

# Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



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## Mercyaires

### Rosemary Clooney joins singing ensemble for benefit concert

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

**T**HE MERCYAIRES are in tune and rarin' to go on stage with Rosemary Clooney for "An Evening of Music." Curtain time is 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, in Orchestra Hall.

The benefit concert, which establishes the Rosemary Clooney Friendship Fund for Mercy High School, is one more facet in the love affair between the singer who catapulted to stardom when she recorded "Come

On-A My House" in the early '50s and the 20 select singing and dancing students who make up the ensemble.

The Mercyaires and their director, Larry Teevens, met the star when the group was invited to sing at her "White Christmas Party" when it stopped here on tour four years ago. They've been invited to join her in concerts every year since, and the mutual affection continued to grow.

Clooney has yet another affection for Mercy High School because Mercy High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, is her alma mater.

"I get a lot more from them than what I can give to them," Clooney said in a telephone interview last week. "I get an infusion of enthusiasm from the Mercyaires. They are a lovely expression of joy."

To this Teevens added, "We specialize in joy."

Clooney and the Mercyaires will share the stage with The Grunyons, another vocal ensemble known for spreading joy with their upbeat performances in the Detroit area for the past 40 years.

**THE MERCYAIRES** attend an end-of-the-summer camp to get ready for the next season, rehearse six hours every week in after school classes, maintain a high grade average and perform between 60-70 concerts every school year.

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Every year for the past 28 years 20 girls from Mercy High School have been selected by audition to become a Mercyaire. They are singers and dancers, and many play musical instruments to accompany themselves for 60-70 performances every school season. Their audiences may be in country clubs or they may be

in the Cass Corridor. They performed as backup singers for Rosemary Clooney's White Christmas Party when it stopped on tour here four years ago and have been called back to perform with her in concerts every year since. This year's Mercyaires will be singing with the stars in Orchestra Hall.



Rosemary Clooney, a graduate of Mercy High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, comes to Detroit to establish the Rosemary Clooney Friendship Fund for Mercy High School in Farmington Hills.

## OWL

### Pioneers on a new frontier

Farmington Chapter OWL (Older Women's League) opens its season with a program called "Welcome Back Cotter."

"Margaret Cotter is coming back to speak to us by popular demand," said Virginia Nicoll, who makes no apology for the cliché. "She is an

upbeat, enthusiastic, positive thinking woman who spreads that enthusiasm around. She is coming back by popular demand of our members who want to hear more of what she's got to say."

Cotter lives up to that pronouncement of spreading enthusiasm

around when she says, "We older women of today are new, different and special. We are pioneers on the frontier of New Women. We've handled life's major issues of work, retirement, finances, health, companionship, independence and recreation.

"Because of this we can now learn and share the skills necessary to cope with daily living."

It is Cotter's belief that many daily causes of stress are the consequence of the positive — she emphasizes the word positive — changes that came with the new role women have in 1988. But along with the new role, there are new skills, values, attitudes and goals that must be acquired.

"We need to be sure that our values, attitudes and activities are helping us design a life style with less stress and fears and more happiness," she said.

**COTTER WILL SPEAK** at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3 in the Farmington Hills Branch Library, 32737 12 Mile Road. Admission is free.

"There will be plenty of time for questions," Nicoll said, who is the chapter's vice president. "The last time she was our guest time ran out and a lot of questions were left unanswered."

Cotter joined her husband, Dr. Jude Cotter, as counselor and psychotherapist in Farmington Hills Counseling Services about 10 years ago.

She lives and works with the philosophy that happiness is a do-it-yourself project, and the bottom line is all connected up with one's own self-esteem.

"Sometimes that has to be learned," she says. "And sometimes there is a lot of unlearning that has to be done to learn it."

She has taught privately as well as to groups of any size, and most notably in her classes called "Positive Living" on Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Community College.


Whether clients or students, they come with the entire gamut of fears and anxieties. She rattles off widowhood, grieving, agoraphobia, single parenthood, adult children coming back to live with their parents, depression, divorce, step-families, to

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Margaret Cotter, counselor at Farmington Hills Counseling Services, will talk about coping with the stresses that are part of daily living for women as they grow older when she speaks in Farmington Hills Branch Library next week.



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