

December 2025



### ***This Issue***

Volume 88 • Issue 4

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Club News.....                | 2 - 39  |
| Photography News.....         | 40 - 56 |
| Exhibits, Workshops, etc..... | 57 - 65 |
| Schedule of Activities.....   | 66 - 71 |
| Complete Index.....           | 72      |

Over 60 members' images inside!

The Park West Camera Club is an independent not-for-profit corporation. Guests are always welcome to our weekly Zoom meetings.

The PWCC newsletter, *Photo Notes*, is published every month by and for the members of the Park West Camera Club. Subscriptions are included with Club membership. Yearly subscriptions are available to non-members by email free of charge.

Submissions of full-length articles or smaller items of photographic or general interest are always accepted. The staff of *Photo Notes* reserves the right to edit any submissions which are published.

*Photo Notes* is optimized for viewing digitally.

### **Contact Information**

Website

[www.parkwestcameraclub.org](http://www.parkwestcameraclub.org)

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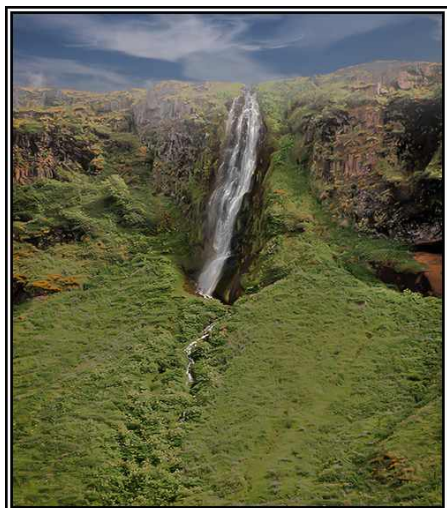
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Club Mailing Address

PWCC

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NY, NY 10025



Cover Photo  
Ribbon Falls, Iceland  
© Chuck Pine

### **Club Officers**

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>    | Chuck Pine                     |
| <b>V. President</b> | Michael Schleiff               |
| <b>Corres. Sec.</b> | Helen Bohmart Pine             |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>    | Christine Doyle                |
| <b>Treasurer</b>    | Joe Nawy                       |
| <b>At-Large</b>     | Betsy Currier<br>Jeff Langford |

### **Committee Chairs**

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Competition</b> | Hedy Klein                          |
| <b>Field Trip</b>  | Vacancy                             |
| <b>Membership</b>  | Marlene Schonbrun                   |
| <b>Photo Notes</b> | Chuck Pine                          |
| <b>Print Salon</b> | Betsy Currier                       |
| <b>Program</b>     | Marilyn Fish-Glynn<br>Alice Somma   |
| <b>Social</b>      | Vacancy                             |
| <b>Website</b>     | Michael Schleiff<br>Christine Doyle |
| <b>Workshop</b>    | Ed Lee<br>Bruce Byers               |

### **Currently Inactive Committees**

Archive  
Gallery  
House

## President's Message

### *Winter Solstice*

The winter season begins here in the northern hemisphere on Sunday, December 21st at 10:03 a.m. But it seems like it started long before that date. As I sit here writing this President's Message, the temperature out my window is hovering about the freezing point, but with the wind-chill factor, my iPhone is telling me it "feels like 18°F.

Brr!!!

Fortunately, Helen and I will be starting our drive down to sunny, warm Florida on the 21st. We'll spend six days and 5 nights on the road. We never drive more than 300 miles in a day. We listen to an audio book to make the hours pass by more quickly (or so it seems). And, of course, we stop along the way to take photos of whatever seems interesting.

This year we're planning to stop at the Conowingo Dam in Darlington, Maryland. It has a huge assemblage of American bald eagles—a truly amazing photo op if the weather is being cooperative. Another scheduled stop is Savannah, Georgia on Christmas Eve. (We've already made our dinner reservations for that night.) Other photo ops along the way might include some National Wildlife Refuges. We prefer the ones with drive-throughs so we can better



© Larry Rubin

shoot the locals (birds and other critters). We always make sure to stop in Daytona Beach, Florida. Not for the race track, however, but rather to drive on the beach and take photos of the hordes of people enjoying the water, wind, surf, and sand.

As the miles and hours pass we will slowly de-clothe ourselves until I, at least, am

down to short pants, short sleeves, and no jacket.

If you get tired of the cold and (possibly) the snow, and you happen to head down this way, why not give us a phone call and let us know. We'd love to see you, show you our new house, and take you to some of our favorite photo destinations.

No matter which holidays you'll be celebrating (if any), here's wishing you and your families a happy and a healthy end of autumn and all of the winter. Meanwhile, we'll see you on Zoom at our weekly PWCC meetings.

Be healthy and happy, and keep shooting...

*Chuck*

### **Photo Notes**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Publisher:    | Park West Camera Club   |
| Editor:       | Chuck Pine  |
| Committee:    | Evelyne Appel, Madeleine Barbara, Ann Broder, Renée Harper, Gladys Hopkowitz, Hedy Klein, Helen Pine, Puneet Sood, and Julie Wosk   |
| Contributors: | Will Aimesbury, Evelyne Appel, Bill Apple, Ann Broder, Bruce Byers, Betsy Currier, Julie Foehrenbach, Mike Iannuzzi, Hedy Klein, Ed Lee, Natalie Manzino, David Miller, Chuck Pine, Helen Pine, Michael Schleiff, Howard Tarragon and Audrey Tjahjono |

*Photo Notes* is produced on a MacBook Pro using Apple Pages and Adobe Photoshop software.

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## 2025 - 2026 Schedule

## Sep

- 1 No Meeting—Labor Day
- 8 Welcome Back \*
- 15 Guest Speaker
- 22 No Meeting—Rosh Hashanah
- 25 PDI Workshop \*
- 29 Business Meeting #1

## Oct

- 6 Competition #1 \*
- 13 Workshop—Composition \*
- 20 Guest Speaker
- 23 PDI Workshop \*
- 27 Theme—Halloween & Fall \*

## Nov

- 3 Competition #2 \*
- 10 Mini Portfolio Night \*
- 17 Guest Speaker
- 20 PDI Workshop \*
- 24 Business Meeting #2

## Dec

- 1 Competition #3 \*
- 8 Workshop—Motion & Multiples
- 15 Holiday Party
- 22 No Meeting—Holiday Break
- 29 No Meeting—Holiday Break

## Jan

- 5 Competition #4 \*
- 12 You Be the Judge—Bridges \*
- 19 Guest Speaker/MLK Day
- 22 PDI Workshop \*
- 26 Vendor Night

## Feb

- 2 Themed Competition #5\* (Bridges)
- 9 Before & After \*
- 16 Guest Speaker/President Day
- 23 Interpretations \*
- 26 PDI Workshop \*

## Mar

- 2 Competition #6 \*
- 9 Workshop—Manipulation
- 16 Guest Speaker
- 23 Theme Night—Motion & Multiples \*
- 26 PDI Workshop \*
- 30 Business Meeting #3

## Apr

- 6 Themed Competition #7 \* (Portals)
- 13 Before & After—Color/B&W \*
- 20 Guest Speaker
- 23 PDI Workshop \*
- 27 You Be the Judge—At the Museum \*

## May

- 4 Competition #8 \*
- 11 Guest Speaker
- 14 ExpVis 32—Intro
- 18 Business Meeting #4
- 25 No Meeting—Memorial Day
- 28 ExpVis 32—Assignment #1

## Jun

- 1 Year End Competition \*
- 4 ExpVis 32—Assignment #2
- 8 Otto Litzel Memorial Dinner
- 11 ExpVis 32—Assignment #3
- 15 ExCom Meeting
- 18 ExpVis 32—Assignment #4
- 22 Year-Long Project
- 25 ExpVis 32—Term Project
- 29 No Meeting

For full details see “Schedule of Activities” at the end of this issue of *Photo Notes*.

All Club Monday night meetings will be held using Zoom software unless otherwise stated in the “Schedule of Activities.”

\* indicates members’ images requested

## Official Club Field Trips

The Club has brought back field trips to our program. I'm not referring to the *Pop-Up* trips we've been having.



Official PWCC outings are back on the schedule. Several have already taken place—and with a great deal of success, I might add.

If you're interested in organizing and leading a field trip, contact Chuck with your ideas and we'll work with you to set it up.

## Slow Shutter Tricks

A few years back the theme of the Expanding Visions class was ICM—intentional camera movement. Spread through this issue of *Photo Notes* are some suggestions that might spur you to try ICM with some of your usual subject matter.

Read, learn, and enjoy...



## Portfolios Wanted

*Photo Notes*, your monthly Park West Camera Club newsletter, is looking for portfolios of members' work. Newly shot work—of course! Old images from your archives—why not? Anything else you'd like to share—fine!



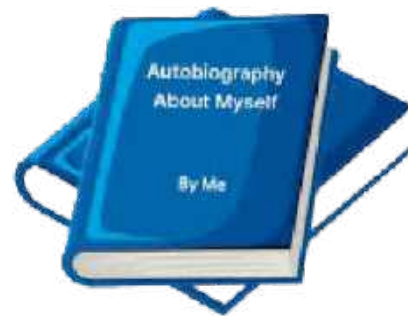
Please submit anywhere from a half dozen to ten files on a concise theme.

Images must be processed as if they were to be entered into a competition. [See page 8 for instructions on resolution, sizing, format, etc.] Include a short write-up (who, what, where, when) with each and every submission—spelling, grammar, and the rest don't count. We edit your words, not your images.

Even if you've submitted work in the past, we always want to see new and creative photography.

## Member Bios

New Park West Camera Club members are invited to submit a short biography to help the rest of us to get to know you better. The Club's Membership Committee will be glad to help you with this task.



We also would like to ask our not-so-new Park West members to do the same. Tell us about yourself, what you like to shoot, your background and history in photography, and whatever you think would be of interest your fellow Club members and friends.



Please send us a photo of yourself and three or four of your favorite images to go with the mini bio. Send your submissions to *Photo Notes* at [<pwccny@aol.com>](mailto:pwccny@aol.com)

## Zooming

Zoom is a web-based video-conferencing software tool that allows users to meet online. Zoom is compatible with Macs, Windows, smart-phones, and tablets. Zoom software is free to download to your devices.

The Club is using Zoom software to conduct all of its meetings. An email will be sent to all PWCC members prior to meetings. This email will contain the link to join the Zoom meeting. All you have to do is click on the link.

To download Zoom, go to [www.zoom.us/download](http://www.zoom.us/download) and click on the "Download" button. It's that simple!

Non-members who would like to join our Club meetings may request the link by sending an email to [pwccny@gmail.com](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com)

## Emailing PWCC

Send your competition images to...

[pwcccompetition@yahoo.com](mailto:pwcccompetition@yahoo.com)

Send your articles, images, etc. for *Photo Notes* to...

[pwccny@aol.com](mailto:pwccny@aol.com)

Send all other email to...

[pwccny@gmail.com](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com)

To contact Executive Committee members directly see the PWCC membership list for their personal email addresses.

## Pop-Up Trips

The Club instituted Pop-Up field trips several years ago. Just what is a Pop-Up (also called a Drop-In) trip, I hear you cry? It is a field trip that any one of our Club members wishes to go on without a lot of pre-planning and fanfare.

You decide where you want to go and when you want to go there. You send a message via our Google Groups to all the other PWCCers who have signed up. It's that easy!

Whoever shows up will be a surprise. All you've got to do is shoot away and have fun doing it.

As an afterthought, it would be appreciated if all those who attend send a few images from the trip for *Photo Notes*. A short article would be nice but isn't necessary.

## Submitting Images

The Club has over a dozen activities this year which ask you to submit images. These include competitions, theme nights, workshops, classes, and more. Here's what you need to know:

Images must be .jpg, with a resolution of 72 ppi, 2,000px on the longest side, and maximum size of 2MB.



Competition images must be titled as follows:

LastNameFirstInitial\_Month  
Year\_Title.jpg

*for example*

JonesM\_Jan26\_Flower.jpg



Other images should be titled as follows:

Name\_Number\_Title

You may use your first and/or last name/initial. If you want your images shown in a particular order, number them 01, 02, etc. Use a real title, not the image number that came out of the camera.

*for example*

MaryJ\_07\_Flower





## Sunshine Fund

A motion was passed at a Club business meeting to establish a Sunshine Fund as part of the Social Committee. The responsibilities of this new entity are to acknowledge birthdays, deaths, births, illnesses, and any other life events that impact our Club members and their families.

Long-time Club member Natalie Manzino has volun-

teered to take on this task for the Club. She has already purchased the necessary stationery to be able to express the sentiments of the Club and its members.

But Natalie needs your help in achieving the Club's goals through this committee. It would be great if each and every member could give her the month and day of their birthday (no years, please).

In addition, if you could let Natalie know of any life events that occur to any of our members, you or someone else, both present and past members, that would be great, too.

917-757-7086

[<bklynnnat@hotmail.com>](mailto:bklynnnat@hotmail.com)

## Slow Shutter Tricks

*Light Trails* are streaks of light captured by a camera using a long exposure. The shutter remains open for seconds or even minutes.

This is most commonly used to photograph moving lights, such as traffic at night or the stars in the sky.

To create them, you need to stabilize the camera with a tripod and use manual settings with a low ISO and a slow shutter speed.



## Club Meeting Times

The Park West Camera Club's Monday night meetings this year will all begin at 6:30 p.m.



You may sign into the Zoom meetings 15 minutes earlier to participate in the the lively member conversations.

## PWCC Image Deadlines

| <u>Event</u>     | <u>Submission Deadline</u> | <u>Event Date</u> |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Competition #4   | Dec. 29th                  | Jan. 5th          |
| You Be the Judge | Dec. 12th                  | Jan. 12th         |
| Competition #5   | Jan. 26th                  | Feb. 2nd          |
| Before and After | Feb. 7th                   | Feb. 9th          |
| Interpretations  | Feb. 21st                  | Feb. 23rd         |



## Club Participation Nites

This coming year there will be 10 Monday night programs, (not including our monthly competitions) that require Club members to participate. Here's a quick rundown on these fun and educational activities...



• September 8th—*Welcome Back* What'd you do over the summer months? Share up to 10 images to tell your story. Entry deadline: September 6th.

• October 13th—Chuck Pine will be presenting a program on *Photographic Composition*. He would like to use your images to demonstrate the techniques. Entry deadline: mid August.

• October 27th—*Theme Night: Halloween & Fall* There's lots happening this time of year—from colorful leaves to ghosts and goblins. Show us how you interpret this season. Limit of 10 images, please. Entry deadline: October 25th.

• November 10th—*Mini Portfolio Night* Five Club members will volunteer to share a small portfolio of images on a single theme. They will explain their

concepts and then answer questions from the members. Participants will be selected in early October. Entry deadline: November 8th.



• January 12th—*You Be the Judge: Bridges* You may submit one image pertaining to the subject that has never been seen at any previous Club function. You may interpret the topic however you wish. Each entry will be commented on and scored by all participating Club members. Entry deadline: December 12th.

• February 9th—*Before and After* We are always asking other photographers, "How did you do that?" Tonight we will get the answers as Club members present their 'Before and After' images of the same shot,... and explain what they did and why they did it. Join us as we learn from each other. Entry deadline: February 7th.

