



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-à-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.”

lstreeter@pbpost.com  
 Twitter: @LeslieStreeter



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

# KCO KLEZMER COMPANY ORCHESTRA

AARON KULA, DIRECTOR

## Main Event Concert

# JUBANOJAZZ!

**Sunday, March 2**  
**3 p.m.**

Carole and Barry Kaye  
 Performing Arts Auditorium  
 777 Glades Road  
 FAU Boca Campus

“Original JEWISH FUSION music played by the EXPERT and *Spirited* KCO”  
 - The Miami Herald

Aaron Kula’s 27-member Klezmer Company Orchestra (KCO) with guest vocalist **Graham Fandrei** will perform new energetic arrangements of Klezmer melodies fused with Latin percussion, Argentinean Tango and Afro-Cuban dance beats along with classic songs from the Yiddish theater.

---

### kultur festival 2014

March 1-8

TICKETS \$10-\$45

FAU JEWISH CULTURAL SOCIETY  
 Florida Atlantic University

An eight-day celebration of Jewish culture: music, lectures, humor, film and book arts.

1-800-564-9539  
 www.fauvents.com

FAU LIBRARIES  
 Florida Atlantic University