

Art League receives book collection from late Long Island art enthusiast

By MICHELLE CENTAMORE

Long Islanders are in for a real treat of art as the Art League of Long Island has recently unveiled its new library, a result of a generous donation of over 2,000 books by late Long Islander, Lorraine Graves Grace.

Before her passing, Ms. Grace who was in her mid-90s, met with both Art League executive director, Charlee Miller and Art League board chair, Debbie Wells, to pronounce her intention to share her life's library collection with the Art League. Since their meeting over one year ago, the Art League continues to receive deliveries from Ms. Grace's extraordinary collection, as well as high quality casts and sculptures that she was excited to share with the Long Island community.

"We are just honored to be the recipients of this treasured collection that will be available for artists, creative folks and everyone in general that will come and enjoy the library," Ms. Miller said.

The new library will be open to Art League members, faculty and students and will

serve as a reference center (not a lending library). Long Islanders may join the Art League at any time by calling (631) 462-5400 or registering online at artleagueli.net. To celebrate the new library, the Art League has planned several events to honor Ms. Graves and the incredible gift she has given to the community. Details about a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will also be announced soon.

Ms. Graves was an artist who worked in watercolor, oils, pastel and drawing media; she studied at the National Academy of Art. She and her husband held residences in their Oyster Bay home and New York City apartment. Ms. Graves' library collection was mostly kept in her New York City apartment dwelling, which featured grand, floor-to-ceiling bookshelves filled to the brim with books and knick-knacks that offered her a lifetime of inspiration. Upon visiting her apartment, Ms. Wells said that she and Ms. Miller were quickly awe-struck at the dynamic collection.

"You can tell she was truly passionate about her collection. I one hundred percent

recognized the value of what she had, not just the financial but also an inspirational value as a resource. I knew that once the Art League acquired this collection, we would be the number one resource for artists on Long Island," said Ms. Wells, a graduate of New York City's Parsons School of Design and a professional artist of 30 years.

The library collection features books in categories that include painting, sculpture, museums, artists, photography, art techniques, crafts, jewelry, design, how-to, art history and also biographies on renowned artists such as Picasso and Michelangelo. Ms. Graves acquired many of the books along her visits to museums throughout the world. "There are really great books for every professional or amateur artist who wants to be inspired," stated Ms. Wells, adding that Ms. Graves was truly proud of and passionate about her collection - which she started in the 1930's - and thrilled to be able to donate to an organization that would put it to great use. A video collection is also included in the library.



BRUSHING UP: Art League board chairwoman Debbie Wells putting finishing touches on the mural leading to the new reference library.

The new library at the Art League is filled with bookcases with a glass table in the middle for people to relax and enjoy the wonderful resources. Upon the news of the donation, a volunteer committee of about eight people and led by Mr. Joe Peragallo was created to create the Dewey decimal system to keep track of all of the books.

"We have retired librarians who are helping with the database," Ms. Wells said. "This is a real modern functioning library."

Because of the grand scale of the donation, the Art League has been committed to promoting the library and celebrating Ms. Graves with

special projects, including a free lecture series that will welcome both members and non-members and unique fundraiser.

The lecture series, titled, "Dab of Paint," will be led by Ms. Wells and will offer the community an educational and entertaining experience. Each lecture will utilize carefully selected books from the library. The first lecture, Art History 101, will take place Monday, March 7. The remaining lectures will take place as follows: April 4, Artists with Personality; September 26, Artists Capture Their Surroundings; October 24,

(Continued on page 14)

Jones Drugs Store

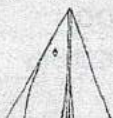
FREE

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Second Thursday of each month starting March 10th

12:30-2:30pm

Jones Drug Store
JDS Village Gifts



We accept most Insurance Plans including **CVS** **CAREMARK**



The Cookie Poll Is Back!

