

**Bold red texts
are
interactive links!**

FOCUS

**IT'S OUR
93RD
SEASON!**

Volume 91 - No. 5

<https://spsphoto.org/>

March 2025

**EVENT
NIGHT**

FIRST STOP LAST STOP: From Project to Book

by Rita Nannini / March 26 - on Zoom

Ten years. 8,000 photographs. 665 miles of New York City subway track. These statistics represent the passion and dedication of Brooklyn-based photographer Rita Nannini for her monumental achievement to photograph the first stop and last stop of every single subway line in all five boroughs of New York City.

The idea for First Stop Last Stop was conceived when Nannini heard about "End of the Line," a game played by teenagers who randomly board any train and stay on it to its end point. Compelled by curiosity and imagining the myriad visual possibilities, in 2013 Nannini began riding and photographing the terminal stops of all of New York City's subway lines.

Nannini's colorful, panoramic images gathered together in First Stop Last Stop, her first monograph, reveal how the subway bonds communities to each other and the edges of the city.



© Rita Nannini

Continued...

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FIRST STOP LAST STOP

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In her Afterword for the book, she writes about the literal and also humanistic connecting elements that the subway represents. “People exhibit immense pride in their neighborhoods, their first stop on a journey to all that New York City has to offer.”

On March 26th, Rita will speak on the development of this project as well as her experience into creating her first book.



© Rita Nannini



firststoplaststop.com/

Rita’s project *First Stop Last Stop* documents all the terminal stops of the New York City Subway system. She was awarded a New York City Artists Corp Grant in August 2021 and recently released a photobook of the same name in April 2023. *First Stop Last Stop* sold out in 10 months.

She has exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum, the Griffin Museum, the Los Angeles Center for Photography, Photoville, Princeton University, Beit Hatfutsot in Tel Aviv and Konica Minolta Plaza in Tokyo. Her work has appeared in many major international publications: *CNN*, *Smithsonian*, *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Newsweek* and more.



ABOUT RITA NANNINI

Rita Nannini is a conceptual documentary photographer who lives in Brooklyn. Rita became a photographer well before she owned a camera. While studying in Madrid, she realized that words could not capture that which her eyes saw: this led to her study of photography and a career in documentary, portrait and performance photography. Originally drawn to the medium as a vehicle to capture otherness, her personal work focuses on the vernacular.

Rita’s documentary work has been exhibited and published widely in the United States and internationally. *Seeking A Better Life: Jewish Poultry Farmers in New Jersey*, her extensive and revealing study, premiered at the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ and traveled over seven years to 14 locations.

Rita has also received grants for her photography from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is a Professional Member of the American Society of Media Photographers, New York Chapter.



**EVENT
NIGHT**

2025 PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION

March 19

Live at First United Methodist Church

It's here! Another Photo Essay Competition at SPS—live and in person at the First United Methodist Church in Schenectady. Once again we will include print as well as digital essays. There's still time to get your digital essays in! Joe Cotroneo will be collecting the essays:

Per Joe: "The Digital Photo Essays must be submitted by a google drive or dropbox link in an email to:

joecotroneo1@gmail.com

by Saturday March 15 midnight. If you don't get a reply email from me it means I didn't get your essay. I say this because our SPS mail server may not get email from nycap.rr.com and maybe some others. Use gmail if you don't get a confirmation that I received it. Please don't wait until the last minute. Bring the Print Photo Essays the night of the competition by 6:50 pm."

See you—in person—on March 19.



2024 First Place - Print:
"Dragonflies of Clifton Park, NY"
© Joe Cotroneo



2024 First Place - Digital:
"September"
© Janice Prichett

2025 PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION

(Continued from page 3)

All you need to know about the 2025 Photo Essay Competition

Photo Essay

Digital Essays are a collection of images that will be projected in some fashion, typically, but not necessarily, accompanied by a soundtrack. The presentation should be in a format that is compatible with the projection equipment available on the night of the competition (i.e. .mov or .mp4). To ensure compatibility with the club's hardware and software, Digital Essays must be submitted prior to the competition date. Members will be notified in advance of the required deadline.

Print Essays are a collection of prints displayed in some fashion, including a book (such as available from vendors including Shutterfly, Snapfish, Blurb, and others), a poster, a storyboard, or any method of presenting a collection of prints that can be physically managed by the entrant.

Prepared by: Joe Cotroneo

With Credits to: Dow Smith

The rules for entry are as follows:

1. One entry per person per category [print and digital].
2. The maximum length of a digital projected essay is 8 minutes. The maximum dimensions of the projected essay is 1920×1080. Suggested and preferred length is 3 to 5 minutes.
3. Participants are encouraged to use only their own images. Other images may be used only if they are vital to the narrative quality of the essay. Any images not made by the participant must be credited. No more than 10% of the total images may be non-participant images.
4. It is the participant's responsibility to know the rules. Submissions outside of these guidelines will not be accepted. Digital essays must be submitted by the previously announced entry deadline, which will be no later than midnight the Saturday before the competition date. (The earlier the better). This is to ensure compatibility with the club's hardware and software.

2025 PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION

(Continued from page 4)

Submitting Your Entry

Digital Photo Essays

1. Must be submitted by midnight Saturday, March 15, 2025
2. Save as a video file with .mov or .mp4 format
3. Email to JoeCotroneo1@gmail.com via a link to a large file app such as Google Drive (preferred) or Dropbox

Print Essays

1. Must be submitted between 6:30pm and 7:00pm the night of the competition, March 19, 2025.

Photo Essay Topics

Show us your passion

1. A collections of photographs that are tied together
Flowers, pets, babies, models, old cars ...
2. Event
parades, protests, fund raisers ...
3. Location
Myrtle Beach, Lark Street, NYC ...
4. Type of Work
Macro, Landscape, Impressionistic ...
5. Story
Day in the life, visit to an attraction, visit to a park ...

Editing

Lots of different editing programs

Adobe Express (free version available)
Premiere Rush (comes with Adobe Photography Plan)
DaVinci Resolve (free version available)

And many more

Check out the online tutorials

2025 PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION

(Continued from page 5)

Music

Vital for a photo essay video

1. Sets mood of essay
2. Determines pacing
3. Match the music to the story

Copyright

1. Copyrighted music without a license is not allowed
2. Buy Music: Pond5, Triple Scoop, many more
3. Free with credit: Bendsound, Musopen

Editor's Note: I have found the Uppbeat website an excellent choice for royalty-free music. You can get three free downloads, or subscribe for the month (unlimited downloads and access to premium music) for \$6.99. <https://uppbeat.io/>



Photo Essay Judge: Cindy Schultz

Independent Photographer based in Albany, NY.

Without a doubt, the best part of my job is meeting people from all walks of life and telling their stories through pictures. Originally from Minneapolis, a staff position with the Albany Times Union brought me to the East Coast by way of Michigan. Politics rule the day in this capital city, and I've witnessed history in the making while covering the statehouse. After nearly 20 years with the Capital Region's largest publication, my sense of adventure took over, and I headed for the Last Frontier. For two summers, I worked in Alaska as a photography guide leading small group tours and workshops.

Today I'm a regular contributor to The New York Times and other national and local editorial publications. I also collaborate with educational institutions, nonprofits and small businesses creating brand libraries for digital platforms and marketing materials. My work has been recognized by American Photography for the past three years in a row, and I've exhibited regionally. A participant in the prestigious Eddie Adams Workshop, I hold a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota where I graduated magna cum laude.

I do not discriminate based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion or politics.

*Select Client List: The New York Times, Washington Post,
The Wall Street Journal
CNN, Reuters, New York Post,
Adirondack Explorer, The Evangelist*

cschultzphoto.com

PRINT NIGHT
SHORT PROGRAM

TWO CASTLES-THE DUNSMUIR SAGA

By M-J Adelman - March 12
Live at FUMC

When I was on Vancouver Island (aka Victoria), British Columbia, Canada last year I was told a saga about the well-known Canadian family - The Robert Dunsmuir Family. I found it to be an interesting story that involves two castles. One castle was built by the father and completed in 1850 and the other by his second son completed in 1908.

I visited both castles in June last year and will share the story and photos.



© M-J Adelman



© M-J Adelman

Editor's Note:

M-J ADELMAN is a long-time member of SPS and active in the traveling exhibit committee.

As a good friend, I can tell you that M-J lives to travel! Her many journeys have taken her all over the world, camera in tow.

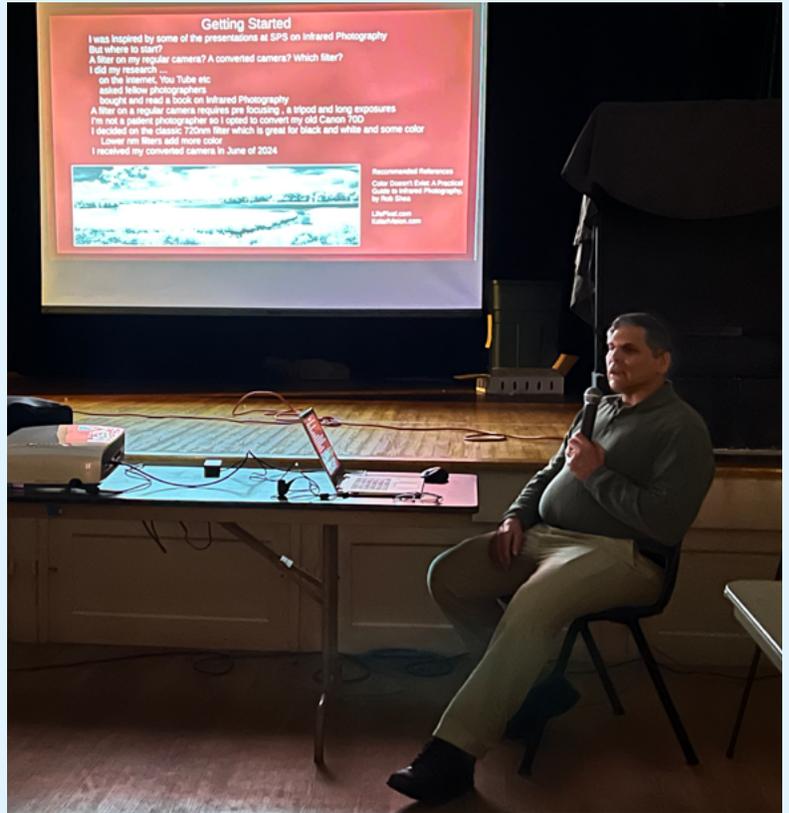
Check out more of her images and exploits on her website:

<https://www.aleopics.com/index>

FEBRUARY PRINT NIGHT



President, Joe Cotroneo, introduced Joe Cotroneo, who gave us a presentation on his new foray into Infrared Photography.