• February 23rd—*Interpretations* The Club will provide the base images. The members will alter them in any way they see fit. Let your imagination and software skills be limitless. Entry deadline: February 21st.

• March 23rd—*Theme Night: Motion and Multiples* Following our December 8th workshop by Jamir Konarski Davidson, we'll look at images you've taken that depict subject or camera motion and multiple images of the same subject. You may submit up to 10 images of either one, or both techniques. Entry deadline: March 21st.

• April 13th—*Before and After: Color to Black & White* For this assignment you will share one of your favorite fully processed color images and then how you turned it into a B&W masterpiece. Entry deadline: April 11th.



• April 27th—*You Be the Judge: At the Museum* You may enter one image from or about any museum as long as it has never been seen at any previous Club activity. Each entry will be commented on and scored by participating Club members. Entry deadline: March 27th.

### PDI Workshops

Our Projected Digital Image workshops are held monthly on Thursday evenings prior to competitions. Deadlines are the previous day.



## You're Invited to a Holiday Party

It's that time of the year again! Time to mark your calendars and make your plans to attend Park West Camera Club's 2025 holiday party.

This event is scheduled for Monday night, December 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. It will take place in Arte Cafe located at 106 West 73rd Street, just a few steps west of Columbus Avenue. (Yes! This is where we held last season's successful Otto Litzel Memorial Year-End Dinner.) The closest subway stations are at 72nd Street on the #1/2/3 and B/C lines.

The dinner will be served buffet style. Items on the menu include...

- Caesar Salad
- Calamari Fritti
- Chicken Piccata
- Penne Primavera
- Penne Bolognese
- Sauteed Vegetables
- Roasted Potatoes



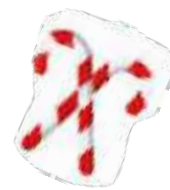
Dessert (Tiramisu) is also included with the meal. There will be a cash bar for both soft and hard drinks.

We're keeping a list (and checking it twice) to make sure who's coming (both naughty and nice). *[Unfortunately, the deadline for reserving your spot at the Holiday Party and paying for it will have passed by the time you receive this issue of Photo Notes — but you never know!]*

The cost of this holiday feast is a mere \$45. As usual, the Club members voted to have the Club treasury cover the cost of the 20% tip and Arte Cafe's 5% administrative fee. (The vote was unanimous, by the way.)

Bring your family. Bring your friends. But most of all though, bring your appetite.

All in all, this is one of the yearly Club events that no PWCC member should miss!



## Images of the Month

December 2025

### PDI-of-the-Month

*Bridal Veil* by Florence Forman

### Honors

*Construction Zone* by Julie Foehrenbach

*One Horn* by David Miller

*Doolan* by Tom Quackenbush

*Solitude* by Dudley Slater

*A Window of Time* by Alice Somma

Thank you to this month's judge, Bill Wadman, for his excellent comments, constructive criticism, and consistent scoring.

### Cumulative Points

(Through December 2025)

by Hedy Klein

|                  |    |                   |    |
|------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Florence Forman  | 52 | Larry Rubin       | 32 |
| Charles Levin    | 50 | Marlene Schonbrun | 32 |
| Natalie Manzino  | 50 | Bruce Byers       | 30 |
| Jill Greiss      | 48 | Elayne Dix        | 30 |
| Paul Grebanier   | 46 | Barry Fahrner     | 30 |
| Dudley Slater    | 46 | Renée Harper      | 30 |
| Raylie Dunkel    | 44 | Madeleine Barbara | 28 |
| Sonia Durante    | 44 | Ann Broder        | 28 |
| Michael Iannuzzi | 44 | Albyn Davis       | 28 |
| David Miller     | 42 | Julie Foehrenbach | 28 |
| Michael Schleiff | 42 | Larry Sapadin     | 28 |
| Alec Rill        | 40 | Richard Gold      | 26 |
| Peggy Winkelman  | 40 | Doris King        | 24 |
| Jay Bitkower     | 38 | Richard Borowsky  | 22 |
| Chuck Pine       | 38 | Betsy Currier     | 22 |
| Will Aimesbury   | 36 | Julie Wosk        | 22 |
| Nicole Dosso     | 36 | Christine Doyle   | 20 |
| Hedy Klein       | 36 | Dottie Mills      | 20 |
| Allan Lauer      | 36 | Catharine Smith   | 20 |
| Alice Somma      | 36 | Jeff Langford     | 16 |
| Puneet Sood      | 36 | Tom Quackenbush   | 14 |
| Elena Pierpont   | 34 | Dov Bieber        | 12 |
| Janet Susin      | 34 | George Corbin     | 12 |
| Laura Toledo     | 34 | Remy Deyglun      | 12 |
| Evelyne Appel    | 32 | Karen Corrigan    | 8  |
| Bill Apple       | 32 | Ruth Yashpan      | 4  |

This month's winning images—the PDI-of-the-Month, the Honors images and the "A" images—are shown on the following 5 pages.

Congratulations to the winners in this season's third monthly competition. And a great big "thank you" to all those who competed and/or attended.



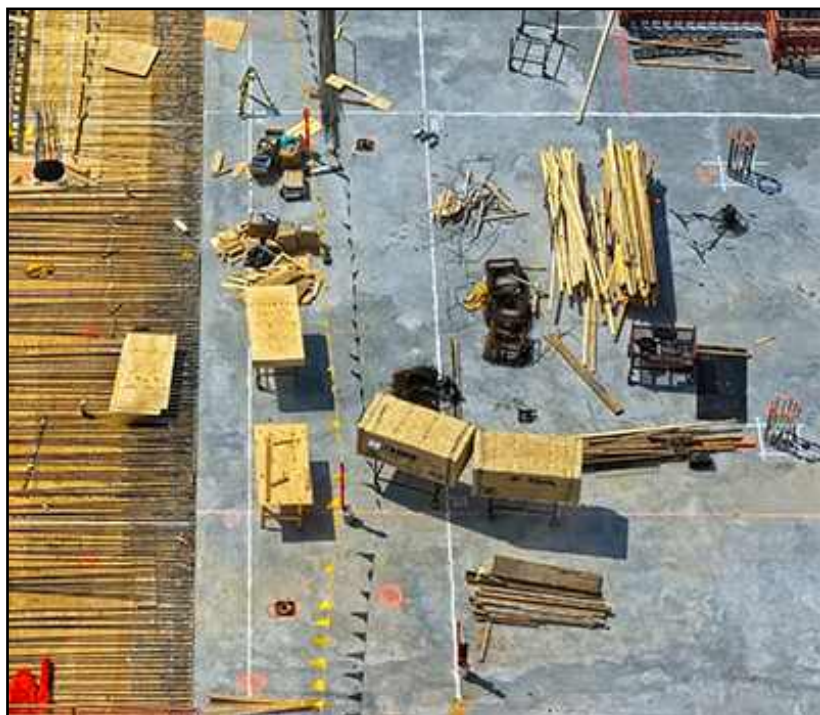
Image of the Month  
*Bridal Veil*  
© Florence Forman

Continued on next page...





'A' with Honors  
*Doolan*  
© Tom Quackenbush



'A' with Honors  
*Construction Zone*  
© Julie Foehrenbach

Continued on next page...



'A' with Honors  
*Solitude*  
© Dudley Slater



'A' with Honors  
*One Horn*  
© David Miller



'A' with Honors  
*A Window of Time*  
© Alice Somma

Continued on next page...



'A'  
*Untitled*  
© Dov Bieber



'A'  
*Nile*  
© Bruce Byers



'A'  
*Purple Flower with Bee*  
© Sonia Durante



'A'  
*Milo and Sue*  
© Charles Levin

Continued on next page...





'A'  
*Reeds*  
© Natalie Manzino



'A'  
*Lonely Traveler*  
© Raylie Dunkel



'A'  
*Play of Light*  
© Michael Iannuzzi

## Oops!

Peggy Winkelman's image, *Hoops*, received an "A with Honors" in the Club's November competition. It was inadvertently omitted from *Photo Notes*. Our apologies, Peggy.



## Our December Judge

Our judge for the month of December was Bill Wadman.

Bill is basically a portrait photographer. His images have appeared on the covers and in the pages of major magazines and books, and in galleries around the world.

Bill launched his career by completing 365portraits.com, a daily project which won him praise from *USA Today*, the *Times of London*, and *Playboy*. He was chosen as *Yahoo! Site of the Day* (a big deal at the time). From 2017-2019 Bill completed another series of 1,095 daily portraits. You can see them on Instagram, <[HERE](#)>

You can see more of Bill's images, portraits and others at <[www.billwadman.com](http://www.billwadman.com)>

Here are some images from a few of Bill's portfolios...



All images  
© Bill Wadman



"Bill Wadman was a very good judge. He quickly pointed out what is right or wrong with our post-processing. He, and few other competition judges have been a valuable learning experience for me. I try my best, when I get some criticism of my image, not to make that mistake again. Sometimes I don't, and sometimes I do. It's a challenge to revise some habits."  
~ Will Aimesbury

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

by Christine Doyle  
Recording Secretary

November 19, 2025  
Via Zoom



Participating ExCom Members:  
President Chuck Pine  
Vice President Michael Schleiff  
Corres. Secretary Helen Pine,  
Rec. Secretary Christine Doyle,  
Treasurer Joe Nawy,  
Mem-At-Large Betsy Currier.  
(Mem-At-Large Jeff Langford  
was unable to attend.)

Called to order: 7 p.m.

The meeting was called to discuss agenda items for the upcoming business meeting on November 24th, as well as other pending topics.

1. Holiday Party: Betsy Currier, Bruce Byers and Elayne Dix have organized this year's holiday party. It will be held on Monday, December 15th, from 6:30 to 8:30, at the Arte Cafe on West 73rd Street, the same place where we held our Otto Litzel Year-End Dinner in June. It will be a buffet style meal; the cost will be \$45 per person, including dessert. Once again, the Club will cover the tip and administrative fee. Payment should be sent to Joe Nawy via Zelle or paper check by Friday, December 5th. Helen

will send an email to members with details.

2. Change in Calendar: The Club was unable to confirm Mike Moats for a macro-photography workshop on December 8th but, because Mike was already scheduled to appear at Coral Springs Camera Club (in Florida), Chuck, a member, was able to secure invitations to Mike's talk on Tuesday, November 18th for PWCC members. As a replacement for Mike on December 8th, Chuck has lined up Jamie Konarski Davidson <[www.newlifephotos.com](http://www.newlifephotos.com)> to give a presentation on motion and multiples (both photographing and post-processing). As the second meeting in March was planned for members to share what they learned from Mike's presentation, Chuck will look for another presenter on the same subject for that date.
3. Treasurer's Report: In response to a member suggestion, it was decided that, rather than read the Treasurer's Report at

business meetings, a copy of the report will be emailed to members with the Weekly Reminder that will be sent before the next business meeting. Members can then ask any questions about the Treasurer's Report at the business meeting.

4. Year-End Project: The next Zoom meeting on the Year-End Project will be on Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:30 p.m. There has been a good reception from members to the proposed project. Ann Broder, who is heading up the project, will contact participants prior to that date.
5. Guest Speaker Zoom Issue: The delay in the start of the presentation by Wayne Parsons, the latest guest speaker, was discussed. Although member Marlene Schonbrun worked with him to ensure a smooth presentation, it took 15-20 minutes before Wayne was able to join the Zoom and start his presentation on meeting night. It was decided that Marilyn Fish-Glynn should ask each guest speaker if they are knowledgeable about presenting on Zoom; if they are not, they will not be invited to speak. Betsy Currier will raise the issue with Marilyn.



6. Adherence to Judging Guidelines: The November competition judge, Marie Altenburg, awarded more than 70 'A's out of 92 images. It was decided that Marilyn Fish-Glynn should go over the Club's judging guidelines in detail with each judge prior to their appearance. Betsy Currier will raise this with Marilyn.

7. Joe Nawy has asked Gladys Hopkowitz for the invoice for renting her building's party space for the Labor Day Weekend picnic.

8. Wayne Parsons, the latest guest speaker, declined to receive our honorarium for his appearance. It was decided to donate the amount to the Soho Photo Gallery, with which he has been affiliated (and past president) for many years.

9. Betsy Currier raised the possibility of holding an in-person meeting at Soho Photo Gallery or the School of Visual Arts, perhaps as a future venue for a print competition or display. Following a discussion, it

was suggested that she contact Soho Photo for details about rental costs and other administrative requirements.

10. Chuck noted that he and Helen were holding a PDI workshop tomorrow, Thursday, November 20th.

Adjourned: 7:50 p.m.



## Bus. Mtg. Minutes

by Christine Doyle  
Recording Secretary

November 24, 2025  
Via Zoom

Participating ExCom Members:  
President Chuck Pine  
Vice President Michael Schleiff  
Corres. Secretary Helen Pine,  
Rec. Secretary Christine Doyle,  
Treasurer Joe Nawy,  
Mem-At-Large Betsy Currier.  
(Mem-At-Large Jeff Langford  
was unable to attend.)

I. Call To Order: Chuck Pine called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. There being 29 members present, a quorum was met.

II. Minutes of Previous Business Meeting: By motion, members present agreed to waive the reading of the minutes of the September 29th Business Meeting. (They were emailed to members and published in the October 2025 issue of *Photo Notes*, which is available on the PWCC website.)

III. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was sent to members in the Weekly Reminder email on Friday, November 21st. There were no questions or comments from the members present.

IV. Committee Reports (these reports are from committees that are active; the Archive, Field Trip, Gallery and House Committees are currently inactive)

- Competition: Chair Hedy Klein reported that the deadline for submitting images for the December competition is tonight. She reminded members that images should be sized 2,000 px on the longest size, 72 dpi, and a max. size of 2MB (requirements are listed in the Weekly Reminder). Members should send a separate email to Hedy if they want to receive confirmation of receipt.

- Membership: Chair Marlene Schonbrun reported that the Club has 89 members as of this date.



- Photo Notes: Chair Chuck Pine asked that any content for the next issue of the newsletter be submitted before next Monday's competition. Members are invited to submit articles, portfolios, and other items of interest at any time prior to that date.

- Print Salon: Betsy Currier reported that the Print Salon's next scheduled meeting is December 16th; the topic will be preparing images for printing.

- Program: Co-chair Marilyn Fish reported that Bill Wadman will judge the December competition. She asked to be sent the list of proposed speakers that was compiled from members' suggestions last summer.

- Social/Sunshine: There currently is no Social Committee chair, but an ad hoc committee of members has made arrangements for the holiday party on December 15th (see below under Old Business). Natalie Manzino, chair of the Sunshine Committee, had nothing new to report.

- Website: Co-Chair Michael Schleiff said the website is up and running, and is updated weekly. Members should contact him and co-chair Christine Doyle with any new ideas. All members were encouraged to register with the Club website.

- Workshop: No report.

- Jay Bitkower reported that he and Ann Broder will reconstitute the Gallery Committee. They will share their plans and ideas at a later date.

•

#### V. Old Business

- A. Year-End Project: Ann Broder, who is heading up the Year-End Project, reported that the next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:30 p.m. Participants will be discussing their projects, but won't be presenting images which will be presented at the January Zoom meeting.

