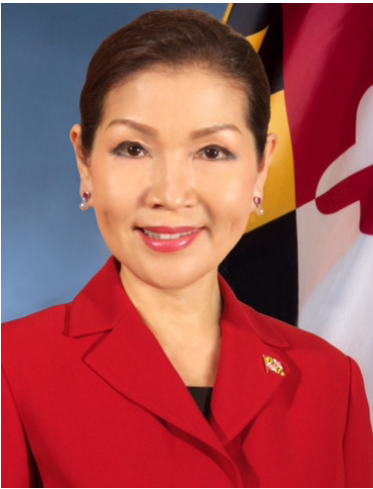


# ART MATTERS

SEPTEMBER/  
OCTOBER 2016

THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## Time for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sand Castle Home Tour



Maryland First Lady and artist  
Yumi Hogan

On Sept. 22 and 23, the doors of 10 private residences in the Ocean City area will open for the Sand Castle Home Tour, an annual event chaired again this year by the First Lady of Maryland, Yumi Hogan.

The tour, which includes a great variety of homes from oceanfront to bayside to family homes to pent-houses and beach retreats, benefits the non-profit Art League of Ocean City that operates the Ocean City Center for the Arts and its many community programs.

First Lady Hogan believes the tour is an opportunity for people to come together to support the local arts community and the three-year-old

Arts Center on 94th Street, which was constructed in part with funds raised by the home tour and continues to be funded by ticket sales to the event.

"Truly, art has a way of bringing people of all areas together under one roof," Hogan said. "In this case, the many roofs of those who kindly volunteered to open their homes for a great cause.

"For many years, the Art League of Ocean City strived very hard to create a special communal place for its residents to pursue arts, inspire themselves and find resources in their hometown. The newly-built Ocean City Center for the Arts has made those wishes come true for many artists and will inspire the growth of new talent in the area."

The self-guided home tour is held over two days on Thursday-Friday Sept. 23-24 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. so guests can tour at their own pace. Tickets are \$30 per person and include a guidebook, driving directions and special offers. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets early to avoid being disappointed, as a limited number are available.

Volunteer docents staff each home, guide visitors through the rooms and outdoor spaces, and answer questions about the house and its unique features.

Tickets are available at [www.artleagueofoceancity.org](http://www.artleagueofoceancity.org) or by calling 410-524-9433.

### Two benefits for the Art League

#### Rock the Kasbah Cocktail Party

**WHAT** Experience Casablanca and enjoy fabulous food, drinks and entertainment. Don't miss the **event of the year!**

**WHERE** Gateway Grand Residences  
Ocean City

**WHEN** Wednesday, September 14  
6:30 p.m.

**PRICE** \$100

#### Sand Castle Home Tour

**WHAT** 10 homes in Ocean City and surrounding area

**WHEN** Thursday & Friday  
September 22 & 23  
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**PRICE** \$30

**TICKETS FOR BOTH EVENTS @**  
[artleagueofoceancity.org](http://artleagueofoceancity.org)



A featured home on the 2016 Sand Castle Home Tour



*A message from our Board President*

**MARIAN BICKERSTAFF**

The Art League thanks the Town of Ocean City for including the Ocean City Center for the Arts as a summer destination on one of the city buses. It is exciting to see so many vacationers pop in for the first time! And as usual, the summer months were busy with children's camp and our annual "Paint OC" Plein Air event. The artists converging on our area turned out some fine work, and, at the direction of Chairperson Emily Schwab, the event ran smoothly. Also thanks to Katie Brown for her great social media coverage!

As we move into our fall season once again, we hope you will make it a priority to participate in one or both of the Art League's biggest upcoming fundraisers. You won't want to miss the event of the year to be held on September 14th – the "Rock the Kasbah" cocktail party held at the Gateway Grand in honor of the homeowners on the 2016 Sand Castle Home Tour. The committee, under the direction of Jamie Albright, claim the party will be more spectacular than last year, and a limited number of tickets will be sold.

Then on September 23rd and 24th, take the annual self-guided Sand Castle Home tour of 10 beautifully decorated area homes. We are grateful for the support from our community – the homeowners who open their homes, the hundreds of volunteers acting as coordinators and docents, the florists for their beautiful arrangements in each home, the businesses who support the events and the public who participate! Be sure to get your ticket. and if you'd like to be a volunteer for the event or any other, contact Merilee Horvat at the Arts Center!



