

HEY NEIGHBOR!

by Arlene Fine

New BAC President in the Picture

As the newly-elected president of the Beachwood Arts Council, Paula Rollins has vowed to hit the ground running, and based on her track record, that's a lot of woman power.



From the day she entered Beachwood schools, Paula was always the kid in class who became involved in school activities. Recognized for "Most Service to the School," while at Beachwood High School, Paula co-edited the school newspaper, *The Beachcomber*, which gave her the skills to help her own high school students create school newspapers when she was an English teacher and school newspaper advisor, first in Cincinnati and then in Shaker Heights.

Staying connected with her Class of '71 classmates, Paula maintains the group's contact list and heads the class reunions and birthday parties. "We're having a 65th Birthday/Medicare Party this month, as many of our classmates enjoy staying in touch and reminiscing about the good old days," she explains.

Paula's community involvement continued when she and her husband, Mike, raised their own children, Lauren and Gregg. When she left the teaching side of the classroom, she became a Beachwood school volunteer and served as PTO president for 10 years.

In 2003, Paula was tapped by the Beachwood School Board to serve as coordinator of the Gallery of Success, which recognizes outstanding Beachwood alumni every three years. "Beachwood schools are a huge asset, and our graduates have achieved amazing things locally, nationally and internationally," says Paula. "Our schools also reflect our community's rich diversity and closely-knit neighborhoods."

In 2013, Paula and her sisters, Karen and Donna, along with a number of former Edgewood Road residents, organized a street reunion for neighbors who lived on Edgewood from the 1960's to the present, and more than 100 people attended. Also in 2013, Paula's good work,

positive attitude and civic pride earned her the title of Citizen of the Year by the Beachwood Chamber of Commerce. That same year, she was approached by (the late) Ileen Kelner, a founding member of the Beachwood Arts Council, to help revamp the annual BAC Si Wachsberger Arts Scholarship Award, which supports graduating high school students who plan to pursue the arts in college.

Soon thereafter, Paula accepted an invitation to serve on the BAC Board of Trustees.

The Beachwood Arts Council, founded in 1964 as a nonprofit organization, nurtures, promotes and celebrates the visual and performing arts and the diverse cultures in our area, and membership is open to all residents of northeast Ohio.

"I quickly realized that the BAC was a vibrant, grass-roots organization, and I was thrilled to be part of it. The scope and breadth of the programming are truly amazing," says Paula.

The organization presents art exhibits and hosts a variety of events, workshops and lectures in the contemporary galleries of the Beachwood Community Center. The BAC solo and group exhibits feature artists of local and national acclaim. The group also sponsors the Ileen Kelner Juried High School Art Show, in which 25 schools in northeast

Ohio participate; and an annual Beachwood Schools K-12 Art Show and Music Program.

In addition, the BAC offers tours of museums, galleries, private collections, homes, gardens and artists' studios. The group also sponsors speakers, music and dance performances, diversity festivals and workshops led by skilled artists who teach hands-on projects, such as painting, silk scarf designing, monoprinting and jewelry making.

As president, Paula is working to raise awareness about the BAC and is encouraging more community engagement.

In June, after rising through the BAC ranks, Paula took over the BAC helm from outgoing president Joe Kalk and retiring executive director Leah Gilbert. "I have big shoes to fill," says Paula. "I learned so much from Joe and Leah, both active board members, who promised to be just a phone call away whenever I need help."

As president, Paula is working to raise awareness about the BAC and is encouraging more community engagement. Collaborating with other arts organizations is one way to get the word out. "Leah arranged a joint art exhibi-



Paula Rollins (president), Joe Kalk (past president), and Leah Gilbert (former executive director). Photo by Scott Morrison, Discovery Photo.

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~ Paula Rollins, BAC president

tion with the Shaker Heights Arts Council (see "Call for Artists" on this page), and I would love to build on that program and have other collaborations," says Paula.

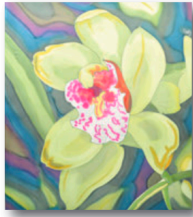
Paula praises support of the City of Beachwood, promotional efforts of *Beachwood Buzz*, and the commitment of the dedicated BAC trustees, who work hard to create and support the BAC events and programs.

Looking to the future, Paula and the BAC Board hope to increase their revenue stream. Currently, the nonprofit receives funding from membership dues, donations and sponsorships. Ohio Arts Council and Cuyahoga Arts & Culture have also awarded grants for the group's diverse music programs, which, like the art exhibitions, are free and open to the public.

"If each event attendee would donate even one dollar, it would

help to keep our programs going for a long time," encourages Paula. "We welcome individual and corporate sponsorships, as well as donations in honor or in memory of someone. These funds would serve to further our mission of supporting the arts, and to elevate and promote our programs."

She adds, "The BAC is a community gem. I encourage Beachwood citizens and all of northeast Ohio to value this treasure and help keep it shine."



Silk painting by Gunter Schwegler.

Call for Artists

The Beachwood Arts Council (BAC) and Shaker Heights Arts Council (SHAC) are proud to announce "Good Neighbors," a juried Spring 2019 exhibit, scheduled to run from June 5 – 27, at the Beachwood Community Center.

The BAC and SHAC are looking for artists, 21 years and older, who work in any 2D medium. Artists must live in Beachwood or Shaker Heights, be in the Shaker Heights School district, or work in Beachwood or Shaker Heights. Interested artists should visit the BAC website (www.beachwoodartscouncil.org) or the SHAC website (www.shakerartscouncil.org) for an application.

The BAC and SHAC will collect the money and take a 40% commission on all artwork sold. Artists will be paid immediately upon receipt of funds.

Artists will retain all copyrights to their artwork and will grant sponsors the rights to use the exhibit images on printed materials and websites for promotional purposes only. Neither the BAC nor SHAC retain copyrights or usage beyond promoting the artists and their work.

There are no entry fees. Artists will be required to sign a BAC contract in order to exhibit at the Beachwood Community Center.

For more information, contact Leah Gilbert at leahgilbert@sbcglobal.net or 216.752.0752.

Important Dates:

Application Deadline:
September 10

Portfolio Reviews:
September 27, 7-9 pm and
September 29, 1-3 pm

Participant Announcement:
Notification will be made via email and by postings on the BAC and SHAC websites.

Exhibition Opening Reception: Saturday, June 8, 5-7 pm

Exhibition Closes:
June 27 • All artwork must be picked up on Friday, June 28