Schenectady Photographic Society Newsletter

Bold red texts are interactive links!

FOCUS

IT'S OUR 94TH SEASON!

Volume 92 - No.7 https://spsphoto.org/ April 2026

LUBA RICKET CREATIVE COMPETITION
April 22 - 7 pm
Live at First United Methodist Church
Hosted by: Joan Heffler
Judged by: Lawrence White

EVENT NIGHT



The Schenectady Photographic Society is excited to announce its 9th year of the Luba Ricket Creativity Awards on April 22, 2026, celebrating the stunningly creative work of a beloved member, Luba Ricket. Those of you who remember her found her to be incredibly warm, willing to share, and hilarious. There is no doubt she made us better artists and strengthened our club.

While we worked at creating professional quality prints, Luba crafted tableaux with her signature flipped images and printing on used coffee filters. While we explored software and apps, she was constructing three-dimensional illuminated models before it was popular.

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, and 3D works. Entries may have been created at any time, and four items may be submitted (two digital and two non-digital).

Digital entries must be submitted by midnight, April 18. Here is the link to upload your entry:

https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/upload-projected-creative-comp/

Luba is greatly missed by all those whose lives she touched, but her spirit and creative talent continue to inspire us. This is your chance to be completely creative and unique! Even if you

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Luba Ricket Creative Competition

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didn't know her, your "Luba bug" is in you. We hope it will inspire you to GET CREATIVE in Luba's memory.

More about Luba Ricket...

Luba was an inventive genius who had a story to tell. I believe you have a story to tell as well. We are delighted to have Lawrence White back as judge. See you in person on April 22 and create away!

With special thanks from Luba's family, we are pleased to again award cash prizes!

Cash Awards
for Digital and Non-Digital

1st place	$100
2nd place	$75
3rd place	$50
4th place	$25
5th Place	$15

Luba Honczak Ricket, an Angel on Earth, became a Heavenly Angel on May 19, 2017, one day before her 71st birthday. Luba was a proud resident of the Village of Colonie since 1969, moving there after marriage. She happily raised her three sons while actively participating in their various school activities, most memorably teaching the students of Forest Park Elementary School the art of pysanky–Ukrainian Easter Eggs–and founding and running a downhill ski club to Willard Mountain. Luba was a continuing education teacher before the birth of her first son. She was also a market researcher, a contributing photographer for the *Colonie Spotlight*, a bookkeeper, and also excelled on her own as a musician and accomplished photographer.

Luba had been a member of Albany Center Galleries, the former Fulton Street Gallery, and most notably the Schenectady Photographic Society (SPS) where she was privileged to learn from so many of the talented members and became an inspiration to many as well. Her works have been displayed in numerous galleries, shows, and publications; including Southwest's *Spirit Magazine* feature story about Albany, NY, in 2009. Luba retired from the job that she loved the most at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

As attested to by those who had the privilege of knowing her, she continues to inspire our photographic creativity. We hope to pass this on to the next generation of SPS photographers...YOU!

Here are some samples of
Luba's creativity...







Luba Ricket Creative Competition

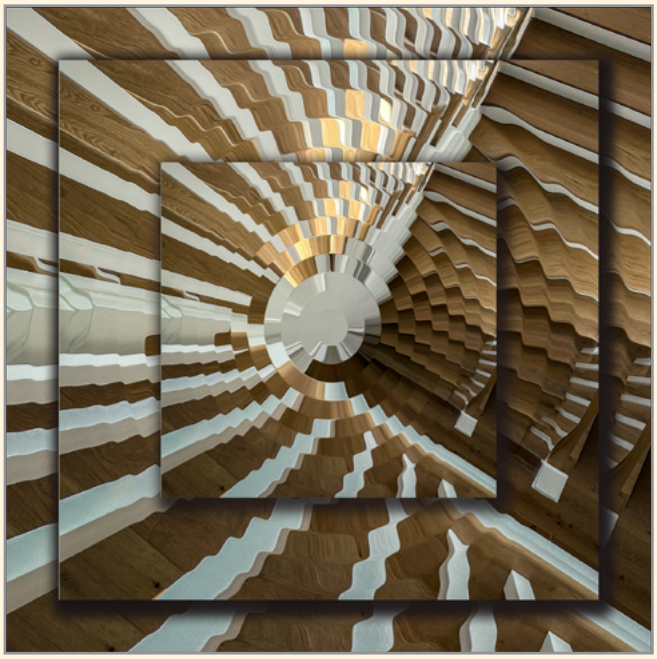
(Continued from page 2)



House with photos in windows



Last Year's First-Place Winners



First Place Digital $100 Winner:
"Descending"
© Linda Tommasulo



First Place Non-Digital $100 Winner:
"Vortex"
© Elena Keesee

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COMPETITION 2026

April 22, 2026

Non-Digital Entry

Name:

_____

Title:

_____

PLACE:

1st 2nd

3rd 4th

5th

_____
Entry #

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COMPETITION 2026

April 22, 2026

Non-Digital Entry

Name:

_____

Title:

_____

PLACE:

1st 2nd

3rd 4th

5th

_____
Entry #

Please use this form for the Luba Ricket Non-Digital Entries

BEYOND THE RULE OF THIRDS

33 Hacks to Improve Your Scores in Club Competitions

by Butch Mazzuca

April 29, 2026 - 7 pm - on Zoom

EVENT NIGHT



"Beyond the Rule of Thirds, 33 Hacks to Improve Your Scores in Club Competitions" is a 50–55-minute zoom presentation followed by a Q&A that goes beyond the mundane. Most of us are familiar with photo presentations offering tips about how to improve one's photography. But what is different about the "33 Hacks" presentation is that it focuses on what professional judges look for in photo competitions and how they define award-winning photographs.

"33 Hacks" provides a clear path to creating more interesting images. Butch will illustrate how ***Impact, Visual Interest***, and ***Storytelling*** are the fundamental characteristics that most often succeed in photo competitions and far outweigh any minor technical deficiencies. His photographic mantra is simple:

"Compelling subjects
separated from their backgrounds
win competitions."



Continued...

Beyond the Rule of Thirds

(Continued from page 5)







About Butch Mazzuca

Butch hails from Chicago, Illinois, is a graduate of the University of Dayton, a former Naval Aviator the past CEO of a 65-person insurance brokerage in Denver, Co. Butch lived in Vail, CO from 1999 to 2003 where he was a ski instructor, wrote commentaries for the Vail Daily and taught Digital Photography at both the Alpine Arts Center and Colorado Mountain College.

He describes himself as a photographic generalist and his images have appeared on the Audubon Society Website, in Sarasota and Shutter Bug Magazines while his photo essays have been featured in Travel Africa Magazine, Africa Geographic Magazine, and the Sierra Club's Focus Points Magazine. Internationally he's won the Leica, ZEDE and Elixir International photo competitions. Butch now lives with his wife Bobbi and their two Berndoodles, Molly and Luka, in Tucson AZ.

Check out his photo gallery here:
https://butchmazzuca.com/photo-galleries/

FOCUS ON Jim Craner



Photography has been a constant in my life since I was a boy – more than 70 years ago now. I don't recall what originally drew me to it, but I can remember the thrill of seeing an image materialize in the crude darkroom I had assembled in our basement. My parents were tolerant and gifted me a used Kodak folding-bellows roll film camera. It produced large enough negatives to yield respectable contact prints. I was the first Boy Scout in the Onondaga Council ever to earn a merit badge in photography. There was no one to certify I had met the requirements, so our scoutmaster did so after I showed him prints of our troop on a camping trip.

