

F | Accent ARTS & TRAVEL

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The Scene, F3

CELEBRITY IN TOWN



Mia Farrow in Ecuador earlier this year. DOLORES OCHOA / ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Farrow's biggest role: humanitarian

The actress will discuss her efforts to ease suffering in Africa and around the world.

By Leslie Gray Streeter
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Mia Farrow is talking about Twitter.

"My son got me on Twitter - I had no idea how to get there," the Golden Globe-nominated actress and humanitarian says. "I was like 'You put the RT here, can you put it after?' But he showed me how to do it. He said 'Think of the people you follow in real life. You love your Margaret Atwood books and she's on there. And Human Rights Watch is on there. You compile a list, and if they're not very interesting, you drop them.'"

"I said 'How do you drop them? Do they get offended?' " she says, laughing. "It's been two years and I realize it's just another tool. Yes, you can joke, and you do get haters, but it's a great tool for me to get out information I believe is important."

Farrow, who will discuss her career and good works on Tuesday at Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, is talking about using the 140-character social media tool to send out alerts about human rights issues, or, at the moment, fun pop culture observations, like her humorous Super Bowl commentary ("I need a bunch of puppies" she Tweeted during the Puppy Bowl) or wishing Toni Morrison a happy birthday.

She does not mention those other Tweets, sent by herself (and son Ronan) during the Golden Globes tribute to former romantic and creative partner Woody Allen, which sparked a discussion from the blogosphere to The New York Times about long-held allegations by daughter Dylan that Allen sexually abused her as a child, which he has long denied.

The only references to her family during this too-brief telephone interview is at the very end, when she's asked how they're doing.

"They're great! Thank you for asking," Farrow says warmly. "I'm so proud of them. They're wonderful."

Farrow continued on F11

Personal journeys

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Born to explore

How Danielle deBenedictis became a 'citizen of the world.'



As one of America's most prominent lawyers, Danielle deBenedictis is at home in a courtroom. And she's also at home throwing parties at her Summer House resort in Nantucket or her winter home in Palm Beach (above). RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

Danielle's uncle Luis Marden: Last of the 'Geographic men'

Danielle deBenedictis spent summers at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home of her uncle, Luis Marden, who led a life so exciting that Bill Allen, the editor of National Geographic when Marden died at 90 in 2003, said: "It's impossible to create a fictional life as rich as the one that Luis had. No one would believe it."

As the Washington Post reported in his obituary, Marden found the ruins of the HMS Bounty; retraced and rejiggered the route Christopher Columbus was thought to have taken to the New World; dove from the Calypso with his friend, Jacques Cousteau; and, over rum with natives, finagled two eggs of an extinct bird in Madagascar. He was an accomplished pilot and diver. An orchid he discovered, as well as a species of undersea flea, were named in his honor. Marden wrote more than 55 National Geographic articles with elegance, spoke a half-dozen languages, pioneered the use of underwater and 35mm color photography and read Egyptian hieroglyphics. (The photo of him here is from a



National Geographic tribute.)

Marden was the last of the "Geographic men," who wrote stories in the first person and took their own pictures. His wife, Ethel Cox Marden, was an accomplished adventurer, too — and also one of the top mathematicians in the country.

Their home was purchased in 2000 by James V. Kimsey, founding chairman of America Online, who restored it.



Danielle deBenedictis showed a fierce independent streak even as a child. She loved school so much, she would cry on snow days. CONTRIBUTED FAMILY PHOTO

By Lois Cahall
Special to the Palm Beach Post

Where in the world is Danielle deBenedictis?

It's a question Peter Karlson, her husband of 36 years, asks friends on any given day.

Danielle might be found in a Boston courtroom, at her Summer House resort on Nantucket, playing tennis at Luxembourg Gardens in Paris, at a client's vineyard in Provence, in a board meeting for the Palm Beach Theatre Guild, or just rushing to Mass at St. Edward's in Palm Beach.

Says Danielle: "My husband should just put a note in my pocket: 'If found ... please return to Peter Karlson!'"

She is a globe-trotting, trilingual tour de force — an attorney who had two cases go before the U.S. Supreme Court, a business owner, friend of the famous, wife, mother and grandmother who has a history that could rival royalty and challenge geography. And, oh yes, then there's the politics ... she was the first female assistant attorney general in the government bureau for Massachusetts at 26 and ran for Congress at 29.

