the broadcast.

The Rams still had to hold on. Notre Dame pulled Silva for the extra attacker, swarming the offensive zone. But New Canaan's defense held strong, clearing the puck again and again.

With 23.4 seconds left, Bryce Lyden finished it off—banking the puck off the boards from his own zone into the empty net.

A 3-1 final.

Darien's Road to the Final: Battle-Tested and Dangerous

Darien's 3-1 semifinal win over Simsbury wasn't as dramatic, but it showed exactly why they'll be New Canaan's toughest test yet.

The game was tied 0-0 after two periods, with Simsbury goalie Brady Davis stopping 34 shots in a heroic effort. But Darien's relentless pressure finally broke through.

At 13:05 of the third, Russell Tarrant slipped a long-range shot through traffic to give the Blue Wave a 1-0 lead. Then, James Troy took over, scoring twice in the final eight minutes to put the game away.

While New Canaan has been dominant all season, Darien has been resilient. They've played three overtime games in the playoffs. They don't panic.

They know that Saturday night is their chance to play spoiler.

New Canaan vs. Darien: Why This Rivalry Makes Both Teams Better

This isn't just a game between two great teams. It's the best of the competitive spirit between two programs that have shaped each other for decades.

These two teams have already played twice this season:

Game 1: New Canaan won 4-2; Game 2: A 1-1 tie

But what makes this rivalry so special is that neither team would likely be as good as they are without the other.

They force each other to play sharper, faster, and tougher. They know neither one is never out of a game.

They may compete hard on the ice, but deep down, they know the truth: they make each other better.

New Canaan's players still remember when Darien won back-to-back state titles in 2015 and 2016. Darien remembers when New Canaan stunned them in the 2020 FCIAC finals.

They'll drop the puck at 7 p.m. Saturday at Quinnipiac.

One more chapter in one of the greatest rivalries in Connecticut hockey.

Former NBA Player Chris Herren on Substance Use Prevention

New Canaan CARES will welcome former NBA player and nationally recognized speaker Chris Herren for a powerful discussion on substance use awareness and prevention at New Canaan Library on March 27, 2025, at 7 p.m. Through his personal journey—from a rising basketball star to the depths of addiction and ultimately recovery—Herren has dedicated his life to changing the way communities talk about substance use.

The event, free and open to the public, aims to educate parents, students, and community

members on the dangers of early substance use and the importance of judgment-free conversations. Rather than focusing solely on addiction's end stages, Herren emphasizes the significance of preventing that first step into substance use. His message encourages open dialogue and proactive strategies to help young people make healthier choices.

New Canaan High School students in grades 9-12 will hear Herren's story firsthand during a school-day presentation. In the evening, parents and students (grades 9 and up) from outside

New Canaan Public Schools are invited to attend the library event.

Herren's own story is one of triumph and tragedy. A standout high school player, he went on to play for Boston College and later for the Denver Nuggets and Boston Celtics in the NBA. But behind the success, addiction took hold, leading to a downward spiral that cost him his career and nearly his life. Now, more than 15 years into recovery, Herren travels the country sharing his experiences and offering a message of hope. His foundation, Herren Talks, works to shift the conversation

new canaan CARES COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Former NBA Player
CHRIS HERREN
Thursday, March 27th at 7 PM
New Canaan Library

SILVER HILL HOSPITAL
NEW CANAAN LIBRARY
NEW CANAAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RAMS All Sports Booster Club
Lukes



from addiction's last day to its first and to empower young people with the tools to avoid substance use.

Presented in partnership with New Canaan CARES, Silver Hill Hospital, NC Rams All Sports Booster Club, New Canaan Public Schools, New Canaan Library, and St. Luke's School, this event highlights a community-wide effort to support youth and families in making informed, healthy decisions.

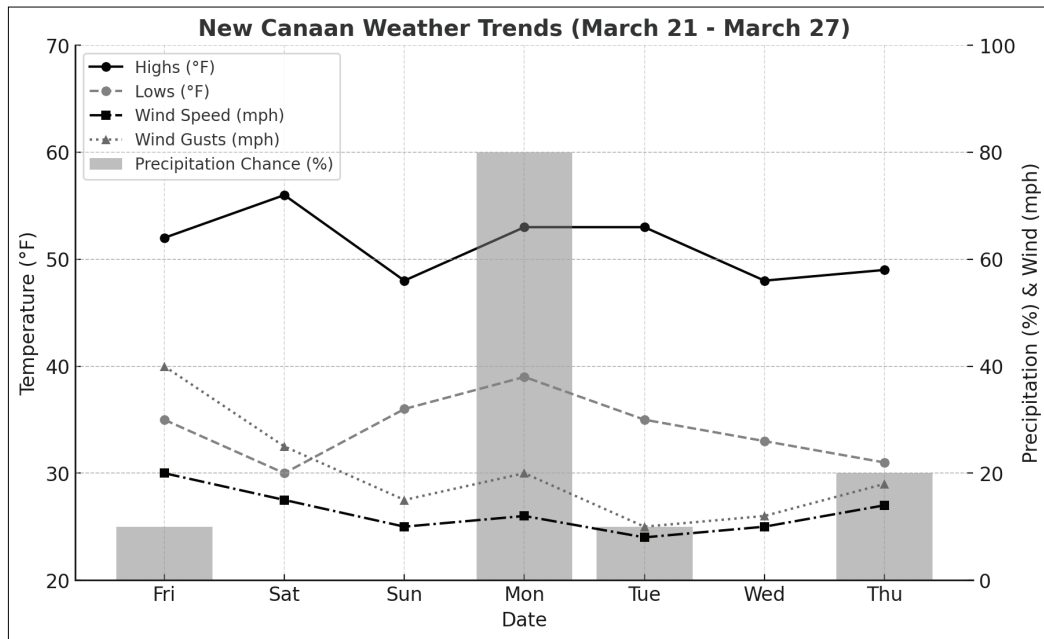
Those interested in attending can register at www.newcanaancares.org.

New Canaan Weather Forecast: Here's What to Expect

By EMMA BARHYDT

Spring is starting to take hold in New Canaan, bringing a mix of sunshine, showers, and some breezy days. The next few days will bring a mix of sunshine, showers, and mild temperatures, with a few breezy days. Temperatures will generally remain near or slightly above average for late March, and while no major storms are expected, periodic rain chances will keep things unsettled.

Friday, March 21: The week concludes with mostly cloudy skies and a high near 52°F. Early in the morning, there's a slight chance of light rain, so it's advisable to carry an umbrella if you're heading out during that time. Winds are expected to be quite strong, with gusts reaching up to 40 mph, which could make the day feel cooler than the actual temperature suggests. As evening approaches, temperatures will drop to a low of around 35°F, with winds gradually subsiding, leading to a calmer and chilly night.