Photography became something I would put aside for a time but return to often, sometimes for pleasure, or as a young school teacher and new parent, to generate needed summertime income! Part-time work in those days included event photography (primarily weddings), commercial studio work, and medical photography for a local hospital. Wedding photography taught me how to work quickly and manage nervous subjects while fulfilling the required "shot list" each weekend. It also produced the beginning of a trove of memorable stories of life as a working photographer. At one church service the hapless organist knocked a bag of groceries off the choir loft railing. Produce, canned vegetables and other items were sent careening down the aisle. Some nimble wedding guests were able to field most of them before they reached the altar.



Commercial work was a little less intense generally ranging from roughing in lightning, loading cameras, organizing and sequencing products to be photographed, and whatever else needed doing. The studio had cultivated a good deal of editorial work for several local Syracuse, New York companies including General Electric, Crouse Hinds, and Carrier. Journalistic style black and white photography was becoming popular for annual reports and sales material in those days and I spent a good deal of time in the darkroom developing endless rolls of film and producing contact sheets and prints for ad execs to scrutinize. I perfected my wet-darkroom and print spotting skills, while learning how to cope with spending 4-6 hours a day in the dark. I came to understand why Kodak was one of the leading employers of the blind. I was also assigned the generally mundane task of producing product shots when needed – think grocery coupons.

One of our clients – the Cortland Fish Line Company (now the Cortland Line Company) – would annually hire an advertising firm to produce a catalog and other marketing material and we were contracted to do most of the photography. I was delegated the job of shooting close-ups of pre-tied trout flies. The lighting was to say the least unimaginative. The goal was to produce a nicely lit rendering against a clean background. Polaroids were first taken to check the lighting and followed up by a test roll of Ektachrome before going all in. Some of the work was done outdoors on local trout streams which was more interesting and occasionally produced a few humorous moments. On one occasion, the agency hired a good-looking 30-something model to play the "trout fisherman", and also hired an older gentleman – an actual trout fisherman – to teach the model how to cast. The model proved so inept that after a fashion it was decided to use the older gentleman for the action shots.

Continued...

FOCUS ON: Jim Craner

(Continued from page 7)

I photographed a variety of medical procedures at a Syracuse hospital, securing the job through a friend whose wife was an OR nurse. It was a short-lived gig and I spent most of it in orthopedics. I learned that orthopedics was a grizzly business involving manhandling patients on the OR table to insure that limbs were properly aligned, screwing into place metal devices of various kinds, closing up large incisions and hoping for no infection. Ironically many decades later, my wife suffered a badly broken leg in an equestrian accident. Based on the length of the scar on her leg, the elaborate external-fixation device attached to her leg during surgery, and the weeks of home care that followed, I'm not sure much has changed.



As the years went on I became interested in wildlife photography inspired by the work of Art Wolfe, Frans Lanting, Joe MacDonald, and others. I decided to retire early at age 55 to concentrate on nature and wildlife photography and did so actively for the next 10+ years traveling all over North American, Canada, the Arctic and parts of Mexico. An early trip to photograph grizzly bears in Alaska's Katmai National Wildlife Refuge started just a few days before the 9-11 attack on the World Trade Center. We only learned of it from a park ranger, and with the nation's airspace closed, it was several days before we were finally able to fly out, read the hard news, and see the video footage. It was a surreal and isolating experience.





As time went on, I developed a particular fondness for horses as subjects. This was likely the result of learning to ride in order to share my wife's passion and our family's ownership of a boarding and training facility in the Albany area. I connected with an equine rescue and sanctuary in nearby Chatham New York and have done 'pro bono' work for them for almost 20 years now producing nearly 5,000 images for their use in fund raising and publicity. I was also fortunate on several occasions to photograph wild horses in northern Wyoming. There is something visually compelling about the power, grace, and presence of horses that is both captivating and addicting.



Now in my 80s, I photograph much closer to home. We are fortunate to have a decent assortment of wildlife on our property that we call "Phoenix Meadows." We are blessed with a good variety of waterfowl, whitetail deer, song birds and the occasional fox or coyote. We were able to bring our own rescued-horses home and their daily antics made for some humorous images; the last of our horses has crossed the Rainbow Bridge now but the images remind us of years of good times.

Continued...

FOCUS ON: Jim Craner

(Continued from page 8)



Long ago my mentor in the wedding business told me "we don't just make pictures, we create memories." Nearing his own retirement, he offered me the opportunity to buy the photography studio. There have been times I've revisited the decision not to do so, but I'm glad I didn't. I've heard many professional photographers ruefully observe that photography is a wonderful way of life and a terrible way to make a living – both at the same time. But all of them keep shooting – searching for a compelling subject in the perfect light. Photography nourishes my soul and adds purpose to my days. I hope it does the same for you. At the very least it's a useful obsession.

Peace, be well, and continue to make memories.



Continued...





All photos © Jim Craner



Continued...

FOCUS ON: Jim Craner

(Continued from page 9)





All photos © Jim Craner









Jim shares his knowledge often on his blog:
https://pawsphoto.wordpress.com/

Continued...

FOCUS ON: Jim Craner

(Continued from page 10)













