

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFING

POLICE AND FIRE

NCPD Receives Plaque



The New Canaan Police Department raised more than \$10,000 for Special Olympics Connecticut in 2025 and was recognized with a plaque for its efforts. Officers Vincenzi and Coughlin attended the statewide Law Enforcement Torch Run kickoff event, where the awards were presented. Photo credit: New Canaan Police Department.

TOWN HALL

Board of Finance Public Hearing

On March 3, the New Canaan Board of Finance will hold a public hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 tentative budget recommendations for the Town and the Sewer Utility for Fiscal Year. The meeting will take place at 7 pm in the Town Hall and via Zoom. The Board will vote on the budget on March 5, 2026, at 7 pm, in the same formats.

AROUND TOWN

NC250 Events

New Canaan will hold a series of events from June 14 through November 11, 2026, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The celebration will include the NC250 Parade on June 27 and a Fourth of July fireworks display at Waveny Park. Details are available at <https://tockify.com/newcanaan250/pinboard>.

LOCAL BUSINESSES AND NONPROFITS

First Selectman Speaks to Rotarians



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Jack, Liv, and Joey Schubert on top of our mountain of plowed driveway snow!

A Very Snowy Week

Winter arrived this week with authority, laying down a steady snowfall across New Canaan and much of southern New England and reminding everyone who is in charge.

Roads narrowed. Driveways disappeared. Snowplows became the most admired vehicles in town. Children measured inches with rulers; adults measured them with the weight in their shovels. According to the National Weather Service, the storm system swept through Connecticut and into Massachusetts and Rhode Island, creating hazardous

travel conditions across the region hovering over southern Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

That regional sweep is significant for us. The *New Canaan Sentinel* is printed at a facility located at the crossroads of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. When snow binds together three states at once, it also binds the presses. This week, the weather made printing and transportation impracticable. Trucks could not move safely. Production schedules could not hold.

So there will be no print

edition delivered to your doorstep this week.

Our edition is necessarily limited due to the storm. Reporters worked around road conditions and shortened timelines. Many stories will wait their turn.

We expect to return to full print publication next week, as the skies cooperate and the roads clear from that tri-state corner where our pages first take shape.

Until then, stay warm, read us online, and wave to the plow drivers. They earned it.



The snow plow left a gift! Nicola Bott taken by Buzz Moore.

I Thought the Loudest Cries Meant the Most Urgency



By SHARI SHAPIRO

For a long time, I thought I knew how to spot the kids who needed help most.

They were the ones raising their voices, knocking over chairs, and tearing up during math class.

The kids whose pain was obvious to everyone.

If I'm honest, I trusted my instincts a little too much.

Because what I've learned, the hard way, and over years of sitting with kids and counselors, is that urgency doesn't always look urgent. And distress doesn't always announce itself with bells and whistles.

These days, the kids I worry about most are the ones no one else is.

They're the ones who don't cause problems.

The ones who get good grades.

The ones who don't ask for help because they've learned not to need it.

They slip under the radar precisely because they seem "fine."

I remember a student that a counselor once mentioned almost in passing. No behavior issues. No meltdowns. Teachers liked him. He smiled when spoken to. He did his work. He never made a big deal about seeing his counselor.

But he came anyway, quietly and regularly, because sitting in class felt like he couldn't breathe. Because home was falling apart. Because being invisible had become his best coping strategy.

And no one was worried about him.

Until he finally said, "I don't think anyone would notice if I wasn't here."

That sentence has stayed with both his TeenTalk counselor and with me.

In schools, at home, around dinner tables, we are naturally drawn to what's loud. What's disruptive. What demands immediate attention. And of course, those kids deserve our attention and support, often urgently.

But there is a quieter group of kids who are carrying just as much, sometimes more.

They're anxious but high-functioning.

They're sad but polite.

They're overwhelmed but responsible.

They've learned that being easy is safer than being honest.

At Kids In Crisis, our counselors see this pattern all too

often. The student who never gets written up but stops sleeping. The child who laughs with friends but goes home to panic attacks. The teen who helps everyone else and never talks about themselves.

These are the kids who worry me the most now, not because they're dangerous or dramatic, but because they are easy to miss.

And once you see it, you start seeing it everywhere.

You see it in your own house, when your child says "I'm fine" a little too quickly.

You see it at the dinner table,

If you're reading this and thinking of a child who seems fine, but something in your gut says otherwise, trust that feeling.

when the quietest kid eats the fastest.

You see it when grades stay high, but joy disappears.

So what do we do with that?

We start by expanding our definition of "struggling."

Struggling doesn't always mean acting out.

It can mean shutting down.

It can mean perfectionism.

It can mean never asking for help because help has never felt reliable.

Here are a few things I've learned to look for, and I'm encouraging parents to notice too:

Pay attention to changes, not just crises.

A child who used to love soccer but suddenly quits. A teen who stops seeing friends. A kid who sleeps more, or less, or is always exhausted. These shifts matter.

Make space for quiet check-ins.

Not every conversation has to be a big talk. Sometimes it's a drive in the car. A walk after dinner. Sitting side by side doing nothing. That's often when the truth sneaks out.

Normalize needing help... even when things look okay.

You don't have to wait for a breaking point to talk to a counselor, a teacher, or a trusted adult. Support isn't just for emergencies; it's for prevention.

One of the most powerful things school-based counselors do is notice the kids no one else notices. They offer a steady presence. A place to exhale. A chance to say the quiet things out loud before they turn into something heavier.

And for families, it helps to remember this: your child doesn't need to be in crisis to deserve care.

If you're reading this and thinking of a child who seems fine, but something in your gut says otherwise, trust that feeling. Ask the extra question. Sit a little longer. Listen without trying to fix.

And if you ever need help figuring out what to say, or whether something is "serious enough," you don't have to decide alone. The Kids In Crisis 24/7 Helpline is always available at 203-661-1911 for parents, caregivers, and kids. Big concerns. Small worries. Quiet fears. We take them all seriously.

Because the truth I had to admit is this:

The kids who need us most aren't always the ones calling out.

Sometimes, they're the ones hoping someone will finally notice.

Shari L. Shapiro is the Executive Director of Kids In Crisis

Bandaged in a Wheelchair

By JILL S. WOOLWORTH, LMFT

Visualizing difficult people in our lives as "injured" can often help us cope, because they truly are "injured" insofar as they relate to us. Of course, they don't know this, and we have learned that telling them so doesn't help either of us.

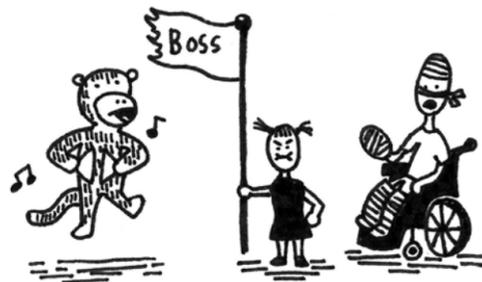
Visualizing difficult people in humorous ways can also work. Imagining a boss as a petulant four-year-old with pig-tails, a demanding parent as a

mummy in a wheelchair, or an annoying relative as a hippo bellowing in the mud can help us smile instead of scream. Both approaches take away the power of the difficult person and calm our fearful brains.

We can also limit our exposure to these people, showing only common courtesy unless the toxic relationship changes. We can pray for them from an emotional distance, and for ourselves as we seek wisdom to understand our own part in the dynamic of

the relationship, the only part we can change.

Christina pictured her controlling mother in a straitjacket. Jonathan pictured his angry father on a hospital bed with his leg



Illustrated by Wajih Chaudhry

in traction. Laura and Gabe pictured Gabe's intrusive mother as a monkey banging two cymbals. These images kept them all from taking other people's difficult behavior personally.

Your Charter Your Survey

The Charter Commission has opened a public questionnaire, and residents should take the time to complete it.

The survey is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8QXBNNK>

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Teresa Alasio MD
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Making Maple Syrup: Continuing the Tradition at New Canaan Nature Center

By Frank Gallo

In October, in preparation for maple syruping season in late winter, Aidan Murphey (our Director of Environmental Education) and I marked many of the sugar maple trees on the New Canaan Nature Center's (NCNC) property with pink flagging tape while they still had their leaves. Sugar maples are easiest to identify when their leaves are still present. Although they can be identified using buds and bark later in the season, it can be tricky.



ABOVE: Sugar Maple bud and flowers

NCNC has 2-3 species of native maples on the property: red, sugar, and boxelder (maybe gone). There are also several non-native species, including Norway (invasive), sycamore, and ornamental riverbank, and Japanese maples that were planted or seeded in from neighbors' yards. Sugar, red, and Norway maples are the most common and can all be used to make maple syrup.

Unlike most trees that branch alternately, maples, ash, dogwood, and horse chestnuts have opposite branches. The mnemonic to

remember is, MAD Horse. Care must be taken to determine whether a tree is opposite branched, as branches break off and it can sometimes be difficult to tell. In our area, maples have simple leaves (1 leaf per stem), except for Boxelder which has compound leaves (more than one leaflet per stem). To tell the difference, look at the base of the leaf. There will be a small bud at the base of a simple leaf's stem, but not at the base of a leaflet's stem. Maple leaves have a unique hand-like shape – picture the Canadian flag which shows a sugar maple leaf. Other maples have similar leaf shapes that vary in size and number of pointed lobes. Some, such as red maple, have small leaves with 3-5-pointed lobes, while others, such as Norway maple, have larger leaves with many points.

The buds and flowers of maples also differ. Red maples have clusters of tiny red buds and tiny red flowers, whereas sugar maples have one brown central bud with two lateral buds and produce small dangling yellow-green flowers. Norway maples show reddish-brown turban-shaped buds and have erect conspicuous yellow-green flowers. Norway maples also have white sap. Maple and other tree flowers are important food sources for hummingbirds in the spring.