When she manages to sit still, she finds respite on winter weekends at her home in Palm Beach.

And then ... off she goes again.

Sense of adventure in her DNA

Danielle deBenedictis was born to French-Italian parents in Boston in 1946, after being conceived at the Marine base at Cherry Point, N.C., where her father, an officer, was stationed. Her grandmother insisted that her mother return home to Boston for Danielle's birth.

You see, she says, "Even in the womb, I was running away."

The wandering is in her DNA.

Her mother's brother, Luis Marden, traveled the world as a writer and photographer for National Geographic for

Danielle continued on F10

DINING

5 classics for the Honda Classic



The veal milanese at Vic & Angelo's Restaurant in Palm Beach Gardens. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

After a day on the greens, check out these spots for a delicious night on the town.

By Liz Balmaseda
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

There will be plenty of action on the golf course at PGA National this week when the resort hosts the annual Honda Classic, the daunting first

stop on the PGA Tour's Florida swing. But if you plan to be among the golf-loving crowds, craning to catch a look at Tiger Woods or Rory McIlroy as they compete for more than \$5.6 million of prize money, you should know your PGA experience doesn't have to end there.

Here are five choice spots for dining and cocktail in the PGA Boulevard area:

Cocktails and red sauce

Vic & Angelo's
Vic & Angelo's not only offers a terrific happy hour (every day from 3 to 7 p.m.), the popular Italian eatery offers delicious pizza, pasta dishes and rib-sticking classics. If you're in an old-school mood, try the al dente spaghetti with a Giant Meatball, tossed with San Marzano tomato sauce, sheer garlic slivers and basil.

Classics continued on F13



The salad bar is sumptuous at Texas de Brazil, in Downtown at the Gardens. J. GWENDOLYNNE BERRY / THE PALM BEACH POST

Personal journeys

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIVES
OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Lifestyle of a determined woman



Danielle deBenedictis with her husband, Peter Karlson, and their grandson, Adre Karlson, 10, at her home in Palm Beach. RICHARD GRAULICH / THE PALM BEACH POST

Danielle

continued from F1

64 years. Danielle's parents met when her mother, Anita, went to New York to pick up Luis, and her father, Daniel, was waiting on the wharf to pick up his sister, who had gone to South America on vacation. They were returning on the same ship.

"This was in the day when it was a big ordeal if a family member took a transatlantic ship," Danielle says.

Danielle's parents kept up their romance during World War II, through love letters that Danielle's mother bundled up in pink ribbons and saved her entire life.

"My father, after receiving the bronze star at Guadalcanal, came home from four years of war to visit my mother in Boston, and my uncle said to my father, 'If you don't marry her now, someone else is going to!' My father thought he was coming to see a girlfriend and ended up with a wife!"

They made a home in Boston, where her grandmother was a patron of the Milton, Mass., library and family friends included the Kennedys.

Danielle devoured books – "reading was a big part of my life" – and also devoured the example of her enterprising aunts.

"It was my 11 aunts who convinced me I could do and be whatever I wanted," she recalls. "Female strength and independence was always in my genes. My father was raised by his 11 sisters after his father died before his birth, and his mother died a few years later. His sisters did whatever they could to keep their family together – thriving careers in antiques and real estate. My father, having been brought up by fiercely strong women, made me strong and independent."

Danielle recalls wanting to forge her own way by the age of 4.

One of her favorite family stories was when she went off to kindergarten at a private academy, and "I didn't even say goodbye to my parents. I just marched up the school steps and never looked back."

After graduating at 16 from high school and 20 from college, with French as her major, Danielle went to the Sorbonne in Paris. She also speaks fluent Italian.

"I wanted to be self-supporting and not dependent on a man," she says. And when she analyzed what she did well – she was editor of her college newspaper, president of the debate society and also had the lead in school plays – she decided to blend all those skills and become a lawyer.

A globe-trotting lawyer, mind you. Though her father was a lawyer himself, and though he had raised her to be independent, "he wanted me to have a softer life, get married, have children and be taken care of."

At her 50th high school reunion from her French Catholic high school in Boston, when the girls asked her why she wanted such a big life, her answer was "my uncle was a citizen of the world."