*A message from our Executive Director*

**RINA THALER**

When I think about why art matters to people, I need look no further than the immediate past and upcoming months here at the Ocean City Center for the Arts.

The joy of 158 children in our four-week summer camp was heartwarming and underscores how important our work here is. The children who ranged in age from 6-14 were so eager to learn something new, so proud of their creations, and so happy to be in an environment where everyone is accepted and valued. They gained new skills, made friends, and proudly showed their artwork to their parents at the weekly concluding art receptions. Some of the children participated for the first time, but others have been coming back each summer as this is the sixth year we have run this collaborative effort with the Town of Ocean City's Rec and

Parks department. It was truly satisfying to know that we have impacted so many young minds.

Shortly after camp ended, we hosted 52 artists from six different states, participating in our annual "Artists Paint OC" plein air event. Sharing the same enthusiasm for creativity as the children in the summer art camp, these artists embarked on a weekend of self expression and camaraderie. The plein air artist tries to capture the moment and sometimes endures extreme temperatures, wind and other elements as they quickly try to capture their emotions on canvas. The celebration culminated with our wet paint sale, attended by more than 300 people, offering art appreciators a chance to collect the freshly painted works.

Now that fall is here, we focus on art instruction and experiential learning with our broad schedule of classes and workshops. For those of you who have taken classes before, you will find exciting new opportunities to expand your skills. If you have never taken a class here, now is your chance to delve into the arts. Whether you choose drawing, painting, pottery, mosaics, mixed media or glass, you will gain a new skill, meet new friends and express yourself. Many of the classes require no experience, and materials are often provided. We offer day, evening, and weekend classes for adults and children.

While the activities mentioned here are vastly different, they all share the opportunities for personal growth, social interaction and self accomplishment.

The Ocean City Center for the Arts is a truly wonderful place, made possible by the participation of so many people. Our dedicated staff, board, and volunteers work collaboratively to bring quality programs to our community. Whether you are taking a class, enjoying the exhibits or supporting events like the home tour, you are all part of the success the arts have brought to the area.

Thank you all for your support, it is important, as it makes what we do here possible! Art truly does matter.

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# EXHIBITIONS AT THE ARTS CENTER

## September

**IN THE GALLERIA: 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING  
LESLEY McCASKILL & RICKY SEARS**



*"Clouds on the Water" by Lesley McCaskill*



*"Ocean Waves" by Ricky Sears*

**IN THE THALER GALLERY:  
ARTISTS' CHOICE ALL-MEDIA GROUP SHOW**



**STUDIO E**  
*Carl Forsberg*

**SPOTLIGHT GALLERY**  
*Barbara Stepura*



**ARTISAN  
SHOWCASE**  
*Fay Kempton*

**OPENS FIRST FRIDAY  
OCT. 7, 5-7 PM**

## October

**IN THE THALER GALLERY:  
EVAN FITZGERALD & DAMON PLA**

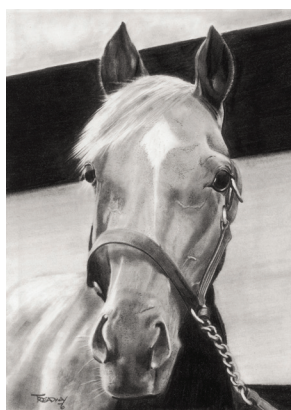


*Evan Fitzgerald*



*Damon Pla*

**IN THE GALLERIA:  
ABSTRACT ALL-MEDIA GROUP SHOW**



**STUDIO E**  
*Paul Treadway*



**ARTISAN  
SHOWCASE**  
*Bob & Dot  
Truitt*



**SPOTLIGHT GALLERY**  
*Maria Gayhart*



# Happenings at the Arts Center

## "ARTISTS PAINT OC" PLEIN AIR EVENT 2016 A HUGE SUCCESS!



Dennis Young won first place in the Quick Draw competition on the Boardwalk on Sunday morning, August 14.



Fifty artists painted the local scenery for three days, August 11-13. The winners were (left to right): Dennis Young, honorable mention; Marian Bickerstaff, president of the Art League of Ocean City; Crystal Moll, first place; Barbara Stepura and Jim Rehak, honorable mention; David Simpson, third place; Ray Ewing, second place; and Ocean City Mayor Rick Meehan.



