



TWSA is recognized as the preeminent transparent watercolor society. The society offers services and education and endeavors to further recognize, expand awards and exposure to an ever-growing membership of professionals, amateurs, students and patrons.

Spring Newsletter 2019

## President's Message

In the Organization history of TWSA it states that, in 1975, Nora Stevens and Sybil Olson attended an Ed Whitney Workshop where they discovered a passion for transparent watercolor. By the following summer, in 1976, they had formed a society for their region, naming it the Midwest Watercolor Society.



Nora Stevens will be 90 years old in July of this year. One of her two nieces, Nola Nickerson, contacted us a few short weeks ago to let us know that she had recently moved her aunt to the Autumn Hills Assisted Living Facility in Minnesota. She wanted us to know that although her memory is slipping somewhat, Nora is doing well.

As a tribute, our excellent historian, Lenox Wallace, has created a brief history of Nora and her role as Founder of our Society.....



“Nora Stevens initiated the founding meeting, in 1975, to form a national transparent watercolor society in the Midwest. By 1977, Nora Stevens presided as the first President of the Midwest Watercolor Society. The first Nationwide Exhibit of Transparent Watercolors presented by MWS was on display in August of 1977, at the Tweed Museum in Duluth, MN. The Society had 296 members.

The first dues paying member, and logo designer, was Zoltan Szabo. He was on the Board with Cheng Khee Chee, Frank Webb, Irving Shapiro and Phil

Austin. A black & white printed 'newsletter' with photos of the Exhibit went out to the members.

Phil Austin became President in 1979, and the Board created the 'Skyledge Award', meant to be the Best of Show Award, named in honor of Phil's property in Door County, WI.

Nora had taught art in the Minnesota Public Schools since 1950 and, in 1958, began coordinating watercolor workshops for fellow artists with the likes of Edgar Whitney, Zoltan Szabo, Dong Kingman, Phil Austin, Robert Wood, Tony Van Hasselt, Rex Brandt, Frank Webb, Judy Betts, Christopher Schink, Jeanne Dobie, Barbara Nechis, Nita Engle...and so on.

Nora's work was accepted into the 1975 AWS and Knickerbocker Exhibits and, in 1977 and 1980, into the MWS Exhibits. She continued organizing watercolor workshops, including a few in Europe. (There's one way to paint with the Best of the Best!)

More recently, in 2006, she attended the TWSA dinner in Elmhurst, IL, and again in 2008, the dinner in Minnesota. Now, Nora says, 'I have discontinued my art work and just sit back and enjoy the paintings done by myself and other artists I have hanging on my walls'."

Because we were named the Midwest Watercolor Society, we were considered a regional organization even though we had been a National Society from the beginning.

In 2002, under the Presidential leadership of Tom Francesconi, we voted to change our name to the Transparent Watercolor Society of America.

Nora has graciously donated one of her paintings to our mini auction held at the Awards Dinner that will be held on June 8th. You can sign up to attend by visiting the website.

Nora Stevens #395 Cape Porpoise - matted and framed into an 8" X 10".



This year is our 43rd Annual Exhibition and will run from May 4th until August 4th at the Kenosha Public Museum in Kenosha, WI. We hope you will find time to visit!

Donna Jill Witty, TWSA Master  
President  
Transparent Watercolor Society of America

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2019 TWSA Awards

## AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE



*Shower of Light*

by David Smith

\$4000 TWSA Skyledge Award – David Smith – ‘Shower of Light’

\$3000 Dorothy Driehaus Mellin Watercolor Award – Ken Call - ‘Solitaire’

\$2000 Edgar A. Whitney Memorial Award – Stephen Kuhlman – ‘O.F. Lodge #1’

\$2000 TWSA Members' Award – Audrey Montgomery – ‘Nourishment’

\$2000 TWSA Directors' Award – John Keepax – ‘Below Fort Madison’

### **SPECIAL MERIT AWARDS**

\$1000 Winslow Homer Award of Merit – Robert Krajecki - ‘D & M Falls’

\$1000 Maurice Prendergast Award of Merit – Daniel Danielson - ‘25 Sacks of Mail’

\$1000 John Singer Sargent Award of Merit – Bruce Handford - ‘Sun and Mist’

\$1000 James McNeil Whistler Award of Merit – Robert Mejer – ‘Take PC Open Book #2’

### **FOUNDERS' AWARDS**

\$750 Nora Stevens Founders Award - Dean Mitchell - 'Mom at the Manor'

\$750 Zoltan Szabo Founders Award - Christine Misencik-Bunn - 'In the Moment'

\$750 Phil Austin Founders Award - Jean Pederson - 'Numbers Game'

\$750 Irving Shapiro Founders Award- Denny Bond - 'Indulge'

