

ART MATTERS

MAY/JUNE 2016

THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
 CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Left to right: Nicole Maskell, Jan Bain, Marian Bickerstaff, Jamie Albright, Yumi Hogan, John Sisson, Rina Thaler, Emily Schwab, Debbi Dean-Colley and Mallory Hanback.

Maryland's First Lady pays us a visit

Yumi Hogan, wife of Governor Larry Hogan and a working artist herself, visited the Arts Center on April 22. Mrs. Hogan works in abstract mixed media influenced by her childhood on a farm in Korea. (See her work at yumihogan.com)

A teacher at MICA, she was the honorary chair of last year's Sandcastle Home Tour and will repeat her role as chair in 2016.

Mrs. Hogan was impressed by the space, its location, the quality of the art and the educational programs.

2 days, 4 classes, only \$100

Reserve your spot for Art Weekend, June 4 & 5!



Paint a watercolor



Make a clay fish plate



Make a glass coral bowl



Paint an acrylic turtle

Be inspired by our talented art instructors, and create four unique art pieces for \$100. Classes are 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For adults and teens 13 and up. All materials provided. Space is limited!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR ART WEEKEND](#)

Q @ A

Debra Howard's landscapes featured in May

TALK BY DEBRA HOWARD
 MAY 10 ~ 6-7:30 PM



Q: How did you start making art?

A. I began my journey as an artist when I was a child. I always had a sketchbook and paints and color pencils. My room was covered in bits of cut out images and scrapes of paper with ideas. In junior high I had a teacher who opened up the possibilities of art. She showed me it was more than just pretty pictures; it was fundamental to human communication and shared experience.

Q: What is your medium and why/how do you work in it?

A. I mostly work in oils because they are so luminous and versatile. I can paint in clear washes, glazes, thick paint, wet on wet, textures.... the possibilities are endless. I continually experiment and refine my technique. I also use acrylics for my large abstract paintings. Painting is about solving a problem. My medium changes with the problem that needs to be solved.

Q: What themes do you explore in your art?

A. Rhythms and patterns in nature. I'm intrigued by the organization of color in our world. I pay particular attention to negative space, the overlooked areas of a landscape.

Continued on Page 7



A message from our Board President

MARIAN BICKERSTAFF

Isn't it great to again welcome spring – all the scents, happy colors, bustle of activity and best of all – the return of our “snowbird” friends! We are glad that you are back among us, and I look forward to seeing many of you at the May 6th opening reception.

Last month we celebrated our Corporate Partners at the opening reception, and it was heartening to see all the framed membership certificates lined up in the downstairs classroom. Thanks to all of the businesses who support the Art League with monetary donations as well as in-kind gifts of labor, food, discounts and expertise. We ask our members to patronize our sponsors who are listed in this newsletter and on our website.

It was so interesting to read all the reasons why “Art Matters” on the coloring cards many of you sent in with donations to the annual fund. If ART MATTERS to you, take time to read a great article online at billmoyers.com titled “Why Art Matters – Even in Poverty” written by Alison Stine. She describes how living in poverty is being constantly creative to make things work and how it doesn't cost anything to give a child the gift of creativity and imagination. Let's keep on giving the gift!



A message from our Executive Director

RINA THALER

When I got the call that the First Lady of Maryland, Mrs. Yumi Hogan, would like to tour the Arts Center on her trip to Ocean City last week, I knew that we had finally achieved our goal of providing an art “destination” for the community. I had waited at least 15 years for that phone call to come!

What made this visit even more special is that Mrs. Hogan is an accomplished artist herself and great advocate for the arts. It was a challenge in her short time here to tell her about all the Art League does both in the building and off-site. She was interested in the great classes we offer, the opportunities for artists in our exhibits and studios, the innovative programs and events like Artists Paint OC and the Sand Castle Home Tour. She also learned how we engage people through events like the Empty Bowl Project, free Family Art Days and Play it Safe. What we do at the Ocean City Center for the Arts is so much more than making art; we are building community.