Braving the heat, 33 artists painted in the Quick Draw event on the Boardwalk Sunday morning, sponsored by the Art League and Ocean City Development Corp. Left to right: Charles Viera, 3rd place; Crystal Moll, 2nd place; Marian Bickerstaff, president of the Art League; Dennis Young, 1st place; Emily Schwab, event coordinator; George Kalwa, honorable mention; Glenn Irwin of the OCDC; Val Witkowski, honorable mention; Rina Thaler, executive director of the Arts Center; and Ray Ewing, honorable mention.



### SUMMER ART CAMP SHOWED 158 KIDS HOW TO BE CREATIVE

During four week-long sessions this summer, 158 children got their hands dirty and their minds expanded creating art and having fun doing it. Here, they leave their colorful and permanent handprints on the utility box outside the Arts Center.

The annual camp is co-sponsored by the Town of Ocean City's Rec & Park Department.



# Coming up at the Arts Center



## Free Family Arts Days are back for fall!

Free art activities and butterfly release ~ Saturday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m.-noon

Other new programs on Saturdays:  
Oct. 8, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10  
from 10 a.m.-noon

Our popular family Art Days are back and better than ever! This is an exciting series integrating our love of nature, our precious Delmarva environment, and the arts. We will explore a variety of themes and techniques. Your family can get together to make fun art to take home.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, we will announce the full program schedule, something new and exciting every month for the whole family.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Because of the wonderful response, we must limit participation to 30 people (children and families). Pre-register on-line or by calling the Arts Center.

This program made possible by a grant from the PNC Foundation.



*The Berlin Youth Group had fun painting during a visit in August to the Arts Center.*

## Upcoming exhibition opportunities for artists

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

*Intake:*

*Sundays 2 - 4 p.m., Mondays 10 a.m - noon*

### **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)

### **DECEMBER 2 & 3 ~ SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ANNUAL ARTISAN'S FAIR**

Reserve your space now! Space is limited.

Email [katie@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:katie@artleagueofoceancity.org) for more details and for reservations.

*2017 exhibition schedule is coming soon!*



## **STUDENTS PLAN AHEAD FOR THE 2017 ANIME/MAGNA ART SHOW**

The 2016 student show was an amazing success! Planning has begun for the 2nd Annual Student Anime/Manga Art Show, sponsored by the Art League. The exhibit will be held in April 2017 at the Arts Center and feature the work of high school students from throughout the area. Left to right: Jaden Denk, Art League board member John Sisson, Harry Heller and Alex Schacter.

## Who's Who

### STASIA HEUBECK

When Stasia Heubeck joined the Art League of Ocean City 16 years ago, it was a much different place than it is today.

"It was just a little one-story shack, a bathhouse for an old pool," she said. "Everything took place in one big room that was the gallery. For receptions, we'd put up tables. That's where we were until we raised money for our new building."

Heubeck has witnessed not only a change in venue for the Art League, but a change in the artists as well. "Before the new building, we were a little collection of artists, the same ones all the time. When they built the new Ocean City Center for the Arts, it attracted new artists, and now we have a collection of artists from all over Delmarva."

Heubeck has been a big part of the life of the Art League, formerly serving on the board of directors and as a volunteer and instructor. She pioneered the Art League's youth outreach programs in Worcester County and teaches art at the Ocean City Senior Center. She was named the Art League's "Volunteer of the Year" in 2012.

"Stasia has been such a willing and able volunteer with her 'can do' attitude, someone I could always count on," said Rina Thaler, executive director of the Arts Center.

Heubeck studied art at the Maryland Institute of Arts and Schuler School of Fine Arts and painted in the Baltimore area for more than 40 years before moving to Ocean Pines after the death of her husband. She considers herself primarily a portrait painter, working in oils, pastels and watercolors, but has expanded her interests to landscapes, wildlife and still life since moving to the Shore.

For more than 10 years, Heubeck faithfully authored this "Who's Who" column for the Art League's newsletter, and wrote for The Delmarva Courier newspaper in Ocean Pines, but is now retiring from writing.

"I really enjoyed it very much, and I'm glad they gave me the opportunity," she said. "But it was time to move on."

However, she hasn't retired from painting. Currently, Heubeck is painting one of the homes that will be on this year's Sand Castle Home Tour, continuing a tradition she began 12 years ago with the first home tour. And, she plans to stay involved at the Arts Center, painting there and perhaps teaching a class.