- B. Field Trips: There have been four Club field trips so far this year, which have been well attended (see *Photo Notes* for recaps). Sadly, the

'Canstruction' trip to Brookfield Place that was planned for early October had to be canceled. If any members have ideas for additional field trips, e.g., gallery hops, holiday light displays, whatever, they should contact Chuck for help in setting them up. Natalie Manzino offered to lead a field trip to see the Holiday Train Show at the New York Botanic Garden on Thursday, December 11th. Interested members should meet at the Garden's Conservatory at 11 a.m. Helen will send an email with this information.

- C. Themed Competitions: The Club will hold themed competitions for the first time this year. The theme for the February competition will be *Blue*; the theme for the April competition will be *Portals/Windows*.

- D. Holiday Party: The Club's Holiday Party will be held on Monday, December 15th, from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at Arte Cafe on West 73rd Street, just west of Columbus Avenue, on the Upper West Side. The cost for the buffet dinner is \$45/ person, with a cash bar; payment should be sent to Joe Nawy via Zelle or by mailing a paper check, no later than Friday, December

5th. As with the Otto Litzel Dinner in June, Chuck suggested that the Club pay for the administrative fee and tip; a motion to do so was passed unanimously.

## VI. New Business

### A. From the Chair:

1. Competition/Judging: A discussion was held about our November judge, Marie Altenburg, who awarded 'A's to more than 70 images. Many members thought that she gave too many to images that she described as needing work. Some of the suggestions to prevent this from recurring were:
  - Make sure the judge understands the judging guidelines, either by speaking with the judge beforehand or displaying them on the screen before the judging starts (copies of the guidelines were sent to members in the November 21st Weekly Reminder);
  - Send the images to the judges beforehand, so they can preview them;
  - Change the scoring system to a numeric system;
  - Allow more time for the pre-scoring run-through of competition images.

It was decided to start the run-through at 6:25 p.m., at a slower rate, then go over

the judging guidelines, and then start the competition.

2. Guest Speaker's Zoom Proficiency: A discussion was also had about Zoom problems before the start of Wayne Parson's guest speaker presentation on November 17th. Even though Marlene Schonbrun worked with him the day before the meeting to make sure he knew how to conduct his presentation, it took many tries, and nearly 20 minutes for Wayne to join the Zoom. Among the suggestions to prevent a repeat of this were:

- Give guest speakers written instructions on joining and sharing their screens;
- Question potential guest speakers about their Zoom proficiency ahead of time;
- Ask Marlene to touch base before the meeting starts to make sure the Zoom works;
- Ask the guest speaker to send a file with their presentation to Helen as a back-up.

Marlene noted that Zoom can often present problems, regardless of one's proficiencies, and that, when that happens, the guest speaker may need to re-boot to reset their Zoom.

It was decided that the guest speaker should send Helen a

copy of their presentation ahead of time.

3. December 8th Meeting: The Club was unable to schedule Mike Moats for a macro photography workshop on December 8th. Because Mike was already scheduled to speak at Coral Springs Camera Club, Chuck, a member, was able to get invitations to Mike's talk on Tuesday, November 18th for PWCC members. (Chuck noted that, of 38 attendees at Mike's Coral Springs Club talk, 24 were from PWCC.) As a replacement for Mike Moats on December 8th, Chuck has scheduled Jamie Konarski Davidson <[www.newlifephotos.com](http://www.newlifephotos.com)> to give a presentation on motion and multiples (both photographing and post-processing). Since a second Club meeting in March was planned for members to share what they learned from Mike's presentation, Chuck will look for another presenter on the same subject for that date.

It was also suggested that the Club consider future sharing opportunities with other camera clubs.







#### 4. AI & Use in Competitions:

A discussion was had on the many ways Artificial Intelligence is present in image processing software, and the extent to which it may be used in processing images for Club activities. At present, the Club's Constitution does not specifically address the use of AI, but it does require that members use only their own work when creating images, either through compositing, replacing skies, etc. It was suggested that, while removing items from an image is allowed, adding something that was not there and that the member did not create, isn't. It was also suggested that other camera clubs be asked how they are addressing the AI issue.

B. From the Floor: None.

#### VII. Good and Welfare

##### A. From the Chair

1. Chuck reported that the website Hackberry Farms will be offering a webinar on selecting images for

competition tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. He will send a link to Club members.

2. Chuck and Helen also noted that they have extra photo printing paper of various types, sizes, and textures that they are not using. Members should contact them if they are interested.

##### B. From the Floor

1. Natalie Manzano will be exhibiting her photo *Doorways* (a December 2024 honors image, renamed *Pathway to Blue*) in the Knox Gallery community show in Monterey, MA, running from December 12th to January 10th. The show is titled *Side by Side*. Contact Nat for additional details.
2. The Maryland Photography Alliance (MPA) is another resource for lectures and webinars.
3. George Corbin reported that photos of Camargue horses taken by his late wife Sarah, will be on display at the Hammond Museum in North Salem, NY, as part of their Christmas show.
4. Helen reported that Ruth Formanak, a long-time PWCC member who

recently re-joined the Club, will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on November 29th.

5. The next business meeting will be on March 30, 2026.

VIII. Adjournment: There being no further business, the Zoom meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:02 p.m.

### Competition Comments

*Last night's competition went well. Going over all of the guidelines helped reiterate the process, although Bill probably would have been "good" in his own right. It's encouraging to see our efforts achieve the desired result.*

*~ Joe Nawy*

*Thanks again for the efforts you led and participated in to make changes in the judging practice of the competition program. It seemed that last evening went very well. The timing was much improved, and with no sense of being rushed.*

*I appreciate the changes made and the process which preceded them. It helped that the judge was so direct, clear, and competent, not only as a photographer, but as a reviewer.*

*~ Elayne Dix*

by Ann Broder

The response to the Club's Year-End Project has been overwhelmingly successful. More than half of the Club's members are participating. The most repeated comment in participants' emails is "thanks for challenging us to do something different."

For some, the challenge seems daunting; for others, the challenge has opened up new doors of exploration. Whatever obstacles one might encounter on their photographic journey, there will always be a friendly community of support along the way.

In preparation for the next Zoom meeting on Wednesday, December 17th, at 6:30 p.m., we ask each participant to discuss their project idea. Some questions to think about are...

- Why did you choose your particular subject?
- Was there a specific motivating factor?
- What is the story you want to tell?
- What is your plan to create photos for the project?

Some participants have said, "Why do I have to ask myself questions? I want to go out there and photograph some trees."

My answer is this,... while trees are a global subject, exploring their seasonal transformations reveals more about them; it tells a story of change. Fresh new leaves in the spring, gorgeous green in the summer, and beautiful colors as they die. That's a story worth telling. How you decide to tell it is up to you.

I hope to see everyone on Wednesday evening, the 17th of December.

### To the YEP Participants,

We found the following videos to be helpful guides that generate ideas and inspiration. Although some of you have done projects before, or after starting a project let it sit for a while; these videos might be a helpful jump start. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email us, and we will do our best to help you.

All the best,  
Ann, Christine, and Marlene

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ezS5O7bvAE&t=269s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ezS5O7bvAE&t=269s)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7-W4-hlFU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7-W4-hlFU)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGdgpStKhk&t=232s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGdgpStKhk&t=232s)



### "Doorways" Revisited

by Natalie Manzino

I will be exhibiting my photo, *Doorways*, (renamed *Pathway to Blue*) in the Knox Gallery community show in Monterey, MA.  
452 Main Road, Monterey

The show, entitled *Side by Side*, will be on display December 12th to January 10th.

Reception—December 12th from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

All PWCC members are invited.

## Print Salon

by Betsy Currier

The Print Salon met last month with Ann Broder sitting in front of a computer, monitor, and printer demonstrating some preliminary methods of preparing a print. There were some glitches with the printer and the members found it edifying to watch how Ann and Florence (Forman) remedied the problems.



This month we will proceed with showing how an image is sharpened using Photoshop's filters and lighting blends. If there's time Betsy will demo how to find "absolute black" on Dov's Epson printer.

Members will bring a few prints they have been working on, with gentle suggestions from the group. We continue to compare papers and finishes (i.e. glossy vs matte).

Betsy raised the subject of finding a venue for showing our work. (Otherwise, why do we print???)

The next meeting is set for December 16th.

If you'd like to join us, contact me (Betsy Currier) at <[edcurrier7@gmail.com](mailto:edcurrier7@gmail.com)> to reserve your spot and get the location of the meeting.

## NYBG Train Show



Speaking of field trips, one has been planned for the annual train show at the New York Botanical Garden. Natalie Manzino will be leading the trip. You can find all the details in the "Schedule of Activities" at the back end of this issue of *Photo Notes* (see the listing for December 11th).



## Slow Shutter Tricks

Using a slow shutter speed for water creates a silky blur to the motion. I like to call it the *cotton candy effect*. To achieve this look, you must use a tripod, a low ISO (like 100), and small aperture like *f*-16 or *f*-22 to let the shutter stay open longer. A neutral density filter may be needed in bright light situations.

This technique works quite well with waterfalls and water splashing against rocks. It can also be used with clouds moving across the sky.

Experiment with shutter speeds of 1/15 second and even slower.





## Curtain Raisers

by Helen Pine

Curtain raisers are short (*no more than five minutes*) photography programs (*with a minimum of narration*) presented by Club members prior to our guest speakers.

Here's the schedule for the 2025-2026 Club year...

|          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| October  | Marlene Schonbrun |
| November | Elena Pierpont    |
| December | Evelyne Appel     |
| January  | Jeffrey Langford  |
| February | — —               |
| March    | George Corbin     |
| April    | Dinorah Capota    |
| May      | Natalie Manzino   |



## December Birthdays

by Natalie Manzino

Here's the list of the Club members who celebrate their birthday during this month:

Daryl Corcoran  
 Carrol De Beer  
 Christine Doyle  
 Marilyn Fish-Glynn  
 Pat Garbarini  
 Doris King  
 Dorothy Mills  
 Joe Nawy  
 Michael Padwee  
 Elena Pierpont  
 Larry Sapadin  
 Marlene Schonbrun

## Committee Liaisons

The Executive Committee (ExCom) has decided to continue for this coming year with the committee liaison model to spread the responsibility among the entire Executive Committee.

Here's how it'll work: Each ExCom member will be assigned committees as a liaison. Each committee chair or co-chair will report to the ExCom through this liaison. In this manner, it is felt that communication will flow much more smoothly, in both directions, between the committees. In addition, any concerns raised by the ExCom will be passed along to the committee chairs through the liaisons.

Here are the committee liaison assignments for the 2025-2026 Club year...

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Competition | Michael   |
| Membership  | Helen     |
| Photo Notes | Chuck     |
| Print Salon | Betsy     |
| Program     | Christine |
| Website     | Michael   |
| Workshop    | Joe       |

## Inactive Committees

Archive  
 Field Trip  
 Gallery  
 House  
 Social



## Photo Notes Deadlines

| Issue     | Deadline |
|-----------|----------|
| September | Aug 18th |
| October   | Oct 6th  |
| November  | Nov 3rd  |
| December  | Dec 1st  |
| January   | Jan 5th  |
| February  | Feb 2nd  |
| March     | Mar 2nd  |
| April     | Apr 6th  |
| May       | May 4th  |
| Summer    | Jun 1st  |

The sooner articles and items are submitted to *Photo Notes*, the quicker the editing and revision process can begin. Once all items are in place the draft copy of *Photo Notes* will be sent to the editors who will then have several days to edit and return their comments.

Upon completion, the *Photo Notes* issue will be sent to all members, friends of the Club, and to the Website Committee to be uploaded to our website <[www.parkwestcameraclub.org](http://www.parkwestcameraclub.org)>





## PSA Membership

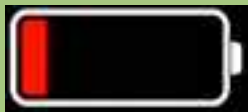
The Club is a member of PSA, the Photographic Society of America. Are you?

### Individual Member Benefits

- Online Photography Classes
- Webinars
- Individual Competitions
- Travel Advisors
- Monthly *PSA Journal*
- Study Groups
- Personal Gallery Page
- Individual Competitions
- Member Discounts (photo hosting and sharing; camera and lighting equipment; fine art master class; KelbyOne; software offerings)

## What to Do If...

...you get a *Low Battery* signal



- Turn off wireless connections
- Turn off stabilization
- Turn off auto sensor-cleaning
- Cut back on image review
- Reduce LCD brightness
- Turn off the camera



by Julie Foehrenbach

Instagram, a social media site that focuses on pictures more than words, is a natural venue for a camera club. Park West launched its own Instagram page over three years ago and as of mid-November 2025, we had 859 postings and 550 followers. Impressive! The goal is to showcase our work and attract new members to the Club.

We only post images that have received an A or higher in our monthly competitions and whose creators give us their permission to post. To protect our work, we have employed settings that prevent others from stealing our images or profiles as their own.

If you want to create your own personal page, keep in mind that Instagram is primarily a mobile app—it's designed to be used with a smartphone or a tablet. If you use a computer, you can look at the pages ("feeds") but you won't be able to post a thing. To visit the Park West page, download the Instagram app on your phone or iPad or go to [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com) on your computer. Search for @Parkwestcameraclub and once you have found the site, press the *FOLLOW* button.

## On the Website

by Michael Schleiff

The Club has set up forums for all members to use. The topics—which you join or create—could cover any area of photography and imaging including, but not limited to, how-tos, gear, Photoshop, Lightroom, plug-ins, and more.

To get access to a forum, you must be signed in to the Club website with an active email address. After logging in, go to *PWCC Members Discussion Forums* on the dropdown menu and click to enter. As you scroll down you'll see a basic explanation of how these forums work, along with a how-to video. At the bottom of the page, there will be a heading for *Park West Camera Club*, with a button, *View Topic*.

Once selected you will see the topics that have been set up along with a button to *Create New Topic*. You can view the topics and all the posts. You may even post a comment of your own.

All signed-up members will receive an email notice when new posts have been added. (You can easily *opt out* from any of the forums.)

Any questions, regarding the forums, contact me at my personal email address [mrschleiff@gmail.com](mailto:mrschleiff@gmail.com)

Thank you and enjoy the PWCC forums.



## Tis the Season...

by Evelyne Appel

Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year. Another year has gone by. Zoom!



In Paris, I once saw a menorah in a bakery's window amid brioches and other good stuff. I had to photograph it.



New York City is now so festive, so glorious. I love walking at night in streets lined up by scintillating trees. The holidays are near.



Rockefeller Center's Christmas tree fascinates me. Getting near it was always a challenge. I would elbow through the crowd in order to get a clear view of the skaters and the magnificent glittering tree. It is so splendid.



Saks Fifth Avenue's entrance is illuminated and gorgeous, it entices you and says come in.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to you all.

All images  
© Evelyne Appel



All over town, many shops show mannequins wearing sparkling clothes. You can hear Christmas carols at every corner. It is so joyful, it lifts your spirit.



## Foto Fact

The first known commercial photography assignment took place in the 1840s, when a daguerreotype photographer was hired to document architecture in

Paris. From the very start, photography has been a career built on opportunity, creativity, and a lot of luck.

(Photographer—Unknown)





## PDI Workshop

The Club's PDI (Projected Digital Image) Workshop was held on Thursday night, November 20th. Eight Park West members each submitted two images for comments and possible alterations using Photoshop software. Over 20 PWCCers were in the gallery and took part by offering comments and suggestions for improving the photos.