All photos © Jim Craner

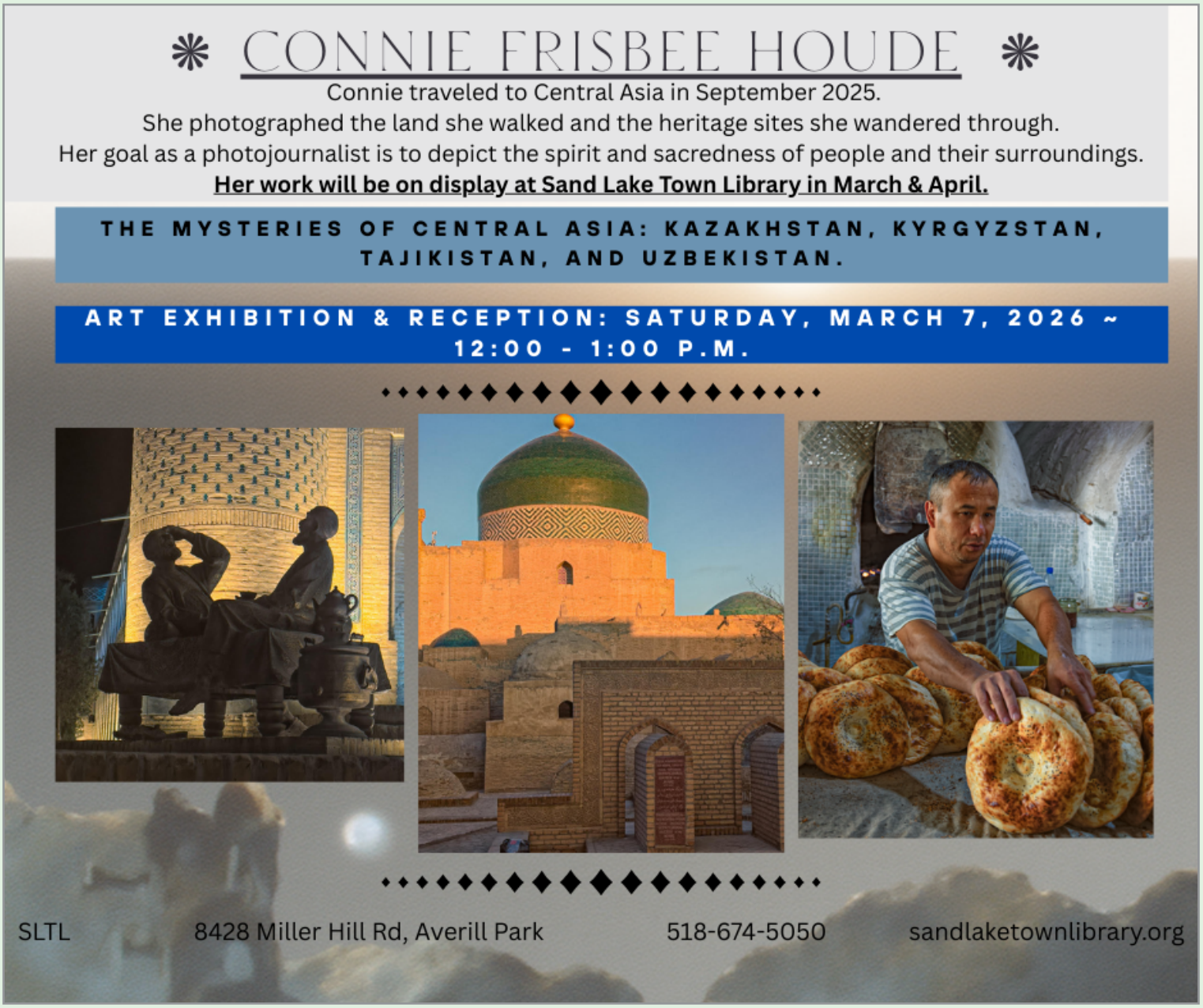




CONNIE FRISBEE HOUDE EXHIBIT AT SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY March & April 2026

If you attended Connie's Zoom presentation on January 28, or have seen her wonderful photos in competition, you know a bit about her world travels.

Here's an opportunity to see Connie's images from her Central Asia trip up close and personal.



PHOTOGRAPHY CONNECTION PRESENTS:
"Walker Evans/George Tice: Unvarnished America"
by Peter Bosco
Thursday, April 30, 6 pm at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library*

"The 'everydayness' of life gets in the way of the eternal." ~ George Tice

Join us for a lively and engaging presentation and discussion of vernacular photography by two of America's seminal figures of the genre. Walker Evans and George Tice met briefly over an ash-tray at the Museum of Modern Art in 1970 and shared a cigarette together. It was the passing of the metaphorical torch from one generation to the next.

Walker Evans did groundbreaking photographic work for the Farm Security Administration in the 1930s documenting America's Great Depression. Many of the iconic images of that era were made by Evans. He also collaborated with writer James Agee and the two produced the masterpiece book, Let Us Now Praise Famous Men.

George Tice made the State of New Jersey his personal portrait project over seven decades. He documented every corner of the Garden State creating subtle but powerful images in both silver and platinum salts–and he is considered a Master printer and craftsman. George produced 24 photography books throughout his lifetime.

On hand will be three original George Tice photographs for up-close inspection.



Walker Evans. Westchester, New York Farmhouse 1931



George Tice. Car for Sale, Paterson, New Jersey 1969

ABOUT PETER BOSCO

A photographer for over 40 years, Peter Bosco holds an MFA in photography from Ohio University. Peter has taught photography at several colleges and schools in Connecticut. He was the teacher coordinator at the renowned Maine Photographic Workshops in Rockport, where he worked with celebrated photographer Arnold Newman. Peter later worked as Mr. Newman's first assistant and personal printer in New York City.

Mr. Bosco makes photographs of both the constructed and natural world. He works primarily with large format view cameras. Peter was a grant recipient of the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. Peter has also produced a documentary film, George Tice: Seeing Beyond the Moment, about the life of renowned American photographer George Tice. The film received high praise and was screened around the country following its June 2018 airing on New York City Public Television.

*Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library is located at 475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065

THE POWER OF PAINTING YOUR IMAGES WITH LIGHT
by Joe Brady

Beyond the Rule of Thirds: What Makes a Landscape Feel Alive?

Three composition ideas that unlock emotion and depth without overthinking the frame

I have talked in the past on why I am not a fan of the "Rule of Thirds." I feel it produces landscapes that are static and measured - technically solid, but emotionally flat. They are too evenly spaced to create the motion necessary for a great landscape photograph. This is why I primarily start with the Golden Ratio for my compositions, but the image I share with you today breaks from any constraints–no grid, no ratios and no rules–and it is one of my favorite compositions.

If you've ever had that experience–where your photo is composed "correctly" but still doesn't move you–this essay is for you. While the Rule of Thirds can be a helpful starting point, it's not the destination. If you want your landscapes to feel alive–to draw you in, to evoke the atmosphere, depth, and emotion you experienced in the moment–you'll need something more.



It's got potential, but the raw file had to be so dark to protect the snow and clouds.

Notice also, that this image clearly breaks one big "rule" –the horizon is dead center in the image. In this case however, it works both because of the mirrored reflection, and because of the asymmetry of having the collection of rocks in the lower left. If they weren't there, the composition would end up being static.



Basic adjustments made, but there is still a lack of motion–nothing guides you into the scene.

Here are three composition ideas that go beyond the grid.

1. Lead the Eye, Don't Just Balance the Frame

Great landscapes aren't static, they are journeys. Your viewer's eye wants to move through the image, not just land on a subject and stay there. And one of the most powerful ways to create that movement is through visual pathways.

Think of: A winding trail through a forest, a river carving through a canyon, a gentle curve of a coastline, a shadow stretching diagonally across sand dunes.

These aren't just elements in the scene they are invitations. They pull you in and suggest direction, motion, and story. The image I share with you today literally points to a destination - the mountain slope on the right side of the image is a giant arrow directing you to the opening between the trees and the mountain slopes, making you want to know what is around the bend in the lake.

2. Layer for Depth, Not Just Detail

One of the biggest differences between what you see and what your camera captures is depth. Your eyes naturally perceive distance through three-dimensional cues—overlap, scale, atmosphere. But your camera flattens everything into a single plane.

Continued...

(Continued from page 14)

To make your images feel real—to make them breathe—you need to layer.

Think in three zones:

- Foreground (something close: rocks, flowers, texture)
- Mid-ground (your main subject: trees, mountains, buildings)
- Background (sky, distant peaks, fading light)

Even subtle elements in the foreground can add a sense of place and physical presence, like saying to the viewer: You're standing here, looking out. This place is one of my favorite locations in Grand Teton National Park. This view features String Lake during mid-morning. Just to the bottom right out of the frame is a large flat rock that I consider “my rock”. During every visit here, I like to finish up the trip by returning to this place, sitting on “my rock” and taking it in with all of my senses.

Notice that while there is not a single prominent subject element in this composition, the three zones mentioned above are all there. There is motion and direction, but you also feel the desire to simply look around at all of the details, the colors, the light.