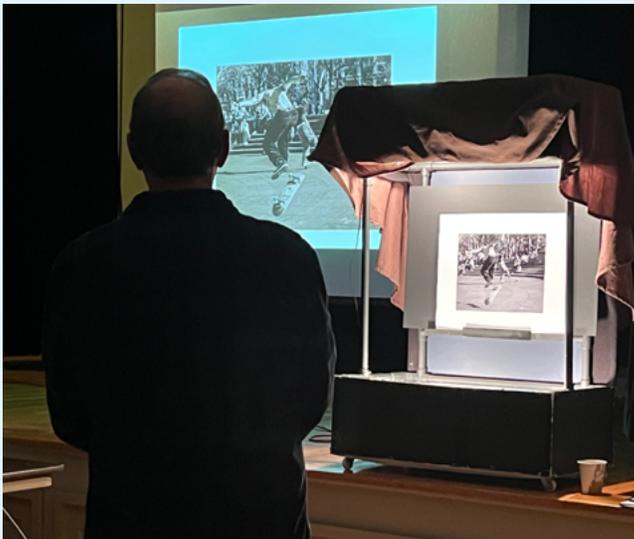
Joe's very detailed presentation was well received by all the attendees.



Alan Wiggins introduced our judge, Kevin Q. Gray



Kevin Q. Gray gave us excellent critiques on our prints.



Alan Wiggins projected the prints for viewing by the audience. Check out the winners on pages 22-27.

FOCUS ON My Life in Photo Essays

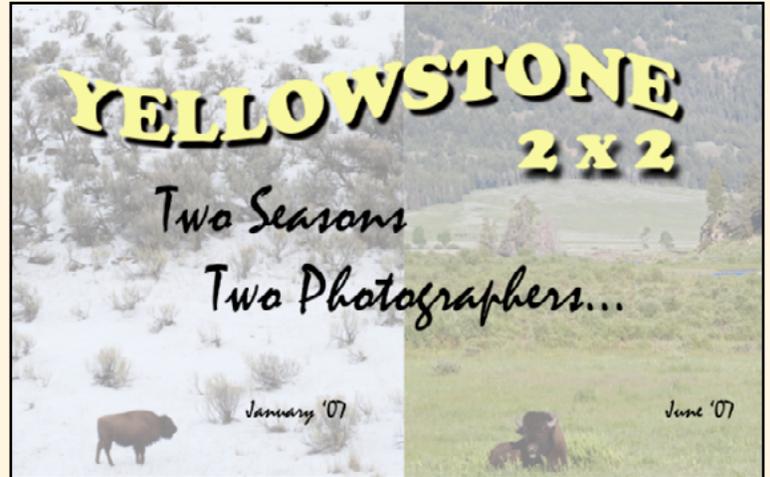
by Linda Tommasulo



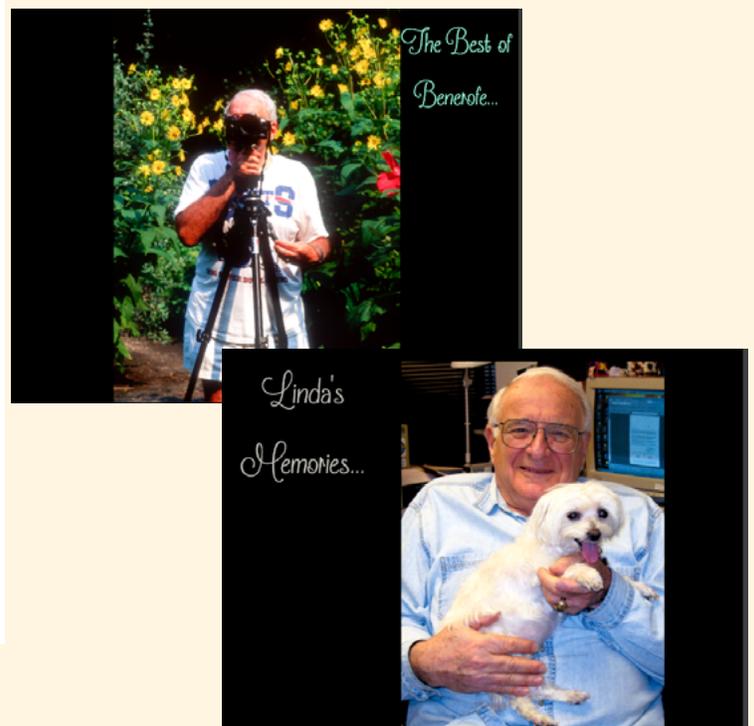
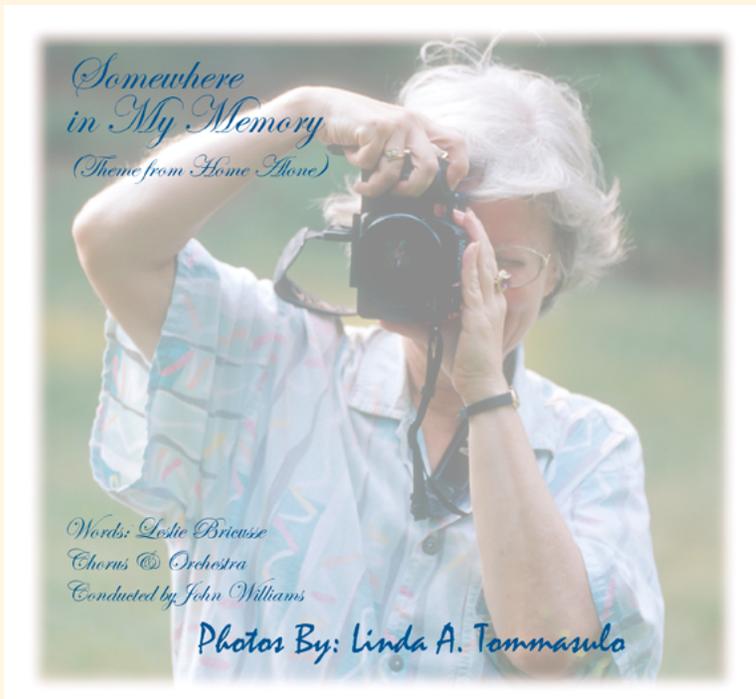
I didn't call it a "photo essay" back then...just a way to organize and present some photos with music. My first was back in 2007. Since my serious foray into photography was macro (inspired by my early mentor, Nancy Rotenberg), it's no surprise that "Flower Girl" was my first attempt at a photo essay. Not concerned with copyright issues (it wasn't really going anywhere) I used the song "Flower Girl" by the Cowsills...a favorite of mine. It was pretty successful, and I have used it a number of times in my Flower Photography presentations.

From the very beginning I have used Fotomagico by Boinx (a Mac program) to create my digital essays. It is fairly intuitive and easy to sync music to the slides. Sadly, due to an unknown glitch, I am unable to open my second slide show "Somewhere in my Memory." The music is the John Williams instrumental from *Home Alone*, and the essay included a number of my favorite images at the time. (I do have all the images if I want to recreate the essay.)

Later that year, to commemorate my first photography excursions to Yellowstone with my significant other I created an essay called "Yellowstone—Two Seasons, Two Photographers." It included photos from our photo workshops in January and June, 2007.



2008 was the first time I used my Fotomagico skills to create a presentation for a memorial service. My dearest friend and photo companion, Stanley Benerofe, passed away unexpectedly. I arranged a gathering of friends to celebrate his life. The almost 30-minute slide show had two sections. It began with Stanley's photographs and ended with my memories of him from 1966 to 2008. At a total of 305 slides and six songs, it is, by far, my most extensive photo essay. And I do watch it often!



Focus On: My Life in Photo Essays

(Continued from page 9)

Later in 2008 Rob Thomas' song, "New York Christmas" inspired me to create an essay with images from the Train Show at the New York Botanical Gardens and a visit to Central Park.



Another personal tragedy inspired me to create a small essay on my beautiful Maltese puppy that I lost at seven months old. "All About Annie" to the tune, "Thank you for Being a Friend" by Andrew



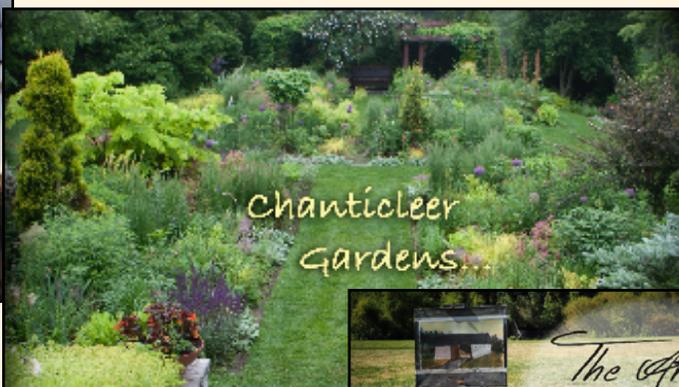
Gold is another one I watch occasionally. You may remember this theme song from *The Golden Girls*.

In 2012 I took a big leap and moved from Westchester to my home in Guilderland. Billy Joel's "New York State of Mind" was the theme for my essay, "I♥NY."



