



The inaugural program of the Andover Community Coffeehouse on January 16 drew a full house at the Highland Lake Grange Hall. The next program will be held on Friday, February 20. Photo: Larry Chase

Andover's New Community Coffeehouse Opens to Full House

Kathy Lowe coming on February 20

Press release

An enthusiastic standing-room-only audience greeted two professional musical acts, the work of a local photographer, and a dozen open-microphone performances last month on Friday evening, January 16, as the newly organized Andover Community Coffeehouse hosted the first in a scheduled series of programs featuring local talent of all kinds: singers, musicians, poets, writers, artists, and crafters.

The program, held in the Highland Lake Grange Hall, also offered food prepared and sold by members of the Andover Congregational Church, which provided space for the program.

Asked to comment on the opening-night success, Coffeehouse committee chair (and open mic performer) Paul Currier summarized succinctly: "Beyond every expectation."

Look for a video recording of the program on Comcast Channel 8 or TDS Channel 16.

Going forward, the Coffeehouse committee plans to continue offering



Kathy Lowe of New London performs in East Andover on February 20.

additional evening programs featuring both professional and amateur talent on the third Friday of each month, beginning on Friday, February 20. Kathy Lowe, veteran singer, songwriter, performance/recording artist, and photographer, will headline the next Andover Community Coffeehouse program beginning at 7 PM on Friday, February 20, at the Highland Lake Grange Hall in East Andover.

Kathy, a New Hampshire native, lives in New London. She wrote her first song at age 11 and won her first jingle-writing contest at age 16. Since then she's performed literally around

the world and now focuses on audience participation, sound healing, and therapeutic music, while bringing her program to schools, nursing homes, hospitals, veterans centers, and coffeehouses.

In addition to Kathy's performance, an open-microphone program segment See Coffeehouse on page 8

Community-Minded Residents Brainstorm Needs and Opportunities

The discussion continues on February 6

Larry Chase, for the *Beacon*

With planning for the January Andover Community Coffeehouse under way, local residents met again to take another community-building step: They held a pot-luck luncheon and open discussion to come up with other activities that might gain traction in town.

On a cold Saturday in January, 21 local residents, most from Andover, came together over soups and casseroles in East Andover's Highland Lake Grange Hall for a two-hour brainstorming session.

Led by Andover resident Jennifer White, participants first formed small groups to list local needs and opportunities. Among many others, these included a summer outdoor concert series, transportation support for non-drivers, community gardens, a community tree-planting project, a bicycle pool for rail-trail users, a local farm store, a fuel as-

sistance program, support of local artists and craftspeople, and monthly potlucks with games and movies following.

With the lists displayed on Grange Hall walls, attendees then focused on the five topics determined to be of greatest interest:

- developing and promoting space(s) for community uses of all kinds
- developing a community learning center for residents of all ages, to be called (for the moment) Andover Institute
- developing a way to connect local resources of all kinds with local needs of all kinds
- developing and publicizing outdoor activities for all ages
- "picking the low-hanging fruit": acting quickly to create better signage and other publicity for town events, develop ways to welcome new residents, promote energy-conserving actions, update a directory of community resources, etc.

See Community on page 8

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- Current paystub or W-2 Form for yourself, and anyone else in your household
- Current insurance policy numbers if you, or anyone in your household has insurance
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