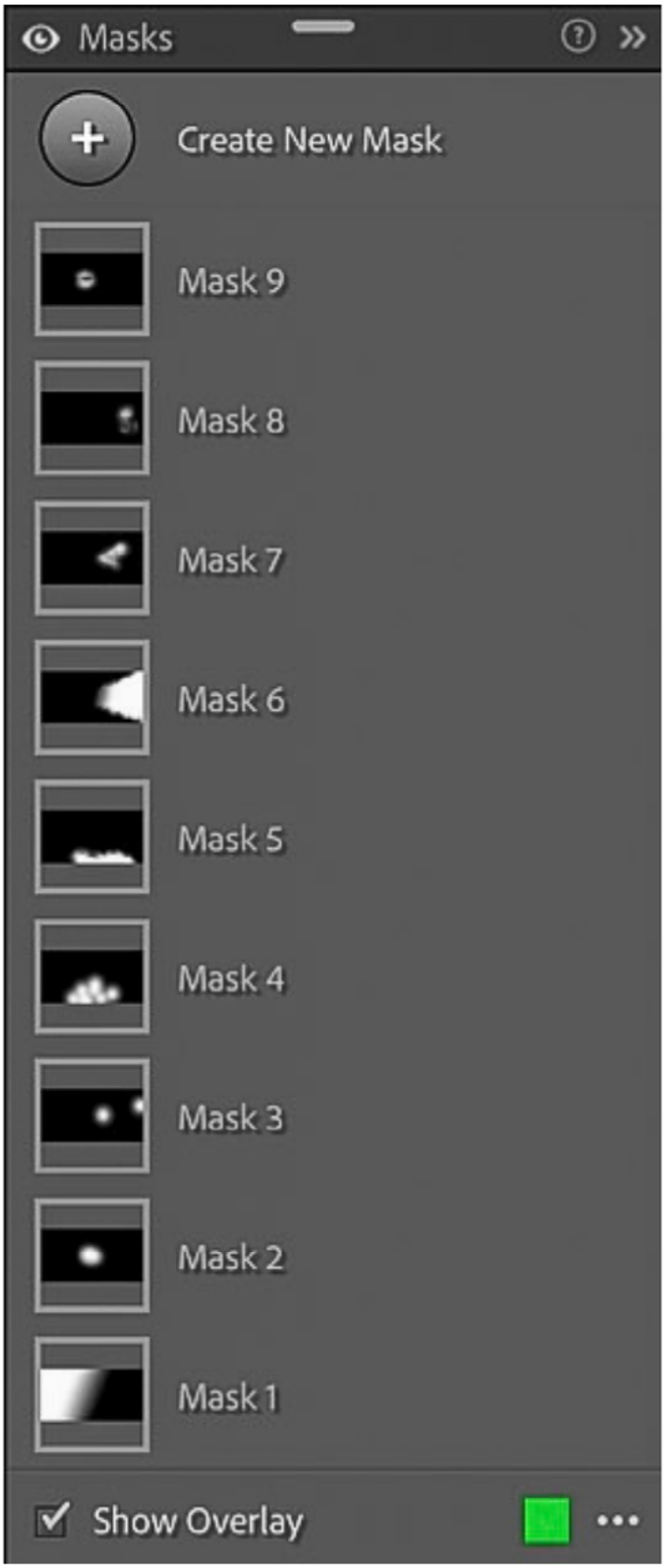
Download the Larger File so that you can really see this photo!

3. Let the Light Be the Composer

You can have the most dramatic mountain range in your frame, but if the light is flat, the image often falls... well, flat. Our job as photographers is to guide the viewer in.

Instead of thinking of light as just exposure, think of it as a compositional force. Light creates contrast, reveals texture, separates subjects from the background. It tells the viewer where to look - and where to feel. While I was gifted with beautiful light during this visit, it still needed my help to create movement and **direction.**

The graphic below shows all of the light painting in Lightroom Classic that was added to the final image.



Continued...

The Power of Painting Your Images with Light

(Continued from page 15)



I wanted to help you travel to the points I found interesting, the distant opening of the lake at the distant center, the collection of rock at the lower left shoreline, the row of trees across the lake, and the mountain peak piercing the light layer of clouds. This was all supported with subtle, yet powerful adjustments in light.

Painting with light is one of the most powerful ways to transform your images from good to great.



About Joe Brady

I've spent most of the last twenty years full-time in the photography business and exclusively as a photographer for the past five. I'm a writer, workshop leader, video producer and passionate about my photography, both portrait and landscape.

Please sign up the Foto-Friday newsletter on my website and keep an eye out for new Blog posts.

Website:
https://www.joebradyphotography.com/

Hone your post-processing skills with Joe and The Photography Kitchen!

Join Joe Live, Two New Episodes Every Month!

A brand-new live, online seminar series from Joe Brady, designed to help you turn your raw photos into beautiful images. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned photographer, this interactive, twice-monthly series will serve up the perfect blend of tips, tricks, and creative "recipes" to refine your editing skills.

https://www.joebradyphotography.com/category/all-products

MARCH PRINT NIGHT
March 4, 2026

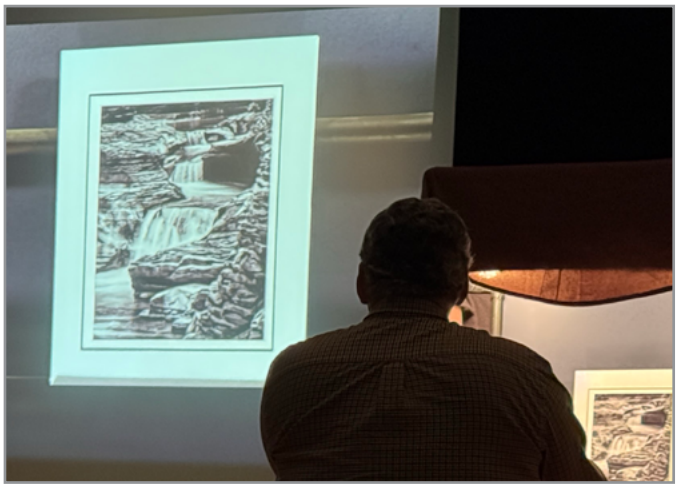












Photos © Linda Tommasulo

Whether you do your own,
or use an outside service,
printing is an art-form itself...
cropping, editing, choosing the medium.
Nothing compares with holding a print in your hand.

Join us and try your hand at printing your photos!
You'll be glad you did!

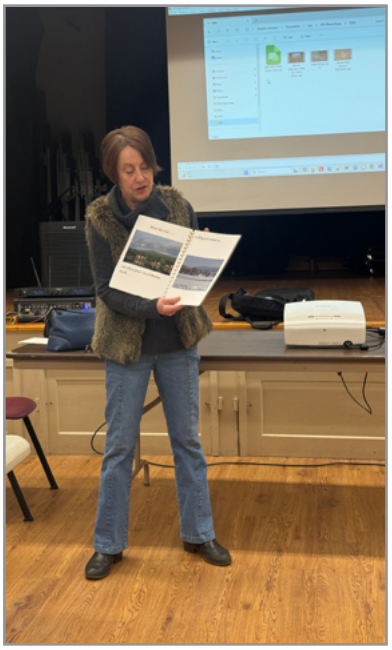
MARCH PHOTO ESSAY NIGHT
March 18, 2026



We were pleased that Cindy Schultz returned to provide valuable critiques on our printed and digital Photo Essays.











Photos © Linda Tommasulo





Continued...

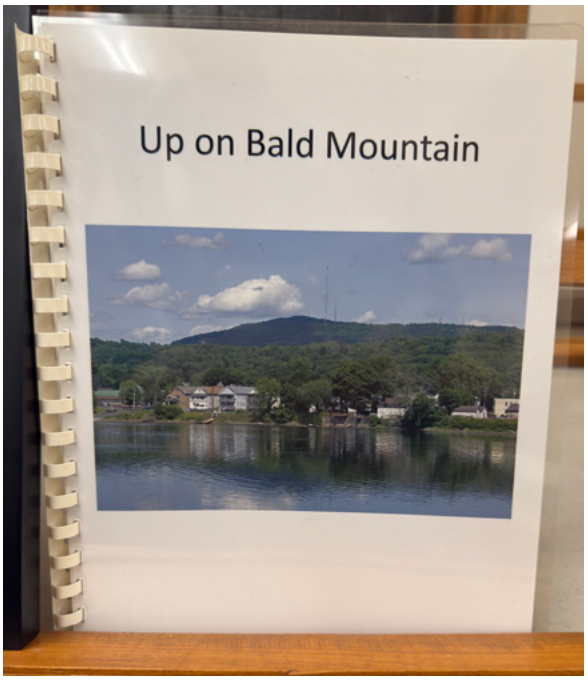
March Photo Essay Night

(Continued from page 18)

