

PHOTOGRAPHING MODELS WORKSHOP REVIEW **BEVISED DATE!** January 23 hosted by Doug Mitchell

Editor's Note: This program, originally scheduled for January 16, was moved to the 23rd.

Whether you participated in the portrait workshop or not, all members will benefit from this photo critique and Doug's post-processing tips.

As a follow-up to our Photographing Models Workshop on November 3rd, Doug will discuss a few of the elements and concepts covered during the workshop. He will also look at some of the images submitted by participants, noting aspects that bring an image to a higher level as well as a few tips that might improve or elevate an image for greater impact.

Some relevant items discussed will include processing tips, white balance, skin tones, highlights, contrast and sharpening.

To wrap up there will be an opportunity for member comments, questions and observations.

Continued...



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PHOTOGRAPHING MODELS WORKSHOP REVIEW (Continued from page 1)







Learn more about Doug Mitchell and his portrait photography on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/ dougmitchellphotos/

or on his website: www.dougmitchellphotos.com

MESSAGE FROM THE SPS BOARD



Wishing all of our members, their families and loved ones, a healthy, happy and magical New Year.

Here's hoping 2019 will bring more great memories for you to capture and enjoy in the New Year and beyond.



WEATHER-RELATED CANCELLATIONS

Some of us do like snow...but it certainly wreaks havoc on our meetings! This is a reminder that, in the event of inclement weather PLEASE check your e-mail and the SPS website before heading out.

In the event of bad weather it is up to the Program Chair to determine if a meeting will be held.

Although we hate to cancel or postpone our meetings,

your safety is our main concern

"WHAT YOUR CAMERA CAN TELL YOU ABOUT YOU" January 9 by David Edgecomb

Join us as we take a look at how the images that we make give us insights into our unique perception of the world. Being more aware of what we are bringing to an image promises to strengthen our images, maximize our individual style, tell a clearer story, and create a stronger interest to our work. Let's have fun as we point our cameras toward ourselves and discover those hidden connections that define our work.

The following quotes have inspired this exploration.

"Photography is a major force explaining man to man." ~ Edward Steichen

"You should never use a camera to make your pictures. You use yourself, your experience, to make the pictures with the camera." ~ Antonin Kratochvil

"The reason I take photographs is to make discoveries for myself." ~ Trent Parke

"Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever...it remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything." ~ Aaron Siskind







David is founder and host of the Berkshire Photo Gathering. New members are always welcomed.

https://berkshirephotogathering.com/



CREATIVITY INSPIRATION (Why You Should Enter the Luba Ricket Creativity Contest) January 16 hosted by Joan Heffler

The Luba Ricket Creativity Contest was created in 2017 to honor one of the most creative members of the Schenectady Photography Society. Sadly, Luba left this earth in May of 2017. For those who knew her, we were oftentimes mesmerized by her unique and creative images. For those who didn't know her, hopefully this competition will give you a feel for the woman and her innate artistic talents.

The competition will take place this season on April 24. Entries may have been created at any time and two items may be submitted. As a "creativity award," members are encouraged to push the boundaries of photographic expression. Your entry is limited only by your creative imagination. Members are encouraged to submit unusual techniques, unusual subjects, triptychs, diptychs, books, videos, 2D and 3D works, etc. A trophy is awarded to the first-place winner, and gift certificates to the runners-up (funded by a generous donation from Luba's family).

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATED? IF SO, BRING IN ONE OR TWO OF YOUR NON-DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS TO INSPIRE OUR NEWER MEMBERS!







TRAVELING EXHIBIT 2018-2019 Season Schedule

Here are the confirmed dates for our Traveling Exhibit through the end of 2019. All members (Yes...you MUST be a member) are encouraged to participate. Members who have not previously participated will be given preference. Images must be framed and ready for hanging (i.e., wired). In general, there are no size restrictions (but, we ask you to be reasonable when it comes to larger prints). There are no restrictions as to subject matter (with the exception of June/July and August/September), frame and mat colors, canvas prints, metal prints, etc. Details on photo collection and specific exhibit dates/times will be forthcoming.

