

# PHOTO NOTES

Park West  
Camera Club

February 2024



***This Issue***  
Volume 86 • Issue 6

Club News.....	2 - 44
Photography News.....	45 - 54
Exhibits, Workshops, Etc.....	55 - 60
Schedule of Activities.....	61 - 65
Complete Index.....	66

Over 90 members' images inside!

The Park West Camera Club is an independent not-for-profit corporation. Guests are always welcome.

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**

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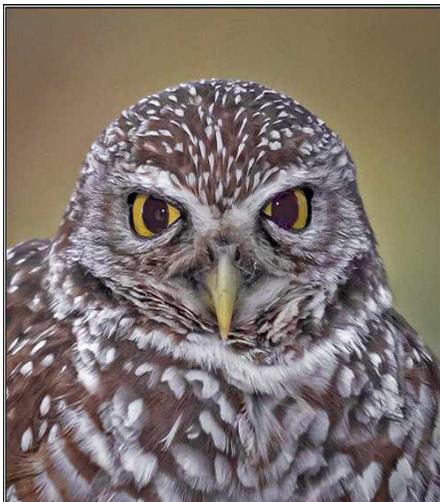
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Club Mailing Address

PWCC

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Cover Photo  
*On the Rocks*  
©2023 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

### **Committee Chairs**

<b>Archive</b>	Inactive
<b>Competition</b>	Hedy Klein
<b>Field Trip</b>	Inactive
<b>Gallery</b>	Inactive
<b>House</b>	Inactive
<b>Membership</b>	Marlene Schonbrun Elena Pierpont
<b>Photo Notes</b>	Chuck Pine
<b>Program</b>	Marilyn Fish-Glynn Alice Somma
<b>Social</b>	Natalie Manzino
<b>Website</b>	Michael Schleiff Christine Doyle
<b>Workshop</b>	Ed Lee



## President's Message

### *Holiday Greetings*

First off, let me apologize for not having a January issue of *Photo Notes*. Helen and I are snowbirds, spending the winter months in the warmer climates of southern Florida.

We drove down to Florida arriving on New Year's Eve and promptly moved into our new house. A few days later we were diagnosed with Covid. Although we had mild symptoms, they lingered.

Anyway, here's February's issue, chock full of Club and photo info...

For my president's message this month I'm printing the speech I gave at the Club's holiday party—for those of you who weren't able to attend.

*First of all, thank you for coming tonight. Both members and guests. Thanks for braving the floods, the gale-force winds, and everything else out there tonight.*

*Happy holidays to all. Happy Hanukkah, happy Pancha Ganapati, merry Christmas, heri za Kwanzaa, and have a happy and healthy New Year filled with great photos.*



*A big thank you to the organizers of this holiday party—Marlene Schonbrun, Elayne Dix, and Joe Nawy.*

*And also to Natalie Manzino from behind the scenes, who couldn't be here tonight.*

*And a great big round of applause to those of you here*

*tonight for pitching in with the set-up, with the serving,... and with the clean-up that's yet to come.*

*A month or so ago I announced that we have won the President's Award in the Photographic Society of America's newsletter contest. Here it is...*

*We also won the award for the "Best Motivational Focus." Finally, well almost finally, I'd like to thank the Executive Committee members—Mike Schleiff, our vice president, Christine Doyle,*

[continued on page 18]

### **Photo Notes**

Publisher: Park West Camera Club

Editor: Chuck Pine

Committee: Madeleine Barbara, Elsa Blum, Ann Broder, Gladys Hopkowitz, Hedy Klein, Paul Perkus, Helen Pine, Puneet Sood and Julie Wosk

Contributors: Evelyne Appel, Bill Apple, Ann Broder, Bruce Byers, Carole deBeer, Elayne Dix, Christine Doyle, Raylie Dunkel, Barry Fahrer, Julie Foehrenbach, Renée Harper, Susan Hoehn, Hedy Klein, Natalie Manzino, David Miller, Joe Nawy, Elena Pierpont, Chuck Pine, Helen Pine, Larry Rubin, Marlene Schonbrun, Michael Schleiff and Laura Toledo

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

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**PWCC 2023-2024 Schedule**

September

- 3 Chuck Pine Labor Day Picnic
- 4 No Meeting (Labor Day)
- 11 Welcome Back—Summer Photos
- 18 Business Meeting #1
- 25 No Meeting (Yom Kippur)

October

- 2 Competition #1
- 9 Theme Night—Travel
- 16 Guest Speaker
- 23 Variations on a Theme
- 30 Halloween Shoot

November

- 6 Competition #2
- 13 You be the Judge—Flora
- 20 Guest Speaker
- 27 Business Meeting #2

December

- 4 Competition #3
- 11 Guest Speaker
- 18 Holiday Party
- 25 No Meeting (Christmas)

January

- 1 No Meeting (New Years Day)
- 8 Competition #4
- 15 Theme Night—Winter Holidays
- 22 Guest Speaker
- 29 Workshop—Bookmaking

February

- 5 Competition #5
- 12 Theme Night—Minimalism
- 19 Guest Speaker
- 26 You be the Judge—Fauna



March

- 4 Competition #6
- 11 Interpretations
- 18 Guest Speaker
- 25 Business Meeting #3

April

- 1 Competition #7
- 8 Theme Night—Spot Color
- 15 Guest Speaker
- 22 No Meeting (Passover)
- 29 Workshop

May

- 6 Competition #8
- 9 Expanding Visions 30 Introduction
- 13 Theme Night—Black and White
- 16 Expanding Visions 30 Assignment #1
- 20 Guest Speaker
- 23 Expanding Visions 30 Assignment #2
- 27 Business Meeting #4
- 30 Expanding Visions 30 Review #1

June

- 3 Year End Competition
- 6 Expanding Visions 30 Assignment #3
- 10 Otto Litzel Memorial Dinner
- 13 Expanding Visions 30 Assignment #4
- 17 ExCom Meeting
- 20 Expanding Visions 30 Review #2
- 24 Summer Programming Begins
- 27 Expanding Visions 30 Final Review

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

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

Pop-Up Field Trips will be announced to those PWCC members who have signed up to receive the invitations.

## 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 its meetings. An email will be sent to all PWCC members prior to virtual meetings. This email will contain the link to join the 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)

## Pop-Up Trips

The Club instituted Pop-Up field trips this past summer. 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 out an email to all the other PWCCers who signed up. That's it!

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 in .jpg (JPEG) format and sized at 72 ppi resolution, 1400 pixels maximum width, and 1050 pixels maximum height. [*Do not exceed these maximums!*]

Competition images must be titled as follows:

LastNameFirstInitial\_Month  
Year\_Title.jpg

*for example*

JonesM\_Jan23\_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

Read each entry in the Club's Schedule for special instructions, if any.

## 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.



**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

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

**WANTED!**

PWCC members to volunteer for all Club committees.

This Club operates by committee. It is only as strong and as exciting as the members make it.

We have 10 active committees which do everything from setting up chairs to passing the prints, to greeting guests.

It's your Club—join in and do your part!

**PARK WEST**  
CAMERA CLUB



**Club Meeting Times**

All Park West Camera Club Monday night meetings will begin at 7 p.m. except for the monthly competitions which will begin at 6:30 p.m.

You may sign into Zoom 15 minutes earlier for chit-chat, to ask questions, or to hang out before the meeting.

The link to join the Zoom meetings is sent out to all Club members in our *Weekly Reminder* every Friday.

**PWCC Image Deadlines**

<u>Event</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
Theme-Minimalism	Feb.11th	Feb. 12th
Competition #6	Feb. 26th	Mar 4th
Interpretations	Mar. 9th	Mar. 11th
Competition #7	Mar. 25th	Apr. 1st
Theme-Spot Color	Apr. 7th	Apr. 8th

## Club Participation Nites

This coming year there will be 10 programs that require member participation. Here's a quick rundown on these fun and educational activities...

[*Note—the entry deadlines for most of these activities is two days prior to the event, but not the You Be the Judge competitions—these have a one month lead time!!!*]

- September 11th—*Welcome Back* What'd you do over the summer months? Share up to 10 images to tell your story. Entry deadline: September 9th.

- October 9th—*Theme Night (Travel)* Send in 10 images from one of your recent trips within the city, across the country, or around the world. Entry deadline: October 7th.

- October 23rd—*Variations on Your Theme* Submit two versions of the same image. Make whatever changes you feel tell your story best. It's up to you. Entry deadline: October 21st.



- November 13th—*You Be the Judge (Flora)* You may submit one flower or plant image that has never before been seen at any Club activities. Each entry will be scored and commented on by all participating Club members. Winners will be announced tonight. Entry deadline: October 16th.

- January 15th—*Theme Night: Winter Holidays* Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Gobble-Gobble-Gobble; you choose the holiday and enter up to 10 images relating to it. Limit your images to only a single holiday. Entry deadline: January 13th.



- February 12th—*Theme Night (Minimalism)* Share up to 10 of your images where "Less is More" is the saying of the day. Entry deadline: February 10th.

- February 26th—*You Be the Judge (Fauna)* You may submit one animal image (mammal, fish, bug, whatever) that has never before been seen at any Club event. Each entry will be scored and commented on by all Club members. Winners

will be announced tonight. Entry deadline: January 29th.

- March 11th—*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: March 9th.



- April 8th—*Theme Night: Spot Color* Pick a color, any color and let that choice be the only color in the image; The rest of the image should be B&W or very muted colorwise. Submit up to 10 photos—you may use the same spot color in all of your shots, or switch 'em up. Entry deadline: April 6th.

- May 13th—*Theme Night (Black and White)* There's more than one way to skin a cat and to convert an image to black-and-white. Select your favorite method and show us what you can do in monochrome. Limit of 10 images, please. Entry deadline: May 11th.

**Images of the Month**

January 2024

**PDI-of-the-Month**

*Young Woman* by Jay Bitkower

**Honors**

*Santa* by Bruce Byers

*Concordia* by Christine Doyle

*Ghana Beauty* by Alec Rill

*Arianna* by Larry Sapadin

*NYC Moment* by Peggy Winkelman

*The End* by Ann Broder

*Umbrellas in the Sky* by Barry Fahrer

*Woman with Painted Nails* by Marlene Schonbrun

A great big “thank you” to this month’s judge, Jay Cohen, for his consistent scoring and insightful and helpful commentary.

So far this year we’ve had 53 different Club members competing in our monthly competitions—43 in the January contest.

**Cumulative Points**

(Through January 2024)

by Hedy Klein

		Kris Moran	38
Laura Toledo	60	Paula Paterniti	36
Ann Broder	58	Betsy Currier	34
Natalie Manzino	58	Elayne Dix	34
Rain Bengis	54	Marlene Schonbrun	34
Nicole Dosso	54	Julie Foehrenbach	32
Janet Susin	54	Bill Apple	30
Jay Bitkower	52	Paul Grebanier	30
Doris King	52	Julie Wosk	30
Alec Rill	52	Dottie Mills	26
Michael Schleiff	52	Will Aimesbury	26
Madeleine Barbara	50	Larry Rubin	26
Christine Doyle	50	Florence Forman	24
Puneet Sood	50	Alice Somma	24
Elena Pierpont	48	Dudley Slater	20
Larry Sapadin	48	Tom Quackenbush	20
Albyn Davis	46	Karen Corrigan	16
Sonia Durante	46	Raylie Dunkel	16
Richard Gold	46	Bruce Byers	14
Jill Greiss	46	Barry Fahrer	14
Chuck Pine	46	Justine Carson	12
Evelyne Appel	44	Marvin Fink	12
Charles Levin	40	Dov Bieber	8
Peggy Winkelman	40	Virginia Lawrence	8
Carlton Johnson	38	David Miller	8
Jeff Langford	38	Harvey Weinstein	8
Hedy Klein	38	JoeZarba	8

This month’s winning images—the PDI-of-the-Month and Honors—are shown on the following four pages.