The moment Mrs. Hogan stepped out of her car, she started reading the pavers in our courtyard. She understood how much this Arts Center means to so many people. She took time to really look at all of the galleries and was so impressed with the quality of the artwork and the beauty of the space. She took her time, asked insightful questions about our programs and was delighted to learn about the many aspects of our reach. In fact, she enjoyed it so much that she stayed longer than scheduled and promised to return on her next visit.

Her visit and pleasure in what she experienced at the Ocean City Center for the the Arts validates the hard work of the volunteers, board and staff of the Art League of Ocean City. We should all be proud.



Volunteer Evelyn Hartman and board member Velda Henry serve soup to hungry diners.

Soup dinner a tasty event and big success

More than 400 people attended the Empty Bowl Project soup dinner on March 19 at the Arts Center, raising over \$10,000 to benefit the programs of two local non-profits: Diakonia and the Art League of Ocean City.

This was the biggest crowd ever in the history of the soup dinner, which is growing in popularity every year.

Local restaurants donated the soup, drinks, bread and desserts. Members of the community hand-crafted the ceramic bowls during January and February.

The event was sponsored by First Shore Federal Bank. Thanks to all!

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EXHIBITIONS AT THE ARTS CENTER

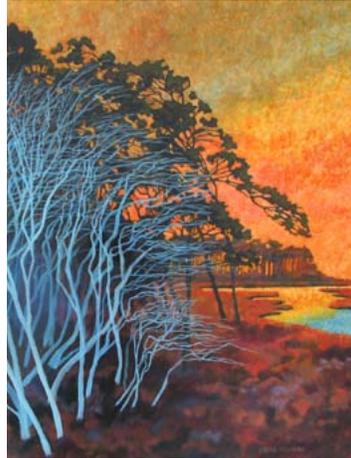
May

**OPENS FIRST FRIDAY
MAY 6, 5-7 PM**

**IN THE THALER GALLERY:
LANGUAGE OF COLOR IN THE LANDSCAPE**



"Crop Circle"
Angela Herbert-Hodges



"Assateague Sunset"
Debra Howard

**IN THE GALLERIA:
FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP SHOW**

ARTISAN SHOWCASE
Debbi Dean-Colley



STUDIO E
Hannibal Lee

SPOTLIGHT GALLERY
Betty Latourney
Mary Murphy
Suzanne Wilson



June

**OPENS FIRST FRIDAY
JUNE 3, 5-7 PM**

**IN THE GALLERIA:
FATHER & SON**



Christian Peterson



Dean Peterson



Gregg Rosner



Chase Rosner

**IN THE THALER GALLERY:
PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL MEDIA**



SPOTLIGHT GALLERY
Susan Buyer

ARTISAN SHOWCASE
Bonnie Preziosi



STUDIO E
Becky Simonds

Happenings at the Arts Center

Young artists at our Cupcakes & Canvases class enjoyed sweet treats and made an owl painting. Pictured: Landon Smith, James Smith and Abby Lancelogge.



Portrait painter Norman Johansen won Best in Show at April's juried show at the Arts Center.



Our Corporate Partner Cynthia Malament from the Malament Law Firm displays the personalized artwork she received in honor of her contribution.



Sip & Ceramics participants listen to Bill the Cheesemonger from Touch of Italy and enjoy wine and cheese before making olive trays in the pottery studio.

The youth anime show at the Arts Center in April brought out students in cosplay costumes: Left to right: Alex Schachter, Jaiden Denk, Brooks Travers, Eddie Aksu and Serap Aksu



Coming up at the Arts Center

Plant a Community Garden

June 18, 10 a.m. - noon



For the culmination of Family Art Days, we now will actually plant a garden in front of the Arts Center.

Our free open house will begin with a short video about monarch butterflies. Then we will gather outside for a ribbon cutting/dedication and make-and-take art stations for kids and refreshments. The Lower Shore Land Trust will be on hand.

Support comes from the Town of Ocean City, the Lower Shore Land Trust and PNC Bank.