Saturday, March 22: The day starts off cloudy, with the potential for breezy conditions developing in the afternoon. Temperatures are anticipated to reach a high of approximately 56°F, offering a mild spring day despite the overcast skies. The increased cloud cover may limit sunshine, but the day should remain dry, making it

suitable for outdoor activities. Overnight, temperatures will fall to around 30°F, under partly cloudy skies, resulting in a crisp and cool evening.

Sunday, March 23: Sunshine is expected in the morning, followed by increasing cloudiness as the day progresses. The high temperature will be around 48°F, with light winds

contributing to a pleasant day overall. This combination of sun and clouds provides a typical early spring day, ideal for a morning walk or brunch outdoors. As night falls, temperatures will dip to a low of about 36°F, with mostly cloudy skies, setting the stage for a tranquil evening.

Monday, March 24: The day is forecasted to be rainy,

with temperatures reaching a high of 53°F. The rain is expected to persist throughout the day, so carrying an umbrella is advisable. These wet conditions may affect outdoor plans, so it's a good idea to have indoor activities in mind. Overnight, temperatures will decrease to around 39°F, with rain likely continuing into the evening, leading to a damp and cool night.

Tuesday, March 25: Expect intervals of clouds and sunshine, with the high temperature near 53°F. This mix of sun and clouds will create a pleasant atmosphere for outdoor activities. Winds will be light, making it comfortable to spend time outside. During the night, temperatures will drop to approximately 35°F, under partly cloudy skies, resulting in a cool and comfortable evening.

Wednesday, March 26: The day will feature times of clouds and sun, with a high around 48°F. The alternating sun and clouds will provide

a typical early spring day. It's a good opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities, as conditions should be generally favorable. Overnight, temperatures are expected to fall to about 33°F, under partly cloudy skies, leading to a chilly night.

Thursday, March 27: Mostly cloudy conditions are anticipated, with the high temperature near 49°F. The cloud cover may limit sunshine, making it feel cooler. There's a slight chance of precipitation, so keeping an umbrella handy would be prudent. As evening approaches, temperatures will decrease to around 31°F, under mostly cloudy skies, resulting in a cold night.

Spring is slowly taking hold in New Canaan, bringing a mix of sunshine, showers, and mild temperatures. While there will be some breezy and rainy moments, the overall trend is pleasant and seasonable. With no signs of winter weather, it's a great time to enjoy the early signs of spring.

Traveling? Check The Week Ahead Nationally

By EMMA BARHYDT

Northeast: Gradual Warm-Up with Periodic Showers

The Northeast is expected to experience a gradual warming trend throughout the period. High temperatures will start in the mid-40s°F and rise to the upper 50s°F by the end of the week. Overnight lows will range from the low to mid-30s°F. There will be chances of scattered showers, particularly midweek and over the weekend, but no significant storm systems are anticipated.

Southeast: Warm and Dry Conditions Prevail

The Southeast is forecasted to enjoy warm and predominantly dry weather. Daytime highs will generally range from the mid-70s°F to low 80s°F, with overnight lows in the 50s°F to low 60s°F. A weak

cold front may bring isolated showers midweek, but widespread precipitation is unlikely.

Midwest: Temperature Swings with Mixed Precipitation

The Midwest will experience variable temperatures during this period. Early in the week, highs in the southern Midwest may reach the low 60s°F, while the northern areas remain cooler in the 40s°F. A midweek system could bring rain to the southern parts and a rain-snow mix to the northern regions. Following this system, cooler air will settle in, with highs ranging from the upper 30s°F to mid-50s°F and lows in the 20s°F to mid-30s°F.

Southwest: Warm and Dry with Elevated Fire Risk
The Southwest is expected to remain warm and dry throughout the period. High temperatures will

range from the mid-70s°F to mid-80s°F in lower elevations, while mountainous areas will see highs in the 50s°F and 60s°F. Overnight lows will vary from the 40s°F in deserts to the 30s°F in higher terrains. Persistent dry conditions and occasional gusty winds will elevate the wildfire risk across the region.

Northwest: Cool and Unsettled with Rain and Mountain Snow

The Pacific Northwest is forecasted to have cool and unsettled weather. Coastal areas can expect highs in the upper 40s°F to low 50s°F, with frequent rain showers. Mountainous regions will experience colder temperatures, with highs in the 30s°F and significant snowfall, potentially impacting travel through mountain passes. Overnight lows will generally be in the 30s°F for lower elevations and into

the 20s°F or lower in the mountains.

CBS News

West Coast: Periods of Rain with Seasonal Temperatures

The West Coast, particularly California, will see periods of rain as a series of weak storm systems move through. Coastal areas will have highs ranging from the upper 50s°F to mid-60s°F, while inland valleys may reach the low 70s°F. Overnight lows will be in the 40s°F to low 50s°F. Mountain regions, including the Sierra Nevada, can expect snowfall with cooler temperatures, especially at higher elevations.

Please note that weather patterns can change, and it's advisable to check the latest forecasts from local weather services for the most current information.

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Of utmost importance
- 6 Endangered African herbivore
- 11 YouTube's ___ vs. BRO
- 14 "The unexamined life is not worth living," e.g.
- 15 Auntie ___ pretzels
- 16 Knee part's acronym
- 17 Tennis parody on "SNL"?
- 19 Favorable vote
- 20 Apt rhyme for "cache"
- 21 "That's scary!"
- 22 ___ guards (soccer gear)
- 23 Celebrating after scoring a touch-down?
- 26 Aerial circus act
- 30 The way, to Lao-tzu
- 31 Caramelly candy
- 32 Tel ___
- 35 Lawn game in Milan
- 39 Epps of "House"
- 40 Papas' partners in rock
- 42 Seized
- 43 Future perfect, for example
- 45 Crushing defeat
- 46 Otherwise
- 47 Popular red wine, for short
- 49 Animals in mazes

DOWN

- 51 Italian rice dish whose texture is wrong?
- 56 Put-in-Bay's Great Lake
- 57 Mountain pass
- 58 Volt and watt
- 62 "Notorious" SCOTUS legend
- 63 Certain parent, educationally speaking?
- 66 One might hold your beer
- 67 Battery terminal
- 68 Eellike predator
- 69 Tap-___ (easy putts)
- 70 Rib
- 71 Accustom