Congratulations to the winners in this season's fourth monthly competition. And a great big "thank you" to all who entered, competed, and watched.



Image of the Month  
Young Woman  
© Jay Bitkower

Continued on next page



A with Honors  
*Santa*  
© Bruce Byers



A with Honors  
*Concordia*  
© Christine Doyle



A with Honors  
*Ghana Beauty*  
© Alex Rill

Continued on next page



A with Honors  
*Arianna*  
© Larry Sapadin



A with Honors  
*NYC Moment*  
© Peggy Winkelman



A with Honors  
*The End*  
© Ann Broder

Continued on next page



A with Honors  
*Umbrellas in the Sky*  
© Barry Fahrner



A with Honors  
*Woman with Painted Nails*  
© Marlene Schonbrum

### **AI Position Statement**

The following statement regarding the use of artificial intelligence (AI) was issued by the F3C (Florida Camera Club Council). It applies to all of their state-wide competitions. Most Florida camera clubs will probably issue a similar rule for their monthly contests.



*Every part of an image must be the maker's own work. AI or Artificial Intelligence cannot be used to add elements to any image that was not taken by the maker. AI functions such as denoising, sharpening, healing,*

*etc. are allowed, as long as AI generated objects, people, or other elements are not added into the image.*

Do we at Park West want to, or need to, have a similar rule for our competitions? Let us know your thoughts on this matter by responding to...

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

**Images of the Month**

February 2024

**PDI-of-the-Month**

*What’s In There* by Raylie Dunkel

**Honors**

*Going Home* by Evelyne Appel

*Ash Tray* by Jay Bitkower

*Party Time* by Ann Broder

*Woman in the Window* by Florence Forman

*Grapes On Mug* by Doris King

*Housekeeping* by Chuck Pine

*Egypt* by Alec Rill

*Silhouetted Men* by Marlene Schonbrun

*Trash Can* by Janet Susin

*Woman From Purmamarca* by Laura Toledo

A huge “thank you” to this month’s judge, Jean Miele, whose comments were informative, educational, and entertaining.

So far this year we’ve had 53 different Club members competing in our monthly competitions—39 in the February contest.

**Cumulative Points**

(Through February 2024)

by Hedy Klein

Ann Broder	76	Bill Apple	42
Laura Toledo	74	Paul Grebanier	42
Natalie Manzino	70	Elayne Dix	38
Michael Schleiff	68	Julie Foehrenbach	38
Janet Susin	68	Florence Forman	38
Doris King	66	Carlton Johnson	38
Alec Rill	66	Kris Moran	38
Rain Bengis	64	Larry Rubin	38
Jay Bitkower	64	Raylee Dunkel	36
Madeleine Barbara	62	Paula Paterniti	36
Nicole Dosso	62	Will Aimesbury	34
Sonia Durante	62	Betsy Currier	34
Christine Doyle	60	Dottie Mills	34
Chuck Pine	60	Alice Somma	32
Larry Sapadin	60	Dudley Slater	30
Puneet Sood	60	Karen Corrigan	28
Albyn Davis	58	Tom Quackenbush	20
Evelyne Appel	56	David Miller	16
Jill Greiss	56	Bruce Byers	14
Elena Pierpont	52	Barry Fahrer	14
Peggy Winkelman	52	Justine Carson	12
Richard Gold	46	Marvin Fink	12
Jeff Langford	46	Dov Bieber	8
Marlene Schonbrun	46	Virginia Lawrence	8
Julie Wosk	46	Harvey Weinstein	8
Hedy Klein	44	JoeZarba	8
Charles Levin	44		

This month’s winning images—the PDI-of-the-Month and Honors—are shown on the following five pages.

Congratulations to the winners in this season's fifth monthly competition. And a great big "thank you" to all who entered, competed, and watched.



Image of the Month  
*What's in There*  
© Raylie Dunkel

Continued on next page



A with Honors  
*Going Home*  
© Evelyne Appel

A with Honors  
*Party Time*  
© Ann Broder



A with Honors  
*Ash Tray*  
© Jay Bitkower

Continued on next page



A with Honors  
*Woman in the Window*  
© Florence Foreman

A with Honors  
*Grapes on Mug*  
© Doris King



A with Honors  
*Housekeeping*  
© Chuck Pine





A with Honors  
Egypt  
© Alec Rill



A with Honors  
Silhouetted Men  
© Marlene Schonbrun



A with Honors  
Trash Can  
© Janet Susin



A with Honors  
 Woman from Purmamarca  
 © Laura Toledo

## Help Wanted

by Joan Slatkin

After my fall two years ago I stopped shooting and post-processing my images. I soon hope to be off my walker and back on a cane. I would like to go back to my photography but I don't feel I remember everything I need to know.

I would like to hire a Club to help me remember the steps I need to do to transfer images to my computer and then be able to send them to my agency using WeTransfer.

If you are interested in assisting me, please contact me at [<joni205@hotmail.com>](mailto:joni205@hotmail.com)

Thank you.

## Presidents Message

[continued]

*our Recording Secretary, Joe Nawy, our Treasurer, and last, but certainly not least, our Corresponding Secretary and our first lady, Helen Pine.*

*Thanks also to all our committee chairs who do so much of the work for the Club: Christine Doyle (Website)*

*Marilyn Fish (Program)*

*Hedy Klein (Competition)*

*Ed Lee (Workshop)*

*Natalie Manzino (Social)*

*Elena Pierpont (Membership),*

*Mike Schleiff (Website)*

*Marlene Schnobrun (Membership)  
 Alice Somma (Program).*

*And of course, thank you to all the Park West members for your participation, your contributions, and your friendship.*

*Happy holidays, everybody.*

*Chuck*

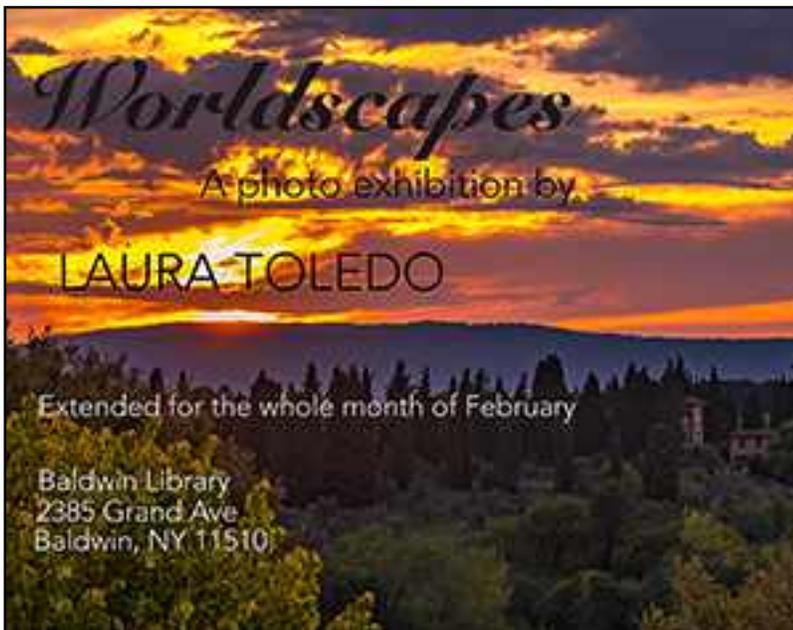
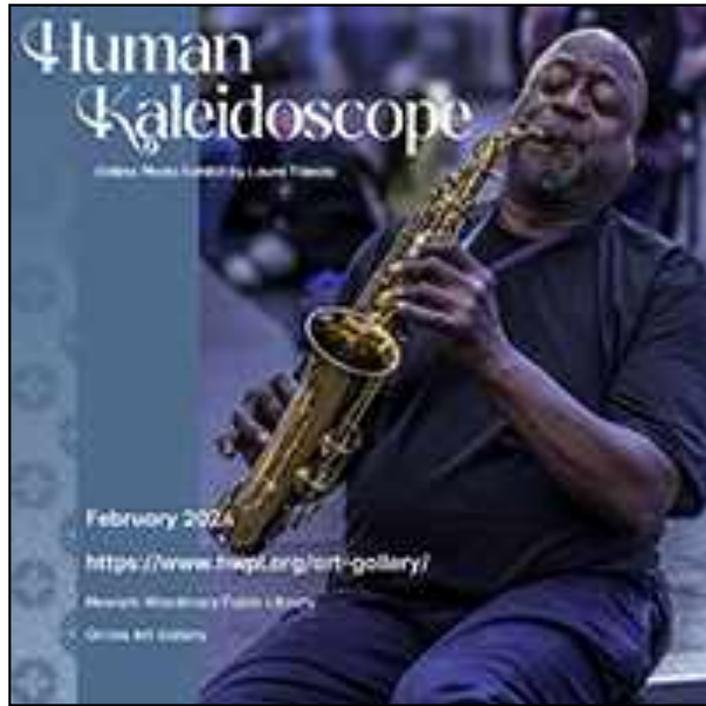
## Human Kaleidoscope

by Laura Toledo

My exhibit *Human Kaleidoscope* will be online for the month of February. It is a collection of photographs of people that I captured during my trips. Here is the link...

[www.hwpl.org/art-gallery/](http://www.hwpl.org/art-gallery/)

Also my exhibit of landscapes at the Baldwin library was extended for the month of February in the library's lobby located at 2385 Grand Ave, Baldwin, NY 11510.



### Position Open



### Social Committee Chair

Natalie will no longer be available for our three party events—the *Chuck Pine Labor Day Picnic*, the *Holiday Party*, and the *Otto Litzel Memorial Dinner*. She would like a Club member to take over as chair. She will be happy to continue sending out the “sunshine” cards.

If you are interested, please contact an Executive Committee member.

Thanks!



### Holiday Party Pix

The Club's Holiday Party was held on December 18th, the first time since Covid. 40 Club members and guests were in attendance.

Here are some images from the event...



All Images ©2023  
Carole deBeer  
Elayne Dix  
Renée Harper  
Bruce Byers



# HOLIDAY PARTY

## Member Comments

Good Morning,

I just wanted to say that the party last night was wonderful. I had planned to take pics but was too busy talking to so many of the members. Some were there for the first time. Glad a few others were taking pictures.

I have always admired what a wonderful club you both have continued to make fun, interesting, and for me, at times, challenging. I learned so much and how you kept it going through COVID. It is still great even with the loss of print competition, field trips, and in person meetings. I don't think New York has a better club. Thanks for your continued work.

Have a good and safe trip to FLA and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Take a lot of F---ing good pictures and as you say, Chuck "Have Fun."  
Elena



Thanks again for having the party at your place and for all you two do for PWCC. It was a fun gathering.

My best for the coming year! Especially good health!  
Susan



I am glad the party went well. So many people contributed to make it a success. It was good for the membership to be able to meet in person. Thank you and Helen for giving your apartment, your help, and guidance.

It looks like you are leaving in time just as the weather is getting cooler.

Have a safe trip to the Sunshine State.  
Joe



It was a great success. Folks were so helpful and there was a lovely spirit in the air! Happy to be a part of the whole shebang!!

Elayne



Just to say I hope you all have a wonderful night on Monday and during the festive season Have a great time with family and friends. One year I will surprise you and be there for the evening, but promise I will be thinking of you all this time.

So glad I joined your club, no regrets whatsoever.  
Dave.

## Print Salon

by Larry Rubin

The first Print Salon meeting in 2024 is scheduled for February 13th. We will work on the incorporation of layers into images prior to printing.

This will build on the excellent presentation of layers led by Ann Broder at the Print Salon meeting in November. (see image). Ann prepared a PDF outlining the steps she followed in creating her final image.

