

H Hospital News & More

Western Pennsylvania

The Region's Monthly Healthcare Newspaper

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Index

Nurse leaders weigh in on issues facing nurses	page 18
Dealing with disaster	page 25
How do you know when to call hospice? . . .	page 28
Washington's Thomas saying good-bye . . .	page 29

Artists among us: Spotlight on Cheryl L. Rosato, D.M.D.

By Christopher Cussat

As our loyal readers are well aware, everyone here at Western PA Hospital News is dedicated to bringing you the latest healthcare news, the most helpful industry information, as well as interesting health-related community and people stories from across the region.

In this tradition, we are pleased to introduce and present what will hopefully be a continuing series of articles about the artistic/creative talents and interests of healthcare professionals in Western Pennsylvania.

Healthcare professionals are considered to be some of the most dedicated, talented, and hard-working people around. Since much of our paper's print space is used to highlight what good work these professionals are doing in their health fields, we want to begin showcasing how multi-talented they are in other areas as well—especially those who pursue artistic outlets in the expression of their creativity.

Cheryl L. Rosato, D.M.D. has been chosen for the premier installment of this article series because she is a truly successful, strong, and creative person who represents the healthcare profession in so many impressive ways.

Cheryl Rosato, an energetic single mother of four (now college-aged), is a family dentist who is celebrating her 30th year in practice. Rosato defines herself as a general dentist and she is working solo at present. With her brother Bob also practicing dentistry, the profession definitely runs in the family.



Cheryl Rosato transformed her dining room into an Italian room, complete with a scene from Pizzoferrato, her father's family village, and a vibrant mosaic tabletop.

For years, Rosato has been painting and sculpting to express her artistic talents and passion, which like dentistry, have also been a strong family tradition. She explains, "My father, the late Dr. Robert A. Rosato, was also a dentist and a sculptor—and my mom, Betty [a former nurse who is now 86], is also my catalyst to paint murals." In fact,

See **ROSATO** On **Page 3**

The Midwife Center: Offering women an affordable choice

By Kathleen N. Bishop

Clients at The Midwife Center for Birth and Women's Health choose this unique option for childbirth and gynecological care for a number of reasons. The center and its certified nurse midwives not only recognize the diversity of their client base by celebrating clients' cultural, economic and social differences, but by customizing care to each individual woman and her family.



Big brother asked Nancy Niemczyk, CNM, MSN to also listen to the heartbeat of the baby in his belly during his mom's (Sara Hamer) prenatal appointment.

According to Christine Haas, executive director for The Midwife Center, "We offer services to women from all backgrounds and professions. Our clients tend to be older, about 35 years and up, and many have multiple children."

According to Christine Haas, executive director for The Midwife Center, "We offer services to women from all backgrounds and professions. Our clients tend to be older, about 35 years and up, and many have multiple children," Haas said.

Providing women with a choice is why TMC is so important to Western Pennsylvania. As the only state licensed, free-standing birth center for low-risk, healthy women in southwestern Pennsylvania, the medical community fought to keep them open when the center closed in 2000 due to financial restructuring at Allegheny General Hospital.

See **MIDWIFE** On **Page 4**



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ROSATO From **Page 1**

Rosato and her mother decided to paint over the brown paneling in the church basement of St. Peter's UCC in Spring Garden (on Pittsburgh's North Side) a few years ago.

Since then, and consistently favoring acrylics as her primary medium, Rosato has also painted murals all over her church walls at New Community Church in Wexford. "I like working with acrylics because I have four kids and I just have to do things real fast! My favorite is Noah's ark, which runs the entire length of a corridor at my church," she adds.

Many of the walls in Rosato's own home are murals, especially her "Italian Room" which depicts the Coliseum, Ponte Vecchio, and Pizzoferrato (the village of her father's family). "I also made a mosaic tabletop that adds to the Italian theme," she notes.

Rosato feels that art is both her creative outlet and her therapy. "Colors can change my mood—and creating wearable art, stained glass objects, murals, and portraits make me come alive," she says. "I have always had a passion to create, and it gives me a rush of adrenalin when I have a project to complete."

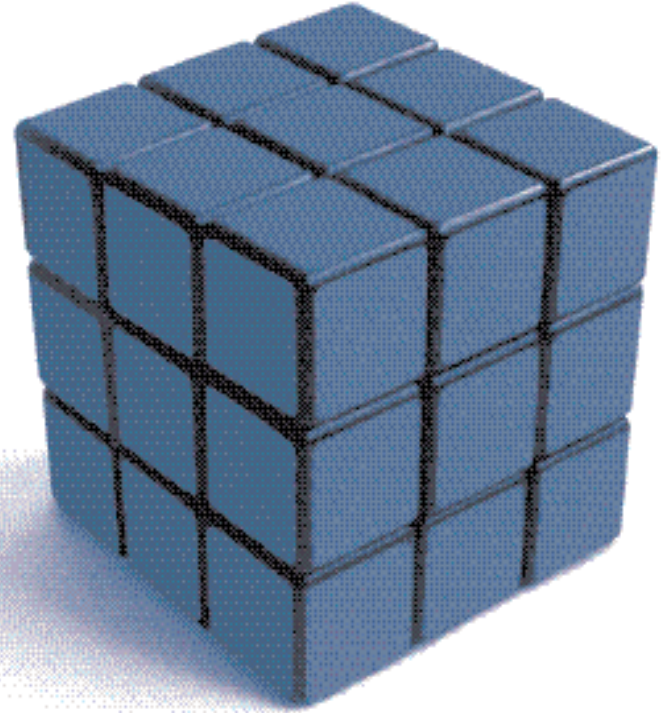
But Rosato's creativity is not limited to her artistic endeavors. In fact, Rosato has always found a natural connection between her art and her dentistry because she appreciates and perpetuates the creative aspects of her profession every day. "I find dentistry to be a very artistic profession and I always felt that dentistry was the perfect blending of my two passions. The thrill of making someone's smile prettier and boosting their self-esteem is very satisfying to me." Each night, Rosato finds time before bed to envision new ways to be creative in her office. "If you ever visit, you'll see that I cannot just give my employees white uniforms to wear without adding art-work to them!"

