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Long-term Care. If More People Knew, More People Would Plan

By Mimi Santry

The topic of aging and long-term care is avoided by most people. As an eldercare advisor, I have several clients whose status is listed as “waiting for a crisis” to dive into planning. I understand their hesitancy. Families want to avoid the hard conversations, are unaware of the potential costs of long-term care or don’t want to bear the burden of one more expense. As a result, many folks are woefully unprepared.

When policy experts argue that our country is heading towards a crisis regarding access to care, particularly for the elderly--they are not being dramatic. Only 1 in 3 adults have funds set aside specifically for long-term care and only 4% of Americans hold long-term care insurance policies. While these statistics are grim, I hope they spur individuals to take action NOW and not wait for the crisis.

So what do people need to know?
1. The Odds of Requiring Care are High

Data suggests 70% of individuals over the age of 65 will require long-term care during

their lifetime.

This reality has been driven by the longer average lifespan of our population. In the early 1900’s the lifespan was 48 years and now it is nearly 77 years. Many folks are living to their late 90’s. A longer life span is good news, right? Yes and no. A longer life also means more years during which an individual might require care and need to fund related costs.

2. The Cost of Long-Term Custodial Care is Paid Privately, not by Medicare

Long-term care is typically custodial care, which is help doing the things we do for ourselves every day, such as bathing and dressing. The biggest misconception is that health insurance (Medicare/private medical insurance) will cover the costs of long-term care. It doesn’t. Medicare covers costs when we are getting better - hospitalizations, prescriptions, doctor’s visits, and rehabilitation--but it does NOT cover long-term custodial care. Caring for someone’s basic activities of daily living is born privately by the individual and their family. This even applies to disabling diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s.

Across the U.S. a 65-year-old couple retiring in 2025 can expect to spend over \$315,000 on healthcare through retirement.

The exception is for low-income individuals who have exhausted all their resources and qualified for Medicaid. In that situation, the state and federal government will cover their care in a skilled nursing facility. These Medicaid programs are coming under increasing pressure due to the fact that Medicaid reimbursements only cover 82% of the actual costs of long-term costs.

3. Care Costs Can be Significant

Let me share some statistics.
Across the U.S. a 65-year-old couple retiring in 2025 can expect to spend over \$315,000 on healthcare through retirement.

Costs in the NY metro area including Fairfield County are significantly higher than the national average.

According to the NY Life Insurance Financial Calculator, average costs in the CT/NY/NJ metro area are:

Homecare for 8 hours/5 days weekly. \$74,048 per year

Assisted Living Studio. \$94,597 per year

Assisted Living 1-Bedroom \$100,747 per year

Skilled Nursing Private Room. \$208,776 per year

4. What Can Be Done to Prepare?

If possible, start early with disciplined contributions to a long-term care insurance policy or investment program with guaranteed returns that can protect against these healthcare costs. There are many options to consider. Working with a financial planner or independent insurance consultant (who is not tied to one issuer insurer) is recommended. Long-term care insurance is one of the best vehicles to protect against the potential costs. and The benefits are not taxable and not dependent on market

performance. Long-term care premiums could be tax deductible and can be paid with an HSA.

5. Recommendations from my Trusted Network of Eldercare Specialists:

Mike LaMagna, Esquire -Elder Law Attorney
LaMagna McKenna Attorneys at Law

“In my practice, clients often assume that their assets determine their long-term care options, when in reality the real differentiator is whether they have long-term care insurance. When care is being paid for by insurance, families are far more likely to obtain the appropriate level of care without hesitation. When clients are relying solely on their own assets, they tend to limit or delay care. Long-term care insurance is a powerful planning tool because it preserves choice, giving people the ability to decide how, where, and by whom they receive care at a time when so many other options

already feel constrained.”

Laurie Sappern Gaugler, CLTC – Independent Long-Term Care Insurance Specialist
Owner of LTCI Insight, LLC.

“If a loved one needs care, it is a crisis for the family. Without a plan to fund the care, it’s worse. Which asset should be liquidated first? What kind of care is best for the situation? Will all family members agree? There are solutions for a plan that can be paid for with pre-tax dollars from retirement savings plans. Some plans have life insurance or annuity benefits if care is never needed. I recommend that families consult with us (or another independent insurance expert) to help understand options and make an educated decision.”

We are hopeful that greater exposure to the eye-opening facts and probabilities regarding long-term care will spur more people to do their planning and take action NOW to equip themselves for this phase of life.

Mimi Santry is a certified senior advisor and owner of Assisted Living Locators of SW Connecticut. She advises clients on matters of care, housing and resources related to aging.

ICY FRANTZ COLUMN CONTINUED From Page 1

and just listen.

When I don’t solve.
When I don’t rush ahead.
When I don’t clear the path.
Something softens.

Not the situation, necessarily. But the space around it. The person in front of me. And often, me.

That softening shows up far beyond my own small life.

Michael Pollan didn’t set out to write about love either. In *How to Change Your Mind*, he went looking for neuroscience—for data about depression, addiction, anxiety, and why the mind can become so rigidly stuck. Much of his reporting follows the careful, clinical use of psychedelics in therapeutic settings, where researchers noticed something unexpected. What emerged was not a tidy answer so much as a pattern: when the ego quiets—when the self loosens its grip—people feel connected. They describe being held. They forgive. They soften.

Pollan is careful in how he names it. He doesn’t romanticize the experience or claim it solves everything. But he does observe that what people often encounter in these moments of connection feels unmistakably like love—not the sentimental kind, but a steady sense of belonging. And he notes that people heal in connection, and they suffer in isolation.

Which turns out not to be a modern insight at all. Decades earlier, under unimaginably harsher conditions, Viktor Frankl noticed the same truth. Watching people lose everything—names, homes, futures—he saw that survival often hinged on love. Someone to love. Someone to hold in the mind. Love as orientation when meaning itself was under threat.

The pattern repeats at scale.

Martin Luther King Jr. reached the same conclusion through conflict rather than confinement. Law and protest mattered, but hatred could not end hatred without reproducing itself. Only love could interrupt the cycle without destroying what it aimed to heal.

And Desmond Tutu, facing a nation fractured by cruelty, understood that punishment alone would never be enough. Forgetting would deny the truth. The only path forward insisted on shared humanity—love tethered to honesty.

Different lives.
Different stakes.
The same conclusion.

And then there is my own mother.
Today she would have been 85. I miss her.
She wasn’t always the easiest person. Positive reinforcement was not her middle name. Toward the end, she had very little energy to engage, and conversations could feel thin, abbreviated.
But what I miss most is not her advice. It’s her presence.

Having her at the other end of a phone line. Knowing she was there. Willing to listen while I gave updates about the children—the ordinary ones, the proud ones, the slightly worried ones. Watching her make the effort, even when it wasn’t easy, to show up for graduations, birthdays, celebrations. Sitting in folding chairs. Waiting things out. Being there.

There was comfort in that—though I didn’t fully understand it at the time. I was still looking for answers and judging her (although I hate to admit it). Still assuming love announced itself more clearly.

I understand now. Too late, perhaps—but clearly. What love had been doing all along.

Not as the first conclusion, but as the last one standing.

Not fixing.
Not reassuring.
Not improving.

Just staying.
Just listening.
Just being there.

And it’s hard not to notice how much our world needs more of this kind of love right now. We live in a time that rewards certainty, and outrage. We argue to win. We speak to be heard. We rush to fix, correct, cancel, move on. Listening feels inefficient. Staying feels risky. Presence feels almost radical.

And yet history, science, and personal loss keep pointing to the same truth: without this kind of love, nothing really heals.

So, if Valentine’s Day arrives with its roses and chocolate (enjoy it!) But I hope we can remember this version too—the quieter one. The kind on the other end the phone line. The kind that seeks connection. The kind that holds a frightened dog in the middle of the night. The kind that doesn’t announce itself but endures.

Because when all the answers run out, love is what remains.

Icy Frantz, The Icing on the Cake, icyfrantz.net

Love on Display: A Cultural History Written in Art



Venus, Eros, and attendants move across a dark ground, their gestures animated by a winged creature and dolphins. The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Picture Collection, The New York Public Library. “Venus seated on a swan and accompanied by Eros,” 1844–1861.



By Amelia Woodhouse

As Valentine’s Day approaches, expressions of love appear in their most compressed form. The flowers, the chocolates, the cards, the bottled spirits, the reservations all point toward a single, scheduled day.

Art history tells a different story. Across centuries, artists have returned to love as a subject that reflects how people imagine meaning. Traced over time, love in the arts reads as cultural evidence: shaped by belief, ritual, power, and place.

In the ancient world, love entered art with authority. Greek and Roman artists gave it divine form through Aphrodite and Venus, figures carved and painted as ideals of attraction, fertility, and influence. Desire functioned as a public force, tied to marriage, lineage, and civic order. Sculpture and poetry presented love as something that moved individuals and cities alike. Emotion carried weight and consequence.

During the medieval period, love took on structure. Courtly love emerged as a formal system that governed romance among the nobility. Poetry, song, and illuminated manuscripts presented devotion through rules of conduct: distance, loyalty, patience, longing. Love gained value through performance. Artists codified emotion into recognizable symbols, creating a shared language understood by audiences across regions. Romance became legible.

A couple turns a quiet kitchen into a dance floor, their raised hands catching the warmth of an ordinary evening made intimate through movement and connection. Photo by Hanna Lazar, published Nov. 21, 2025.

Across centuries, artists have treated love as cultural evidence, shaped by belief, ritual, power, and place—and sustained by audiences willing to gather, look, and listen.

The Renaissance expanded that language. Classical mythology returned, yet artists also turned inward, examining private feeling with new intensity. Love appeared in portraits, domestic objects, and literature as a personal experience shaped by desire and reflection. Petrarch’s poetry helped circulate a model of love marked by fixation and introspection, influencing visual artists who echoed this emotional depth through gesture and expression. Art linked mythic imagery with human vulnerability.

By the sixteenth century, artists treated love as layered and ambiguous. Allegorical paintings packed multiple meanings into a single scene. Pleasure, time, jealousy, and deception coexisted in dense compositions that required careful reading. Works such as Bronzino’s symbolic studies invited viewers to linger, interpret, and debate. Love became an intellectual subject

as much as an emotional one.

As Europe moved into the Enlightenment and early modern period, artists placed love within social frameworks. Paintings and plays examined courtship, marriage, and reputation. Domestic scenes and satirical works reflected how affection operated alongside class expectations and legal arrangements. Love functioned as negotiation, shaped by manners and public scrutiny. Art documented these dynamics with observational precision.

The Romantic movement of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries shifted focus toward intensity and individual experience. Artists elevated emotion as a primary source of meaning. Painters used landscape to mirror feeling. Writers and composers framed love as consuming and transformative. Opera embraced this scale, filling theaters with stories driven by devotion and sacrifice.



A woman in blue leans toward a soldier dressed in red, her hand resting on his arm as he prepares to leave—an intimate moment of attachment and resolve set against the quiet tension of wartime. In *Time of War* (d. 1914). Birmingham Museums Trust / Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.



An older couple stands close in a crowded room, the man resting his chin gently against the woman’s head—an unguarded moment of closeness rendered in quiet black and white. Photo by Gaspar Zaldo, published Feb. 20, 2022.

Audiences gathered to experience heightened emotion together, drawn by the power of shared response.

The arrival of modern life reframed intimacy again. Artists responded with scenes drawn from everyday life: couples in cafés, solitary figures, private interiors. Photography and film introduced new immediacy.

Across these periods, one pattern holds. Love in art thrives through visibility. Audiences play an active role, bringing attention and continuity to the work.

Artists have documented beautifully how people connect, commit, and belong. Their work endures because audiences continue to meet it with curiosity and presence.

This year Valentine’s Day is on Saturday so add a visit to a museum or catching a show to the list of flowers, chocolates, cards, bottled spirits, and restaurant reservations. Happy Valentine’s Day.

PLAYHOUSE
CONTINUED From Page 1

based around that and all kinds of things,” he said, adding that proximity to New York City creates opportunities for filmmaker talkbacks and special events.

The Playhouse’s second-floor lounge and The Pub on the main level are also part of the plan. In its release, Scene One said it intends to focus on “partnership activation of The Pub and second-floor speakeasy spaces.” The company is finalizing a partnership with Z Hospitality Group, the current operator of The Pub. “Z Hospitality is known for its quality operations at its many

innovative restaurants throughout Fairfield and Westchester counties. We look forward to expanding this partnership to the benefit of our guests, first and foremost,” Masher said in the release.

Concessions will receive attention as well. Masher said. “The butter on our popcorn will be real and it’ll be my secret recipe that we’ve served in other theaters and is very popular.” He added that he has received feedback from the town’s selection committee and council members on concession offerings and that “those suggestions” will be implemented “on day one.”

The broader movie theater business has changed since Masher last operated in New Canaan. He pointed to pre-pandemic studio mergers that reduced the number of annual film releases available to exhibitors and said that COVID-19 accelerated streaming

platforms’ timelines. Even so, he sees room for revival through curation and community engagement. At one of his Albany theaters, he recently programmed a month dedicated to director Rob Reiner’s body of work and previously mounted series devoted to Alfred Hitchcock and is planning one for actor Catherine O’Hara.

In New Canaan, he said, the goal is continuity with renewal. “I’m just very excited to be back,” Masher said. He noted the unanimous vote awarding the lease to Scene One and added, “I will not let anybody down. I’m sure that people are going to have a great time and I’m always accessible too for people to speak to or chat with anytime they want.”

A century-old theater, refurbished and reintroduced, is again under the direction of a man who knows its rhythms. The show, as he put it, “must go on.”

Melodies and Madrigals: from the Renaissance to Broadway





Melodies & Madrigals:

from the Renaissance to Broadway

Mary Petro Noonan, *soprano*
Lydia Cseh Dahling, *mezzo-soprano*
Trevor Scott, *tenor*
Jonathon Moon, *tenor*
Matthew Dexter, *bass-baritone*
Dylan Sauerwald, *harpsichord*

The Friends of Music at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, New Canaan, CT, present Melodies and Madrigals: from the Renaissance to Broadway; Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT.

The Choir of St. Mark’s, New Canaan, includes professional singers who are among the finest soloists in our corner of New England. They are heard regularly during services and concerts of sacred music at St. Mark’s, and they also excel in many other types of solo singing. This recital is a collection of vocal solos, many of which you will not hear in church!

The recital features Mary Petro Noonan, soprano; Lydia Cseh Dahling, mezzo-soprano; Trevor Scott & Jonathon Moon, tenors; and Matthew Dexter, bass; accompanied by Ned Tipton (Director of Music Ministries at St. Mark’s) at the piano, and Dylan Sauerwald on the harpsichord.

They will present a FUN array of music ranging from the Italian and English Renaissance to recent Broadway shows, passing through Bach, Handel, Offenbach, Tchaikovsky, Rogers & Hammerstein, Lerner & Lowe, John Musto, Samuel Barber - with a side trip across to popular French cabaret tunes of the early 20th century – Leonard Bernstein and ... Sting!

The event is followed by a light reception.

General tickets \$30 online/\$35.00 day of concert. Students \$10 – available here,

the St. Mark’s website, or St. Mark’s Facebook page.

If you enjoy singing – and even if you’ve never sung in a choir before – we also invite you to audition for the Choir of St. Mark’s. We are a committed, friendly, and enthusiastic choir of both volunteers and professionals that welcomes all voice types and experience levels, focusing on making beautiful music together, both for Sunday Services and our Seasonal Concert Series, while having fun and supporting one another in a caring and giving community. We hope you’ll consider adding your voice to the Choir of St. Mark’s New Canaan!

If you’re interested or have questions, please phone or email Ned Tipton, Director of Music Ministries, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. (203) 966-4515, x 113 ntipton@stmarksnewcanaan.org

“The Power of Love” at Silvermine opens on Valentine’s Day

In The Power of Love, opening on Valentine’s Day at Silvermine Galleries, artists explore love and its infinite aspects and manifestations. This special exhibition includes painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and assemblages that capture both specific images of love between people and love’s mysterious and ineffable qualities. The exhibition opens with a reception on Sat., Feb. 14, from 2–4 p.m. and will run through March 13.

Realistic and abstract art carve out equal ground here. Miggs Burrough’s lenticular photo, “Entwined,” honors a couple celebrating their 50th anniversary with a symbolic joining of hands. Derek Uhlman’s 3-D printed sculpture, “First Kiss,” is imbued with tenderness and lyricism. The abstract paintings invite lingering: Corinne Lapin-Cohen’s “Soul on Fire” channels pure sensation, deep color, and heat. Jennifer Moné Hill’s saturated hues bring us love as “a radiant, life-giving force.”

Heartache, happiness, and

resilience are all represented. Visitors will encounter the love between mother and child, the love of animals, and moments between grandparents and grandchildren. Images of the nest, the rose, the heart, and the ocean are all considered here along with folded paper, which artist Gregg Welz describes as “the medium for letters and messages.”

In the words of David Lubarsky, whose photographs appear in the exhibition, “love is learned, inherited, and renewed across generations, shaping who we are and how we carry one another through life’s most meaningful passages.” The Power of Love dazzles with its many surprising visions.

Silvermine Arts Center, one of the oldest artist communities in the United States, recently celebrated its centennial (1922–2022). The Galleries are open 10am – 4pm, Tues. to Sat. and closed Sun. and Mon. For more information, visit www.silvermineart.org.



Derek Uhlman's sculpture "First Kiss"



Miggs Burroughs' lenticular photo titled "Entwined"



Corinne Lapin-Cohen, Soul on Fire

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The Show Goes On

In most towns, the story ends differently.

The local movie theater closes. The marquee goes dark. The box office window collects dust. Eventually, a chain store moves in, or the space sits empty — a silent monument to what once was. More than 2,000 screens have closed nationwide since 2019, many in small towns that once built weekend routines around them.

Streaming dominates. Fewer films are made for theatrical release. Studios merge, cutting annual slates. Release windows vanish. COVID accelerated every trend. Where there was once communal viewing, there is now isolated convenience.

New Canaan defied the trend.

Scene One Entertainment will assume operations of the New Canaan Playhouse by March 15. The contract followed a unanimous vote by the Town Council and Board of Selectmen. The town had already invested \$8.5 million in a full renovation of the historic building. This wasn’t a nostalgic decision — it was a deliberate effort to retain one of the few truly public, shared spaces left in American town life.

The Playhouse isn’t just a venue for movies. It is a civic landmark, a place where people of different generations and backgrounds sit together, watch something unfold, and walk out having shared an experience. Teenagers on dates. Parents with children. Retirees revisiting old classics. A functioning downtown requires these spaces. Not commercial spaces. Communal ones.

Third places — settings outside home and work where relationships are formed — have grown rare. Churches, libraries, barbershops, and diners once served this purpose. Movie theaters did too. When they disappear, the public square thins. Residents become consumers, and daily life becomes increasingly private, even in public.

The Playhouse has survived over a century. It opened with Down to the Sea in Ships, starring Clara Bow in 1923. In 1986, it split to two screens. The structure has endured generations, but survival never happens by accident. It happens when a town says, “We are keeping this.” New Canaan did.

The theater will reopen with new programming, new energy, and a renewed partnership with the community. Scene One brings experience in both commercial and repertory cinema, and plans to incorporate independent films, director retrospectives, filmmaker talkbacks, and special screenings. Food and beverage offerings, shaped with local input, will expand. The upstairs lounge, once a little-known gem, will be open and accessible.

The goal isn’t to compete with streaming platforms. It’s to offer something they cannot: the discipline of attention, the serendipity of sitting with strangers, the small civic ritual of choosing to leave the house and join others. Screens glow in every home, but they don’t create belonging. Theaters can.

