



DALE KOPPEL

The LAA Board is excited about our newest officers and the unique ideas they've come up with for our 2019-20 season. Dale Koppel, our incoming Secretary, brings with her an extremely energetic and positive personality. Growing up in NYC, Dale considers herself a product of the Ethical Culture/Fieldston Schools, which, she believes, was instrumental in the way she thinks and the person she is today.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from Boston University, a Master's degree in Educational Psychology from Columbia University, and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of NM. Her career paths reflect these degree choices.

She has been a full-time freelance writer, author of *The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Online Dating*, co-author of *Brainstorming*, and ghost writer for *Well, if I told you, I'd have to kill you*. She has also been a special education teacher in the New York City school system, a college instructor in South Florida, and creator of one of two of Florida's first charter schools in Broward County...phew!

In her spare time, Dale is a real estate developer and since 2014 has focused on pot-friendly vacation rentals in Denver and Colorado Springs (due to her belief in the legalization of recreational marijuana).

Dale and her husband of nine years (who she met on Match.com) stumbled upon *The Landings* in 2015 and, rather impulsively, moved here from Lake Worth, FL and Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA a year later. They continue to spend their winters in Florida.

Both of her parents were artists (her father, a package designer, and mother, a painter who studied at the NY Art Students' League. Interestingly, after she married Dale's stepfather, her mom became the author of the *Ellery Queen Mysteries* and was invited to become a member of the *Salmagundi Club*). It was not until January, 2018 that Dale found her own "art" and it was only because, for some inexplicable reason, her husband bought her a watercolor paint set for Christmas (2017). It stayed in its packaging until she brought it to Florida with her where it was opened beginning a new adventure in her life.

When she unpacked the contents and started to read the instruction "manual", Dale knew there was no way she could do it! She sheepishly told her husband, who said that he'd help her figure it out by watching a you tube video. Within seconds, he agreed with her that it was impossible! Still, she didn't want to disappoint him. She decided to honor his belief in her "creative potential" by doing something else.

She remembered the tissue paper art she had done with her special education third graders! And so, she went to the local Dollar Tree store and bought tissue paper, poster board, and Elmer's glue! "Yes," as Dale says, "I have my husband to thank, and I have LAA members Barby Townsend, (my muse) and Maureen (Mo) Kouvel, (my Scrabble Club "competitor/compatriot") who both encouraged me. They prompted me to join the LAA, and to keep creating".

Dale has since gone from 2D to 3D "tissue paper art". Her floor and table lamps are being sold at an art gallery in Lake Worth, FL and at Cohen's Retreat in Savannah.



Dale continues, saying, "I have been so impressed and inspired by the LAA's range of talent and camaraderie that when Betsy asked me to become the new LAA secretary, I didn't ask how many others are in contention, I just said, YES!"

To purchase a custom or existing piece of Dale's art, please contact her at dalekoppel@aol.com