DOWN

- 18 Captain Marvel's transformation word
- 22 Razor product that's kid-friendly
- 24 Burton of "Reading Rainbow"
- 25 Capture
- 26 Gait slower than a gallop
- 27 Cicero's commonwealth
- 28 "Schmigadoon!" actor Cumming
- 29 Boxster automaker
- 33 Texter's prelude to a take
- 34 One may be loaded with cash
- 36 Mixer in a Cuba libre
- 37 Purchase price
- 38 Barely gets (by)

DOWN

- 41 Michelangelo's "David," e.g.
- 44 Cochlea's site
- 48 Major event, with "the"
- 50 Powder cleanser brand
- 51 Word of gratitude in Grenoble
- 52 Like a megacity
- 53 Endorses, as a contract
- 54 Polynesian island nation
- 55 Subjective columns in the paper
- 59 Camera, for Instagram take
- 60 No ___ Traffic
- 61 Brown quickly
- 63 Fedora, for instance
- 64 Top that may feature a graphic
- 65 Whiskey grain, perhaps

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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9/5

Escape Room by Leonard Williams

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	
14						15						16			
17						18						19			
	20						21				22				
					23		24				25				
26	27	28	29						30						
31						32		33	34		35		36	37	38
39						40				41		42			
43						44		45				46			
					47		48			49		50			
51	52	53					54	55							
56						57			58		59	60	61		
62						63			64						65
66						67					68				
69						70					71				

Family Time Crossword

The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker August 9, 2021

ACROSS

- 1. (K) Addition symbol
- 5. Highway sign abbr.
- 8. (K) 6.273 million square inches
- 12. Italian money, once
- 13. (K) Stick-y three?
- 14. Butter from a yak
- 15. (K) Yemen neighbor
- 16. (K) Bird's bill
- 17. Little brook
- 18. (K) On purpose
- 21. (K) Ancient or antiquated
- 22. Reputation, informally
- 23. "Ladies and gentlemen" could start one
- 26. (K) Exclamation made when making a great discovery

DOWN

- 27. (K) Tear
- 30. (K) Amazing gift for a football fan (2 words)
- 33. (K) Crab cooker
- 34. (K) Household VIP
- 35. Like some Indians
- 36. "In that case"
- 38. (K) "Hold on for just a ___!"
- 39. (K) Helpful things for people in the back row
- 44. "About the author" blurbs
- 45. (K) Road rescue
- 46. Lionel train track shape
- 47. (K) Smell like sweaty sneakers
- 48. (K) Number for a single person?
- 49. (K) Forest danger

DOWN

- 50. (K) Chances
- 51. (K) Pay-___-view
- 52. Made a desperate escape
- 1. Walk heavily
- 2. (K) Green citrus fruit
- 3. Massive Russian mountain chain
- 4. (K) Many prom attendees
- 5. (K) Searched for gold or silver
- 6. (K) Place from whence to fish
- 7. Portable grill
- 8. (K) Say "You're right!"
- 9. (K) Offspring
- 10. (K) Depend
- 11. (K) Fish with no scales
- 19. (K) Displayed its petals
- 20. (K) Windpipe

- 23. Enabler of WWW access
- 24. Prefix meaning "recent" or "new"
- 25. Sporting body art
- 26. (K) Money dispenser
- 28. (K) "___ be my honor!"
- 29. Tire abbr.
- 31. (K) Ceaseless
- 32. Begin a contest featuring the Ravens
- 37. (K) Corn covers
- 38. Rat residence
- 39. (K) Wasn't truthful
- 40. Corny Southern side dish
- 41. (K) With a bad heart?
- 42. (K) Not in abundance
- 43. (K) Winter vehicle
- 44. (K) Male sib

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

PICKED-OUT ROCK?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Previous riddle answer:

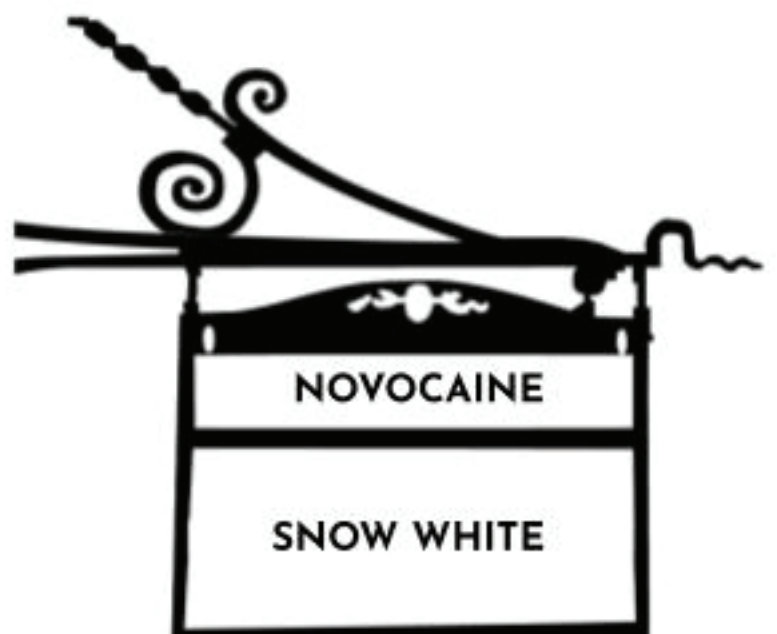
What many people hamper?
1-A) Wash

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18					19				20				
					21				22				
23	24	25				26			27	28	29		
30						31			32				
33						34			35				
						36	37		38				
						39			40		41	42	43
44						45			46				
47						48			49				
50						51			52				

PLAYING THIS WEEK AT

THE PLAYHOUSE



93 Elm Street
New Canaan

And Join Us in the Pub!

7 LITTLE WORDS

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

CLUES

- 1 fixing a hole (8)
- 2 meandering medieval musician (8)
- 3 honks (5)
- 4 burdened (10)
- 5 telemarketer's gear (7)
- 6 creating confusion (11)
- 7 most profound (7)

