

Arts & Entertainment

Frist Lends Support To 'Doctornaut Act' Penned by DeFelice

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

WESTFIELD—Increasing medical discovery for diseases plaguing society has been the motivation behind The Doctornaut Act composed by Westfield resident and author Dr. Stephen DeFelice.

The founder of the Foundation for Innovation in Medicine (FIM), DeFelice has been working since 1976 to speed up the ever-slowing machine that could, instead be churning to produce methods of disease prevention.

The Doctornauts Act would allow physicians to volunteer for Phase II (early clinical research) while supervised by their colleagues. Similar

ery?" said DeFelice in a recent interview with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*.

"There is a huge reservoir of modern technology that can attack disease now. But, we need a system to make these new therapies happen," said DeFelice.

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) litigation lawyers, bioethicists and doctors have been busier taking a back seat in bringing about cures for diseases, opined DeFelice, allowing their fears to impede progress.

However, one man stepped up to the plate and has lent his support to DeFelice's crusade. Before Senator Bill Frist became Majority Leader,



Photo Courtesy of Dr. Stephen DeFelice

DISEASE FIGHTERS... Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, left, joined Westfield author Dr. Stephen DeFelice during the week of the Republican National Convention in New York City. Senator Frist has lent his support to Dr. DeFelice's 'Doctornaut Act.'

to an astronaut making strides in space exploration, a Doctornaut would have less constriction in medical discovery research.

According to Dr. DeFelice, passage of the act would enable "rapid acceleration of medical discovery followed by reduced morbidity and reduced rate of mortality from disease, timely application of innovative medical therapies to clinical practice and reduced healthcare costs."

"We have made so many strides in technology that are not being utilized. How do we increase medical discov-

er the good doctor presented his case and the politician's eyes lit up.

"No one else was biting," said DeFelice.

Frist, the only medical doctor in the Senate, conducted clinical research as a young doctor and, according to DeFelice, "appreciates the importance of the complicated process of medical discovery." Additionally, DeFelice's Doctornaut Act mirrors Senator Frist's goal "to speed new medical therapies from the bench of the laboratory scientists to

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NJCVA Fall 2004 Classes, Workshop to Begin Oct. 4

SUMMIT—Non-profit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts (NJCVA) is preparing for the fall 2004 semester beginning on Monday, October 4, for most classes and workshops.

Classes and workshops are offered in all the major areas of the visual arts and are designed for all ages and degrees of expertise, beginners and professionals alike.

The curriculum includes semester 10-week long courses in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture and jewelry, as well as one to three day workshop intensives. The semester will run through Sunday, December 12.

Walk-in registration will be held today, Thursday, September 30, and Friday, October 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at NJCVA at 68 Elm Street. Students may view the 2004 catalogue online at www.njcva.org where they may print out a registration form, which may be mailed or faxed in. Unfortunately, to secure registration, phone registration is not accepted.

Age-specific children's classes, cre-

ated specifically to support children's artistic developments, cover a variety of mediums including ceramics, painting, drawing and collage. New offerings this semester include "Create in Clay" with Marquette Brennan suitable for children eight to 11 and "Multi-Media for Kids" with Kara Solu, which offers children eight to 12 a supportive environment to explore several different mediums.

Open Studios are available for NJCVA members and non-members, or any artist seeking to work independently in a professional environment without an instructor.

Open Studios are scheduled throughout the week for pottery/sculpture, jewelry and photography. Each Open Studio session is 2.5 hours and is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members and the general public. A discounted ticket book is available to NJCVA members in the Registrar's Office.

For additional information and to view a complete class, workshop and open studio schedule, please visit www.njcva.org or call (908) 273-9121.



Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WARMING UP... WYACT Artistic Director Cynthia Meryl helps girls in the Musical Theatre 2 class warm up their voices before recording their special solos.



Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
EXEMPLIFYING GRACE... Toes stay pointed and arms arch gracefully as Heather Bialy instructs dancers in a WYACT ballet class.

Centennial's Halls Are Alive With the Sound Of Music, Theatre, More Thanks to WYACT

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

WESTFIELD—The 14th season of professional classes in the performing arts with the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) is underway at Centennial High School on Westfield Avenue in Westfield.

WYACT Artistic Director Cynthia Meryl invited *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* to attend some of the classes and observe the techniques and exercises used to advance and mold beginners, intermediate and advanced performing artists into dynamo ready for any Broadway stage.

Last Tuesday afternoon, eight- to 10-year-old boys and girls attended their second Beginners 1 Acting class with new drama teacher John Gorscak. According to Meryl, three of the seven students had participated in the class last year.

