

**OPEN LABOR DAY**Monday, Sept. 5th Noon-8pm  
LAST DAY of the Season, Sun. Oct. 2Lake County's **ONLY**  
Lakefront Dining!
**FALL HOURS:**  
 Monday, 5-9pm  
 Tuesday, **CLOSED**  
 Wed-Fri, 5-9pm  
 Sat., Noon-9pm  
 Sun., Noon-8pm

**625 Prospect St. • Fairport Harbor**  
 (Located in HTP Rack & Marina)  
**440-350-0500**

[www.Abbeyrodeo.com](http://www.Abbeyrodeo.com)
**Friday, 9/16**  
**HOOLEY HOUSE**  
**SPORTS PUB & GRILLE**  
 Brooklyn, Ohio

**Friday, 10/7**  
**HOOLEY HOUSE**  
**SPORTS PUB & GRILLE**  
 Mentor

**Saturday, 10/8**  
**VFW**  
 Willoughby

 Abbey Rodeo is: Jim Bonfonti, Chris Butcher,  
 Verne McClelland, "Z",  
 Geoff Kelleher and Chuck Citraro.


# KNOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Markett

## An Interview with Loretta Swit



Loretta Swit has an extensive list of stage and television work that has spanned over fifty years but of course many will recognize her as the iconic Major Margaret "Hot Lips" Houlihan from the hit television show, M\*A\*S\*H.

Loretta begins by sharing a wonderful story about her early-stage experience. "I have always loved Ingrid Bergman on film and Angela Lansbury onstage. I think Angela is a force of nature. I remember I was playing the character, Agnes Gooch in Mame in New York. Well, at the same time Angela Lansbury was playing Mame on Broadway at The Winter Garden Theatre. I was completely riveted by her performance. She had such an energy, it was volcanic. She was my inspiration. I actually wrote her a fan letter, letting her know how much I enjoyed watching her onstage and that I had learned from her. It was a sincere and loving letter."

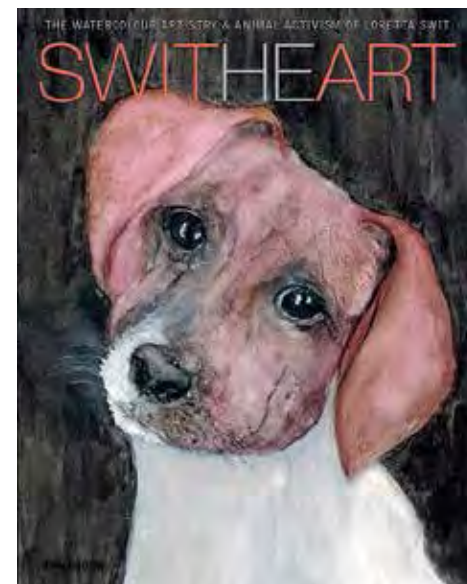
She continues, "Years later I had attended an event for CBS. At that time Angela was doing "Murder, She Wrote" and I was doing M\*A\*S\*H. We spotted each other from across the room and walked over to each other to meet face to face. I told her it was a thrill to look her in the eye and tell her how much I had admired her. So, I started to say, "You won't remember this but..." and before I could finish, she said, "Loretta, I still have that letter!" Angela is great and humble. I worship her."

Millions of people around the world are longtime fans of M\*A\*S\*H which was on the air for eleven years (1972-1983). "I didn't actually read for the part," said Loretta. "It was more like a meet and greet. They had already auditioned over 200 women for the role. At the time I was working on Hawaii Five-O. My agent called and said he had made an appointment for me to see the

executive producers, Gene Reynolds and Larry Gelbart. He asked me if I had seen the film M\*A\*S\*H, which I had not. He told me that it didn't matter because there is no script and they just wanted to meet with me. I didn't feel nervous because all I was going to do was say "hello". What was working in my favor was most of the TV work I had done was on CBS and M\*A\*S\*H was going to air on CBS. I felt I had allies in my corner. I was very relaxed. They had dibs on me for the role and by that, I mean they saw me first! They provided the shooting schedule for the pilot and said they would be in touch. Meanwhile, I was offered another role, to be in a movie with Olivia de Havilland! Either way I would be fortunate regardless of the outcome. My agent called Gene Reynolds and said that I was offered a movie role and that the dates conflicted with the pilot for M\*A\*S\*H. Gene said that he was literally just getting ready to call because they decided they wanted me for the part!"

This is the 50th anniversary year for M\*A\*S\*H. The show is still running on the air! "I think it's incredible that the show is still being aired fifty years after it first started," said Loretta. "People were able to relate to the show. When we went off of the air in 1983, there were school kids who wrote their own stories of what they thought happened to each individual and how they lived the rest of their life. I consider it a fan-family and not just fans. People had family members who were similar to the characters on the show so many could identify."

Loretta has been involved with many projects, which include a beautiful book now in its sec-



ond printing, "SWITHEART: The Watercolour Artistry & Animal Activism of Loretta Swit." The introduction is written by Mike Farrell and there is also a wonderful quote given by Jamie Farr. The book is a collection of artistic portraits of people's pets, that Loretta's talented creativity has turned into stunning images. There is a short story that accompanies each animal's portrait. Proceeds from the book sales go to SWITHEART Animal Alliance. "I am thrilled about this project and it's growth," said Loretta. "Some of the pets chosen for the book were commissioned paintings and the owners wanted my idea or interpretation of their animal. Some of the people sent me snapshots of their pet. In some cases, I tried to put the snapshot along with my painting in the book. As an artist, it is subjective as to how you 'see' the animal. Animals give us their love unconditionally. They deserve our appreciation and respect. My charity uses the funds to help raise and train service dogs. Service dogs can give people back their security, confidence and independence."

Another delightful project is the development of a new fragrance. "I learned that there are three kinds of perfumes, which are woods, floral, and exotic. My fragrance is exotic. I have a penchant for antiquities - ancient Egypt and the Egyptians is where my thinking was when developing the fragrance." The perfume, SwitHeart, is only available on Loretta's website.

Loretta shares some lasting thoughts about acting and appreciating each day. "It's a great thing what we are able to do. Roles can be challenging, interesting, and exciting. That is what bonds us. The roles and characters are living things. My life has been blessed and enriched. Goodness is the greatest force in the world. I believe that with all of my heart."

[www.switheart.org](http://www.switheart.org)  
[www.helenrosemarketti.com](http://www.helenrosemarketti.com)