In fall, red maples usually turn a bright red that can deepen to purple. Sugar maples tend toward the dark burnt umber-orange or yellow side of the spectrum, and non-native Norway maples which stay conspicuously green well into the fall (out of synch) usually turn shades of orange or yellow. Colors and timing are soil and moisture dependent and tied to the relative health of a tree and may vary widely from tree to tree and year to year.

Sugar maples are the species most often used for syrup making in the Northeast and Canada where a majority of the world's maple syrup production occurs. Quebec produces 90% of Canada's maple syrup and 83.8% (2024) of the world's production. The U.S. is the 2nd largest producer at 7.5%, with Vermont accounting for roughly 40% of syrup production in the U.S. followed by NY with 17%. The Netherlands come in third at 2.5%, with the rest of Europe combined



Educator Alex Flynn bottling maple syrup at NCNC.

producing another 5%. Although the U.S. is the second highest maple syrup producer, we still import syrup to satisfy our collective sweet tooth.

Maple syrup production is increasing worldwide and is now produced in Australia, New Zealand, and Asia, especially Japan, Korea, and China. China and New Zealand are expanding syrup production.

Sap is mostly water with a tiny bit of sugar. The process of making syrup requires removing most of the water. Sugar maples generally have the highest concentration of sugar (sucrose) per gallon, at (2-3%), so are preferred for making syrup. It takes 40 to 60 gallons of sugar maple sap to make a gallon of syrup, which accounts for its high retail price of \$40-\$80/gal. For red and Norway maples, the ratio is often closer to 60-80 to one. In parts of the western U.S. where sugar maples do not grow well, boxelder is used, as it has a similar sugar content (2.2-2.8%/gal) and produces more sap per tree.

Sap from trees such as Black and English Walnuts and birches can also be used but require substantially more sap. Birch sap has a ratio of nearly 100 gallons to 1, so both types of syrup command premium prices.

Every January, NCNC hosts our Adopt-a-Tree event where families and individuals can adopt one or more of our sugar maple trees to tend during sugaring season (usually

late January to mid-March). At our public season-kickoff held in mid-January, participants choose their tree(s), get kitted out with a numbered bucket and tap, and join staff to tap their tree(s).

Trees that are 10-20" inches in diameter and at least 40'ft tall (usually 20-30 years old) receive one tap and bucket. They are tapped using a 7/16th bit to drill a 3-inch-deep hole into the trunk. Trees more than 20 inches in diameter can support two buckets. When possible, taps (also called spiles or spigots) are placed on the sunny south side, which can improve sap collection. Taps are moved each year as the tree scabs over old holes inhibiting sap flow near them. A hook is secured over the base of the tap, before it is hammered into the hole. The bucket is hung from the hook, and a lid is placed on the bucket to prevent debris and insects from getting into the sap.

Although its precise origin is lost to time, maple syrup making originated with the native Americans and was taught to European settlers. During colonial times, maple syrup was an important commodity because sugar (from sugarcane) was quite expensive.

While buckets and collection tanks drawn by horses were once used in commercial production, most modern commercial operations utilize a more efficient system

whereby trees are connected via a closed network of 3/16th inch tubing. Gravity creates a vacuum within the tubing that increases sap flow and feeds sap directly to a centralized collection tank, often in the sugar house itself.

During the short syrup season, commercial syrup processing runs 10-12 hours a day. To save time and fuel, reverse osmosis is now used to extract 90% of the water from the sap before boiling, significantly reducing the time and energy needed for syrup production, making it more environmentally friendly.

Sap runs when temperatures are above freezing. Ideal sugaring weather is when temperatures stay above freezing during the day but go below freezing at night preventing the tree from metabolizing the sap to open its buds. The longer the cycle of warm days and cold nights, the longer the sugaring season. Once the days and nights stay above freezing for three or four consecutive days, the trees begin to utilize the sugar, turning the sap milky with metabolites and rendering it unsuitable for making syrup.

During the sugaring season, Adopt-a-Tree participants visit their trees a few times per week, collect the sap, and transfer it to 55-gal sap receptacles either at the sugar shed or at a collection site near our apple orchard. The sap from these containers is fed into the hopper that



The Sugar House.



Three- to five-lobed Red Maple leaves.



Freshly bottled NCNC maple syrup



Sap collecting buckets



NCNC's evaporating pan



Sugar Maple leaves showing their range of colors.



Sap collection bins (black) — one bin makes about a gallon of syrup.



NCNC's Aidan Murphy doing a syrup making demo



Alternate Branching



Norway Maple flowers



Red Maple flowers



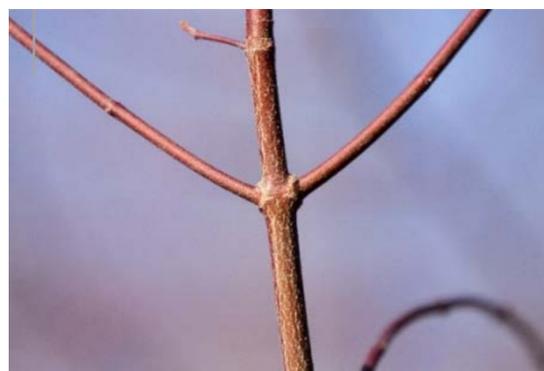
Our Sugar Bush - tapped trees



Sugar Maple being flagged



Many-pointed Norway Maple leaf



Opposite Branching



Red Maple buds



Boxelder has "Compound" leaves - there are no buds at the leaflet bases



Hand-shaped Sugar Maple Leaves are "Simple" (1 leaf per stem)

adds it to our evaporating pan.

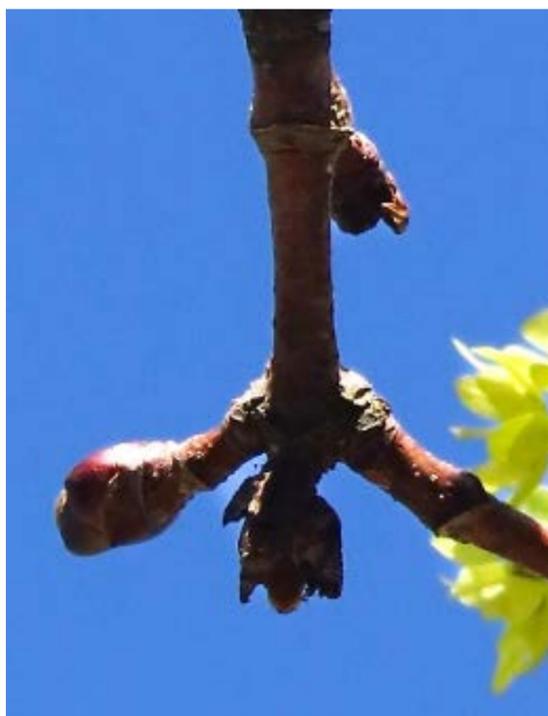
The evaporating pan, which is heated by wood, sits atop a flat woodstove-like base made of stainless steel that has three chambers: one large chamber in the rear and two smaller chambers in the front. The chambers baffled design and large surface area facilitate rapid evaporation. Fresh clear sap is added to the rear chamber where it is reduced until it becomes a golden yellow. It's then shunted to the second chamber where it's rendered down further before it's moved to the front chamber where it is boiled down until it's nearly syrup. It is finished in a pot on an outdoor stove where the heat can be precisely controlled and measured. At sea level the syrup is finished when the temp reaches 219°F (temp decreases with elevation.) Going beyond this point makes maple sugar. The finished syrup is filtered and then bottled.

Syrup yields vary annually, depending on the number of trees tapped and the length of the season, but lately we have produced 10-15 gallons of syrup annually (80-120 pints) from 75-85 trees. In exchange for tending their tree (s), Adopt-a-Tree participants receive a pint of syrup from the season's bounty.

During syringing season many area schools, all seven of our preschool classes, and our Little Explorers, visit NCNC for a hands-on experience making maple syrup. They tap a tree, then visit our Sugar House to watch the sap boil and feel the steam rising from the evaporator, before sampling delicious syrup. It's quite a popular program.

At the end of the season in mid-March, NCNC hosts Syrup Saturday for the public, where everyone enjoys a pancake breakfast with real maple syrup. This year's celebration is March 14th, from 8:30-11 a.m. There will be tree tapping and syrup making demonstrations, maple-related crafts, and a marshmallow roast around the fire. To register, go to . It is a wonderful event, and we hope you can join us. Next year marks our 60th anniversary of maple syrup making at NCNC.

Frank Gallo is the Senior Naturalist at the New Canaan Nature Center, where he leads environmental education programs, wildlife research, and citizen science initiatives that connect the community to the natural world. A seasoned birder, field biologist, and educator, Frank brings decades of experience in conservation and environmental outreach across Connecticut.



Norway Sugar Maple budsflowers

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Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

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

TOWN MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 3

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

Health & Human Services Commission
9-10 a.m., Town Hall Board Room

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

Board of Finance
7-9 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Wednesday, March 4

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

Parking Commission
7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Tourism and Economic Development Advisory Committee TEDAC
7-8 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Thursday, March 5

Board of Finance
7-9 p.m., Location not posted at time of publication.

Friday, February 27

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

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, February 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>.

Fostering a Positive Relationship with Food & Body

12 PM via Zoom
Dr. Melissa Coffin will discuss, fueling your best self, promoting positive body image, fostering mindfulness around food & exercise, and what to do if you're concerned about someone's relationship with food or body. Register at <https://newcanaancares.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/newcanaancares/eventRegistration.jsp?event=1632&>.

Thursday, March 5

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 ctcevents@candg.com.

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.

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/jUItC>.

