

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 74

Summer 2005

Number 9

President's Message

Linda Wroble

Founded 1931, Schenectady Photographic Society continues to entice, encourage and challenge photographers and enthusiasts from all walks of life, levels of expertise, 74 years hence its inception. I am especially amazed at how many people come together, work together, to bring together weekly programs of exceptional quality and interest to our 165 and still growing, membership.

The ever popular Print Group, chaired by Ray Henrikson, featured an amazing season of speakers, October thru May. With special assistance from Adrian Kivort, Tom Mack and Bob Warner, the nights agenda ran smoothly. In December Ray organized a critique night for all our members to submit their best and be scrutinized and discussed by the finest of judges.

Slide night may never be the same after Amy Howansky and Jeff Meyers co-chaired the programs. Amy and Jeff had the program agenda organized, categorized and fine tuned by the first meeting of the 2004-05 season. They tweaked and fine tuned slide night events and judging into a smoothly operating sequence of events. Special assistance was always available from Bob Gough, another master of organization.

The increasingly popular Digital Program chaired by Bob Riccardo, held our attention throughout the year while we all learned to navigate through *Photoshop*. Jeff Perkins together with Bob taught us to restore old or damaged photos, a challenge successfully carried out by Frank Bumbardatore. Jeff opened our hearts to digitally explore our inner creative souls and enlightened us to his darkroom secrets. Jim Craner, in addition to lending his digital equipment and expertise, shared with us his techniques for sharpening and preparing images for printing.

Have a great summer

***Kick-Off
meeting
is
Wednesday,
September 21st***

Connie Houde and Jim Craner co-chaired the Photo Essay program, sharing the fourth Wednesday of the month with Fine Arts Chair, N. Sukumar. Digital technology allowed participants to explore new visions and creative challenges. Sukumar enlightened us to the politics of daring to photograph and express an opinion. In his words "Everytime we click the shutter, we make a statement by choosing what we want to photograph." I wonder what our soldiers in Iraq were thinking or the media by publishing prison atrocities.

I wish I had the space to individually thank each and every one of you who helped pull together a great SPS season. Thanks to David Lilac for running the Photo Grab Bag, Judy Breslau and John Ogden for refreshments, Nick Argyros for the incredibly funny male nude with wings, Tony Hilferty and Gary Rackowski for their insightful suggestions, Connie Bush and Cynthia Placek for delicious cookies, and Don Krauter, our Church coordinator.

It has truly been an outstanding Presidency having had an exceptional Board of talented Directors, compelling programs, meeting new members and making new friends.

And remember, when you least expect it, that lucky shot appears. Never leave home without your camera!

Choosing the right lens for the job

Ruben Dario Cruz

Aside from the many decisions a photographer is faced with regards to the choices of equipment, of monumental importance is the selection of lenses. Choosing the right lens in any given situation can be the difference between a snapshot and a fortunately composed and effective photograph. Whether shooting 35mm, or medium format the choice of lens is determined by the subject and desired effect.

Traditionally, when shooting portraits, a long lens or telephoto is appropriate. In 35mm terms a 85mm lens is standard or in medium format, say 6x4.5cm, a 150mm lens is standard. The reason for these choices is that the longer the lens the shallower the depth of field. So in this case the areas of acceptable focus are compressed. This will draw attention to the features of the face and not distract the viewer of superfluous objects that may be in front or behind the subject.

When shooting landscapes or large groups of people, a wide angle is the obvious choice. Standard for the formats are a 28mm lens in 35mm film and a 50mm in 6x4.5cm film. This allows the photographer to capture large viewing areas without having to radically change

the camera distance from the subjects. Wide-angle lenses also provide a great depth of field, effectively expanding the area of acceptable focus. This is often needed in shooting groups of people aligned in rows that likely stretch 4 to 5 feet deep.

With the advent of zoom lenses, lenses that comprise a range of focal lengths in one package, it has made the need to carry many lenses of different focal lengths almost obsolete. It not only reduces the weight a photographer has to carry but also allows them to react quicker when time is a factor. In general zoom lenses range from ultra wide-to-wide, wide to medium telephoto and telephoto to extra telephoto.

Another important factor when choosing a lens is its aperture range. Some lenses have very wide opening apertures. This in the industry is referred to as a fast lens as it allows a lot of light to enter. Others have small openings, referred to as slow. And still others have variable apertures. These are only found in zoom lenses and refer to the fact that the minimum aperture opening changes as the lens is moved from one focal range to another. Generally speaking, variable aperture lenses are useful in outdoor shooting as the sun and clouds produce enough light to shoot with any speed film. Shooting indoor usually requires a constant or fast

aperture as the lighting condition are in many cases dim. This will allow the photographer to use a fast shutter speed as not to compromise hand holding the camera.

Remember when choosing a lens for a SLR digital camera the focal range of a lens is multiplied by the chip size factor. That is to say, since the capturing device in digital cameras is not the same size as 35mm, the focal length of the lens is increased by the chip size factor. Check with the manufacturer of the camera to determine the multiplication number.

Digital Photography Tips

The following article was taken from the Web. Jim Barthman answers questions about Photoshop.

The Mission

Hosted by certified *Photoshop* ACE, Jim Barthman, photoshopHelp provides FREE answers to all your *Photoshop* questions. The goal is to build a knowledgebase of clear, concise answers to real-life *Photoshop* problems.