All photos © Linda A. Tommasulo

So here I am in the Capital District and a new member of the Schenectady Photographic Society. From what I can see in my Fotomagico folder, it appears that my entry on Chanticleer Gardens in 2015 was the first into an SPS Digital Photo Essay Competition. I used "Summer Rain," an original piece that I found on the Internet (I secured permission from the artist) as well as the instrumental, "A Summer Place." This was followed by "The Art of Photo Art" in 2016, which detailed my creation of digital photo art in Photoshop (before and afters).



"Albany Celebrates Spring" (Music: "Saturday in the Park"

by Chicago) followed in 2017, "Old Friends... Retired Race Horse Reminiscings" (music: "Memories" by Paul Anka) was my submission in 2018. 2019's entry detailed my volunteer photography experiences with the Capital District Humane Association: "These are a few of my Favorite Dogs." "Thank you for Being a Friend" came in handy once again!



Focus On: My Life in Photo Essays

(Continued from page 10)

All photos © Linda A. Tommasulo



Capital District Humane Association is where Shyla found me!



Taylor Swift's song, "Welcome to New York" was the perfect choice for my 2020 photo essay entry of the same name. This 60-slide, 3-1/2 minute photo essay includes images from my NYC trip to the Vessel and High Line.

I have found it challenging to find music that enhances and complements my images. For the past few seasons I have used Uppbeat (<https://uppbeat.io/>). You can subscribe for the month for \$6.99, or get three free downloads. The subscription service includes a wider selection of tunes. It's kind of fun finding music that "works." You can put in certain keywords (i.e, inspirational, orchestral, uplifting, hopeful, piano, etc., etc.). If you find something you like, you can ask for others that are similar. I generally choose three or four and place them in my slide show to see what fits best. They are usually around 2-3 minutes in length, but you can repeat them (or loop). I do believe the choice of music, and syncing them to your images, definitely brings your photo essay to the next level.

My street photography workshops with Esdras Suarez inspired my 2022 entry. This 60-slide, 5-minute photo essay was well received. In fact, Esdras included it on his website! (Good thing I used royalty-free music!)

WELCOME TO NEW YORK

(Vessel and High Line June 28, 2019)



Street Photography in DC and Boston with Esdras M. Suarez

(Summer/Fall 2021)



My 2025 entry this season will be a winter one, but the first winter theme photo essay was my 2021 presentation on "Discovering Steinmetz Park" in Schenectady. This is also my first try at using royalty-free music. I have to admit that I do prefer copyrighted music, since the lyrics are often perfect matches for my presentations. However, since our essays are posted on the Internet, we were advised not to use copyrighted music.

Some of you may remember my "Diptychs and Triptychs" essay (2023). It took me quite a while to compose this one, but the judge felt it wasn't a "real photo essay"...more of a tutorial.



Diptychs

And

Triptychs

A brief tutorial



Focus On: My Life in Photo Essays

(Continued from page 11)

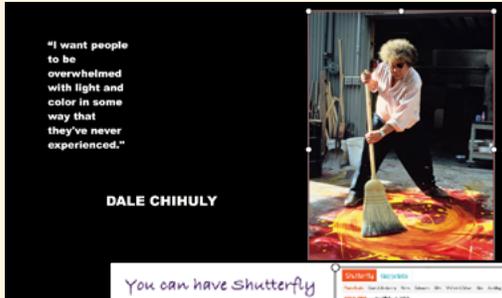
Last year's entry was inspired by a Huibo Huo webinar I saw about "Simplicity in Black and White." In it she went through her steps to create simplistic black and white images. So I decided to give it a try. It was a fun project and I am still inspired by her work.



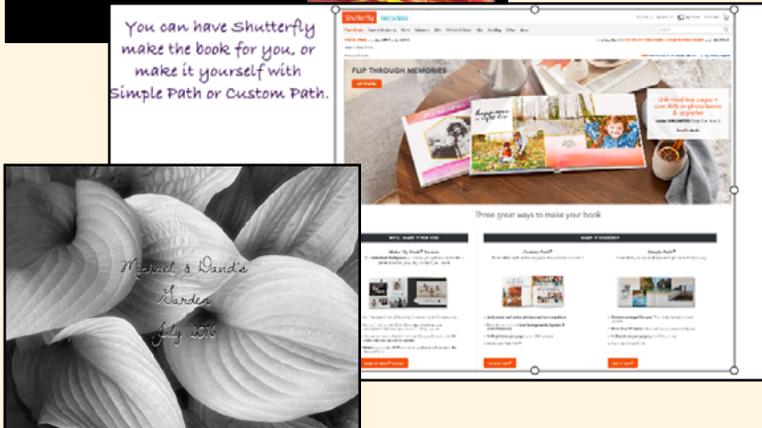
I encourage everyone to try their hand at creating a photo essay. You all have memories you wish to capture for posterity: a favorite pet, a special place or event, even your favorite genre of photography. The subjects are endless. Gone are the days of photo albums. How often do you go back and look at your old images and memories?

One of the very best photo essays I have seen in our competitions was created by Claudia Jakubowski. It detailed her dad's last year of life...his "92nd Year." I'd venture to say she has gone back and watched it a number of times. I know it wasn't easy to create, but there's something healing about putting an essay like that together.

There were a few additional small photo essays that I have done over the years, some to present to my photo clubs: one on the Chihuly exhibit at the New York Botanical Gardens, another on creating a book in Shutterfly, and one on a garden tour that we were privileged to have access to back in 2016.



we were privileged to have access to back in 2016.



I can't express how much these "photo essays" have enhanced my photography and my life. Some of them I watch repeatedly, reliving the experience. Perhaps many of them were created for competition, but that is never my inspiration. I created all of them for a very important person...Me!



You are only limited by your creativity and desire. PC or Mac there are a number of programs available with which to create your photo essay.

You can find details of our 2025 Photo Essay Competition on pages 3-6.

Check it out.

Give it a try.

Make a Photo Essay
for a very important person...

YOU!

Photos (except above) © Linda A. Tommasulo

iPHONE·TOGRAPHY: PROJECT CONDUIT -

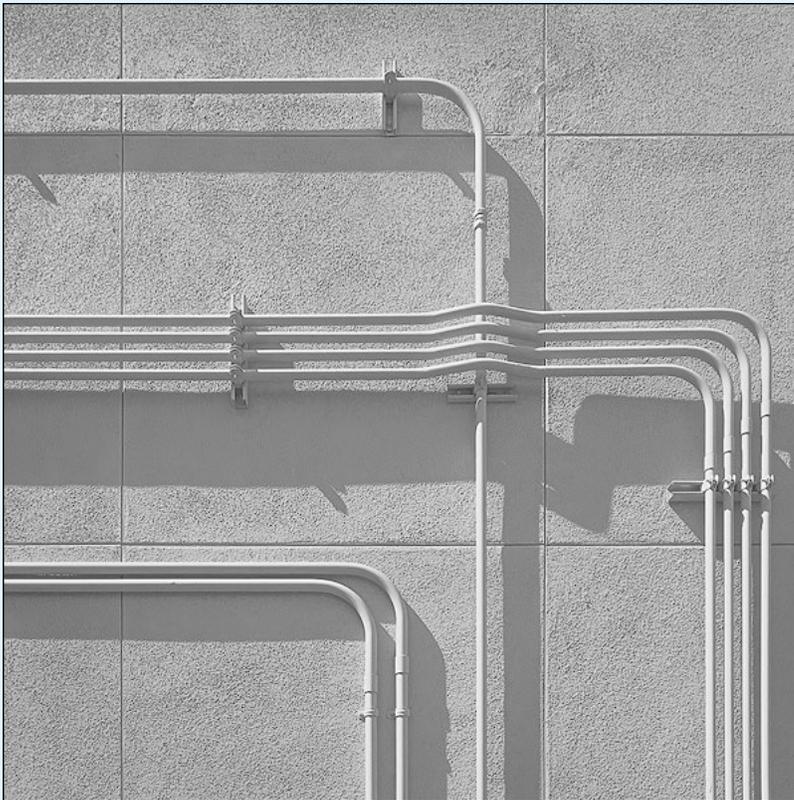
Discovering new light

by: Tony Kuyper

(Reprinted with permission. Access original article [here](#).)

Creativity is seeing what others see and thinking what no one else ever thought. - Albert Einstein

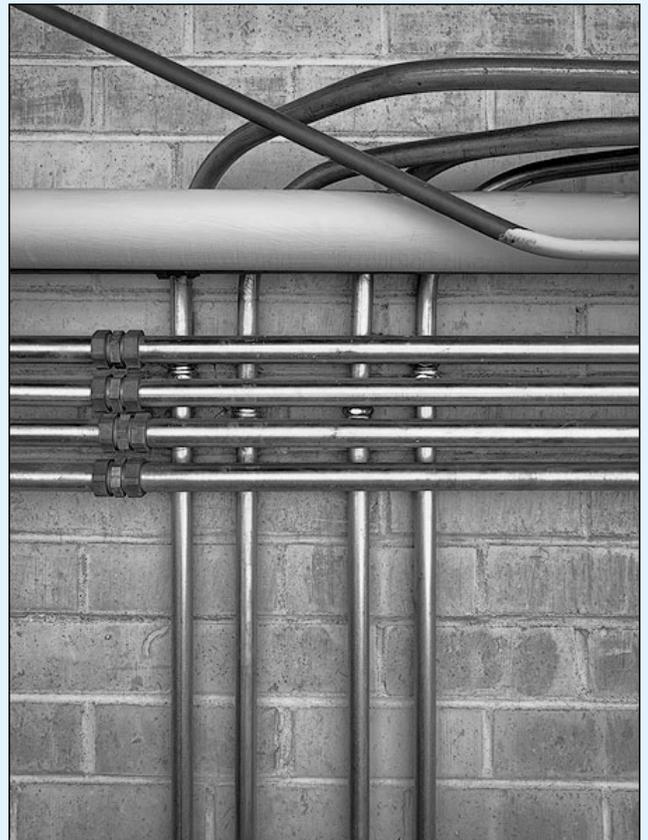
I'll be honest and admit that I struggle to think outside the box with photography. I tend to stick with traditional subjects, mostly nature and lately some architecture. I generally like the results, especially after processing the raw files, so there isn't an impetus to change. So, while Einstein's quote is aspirational, its practical application can be difficult. You can't wake up one day and simply say, "I'm going to think different from now on," and instantly be successful at it. It takes some practice and exercise.