Using that as a guide, Print Salon participants will share their creations with other members and review the steps they took. What will make this especially interesting is that participants are likely to work with the same image files and will undoubtedly come up with a variety of elaborations built around them.versions

Should be fun!

The address is:  
740 West End Avenue  
(at 96th Street) Apt. PH-B

My phone number is:  
(917) 596-8500

If you would like to attend please let me know at the above phone number.



### New Club Card



This is what we've come up with for the new Club business card. It includes the QR code which will bring prospective members directly to our website.

What do you think? Any comments, corrections, or changes? Send them to <[christinedoyle52@gmail.com](mailto:christinedoyle52@gmail.com)>

[Design by Will Aimesbury]

### PDI Workshop

The January PDI (projected digital image) Workshop had twelve Club members sharing one or two of their images to get some comments and to see what could be done with their shots to improve them through some of the available software.

Here are some of the results from the workshop...



This colorful beach scene was shot by Evelyne Appel. We **cropped** in on the people and **opened the shadows** on their faces.

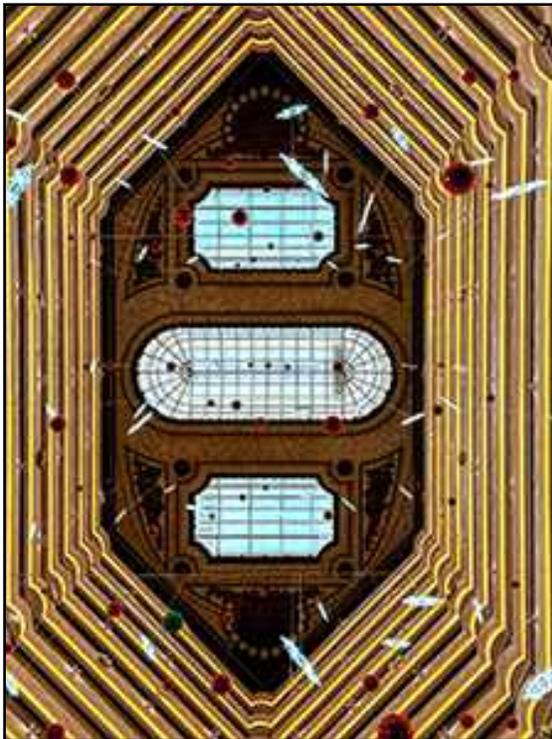


Jane Russo's image of a shopper taking a break was well done. We removed a few distracting objects from the background and then lightened the shadows around the eyes.

Continued on next page



Dottie Mills' shot of a tunnel in the park needed some straightening. We used **Edit > Transform > Distort** to achieve this. We then used the **Quick Selection Tool** to select the bright area at the end of the tunnel and then darkened it slightly using a **Brightness/Contrast Adjustment**.



Lying on his back in the hotel lobby, Jeff Langford took both of these shots. He wanted to know which one we thought worked better. Most of us preferred the horizontal, off-centered image!

Continued on next page

Sonia Durante captured this amazing shot of a bird. We thought it could use some more space on the top and bottom. We used the **Crop Tool** set to **Content-Aware Fill** to extend the canvas and fill it in. We then removed a few bits of distracting color from the background, desaturating them using the **Color Mixer's** sliders in the **Camera Raw Filter**.



Charles Levin caught these street performers at the peak of their action. However, the background was a bit too distracting. We used the **Select Subject** feature in Photoshop. It did a pretty good job but there were a few spots it selected that we didn't want. We used the **Quick Selection Tool** while holding down the **Option Key** (**Alt** on a PC) to remove those areas from the selection. When we had just what we wanted, we **Inversed** the selection and applied a **Gaussian Blur Filter**. Voilà!

Continued on next page



This old image, scanned from a print, needed some work. First, we used a **Black and White Adjustment Layer** to convert the image. Next, we used an **Exposure Adjustment Layer** to slightly reduce the total exposure. Finally, we used the **Crop Tool** to crop in from the right, up from the bottom, and to add to the left side of the image making sure that **Content-Aware Fill** was selected.

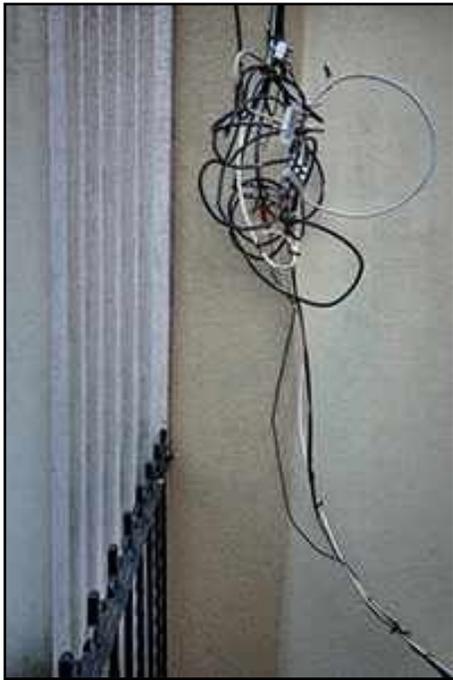


Julie Wosk's *Butterfly Mirror* had a distracting background (this might be difficult to see in the *Photo Notes* reproduction). The area was selected with the **Quick Selection Tool** and then filled in using Photoshop's **Generative Fill**.

Continued on next page



*Scottish Couple* by Marlene Schonbrun caught the decisive moment. But there were a couple of areas that were too bright. We used a **Sky Replacement** to fill in the upper left corner. The area between the two faces was painted with the **Brush Tool** set to **black** and a **10% Opacity**.



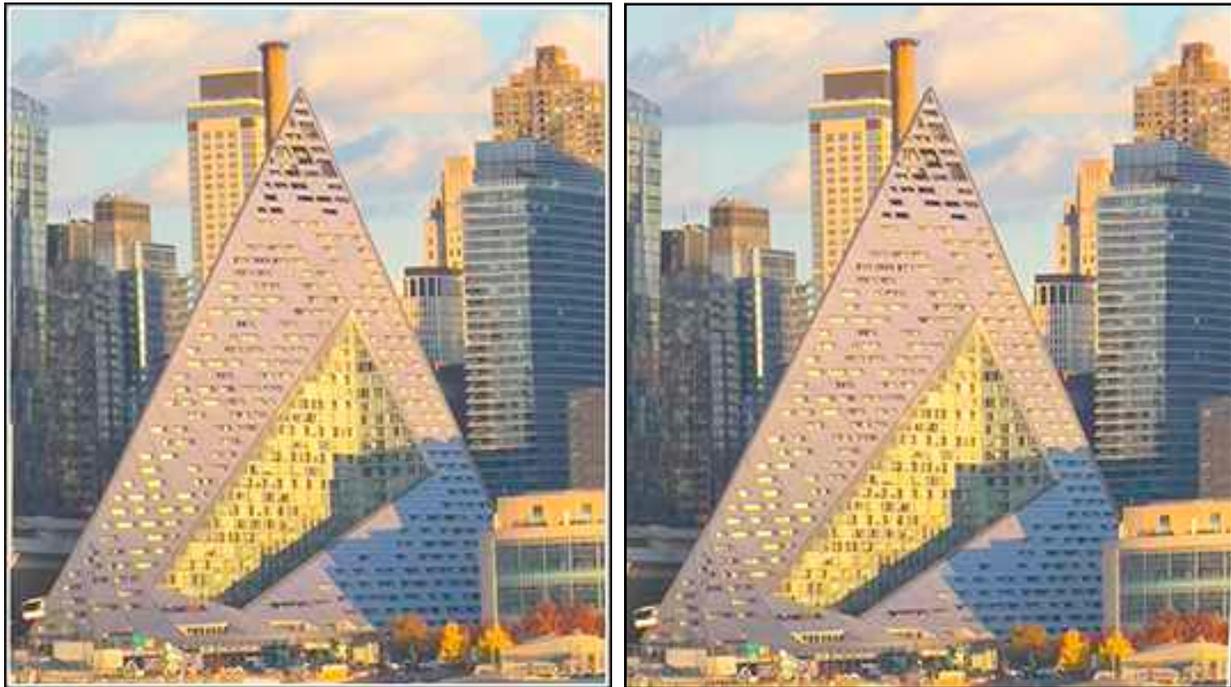
Paul Grebanier submitted two images of walls with wires. We liked them both and decided not to make changes to either.



Continued on next page



Carlton Johnson shot this image of the abandoned chair. We felt that the bright areas (mostly on the left side of the scene) were a bit over the top. We used **Image > Adjustments > Shadows/Highlights** to reduce the highlights slightly and open up the shadows a bit.



This West Side scene, shot by Michael Schleiff, had some of the buildings leaning to the left. We created a new layer (Command-J/Control-J) and then used **Edit > Transform > Distort** to pull out the upper right corner to straighten the vertical lines.

*This is a monthly Club event. All members are invited to join in either with images or to make comments and/or suggestions. The first ten or so to submit images will be used for demonstrations and discussions.*

## 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.



Feb. 19th	Natalie Manzino
Mar. 18th	George Corbin
Apr. 15th	Marilyn Thypin
May 20th	Paula Paterniti

## Birthdays

by Natalie Manzino

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

### February

Jeff Beeler  
 Elayne Dix  
 Julie Foehrenbach  
 Jane Russo  
 Puneet Sood  
 Sarah Street  
 Marilyn Thypin

### March

Bruce Byers  
 Marjorie Gurd  
 George Herman  
 Hedy Klein  
 Natalie Manzino  
 Joan Slatkin  
 Alice Somma

## 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 (the five elected officers) 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 this Club year:

Archive	inactive
Competition	Michael
Field Trip	inactive
Gallery	inactive
House	inactive
Membership	Helen
Photo Notes	Chuck
Program	Christine
Social	Joe
Website	Michael
Workshop	Joe



## Photo Notes Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
March	Mar 4th
April	Apr 1st
May	May 6th
Summer	June 3rd

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 and to the Website Committee to be uploaded to [www.parkwestcameraclub.org](http://www.parkwestcameraclub.org)



### Sierra Photos

The New York City Sierra Club Photo Committee held its holiday members meeting in late January. (Yes. I know, the holidays are in December, but circumstances delayed that meeting.)

Anyway, five Park West clubbers were among the 20 Sierra members who showed work that evening.

Here are some of the many images our folks shared...



*Chilean Fjords*  
© Natalie Manzino

*Red Leaf*  
© Pat Garbarini



*Aurora*  
© Justine Carson



*Pelican*  
© Chuck Pine



*Daytona Beach*  
© Helen Pine



**Mark your calendar!**

Expanding Visions 30 is not too far around the bend or over the next hill.

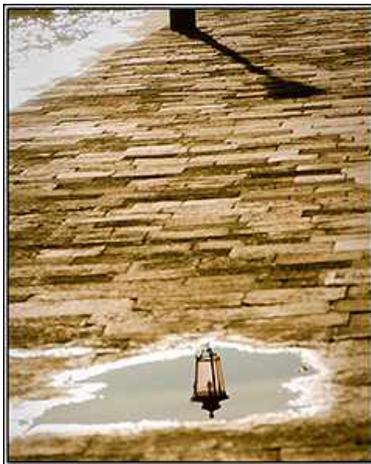
- Thursday nights starting on May 9th continuing until June 27th from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- There will be 4 shooting sessions/destination field trips and 4 Zoom sessions (an intro to the class and 3 review sessions).

The class is free to PWCC members. Invite your friends and fellow photographers. All are welcome.

The cost for non-Club members is \$10 per class session—the first session, the Introduction, is free. That’s a total of \$70. Joining Park West for a year is only \$50—the choice is up to you. All payments are due by the first assignment on May 16th.

