



"Yellow Gerbera," Mary Ann Glass Fine Art Photographic Prints, Beacon, N.Y.

Enthusiasm for Art Show Leaked When Gas Line Broke, Says Director

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

WESTFIELD—Around 1 p.m. on Saturday, the festivities during the 19th Annual Westfield Art & Craft Market at the National Guard Armory on Rahway Avenue were temporarily upset when a gas main break erupted on the road, between First Street and Dorian Road.

According to Westfield Fire Captain Daniel Kelly, the break was caused by contractors working nearby

Entitled "A Spring Celebration of the American Artist," approximately 135 American artisans displayed their pieces, ranging from the freshwater pearl and sterling silver handmade jewelry of Scotch Plains resident Sherry Lane to the multi-media, abstract stained glass panels of New York artist Dr. Carolyn Bessette.

Christine Originals of Ellenville, N.Y. brought one of the most unique notions to fill the market's walls. Shadowbox vignettes, some mixed with tiny white lights, depicted snippets of dollhouse-type adorned rooms, as well as beach landscapes — all encased in glass and frames.

One of the pieces, including three observers standing at an art museum, drew the eye into a separate world of tiny, lit lamps and miniature works of art. Several art exhibitions have displayed similar vignettes, however, the most worthy of inspection and appreciation was found at the Westfield Art & Craft Market.

Both Summit jewelry artist Gina Romano and Scotch Plains jewelry maker Sherry Lane offered pieces beaded with freshwater pearls and sterling silver.

One of Lane's bracelets at \$58



Stained glass panel by Dr. Carolyn Bessette of Spruce Hill Studio, N.Y.

to install storm drain pipes. The line break forced traffic to be cut off from the main arteries leading to the Armory, while Westfield police officers tried to reroute vehicles.

Richard Rothbard, Director of American Craft Marketing, the show's sponsor, told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that he felt the break "was a real detriment," contributing to the decline of sales and the morale on Saturday.

Rothbard commented that those who wanted to attend the show, but were unfamiliar with different detours or ways to navigate around the accident, were unable to get to the facility that day. He added that the break was not mended until late in the afternoon. The show closed at 6 p.m.

"The artists wait all year for this event," said Rothbard, noting that the show occurs twice per year. Although he said the show was better attended on Sunday, "the break prevented attendance" on Saturday, he said.



Dichroic Fused Glass/Sterling Silver Jewelry by Hayden Brook Studios, Bethlehem, Pa.

blended varied hues of violet, darker purples and mauve to create a polished and professional creation that would accent any outfit beautifully. Lane also marketed her turquoise handiworks, as the mineral is currently a tremendously popular trend in accessorizing.

Dr. Bessette fuses natural items, such as sea glass and tubes, with abstractly formed pieces of stained glass when crafting her panels of framed work. Most stained glass artisans do not delve beyond the limits of standard glass pieces, but in both content and concept, Bessette's work surpasses the norm.

The photography of New Yorkers John Simonelli and Mary Ann Glass

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Off-Ramp for Exit 13 Worth the Poetic Trip

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

FANWOOD—Anyone who feels poetry should be written only in cutesy greeting card rhyme should pick up a copy of *Exit 13* magazine, a poetry anthology that has been called "the crossroads of the poetry world," published locally approximately once a year.

One will find very little rhyme in this slim volume, but lots of heart, soul and gut-wrenching raw emotion.

Exit 13 magazine, named after the exit off the New Jersey Turnpike where editor and publisher Tom Plante used to live, contains the contributions of 40 poets from throughout the United States, including several from Fanwood, Cranford, Clark and Piscataway.

Many other New Jersey poets are also featured.

Also a writer and journalist, Plante published a similar magazine in California, where he lived before moving back to New Jersey in 1986.

Now residing in Fanwood, the editor received almost 1,000 submissions from which to choose for this, the 10th edition of *Exit 13*.