Conversations with Business Leaders

7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Malcolm deMayo will share his deep experience in technology to help us understand how we can harness artificial intelligence in a dynamic landscape. With clear definition and concrete use cases, DeMayo will explain what AI is, address concerns and confusion, and show how we can use it to dramatically improve business outcomes. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/business-leaders-demayo-ai>.

Friday, March 6

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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

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.

Grace Farms Lectures with Concert | Dr.

Robin Wall Kimmerer

3-5 PM at New Canaan High School
Join Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer, a writer of "rare grace," for powerful and poetic explorations of connection. Kimmerer weaves together indigenous wisdom, science, and profound spiritual insight to reimagine our connection to the living world. The talk will be followed by a chamber music concert. Tickets are \$45/members, \$60/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/grace-farms-lectures-robin-wall-kimmerer>.

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>.

Former Intelligence Officer Dr. Anthony Vinci Presents "The Fourth Intelligence Revolution"

2 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Dr. Anthony Vinci discusses his new book, *The Fourth Intelligence Revolution: The Future of Espionage and the Battle to Save America*, with celebrated scientist Nicholas Donofrio. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/anthony%20vinci-177185>.

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>.

College Bound & Ready to Thrive

7 PM at New Canaan High School, Wagner Room
Help your child build a strong foundation for your wellness before starting college. You will learn how families can proactively support emotional wellbeing before and after graduation, Tools & strategies to help students thrive, and more. Register at <https://newcanaancares.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/newcanaancares/eventRegistration.jsp?event=1632&>.

Thursday, March 12

Mocktails

6:30 PM at Grace Farms
Follow Chef Leah's recipes to create three seasonal mocktails. Tickets are \$22/members, \$28/non-members, and available at <https://gracefarms.org/event/mocktails-2/2026-03-12>.

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.

Friday, March 13

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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

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 14

Syrup Saturday: A Pancake & PJ Party

8:30-11 AM at the New Canaan Nature Center
Join for the NCNC's annual syrup season celebration, complete with TONS of fun syrup-related activities. More information and registration is available at <https://newcanaannature.org/syrup-saturday/>.

Organized Chaos, Coffee & Cares

9-11 AM at New Canaan Country School
Join New Canaan CARES for a relaxed and fun-filled Saturday morning. There will be coffee, donuts, supervised crafts, indoor sports (for ages 3-11), and more. Register at <https://forms.gle/TLcaib7V1IZMVA88>.

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 15

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>.

Wednesday, March 18

Journey into the World of Tea | Oolong and Pu-erhs

3 PM at Grace Farms
Explore the fascinating world of oolongs and pu-erh, tasting samples of green oolongs, dark oolongs, and compare the stark differences between a raw and a cooked pu-erh. Tickets are \$20/members, \$25/non-members, and available at <https://shorturl.at/sXOTI>.

Friday, March 20

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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

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



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Calendar of Events for Your Fridge

250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Tickets are available at <https://shorturl.at/tHR43>.

A History of the Sonnet: Lecture and Discussion
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
This talk will provide an overview of the form's origins followed by a discussion of significant examples from the English Romantics, the Harlem Renaissance, and the current practitioners who have reinvigorated the form. Register at <https://shorturl.at/0lhEz>.

CARES Spring Community Program: Raising Curious Kids
6:45 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Attend Raising Curious Kids with Rebecca Winthrop. Rebecca is the author of *The Disengaged Teen: Helping Kids Learn Better, Feel Better, and Live Better*, a widely discussed book examining why many students today feel disconnected from school and learning. Ideal for parents of children pre-K through high school. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/raising-curious-kids-198366>.

Thursday, March 26

Japanese Gardens
1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Award-winning landscape designer and photographer Emily Kelting presents a journey through the rich history and design of Japanese gardens, including its connection to Buddhism, significance of tea houses, and concepts of water, moss, pine. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-japanese-gardens>.

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, March 27

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

Saturday, March 28

Introduction to LinkedIn Learning

1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
In this class, learn how to get started with LinkedIn Learning, the library's newest resource that you can use to learn new skills at your own pace, with over 16,000 professionally designed courses available for free. Register at <https://shorturl.at/YG2SF>.

Tuesday, March 31

Open Mic Night by Especially Everyone
6:30 - 8:30 PM at Gates Restaurant & Bar
Join for a welcoming night of live music and community, led by a 3-piece house band. Go share a song, try something new, or cheer someone on.

Tuesday, April 14

Moneco Advisors Present: Tax Planning Strategies
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim and Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Join for a Tax Planning Strategies workshop where you'll be given specific strategies to consider for helping you and your family secure a better financial future. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-moneco-171959>.

Friday, April 17

Breeches & Bowties Spring Gala
6:30-10:30 PM at the Wee Burn Country Club, Darien
Join the New Canaan Mounted Troup at their 2026 Spring Gala with guest speaker Drew Doggett. Enjoy a night of community, inspiration, and purpose - and help ensure their horses and programs continue to serve those who need them most. Tickets are available at <https://newcanaanmountedtroupe.org>.

Wednesday, April 29

Yale Redhot & Blue Sing A Cappella
7 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
Celebrate America 250 with the sounds of classic American jazz, together with newer sounds that chase the bounds of musical possibility. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/yale-red-hot-blue-singers>.

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 250th Independence Day celebration.

BLOOD DRIVES

Friday, February 27

UCONN
One University Place
Stamford, CT 06901
11:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Tuesday, March 3

Saint Mark's Church
111 Oenoke Ridge Road
New Canaan, CT 06840
1:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Wednesday, March 4

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

Strong Comstock Community Center
180 School Road
Wilton, CT 06897
10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

King School
1450 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Thursday, March 5

VFW
465 Riverside Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Convent of Sacred Heart
1177 King Street
Greenwich, CT 06831
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Support Services & Meetings

Wednesday, March 4

Alzheimer and Dementia Support Group with the Waveny LifeCare Network
2 PM at the New Canaan Library, McLaughlin Meeting Room
Family members, caregivers, and friends are invited to meet for informative and supportive group sessions to help navigate changes related to memory loss and cognitive decline. Register at <https://shorturl.at/R8s63>.

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>.

Wednesday, March 25

Supporting Aging Parents Successfully with Janet Simpson Benvenuti
6:30 PM at the New Canaan Library, Jim & Dede Bartlett Auditorium
In this practical conversation about what matters as families age, we will focus on legal, financial, medical, housing, and caregiving decisions that help older adults live well as they age. This program is co-sponsored by Staying Put, New Canaan Library, and the New Canaan Community Foundation. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/supporting-aging-parents>.

Thursday, April 30

Navigating the New Landscape of Long-Term Care
1 PM at the New Canaan Library, Craig B. Tate Conference Room
Join Pelletier Senior Planning as they delve into the evolving world of long-term care planning, especially the growing need for care among seniors and baby boomers. This session is crucial for understanding the expanded options available as the demand for care rises. Discover how the long-term care insurance landscape has changed, introducing more choices than ever before. Register at <https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event/hold-long-term-care-202270>.

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, March 4

Energy Savings Workshop
12-1:30 PM at the Danbury Public Library, Farioly Program

Room
Habitat for Humanity is hosting a free Energy Savings Workshop in partnership with Eversource and local weatherization contractor representatives. Register at <https://app.giveeffect.com/campaigns/43706-free-energy-savings-workshop>.

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/>

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GOAT

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93 Elm Street
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And Join Us in the Pub!

CINEMALAB.COM
for showtimes and tickets

[event-calendar/gala.html](https://www.newcanaanlibrary.org/event-calendar/gala.html).

POWERHOUSE THEATRE IN WAVENY PARK

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TPNC.ORG

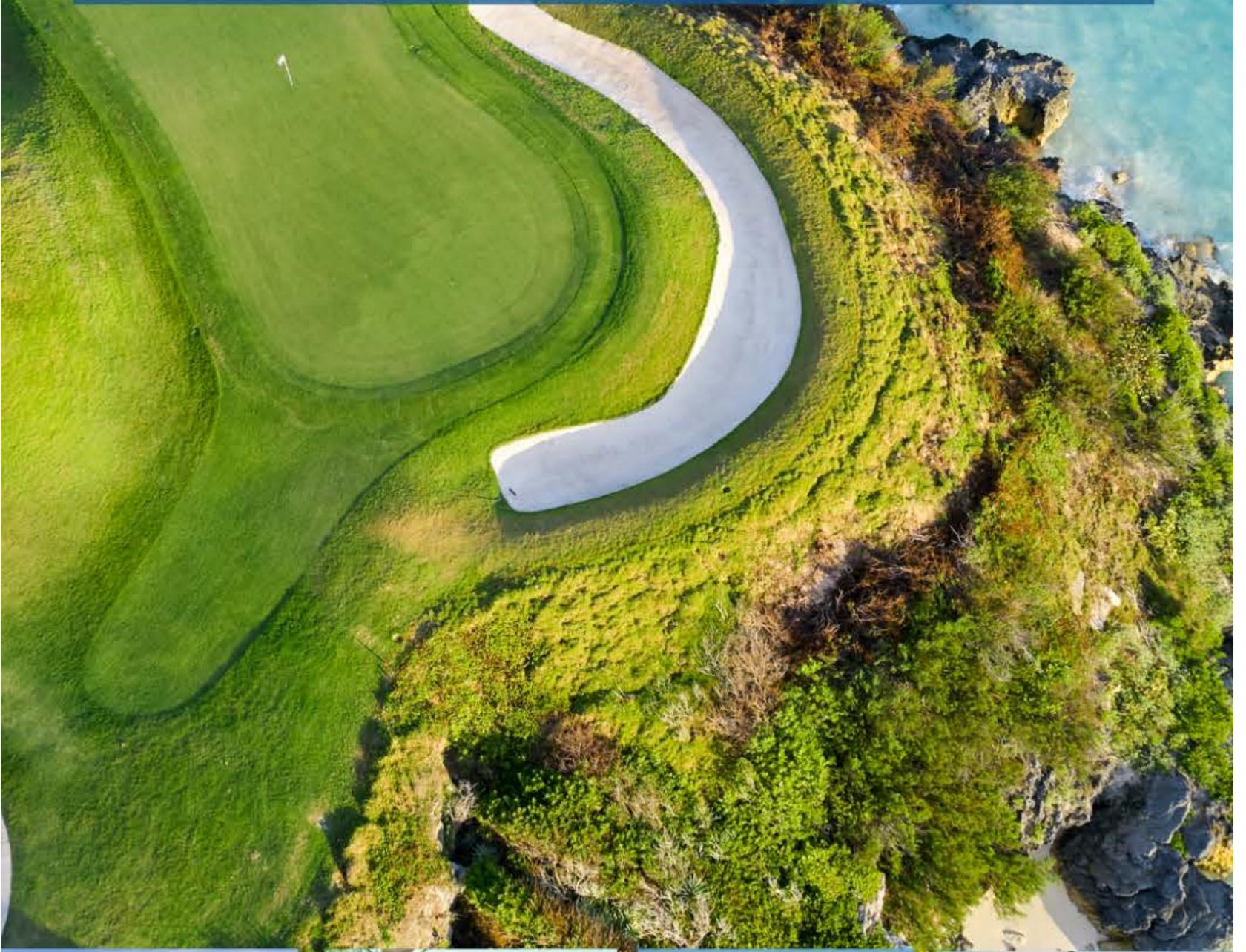
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PRESERVING THE FUTURE