SOLUTIONS

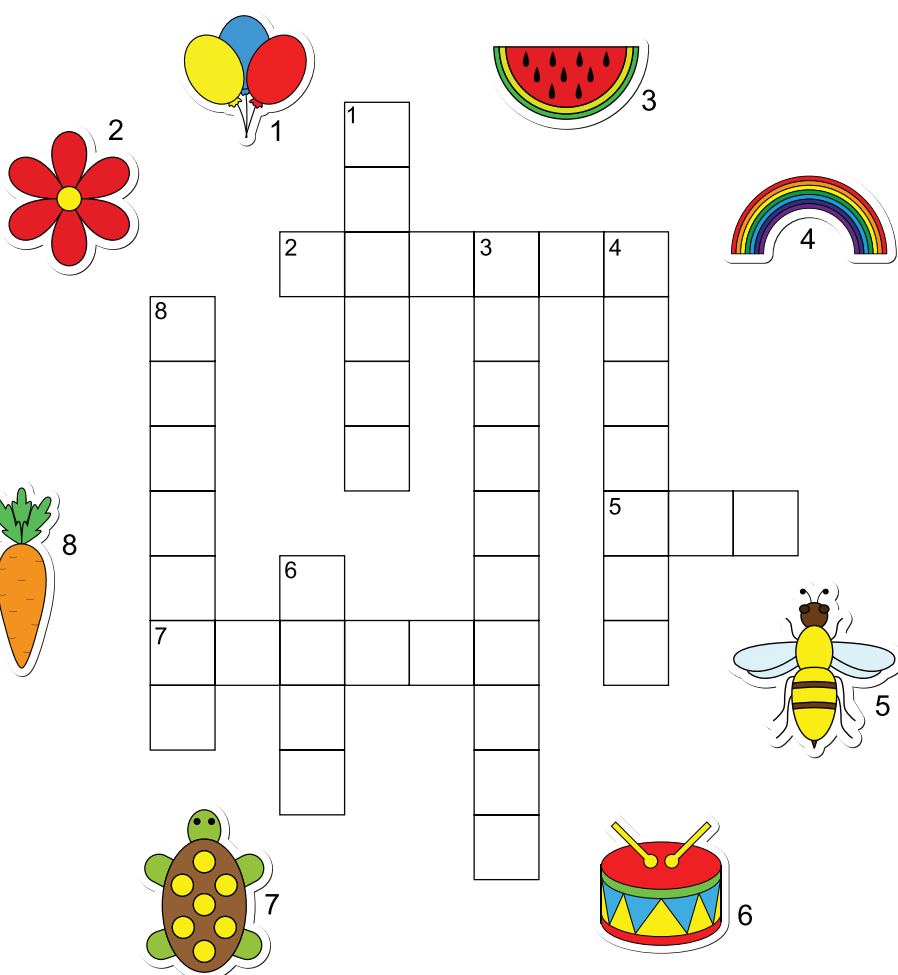
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PAT	HE	EL	ING	PS
NSTR	OBFU	ST	AD	DEE
SET	TING	RLO	BEE	MI
OVE	PE	CH	SCA	ADED

Previous Answers: 1. BONES 2. BETRAY 3. AMMAN
4. GOOGLE 5. BAUBLE 6. DIAPER 7. EMERGENCY

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9/10



Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

Submit your events at:
newcanaasentinel.com/submit-an-event/

TOWN MEETINGS

Monday, March 24

Inland Wetlands Commission - Special Meeting
7 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Tuesday, March 25

Board of Selectmen
8:30-10 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room & via Zoom

Planning & Zoning Commission

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

Town Council

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

Wednesday, March 26

Audit Committee

8:30-10 a.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Thursday, March 27

Police Department Building Committee
8-9 a.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Town Council

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

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.

New Canaan Chamber Music Concert- 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/>.

Practical Technology Considerations for Small Business Owners

6 PM at New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Whether by choice or economics, many small business owners are their IT departments. This class will provide a checklist of things to consider. More information and registration is available here <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/score-fairfield-county-financial-planning-class-draft-132034>.

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.

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.

New Canaan Chamber Music Concert- 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 23

Celebrate and Learn about Ramadan

2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join members of your community to celebrate and learn about Ramadan. Sample traditional foods used to break the fast (Iftar), get crafty, and see if you can complete a kindness BINGO card. Registration is available at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/ramadan-celebration-132015>.

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>.

Marketing Strategies for Entrepreneurs: Learning the Basics Workshop

6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
This workshop will be focused on helping small business owners develop effective marketing strategies to grow their brand, attract customers, and increase sales. You will learn the marketing mindset, how to develop a marketing plan, the marketing funnel, and more. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-score-fairfield-county-economics-class-132021>.

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 your own fresh herbs at home. Free event. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

Open Tech

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

An Evening Dance Experience with Appetizers and Wine

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

203-594-3620 to register.

Secure Your Future: Retirement Planning with Lou and Jessica Pelletier

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Join Lou and Jessica Pelletier for an engaging and interactive Comprehensive Retirement Planning Workshop. No matter where you are in your Social Security selection journey, uncover all your available options. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-retirement-planning-125469>.

March 26

Lifestyle Medicine: Mental Health

11 AM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
In this workshop, lifestyle medicine specialist, Dr. Raquel Harrison will discuss mental health issues and how and where to get help. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-lifestyle-medicine-112567>.

Understanding Real ID

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

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics

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

Author Talk: The Librarians of Lisbon by Suzanne Nelson

6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Inspired by real historical figures, award-winning author Suzanne Nelson's adult fiction debut follows two American librarians recruited for a spy mission to Lisbon at the height of World War II. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-artscapades-126606>.

SAVE THE DATE

March 27

Breakfast with the First Selectman

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

Backyard Birds Presented by the Connecticut Audubon Society

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

CARES Spring Community Program: Chris Herren

7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
From NBA Dreams to a Mission of Substance Use Awareness. Join for a powerful evening with Chris Herren, where he is changing the conversation on substance use, focusing on the first day, not the last. Register at <https://newcanaancares.org/chrisherren/>.

March 28

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.

The Power of Validation with Terry D'Elisa, PsyD

10:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Terry D'Elisa will discuss what validation is (and what it is not), provide helpful ways to respond to strong emotions, and help you teach your children how to cope better and self-regulate when confronted with day-to-day challenges. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/spednet-dr>

delisa-106329.

Grand Opening of Fred Astaire Dance Studio

3-6 PM at 111 Main Street, New Canaan
Go celebrate the grand opening of Fred Astaire. There will be a mini workshop, prizes, group dancing, and a special show.

Lecture & Reception with Katharine Earnhardt

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

Spongebob the Musical- Day One

7 PM at Saxe Middle School
Welcome to The SpongeBob Musical at Saxe Middle School! Plunge into this all-singing, all-dancing, dynamic stage show. When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. Tickets are available at <https://www.ncps-kl2.org/o/sms/article/2046049>.

March 29

Spongebob the Musical- Day Two

1 & 5 PM at Saxe Middle School
Welcome to The SpongeBob Musical at Saxe Middle School! Plunge into this all-singing, all-dancing, dynamic stage show. Tickets are available at <https://www.ncps-kl2.org/o/sms/article/2046049>.

