The Lara Family

Joy Ann Cabanos is an artist whose work celebrates nature, family, people and animals, poetry, dance and music. She enjoys painting in acrylics, watercolor, and pastel. She experiments with collage and encaustics. Joy writes poetry, and her first published collection, "Brightness," features her poems and paintings together. Poetry and painting are an integral part of her creative process. She teaches Drawing at the Westfield Adult School in Westfield, NJ and also gives private lessons. She exhibits her work in solo and group shows locally and has had solo exhibits in the Philippines, the US and the UK.

Ed Lara has been taking photographs for more than 30 years. He looks for symmetry and order in everyday things, people, nature, architecture, street scenes and found objects. Ed shoots in both digital and traditional black & white film, the latter using vintage rangefinder cameras. Ed is a member of the Contemporary Arts Guild of New Jersey and has been part of a number of group exhibits including a 2011 juried exhibition at the Perkins Center for the Arts in Moorestown, NJ.

Jaime Lara is a young musician for whom canvas and brush also serve as an instrument. His abstract expressionist paintings in acrylic celebrate color, texture, rhythm and musical flow. One of his collage paintings won 2nd place in the 2008 Martin Luther King Jr. Union County Art/Writing Competition where students from various schools submitted work on the theme "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Jaime sings, plays the guitar and the piano, is an avid photographer, writes songs and stories, and participated in musical theatre from middle school throughout his junior year at Westfield High School. He is a recognized youth leader with the Unitarian Universalist Church in Summit, NJ and was a delegate to various youth leadership programs including the 2011 Annual Youth Assembly at the United Nations. Jaime's creativity manifests in various art forms (music, painting, writing, stage performance) and comes together in unique way through his leadership activities and his strong interest in international relations.

This family’s rain barrel design is of raining cats and dogs.