Attention All Residents
Come Cast Your Vote
and Get A FREE Cookie
Election March 15th at Village Hall
Vote at Copenhagen Bakery Anytime

TRUSTEE VOTE FOR 2

Damon McMullen

50

Art League adds books to collection

(Continued from page 9)

Seven Powers of Women in the Arts; November 21, Artist Couples. Each lecture will be presented twice in one day, 11 a.m. to noon and 7 to 8 p.m.

"These lectures will hopefully motivate people to be inspired and use the library," stated Ms. Wells, noting that the title of the series is also a tribute to Ms. Graves. "We came up with that name because there's a legend that Mrs. Grace marked each book she read with a little dab of blue paint."

Ms. Graves was "such an elegant and warm lady and an accomplished artist in her own right" said Ms. Wells. When she and Ms. Miller visited with Ms. Graves, the two were enamored by the vast collection of books. Although making this library collection accessible to the community was certainly a fantastic endeavor, Ms. Wells and Ms. Miller thought that they could further enhance their efforts with a new work of art that would serve to honor Ms. Graves and her generous donation while also creating an opportunity for the community to further support the Art League.

Ms. Wells recently completed a colorful mural in the entranceway to the Art League's new library. The floor-to-ceiling artwork was intended to resemble Ms. Graves' personal library, with approximately 300 hand-painted books and knick-knacks on floor-to-ceiling hand-painted shelves. Each spine of a book, as well as the knick-knacks may be painted with a donor's name. In addition to hopefully serving as a profitable fundraiser for the Art League, the mural is sure to beautify the entrance to the library and stimulate interest in this new resource and all that the Art League has to offer, Ms. Wells stated.

"The Art League has been a fantastic resource because there is a little bit of everything here," Ms. Wells said, noting the Art League's numerous classes and opportunities for professional artists and art enthusiasts. The Art League offers art classes for children, teens, and adults that include basic design, drawing and painting to more advanced classes, such as pre-college programs in fashion and architecture. Computer graphics lab, jewelry, ceramics, watercolor, sculpture and more - the list goes on. "One of the nicest attractions is our gorgeous bi-level gallery, which I think is the most beautiful art gallery on Long Island," expressed Ms. Wells. The gallery is open to the public, too. "You don't have to go to Manhattan for it," Ms. Wells said of the amazing programs at the Art League. The addition of the library,

she said, adds a super, high quality collection and resource for members, which makes it very special.

Ms. Graves will surely be missed but her spirit - her legacy and her love for art will forever remain at the Art League in the new library, expressed Ms. Wells. It is an opportunity that the Art League acknowledges does not come around often and will be treasured by generations to come. "We were very sad to hear she passed away," Ms. Wells said of Ms. Graves. "Her life in Manhattan was obviously very elegant and the

fact that she took the time to share any of this with Long Island was very special."

The Art League of Long Island is located at 107 East Deer Park Road, Dix Hills, New York 11746.

To register for the Dab of Paint lecture series, become a member of the Art League or to learn more, contact the Art League of Long Island at (631) 462-5400 or visit artleagueli.net.

At the Art League are (from left) Executive Director Charlee Miller, board member Debbie Wells and volunteer Joe Peragallo.



MAKING NORTHPORT STRONGER

RE-ELECT VILLAGE TRUSTEES JERRY MALINE AND DAMON MCMULLEN

In a time of change and new challenges, it's more important than ever that we have serious, steady hands leading our village and protecting our quality of life.

That's why we need to re-elect Jerry Maline and Damon McMullen as our Trustees.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1
Upgrading our Waste Water Treatment to protect our water | 2
Improving our parks and making them more pet-friendly | 3
Expanding youth facilities for sports and recreation | 4
Increasing enforcement and emergency treatment to combat the Island-wide heroin crisis |
|---|--|---|---|

On Tuesday, March 15, vote to make Northport stronger, re-elect Jerry Maline and Damon McMullen



030316

Paid for by The Long Island Law Enforcement Foundation
This communication was not expressly authorized or requested by any candidate or by any candidate's political committees or any of its agents.

