

# **Licking County Arts Board & Advisory Council**

## **Jill Crowe – President.**

My involvement with the Licking County Art Association goes way back, participating in Newark High Student Art Shows when the Gallery was on Hudson Ave. My family moved to Newark in 1970 and I am a proud 1975 graduate of Newark High School Go Cats! I attended Bowling Green State University graduating in 1979 with Bachelor's Degrees in Fine Arts and Art Education. I interviewed and was hired with Newark City Schools, teaching art alongside my former art teacher Marilyn Stocker. How cool was that!?! It was such an honor to teach at my alma mater for 35 years. I retired in 2014. Currently I do my own paintings and drawings, teach summer art classes for children and adults, offer private lessons and take art commissions from my home and Studio on King Road in Newark. I have one amazing son who is a guidance counselor in Columbus. I live on ten acres of woods and pond that are much of my inspiration for my art along with my four hens, a layin, three sweet studio cats, two very loved dogs and one treasured 1966 yellow Ford Mustang. I'm very excited to be a part of this art organization as it moves forward.

## **Marleen Cox – Vice President**

My name is Marleen Cox and I have been making art for as long as I can remember. I won my first art contest when I was about nine or ten years old for the local library doing a mock up book cover for a Nancy Drew mystery. I was immediately hooked on being an artist. I studied art every chance I got, eventually earning a BFA in Painting and in Museum Studies from the Art Academy of Cincinnati. I am a multidisciplinary artist with painting as my main focus. I taught art for 20 years at the Taft Museum and at the Weston Gallery at Cincinnati's Aronoff Center for the Arts. As a parent I was also very involved in my children's school organizations, assuming Presidency and Treasurer positions. I also organized an artist co-op in Miamitown, OH, promoting and selling art and fine craft. I moved to Heath last year and have been impressed with the arts culture in the local area, so joined Licking County Arts and have been elected their Vice President this year. I look forward to helping promote the arts in Licking County.

## **Ralph Giles Treasurer**

## **Regina Williams Secretary**

My educational background and employment experiences have been with preschool age children having graduated from The Ohio State University with a Masters in Early and Middle Childhood Development. I retired from Central Ohio Technical College as Director/Faculty of the Associate Degree Early Childhood Education Program. I continue to be an advocate for Project based learning for young children having studied the Reggio Emilia Approach to early educational practices. Though I

have not had formal art education beyond several high school and college art classes. I am open to the study of various art techniques.

I enjoy exploring and creating with numerous mediums. Being involved as a volunteer Board member and docent for Licking County Arts inspires me to think creatively and challenges me to practice with various materials. I have worked on projects with fabric, felt, drawing, painting, and photography to capture a subject. I am inspired by nature, the humor in life and what makes me smile as I compose and create. The challenge of learning about a new medium allows me to experience a fresh way of seeing, sometimes taking the same subject and recreating it with various art techniques. I have written and illustrated three children's books which are available on Amazon.

## **Shari Johnston**

I was grateful to be welcomed as a new member to LCA in 2007, shortly after moving to Newark. I have made art for as long as I can remember. It gave me something I felt good about, and helped form my identity as a teen. As a child I also witnessed the power of art as a vehicle of healing, as my mom struggled with her mental health. The art classes and occupation therapy put light back in her eyes. I worked as a product development manager and technical designer for many years, while completing the Art Therapy program at Capital University. I hold a Bachelor's of Psychology and Fine Art from The Ohio State University. I developed an art-based mentoring and socio-emotional support program for Mental Health America, meeting in several Licking County middle and high schools called GRIT, currently in its 11<sup>th</sup> year. I stepped down from facilitating classes last year. I also taught expressive art journaling for several years at the Licking County Jail and currently in the Probation Department's Day Reporting program. My heart is most alive when I am creating still. I am always exploring new mediums and techniques, with watercolor captivating me most. I love art's ability to capture the early morning light, the movement of water and the beauty of a person. I am very excited for the future of LCAA.

## **Emily Kohser Trustee**