For six decades, her Uncle Luis "would vanish for months for National Geographic, sometimes with little more

VIDEO: Hear Danielle deBenedictis tell the story of how a Palm Beacher persuaded Billy Joel to play 'Piano Man' at the Summer House.

my.palmbeachpost.com

than a pith helmet, quinine water and a medical kit," explains Danielle.

Known to both Middle Eastern monarchs and Mexican mule drivers, Marden was called "the very spirit of the National Geographic Society" in his 2003 obit. "He was former chief of the National Geographic foreign editorial staff, photographer, writer, filmmaker, diver, sailor, navigator, pilot, linguist, raconteur, boon companion – and oh, yes, explorer ..."

Marden's wife, Ethel Cox Marden, also influenced the young Danielle, who spent summers at their Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home overlooking the Potomac in McLean, Va. Ethel was the deputy director of the National Bureau of Standards, where she helped create the first computer languages.

She embodied a rare mix of refinement and risk-taking, of femininity and force.

"She was a gourmet cook, had a double life of sorts, and I spent summers with them, wanting to emulate her," Danielle says. "Everything they did was extreme and high-level excitement ... there was nothing ordinary about their life."

Uncle Luis and Aunt Ethel might have slowed down when he retired from the Geographic in 1976. Instead, as the magazine wrote in his obituary, "the couple sailed a ketch across the Atlantic Ocean from England. In the Bahamas they ran aground and the boat was destroyed. They turned around, built a new one, and the following year sailed across the Atlantic without mishap."

Danielle was "determined to be just like her," she says. "Aunt Ethel was my role model – a woman with a wonderful feminine side who also was extra successful in a man's world."

Ethel drove a fast sports car, a Jaguar XKE, and worked all day – then would come home to throw "the most unbelievable dinner parties ... salons where the intelligentsia of the world gathered," Danielle recalls.

"My Aunt Ethel lived to be 100 years old before she passed away in 2012. She lived to see me recognize her habits."

Rebel with a cause

Danielle created her own high-level excitement, getting involved in politics before she graduated from Boston University Law School.

She refused to wear a cap and gown to her graduation as a protest against the Vietnam war.

"I bought a peasant dress from a peddler and wore that instead of my cap and gown," she recalls. The money for the cap and gown went to Cambodian refugees.

Her father had a "fit" about the entire thing, until he realized he could easily recognize his defiant daughter amid the



Danielle deBenedictis with her son, Christopher (left), husband, Peter Karlson (right), and parents Daniel and Anita. CONTRIBUTED FAMILY PHOTO

caps and gowns. Most of the other students were men.

Danielle decided she wanted to be an assistant attorney general, because "I wanted to argue constitutional cases that changed the law as opposed to being involved in commercial rights of wealthy individuals as I would be if I worked for a big firm."

She tried her first case against Jim St. Clair, who was Richard Nixon's lawyer in Watergate. "And I won the case! It became front-page news ... which was even more ironic because when I went into the courtroom the security was trying to separate me from the rest of the lawyers because I was a woman. I had to keep explaining, 'But, I am a lawyer!' That's just how it was."

Danielle was named one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Leaders of Greater Boston" for her work representing the Commonwealth, and the Boston Herald commended her courtroom expertise: "Anyone who knows her, has opposed her in litigation, read her briefs, or seen her in action in the court, has no doubt that she is outstanding."

A run for U.S. Congress followed. Her boss, Attorney General Robert Quinn, ran for governor and lost to Michael Dukakis, "but I was so actively involved

in that campaign, that I decided to run for Congress myself. I was 29 years old and the incumbent had been there nine terms. Not only was he undefeated, but nobody ran against him. And no one ever won, including me."

She did, however, secure 37 percent of the vote – and a husband, in the form of a campaign worker named Peter Karlson.

"My mother insisted I must go out with this nice Peter Karlson, and I declared, 'Mom, I'm running for Congress, I have no time to date!'"

"But then one night after a campaign event, a friend of mine – a woman with MS whose husband had left her – she was the state's spokesperson for handicapped rights – needed assistance getting home. I told Peter I can't go to the 'after party,' as she needed a ride.

"Next thing I knew, at about 3 a.m., Peter and I were in his car, and we took her home and got her settled in. Then we drove back to Boston as the sun was rising. Peter invited me to his apartment for breakfast on Beacon Hill.

