

Public Works
 apart recently after
 questioned whether
 would profit from

Mayor Karen
 in said she never in-
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 s abruptly ended
 nship and local de-
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 ing would have been

centers on the Mid-
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 It was discovered
 berlain owned a lot
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 ans eventually fell
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 is between Obal and

s running high be-
 s and Jews in the
 st are starting to af-
 nships within the
 munity in North

lov, 36, an Israeli na-
 lives in Bogota, was
 y Englewood police
 y night after worship-
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 who admits that he
 en an observant Jew
 of his life, had been
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 d the two led him back
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the congregation saw
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 id," said former En-
 gineering Officer Warren
 , an old friend of Per-
 ttended Perlov's wed-
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 ared vodka to cele-
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 The smell of alcohol
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ame when a person
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 nann, who eventually
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 ure his release.
 : blame the police,"
 id. "They were just do-
 obs. I lived in Israel for
 e, so I understand the
 ecurity. But I don't
 id my fellow Jews."

in the Middle East af-
 in North Jersey in
 ts.
 han 1,000 Jews gath-
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 ity Center in Tenafly
 strate their solidarity
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 o weeks of violence in
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SEE IN REVIEW Page NJ-2

Ridge and Montvale officials have
 been trying to persuade residents
 to pass a ballot question that
 would join the town library boards
 and create a new library on the
 towns' shared border.

But in an odd twist, officials of
 both towns are now encouraging
 residents to reject the Nov. 7 bal-

lot question because the building
 they wanted to buy is no longer
 available.

In a letter that will be sent to
 every household in Park Ridge and
 Montvale, borough officials say
 that because they can't get the
 building they hoped for — and in
 turn can't come up with solid cost

estimates — they want to delay
 the issue until next November.
 But it's too late to take the ques-
 tion off the ballot.

"Therefore, while the governing
 bodies and library trustees in
 Montvale and Park Ridge contin-
 ue to favor the concept of a joint
 library, we encourage the residents

to vote NO on the ballot ques-
 tion..." states the letter, which is
 signed by both mayors and two di-
 rectors of the committee that is
 studying the plan.

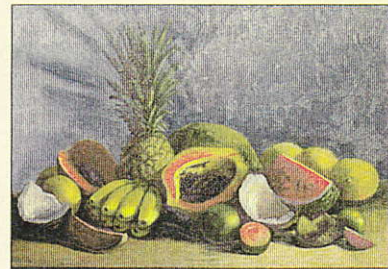
The towns have been studying
 the possibility of a joint library for
 the past year. Montvale has been
 planning an expansion of its

destroyed last September in a
 flooding caused by Tropical Storm
 Floyd.

The towns say residents would
 be better served with a more mod-
 ern and bigger joint library on the
 Montvale-Park Ridge border.

See LIBRARY Page NJ-

A portfolio of dreams



"Fruits From My Homeland" is among art Ferro is exhibiting at the Englewood Public Library.



PETER MONSEES/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lidaenis Macrina Ferro of Englewood Cliffs finds inspiration for her oil and watercolor portraits in vivid recollections of growing up in pre-Castro Cuba.



Ferro does much of her painting at the Ridgewood Art Institute. She specializes in still-life portraits that often come to her in dreams of the land she left behind.

Englewood Cliffs artist paints remembrances of her Cuba

By DOUGLASS CROUSE
 Staff Writer

As a schoolgirl in pre-Castro Cuba, Lidaenis Macrina Ferro spent her playtime wielding pencils and crayons, intent on sketching the surrounding countryside's sweep of green hues and thatch-roofed homes on whatever scraps of paper she could find.

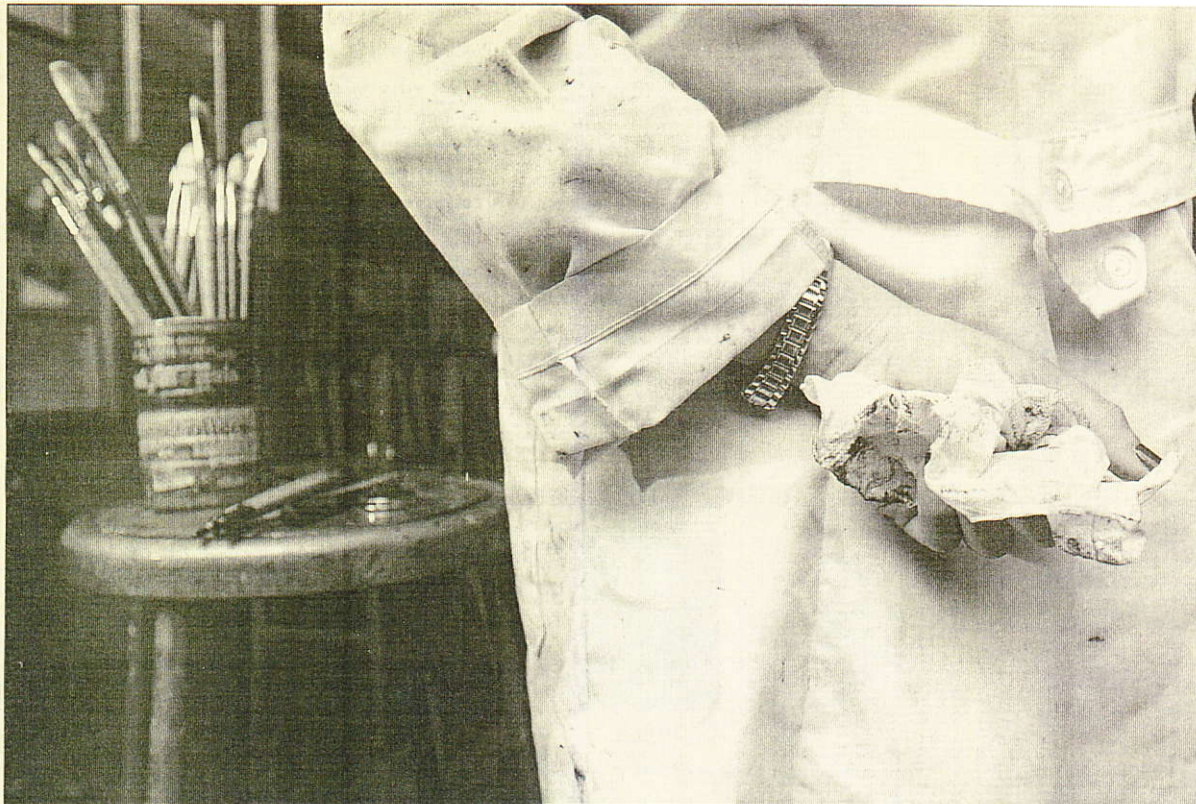
That tropical imagery, together with the scenes she would later discover among the island nation's dusty colonial streets — the rectangular cuts of cobblestone, the facial features of passing workers