Print Photo Essay Submissions



© Dan Steen



© Dave Koschnick



© Linda Tommasulo



© Joe Cotroneo



© Neil Shapiro

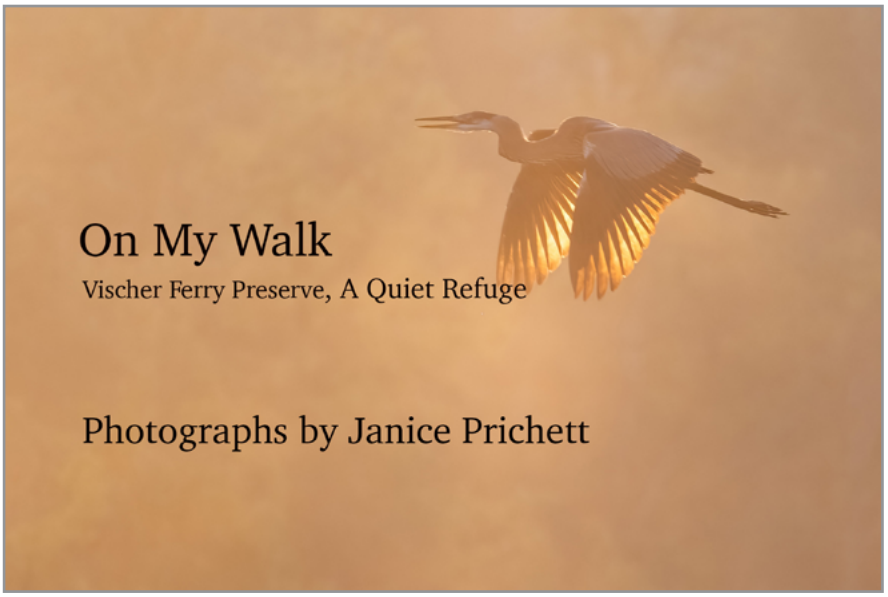
Continued...

MARCH PHOTO ESSAY NIGHT
March 18, 2026

Digital Photo Essay Submissions



© Joe Cotroneo



© Janice Prichett



© Linda Tommasulo

JOIN US FOR FIELD TRIPS WITH JANICE PRICHETT
The Photography Connection has moved to Facebook!
www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566

The Schenectady Photographic Society participates in field trips organized by Photography Connection. They have moved from Meetup to a Facebook Group. Going forward all outings will be posted exclusively on the Photography Connection Facebook page. Events will be posted as private Facebook events—just click "Going" if you plan to attend. That's it! For events that require reservations, please only mark yourself as attending if you truly plan to come.

Each month, they'll post a theme to inspire shooting and sharing. Have a theme idea? Let Janice know!

Members are encouraged to post images from outings in albums on their Facebook page.

They will be inviting instructors to teach in-person workshops at the Clifton Park Library on topics of interest to the group. In addition, they plan to hold two social events a year—dinners, photo-sharing nights, etc., and larger in-person sharing sessions where members can present work or talk about recent trips.

Members can post photography-related announcements (workshops, locations, last-minute outings), and you're welcome to suggest or lead outings. Janice will be happy to help with organizing and posting.

All SPS members are encouraged to go to the Photography Connection Facebook page, ask to join and wait for approval.. There is no cost.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566



Full moon at Olana © 2025 Janice Prichett

UPDATE:
Kim Koza has volunteered to lead the Smart Phone Focus Group. Members who signed up will be receiving updates shortly.



THE SPS SMART PHONE FOCUS GROUP

At the suggestion of member, Saul Seinberg, we are in the process of creating a Smart Phone Focus Group at SPS. The intent will be to share and encourage members to shoot with their phones, improve their skill and participate in competitions with smart phone images.

It is in the preliminary stages, and many members have expressed interest.

Stay tuned for more details in this newsletter and through our group email.

OUR "FUN" COMPETITION

ASSIGNED TOPICS COMPETITIONS

Once again, for the upcoming season, we will have Assigned Topics for Print and Digital.
And, to give you a head start, we've announced the Assigned Topics for next season as well!
Digital images may be submitted on our website:
https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/upload-projected/.

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–no exceptions!

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2025-2026 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2025-2026 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Doors and/or Windows**
November: **Still Life**
December: **Water**
January: **Architecture**
February: **Abstract**
March: **Landscape**
April: **Animal**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Reflections**
November: **Circles**
December: **Fall Colors**
January: **Patterns**
February: **Primary Colors**
March: **City Scenes**
April: **Shadows**

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2026-2027 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2026-2027 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after June 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Composite**
November: **Symmetry**
December: **Everyday Objects**
January: **Nature**
February: **Multiple Exposure**
March: **Winter**
April: **Silhouettes**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Fruit and/or Vegetable**
November: **Barns**
December: **Standing Out**
January: **Car Details**
February: **Intentional Camera Movement**
March: **Sunrise, Sunset and/or Sunburst**
April: **Bridges**

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

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPETITIONS
2025-2026 SEASON

For the 2025-2026 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.

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 displayed on mat board, foam core or stretched canvas. Mounts must be a minimum of 8" x 10" and may not exceed 18" 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 2400 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/

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 – 5 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 both Print and Digital, members are permitted to enter a total of 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.

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

JOIN ~~LIKE~~ US ON FACEBOOK!



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

Our "regular" SPS Facebook group (now renamed to "Schenectady Photographic Society FB Group") is open to all interested photographers Participants must request permission to join. It's a great forum for all things relating to photography.



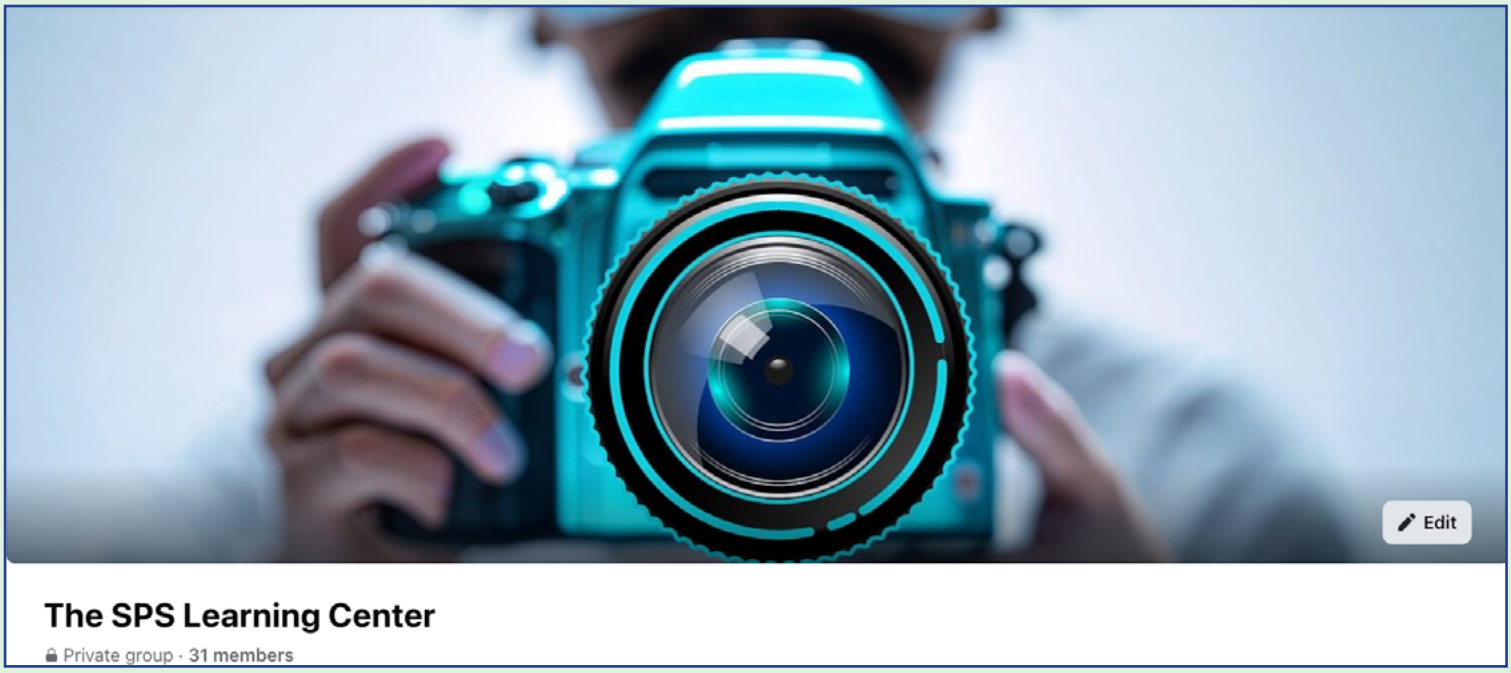
https://www.facebook.com/schenectadyphotographicsociety

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.*

Continued...