May's Food for the Soul show inspired by local cuisine



Hungry for art? The Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association of Ocean City is adding a new appetizer to May's group show opening on First Friday, May 6 from 5-7 p.m. Nine local restaurants invited artists to come in, sample their cuisine and then create a piece of art based on their experience. What these artists created will be on display along with the group show in May,

and the HMRA is providing cash prizes to the artists.

The participating restaurants are Sello's, Dunes Manor: The Victorian Rooms, Longboard Cafe, Touch of Italy, Culture, The Shark, the Ocean City Fish Company, BJ's on the Water and The Hobbit.

Art never tasted so good!

Upcoming exhibition opportunities for artists

[CLICK HERE TO SEE A FULL SCHEDULE AND ENTRY FEES AND REQUIREMENTS](#)

Intake: Sundays 2-4 pm, Mondays 10am-noon

DUE MAY 29-30:

Photography and digital media

DUE JUNE 26-27:

2D and 3D work in all media for Beverly Bassford Memorial Show — juried

PAINT PLEIN AIR:

Event begins August 11, Wet Paint Sale on August 13. Registration is open NOW.

DUE AUGUST 28-29:

Artist's Choice — 2D and 3D work, all media

DUE OCTOBER 2-3:

Abstract Show in 2D and 3D — all media

DUE OCTOBER 30-31

Members Only Show in 2D and 3D — all media (limit one entry per artist)



FREE!

JUNE 25-26

9 AM - 5 PM

NORTHSIDE PARK

Visit 100 artists as they display their artwork around a picturesque lagoon at 125th St. bayside.

Listen to the sounds of lively music and enjoy lunch at the Artists' Cafe. Beer/wine available for purchase. FREE art activities for the children.



BROWN BOX THEATRE IS BACK WITH BRILLIANT TRACES

A gripping drama set in the Alaskan wilderness. Directed by Kyler Taustin.

JUNE 18-20, 2016

Showtimes 8 pm

Door opens 7 pm

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)

Who's Who

AT THE ART LEAGUE ~ NICOLE MASKELL



Art League office manager Nicole Maskell and her 9-year-old daughter, Sophie, display some of her jewelry when Nicole was Artisan-In-Residence in February.

Office manager Nicole Maskell comes from the Middle River area in Baltimore County. Since her husband, Dan, could work from home and her sons were attending Salisbury University, the family decided to move to the Eastern Shore. Nicole soon joined the Art League.

When Rina Thaler sent out an email looking for an office manager, Nicole answered right away. She has been in the position for six months and has a passion for making the Art League more efficient and expanding class options. There are now seven paid employees and over 300 volunteers to coordinate. She enjoys working with the staff, board, and fellow artists. "They are truly caring; everyone has the same goal," she says.

With 50,000 visitors since the new building opened in 2013 and 2,100 children and adults taking classes, the Art League stresses customer service and community outreach. "Jan Bain's outreach program and Debbi Dean-Colley's multi-media art have brought community awareness and increased class attendance," Nicole says.

In college, Nicole was an art history major, then switched to business administration. Her first "art" job was with the Museum of Industry in Baltimore where she coordinated events, gave tours and participated in maritime education. She went on to work for a Pay Pal company and was an administrator at a private high school.

Nicole owns a business called Sweetie Beads LLC and is a jewelry artist and graphic designer with a website — sweetiebeads.com — and an Etsy Shop. She displays her work at the Art League and teaches classes in beading and jewelry making. Her family travels to soccer competitions and enjoys trying new restaurants. As Nicole says, "All our fun time is either artsy or sportsy."

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

KIM WAGNER

From employee to board member to volunteer, Kim Wagner has been a jack of all trades at the Art League.

Wagner started as a weekend front desk receptionist for a short period before becoming a member of the Board of Directors for nine years. She has retired from the board, but continues donating her time as volunteer.

Wagner volunteers in many areas including decorating the Arts Center during the holidays, The Empty Bowl Project, hosting artists during the Plein Air event, managing coordinators for the Sand Castle Home Tour, and the event she is most passionate about - Play It Safe! T-shirt tie-dyeing.