If you'd like more info, contact the Traveling Exhibit Coordinators at: travelingexhibit@sps.org.

CALENDAR 2019

<u>January</u>

Colonie Town Library

Steadman Room 629 Albany Shaker Rd., Loudonville, NY 12211 Mon–Thurs/9–8; Fri/9–6; Sat/9–5; Sun/1–5 (518) 458-9274 **RECEPTION: Sunday, January 13, 2–4 pm**

February

Bethlehem Public Library

451Delaware Ave., Delmar, NY 12054 Mon–Fri/9–9; Sat/10–5; Sun/12–5 (518) 439-9314

March/April

Niskayuna Town Hall

1 Niskayuna Circle Niskayuna, NY 12309 Mon–Fri/9–5 (518) 386-4500

<u>May</u>

Saratoga Springs Public Library

49 Henry St., Saratoga Springs, NY 2866 Mon–Thurs/9–9; Fri/9–6; Sat/9–5; Sun/12–5 (518) 584-7866

June/July

Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center Theme: Nature in the Capital District

195 New Karner Road, Albany, NY12205 Mon–Fri/9–4; Sat, Sun & Holidays/10–4 (518) 456-0655

August/September

Irish American Heritage Museum 370 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207 Theme: Depictions of Irish-American Heritage. Wed–Fri/11–4; Sat&Sun/12–4 (518) 427-1916

October/November

Guilderland Public Library

2228 Western Ave., Guilderland, NY 12084 Mon–Thurs/9:30–9; Fri/9:30–7; Sat/9:30–5; Sun/1–5 (518) 456-2400

December: Open



Hanging the latest exhibit at Uncommon Grounds in Albany. © 2018 Rich Schreibstein

TRAVELING EXHIBIT Installation at Uncommon Grounds, Albany, NY

Our tireless committee, Bert Van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm and Rich Schreibstein (photographer), assisted by M-J Adelman, did a masterful job hanging our creations.





All photos $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ 2018 Rich Schreibstein

Thanks, Rich, for being the "eyes" of the Focus!



Recently I attended an exhibit of SPS Photography at the West Sand Lake Library and was asked to write an article on my photography for a future monthly bulletin.

This being my 63rd year with SPS, my thoughts go back to when I was given a camera for my 13th birthday. This camera solidified my desire to become a photographer. At 18 I went to the School of Modern Photography in New York City. As the years went by I worked at photography culminating with being a medical photographer at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, New York.

During those years I joined the Albany Camera Club, but found the Schenectady Photo Society more progressive. Of course I competed with film and prints from the darkroom. Then came the computer and every print came from the so-called digital darkroom where you were at the mercy of the software, the desktop and many other variables that you did not have control over. Also, new computers that supposedly were better and new software that you had to have to keep up. The worst thing that could happen in the darkroom was that the bulb would burn out in your enlarger.



"Avenue of the Pines" © Max Tiller

I am not knocking digital because if everything is working OK one can sit at their computer and make prize-winning images; but the cost can be very high. SPS kept me up to date competing and honing my skills. I am pleased to share a number of images, some made with film and others made digitally.



"The Old Adelphi, Saratoga, NY" © Max Tiller



"Marianne" © Max Tiller

FOCUS ON: Max Tiller

Continued from page 6



"Look Into My Eyes" / © Max Tiller





"Topaz Boost" / © Max Tiller



"Norfolk Gardens" / $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ Max Tiller

"The Pony Farm" / © Max Tiller

Continued...

FOCUS ON: Max Tiller

Continued from page 7

"Twelve Riders" / © Max Tiller





"Plum Island in Infrared" / © Max Tiller



"The Flower Shoppe" / © Max Tiller



"Stone and Stone Cutter" / © Max Tiller



"Topaz Specify" / © Max Tiller

DARK HORSE ON THE BOATHOUSE Little Tupper Lake, Adirondacks, Upstate NY by Matt Pollock

This was my 4th trip to the region in the heart of the Adirondacks touted as having the darkest skies in New York State and the only area I know that can claim a Bortle's 2 rating anywhere near home. Only the darkest places on the planet rate higher with a Bortle's 1.