The theme running through the 4 weekly

assignments and the term project is *Reflections*. We’ll be shooting them ...in store windows ...in cars ...in water ... in polished surfaces ... in mirrors



Reflection Images  
© Chuck Pine



**Reader Response**

The latest issue of *Photo Notes* looks like another winner. Bravo for all the great work you do on this publication. There are always so many useful and informative items in each issue. And of course, many thanks for printing my member portfolio of cherry blossoms. The images all look great!

All the best,  
Jeff (Langford)

**More on URBEX**

The following note was sent by Valerie DeBiase, a reader of *Photo Notes*, a member of the Syosset Camera Club, and a traveler on past PWCC weekend field trips.

*If I could, I'd just like to add a little note about URBEX photography, a passion of mine. One of the cardinal rules, maybe THE cardinal rule, when going to any abandoned location is to never, never, never go alone!*

*I've been surprised in the past at the amount of times I've heard about people going alone. It is just a really bad – and very possibly dangerous – idea.*

## Tinsel and Glitter

by Raylie Dunkel

### *A Walk Down 5th Avenue*

Having joined PWCC about a month ago, I attended the Holiday Party in an effort to meet some of the members, as opposed to seeing them in little tiles on the zoom call. After mentioning to Marlene that I would love to join a live event, almost immediately I was invited to join a group of people to shoot the tinsel, lights, and glitter of NYC at Christmas. And what better way to do that than a walk down 5th Avenue!

We met at 3 p.m. as the daylight was fading into dusk, a bit out of the frenzy, on the side street by Bergdorf's. Crossing the street to the plaza in front of the Dior store we experimented with all the reflections on the "toadstools" in front of the store and the mirrored reflections in the Apple Store staircase. Barry took out a prism and showed us how to hold it up to the lens of the camera to play with the images. Crossing back to Bergdorf's we had fun taking pictures of the incredibly ornate windows before heading down 5th Avenue. Each block presented building decorations, animations, and showy displays to work into interesting images.



Continuing on, we arrived at the block across from Saks leading up to the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree. After taking pictures of the front of Saks, with the enormous decoration covering the front

of the building, we got lost in the crush of the crowd with selfie sticks, cell phones, and mass confusion as we headed up to the tree. Our group of eight was soon consumed by the crowd ending our excursion. The weather cooperated, the fading light brought up the glow of the displays and a fun time was had by all involved.

Thank you for including me in the event as I went from a Newbie to a Veteran member of PWCC in just two hours!

Both images  
©2023 Raylie Dunkel

More Images From...

*A Walk Down 5th Avenue*



©2023 Ann Broder



©2023 Elena Pierpont



©2023 Larry Rubin



©2023 Marlene Schonbrun

©2023 Barry Fahrer



**A Photo Story in 3 Emails**

by Helen Bohmart Pine  
and Matt X

On Friday, December 8, 2023 at 04:03:09 p.m. EST, Matt wrote:

Hello,  
I found your photo at Housing Works and bought it! I was wondering how much you sell it for? They were asking \$150. I do not see it available online. Thank you,  
Matt

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023, 5:49 p.m. Helen wrote:

Hello Matt,  
Photography for me is a serious hobby which I have been pursuing for more than thirty years.

I am tickled pink that you found my photo at Housing Works and that you liked it well enough to buy it!

I normally do not sell my photos. I pursue my hobby for my own pleasure and the pleasure of sharing my images with whomever sees them.

I had an overabundance of framed and matted images from showing my work in group shows with Park West Camera Club, Sierra Photo NYC, Professional Women Photographers, et al. These framed and matted images were cluttering up my living space so I asked my daughter to help me take them to

Housing Works. At first, we carefully blacked out all the personal info but after several weeks of trips to Housing Works, I guess we got careless. And that is how you serendipitously found me!

Warm regards,  
Helen Bohmart Pine

On Fri, Dec 8, 2023, 6:04 PM Matt wrote:

Hello Helen,  
Thank you for your prompt reply!

I originally saw the photo in Housing Works a few weeks ago and thought it was a bit expensive. Then a week later I saw the Peter Lik work in the Time Warner Center for \$10k and I said to myself, I think I can afford the \$150 for that one of a kind Statue of Liberty shot! I went back today after school, and surprisingly, it was still there! I liked the heron photo too, I do a little bird photography for fun when I'm out birdwatching, but I'm not that great a photographer. Sometimes I post on Instagram (the\_greatauk). I do not see you on there.

I saw your silhouette gallery on the Boynton Beach Club website, you have some really spectacular work! I especially liked the cacti silhouette.

Thanks,  
Matt



*Statue of Liberty with Fireworks*  
© Helen Bohmart Pine  
\$150



*Moonlight Reflections*  
© Peter Lik  
\$10,000

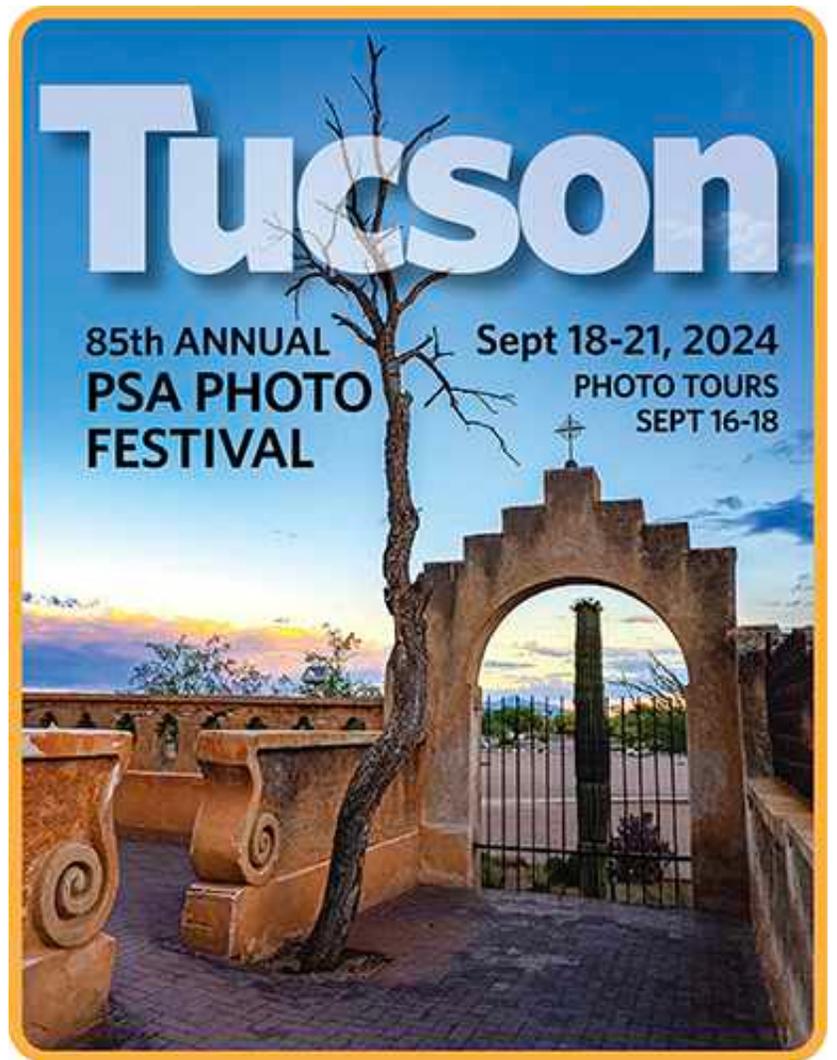


### PSA Membership

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

#### Benefits of Membership

- PSA-Recognized Exhibitions
- Study Groups
- Photography Recognition
- Society Recognition
- Monthly Journal
- Online Education Course
- Personal Gallery Page
- Individual Competitions
- Member Discounts
- Webinars



Enjoy photographic opportunities, seminars, workshops, and meeting members from around the world.

Speakers, workshop leaders, schedules, and registration information will be available in the near future at the website <[www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)>



**Honorable Mention**

by Christine Doyle

A photo taken with my cell-phone received an honorable mention in the Brian Lehrer Show’s “Best Photo On Your Phone 2023” contest on the WNYC radio station.

It was taken in September near the West 97th Street greenmarket. The identical shirts they’re wearing have pictures of their grandchildren printed on them, a gift, I was told, from their daughter.



<https://airtable.com/appk-YehHVgB4bSWhh/shrQzB-Bx5FJeMgt9B/tblZw-Zqr3YZfeEX2t?fbclid=IwAR1rKsNOYhBC-942oA7GIWtDi7krOzsUlp87xpb-ZsPLqQtgVWPCcm7jYgyo>

**Know Your Lens**

**AF** indicates you can use the lens in a camera’s autofocus mode.

**MF** describes a lens that lacks auto-focus and can only be focused manually.



**D** (Extra-low Dispersion) is another term designating lenses designed to reduce chromatic aberration.



**USM** (Ultrasonic Motor) is a technology that signals faster and quieter autofocus.

**DO** lenses use diffractive optics technology to reduce the size and weight of a lens, especially long telephotos.

**Name Game**

by Chuck Pine

I was looking over the latest Club membership list—the one with 80 members. A few things popped out at me.

Three of our members have the longest names (first and last only) composed of 16 letters (not counting the spaces)...

- Julie Foehrenbach
- Virginia Lawrence
- Marlene Schonbrun

The shortest name of all the members on the list has only five letters...

Ed Lee

The most common first letter of the last names is “S” (10 members)

The least common first letters of last names are “E” “O” “U” “X” and “Y” (no members’ last names begin with these five letters).

The month in which the most members have birthdays is December—10 of us.

This is what happens when you’ve got time on your hands and there’s nothing to watch on the boob tube, you’ve read all the photo magazines, and you’re bored with the games on your iPhone!

**Vernon**

by Evelyne Appel

Vernon is a very old town north of Paris near Giverny. My friend Evelyne Arnoult, a sculptor and painter, lives there. In 2017 she invited my daughter Nadine and me for a visit.

She took us for a long walk to see old houses built in the 1500s, six centuries ago. To my surprise people still live in them! Strolling through the streets we admired the old shops with original signs such as “Miel de l’Apiculteur,” (Honey from the Beekeeper). It felt like walking through ancient times.

Then Evelyne took us to see her friends, a couple who owned a house that had belonged to the famous French painter Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947). The artist had called his house “Ma Roulotte” (My Caravan). From the balcony you could see the Seine River which inspired many impressionist painters. Inside was a basin Pierre Bonnard used to paint his bathers. It was so exciting to be in his house. We were enthralled.

We shall always remember that beautiful and magical day in Vernon.



All Photos  
©2017 Evelyne Appel



## Polar Bear Plunge

by Elena Pierpont

Several weeks ago, some members got together and went to Coney Island's Polar Bear Plunge. I have never witnessed this before so with Marlene Schonbrun, Ann and Jay Broder, Barry Faher, and Dov Bieber we watched and photographed the plungers. It was a great photo op day as well as just fun with lots of interesting characters and, may I add, great weather.