"Outer Art" © Tony Kuyper

The iPhone · tography: 20 reasons to try it article discusses the incentives and rationale to consider using a smartphone for photography. However, I think it misses an important point, which is: Using a smartphone camera changes the way you THINK about photography. Some of the 20

reasons in the article are alluding to this, but it's worth emphasizing this point because, as Einstein seemed to know, thinking differently is at the heart of the creative process.



"Order and Chaos" © Tony Kuyper

A smartphone is constantly with you, so you can photograph in places where you never had access to a camera previously and where you might not even consider taking one. Anything and everything now becomes a potential subject for photography. It's just necessary to shift from seeing things as objects and start thinking of them as photographs. This is how my old iPhone helped me to find a new photographic interest: conduit.

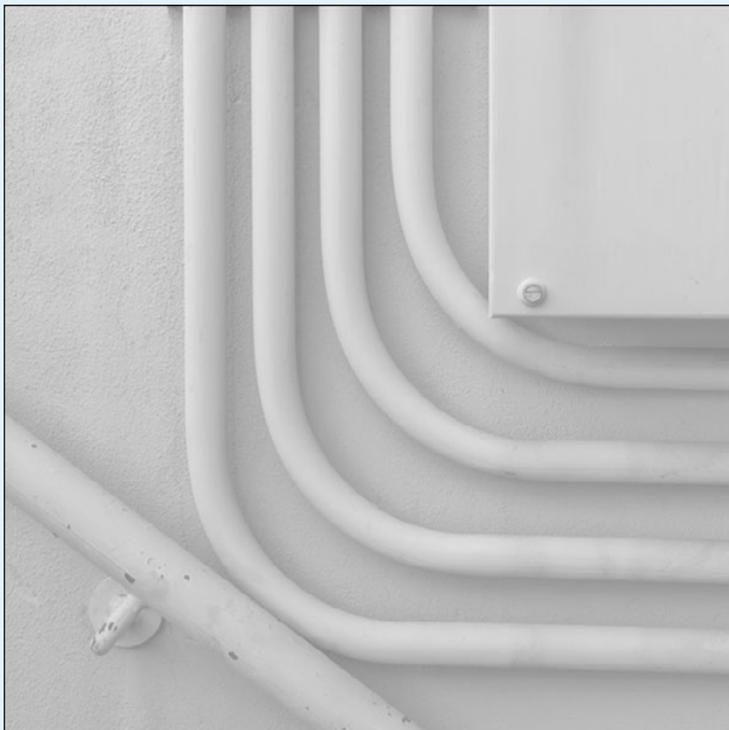
IPHONE-TOGRAPHY: PROJECT CONDUIT

(Continued from page 13)



“Perfect Curves” © Tony Kuyper

Yes, that’s right. Conduit. Those metal pipes clinging to the outer (and inner) walls of buildings that provide a rigid enclosure for electrical wires. While I’ve spent decades happily photographing nature, I’m now equally interested in photographing conduit. That probably would not have happened with a “real” camera. The iPhone made it possible.



“Threading the Needle” © Tony Kuyper

Some might now be thinking that perhaps it would be better to NOT experiment with smartphone photography if this is where it leads. Nature photographer turned conduit photographer seems like a step in the wrong direction, doesn’t it? However, stop and consider all those absolutely gorgeous nature photographs you see online and you’ll realize that most nature photographers are seeing and thinking the same way, i.e., nature is beautiful and a nature pictures need to be processed to convey that beauty. The results can be spectacular, but they’re not really seeing something new or thinking all that differently about the subject.



“Conduit #6” © Tony Kuyper

Don’t get me wrong, I love looking at nature photographs as much as anyone and will likely continue to photograph nature subjects for the rest of my life, but they don’t exude the same sense of creativity for me that they once did. They’re like a greatest hits album that I’ve already listened to hundreds of times. I love the music but already know the lyrics and notes by heart. There simply isn’t as much discover as there once was.

IPHONE-TOGRAPHY: PROJECT CONDUIT

(Continued from page 14)



“Conduit Castle” © Tony Kuyper

Conduit, on the other hand, is new, unexplored territory. Sort of the unknown indie band of photography. I admit that I didn't have any interest in it as photographic subject or consider it as a project before

actually taking a picture of it. That happened when I snapped an image of some conduit with my iPhone when leaving a concert. The processed image (“Outer Art”) was a pleasant surprise and helped me to start thinking differently about conduit. Something I used to ignore suddenly became a lot more interesting because my iPhone was there at the right time.

As a photographer, this is exciting! Here's a subject of nearly unlimited supply that interacts with light in ways that can be ideal for photographs, and (bonus!) it doesn't have a big presence on Instagram. There's a sense of taking something quite ordinary and turning it into art. (IMPORTANT NOTE: After starting to photograph conduit, I think the trades people who install it deserve the title “artist” as much as anyone.) I still shoot nature and architecture, but I also trek to nearby locations where I hope to find high concentrations of conduit. I would not have gotten here with a regular camera. The iPhone was the conduit that helped me to think differently, even creatively, about conduit.



“Matrix”
© Tony Kuyper



“Invasive Species” © Tony Kuyper



“Laundry Room”
© Tony Kuyper

IPHONE-TOGRAPHY: PROJECT CONDUIT

(Continued from page 15)

SUMMARY: The opportunity to be creative is a primary reason many photographers take pictures. Because of its size and accessibility, a smartphone camera is ideal for exploring new subjects and new light. It's the perfect tool to encourage thinking differently about things we see every day. It can change your photographic perspective, thereby expanding your creative horizons.

I hope you'll give it a try.

ABOUT TONY KUYPER

Tony's body of work centers around the desert sandstone of the Colorado Plateau and is as beautiful as it is definitive. In addition to his photography, Tony is well known to outdoor photographers for his skills in the realm of digital image developing, specifically in the use of luminosity mask techniques. (Tony is the creator of the "TK Panel" used by many professional photographers.) His popular tutorials and Photoshop actions are well regarded by many of the best contemporary nature and landscape photographers.

Be inspired by Tony's creative photography, tutorials and more on his website:

<https://goodlight.us/>

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

As I write this, our exhibit is being hung at the Niskayuna Public Library for the month of March. We hope you will attend the reception on Saturday, March 15, from 2-3:30 pm. See you in the Meeting Room at 2400 Nott St. East.

Two additional SPS exhibits have been scheduled for 2025. The first is at **Professor Java's Coffee Sanctuary**, 145 Wolf Road in Albany. This exhibit will run from **April 2 through September 29**. Members will be advised via email to register and when to deliver photos. Take-down will be Tuesday, September 30,

We have also arranged to exhibit in the **Guilderland Public Library's Helderberg Room** for the month of **December**. The Library is located at 2228 Western Avenue. A request for member photos will be forthcoming.



IMPORTANT NOTE: There continues to be some issues with inadequate preparation of photos for hanging in our exhibits. The November issue of the *Focus* included detailed information on the preparation of our traveling exhibits and how to properly prepare photos for hanging in these venues. Check out the November newsletter for more detailed information:

https://spsphoto.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/2024-2025/Focus_2411.pdf

OUR "FUN" COMPETITION

ASSIGNED TOPICS 2024-2025 SEASON

Once again, for the upcoming season, we will have Assigned Topics for Print and Digital. There are no detailed descriptions this season. You may interpret the topics as you wish.

Digital images may be submitted on our website:
<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/upload-projected/>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after May 1, 2024.

See the following page for details on submitting entries for both Print and Digital Competitions. Deadline for submission of digital images is midnight on Saturday (Sunday am) before the competition date.

NOTE THIS EXCEPTION: FEBRUARY DIGITAL IMAGES DUE MIDNIGHT 2/5

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Arches**

November: **Blue/Blues**

December: **Old Things**

January: **Harvest**

February: **Odd Couples**

March: **Close Up**

April: **Anything Railroad**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **The Color Yellow** (no flowers)

November: **Planes, Trains & Automobiles**

December: **Construction**

January: **Out of Place**

February: **Staircases**

March: **Empty Chairs & Benches***

April: **Something Starting with the Letter "P"**

*Corrected

JOIN US FOR FIELD TRIPS WITH JANICE PRICHETT and the Photography Connection Meetup Group

The Schenectady Photographic Society participates in field trips organized by the Photography Connection Meetup. It is a great opportunity for members (and non-members) to meet together at venues that offer a wide variety of photography opportunities. Recent outings included Bannerman Castle, Slate Hill Flower Farm and a trip to NYC to see "Unseen" (Vivian Mayer's Exhibition at the Fotografiska Museum). Future field trips are posted on the Photography Connection Meetup Group. To sign-up for this meetup group go to:

<https://www.meetup.com/photography-connection/>

Photography field trips are also shared on the SPS Facebook page and through the SPS group email. Field trips are posted on an on-going basis.

Members of the Schenectady Photographic Society are invited to participate in field trips organized by Photography Connection Meetup.

*SPS is not the organizer,
nor responsible for any liability thereof.*



© 2024 Janice Prichett

With new members joining every month,
this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPETITIONS 2024-2025 SEASON

For the 2024-2025 season we will again hold print competitions in person at First United Methodist Church. Digital Competitions will continue on Zoom. Both will have an Assigned Topic component. NOTE SOME RULE CHANGES BELOW.

PRINT COMPETITIONS:

With the exception of our opening meeting, Print competitions will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. As many of you know, making a print is an art in itself...choosing the size and the paper are just as important as composition.

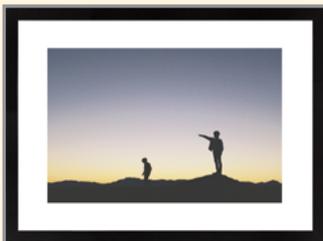
Members may submit up to **four (4)** images in our Print Competitions. Categories will include General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. You may submit up to **(2) in any category**. For example, two in Monochrome and one each in Assigned Topic and General.