A town that maintains its theater is doing more than protecting a business. It is holding onto a local rhythm. Friday night premieres. Weekend matinees. Holiday traditions. Movies aren’t the only draw. The act of showing up — of being part of something unspoken but shared — shapes memory and identity.

Too often, these kinds of places disappear without much protest. A lease runs out. A landlord raises rent. The economics no longer pencil out. One more space vanishes. One less reason to walk through town.

New Canaan answered differently. It gathered residents, invested public funds, engaged local leaders, and brought in a new operator with national experience and local respect. No heroic gesture. Just consistent effort. Just a refusal to let the screen go dark.

The Playhouse isn’t a relic. It’s infrastructure — cultural, social, even moral. And for now, its doors remain open.

Editorial Page

Let’s Free Summer from Gas Leaf Blowers

It’s a familiar summer experience in New Canaan. You’re outdoors with family or friends, or maybe working indoors with the windows open as your children play in the yard. It’s a beautiful day, and you’re enjoying the peace and fresh air. But then a gas leaf blower starts up next door, or a landscaping crew fires up a pack of them down your street. The maddening roar drowns out your conversation and makes it impossible to concentrate. Soon the fumes drift over, and the fresh breeze has turned to foul-smelling exhaust. Your summer relaxation is ruined.

The problems go much deeper than that. Gas leaf blowers are far dirtier than other gas-powered machines. Their inefficient two-stroke engines spew out 30% of their fuel unburned. These unburned hydrocarbons, along with other pollutants such as benzene, formaldehyde and 1,3-butadiene, make gas leaf blower exhaust a potent carcinogen. You and your family are breathing this poisonous mix every time you smell gas blower exhaust. The danger is especially severe for children, who are more likely to be outdoors during the summer and whose developing lungs and brains are more vulnerable to toxins. In addition, gas leaf blower noise is well above WHO ceilings, a level that has been scientifically linked to stress, heart disease, and diabetes and to concentration and learning problems among children (for example see <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/everyday-noises-can-hurt-hearts-not-just-ears-and-the-ability-to-learn/>).

It doesn’t have to be this way. The evolution of electric leaf blowers has made them fully competitive with gas. In its latest review, updated last month, Consumer Reports concluded that “today’s battery leaf blowers can match or even beat the performance of gas models”. They have plenty of power for summer, when the work is only clearing grass clippings or blowing a few leaves.

Electric leaf blowers make sense for professional use as well. With no need for gas, oil or maintenance, their lower operating cost makes them more profitable to use, quickly recovering their purchase price. Since many local communities have restricted gas blowers, landscapers are already investing in this equipment, and there has been no evidence of landscaping cost increases or job losses in communities with gas blower restrictions. Several all-electric landscaping firms operate in Fairfield County now, and they report that their pricing and profitability are comparable to landscapers using gas. And landscaping workers are most exposed to the pollution and noise of gas leaf blowers, so transitioning to electric protects their health too.

Stamford, Westport, Greenwich and Norwalk, along with most communities in Westchester and many others around the country, have recognized the harm that gas

LETTER

Support Our Beloved Annual Tradition

As the temperature edges above freezing and the memories of Christmas fade, we wanted to reach out and thank everyone who contributed to the Caroling on God’s Acre. It is truly an effort of many secret Santa’s. From those who work year around to trim and light the tree to the team that annually builds the stage for the Town Band, the Town Band who endure ice cold lips to play the Christmas carols, those who decorate the stage with lights and garland, the song sheet donors, printers and graphic designers, the first responders who come early to ensure everyone’s safety and stay long after we’ve gone, and my fellow committee members and their hours of planning and fund raising.

While these efforts take place in relative anonymity, there is a cost each year. This cost has been paid by the initial fund raising done by the committee, but we need to keep raising money to pay these costs each year.

If this great annual Town wide tradition is one you value, please consider making a donation to the God’s Acre Christmas Caroling Foundation by sending a check to the New Canaan Community Foundation and earmarking it for our fund.

Thanks, and see you next Christmas Eve.

– God’s Acre Christmas Caroling Foundation Committee

New Canaan YMCA Roaring 20’s Hangouts Program Thanks Community Partners

The New Canaan YMCA is where everyone belongs, regardless of age, background, and ability. As part of its commitment to inclusion as an organization for all, the Y’s Roaring 20’s Hangouts program brings together young adults with varying abilities in the community to enjoy fun weekly activities with friends at the Y and out in the community.

The program launched in 2012 as Teen Scene, designed to meet the increasing need for teens with varying abilities in our community to have the opportunity to socialize with friends and enjoy enriching experiences. Through these weekly activities, participants build new skills, confidence, independence, and make lasting friendships. In 2023, the Y adapted the program to Roaring 20’s Hangouts to serve young adults ages 19 to 35 with varying abilities in the community, continuing its support of many of the participants who benefited from the program as teens. The Y’s Roaring 20’s participants meet weekly to enjoy enrichment nights at local community organizations in town and at the Y, with dinner included.

The Y is grateful to the many organizations in town who open their doors and volunteer their time supporting the Roaring 20’s program. Recent community partners include the Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan Historical Society, New Canaan Mounted Troop, and New Canaan Police Department. Activities from this past year include creating art at the Carriage Barn, learning about New Canaan’s history at the Historical Society, feeding horses at New Canaan Mounted Troop, and touring the new Police Department.

“A huge thank-you to the amazing community partners who make our program so special! Whether it’s a night of art, a delicious meal on the town, or an insightful tour, your generosity creates unforgettable experiences for our members. Your support turns a simple evening into an enriching adventure for our participants,” shared Carollynn Kaufman, Director of Inclusion & Support Services at the New Canaan YMCA.

According to a study by Frontiers in Psychology, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who participated in community-based social and recreational programs reported greater life satisfaction and lower rates of loneliness. These findings contribute to a greater sense of inclusion and belonging, leading to long-term health and quality of life.

The Y’s longstanding Y Support Needs (YSN) initiative serves over 130 kids, teens, and adults with varying abilities each year. Through the initiative, the Y offers meaningful programs, summer camps, inclusion support services, special events, and employment opportunities, ensuring that individuals of all abilities can flourish by building confidence, making friends, and developing independence.

The YSN initiative is made possible by community partners and donations. To learn more about the Y’s Inclusion & Support Needs programming or to support the initiative, visit www.newcanaanymca.org.



New Canaan YMCA Roaring 20’s program learning about New Canaan’s History at the Historical Society. Submitted photo.

COLUMN



By RUSSELL R. BARKSDALE, JR.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was founded on July 1, 1946, in Atlanta, Georgia, with a narrow mission: stop malaria at home after World War II. In the decades that followed, the CDC has grown into one of the most powerful public-health institutions in the world, charged with protecting more than 330 million Americans from disease, injury, and disability. Its authority rested on a simple idea—that science, data, and domestic epidemiology, not politics or ideology, would guide public-health decisions.

That premise is now under strain.

Few issues reveal this more clearly than the debate over childhood vaccination policy, where U.S. officials are increasingly looking abroad for models—notably to Denmark.

The CDC currently recommends vaccines

protecting against roughly 18 infectious diseases across childhood and adolescence. These include diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, hepatitis A and B, pneumococcal disease, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), rotavirus, influenza, meningococcal disease, human papillomavirus (HPV), COVID-19, and more recently RSV protection for infants and pregnant women. Some vaccines are universal; others are recommended based on age, risk, or geography. Together, they reflect an expansive approach aimed at preventing outbreaks before they occur.

Denmark takes a more restrained path.

Denmark’s national childhood vaccination program, administered by the Danish Health Authority, targets about ten diseases. Danish children are routinely vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, Hib, pneumococcal disease, measles, mumps,

rubella, and HPV. Notably absent from the routine schedule are vaccines for chickenpox, rotavirus, seasonal influenza, hepatitis A, and a universal birth dose for hepatitis B. Other vaccines, including influenza and COVID-19 shots, are offered selectively to older adults or high-risk groups rather than universally to children.

The contrast is not arbitrary.

Denmark is a country of about 5.9 million people with a centralized, tax-funded healthcare system, uniform medical records, and an elevated public trust in government health institutions. Vaccination decisions are made nationally, implemented consistently, and supported by comprehensive disease surveillance. If a disease is rare or poses limited domestic risk, Danish officials can decide that routine vaccination is unnecessary, relying instead on monitoring and targeted responses.

The United States operates in a fundamentally different

environment. Its population is more than fifty times larger, far more diverse, and far less centralized. Healthcare delivery is highly fragmented across states, insurers, and providers. International travel is constant, compliance varies widely, and outbreaks are harder to contain. The CDC’s broader vaccination schedule should reflect these realities, emphasizing prevention in a system where rapid, uniform response is often impossible.

Still, the appeal of Denmark’s model is growing. Some policymakers and commentators argue that a leaner vaccination schedule could improve public trust, reduce parental anxiety, and encourage more thoughtful, individualized decision-making. Denmark’s cautious expansion of its vaccine program and strong post-marketing safety surveillance are frequently cited as evidence that “more” is not always better.

Critics push back just as forcefully. They warn that importing another country’s

health policy without fully accounting for scale, culture, and infrastructure risks unintended consequences. A narrower schedule in the U.S., they argue, could leave gaps in protection—especially in communities already struggling with low vaccination rates and limited healthcare access. What Denmark can manage through centralized oversight, the U.S. may not.

There is also a deeper concern about governance. Public health policy can be more than purely technical. It can reflect national values about risk, responsibility, and accountability. When American agencies appear to look overseas for validation rather than grounding decisions clearly in U.S. data, it raises an uncomfortable question: who, ultimately, sets health policy for Americans and for our school systems? In a country with such diverse views, does any governmental agency have the level of public trust to build consensus on something as personal as

healthcare? The U.S. should not ignore international experiences. Comparative analysis has long been essential to scientific progress, and Denmark’s emphasis on transparency, restraint, and public communication offers lessons worth studying. Arguably, however, learning from another country is not the same as adopting its policies blindly.

The CDC’s credibility may lie in the balance and its effectiveness solely dependent upon maintaining its core mission without political bias: evidence-based recommendations tailored to American conditions, informed but not dictated by global trends. Denmark may quickly drive America’s vaccination policy. The challenge is ensuring that, in an era of political pressure and public skepticism, the CDC can regain its effectiveness and trust.

Russell R. Barksdale, Jr., PHD, MPA/MHA, FACHE
President and CEO Waveny LifeCare Network.

New Canaan Rams Sports Varsity Roundup

By CHRISTOPHER DeMUTH

Boys Hockey

The New Canaan boys hockey team delivered one of its strongest stretches of the season, winning all three games. The Rams opened the week on Feb. 2 with a 14–0 road victory over Ridgefield. New Canaan controlled the game from start to finish, scoring five goals in each of the first two periods before adding four more in the third. The defense held Ridgefield without a single goal all night.

Two days later, the Rams returned home and defeated Notre Dame–West Haven 4–1 in a non-conference matchup. New Canaan scored once in the first period, added two more in the second, and sealed the win with another goal in the third. Strong goaltending limited the Green Knights to just one late score.

The week ended with another impressive performance on Feb. 7, as the Rams beat Greenwich 6–1. After a 1–1 first period, New Canaan took control with a goal in the second and exploded for four more in the third to pull away. The team’s offense and defense continue to look playoff-ready.

Girls Basketball

The New Canaan girls basketball team enjoyed a successful week with a pair of conference victories. On Feb. 3, the Rams traveled to Stamford and defeated Westhill 39–15. New Canaan’s defense set the tone, holding the Vikings to just 15 points for the entire game.

The Rams followed that with an exciting home win over rival Darien on Feb. 6. New Canaan topped the Blue Wave 48–38 in a physical and competitive contest. The Rams pulled ahead in the second half and made key free throws down the

stretch to secure the victory. The team continues to build momentum as the postseason approaches.

Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team also had a strong week, earning two home victories. On Feb. 3, New Canaan edged Westhill 47–45 in a tightly contested game. The Rams held off a late Vikings rally to escape with the win in front of the home crowd.

Three days later, New Canaan hosted Darien and delivered a more comfortable 54–37 victory. The Rams built an early lead and never looked back, using balanced scoring and tough defense to beat their rival. The team now sits in good position heading into the final stretch of the regular season.

Girls Hockey

The New Canaan girls hockey team split its two games this week. On Feb. 3, the Rams defeated Ludlowe 4–1 at home in a strong all-around performance. New Canaan controlled play for much of the game and finished its scoring chances effectively.

The Rams returned to the ice on Feb. 7 for a conference showdown with Darien. In a hard-fought defensive game, New Canaan fell 2–1. Both teams played tight hockey throughout, but the Blue Wave managed to score the deciding goal. The Rams will look to bounce back in their next matchup.

Boys Track and Field

The New Canaan boys indoor track team competed at the FCIAC Championships on Feb. 5 and produced several incredible performances.

Senior Ryan Monohan won the 1600 meters in 4:20.73, one of the top results of the meet. Teammate

Charlie Cavanagh finished seventh in the same race with a personal best of 4:40.65. In the 600 meters, Quinn Kilkenny placed fourth in 1:25.58, while Leo Baroni finished sixth in 1:27.20.

Peter Tsapralis had a strong day in the hurdles, taking fourth in the finals with a time of 8.53 seconds. Charlie Koch finished second in the long jump with a leap of 20 feet, 10.75 inches, the top field result for the Rams.

The 4x400 relay team of Baroni, Koch, Bardales, and Monohan placed fourth in 3:36.89, while the 4x200 squad finished 11th. The Rams showed depth across sprint, distance, and field events as they prepare for state competition.

Girls Track and Field

The New Canaan girls track team also impressed at the FCIAC Championships with several top finishes.

Freshman Georgina Harrington took second in the 600 meters with a time of 1:38.55, while junior Sienna deKanter had an outstanding meet. DeKanter placed third in the 1000 meters (3:03.47), fourth in the 1600 meters (5:14.09), and third in the 3200 meters (11:19.30), earning points in three events.

In the field, Kate Frangione finished second in the pole vault at 10 feet, 6 inches, and also took fifth in the 55-meter hurdles. Milana Hutchins placed second in the long jump with a personal best of 17 feet and took fourth in the high jump.

The Rams relay teams were also strong. The 4x800 relay finished second in 9:52.13, and the sprint medley relay also placed second in 4:24.92. The performances showed the depth and balance of the girls program heading into the postseason.

Date	Team (School – Gender – Sport)	Opponent	Score
2/6	New Canaan – Boys – Basketball	Darien	New Canaan 54 – Darien 37
2/10	New Canaan – Boys – Basketball	Bridgeport Central	New Canaan 57 – Bridgeport Central 52
2/4	New Canaan – Boys – Hockey	Notre Dame West Haven	New Canaan 4 – Notre Dame West Haven 1
2/7	New Canaan – Boys – Hockey	Greenwich	New Canaan 6 – Greenwich 1
2/3	New Canaan – Girls – Basketball	Westhill	New Canaan 39 – Westhill 15
2/6	New Canaan – Girls – Basketball	Darien	New Canaan 48 – Darien 38
2/10	New Canaan – Girls – Basketball	Bridgeport Central	New Canaan 44 – Bridgeport Central 32
2/7	New Canaan – Girls – Hockey	Darien	New Canaan 1 – Darien 2
2/7	St. Lukes – Boys – Basketball	Frederick Gunn	St. Lukes 49 – Frederick Gunn 48
2/2	St. Lukes – Boys – Squash	Greens Farms	St. Lukes 0 – Greens Farms 7
2/4	St. Lukes – Boys – Squash	New Canaan	St. Lukes 7 – New Canaan 0
2/5	St. Lukes – Boys – Squash	Greenwich Country Day	St. Lukes 4 – Greenwich Country Day 3
2/2	St. Lukes – Girls – Basketball	Masters School	St. Lukes 75 – Masters School 24
2/4	St. Lukes – Girls – Basketball	Sacred Heart	St. Lukes 51 – Sacred Heart 75

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Spring Brings Giants to Bermuda: Why March and April Are Prime Whale-Watching Season

By GARETH EDMONDSON-JONES

Something extraordinary happens just offshore from Bermuda as winter starts to loosen its grip on the North Atlantic. In March and April, the island becomes a front-row seat to one of nature’s great migrations, as humpback whales pass through its deep blue waters on their annual journey north.

For travelers, these early spring months offer the best opportunity to witness whales in Bermuda—often in dramatic fashion. Spouts rise on the horizon, tails slap the surface, and massive bodies breach clear of the water, creating moments that are both humbling and unforgettable.

Their timing is rooted in instinct. After spending the winter breeding and calving in the warm Caribbean, humpback whales then begin their long swim toward

In March and April, the island becomes a front-row seat to one of nature’s great migrations, as humpback whales pass through its deep blue waters on their annual journey north.



Humpback whales off the coast of Bermuda

feeding grounds in the North Atlantic, including the waters off Canada and Greenland. Bermuda sits directly along this migratory route, making March and April the peak window for sightings. By May, most whales have moved on.

What makes Bermuda especially appealing for

whale-watchers is how accessible the experience can be. Dedicated whale-watching tours operate throughout the season, typically launching from the island’s western parishes and heading offshore into deeper waters where whales are most often seen. These outings, usually lasting

several hours, are led by seasoned captains who track whale movements and understand how to approach them responsibly.

But boat tours aren’t the only way to spot whales here. On calm days, the island’s south and west coasts offer excellent vantage points for shore-based

viewing. Elevated lookouts and cliffside paths can reveal spouts and breaches surprisingly close to land, especially when whales linger as they rest, socialize, or travel with calves.

Spring weather adds to the appeal. March and April bring mild temperatures, fewer crowds, and clearer skies than the busier summer months. On the water, conditions can be brisk, but visibility is often excellent—ideal for scanning the horizon or watching whales glide beneath the surface.

Bermuda follows strict guidelines to ensure whales are not disturbed, particularly mothers with calves. Reputable tour operators adhere to these rules, keeping a safe distance and allowing whales to dictate the encounter—a reminder that this is wildlife on its own terms.

Whale watching enthusiasts and others from

New Canaan now enjoy fast and convenient access to Bermuda with nonstop flights from Westchester County Airport (HPN). The country’s own flag carrier BermudAir flies three times a week from Westchester on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, if purchased by February 15, the airline is currently offering two flights for the price of one for travel through March, when using the promo code ‘LOVE4TWO’ at check-out.

For some visitors, seeing a humpback whale in the wild becomes the highlight of a trip to Bermuda. March and April offer a brief but spectacular window to witness these ocean giants as they pass by, reminding us that sometimes the most memorable journeys aren’t just the ones we take—but the ones we’re lucky enough to witness.

Women’s Conference to Feature Kate Bowler in April

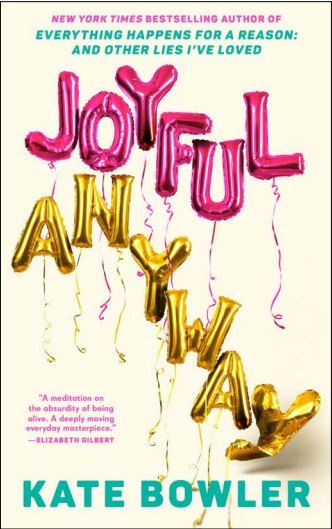
Christ Church will host its annual women’s conference on Saturday, April 18, 2026, bringing *New York Times* bestselling author and Duke Divinity School professor Kate Bowler to speak on faith, suffering and joy before an anticipated audience of more than 300 women.

The conference, titled “Your Awakened Life,” runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Christ Church Greenwich, 254 East Putnam Ave. Organizers say tickets are now on sale and include Bowler’s newest book, *Joyful Anyway*, along with breakfast, lunch and three workshops selected by participants.

Early Bird tickets are priced at \$110 through Feb. 18 and increase to \$125 after that date. The event has sold out in each of the past three years, according to organizers.