"By this time, I hadn't contacted my campaign manager for hours, and it was now 8 a.m. She said 'where in the

Danielle continued on F11



Danielle deBenedictis at a campaign party. CONTRIBUTED FAMILY PHOTO

Danielle

continued from F10

world are you?’ So I told the campaign manager to calm down, ‘I’m at Peter’s apartment.’ Well, while I’m on the phone with my campaign manager, Peter’s son, Christopher, walked in the room, and I had no idea that Peter was divorced with a child. My campaign manager, listening to all this said, ‘And he’s got a son? At 8 a.m. in the morning? Get out of there!’ But, of course, Peter was divorced, so we weren’t doing anything inappropriate.”

By the end of the next day, Peter was no longer working at Ernst & Ernst, where he had been a CPA. He was working 10 hours a day on Danielle’s campaign. His brand new car, a Cadillac, “his prize possession,” was turned into the campaign car. In addition, he cashed his 401(k) to do a mass mailing for the campaign.

Peter fondly reminisces, “Anything for a woman of power and beauty.”

Nantucket’s hostess with the mostest

In the throes of their romance, they visited Nantucket – and began a love affair with the seaside village, particularly the Summer House resort.

“We came back every year and then it got run down – wallpaper peeling off the walls ..., etc. It was 1979, three years after we met, and I was now married to Peter and pregnant. I decided I wanted to buy the Summer House. That’s when Peter said, ‘You’re crazy! You have a big job as an attorney! And I’m a CPA. We both have 80-hour-a-week jobs!’”

And he was right – the timing was not right, not yet.

In 1977, Danielle joined the law firm of Nutter, McClennen & Fish and became one of the first women in Massachusetts to become a senior partner of a large Boston firm. For 11 years, she managed and tried large cases for public and private clients, including two cases that went before the U.S. Supreme Court.

After the Russian invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Danielle was successful in having the Supreme Court rule that the International Longshoremen’s Association’s refusal to unload Russian goods in the United States was an illegal secondary boycott, and she obtained an \$11.5 million dollar judgment for her client. On the other spectrum, on a pro bono basis, Danielle won the issue of women’s rights to belong to civic organizations.

And as she worked and worked, she longed for Nantucket and a home there.

“One day, the realtor showed us this little love shack, a fishing cottage, the closest house to the water in all of Nantuck-

et ... There wasn’t even a heating unit. Just a wood-burning stove for the people living in it year round. We bought the fishing cottage.”

Decorating that cottage became one of her favorite escapes from the seriousness of her work, and she and Peter traveled all over England to furnish it.

“The closet is a front door from a salvage yard in Gloucester, England. It was there that I discovered this large piece of stained glass. We were staying at the Connaught Hotel in London’s Mayfair, and I arranged to have everything shipped to Nantucket. It was so decadent. I picked everything out. Our sunken tub in our bathroom – the wood that frames it – is from an old church. It was original to say the least.”

As renovations began on their Quidnet cottage, Danielle and Peter became “Summer House groupies.”

“We’d bring our baby girl, Francesca, in a basket, and we got friendly with the old lady who owned it.” Night after night they’d share cognac by the fireplace. The owner told Danielle she had a neighbor who did a lot of complaining about the noise. Danielle remembers, “I told the woman ‘let’s get him to invest in this place.’”

That complaining neighbor turned out to be actor/director John Shea, known to TV audiences for playing “Lex Luthor” on “Lois & Clark” (opposite Terri Hatcher).

Danielle, who doesn’t watch much television – assumed that John Shea was a snooty, British stage actor and came up with the perfect way to win him over.

Since Danielle was a prominent Boston lawyer, she had just been inducted into the private Algonquin Club in Boston, whose membership had been reserved only for men. As the first female member, Danielle decided to bring in her first (sight unseen) distinguished guest, the great John Shea.

As she sat waiting for him to be announced, “I sipped my gin martini, craned my neck across the room full of Brooks Brothers suits, cigars and cuff links, and watched the room go silent as John Shea was announced. In walked a scruffy young man of about 30 years old heading to my table dressed like a SoHo rock star!” And so a partnership was born.

“So we bought the Summer House, and next thing I know it’s 1984, and I’ve got permits for both Quidnet and Summer House in hand to simultaneously renovate. I was an official resident of Nantucket.”

