PJB 1-21-09

LADD
PAULINE

CRANSTON

LADD, PAULINE, 93, artist and Professor Emeritus of Rhode Island College, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2009 at Summerville Assisted Living in Framingham, Massachusetts, after a short illness.



She was born Pauline Scheck on November 2, 1915 in Brooklyn, New York, to Max Scheck and Rebecca Kornblum Scheck. She moved to Providence in 1938 after marrying the late Milton Ladd, who, with his father Morris, owned the former Ladd Furniture and Moving Company in Hoyle Square. They lived on Ontario Street in Providence from the 1940s until 1963, when they moved to Community Drive in Cranston. The couple also owned a summer home on Lake Tiogue for many years. Mrs. Ladd moved to Massachusetts in 2006.

She is survived by a sister, Helen Gluskin, of Florida, her daughter, Margaret Ladd Kessler, of Santa Monica, California, and son-in-law Lyle Kessler, her daughter Betty Glick, of Holliston, Massachusetts, and son-in-law Thomas Glick, four grandchildren, Michael Kessler, Katherine Kessler, Rachel Glick, and Amos Glick, a cousin, Lana Israel of Providence, and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Ladd earned her BS in Art Education from the Rhode Island School of Design (1958) and her MAT in Art from Brown University (1960). In 1972 she earned her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. She taught art in the Providence public schools for several years before joining the art education faculty at Rhode Island College, where she was later named full professor and then professor emeritus and taught a whole generation of art teachers. She was an accomplished portrait painter, a member of the Providence Art Club, and her work was exhibited extensively in galleries throughout New England.

Always a champion of racial equality, in 1967 she made headlines when, over the opposition of the superintendent of schools, PTA members, school committee members, and the school principal, she prevailed in erecting a student-designed outdoor ceramic-tiled mural at the Nelson Street Elementary School (now the Robert Kennedy Elementary School) that portrayed children of different races. "I couldn't see all white faces going up and staying there for 50 years when these are supposed to be a welcome for all children," she told the Providence Journal. The mural is still standing. It seems fitting that she died on the day of the inauguration of the first black president of the United States.

The funeral will be held in the chapel and at graveside at Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Road, Warwick, Rhode Island, on Sunday, January 25, at 11AM.

Arrangements entrusted to Lydon Chapel for Funerals, 644 Hancock Street, Quincy. For online condolences, please visit us at Lydonchapelforfunerals.com