Bowler, an associate professor of American religious history at Duke Divinity School, first gained national attention for her memoir *Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I’ve Loved)*, written after her Stage IV cancer

Whether you come seeking renewal, clarity, rest, or inspiration, this day promises meaningful conversations, beautiful spaces.



Last Year’s Women’s Conference gathered 300 women for a remarkably empowering event at Christ Church.

diagnosis. The book examined popular Christian narratives about success and suffering through the lens of her own illness.

She now hosts the podcast “Everything Happens,” where she speaks with guests about navigating difficult questions of faith and meaning. Organizers describe her work as exploring “faith, suffering, joy, and the truths of human life with

intelligence, honesty, and humor.” Bowler has more than 400,000 followers across her platforms in the faith and spirituality space.

At the April conference, Bowler will speak about *Joyful Anyway*, her latest book. The day will begin with breakfast followed by her keynote address. The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan

of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, will offer the opening prayer and remarks.

The conference is organized by the Women of Christ Church Greenwich and is structured to allow flexibility. After the keynote, attendees will select three seminar sessions from a slate of offerings covering theology, psychology, finance and contemplative practice.

Workshop topics include “The God Circuit: What the Brain Reveals About Prayer, Presence & Walking on Eggshells: How to Stay Sane When Dealing with Fragile Narcissists,” led by psychologist Dr. Betsy Holmberg. Elizabeth Schrader Polczer, Ph.D., will present “Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John: A Case of Textual Suppression? & Who was Mary Magdalene?”

Financial independence will be addressed in “Awakening to Your Financial Independence: Taking Control of Your Financial Future,” led by Julie Jason, JD, LL.M. Iris Eplan, LMSW, will guide “Resonance: A Sound Bath Journey to Inner Stillness.” Additional sessions include “Unplugged & Present: Reclaiming Your Attention in a Distracted World,” led by Julianne Furniss-Green, LCSW; “Bloom Where You’re Planted: Creating Beauty from What’s Before You,” with Eugenie Pavlic and Pam Reimers; “Awakened Living: Strengthening the Heart & Renewing Our Strength,” led by Melissa Murphy, MA, CMHC, LPC; and “Finding Your Center: Techniques in Meditation and

Prayer,” led by Elizabeth Fitts, Ph.D.

Organizers describe the gathering as “an immersive learning experience with women, by women, and for women.” Promotional materials add: “Whether you come seeking renewal, clarity, rest, or inspiration, this day promises meaningful conversations, beautiful spaces, and the freedom to explore faith and life with honesty and hope.”

The event reflects a broader pattern of women’s conferences within mainline Protestant congregations that blend theological reflection with practical concerns about mental health, financial literacy and spiritual formation. By combining academic scholarship, pastoral leadership and applied workshops, the conference aims to address both personal faith and daily life.

Questions about the event may be directed to womensconference@christchurchgreenwich.org

Tickets are available while supplies last. Organizers say they anticipate strong demand again this year.

New Evidence Alert – Trees Bring Improved Health



Living in urban areas with a higher percentage of visible trees has showed a 4 percent decrease in cardiovascular disease as reported in the January 29 *Harvard Gazette*. Contributed photo.

“Living in cities that have more trees—and less grass and shrubs—was linked with decreased risk of heart disease.”

By ANNE W. SEMMES

Thanks go to Peter Malkin, co-founder and president of the Tree Conservancy for an alert coming from his alma mater’s *Harvard Gazette*, dated January 29 - “Living near trees linked with lower heart disease risk in cities.” The article (by Karen Feldscher) reads: “Living in cities that have more trees—and less grass and shrubs—was linked with decreased risk of heart

disease, according to a new study co-authored by researchers from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The multi-institutional study led by researchers from the University of California, Davis appears in the February issue of *Environmental Epidemiology*. ‘Our findings suggest public health interventions should prioritize the preservation and planting of tree canopies in neighborhoods,’ said first author

Peter James, adjunct associate professor of environmental health at Harvard Chan School, in a January 21 article from *UC Davis Health*.

Researchers analyzed more than 350 million street view images from urban areas across the U.S. - showing neighborhood environments from the vantage point of what a pedestrian would see—to estimate the percentages of trees, grasses, and other

greenery in each area. They then linked those findings to 18 years’ worth of health data from nearly 89,000 women in the Nurses’ Health Study, determining the type and percentage of greenery within roughly 500 meters of each participants’ home address.

Living in urban areas with a higher percentage of visible trees was associated with a 4 percent decrease in cardiovascular disease (CVD), the study found. But areas with a higher percentage of grass were associated with a 6 percent increase in CVD, and areas with other types of vegetation, such as bushes or shrubs, were linked with a 3 percent increase in CVD.

The authors speculated that grass and shrubs link with higher CVD risk could be due to the use of pesticides, air-quality impacts from mowing, lower cooling capacity than trees, and lower capacity to filter noise and air pollution.’

“The research opens a promising new avenue: improving cardiovascular health through community-level environmental changes rather than relying solely on individual lifestyle choices,” said co-author Eric Rimm, professor in Harvard Chan School’s Departments of Epidemiology and Nutrition. “Heart disease has such an enormous impact on the

Western world that even moving the needle slightly towards earlier prevention can make a meaningful difference.”

Other Harvard Chan School co-authors included Jaime Hart, Francine Laden, and Brent Coull.” Further studies include: “Assessing greenspace and cardiovascular disease risk through deep learning analysis of street-view imagery in the US-based nationwide Nurses’ Health Study,” the *UC Davis Health* article: “Trees—not grass and other greenery—associated with lower heart disease risk in cities,” and a *HealthDay* article: “Trees—But Not Grass Or Other Greenery—Good For Urban Dwellers’ Heart Health.”

Postscript: Certainly, these findings would have pleased and impressed another Harvard notable, the late and great Professor E.O. Wilson whose *Biophilia Hypothesis* declared our love of nature as traceable to our genes. Wilson would host a conference in 1992 at the Woods Hole Research Center, MA, inviting a group of distinguished scientists to address that Hypothesis. Strong support came from Dr. Roger Ulrich, an environmental psychologist from Texas A&M, who was finding that hospital patients exposed to natural landscapes had “significantly speedier recovery.”

NEWS BRIEFS
CONTINUED From Page 1

Simon Winchester Visited Library



On February 10, New Canaan Library hosted author Simon Winchester as part of the Attwood Lecture Series. He discussed his book *The Breath of the Gods*, which explores the role of wind in shaping history, science, and modern life. Photo credit: New Canaan Library.

Rotarians Visit New Canaan

Rick Benson of the Westport Rotary Club and Martha Wells Hoffman of the Madison Rotary Club spoke at a recent Rotary meeting. Benson discussed fundraising opportunities through the district's



International Legacy Foundation program. Hoffman presented Call to Care Uganda, a long-term project to build wells and expand access to clean water in Uganda. Pictured L-R: Rick Benson, Martha Wells Hoffman, and Tom Ferguson. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

PEOPLE IN TOWN

Quinnipiac Dean's List

Several New Canaan students were named to Quinnipiac University's fall 2025 Dean's List, including Cameron Forte, Katie Servidio, Ryder Stein, and honors student Sydney Mashia.

SCHOOLS

NCHS 2026 Graduation Date

The New Canaan High School Class of 2026 will graduate on June 16, with a rain date of June 17, following approval by the Board of Education.

South School Valentines for Veterans



Recently, students at South School participated in the Valentines for Veterans project, creating cards to be delivered to a local VA hospital, Homes for the Brave in Bridgeport, and other veterans organizations. Photo credit: New Canaan Public Schools.

New Hires at NCCS Horizons

On Feb. 2, Horizons at New Canaan Country School welcomed two new full-year staff members. Jennifer Bentley was appointed Director of Student and Family Programming, and Katy Walsh Banks was appointed Director of Academic Success. Bentley previously led Kids Helping Kids, and Walsh Banks brings more than nine years of public school teaching experience.

NCCS Bird Houses



Recently, third-grade students at New Canaan Country School built birdhouses in woodshop and plan to hang them on campus. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

SPORTS

SLS MS Squash Championships

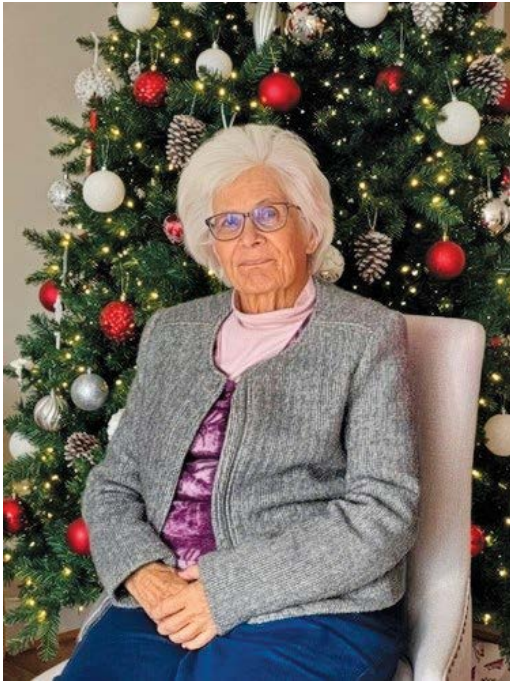


St. Luke's Middle School squash teams recently competed in the U.S. Middle School Team Squash Championships in Philadelphia, a tournament that included more than 90 schools and over 500 athletes. The girls team placed second in its division, and the boys team placed fifth. Photo credit: St. Luke's School.



Obituaries

MARTHA HAYES



Martha Elizabeth Hayes, age 78, passed away peacefully on February 2, 2026, surrounded by her family. She was born on February 8, 1947, in New York, New York, to Douglas Burleigh and Elizabeth Bullard Burleigh.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, John Mervin Hayes; her brother, David Burleigh of San Francisco, Calif.; her daughters, Jennifer Margaret Hayes Essigs of New Canaan, CT and Jodie Mary Hayes Wong and her husband, Wiatt Wong of Anthem, Arizona; and her cherished grandchildren, William Hayes Essigs and his wife, Anneliese Brown, Nathaniel Hayes Essigs, and Kaylee Marna Wong.

Martha married John Mervin Hayes on January 28, 1967, in Flint, Michigan. Together they built a life centered on faith, family, and service. In 1972, Martha and John moved to Lake Havasu City, Arizona, where they raised their family and formed lifelong friendships. They later settled in Anthem, Arizona, to be closer to Jodie, Wiatt, and Kaylee. Summers were often spent in the cool mountain air of Pinetop, Arizona, a place they came to love deeply and where they made their full-time home in 2020.

Martha was a faithful and devoted Christian throughout her life and found great joy in her church community at Pinetop Community Presbyterian Church. She was an active member of the Presbyterian Women's Club, where she participated in service projects and acts of kindness that reflected her quiet generosity and steadfast faith.

Martha worked for many years at the United States Post Office, retiring after approximately 30 years of dedicated service. In retirement, she embraced a full and meaningful life. She focused her time on friends, tending her garden, hiking in the mountains, practicing yoga, and traveling to visit family.

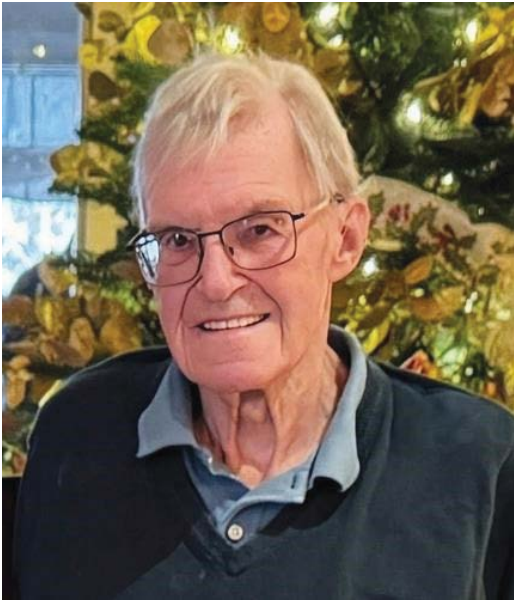
In her final weeks, Martha found special joy living in New Canaan with her family nearby. She often expressed gratitude for family dinners, time together, and the simple comfort of being surrounded by those she loved most. She frequently said she had a good family and that she was grateful for her life.

Martha will be remembered for her gentle, positive spirit, deep faith, love of family, and a life quietly devoted to service and gratitude.

A memorial service will be held in late spring or early summer in Pinetop, Arizona.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a church or nonprofit organization of your choice.

JAMES MACDONALD



James Locke Macdonald of Rye, NH, died peacefully in his home on Jan. 31, 2026, surrounded by his family. He was 94 years old, and passed after a short battle with complications of heart disease.

Young Jamie was raised in New Canaan, CT, the son of Corinne Parsons Macdonald (Connie) of Rye and James Ronald Macdonald (Ronald) of Brooklyn, NY. He attended Cherry Lawn School in Darien, CT, then boarded at Choate during high school (by which time he'd dropped the hated "Jamie" and became "Jim"), before attending Yale as a Calhoun man, graduating in 1953 with a major in Art History. After serving at the tail end of the Korean War, Jim had a brief stint working on Wall Street before finding his career with the Merrill-Anderson company, which specialized in creating advertising for the trust departments of banks. This allowed Jim to actually make a living from his art history degree by writing about art and artifacts that were of interest to wealthy clients, and to use his formidable skills as a writer.

When Jim met the lovely Patricia Brown at a party, she had just returned from a grand tour of Europe and was flush with stories of the great works of art and ancient buildings she had seen. They hit it off, and Jim got tickets to the hottest show in town, "My Fair Lady," to impress her - although he could only afford to get two seats behind one another. Pat really liked him, but told him she was sick for her next date because another guy she was seeing had a boat. When Jim went by her home to bring soup, he learned of the deception and broke things off. That was when Pat's heart sank because she realized he was the one, so she got him a bottle of his favorite Scotch and apologized. But the rest wasn't history quite yet. One night, at the end of a date, Pat and Jim were talking on the sofa. Pat nudged a pillow to the floor, and Jim, always chivalrous, picked it up. A few minutes later, the pillow again wound up on the floor, and Jim picked it up. After the pillow fell a third time, Jim asked Pat why she kept knocking it to the floor. "It's for your bended knee." Jim exclaimed that he would love to marry her, but that he would not be able to keep her in the style to which she had become accustomed. Pat replied that she did not care a whit about that, and they got married in a side chapel of St. Thomas in NYC, before moving into a converted chicken coop in the backyard of a friend.

Pat and Jim went on to have two daughters. When the oldest was 9, Pat woke in the middle of the night, paralyzed down the right side of her body. She was having her first attack of multiple sclerosis, though it took a number of years to get a diagnosis. From that day on, Jim and Pat gave up cocktail parties and lived a

quiet but rich life based at home. Jim went on playing tennis for another 60 years, but focused on being Pat's companion, and, as they aged, her caretaker. She was the love of his life, his beautiful blonde to her dying day.

In addition to tennis, Jim exercised every day, often taking long walks on the grounds of stately homes or museums or along the coast, posting his photographs on Facebook to share with the family. He kept up with the New York Times, but was also an avid reader of The Scotsman, and, because his older daughter lived in Denmark for a number of years, the Copenhagen Post. After Pat's death, at the invitation of his younger daughter, Jim became the writer of the newsletter of the Rye Historical Society, a job that felt like a legacy to him, since his grandfather, Langdon B. Parsons, had written the history of the town. Jim wrote his final newsletter just two weeks before his death.

Jim is survived by his daughter Clare Macdonald, her husband Sebastian Hammer, and his grandchildren Dylan and Jamie Hammer, and his daughter Virginia Macdonald, her partner Rolfe French, and Virginia's daughters from a previous marriage, Rebecca and Julie Schneider. Pat passed away in 2020.

A Celebration of Life will be held online on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 2:00 p.m. EST to allow Jim's friends and extended family to attend. A family graveside ceremony for the burial of Pat and Jim will be held in August. Interested attendees for either event should email macdonaldginna@gmail.com to receive an invitation.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the [National Multiple Sclerosis Society or NPR. Arrangements by Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory, Hampton, NH.

JOSEPH TARQUENO



Joseph "Joe" "Jay" Tarqueno passed away peacefully on January 29, 2026 in Boca Raton, Florida at the age of 95.

Born on January 4, 1931 in Derby, CT, Joe began a life marked by dedication, resilience and warmth. On his 18th birthday, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, proudly serving his country and laying the foundation for a lifetime of commitment and service. After his military service, he began his professional journey in New Canaan, CT with a hair salon business before co-owning New Canaan Foreign Car. Later in life, he transitioned into real estate and built a successful career as a realtor in New Canaan. His entrepreneurial spirit and work ethic were evident throughout each chapter of his professional life.

Joe and his wife Marianne lived and raised their three children in Westport, Ct.

They were residents of Westport for 50 years before moving to Boca Raton, Florida. Joe was known for his sociable nature and zest for life. He enjoyed racquetball, golf and skiing on the slopes of Sugarbush in Vermont with his family. He also cherished time spent at Compo beach with his beloved wife Marianne. Joe and Marianne created wonderful memories as host and hostess to the parties they often held at their beautiful home. Joe brought energy and kindness to every interaction.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 65 years, Marianne (Kulakowski) Tarqueno and their beloved son David Tarqueno. His sisters, Eleanore, Virginia and Pauline and sister-in-law, Audrey Autuori Jack.

Joe is survived by his daughter Lisa Crawford, son Peter Tarqueno (life partner Sally Penn), grandchildren Christine and Cole Crawford and a sister-in-law, Donna Fischer of Zurich. He also leaves behind several nieces and nephews who will remember him fondly.

May Joseph Tarqueno's memory bring comfort to those who knew him and serve as a lasting tribute to a life well lived. A memorial service will be held in his honor for the immediate family.

JAMES CORSON



James C. Corson "Jimbo" On December 13, 2025 the world lost a good one. James Charles Corson Sr. (Jimbo) of Easton passed.

He loved his two kids, Jimmy and Jenny, his grandchildren Parker and Caroline Corson and Carson and Cooper Scairato, they loved spending time with "Desi" and they were one of his favorite things in life. He cherished Nandy his wife of nearly 52 years. She was the light of his life.

Jimbo is survived by his Wife, Nancy Corson, two children, James Corson Jr. of Easton, Jennifer Corson of Trappe, grandchildren Parker, Caroline, Carson and Cooper, two sisters Lynn Corson of New Cannan, CT, Nancy NanCarrow and brother-in-law Jim NanCarrow of Norwalk, CT, and his faithful black lab Casino.

A celebration of life is planned for a later date.

The New Canaan Sentinel does not charge for obituaries. Every member of the community deserves to be remembered and honored without families facing added financial burdens. Obituaries may be sent to Carroll@GreenwichSentinel.com.

The cost of publishing obituaries is covered by The Sentinel Foundation, a nonprofit that supports the local Top 5 Things to Do Today daily email, obituaries, education and entertainment pages, worship pages, and sponsorship of charitable organizations and events.

Spend
Valentine's
Day
with the
one
you love



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On Valentine's Day
Wednesday, Feb. 14

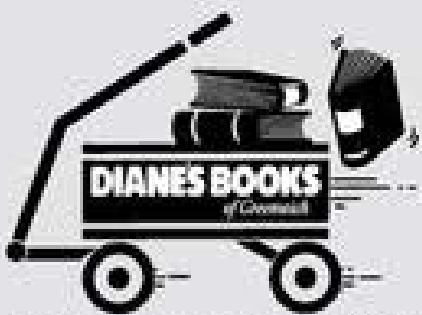
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Legal Ads

LEGAL AD

Notice of Republican Town Committee Caucus

The New Canaan Republican Town Committee (RTC) hereby gives notice that New Canaan Republicans will hold a caucus on Monday, March 30, 2026 at 7p.m. at New Canaan Town Hall for the purpose of endorsing delegates for various Republican conventions.

