

INSIDE THIS EDITION: SIX PHOTOGS ARE FOCUS OF ARTS CENTER'S EXHIBITION; POPCORN REVIEWS FAR FROM HEAVEN

Arts & Entertainment

The Maestro of Italian Heritage, Dr. DeFelice, Seeks To Resurrect Traditional Ethics of Paesans

By MICHELLE H. Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – Engraved in the yellowing and neglected pages of American history, is the era of the old Italian neighborhood — a lost world where children respected their elders, motherhood was a regal state, love, strength, and tradition were revered and drugs, divorce, and exploitation of sex were forbidden concepts.

If this sounds utopian and out of reach, you're right; that is if you choose to remain in the miserable conditions of today's society.

But, Westfield resident Dr. Stephen DeFelice, who just wrote his first novel, "Old Italian Neighborhood Values," is confident that most of society has not only become restless

with what he deems as a modern destruction of values, but that we would like to return to more wholesome times.

"We can't bring back the old neighborhood," DeFelice admitted, "but we can go back to these values." DeFelice is hoping, through his novel, to start a dialogue about returning to these ideals.

Through this recommendation, DeFelice is giving readers more than a healthy dose of ethical advice, but a novel packed with robust characters, which bring the ethos to life. Six paesans from the old Italian regime have survived historic and personal tragedies and readers learn that they've endured because of the values DeFelice believes we need to rediscover.

DeFelice, who also wrote "The Carnitine Defense," "Drug Discovery the Pending Crisis," and "From Oysters to Insulin: Nature and Medicine at Odds" clearly knows from whereof he speaks.

A native of an old Italian neighborhood in Philadelphia, he was raised in a world where kids didn't whine until their parents broke down and paid for college, instead they labored and earned their education. He thinks society needs to eradicate laziness and replace it with gratefulness, hard work and a loyalty to the family.

An added and unexpected bonus to DeFelice's novel is an education in the Italian language (naughty and nice), which the author does not normally translate for the reader. The reader gets the full experience of

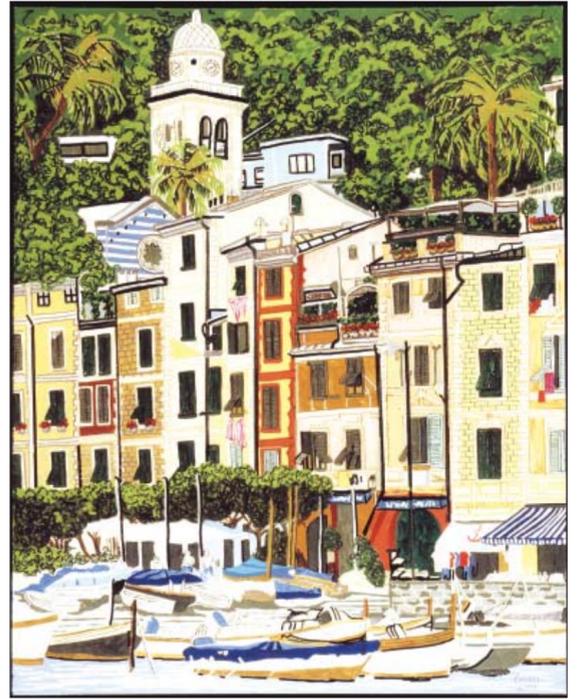
reliving the neighborhood with "the guys" by deciphering the jargon for himself/herself.

A man of radical ideas rooted in the cement of Old World environs; DeFelice believes "we've (society) lost our way," that "sex can be a very powerful and destructive force" and that reliance upon technology has caused us to be "rapidly moving toward instability."

Now, more than ever, DeFelice believes, "Tradition can heal an irresponsible society."

DeFelice offers former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani as a moral hero, who adapted his Italian values to cleaning up the metropolis' streets and its then-decrepit reputation and to the resurrection of a fallen Gotham following 9/11.

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"Anchors A-Weigh," by Bonnie Boerer, formerly of Westfield.



Photo Courtesy of Frank Catanzano

SPEAKING FREELY...Dr. Stephen DeFelice of Westfield isn't afraid to express his opinions and he honestly advises that members of modern society return to the values found in his first novel, "Old Italian Neighborhood Values." Dr. DeFelice will sign copies of his book at The Town Book Store in Westfield on Saturday, December 7, from noon to 2 p.m.

Ann Cohen Has Gobs of Talent On Her Palette As Artist, Teacher

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — The subject of art has adopted a fresh and innovative approach at Westfield's Roosevelt Intermediate School, where art teacher Ann Cohen takes her students beyond the color wheel and elemental drawing.

Cohen, who holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Miami and a Masters Degree in Studio Art from Kean College, is in her 11th year of teaching at Roosevelt School. She selects unique projects which allow each of her sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes to experience her fresh and novel approach to art.

Her sixth graders are presently turning old objects such as shoes, and found objects like feathers and stones into imaginary creatures. Her seventh grades are creating mosaic boxes.

