

# My Father's Love Foundation

C/O Dale Hull  
1180 Winnell Court  
Petoskey, MI 49771

Re: Visual arts exhibition, *The Marquetry of Ed Lantzer: My Father's Love*  
Contact: Dale Hull, 231-347-2731

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PETOSKEY: The Ed Lantzer Gallery, at 443 E. Mitchell Street in Petoskey, is the new site of *The Marquetry of Ed Lantzer: My Father's Love*. Once again Lantzer's wood mosaics depicting significant moments in the life of Christ will be on display for public viewing, free of charge. Gallery hours will change with the seasons, but from September through November the gallery will be open between 11 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from noon through 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The gallery will be made available for group tours and special meetings by appointment all year long.. If interested in arranging for a group tour, visit the website at [www.myfatherslove.info](http://www.myfatherslove.info) for more information or call the gallery at 231-487-1400.

The Board of Directors of My Father's Love Foundation will host a Grand Opening, celebrating the new 443 Mitchell Street location on Sunday, September 14, at 2:00 p.m. The artist, Ed Lantzer will be present to talk about the art form and his work. The public is welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

*My Father's Love* is a display of thirty, 4' x 8' wood panels, each weighing over four hundred pounds, crafted from hundreds of thousands of half-inch diamond shaped pieces of wood. The wood pieces are all the same size and shape, not quite one-half inch across, but they have been cut from more than a hundred-fifty varieties of trees, each tree offering its own unique color and grain pattern, giving the artist a pallet from which to create his unique scenes.

This special marquetry exhibition by Ed Lantzer 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 for the next year as plans develop for an international tour of the work over the following two-year period. "It's permanent home, at the close of its touring schedule, will be at the Elk Rapids Community Cultural Center, now forming in Elk Rapids, Michigan," according to Dale Hull, member of the My Father's Love Foundation Board of Directors..

Techniques of wood marquetry were developed in Antwerp and other Flemish centers of luxury cabinet-making during the early 16th century. The craft was then imported full-

blown to France to create furniture of unprecedented intricacy and beauty, providing the furnishings that decorate Versailles and the other royal residences of Louis XIV.

“I learned from my father who made game tables, decorative furniture and boxes,” explains Lantzer, now seventy six years old. Lantzer is formerly of Kalkaska but now lives in Petoskey. “My father cut each triangular piece of wood at 90 degree and 45 degree angles, good shapes for decorating boxes and chess boards,” explains Lantzer. “When I turned fifteen he told me I couldn’t work with him any more, that I had to find my own angle. So I chose to cut all my pieces at 30 and 60 degree angles, making each piece a diamond shape. That shape has offered real challenges and real opportunities,” says Ed.

Members of the newly formed volunteer Board of 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, Interim Executive Director of the Elk Rapids Community Cultural Center, last February,” reports 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 a spiritual experience. We decided right there that the panels had to be seen and appreciated by the public and agreed to focus on Petoskey as an appropriate premiere site.”

The thirty panels, now in place at the exhibition, stretch across 120 linear feet of gallery space. Each is 96 inches tall which means Ed’s mosaic murals form just about 1,000 square feet of artwork in an art form that is as extraordinary as it is rare. “People of the faith community here are awe struck by the spiritual power of the compositions,” claims John Myers, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra and volunteer Secretary of My Father’s Love Foundation.

Local members of the arts community are moved by the artistry and craftsmanship alone. Mathematicians find even more subtle reasons for appreciating Ed’s work. “It’s breathtaking on many levels, claims Hresko.”

Three of the panels stand alone. That is, each is a complete scene in thirty-two square feet of wood. Two of the scenes, one being Lantzer’s concept of the last supper, require seven panels to complete each scene. “Ed’s version of the last supper is twenty-eight feet wide and eight feet tall,” says Hull, “and unlike anything you have ever seen before.”

The panels had been stacked like slices of bread in a garage owned by Rev. James L. Meyer of Elk Rapids. Paul and Patti Hresko, the young couple who discovered and befriended Ed Lantzer, almost six years ago, helped Ed to overcome some serious health problems, and then rescued his life’s work by protecting the panels for the past several years. “Paul Hresko told me about the panels during a discussion we were having about the C. S. Lewis Festival,” says Hull.

Ed Lantzer has read everything C. S. Lewis has written and continues to be inspired by Lewis's clear thinking and understanding of the fundamentals of Christian thought and living. "I can read, but I can't write," says Ed. "I had an accident when I was a child and since then I haven't been able to write. I do know numbers though, and logic."

According to Hresko: "Ed does not make drawings before he starts laying down the pieces of wood that form his scenes, but he knows before he begins just how many pieces of diamond shapes it will take to reach across the plane of one panel and continue the subject of the scene on the next. He did not complete a formal education but has a phenomenal brain. You just have to stand in front of one of his panels to know you are in the presence of the work of a genius."

A shop has been set at the back of the exhibition so that Lantzer can continue his work while his work is on display in Petoskey. "I have more panels in my head," says Ed. "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 panel depicting the Madonna and Child." 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. "This is a world class exhibition," claims Hull, "installed in our town on a shoe-string budget, and it's free and open to the public. This is an example of why I like living here so much. If you ask for help, and the cause is a good one, anything can get done."

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See attached photos