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Levittown Octogenarian Draws and Sings



Photo Caption: Doris Brower, 89, posing by her artwork as displayed at the Levittown Public Library this December.

This December, the artwork of talented octogenarian, Doris Brower, is being exhibited at Levittown Public Library, 1 Bluegrass Lane, Levittown, New York 11756.

Although paint had been Ms. Brower's preferred medium for many years, this 89-year-old grandmother of 12 and great-grandmother of 10 began to work with colored pencils about three years ago. "My daughter had given me a set. I tried it, liked it, and went right ahead with it!" She quickly developed a skill for sketching people and animals using rainbow-colored layers of color to create texture and dimension.

Ms. Brower most enjoys drawing babies, dogs, cats, and "people laughing" because "they make me laugh just looking at them." She has also created realistic likenesses of well-known public figures and celebrities such as the Pope, Frank Sinatra, and Rihanna.

"I really enjoy every bit of it," says Ms. Brower of her artwork. "And I'm happy to share them with the Levittown Public Library."

In addition to her artistic flair, Ms. Brower has a passion and talent for music. Since 1966, she has been singing with choruses and quartets that are affiliated with Sweet Adelines International, a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance. Ms. Brower initially joined Central Long Island Chorus (no longer in



existence) then transferred to Island Hills Chorus in the early '70s. She even competed with Island Hills when they had the honor of becoming International-level chorus champions in 1978. Brower also sang bass in a variety of Sweet Adelines quartets including Act Four, New York Times, Long Island Sound (later renamed as Long Island Sound Association), and Synergy. She competed in these quartets on the Regional level several times and had two second place and one third place finish.

Ms. Brower currently finds a musical outlet singing with the Baldwin-based Greater Nassau Chorus. This award-winning a cappella ensemble, who was featured on the 12/6/09 CBS News Sunday Morning segment, "A Gleeful Song," ranked 4th in the world at this October's Sweet Adelines International competition in Nashville, Tennessee. Although the chorus' 85 members range in age from their 20s to their 80s, Ms. Brower is revered as their oldest member. Ms. Brower no longer performs or competes with the chorus, but she continues to learn music, attend weekly rehearsals, and watch performances. "I consider everyone in the chorus my family, and I just love to sing," she says. "It keeps my mind sharp and keeps me going."

Women of all ages are invited to discover the joy of singing chord-ringing, fun-filled music a cappella-style with Greater Nassau Chorus. For more information, visit www.greaternassauchorus.org.

