

Christmas 2010 North Pole, Alaska

Dear Brother Knights, Families and Friends,

Living in Alaska always provides interesting cultural things to learn from. One such thing is a "Yaaruin" - a Yupik Eskimo story knife. This tool was used to illustrate oral stories during story telling. A simple piece of drift wood carved into a shape of a knife. The "Yaaruin" is used to first smooth moist sand with the flat side to create a 'blank' page, on which the story teller illustrate the story. The pointed edge then was used to draw in the sand, illustrating the story, bringing it to life.

My "Yaaruin" is a chainsaw and a set of chisels and for the final edits an angle grinder and a dremmel type tool on steroids for shaping and detailing. An ice block becomes my sand, as I illustrate in 3D, my vision of a story.

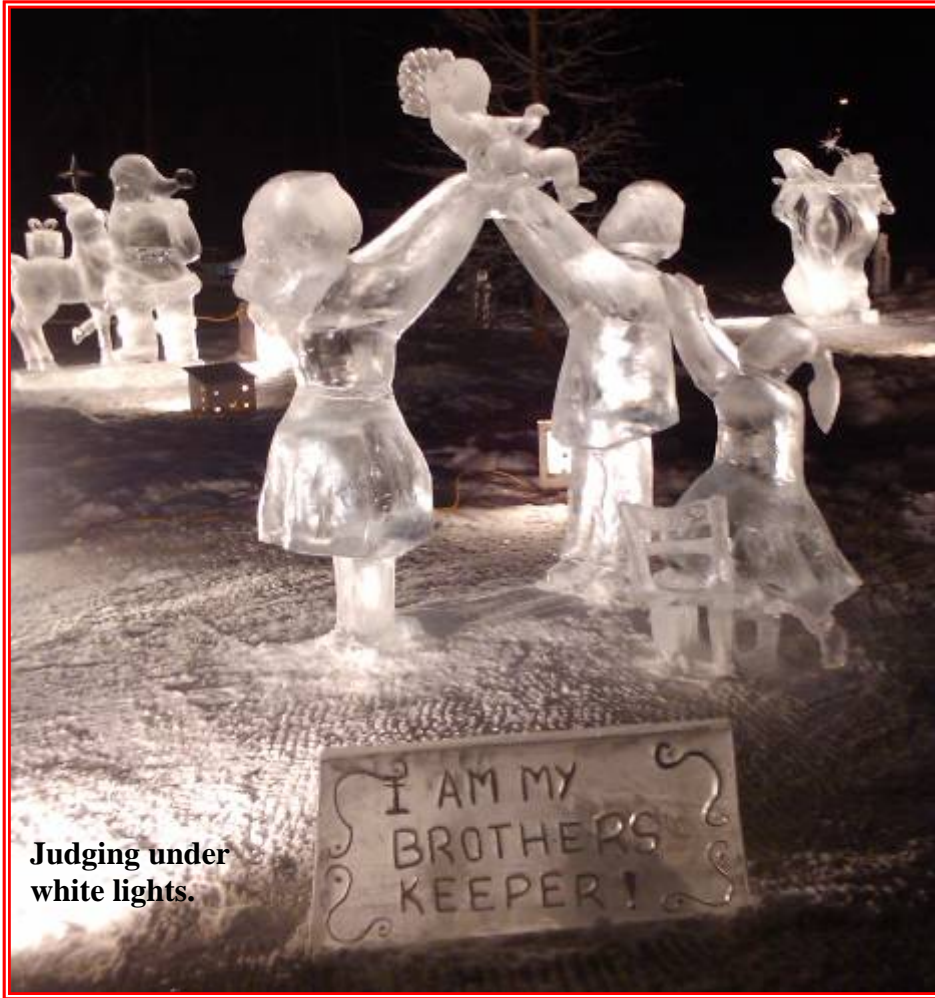
The Knights slogan "I am my Brother's Keeper!" was on my mind as I was preparing to participate in the ice sculpting competition. I was thinking how we often relegate Christ's birth, as something that happened 2000+ years ago, just a part of history. But don't we have to bring Him into our modern world? I did that by carving a contemporary family presenting the Christ Child to the world. Below the parents raising Him high in the air for all to see, is the little girl climbing up on a chair to help. She symbolizes the future, our children still longing to be with Christ. She will take that extra effort, stretching out of her comfort zone; she is the hope of the future. May we retain her childlike wonder in our relation ship to Christ!