All Photos  
©2024 Elena Pierpont

**New Member Bio**

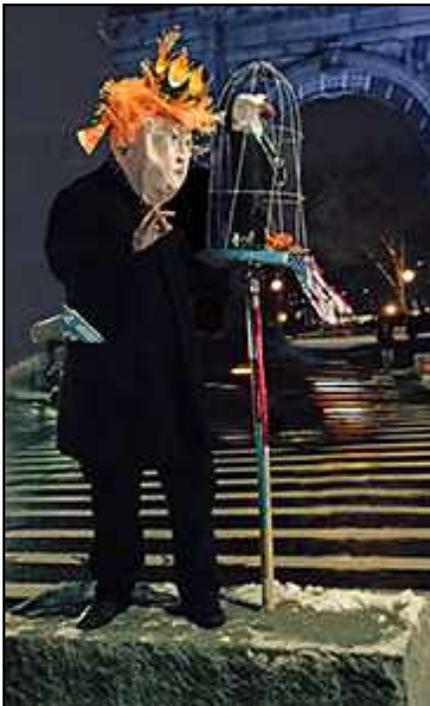
*Michael Padwee*

by Marlene Schonbrun

Michael found out about our Club through a fellow member, Marvin Fink. He has been in-

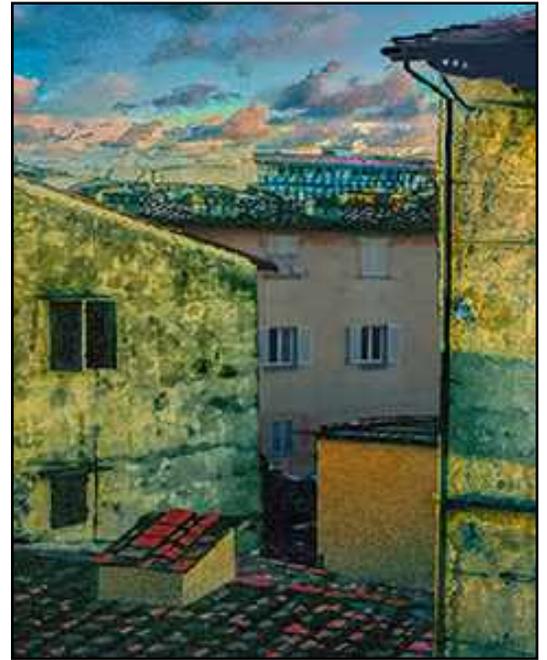


involved in photography since around 1966. His interest in the type of photography he enjoys shooting is quite varied. For example, Michael enjoys architectural photography, documenting social movements,



creating abstract and photographic collages to name but a few.

Like many of us, he uses both his camera (the Panasonic Lumix) as well as his iPhone. As far as software, Michael uses Photoshop Elements, along with various plug-ins like Topaz, Luminar, and Nik. Michael currently belongs to the Cranberry (NJ) digital camera club. He was also a member of the Good Neighbors of Park Slope Camera Club, which dissolved during the Covid pandemic, and the GNPS "Old Fotogs" group, which has also dissolved.



He has been inspired by many photographers. Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Man Ray, Robert Capa, and Jerry Uelsmann to name a few.

Michael's goals for joining the Club are to meet like minded people, pick up some competition skills, and to learn how others do their work.

I think he's found the right Club,... and we have no intention of dissolving the group any time soon.

Welcome Michael.

All photos  
© Michael Padwee

## New Member Bio

Raylie Dunkel

by Marlene Schonbrun



a digital camera, Sony's A6000, as well as Lightroom.

Raylie is primarily interested in street photography, travel, abstracts, and portrait shooting. She formerly belonged to another camera club, but that was disbanded.

When asked about what her greatest strength was, she

about editing. I'm certain that our monthly PDI workshops will help in this regard.

When asked about her goals, Raylie said she wants to be a better photographer, and to be encouraged to try new things. I think you've come to the right club, Raylie, because that's what we're all about.

Raylie joined the club in December, finding us through a friend. She has already participated in one of the spur of the moment field trips, and written an article for *Photo Notes* on her experience that will include images from those who attended.

Wanting to connect to our members as often as possible in person, Raylie attended our holiday party. The reason for her joining PWCC, in fact, was to be a part of a photography community where exchanging ideas and learning take place.

Raylie's experience with photography dates back to the days of film, but she now uses



wrote "Composition." I think her assessment is spot on since both images she entered in the January Competition received scores of A's.

Raylie also acknowledged that she needs to learn more

All photos  
© Raylie Dunkel

## New Member Bio

*Eliot Nierman*

by Marlene Schonbrun



As new members have done before, Eliot filled in answers on the questionnaire I sent and I wrote him up.

Eliot was looking for a camera club after moving to New York City recently, and he found us through a google search, as well as through a B&H event in September.

He became interested in photography after winning a fellowship to travel after graduating from college in 1971. In Japan, Eliot met and traveled with an avid photographer for a couple of weeks. Interested in pursuing what he had learned, he purchased a Pentax SLR camera, and during the rest of this nine month trip, took 1,700 slides that were sent home, unseen by him, to his family in Kodak mailers.



He's still passionate about travel and landscape photography, as well as being the family photographer. Over the years, Eliot moved to Canon and Nikon SLRs and then DSLRs. He is currently working with the Nikon Z8, his first mirrorless. As far as the software Eliot uses, it is primarily Lightroom, DxO, and sometimes Adobe Photoshop and Topaz AI.

Eliot was a former member of the Delaware County Camera Club outside of Philadelphia and an academic general internist, before retiring and moving to New York to be near his grandkids. The photographers that have inspired Eliot include Ansel Adams, Frans Lanting, and Galen Rowell.

Eliot joined Park West to share knowledge and experiences with fellow photographers and learn from them. He also hopes to go on photo shoots, which I will keep in mind when there are spontaneous events planned by our members. When asked about strengths and weaknesses, Eliot feels that his strength is the technical side of photography and editing but needs more work on artistic aspects and finding the best compositions.

Eliot, I think you will find what you are looking for here at PWCC.



All photos  
© Eliot Nierman

# Instagram

by Julie Foehrenbach

PWCC is on Instagram!

The Club launched a page on Instagram in December of 2021. Instagram is a social media platform that focuses on pictures more than words. It just seemed a natural for a camera club. Other local clubs, including Sierra Club NYC and the Bronx Photographic Society, have had a presence on Instagram for several years.



Our goal is to attract new followers and, potentially, members to join Park West.

Our approach is to post only those images entered in PWCC Competitions that earn a score of A or higher, and whose owners have allowed their work to be posted.

As of February 8th, 2024, we have 469 posts and over 450 followers—and growing.

If you haven't signed on to our Instagram page, why not give it a shot?

To visit the PWCC page, download the Instagram app on your mobile phone or go to [instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com) on your computer. You don't have to post anything to be able to see the work of others. Search for @Parkwestcameraclub. And once you're on Instagram, be sure to follow our page.

## Know Your Lens

**mm** (focal length) – When you see a number followed by mm, it refers to the lens's focal length. A prime lens (with only one focal length) might have a 200mm inscription. A zoom lens has the minimum and maximum range – for example, 18-55mm.



**1: x** (aperture) – All lenses have the widest aperture written on them. In many cases, the f/ number is preceded by 1:, for example, 1:2.8 means that the maximum aperture is f/2.8. Zoom lenses have the widest aperture of the shortest and longest focal range, for instance, 1:3.5-5.6.

## 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 much 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.



## 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 an 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* are available online and may be downloaded.
- Organization—features the latest PDF files containing membership information

including the PWCC 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. 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, 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 for 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.

### Know Your Lens

∅ – This indicates the diameter of the lens. When you buy filters, caps, and hoods, make sure that they have the same diameter as the lens.



**APO** (Apochromatic) – These lenses produce less chromatic aberration than non-APO lenses. [lens.es](http://www.parkwestcameraclub.org/lens.es)

**To the Editor:**

by Bill Apple

January 26, 2024

For years I have geotagged my photos, even before I had a camera with built-in GPS. Just recently it helped me locate a photo for the next “You Be the Judge” show. I knew where I’d shot it, but didn’t know which year or computer folder the photo had been filed in.

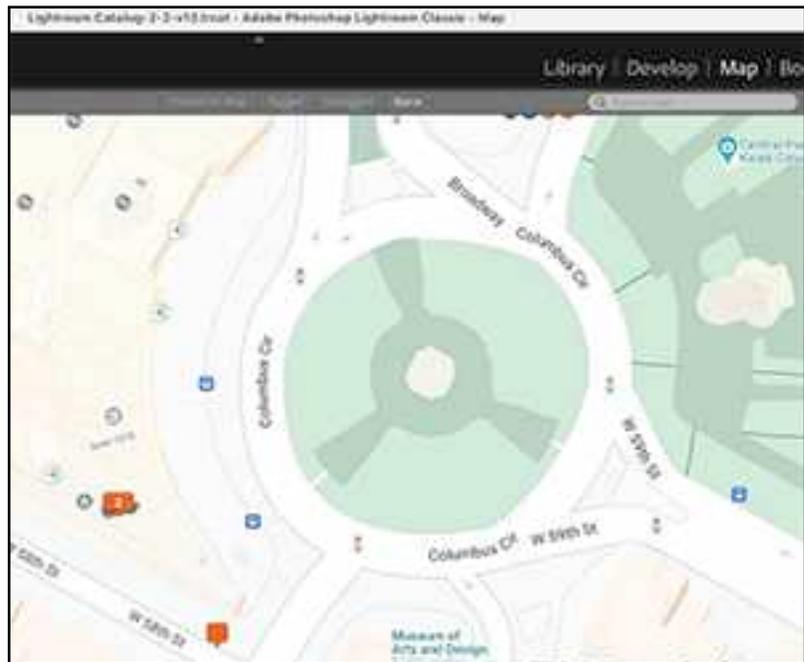
Here’s how it works, on the cheap. And how geotagging saved my bacon...

You download a smart-phone app, inexpensive as I recall: Geotag Photos, second edition (icon below). Make sure your camera’s clock is sync’ed to your smartphone’s (and re-sync if traveling to a different time zone).

When you go out shooting, fire up the app on the phone, in the background. It then records GPS readings continuously or every 30 secs (I prefer the 30-sec. setting to save phone battery.)

A timeline of your locations goes to the Cloud automatically, updated twice a minute. Technically, it’s not strictly GPS but includes location data gleaned from a “mesh” of nearby WiFi networks that the app reads.

After you shoot and upload pictures, put the new photos into a separate folder on your computer. Then visit the app’s



website, inform it of that folder's name, and let it do its magic.

The website marries each photo’s metadata with the timeline of your walking, then inserts proper coordinates into the picture’s metadata. It picks out the GPS of the place you visited at the instant of each capture, and it’s very accurate, or close (most people move slowly enough to correctly pinpoint every photo, even on the 30-sec. setting).

I then transfer my pictures to Lightroom. (I keep chronological file folders for every outing in which I shoot.) Turn next to Lightroom’s Map module: you can pull up a map of any area to see red “flags” of

places where you have taken pictures, for a specific year, range of years, or any time frame you want to search. (You should put all your pictures in Lightroom anyway—not a big deal—even if you use Photoshop for editing.)

Say it’s Columbus Circle you want (see above). You use the mouse to zoom in on locales. You’ll see flags, and if you took multiple shots from the same vantage you’ll see figures inside the flags. Click on a flag for access to all those photos there and nearby.

It’s a great system, geotagging, and useful. You just have to remember to turn it on on your phone when you are out taking pictures.



**Where to Go**

*World's Oldest Cities*

We live in the best city in the world—the Big Apple! But it's not very old. It dates back a mere 400 years to its founding in 1624 (this year is the City's quadricentennial). But there are many cities around the world that are much, much older. Here are a few of them that are located in, what are currently, safe places to visit.

Field trip, anyone?