OUR NEW-SPS MEMBERS ONLY-FACEBOOK GROUP "THE SPS LEARNING CENTER"



A new benefit of membership: a forum to share photography-related information, post images for critique and more.
If you haven't joined yet, now is the time!
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737

FOLLOW US ON YouTube



We hope to have our YouTube channel up-to-date soon,
Only SPS Members will be able to access Event Night presentations.
https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos

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

MARCH WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Landscape

ASSIGNED



First Place:
"First Light, Nauset Light Beach"
© Janice Prichett



2nd Place:
"Rugged Edge of Newfoundland"
© Janice Prichett

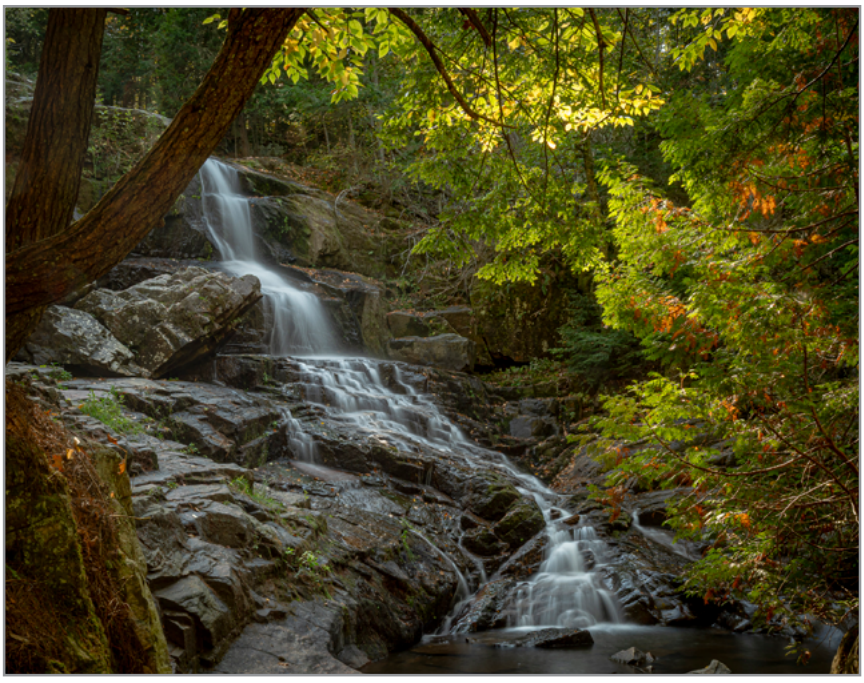
Continued...

MARCH WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Landscape

ASSIGNED



3rd Place:
"The Golden Divide"
© Neil Shapiro



Honorable Mention:
"Shelving Rock Falls"
© Alan Wiggins

Continued...

MARCH WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Landscape

ASSIGNED

Honorable Mention:
"No Picnic Today"
© Linda Tommasulo





Honorable Mention:
"Fog's Embrace"
© Neil Shapiro

Judge: **David Fingerhut**

David Fingerhut had been taking photographs for over 50 years. He is a Saratoga Springs resident, specializing in nature photography and enjoys photographing the American Landscape. His photographs have been shown in 16 countries at exhibits sponsored by the Photographic Society of America, and has been designated a star exhibitor in both Nature and Color Photography.

David is a past president and director of the Colonial Camera Club in Massachusetts. He's won numerous awards and has judged photography competitions for 16 different camera clubs. His photographs have appeared in books, calendars, and magazines.

For two years David has had winning entries in the Boston Globe photo contest. His photo entitled "Royal Canadian Goose" won first place from over 3,000 entries and was subsequently printed in a *Time-Life* book, *The National Enquirer,* and *Popular Photography a*nd was placed on exhibit at the Epcot Center.

https://davidbfingerhut.zenfolio.com/

MARCH WINNING PRINTS



First Place:
"Ducks in the Snow"
© Jina Mao



2nd Place:
"Diversity"
© Alan Wiggins

Continued...

MARCH WINNING PRINTS



3rd Place:
"Aurora and Big Dipper Over Tupper Lake"
© Janice Prichett



Honorable Mention
"Two-Way Street"
© Janice Prichett

Continued...

MARCH WINNING PRINTS



Honorable Mention:
"The Forest's Aperture"
© Neil Shapiro



Honorable Mention:
"Fatal Attraction"
© Richard Long

MARCH WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Watkins Glen Waterfalls"
© Colleen Magai



2nd Place:
"Snow Catcher"
© Linda Tommasulo

Continued...

MARCH WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



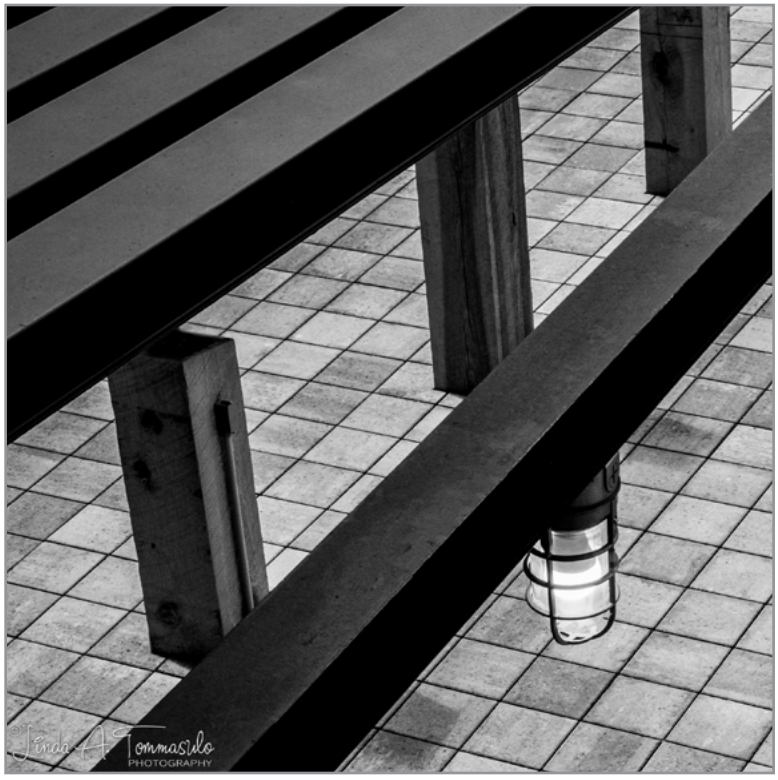
3rd Place:
"Door Hinge"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



Honorable Mention:
"Feeder Canal Trail"
© Alan Wiggins

Continued...

MONOCHROME



Honorable Mention:
"See the Light"
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:
"Northern Requiem"
© Neil Shapiro

MARCH WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: City Scenes

ASSIGNED



First Place:
"Megababe"
© Linda Tommasulo



2nd Place:
"Painted Ladies,
San Francisco"
© Janice Prichett

Continued...

