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MAKING A GRAND ENTRANCE

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FORT LEE'S FIFTH AVENUE FASHION

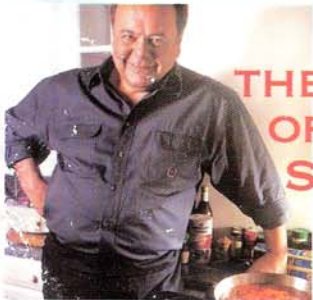
coffee and collectibles
in glen rock

SERIOUS STEAKS AT SMOKE

birdwatching in
your own backyard

STAY WELL

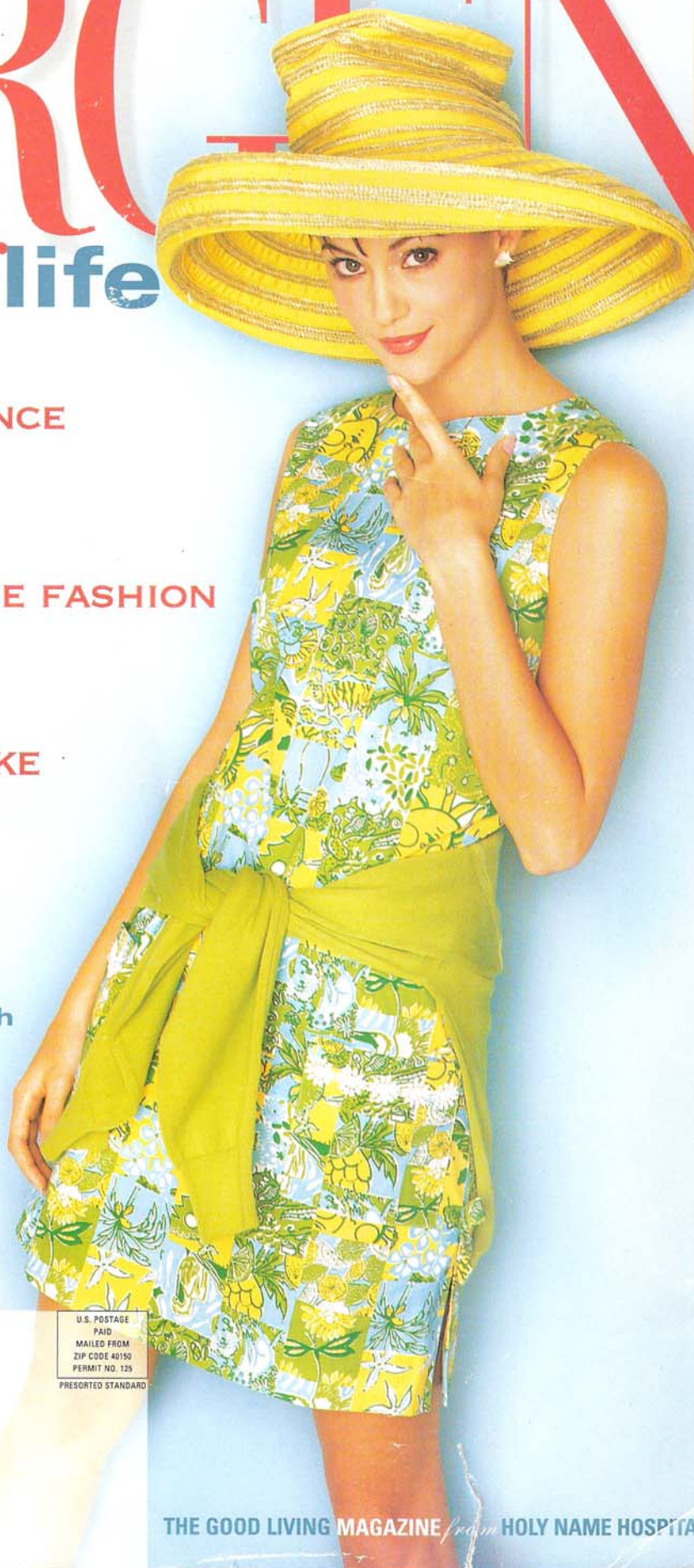
- stop the pain cycle
- stroke prevention plan
- cancer technology breakthrough