Argos, Greece  
~1,200 BC



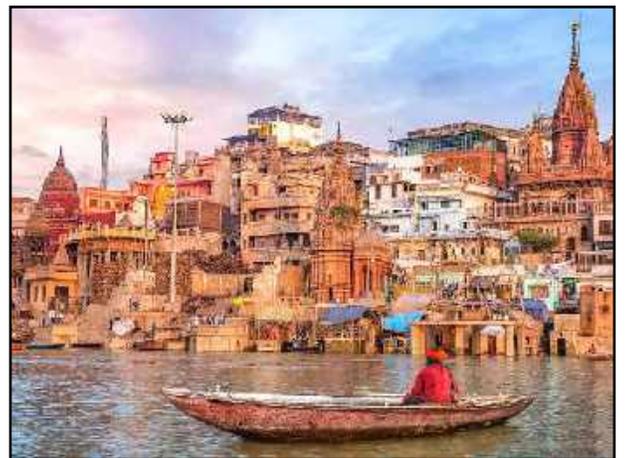
Xi'an, China  
~1,000 BC



Djenné, Mali  
~2,000 BC



Luxor, Egypt  
~1,400 BC



Varanasi, India  
~1,000 BC

## Where to Go

### *U.S. Scenic Drives*

America has some of the most beautiful landscapes on Earth, and there are plenty of scenic drives around the country that show off dramatic landscapes and dreamy sunsets. Here are some of the most scenic drives in America.



Overseas Highway  
Florida



Skyline Drive  
Shenandoah National Park  
Virginia



Park Loop Road  
Acadia National Park  
Maine



Cades Cove Loop  
Great Smoky Mountain Nat'l Park  
Tennessee



Wildlife Loop Road  
Custer State Park  
South Dakota

### Northern Lights Winners

In this year's Northern Lights Photographer of the Year contest, sponsored by the Capture the Atlas blog, 25 of the best northern lights photos were chosen. They ranged from remote boreal forests in the Arctic to the stunning southern landscapes of Australia and New Zealand.

Here are some of the top winners...



Storm Over Sukakpak  
© Nickolas Warner



The Arctic Dance  
© Vincent Beudez



Lady in Pink  
© Kenneth Lerose



Aurora Flame  
© Richard Zheng



Kirkjufell Explosion  
© Marc Marco Ripoll

### Know Your Lens

IS (Internal Stabilization) – The image stabilization feature that helps diminish camera shake is built into the lens (not the camera body).



## Tamron Winners

Every year Tamron holds a competition for photographers who use their lenses. Here are some of the 2023 winners...



Grand Prize Winner  
©2023 John Calvin



Travel/Landscape Winner  
©2023 Marcin Zajac



Wildlife Winner  
©2023 Forest Qiao



Sports/Action Winner  
©2023 Bruce Bennett



Close-Up Winner  
©2023 Bruce Herwig

## AI Software

The three of the most popular AI software programs for creating photo-realistic images are Adobe Firefly, MidJourney, and DALL-E. They all work by entering textual input called prompts—where the user provides a description in words that programs use to generate an image. (If you ask me, it's like magic!) These programs dig through millions of images

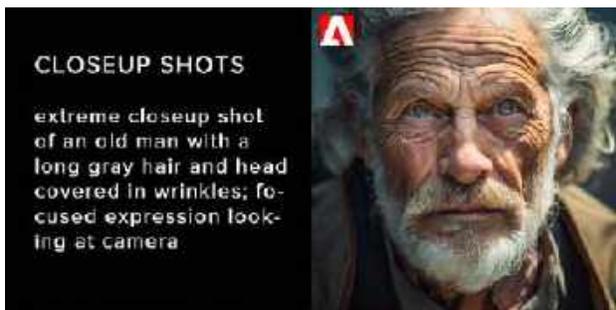
to find what matches your request. The images they produce are simply composites of other people's work (and, therefore, are not allowed in our competitions—but they are fun to play with!).

- Adobe firefly is by subscription and costs \$19/month.
- MidJourney has a “basic plan” for \$10/month and a “standard plan” for \$30/month.

• DALL-E 3 is free to use but has a limit on the number of images you can create.

Additional time/images can be purchased in \$15 increments

Here are the prompts used to create four kinds of images and the results from each program. What do you think?



## Panorama of the Month



*Red Rock Country*  
©2014 Chuck Pine

---

## More Panos

Here are two more panoramas  
for your viewing pleasure.  
These were shot by PWCC  
member Natalie Manzino.  
Enjoy!



*Modica, Italy*  
©2023 Natalie Manzino



*Taormina, Italy*  
©2023 Natalie Manzino

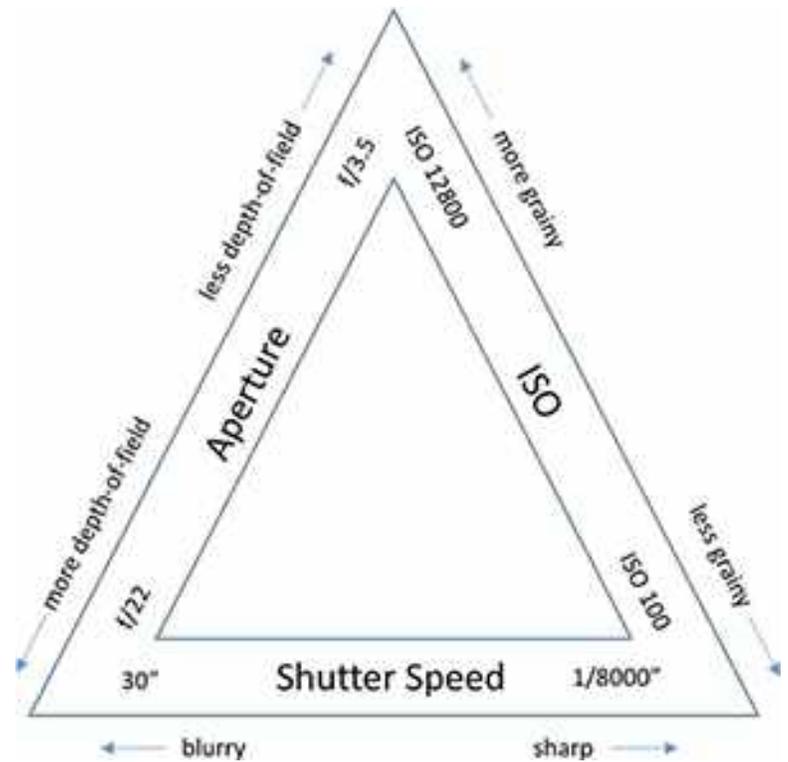
## Exposure Triangle

One of the basics of photography, and possibly the most important aspect of it... is exposure!

In brief, exposure is the quantity / amount of light that reaches the camera's sensor (in the old days, the film).

There are three factors that control exposure—aperture, shutter speed, and the sensor sensitivity / ISO (formerly film speed / ASA).

This is called the **exposure triangle**.



## Stay Cozy

Winter is upon us. The moment you step outside, you're met with a cold so deep it feels like it's piercing you to your very core. You bundle up in layers, leaving you feeling bulky and your movements are restricted—not a good thing for outdoor photographers

And to top it all off, this year's winter is predicted to be exceptionally cold, or so they keep saying.

But what if there was a way to stay warm without the bulk? What if you could brave the cold, rain, and snow without the layers?

Now, at last, there is—the VolteXD Heated Vest. It ensures you no longer have

to dread stepping out on those frosty mornings.

They come in sizes from S to 3XL. They come only in all black. [In the photo the orange color just indicates where the heating elements are located.] The price is \$99.99. But at the time of this writing they were on sale for \$59.99 each. Discounts were available if you buy three or more vests.

See all the nitty gritty details and order your vest at <[www.voltevest.com](http://www.voltevest.com)>



## Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

### *Rain Backlighting*

The old rule of thumb when taking a picture was “have the sun at your back.” This would assure that your subject was lit by direct sunlight. This was/is great advice for *taking* snapshots. But, we’re beyond that stage. We *make* our images!

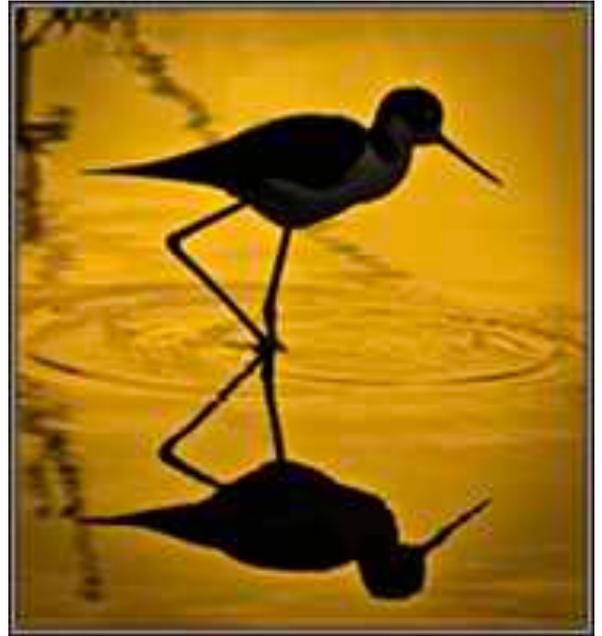
One technique we can use when making an image to be facing the sun when pressing the shutter release button. This is called backlighting. It can create some interesting effects in your photos. Here are some of them...

### Silhouettes

Focus on the subject but take the exposure reading from the brighter background.

### Flare

Shoot towards the sun but don’t have it directly in the viewfinder.



### Rim Lighting

Focus on the subject and take the exposure reading from the subject.



**Photo Shopping**

by Chuck Pine

*Top Rated Mirrorless*

Are you looking for a new mirrorless camera body for your birthday? For a holiday gift? Or just to treat yourself?

Modern mirrorless camera technology continues to evolve in 2024. Though some people want to define a camera as “video-centric” or “built for stills,” some of the best of today’s cameras manage to balance the two by taking the so-called “hybrid” approach.

Here is B&H’s list of the top five mirrorless cameras...



#4—Fujifilm GFX100 II  
102MP Medium Format Sensor  
Up to 8 fps  
\$7,499



#2—Nikon Z8  
45.7MP Full-Frame Stacked Sensor  
Up to 30 fps \$3,696.95



#5—Sony a7CR  
61MP Full-Frame Sensor  
Up to 8 fps  
\$2,998



#3—Panasonic Lumix S5 IIX  
24.2MP Full-Frame Sensor  
Up to 9 fps  
\$2,097.99



#1—Sony a9 III  
24.6MP Full-Frame Global Sensor  
Up to 120 fps  
\$5,998

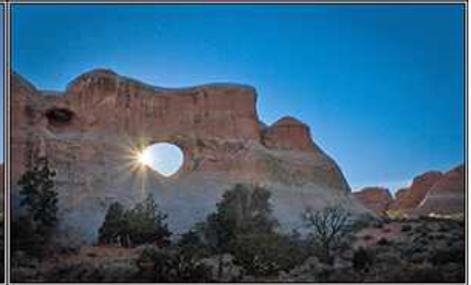
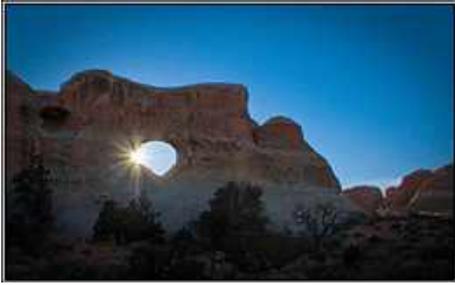


# PhotoShopping

by Chuck Pine

## Post Processing Tips

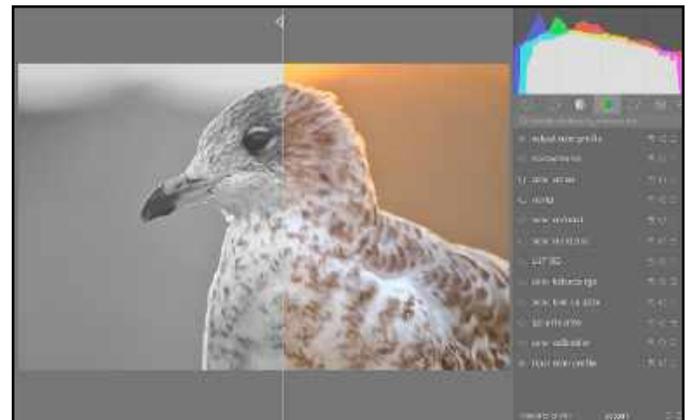
Here are a few off-the-wall image editing tips which you might find useful when working on your images...