Here are some of the images that we worked on...



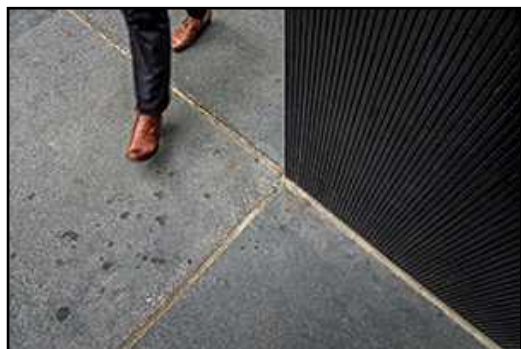
Evelyne Appel's *I Know* needed some work to make those cute kids really "pop." First we used **Select Subject**—it did a great job and we only had to employ the **Quick Selection Tool** to make some minor additions (by holding down the **Shift Key**) and subtractions (by holding down the **Option/Alt Key**).



We increased the **Exposure** a bit (**Image > Adjustments > Exposure**) to brighten the skin tones and we also reduced the saturation of the yellows in the skin (**Image > Adjustments > Hue/Saturation...**) We then Inverted the selection (**Shift > Command/Control > I**) and applied a Blur to the rest of the image (**Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur**). Next, we used a soft black **Brush** set to a low **Opacity** (10%) to paint over some of the bright spots in the background (especially the turquoise-colored bag).



We all preferred this version of Marlene Schonbrun's *Dunmore Castle* in Scotland (she showed us two). We thought that the sky needed to be improved. We went to **Select > Sky** and then to **Image > Adjustments > Brightness/Contrast** and decreased the contrast. This put the sky out of balance with its reflection in the stream so we used the **Magic Wand Tool** to select the water and performed another **Brightness/Contrast** adjustment. Our final step was to get rid of any too-bright spots in the water using the **Clone Tool**.



Paul Grebanier's *Stride #1* looked good as is. Some thought the frontmost foot could use some sharpening—Paul objected because he liked the motion. Someone suggested to crop the images so that the long diagonal would go from corner to corner—again, Paul objected. Nonetheless, the suggested crop is shown above. What do you think?

Helen Pine was influenced by one of last year's guests, Arnie Kastenbaum, to shoot lighting fixtures. *Light Circles*, was liked by all of us. One comment was to remove the diagonal line—Helen thought it should stay in the image. We went to **Filter > Camera Raw Filter...** and used the **Remove Tool** to do this. Do you agree with Helen or with the change?



*Droplets* by Lilette Hubilla was a beautiful capture. We made a few minor changes to make the drop-covered branch stand out more. First, we made a duplicate layer (**Command/Control - J**). In the **Task Bar** we selected **Remove Background**. We then turned off the **Background Layer**, clicked in the **Top Layer**, and opened up an **Unsharp Mask Adjustment Layer** which we used to sharpen the branch. Next we turned the **Background Layer** on again. Finally, the Spot Healing Brush was used to eliminate some of the bright spots in the background.





Mike Schleiff's *Window* needed a couple of minor improvements. We started by creating a new layer (**Command/Control-J**). We then went to **Edit > Transform > Distort** and pulled up from the upper right-hand corner to make the almost-horizontal window lines horizontal. Next, with the **Crop Tool** set to **Generative Fill**, we pulled down from the bottom and let the tool do its thing by creating more sidewalk and the rest of the two women's legs.



*Mother* was shot by Julie Wosk. She wanted to know how to improve the image. We started by using the **Crop Tool** set to **Generative Fill**. We pulled down from the bottom and up from the top. This gave us the space we needed and completed the composition. Next we went to **Edit > Transform > Distort** and pulled down from the lower left-hand corner to make the word "Mother" horizontal. Finally, we used the **Object Selection Tool** to select the cameo and brighten it with a **Brightness/Contrast Adjustment Layer**.



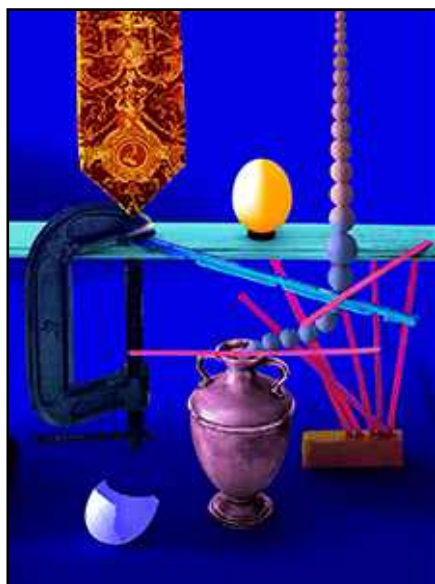
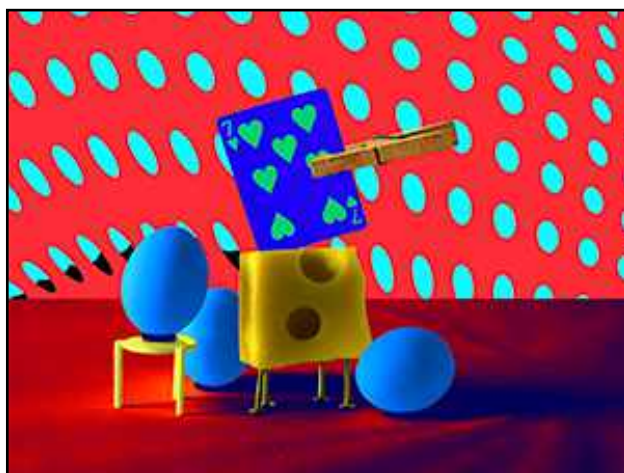
Betsy Currier's *Little Island* appears to have been shot with a wide angle lens. We started by going to **Filter > Camera Raw filter...** and then clicking on the **Geometry Button** and chose to correct the verticals. To make it look more night-like, we went to **ACR's Light Panel** and moved the **Exposure** and **Highlights Sliders** to the left. Back in Photoshop, we used the **Spot Healing Brush** to remove a few of the pilings in the foreground.



## Guest Speaker

Park West's November guest photographer was R. Wayne Parsons. He shared with us many images from his series, *The Absurdity of Eggs*. Call it still life, or table top, or whatever you like, this series of creative images, all contained eggs and were paired with written statements. The words seemed like they are trying to say something important, even profound, but in reality they were just meaningless, pretentious nonsense. Here are some of Wayne's images...

All Images  
© R. Wayne Parsons



### Inkjet Paper Giveaway — Free

Call or email Chuck for details. Must be picked up by December 19th.

|         |             |                      |            |
|---------|-------------|----------------------|------------|
| Epson   | 4 x 6       | premium glossy       | ~20 sheets |
| Epson   | 4 x 6       | ultra premium glossy | 50 sheets  |
| Epson   | 11.7 x 16.5 | ultra premium luster | ~30 sheets |
| Epson   | 11.7 x 16.5 | premium glossy       | ~10 sheets |
| Staples | 13 x 19     | supreme gloss        | ~10 sheets |
| Epson   | 13 x 19     | premium semigloss    | ~20 sheets |

## On the Farm

by Will Aimesbury

*[At the November business meeting, Chuck gave out a link to a webinar presented by Russell Graves of Hackberry Farm, a photo school and source of photo workshops. The subject was "Picking the Picture," a how-to on self-evaluating your images. Apparently it struck a chord or two with Will. Here's what he wrote...]*

I watched and enjoyed the zoom webinar.

As you know I grew up on a farm, and surprisingly many farmers had horses that were work horses pulling whatever. Many of the farmers, were Mennonites, so they had black carriages to get around in, which was how my father's mother my grandmother, often arrived to our farm. My responsibility was to attend to her and her sister, Victoria's, needs when they sat on the front porch to drink their tea, which had a healthy portion of blackberry wine in it.

Where I grew up, many farmers thought they were cowboys so I heard a lot of country western music. With songs that featured Jesus, a failing marriage, jails, and a favorite pick up truck that always had a hunting dog in the bed of the pick up truck, plus a lounge chair for their

wives to watch them hunt. I heard a lot songs sung by Patsy Cline, *Walk-in After Midnight*, and, *I Fall to Pieces*, and her biggest hit song, *She's Got You*.

Suffice to say, it was interesting. The favorite past-time was hanging out at the town dump to watch the bears scavenge the trash for food. It didn't take much to entertain people. Well, at that time the population was about 1,300 people, and the police force, two officers, had a phone booth in front of their office. If you called them, they had to run outside to answer the phone. They had to be careful not to trip over the bike parked in front of the phone booth.

At that time there were three buildings in the center of town, a hotel, a restaurant, and the police department. The school I went to, Black Creek Elementary, was a red brick one room schoolhouse. Each row was a different grade. The grades were one to eight. The teacher, Mrs. Penny, stood in front of the grade she was teaching. Of course we would listen to her teach the older kids in grades ahead of us.

I walked 3 miles through the fields and woods to school. That school, was eventually was torn down and was merged with another school that didn't have very many students. So we got a two room school in a nearby town.

It meant that grades one to four were in one room and grades five to eight in the other room. The teacher for grades five to eight was Mr. Davis. He was an Algonquin Indian from the Six Nations Grand River Reservation. Mr. Davis, was the hockey coach for our school team. Truthfully, we were not a good hockey team. But Mr. Davis was a patient coach, a former lacrosse player and he was a great teacher.

The most famous person from that reservation was Jay Silverheels, aka Tonto, in the Lone Ranger TV show.

### A Very Interesting Video

submitted by  
Howard Tarragon

A pro photographer, Sean Tucker, gives a talk on how to use ChatGP to critique one's own images. He reviews the strengths, weaknesses, and caveats to using Artificial Intelligence for this purpose.

See it here...

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDUXxx88kz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDUXxx88kz0)

This 25-minute video is worth a look-see. There's an advert about mid-way through the video—don't stop there. Continue to the end. You'll be glad you did.



## New Member Bio

Audrey Tjahjono



I first got interested in photography years ago. It started more as a way to document moments than to create art. I was drawn to capturing the quiet, in-between parts of life: the way light fell across a kitchen table; my family's small routines; fleeting emotions that felt too meaningful to lose.

Over time, that impulse grew into something more intentional. I began learning the technical side of things—, experimenting with film stocks, shooting on cameras like the Canon R series and later on with Leica and Nikon bodies. But the heart of it never changed. It was always about memory, story, and emotion.

These days I'm shooting with a Canon EOS R5 Mark II mirrorless camera. I use both Lightroom and Photoshop to work on my images.

Today I'm most drawn to documentary-style images, the kind that feel honest, nostalgic, and have a meaning for me.



I hope to connect with a community of passionate photographers, gain constructive feedback to grow my craft, and participate in exhibitions and print nights to share and refine my work.



All Images  
© Audrey Tjahjono

NYMACC

by Ed Lee

Park West is a member of NYMACC (New York Metro Area Camera Council, Inc.). It is an umbrella group for many camera clubs and photo organizations in the New York metropolitan area. Its last monthly meeting was held on November 11th—Veterans Day. (Park West was represented by Ed Lee at this meeting.)

The major discussion at the meeting was the evaluation of their field trip to Yale University. They also began talking about their upcoming trip in the spring of 2026. No details (destination, date, etc.) have been decided.

The next NYMACC Zoom meeting is slated for the December 9th at 7 p.m. All Club members are invited to attend to see what goes on in the group.

If you would like to attend this Zoom event, send an email for the link  
<[deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com)>

## Quotable Quotes

*If you are out there shooting, things will happen for you. If you're not out there, you'll only hear about it.*— Jay Maisel

*Photography is the art of making memories tangible.*— Destin Sparks



## Field Trip Recap

We had a great time! Here  
by Ann Broder are some of our images...

### *High Line and Hudson Yards*

At 7:30 a.m., I received an email from a concerned Club member suggesting I rethink trekking the High Line due to the wind-chill forecast. Meetup was scheduled for 10 o'clock.

I pooh-poohed the warning and showed up as scheduled. Three other members also showed up. We stood there looking at each other and mumbling things like, "cold today," "windy, hmm," "wish I had gloves," "yeah, and a hat."

Nevertheless, champions that we are, we ascended the staircase to another world—one filled with awe-inspiring views of a foliage-lined path that winds its way up to the infamous Hudson Yards. We met two more club members as we trekked North, and they, too, mumbled about the cold. Each of us got lost in our own photography, but we would intermittently lift our heads to see where the others were.

Sadly, we lost track of two members, and another member left after two hours. Now we were three. Well, what would you do?

We sought food and shelter.

Thank you to Dov Bieber, Tom Quackenbush, Elayne Dix, Allan Lauer, and Janet Susin for braving the elements with me.



© Elayne Dix



© Allan Lauer



© Janet Susin



© Ann Broder



© Ann Broder



© Tom Quackenbush.



© Tom Quackenbush



© Elayne Dix



© Allan Lauer



© Janet Susin



## RAW Processing Tips

The following tips can be used when processing your RAW files in either Lightroom or Adobe Camera Raw...

Do not ever use the *Contrast* or *Exposure* sliders in the Basic Panel. Instead use the *Whites*, *Blacks*, *Highlights*, and *Shadows* sliders to control contrast and exposure. This method gives you much more control to make your images the best they can be.



Don't use *Auto* in the Basic Panel. It performs an analysis of the entire image and then automatically changes many settings without allowing you any input. Instead, use the various sliders to control the areas of the image that need modification.



Don't use both the *Vibrance* and *Saturation* sliders at the same time in the Basic Panel. Test each one independently to see how it affects the colors in the image. After testing each one, then decide which one looks the best and use that one. And don't overdo it—a light touch is the best approach.

## East Ayrshire Life

David Miller, our Club member in Scotland, publishes a monthly blog <[www.cairngormslife.com](http://www.cairngormslife.com)> of images depicting his life in Scotland's southwestern region.



We are into November and I thought I would start off with a bang. We went to our son's village for the fifth of November—the Guy Fawkes night celebration)



I love dead weed stems, even more when they have snow or frost on, but these were attractive enough to capture.



What a beautiful morning to be out on a boat fishing Belston Loch. Sun shining and, initially, hardly a ripple on the water. Fish rising everywhere. Could not wish to be anywhere better on such a cracking day. Even the moon was still visible just above the central cloud.



The iron wren is taking on some wonderful colour as it starts to rust on the wooden fence.

All images  
© David Miller





### New Gallery Committee

Park West used to have a quite active Gallery Committee. We had large group exhibits about one a year, or so. Our venues have included the Manhattan Borough President's Office, the Federal Court building, the uptown Port Authority Bus Terminal, the Lever House Gallery, the Weill-Cornell Medical Library, the United Nations General Assembly building, and some Citibank branches, among others.

Unfortunately, the Club last had an exhibit pre-Covid. But this is going to change! At the Club's November business meeting, Jay Bitkower and Ann Broder proposed starting up the Gallery Committee, again, and searching for places where members can show off their photographic prints.

If you are at all interested in getting in on the ground floor of this endeavor, contact either Ann or Jay (their emails and phone numbers are in the Club's membership list found on the website).



