

## TO THE EDITOR:

On behalf of the Art League of Ocean City, thank you to everyone who made this year's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sand Castle Home Tour and Party a huge success. The proceeds from this yearly event continue to provide sustaining funds to support our non-profit mission of promoting artistic expression and appreciation for the creative arts in our community, and help to keep the Ocean City Center for the Arts free and open to the public. The tour showcases the many beautiful residential communities in our area, as well as the builders, decorators, contractors, restaurants, and others who provide amenities that support our local economy and the arts.

We would like to thank Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan, for being our 2018 honorary chairperson. Our gratitude also goes out to the gracious homeowners who opened their doors for the tour: the Foelber, Ebersole, Coffin, Corey, Fuchsluger, Craig, Brous, Correa, Smith, and Dypsky families. Thank you, as well to our Home Tour committee members — Mary Ellen Rosenblit, Ryan Wilde, Karen Hunter West, Nancy Fortney, Marian Bickerstaff, Eileen Salafia, Sheila Harding, Emmy Challenger, and Linda Kessinger — who worked many months to coordinate the tour.

This year's kick-off "pARTy of the Year," themed "Art-a-Ritaville," was an evening to celebrate the arts. We are grateful to Tony Deluca and the Gateway Grand for allowing us to hold it in their beautiful facility. Our gratitude also goes out to our dedicated committee of Cindy Leiner, Kari Berger, Jamie Albright, Sandy Gillis, Marsha Howarth, Rebecca Galyon, Cheryl Taustin, Nadine Wieder, Gayle Widdowson, Jennifer Klepper, Jan Perdue, and Eileen Stamnas. Thank you to our sponsors: Jamie and Jeff Albright, Bank of Ocean City, Sidney and Sherrie Beckstead family, Kari and Dr. Leonard Berger, Jack Burbage, Casual Designs Furniture, Reese Cropper III, Delaware Elevator, Dr. Kathy Dillon and Dan Mason, Fager's Island, Lora Fritschle/Condominium Realty, Harrison Group, Maller Wealth Management, Buddy and Laura Jenkins, Kimmerly Messick/Furniture Queen, Mercedes of Salisbury, Jim and Jan Perdue, Seacrets, Eileen and Dr. Greg Stamnas, Rina and Jeff Thaler, Gayle and Dirk Widdowson, and Nadine Wieder for sponsoring the party. We are also grateful for our in-kind donors — Taste Events, Nori Sushi, Phil Cropper, Candy Kitchen, Phil Spinuzza, The Clarion, Evo, Pepsi, Coastal Tents, Sysco, Rita's Ice, the Taustin Family, Lloyd and Monica Martin, and Maria De Forrest — for their donations to the party. Thank you also to Adam Showell, The Residence Inn, the Harrison Group, and Sandy and Palmer Gillis for the raffle donations.

Thank you to the florists who provided spectacular arrangements for the party and homes: City Florist, Flowers by Alison, Ocean Greenery, Ocean City Florist, Beached Butterfly, Barefoot Gardeners, Alison to the Altar, Encore Events, Ocean Pines Garden Club, and Worcester County Garden Club. We are grateful to all of the artists who painted the fabulous home portraits: Jim Adcock, Nancy Ellen Thompson, Robin Foreman, Kathy Bohs, Rebecca Simonds, Sandy Glassman, Jill Glassman, Ellie Scott, Gerilyn Gaskill, and Tinsel Hughes. Thank you as well to Atlantic General Hospital for the blue booties, and Blue Water Development for the tour bags.

Our appreciation goes out to our valued media partners — Ocean City Today, Maryland Coast Dispatch, Coastal Style Magazine, Metropolitan Magazine, and Delmarva Public Radio — and

to the 50 local businesses who advertised in the tour book. We thank the restaurants that provided gift certificates for our raffle: The Hobbit, Hooked, Rare & Rye, the Bonfire, Marlin Moon, Liquid Assets, The Victorian Room at the Dunes Manor, Blu Crabhouse/ Madfish, Captain's Table, and Evo/Sobo's.

It truly takes a village to run this event, and we are so grateful to the over 165 volunteers who worked as docents during the tour. Many return to help each year, and some are representatives from other non-profits in the area.

Finally, to the almost 1,000 people who took the tour, thank you for coming! We hope you enjoyed the beautiful residences of our area and look forward to seeing you at the Ocean City Center for the Arts on 94<sup>th</sup> street, and in 2019 for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Sand Castle Home Tour, September 20-21.

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