The volume features poetry in an exceptional array of styles and formats. One offering, "Spirits of Another Sort" is written in Renga — ancient Japanese style of poetry that is a collaborative effort of two or more poets. The poem is definitely not rhyming and definitely not cutesy.



Nancy Scott
TUSCANY

The stucco farmhouse roof is tiled in brilliant orange. In the yard, colored shirts and sheets unfurl beneath a cloudy Tuscan sky.

are written, every reader will find one or two works that are uniquely identifiable.

"Poetry shouldn't copy a particular style merely because it is learned in school," commented Plante of writing rhyming poetry, adding that modern themes can sometimes be best expressed with modern methods of writing.

"We all know the story of Emily Dickinson. Most poets today are willing to stick their necks out with various techniques to see what re-

Friday is girls' night out — and it has been that way since now-4-year-old Amy was born. No credit card, checkbook or stashed cash is safe when the Le Poidevin girls (Michelle and Lori and Amy Lysy) go shopping. Our purses usually point sharply like compasses to the Bridgewater Commons, where, for months, we waited until the boarded-up façade announcing the coming of Bloomingdale's was finally removed.

Simultaneous with last Friday's grand opening of the notoriously pricey department store was the multi-million dollar lottery in New Jersey. The first event had caused Routes 22 and 287 to clog with serpentine lines of fervent shoppers, making their way to the retail mecca. Meanwhile, different lines were forming at the delicatessens and convenience stores for a shot at money that would change lives forever.

In both instances, it was all about who has the most green in their jeans, who could shell out the most dough for overpriced T-shirts and bags bearing the Bloomingdale's logo, and who would obtain enough money through a lottery game that could buy billions of the Bloomingdale's bags and then some.

The Le Poidevin girls found a primo parking spot, and after weaving through displays of sleeveless tank tops at \$78 a pop and ponytail holders at \$35 each, we declared the venue too rich for our budgets. We're sensible girls, with responsibilities and limited funds, kids to raise, futures to save up for, and consciences to keep clean. We don't have a gene that permits wastefulness, so we departed.

Instead, we pulled up to a shop with prices that spoke to our sense of sensible spending, where we could fill our trunks with necessities for almost 1/8 of what we would have spent in Bloomingdale's. And, when we left, we knew our money had been stretched effectively, because, after all, we knew the value of a dollar. We're the type of girls that, if we won the lottery, we would like to spend a portion of the money helping those who have none.

The Bloomingdale's grand opening, which boasted bargains in nearly every daily newspaper and media outlet, had, in fact, offered nothing more

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ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

Lady Liberty Lithograph Lifts Spirits and Aids Sept. 11 Fund

By CAROL F. DAVIS
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD—Just in case you had any doubts, patriotism is alive and well, right here in Westfield. Take Heidi Hylan, for example.

A local artist, Hylan offered her lithograph print, "Stand Beside Her," for sale during the First Congregational Church of Westfield's *Alternative Gift Market* in November, a fundraiser for the United Fund of Westfield's special September 11 Fund.

Hylan's lithograph was originally

produced in 1988. She sold 23 prints that day, and donated 35 percent of her sales to this fund, which has been organized to aid the victims of the World Trade Center attacks.

Twenty-two years ago, Hylan decided that she was serious about art. Her first step was to enroll in Plainfield's



LIBERTY BELLE...Heidi Hylan's lithograph of the Statue of Liberty has not only inspired those victimized by 9-11, but has helped raise funds for the United Fund of Westfield's September 11 Fund.

Artist of the Week



Lauren Graham (1967-)

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

Watching Lauren Helen Graham trade barbs and banter with her co-stars on WB-11s underrated quality comedy-drama "The Gilmore Girls," requires total attentiveness, knowledge of popular culture references and true preparedness for letting your sides split with laughter. For, it isn't the script that keeps the show afloat, as much as it is her clever delivery of the lines.