1. Overexpose your image—create a second version of your image that is overexposed. The reason,... the darkest areas of the photo might have some detail that is easy to miss when the photo is “properly exposed.” As you are editing, check the overexposed version to see if there is detail in the darkest areas that can be brought out.

2. Edit locally—use a mask and then make small adjustments that bring out certain parts of an image. Local adjustments can be used for tones, color, and even sharpening. (Sharpening an entire image too much will often appear unnatural, but if you just apply selective sharpening to certain parts of your image, you’ll get two benefits: a more natural look and more emphasis where you want it.)

3. Convert to black-and-white—temporarily make a B&W layer of the image to check its tonal contrast. Sometimes an array of colors will be quite confusing and obscure the dark and light relationships of a photo. Other times, a color channel might be close to blowing out, and it might influence you to be more conservative in your tonal edits. Just be sure to turn off or delete this layer before continuing the processing.



### B&H Event Space

The B&H Photo Event Space offers free virtual workshops. Here are a few of the upcoming offerings:



Mon Feb 26th  
*Leica Stories*  
Speaker: Martin Wonnacott



Mon Feb 12th  
*Future of Photography—AI*  
Speakers: Clifford Pickett and Susan Magnano



Thu Feb 29th  
*Psychology of Photography*  
Speaker: Maher Ismail



Tue Feb 20th  
*The Passionate Photographer*  
Speaker: Steve Simon



Wed Mar 20th  
*Sportraiture*  
Speaker: Dani Mack

For more B&H Event Space workshops and info go to [bhphotovideo.com](http://bhphotovideo.com) and click on "Event Space."

Mon Mar 25th  
*Natural Light*  
Speaker: Tony Gale





Are you ready to harness the power of your iPhone camera?

Elevate your skills. Explore in-depth topics. Learn from renowned instructors.

KelbyOneLive presents a 2-day online conference on February 27th and 28th. There will be 10 presentations each day, 20 in all. They will cover a wide variety of topics for all levels of iPhone users. You can choose up to five of them to watch live on each days; but don't worry, they'll all be recorded and available for you to watch and rewatch to your heart's content.

Grab your Early Bird pass for just \$149 (regular pass is \$299)!

Go to <<https://kelbyone-live.com/iphone-conference-2024?af=emi-phone24>> for further details and to register.



## Sierra Meetings 2024

The New York City Sierra Club Photo Committee has meetings scheduled for the upcoming 2023-2024 year. All of the meetings will be held using the Zoom software, at least until they can find a new meeting place.

Most meetings are with guest speakers—nationally known nature/wildlife/landscape professionals—except for two members' nights.

Here's the schedule for the rest of the year...

Weds	2/21/24	hybrid
Weds	3/27/24	zoom
Weds	4/24/24	hybrid
Weds	5/29/24	zoom
Weds	6/26/24	hybrid



## M&M Photo Tours

M&M (no connection to the candy that "melts in your mouth, not in your hands") has three upcoming photo tours, all with special offers (if you sign up early. They are...

- Japan 2024—\$500 off the listed price
- Best of Northern Italy—\$750 off the listed price
- Indochina—\$750 off the listed price

For additional information on M&M Photo Tours and these trips in particular, go to <[www.mmphototours.com](http://www.mmphototours.com)>

[FYI—this is the company that planned the Club's trip to Cuba several years ago. It was truly a fantastic trip!]

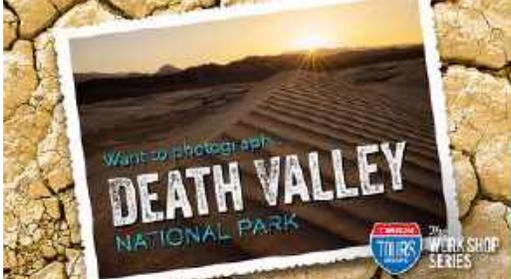


## Tamron Workshops

The noted and award-winning lens maker, Tamron, has just announced the list of it's 2024 photo workshops. Here are some of them...

# TAMRON

## Focus on the Future

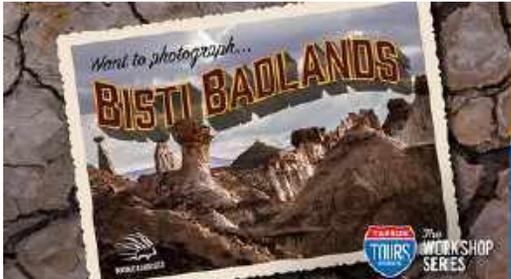


**APRIL 8TH - 11TH, 2024**  
 Join Erica and Ken from Tamron Americas, on an amazing photography workshop in Death Valley National Park.

~~\$2,150~~ Double Occupancy Per Person  
**\$2,399** Single Occupancy Per Person

**EVENT DETAILS HERE!**

[www.wetravel.com/trips/death-valley-national-park-photography-workshop-tamron-usa-inyo-county-90774656](http://www.wetravel.com/trips/death-valley-national-park-photography-workshop-tamron-usa-inyo-county-90774656)

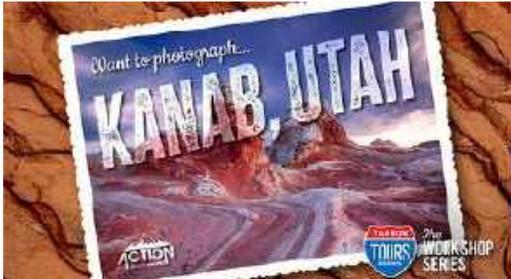


**JUNE 2ND - 4TH, 2024**  
 Join Erica and Armando from Tamron Americas, alongside guide Kialo Winters of Navajo Tours USA, on an amazing photography workshop in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness!

**\$1,199** Double Occupancy Per Person  
**\$1,399** Single Occupancy Per Person

**EVENT DETAILS HERE!**

[www.wetravel.com/trips/bisti-de-na-zin-photography-workshop-june-2024-tamron-usa-bloomfield-00872279](http://www.wetravel.com/trips/bisti-de-na-zin-photography-workshop-june-2024-tamron-usa-bloomfield-00872279)

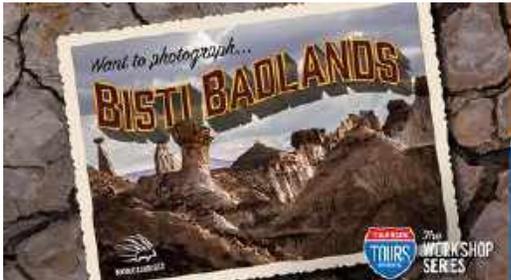


**JULY 5TH - 8TH, 2024**  
 Join Erica and Armando from Tamron Americas, alongside the team at Action Photo Tours, for a photography adventure around beautiful Kanab, Utah.

**\$3,195** Double Occupancy Per Person  
**\$3,495** Single Occupancy Per Person

**EVENT DETAILS HERE!**

[www.wetravel.com/trips/kanab-photography-workshop-2024-tamron-usa-kanab-39135377](http://www.wetravel.com/trips/kanab-photography-workshop-2024-tamron-usa-kanab-39135377)



**AUGUST 2ND - 4TH, 2024**  
 Join Erica and Armando from Tamron Americas, alongside guide Kialo Winters of Navajo Tours USA, on an amazing photography workshop in the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness!

**\$1,199** Double Occupancy Per Person  
**\$1,399** Single Occupancy Per Person

**EVENT DETAILS HERE!**

[www.wetravel.com/trips/bisti-de-na-zin-photography-workshop-august-2024-tamron-usa-bloomfield-61747689](http://www.wetravel.com/trips/bisti-de-na-zin-photography-workshop-august-2024-tamron-usa-bloomfield-61747689)

## Capture the World

Zoom Photo Tours presents a wide range of trips, including trips to Kenya with the aim to photograph the amazing wildlife of Masai Mara. If you prefer a cooler climate they also offer trips to Iceland and Lofoten (Norway) where you will experience and photograph fantastic landscapes. These are just a sample of the amazing trips you will find in their 2024-2025 program, which they will keep expanding with new trips.

Full details on all of the Zoom Photo Tours can be found at their website <[www.zoomphototours.com](http://www.zoomphototours.com)>

Here are some of the scheduled adventures...

Tigers and Leopards

India

April 14th - 21st, 2024

\$4,050

Bears of Slovenia

Slovenia

June 12th - 16th, 2024

\$3,100

Mountain Gorillas

Uganda

August 31st - September 9th

\$6,000



## Photo Masters Workshops

The following workshops are being offered by Ian Plant's Photo Masters this year. If you're interested, act fast!

### Svalbard

April 21st—29th

Photograph amazing mountain scenery, polar bears, walruses, arctic fox, and a bunch of other subjects.



### Badlands National Park

May 18th—21st

You will learn the techniques necessary to make landscape images that rise above the rest.



### Madagascar

September 26th—October 10th

You will explore its diverse landscapes and discover the dance of unique wildlife, from enchanting lemurs to mesmerizing chameleons, as your camera unveils the mysteries of evolution.



### Bayou

November 3rd—5th and 9th—11th

The cypress swamps of the Big Cypress Bayou in Texas are places of wild, haunting beauty. Clad in Spanish moss, the trees take on expressive shapes. The bayou comes colorfully alive in autumn, with an explosion of reds, oranges, and yellows.



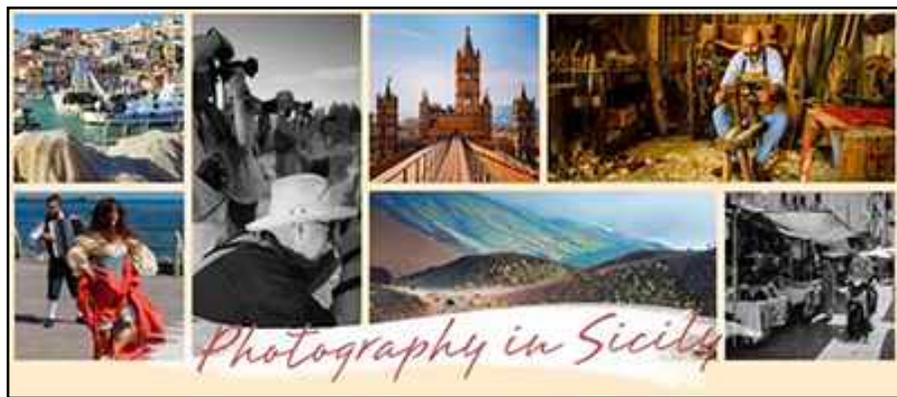
## Photography Online

*Photography Online* is a 60-minute monthly photo magazine show hosted on YouTube. It is free to watch and aims to educate, inspire, and enthuse anyone with a camera to get out more often and enjoy their photography.



One recent show, from January 7th, includes a photo challenge around the UK, winter macro photography, a photo tour around Namibia (in southern Africa), and a model shoot where the film is cross-processed to get some funky results. There is also a week-long photo holiday (vacation, to us Yanks) to the Isle of Skye (in Scotland) to be won.

Feel free to visit them at [www.YouTube.com/PhotographyOnline](http://www.YouTube.com/PhotographyOnline)



## Sicily Tour

*Experience Sicily* is offering a Photography in Sicily tour from January 29 - February 8, 2025. The tour will be led by photographer Don Toothaker, from the Boston area, and the owner of Experience Sicily, Allison Scola. The link to the tour for more detailed information is <https://experiencesicily.com/photography-in-sicily-2024/>

Allison also leads Cannoli Crawls, trips to taste different types of Sicilian food (and cannoli, of course) through Lower Manhattan on a regular basis. She is an expert on the Italian-American experience in New York and lectures on this topic frequently in many venues in New York City.