This has been a busy year, with lots of Knighthood travel. Michael has traveled to just about all corners of the state, supporting and promoting Knighthood. Lots of places to be and many days spent doing it. The biggest blessing this year was the victory on "Proposition 2" Parental Notification of abortions for minors. Without all Alaska Knights and the Supreme Knight and the Supreme Board getting behind the campaign financially, it would have surely failed! Thank You! We are proving that with a little "team spirit", we can accomplish just about anything. And with that same collective spirit, we can make the real difference in helping our homeless and hungry peoples of Alaska. We are in the best position to make the biggest impact in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in the New Year. Let's make it our concerted effort to support our Bishops and priests by doing more than ever before in a united effort for vocations. May the Lord Bless every one of you and all the work you do for the Knights!

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to All!

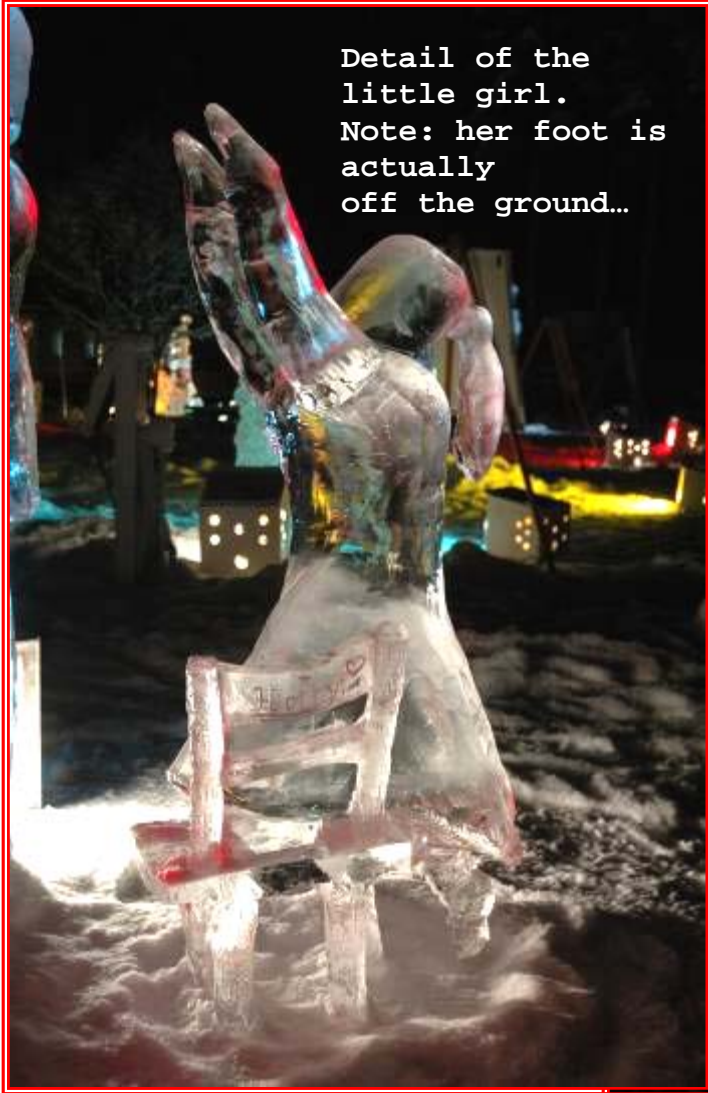
*Michael & Aino Welch
Alaska State Deputy*



**Judging under
white lights.**



**Members from Northern Lights
Council 8308, Sponsors of
"I am My Brother's Keeper!"**



Detail of the little girl.
Note: her foot is actually off the ground...



Night Shot in Color

"I am My Brother's Keeper!"

by: Aino Welch