A campaign for land conservation in New Canaan



Credit: Connor de Mayo

The New Canaan Land Trust is poised to magnify its positive impact on the New Canaan Community over the next several decades.

Renovating the house, barn and grounds at the newly acquired 1124 Valley Road property will transform the organization.

Putting Down Roots *a foundation for growth*

A New Canaan home base for conservation leadership will provide a springboard for:

- Anchoring** our connection to the community
- Pursuing** historical renovation through adaptive reuse
- Inspiring** youth conservation leadership
- Invigorating** the protection of additional open space
- Preserving** the future of the New Canaan that we love

Please join us in Preserving the Future of land conservation in New Canaan.



This can only be accomplished with the support of our community.

Scan the QR code to learn more now or visit us at www.NewCanaanLandTrust.org



New Canaan Sentinel
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A New Forest Crisis: The Threat of Beech Leaf Disease in Connecticut



Dark banding between leaf veins indicates beech leaf disease infection. NPS/Brolis

By KATE DZIKIEWICZ

Over the past century, Connecticut's forests have endured repeated waves of invasive pests and diseases. Dutch elm disease, chestnut blight, and other destructive pathogens have wiped out once-dominant tree species, permanently reshaping the composition and character of our woodlands. Today, our forests face another serious threat: Beech leaf disease.

American beech trees are a foundational species in many Connecticut forest ecosystems and among the most common native trees in our region. Their nuts provide a rich source of protein and fat for wildlife, including squirrels, wild turkey, black bears, and numerous bird and small mammal species. In good health, beech trees can live an extraordinary 300-400 years and when grown in open areas such as parks and yards, their trunks may reach two to three feet in diameter. Connecticut is home to several remarkable specimens, including a magnificent beech in Greenwich Common Park off Greenwich Avenue. This tree is part of the Greenwich Tree Conservancy's town-wide Arboretum. Arboretum Curator Lisa Beebe found that the trunk measures 14.5 feet in circumference, or over four feet in width!

Unfortunately, beeches in our forests,

Across New Canaan, Greenwich and surrounding communities, many individual beech trees near homes, parks, and public spaces are already receiving treatment, helping to preserve some of these majestic giants. Unfortunately, no method currently exists to treat entire forest ecosystems at scale, leaving millions of beech trees in Connecticut's woodlands critically vulnerable.

parks, and backyards are now under grave threat. Since its arrival in Connecticut, beech leaf disease has spread rapidly. Without intervention many of the state's beech trees could be lost in the coming years, but emerging treatments are offering new hope.

Beech leaf disease was first identified in the United States in Ohio in 2012 and was confirmed in Connecticut in 2019. It is caused by the microscopic nematode *Litylenchus crenatae*, originally from Asia. Research suggests the nematode may spread through wind-driven rain, water droplets, and possibly through animal droppings after wildlife consume infected beech nuts. Both native and ornamental beech varieties are susceptible, placing trees in natural forests and landscaped settings alike at risk.

The nematodes overwinter in the leaf buds of infected trees, damaging leaves as they develop in spring. Infection is easy to recognize. Affected leaves display dark banding between veins and may appear thickened, leathery, crinkled, or curled. Because leaves are essential for photosynthesis, the process by which trees convert sunlight into energy, extensive leaf damage can effectively starve a tree over time.

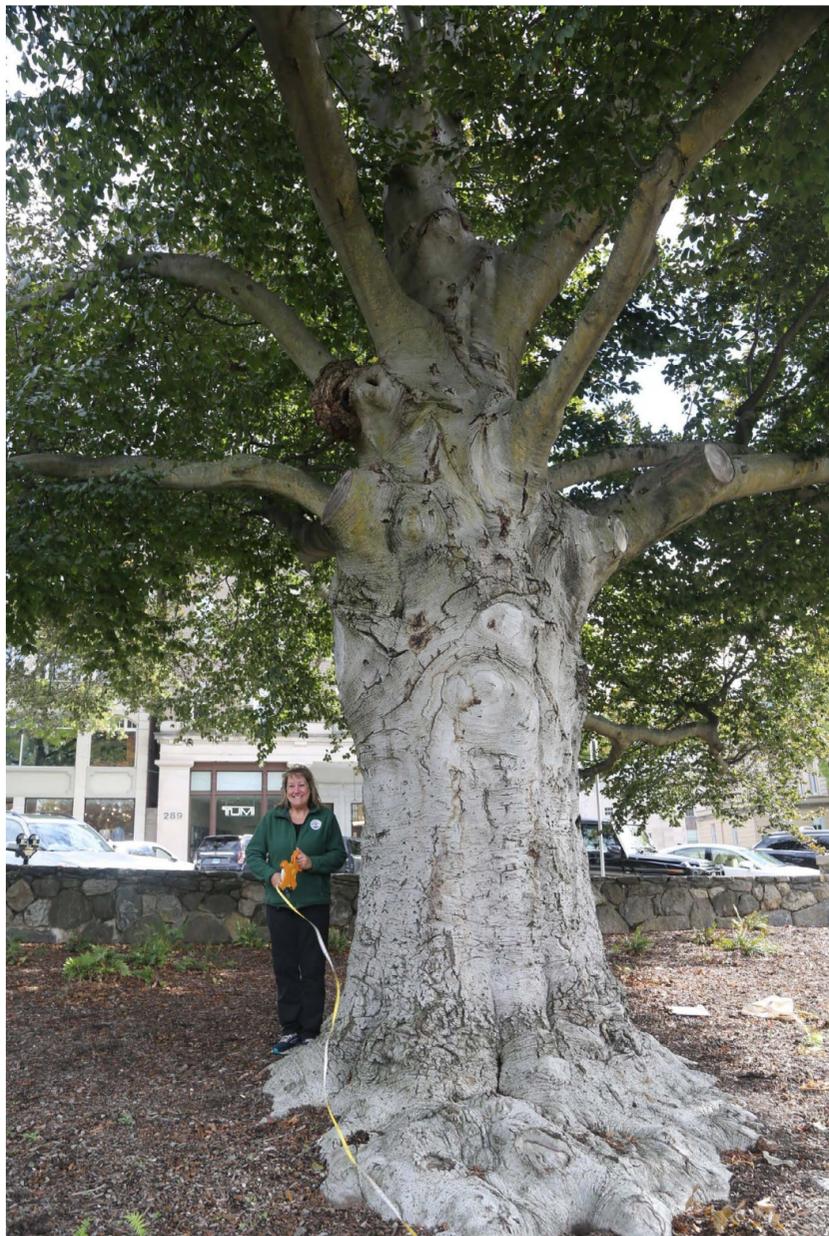
In many cases, infected trees decline and die within two to three years. However, recent research has identified treatments that can improve survival rates, particularly for high-value landscape trees. Carefully applied fertilizers may strengthen trees and improve their resilience. In addition, antiparasitic nematicides can be injected into roots,

sprayed on leaves, or used in combination treatments. Homeowners concerned about beech trees on their property should consult a certified arborist to assess tree health and determine the most appropriate course of action. Treatment typically requires multiple years of follow-up to be effective.

Across New Canaan, Greenwich and surrounding communities, many individual beech trees near homes, parks, and public spaces are already receiving treatment, helping to preserve some of these majestic giants. Unfortunately, no method currently exists to treat entire forest ecosystems at scale, leaving millions of beech trees in Connecticut's woodlands critically vulnerable.

Still, there is reason for cautious optimism. Ongoing research is exploring more efficient treatments and investigating whether certain beech trees may possess natural resistance to the disease. With continued scientific effort and community awareness, there remains hope that our iconic beech forests will endure for generations to come.

Kate Dzikiewicz is the Executive Director, Tree Conservancy. To find out more about the Tree Conservancy, visit us at: www.greenwichtreeconservancy.org



GTC Arboretum Curator Lisa Beebe measures a massive beech tree in Greenwich Common Park. Photo by Kate Dzikiewicz



A stunning European beech tree near the Stanton House Inn. Treatments have kept this tree in good health. Photo by Kate Dzikiewicz

New Canaan Sentinel

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On Partisanship, Community, Social Media, and Intent

The most important distinction in modern media is intent. Mistakes are temporary and often willingly corrected. Intent is more permanent.

