

New B&B Opens On Main Street

By Anne Hewitt
Beacon staff

Some folks just gravitate to “the people business.” That seems to be the destiny of Michelle and Chris Bengivengo – this month they are opening the doors of the New England House Bed and Breakfast in what used to be known as “The English House” on Main Street.

Both Michelle and Chris are no strangers to the service industry. Michelle has been involved in various public education endeavors – primarily Fire Safety and Life Safety Training – since graduating from the Maryland Institute of Art. Chris recently retired from serving as Assistant Chief Fire Marshall in the St. Petersburg, Florida area. They explored several business opportunities, such as coffee shops and gift stores, in both Florida and New Hampshire. The main criterion was that they wanted to do something together.

Chris credits Amy Rheume of Andover, Michelle’s sister, with finding the B&B property in Andover Village. The 100-year-old house has antique charm, gorgeous views, and a great location. The Andover area appealed to them for its natural beauty and rural setting. It also brought them closer to family; besides the Rheaumes, Michelle’s parents – Gene and Priscilla Poulin – and her brother – David Poulin – also reside in Andover.

A Room For Each Colony

The New England House has six guest rooms, each named for one of the original New England colonies – Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Each room’s color scheme and appointments complement its theme state. New queen-size beds are covered with high quality linens, and the private



Chris and Michelle Bengivengo, and Bosco Photo: Bob Bussey

baths have been furnished with plush, oversized towels.

Common areas are decorated with a combination of antiques and newer furnishings. The walls are adorned with beautiful artwork. Many of the paintings were created by Michelle; some of the others were done by her talented Auntie Dolores. The home’s hardwood floors have been refinished to a glossy shine, and the many sparkling windows frame mountain and field views.

Chris is looking forward to preparing homestyle meals for New England House guests. His culinary skills were honed cooking for hungry firefighters at any one of the 13 fire stations in his former precinct. Both genuinely enjoy entertaining and are looking forward to welcoming travelers to their home. Bosco, their Chihuahua-Boston Terrier mix, is anxious for company, too.

In true New England-style hospitality, the Bengivengos invite the community to visit the New England House on Saturday, November 11. Open House hours are 1 to 4 PM. For more information, phone Chris and Michelle at 735-5776.

Guests From Andover, England Visit Potter Place Museums

By Pat Cutter
Andover Historical Society

On October 4, 20 visitors from Andover, Massachusetts, 12 from Andover, England, and two from Redon, France arrived for a visit at the Andover Historical Society’s museums in Potter Place. The guests from overseas were spending a very busy and fun-filled week with their sister town, Andover, Massachusetts.

The USA connection all began in 1981 when a couple from Massachusetts went to visit their town’s namesake in Hampshire, England. They met with the Andover, England Police Chief Inspector Jack Taylor, and two months later Jack and his wife, Joan, visited here in the states. More visiting occurred in 1996 on the 350th anniversary of the founding of Andover, Massachusetts.

In 2000, Andover, England and Andover, Massachusetts formed an alliance called “Twinning” in Europe and “Sister Towns” over here. That twinning was extended in 2006 to include North Andover, Massachusetts. Community

members have been visiting back and forth every two years since, staying in local homes. Andover, England also has a twinning arrangement with Redon, France and with Goch, Germany.

Twinning became popular in Europe after World War II as a way of encouraging cultural understanding between countries. Each twinned town has a committee to encourage visitations and arrange accommodations.

I met the Taylors in 1996 when they made a side trip to the New Hampshire Andover and sought to visit the museum. We have maintained contact and have visited with each other ever since.

According to an Andover, England Web site, there are 22 towns of Andover in the following places: Canada, Tasmania, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts (two counting North Andover), Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Vermont, and Virginia.

Historical Society Annual Meeting

By Mary Hiller
Andover Historical Society

Never let it be said that your town historical society is sitting back and enjoying the laurels that were heavily bestowed upon it for sponsoring the wonderful production of *Our Town* last May and for the fun of its annual August Old Time Fair.

In spite of the winds and rains of a harsh late October storm, 62 citizens braved the elements to come to Proctor Academy’s Norris Theater on Friday night, October 20, to witness another incredible production.

This one was sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council and was presented by the Andover Historical Society to wind up its year centering on Oral History.

Judith Moyer from the University of New Hampshire and her troupe of four

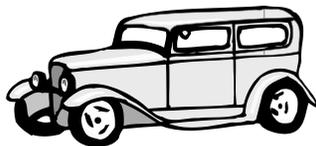
actresses presented *It Had To Be Done, So I Did It*. The show is based on oral histories taken in the town of Warner in the 1980s. The words are the actual words of the Warner women who were interviewed by Moyer and her team.

The presentation was exciting, informative, and thought-provoking – if you missed it because you were away or because of the bad weather, you may be able to see it eventually on Channel 8. But you may never have the chance to see the troupe in a live performance again, since this is their 20th year, and they are now scattered across the land and full of new responsibilities.

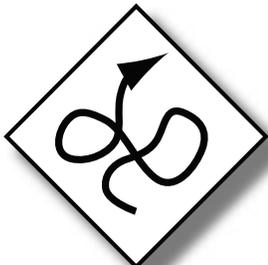
Those of us who were present heartily thank Proctor Academy for the use of the Norris Theater, the NHHC for their helpful grant, and the whole troupe of Judith Moyer’s ladies for their enlivening performance.

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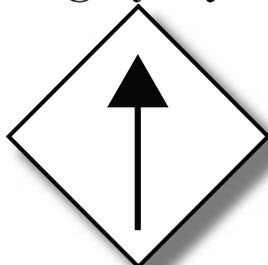
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Andover Historical Society

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Proud Heritage!

Join the Historical Society and
receive our quarterly newsletter.

Individual Membership – \$10
Family Membership – \$15
Donor Membership – \$50
Individual Life Membership – \$150

Volunteers are always needed!

- Tend the museum in the summer
- Help care for Society properties
- Help with the 19th Century Fair

PO Box 167 • Andover NH 03216
Yesterday Inspires Tomorrow