

New twists on old-fashioned hairdos

Story: KATHY PARRISH
Photos: DAVID FRANK

Mothers used to know how to braid hair. But braids are a new twist for many modern moms — and dads — who don't have time to rope tresses.

To help them out, a Rochester hair salon offers beginning and advanced braiding classes. Patrons come from as far away as Southfield, Farmington and Bloomfield Hills to learn basic roping and the more difficult French and Norwegian braids.

"Years ago, moms all did braids," explained stylist Toni Pullizzi, who has been conducting the classes since April.

"One generation lost it, though. Now the grandchildren are back into it."

David's stylists have been putting customers' hair in braids for about two years — even before actress Bo Derek's intricate braiding caused a sensation in the movie "10."

But this spring there were so many requests that the salon started offering monthly classes. Limited to about 15 customers, the hour-long sessions are \$3.

"Anything new catches on quickly," said stylist Chris Eisenberg, recalling that "at first girls wanted to try braids, but wouldn't wear them out the door."

"Now we get lots of requests. They're

fun to wear and something different to do."

MS. PULLIZZI sees the classes as a service to customers. The shop has offered blow-dry classes on and off for about five years whenever hair styles called for them.

"We wanted to let girls with long hair know they could do something with it. Braids are different and they can do them themselves."

Although the "10" look is still popular, the Rochester shop won't do it because of the five to eight hours of styling involved.

In the classes, customers are taught how to do a "twisted rope" with two strands of hair and the three-strand French braid in a "visible" and "invisible" style. More advanced students try their hand at Norwegian braids and other more complicated styles.

Learning how to hold the hair while working it into braids takes a while. "All of us hold it differently. It's whatever is comfortable," Ms. Pullizzi told one customer, who was practicing a French braid.

"You really learn to manipulate your fingers. It just takes practice. The more you do it the easier it is."

ALTHOUGH MIRRORS line the salon walls, customers are encouraged not to look in them while braiding.

"The more you look in the mirror the more confused you get. You're seeing it backward," said Ms. Eisenberg. "It's better to just feel your way through it."

Mothers and daughters are encouraged to come together to the braiding sessions. And many do.

Arlene Stee took the class because she got tired of her two daughters hair "hanging in their eyes." And she thinks braids are in style and "beautiful."



Oakland Township resident Arlene Stee works on daughter Alyssa's hair while the 9-year-old practices braiding her sister Kimberly's tresses.



Carolyn Fox of Bloomfield Hills braids her 18 inches of hair during the David's of Rochester class.



During the braiding session, Carolyn Fox learned four new ways to dress her hair.

Author says love isn't enough

By SHIRLEE IDEN

If you believe that marriages are made in heaven, then hear this.

Marlene Shelton LaRoe, social worker and marriage counselor, is convinced that one must learn to be married just as one would learn to practice law or tune an engine.

"Marriage is a lot of hard work," she said. "But it's work that's necessary and work that's worth it."

"No one knows how to be married, we need to learn and re-learn."

A Texas native, Mrs. LaRoe was reared in the east and went to Smith College on scholarship.

"When I went back to Texas at age 22," she said, "I went because I thought Texas needed me."

Armed with two degrees, one an M.S.W. from Smith, and deep idealism, she practiced her social work profession in agencies and then went into private practice 22 years ago.

"I love being a social worker and am proud of what I do," she said.

She has 25 years of marriage counseling behind her and, recently, the publication of her first book.

"I SIMPLY FORGOT up one morning and started to write this book because I had a need to share the knowledge I'd gathered for 25 years," she said.

Just deciding to write a book is simple for most people. But Marlene LaRoe is a dyslexic. That is, her ability to read is impaired.

"It's as if your brain were a computer with the lines fouled up so the printing comes out all disconnected."

"No one came out with the dyslexia diagnosis on me until about 15 years ago," she said. "Before that I thought my problem was that I had been poorly educated."

"The University of Texas did a complete testing on me and I learned I have this severe learning disability."

Dyslexia can only be corrected before age 13, she added, "so there's no help for me."

"I learned to compensate through my verbal skills, but a secretary is a necessity for me."

Writing one hour each day and with the help of Lee Herrick, she wrote "How Not to Ruin a Perfectly Good Marriage." Bantam Books edition of the book was published earlier this month.

"LEE HERRICK has degrees in journalism and was a secretary at a college. It's her first book too," Mrs. LaRoe said.

People who want to nurture a successful marriage must learn how to be loving toward those they love, must learn how to share, how to care and how to have good sex, she said.

"None of these things are nearly as natural or instinctive as we would like to believe — fortunately."

"We believe, quite innocently, hopefully, and blindly — that love is enough. It isn't."

"If people only knew that love alone is not enough, that there is a process to loving another human being, it would make the challenge clearer," she said.

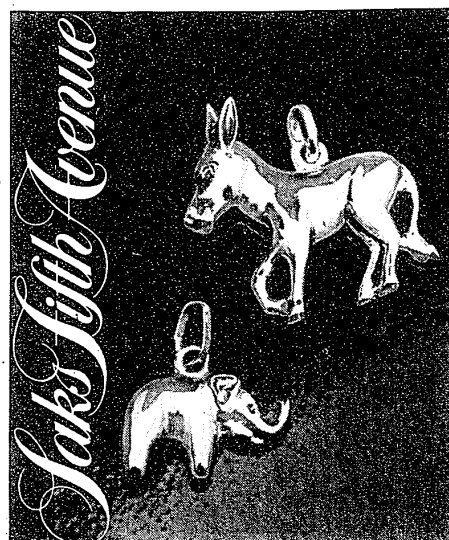
Mrs. LaRoe said her book is not just a do-this-kind-of-publication but a statement of what is normal and what can guide people to learn what is right for them.

"Between I do and happily ever after, there are five predictable crises," she said. "Everyone goes

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Marlene LaRoe predicts that the peak of the divorce cycle has already been reached because young people today are willing to work at marriage.



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Photo enlarged to show detail.

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