April 1

Open Tech

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

Mahjongg: An Introduction

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

April 2

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics

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

April 4

Medicare Basics with Medicare CHOICES Counselors

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

April 5

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee: The Musical- Day One

7 PM at the New Canaan Library
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a riotous musical, complete with audience participation. This fast-paced crowd pleaser follows an eclectic group of six mid-pubescent as they vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Tickets are \$40/person and available at <https://www.connecticutstagecompany.org/spelling-bee>.

April 6

2025 Unite to Fight 5K Run/Walk

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

Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

com/Race/CT/NewCanaan/UnitetoFight.

Spring Awakening Retreat with Grounded Meditation

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

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee: The Musical- Day Two

2 PM at the New Canaan Library
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a riotous musical, complete with audience participation. This fast-paced crowd pleaser follows an eclectic group of six mid-pubescent as they vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Tickets are \$40/person and available at <https://www.connecticutstagecompany.org/spelling-bee>.

April 8

Open Tech

2-4 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room

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

A Night of Needlepoint

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

April 9

Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Clinics

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

April 10

Faux Faberge Eggs with Clever and Crafty

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

Ask the Attorney with Nedder and Associates, by appointment

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

April 11

Health Talks with

Shannon and Ellen

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

April 12

Adaptive Circus Program

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

April 17

Life Reimagined

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.

Glass House Presents

Andrew Heid, Author of Glass Houses

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

April 22

A Conversation with Georgette Harrison

9:30 AM at the New Canaan Library
Join Georgette Harrison for a conversation about parents under pressure. Register at <https://newcanaancares.org>.

April 24

Gridiron Dinner and Show- Night One

6 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan
Join the 63rd Annual Gridiron Dinner and Show Honoring Wendy Coleman Dixon Hilboldt. The festivities will begin at 6 pm for cocktails, 7 pm for Dinner and 8 pm – The Show will begin. A donation in Wendy’s honor will be made to the New Canaan High School Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$175/person and available at <https://gridironclubofnc.org/registration/>.

April 25

Gridiron Dinner and Show- Night Two

6 PM at the Country Club of New Canaan
Join the 63rd Annual Gridiron Dinner and Show Honoring Wendy Coleman Dixon Hilboldt. The Show will begin at 8 pm. A donation in Wendy’s honor will be made to the New Canaan High School Scholarship Fund. Tickets are \$175/person and available at <https://gridironclubofnc.org/registration/>.

April 26

Watercolor Botanical Painting with Sarah Crossman

10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Learn to Paint Beautiful Watercolor Flowers. Join artist Sarah Crossman for a one-day workshop designed for all skill levels. In this hands-on session, Sarah will guide you through the basic techniques of watercolor painting, with a focus on capturing the vibrant beauty of tulips as seasonal inspiration. Materials will be provided. Tickets are \$75/members, \$90 for non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

Faster Things – Allman Brothers Tribute

7 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Faster Things conjures the twin guitar harmonies and searing slide guitar sounds, hammond organ, harmony guitar and unusual time signatures of the original Allman Brothers band with passion. Tickets are \$35/person and available at <https://carriagebarn.org>.

April 27

Oldham Nature & Environment Lecture: Carl Safina

3 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
The 2025 Oldham Nature & Environment lecturer will be Carl Safina, to culminate the town-wide celebration of Earth Month with its theme of biodiversity. The Oldham Nature and Environment Lecture series is dedicated to presenting leading scientists, policy makers, strategists, and other experts to speak to our community about the many ways climate change is threatening our world, enabling us to be well informed on the topics of climate science and policy, and biodiversity impact and loss. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-nature-environmentoldham-biodiversity-speaker-113300>.

April 30

Bytes and Bites: AI Insights, Appetizers and Wine

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

May 1

Sip and Paint

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

May 3

Kentucky Derby Party

5:30 PM at the Inn, 73 Oenoke Ridge Road
Attend a Kentucky Derby party. Mint juleps and hors d’oeuvres will be served. All financial proceeds benefit The Inn, Waveny’s Independent Living Community. Tickets are \$150/person and available at <https://shorturl.at/XUK39>.

May 9

Health Talks with Shannon and Ellen

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

May 16

New Canaan CARES Home Tour

10 AM at the Lapham Center
Tour elegant New Canaan homes while supporting the community work of New Canaan CARES. A private Post Tour “Patron Party” will be held from 2–4 PM at a sixth “bonus” home. Enjoy lite bites, live music, mocktails and cocktails. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaancares.org/new-canaan-cares-home-tour/>.

BLOOD DRIVES

Thursday, March 20

VFW
465 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Tuesday, March 25

Norwalk Hospital
Maple Street
Norwalk, CT 06856
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 26

UCONN
One University Place
Stamford, CT 06901
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Christ and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church of Westport
75 Church Lane
Westport, CT 06880
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

John Jay High School
60 N Salem Rd
Cross River, NY 10518
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Friday, March 28

Green's Farms Church
71 Hillandale Road
Westport, CT 06880
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

March 21

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer

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

March 26

Alzheimer’s Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network

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

[newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-dementia-support-group-93006](https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-dementia-support-group-93006).

Lifestyle Medicine: Mental Health

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

April 1

The Connection Cure: A Conversation on Social Prescribing

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

April 2

Caregiver Support Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementias

12:30 PM at the Lapham Center
Join this group of experienced and compassionate experts to learn more about what help is available and how to access the services offered. Moderator: Shannon Vallerie, New Canaan Health Department. This lunch and presentation is free. Call 203-594-3620 to register.

April 25

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer

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

Every Friday

AA Speaker Meeting

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

Every Saturday

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

AA Meeting-Laundry and Dry Cleaning Group

Saturdays at 10:30 AM
First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan

Lost Then Found NA Meeting

Wheelchair Accessible
Saturdays at 7 PM
United Methodist Church (back entrance)

Every Monday

AA Meeting
Wheelchair Access

Mondays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

Adult Child Al-Anon Meeting

Mondays at 12 PM
St. Mark’s Church, Youth Room

Every Tuesday

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

Every Wednesday

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

Al-Anon Parent’s & Newcomer’s Mtg.

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM
Silver Hill, Jorgenson House
208 Valley Rd., New Canaan

Every Thursday

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

Our Neighbors

March 21

The Machine Performs Pink Floyd – The Wall, Day One

8 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
Celebrate 50 years of Wish You Were Here with The Machine. Night one features The Wall in its entirety, and night two features Wish You Were Here and Animals. Tickets are available at <https://ridgefieldplayhouse.org/event/the-machine-performs-pink-floyd-the-wall-day-1/>.

March 22

The Machine Performs Pink Floyd – The Wall, Day Two

8 PM at the Ridgefield Playhouse
Celebrate 50 years of Wish You Were Here with The Machine. The New York-based quartet performs a diverse mix of The Floyd’s extensive 16-album repertoire, complete with faithful renditions of popular hits as well as obscure gems. <https://ridgefieldplayhouse.org/event/the-machine-performs-pink-floyd-the-wall-day-1/>.