Social media, blogs, and emailed partisan newsletters are not intended to inform; they are intended to provoke. Their purpose is not civic understanding but engagement, and engagement is most easily gathered through outrage, suspicion, and conflict. Partisan platforms operate with a similar purpose. They do not intend to enlarge a reader's view of reality but to narrow it, to push an audience toward a predetermined conclusion, and to turn public life into a permanent contest of enemies.

Intent shapes everything downstream: tone, fact selection, framing, the willingness to grant charity, and most important, the appetite for humiliation. There is a particular ugliness in the appetite to set up a situation and then use another person's good intentions as a weapon for humiliation. But when the purpose is power, the product will be distortion. The goal: victory.

Intent shapes everything downstream: tone, fact selection, framing, the willingness to grant charity, and most important, the appetite for humiliation.

That reality makes the role of a community newspaper clearer, and harder. A local paper has a different purpose. Its mission is not to divide neighbors into camps but to describe a shared place with joy and care. It reports on events, schools, budgets, public safety, zoning, volunteer efforts, churches, cultural life, deaths, milestones and the daily decisions that determine how a town functions.

The intent is constructive. It is to build understanding.

In his Farewell Address of September 19, 1796, President George Washington cautioned the country about partisan factions and their consequences: "The common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it."

He understood that when public life becomes organized around hostility, institutions bend toward excess and citizens toward suspicion.

The pressures facing local newspapers today are intense. Towns are losing them; every day another one closes. Part of the reason is reflected in exactly that spirit of partisanship. On the far right, partisan outlets have emerged that frame themselves as alternatives but often function as grievance engines. On the left, similar digital platforms pursue their own ideological enforcement. This pattern is not new. Political advocacy has always sought media vehicles.

What is new is the insistence that every single institution must be captured.

Both extremes share a common impulse: They cannot tolerate a local paper that belongs to the community rather than to a faction. They crave alignment and assume they are entitled to it. They do not want an independent civic voice; they want a weapon.

When activists on either end demand coverage or that a community newspaper "move" in their direction, it demonstrates something revealing. They are not asking for fairness. They are asking for obedience.

The intent of a community paper is rooted in a commitment to the long-term health of the town. It is to remind residents that they are neighbors before they are adversaries. It preserves the possibility of common life.

We celebrate unity and joy and goodness as a paper. We celebrate the volunteer effort, the school concert, the local triumph, the quiet act of service. We do so at a time when many involved in public life appear angry, suspicious and eager to play "gotcha" rather than to serve. That climate diminishes public trust. It is sad.

We face this often but a wise people protect institutions whose intent is to build rather than to tear apart.

Editorial Page



NEWS BRIEFS

CONTINUED From Page 1

Recently, First Selectman Dionna Carlson spoke to the New Canaan Rotary Club where she provided updates on the town budget, infrastructure improvements, winter operations, and more. Pictured L-R: Dionna Carlson and Tom Ferguson. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

Williams Joins Rotary Club



Whitney Williams, a longtime New Canaan resident, recently joined the New Canaan Rotary Club. She currently serves as Manager of Special Events at the New Canaan Museum & Historical Society. Pictured L-R: Tom Ferguson, Whitney Williams, and Keith Simpson. Photo credit: New Canaan Rotary Club.

ACROSS CT

Bremer Meatballs Recall

Rosina Food Products is recalling about 9,462 pounds of frozen "Bremer Family Size Italian Style Meatballs" sold at Aldi after a report of possible metal contamination. The affected 32-ounce packages were produced July 30 and carry a "Best By" date of October 30. Consumers should not eat the product and are advised to return it or discard it; no injuries have been reported.

SCHOOLS

2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program

Ten students from New Canaan have been named candidates for the 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which recognizes graduating seniors for academic achievement. Nine attend New Canaan High

School, while one attends Brunswick School.

NCCS Beginners 4/5 Event



The Beginners 4/5 class at New Canaan Country School held an evening event to conclude their study of light and dark. Activities included shadow puppet plays, songs, a flashlight treasure hunt, and a lantern procession. Photo credit: New Canaan Country School.

Chinese New Year at the Inn



Waveny LifeCare Network held a Chinese New Year celebration at The Inn which marked the Year of the Horse and included traditional foods for residents. Photo credit: Waveny LifeCare Network.

CCM Calls for Transparency as Pension Offsets Added to Sweeping Emergency Bill

At a time when Connecticut residents consistently cite affordability as their number one concern, it is deeply troubling that the Connecticut General Assembly is poised to impose yet another costly mandate on our towns and cities: one that will inevitably drive property taxes even higher.

By slipping pension offset language into SB 298 - a sweeping emergency certification bill - legislative leaders are advancing a proposal that has failed to gain approval for nearly a decade, and for good reason. Municipal officials from every corner of the state have repeatedly raised serious concerns about the fiscal impact, the precedent it sets, and the unintended consequences for local budgets and taxpayers. Those concerns have yet to be

resolved.

Embedding this policy in a sprawling 121-page emergency bill - in the wake of a major blizzard and outside the normal public hearing process - bypasses meaningful public comment, circumvents collective bargaining, and clearly disregards years of bipartisan municipal opposition. This is not transparent policymaking. It is not deliberative. And it is not responsive to the real and urgent concerns of Connecticut families.

Towns and cities do not have the luxury of deficit spending. Unlike the state, towns and cities must balance their budgets each year. When new mandates are imposed, local leaders have only one primary revenue tool to respond: the property tax. The result is predictable...higher tax bills for

homeowners, renters, and small businesses.

At a moment when residents are struggling with the rising costs of housing, utilities, food, and healthcare, advancing a costly pension offset mandate that benefits a narrow interest at the direct expense of property taxpayers sends entirely the wrong message.

Connecticut's affordability crisis demands thoughtful, transparent debate and full public vetting, not procedural shortcuts that shift additional financial burdens onto towns and cities. The legislature should remove this provision from the emergency bill and allow for an open, honest discussion about its true cost and impact before asking taxpayers to shoulder yet another mandate.

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Free, Two-Day, Online Leadership Training

Representation matters now more than ever in shaping policies and governance that reflect the diverse voices of our communities. As our nation continues to evolve, it is imperative that leadership at all levels of government mirrors the rich diversity of the people it serves.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Campaign School at Yale University proudly announce our commitment to advocating for increased representation in public office. This free, two-day, online training directs participants through the importance of championing diversity in leadership and aims to create a more inclusive and equitable political landscape where all voices are heard and valued.

"At the state and local level, representation matters because our decisions touch people's daily lives," said CCM Executive Director and CEO Joe DeLong. "When leadership reflects the diversity of the community, it leads to smarter policies, stronger civic engagement, and communities that work better for everyone."

The training seeks to empower individuals from communities of color to engage in the political process and run for public office in order to bring fresh perspectives to governance. Through programs such as this, as well as leadership training, and community outreach, Representation Matters is dedicated to breaking down barriers that have historically limited diverse participation in politics.

The importance of representation extends beyond elections. Diverse leadership results in more inclusive decision-making, leading to policies that better reflect the needs and aspirations of a broader constituency. From city councils to state legislatures and Congress, diverse voices drive meaningful change and foster trust in democratic institutions.

We encourage community members, organizations, and leaders to join us in this effort to build a government that truly represents the people. If you are interested in learning more, supporting our mission, or running for office yourself, please visit CCMCares.com for more details.



Obituaries

LEAH CZARNECKI



April 1, 1979 - February 9, 2026

Leah Beth Czarnecki, born on April 1, 1979, in Stamford, CT, passed away on February 9, 2026, in Richmond, Virginia, after a brief illness. Her 10-year-old daughter, Camila Elizabeth (“Millie”), was at her side. It is devastating to be writing this obituary for our Leah, who was always filled with life and joy.

Leah loved volunteering at Millie’s school, where she was a PTA board member and a Girl Scout leader. She also volunteered with the Richmond Department of Recreation, organizing adult recreational sports such as kickball. She often said it was a great and fun way to make new friends.

Her leadership skills blossomed in the New Canaan school system, where she served as class president from sixth through twelfth grade, was editor of the yearbook, and was honored as homecoming queen. Leah loved people and had a remarkable ability to bring them together.

After graduating from Boston College, Leah became the administrative head of the Virginia Commonwealth University Student Health Center, where she successfully computerized the entire department. She received the VCU Staff Senate Award, honoring her exceptional service and dedication to VCU Health Services, “ the highest honor, bestowed on one who has given extraordinary services and support to the VCU health services.” She was also named Employee of the Year at the university.

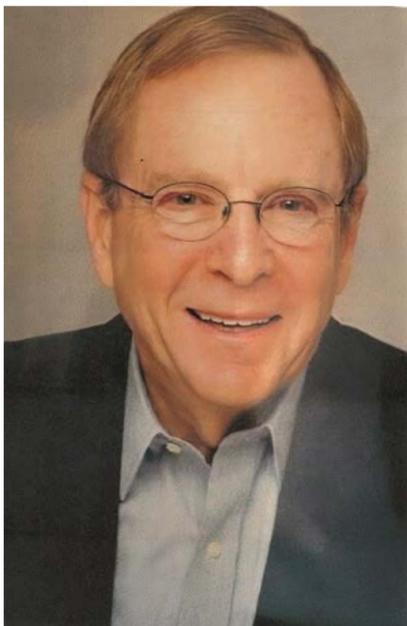
Leah Beth is survived by her cherished daughter, Millie; her parents, Elizabeth and John Czarnecki, formerly of New Canaan; her two sisters, Laura Czarnecki of Laguna Beach, California, Jayna Glionna of Lordship, Connecticut, and Jayna’s husband, Peter Glionna. Leah is also survived by her loving niece and nephews, Noah Quinn, Nathaniel Quinn, Daniel Glionna and Arien Glionna.