Every June thousands of high school graduates descend on Ocean City during "Senior Weeks." Play It Safe! is an effort by the Town of Ocean City and local businesses to keep the grads engaged in safe activities without the use of drugs and alcohol. For five years, Wagner has helped lead the Arts Center and the more than 300 grads for T-shirt tie-dyeing, one of the most popular activities of the Play It Safe! events and a great community service project.

Wagner has watched the event evolve over the years, and she is always coming up with ways to make it more enjoyable for both the graduates and the volunteers.

"For volunteers interested in participating in an event at the Arts Center, it's a fun, easy and worthwhile project, and they will feel good about helping the Art League, the Town, and the kids," Wagner says.

The Art League values all of our volunteers, who are crucial to the function of our organization. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mallory at Mallory@artleagueofoceancity.org or call 410-524-9433.

**PLAY IT SAFE!
T-SHIRT TIE DYING**

**SENIOR WEEKS
SATURDAYS:
JUNE 4 & 11
AT THE
ARTS CENTER**



Be a member!



JOIN OR RENEW BY JUNE 30 AND BE ENTERED TO WIN THIS PAINTING!

You don't need to be an artist to join the Art League

We've extended the time to join or renew your membership and be entered to win this Sumi painting on rice paper by Baltimore artist Joan Lok.

Members receive a discount on all purchases at the Arts Center, including art, the gift shop and class fees, and notified of openings and events. Tax-deductible memberships for individuals, students, seniors and families start at \$25 per year. Corporate memberships are also available.

[CLICK HERE FOR A NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERSHIP](#)



Looking for art nearby?
Go to eatdrinkbuyart.com

Eat.Drink.Buy Art is a tourism network of 18 communities on Maryland's Eastern Shore and in Delaware. The website, monthly email newsletter, phone app, Twitter and Facebook news feeds point art lovers in the right direction to local artists, art venues, restaurants and events in these participating communities.

The towns and artists are also featured monthly on the Delmarva Almanac, a weekly radio show on Delmarva Public Radio WSDL 90.7fm and WSCL 89.5fm.

The Art League of Ocean City is an active member!

THANK YOU TO NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS FOR MARCH & APRIL 2016

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Junis Adkins | Kenneth Fullerton | Mary Pickett |
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| Betty Ford | Uriah Pennington | Robin Zimmerman |
| Myraim Fregeau | Kris Phebus | |
| Pat Fuller | | |

Q&A: Debra Howard from Page 1

ARTIST TALK TUESDAY, MAY 10 - 6-7:30 PM

Q: Who or what has inspired your art?

A. During the summer before art school, I traveled through Europe with six other artists. I spent everyday studying the art of western civilization. This documentation of the human struggle and experience, the making of something beautiful for the sake of beauty... I knew then that I wanted to be a part of this thing called "art".

Q: What is the best piece of advice you've been given?

A. Being an artist is a calling, something you MUST do. There are certainly more stable ways of making a living, but none that are as satisfying to me. The advice I carry with me is to paint everyday, work hard at it, be disciplined and never do a painting that doesn't interest you. If you aren't interested, no one else will either.

Q: Why does art matter to you?

A. Art allows me to share my world and thoughts with others in a way that is deeper than what I can say with words. When I see something beautiful or visually interesting, I feel compelled to document it, not just for myself but for others to experience. Creating art keeps me grounded.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR MARCH-APRIL 2016

MONETARY

Junis Adkins
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in honor of Jan Bain
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Sandy O'Ferrall
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EMPTY BOWL

A Little Bit Sheepish
An Alternative Touch
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Baked Desserts
Holden Becker
Kathy Bohs
Berlin Coffee
Bombshell Boutique
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Bungalow Love
Burley Oak
Buxy's Salty Dog
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*Melvin and Bette Ann
Felber donated \$1,000
so their grandsons,
Edward and Noah,
could experience art.*

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ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

502 94th St bayside
Ocean City, MD 21842
410-524-9433
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Sat-Sun 11am-4pm