

History of the Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society

In 1986 a group of artist friends founded the Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society. These artists are well known in the community and have garnered many local, state and national awards. Gerrie Brown, Judy Richardson, Anita Parkinson, Jim Terrel, Lei Wong, and Betty Forkovitch were the original officers. Other founding members included Betty Calabria, Jim Brunk, Gwen Bragg, Helen Hanson, and Kay Flory. Their goal was to *promote the interest in and appreciation for watercolor painting*. The SVWS has maintained that same objective all these years and define a watercolor painting as: A painting on paper in watercolor, acrylic, casein, gouache or other aqueous medium. Other media and collage, if used, must be in conjunction with water media.

Many of our members and Signature Members, having met the criteria established in the society to hang paintings in associated galleries. Our members' art is displayed on the SVWS website at www.shenandoahvalleywatercolorsociety.org. We also have announcements about upcoming exhibits of interest on our Facebook page. Follow and "like" us on **Shenandoah Valley Watercolor Society**.

The Society meets once a month at a designated place and time. These meetings serve as a time for artists to catch up with one another, introduce guests and welcome new members. Following a brief business meeting, there is a program, then a time for art feedback known as "critique". Interested artists are asked to bring a limit of 2 pieces of artwork in progress to share with the group. Sharing and receiving feedback, in a relaxed setting, by one's peers on what is going well and suggestions for improvement in a work, is the truly educational part of each meeting as well as a stimulus to paint, for everyone.