Beginning on Friday, February 20th, 2026, registered New Canaan Republicans interested in being candidates for delegates may obtain their petition forms by sending an email request to chairman@newcanaanrepublicans.org. All completed petitions must be submitted no later than 12 p.m. on Sunday, March 8th, 2026. Please refer to www.newcanaanrepublicans.org for more information and the RTC by-laws.

REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

LEGAL AD

February 12, 2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Selectmen for the Town of New Canaan, Connecticut, will receive sealed bids for "Sidewalks, 2026: Butler Lane, Danvers Lane and Whiffle Tree Lane", New Canaan, Connecticut, until 10:00 a.m. Local Time on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT, 06840, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Contract documents are available for review at the Department of Public Works Office, TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Copies of the contract documents for the work may be obtained in person during business hours from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following location: Department of Public Works Office, Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840.

Bidders attention is called to the requirements as to the conditions of employment to be observed and to the requirements for the prompt commencement and completion of the work. Work must be completed by August 28, 2026.

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

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

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

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

TIGER MANN

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN, CONNECTICUT

LEGAL AD

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, February 24, 2026 this hearing is scheduled as a hybrid meeting to be held in the Board Room at Town Hall, 77 Main Street at 7:00 p.m. with access available in person or via an on-line system to hear and decide the application(s) as follows:

1. 635 Frogtown Road – Upon application of Stephen A. Finn, Wofsey, Rosen, Kuriansky, LLP, Authorized Agent for New Canaan Country School, owner(s) for a Special Permit approval pursuant to Section 6.4.G and 6.5.B.4 to permit soil disturbance in excess of 10,000 square feet and the construction of a retaining wall, portions of which will exceed four feet in height, in connection with the alteration of three existing athletic fields, two of which will be converted to artificial turf on property in the 2 Acre Zone at 635 Frogtown Road (Map 25, Block 12, Lot 160).

Dated: February 12, 2026

New Canaan, Connecticut

Daniel Radman, Chairman

LEGAL AD

TOWN OF NEW CANAAN INLAND WETLAND COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON and ON-LINE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the INLAND WETLAND COMMISSION of the Town of New Canaan will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on Monday, February 23, 2026 - Town Meeting Room, 77 Main Street, starting at 7pm to hear the following application:

1. Application Number 25-53- 677 South Avenue-Town of New Canaan-Waveny Park. Map 30 Block 51 Lot 121. Waveny Park Conservancy is requesting to remove approximately 50, 10" in diameter or larger, Norway Maple trees and selective shrubbery in the adjoining areas to the north, east and south of the existing Anderson pond and re-plant with native species in the Spring 2026. Stone steps and additional sections of foot paths will also be added to provide better viewing access to the pond. Agent: Tiger Mann, Director Public Works & Michelle Crookenden, Waveny Conservancy, Executive Director.

Sandy Reddin, Secretary

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 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.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

49 Park Street 203.966.0293
christiansciencect.org/newcanaan
Sunday 10:30 AM, in person only. Sunday School is available during Sunday Service and is open to children and young people up to the age of 20. There is also childcare available for children too young for Sunday School.
Wednesday Testimony Meeting: 1st Wednesday of each month, join by zoom or by phone 646 558 8656. Reading Room Hours: Open Mondays 11-2, Call to confirm hours 203-966-0293. All are welcome to the Sunday and Wednesday services, Sunday School, and the reading room.

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002
fpcnc.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:

February 6 at 7 PM: New Canaan Chamber Music Concert. Tickets are \$50 and available at <https://newcanaanchambermusic.org/tickets/>.

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. As 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:

February 28 at 6 PM: The professional members of the St. Mark's Choir will delight everyone with their talents in a program of solos from operas, oratorios, and musicals, as well as entertaining works for vocal ensemble. A festive reception will follow.

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

1800 E. Putnam Ave, Old Greenwich 203.618.0808
info@trinitychurch.life
www.trinitychurch.life
Join us **Sundays at 10 a.m.** at Greenwich Hyatt Regency 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. The service is also available on livestream via Youtube, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.; learn more at www.trinitychurch.life.
United Methodist Church
165 South Avenue 203.966.2666
frontdesk@umcofnewcanaan.org
www.umcofnewcanaan.org
Join us for Sunday Worship!
Sunday Service begins at 10:00 a.m.
Come for uplifting music and a relevant, inspiring message — and stay after for coffee and conversation during Fellowship Time. Sunday School for ages 3 through high school. Child care is available for children from infancy through age 5.
Recurring Events:
First Sunday at 8:45 AM: All men are invited to our monthly Men's Breakfast — a time of warm fellowship, good food, and meaningful conversation as we grow together in faith and friendship.

Community Baptist Church

174 Cherry Street 203.966.0711
cbcnewcanaan@gmail.com
www.cbcnewcanaan.org
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoZ2UNa8aHI30_Syp_X0KDg
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CBCNewCanaan/>
Sunday School at 10:00am
Worship Service at 11:00am
Live Facebook Broadcast 11:30 am

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:

February 13 at 6 PM: Night to Shine sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Individuals with special needs, ages 14 years and older, are invited to be their guests. Tickets are available at <https://www.nighttoshinenewcanaan.com>.

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.temple sinaistamford.org
Service Schedule:
1st, 3rd & 5th Friday – 6pm in person and via zoom
2nd & 4th – 7:30pm
Recurring Events:
Fridays at 12 PM: Torah Study
Second Saturday at 10:30 AM: Mussar
First and Third Fridays at 5:30 PM: Shabbat Service for Families with Young Children
First Saturday at 8 AM: Avodat Halev Discussion Group

Temple Sholom

300 E. Putnam Ave. Greenwich, CT 06830 203-869-7191
www.templesholom.com
Services: In-person and virtual Friday night Shabbat services, 6:30pm & Saturday morning Shabbat services, 10:30am.
Recurring Events:
Saturdays at 9 AM: Shabbat Study via zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/94358392426?pwd=bFJQem9HWFcxU0EzZUM2VENEZmgYUT09#success>

Father Martin to Speak at Christ Church

Fr. James Martin, the Jesuit priest and bestselling author known for engaging difficult questions inside the Catholic Church, will speak at Christ Church on Saturday, February 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary as part of the Courage & Faith series.

The evening centers on his newest book, *Work in Progress*, which traces his vocational journey from a career in finance in New York City to life as a Jesuit priest and one of the most visible Catholic voices in American public life. Organizers describe the event as “a rare chance to hear the globally renowned Fr. James Martin tell his story in his own words—honest, funny, searching, and deeply faithful.”

Father Martin began his professional life in the finance world before entering the Society of Jesus. Over the years, he has worked in global outreach programs and hospitals caring for the sick and dying. He is the author or editor of more than 30 books and has become a frequent media presence during major Vatican moments.

He served as ABC News’ lead Vatican and conclave commentator for the election of Pope Francis, for Pope Francis’s funeral, and for the 2025 conclave that elected Pope Leo XIV. That visibility has placed him at the intersection of theology, church governance, and public debate.

His most recent encounter



Pope Leo XIV meeting with James Martin, SJ., at the Vatican on Sept. 1, 2025. (Vatican News)

with Pope Leo XIV has drawn international attention and adds resonance to his Greenwich appearance.

“I don’t think that I expected Pope Leo XVI to be as warm, relaxed and serene (and funny), as he was during my 30-minute audience with him in the Apostolic Palace yesterday,” Father Martin wrote after their Sept. 1, 2025 meeting, according to Vatican

News. He described the pope as “tremendously at ease, even jovial.”

The private audience, held in the Apostolic Palace, allowed for extended conversation in English. “It was a new experience, however, to talk with a pope in English,” he wrote, noting the ease of speaking without translation.

While Father Martin acknowledged that Pope Leo

faces pressing global concerns—including what he described as a “fervent desire to help the process of peace and unity in places like Ukraine, Gaza and Myanmar”—he characterized the pope’s posture on pastoral questions as consistent with his predecessor’s.

Those themes of calling, discernment, public witness, and institutional responsibility echo throughout *Work in Progress*.

The book reflects on the tension between personal vocation and public scrutiny, particularly as Father Martin’s ministry has unfolded in an era of cultural polarization within the church.

Christ Church’s and St. Barnabas’ joint Courage & Faith series aims to provide space for serious engagement with faith and contemporary questions. Saturday’s event will offer

attendees an opportunity to hear directly from a priest who has navigated both Vatican corridors and American media studios.

All tickets include his new book. \$50 General Admission. \$75 Patron Meet Fr. Martin Reception. Tickets are available online at christchurchgreenwich.org. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary on Saturday, February 14.

Classic Valentine Recipes to Savor

Valentine’s Day is the perfect occasion to create a beautiful dining experience, complete with exquisite food, stunning presentation, and thoughtful details. Whether you’re planning an intimate dinner for two or a cozy gathering with family, the right meal transforms an ordinary evening into an unforgettable celebration. This year, embrace the art of entertaining with a carefully curated menu that is as visually stunning as it is delicious.

Setting the Scene with Style

A truly elegant evening begins with the ambiance. Set the table with crisp linen napkins, polished silverware, and delicate china. Incorporate seasonal elements—perhaps fresh roses, scattered petals, or dainty votive candles in soft hues. Layering textures, such as a velvet runner or a touch of gold flatware, adds refinement. A small handwritten place card adds an inviting touch, letting your guest know this meal was prepared with love.

Appetizer: Strawberry & Goat Cheese Crostini (Gluten-Free Option Included)

These crisp, golden crostini feature a perfect



balance of sweet and savory flavors, creating an effortlessly elegant starter.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 French baguette or gluten-free bread, sliced into ½-inch pieces
 - 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 - 4 ounces fresh goat cheese, softened
 - 1 cup ripe strawberries, hulled and thinly sliced
 - 1 tablespoon high-quality honey
 - 1 teaspoon aged balsamic glaze
 - Fresh basil leaves, chiffonade
 - Flaky sea salt and freshly cracked black pepper

Instructions: Preheat the oven to

375°F. Arrange baguette slices on a baking sheet and brush each with olive oil. Bake for 8-10 minutes until golden and crisp.

Spread a generous layer of goat cheese onto each crostini. Top with fresh strawberry slices.

Drizzle lightly with honey and balsamic glaze, then sprinkle with flaky salt and black pepper.

Garnish with fresh basil and serve immediately, beautifully arranged on a vintage platter.

Main Course: Pan-Seared Filet Mignon with Red Wine Reduction

A perfectly cooked filet mignon is a classic choice

for a romantic dinner. The deep, velvety red wine sauce elevates this dish to gourmet status.

- Ingredients:**
- 2 (6-ounce) filet mignon steaks
 - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
 - 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
 - 2 cloves garlic, smashed
 - 1 sprig fresh rosemary or thyme
 - Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

- For the Red Wine Reduction:**
- ½ cup full-bodied red wine (Cabernet or Merlot)
 - ½ cup rich beef broth
 - 1 tablespoon aged balsamic vinegar
 - 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
 - 1 tablespoon unsalted butter

Instructions: Remove steaks from the refrigerator 30 minutes before cooking. Pat dry and season generously with sea salt and black pepper.

Heat a cast-iron skillet over medium-high heat. Add olive oil and 1 tablespoon butter.

Sear steaks for 3-4 minutes on each side until a golden crust forms. Add garlic and rosemary, then baste with the remaining butter for 1-2 minutes.

Transfer steaks to a warm plate and tent with foil to rest while preparing the sauce.

In the same skillet, pour in red wine and scrape up any browned bits. Add beef broth, balsamic vinegar, and Dijon mustard. Simmer for 5-7 minutes until reduced by half.

Whisk in butter for a luxurious finish. Drizzle over the steaks and serve with an elegant garnish of fresh thyme.

Side Dish: Garlic Parmesan Roasted Asparagus (Gluten-Free) Tender, crisp asparagus roasted with garlic and Parmesan adds a vibrant and sophisticated touch to the meal.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed
 - 1 tablespoon extra-

Valentine’s Day is about creating beautiful moments through thoughtful details.



- virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- ¼ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
- Sea salt and cracked black pepper

Instructions: Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Toss asparagus with olive oil, garlic, sea salt, and black pepper. Arrange in a single layer.

Roast for 12-15 minutes until tender yet slightly crisp.

Sprinkle with Parmesan and serve on a beautiful serving dish.

Dessert: Decadent Flour-less Chocolate Cake (Gluten-Free)

This indulgent dessert with a molten chocolate center is the perfect way to end a romantic evening.

- Ingredients:**
- ¾ cup/168 grams unsalted butter, cut up, plus more for the pan
 - 1 cup/173 grams bittersweet or semisweet chocolate chips or your favorite dark chocolate
 - ½ cup/50 grams unsweetened natural cocoa powder
 - ¾ cup/150 grams granulated sugar
 - 4 large eggs
 - 1 teaspoon hazelnut flavor or vanilla extract
 - Whipped cream or ice cream, for serving (optional)

Instructions: Pre-Hhat oven to 350 degrees. Butter the bottom and sides of an 8-inch springform pan, or press a large sheet of parchment paper into the bottom and up the sides of an 8-inch round cake pan, smoothing the sides, and generously butter.

Bring a few inches of water in a large saucepan to a simmer over medium

heat. Set a large heatproof bowl over the saucepan and add the chocolate. When the chips look soft and melty, stir gently until smooth. Turn off the heat, and add the butter to the bowl. Stir gently until melted and smooth. Add the cocoa powder and stir until smooth, then take the bowl off the saucepan.

Stir in the granulated sugar until incorporated, then add the eggs, one at a time, and beat well after each addition. Stir in the hazelnut or vanilla, then scrape the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top.

Bake until crackly and dry on top, and a toothpick inserted 2 inches from the edge comes out clean, 40 to 50 minutes. A toothpick inserted in the center should come out with some crumbs attached.

Cool in the pan on a rack, then remove the sides of the springform pan or lift the cake out of the cake pan using the parchment overhang. You can slice and serve warm or at room temperature. Or, to cut very neat slices, freeze the cooled cake until firm.

Final Touch: A Toast Enhance the evening with a Raspberry Champagne Cocktail, a delicate and celebratory pairing.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 bottle chilled Champagne or Prosecco
 - ¼ cup raspberry liqueur (such as Chambord)
 - Fresh raspberries for garnish

Instructions: Pour 1 tablespoon raspberry liqueur into each Champagne flute.

Top with chilled Champagne and drop in a fresh raspberry.

Serve immediately in elegant glassware.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN

ANNUAL LENTEN
FOOD DRIVE

Share the Spirit of Giving during Lent
Live Our Mission!

Bring your donated items to Church
throughout Lent starting on
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH –
PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

New Canaan Food Pantry suggested items needed:

-Non-Refrigerated Milk (Parmalat, Horizon, etc.)

-Pancake Mix (Complete)

-Cereal & Oatmeal (Small Tub or Box)

-Baking Items: Baking Mix, Oil, Flour, Olive Oil

-Crackers, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Taco Kits, and Hamburger Helper

-Canned Goods: Vegetables, Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Soup, Tuna, Chicken, Stew

-Ground Coffee (Regular & Decaf) & Tea

-Household: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Dish Soap, All-Purpose Cleaners

-Personal Care: Shampoo/Conditioner, Deodorant, Body Wash, Mouth Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream

Monetary donations always accepted and can be mailed to Human Services at: 77 Main St, New Canaan CT 06840.

Please make checks payable to the “New Canaan Food Pantry”.

WALTER STEWART'S

Walter Stewart's

your fresh local market

Grab a bag with list of items from back of Church.

Bags donated by Walter Stewart's.

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD EDITOR

John Engel | John.Engel@Elliman.com

REAL ESTATE DASHBOARD CONTRIBUTOR

Robyn Bonder | Robyn.Bonder@Elliman.com

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
151 Heritage Hill Road Unit B	\$699,000	\$699,000	\$700,000	14	3	2	
15 Old Stamford Road Unit D	\$1,599,000	\$1,599,000	\$2,276,000	5	3	3	

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
94 Glen Drive	\$1,995,000	2,486	\$802	1.10	4	2
6 Down River Road Unit B	\$2,495,000	2,540	\$982		3	3

FEATURED OPEN HOUSES

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

Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
1343 Smith Ridge Road	\$3,995,000	SAT	2:30 - 4:30 pm	Raveis
1038 West Road	\$2,595,000	SAT & SUN	12:00 - 2:00 pm	Raveis
6 Down River Road Unit B	\$2,495,000	SUN	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Raveis
135 Comstock Hill Road	\$2,698,000	SUN	1:00 - 3:00 pm	Compass
119 Harrison Avenue	\$4,195,000	SUN	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Compass

Forget What You Thought You Knew Writing, usefulness, and what still belongs to us in the age of AI



BY JOHN ENGEL

Super Bowl Sunday ads were dominated by AI companies, the single largest category of advertiser. That felt like a signal. We are fascinated and afraid at the same time, curious about a future we don't fully understand, eager to lean in, and quietly anxious about where usefulness ends and obsolescence begins. In 2026, people across industries are asking the same question: What part of my job can't be done by a machine?

Every generation has to relearn what makes people useful, usually in response to new tools and new systems. What feels different now is how quickly that reckoning is arriving.

For most of us, that process begins early, when we first start to sort out what we like to do and what we're good at.

If we're lucky, those things align. But liking something, and even being good at it, doesn't always translate into something useful in the real world.

In my case, book reports in high school led to majoring in English in college. College writing is persuasive by design: thesis, facts, conclusion. It felt like a useful skill to build a future around. *You can be anything with an English major.*

I leaned in, thinking writing might carry me into whatever came next. It was supposed to be a safe bet, the belief that writing was a durable skill that would remain useful across changing systems. That idea of usefulness turned out not to be true at all.

My first job out of college was as an Army officer, working inside a system that does things very differently. The first thing you learn in the Army is: Forget what you learned about writing in college. In the Army, we don't write term papers. We write Operations Orders, all in the same five-paragraph format. "Etch these paragraphs in your brain." And we did. This writing is nothing like school.

The five paragraphs describe the Situation, the Mission, and the Execution, followed by Service/Support and Command/Signal. It's a kind of writing not designed to be persuasive, like a thesis. Its purpose is to describe what comes next and how everyone works together to make it happen. It's a formulaic style of writing that punishes creativity, rewards brevity, and is always on the clock. An Op Order goes to the commander immediately, usually within the hour.

But not all Army writing is about issuing orders. Staff officer writing is persuasive; it's about making sense of incomplete information under pressure and advising the commander what comes next. That kind of synthesis is exactly where AI is starting to show up.

When I left the Army, I went to work at a marketing agency in Connecticut, and once again, the instruction was familiar: Forget what you think you know about writing.

Writing now meant sales letters, proposals, and PowerPoint slides — writing designed to persuade rather than command.

Different setting, different rules, and once again,

a different definition of what made writing useful.

When the Internet arrived in the late 1990s, writing changed all over again. Websites weren't read the way essays were read; they were scanned, navigated, abandoned. Structure, hierarchy, and clarity mattered more than voice, because the reader could leave at any moment.

For the first time, writing wasn't just persuasive; it was precisely measurable.

Effectiveness could be tracked, tested, optimized, and improved, until "what worked" began to matter more than how it was written.

That brings us to 2026, where writing is being redefined yet again.

I've never thought of myself as having one job. I've thought of myself as having one skill that kept getting retrained. Writing was how I made sense of things as a student, as an officer, in marketing, and later in real estate. The setting kept changing, but the work was always the same: Take incomplete information, impose some order on it, and help someone decide what to do next.

That question feels especially sharp in 2026. Not because change is new, but because it arrives faster than reflection. It's the same question we hear in conversations about careers, in offices, and at kitchen tables with kids who are just starting out. *What am I actually good at, and what part of that still matters? Can I be replaced?*

Which brings us, inevitably, to artificial intelligence.

