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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Ocean City Center for the Arts brings in the new year  
on First Friday, Jan. 3, with writers and artists  
collaborating**

**OCEAN CITY, MD — Dec. 23, 2019** — “Shared Visions” is the opening show for 2020 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts, where visual artists and writers collaborate and inspire each other. The public is invited to the free, opening reception on First Friday, Jan. 3 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Arts Center on 94<sup>th</sup> St. bayside.

“Shared Visions” is a partnership between the Art League of Ocean City and the Ocean City branch of the Worcester County Library, home of the Ocean City Writers Group, headed by Ruth Wanberg-Alcorn. The writers authored prose and poetry that was then interpreted into visual art by members of the Art League of Ocean City. Both sides will be on display during January.

“This is the 7th year for the collaboration,” said Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League. “It is an inspired coming-together of words and images and demonstrates the different forms of self-expression.”

In all, 20 writers inspired 32 visual artists working in painting, photography, mixed media, and fiber art for the “Shared Visions” show.

On Tuesday, Jan. 21 from 6 – 8:30 p.m., the Ocean City Writers Group will read their work at the Arts Center and discuss what inspired them in a free presentation, also open to the public.

Hanging in the Galleria in January will be an all-media group show by members of the Art League. The staff of the Art League join together for a group show in Studio E.

Photographer Gregory Poulos of Ocean City occupies the Spotlight Gallery in January. A lifelong resident of Ocean City, he has been photographing his home for the past 30 years. Poulos studied photography at Brooks Institute of Photography and Maryland Institute College of Art and has won numerous awards including a Merit Award from “Black and White Magazine.” He has also published a book of his photography in the resort, “Moments, Ocean City, MD.”

Marisa Longo of Ocean City is the artisan in residence for January, offering her one-of-a-kind jewelry and sculptures inspired by the natural objects found on Assateague Island. She creates mixed media metal trees, pendants, and figures with the wire wrapping technique, often inset with pearls.

Admission is always free to the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94<sup>th</sup> Street, home of the Art League of Ocean City, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects. More information is available at 410-524-9433 or [ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org](http://ArtLeagueOfOceanCity.org).

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EDITORS: Photo attached of Marisa Longo.

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