MARCH
WINNING DIGITAL
Topic: City Scenes

ASSIGNED



3rd Place:
"Backs in Time"
© Elena Keesee



4th Place:
"The Edge at Hudson Yards"
© Linda Tommasulo



5th Place:
"Boston Harbor"
© Paula Keefe

Continued...

MARCH WINNING DIGITAL
Topic: City Scenes

ASSIGNED



Honorable Mention:
"Where is MY Purse?"
© Elena Keesee



Honorable Mention:
"Old Stockholm"
© Sharon Silversmith



Honorable Mention:
"Globe City"
© Joan Heffler

Continued...

MARCH WINNING DIGITAL
Topic: City Scenes

ASSIGNED



Honorable Mention:
"A Fork in the Road"
© Joan Heffler



Honorable Mention:
"Las Vegas Cocktails"
© Kim Koza

Judge: Leisl Walsh

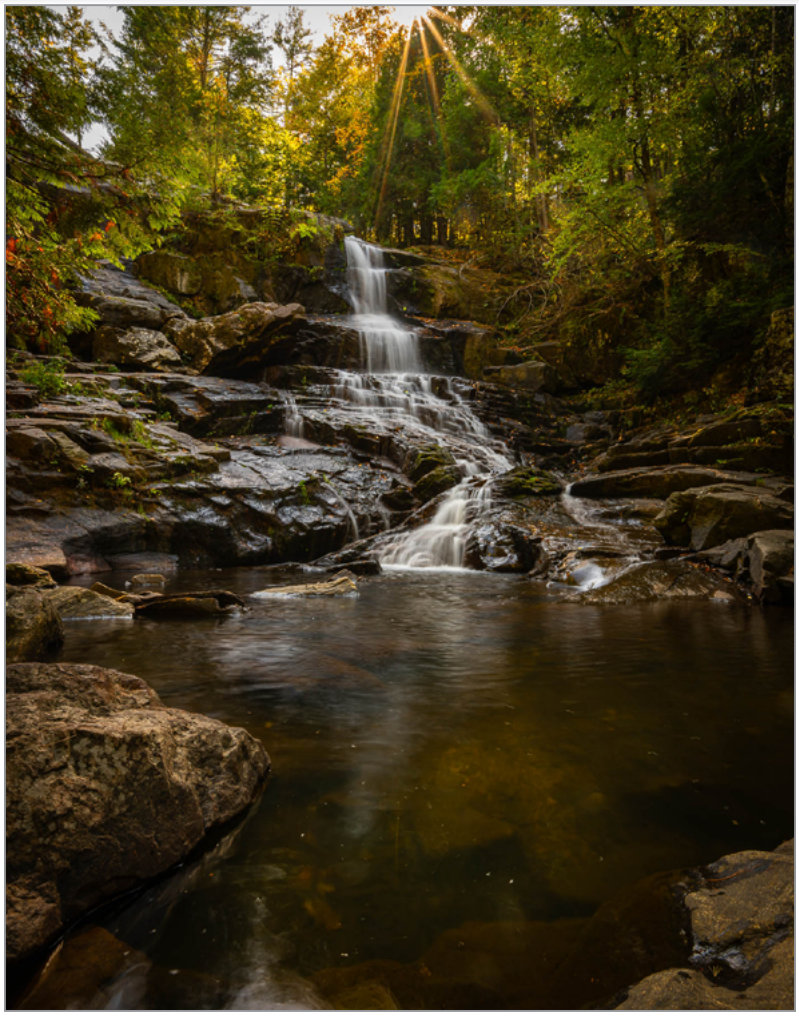
I am a fine art photographer in Venice, Florida with a background in art education. I teach photography and how to sell prints online using Fine Art America. In college I majored in art education, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree, and taught elementary art in Pennsylvania for nine years. After moving to Florida I focused on photography and worked with renowned French photographer Serge Ramellias an ambassador in his academy, assisting him in teaching photography online, and filling in for him doing live videos. I also earned a Masters of Photography. I am now a KelbyOne Instructor, teaching photography online to thousands of students worldwide, appearing as a special guest on their podcast *The Grid*. My work has sold in a gallery in downtown Venice, Florida and sells regularly locally and around the world as a best-seller on Fine Art America. A recipient of numerous publications,awards and recognition,I have also had the privilege of creating images for a plethora of companies and associations across the United States. My favorite things to capture are historical and tropical places, pink flamingos, trees, coastlines, and old buildings with charm. I like to give my photos a painterly look while others I'll give dramatic, bold lighting.

https://www.lieslwalsh.com/LieslWalsh-About

MARCH WINNING DIGITAL



First Place:
"The Encounter"
© Marty Bannan



2nd Place:
"Shelving Rock Falls"
© Alan Wiggins

Continued...

MARCH WINNING DIGITAL



3rd Place:
"Old Time Pharmacy Medicine Bottles"
© Colleen Magai



4th Place:
"Winter Leaf"
© Colleen Magai

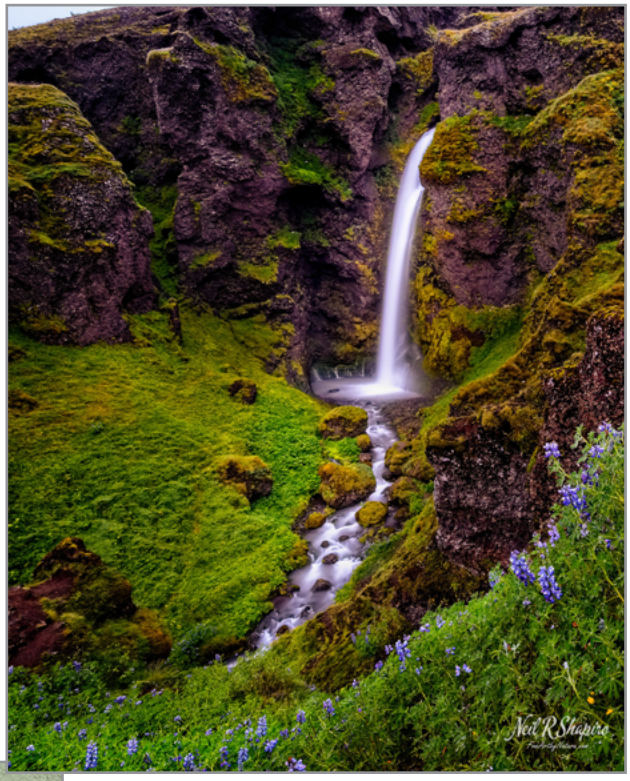
Continued...

MARCH WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



Honorable Mention:
"Owl Butterfly, Genus Caligo"
© Joe Cotroneo



Honorable Mention:
"The Emerald Descent"
© Neil Shapiro



Honorable Mention:
"Geraniums in the Window"
© Phil Olivo

Honorable Mention:
"Autumn Bash"
© Neil Shapiro





Honorable Mention:
"Dreamy Santa Fe"
© Kim Koza

MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Wandering in Old Stockholm"
© Sharon Silversmith

Continued...

