

My Father's Love Foundation

443 E. Mitchell
Petoskey, MI 49771

Friday, October 17, 2008

Re: Docent Training for the exhibit of *The Marquetry of Ed Lantzer: My Father's Love*

Contact: Dale Hull, 231-347-2731

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PETOSKEY:

On Saturday, October 25, from 2:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m., Ed Lantzer and a number of volunteer docents will be on hand at the Ed Lantzer Gallery at 443 E. Mitchell Street in Petoskey to host a Docent Training Session for any community members or visitors who would like to consider working as a volunteer docent this fall and/or winter at the gallery. The group training session will be facilitated by the artist, Ed Lantzer, aided by John Myers, chairperson of the docent program. Refreshments will be served. Those who would like to serve as a docent at the gallery but cannot make the Saturday group training session can call Dale Hull at 347-2731 or John Myers at 348-9003 to arrange for individual training.

The Ed Lantzer Gallery is the site of the marquetry exhibition called *My Father's Love*, a series of 30, four foot by eight foot, wood mosaic panels depicting significant moments in the life of Christ. This extraordinary work will be on display for public viewing, free of charge, through September of 2009. Gallery hours change with the seasons and are significantly impacted by the number of volunteer docents the exhibition attracts. Through fall, the gallery will be open Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m., until 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon through five o'clock.

"We need dozens of docent volunteers, especially over the next two months," warns Board Secretary, John Myers. "Last June, those of us who were involved with the original installation of the My Father's Love exhibit created a very successful collaboration with both the C. S. Lewis Festival and the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra whose programs took place at Bay View. The Lewis Festival events of this November, as well as the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra concerts during the same time period will once again bring hundreds of visitors to Petoskey. We need to be prepared to welcome them to the gallery."

Since last June, more than 6,000 people have visited the gallery: some of them from community groups, others from schools and churches led through the exhibit by volunteer docents who can help answer questions about the art form in general and more

importantly about Lantzer's unique work. Those who may be interested in arranging a group tour for their own organization should visit the gallery's website at www.myfatherslove.info or call the gallery at 231-487-1400.

This special marquetry exhibition was thirty years in the making and was placed in public view for the very first time last June, right here in Petoskey. It will continue to be on display here as plans develop for an international tour of the work to begin in October of 2009. "Its permanent home, at the close of its touring schedule, will be at the Elk Rapids Community Cultural Center, now forming in Elk Rapids, Michigan," reports Paul Hresko, President of the My Father's Love Foundation Board of Directors.

Members of the Board of the newly formed My Father's Love Foundation brought the panels to Petoskey last June. "I was shown Ed's work for the first time by Paul [Hresko], last February," says local arts patron Dale Hull. "Paul had stowed the panels away, for their protection, in a two-stall garage in Elk Rapids owned by the Rev. James L. Meyer. I am not a religious person", continues Hull, "but Paul's opening of the garage door was definitely a spiritual experience for me. Paul and I decided that the panels had to be seen and appreciated by the public and chose to focus on Petoskey as an appropriate site." So the panels were brought here.

A shop has been set up at the back of the exhibition on Mitchell Street so that Lantzer can continue his work while his panels are on display. "I have more panels in my head," claims Lantzer. "I will be able to do my work in the back of the exhibit, and those visitors who might be interested can watch as I put together a new panel." Lantzer expects the current panel to take at least a year to complete.

The gallery space is a gift to the exhibition by the owner of Petoskey Land and Cattle. Larry Beck and his crew from Birchwood Construction donated the materials and labor to paint the space and create two movable walls to separate the work space from the exhibition. The new flooring was donated by America's Carpet Barn. The exhibition will be opened by volunteer host/docents seven days a week. "This is a world class exhibition," claims Hull, "installed in our town on a shoe-string budget by a host of volunteers and generous patrons of the arts, which is exactly why the gallery is free and open to the public. No wonder people like living here."

Ed Lantzer, one of Petoskey's newest permanent residents, agrees.

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See attached photos