This time around, Mike Sacca and I got there early enough to check out some additional locations we had been checking on Google Maps and much to my surprise, just down the road from where I had been shooting previously there was a nice park and ranger station. Little Tupper is famous world wide as an ideal paradise for kayakers and canoeists with campsites along its shores and marshes only accessible by water.

It turned out to be a perfect night for astro geeks. Not a cloud in the sky and crystal clear. Around sunset we were assailed by clouds of mosquitoes but as darkness fell a light breeze sent them on their merry way and we were off to the races.

This was my first shot of the night and turned out to be my best. I had set up my gear and star tracker on the thin strip of sand by the run down and abandoned boathouse and aligned my spotter scope to polaris and locked all the adjustments down. I didn't realize until it was too late that I should have moved up along the shoreline a bit more as galactic core was on the verge of slipping behind the boat house by the time true darkness fell at roughly 11pm. This would turn out to be the only shot that would have galactic core and the dark horse nebula in it but it also happens to be one of the clearest I have ever obtained. The shot was part of a 6 shot, 180° panorama which I am just beginning work on.

This shot is comprised of two extremely long exposures on the right most side. One of the stars taken at 45° upward and tracked for 6 minutes and the other of the mountain, lake, shore and boathouse shot at -27.5° untracked for 8 minutes.

An added delight was a trace of red and green airglow along the horizon. Something I have only seen in very dark skies.



I was all but bowled over by the brightness of Mars located just above the horizon on the left hand side. I knew it was going to be a show stopper as it has snuggled up nearly as close as it gets to its sister planet, earth. This only happens every two years and some approaches are closer than others. This one is nearly as close as the one in 2003 when Mars came as close to earth as it has been in some 60,000 years and won't get that close again in this century. It is presently brighter than Jupiter. Brighter than any star, or any other planet save Venus which is the 2nd brightest celestial object in the night sky.

The image was taken with a double fog filter. A favorite of mine as it enhances the brightest objects and makes them stand out better for images and prints. Mars nearly blew out the shot on this one. It was a jaw dropper.

THERE IS NO "BEST CAMERA" by Joe Brady

Reprinted with permission from Joe Brady's "FotoFriday" newsletter (November, 2018)

There is no "Best Camera"! They are simply tools of expression and you need to pick one based on your needs!

As I read the dates reviews of new cameras, lenses and accessories, I can't help from being bored. There are so many specs and claims of greatness, but in reality, the camera doesn't take the picture, you do. I've seen people with all the latest, top-ofthe line gear who can't capture a great image to save their lives while others with iPhones sometimes knock your socks off.

Now I have a specific set of needs for my camera based on the type of photography I do and what I plan on doing with my images.

I pursue two areas of photography - Landscape and Portrait - and to me they have many similarities. In my opinion, when done correctly they both tell a story about the subject. For portraits, I have control over light and pose to create mood, depth and impact. Because of this control, the ratio of light to dark doesn't surpass my camera and most edits are fairly minimal.

For my landscapes, I have to be patient and watch the light while understanding that I will have to edit and shape those images to tell a story about the place and what I felt when I viewed the scene.

Unfortunately your camera can get in the way of your photography because there is too much engineering and not enough artistry.

For example, Sony has a setting called "Smile Detect" that tracks a face and then automatically takes the picture when the subject smiles. I'm sorry, but that's a feature I can live without and this and many other options clutter all camera's menus while making it difficult to find the settings we really need (Yes, I'm venting here!) My Sony camera stays on full manual - all the time.



What can make it difficult to add or switch to another camera brand is the layout of the dials and the menu systems. Frankly, I think all of the menu systems are terrible. There are far too many choices, most of which 99% of us will never use. Wouldn't it be nice if there were some standardization of where things were - kind of like having all your sock in the sock drawer!