### Hill Street Gallery

The Hill Street Gallery, located at 65 Hill Street in the upstate town of Catskill, is owned and operated by Park West Camera Club member Bruce Byers.

Bruce was recently awarded a grant from Greene County to create a series of portraits of the people of Catskill. This ongoing project is currently underway.

Camera Odysseys is the arm of the gallery that deals with workshops. It was favorably written up in Adorama's blog. You can read all about it at...

[www.adorama.com/alc/bruce-byers-photography-workshop](http://www.adorama.com/alc/bruce-byers-photography-workshop)

Bruce invites Club members to venture up to Catskill and get their portraits taken. Even though you are not from Catskill, the portraits would be taken in Catskill so I think that counts. As always the more the merrier and you never know what will end up in front of the camera.



Online Gallery  
Workshops  
Book sales  
Instagram  
Phone

[www.hillstreetgallery.com](http://www.hillstreetgallery.com)  
[www.cameraodysseys.com](http://www.cameraodysseys.com)  
[www.brucebyers.com](http://www.brucebyers.com)  
[@hillstreetgallerycatskill](https://www.instagram.com/hillstreetgallerycatskill)  
(917) 992-1453

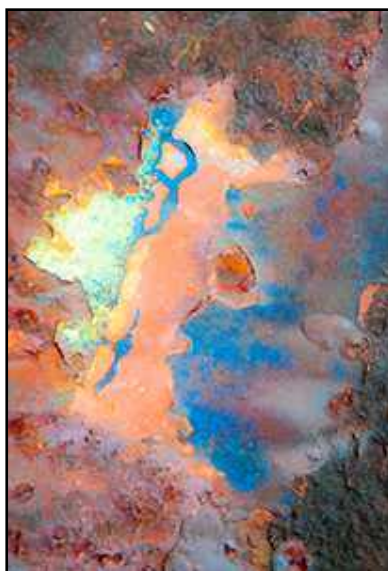


All Images  
© Bruce Byers

## Mini Portfolio Night

The Club's first mini portfolio night in many years was held on Monday, October 10th. Five Club members were asked to prepare a small portfolio with a concise theme. They would have a total of 10 minutes (more or less) to present and explain their images and then answer questions from the audience. (By the way, more than one third of the Club membership, over 30 of us, attended and encouraged our fellow PWCC shooters.)

Here are some of the many images that were shared...



*Abstracts*  
© Madeleine Barbara

Madeleine Barbara's portfolio was a compilation of close-up abstract images shot at Old Car City in White, Georgia. Many of her images featured pareidolia—the phenomenon wherein we see faces or other objects in a random or ambiguous visual stimuli. Such as the bull seen or imagined, below.



*Indian Wheeled Vehicles*  
© Karen Corrigan



Karen Corrigan shot her portfolio, *On the Road: Indian Wheel Transport*, in New Delhi and Lucknow, India. Most of the vehicles shown were two-wheeled, some three, and they were either foot- or motor-powered.

Continued on next page...





*Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball*  
© Elena Pierpont



The images in Elena Pierpont's mini portfolio were shot one summer night on a Club's outing to Coney Island—the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball team. Nobody remembered who won the game.

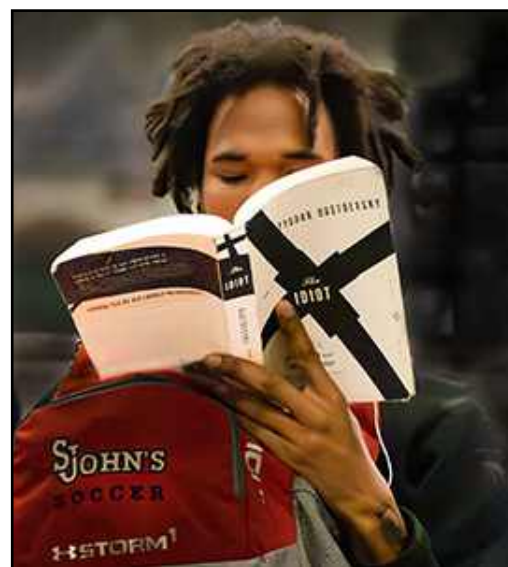


*Decisive Moments*  
© Bruce Byers

Bruce Byer's black & white portfolio, shot around the world, was all about the *decisive moment* (as made famous by Henri Cartier-Bresson).

Mike Iannuzzi's images of people reading books in public places is based on the paintings of great masters on display in many museums around the world.

*Book Readers*  
© Mike Iannuzzi







## About (Y)our Website

by Michael Schleiff

Park West Camera Club's website offers an array of topics for your review. The site should be your go-to place to get information regarding the Club. Following is just a partial list of sections that can be found on the website:

- Home Page—This is our face to the Internet world. On it is a listing of all the latest news and upcoming schedule of events. We highlight the latest competition winners in a continual loop for everyone to see. In addition, there's a direct link to the latest edition of *Photo Notes*. New issues are uploaded immediately upon their release each month. Finally, under the masthead, there is a menu area that lists 12 different areas of various Club info, some of which are:
- Newsletters—10 years of past *Photo Notes* issues are currently available online and may be downloaded.
- Organization—features the latest PDF files containing membership information including the Park West
- Constitution and Bylaws. In addition, there is a "Resource Link" submenu. Listed here are web links to various imaging-related websites. Included are sites offering Photoshop and Lightroom help. We are always looking to add links, so if you have any photography-related websites that you would like to add, please contact us.
- Competition Manual & Labels—this is where the Monthly Judging Guidelines and Competition Manual are to be found. The Competition Manual includes detailed specifications on presenting PDI images for entry into competitions.
- Member Galleries—are available to show your work on the web. They can be accessed in the Member Galleries Menu or directly from any web browser by searching Park West Camera Club and your name. The instructions for setting up a gallery may be found at the first dropdown in the Club Members Galleries menu "Instructions to Create a Members Gallery." If you have any questions about uploading your images,

please follow up with the website committee.

- How-to Videos, Notes, and Speakers—all speaker talks have been recorded and uploaded to the website. In addition, we have how-to videos covering various techniques to help editing your photographs.

Your Website Committee is continually uploading new and exciting information to the website. The goal is to make [www.parkwestcameraclub.org](http://www.parkwestcameraclub.org) a primary source for Club and imaging information. We are always looking to expand the website. If you have any ideas, please contact Michael Schleiff or Christine Doyle.

## Slow Shutter Tricks

*Star trails* are best shot after the sun has set (obviously) and when there's a clear sky. Exposure times may vary from minutes to hours. And always use a tripod.



## Choosing Film

by Chuck Pine

Decades ago, when many some of us started out with photography, there were 1,000s of choices of film on the shelves of camera stores, supermarkets, drugstores, and the like. We had quite a few decisions to make...

Did we want to make prints (using negative film) or did we want to show slides (with transparency / reversal film)? Did we want color or black-and-white photos? Did we want some special effect from our film? Would we be shooting outdoors (in sunlight) or inside (using artificial light sources)? Were we shooting moving subjects (requiring fast/high ASA / grainy film) or stationary subjects (being able to use slow / low ASA / almost grainless film)? How many shots did we want to take (20- or 36-exposures per roll. Or did we want to buy 100-foot bulk film and roll our own? And the list went on!



Today, we're in the world of digital photography, we don't have to make those choices—our computer-driven, all-electronic, whiz-bang SLRs, mirrorless cameras, or even point-and-shoots can do it all.

But for those of us who want to shun the digital world, preferring to shoot in the realm of analog photography (using film), our choices are much more limited. By my count, there are less than 200 films out there from less than only 25 different manufacturers.

Nostalgia Note—Yes, the BIG-Three film makers (Kodak, Fuji, and Ilford) are still out there producing film for the consumer market (that's us). The fourth one-time biggie, Agfa, is no longer doing so.

Some newer companies have tried to fill the gap. You should check out films from the likes of Arista, double film, Film Photography Project, Flic Film, Mono, Lomography, Rollei, and Wolfen. Just don't forget, processing your film is not going to be easy (nor cheap). The local pharmacy's photo counter and film kiosks (remember Fotomat on the corner in the suburbs?) are few and far-between (if at all).

[Warning—CVS and others might still process your film, but they do not return your negatives. You only get 4x6" prints and a CD of the files. Not great if you want to print your pictures in the chemical darkroom or project your slides onto a screen.]

## Road Trips

Following the footsteps of pilgrims and pioneers, the Oregon Trail (aka US-20) takes in a little of everything during its two-lane trek from Oregon's rugged coast to the glorious sea and sand of Cape Cod.

Highlights along the Oregon Trail: [Cannon Beach](#) (OR), [Fort Boise](#) (ID), [Yellowstone](#)

[National Park](#) (WY), [Mt Rushmore](#) (ND), and [Carhenge](#) (NE).



## Simple Still Life

Have you ever tried taking a still life photo?

If you have, then you know how tricky it can be—arranging objects, balancing colors, getting the light just right, and so forth.

What if you skipped all that complexity? One object. One light source. One clean background.

Here are a few examples you can try for yourself...



An open book lit softly from the side  
—quiet and dramatic



A teacup by the window  
—simple backlight that defines shape



A small potted plant  
—clean contrast between wood and green



An alarm clock  
—focus on form and shadow



## What is Perspective?

The term “perspective” in photography refers to the representation of any three-dimensional space or object on a two-dimensional surface (the photo) in such a way that it replicates human vision. It is determined solely by the relationship between camera and subject.

In a nutshell, perspective can change how objects relate to each other within the frame, —both in terms of size and spatial relationship. You can capture different perspectives by changing your camera’s position, angle, or focal length. There are a few common types of perspectives to consider...



- **Linear Perspective** is observed when parallel lines appear to converge as they recede into the distance, creating a sense of 3-dimensional depth.



- **Aerial Perspective**, also known as atmospheric perspective, involves capturing the natural haze and the color shifting in the atmosphere to suggest great distances in the scene.

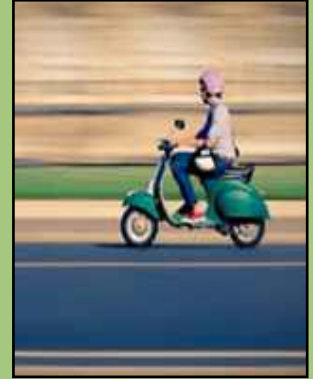


- **Forced Perspective** is a clever technique where photographers use optical illusions to make an object appear larger, smaller, closer, or further away than it actually is. This is achieved by manipulating the spatial relationships of the objects within the frame, using depth of field and positioning to play tricks on the viewer's perception.



## Slow Shutter Tricks

Panning is a photography technique that involves following a moving subject while using a slow shutter speed. This results in a



sharp subject against a blurred background. This conveys a sense of motion and speed. To achieve this, you must match the speed and direction of the camera movement to the subject’s movement for the length of the exposure.

Panning can also be done on stationary subjects to create a blurred image.



Panning is usually done with horizontal camera movements, but may also be accomplished vertically.

## 2026 NANPA Showcase

NANPA (North American Nature Photography Association) is proud to present the winners for this year's edition of NANPA Showcase! The eight categories of images are Birds, Mammals, Scapes, Macro/Micro/All Other Wildlife, Conservation, Altered Reality, Humor/Comedy and Video. After nearly 3,000 incredible entries from all corners of the globe, 250 images rose to the occasion and were awarded prizes for the 2026 contest.

You can see all the winning images on the NANPA Website <[HERE](#)> What follows are a few of this year's top images...



Best in Show  
© Michelle Valberg



Comedy/Humor  
© Marta Cody



Macro, Micro, & Other Wildlife  
© Karen Campbell



Birds  
© Kelley Luikey



Mammals  
© Kevin Lohman



Altered Reality  
© Bruce Leventhal



## Burst of Joy

submitted by Bill Apple

This image immortalized a Vietnam veteran's joyous homecoming to his beaming family. It was shot by Slava Veder, an Associated Press photographer. The photograph, titled *Burst of Joy*, appeared in newspapers across the country and won the 1974 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography.

You can read the full article in the New York Times [HERE](#)

The story was prompted by Stirm's death last month on Veteran's Day,



Lt. Col. Robert L. Stirm on March 17, 1973, as he was greeted by his family at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif., after five and a half years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. His daughter Lorrie, foreground, is followed by the other children, Robert, Cynthia and Roger, and his wife, Loretta. Credit...Salva Veder/Associated Press

## A Longwood Christmas

Longwood Gardens becomes a living jewel box as radiant as the jewels and gems that inspired 2025's *A Longwood Christmas* display. Nature and elegance intertwine as twinkling lights dance, hues of emerald green to ruby red to bold sapphire shimmer, and every path leads to a new treasure to behold.

Longwood Gardens is located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, only 40 miles west of Philadelphia and 130 miles or so from the Big Apple. General Admission timed tickets are \$45 (for



non-members) and are required for entry.

The show runs through January 11th.

More information and tickets are available [HERE](#).

All that glitters is there,... and waiting for *you*.





## Image Stabilization

by Michael Iannuzzi

*what it IS and what it IS not*

Camera movement or camera shake is markedly reduced with cameras and lenses that provide image stabilization. Other IS names in different manufacturers include Shake reduction/SR (Pentax), Optical Steady Shot/OSS (Sony), Vibration Compensation/VC (Tamron), and Vibration Reduction/VR (Nikon).

There are two types of image stabilization modes: in-lens (known as optical) stabilization (OIS); and in-body stabilization (IBIS). The latter provides stabilization when using lenses without the feature. Mirrorless cameras with their larger mounts and improved data transmission combine IBIS and OIS when the lens stabilization switch is on. Some high-end DSLRs also feature both technologies.

IBIS counteracts camera movement by shifting sensors and is particularly effective with wider focal lengths. OIS uses a gyroscope to move lens elements to counteract camera motion. OIS is more effective for telephoto lenses where their long lengths magnify camera movements. While wide-angle lenses also benefit from stabilization, the effect is less pronounced because their wider field of view is more



forgiving of slight movements. When IBIS and OIS are used in combination, the motion is counteracted along two axes providing a comprehensive stabilization solution.

Image stabilization allows for a 5 to 8 stop decrease in light capture. For example, a non-stabilized handheld shot at a shutter speed of 1/1000s can be changed to a shutter speed of 1/30s (5 stops) and up to 1/4s (8 stops) depending on the camera and lens used.

Either mode of stabilization provides a means for handheld exposures in low light without the need for a tripod. Note that stabilization prevents blurring from camera shake, but not from a subject in motion.

### Foto Fact

Taken in December 1972, *The Blue Marble* was captured by the crew of Apollo 17 on their way to the Moon. The photo was taken an amazing 18,300 miles from the surface of the Earth and is the first photograph to depict the entirety of our planet from space. The photograph is one of the most reproduced images in history.

The Blue Marble was shot using a modified Hasselblad camera with an 80mm Zeiss lens and Kodak Ektachrome transparency (slide) film.



## Audubon Awards

Each year, the Audubon Photo Awards are a way to celebrate bird photographers' craft and commitment. This round was particularly exciting. After careful and anonymous review, the panel of judges chose 17 [winners](#) and 15 [honorable mentions](#). But with 1,000's of incredible submissions, they couldn't stop there. Here are some of the 2025 *Audubon Photography Awards: Top 100*.