Leah’s life was defined by love. She will be remembered for her bright spirit and the kindness she extended so effortlessly to others. We will forever miss our Lele.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at Saint Aloysius Church in New Canaan, CT, at 10:00 a.m. on February 28, 2026.

Services are under the care of Thomas M. Gallagher Funeral Home, located at 104 Myrtle Ave., Stamford, CT 06902.

JOHN FULKERSON



John Rogers Fulkerson, age 84, of New Canaan, CT, beloved husband of Mary Ann B. Meils, passed away peacefully after struggling for several months following a brain injury.

Born in Goose Creek, Texas on November 23, 1943, he was the younger

of two brothers born to Roy and Mildred Fulkerson. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School where he was a star track athlete. His love of running continued into college, where he competed in cross country at Texas A & M University. After which he earned a PhD in PsychO10U at Baylor University. He was a Texas licensed psychologist for his entire career.

He served his country in the Central Intelligence Agency before embarking on a successful career in the private sector. John’s work focused on assessment, leadership identification and executive development for many major corporations. Later, he worked as an independent consultant based in New York City for many years.

Outside work, John believed in fully participating in civic life, and did so by serving on several boards and in elective offices, including as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, President of The New The Exchange Club of New Canaan, Woodway Country Club and the New Canaan Ethics Board.

He is preceded in death by his parents, both of Baytown, Texas and his brother, Roy L. Fulkerson, Jr of Hoschton, Georgia.

John is survived by his wife, Mary Ann B. Meils of New Canaan, CT.

John’s family includes his son, Jonathan (wife Kimberley, sons Haden & Landon) of Westerville, Ohio, a daughter, Jennifer Wilhelm (daughters Aspen & Mila) of Austin, Texas and stepsons W. Douglas Meils (son Ronan & daughter Sonja) of Brooklyn NY, Matthew

Thomas Meils (son Matthew Thomas Meils, Jr) of Ellensburg, WA and John Fredrick Meils (daughters Collette & Cecilia) of Brooklyn, NY.

A memorial will be planned for later in the spring. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, friends consider a donation to the Exchange Club of New Canaan.

John was greatly loved and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

The Fulkerson family is being compassionately cared for by the Staff at Hoyt Funeral Home, 199 Main Street, New Canaan CT 06840.

CATHERINE ROGERS



Catherine Elaine Rogers Stokes passed away peacefully on January 30, 2026. Catherine was a woman of strength and grace, whose life was defined above all by her love of family. Catherine was born on February 2, 1941, daughter of the late Elaine Cook and Charles F. Rogers, Jr. She spent most of her life in New Canaan, CT, and has deep family roots in the town. She attended Center School, and Saxe Jr. High School, graduating from Low-Heywood in Stamford.

After attending Connecticut College, Catherine married and started her career at Robert F. Wagner, Inc. in New York City. From there she worked for Princeton University, Xerox Corporation, and continued her marketing career at Milcom Health Communications, The Senior Network, and finally at the Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging. Her last role truly encapsulated her belief in “aging gracefully”, advocating for programs to ensure seniors continue to lead an active, healthy and rich life.

Adventurous by nature, she was a world traveler who never stopped exploring. She believed there was a wondrous world out there to explore and experience. In retirement, she especially seized the opportunity to travel; whether it was accompanying her daughter and grandson

on a science trip to the Florida everglades, traveling across the country to hike and see the National Parks, or going to a dude ranch in Wyoming, she embraced life with courage and curiosity. One of her life-long dreams was to travel to Africa to see the wildlife. She was able to go on this adventure with her late husband, Bob Stokes. Her real passion was for life; this included prayer and meditation, camping, travel, hiking, windsurfing, dancing, sailing, and gardening. As a testament to her fearless spirit, she continued windsurfing until the age of 65, inspiring those around her with her energy, determination, and joy for life.

Her faith was a guiding force throughout, shaping her values and strengthening her resolve. She also cared deeply about her health, approaching life with discipline and intention, valuing both physical well-being and inner strength. Catherine was a pioneer in embracing healthy living and was an early advocate for wholesome food and regular exercise-values she instilled in those around her. She was an avid reader, lover of books, and a life-long learner. She also found great happiness in her marriage to Bob Stokes. Their union brought her immense joy and companionship, enriching her final years with love and laughter. Catherine believed deeply in unity, understanding, and cultivating genuine relationships with all. Her style was impeccable and she loved to entertain, taking pride in creating a warm home to which she always welcomed friends and family. With the table set nicely and flowers around the house, Catherine enjoyed engaging in stimulating conversation, even if she “agreed to disagree”. She worked to build solid relationships with family, friends, and the many people that she met throughout her life. The relationships she built with many were rooted in trust and mutual respect. She was kind, respectful, and fair. Catherine cared deeply and loved fiercely. Above all, her children and grandchildren were the light of her life-her pride unmistakable, her love unconditional.

She is survived by her two children, Caroline Murphy Cyr (Jim) and Matthew Murphy (Meg); her five grandchildren, Sam and Grace Douthit, Elizabeth, John and Ryan Murphy; and her devoted sister, Laurie Rogers (Bob McGregor). She was preceded in death by her brother, John Rogers, and her beloved husband, Robert “Bob” Stokes. She also leaves behind stepchildren, nieces and nephews, all of whom she cherished having in her life. A trusted friend and confidante, she offered wisdom, honesty, and unwavering support to those she loved. She was strong-willed with an iron resolve, a role model to many, and admired for her resilience, fairness, and character. Catherine will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered for her adventurous spirit, her caring heart, and the joy she brought to all who knew her. Her legacy lives on through the family she nurtured, the relationships she built, and the values she passed down. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

A memorial service to honor Catherine’s life will be held this spring. Details will be shared with family and friends and posted online.

The Rogers family is being compassionately cared for by the Staff at Hoyt Funeral Home, 199 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840.

If one wishes to make a donation in Catherine’s memory, kindly consider giving to an organization supporting healthy living or conservation - causes dear to her heart.

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 Caroll@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.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
NEW CANAAN**

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1 <small>FEB</small>	11:30 <small>AM</small>	Adult Forum Georgette Bennett
5 <small>FEB</small>	3:00 <small>PM</small>	New Canaan Chamber Music Concert
6 <small>FEB</small>	7:00 <small>PM</small>	New Canaan Chamber Music
8 <small>FEB</small>	11:30 <small>AM</small>	Super Bowl of Caring
22 <small>FEB</small>	4:00 <small>PM</small>	NC High School Choirs Concert
28 <small>FEB</small>	4:00 <small>PM</small>	New England Chamber Orchestra
7 <small>MAR</small>	2:00 <small>PM</small>	New Covenant Center
8 <small>MAR</small>	11:30 <small>AM</small>	New Member Orientation Class
8 <small>MAR</small>	4:00 <small>PM</small>	Charis Chamber Voices
22 <small>MAR</small>	10:00 <small>AM</small>	New Member Reception

Please Plan to Join Us for Some or All of These Events!

178 Oenoke Ridge
Sunday Worship/Sunday School – 10am
Visit fpcnc.org or call us at 203-966-0002 ext 1

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

christiansciencet.org/newcanaan

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

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

First Presbyterian Church

178 Oenoke Ridge Road 203.966.0002

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:

Now through March 29: Lenten Food Drive. You can pick up a brown grocery bag with a list of items from the back of the church. All items will be donated to the New Canaan Food Pantry.

March 8 at 4 PM: Charis Chamber Voices Concert. Tickets available at <https://www.charisvocals.com/tickets.html>.

Saint Aloysius Roman Catholic Church

21 Cherry Street 203.966.0020

www.starcc.com

Service Schedule:

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

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

Saturday: 7:00 am

Recurring Events:

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

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

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

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

111 Oenoke Ridge 203.966.4515

churchoffice@stmarksnewcanaan.org

www.stmarksnewcanaan.org

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

Church School during the 10am service: Godly Play for children in kindergarten through second grade; Holy Moly for third and fourth grades; Meet in the Middle for fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

Professional childcare is offered for children ages four and under. Families with children who are not yet ready to separate for childcare are invited to use the rocking chairs at the rear of the chapel.

Weekday Services: Monday-Friday, 8:30am:

Morning Prayer Rite II by Zoom.

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

Recurring Events:

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

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

Upcoming Events:

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.

March 15 at 5 PM: A Service of Evensong for Lent featuring works for the penitential season of Lent. All are welcome and no registration is required.

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

Upcoming Events:

March 11 from 7-11 PM: Annual Lent and Passion Week Service with Rev. Dr. Phillip Joubert.

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.

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.

Upcoming Events:

March 3 at 5 PM: Purim Carnival. More information is available on Chabad's website.

Temple Sinai (Reform Synagogue)

458 Lakeside Drive; Stamford, CT 06903

203.322.1649

www.templestain Stamford.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>

Emptying Oneself: The Call to Holiness and Freedom



By KATE NOONAN

“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.” Luke 14:33

There is a moment many of us recognize, not always in prayer, not always in church, but sometimes in the quiet middle of an ordinary afternoon, when we feel the weight of ourselves. The noise. The habits. The familiar loops of thinking and reacting that have played out so many times often feel less like choices and more like fate. It is in that

moment that God whispers something both surprising and freeing: It is time to let go.

Over the course of a lifetime, it seems that many operating systems have been installed in our personal hardware. Some were loaded in childhood; messages about worthiness, fear, control, the need to perform. Others were added through heartbreak, failure, or the slow erosion of disappointment. They run quietly in the background, consuming energy, shaping responses and often distorting perception. The troubling truth is this: these programs, once installed, do not simply vanish because we ignore them. They keep running while shaping outcomes. And they do not always lead us to our best selves, or more importantly, to our truest selves - our selves as God sees us.