Prints must measure at least 5" x 7" or a maximum of 18" x 24". They can be matted and mounted on mat board, foam core or stretched canvas. Mounts must be a minimum of 8" x 10" and may not exceed 16" x 24".

Prints **MUST** include an Entry Card affixed to the back in the upper left corner. For your convenience, a copy of the Print Competition Entry Card (4-up) is included on the following page.

We hope you will consider entering prints this season. **Check out the *Print Competition Rules on our website for additional details.***

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/print/print-competition-rules/>



With new members joining every month, this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.



DIGITAL COMPETITIONS:

We will be continuing our Digital Competitions on Zoom. With the exception of our opening meeting, Digital Competitions will be held on the second Wednesday of the month. As with prints, Digital Competitions will contain three categories: General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. Participants may enter a total of **four (4)** images, with a maximum of **two (2) in any category**.

Digital images should be jpeg, sRGB color space and sized no more than 2800 pixels wide and no more than 1800 pixels high. Maximum file size is 10MB.

Check out our website for details on preparing your images for Digital Competition:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-preparation-guidelines/>

Details on Digital Competition Rules can be found here:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-competition-rules/>

Paid/active members will be supplied with a Zoom link a day or two prior to the meeting.

REMEMBER THAT:

Alternative processes, composites, and manipulations are allowed.

Major elements in a print must be the maker's own work and the majority of the elements must be photographic in nature.



PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARDS

You may enter a total of three (3) prints,
with a maximum of two (2) in any one category:

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

Print sizes: Minimum 5" x 7" up to Maximum 16" x 20"

For complete rules:

[https://spsphoto.org/programs/
print/print-competition-rules/](https://spsphoto.org/programs/print/print-competition-rules/)

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

1st	2nd	
3rd	4th	
5th	HM	Entry # _____

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

1st	2nd	
3rd	4th	
5th	HM	Entry # _____

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

1st	2nd	
3rd	4th	
5th	HM	Entry # _____

HOW DO OUR COMPETITIONS ACTUALLY WORK?

Print Competition Rules: <https://spsphoto.org/competitions/print/print-competition-rules/>

Digital Competition Rules: <https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-competition-rules/>

Do you wonder why your images have to be in by Saturday midnight before the competition? Well, our Digital Chair, Sean Sullivan, downloads all of the images and forwards them to Wednesday's judge. This gives the judge a lot of time to review the images, score them and provide valuable critique at our virtual meetings.

You should be aware that this is generally very different from the way other clubs handle competitions. Judges do not get the images in advance. They see them for the first time on competition night (either virtually or live), and must quickly provide a score. Sometimes they are permitted a quick "run through."

The links above detail everything you need to know about how our competitions are run, including scoring:

First Place – 10 Points
Second Place – 7 Points
Third Place – 4 Points
Fourth Place – 3 Points
Fifth Place – 2 Points
Honorable Mention – 1 Point

If the number of entries is 20 or less, first through third places will be awarded. If 21-30 entries are judged, first through fourth places will be awarded. If more than 30, first through fifth places will be awarded.

The number of honorable mentions awarded is at the discretion of the judges and may not exceed the number of places awarded.

Note that once entered, you are giving SPS permission to publish your images in our newsletter and on the website. Copyright remains with the photographer.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRIES

For Print, members are permitted to enter a total of four (4) images, two (2) in any one category. For Digital you can enter up to four (4) images, two (2) in any one category.

Images that receive a winning place or an honorable mention may not be re-entered in any subsequent monthly Digital Image Group or Print Group competitions in perpetuity (that means forever!). This does not exclude them from any "special" competitions that may be held.

Once your images are submitted you will receive an email confirmation. This is a great opportunity

to check whether or not your images were entered in the proper month and category.

It is important that digital images be sized correctly for viewing. Specific instructions can be found on the SPS website here:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/digital-image-preparation-guidelines/>

End of Year is handled differently. Members who participated in digital competitions during the season will receive an email with their submissions from which they can choose those to be entered. Rule links in the page heading provide details.

WHY COMPETE?

Win, lose or draw, participating in competitions gives you an opportunity to share your work with fellow SPS members. It also provides you (hopefully) with valuable input on how to make your images better and improve your photography.

And, the best part...it gets you out and shooting.

Assigned Topics especially get you photographing out of your comfort zone.

We hope to see more members participating this season.

JOIN ~~LIKE~~ US ON FACEBOOK!



Edit

Group by Schenectady Photographic Society

Schenectady Photographic Society

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152200768242>

Our “regular” SPS Facebook page is open to all interested photographers. Participants must request permission to join. It’s a great forum for all things relating to photography.



Schenectady Photographic Society

301 likes · 326 followers



Visit Group

Liked

Message

<https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyphotographicsociety>

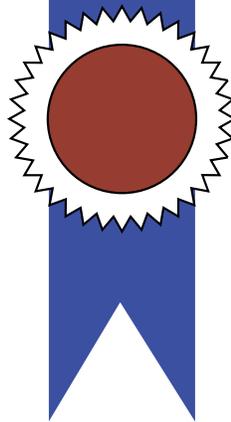
Our “community” SPS Facebook page is where we post notifications, events, etc.

With new members joining every month, this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.

FEBRUARY WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Odd Couples



Linda A. Tommasulo
PHOTOGRAPHY



First Place:
"Love the One You're With"
© Linda Tommasulo



Linda A. Tommasulo
PHOTOGRAPHY

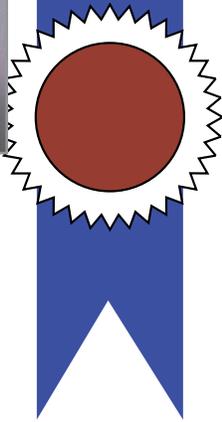
Second Place:
"The Tall and the Short of It"
© Linda Tommasulo

FEBRUARY WINNING PRINTS

Third Place:
"Fenced Window"
© Kristina Young



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Honorable Mention:
"Polly Want A ?"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



Honorable Mention:
"Biker Dog"
© Kristina Young

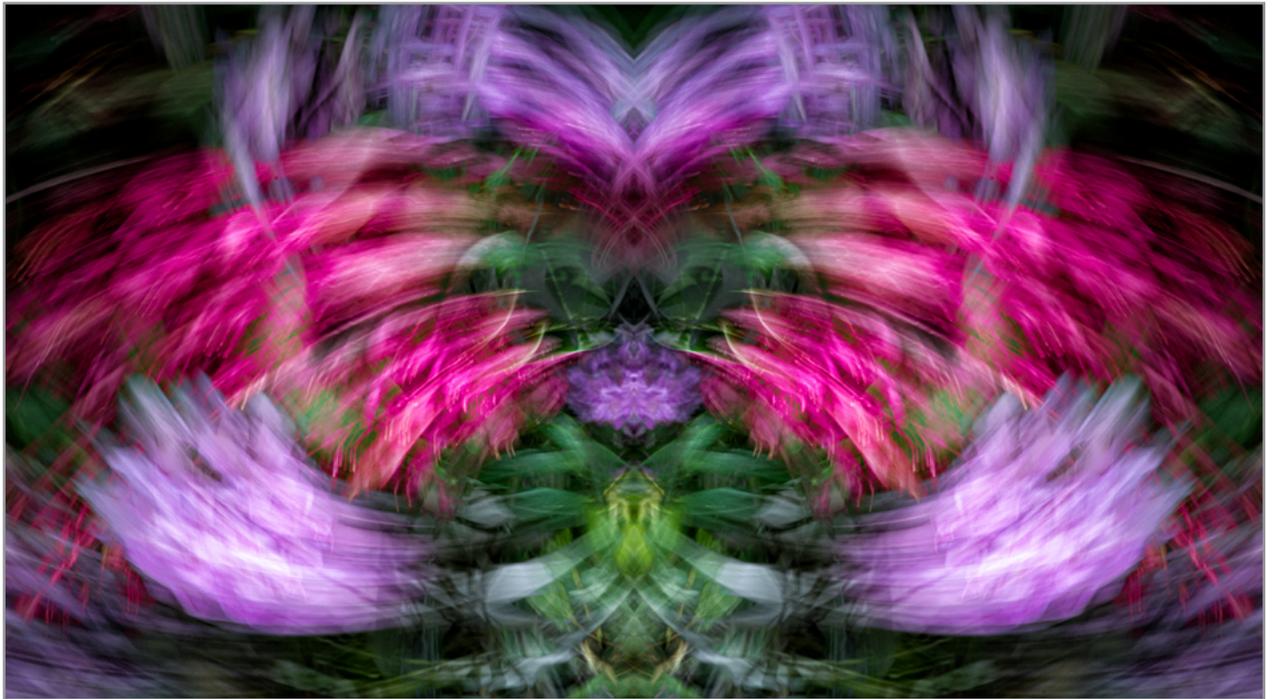
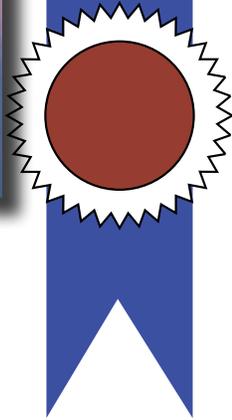
FEBRUARY WINNING PRINTS



© Linda A. Tommasulo
PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place:
"Reed Dance"
© Linda Tommasulo

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Second Place:
"ICM Flower Flip Wings"
© Joe Cotroneo