MARCH WINNING DIGITAL

MONOCHROME



2nd Place:
"Dock to Infinity"
© Linda Tommasulo

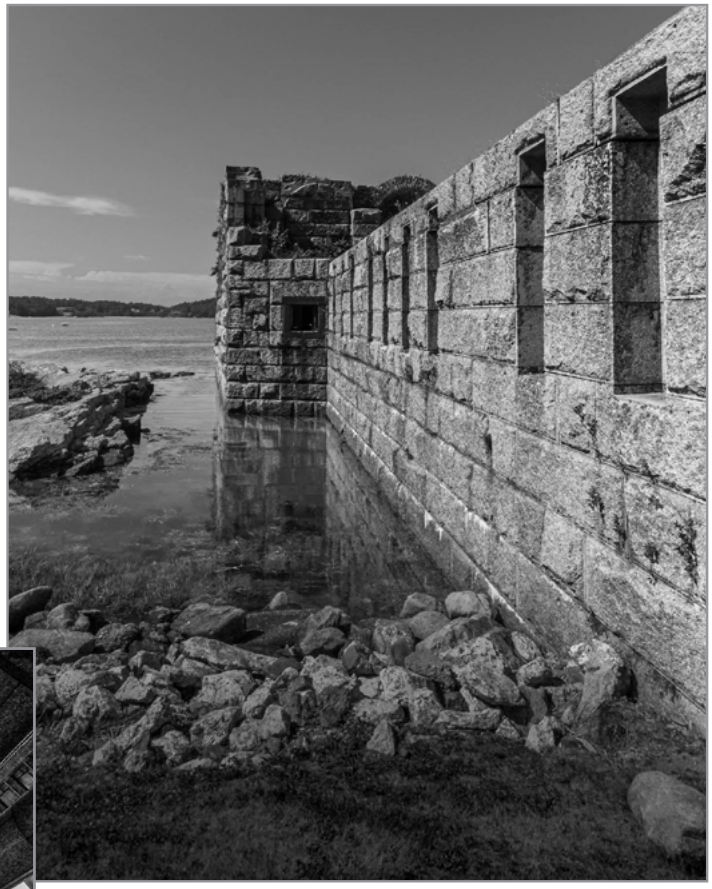


3rd Place:
"Boat Behind the Lighthouse"
© Marty Bannan

Continued...

MARCH
WINNING DIGITAL

MONOCHROME



Honorable Mention:
"Fort Popham
The Tide-Bound Sentinel"
© Zachary Baldwin



Honorable Mention:
"City Scope"
© Neil Shapiro



Honorable Mention:
"Rainy Day Umbrellas"
© Kim Koza

ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

WWW.SCHENECTADYPHOTOGRAPHICSOCIETY.COM

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**.

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 2025-2026

President ..... Alan Wiggins
president@spsphoto.org

Vice President ..... Linda Tommasulo
vp@spsphoto.org

Treasurer ..... Pat McCormick
treasurer@spsphoto.org

Recording Secretary ..... Paula Keefe
secretary@spsphoto.org

Newsletter Editor ..... Linda Tommasulo
newsletter@spsphoto.org

Webmaster & Annual Report Editor... Sean Sullivan
webmaster@spsphoto.org

Membership Chair ..... Open
membership@spsphoto.org

Print Group ..... Joe Cotroneo
printchair@spsphoto.org

Digital Group..... Sean Sullivan & Alan Wiggins
digitalchair@spsphoto.org

Photo Essay ..... OPEN

Judge Coordinator ..... Neil Shapiro
judging@spsphoto.org

Communications..... Linda Tommasulo & Sean Sullivan
communications@spsphoto.org

Field Trips ..... Photography Connection | **https://www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566**

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR
Joan Heffler

TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS
Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm, Rich Schreibstein, 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**
Members Only Facebook *Group*: **https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737**
YouTube Channel: **https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos**

THE FOCUS NEEDS YOU! For articles, suggestions, and member profiles (Focus on: YOU!). Contact Linda at **newsletter@spsphoto.org**.

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

SPS 2025-2026 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, 2025

10/15/25 .....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows
JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER
https://www.sphotosbyevan.com

10/22/25 .....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Reflections
JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA
http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/

November, 2025

11/5/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Still Life
JUDGE: FRANK RAPANT
https://www.frankrapant.photography/

11/12/25 .....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Circles
JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA
http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/

December, 2025

12/3/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Water
JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER
https://neustudios.com/

12/10/25 .....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Fall Colors
JUDGE: BUTCH MAZZUCA
https://butchmazzuca.com/

January, 2026

1/7/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Architecture
JUDGE: RICHARD LOVRICH
https://www.studiolovrich.com/

1/14/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Patterns
JUDGE: CHRIS MURRAY
https://www.chrismurrayphotography.com/

February, 2026

2/4/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Abstract
STEPHANIE PALAZEKE
http://www.stephaniepalazeke.com

February, 2026 (Cont'd.)

2/11/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Primary Colors
JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN
http://www.johannasiegmann.com/

March, 2026

3/4/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Landscape
JUDGE: DAVID FINGERHUT
https://davidbfingerhut.zenfolio.com/

3/11/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: City Scenes
JUDGE: LIESL WALSH
https://www.lieslwalsh.com/

3/18/26..... PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC
JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ
https://cindyschultz.photoshelter.com/index

April, 2026

4/8/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Animal
JUDGE: HANNAH ZEL
https://www.hannahzelphotos.com/

4/15/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Shadows
JUDGE: NIKKI McDONALD
https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/nikolynmcdonaldphotography/shop/framed+prints

4/22/26 ..... LUBA RICKET CREATIVE COMPETITION @ FUMC
JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE
https://www.lawrencewhiteartwork.com/

May, 2026

5/6/26.....PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC
JUDGES: DINO PETROCELLI
https://www.dinopetrocelliphoto.com/
RICHARD LOVRICH
https://www.studiolovrich.com/

5/13/26.....DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom
JUDGES: NICK PALMIERI
https://nicholas-palmieri.pixels.com/
ELLEN STEIN

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

SPS 2025-2026 SEASON CALENDAR

For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.
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!

September , 2025
9/24/25..... OPENING DAY@ FUMC
Bring a favorite photo (print or digital)
to share and discuss

October, 2025
10/1/25..... *NO MEETING (YOM KIPPUR)*
10/8/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Alan Shapiro: Creative Still Life
10/15/25 .....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows
10/22/25 .....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Reflections
10/29/25 ..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Joe Brady - Taking Your Images From Good to Great

November, 2025
11/5/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Still Life
11/12/25 .....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Circles
11/19/25 ..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Rad Drew - Getting the Most & Best from your iPhone Camera
11/26/25 .....*NO MEETING (THANKSGIVING)*

December, 2025
12/3/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Water
12/10/25 .....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Fall Colors
12/17/25 ..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Jeff Perkins - Street Portraiture
12/24/25 ..... *NO MEETING (CHRISTMAS EVE)*
12/31/25 ..... *NO MEETING (NEW YEAR'S EVE)*

January, 2026
1/7/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Architecture
1/14/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Patterns
1/21/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Ray Schneider: Intentional Composition
1/28/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Connie Frisbee Houde: Travel Photography - Phone vs. Full Gear, Italy and Central Asia

February, 2026
2/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Abstract
2/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Primary Colors
2/18/26.....EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Chuck Kimmerle:
Nostalgic Black and White
2/25/26.....EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Hazel Meredith: Getting Creative with Smart Photo Editor

March, 2026
3/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Landscape
3/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: City Scenes
3/18/26..... PHOTO ESSAYS @ FUMC
Constructive Critique by Cindy Schultz
3/25/26.....EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Caroline Preece: Street Photography - How to Feel the Fear, Do it Anyway and Get Great Images

April, 2026
4/1/26.....NO MEETING (PASSOVER)
4/8/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC
Assigned Topic: Animal
4/15/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom
Assigned Topic: Shadows
4/22/26..... LUBA RICKET CREATIVE COMPETITION @ FUMC
Judge: Lawrence White
4/29/26.....EVENT NIGHT on Zoom
Butch Mazzuca: Beyond the Rule of Thirds

May, 2026
5/6/26.....PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC

5/13/26.... DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom

June, 2026 .....SPS AWARDS BANQUET
Date: TBA

HAVE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND PHOTOGENIC SUMMER!