These images were all shot within a day's drive from the Big Apple...



Common Tern  
Nickerson Beach State Park, New York  
© Melissa Teller  
40 miles



Red Knot  
Jones Beach State Park, New York  
© Damon L. Brundage  
40 miles



Dunlin  
Hammonasset Beach State Park, Connecticut  
© Tom Warren  
100 miles



Wood Duck  
Gwynns Falls, Maryland  
© Scott Suriano  
200 miles

## Where Not to Go

The following nine countries were recently considered <[dangerous to visit](#)> by <[www.travelbinger.com](#)> The article was published by AOL.



South Africa  
Crime Statistics Paint  
Alarming Picture



Afghanistan  
Taliban Rule Creates Ongoing  
Instability



Ukraine  
War Creates Massive Safety  
Risks for Travelers



Syria  
Decades of Civil War Leave  
Lasting Dangers



Somalia  
Multiple Threats Create Perfect  
Storm of Danger



Venezuela  
Economic Collapse Fuels  
Violence



Sudan  
Political Turmoil Creates  
Dangerous Conditions



Central African Republic  
Armed Groups Control  
Territory



Iran  
Multiple Risk Factors Create  
Complex Dangers

*[Travelbinger is a leading travel website helping you travel better. From offering insider tips and expert advice to providing hacks for saving money on all your journeys, their main goal is to make your travels effortless.]*

## Origins

In 1987 brothers Thomas and John Knoll, developed a software program they called *Display*. It was bundled with the Barneyscan slide scanner.

In 1990, 35 years ago, the program was purchased by Adobe and released for the Macintosh computer as *Photoshop version 1.0*.

The rest of the story, as they say, is history.



## Panorama Awards

The 16th annual Epson International Panorama Awards has announced the winners of its 2025 contest. Here are some of its amazing winners...



*Not A Tiny HK Island V*  
© italy Golovatyuk (China)



*Last Fireworks*  
© Alex Wides (Italy)

*Wildebeest Migration in Kenya*  
© William Chua (Singapore)



*Frozen*  
© Kevin Nyun (USA)

*Elysium*  
© Chris Byrne (USA)



## Wet Self Assignments

If you believe that waves and waterfalls pretty well use up all the opportunities that water provides for picture-taking, think again. Here are five photo shoots to try for yourself—some out in the neighborhood and some right in the comfort of your own home—and they all have water as the subject.



### Reflections

Go to a pond or lake in early morning or evening. Locate an interesting reflection and line up a shot with equal parts of shore and reflection.



### Abstracts

Find a stream or creek with running, swirling water. Study the colors and tones reflected in the water from onshore and overhead things. When you spot such an interesting abstract, shoot it, first with a faster shutter speed, and then with a much slower speed.

### Puddles

Take a picture during the rain. Try for an interesting pattern of raindrop circles. Make a nighttime shot of a puddle having either lit-up signs or buildings nearby which are reflected in the puddle.

## Splash



Take a close-up shot of water as it's poured into a glass filled with ice cubes.

### Bubbles

Take a shot of some dish soap bubbles against a sheet of black paper while shining a beam of light at the bubbles.

If you'd like to share some of your self assignment images, send them (with a short write-up) to [<pwccny@aol.com>](mailto:pwccny@aol.com)

Have fun!

## Panorama of the Month



*The Green Wave* © Chuck Pine



## Where to Go

### December Get-a-ways

When planning a December vacation, you have several crucial decisions to make: embrace the chill; or seek out the sun in a warm-weather destination? Dive fully into the holiday spirit or try to get away from it all? Here are 9 spots around the globe that run the gamut from wintry to sun-drenched, and everything in between (and all make for great photo ops, too)...



Whistler, Canada  
32°F high; 23°F low



Rome  
55°F high, 40°F low



Nashville, Tennessee  
51°F high, 32°F low



Buenos Aires, Argentina  
82°F high, 67°F low



Bali, Indonesia  
88°F high, 81°F low



White Sands National Park,  
New Mexico  
58°F high, 29°F low



Rovaniemi, Finland  
21°F high, 10°F low



Avila Beach, California  
65°F high; 43°F low



Everglades National Park  
Florida  
79°F high, 55°F low

### Ask Tim Grey

submitted by Will Aimesbury

#### Today's Question

I believe you've said that Lightroom Classic's catalog shouldn't be stored in the cloud, but I have my catalog in Dropbox and it seems to work just fine. Is there really a problem storing the catalog in the cloud?

#### Tim's Quick Answer

I strongly recommend that you never place the Lightroom Classic catalog in cloud-based storage. It is incredibly easy to have failed metadata updates and file corruption if you store the catalog in the cloud and access that catalog from more than one computer.

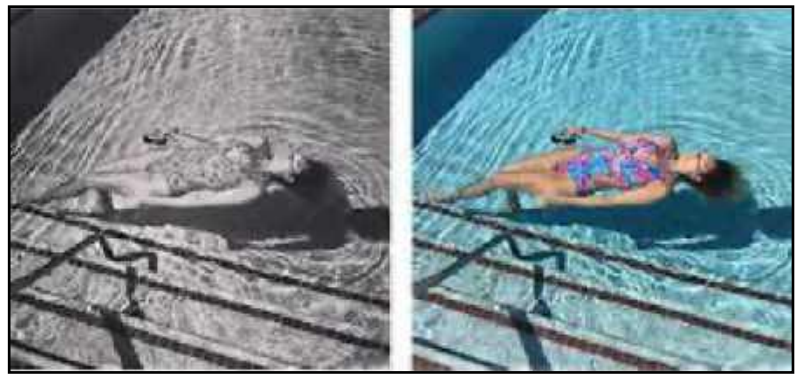


## B&W Only—Yes or No?

Most cameras these days shoot in full color. If you want a black-and-white image you have to convert the file in post-processing. There are probably more ways to do that than you have fingers and toes.

However, there are some cameras that allow you to switch from capturing all the colors to just capturing B&W tones at the flip of a switch (so to speak). [Check out the bargain-priced Olympus OM-D E-M10 Mark IV at \$700 or the Fujifilm GFX50S II Mirrorless Camera for \$3,500.]

And, there are a handful of cameras out there that only shoot B&W files. [Check out the Leica M11 Monochrom Rangefinder Camera at \$9,195, the Leica Q2 Compact Digital Camera at \$5,795, or the Pentax K-3 Mark III Monochrome DSLR at \$2,200.]



Why would you want a B&W-only camera? I can think of only three reasons:

1. you will never, ever want to shoot color images;
2. you want to skip the post-processing conversion (you'll still have to work on the image in software); and
3. the monochrome camera sensors are more sensitive to light than color cameras (*A monochrome sensor doesn't use a color filter over the sensor thus allowing more light to reach it. This means that you'll be able to capture lower light images than you can with a color sensor*)

On the other hand, why shouldn't you use a monochrome camera? Because the camera is running automated steps to desaturate the file of its color information. You have no, or very little, control over what it does. And, once that information is discarded, you can't get it back, no matter what you do in post.

Bottom line—for the best possible file, always set your camera to shoot a raw file, at the maximum resolution, and in full color.



## Most-Viewed Photo Ever

Shot by former National Geographic photographer Charles O'Rear in 1996, *Bliss* features rolling green hills and a partly-cloudy blue sky in Sonoma County, CA.

In 2000, Microsoft bought the rights to the image. They used the image as the default wallpaper for the Windows XP operating system.

Remember it?



## Photo Shorts

### *Super Hybrid*



Built to be a high-performance all-arounder for creatives, the *Canon EOS R6 Mark III* deftly combines a new 32.5MP sensor, up to 40-fps photo shooting, 8.5-stop image stabilization, and it accepts both CFexpress Type B and SD memory cards for file storage. It also has an amazing array of shooting modes (landscape, panning, close-up, panorama, and more). All this for \$2,799 (body only).

### *Superfast Prime Normal*



Fujifilm just announced their new entry-level camera, the *X-T30 III* and the *XC 13-33mm f-3.5-6.3 OIS* zoom (20-40mm full frame equivalent) lens. The combined weight is under one pound! The body features a 26.1MP sensor, a 2.36 million dot electronic viewfinder, and 20 preset simulations. It will be available in black, silver, and charcoal. The lens focuses to just under 8 inches. All this for only \$1,149 when both are purchased as a kit.

### *B&W Superstar*



Leica announces its latest camera for lovers and enthusiasts of black-and-white photography, the *Q3 Monochrom* digital camera. This new camera continues the Q-series reputation for outstanding image quality as a compact, fixed-lens (Summilux 28mm *f*-1.7) camera that will appeal to street, travel, and photojournalistic shooters dedicated to the art of light and shadow. This beauty will retail for \$7,790.

## Signs of Over-Editing

Here are some signals that you might have gone a bit too far:



- **Haloing:** Pushing the clarity or sharpness sliders too much can result in halos around objects, particularly against high-contrast backgrounds.



- **Over-smoothing:** While removing blemishes or imperfections is standard in portrait photography, making a subject's skin too smooth can render them plastic-like and unreal looking.



- **Over-saturated Colors:** If your colors look neon-bright or unnatural, it's a sign you might have pushed your saturation sliders too far.

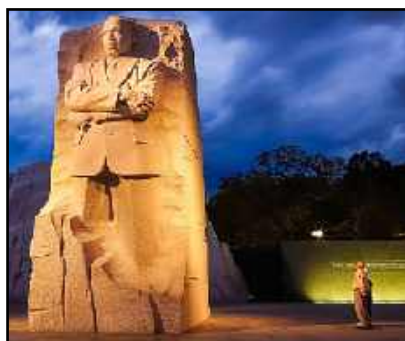




## Where to Go

### *MLK Jr. Memorials*

With Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday coming up next month, on Monday January 19th, here are some of the best MLK Jr. Memorials around the country. They are in cities which are great photographic destinations by themselves. All make for great photo ops...



Washington, DC



Boston, MA



Denver, CO



San Francisco, CA



Indianapolis, IN



Seattle, WA



New York City, NY



Atlanta, GA

## Bucket List Photo Ops

There are literally hundreds of places around the world that make great photo ops. Here are a handful that should be on your bucket list...

Chase the Northern Lights  
Alaska\*, Canada\*, Iceland\*



African Safari  
Botswana, Kenya, Namibia\*



Tropical Forests  
Costa Rica\*, Hawaii\*



Cherry Blossom Festivals  
Japan, Washington DC\*



Hot Air Balloon at Sunrise  
New Mexico\*, Turkey

*The destinations marked with (\*)  
have been Park West Camera  
Club field trips*



## Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

### *Rembrandt Lighting*



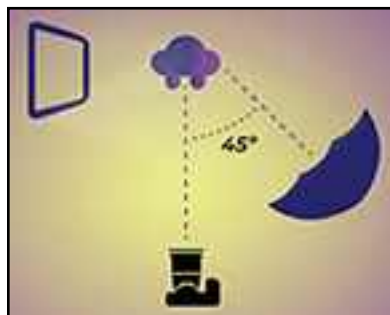
Rembrandt lighting is named after the Dutch painter Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn. It is a popular lighting technique used in photography because it creates a dramatic effect that draws attention to the subject's features.

Characterized by a triangle of light under one eye of the subject—the less illuminated side of the face, this style of lighting emphasizes depth and dimension, making it a favorite for shooting portraits. It is particularly useful for creating moody and evocative images that convey emotion and character. It is ideal for artistic portraits, actor headshots, and even fashion photography with a moody feel.



To achieve Rembrandt lighting, you'll need to follow these steps:

- 1. Light Source:** Begin with a single light source, such as a strobe or continuous light. The key is to use a light modifier like a softbox or an umbrella to soften the light, reducing harsh shadows.
- 2. Positioning the Light:** Place the light at a 45-degree angle from the subject, slightly above the head level, so that the light points down towards the face. This is crucial as it determines the shape and presence of the triangle of light.
- 3. Adjust the Subject:** Have the subject turn their face away from the light until the shadow of the nose and cheek meets to form a small triangle of light on the cheek opposite the light source. This triangle should not be larger than the eye and no longer than the nose.
- 4. Experiment with Modifiers:** Utilizing different modifiers can alter the softness and spread of the light. Experiment with reflectors to fill in shadows mildly, which can be particularly useful in softening the contrast for female portraits or commercial shots.



## Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

### Memory Cards

It's almost impossible these days to be a photographer without needing memory cards. But which type and what brand should you buy and use? The choices are almost limitless. Here are some suggestions...



There are six basic types of memory cards...

- SD cards are the most used type of memory card in digital cameras
- CFexpress cards are the latest and fastest format
- XQD cards were developed for high-performance stills and video recording
- microSD cards are tiny and mainly used in smart-phones, drones, and action cameras like GoPros
- CompactFlash cards are larger, were once the gold standard for professional DSLRs, and are being phased out in favor of newer formats
- CFast cards look like CF cards and are designed for professional video and high-speed applications.

Most cameras accept only one kind of memory card, although some higher end models have two slots and can take multiple kinds of cards. Check your owner's manual to make sure you use the optimal cards for your camera body.

There are dozens of brands of memory cards out there, some better than others, and some that can actually damage your gear. Stick with one of these major brands:

- Delkin Devices
- Lexar
- ProGrade Digital
- SanDisk
- Sony

Beyond the brand, only buy memory cards from trusted dealers—there are tons of counterfeit cards out there.

Here are some tips for using your memory cards...

- Before using a new memory card, it must be formatted *in your camera*.
- After downloading and backing up your images, format the card *in your camera* before reusing it.
- If you have more than one camera, even if they are the same brand, don't share cards between them.
- Avoid touching the gold colored strips on the back of SD cards.
- Always carry extra cards. If a card fails or gets filled, you'll have a spare.
- Carry your cards in a case with individual slots for each card to prevent damage to them.



## PhotoShpping

by Chuck Pine

### HSL Mixer Panel



The **HSL Panel/Color Mixer Panel** in **Adobe Camera RAW** and **Lightroom** (any version) is a very powerful tool for post-processing your files.

It allows you to adjust the **hue**, **saturation**, and **luminance** of specific colors in your image. This panel consists of eight sliders—one each for reds, oranges, yellows, greens, aquas, blues, purples, and magentas. (This is the most sliders in any of the color management tools.)



Here's what the three tools do:



- *Hue* alters the 'shade' of the colors. For instance, you can change the red umbrella areas to a magenta hue.



- *Saturation* controls the intensity of the colors. Increasing saturation makes colors more vivid, while

decreasing it will make them more muted. For instance, you can reduce the blue water to being almost colorless.



- *Luminance* affects the brightness of the colors. Increasing luminance makes colors brighter, and decreasing it makes them darker. For instance, you can decrease the brightness of the yellows in the umbrella to lighter shade.

The HSL tool can be used to bring your creative vision to life by enhancing your photos in ways that are either subtle or dramatic.



## B & H Event Space

The B&H Photo Event Space offers an array of free seminars and inspirational lectures by talented pros from around the world. You can register online to guarantee a seat.



Mon, Dec 8  
*Hudson Yards Photowalk*  
Speaker: Tony Gale



Tue, Dec 16  
*What to Pack*  
Speaker: Ira Block

For more information and additional workshops go to [bhphotovideo.com](http://bhphotovideo.com) and click on Event Space.