**FEBRUARY
WINNING
PRINTS**



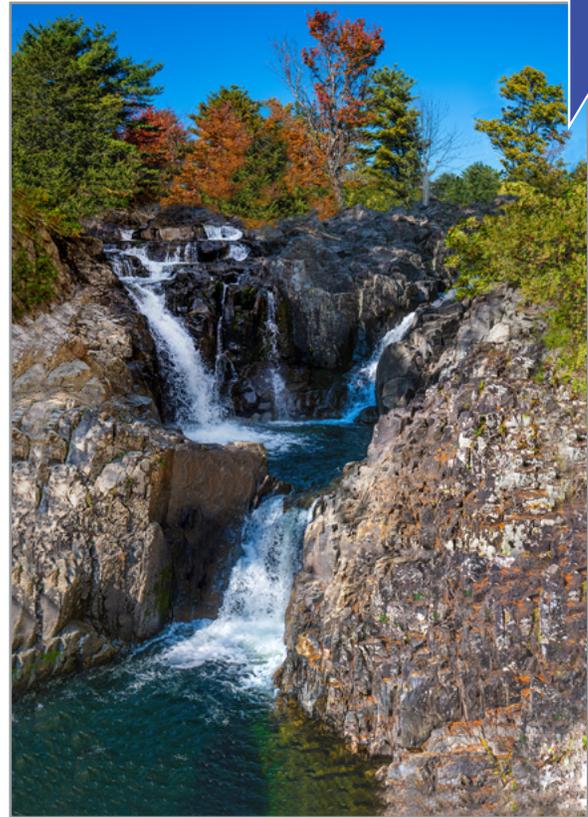
Third Place:
"Deserted Street 2024"
© Dan Steen



Honorable Mention:
"Cold Moon"
© Dan Steen

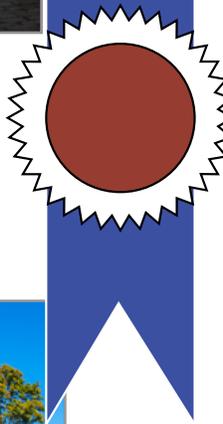


Honorable Mention:
"Exploring"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



Honorable Mention:
"Split Rock Falls"
© Richard Long

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FEBRUARY WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Skateboarding in the Park"
© Alan Wiggins

Print Judge: Kevin Q. Gray

Kevin Q. Gray is a fine art photographer living in Cherry Valley, NY. He is the Manager of Arts Education at Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown and also an adjunct photography professor at Hartwick College in Oneonta. Active in photography for over twenty years, Kevin works in both digital photography and in the 19th century wet plate collodion process. His personal photography work largely concentrates on landscape and nature but in the past few years he has focused largely on a new subject, creating portraits for enthusiasts of 'cosplay' culture.

His work can be viewed on his website, www.kevinqgray.com,
and on his Instagram page, [@kevinqgray](https://www.instagram.com/kevinqgray).

FEBRUARY
WINNING PRINTS

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Second Place:
"Dignity"
© Connie Frisbee Houde

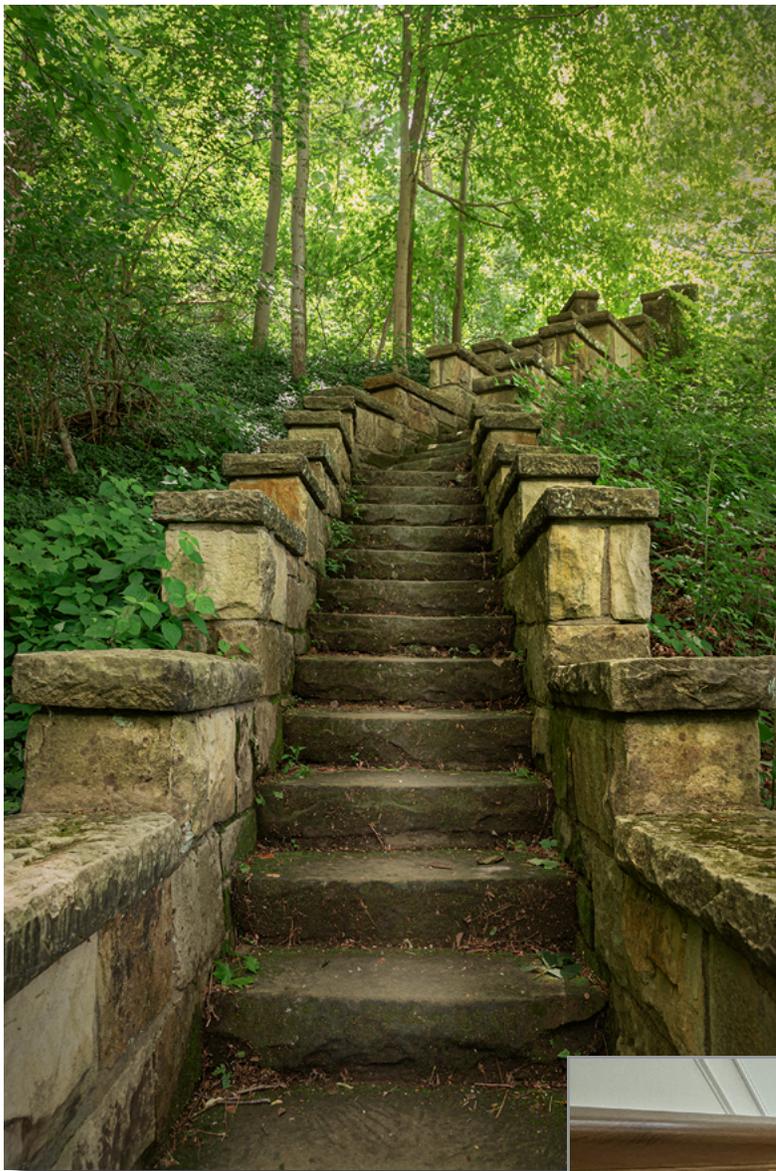


Third Place:
"Peony"
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:
"Wipple Bridge"
© Joe Cotroneo

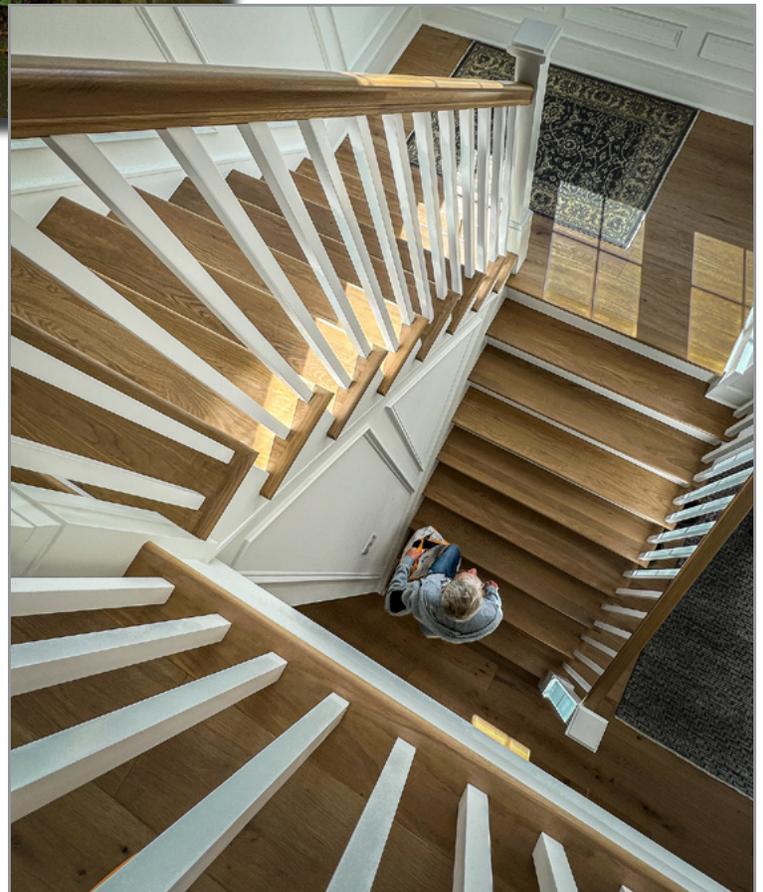
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FEBRUARY WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

Topic:
Staircases

First Place:
"Park Steps"
© Kristina Young



Digital Judge: Nick Palmieri

Nick Palmieri is an award-winning photographer who enjoys the creative aspects of many different types of photography. From wildlife to landscapes to portraits and macros, he has spent countless hours exploring a wide range of genres. Since 2009, Nick has been presenting programs and workshops on various aspects of photography to groups throughout the USA and beyond. Nick currently serves as a Trustee for the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs and is a past President of both the Cranford-Millburn Camera Club and Camera Naturalists Camera Club. In 2015, the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs awarded him their Citation, recognizing his contributions to photography in New Jersey. Nick believes that the art of photography should be fully explored utilizing all the developments in modern technology while maintaining great respect for its deep historical roots.

www.docnickphotos.com

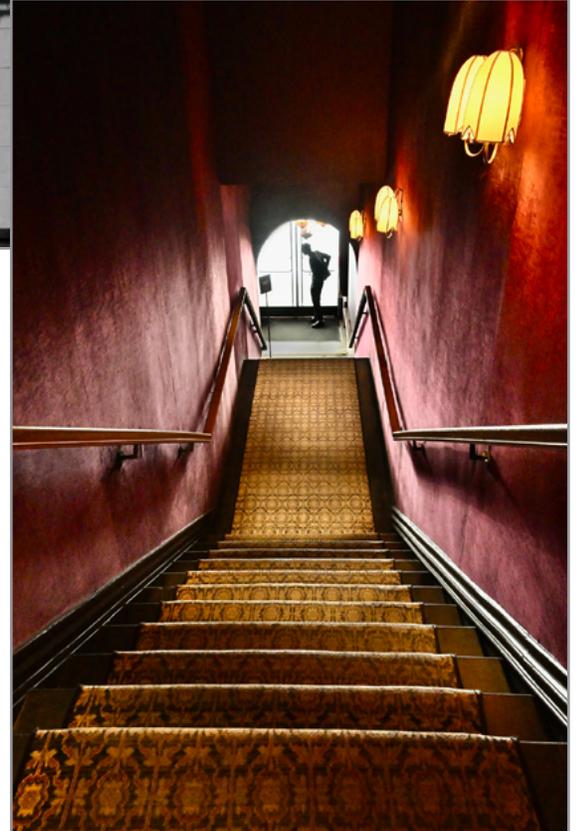
Second Place:
"Ascending"
© Linda Tommasulo

