

Local artists unite at 'Circle of Sharing'

By Win Wilson
The Nugget

Since August of last year the "Circle of Sharing" Singer-Songwriter showcase, sponsored by New Moves Studio, has been held the first Friday of each month. The show rotates among local venues, including St. Ives On the Hill, Wiley's Coffee House, Rick's, and Main Street Bistro.

The group is dedicated to local artists who would like to perform original work, whether it be instrumental, song, or even poetry. Donations at the events benefit the Dahlonega Art Alliance. Artists of all experience levels are welcomed.

The group also holds a workshop the third Friday of each month. This session is open to anyone interested as well.

Dana Marie LaChance hosts the monthly show, which begins at 7:30 p.m. and usually runs until about 10:30 p.m. For information on where the shows and workshops will be held, call LaChance's office, 864-6332.

The "Circle of Sharing" has attracted artists from as far as Atlanta, as well as performers from Dahlonega, Dawsonville, Alpharetta, and Gainesville.

One of the Atlanta members, Shantell, held a CD release



Singer-Songwriter Shantell released her debut CD June 8 at St. Ives On The Hill.

party at St. Ives on the Hill June 8 for her debut album entitled "Glass Diary."

Shantell first became involved in the group after seeing a flier on the square while on an excursion to Dahlonega. Though she has

been around music her entire life, it wasn't until the Circle of Sharing that Shantell mustered the courage to play her music in front of anyone. She says her first time was nerve-wracking and she attributes her getting through it to the group.

"I shook and shook, but got through it," she said. "They were all very supportive of me from the very beginning and I think that is one of the reasons I've been able to take this journey."

Shantell describes her music as "folk/rock, mixed in with a little angst." As far as content goes, her songs are very personal. Shantell believes that this is key in writing.

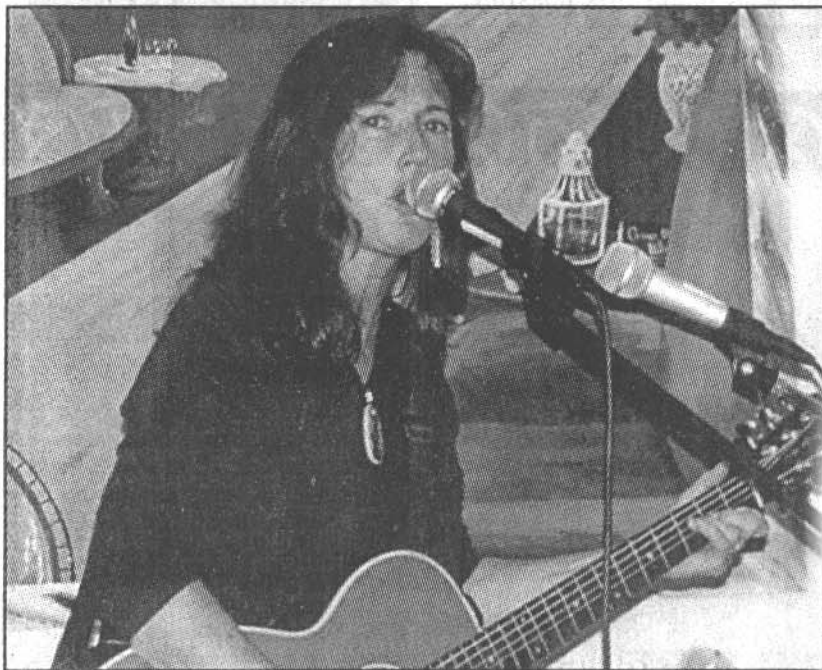
"One of the true tests of a songwriter is the ability to

write what you know," she said. "It is very personal and that's the reason I named the CD 'Glass Diary.' It really is like sharing your diary with everyone."

She is also very interested in making a connection with the audience. Because interaction during a performance is difficult, she provides a notebook in which anyone can write their thoughts or reactions.

Shantell's CD will be available at all her performances. Her next scheduled performance is in Salt Lake City, but she will play at venues around Atlanta soon after.

For information regarding Shantell's music, CD, and performances, email her at Shansmusic@yahoo.com



Dana Marie LaChance performs an original song during the monthly "Circle of Sharing" Singer-Songwriter Showcase. She is also the host of the performance.