As a healer herself, Rosato has seen and appreciates the healing power that art possesses. "I truly believe that everyone can heal and benefit from artistic expression—even basic coloring with crayons can be very calming to the soul. Colors have a deep effect on people and can be therapeutic—well, at least that's been the case for me!"

Rosato literally loves sharing her artistic talent with others and she cannot ever imagine charging people for her artwork. Much of her art, like the portraits she's painted, are hanging in people's homes. She adds, "Even the stained glass pieces I've made have been given away as wedding gifts. So for now, I just create in order to give thanks to God for my gift—and so far, everyone benefits!"

Rosato's murals are in the New Community Church in Wexford (at the corner of Route 910 and Pierce Mill Road) and at St. Peter's UCC in Spring Garden (on Schu- bert Street). Her practice, North Hills Dental Complex, is located at 5310 Perry Highway and the contact number is 412-931-6571. †

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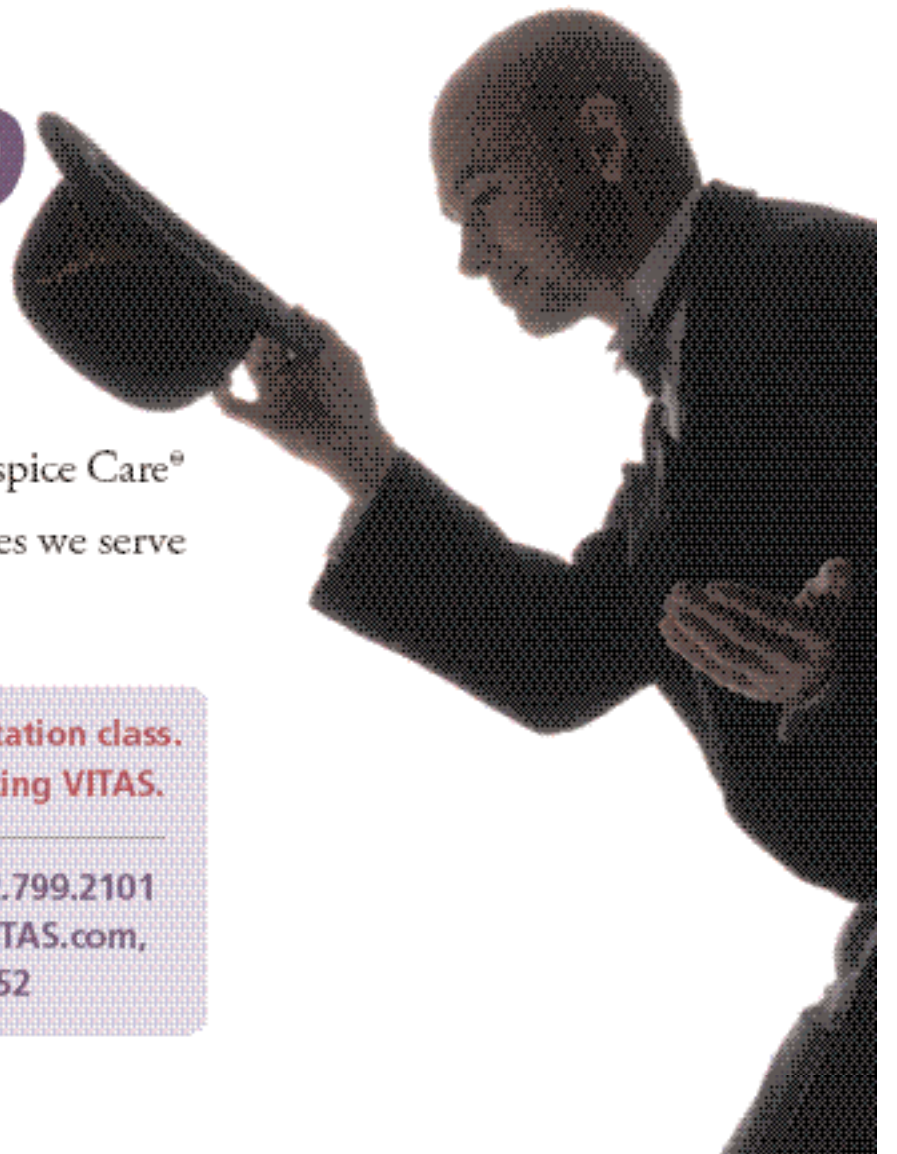


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