Meryl explained that the youngsters, who were seated in a circle with Gorscak, were honing their listening skills through specific exercises. For example, without using words, each child had to illustrate or pantomime an activity they were familiar with and pass it on to the child next to them.

"Show us, don't tell us," Gorscak reminded them.

Next, the students individually left the circle to demonstrate another activity without words, such as flipping pancakes or jumping rope.

"For the first half of the semester, we work on technique, but in the second half after Christmas, we will work on text," said Meryl.

With only four minutes remaining before the students went home, Gorscak had the students run to one end of Centennial's gymnasium and prepare to portray a certain animal with specific emotions.

"Now, run to the other side of the room and be a really angry tiger," he bellowed. The students growled and raised their hands like paws with sharpened claws. Next, they played slithering snakes, happy kangaroos and sad kittens. Gorscak took on the persona of a rabbit being chased by the students who transformed themselves into a pack of wolves.

Beginners 1 Acting students Haniyyah, Michaela, two pupils named Emily, Leonidas, Justin and Madison

told *The Leader/Times* that they learned valuable lessons from the afternoon's activities: to pay attention to everything going on around them, to be loud, follow directions and focus.

Gorscak said that it was important for the students to be able to relate specific activities to each other in order to reach a comfort level with themselves and their peers.

Meryl watched students attending Musical Theatre 2 and Ballet classes stream into Centennial like a mother hen, checking off attendance sheets and fielding concerns from parents about children feeling under the weather.

Ballet students changed into leotards and warmed up their feet before taking to the ballet barre, where they would heed directions from Heather Bialy.

"Third, fourth and fifth position," instructed Bialy. "Grand plie, demi plie, grande plie, arms up."

Following the directions without peering in the classroom mirror was quite a challenge, the students noticed. However, they rose to the occasion.

"Can anyone tell me what a tendu is?" quizzed Bialy.

The pupils eagerly noted the importance of pointing their feet, keeping both of the legs straight and their heels forward.

Down the hall, angelic voices flowed from Meryl's Musical Theatre class, where students scurried to the center of the gym to take their positions and learn from the Broadway veteran.

"Why do we have to breathe correctly?" she asked them after they stretched their heads and necks through a series of counted exercises.

"In order to sing correctly, we need to support sound. The better the breathing, the better the vibration and the better the sound," she stressed.

In one exercise, Meryl had the students exhale, take a breath and throw



Michelle Helen Le Poidevin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
PASS IT ON... Pupils in Beginners 1 Acting participate in an exercise led by drama teacher John Gorscak which will hone their listening skills.

their voices as they said, "Hi, mom!"

"Okay, our goal for today is to get our songs on tape, practice our group song and start choreographing," said Meryl.

The students rushed to the piano, leafing through pages of Gershwin tunes they had selected for their solos. But, before the solos could begin, there was considerable work to be done. Voices had to be warmed up.

"Feet on the floor at the edge of your seats," she said. On the note of C, Meryl told the pupils, "Let the air in, we're not going to push it, but remem-

ber to depend on your diaphragm when you are singing. We're not going to belt out our voices, keep it light."

Like Julie Andrews' character in *The Sound of Music* teaching the von Trapp children their scales, Meryl led her students in a warm up exercise. "Many mumbling mice are making midnight music in the moonlight, mighty mice." Faster and faster the music came and the pupils kept up like champions, polishing their diction and pitch.

Soon, the students' voices were warmed up adequately enough for solo practice.

"Remember, I can't work the song if you don't know it. Class is not the place to learn the song, but to work the song. That's why we put it on tape," said Meryl. "And, remember to listen to the lyrics so you can learn how to sing it dramatically and physically."

Students chose Gershwin classics such as "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" and "Someone to Watch Over Me" for their solos, bringing tape recorders and tapes for future practice work.

According to Meryl, the WYACT classes are designed to prepare young performers for auditions and professional stage. She would like to see her

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Author Cathy Bao Bean To Visit S. Plains Library

SCOTCH PLAINS—On Wednesday, October 6, at 7 p.m., Scotch Plains Public Library will welcome Blairtown resident

Cathy Bao Bean, the author of "Chopsticks-Fork Principle: A Memoir and Manual."

As a child growing up in the only Chinese family in Teaneck, faced with the strangeness and hardship of living in a new culture, Bean discovered strength and purpose in her multicultural heritage, according to Library Director Meg Kolaya.

In recounting her own story, Bean counsels others, "No need to choose between cultures—draw the best from them all!"

