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Halls Reach Out to Give Hope to New Yorkers

RYAN SPAULDING
Feature Editor

The word tragedy has become synonymous with September 11, 2001. America's memory still revisits this date when so much sadness was placed into a single day. Around America, especially New York, people are coping with the loss of loved ones, friends, and a piece of what made this country great, the world trade towers.

For one individual in Alpena who took the tragedy personally, it was a chance to give hope to New York through art. Terry Hall, an instructor at ACC, went to New York with his wife Nan Hall, who is also an instructor at ACC, in December to donate an Iconographic portrait that Terry had painted. Hall began the painting in May and was near completing it when the September 11 tragedy took place.

"I remember I was looking at the painting at the time, and I had received a phone call about what had happened," Hall said. "I turned on the television and it was after the first plane had hit and I watched this happen live as the second plane hit the second tower. I saw the towers fall. I couldn't believe what had happened," Hall added.

The Icon is a religious symbol that people can use as a source for worship. Hall

had painted a portrait of a ceiling image in the Hagia Sophia Museum in Istanbul, Turkey. The Hagia Sophia Museum is actually a church that was taken over by Muslims, but then was later converted into a museum of both Christian and Muslim pieces of religious art.

"It is an amazing image of Christ pulling people up from the dead," Hall said "It is a resurrection image."

Hall had finished the Icon around early December and wanted to donate it to the St. Francis Friary, in honor of Father Mychal Judge who



Nan and Terry Hall Present Icon to the St. Francis Friary

had been killed September 11, 2001. Father Mychal blessed

firefighters when they would go out to fight fires.

On September 11, he was giving the last rites to a firefighter who was fatally wounded, when a piece of debris fell on top of him and killed him. Hall had given the painting to a Father Patrick, who had actually known Father Mychal fifty years to that day.

The Halls had attended the weekend they went to New York in December at St. Francis,

where they were having the memorial for Father Mychal. St. Francis is a monastery where their doors are open all the time. During the service, people could come and go as they pleased.

"It was a very sad service," Hall said. "There was this woman in the pew in front of us who cried the entire time."

While in New York the Halls visited Ground Zero, which is what is left of the trade centers.

"It was like looking at a war-zone," Hall said. "There was still smoke in some areas, and it had a very strong smell. But what moved me the most was the memorial that was near the sight. It was amazing."

Hall has been in New York many times, but this time it seemed different. He stated that people usually were in a hurry and too busy, but this time people were talking to one another. People would talk on the subway, and you would see people talking to police, generally about the tragedy.

"Everyone seemed to be busy with getting ready for Christmas," Hall said, "Honestly, if you hadn't known about the tragedy and gone to New York you probably wouldn't notice. People were ice-skating in Times Square and people were shopping. It's almost like people had moved on and wouldn't let the tragedy affect the holidays."



Masses Gather at the Memorial Walls At Ground Zero
Pictures courtesy of Nan and Terry Hall

Applebee's Rumors Put to Rest with Spring 2002 Groundbreaking

JESSICA THIEM
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The rumors about Applebee's have been circulating around Alpena for over three years, but soon they will no longer be just rumors.

Applebee's, the well-renowned national restaurant chain, is planning on building a new establishment in Alpena. Their location is slated to be on M-32 in front of the Home Depot. They plan on breaking ground in the spring of 2002.

According to Marie Twite, Alpena Township Supervisor, "As far as we know, they're coming and will be on M-32." Twite did add, however, that the company could still pull out before the ground breaking.

Environmental issues on the lot where the new restaurant will be located have been resolved. Alpena Township has also approved a liquor license for Applebee's, which will feature, like most of its establishments, a bar and grill setting.

This should quiet rumors that began in Alpena over three years ago

concerning whether or not Applebee's would actually be coming here. Richard McElroy, Alpena Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, said rumors began because Applebee's representatives had come to Alpena. They talked to McElroy about the possibility of opening a new franchise as well as to scout the area.

McElroy said they never contacted him again, but that it is not unusual for the Chamber of Commerce not to hear a lot about a new business coming to the area. Nonetheless, Applebee's is coming to Alpena. Mayor Phil Ludlow, who owns

several Alpena restaurants, does not seem to think it will bother his businesses much because a city needs a variety of restaurant types.

Phil Ludlow explained that he has been in the restaurant business for 37 years. He then discussed that there are four types of restaurants; family, casual, fast food, and ethnic.

Ludlow is the owner of the Big Boy Restaurants, which fall under the family-dining category of restaurants. Applebee's would fall under the casual dining category, which, according to Ludlow, means that there is a bar in the restaurant. Most of the

customers that go to this type of establishment intend on having a drink with their meal.

He is enthusiastic about Applebee's coming to the Alpena area, but hopes they do their homework.

"The restaurant business is a tough business, and lately there hasn't been a lot of money in it, but I would rather compete with a franchise with the same standards as my own restaurants," stated Ludlow.

Lastly, despite many attempts to contact the Applebee's corporation for an official comment, they did not reply to e-mails or phone calls.