March 25

Opening Night of Theatre People The Musical

7 PM at Westport Country Playhouse
Join an unforgettable cast of characters populated by a pair of scheming playwrights, a couple of misbehaving actors, a star-struck young author and a disgruntled housekeeper for a comedy that’s a love letter to the theatre and all the people who make it. Tickets start at \$40/person.

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Sudoku for Kids

	1		3		5			
5		4						1
	6	5	4					
	4				5	6		
3		6			1			
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SUDOKU

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

Easy

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	1	4				8	9	
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			3	2				1

Very Hard

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Easy

	2		3			7		6
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Hard

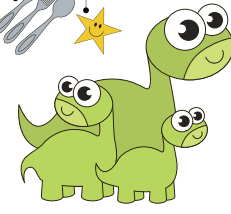
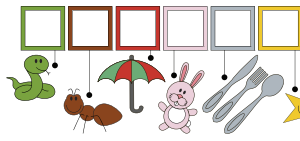
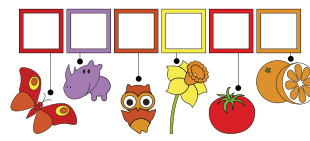
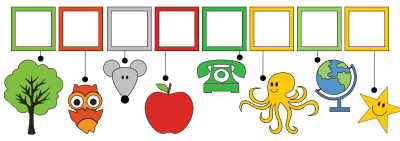
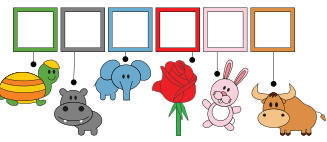
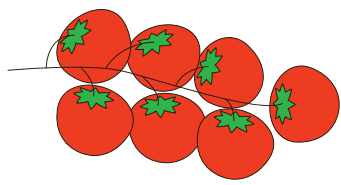
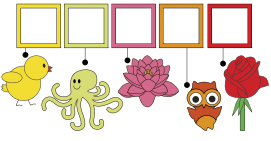
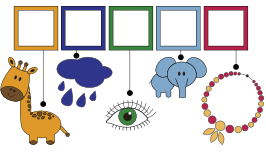
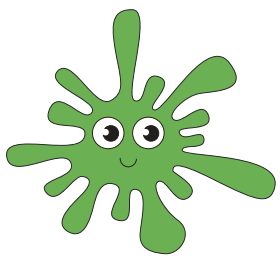
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Very Hard

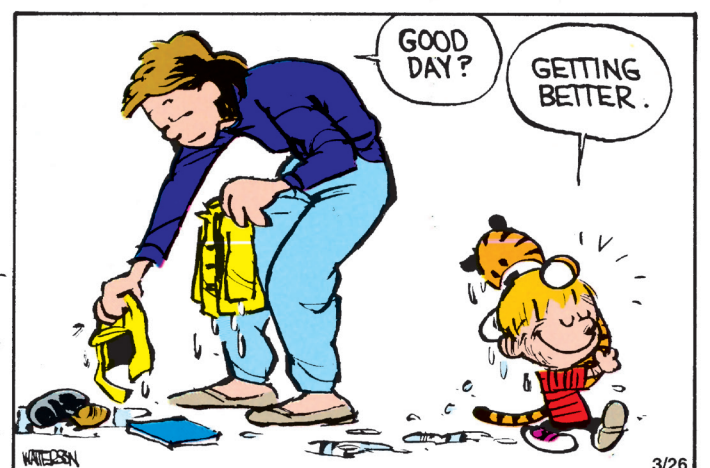
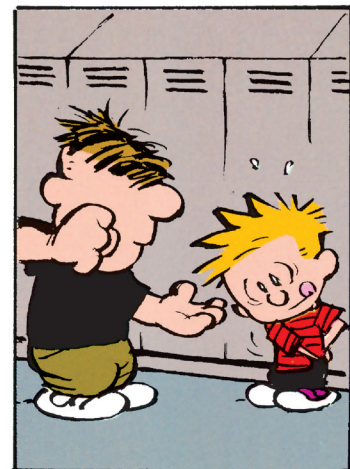
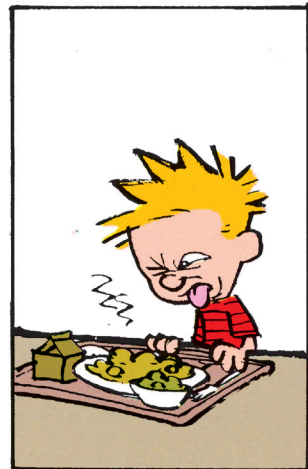
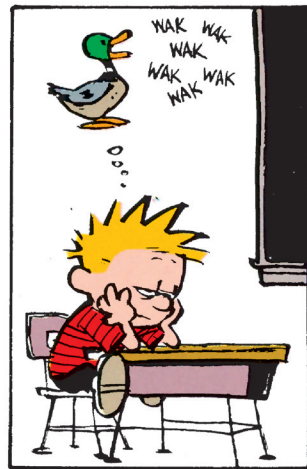
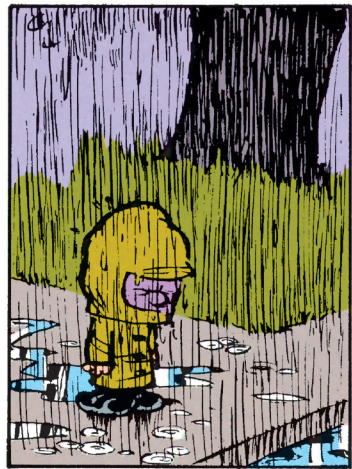
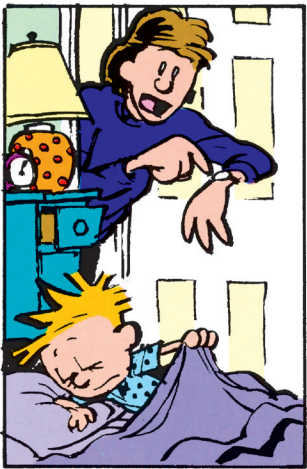
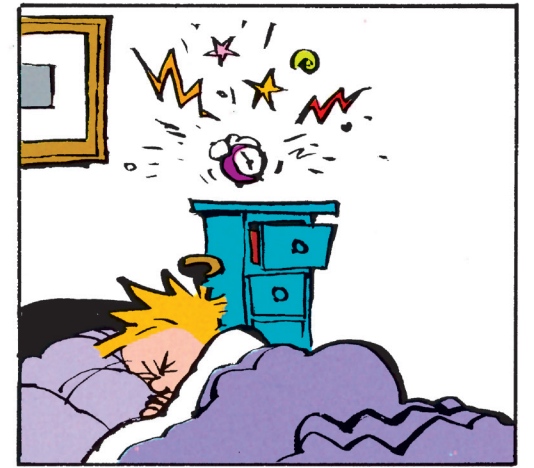
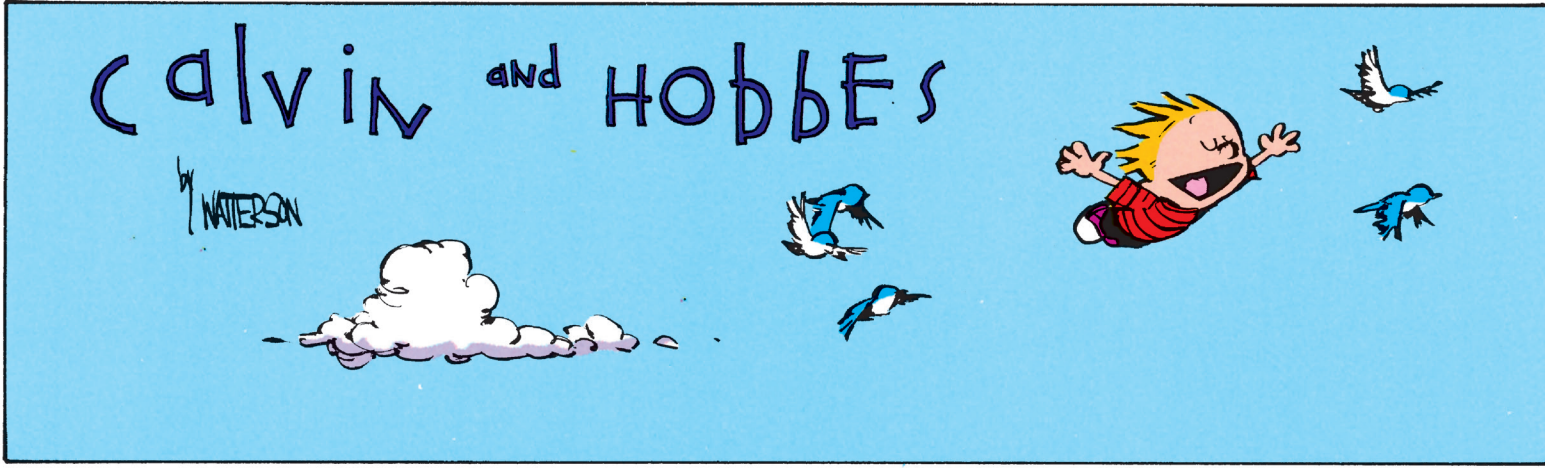
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Sudoku answers