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Third Place:
"The Shadows Are Mixing Me Up"
© Sharon Silversmith

FEBRUARY WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES



Honorable Mention:
"The Wait Downstairs"
© Elena Keesee



Honorable Mention:
"Bell Tower Climb"
© Elena Keesee



Honorable Mention:
"Welcoming Stairway"
© Linda Tommasulo

FEBRUARY WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

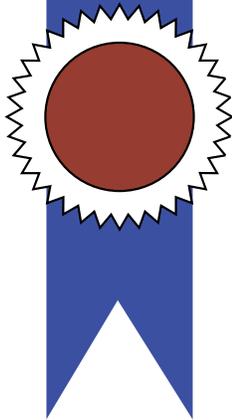


First Place:
"Niche and Cross, Morning Light"
© Kim Koza



Second Place:
"Vintage Blue Trailer and Trees"
© Kim Koza

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FEBRUARY WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES



Third Place:
"Crail Castle, Fife, Scotland"
© Phil Olivo

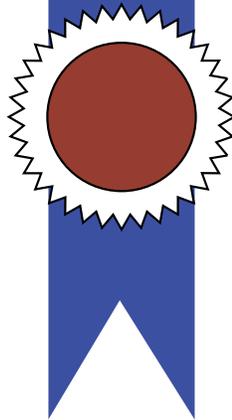


Honorable Mention:
"Flying South"
© Zachery Baldwin



Honorable Mention:
"New Mexico Still Life"
© Phil Olivo

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FEBRUARY WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES



Honorable Mention:
"Carefree"
© Elena Keesee

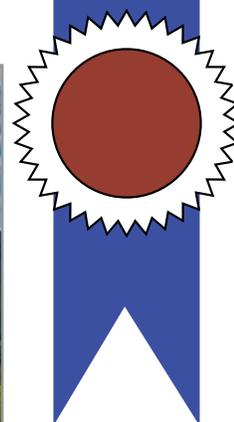


Honorable Mention:
"Scenic Arenal"
© Neil Shapiro

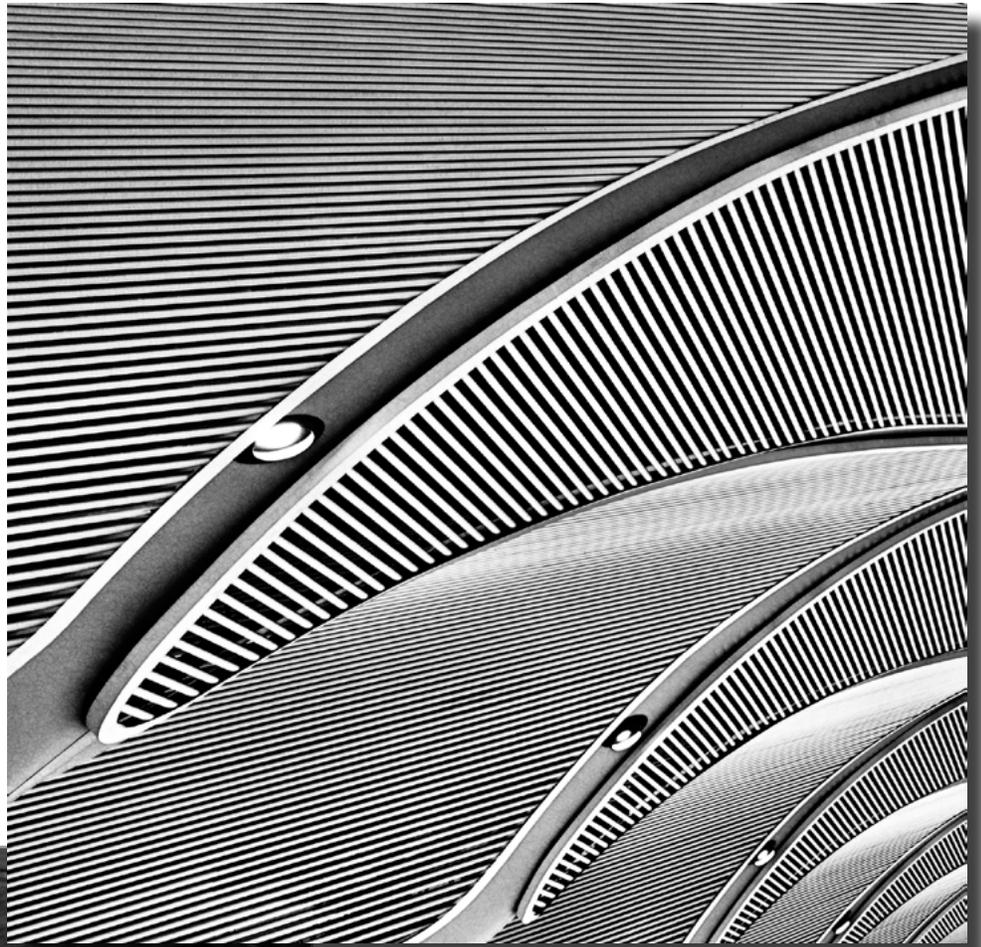


Honorable Mention:
"Find the Imposter"
© Zachery Baldwin

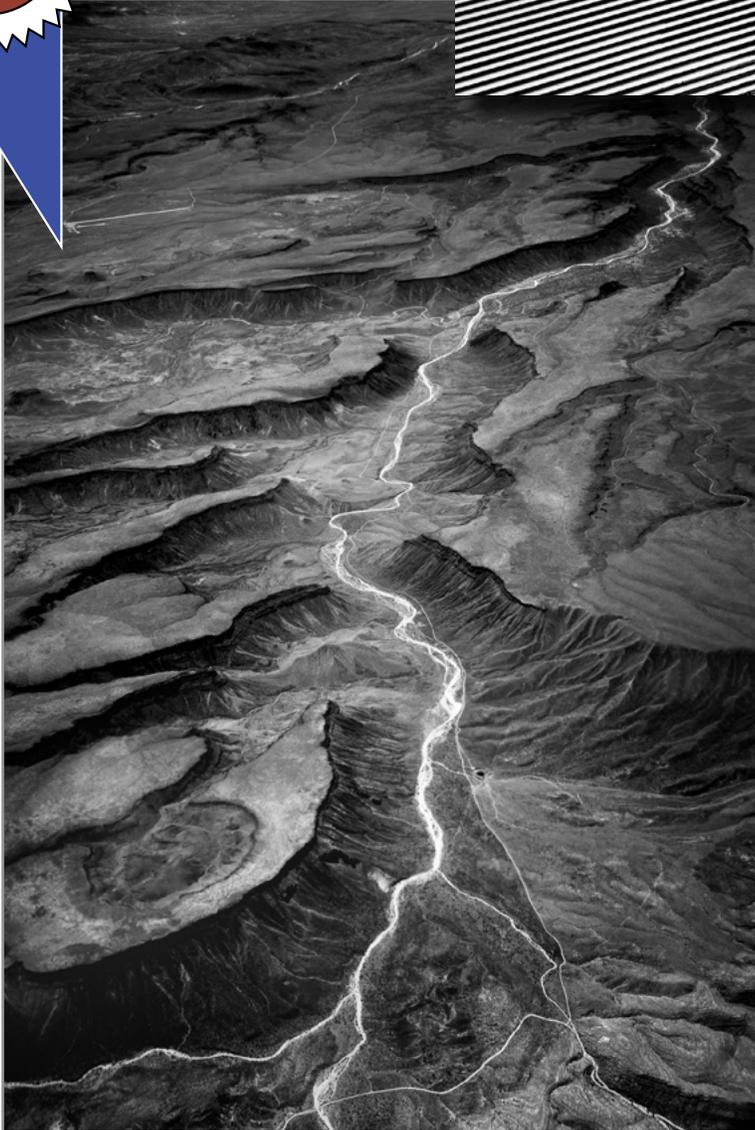
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FEBRUARY
WINNING
DIGITAL IMAGES



First Place:
"1st Abstract"
© Elena Keesee



Second Place:
"Planet Earth"
© Neil Shapiro



FEBRUARY
WINNING
DIGITAL IMAGES

Third Place:
"Waiting and Freezing"
© Marty Bannan



Honorable Mention:
"Bridge to Nowhere"
© Bill Lanahan

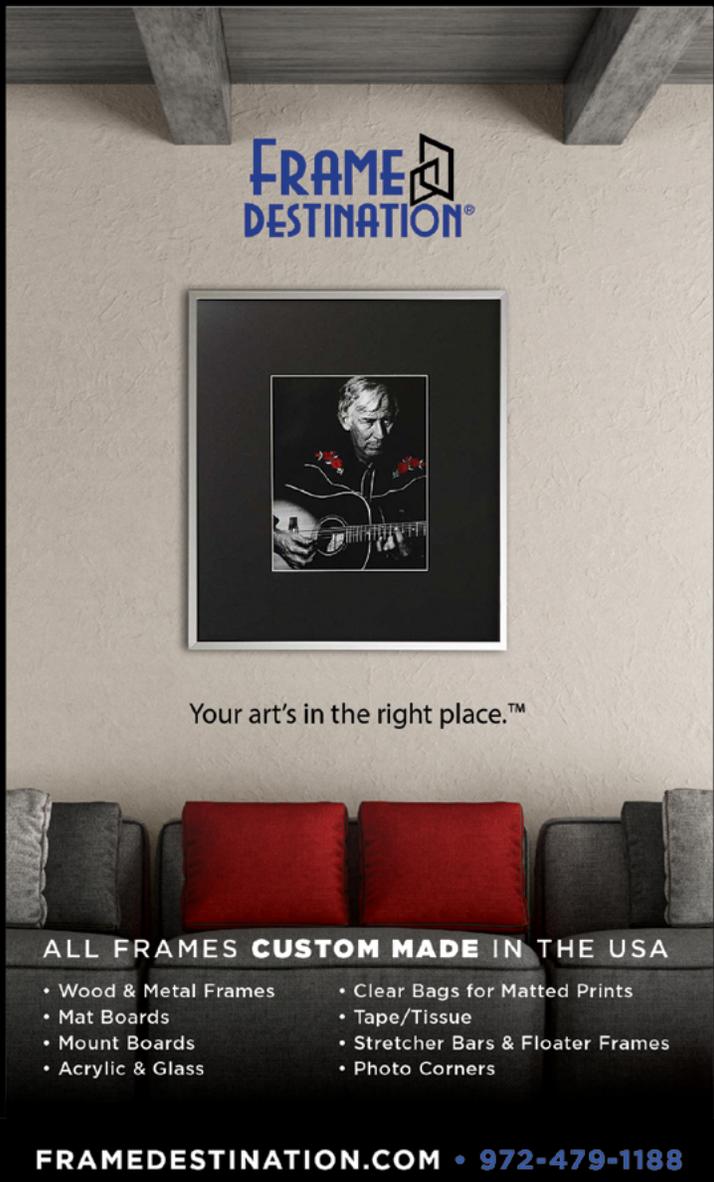


Honorable Mention:
"Ceiling Lights"
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:
"Bog River Falls"
© Zachery Baldwin