"If they need help here and there, I'm ready," she said. "We have a group of artists that gets together on Thursdays at the Arts Center and paints. It forces you to do it."

Why does art matter to Stasia Heubeck? "It matters because any place that art has played a role in any profession or career, it has always made a difference. When they have good art in the schools, those schools do better. Those children do better in their classes."



## Art League teams with Coastal Hospice to honor Bermudian kite maker



*Kite maker Joseph Madeiros on First Friday, Sept. 2*

A crowd of family members, churchgoers, golfing buddies, co-workers and friends turned out to honor the kite artwork of Joseph Madeiros, 85, on First Friday, Sept. 2 at the Arts Center. A native of Bermuda, Madeiros continues the colorful folk art of kitemaking from his home island.

Madeiras is retired and living with his daughter in Willards, under the home care of Coastal Hospice since July. His one-day exhibition at the Arts Center was the first time he has ever displayed his kites, although his high-flying creations have won numerous awards.

On Good Friday 2016, Madeiros won the Bookhammer Award at the Great Delaware Kite Festival in Lewes — an event he and his family have attended for years — for best all-around kite. He was also the oldest person flying kites to participate.

The exhibit was part of Coastal Hospice's "One More Time" program.

Madeiras generously gifted his kites on First Friday to anyone who was excited about his craft, and accepted donations in return to help fund the programs of the Art League.

He makes the traditional Bermuda kites in octagonal shapes, creating an art form that is also very airworthy, holding world records for altitude and duration of flight. The kite maker starts with lightweight flat sticks arrayed like spokes of a wheel, then adds string and brightly colored tissue paper arranged in geometric patterns.

Madeiras loved showing his kites to the visitors and talking about how he crafts them.





# Q&A

Meet  
*Evan Fitzgerald,*  
*October artist*

### Q: How did you start making art?

**A.** All throughout grade school — it's the typical art story — I was getting into trouble for always drawing in the margins of my worksheets. But I was getting attention from drawing. In high school, I realized it was something I could keep pushing. Around then, my dad (artist Kevin Fitzgerald) started doing art full time.

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

**A.** I consider myself more of a draftsman. I spend a lot more time rendering, then the last 20 percent coloring in the lines, so it's considered a mixed media. I have a double degree in painting and drawing. I work on wood panels, starting out with drawing then finishing in acrylics and oils.

### Q: What themes do you explore in your art?

**A.** I'm kind of poking fun at ourselves. The art world is kind of related to high fashion; I tell my students (at Salisbury University) fads come and go. I'm making fun of fashion specifically, but putting it in the lens of animals dressing up and how stupid they look. Then in turn, think about how we might look — all the stuff we put on ourselves.

### Q: Who or what has inspired your art?

**A.** It's been helpful to have a supportive family. But it's really my everyday; I draw from my experiences. I guess my favorite artists are Sigmar Polke and Gerhard Richter. They kept making relevant work over a long period of time rather than making one specific type.

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

**A.** Once you have an idea that you feel is good, pretend like you've struck gold and keep mining that. A teacher gave me that advice in grad school (at James Madison University). You've struck a vein, and keep mining that specific thought.

### Q: Why does art matter to you?

**A.** It matters to me because art tells a greater truth about the world than any other type of media you can understand. Looking at a history book tells you one thing. But look at the artwork made during that time, and it tells you exactly what was going on around then.

## THANK YOU TO NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS FOR JULY & AUGUST 2016

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## Call for Volunteers

**WE NEED VOLUNTEER DOCENTS FOR THE SAND CASTLE HOME TOUR — THURSDAY & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 & 23**

It is time to sign up to be a docent at this year's Sand Castle Home Tour. There will be two shifts per day. Morning shift is from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and afternoon shift is from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. All shifts have a limited number of spots available; therefore sign-up will be on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are part of a group or organization that has volunteered in the past, please reach out to your group leader to confirm that he or she has all of your information and you on the group list. Although you have received the email invite, you will NOT need to sign up as an individual if you are part of a group.

If you can help, please email [merilee@artleagueofoceancity.org](mailto:merilee@artleagueofoceancity.org)

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Open Mon-Fri 9am - 4pm  
Sat-Sun 11am-4pm