Wed, Dec 17  
*Colorful Portraiture*  
Speaker: Ricky Shoebio



Thu, Dec 18  
*Seeing Differently*  
Speaker: Derek Fahsbender



Tue, Jan 6  
*National Geographic*  
Speaker: Ira Block





Every day, people are exposed to negative images, stories, and experiences. We know that this exposure is stressful to the viewer—it causes anger, anxiety, depression, and can affect behavior, disconnecting people from one another.

To help counterbalance the negative, we need to provide people with positive images that have the power to bring out joy, gratitude, optimism, love, and compassion.

**For photographers:**

- Cash prizes of up to \$2,000
- Prize winning images will be published by GMX, a large media outlet in Europe
- Submitted photos may be seen by thousands of people per day
- Photographers retain the copyright to their images

**For your club or organization:**

- If your member is awarded a prize, your organization will receive a matching prize of up to \$500 each. Clubs may receive up to \$2,000 total in matching prizes.
- In addition, the photo organization with the most accepted images from member photographers will win \$1,000



It is FREE to enter!

The entry deadline is...

December 15, 2025.

Rules and Submission Form  
<[www.envisionkindness.us.la](http://www.envisionkindness.us.la)  
[unchpad6.com/](http://unchpad6.com/)  
[ourworldiskind2025/submit](http://ourworldiskind2025/submit)>



## Upcoming Workshops

Essdras M. Suarez presents the following  
2026 in-person photo workshops...

\* [Panama Unveiled, a Photographic Journey](#)

March 5-13th, 2026

\* [Cuba, where Light, Color & Soul Converge](#)

April 3-11th, 2026

\* [Irish Vistas, a Photographic Journey, Dublin- Belfast](#)

May 4-16th, 2026

\* [Boston, Street Photography & Art of Seeing](#)

June 11-13th, 2026

\* [NY, Street Photography & Art of Seeing](#)

June 25-17th, 2026

Click on the titles for complete information  
and to reserve your spot(s).



## Workshop In Tuscany...

...with Lester Lefkowitz

There are few nicer places than Tuscany, Italy, to hone your photographic vision and skills. The rolling hills, the endless vineyards, the numerous towns and villages with authentic sixteenth- and seventeenth-century buildings provide a palette of unlimited possibilities.

June 20 - 27, 2026

\$3,595 p/p double occupancy, \$485 single supplement

includes transportation from/to Florence/San Giovanni d'Asso; breakfast and dinner; local transportation; and even a truffle hunt with the local tartufaio and his dog. You're welcome to bring a non-photography participant at a discount of \$300 who can share your room and join in for all meals and excursions.

To sign up, [click this link](#). To learn more about Lester and see some of his travel photos, [click here](#). Any questions? You're welcome to contact him at <[LesLef@mindspring.com](mailto:LesLef@mindspring.com)> or call 631-751-8310.





## MoMA Exhibit

*Lines of Belonging* highlights artists working in four cities that have existed as centers of life, creativity, and communion for longer than the nation states in which they are now situated. From Kathmandu to New Orleans, Johannesburg to Mexico City, these creative practitioners offer slowness, persistence, and care as an antidote to the viral, profit-driven speed of contemporary image consumption, metadata technologies, and AI.

Presenting their work at MoMA for the first time, the artists and collectives include: Sandra Blow, Tania Franco Klein, Francisca Rivero-Lake and Carla Vereá (residing in Mexico City); Lebohlang Kganye, Lindokuhle Sobekwa, Gabrielle Goliath,, and Sabelo Mlangeni (Johannesburg); Nepal Picture Library, Prasiit Sthapit, and Sheelasha Rajbhandari (Kathmandu); and L. Kasimu Harris, Renee Royale, and Gabrielle Garcia Steib (New Orleans).

Open to the public  
Now thru January 17th  
MoMA, Floor 3, South



## Sierra Photo Meetings 2025-2026

The New York City Sierra Club Photo Committee has meetings scheduled for the 2025-2026 year. Some of the meetings will be held using the Zoom Software and some will be in-person at the School for Visual Arts (SVA)—136 West 21st Street, Room 418F. Tickets for all events have to be purchased in advance on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). An \$8 donation is suggested.

|       |          |        |
|-------|----------|--------|
| Tues. | 9/16/25  | SVA    |
| Tues. | 10/14/25 | Zoom   |
| Tues. | 11/11/25 | Hybrid |
| Tues. | 12/16/25 | Zoom * |
| Tues. | 1/20/26  | Hybrid |
| Tues. | 2/17/26  | Zoom   |
| Tues. | 3/17/26  | Hybrid |
| Tues. | 4/14/26  | Zoom   |
| Tues. | 5/19/26  | Hybrid |
| Tues. | 6/16/26  | Zoom * |

*SVA = in-person only*

*Zoom = online only*

*Hybrid = in-person and online*

*\* members night*

## Desert Photo Tours

*Photo Masters'* leader and founder, Ian Plant, will be taking groups to two of the world's great deserts for their scenery and diversity in 2026...



### [Wild Puna Photo Tour](#)

March 22–31, 2026

\$7,995

This is your chance to join Ian Plant in one of the most otherworldly landscapes on Earth—the high treeless plateau in the Peruvian Andes. During this workshop, you'll explore the Puna region of Argentina with access to places rarely seen or photographed: surreal rock formations; towering dunes; rainbow-colored mountains, and so much more.



### [Mongolia Photo Tour](#)

August 16–26, 2026

\$6,995

Mongolia combines breathtaking landscapes and rich culture. Over 11 days, you'll journey from the Khongor Sand Dunes of the Gobi Desert to the snow-capped Altai Mountains of western Mongolia, home to the legendary Kazakh eagle hunters. You'll have the rare opportunity to photograph nomadic families in their traditional camps, Mongolian festivals, eagles, and more.

Click on the trip titles for full details and to confirm your reservation for either trip.

## Slow Shutter Tricks

*Light painting* is the photo technique where you move a light source, such as a flashlight or glow stick, to create streaks or illuminate a scene while the camera's shutter stays open.



The results can be stand-alone images or used to make composites.





Contest is Open to All  
Submissions accepted until  
December 31, 2025

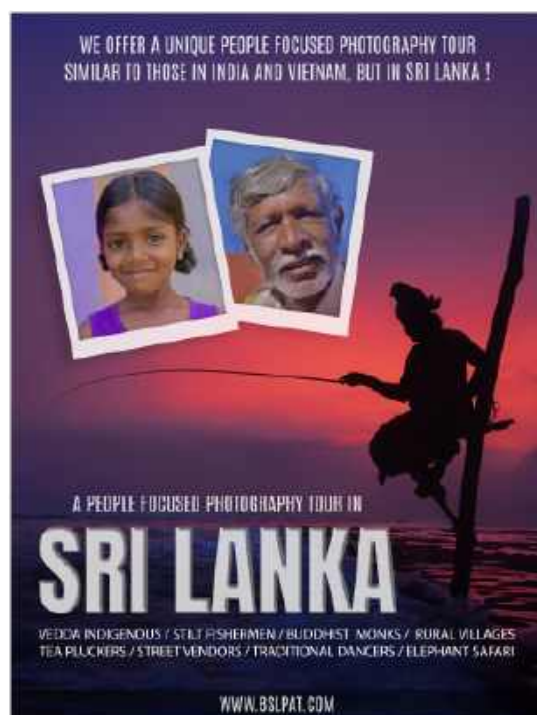
Proceeds benefit NSUH's patient programs



For information & entry form contact:

Volunteer Experience Office  
Photo Contest  
North Shore University Hospital  
300 Community Drive  
Manhasset, NY 11030  
(516) 562-2376  
lbrelman@northwell.edu

Sponsored by the Auxiliary of North Shore University Hospital



#### ABOUT THE PHOTO TOUR

Beautiful Sri Lanka Photography Tours is a travel agency specializing in organizing captivating photo tours in Sri Lanka, filled with excitement and amazement. Each of our tours is led by an experienced Sri Lankan travel photographer, ensuring photographers, travelers, or students are in the right places at the perfect moment to capture stunning photographs. The tours are designed to include: environmental portraits, candid portraits, posed portraits, cultural portraits, and character portraits. The tours mainly focus on photographing wildlife, fishermen, and gorgeous people, street vendors, tea pickers, elephant mahouts, and rural villages. The tours are perfect for anyone who has a passion for photography, whether you're travelling solo, with your partner, or with a small group of friends. Whether you're a seasoned photographer or just starting out, our tours are designed to cater to all skill levels.

<http://www.srilankatour.com>



The 2026 *Philadelphia Flower Show*, presented by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is the world's largest indoor flower show.

A stunning, immersive entrance garden bursting with vibrant color and beauty.

Large-scale floral creations and gardens designed by the most talented florists and garden artists nationally and globally.

Hands-on artisan craft activities

Walk-through butterfly encounters

The world's largest plant and botanical art competition

Access to an incredible marketplace

For all the info and to buy tickets, go to

[www.phsonline.org/the-flower-show](http://www.phsonline.org/the-flower-show)





*New Life Photos* is the website of our December workshop presenter, Jamie Konarski Davidson. In addition to her photographic artistry, Jamie leads workshops up and down the East Coast of the United States. Here are some of her upcoming events...



***Muse in the Mountains***  
June 10-14, 2026

This workshop is not about your gear. It's not about technical skills, though they do matter. More importantly, this workshop is about learning how to become a better "seer" and receiver. It's about honing the "view finder" in your head. Our days will be structured with wells of opportunity and assignments that guide you through practical steps to find your muse on any path.

Fee: \$1095 (Includes any admission fees)  
Deposit: \$450  
Co-Leader: Mary Presson Roberts  
Maximum Attendees: 8



***Longwood Gardens Immersion***  
April 21-25, 2026

Longwood Gardens is a jewel and must-experience place in the Brandywine Valley. With almost 200 acres of lush, formal gardens, open meadows and winding paths, there are simply mesmerizing views at every turn.

Fee: \$1195 (Workshop Only)  
Deposit: \$500  
Co-Leader: Cheryl Belczak  
Maximum Attendees: 8

***Finger Lakes of New York***  
September 15 – 19, 2026

Who doesn't love flowers and waterfalls? Combine these with the picturesque Finger Lakes region of New York State, and the possibilities abound in the pastoral landscape of rolling hills, farms, wineries and, of course, waterfalls. Flowers fill the landscape, both wild and cultivated.

Fee: \$1095 (Workshop Only)  
Deposit: \$450  
Maximum Attendees: 8

All the information for these workshops, and more can be found on Jamie's website...  
<[www.newlifephotos.com](http://www.newlifephotos.com)>



## Awake the Light

*Photo workshops and Tours*  
with Mollie Isaacs



### ***Beach Retreat***

May 3 - 8, 2026

\$3,495

Click [HERE](#) for more details and registration.

### ***Creative Birds***

April 6 - 11, 2026

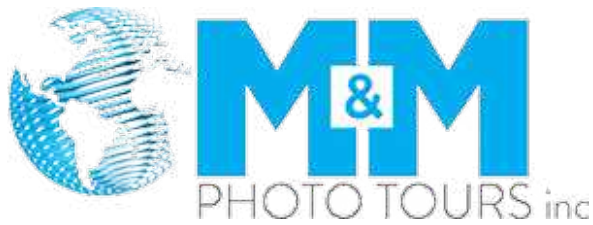
\$3,495

Click [HERE](#) for more details and registration.

Mollie Isaacs is a professional photographer specializing in Nature, Wildlife, Flowers, and Abstracts. She studied with Ansel Adams and Joyce Tenneson. Her work is in the permanent collection of the International Photography Hall of Fame. She has been exhibited at Epcot Center, Grand Central Terminal, and many cities and galleries around the country. She has won the Kodak Gallery Award 15 times. She has authored a coffee-table book, and many e-books.







M&M Photo Tours—the company that organized Park West's very successful trip to Cuba several years back—has an offer you can't refuse...

### Botswana Photo Tour

July 17-29, 2026

Price—\$14,500 (includes round trip economy airfare)

Single Supplement—\$1,400

Deposit—\$3,625 due at time of booking

Guest Limit—maximum of 8

#### Tour Highlights

- Abundant wildlife
- Khwai Conservancy
- Okavango Delta
- Chobe River
- Victoria Falls

Tour Difficulty = Easy (less than 2 miles walking/day and little climbing) BUT can be bumpy on safari game drives

#### Included

- International & local airfare
- English-speaking guides
- All meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- Mineral water during the game drives
- All park admission fees
- Transportation via exclusive 4x4 land vehicles and boats



Full itinerary, packing lists, and plenty more information is available at...

[<www.mmphototours.com/botswana-2026>](http://www.mmphototours.com/botswana-2026)



#### Additional 2026 Photo Tours

Tanzania Calving Season 2026 ...

Iceland Winter 2026

Japan Cherry Blossoms 2026

Iceland Summer 2026

Jaguars of The Pantanal

Botswana 2026

Tanzania Great Migration #1 2026

Tanzania Great Migration #2 2026

Bears of Alaska 2026

Japan Fall Foliage 2026



## Schedule of Activities

Park West Camera Club meets just about every Monday night (with some exceptions for a few holidays and a shortened summer schedule).

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath, Club activities will be virtual using the Zoom software. Members will be emailed all the information necessary to log in and participate. Guests may request log-in details by emailing Park West Camera Club at [<pwccny@gmail.com>](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com)

Check the Club's Website [<www.parkwestcameraclub.org>](http://www.parkwestcameraclub.org) for late-breaking details on PWCC meetings and other Club activities.

All Club meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. You may log on using the Zoom software 15 minutes earlier.

Listed on the following pages are **PWCC activities** marked with an asterisk (\*). Also listed are **Photo Ops** (opportunities to take photos) and **Photo Events** (of interest to photographers).



*Pastel Ocean*

© Jamie Konarski Davidson

### \* Monday, December 8 Workshop Motion and Multiples

The workshop program for this evening is *Getting Creative with Motion and Multiples*, it is presented by Jamie Konarski Davidson. Using intentional camera movement and in-camera multiple exposures are two methods of creating images that evoke emotional responses different from what a straight shot can offer. They are also ways to “make the lemonade” when conditions are not ideal or as expected. Jamie is an award-winning outdoor/nature photographer with a passion for finding and capturing beauty in all places. She is a Lensbaby Trailblazer and has been a presenter and instructor for Out of Chicago, NANPA (the North American Nature Photography Association), PPSNYS (Professional Photographers Society of New York State), Mike Moats’

Macro Photo Conference, and more. Her location workshops on the East Coast through her *New Life Photos* offer a wide range of subjects and learning opportunities in beautiful places. Jamie’s goal as a teacher is to educate and inspire her students to improve their photography skills and to discover their own vision. You can learn more about Jamie at [<www.newlifephotos.com>](http://www.newlifephotos.com)



### Tuesday, December 9 NYMACC Meeting

The New York Metro Area Camera Council is an umbrella organization for camera clubs and photographers in the area. All Club members are invited to attend this meeting to see what goes on around town (in, photography. This meeting starts. at 7 p.m. If you’d like to join the meeting NYMACC at [<deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com>](mailto:deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



\* Wednesday, December 10  
Field Trip  
NYBG Train Show

Tis the season! Is there a better way to celebrate than with a trip to the New York Botanical Garden (in the Bronx) to shoot their annual train show? If you'd like to join in the fun and festivities, meet the trip leader, Natalie Manzino, at the entrance to the glass-enclosed (both warm and dry) Enid A. Haupt Conservatory between 11 and 11:15 a.m. You will be filled with seasonal cheer as model trains travel over many famous bridges and through familiar city settings, bringing nearly 200 twinkling landmark replicas to life. Get up close to see these miniature marvels, each one meticulously crafted from plant parts like palm fronds, pinecones, and sticks of cinnamon. You should buy the tickets online in advance at [www.nybg.org/visit/admission](http://www.nybg.org/visit/admission)

DON'T MISS  
THE DEADLINE!