The question isn't whether AI can write. It can. What's less clear is whether it can replace the parts of writing that actually make people useful.

I was struck by that distinction this weekend, listening to Deacon Bill's homily that was thoughtful, grounded, and unmistakably human. It wasn't impressive because of how it was written, but because of what it understood about the people listening. It could not have been written by a system trained on language alone.

AI has made it clear that producing language is no longer a scarce skill. What's less clear is whether producing language is the work that actually matters.

That uncertainty is hardest to ignore when you think about people still in school or just starting their careers. They're being told, as every generation is, that the rules are changing. Learn something new? Let go of what no longer fits? Figure out how to be useful again. Learn to write. It never goes out of style.

This is also a real estate column, and a local one. In New Canaan, the value of our homes is still closely tied to the strength of our schools, and those schools are still judged on fundamentals that haven't changed much over time. Reading. Writing. The ability to think clearly and communicate well.

If we're looking for the things most likely to shift in an AI-powered economy, those basics probably aren't among them.

So this isn't a question about whether machines can write. Writing is just the place where the change is easiest to see. What's really being renegotiated is usefulness. The underlying work of judgment, interpretation, and understanding hasn't changed, even as the systems around it keep resetting the terms. Each time that happens, we mistake a new

interface for a new problem. In 2026, the task is the same as it's always been: Figure out what part of the work still belongs to us.

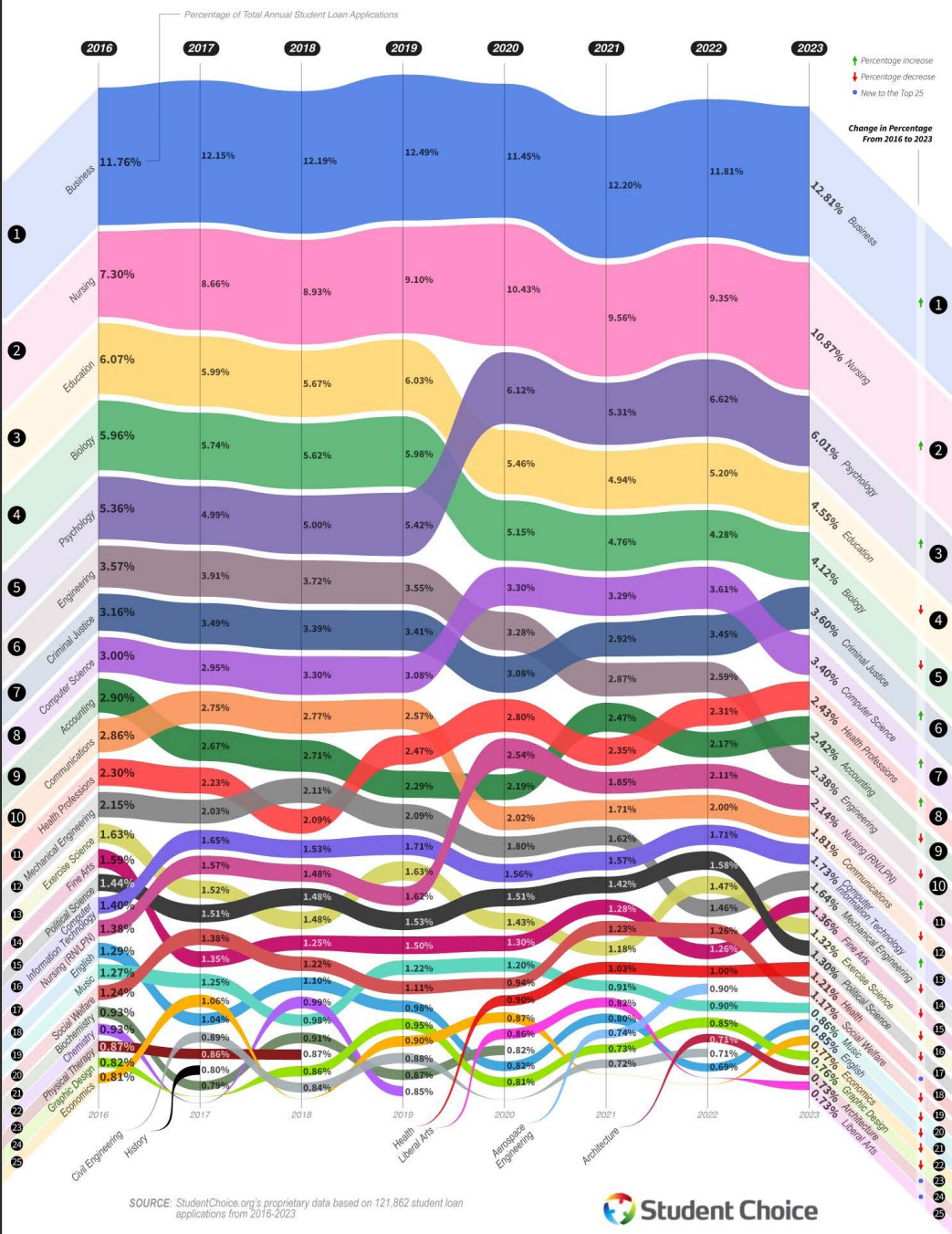
John Engel is a broker with the Engel Team at Douglas Elliman in New Canaan, and he writes. We all write. The average person writes 6.4 million words

by text and 1.6 million words by email and reads many multiples of that, skimming as many as 490,000 words per day and reading between 150 and 600 million words in a lifetime. Where do they all go? The most important words are stored in our frontal lobes, called "semantic memory," and that's where you'll find this column.

AI has made it clear that producing language is no longer a scarce skill. What's less clear is whether producing language is the work that actually matters.

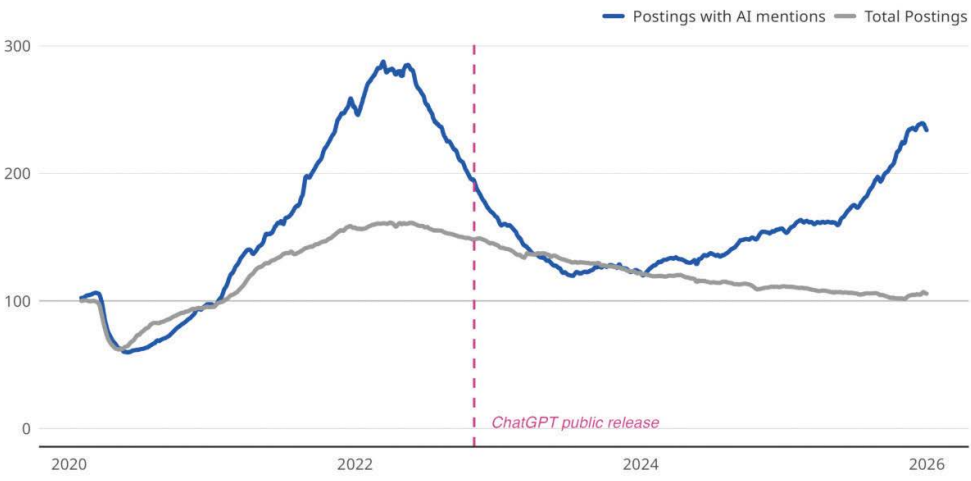
HOW HAVE THE TOP 25 MOST POPULAR COLLEGE MAJORS CHANGED OVER TIME?

Based on an analysis of 121,862 undergraduate student loan applications submitted from 2016 to 2023.



Postings with AI mentions are diverging from overall hiring trends

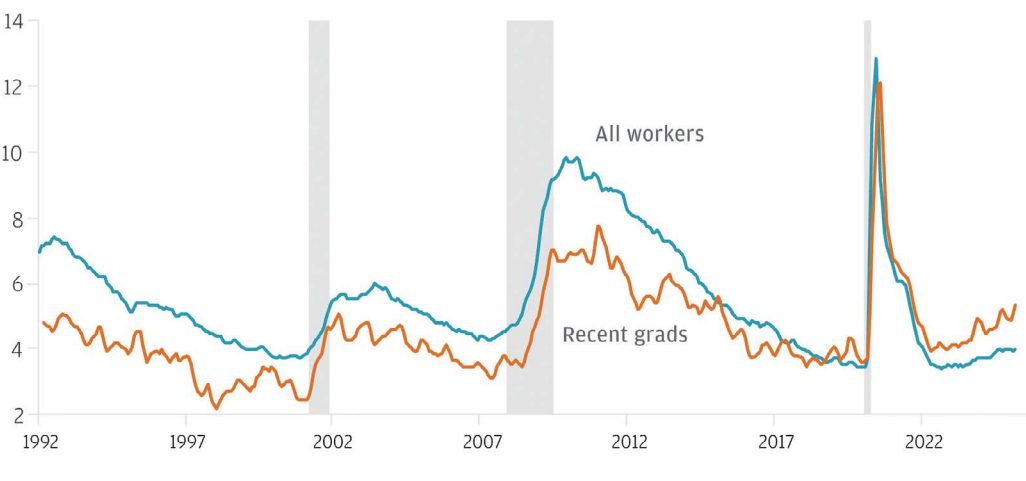
Job postings containing AI terms compared to all postings, Feb 2020 to Dec 2025



Source: Indeed



Unemployment rate, %



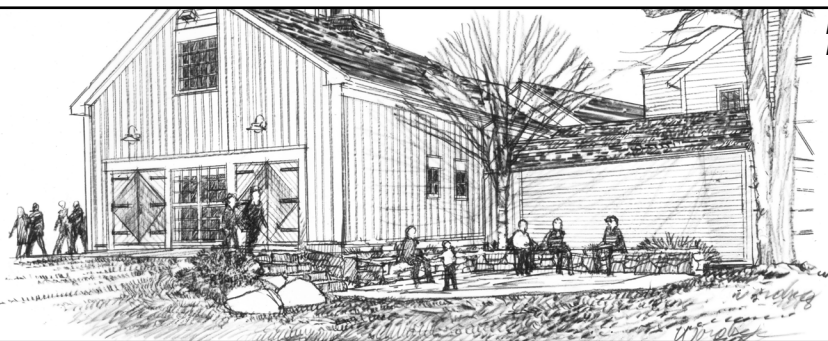
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, J.P. Morgan

Submit questions and comments to John.Engel@Elliman.com



Keith E. Simpson
Associates

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Calling all sophisticates, literary enthusiasts, and our very clever Sentinel readers!
Enter to Win Cash Prizes in our Cross-Over Contest!

Win the Literary Challenge



Once Upon a Valentine

February is the month of love—but not all love stories are the same. This month, we challenge you to put your literary wit to the test with two bite-sized contests inspired by classic literature. Join in our cross-over contest for both New Canaan & Greenwich.

For ages 18 & Under: "Love Letters to and from Storybook Characters"

The winner receives \$50 and publication in the Sentinel!

Ever wonder what Cinderella’s glass slipper might write to her foot? Or what the Big Bad Wolf’s love note to Little Red Riding Hood would say? In 50 words or fewer, write a Valentine’s message from one famous storybook character to another—whether romantic, funny, or just plain weird!

EXAMPLES:

Dear Little Red,

Dinner plans have changed.

I was going to make you my main course, but how about we skip the chase, share some cake, and call it a truce?

—The Wolf

Dear Puss in Boots,

I like your hat. I like your boots. I like the way you trick people with big words. If I had nine lives, I’d spend them all going on adventures with you. Your fan, Jack (from the Beanstalk)

For ages 19 & Up: "Shakespeare in Six or Twelve Words"

Winners receive \$50 and publication!

The Bard was a master of love, tragedy, and mischief—now it’s your turn. Summarize any Shakespearean love story in just six or twelve words - your choice. Whether it’s “Much Ado: Enemies, rumors, wedding, still single”; Hamlet: “Dad’s ghost returns. Bad idea, everyone”; or Macbeth: "Witches whisper fate, Daggers gleam, guilt stains his hands— All is lost." Make it clever, poetic, or laugh-out-loud funny!

Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2025. Winners announced in the March 5, 2025 issue.

How to Enter: Craft your clever response to this month’s contest, then email Publisher@NewCanaanSentinel.com to submit it. Multiple entries are welcome (up to three), and pseudonyms are accepted—giving you the freedom to be as inventive as you like.



Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, Feb. 17

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

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Housing Authority of New Canaan
5:30-6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Police Commission

6-7 p.m., New Canaan Police Department

Friday, Feb. 13

Valentine’s Bingo

11 AM at the Lapham Center
Play bingo and win prizes with a Valentine’s Day theme. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

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. These engaging discussions will help improve your mood and your health. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Time to Type: Typing Practice Workshop

11 AM at the New Canaan Library, Community Room
This is a one-hour workshop where patrons can build up their typing skills. Bring a computer from home or let the library know if you need to borrow a laptop. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/time-type-194357>.

Saturday, Feb. 14

Yoga and Sound Bath

9 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
This Gentle Yoga and Sound Bath will engage both body and mind to help melt away the stresses of the week and start your weekend right! Tickets are \$40/ person and available at <https://shorturl.at/f4ZHd>.

Book Signing with Wendy Walker

12-2 PM at Elm Street Books
USA Today bestselling author Wendy Walker writes twisty and complex psychological thrillers centered on past trauma, family secrets, and captivating narrators. For more information, call Elm Street Books at (203) 966-4545.

Opening Reception for the Power of Love

2-4 PM at Silvermine Arts Center
Attend the opening reception for "The Power of Love". Rooted in Silvermine’s long tradition of artistic exploration and community engagement, this exhibition emphasizes art’s ability to create meaning, foster connection, and inspire hope. The exhibition will run from Feb. 14 through March 13.

Sunday, Feb. 15

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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! Arrive anytime between 2 and 4 p.m., and stay however long you are able. Register at <https://shorturl.at/feHU2>.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

Animal Embassy

12 PM at Grace Farms
Animal Embassy returns to Grace Farms to provide insight into animals’ amazing adaptations, and why we need to protect and respect them. Free for adults. Register at <https://gracefarms.org/event/animal-embassy>.

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 our digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Film Screening: Sinners

6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join for a screening of Sinners (2025). Sinners has recently broken the Oscars Nomination record with 16 nominations. Runtime: 2 h and 17 m. Register at <https://shorturl.at/Gh9fH>.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Recognizing Cognitive Biases and Building Healthier Thinking Habits

10:30 AM at the Lapham Center
Join Gabriel Corredor for an engaging presentation on how confirmation bias, the spotlight effect, and loss of aversion

quietly influence our decisions - and how understanding them can help us think more clearly, act more confidently, and connect more effectively. Free. Coffee and treats will be served. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Fairy House Workshop

12 & 2 PM at Grace Farms
Create a Fairy House with natural materials collected from the landscapes surrounding the River building. Kimberly Kelly will facilitate the crafting while discussing the importance of creating a structure that will become part of nature again. Tickets are \$10/members, \$12/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/HxmdE>.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Understanding Hospital and Subacute Evaluations: Purpose, Process and Patient Benefits

11 AM at the Lapham Center
Ever wonder why hospitals and subacute care facilities conduct so many tests and evaluations? Join Kathy Collins to learn about the purpose behind these assessments, how they help ensure safety, guide treatment and support recovery. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Life Reimagined

1 PM at the Lapham Center
Purposeful living promotes happiness, better sleep, longevity, a healthier heart and reduces the risk of Alzheimer’s and other diseases. Hosts Marcy Rand and Robin Rockafellow will lead an informal and friendly group discussion of who we were, who we are, and the creative ways to explore our interests, abilities, knowledge, and activities in connection with the community around us. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

New Canaan Land Trust Presents:

Movie Night | The Wild Robot
5 PM at the New Canaan Playhouse
The New Canaan Land Trust presents a screening of The Wild Robot. Tickets

are \$20 and available at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/G24HLH46LhXqTHIZi4SfPg.

Practical Technology Considerations for Small Business Owners

6 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
SCORE of Fairfield County presents Practical Technology Considerations for Small Business Owners. Register at <https://shorturl.at/Nk58r>.

Friday, Feb. 20


Winter Drop in Movie | Wicked

11 AM at the Lapham Center
Elphaba, a young woman ridiculed for her green skin, and Galinda, a popular girl, become friends at Shiz University in the Land of Oz. After an encounter with the Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads. Free.


Polar Bear Picnic

5:30 PM at Grace Farms

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PLAYHOUSE**



GOAT

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New Canaan

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CINEMALAB.COM
for showtimes and tickets

CALENDAR CONTINUES ON PAGE 7

Submit new items to Cordelia@SentinelHometownNews.com

Sudoku for Kids

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

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

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

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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

Very Hard								
					4	2		
		8						
7				9	6		5	
2		4		6				
		5	4	1	2	9		
			5		4		2	
	8		9	7				1
					5			
		9	8					

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

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

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

Mandela



Sudoku answers

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

Universal Crossword

Edited by Jared Goudsmit

ACROSS

- 1

New York City mayor Adams
- 5

California
- 9

'50s Ford flop
- 14

Not stereo
- 15

The "R" of SRO
- 16

Crime boss known as "The Teflon Don"
- 17

Software for organizing a pledge drive?
- 20

Award for "Sweeney Todd"
- 21

SIGINT-gathering org.
- 22

Kind of soup with wakame
- 23

Tightly curled 'dos
- 26

Stretch of time
- 28

Software for screening a film?
- 33

Large antelope
- 36

Clog or slipper
- 37

Pork cut
- 38

Follow, as advice
- 40

Salt, to a chemist
- 41

Word after "vital" or "pipe"
- 43

Raw metals
- 44

"The _____ Bunch"
- 46

Currency in Austria
- 47

The whole _____ yards
- 48

Often yellow ride
- 49

Software for landing a plane?
- 52

"This is alarming!"
- 54

Nonverbal "Hi!"
- 55

Scat singer Fitzgerald
- 57

Iguazu Falls spray
- 60

Software for estimating a mortgage?
- 63

Arctic travel hazards
- 68

Wiggly fish
- 70

One of the Decade Volcanoes
- 71

Vast void
- 72

Place to buy pastrami on rye
- 73

"It's not that _____" ("Don't overthink it")
- 13

"Stretch" vehicle
- 18

Bronte governess Jane
- 19

Gravelly sound
- 24

Home of Norway's Kon-Tiki Museum
- 25

Person who gets home safe?
- 27

"Harper Valley _____" (song)
- 28

Mehdi Hasan's network
- 29

Catherine of "Beetlejuice"
- 30

Asset in a spelling bee
- 31

Assemble, as equipment
- 32

All lined up
- 34

Incessantly
- 35

"I wish I could _____ that"
- 39

Self-important
- 42

Protagonist of "A Doll's House"
- 45

NBA great Ming
- 50

Breakfast chain
- 51

"Breaking Bad" rating
- 53

Socializes, casually
- 55

Idris of "The Wire"
- 56

Singer-songwriter Lisa
- 58

Mimicked
- 59

Skip town
- 61

Apt letters missing from "Craig_ _ _st or Pin_ _er _st"
- 62

It's hard to indicate over text
- 64

Jack, e.g. ... or a jerk
- 65

Not feeling 100%
- 66

CBS forensics franchise
- 67

Snooze

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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Family Time Crossword
The (K) Clues Are for Kids

Created by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1

(K) Tater, or purple-haired lad in "Wallace the Brave"
- 5

(K) Circular piece, really
- 8

(K) Makes 35 from 13 and 22
- 12

(K) Small part of a fork
- 13

(K) Dairy farm utterance
- 14

(K) Jump
- 15

Way-long movie
- 16

Snake known for squeezing
- 17

(K) Avoiding working
- 18

Small clothing size
- 20

(K) Island that's no island, I state
- 22

High-up view
- 24

White from fright
- 27

Craving
- 28

(K) "Knot" homophone
- 31

(K) Actual and authentic
- 32

Overnight place to rest
- 33

(K) Reason to grab an air freshener
- 34

(K) Exercise surface
- 35

Waco-to-Baltimore dir.
- 36

Suspicious, as a story
- 37

Enormous, like a massive coliseum
- 40

(K) Place to sit
- 41

"Keep moving forward!"
- 45

(K) Female deer
- 46

(K) Search for buried treasure
- 48

Hairy grandson of Abraham
- 49

Prefix with "gravity" and "body"
- 50

Part of a joule
- 51

(K) Hero in Zelda video games
- 52

(K) Like a room with toys thrown everywhere
- 53

(K) Manta _____ (fish)
- 54

(K) Michigan or Tahoe
- 29

Expression of wonderment
- 30

(K) "Do it again but better"
- 32

Neat and tidy (2 words)
- 33

If it gushes, someone's rich (2 words)
- 35

Yale student
- 36

(K) Summer air circulator
- 38

Desert filling station
- 39

(K) Way, way past moist
- 40

(K) Vanilla ice-cream holder
- 42

(K) World's largest populated continent
- 43

(K) Position in a hierarchy
- 44

North Carolina college
- 45

(K) Beaver building
- 47

Roth _____ (investment option)

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

Thing heard at a stock exchange?