### AWARDS OF MERIT

\$500 Lakes Region Watercolor Guild Award of Merit - Peter Jablokow - 'DC-3 on the Beach in Iceland'

\$500 Morris Watercolor Guild Award of Merit - Matthew Bird - 'Winter'

\$500 Prairie Fire Foundation Award of Merit - Kay Stern- 'Baking is Like Chemical Engineering'

\$500 TWSA Award of Merit - John Salminen - 'Central Park Shadows'

### DONORS' AWARD

\$500 Marty McManamon Memorial Award - Stephen Zhang - 'Painful Story'

\$500 Frank Nash Memorial Award - Aneita Gates - 'The Dock Worker'

\$500 Kenneth R Hetzel Memorial Award - Lana Privitera - 'Rainbow Cups'

\$500 Erna Kindler Memorial Award - Phyllis Tseng - 'A Glance'

\$300 Indira Das Memorial Award - Russell Jewell - 'Towing the Line'

\$300 "Chevy" Chevillon Memorial Award - Chris Krupinski - 'It's A Friday Night'

\$300 Lehmann Memorial Award- Thomas Schroeder - 'The Mooring'

\$400 People's Choice Award - to be decided by ballot by the general public and announced in August at the conclusion of the exhibition.

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**43rd Annual  
Celebrate Watercolor Dinner**

Saturday, June 8th, 2019  
Kenosha Public Museum  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Cocktail Reception - Mezzanine - 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner - Daimler Chrysler Room - 6:00 p.m.

Make your dinner reservations now!  
[www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org)

Come early!  
Juror/Artist Demos  
Saturday, June 8th, 2019  
Kenosha Public Museum  
Kenosha, Wisconsin

10:30 am Linda Baker  
2:00 pm Laurin McCracken

#### 2019 Workshops



*Magnolia w Silver and Pears*  
by Laurin McCracken



*His Keys*  
by Linda Baker

TWSA is proud and honored to welcome *Laurin McCracken* and *Linda Baker* to Kenosha, Wisconsin to conduct their 5-day workshops in June.

If you were discouraged to find that one or both of the TWSA 5-day June Workshops were “Wait-Listed”, please take a moment to respond if you are interested in attending. People’s lives can change in an instant. At the last minute, an artist might not be able to attend the workshop he/she had signed up for. We will make every effort to find the artist to fill the vacancy. Your name and information on the wait-list would be greatly appreciated.

The workshops will be held in the Kenosha Public Museum, (home to the 43rd Annual Juried TWSA Exhibition).

From a friendly cup of coffee in the morning, to delicious catered lunches, the five days will be filled with enjoyable and educational experiences to improve and enhance your own watercolor paintings.

You can sign up today at [www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org)

*Wyndham Garden Harborside Inn* is within walking distance of the museums and is the ideal place to book your stay for the workshops. (262-358-9566)

Another NEW hotel that just opened is *The Stella*. It’s just as close and all newly restored, and so much nicer than staying “out by the interstate”. (<http://stellahotel.com>)

Be sure to include the weekend of June 8th to attend the “*Celebrate Watercolors*” Banquet. Make your reservation for the banquet on line also at [www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org).

If you have any questions, please email me at:  
[wigolfgirl90@yahoo.com](mailto:wigolfgirl90@yahoo.com)

Vickie Kwasny  
TWSA Workshop Chair



Check out the original paintings donated by some of our TWSA Status Artists. These artists, committed to furthering watercolor as a major medium of artistic expression, have generously donated these small paintings (6" X 6") to be placed in our silent auction. Monies raised will benefit TWSA's Awards fund.

<https://www.watercolors.org/special/2019/>

Special thanks to all the artists who have participated and given of their very unique talent: Harold Allanson, Cheng-Khee Chee, Frank Eber, Jerry Ellis, Andy Evansen, Fred Graff, Alla Jablokow, Peter Jablokow, Brian McCormick, John Salminen, Frank Spino, Nora Stevens, Don Taylor, and Stephan Zhang.

This year, in lieu of monitoring online bids, TWSA will serve as your agent during the live auction on June 8th. Click on your selected painting on our website and indicate your maximum bid via email.

High bidders who cannot attend the dinner will be able to have their paintings shipped/mailed to them "at cost."

Online bids will no longer be accepted on Friday June 7, 2019 after 5:00pm.

If you have any questions, please email: [minipaintingbid@watercolors.org](mailto:minipaintingbid@watercolors.org)

### Visit us online

If you are unable to make it to Kenosha this year to see the 43rd annual TWSA exhibit, we again offer you a Plan B. Grab a cup of coffee and jump onto the internet, you can check out this year's exhibit, as well as past exhibits, by visiting [www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org). While you're visiting, feel free to poke around the website. You may see a link to an artist's page that you've not seen before, or perhaps you'll generously share a link to our site with a friend who might appreciate the beautiful work and connections to other watercolor artists. Either way, we hope you enjoy the show!