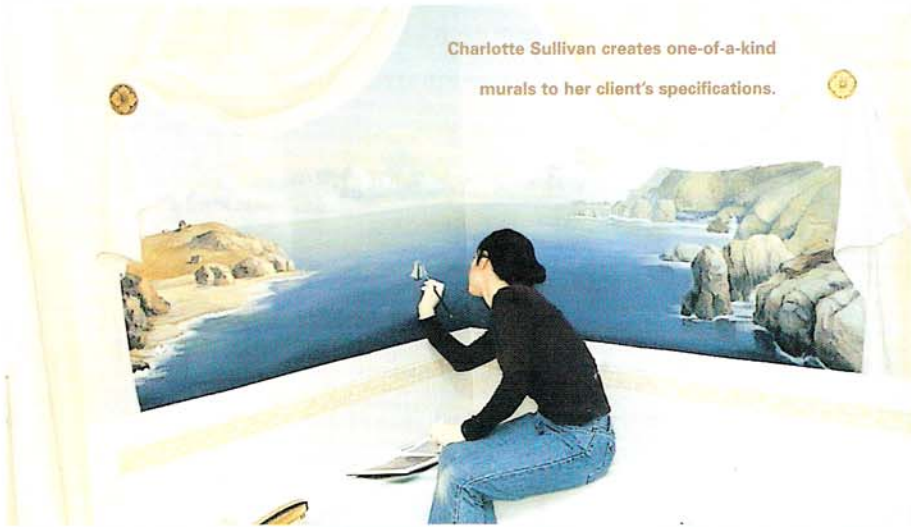


THE PASSIONS OF PAUL SORVINO

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Charlotte Sullivan creates one-of-a-kind murals to her client's specifications.

DECORATIVE ARTIST. The phone book is filled with painters who do faux finishes, but few do what Charlotte Sullivan does. This super-talented artist, who has a bachelor of fine arts degree from Pratt Institute, paints painstakingly realistic murals, landscapes, still lifes and architectural details.

She's painted an intricate Oriental carpet on a hardwood floor and a detailed landscape on a freestanding cabinet. She's applied her artistry to various surfaces until they resemble stone or wood and painted elaborate moldings and ceiling medallions you'd swear are three-dimensional. Most of Sullivan's work is "very classic looking" given her solid fine arts background, but she also does fun things like painting a child's room to look like the inside of a circus tent.

"Many of the houses being built today look the same, and decorative painting allows you to put some of your personality into your house," says Sullivan, who works with her sister, Kate, a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. And you're assured of uniqueness because Sullivan never paints the same design twice. Why? "It's not ethical, and it's darn boring!"

Charlotte Sullivan, 201-747-1633.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR.

Nearly everyone has a contractor horror story—overcharging, doing shoddy work, taking forever to finish, walking off the job, going bankrupt and so on. But you don't hear those kinds of stories about Dayson Home Improvements in Woodcliff Lake, which has been in business since 1979.

In fact, George and Edward Dayson's biggest challenge is that their clients often feel so at ease that they decide to add onto the project once it's under way, which can make it tough for the brothers to stick to a schedule. "But most of the time, we do," notes George, who started working in his father's construction business in grade school.

The Daysons take great pride in their work, whether it's a major addition or a small bathroom, and in the strong relationships they've built with their clients. "A longtime client once told me he was putting on an addition and to schedule it in. I said I wanted to give him a price, and he just laughed," George recalls. "People trust me, and I trust them. That just tickles me pink."

Dayson Home Improvements, 201-307-0993.

PAINTER. Ramsey-based painter Robert Chambers loves "working for fussy, meticulous, detail-oriented" people. No, he's not a masochist. He simply knows that "when you make customers like that happy, it's worth 10 jobs" in terms of repeat business and word-of-mouth referrals.

What keeps them happy is the quality of work that Chambers and his 10 well-trained employees deliver. "We don't just open up cans and start painting. We turn on the halogen lights and look for stress cracks, nail pops in the sheetrock and other imperfections," says Chambers, who has a degree in management and economics. "We don't get paint where it doesn't