and the fluttering folds of women's dresses — often resettles in dreams, the wife and mother of two says, and continues to inspire her art during waking hours.

Through most of her teen years, Ferro, 48, seemed destined to tread a traditional path within Cuban society. Even long after arriving in her adopted home of Englewood Cliffs 30 years ago, she put motherhood first.

Yet with the debut of her oil and watercolor paintings in Englewood Public Library this week comes a

See DREAMS Page NJ-3



Lidaelis Macrina Ferro put down her brushes for years while she concentrated on the art of raising two children. Gradually, she learned that motherhood and painting can coexist.

DREAMS: Painting recollections of Cuba

From Page NJ-1

message, she says, that parenting and artistry can coexist.

"In Cuba, I would have been only a housewife," she said, her words occasionally falling into the cadence of her native Spanish. "Here I've been able to pursue a career, even while making my family my priority."

Today a fusion of Cuban and American styles and tastes, Ferro worked for several years as a punch card operator and typist after her marriage and move across the Hudson River from New York. In 1975 she reentered the world of design by taking college classes at night and submitting freelance sketches for women's fashion magazines.

Raising her first-born, now a young man of 22, forced Ferro to rethink her daily schedule. Often the only solution was to bring him to sketching sessions and job interviews. But with the arrival of her daughter Laura, now 15, the pressures multiplied; regretfully, Ferro could no longer accept freelance work.

"I was taking care of my daughter, but I was feeling resentful because I couldn't do what I really wanted," she said.

For several years she held down a full-time job at Nordstrom in Paramus.

In what became a daily rite, Ferro would race out of the store on her lunch hour to pick up her son, Leonardo, at Bergen Catholic High School, snacking on yogurt and salad during the drive home and return trip to work.

Finding time to draw became more difficult, and Ferro often had to justify her investment of time and money to her daughter.

For understanding she turns to her husband, Ramon Ferro, a former Englewood Cliffs council member who has become a full-time artist — in film animation — himself.

"I know about the frustration she's gone through," he said. "People don't understand all that's involved in creating art. You lose track of time."

"People say, 'Oh, what a wonderful life the artist's life.' But it's not," his wife agreed. "You reach the middle part of the painting and it gets very difficult. Some-



Ferro, above, has dedicated her exhibit at the Englewood Public Library to her mother, who died of Alzheimer's disease three years ago.

times you have to put it aside for a long while."

Ferro's penchant for art bloomed early. Her father worked

in heavy construction. Her mother stayed at home, nudging her daughter into the same well-worn cultural groove with piano and sewing classes.

"I said, 'Mommy, don't waste your time on all these classes. I just want to paint,'" she said. "My father didn't understand for a long time. He saw it as a negative thing for a woman."

In 1965, six years after Fidel Castro's revolution took root, her father began to speak publicly about his desire to leave Cuba. Such boldness infuriated Communist Party bosses, and he soon found himself unemployed. Only by working in the underground economy as a barber was he able to feed his family, Ferro said.

In the same year, his only child, Lidaelis, had to drop out of the state-funded school, a setting in which she had excelled and which she would miss dearly.

The family's freedom came in 1968, when they traveled to Florida and later New York under the sponsorship of an aunt. Lidaelis Ferro, then 16, has not seen Cuba since.

In 1995, "sick with the stress" of work, Ferro took a breather.

A year later, she stood for the first time before a blank canvas, paint brush in hand.

Since then she has focused on still-life portraits, "painting the light," she says, as it falls across her subjects.

Ferro's mother, to whom she is dedicating the library exhibit (which runs through Oct. 27), died in 1997 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. Her father, 79, lives in Florida, but traveled north to hear his daughter speak at a reception Friday about a world he once knew. This week, he will sit for a portrait.

"I'd love to go back to Cuba with more experience," Ferro said. "I think I'll find myself doing more things from my dreams until one day when I can go back to Cuba and paint what I see there, the streets and the scenes of people's daily lives."

Staff Writer Douglass Crouse's e-mail address is crouse@bergen.com

ALL

From Page NJ-1

for the Danforth more appealing don't want to go it doesn't matter inside, so that. Walking in, I see of programs, co-English-as-second citizenship class community gro

In five years encompasses "a building — it's a building — but completely reorganized out a new library. I expand. There room for program community me a building when to go for an ev

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If the Danforth indeed tell us a the new cultur

Rod Allee may be Record, One Garre 487, West Paterson mail at allee@berg include your name



Ferro's "The Andalusian Woman" is in the Englewood library exhibit.

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LIBRARY: Officials urge 'no'

Tired of Painting