Look for the answer in next week's paper.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

Previous riddle answer:

It can be a cozy intro? 36-D) TEA

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7/17

See How They Run by Jake Halperin

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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				23		24	25			26	27			
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63				64				65	66					67
68						69					70			
71						72					73			

Horoscopes

Horoscope: February 12–18, 2026

As the Moon enters Capricorn on February 12, the week begins with a sense of structure and long-view focus. Mercury and Venus in Pisces lend a deeply intuitive and compassionate tone to communication and relationships. Then, on February 17, a powerful New Moon and solar eclipse in Aquarius lands like a cosmic reset — emphasizing innovation, collective goals, and your evolving role in the larger community. Eclipses open doors but close others — expect shifts where stagnation has lingered.

Weekly Forecast by Sign

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

This week lights up your social life and long-term aspirations. The Aquarius eclipse may initiate a leadership role in a group, committee, or community cause — or prompt you to step back from alliances that no longer inspire. Around February 15–17, a sudden opportunity could arise to present a new idea to your network. Practical Advice: Update your LinkedIn or resume before the 17th; someone influential is watching. Choose collaboration over competition.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Career spotlight incoming. The Aquarius solar eclipse may signal a new role, promotion, or redefined public image. If you've been privately considering a pivot, this is the week to quietly lay groundwork — especially February 16–18, when a mentor may offer a lead. Practical Advice: Plan for visibility. Prepare your elevator pitch or rehearse an ask — opportunities may come when you least expect them.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

This eclipse lands in your travel, education, and publishing sector. You may be offered a chance to teach, study abroad, or speak publicly on a topic you know well. Conversations with people from different cultures or belief systems feel charged with insight, especially February 14–16. Practical Advice: Revisit a stalled passport, application, or manuscript. A delayed goal may suddenly re-activate.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

Eclipse energy turns inward: money, intimacy, and long-term entanglements are shifting. February 15–17 is ideal for renegotiating a shared financial agreement or cutting ties with an outdated emotional pattern. You may be called to support someone through a transformation — or experience one yourself. Practical Advice: Review joint accounts, tax documents, or wills. Set boundaries where others have overstepped.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

With the eclipse in your relationship zone, this is a turning point for partnerships. Whether it's love, business, or friendship, clarity arrives — often with dramatic flair. Someone may enter or exit your orbit in a way that redefines what partnership means to you. Practical Advice: Listen more than you speak. You don't have to solve the problem — just show up honestly.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

This is the week to finally tackle something you've put off: cleaning up your workspace, starting a new

fitness plan, or refining how you manage your time. The Aquarius eclipse spotlights your daily systems and wellness — small tweaks now ripple into big outcomes by spring. Practical Advice: Track your habits from February 13–18. What you refine now sets the pace for 2026.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

Creativity returns. The eclipse reawakens artistic energy, romance, and personal joy. You might pick up an instrument, say yes to a spontaneous date, or return to a forgotten passion. Around February 16–18, a surprise invitation could be the start of a meaningful new connection. Practical Advice: Say yes more often this week. Express appreciation — especially to younger people or mentees.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

The spotlight turns to your private life. A change may come through family, housing, or ancestral patterns. This eclipse may literally bring a move — or shift how you relate to the place you call home. February 15–17 is ideal for clearing emotional clutter. Practical Advice: Reorganize a room or file old paperwork. The outer change supports the inner one.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

The eclipse activates your communication zone. A writing project, marketing push, or legal matter could accelerate. Pay close attention to what's said around February 14–16 — important details or insights will surface in casual conversations. Practical Advice: Back up your devices and clean your inbox. Say the thing you've been meaning to say.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

The eclipse shifts your values and resources. You may launch a new income stream or reevaluate your budget — especially around February 15–17. A gift, offer, or unexpected expense may surface that reshapes how you handle your material life. Practical Advice: Detach from status symbols. True wealth this week comes through clarity and self-worth.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

The solar eclipse in your sign is a rebirth. A new path may appear — not all at once, but through signs and synchronicities. Between February 16–18, you may feel a powerful desire to step into leadership or break free from expectations. Practical Advice: Do something symbolic: update your bio, cut your hair, close an old account. Declare your new era.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

You're the quiet powerhouse this week. The eclipse lands in your subconscious zone, guiding you inward. Dreamwork, meditation, or journaling will bring clarity — possibly even a breakthrough around the 17th. Someone from your past may reappear. Practical Advice: Trust the messages you receive in stillness. This is a week to rest, release, and reimagine.

Summary: February 12–18 bridges emotional depth with visionary resets. The New Moon and solar eclipse in Aquarius on February 17 brings breakthroughs in personal identity, innovation, and community contribution. Combined with Venus and Mercury in Pisces, this week favors intentional emotional clarity and purposeful connection — not only with others, but with the future version of yourself you're becoming.

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 energize (10)
- 2 walk like a penguin (6)
- 3 chips in (11)
- 4 trumpet-like red flower (9)
- 5 cover stories (6)
- 6 herb in Italian sausage (6)
- 7 in a scathingly biting way (9)

SOLUTIONS

INV	RYL	DLE	ORA	TRI
WAD	BIS	TLY	LIS	MOR
ALI	NEL	TES	CON	TE
BU	DAN	IG	FEN	AMA

Previous Answers: FORENSICS 2. SWERVED 3. MANAGES 4. SHINED 5. LEADER 6. REVERENCE 7. PROCTOR

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

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THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER BY A.A. MILNE

CHAPTER VIII

IN WHICH Piglet Does a Very Grand Thing

Half way between Pooh's house and Piglet's house was a Thoughtful Spot where they met sometimes when they had decided to go and see each other, and as it was warm and out of the wind they would sit down there for a little and wonder what they would do now that they had seen each other. One day when they had decided not to do anything, Pooh made up a verse about it, so that everybody should know what the place was for.

This warm and sunny Spot
Belongs to Pooh.
And here he wonders what
He's going to do.
Oh, bother, I forgot—
It's Piglet's too.

Now one autumn morning when the wind had blown all the leaves off the trees in the night, and was trying to blow the branches off, Pooh and Piglet were sitting in the Thoughtful Spot and wondering.

"What I think," said Pooh, "is I think we'll go to Pooh Corner and see Eeyore, because perhaps his house has been blown down, and perhaps he'd like us to build it again."

"What I think," said Piglet, "is I think we'll go and see Christopher Robin, only he won't be there, so we can't."

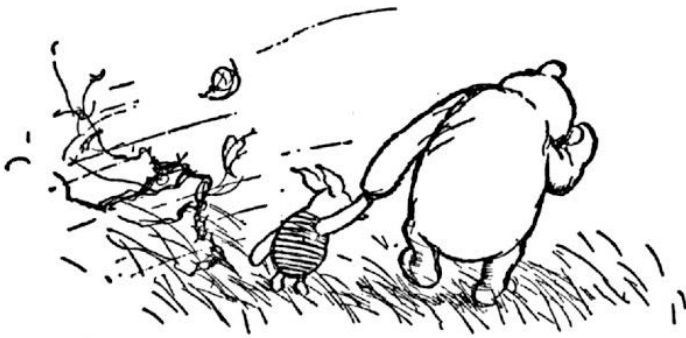
"Let's go and see everybody," said Pooh. "Because when you've been walking in the wind for miles, and you suddenly go into somebody's house, and he says, 'Hallo, Pooh, you're just in time for a little smackerel of something,' and you are, then it's what I call a Friendly Day."

Piglet thought that they ought to have a Reason for going to see everybody, like Looking for Small or Organizing an Expotition, if Pooh could think of something.

Pooh could.

"We'll go because it's Thursday," he said, "and we'll go to wish everybody a Very Happy Thursday. Come on, Piglet."

They got up; and when Piglet had sat down again, because he didn't know the wind was so strong, and had been helped up by Pooh, they started off. They went to Pooh's house first, and luckily Pooh was at home just as they got there, so he asked them in, and they had some, and then they went on to Kanga's house, holding on to each other, and shouting "Isn't it?" and "What?" and "I can't hear." By the time they got to Kanga's house they were so buffeted that they stayed to lunch. Just at first it seemed rather cold outside afterwards, so they pushed on to Rabbit's as quickly as they could.



"We've come to wish you a Very Happy Thursday," said Pooh, when he had gone in and out once or twice just to make sure that he could get out again.

"Why, what's going to happen on Thursday?" asked Rabbit, and when Pooh had explained, and Rabbit, whose life was made up of Important Things, said, "Oh, I thought you'd really come about something," they sat down for a little ... and by-and-by Pooh and Piglet went on again. The wind was behind them now, so they didn't have to shout.

"Rabbit's clever," said Pooh thoughtfully.

"Yes," said Piglet, "Rabbit's clever."

"And he has Brain."

"Yes," said Piglet, "Rabbit has Brain."

There was a long silence.

"I suppose," said Pooh, "that that's why he never understands anything."

Christopher Robin was at home by this time,

because it was the afternoon, and he was so glad to see them that they stayed there until very nearly tea-time, and then they had a Very Nearly tea, which is one you forget about afterwards, and hurried on to Pooh Corner, so as to see Eeyore before it was too late to have a Proper Tea with Owl.

"Hallo, Eeyore," they called out cheerfully.

"Ah!" said Eeyore. "Lost your way?"

"We just came to see you," said Piglet. "And to see how your house was. Look, Pooh, it's still standing!"

"I know," said Eeyore. "Very odd. Somebody ought to have come down and pushed it over."

"We wondered whether the wind would blow it down," said Pooh.

"Ah, that's why nobody's bothered, I suppose. I thought perhaps they'd forgotten."

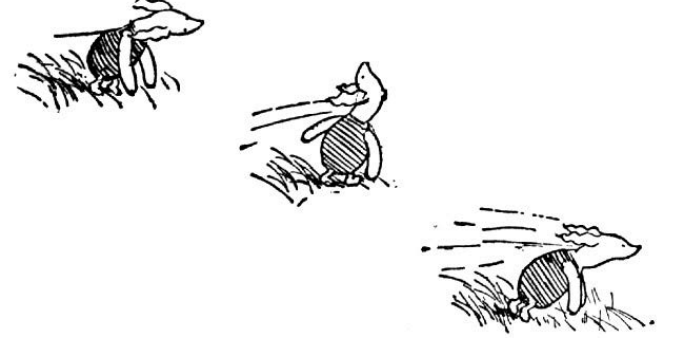
"Well, we're very glad to see you, Eeyore, and now we're going on to see Owl."

"That's right. You'll like Owl. He flew past a day or two ago and noticed me. He didn't actually say anything, mind you, but he knew it was me. Very friendly of him, I thought. Encouraging."

Pooh and Piglet shuffled about a little and said, "Well, good-bye, Eeyore" as lingeringly as they could, but they had a long way to go, and wanted to be getting on.

"Good-bye," said Eeyore. "Mind you don't get blown away, little Piglet. You'd be missed. People would say 'Where's little Piglet been blown to?'—really wanting to know. Well, good-bye. And thank you for happening to pass me."

"Good-bye," said Pooh and Piglet for the last time, and they pushed on to Owl's house.



The wind was against them now, and Piglet's ears streamed behind him like banners as he fought his way along, and it seemed hours before he got them into the shelter of the Hundred Acre Wood and they stood up straight again, to listen, a little nervously, to the roaring of the gale among the tree-tops.



"Supposing a tree fell down, Pooh, when we were underneath it?"

"Supposing it didn't," said Pooh after careful thought.

Piglet was comforted by this, and in a little while they were knocking and ringing very cheerfully at Owl's door.

"Hallo, Owl," said Pooh. "I hope we're not too late for—I mean, how are you, Owl?"

Piglet and I just came to see how you were, because it's Thursday."

"Sit down, Pooh, sit down, Piglet," said Owl kindly. "Make yourselves comfortable."

They thanked him, and made themselves as comfortable as they could.

"Because, you see, Owl," said Pooh, "we've been hurrying, so as to be in time for—so as to see you before we went away again."

Owl nodded solemnly.

"Correct me if I am wrong," he said, "but am I right in supposing that it is a very Blusterous day outside?"

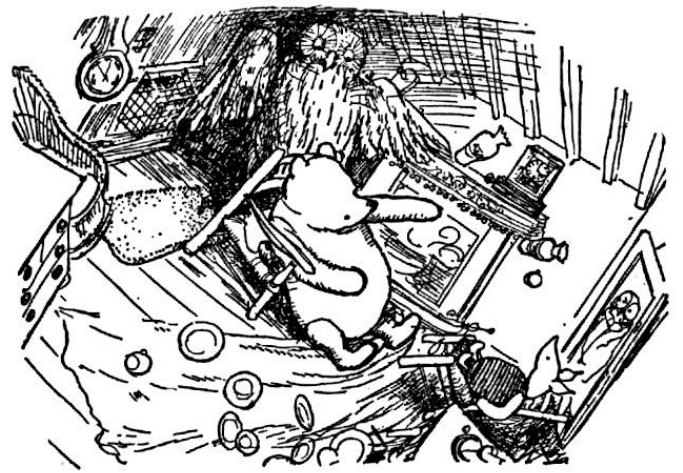
"Very," said Piglet, who was quietly thawing his ears, and wishing that he was safely back in his own house.

"I thought so," said Owl. "It was on just such a blusterous day as this that my Uncle Robert, a portrait of whom you see upon the wall on your right, Piglet, while returning in the late forenoon from a——What's that?"

There was a loud cracking noise.

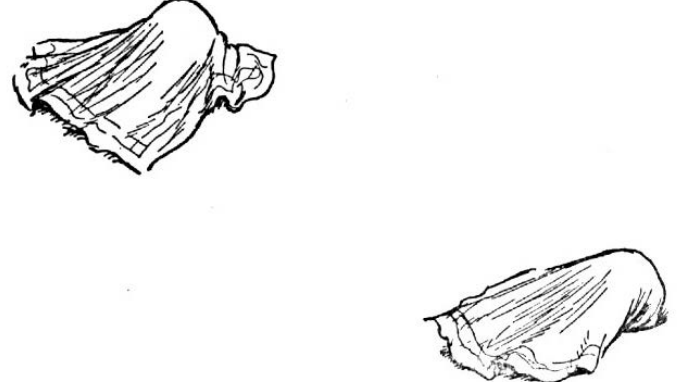
"Look out!" cried Pooh. "Mind the clock! Out of the way, Piglet! Piglet, I'm falling on you!"

"Help!" cried Piglet.



Pooh's side of the room was slowly tilting upwards and his chair began sliding down on Piglet's. The clock slithered gently along the mantelpiece, collecting vases on the way, until they all crashed together on to what had once been the floor, but was now trying to see what it looked like as a wall. Uncle Robert, who was going to be the new hearth-rug, and was bringing the rest of his wall with him as carpet, met Piglet's chair just as Piglet was expecting to leave it, and for a little while it became very difficult to remember which was really the north. Then there was another loud crack ... Owl's room collected itself feverishly ... and there was silence.

In a corner of the room, the tablecloth began to wriggle.



Then it wrapped itself into a ball and rolled across the room.



Then it jumped up and down once or twice, and put out two ears. It rolled across the room again, and unwound itself.



"Pooh," said Piglet nervously.

"Yes?" said one of the chairs.

"Where are we?"

"I'm not quite sure," said the chair.

"Are we—are we in Owl's House?"

"I think so, because we were just going to have tea, and we hadn't had it."

"Oh!" said Piglet. "Well, did Owl always have a letter-box in his ceiling?"

"Has he?"

"Yes, look."

"I can't," said Pooh. "I'm face downwards under something, and that, Piglet, is a very bad position for looking at ceilings."

"Well, he has, Pooh."

"Perhaps he's changed it," said Pooh. "Just for a change."

There was a disturbance behind the table in the other corner of the room, and Owl was with them again.



"Ah, Piglet," said Owl, looking very much annoyed; "where's Pooh?"

"I'm not quite sure," said Pooh.

Owl turned at his voice, and frowned at as much of Pooh as he could see.

"Pooh," said Owl severely, "did you do that?"

"No," said Pooh humbly. "I don't think so."

"Then who did?"

"I think it was the wind," said Piglet. "I think your house has blown down."

"Oh, is that it? I thought it was Pooh."

"No," said Pooh.

"If it was the wind," said Owl, considering the matter, "then it wasn't Pooh's fault. No blame can be attached to him." With these kind words he flew up to look at his new ceiling.

"Piglet!" called Pooh in a loud whisper.

Piglet leant down to him.

"Yes, Pooh?"

"What did he say was attached to me?"

"He said he didn't blame you."

"Oh! I thought he meant—Oh, I see."

"Owl," said Piglet, "come down and help Pooh."

Owl, who was admiring his letter-box, flew down again. Together they pushed and pulled at the arm-chair, and in a little while Pooh came out from underneath, and was able to look round him again.

"Well!" said Owl. "This is a nice state of things!"

"What are we going to do, Pooh? Can you think of anything?" asked Piglet.

"Well, I had just thought of something," said Pooh. "It was just a little thing I thought of." And he began to sing:

I lay on my chest
And I thought it best
To pretend I was having an evening rest;
I lay on my tum
And I tried to hum
But nothing particular seemed to come.
My face was flat
On the floor, and that
Is all very well for an acrobat;
But it doesn't seem fair
To a Friendly Bear
To stiffen him out with a basket-chair.
And a sort of sqoze
Which grows and grows

Is not too nice for his poor old nose,
And a sort of squch
Is much too much
For his neck and his mouth and his ears
and such.

"That was all," said Pooh.

Owl coughed in an unadmiring sort of way, and said that, if Pooh was sure that was all, they could now give their minds to the Problem of Escape.

"Because," said Owl, "we can't go out by what used to be the front door. Something's fallen on it."

"But how else can you go out?" asked Piglet anxiously.

"That is the Problem, Piglet, to which I am asking Pooh to give his mind."

Pooh sat on the floor which had once been a wall, and gazed up at the ceiling which had once been another wall, with a front door in it which had once been a front door, and tried to give his mind to it.

"Could you fly up to the letter-box with Piglet on your back?" he asked.

"No," said Piglet quickly. "He couldn't."

Owl explained about the Necessary Dorsal Muscles. He had explained this to Pooh and Christopher Robin once before, and had been waiting ever since for a chance to do it again, because it is a thing which you can easily explain twice before anybody knows what you are talking about.

"Because you see, Owl, if we could get Piglet into the letter-box, he might squeeze through the place where the letters come, and climb down the tree and run for help."

Piglet said hurriedly that he had been getting bigger lately, and couldn't possibly, much as he would like to, and Owl said that he had had his letter-box made bigger lately in case he got bigger letters, so perhaps Piglet might, and Piglet said, "But you said the necessary you-know-whats wouldn't," and Owl said, "No, they won't, so it's no good thinking about it," and Piglet said "Then we'd better think of something else," and began to at once.

