

Neighbor

Cabaret troupe presents interactive show

BY EILEEN O. DADAY

Daily Herald Correspondent

If the term cabaret conjures up images of, say, Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey from the 1972 movie of the same name, think again.

An up-and-coming group, which calls itself "The Acts of Kindness Cabaret," says the little known art form is so much more than that — it's intimate, personnel and interactive — and its members are out to spread the word.

Three professional singers from the group, plus their accompanist, will perform a two-hour show at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Fremd High School auditorium.

The group of veteran performers includes singers Hilary Ann Feldman of Wheeling, Tracy Adams of Oak Park, and Hannah Goalstone of Chicago, with Paul Hamilton of Chicago accompanying them on piano.

All proceeds from their cabaret performance will benefit the Palatine Opportunity Center, which partners with local agencies to provide for people in need living in Palatine Township.

"It's a new and unique fundraising idea for us — that we're all looking forward to,"

If you go

What: "Duos and Duets: Songs by Two, Songs for Two, Songs about Two," a cabaret performance by three professional singers and an accompanist on piano

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Fremd High School auditorium, 1000 S. Quentin Road, Palatine

Cost: Suggested donation of \$20, \$10 for students and \$50 for a family of four, with \$5 for each additional student

Information: All proceeds benefit the Palatine Opportunity Center. Call (847) 776-9500, ext. 222.

said Kathy Millin, center director.

Saturday's show is called "Duos and Duets: Songs by Two, Songs for Two, Songs about Two," and it features songs written by classic partners. Some of them include: Kander and Ebb, Rodgers and Hart, Fields and Kern, Lennon and McCartney, Comden and Green, Ahrens and Flaherty, Goldrich and Heisler and Lerner and Lowe.

Feldman is the moving force



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF TOM BURAZIN

Performers, in this illustration appear more than once, include Hannah Goalstone, Tracy Adams and Hilary Ann Feldman.

behind the nonprofit cabaret group. She has performed at the Ravinia Festival, Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre and at Drury Lane Theatre in Oak Brook, but once she heard cabaret, she never went back to theater.

Likewise, Adams was performing in a variety of musical theater performances in Chicago, including in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," before he became hooked on cabaret. Since then he has performed widely in New York.

Goalstone performed with a jazz choir and women's a cappella choir at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., before going on to appear on stages in

Chicago and New York. She now performs, and helps administer, The Acts of Kindness Cabaret.

"Once I heard (cabaret) I fell in love with it," Feldman said. "It's such an intimate art form."

The music can be from any genre, she says, but it all shares a common link, and is woven together to tell a story.

"The artist is part balladeer, part storyteller, part comedian," Feldman says, "because they're in direct dialogue with the audience."

Admittedly, the performance group has an unusual name. That's because they offer up their performances as a donation of sorts to local charitable

causes, allowing them to reap the proceeds.

"We're all artists who perform professionally, but don't make a lot of money," Feldman says. "So we can't just write a check. But this allows us to support local organizations, while promoting cabaret."

Acts of Kindness Cabaret brings the musicians and crew, including technicians who man the lighting and sound boards, while the organization promotes the show with their supporters.

To date, the cabaret group has performed across the North Shore and in a few of the Western suburbs, but this will be their first gig in the Northwest suburbs.