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**Ocean City Center for the Arts pairs writers and artists
while extending January shows**

OCEAN CITY, MD — Dec. 28, 2020 — The Art League of Ocean City announces that two of their December art shows will be extended to Jan. 14 at the Ocean City Center for the Arts. These exhibitions include the annual Members Juried Group Show and the Best of 2020 Group Show. Also extended through Jan. 30 are the Small Works show in Studio E and artisan Laura Ellison in the showcase.

On Jan. 17, the annual “Shared Visions” show opens in the Thaler Gallery at the Arts Center, where visual artists and writers collaborate and inspire each other. The show opens during regular hours at the Arts Center on 94th St. and will also be previewed on Facebook.

“Shared Visions” is the annual 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 artists submit images they hope will inspire the writers, and the writers select their inspiration and compose an accompanying poem or short prose. Both sides will be on exhibit until Feb. 28.

“This is the 8th year for the collaboration,” Rina Thaler, executive director of the Art League, said. “It is an inspired coming-together of words and images and demonstrates the different forms of self-expression.”

On Jan. 19 at 6 p.m., the Ocean City Writers Group will read their work and discuss what inspired them during a free Zoom event, and the public is invited.

“Hope & Healing,” showcasing artwork and events to lift the spirits, opens Jan. 17 and ties in with the Town of Ocean City’s Winter Wellness theme. The event runs Jan. 17 – Feb. 27 and includes an in-person art exhibition at the Arts Center where artists share what inspired them to stay positive and make art. The Art League is also offering special classes both in-person and online including creating an art journal, collage creation, and drawing. There will be free heART & Soul classes on Jan. 28 and Feb. 25 at the Arts Center, and reservations are required.

“Through times of challenge, art can be an act of hope and healing for both the artist and viewer,” Thaler said. “For artists, the creative process can be meditative, cathartic, or illuminating. As a viewer, art can bring feelings of comfort and connection.”

Joanne Guilfoil of Selbyville is the Spotlight artist for January and February. Raised in New York and Maryland, she trained as a painter and art teacher in Lexington, Kentucky. Guilfoil retired as Professor Emeritus from Eastern Kentucky University in 2009 after 20 years of service. She moved to Selbyville in 2014 and teaches painting and exhibits her work in Ocean City while devoting her time to large and small writing projects about things, people, and places on the Shore.

Admission is always free to the Ocean City Center for the Arts at 502 94th 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.

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