But Pooh's mind had gone back to the day when he had saved Piglet from the flood, and everybody had admired him so much; and as that didn't often happen he thought he would like it to happen again. And suddenly, just as it had come before, an idea came to him.

"Owl," said Pooh, "I have thought of something."

"Astute and Helpful Bear," said Owl.

Pooh looked proud at being called a stout and helpful bear, and said modestly that he just happened to think of it. You tied a piece of string to Piglet, and you flew up to the letter-box with the other end in your beak, and you pushed it through the wire and brought it down to the floor, and you and Pooh pulled hard at this end, and Piglet went slowly up at the other end. And there you were.

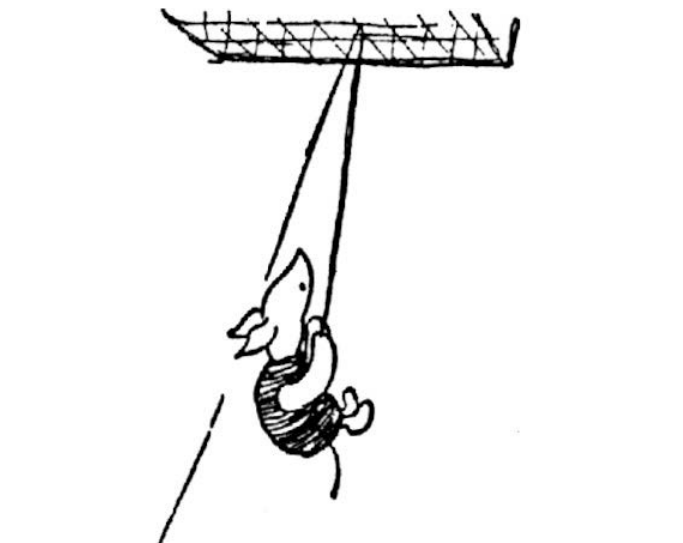
"And there Piglet is," said Owl. "If the string doesn't break."

"Supposing it does?" asked Piglet, wanting to know.

"Then we try another piece of string."

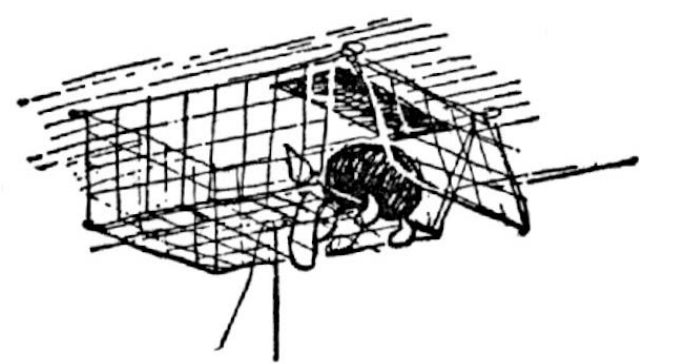
This was not very comforting to Piglet, because however many pieces of string they tried pulling up with, it would always be the same him coming down; but still, it did seem the only thing to do. So with one last look back in his mind at all the happy hours he had spent in the Forest not being pulled up to the ceiling by a piece of string, Piglet nodded bravely at Pooh and said that it was a Very Clever pup-pup-pup Clever pup-pup Plan.

"It won't break," whispered Pooh comfortingly, "because you're a Small Animal, and I'll stand underneath, and if you save us all, it will be a Very Grand Thing to talk about afterwards, and perhaps I'll make up a Song, and people will say 'It was so grand what Piglet did that a Respectful Pooh Song was made about it.'"

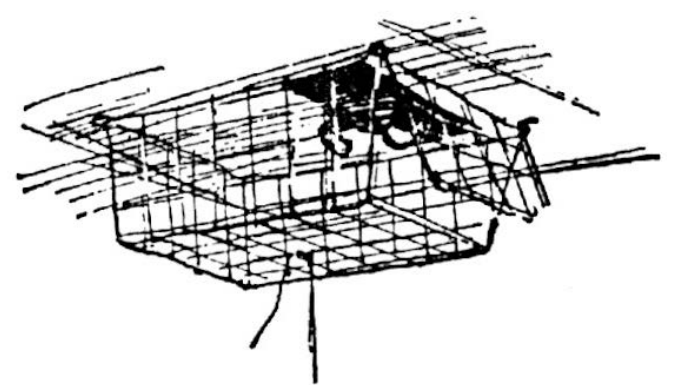


Piglet felt much better after this, and when everything was ready, and he found himself slowly going up to the ceiling, he was so proud that he would have called out "Look at me!" if he hadn't been afraid that Pooh and Owl would let go of their end of the string and look at him.

"Up we go!" said Pooh cheerfully.



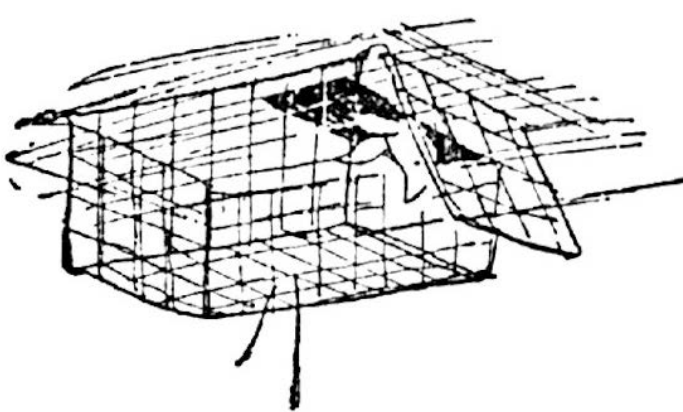
"The ascent is proceeding as expected," said Owl helpfully. Soon it was over. Piglet opened the letter-box and climbed in. Then, having untied himself, he began to squeeze into the slit, through which in the old days when front doors were front doors, many an unexpected letter that WOL had written to himself, had come slipping.



He squeezed and he squoze, and then with one last squoze he was out. Happy and excited he turned round to squeak a last message to the prisoners.



"It's all right," he called through the letter-box. "Your tree is blown right over, Owl, and there's a branch across the door, but Christopher Robin and I can move it, and we'll bring a rope for Pooh, and I'll go and tell him now, and I can climb down quite easily, I mean it's dangerous but I can do it all right, and Christopher Robin and I will be back in about half-an-hour. Good-bye, Pooh!" And without waiting to hear Pooh's answering "Good-bye, and thank you, Piglet," he was off.



"Half-an-hour," said Owl, settling himself comfortably. "That will just give me time to finish that story I was telling you about my Uncle Robert—a portrait of whom you see underneath you. Now let me see, where was I? Oh, yes. It was on just such a blustorous day as this that my Uncle Robert——"

Pooh closed his eyes.

Feathered Devotion: The Remarkable Monogamy of Africa’s Colorful Little Lovebirds

I stood, clipboard in hand, inside one of the world’s premier avian breeding facilities, a vault of biodiversity where species once considered lost to the wild now fluttered and nested behind reinforced glass and precision-controlled habitats. Before me lay a matrix of enclosures housing some of the rarest birds alive – each with its own story of survival, adaptation, and sometimes, unexpected romance.

“What do you want to see next?”

The invitation hovered. I glanced at my colleague, then back at our host, a seasoned aviculturist whose calm demeanor concealed a career spent rescuing bird populations from the brink. My mind ricocheted through possibilities: Kakapo? Spix’s Macaw? Philippine Eagle?

Then, a thought occurred.

“Do you have any lovebirds?” I asked.

“Lovebirds?” he repeated, smiling now. “Yes... yes, we do.”

He gestured us down a corridor, past scarlet ibises and towering crowned cranes, until we reached a modest side room. A soft rustling met our ears. Inside, in a wide enclosure wrapped with vines and nesting hollows, a pair of peach-faced lovebirds perched beak to beak, preening with the focus of a practiced ritual.

There’s something disarming about seeing a creature do precisely what its name suggests – and mean it.

The Agapornis roseicollis, or peach-faced lovebird, is native to the arid woodlands of southwest Africa. Despite the parched terrain of its home, the lovebird is anything but dry in demeanor. These small parrots, no more than six inches from crown to tail tip, are bundles of color and character. With emerald bodies, coral-pink faces, and striking cobalt-blue rumps, they resemble living confetti – confetti with a remarkable social contract.

Unlike the majority of birds, whose pair bonds last a season or simply a nesting cycle, lovebirds mate for life. These bonds are not merely reproductive alliances; they are social, behavioral, and – it would seem – emotional. Mated pairs eat together, sleep together, groom each other, and even fly in synchrony. When separated, even briefly, they call out in distress.



Love Birds. Digital 13 via Flickr under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

There’s something disarming about seeing a creature do precisely what its name suggests – and mean it.

In captivity, individuals housed without partners exhibit signs of depression or anxiety – a testament

to the strength of the pair bond in these birds.

But what makes this trait successful in the wild?

These birds live an environment where water is scarce and temperatures swing wildly between

extremes. Coordination becomes survival. By relying on one another for grooming (to control parasites), feeding (through regurgitation), and protection (through alarm calls), bonded pairs act as miniature teams – optimizing their chances in a landscape that offers no favors.

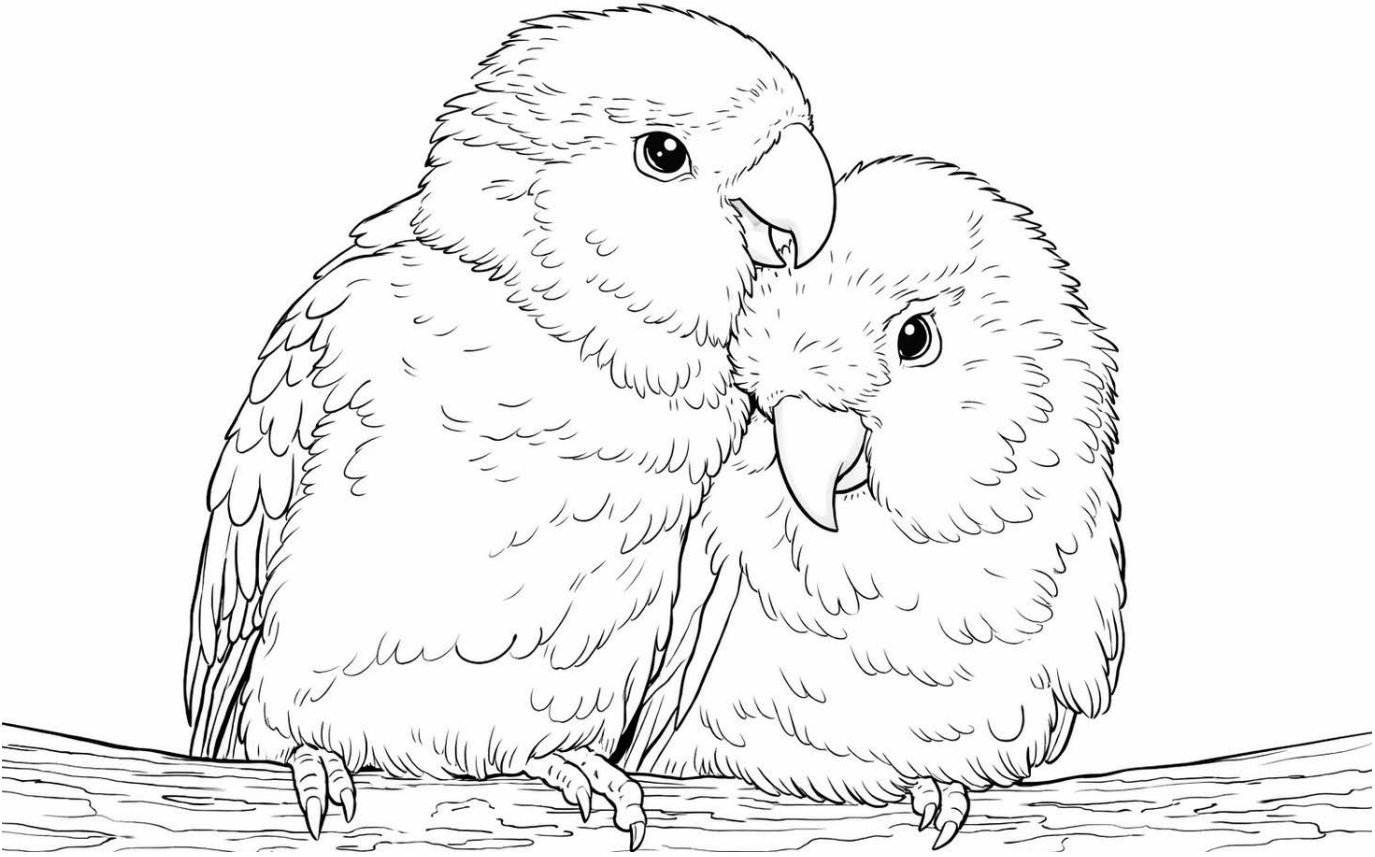
Our host tossed a few millet seeds onto a tray, and we watched the pair descend in tandem. One paused to nibble, the other stood guard. Then they switched roles without a sound. No command. No hesitation. Just an instinct forged through generations of natural selection and refined by trust.

Their success is not just romantic – it’s tactical.

Lovebirds remind us that devotion can be both beautiful and functional. These birds flourish because of interdependence. And they are not alone. Prairie voles, gibbons, and even some species of wolves exhibit similar pair bonding–lovebirds do it with feathers, flight, and flair.

As we stepped back from the enclosure, I felt a quiet admiration for the tiny pair still perched, side by side, on a branch no longer than a pencil. They weren’t rare in the way the Kakapo or the Spix’s Macaw are rare. But they were extraordinary nonetheless.

This Valentine’s Day perhaps the simplest expression of love still matters most: shared attention, quiet loyalty, and the courage to sit beside someone come what may.



Find and color.

FIND ALL HIDDEN

FIND ALL HIDDEN

FIND ALL HIDDEN

Join the Polar Bear Picnic, and have breakfast for dinner. After enjoying a meal, take part in winter-inspired crafts and games. Tickets are \$24/ members, \$30/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/polar-bear-picnic-2026>.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Encaustic Photography Workshop with Rebecca Dunn
10:30 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
In this 2-hour exploratory class, artist Rebecca Dunn guides participants through the fundamentals of encaustic techniques and the many creative possibilities of this rich, tactile medium. Students will learn how encaustic wax can be layered with photographs, tinted with pigments, and manipulated to create depth, texture, and luminous surfaces. Tickets are \$75/members, \$90/ non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/encaustic-photography/>.

Music at Grace Farms | Arlen Hlusko, cello
4:30 PM at Grace Farms
Internationally acclaimed Canadian cellist Arlen Hlusko is a dynamic, versatile artist who has performed extensively as soloist and chamber musician across the Americas, Asia, and Europe. Tickets are \$40/ members, \$50/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/ZwwtQ>.

Sunday, Feb. 22

Celebrate Lunar New Year
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Usher in the Year of the Horse with dance and choir performances, food, and crafts from a number of Asian traditions. Local organizations and New Canaan community members will give insight into New Year's customs. This drop-in program is ideal for the whole family. Register at <https://shorturl.at/rYNpQ>.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

How to Use My Rec with Kathy Collins
11 AM at the Lapham Center
If you've used MyRec to register for a program at Lapham only to find out when you come to the program that you were not registered, this talk is for you. Join Kathy to learn how to use this system to register for all your Lapham programs and activities. Review step-by-step how to create an account, browse programs, add choices to your account, register and receive confirmation. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

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 our digital library, stop by for one-on-one support from a tech librarian. Tech assistance is limited to 20 minutes per session and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

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. If you plan to have your blood sugar level tested, it is recommend you fast for four hours prior to testing. To register, call (203) 594-3620. Walk-ins welcome.

Journey into the World of Tea | White and Green Teas
3 PM at Grace Farms
This tranquil and in-depth exploration of tea offers guests a taste of notable varietals from cultures around the world, with demonstrations and more. Register at <https://shorturl.at/LxtyV>.

Flashes of Brilliance Photography Book Talk
6 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Anika Burgess, New York Times freelance photo editor will talk about her new book which tells the story of the wildest experiments in early photography and the wild people who undertook them. She will be in conversation with photographer Jane Beiles. Register at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/ashes-of-brilliance-photography-book-talk/>.

An Evening with Michele Filgate and Cynthia Weiner
6 PM at Elm Street Books
Join for an evening with Michele Filgate and Cynthia Weiner, to chat about their recent books, What

My Father and I Don't Talk About and A Gorgeous Excitement.To register for the event, visit <https://elmstreetbooks.com>.

American Contradiction with Pulitzer Prize-Winner Paul Starr
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
The whole truth about America, Starr argues in this new history of the United States since the 1950s, has never been contained in one consistent set of values or interests. Register at <https://shorturl.at/QSUdv>.

Thursday, Feb. 26

From Bloom to Canvas: The Flowered Press Workshop
10 AM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Discover the art of pressing flowers and transforming them into one-of-a-kind works of art. In this two-part workshop led by artist Marguerite Alpert, participants will learn both traditional and contemporary techniques for preserving botanicals and using them creatively. Tickets are \$195/ members, \$205/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/flowered-press/>.

Tech Workshop with Cooper Young and George Geist of Good Kid Tech
2 PM at the Lapham Center
The program will begin with a fifteen-minute presentation on a tech-related topic, followed by time to answer your personal tech questions. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Robert Schumann and Virginia Woolf Performance & Conversation with Narrative Resonance
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
The Narrative Resonance series pairs works of classical chamber music and literature to explore artistic parallels and their relevance for contemporary audiences. Join to learn how the emotional force of Robert Schumann's Third String Quartet mirrors that of Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse. Register at <https://shorturl.at/NCZ8E>.

Free Medicare Counseling
By appointment at the Lapham Center
Dick Neville is a CHOICES certified Medicare counselor providing free, objective, person centered assistance about Medicare options and related benefits. Sessions are offered free of charge to New Canaan residents and Town employees. Call (203) 594-3620 to schedule an appointment, no drop-ins.

Friday, Feb. 27
Pages & Putts: Mini Golf Fundraiser at the Library
6-9 PM at the New Canaan Library
Bring your whole family during the tee times to play Mini Golf. The 18-hole course will take you all around the library with fun prizes for you to win. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/mvBHJ>.

Opening Night of One Man, Two Guvnors
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theater
A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud farce set in 1960s Brighton, England. The Tony Award winning ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS follows Francis Henshall, a down-on-his-luck man who finds himself working for two bosses at the same time – without either of them knowing. Packed with physical comedy, pratfalls, and quick wit, this modern take based on Goldoni's masterpiece Servant of Two Masters is a wildly fun night at the theatre. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Saturday, Feb. 28
Pages & Putts: Mini Golf Fundraiser at the Library
10 AM - 3 PM at the New Canaan Library
Bring your whole family during the tee times to play Mini Golf. The 18-hole course will take you all around the library with fun prizes for you to win. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/4eSrA>.

Wellness Tea Retreat
10 AM- 5 PM at Grace Farms
Relax and savor a flight of three Grace Farms wellness teas: Rest, Breathe, and Settle. The teas are paired with prompts for self-reflection, adapted from Grace Farms' River Retreat publication. Register at <https://gracefarms.org/event/wellness-tea-retreat/2026-02-28>.

Color Theory: Exploring Color Through Paint
10 AM- 12:30 PM at the Carriage

Barn Arts Center
In this workshop, led by artist and instructor Evelyn Harvey, you will analyze and determine the properties of color, explore their relationships, and learn to utilize the color wheel. This class is perfect for both beginners and for artists wanting a brush-up or refresher of color theory. Registration is \$75/ members, \$95/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/colortheory/>.