\* Friday, December 12  
Image Deadline  
You Be the Judge 11—Bridges

This semi-competitive, semi-annual activity asks Club members to submit one image of your choice. The theme for this iteration of You Be the Judge is "Bridges." We ask that the one image you submit *not* be one that has already been shown to, or shared with, the Club in any way, shape, or form. (You may use it at a later date, if you wish.) Your image must be related to *bridges* in some way. See page 6 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for rules on submission of images. More information on *You Be the Judge* can be found on page 8 of this issue of *Photo Notes*. Email your bridge submission to [pwccny@gmail.com](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com) so that it arrives by 11:59 p.m. tonight. You will soon receive a slide show of all the entries, a score sheet, and voting instructions. We will reveal the winners selected by the Club members at our regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, January 12th. Aren't you excited?



Sunday, December 14  
Photo Op—  
Menorah Lighting

The Jewish Festival of Lights, Chanukah, is an eight-day celebration that begins tonight. Witness the lighting of the world's largest menorahs at sundown. Both Grand Army Plazas (the ones in Manhattan and in Brooklyn) compete for that title of "biggest and best" with their 32-foot-high, two-ton steel structures. Lightings take place at 5:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 p.m.



on Saturday).

\* Monday, December 15  
Holiday Party

Save the date. The Club's annual Holiday Party will be held tonight at Arte Cafe. It's located at 106 West 73rd Street,

**Quotable Quotes**

*The painter constructs, the photographer discloses.* ~ Susan Sontag

*Photography is truth.* ~ Jean-Luc Godard

*Photographers stop photographing subjects too soon before they have exhausted the possibilities.*  
~ Dorothea Lange

just a few steps west of Columbus Avenue. (Yes! This is where we held last season's very successful Otto Litzel Memorial Year-End Dinner.) The closest subway stations are at 72nd Street on the #1/2/3 and B/C lines. All the details including time, menu, and cost can be found on page 9 in this issue of *Photo Notes*.



\* Tuesday, December 16  
Print Salon

The Club's Print Salon will be meeting this afternoon. See the article on page 23 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for detailed info on the group and how to get in touch with Betsy Currier if you'd like to participate.

Tuesday, December 16  
Photo Event  
Sierra Photo Meeting

The New York City Sierra Club's photography group will be holding its meeting tonight. This will be a members' night. Each member may submit up to eight nature-themed images to share with the group. Each image must be formatted as a JPEG file, in the sRGB color space, at 72ppi, with 1,920 or



2,000 pixels on the longest side. Label each image with your name and a sequential number (Jones\_Mary#1.jpg). The entry deadline is 6 p.m., Saturday, December 13th. Email them to [<sierraphotonyc2@gmail.com>](mailto:sierraphotonyc2@gmail.com) This meeting will take place entirely on Zoom. You can sign on and chat at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. Tickets are not required nor is there any fee for tonight's program. The Zoom link is [<us06web.zoom.us/j/89062191037?pwd=c16f1fKbNW-POHEb6PD2LX48kzENJ9.1>](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89062191037?pwd=c16f1fKbNW-POHEb6PD2LX48kzENJ9.1)



\* Monday, December 22  
No Meeting  
Winter Break

Wishing you some great photo-related gifts under the tree (or in front of the Menorah or the Kinara). If you'll be traveling, be safe and come back with tons of great images.



Park West's former home, the Soho Photo Gallery, is New York City's longest-operating member-run photography gallery.

This month's exhibits are...

- the winners from the Portfolio Competition
- images from three SPG members: Roberto Cavazutti, Joan Lemler, and Thom O'Connor
- images by SPG interns
- the members' PopUp Holiday! show

This exhibit will run now through December 28th.

Soho Photo Gallery is located on the ground floor at 539 West 23rd Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues. They are open Wednesday thru Sunday from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and til 8 p.m. on Thursdays.

The deadline for entering the 2026 Krappy Kamera Competition is January 7th. For details go to the SPG website at...

[<www.sohophoto.com>](http://www.sohophoto.com)





\* Monday, December 29  
No Meeting  
Winter Break

There will be no meeting this evening. Why not go out in the neighborhood or somewhere else to shoot the last of the holiday decorations? Dyker Heights, in Brooklyn, might be a great location now that the crowds have died down.



\* Monday, December 29  
Image Deadline  
January Competition

Please note that PDI entries are due by midnight tonight for next week's competition—the fourth of the year. Your images should follow the Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side). See page 6 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for labeling directions. More information can be found in *PWCC Competition Manual* and on the Club's website. Send your two entries to [pwcccompetition@yahoo.com](mailto:pwcccompetition@yahoo.com). If you want confirmation that your images were received,

add this second email address [hfklein@mindspring.com](mailto:hfklein@mindspring.com) to the email with your images.



Wednesday, December 31  
Photo Ops  
New Year's Eve

Get out in the fresh air and do some shooting to welcome in the new year. There's the "ball drop" at Times Square. You can also go to Central Park to shoot the Midnight Run. Fireworks? Find them in Central Park, at the Statue of Liberty, and also in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, not to mention dozens of other towns around the metro area. Just be sure to dress for the weather and be safe out there.



Thursday, January 1  
Photo Op  
Polar Bear Plunge

On the first day of each year, members of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club, which is the

oldest winter bathing club in the United States, venture into the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean in the name of bravery. Participation is free, but those who plunge are encouraged to donate to community organizations. The 123rd year of festivities start at 11 a.m. and take place on the beach in front of Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park. To get there take the D, F, N, or Q train to the last stop, Coney Island/Stillwell Avenue, cross Surf Avenue, and walk one block to the boardwalk. And don't forget to grab a hot dog at Nathan's Famous.



\* Monday, January 5  
Monthly Competition #4

Tonight, the fourth competition of the year, asks the questions *Who will win the top honors? What will the judge say about your images? Will you agree?* The only way to find the answers to these probing posers is to enter and join the Zoom meeting. Full rules are available on the Club website and in our *Competition Manual*. PDI entries must be submitted by midnight one week prior to

today (December 29th). You may enter up to two PDIs. Tonight's judge is yet to be confirmed. Check the website and listen for announcements at our meetings for the late breaking details.



Tuesday, January 6  
Photo Op—  
Three Kings Day Parade

El Museo's cherished Three Kings Day Parade returns to the streets of El Barrio today. This year's theme is *Forward, Always Forward!* The parade will begin at 106th Street and Park Avenue and end at 115th Street and Park Avenue. It will feature lively music, colorful floats, majestic camels, and the participation of thousands of schoolchildren and community members. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. and lasts an hour. If you're lucky—it'll be snowing.

\* Monday, January 12  
You Be the Judge 11—Bridges  
The score sheets have been collected and tallied. The winners have been declared. Are you among them? Join us at this Zoom meeting to find



out the answers to all these probing questions. The theme for this edition of You Be the Judge is "bridges"—interpret it as you will. Entries for this in-house competition were due on December 12th.

## NYMACC

Tuesday, January 13  
NYMACC Meeting

The New York Metro Area Camera Council is an umbrella organization for camera clubs and other photography groups in the metropolitan area. Park West is a founding member of the council. All Club members are invited to attend tonight's meeting to see what's going on around town, photographically speaking, or course. Their monthly Zoom meeting starts at 7 p.m. If you'd like to join the meeting contact NYMACC <[deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com)> for the Zoom link.



\* Monday, January 19  
Guest Speaker  
???

Tonight's guest photographer is yet to be announced. Check the website and listen for the announcements at meetings for the late breaking details. The curtain raiser for tonight will be the Club's ExCom member-at-large, Jeff Langford.



Winter Goldfinch  
© Benjamin Forbes

Tuesday, Jan 20  
Photo Event  
Sierra Photo Meeting

The New York City Sierra Club's photography group will be holding its meeting tonight. The guest speaker is Benjamin Forbes. His photography celebrates the wonder of the natural world, capturing breathtaking scenes from urban life to remote landscapes across



North and Central America. Benjamin loves sharing the beauty and awe-inspiring moments nature offers. This is a hybrid meeting—live-and-in-person and on Zoom. Either way, tickets must be purchased online <[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)> prior to tonight's meeting. An \$8 donation is suggested. The meeting is being held in the 4th floor auditorium (room 428F) at the School of Visual Arts (136 West 21st Street, between 6th and 7th Avenues) at 6:30 p.m. The closest subway stations are at 23rd Street on the #1, F/M, and C/E lines.

## Image Deadline

\* Wednesday, January 21  
PDI Workshop Deadline

The deadline for submitting images for this Thursday's PDI (projected digital image) workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit one or two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. See page 6 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Some images will be worked on with a variety of photo processing software. Only images from the first 10 members to send them in will be reviewed at this workshop. Other Club members may join the workshop to view and comment on the images and demonstrations. Send your images only to this website <[pwccny@gmail.com](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com)>

## Workshop

\* Thursday, January 22  
PDI Workshop

This Zoom meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The link for this monthly workshop will be sent to the membership in the Club's *Weekly Reminder* on the previous Friday.



\* Monday, January 26  
Vendor Night

The program for tonight will be a Zoom presentation by a representative from one of the major sellers of photographic equipment. Once we have confirmation from the vendor,

## Yo'q

Pronounced "yokh," yo'q means "no" in Uzbek, the language of the one-time USSR state of Uzbekistan.

If you're planning to go there in the near future, you'd better know that yo'q means no. Especially if you plan on taking some photos while you're there.

Uzbekistan is about to pass a law banning taking

it will be published in the January issue of *Photo Notes*, announced at our meetings, and uploaded to our website.



\* Monday, January 26  
Image Deadline  
February Competition

Please note that PDI entries are due by midnight tonight for next week's competition. See page 6 of this issue of *Photo Notes* on how to prepare your images. More information is available in the our *Competition Manual*. Send your images to <[pwcccompetition@yahoo.com](mailto:pwcccompetition@yahoo.com)> If you want confirmation that both of your images were received, add this address <[hfklein@mindspring.com](mailto:hfklein@mindspring.com)> to your email with the images.

photographs of people without their permission. The law would require verbal or written approval from those being photographed (or the parent), with fines of up to \$1,364 (that's in US dollars) and confiscation of camera equipment for violations.

Stated as a paraphrase, "caveat viator"—let the traveler beware.



## Table of Contents

### Club News

|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 2  | Who's Who at PWCC                 |
| 3  | President's Message               |
| 4  | 2025-2026 Schedule                |
| 5  | Official Club Field Trips         |
| 5  | Portfolios Wanted                 |
| 5  | Member Bios                       |
| 5  | Slow Shutter Tricks               |
| 6  | Zooming                           |
| 6  | Pop-Up Trips                      |
| 6  | Submitting Images                 |
| 6  | Emailing PWCC                     |
| 7  | Sunshine Fund                     |
| 7  | Slow Shutter Tricks               |
| 7  | Club Meeting Times                |
| 7  | PWCC Image Deadlines              |
| 8  | Club Participation Nites          |
| 8  | PDI Workshops                     |
| 9  | You're Invited to a Holiday Party |
| 10 | Images of the Month               |
| 10 | Cumulative Point Totals           |
| 11 | Winning Images                    |
| 15 | Oops!                             |
| 16 | <i>Our December Judge</i>         |
| 17 | ExCom Meeting Minutes             |
| 18 | Business Meeting Minutes          |
| 21 | Competition Comments              |
| 22 | Y•E•P!                            |
| 22 | To the YEP Participants           |
| 22 | "Doorways" Revisited              |
| 23 | Print Salon                       |
| 23 | NYBG Train Show                   |
| 23 | Slow Shutter Tricks               |
| 24 | Curtain Raisers                   |
| 24 | December Birthdays                |
| 24 | Committee Liaisons                |
| 24 | <i>Photo Notes</i> Deadlines      |
| 25 | PSA Membership                    |
| 25 | Instagram                         |
| 25 | On the Website                    |
| 25 | What to Do If...                  |
| 26 | Tis the Season                    |
| 26 | Foto Fact                         |
| 27 | PDI Workshop                      |
| 30 | Guest Speaker                     |
| 30 | Inkjet Paper Giveaway             |
| 31 | On the Farm                       |
| 31 | A Very Interesting Video          |
| 32 | New Member Bio                    |
| 32 | NYMACC                            |
| 32 | Quotable Quotes                   |
| 33 | Field Trip Recap                  |
| 35 | RAW Processing Tips               |
| 35 | East Ayrshire Life                |
| 36 | New Gallery Committee             |
| 36 | Hill Street Gallery               |
| 37 | Mini Portfolio Night              |
| 39 | About (Y)our Website              |
| 39 | Slow Shutter Tricks               |

### Photography News

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 40 | Choosing Film          |
| 40 | Road Trips             |
| 41 | Simple Still Life      |
| 41 | What is Perspective?   |
| 41 | Slow Shutter Tricks    |
| 41 | 2026 NANPA Showcase    |
| 44 | Burst of Joy           |
| 44 | A Longwood Christmas   |
| 45 | Image Stabilization    |
| 45 | Foto Fact              |
| 46 | Audubon Awards, Part 2 |
| 47 | Where NOT to Go        |
| 47 | Origins                |
| 48 | Panorama Awards        |
| 49 | Wet Self Assignments   |
| 49 | Panorama of the Month  |
| 50 | Where to Go            |
| 50 | Ask Tim Grey           |
| 51 | B&W Only—Yes or No?    |
| 51 | Most-Viewed Photo Ever |
| 52 | Photo Shorts           |
| 52 | Signs of Over-Editing  |
| 53 | Where to Go            |
| 53 | Bucket List Photo Ops  |
| 54 | Using Your Camera      |
| 55 | Photo Shopping         |
| 56 | PhotoShopping          |

### Exhibits, Workshops, Etc.

|    |                                 |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 57 | B&H Event Space                 |
| 58 | "Kindness" Photo Contest        |
| 59 | EMS Photo Workshops             |
| 59 | Workshop In Tuscany             |
| 60 | MoMA Exhibit                    |
| 60 | 2025-2026 Sierra Photo Meetings |
| 61 | Desert Photo Tours              |
| 61 | Slow Shutter Tricks             |
| 62 | North Shore Photo Contest       |
| 62 | Sri Lanka Photo Tour            |
| 62 | Philadelphia Flower Show        |
| 63 | New Life Photos                 |
| 64 | Awake the Light                 |
| 65 | M&M Photo Tours                 |

### Schedule of Activities

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 66 | Schedule of Activities |
| 67 | Quotable Quotes        |
| 68 | Soho Photo Gallery     |
| 72 | Yo'q                   |
| 72 | Table of Contents      |