This is precisely why Lent is not merely a season of religious obligation. It is a divinely designed opportunity for reprogramming.

Jesus understood this need intimately. Even He, in the fullness of His divine mission, recognized that busyness can become a barrier. In the wilderness, before His public ministry began in earnest, He withdrew. He fasted. He sat in silence and withstood the voice of every temptation. Later, throughout His ministry, He would repeatedly leave the crowds, leave the urgent requests, and go alone to pray. He needed, as fully human and fully divine, to extract himself from a very busy ministry and be with God. If the Son of God required that emptying and time in prayer then we too must require the same.

Luke 14:33 is one of the most demanding verses in all of Scripture. Jesus does not dress it up. He does not soften it with qualifications. The equation is straightforward: disciples renounce. The call to follow Christ is, at its core, a call to uninstall. To surrender the programs that protect us from vulnerability. To release the identities we have curated for safety. To lay down the things: material, emotional, psychological - that we have quietly promoted to the status of gods.

This is not self-destruction. It is self-discovery through surrender.

The philosopher Blaise Pascal observed that the human heart is restless until it rests in something ultimate. We fill ourselves endlessly - with achievement, with distraction,

with the approval of others. But Christian spirituality insists on a counterintuitive truth: we must be emptied before we can be filled.

Lent is an entire season designed precisely for that process. The traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not arbitrary religious exercises. They are tools specifically designed to interrupt the most stubborn program of all: the belief that we are the complete master of our own lives.

When we renounce, truly renounce, not just symbolically, we create space. Space for clarity. Space for honesty. Space for the Spirit of God to move in places

too long filled with our own noise.

Holiness, then, is not about perfection. It is not about becoming someone else or erasing who you are. It is about becoming, at last, fully and freely yourself, as God originally designed. It is the freedom that comes when the old programs no longer run the show, and a truer, more whole operating system of love, grace, and divine purpose is allowed to function more freely.

So the question is not simply what will you give up this Lent. The question is: what is it time to uninstall? And, finally, are you willing to trust what God might install in its place?

Kate Noonan is a Pastoral Associate and Retreat Master. She graduated from Yale Divinity School in 2018.

What Can Lent Teach Us?

Throughout the centuries, the Church has invited Christians to observe a holy Lent - like a 40-day spring cleaning for our soul. The word “Lent” comes from the old English word “Lenten,” which means “spring” - not just the budding of leaves and flowers, but the springtime of the soul, when new shoots of spiritual life can take root in the depths of our being.



By MAREK ZABRISKIE

The season of Lent kicks off each year with the story of Jesus entering the wilderness, where he is tempted by the devil. In many ways it is also the story of each of our spiritual journeys.

The Spirit led Jesus to the Wadi Qelt - an area not far from where the Jordan River empties into the Dead Sea. It's situated just south of Jericho, looking down over the world's oldest city in the lowest region on the earth.

Jesus spent 40 days in these sand-colored hills, dotted with boulders, scrub brush, and a few scorpions. The desert is so vast, so quiet, and so empty that you feel small and very vulnerable. Because sand absorbs sound, you can hear your heart beat and you can listen to your breath. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

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The word “Lent” comes from the old English word “Lenten,” which means “spring” - not just the budding of leaves and flowers, but the springtime of the soul, when new shoots of spiritual life can take root in the depths of our being.

The Church in its infinite wisdom knows that we can get complacent about our faith. We attend church and recite the Nicene Creed and the Lord's Prayer without giving it a second thought.

Likewise, it's easy for us to do nothing Monday through Saturday to go deeper in our faith. We often fail or forget to take time to pray, read the Bible, keep a gratitude journal, fast, serve the poor, or read a devotional book by a saint or a spiritual master.

So, Lent invites us to spend 40 days not swimming on the surface of life but diving deeper into the spiritual journey. During Lent, we are invited to pray and read Scripture, to fast and simplify our lives, to wind down the chaos of our overscheduled days so that we can hear our heart beat and listen to the sound of our breath.

Lent is a spiritual retreat. It is a chance to step back from the relentless pace of life and the disturbing daily news cycle and to spend 40 days living by the grace of God alone, trusting that we will be saved by the mercy of God rather than our own endless activity and accomplishments.

Forty is a well-established pattern in the Bible. The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness learning to trust God. Moses spent 40 days on the mountain listening to God and receiving the Law. Elijah spent 40 days in the desert before he heard God's still small voice. So, too, God delivered Jesus to the devil to be tested for 40 days in the wilderness.

Jesus was said to have been around 30 when he was “driven” by the Spirit into the desert. Thirty is a normal age to ask some serious questions about where our lives are headed. Are

we on track to accomplish our goals? Are we feeling fulfilled? Is there more to life than we've been experiencing? Was Jesus having doubts about being a small town carpenter?

For whatever reason, Jesus made his way to the Jordan River, where John baptized him. As he emerged from the water, the heavens parted, a dove descended, and a mysterious voice said, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Jesus was like a rock star.

But with his hair still wet from his baptism, the Spirit catapulted him into the wilderness - the place where transformation often occurs in the Bible. The desert is the place where our lives fall apart and God reshapes us. Entering the wilderness was God's idea, not Jesus'.

Jesus was ordained, but

his ministry had yet to begin. He hadn't preached a single sermon or performed a single miracle. The wilderness was his seminary. It revealed his identity and taught him to trust God - instead of magic, fame, or political power.

By the end of the 40 days, Jesus was famished and weary and the devil knew that it was time to start the test. Meanwhile, Jesus recalled God's voice saying, “You are my Son... with whom I am well pleased.” This now seemed like ancient history. Had he been imagining it?

Why did God not send a rescue party or at least a raven carrying a loaf of bread to feed him. But alas, nothing! The sky stayed shut. No doves descended, and no reassuring words were offered by God. There was just Jesus, the desert, and the devil.

Jesus probably thought that

he deserved better. There are times when we feel that we deserve better. A devilish voice whispers within us, “If I am a Christian, why isn't God making my life easier? Shouldn't I be happier, healthier, or richer since I attend church and pay my pledge?” And we are tempted by Satan and must shoo the devil away.

The devil's exam taught Jesus what the wilderness teaches each of us - at the end of the day we don't need much to get by. The simpler we live, the happier we are. The more that we trust God, the more manageable our lives become. When we live with compassion, our lives take on real purpose and meaning. Yes, Lent has so much to teach us.

The Rev. Marek Zabriskie is Rector of Christ Church and editor of The Bible Challenge series of books published by Forward Movement.

Purim: A Celebration Like No Other



By RABBI MITCHELL M. HURVITZ

Chag Purim, chag Purim! Chag gadol hu la'Yehudim...

Purim Day, Purim Day! It's a great Jewish holiday...

As the joyous melody rings out, we remember that Purim is a celebration unlike any other in the Jewish calendar.

Sometimes described as our Jewish Mardi Gras, Purim is teeming with color and exuberance.

It is our time when the ordinary is turned upside down, and joy reigns supreme.

We celebrate Purim with lively music, cheerful parades, vivid costumes, and, responsibly, a few drinks. And we celebrate within an atmosphere of merriment and togetherness.

But Purim also commemorates a time when the Jewish people faced grave danger in the ancient Persian

Empire and, through courage and wisdom, emerged with their lives and their spirit intact.

Unlike many of our festivals, the story of Purim does not appear in the Torah. Instead, it was established by the Jewish people through the Book of Esther, a biblical story that has inspired all future Jewish generations with its themes of resilience and hope.

The Rabbis of the Talmud saw a fascinating connection between Purim and Yom Kippur, also known as Yom ha-Kippurim.

Through the Hebrew wordplay of the two holidays, a link is made between our most joyful and most solemn holidays.

The Chazal (Sages of Blessed Memory) drew an important parallel between Esther's brave approach to the king to plead for her people and the High Priest's entry into the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur to seek atonement for the Jewish people.

The two moments similarly highlight the strength of an individual's courage and intercession on behalf of their sacred community.

Purim may seem like a paradox. It overflows with fun and humor, yet it also serves as a moving reminder of the vulnerability the Jewish people have faced throughout history, often in the face of hatred and adversity.

Purim may seem like a paradox. It overflows with fun and humor, yet it also serves as a moving reminder of the vulnerability the Jewish people have faced throughout history, often in the face of hatred and adversity.

When we consider our Jewish children, we want them to be physically and spiritually safe.

We must pass on to them the sacred joys of their Jewish heritage, instilling pride in our traditions, while likewise fostering awareness and fortitude in a world that sometimes resists those who celebrate their differences.

The Book of Esther is unique among biblical texts. It never explicitly mentions God's name, which invites us to search for hidden meaning and divine presence within the biblical story.

Chazal taught that God's hand is hidden and only guides us from “behind the scenes.”

Yet, as individuals and as a people, it is ultimately up to us to step forward with courage, sustaining love, joy, and hope in our hearts.

At the same time, we remain steadfast with our responsibility to protect ourselves and our fellow Jews.

As we celebrate Purim with great joy, let us also commit to equipping our children with the knowledge, pride, and strength they need to live as Jews in the world today, safely and thoroughly.

Chag Purim Sameach and Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Mitch

Temple Shalom's Senior Rabbi Mitchell M. Hurvitz is a scholar, teacher, community activist and preacher, and is recognized as one of the prominent religious leaders in the Greenwich area and beyond. A frequent guest speaker at synagogues and churches, study groups, community institutions and universities, he is a charismatic personality

who engages individuals and stimulates hearts and minds. His teachings can be found in The Sentinel papers and in other local and national publications.

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Robert J. Fucigna, M.D.