One Man, Two Guvnors
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theater
A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud farce set in 1960s Brighton, England. Follow Francis Henshall, a down-on-his-luck man who finds himself working for two bosses at the same time – without either of them knowing. Packed with physical comedy, pratfalls, and quick wit, this modern take based on Goldoni's masterpiece Servant of Two Masters is a wildly fun night at the theatre. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, March 1

One Man, Two Guvnors
2 PM at the Powerhouse Theater
A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud farce set in 1960s Brighton, England. Follow Francis Henshall, a down-on-his-luck man who finds himself working for two bosses at the same time – without either of them knowing. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Play Ukulele with Michael-Louis Smith
5:45 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
In this workshop, you'll learn chords and strumming techniques for the ukulele. Led by Michael-Louis Smith, this series will be held on March 1, 8, 15, and 22. Some ukuleles will be available, or bring your own. Registration for this series is \$185/members, \$200/non-members, and available at <https://carriagebarn.org/event/lets-play-ukulele/>.

Wednesday, March 4

Cricket Hill History of Peonies
9:30 AM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Take a dive into the diverse world of peonies! Daniel Furman of Cricket Hill Garden in Thomaston, CT, will weave together the rich history of this storied plant with practical advice on growing great peonies in New England. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/peonies>.

Thursday, March 5

Author Candice Morrow, RN: Book Talk & Signing Event
6 PM at Elm Street Books
Author, Registered nurse and survivor advocate, Candice Morrow will appear for an author book talk and signing. Morrow will discuss her memoir, Not One More Day, a deeply personal account of surviving domestic violence and reclaiming her life after years of abuse. Representatives from DVCC will be present to share information and available services and community resources. For more information, call Elm Street Books at (203) 966-4545.

The Art Of Investing In Your Home
5:30 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Join a special closing event for the 46th Annual Photograph Show, in partnership with Connecticut Cottages & Gardens. Hear from leading local experts on how smart design and construction decisions can enhance both the beauty and long-term value of your home. Light bites and cocktails will be served. RSVP to ctcgevents@candg.com.

Highlighting Medical Databases
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Join Reference Librarian Flannery to learn how to access and use New Canaan Library's medical databases. Register at <https://shorturl.at/jUltC>.

Friday, March 6

William Shakespeare's Macbeth
7 PM at New Canaan High School
Experience the dark allure of ambition and fate in New Canaan High School's production of William Shakespeare's Macbeth. Tickets will be available on the NCHS Theatre website.

One Man, Two Guvnors

7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theater
A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud farce set in 1960s Brighton, England. Follow Francis Henshall, a down-on-his-luck man who finds himself working for two bosses at the same time – without either of them knowing. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Saturday, March 7

William Shakespeare's Macbeth
2 & 7 PM at New Canaan High School
Experience the dark allure of ambition and fate in New Canaan High School's production of William Shakespeare's Macbeth. Tickets will be available on the NCHS Theatre website.

Broadway Concert Series featuring Kara Lindsay
7 PM at the Carriage Barn Arts Center
Go hear Kara perform some of her hits and crowd favorites. Join at 6pm for a pre-show cocktail hour included in your ticket purchase. Stay after the performance for a Q&A with Kara and Dan. Tickets are available at <https://www.connecticutstagecompany.org/tickets>.

One Man, Two Guvnors
7:30 PM at the Powerhouse Theater
A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud farce set in 1960s Brighton, England. Follow Francis Henshall, a down-on-his-luck man who finds himself working for two bosses at the same time – without either of them knowing. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Sunday, March 8

One Man, Two Guvnors
2 PM at the Powerhouse Theater
A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud farce set in 1960s Brighton, England. Follow Francis Henshall, a down-on-his-luck man who finds himself working for two bosses at the same time – without either of them knowing. Tickets are available at <https://tpnc.org>.

Tuesday, March 10

Legislative Priorities in CT: Session Kickoff with our Legislators
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Local legislators will share their priorities for the current legislative session in Hartford, hear your concerns, and answer questions regarding the issues facing our state. Register at <https://shorturl.at/sK6Yu>.

Wednesday, March 11

Wicked Strange New England with Jeff Belanger
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Wicked Strange New England offers a tour of haunts, monsters, aliens, and weird history from our region, and Jeff's engaging storytelling will show you that the bizarre is closer than you think. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/wicked-strange-new-england>.

Thursday, March 12

Authors Allison Pataki and Deborah Goodrich Royce In Conversation
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join for a conversation between bestselling authors Allison Pataki and Deborah Goodrich Royce. They will discuss their new books, It Girl and Best Boy, respectively. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-allison-pataki-175314>.

Monday, March 23

NC Focus: Paths to Affordable Housing
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
This presentation by Town officials will explore the paths New Canaan has taken to meet its Affordable housing needs and State requirements by focusing on three specific projects. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/nc-focus-affordable-housing>.

Tuesday, March 24

The Art of American Independence: Beyond the Declaration
12 PM at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society
Bring your sandwich, soup or snack and learn from Robin Hoffman, of ArtsCapades. ArtScapades has developed a special lecture which ties in with the 2026 celebration

of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/THR43>.

Thursday, March 26

Medicare 2026: Understanding Changes and Coverage Options
1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Lou and Jessica Pelletier will help you navigate the complexities of Medicare in 2026, including the Parts and the important new changes to Medicare drug plans rolling out in 2026. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-medicare-200593>.

Tech Workshop with Cooper Young and George Geist of Good Kid Tech
2 PM at the Lapham Center
The program will begin with a fifteen-minute presentation on a tech-related topic, followed by time to answer your personal tech questions. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Friday, April 17

Breeches & Bowties Spring Gala
Time to be announced at the Wee Burn Country Club
Join the New Canaan Mounted Troup at their 2026 Spring Gala with guest speaker Drew Doggett. Tickets will be available at <https://newcanaanmountedtroop.org>.

Saturday, May 2 & Sunday, May 3

Next to Normal
Show times vary at the New Canaan Library
With an electrifying pop/rock score and an honest, gut-wrenching script, Next to Normal explores how one suburban household copes with crisis and mental illness. Tickets are available at <https://www.connecticutstagecompany.org/tickets>.

Thursday, May 7

NCNC Annual Lecture & Luncheon
11:30 AM- 2 PM
Additional details will be provided as the event approaches.

Saturday, June 27

NC250 Parade
9:30 AM from South Avenue to NCHS
The parade is part of the town's 250 th Independence Day celebration.

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, Feb. 13

Stamford Church of Christ
1264 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06903
8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Saturday, Feb. 14

Union Baptist Church
805 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905
8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church
1 West Putnam Ave
Greenwich, CT 06830
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Wednesday, Feb. 18

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

Support Services & Meetings

Thursday, Feb. 19

Understanding Hospital and Subacute Evaluations: Purpose, Process and Patient Benefits
11 AM at the Lapham Center
Ever wonder why hospitals and subacute care facilities conduct so many tests and evaluations? Join Kathy Collins to learn about the purpose behind these assessments, how they help ensure safety, guide treatment and support recovery. Free. To register, call (203) 594-3620.

Friday, Feb. 20

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
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. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer – the 3 simple steps anyone can use to help

prevent suicide. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. Register at <https://shorturl.at/IzRRQ>.

Monday, March 9

First Aid Training by New Canaan EMS
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Learn First Aid from New Canaan EMS and save a life. First aid training is designed to teach people the basic principles and techniques for providing immediate help if and when they witness a serious injury or illness. Register at <https://shorturl.at/MsWUG>.

Friday, March 20

Suicide Prevention Training: Question, Persuade and Refer
11 AM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
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. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer – the 3 simple steps anyone can use to help prevent suicide. This training will certify you as a QPR gatekeeper. Register at <https://shorturl.at/i6y9G>.

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

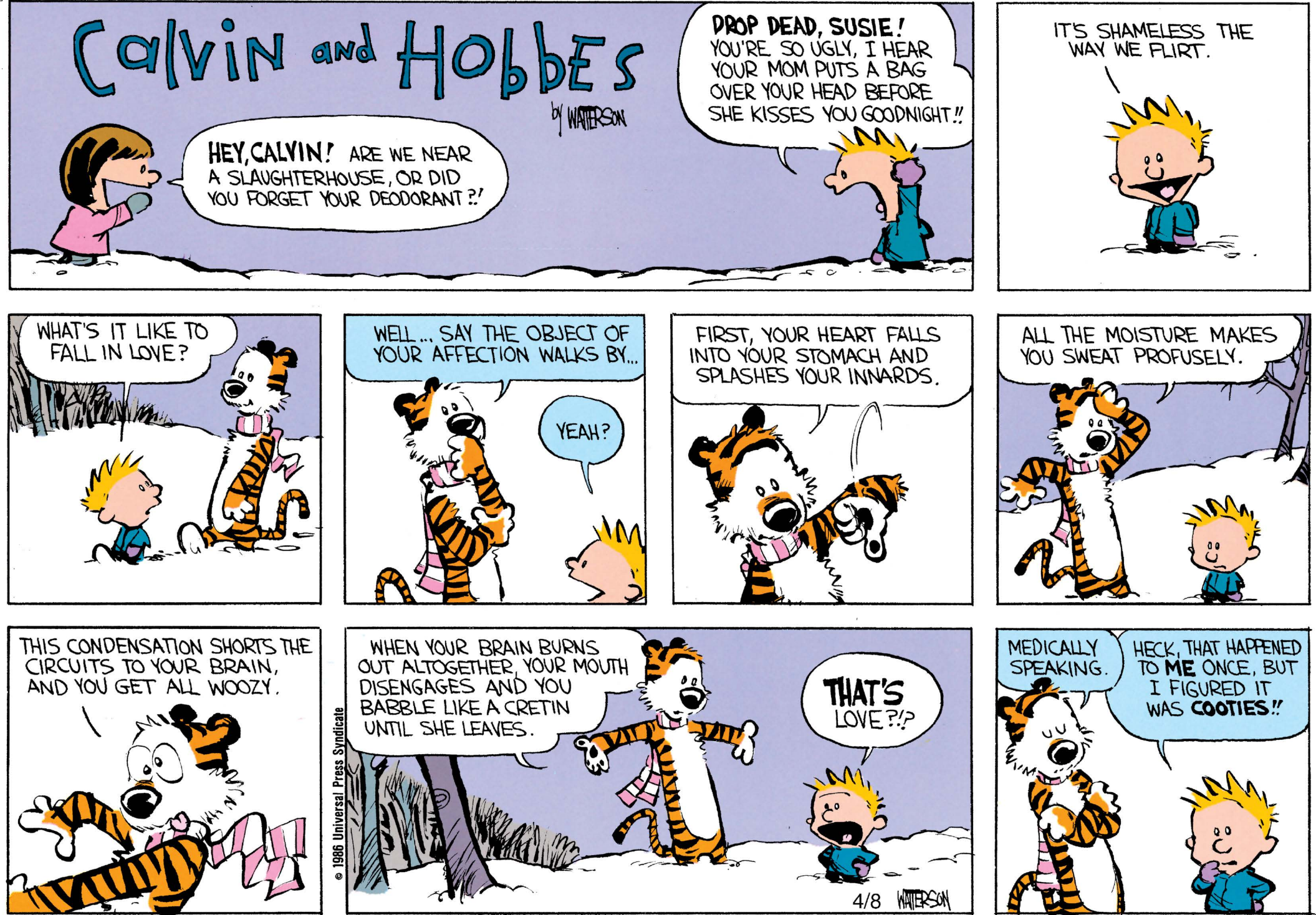
Every Thursday

AA Big Book Meeting. Wheelchair Access
Thursdays at 7:30 AM
Congregational Church of New Canaan

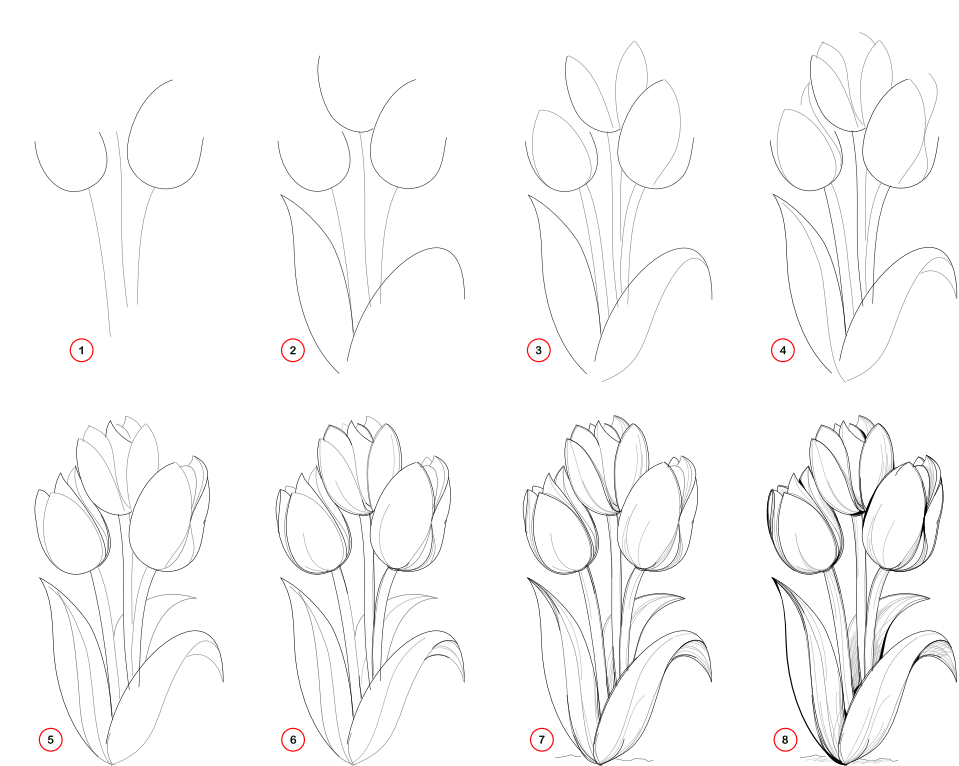
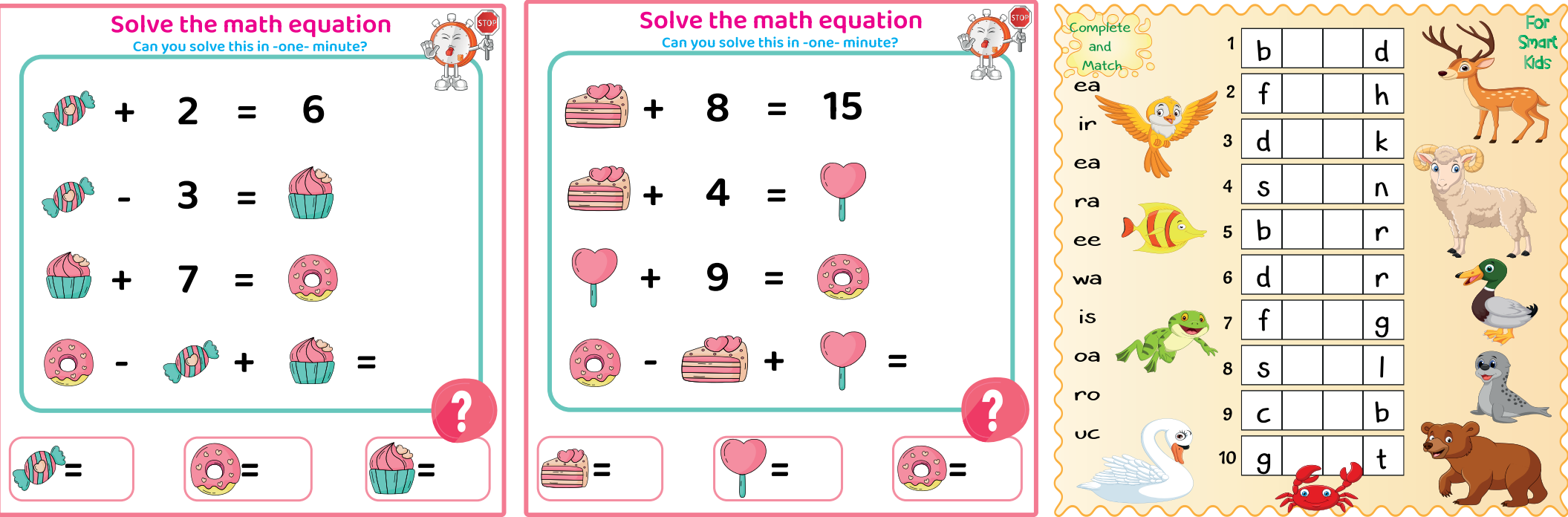
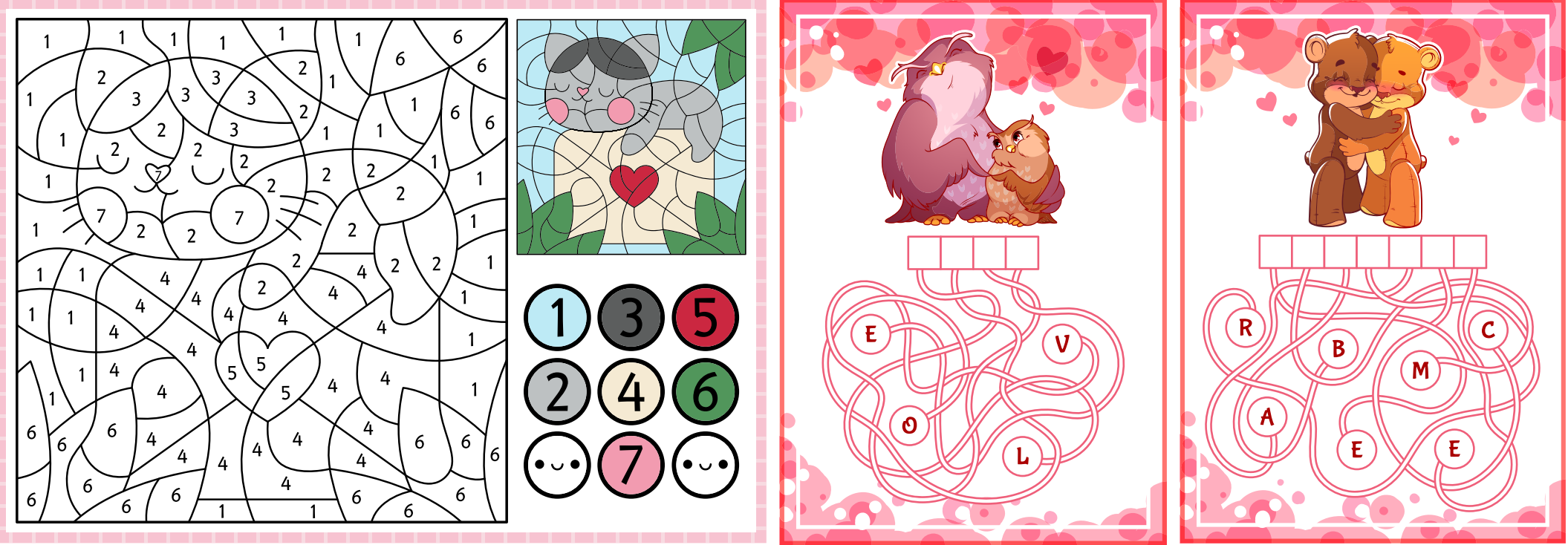
New Canaan Parent Support Group
7- 8:30 PM
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
New Canaan

OUR NEIGHBORS
Saturday, April 11

Habitat CFC's Annual Gala
6-10:30 PM at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich
1800 East Putnam Avenue
Old Greenwich, CT
Come dressed in your favorite designer- haute couture or casual style is welcome. A special evening with cocktail, dinner, dancing, an auction and more! Proceeds from the evening support Habitat CFC's mission to create affordable homeownership opportunities in Coastal Fairfield County. Tickets are available at <https://habitatcfc.org/news-events/event-calendar/gala.html>.



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How to Draw

Send Yours to

Cordelia@SentinelHometownNews.com