In her newly adopted country, the author experienced the transition from child to multicultural mother, wife, carpool driver, educational consultant, philosophy teacher, aerobics instructor, business manager and more.

"Chopsticks-Fork Principle" illustrates how ordinary events can raise extraordinary questions.

Admission to this presentation is free and no pre-registration is required. Copies of "Chopsticks-Fork Principle" will be available for purchase.

The library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. For more information, please call (908) 322-5007.



Cathy Bao Bean

'Art in Westfield' Show, Sale Slated in Downtown on Oct. 9

WESTFIELD—The Westfield Art Association's (WAA) "Art in Westfield" Sidewalk Show and Sale of Original Fine Art will be held in downtown Westfield on Saturday, October 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The rain date is Saturday, October 16.

Member and non-member artists from throughout the area will exhibit their latest paintings, sculpture, printmaking and photography.

The show is co-sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC).

Artist Valeri Larko, Director of the Tomasulo Gallery at Union County College, will judge the biannual show of original fine art. All exhibited original fine artwork, regardless of medium and genre, will be eligible for the 15 awards totaling \$1,600 which will be bestowed as follows: four Awards of

Excellence, \$150 each; four Awards of Merit, \$100 each; six Honorable Mention, \$50 Westfield Gift Coins donated by the WACC.

A favorite feature of the Sidewalk Art Show is the Westfield Scene Purchase Award of up to \$300, which selected work will become part of the permanent art collection of the DWC.

During the afternoon, Dr. Theodore Schlosberg's Alphorn Ensemble, the Rick Langmaack Quartet and the Westfield Community Band will provide live music.

Additional scheduled activities include demonstrations, a caricaturist and "Chips" the clown for the youngsters.

The show is open to the public and is handicapped-accessible. Admission is free. For further information, please call the DWC (908) 789-9444 or the WACC (908) 233-3021.



Photo Courtesy of Jackie Park/NJCVA
ENCAUSTIC ENDEAVORS... Alyce Gottesman's pieces, pictured, above, involve a special encaustic technique.

Trio of Promising Artists Mount NJCVA Exhibit

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

SUMMIT—While renovation and expansion of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts (NJCVA) continues at their building at 68 Elm Street in Summit, the gallery and administrative offices have been relocated downtown, at the Enterprise Building, 34-36 Maple Street.

It is here that NJSVA has opened its season with "First Look 2004: Emerging Artist Series," an exhibit spotlighting the artworks of new artists Alyce Gottesman, Eric Jiaju Lee and Lily Prince.

"We are pleased to present this inaugural exhibit in our new Emerging Artist Series," commented Mari D'Alessandro, NJCVA Exhibitions Coordinator, who conceived the idea of such a program.

"The series introduces the works of promising, but under-recognized, artists working in a variety of media," she said.

D'Alessandro reviewed the work of many budding artists and selected Prince's ethereal images of the "Cumulus" series first. Lee and Gottesman's art was selected to complement Prince's work. The contrasting styles and techniques of all three artists impart to the viewer a range of artistic experiences.

In examining the spectrum of color

in the exhibit, Lee's artwork is in the middle between Prince's black and white creations and Gottesman's bold and vivid representations.

A Montclair resident, Gottesman uses a technique called "encaustic," which involves mixing paint and beeswax, then fixing the blend with heat to create her art. The result is energetic abstraction.

Prince, who hails from Stone Ridge, N.Y., transforms soot from a burning candle into black velvet, then applies fingerprints to give the black and white effects of clouds.

Queens resident, Lee's work combines Eastern and Western traditions to express the human condition in relation to nature. He uses canvas, satin, silk and taffeta to create the effect.

The exhibit is a three-artist view of color, texture, painting and drawing, according to D'Alessandro.

"First Look 2004: Emerging Artists Series" will be on display through Sunday, November 7, at the temporary gallery site, 34-36 Maple Street, Summit, from Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays until 9 p.m. and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m.

For more information, please contact the NJCVA at (908) 273-9121 or visit www.njcva.org.



"Cumulus 1" by Lily Prince

Westfield Symphony Orchestra

SAT., OCT. 2, 2004, 8PM
Union County Arts Center, Rahway

BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 5 IN C MINOR

Barber Concerto for Violin and Orchestra
(Xiang Gao, violin)

Scarmolin
Two Vignettes for Orchestra

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RAHWAY: Union County Arts Center
CRANFORD: Martin Jewelers
SCOTCH PLAINS: Beautiful Things

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Conducted by **DAVID WROE**