

when things go

RIGHT

Rocker Robin Lane pulls into town to sing, speak, write and tap into the power of music to help survivors of abuse.

By J. C. Lockwood

She's a little self-conscious about the word, so it doesn't roll off her tongue like, say, some of her lyrics: Memoirs. "Sounds kind of hoity-toity, doesn't it?" she asks during the recent taping of "Classic North Shore Rock," the Salem community access show with "Grateful" Ted Solovicos.

Well, maybe. But regardless of what you call it, or how you pronounce it, Robin Lane certainly has a story to tell. She was born and raised in the music and entertainment world of Los Angeles — her mother a model, her father a songwriter and musical director for Dean Martin.

She began singing and performing in the nascent Los Angeles folk-rock scene, collaborating with the band Crazy Horse and Danny Whitten, which led to her singing debut as a backup singer on Neil Young's "Everybody Knows This is Nowhere."

Interested?

Robin Lane will read from "A Multitude of Sins," and perform acoustic versions of old Chartbuster hits and new tunes. She will talk about A Woman's Voice, a songwriting workshop for trauma survivors. The event begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27, at The Church, 87 Hull St., Beverly. Tickets are \$15. For information about the show, call 978-235-8264 or e-mail savage@comcast.net.

For information about Lane's teaching program, log onto www.random-rogue.com/robinlane.

"Mind," was the first official Chartbuster release in 19 years.

And these are the things that Lane will be taking about when she reads from her memoirs this weekend at The Church in Beverly, but the glitzy rock 'n' roll lifestyle is a long way from where Lane is now. She teaches songwriting at Mount Hermon School in Northfield, and runs a program called "A Woman's Voice," which provides a way for abused women to tap into "inner healing" capabilities through self-expression, using the elements of lyrics put to music.

"I try to illuminate the issue so they can begin healing," she says. "They can't be healed until they begin talking about it. It's all around. People close their eyes because they don't want to deal with it. My



Robin Lane reads from her memoirs and performs acoustic versions of old Chartbuster hits and new tunes this weekend in Beverly.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Robin Lane: when things go right

► **LANE**, FROM PAGE 9

goal is to help illuminate it more and more and more, so people are not trapped inside this world.”

It all happened by accident. Lane, living in western Massachusetts, walked past a storefront and saw a posting for a writing group and went inside. It was the Turners Falls Women’s Resource Center, a nonprofit gathering place where women experiencing trauma, addiction, violence or mental health issues learn about identifying and ending abuse, and gaining self-empowerment.

“I’m a victim of abuse myself,” Lane says. “I didn’t know how much it affected me until then.”

Lane’s program has released four complete CDs to date; all of them will be available at the Church performance. Many of the women had never written songs before, and it is definitely a low-fi affair. But that’s OK.

“If I had big bucks we would do big productions,” Lane says.

“But it’s fine. It’s a serious purpose. It enables me to continue to reach more people. It’s very healing to listen.”

At the Aug. 27 show, Lane will perform acoustic versions of old Chartbuster songs, like “Can’t Talk to You,” a tune from the club days of the band, and new tunes. The show will end with Lane creating songs - on the spot - from lyrics contributed by audience members and performed by various musicians who happen to show up for the show.