After researching familiar art, they select a piece, and at first sketch a duplication of it. Once they are happy with the duplication, the piece is transferred to either a cardboard or wooden



MOTIVATIONAL TEACHER...Roosevelt Intermediate School Art Teacher Ann Cohen, center, was proud of former student Samantha Manetti, far right, when she won the Westfield Lions Club Peace Poster Contest. Pictured, far left, is Poster Contest Chairma Douglas Schembs.

box. The result of the project, which takes a few weeks, is a beautiful mosaic box in which jewelry or other precious mementos may be kept. Cohen's eighth grade class recently

finished painting furniture. Chairs, tables, bookcases and wooden stools are brought from home and are transferred into lovely objects d'art. Students sand and prime the piece of furniture, then transfer artwork to it. Next, they paint the furniture and finish it off with a coat of acrylic.

The eighth grade project has become more than just beautiful pieces of furniture the students bring home. Several objects have been auctioned off to help raise funds for a childcare school in Manhattan, and AIDS fundraising by Temple Emanu-El in Westfield.

"My students are wonderfully talented, imaginative and a joy to work with," commented Cohen, who regu-

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ite morsels of flora and butterflies.

Unfortunately, the collection, aptly entitled, "The Works," will also spotlight about a half-dozen of Boerer's portraits like "Babe" and "The 'In Crowd'" which prove the artist drawing the portraits of children as a child



"BABES IN PORTRAITLAND"... While children's portraiture may not be her strong suit, Boerer wins us over with her adult portraiture, such as the piece below, left.

would draw them — elementary, rough around the edges, and with a near-minimal understanding of the finer points of children's portraiture.

"Strangers in Paradise," "Blowing Bubbles," and "Maytime" are also awkwardly drawn, especially in the way the figures bend and their clothing is ornamented. One of the girls shown in "Strangers" is so stiff that she looks like she's wearing a body stocking. The eyes are all vacant and some of the facial features lack proportion.

It is ironic, then, that Boerer excels in adult portraiture, as is evident in "Wishing Star" and "Blue Moon,"



LEARNING FROM THE MASTER... Bonnie Boerer portrays the female figure like Art Deco master Erté.

where women are framed by carefully drawn flowers or intertwining scrolls of subdued. Whether the women are looking to the side or have their backs slightly tilted toward the beholder, the expression

and emotion are remarkably captured by Boerer.

Similar to the manner in which Erté seemed to adore women and make them elegant icons through his fashionable depiction of the female figure, Boerer, whether consciously or unconsciously, imitates Erté at the peak of his technique.

Equally well accomplished are Boerer's nautical landscapes, such as "Anchors A-Weigh" and various floral paintings like "Butterflies Are Free" and "Idyllic Irises."

An active docking center in "Anchors" shows us a small fleet of modestly hued sailboats in the foreground, while the backdrop boasts tall yellow, sea green and orange buildings with café-type stores tucked beneath. Boerer, who is a famous knitwear designer an owner of Bonnie Boerer & Co., tops this piece off with a gorgeous steeple nestled against a verdant forest.

"Butterflies Are Free" is one of Boerer's perfectly adorned floral panels, that, to be honest, would make the perfect Christmas or Hanukkah present, once framed with a gilded frame.

"The Works" is definitely a must-see exhibition, just breeze casually past the portraiture and admire the rest.

Boerer's exhibition will appear at Galeria through Saturday, December 21. A free reception will be held on December 1, from 1 to 4 p.m., during which attendees can meet the artist and hear the sounds of "Jazz with Mazz." For more information, please call (908) 301-9217.



AMONG THE IRISES..."Blue Moon" is one of Boerer's finest works.

Pen & Ink:

Bin Laden's Tapes Are So Comical, He Should Sign On With Networks

By MICHELLE H. Le POIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Whenever a new videotape with Osama bin Laden surfaces, pundits and intelligence agents spend hours wondering if the voice

is really that of the Al-Qaida leader, if he is dead or alive, and what he means by his horrid threats (which always sound like the ones before). The guy is media savvy, even though he hops likes Bugs Bunny from one cave to another. But, if he were truly as sharp as a whip, couldn't he use other forms of media, like primetime television programming, to get his message across?

After scanning the TV Guide, I came up with some of these options. So, bin Laden, if you're reading, you might want to get in touch with the networks and schedule your own "show about nothing."

• **Everybody Loves Osama** – Set in a New York borough, the terrorist leader stars as the head of a network of bloodthirsty killers who will bend to his every whim, while the President and First Lady pop in unexpectedly with Donald Rumsfeld to stir things up.

• **Crossing Jordan** – Inspectors have to travel far and wide to see if Saddam Hussein is hiding weapons of mass destruction.

• **Judging Moussauoi** – Stunned audiences across America watch as Zacharias Moussauoi, who has been charged in the 9/11 terrorist plot, attempts to defend himself without a lawyer.

• **Just Shoot Me** – Suicide bombers prove their case against people who think their crazy for wanting to die for the glory of the Jihad.

• **Hidden Caves** – A husband details his quirky family life living in a desert with caves where everybody is hiding out from the short arm of the law.

• **Without A Trace** – bin Laden continues to evade American and British intelligence agents.

• **Touched by a Terrorist** – Suspected terrorists once held at Guantanamo Bay, now reformed from their wayward ways, return to their homeland and converting other gun-toting, weapon smuggling troublemakers.

• **America's Funniest Home Videos** – Any bin Laden tape will qualify.

If bin Laden really wants to squirrel away some cash, converting the tapes to DVD could prove profitable.



"The Osama Show?"



"The Osama Show?"

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