At this point in the development in cameras, the bottom line is that they CAN ALL CAPTURE GREAT IMAGES! What becomes more important is usability, ergonomics and simple plain comfort in your hand. Of course you need to decide what resolution you need and if you are going to be making big prints. If you rarely or never print larger than 16x20", then any 16MP camera can capture great files to do that.

Where digging deep becomes more necessary is when you have very specific needs. Low light performance, special lenses, high speed shooting and specialized video formats and capabilities are technical areas that can help direct you to your best choice. But remember, the true answer may be you need more than one camera - even among different brands. Find the camera(s) that help you get your needs met and that will get out of the way to let you capture your best images possible.

Sign up for Joe's FotoFriday newsletter on his website: https://www.joebradyphotography.com



1st Place / "The Apprentice" / © Lance Monotone

Z ANNUL I **PRINT JUDGE: Richard Lovrich**

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Richard was born in New York City, attended Parsons School of Design. Prior to moving to the Capital Region of New York, he worked as an independent photographer, designer and producer with clients in the U.S. and abroad in manufacturing, banking, publishing, pharmaceuticals, and fashion. Currently a creative director for theatricals where he also served as a marketing director, Richard held the position of art director at a major daily. Portrait and food photography remain his passions.



3rd Place / "Is the War Over Yet?" © Barb Lawton



2nd Place / "Passing Through" / © Lance Monotone



4th Place / "Dawning" © Jeff Plant

Honorable Mention



"It Wasn't Me" © Nancy Pfunter



"Autumn Snow" © Linda Tommasulo



"Flower" © Fred Moody

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1st Place "Free Taco Samples" © Sean Sullivan



2nd Place "Ann Lee Nursing Home" © Barb Lawton



3rd Place "Three Trees" © Lance Monotone





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"Tree Bones" © Stacy Bradt "Model" © Fred Moody





"Icelandic Pony" © Jeana Caywood



1st Place "Come Visit Ocean City" © Sean Sullivan



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2nd Place / "Busker" © Dow Smith

3rd Place / "Fanad Head Lighthouse" © Phil Olivo

Honorable Mention



"Fall at Hancock Shaker Village" © Barb Lawton

To view all winning images, current and previous, check out our website: https://spsphoto.org.

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Links to current winners are on the Home Page. To view prior winners, click: Competitions (then Print, Projected Image, etc.)



"Galway Bay Boats" © Phil Olivo



1st Place "What Happened to 1936?" © Phil Olivo

PRINT JUDGE: David Brickman

David Brickman was an exhibiting photographer for 35 years, with exhibitions internationally and in New York City. He also was (and still is) an art critic, publishing reviews regularly on his blog Get Visual; has extensive experience as a curator, and contributes regularly to exhibition planning at Albany Center Gallery, where he is a current member of the Board of Directors. David also taught photography at the

college level for many years as an adjunct professor; he now works as an auditor for New York state and no longer exhibits his personal artwork. 2nd Place / "Ice" © Lance Monotone June 1



3rd Place "Burn Pod" © Thomas Whittemore



4th Place "Oh, Deer" © M-J Adelman



5th Place "Solitude" © Linda Tommasulo

Honorable Mention



"Havana Waterfront" / © Dan Steen



"Is it Haunted?" © Barb Lawton



"Bay of Skall Orkney" / © Dow Smith



"Native American Dancer" / © M-J Adelman



"Life's a Beach" / © Linda Tommasulo

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1st Place "Blood Money" © Sean Sullivan

> Assigned Topic: "Money" (Show us money in an imaginative way.)

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2nd Place "The Present" © Marguerite Hill

3rd Place "The Bill Inspector" © Rich Schreibstein



"In God or In Grant" © Nancy Pfunter

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Honorable

Mention

"Pennies at the Penny Arcade" © Barb Lawton



"Silver Dollar Buckle" © Alan Wiggins



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For Camera Club Specials... Ask for Alan Samiljan, at (781) 462-2383. His hours are usually 8:30-5:00pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,& Friday.

Leave a message or send an email (asamiljan@huntsphoto.com), and he'll get right back to you.