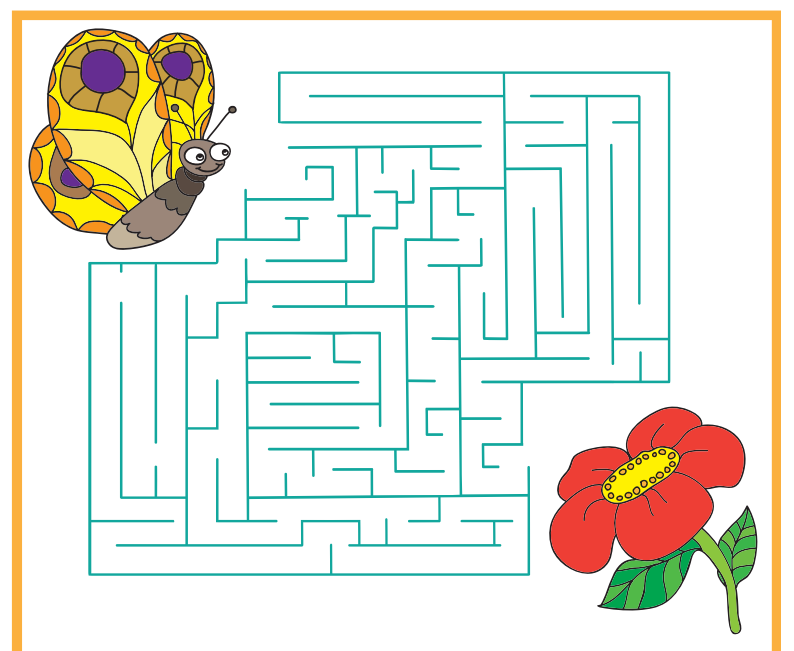
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3	7	4	6	8	2	5	1	9
6	1	2	5	9	3	8	7	4
8	7	2	9	6	1	3	5	4
1	2	4	8	5	7	9	3	6
8	7	2	9	6	1	3	5	4
6	5	4	2	8	9	1	7	3



FIRST LETTER PUZZLES



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NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
224 Park Street #2	\$450,000	990	\$454.55		2	1
200 Park Street #12	\$475,000	957	\$496.34		2	1
258 Main Street	\$835,000	1,601	\$521.55		3	2
42 Siwanoy Lane	\$2,200,000	2,969	\$740.99	1.04	4	2
12 Father Peters Lane	\$3,495,000	5,958	\$586.61	4.25	4	4
180 Bayberry Road	\$3,995,000	8,017	\$498.32	1.86	5	4
637 Valley Road	\$4,200,000	12,071	\$347.94	7.04	6	7
565 Oenoke Ridge	\$4,500,000	4,677	\$962.15	2.06	4	4
22 Charter Oak Drive	\$5,875,000	8,780	\$669.13	1.08	6	7

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
24 Orchard Lane	\$1,899,000	\$1,899,000	\$1,900,000	14	3	2	0.49
31 Marvin Ridge Road	\$1,999,000	\$1,999,000	\$2,514,365	8	5	3	1.14

FEATURED OPEN HOUSE

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

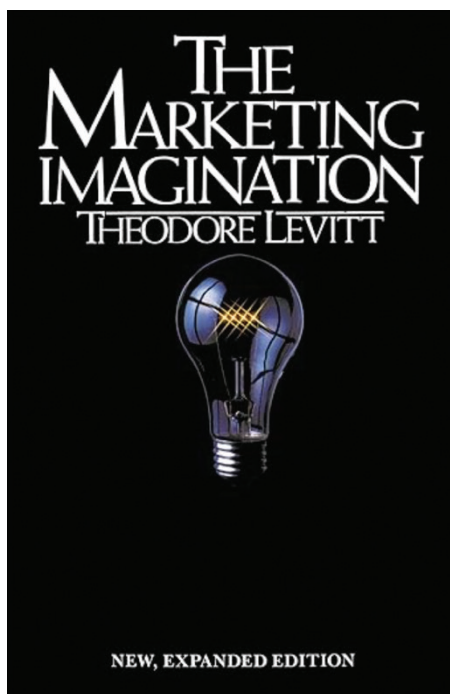
Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
200 Park Street #12	\$475,000	SAT & SUN	12:00-2:00PM	William Raveis
42 Siwanoy Lane	\$2,200,000	SAT & SUN	2:30-4:30PM	William Raveis
23 Benedict Hill Road	\$2,899,000	SUN	1:00-3:00PM	Douglas Elliman