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Address	Price	Day	Time	Broker
1343 Smith Ridge Road	\$3,995,000	SAT	12:00 - 2:30 pm	Raveis

NEW LISTINGS

Address	List Price	SqFt	Price/SqFt	AC	BR	FB
377 Main Street Unit #17	\$1,395,000	2,922	\$477		3	2
64 Sunrise Avenue	\$1,750,000	2,165	\$808	0.12	4	3
113 Brushy Ridge Road	\$2,849,000	5,778	\$493	1.26	4	6

NEW SALES

Address	Original List	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	BR	FB	Acres
148 W Hills Road	\$2,995,000	\$2,995,000	\$3,100,000	10	5	4	2.18

‘Modernism, Inc.’ in New Canaan



BY JOHN ENGEL

I just met a man from Nebraska in the lobby who said, “What is the Glass House?” After my brief explanation he asked, “So, why is this important?”

I’ve written about some of New Canaan’s midcentury modern houses in this column, the Leuthold and Round Houses, and architects Laszlo Papp and Landis Gores. But the man from Nebraska is right: It’s time to start at the beginning and answer the fundamental question, “What is Modernism, and why should we care?”

And why now? Because the New Canaan Playhouse is about to premiere *Modernism, Inc., The Eliot Noyes Design Story* on Sunday, March 1, and the Eliot Noyes Center is about to open. This is a big week for Modernism in New Canaan.

So, what is Modernism?

For most of human history, architecture meant one simple thing: walls holding up a roof.

Mud brick in Mesopotamia. Timber framing in Medieval Europe. Colonial saltboxes in New England. The walls were thick because they had to be. They carried the weight. Windows were small because cutting too much out of a wall weakened the structure.

Even when steel arrived in the late 19th century and skyscrapers began to rise, most houses were still built the old way. The walls did the work.

Modernism changed that.

Once steel and reinforced concrete columns could carry the structural load, the walls were relieved of duty. They could thin out. They could open up. And finally, they could disappear.

That structural shift – the freedom from load-bearing walls and the move to a skeletal frame – coincided with other key developments. Newly available materials like glass and concrete, changes in labor building skills, and, importantly, a major shift in social organization all came together in this town. That makes New Canaan a special place for understanding the evolution in architectural thinking that marked the beginning of modern architecture.

In 1926, Le Corbusier gave the movement a vocabulary, outlining what he called the Five Points of Modern Architecture. The essence was simple: Lift the structure off the ground on columns, free the interior from load-bearing walls, free the façade from structural limits, stretch windows horizontally to bring in light, and reclaim the roof as usable space.

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In other words, once structure was separated from walls, architecture became flexible. Space could flow. Light could enter. The exterior no longer dictated the interior.

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And you can see it in the Glass House. Steel columns carry the weight. The walls are glass. The plan is open. The roof is flat. Nothing is pretending to be something it isn’t.

That leads us to New Canaan in 1946. Philip Johnson had served as curator of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art from 1932 to 1936, introducing America to the new European style. In 1946, he returned to MoMA as the Director of Architecture and Design, and that year, he bought the land on Ponus Ridge in New Canaan that would become the site of his famous Glass House.

Johnson’s greatest contribution to the Midcentury Modern movement might not be as an architect but as a promoter and catalyst of the movement. In New York, he curated major exhibitions: *Modern Architecture: International Exhibition* (1932); *Machine Art* (1934); *Mies Van der Rohe* (1947); *From Le Corbusier to Niemeyer* (1949); and *Painting and Sculpture in Architecture* (1949). In addition, to exhibitions educating the public to this new, European style of architecture, he designed MoMA’s East Wing (1951), Sculpture Garden (1953), Garden Wing (1964), and the East Wing Addition.

As for New Canaan, Eliot Noyes

was the first to arrive and became the catalyst for modern building here. He started his search in Westport and rented there briefly before settling in New Canaan, persuading his friends and colleagues Philip Johnson and Marcel Breuer to join him.

Marcel Breuer is significant because he and Walter Gropius were rather famous Bauhaus architects who had fled Germany before the war. Gropius was personally recruited by the Harvard dean to head the architecture school there and replace the Beaux Arts style with modernism. In 1937, they began teaching a generation of students – Philip Johnson, Eliot Noyes, John Johansen, and Landis Gores among them. All eventually move to New Canaan, who, along with Breuer, became known as the Harvard Five.

Breuer moved to New York in 1946 and New Canaan in 1947 because he found it difficult to raise his young son in New York City and because he wanted to be close to his student, Eliot Noyes, who had recently built a house in town. Johnson purchased five acres on Ponus for his own house in 1946, and by 1947, Breuer had done the same on Sunset Hill.

Landis Gores co-designed The Glass House with Johnson, drafting 27 different versions while they worked side by side from 1945-1951. Noyes supervised Breuer’s house construction while Breuer was working in South America. Johansen was the rebel of the group, designing the Bridge House (1957) and the Upside Down House (1950).

Those houses were not isolated experiments. The ideas tested here would echo in office towers, corporate campuses, and homes across the country.

But the influence of these architects and their ideas spread way beyond houses and skyscrapers, and I suspect that is the main point of the film.

For Eliot Noyes, influence in architecture was not enough. Industrial design became a secondary focus for him. Even further, he worked with top management to help reorganize the structure of businesses themselves. His work for Mobil Oil and IBM transformed how companies thought about design.

Every gas station in America with a modern canopy over the pumps traces back to Noyes’s designs for Mobil Oil – an early example was implemented here in New Canaan. Typewriters, once complicated mechanical tools, became simpler and more elegant in Noyes’s IBM Selectric of 1961, now on display at the New Canaan Museum and

Historical Society.

As Noyes said, “Good design is good business,” a phrase picked up by Thomas Watson Jr., IBM’s CEO.

It wasn’t a slogan. It reflected a shift in thinking: Design was not decoration added at the end. It was fundamental to the product, the building, even the process. Every visible element contributed to a unified whole.

That principle – that form and function are inseparable – is now so normal we barely notice it. Apple didn’t invent it. IBM didn’t invent it. The roots run straight through Noyes, through MoMA, through the Bauhaus, and through New Canaan.

So, when someone asks, “Why is the Glass House important?” the answer isn’t because it’s made of glass.

It’s important because it represents a moment when architecture stopped pretending. Structure became visible. Space became flexible. Light became intentional. The house became a frame for living instead of a decorated box.

And that thinking didn’t stop in 1951.

Look at Grace Farms. The River Building – that long, quiet ribbon of glass and steel designed by SANAA – floats over the landscape in a way that would have made Philip Johnson smile. Structure is minimal. Walls dissolve. The building bends with the land instead of dominating it – ‘50s ideas that have moved forward into the 21st century.

Grace Farms is a wonderful example of how Modernism isn’t a style frozen in time. It’s an ongoing conversation about light, structure, landscape, and restraint. The fact that one of the most significant contemporary buildings in America sits here, in the same town as the Glass House, is not an accident. It’s continuity.

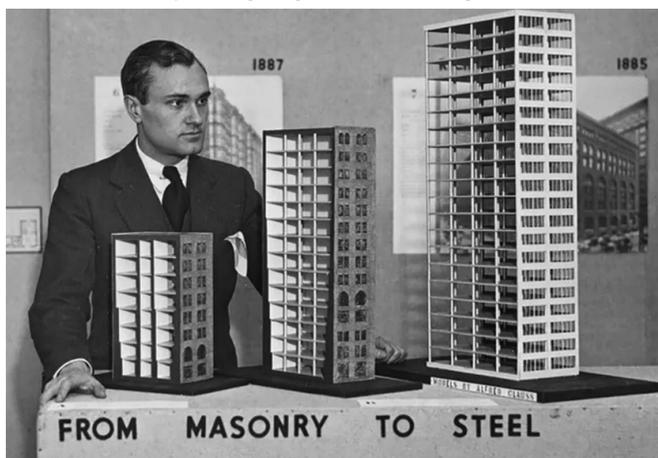
That’s why this week matters. A film about Eliot Noyes. A design center opening. A renewed look at what happened here, starting in 1946.

Before we dismiss a flat roof or a glass wall as “just midcentury,” it’s worth remembering its origins: A group of architects came to a small Connecticut town and experimented with a new way of building. The ideas they tested didn’t stay here. They spread – into offices, into products, into campuses, into the open floor plans buyers now expect.

That’s why this week feels significant: not because we’re celebrating old houses, but because we’re being reminded that something real began here.

Note that as of this writing, the 6 p.m. show is sold out, and they’ve added a 6:30 show. Tickets are available at the playhouse website: playhouse.cinematlab.com/home.

John Engel is a broker with The Engel Team at Douglas Elliman, and his interest in modern design is not academic. His grandfather, Eugene Casey, learned industrial design working for Walter Dorwin Teague and Raymond Loewy in Manhattan before moving his firm, King-Casey, to Pine Street in New Canaan. There, he designed the green American Express card and the Merrill Lynch bull. John grew up around conversations about branding, structure, and strategic design. On Sunday, he will be in the audience when Fred Noyes introduces the film about his father. He understands what that moment feels like.



Philip Johnson at MoMA, c. 1932.



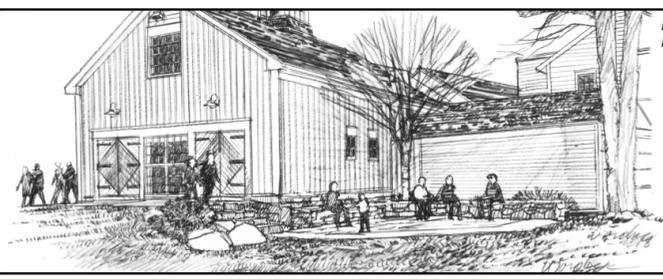
Eliot Noyes designed for Mobil and IBM, and his house in New Canaan, now the Eliot Noyes Center.

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



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