HUNT'S JANUARY SPECIALS

First, Gary and I want to thank you for your support in 2018. We're looking forward to working with you in 2019 and we want to wish you a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Speaking of 2019, there is a lot of buzz on the internet about new cameras and lenses that are rumored to be announced this year. Please note that the following are not official announcements and have not been verified by the manufacturers, only rumors, but if you'd like to be notified if and when they are announced, please send me an email or call me with your name and phone and I'll add you to my database! Your phone is important as that is how I can find your account or enter you in my database. Panasonic Full Frame Mirrorless Camera System, L mount; Olympus E-M1X, rumored to perform on a level with the Canon 1Dx MK II; Olympus Telephoto Zoom lens longer that 300mm; Canon 7D MK III camera (7D MK II upgrade); New Canon RF mount lens for EOS R system; Nikon D6 camera (D5 upgrade); Nikon D760 camera (D750 upgrade). If you've read any other rumors you're interested in, let me know!

I have a few **Sony** "**open box**" **specials** available. These are new camera bodies with the full Sony USA Warranty. The boxes and or packaging is, how shall I say it, ugly. But they are great deals! **Sony a7R III and Sony a7S II** Call me at 781-462-2383 for pricing!

For the month of January, 2019, Hunt's will be running **15% off all used equipment currently in stock.** Fresh used inventory is added daily. Send me your wish list and I'll let you know if we have it or if it comes in!

We have a limited quantity of refurbished Nikon **D850** bodies. The regular price is \$3,299.95, refurbished are \$2,899.95! Call me at 781-462-2383 to reserve yours now!

And something else you may want to know about...

Canon has continued their printer rebate program. Now through February 28, 2019 or until supplies run out, we are offering the **Canon Pixma PRO 10** printer at \$379.99 before rebate (Canon sells it on their website for \$699.99). If you purchase the printer plus a package of 13x19x50 sheets of Canon Semi-Gloss or Luster paper, \$50, Canon will send you a \$250 mail in rebate! This is a pigment based printer and is always reviewed very well. Your final cost is \$129.99 plus the \$50 paper package after mail in rebate! And don't forget to ask me about special pricing on Monitor Calibration from Data Color and Xrite, a crucial part of the printing process!

Photographically yours,

Alan

In order to take advantage of these specials and special club/workshop pricing please call me, Alan Samiljan, at 781-462-2383. As always, UPS Ground shipping is FREE in the Lower 48 and there is no sales tax except for orders shipped to MA, RI or ME. My regular hours are 8:30-5:00pm eastern, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday.

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ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

by Linda Tommasulo



For more than 85 years, the Schenectady Photographic Society has been the meeting place of photographers of all levels—from beginners to serious amateurs to professionals—with the goal of exploring and sharing their love of photography. Members throughout the Capital Region meet primarily on Wednesday nights to engage in various competitions (print, projected, photo essay and more), enjoy member round-table discussions, guest speaker presentations and hands-on mentoring to further their knowledge, creativity and inspiration. Occasional field trips give us the opportunity to expand our photographic vision; and frequent exhibits in the local area allow us to share that vision. In addition to our monthly print and projected competitions, we are challenged with an assigned topicencouraging participants to venture out of their comfort zones. Members participating in competitions receive specific commentary and suggestions to take their images to the next level. Don't wish to compete? That's OK too. Observing competitions is always an inspirational and learning experience.

The Schenectady Photographic Society is an enthusiastic and energetic group. Our camaraderie is infectious. Check out our calendar on the last page (season runs from late September to mid-May) and join us! Visitors are always welcomed...especially those who have a passion for photography.

> It's not about being better than everyone else... it's about being better than you were.

Photo Essay Dow Smith

Judge Coordinator Ferdie Bowman

Field Trip Coordinator Brian Sherman

communications@spsphoto.org

photoessay@spsphoto.org

judging@spsphoto.org

fieldtrips@spsphoto.org

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR

Joan Heffler

TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org

Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm

and Rich Schreibstein

REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS

Judv Breslau

John Ogden

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Connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society: Website: www.spsphoto.org Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/schenectadyphotographicsociety/ Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyphotographicsociety/

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THE FOCUS NEEDS YOUI For articles, suggestions, and member profiles (bios/photos). Contact Linda at newsletter@spsphoto.org.