The Honolulu, Hawaii-born actress wasn't always recognized for her talent. Instead, she endured countless cancellations of her short-lived sitcoms like "Townies" with Molly Ringwald and Jenna Elfman and "Conrad Bloom." On the flip side, her recurring role as Shelly on NBC's "Caroline in the City" was only a prelude to Graham's ability to keep an television viewers rolling off their couches.

Graham also starred in other NBC hits, "NewsRadio," "Law & Order," "3rd Rock from the Sun," and "Seinfeld," before she became Lorelai Gilmore, a single mother trying to find herself in the tiny, quirky town of Stars Hollow, Conn. Most recently, she starred opposite Renee Zellweger's as Jules, in *One True Thing* and *Sweet November* as Angelica with Keanu Reeves.

Graham was rewarded for her role as Lorelai when the Screen Actors Guild, a respectable slate of her peers, nominated her for Outstanding Female Actor in a Drama Series.

Raised by her father, Lawrence, in Fairfax, Va., Graham developed a love for horseback riding, entering competitions throughout her youth. Her mother, Donna Grant, had left Graham as a five year old, in order to pursue her singing career, becoming a retail buyer instead.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Barnard College and a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Acting from Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts in Dallas, Graham decided that her true home was Hollywood.

Graham's snippy snappy delivery of one-liners makes her the quickest quipper in the West. When it comes to comebacks, she's faster on the draw and, after watching one hour of her mothering techniques, you'll wish your mom was just as hip. But, my mom does pretty well for herself, grooving to Destiny's Child with the sunroof down on the way to the craft store on a weeknight.

duCret School of Art, where she spent the next year and a half studying, learning, and painting. At duCret, she developed her own graphic style of painting, using acrylics, and mostly producing seascapes.

After deciding, as many creative souls do, that you really can't make a career out of pursuing your passion, Hylan, being the practical creative type, entered college in 1982, where she concentrated on learning all she could about interior design.

Hylan excelled, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1985 with a professional Bachelor of Arts Degree from then-Kean College, now Kean University.

Now that she had earned her degree, Hylan launched her new career, as she went to work for several residential interior designers in the area. She soon became a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID).

With her education and experience in the field, she passed the rigorous National Council for Interior Design qualification exam, elevating her to ASID's "professional" status. Several years later Hylan landed a job in New York City, in commercial interior design. She worked as a store designer for Allied Stores, Inc., Macy's, and Federated Department Stores, Inc.

What did this career path do to Hylan's passion for painting? Well, she continued to paint and exhibit her work, mostly with the Westfield Art Association, and she sold more than 100 paintings and prints. She also managed to squeeze in four solo shows of her work.

It was in 1996, that Heidi decided to take a huge step. She left her job in New York City in order to begin her own residential interior design business, Hylan Designs.

From the moment she started her company, clients were eager to use her services. She is busy. In fact, it is the pursuit of this business, along with other responsibilities, that has forced Hylan to put her painting on the back burner. She has not produced any new paintings since 1996.

However, when the World Trade Center was attacked, Hylan, like many, felt compelled to do something.

Her colleague, Bronna Butler, painted "The Rescue," a work depicting the path of those who perished, and rose to heaven. Her new neighbor lost her husband. Hylan couldn't just sit back and watch.

She resurrected "Stand Beside Her," which she had made into a 100-lithograph edition in 1988. There were still some left, and with her personal call to patriotism, it was time to get busy. Hylan raised over \$400 for the September 11 Fund, and she feels good about that.

Perhaps, when time allows, this compassionate artist will return to her real love — painting seascapes.

SP-F Arts Association To Host Free Exhibit

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Arts Association's members will present a free exhibition of mixed media art from Monday, April 22, to Saturday, April 27, in the downstairs gallery of the Scotch Plains Public Library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue.

The public is invited to view the pieces during regular library hours.

The artists will be available to discuss their works during a special reception and awards presentation on April 27. Judging the show this year is Ann Swain of Swain's Gallery in Plainfield.

For more information, please contact the association's Information Officer Bob Hahn at (908) 233-7458. Admission is free.

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