

On the Scene



Vol. No. VII. Issue 37

Sept. 17, 2010

Reflections of Generosity remembers 9-11 through variety of art forms

Story and photos by Gini Sinclair

Since Sept. 11, 2001, when planes struck the towers in New York City and the Pentagon and one crashed in a field in Pennsylvania Americans take time to remember the events of that day. This year the USAG Ansbach remembrance turned to art and artists as a way to observe the events of that day and the years since.

On Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, a group of Americans and Germans met at the Von Steuben on Bismarck Kaserne in Ansbach to take part in an art reception called Reflections of Generosity. Sgt. Ron Kelsey, who works for the U.S. Army Europe Command Sergeant Major Thomas R. Capel, used his contacts as an artist to put together an exhibit which he has brought to Ansbach. According to Kelsey each of the pieces were donated by artists in memory of the events of Sept. 11, 2001, in the U.S.A.

Before touring the exhibit guests listened to remarks by Col. Christopher Hickey, commander, USAG Ansbach, and Kelsey. Following the remarks Gerda Liebmann, one of the artists whose work was on display, conducted a candle lighting ceremony. Sgt. Daniel Bullock, BOSS representative, USAG Ansbach, recited a poem he wrote, "Off to War." Kyla Kelsey, wife of Sgt. Kelsey, and musical director for the exhibit sang several songs including one she wrote, "Love Life," about 9-11.

Sandra Ceas, an American artist whose work was on display, spoke about how art allows a person to step back and reflect. She said materials in compostion speak directly to nonverbal memory, which makes art, not a translation of verbal thought, but rather its own reality – a space for your projection, interaction and reflection. Ceas carved a num-



Spc. Michelle Johnson, Katterbach Health Clinic, talks with 1st Lt. Frantz Germain and Maj. Dennis Collins, both of 12th Combat Aviation Battalion. Johnson explains her artwork as expressions of a "dead man's profile" she acquired two years ago, due to illness.

ber of doves, which she said she views as a symbol of hope and a gift from our lord. She invited members of the audience to take a dove with them, use it for reflection and pass it on when you no longer feel a need for it.

The exhibit consists of over 50 different pieces of sculpture, photography, music, painting, silk screening and poetry. Nine of the artists whose work was on display are local artists, while other works were donated by artists in Romania, Japan, South Africa, Canada, Switzerland, Spain, Germany and the United States. The exhibit included a selection of books about 9-11 that are available through the local library system.

As part of the exhibit more than 500 CD covers were submitted by various artists. (Continued on Page 7)

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