Since then, Danielle and Peter have dropped anchor all over Nantucket. Karlson now runs and operates several inns, including Fair Street and The Pineapple Inn in the

town center. His son, Christopher, oversees the daily operations.

Their celebrity connection continues at the Fair Street, where their celebrity-chef pal Todd English has a Figs restaurant. (Danielle is also English’s attorney.)

But it’s the Summer House that has maintained its old-world charm, sitting high atop a scenic bluff overlooking the ocean – a view as stunning as the one at Uncle Luis’ and Aunt Ethel’s home over the rapids of the Potomac.

It feels like half cozy home, half private club, and frequent getaway to a dazzling array of big names.

Don’t be surprised if The Piano Man himself, Billy Joel, tickles the ivories while Katie Couric sings with her friends.

Isadora Duncan, the pioneer of modern dance, tried out her new moves on this very beach, and she once proclaimed of the Summer House: “The movement of the waves, of winds, of the earth, is ever in the same harmony. We do not stand on the beach and inquire of the ocean what was its movement of the past and what will be its movement of the future. We realize that the movement peculiar to its nature is eternal to its nature ...”

Sundays in Palm Beach

During the last 42 years, Danielle deBenedictis has litigated cases in 36 state and federal courts, and she continues to enjoy the challenge of trial work.

In the winter, she’ll often work Monday through Thursday in Boston, then fly to her Palm Beach home on weekends. She reserves Sundays for dinners with family and friends.

Many people in Palm Beach have asked Danielle why she doesn’t just retire. Her answer comes from a recent client: “Why would she give up something she does so well?”

Besides, how could she give up that mix of refinement and risk-taking?

“What makes me happiest is an intimate dinner on the Left Bank of Paris with my husband,” Danielle says. She and Peter have owned a pied-a-terre on the Left Bank for 34 years.

They are now raising their grandson – their daughter’s son, Andre, 10 – who enjoys the life in Paris, Palm Beach and Nantucket and the reminders of her own childhood past.

On a recent trip, Peter and Andre got scooters and were buzzing all over the Left Bank. At 6 p.m. Danielle looked at her watch, wondering about dinner, glancing out the balcony of her St. Germaine flat and declared, “Where in the world is my grandson?”

And, so, history repeats itself.

Farrow

continued from F1

Of course, Farrow’s career on TV and film, and as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador gives her more than enough to discuss in this phone call and at the Four Arts. The daughter of director John Farrow and actress Maureen O’Sullivan, she got her start on soap opera “Peyton Place,” and then became an instant icon as the young wife of Frank Sinatra, as well as the imperiled gamine increasingly aware that she’s carrying the spawn of Satan in Roman Polanski’s “Rosemary’s Baby.”

Later, she gained nominations and acclaim in Allen’s “Hannah And Her Sisters” “Radio Days,” “Broadway Danny Rose” and “The Purple Rose of Cairo.” Largely retired from acting, Farrow’s main focus now, on Twitter and otherwise, are human rights violations.

“I don’t know if you’re aware of what is happening in the Central African Republic, but they’re moving towards a genocide there, scarily so. I took my third trip there, and because of neglect for so many years I don’t know if it’s stoppable,” she says. “They’re beheading children. There are massive, massive killings. The people were like ‘Save us, save us.’ The machetes were out and being used.”

That trip came after years of travel to the African continent and beyond. Farrow says that “it’s hard to know” where her own activism started. “I did adopt 10 children. I was seeing things from that perspective, like ‘If I could just take one more child into my lifeboat,’ as it were, I could offer that child an even playing ground.”

But her role went beyond her own family after taking a trip to Angola with Ronan, where they

IF YOU GO

“An Afternoon with Mia Farrow”
When: 3 p.m.
 Tuesday
Where: Society of the Four Arts, Palm Beach
Info: fourarts.org

met someone who forever inspired her work moving forward. It was “a man, at the cessation of 27 years of terrible war, where the ground was littered with land mines. People were looking for their family and couldn’t find anyone. There were no roads, no nothing. This man pointed to my son’s belt and said something to the translator that he once had a belt like that, but he had to eat it, because he was so hungry.”

From that moment, her goal became to do whatever she could to let people know, to affect them like she was affected, and to push for change.

