

Immediate Press Release

Art Association of Randolph County, Inc.

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February's Doings at the Arts Depot: Titanic Art, Poetic Justice & ArtShow 2009 Entries Due

Poetic Justice and the travesty of the RMS Titanic: both are on the forefront at the historic Union City Arts Depot, home to the Art Association of Randolph County, and both seem to fit seamlessly together.

"Art On The Walls" from February 12-26 will feature 14 detailed drawings in a series on the Titanic by self-taught Perrysburg, Ohio colored pencil artist Ralph Henry. Some would agree that there is a poetic justice to the ill-fated voyage of the "unsinkable" ship, but to Henry it is a passion that started in the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade when assigned to write about the events of 1912. Henry's grandfather took notice and related a true story of his own father, Henry's great-grandfather. Nicolas Karavida. Karavida was a ship builder in the former Yugoslavia, and according to the family story, he was there the day Titanic set sail from Southampton, England.

Details to young Henry were related that only could only have been shared by someone who was there, and his paper for school was filled with them. While reading the report, the teacher did not believe his facts and gave Henry an "F" while saying his grandfather was not a reliable source. His grandfather set the teacher straight and she found the details to be correct after verifying the facts at the library. Henry's grade was changed to an "A" and his fascination with the Titanic was birthed.

A self-taught artist, Henry began and finished the Titanic Series between October, 2006 and February, 2007. He suffers from a liver disease and uses his artistic talent as a therapeutic tool for himself. Using photographs from history books to capture the ship's intricate details, shading and highlights, each piece tells the story of the tragic journey from start to finish.

His artwork is also accompanied by an audio narration of the events taking place in each drawing, underscored by the motion picture Titanic soundtrack. Mr. Henry collaborated with Bowling Green State University graduate student Scott Kelly to accomplish his multi-media presentation.

"Humor is a tool in my work," Henry explained, as he takes liberty with the background by including Perrysburg buildings in the scenery, such as his personal barbershop. As well, he has hidden a rainbow in each piece for the enjoyment of his younger audience.

Mr. Henry's awarded work has been exhibited individually, but this will be the first time it is shown in its entirety. The Arts Depot will hold an Opening Reception on Thursday, February 12 from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., where the artist will give a Gallery Talk. This family friendly exhibit is free of charge during the Arts Depot's open hours.

Also on the calendar for February is the annual Open Mic Nite for Poetry which is fondly called "Poetic Justice." It will be held on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. and will feature the opportunity to read your own or favorite poetry before a welcoming audience. The cost is \$2 at the Door with student poets being free of charge. A coffeehouse atmosphere will be available.

Lastly, the AARC is encouraging all artists to register their artwork entries to the 55<sup>th</sup> annual Art Show by February 20. Details are available online at [www.artsdepot.org](http://www.artsdepot.org) or you may call the office at 765-964-7227 between 10-4 on Tuesdays through Fridays. The framed art is due at the Arts Depot on February 26 & 27 between 10-4 and on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> between 10-1. The Awards Ceremony for Art Show 2009 will be at the historic Arts Depot, 115 North Howard Street in Union City, Indiana on March 12 beginning at 7:00 p.m. All artists are invited to participate.