### 2019 TWSA Exhibition News

**Food, glorious food! Pasta and popcorn and beer and fruit! Serious fruit and yummy fruit will be what you find in this year's Transparent Watercolor Society of Americas' Exhibition. Laurin McCracken, TWSA MS and Linda Baker, TWSA are this year's jurors and what a difficult task it was to narrow the selection down to 80**



top paintings. Here is the rundown:

*Number of Paintings accepted in each subject matter.*

#4 Abstractive/Nonrepresentational

#5 Animal

#6 Architectural

#3 Cityscapes

#18 Figurative

#5 Flora/Fruit

#3 Interiors

#2 Landscapes

#3 Nautical/Water

#10 Portraiture

#18 Still Life

Total 79

The exhibition runs from May 4th through August 4th in Kenosha, Wisconsin at the Kenosha Public Museum on Lake Michigan. It is such a beautiful venue and makes a great day trip!

Saturday, June 8th is the Celebrate Watercolor Dinner and Awards. Laurin McCracken and Linda Baker will have demos during the day. So many fellow artists will be in attendance! Come and join us, won't you? All are welcome; bring your friends and family.

All details and reservations for the dinner and exhibition are available on the TWSA website. [www.watercolors.org](http://www.watercolors.org).

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sheryl Fletcher Coon

Exhibition Chair/Vice-President

## 2019 Calendar

May 4	<b>43rd TWSA Exhibition Opens</b>
June 3-7	<b>Laurin McCracken Workshop</b> "Painting Realism in Watercolor"
June 7	<b>Private reception held by the museum honoring the artists, spouses and workshop attendees</b>

June 8

**Celebrate Watercolor Awards Dinner**

**10:30 am and 2:00 pm Juror / Instructor Demos**

June 10-14

**Linda Baker Workshop**  
"Master Mentoring & Pouring"

August 4

**43rd TWSA Exhibition Closes**

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## 2019 Ballot

All members in good standing may vote for 4 Directors.

- Lenox Wallace
- Gayle McManamon
- Benita Brewer
- Vicki Morley

You may vote on our website if you are a TWSA member.

<https://www.watercolors.org/poll.html>

Votes must be in by May 15, 2019.

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## 2019 TWSA Member News

**Michael Holter** was recently honored with Signature Status in the American Impressionist Society, only the second watercolorist to earn this distinction from this society. Holter has been elected and is now a member of the Salmagundi Club. Holter is featured in an article titled "Loosen Up" in the February/March issue of Plein Air Magazine. His painting "Blues on the Green" has been accepted by juror Andy Evanson into the International Watercolor Exhibition in Houston presented by WASH, the Watercolor Art Society Houston. His "Heading to St. Annes" has been accepted by juror Paul Jackson into the 2019 Georgia Watercolor Society National Exhibit, and his "The Tower" has been accepted by juror Kathleen Conover into the 2019 Western Federation of Watercolor Societies annual show. During this spring art show season, Holter also has work in the California Watercolor Association Show, the National Watercolor Society Member Show, the Southern Watercolor Society, and the Fabriano Aquarel in Fabriano, Italy. William Rogers will be teaching at the CSPWC Symposium at Gaelic College, St. Ann's Cape, Breton, in Nova Scotia.

**Frank Spino's** "Circles and Squares I" was selected for inclusion in Splash

20 – Creative Compositions by Northlight Books. “Red Grapes” was shown in two invitational exhibits: the April 2018 FabrianinAcquarello in Fabriano, Italy, and the November 2018 International Watercolor IV in Thessaloniki, Greece. “Circles and Squares I, II, and III” and “Aqua & Orange I and II” were exhibited in April 2018 in Sperlonga Painting Holiday Invitational in Sperlonga, Italy. “Morning Prayer, Athens” was awarded First Place in Watercolor category at A.D. Backus Museum & Gallery, Fort Pierce, Florida in October 2018.

**Annie Strack** had paintings accepted into the Philadelphia Watercolor Society’s 118th International Juried Show, Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society’s 2018 Show, Western Colorado Watercolor Society’s 29th National Show, 7th Annual Brandywine Valley Plein Air, and won the C.L. George Memorial award in Kentucky Watercolor Society’s 41st International show. She juried the American Artists Professional League’s 90th International show in NYC, Milton Art Guild show in Delaware, and the Salem County Art League show in New Jersey. She received Signature Membership in the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society and joined the Chartpak company as an Artist Ambassador.

We would love to hear from you! Please send your news of awards and achievements or of upcoming solo shows and workshops to [tobinje@uwgb.edu](mailto:tobinje@uwgb.edu) (note new eaddress) and please label your email “TWSA member news.”

Sorry, but we can’t include information about local classes, nor will we be including images of watercolors.