“I don’t like the term ‘Give voice to the voiceless,’ but the thing is that I have a very clear voice, a role in amplifying, talking to people, giving interviews, writing op-eds. Doing whatever I can do,” she says.

Farrow recalls finding out about the genocide in Rwanda in the ‘90s, “which killed almost a million people, and I did not hear about it (at the time) and I thought ‘What was I doing during those days?’ There was a celebrity murder trial, of O.J. Simpson, and all the nation was focused on that, not the millions being slaughtered. I saw how my country, my church and the UN failed to come to the (rescue) of people who were being slaughtered en masse. It was stunning, the abject failure. I tried to absorb how all that happened.”

Does this ever get too overwhelming? Farrow acknowledges that these are not easy issues, easy trips to take, easy things to see. But having seen them, she has no choice.

“This came out of having to redefine myself. I thought ‘I’m a mother; I’m an actress; and I am a witness to a genocide,’” Farrow says. “I had to ask myself ‘What am I gonna do about it?’”

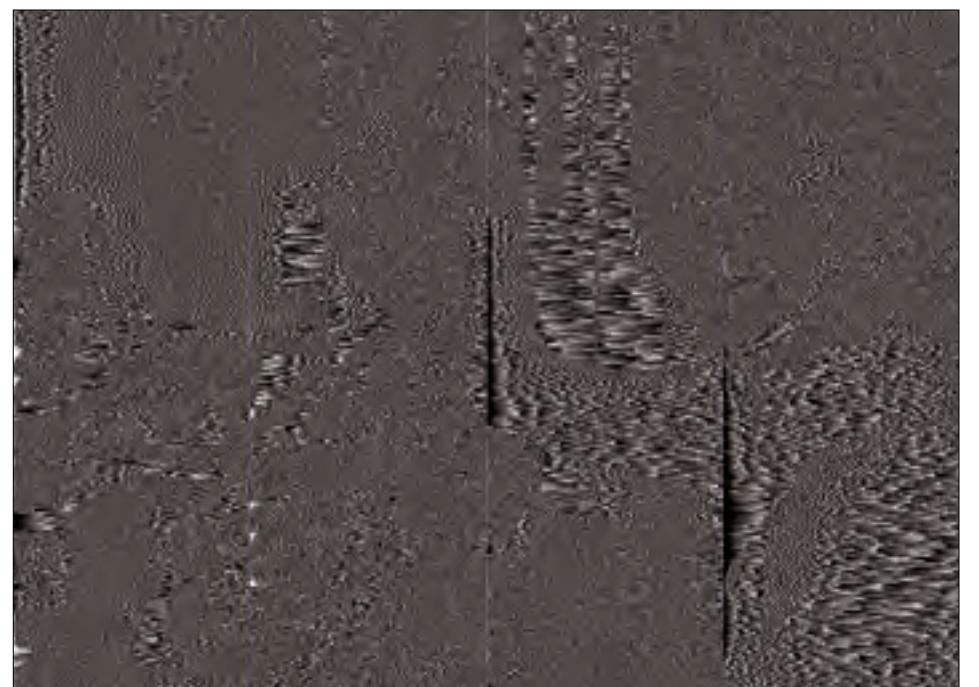
Farrow says it has consumed years of her life, to make people aware. “Right now I am working with the Darfur archives, collecting all the traditions of the people who were targeted for elimination, who don’t celebrate those things anymore, things that were tied to the daily lives they once had ... I promised that I will be a good steward of those.”

This stewardship is connected to work that is rooted in some ways in her role as a mother, the powerful impetus to those Tweets she does not talk about. It’s not surprising that perhaps her most enduring role is as Rosemary, that young mother trapped in a horrifying plot with a cult in her New York high-rise to make her the vessel of Satan’s child.

Last year, a blogger wrote in a retrospective of “Rosemary’s Baby” that the heroine was weak, a pawn. Farrow disagrees. She knows something about what mothers are capable of.

“Rosemary was very young, and rather isolated. At the time I didn’t think of that, only as a role that I really wanted,” she says. “But look at the times when her child was threatened. She does everything she possibly can, even going (into a dangerous situation) with a knife. She doesn’t run away. She has a lot of guts.”

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Mia Farrow, right, Ruth Gordon, center, and Patsy Kelly appear in a scene from the 1968 movie, ‘Rosemary’s Baby.’ ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO



Main Event Concert
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