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Your art's in the right place.™

ALL FRAMES **CUSTOM MADE** IN THE USA

- Wood & Metal Frames
- Mat Boards
- Mount Boards
- Acrylic & Glass
- Clear Bags for Matted Prints
- Tape/Tissue
- Stretcher Bars & Floater Frames
- Photo Corners

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SPS members can get 10% off all their orders with Frame Destination!

You must be a registered user of the Frame Destination website as a SPS member. (Note: The discount is not valid with other discounts, and will not work for non-members.)

To become a registered SPS member on our website follow these steps:

1. Click "Login" in the upper right of section of our site - <https://www.framedestination.com/>
2. Click "Create an Account."
3. Chat or send an email to info@framedestination.com saying you are a registered user and need your account set for SPS membership.

To see how easy it is to order custom frames on our website you can check out the video "How to Order a Custom Picture Frame..." <https://www.framedestination.com/blog/picture-frames/how-to-order-a-custom-picture-frame>

To learn more about us you can check out our About Us Video: <https://www.framedestination.com/info/about-us.html>

NOT A MEMBER OF SPS YET? JOIN (OR RENEW) YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

SPECIAL RATE FOR THE BALANCE OF THE SEASON:

Membership:

Individual: \$30 / Family (Same Address): \$40 / Student: \$25

NOTE: All members will be supplied with links to meeting recordings (unless prohibited by the presenter).

These links SHOULD NOT be shared to non-members.

Check out the season calendar on the last page and see what you're going to miss if you're not a member!

Click here to join/renew:

<https://spsphoto.org/join-the-schenectady-photographic-society/>

ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



For 90+ 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 (and beyond, thanks to Zoom!) meet on Wednesday nights to engage in various competitions (digital, photo essay and more), share their vision with like-minded photographers, enjoy guest speaker presentations and other member benefits to further their knowledge, creativity and inspiration.

As part of our monthly competitions, we are challenged with an assigned topic—encouraging 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 inspirational and a great learning opportunity.

With COVID behind us, we are meeting again in person (see calendar on the last page of this newsletter). And you can join us on Field Trips organized by the Photography Connection Meetup. Stay up-to-date with SPS on our website: [www/spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org).

The Schenectady Photographic Society is an enthusiastic and energetic group. Our camaraderie is infectious.

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

SPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

President Joe Cotroneo

president@spsphoto.org

Vice President Linda Tommasulo

vp@spsphoto.org

Treasurer Pat McCormick

treasurer@spsphoto.org

Recording Secretary Paula Keefe

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Newsletter Editor Linda Tommasulo

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Webmaster & Annual Report Editor... Sean Sullivan

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Membership Chair Kristina Young

membership@spsphoto.org

Print Group Alan Wiggins

printchair@spsphoto.org

Digital Group..... Sean Sullivan & Alan Wiggins

digitalchair@spsphoto.org

Photo Essay Joe Cotroneo & Linda Tommasulo

Judge Coordinator Neil Shapiro

judging@spsphoto.org

Communications..... Linda Tommasulo
& Sean Sullivan

communications@spsphoto.org

Field Trips..... [https://www.meetup.com/
photography-connection/](https://www.meetup.com/photography-connection/)

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR

Joan Heffler

TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS

Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm,

Rich Schreiberstein, M-J Adelman

travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org

REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS

Judy Breslau

John Ogden



Connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:

Website: <https://spsphoto.org/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/152200768242>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyphotographicsociety>

THE FOCUS NEEDS YOU! For articles, suggestions, and member profiles (bios/photos).

Contact Linda at newsletter@spsphoto.org.

With new members joining every month,
this page will repeat in each issue of the *Focus*.

SPS 2024-2025 SEASON COMPETITION JUDGES

This is the schedule of judges for the season.
Note that, depending upon availability, this may change prior to the competition dates.

October, 2024

10/9/24.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Arches

JUDGE: STEFANIE PALAZEKE

<http://www.stephaniepalazeke.com>

10/16/24**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: The Color Yellow (No Flowers)

JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

November, 2024

11/6/24.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Blue / Blues

JUDGE: RICHARD LOVRICH

<https://www.studiolovrich.com/>

11/13/24**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Planes, Trains & Automobiles

JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA

<http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/>

December, 2024

12/4/24.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Old Things

JUDGE: NATALIE CARTZ

<https://nataliecartzphotography.com/>

12/11/24**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Construction

JUDGE: TATE DAVIDSON

<https://www.tatedavidson.com/>

January, 2025

1/8/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Harvest

JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER

<https://neustudios.com/>

1/15/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Out of Place

JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN

<http://www.johannasiegmann.com/>

February, 2025

2/5/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Odd Couples

JUDGE: KEVIN Q. GRAY

<http://www.kevinqgray.com/>

February, 2025 (Cont'd.)

2/12/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Staircases

JUDGE: NICK PALMIERI

<https://palmieri.photoshelter.com/index>

March, 2025

3/5/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Empty Chairs & Benches

JUDGE: LEV TSIMRING

<http://www.levtsimring.com/>

3/12/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Close Up

JUDGE: FRANK RAPANT

<https://www.frankrapant.photography/>

3/19/25.....**PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ

<https://cindyschultz.photoshelter.com/index>

April, 2025

4/2/25.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Anything Railroad

JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER

<http://www.photosbyevan.com/>

4/9/25.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Something Starting with the Letter "P"

JUDGE: THOMAS ROBINSON

<https://www.zoomdak.com/>

4/23/25 **LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE

<https://www.lawrencewhiteartwork.com/>

May, 2025

5/7/25.....**PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC**

JUDGES: ANGELA JORCZAK

<https://www.picturesofyou.net/browse/>

DAVID FINGERHUT

<https://davidbfingerhut.zenfolio.com/>

5/14/25.....**DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom**

JUDGES: SKIP ROWLAND

<https://skippix.biz/>

SHANNON CALVERT

<https://hireimagination.com/>

SPS 2024-2025 SEASON CALENDAR

For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after May 1, 2024.

Deadline for submission of digital images is midnight on Saturday (Sunday am) before the competition date—no exceptions!

Meetings start at 7pm. For Zoom meetings, members will receive appropriate link to sign in via email.

This schedule is always a work in progress and is subject to change!

Judges will be announced in the Focus prior to the scheduled competitions.

September 2024

9/25/24..... OPENING NIGHT @ FUMC
Program: Janice Prichett - Journey to the Eastern Himalayas

October, 2024

10/2/24..... NO MEETING - ROSH HASHANAH
10/9/24..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Arches
Program: Phil Olivo - A Photographer's Evolution
10/16/24 DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: The Color Yellow (No Flowers)
10/23/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Mike Moats: the Properly Equipped Macro Photographer
10/30/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Huibo Huo: Personal Expressive Black & White Photography

November, 2024

11/2/24..... PORTRAIT WORKSHOP @ FUMC
with Doug Mitchell
11/6/24..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Blue / Blues
Program: Dale Willman - Ethics in Street Photography
11/13/24 DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Planes, Trains & Automobiles
11/20/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Matt Sues: How to Photograph the Night Sky
11/27/24..... NO MEETING (THANKSGIVING)

December, 2024

12/4/24..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Old Things
Program: CANCELLED
12/11/24 DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Construction
12/18/24 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Hazel Meredith: Layers & Masking Demystified
12/25/24..... NO MEETING (CHRISTMAS)

January, 2025

1/1/25..... NO MEETING (NEW YEARS DAY)
1/8/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Harvest
Program: Doug Mitchell - A Quick Day Trip to Maine
1/15/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Out of Place
1/22/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Photo Essay Inspiration - 2024 Winners Discuss Their Essays

January, 2025 (Cont'd.)

1/29/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Rick Hulbert: Architectural Photography -
Buildings Inside and Out

February, 2025

2/5/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Odd Couples
Program: Joe Cotroneo - Infrared Photography
2/12/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Staircases
2/19/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
David Johnston: Waterfall Photography - A Deep Dive
2/26/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
M-J Adelman: The Island of Madagascar - Lemurs Call it Home

March, 2025

3/5/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Empty Chairs & Benches
3/12/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Close Up
Program: M-J Adelman - Two Castles, The Dunsmuir Saga
3/19/25..... PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC
Judge: Cindy Schultz
3/26/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Rita Nannini: First Stop Last Stop - From Project to Book

April, 2025

4/2/25..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Anything Railroad
Program: Ron Klein - 4x5 on the Road
4/9/25..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Something Starting with the Letter "P"
4/16/25..... NO MEETING (PASSOVER)
4/23/25..... LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC
Judge: Lawrence White
4/30/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Essdras M. Suarez: Street Photography -
Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary

May, 2025

5/7/25..... PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC
Program: Greg Efner - Shooting Birds, Tips & Tricks
5/14/25..... DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom

June, 2025 - AWARDS BANQUET Date/Location TBA