

## **Arts on the Square Exhibit featuring Artist Irene Appleyard, March 19 – May 28, 2023**

**Arts on the Square** is pleased to open its next exhibit at Market Square (Presbyterian) Church from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 19, 2023. The show features paintings by Harrisburg artist/portraitist Irene Appleyard and will be on display in Geneva Hall through Sunday, May 28, 2023.

A free opening reception will take place to introduce Irene's work to the congregation and the public. Also featured at the reception as "Artists of the Day" will be Market Square Presbyterian's Shawl Ministry and music by Gwen Lehman on piano.

Irene Appleyard attended Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii. She has a B.A. in English Literature from Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pa., and a diploma in Fine Arts from the York Academy of Arts. She continued her portrait studies at The National Academy of Design and The Art Students' League in New York City. She has taken intensive portraiture and watercolor courses from several nationally prominent artists, including Everett Raymond Kinstler, painter of several America presidents. She has received acclaim as an award winner at the Washington Society of Portrait Artists in Washington, D.C, the National Academy of Design, the Art Association of Harrisburg and the York Academy of Arts.

Irene's Market Square exhibit will include examples of her sensitive and captivating portraits as well as landscape and still life paintings, several of which were inspired by her travels to the state of Maine. "By taking off from my subject or enhancing it or capturing its essence," says Irene in her artist's statement, "I like to create art that is 'alive' and not too finished, giving my viewers beauty and pleasure through 'painterly,' not photographic work."

Irene is a long-time resident of Harrisburg, raised her family here, and attends St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral.

Market Square's Church's Shawl Ministry is a relatively new group, having begun in the midst of the pandemic. Debbie Olsen is the ministry's founder and leads about 10-12 church members and friends who gather in a devotional fellowship on Saturdays once a month in the Youth Room to knit shawls. These lovely, artistic works are made with love and compassion to provide comfort and care to church members and others who may be going through illness and other challenging times. Members of the Shawl Ministry will be on hand at the opening reception to demonstrate their craft and tell about their outreach.

Featured pianist Gwen Lehman is a long-time Market Square Church member who is well-known as an expert musician, member of the Sanctuary Choir, and former singer and past president of the prestigious Susquehanna Chorale. She currently serves on the Market Square Church Board of Trustees.

**Arts on the Square** presents three or four exhibits annually to showcase creativity and artworks by church members, friends, and special guests. Receptions are hosted by Ashley and Joe Robinson. Beth Hager is the Exhibits Coordinator for **Arts on the Square** ([bahager@earthlink.net](mailto:bahager@earthlink.net)).

**Arts on the Square** exhibitions are sponsored this season by John K. Robinson in memory of his sister, Rachel Robinson Bair.

*For info contact: Beth Hager, Arts on the Square Exhibits Coordinator, [bahager@earthlink.net](mailto:bahager@earthlink.net)*