600 Granola Bars



BY JOHN ENGEL

Last week, I wrote about the resurgence of “pocket listings” – a practice that favors secrecy over transparency. Agents, like hostage negotiators and press secretaries, believe controlling the flow of information makes us better negotiators. However, lack of transparency leads to anxiety for both buyers and sellers who feel they might be leaving money on the table.



Theodore Levitt, the Harvard marketing guru, proved in his seminal work, *The Marketing Imagination*, that markets work best when there is clarity, trust, and consumer-centric decision-making. Real estate, a high-stakes emotional process, is no different. Sellers think they are patient, but buyers don't respond to patient. They need a sense of urgency – they need to know they're competing but also that they have a fair shot.

To illustrate the emotional journey of buyers and sellers, consider the top graph at right.

A Case Study in Auction Transparency

This week, we conducted an experiment with a listing using Final Offer, an auction website. The condo had been listed at \$745,000 for 110 days. On Friday, we received an offer of \$700,000.

Instead of negotiating privately, we used this offer as the springboard for a public auction. The risk? No other offers might come in, forcing us to accept \$700,000. But we also had a strong chance of pushing the price closer to asking – or even beyond. I estimated we risked \$25k to make \$25k.

We accepted the offer of \$700,000, contingent on exposing it publicly and allowing 48 hours for other buyers to respond. The listing price was adjusted to \$700,000 on the MLS, and all prospects were directed to Final Offer's “best and final” process.

The Results

- The listing received 776 views and was favorited by 36 people in two days.
- Four buyers scheduled showings over the weekend.
- By Sunday night, we had three offers.
- The winning bid? \$730,000 with no contingencies.
- The other bids were held as backups.

What This Tells Us About Buyer and Seller Anxiety

In this auction, sellers experienced peak anxiety when waiting for an offer but remained highly anxious even after an offer was accepted, worried that they were leaving money on the table. Buyers, on the other hand, peaked in anxiety when making offers, afraid of being outbid or overpaying. (See second

chart at right.)

Levitt's insights on consumer behavior are clear: markets function best with transparency and trust. By exposing the offer publicly and allowing real competition, we alleviate uncertainty and provide true price discovery.

The Real Estate Industry's Trust Problem

After the auction, an Internet troll emailed me, saying the real estate industry is full of “unprofessional persons” and that this process was “repulsive and insulting.” Why? Because our industry has a credibility problem.

Agents don't trust each other. When I tell an agent I have another bidder, they immediately ask:

- Is it someone from your office?
- Is the offer real, or are you shopping mine?
- Will I get a fair shot at improving my bid?

This lack of trust is why lawsuits and settlements – like the Sitzer/Burnett case – are shaking up the industry. Old-school methods, where agents privately control information, should be giving way to more transparent, buyer-friendly approaches.

The Auction as a Solution

- Buyers need to know they aren't being played.
- Sellers need confidence they did not leave money on the table.
- Transparency benefits both parties.

Levitt would argue that buyers are not just purchasing a home; they are purchasing certainty and fairness. The auction model is a step in that direction.

Key Takeaways

- Bidder 1 has high anxiety early on that peaks when s/he is outbid and then drops.
- Bidder 2 starts stress-free but anxiety peaks when s/he makes the final bid, and stress declines afterward.
- Sellers stay anxious throughout the process, only relaxing after closing.
- Transparency increases bidder confidence, reducing skepticism about the process.

Levitt's marketing principles apply here: Buyers don't just purchase a home; they purchase certainty. This structured auction gave both bidders clarity, even if one lost.

While the open auction isn't a universal fix, this experiment proved that radical transparency works. The seller didn't get full asking price, but they got market price. The winning bidder didn't love raising her bid, but she knew it was necessary to win.

Buyers don't trust the traditional process. The industry needs to change. While some circumstances warrant use of a pocket listing, buyers are right to be frustrated. If the success of this auction is any indication, the future of real estate might just be more transparent than ever.

Epilogue

A week later, the winning bidder withdrew her bid, and we went to the backup, a phenomenon that happens all too often and should be the subject of a future column. My back-of-the-napkin estimate is that half of all deals fall apart after a buyer wins a multiple-bid situation. I don't think auction houses have this problem but listing agents certainly do. In evaluating listing agents to list my house, I think one of the most important qualities is finding an agent who will keep the deal together. This requires a combination of skill and experience, of course, but it also puts greater emphasis on communication skills and temperament. But I digress.

Notes from the Monday Meeting

We had a flurry of activity as the season began on schedule, two weeks after Super

After the auction, an Internet troll emailed me saying the real estate industry is full of “unprofessional persons” and that this process was “repulsive and insulting.”

Bowl weekend. The Engel Team has new deals in the \$3's, another at \$2 million, two more at the \$1.2 million level, two below \$1 million, and a rental in the \$7,000 range. We've identified about a dozen listings that we expect to bring to market in the next two months ranging from \$1 million to \$6 million but each of these sellers needs a place to go!

Pricing is challenging during a rising tide, and capes, contemporaries, and colonials are not all performing equally well. In the early season, I see buyers are extra-picky. And why not? Certainly, more will come on.

In this market, well-renovated properties continue to command a premium. We are recommending to (most of) our clients that they do a pre-sale building inspection and engage a stager to make satisfactory offers stick. Stager? While most of us believe our houses present “just fine” without adding a warehouse full of furniture, we are finding that stagers often add tremendous value even when they make few changes and rearrange what's there. After all, we are approaching peak decision-making season, and we have one chance to make a first impression.

John Engel is a broker with The Engel Team at Douglas Elliman, and he was buying bird seed like crazy until he wasn't. Forty pounds

in late December, 80 pounds more purchased in January. Three feeders, each feeding a dozen birds during daylight hours. Snow? It brings even more birds, as if that were possible. A cardinal eats nearly one pound of birdseed each day while a chickadee eats 250 sunflower seeds per day – 35% of its body weight, the equivalent of John eating 600 granola bars per day.