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SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY 2018-2019 SEASON CALENDAR

Meetings start at 7pm and are held at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. (Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one-way street off Nott Terrace.) *This schedule is a <u>work in progress</u> and is <u>subject to change</u>!*

September, 2018

9/26/18.....Opening Night Print critique & member vote for best image. Hosted by Bob Coppola

October, 2018

10/3/18.....Print Competition Assigned Topic: Leading Lines (one of the basic elements of photography). Speaker: Miranda Eldridge, Dance Photography.

10/10/17..... Projected Competition Assigned Topic: Hobby (someone enjoying a hobby - other than photography). Speaker: Fred Moody, "Transylvania"

10/17/18...... Mentoring/Speaker Night Speaker: Jim Craner, "Shooting Close to Home"

10/24/18..... Print Competition *RESCHEDULED FROM NOVEMBER 7*

Assigned Topic: Faceless Self Portrait (Your favorite selfie without showing your face.) Speaker: Phil Olivo, "Exploring Rural Ireland"

November, 2018

11/3/18 (Sat.) Photographing Models Workshop with Doug Mitchell

11/7/18.....NO MEETING 11/14/18.....Projected Competition

Assigned Topic: Digital Madness (It's taken over our lives—show us how.) Roundtable: "Full Frame Mirror-less Madness"

11/28/18......Mentoring/Speaker Night "Photo Essay Inspiration Night" hosted by Dow Smith

December, 2018

12/5/18.....**Print Competition** Assigned Topic: Post Card Photos (Everyone maligns post card images...show your best tonight.) Speaker: Connie Frisbee Houde, "Ghost Images"

12/12/18.....**Projected Competition** Assigned Topic: Money (show us money in an imaginative way.) Speaker: John Ogden, "IR Camera Conversion"

12/18/17 and 1/2/19.....NO MEETING

January, 2019

1/9/19.....Print Competition Assigned Topic: Clichés (Show us your favorite.) Speaker: David Edgecomb, "What Your Camera Can Tell You About You."

1/16/19.....Projected Competition

Assigned Topic: Orange...is the New Black (Images where orange is the dominate color.) Speaker: Joan Heffler - Inspiration to enter the Luba Ricket Creativity Competition

1/23/18...... Mentoring/Speaker Night Speaker: Doug Mitchell, Photographing Models

Workshop Review and Critique.

February, 2019

2/6/19..... Print Competition

Assigned Topic: Flowers Past Their Prime (The beauty of flowers that no one would buy.) Speaker: TBA

2/13/19.....Projected Competition Assigned Topic: Photojournalism. Speaker:

Claudia Jakubowski, "Instagram."

2/20/19......Mentoring/Speaker Night Lawrence White, Program TBA

March, 2019

3/2/19 (Saturday).....Compositing Workshop with Jim Christensen

3/6/19.....Print Competition Assigned Topic: Textures (rough or smooth - but no overlays). Print Judging in the Main Room.

3/13/19.....Projected Competition Assigned Topic: "L is for?" (subject must start with L). Speaker: Lance Monotone, "Monochrome Processing" 3/20/19....Photo Essay Competition

April, 2019

4/3/19.....Print Competition Assigned Topic: Patterns (another basic element of

composition). Speaker: M-J Adelman, "South Dakota"

4/10/19.....Projected Competition Assigned Topic: Bicycle Parts (not the whole bike). Speaker: Robert Near, "PPA"

4/17/19 NO MEETING

4/24/19.....Luba Ricket Creativity Competition Speaker: Linda Tommasulo, "Creating Artistic Backgrounds with Topaz"

May, 2019

5/1/19.....Print of the Year

Members' "Lightning Fast Editing" Demonstration I 5/8/19..... Projected Image of the Year Members' "Lightning Fast Editing" Demonstration II

June, 5, 2019..... Awards Banquet