National Parks at Night [www.nationalparksatnight.com](http://www.nationalparksatnight.com) goes to more places than just US destinations. Here are some upcoming trips in which you might have an interested

Puerto Rico  
March 17-25, 2024

Ireland: County Mayo  
April 15-23, 2024

Faroe Islands  
May 11-20, 2024

Denmark  
July 7-18, 2024

Easter Island  
February 10-17, 2025

Morocco  
November 10-24, 2025



## 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, Club activities will be virtual using the Zoom software—until further notice. 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 meetings and other PWCC activities.

Competition meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. All other meetings will begin at 7 p.m. You may log-on using Zoom software 15 minutes prior to the start time.

Listed below are all PWCC activities. Some Photo Ops (offering opportunities to take photos) and Photo Events (of interest to photographers) are also listed.



© Judy Hancock Holland

\* Monday, February 12  
Theme Night  
Minimalism

“Minimalism is a form of photography that is distinguished by simplicity. It emphasizes sparseness and careful composition, shying away from overabundance of color, patterns, or information.” Tonight’s theme night asks PWCC members to submit up to 10 images that are minimalist in nature. If you want more information on the subject, check out Judy Hancock Holland on YouTube. Your images are due no later than midnight on Sunday, February 11th.

\* Monday, February 19  
Guest Speaker  
Builder Levy

With an aesthetic grounded in realism infused with an intense

humanity, tonight’s guest speaker, Builder Levy’s hand printed gold toned gelatin silver print and platinum print photographs blend social documentary, fine art, and street photography “to produce works of power and beauty.” He was awarded fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Alicia Patterson Foundation, National Endowment of the Arts, Puffin Foundation, and, in 2019, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association. Builder has published four hard-covered books of his photographs (*Images of Appalachian Coalfields*, *Builder Levy Photographer*, *Appalachia USA*, and *Humanity in the Streets: New York City, 1960s–1980s*) and is currently working on his fifth book of new millennium demonstration photographs. You can learn



*Girls at the Gate*  
©1970 Builder Levy

more about Builder and his images at his website  
<[www.builderlevy.com](http://www.builderlevy.com)>



*Orchid Haze #43*  
© Melissa Fleming

Abraham Lincoln (February 12th, moved to the third Monday in February, and renamed

Presidents' Day. Although there are no official goings-on, there's still plenty to do and photograph around the City. Here are a few you might want to check out: visit the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex; take a ferry ride to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty; take out a loan for a helicopter tour of the Big Apple; circumnavigate the City with the Circle Line; and so it goes.

an artist and writer focused on nature and the environment. Her artwork, which has been exhibited, published, and collected internationally, is largely an exploration of the transient and often unseen aspects of the natural world. Researching the ways art can impact opinions on environmental issues, she has been a speaker at a variety of venues, including national and international conferences for both art and science. Melissa received an MFA from the Parsons School of Design and a science-based Master Naturalist Certificate from Cornell University. She is a member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the International Environmental Communication Association (IECA). She lives and works in New York City. You can learn more from her website <[www.melissafleming.com](http://www.melissafleming.com)> This will be a hybrid meeting. You can attend the meeting at the Soho Photo



Monday, February 19

Photo Op—  
Presidents' Day

The birthday of U.S. President George Washington (February 22nd) was first celebrated as a federal holiday in the United States in the 1880s. In 1968 the holiday was adapted to also honor the birth of President

Wednesday, February 21

Photo Event  
Sierra Photo

The New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee is holding its monthly meeting tonight. The guest presenter will be Melissa Fleming. She is

Gallery (15 White Street, west of Avenue of the Americas) or by registering at Eventbrite <[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)> and making a small donation. To learn more about the Sierra Club Photo Committee, visit <[www.sierraphotonyc.com](http://www.sierraphotonyc.com)>



\* Wednesday, February 21  
Image Deadline  
PDI Workshop

The deadline for submitting images for this Thursday's PDI workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit up to two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Some images will be worked on with a variety of photo-editing software. Only images from the first 10 members to send them in will be reviewed at this workshop. Other Club members may join in to view and comment on the images and demonstrations. Send your images to this website only <[pwccny@gmail.com](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com)>

\* Thursday, February 22  
PDI Workshop

PWCC members are invited to participate in this month's PDI workshop. Only images from the first 10 members to send



them in will be reviewed at this workshop. (See the entry for February 21st) All Club members may join in to view and comment on the images and demonstrations. Some images will be worked on with a variety of photo-editing software. The link to this workshop will be sent to the membership in the Club's weekly reminder.



\*Monday, February 26  
You Be the Judge 8  
*Fauna*

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 "fauna"—including any and all kinds of animals such as mammals, birds,

insects, fish, and all the rest. Entries for this in-house competition were due on February 5th.



\*Monday, February 26  
Entry Deadline  
Competition

PDI entries are due by 11:59 p.m. tonight for next week's monthly competition. See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* on how to prepare your images. More information is available in PWCC's *Competition Manual*. Send your two entries to <[pwcccompetition@yahoo.com](mailto:pwcccompetition@yahoo.com)> and send them as a backup to <[hfklein@mindspring.com](mailto:hfklein@mindspring.com)> (You can send them in one email by entering both email addresses in the "To" line.)

\* Monday, March 4  
Monthly Competition

Tonight is the sixth contest of the Club's 2023-2024 year. Who will win the top honors? What will the judge say about your images? Will you agree? The only way to find out the answers to these probing questions is to enter and join the Zoom meeting. Full rules are available from the Competition and the Membership



*Flatiron Building and Tiffany Clock*  
© Jim Cummins



*Nude on the Rocks*  
© Robert Farber

Committees, and on the PWCC website. Your two PDI entries must be submitted by midnight one week prior to today, February 26th. Tonight's judge is Jim Cummins. He is an American photographer known for his work in music (where his work appeared on over 900 album covers), journalism (including the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Newsweek*), and sports (where he was a staff photographer for the National Basketball Association). Find out more about Jim at [www.jimcumminsimagery.com](http://www.jimcumminsimagery.com)

them in any way they see fit—change things, add things, whatever. Let your imagination and software skills run wild. Please stick with traditional photography and post-processing techniques—this means no AI generated images! Have fun. We'll share all the images at the meeting tomorrow, March 11th. Send your images to [pwccny@gmail.com](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com) by 11p.m. tonight.



\* Monday, March 11  
Interpretations

Tonight we'll share all the images that members have changed from the original "base images." See the March 10th entry, above, for the rules of entry. This should be a great evening!

\* Monday, March 18  
Guest Speaker  
Robert Farber

Robert Farber's recognition has been established through his books, fine art exhibitions, lectures, interviews, and award winning advertising campaigns. His painterly, impressionistic style captures the essence of composition in every genre, including nudes, still life, landscapes, and architecture. His ten photo art books have sold over half a million copies. Robert's commercial client list is a who's who of international corporations—including Bloomingdales, Courvoisier, Paramount, Phillip Morris, Saks Fifth Avenue, and scores of others. See it all at Robert's website [www.farber.com](http://www.farber.com) and on his Instagram account [@robertfarberphotographer](https://www.instagram.com/robertfarberphotographer)



DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

\* Sunday,  
March 10  
Entry Deadline  
Interpretations

The Club will provide members with six "base images," all minimalist, in February. The members will then alter

## Image Deadline

\* Wednesday, March 20  
Image Deadline  
PDI Workshop

The deadline for submitting images for this Thursday's PDI workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit up to two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Some images will be worked on with a variety of photo-editing software. Only images from the first 10 members to send them in will be reviewed at this workshop. Other Club members may join in to view and comment on the images and demonstrations. Send your images to this website only <[pwccny@gmail.com](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com)>



\* Thursday, March 21  
PDI Workshop

PWCC members are invited to participate in this month's PDI workshop. (See the entry for March 20th, above.) The link to this workshop will be sent to the membership in the Club's weekly reminder.

\* Monday, March 25  
Business Meeting #3

Tonight is the third business meeting of the Club year. There is always plenty of excitement in the air. We will finish up any items left over



from the November meeting and then discuss what lies ahead for the Club. We will start the procedures for the elections of next years ExCom including the addition of two new at-large members. The Otto Little Year-End Dinner will be on the agenda. We'll discuss the Club's meeting time (7 p.m., except for our competition nights). Lots more, too. If you have any "New Business" or "Good and Welfare" that you'd like to have discussed or announced, please let us know by emailing <[pwccny@aol.com](mailto:pwccny@aol.com)>



## Photo Conventions

[Lens and Light](#) (February 26th – 29th, 2024)

Taking place in New England, this photography convention is both an educational and a networking opportunity for photographers. It features 23 different speakers who are experts in astrophotography to underwater portraiture and everything in between. The convention is divided into four different tracks for your convenience—wedding, portrait, commercial, and creative.



[WPPI](#) (March 3rd – 7th, 2024)  
WPPI (Wedding and Portrait Photography International) takes place every year in Las Vegas, Nevada. This photo convention is for shooters of all skill levels. You can expect the convention to help you learn new techniques to use both in the field and during post processing. Each day is loaded with keynote speakers from industry leaders, gear demos, hands-on experiences, and networking events. A brand new feature called "The Playground" allows photographers to try out new gear to capture portfolio-worthy images.

**Table of Contents**

**Club News**

- 2 Who's Who at PWCC
- 3 President's Message
- 4 2023-2024 PWCC Schedule
- 5 Zooming
- 5 Pop-Up Trips
- 5 Submitting Images
- 5 Emailing PWCC
- 6 Sunshine Fund
- 6 Wanted!
- 6 Club Meeting Times
- 6 Image Deadlines
- 7 Club Participation Nites
- 8 January Competition Results
- 9 January Winning Images
- 12 AI Position Statement
- 13 February Competition Results
- 14 February Winning Images
- 18 Help Wanted
- 19 Human Kaleidoscope
- 19 Position Open
- 20 Holiday Party Pix
- 21 Member Comments
- 22 Print Salon
- 22 New Club Card
- 23 PDI Workshop
- 29 Curtain Raisers
- 29 Birthdays
- 29 Committee Liaisons
- 29 *Photo Notes* Deadlines
- 30 Sierra Photos
- 31 Expanding Visions
- 31 Reader Response
- 31 More on URBEX
- 32 Tinsel and Glitter
- 33 More Images from 5th Avenue
- 34 A Photo Story in 3 Emails
- 35 PSA Membership
- 35 PSA Photo Festival
- 36 Honorable Mention
- 36 Know Your Lens
- 36 Name Game
- 37 Vernon
- 38 Polar Bear Plunge
- 39 New Member Bios
- 42 Instagram
- 42 Know Your Lens
- 42 On the Website
- 43 About (Y)our Website
- 43 Know Your Lens
- 44 To the Editor

**Photography News**

- 45 Where to Go
- 47 Northern Lights Winners
- 48 Tamron Winners
- 49 AI Software
- 50 Panorama of the Month
- 50 More Panos
- 51 Exposure Triangle
- 51 Stay Cozy
- 52 Using Your Camera
- 53 Photo Shopping
- 54 PhotoShopping

**Exhibits, Workshops, Etc.**

- 55 B&H Event Space
- 56 iPhone Photo Conference
- 56 Sierra Meetings 2023-2024
- 56 M&M Photo Tours
- 57 Tamron Workshops
- 58 Capture the World
- 58 Know Your Lens
- 59 Photo Masters Workshops
- 60 Photography Online
- 60 Sicily Tour
- 60 National Parks at Night

**Schedule of Activities**

- 61 Schedule
- 65 Photo Conventions
- 66 Table of Contents