<http://photoshophelp.blogspot.com/photoshophelp/2005/01/index.html>

Color enhancement

Here's a great trick, if you want to bring some life to a sky or some other colored area.

1. Choose **Layer > New > Layer**
2. The **New Layer** dialog appears.
3. Name the layer.
4. Click **OK**.
5. Change the **Blending mode** of the layer to **Color Burn**.
5. Paint with a pure light grey over the area to darken the color slightly and add a bit of contrast at the same time.


The foreground color must be pure grey. That means the Red Green and Blue values are equal.

Please see Photoshop hints next page

RESTORATIONS

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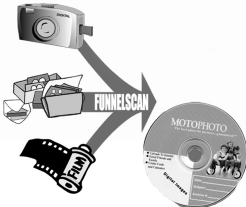
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Kodak Trip a Success!!

Jeff Perkins

Jeff Perkins, Kevin Sarsfeld, Luba Rickett, Linda Heim, Barb Lawton, Dale Windsor, Jay and Susan Freud had a great trip to Rochester with Wade Tours. We had almost 3.5 hours at the Kodak Museum and the beautiful Eastman Mansion. A special tour by Todd Gustavson, Kodak's Equipment Archivist of the camera equipment, was unbelievable! We saw the first Daguer camera, plus rare Kodak and Leica cameras.

All of us felt so positive about the experience that we are planning the next photo trip to the **Bronx Zoo, October 8, 2005** with Wade Tours. All are welcome and ENCOURAGED to go. Simply call Wade Tours at 355-4500 and make your reservation. We have a great time as a group, the larger the better!

Photoshop hints

continued from page 2

For example

R 128, B 128, G 128 is a 50 grey.

R 204, B 204, G 204 is a light grey.

R 241, B 241, G 241 is a very light grey.

Experiment. Reduce the Opacity of the layer if need be. Have fun.



These SPS members had a great trip to the Kodak Museum. They are, seated l to r : Susan Freud, Jeff Perkins, Kevin Sarsfield, and Dale Winsor. Standing l to r: Barb Lawton, Linda Heim, Luba Rickett and Jay Freud

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Top left: Jeff Perkins, mentoring and digital chair, and N. Sukumar, webmaster and Fine Arts chair, showing off their Betty Barker award silver bowls.

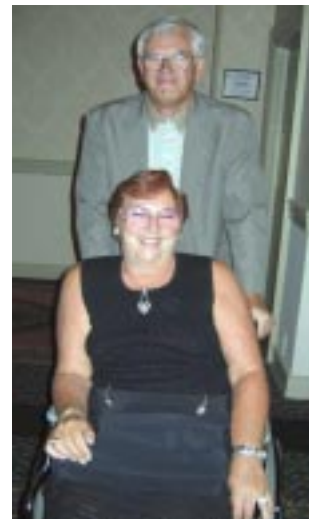
Above: Dale Winsor, recording secretary, and Linda Heim, treasurer, share a laugh.

Left: Susan Freud, Warren and Jean Burton and Jay Freud dip into the hors d'oeuvres.

Right: Sue Gersten arrives in wheel chair being pushed by Karl Becker.

Left: Adrian Kivort, print group assistant and Bob Gough discuss next year's programs.

The 2005-06 SPS Board
 Front row l to r: Judy Breslau, Linda Wroble, Luba Ricket. Standing l to r: Frank Bumbardatore, John Ogdon, Dale Winsor, Jim Scribner, Jim C. Johannessen, Jeff Perkins, Connie Houde, N. Sukumar



Frank Bumbardatore, newsletter editor, Dal... slide group assistant,



Above: Tom Mack and Ken Deitcher getting ready for the chinese auction.

Right: Jim Craner, the new vice president and his wife, Marlene arrive at the Edison Club.

Left: Jeff Plant, Bob Gough, outgoing vice president and chair of the banquet, Ray Henrikson, print group chair, Bob Friedlander, print group assistant and Ray Hull enjoying a drink before the dinner.





Amy Howansky and Jeff Meyers, outgoing slide co-chairs enjoying the banquet.



Linda Buckman, the annual yearbook editor and Howie Johannessen, the slide co-chair sampling the wonderful hors d'oeuvres.



Linda Wroble, outgoing president and Bob Riccardo, outgoing digital chair, discuss this year's programs.



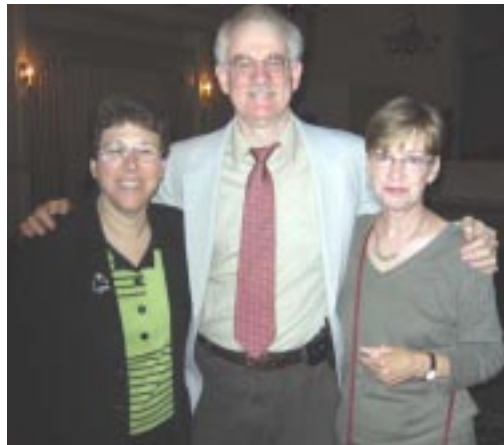
Connie Houde, photo essay chair, Jeff Perkins, digital and mentoring group chair and Cynthia Placek, membership chair assistant, comparing how many tickets each has bought for the Chinese auction.

Left: Nick Argyros and Ted and Jean Zuk discuss old times in the club.

SPS Banquet June 1, 2005

The three J's get together - Judy Breslau and John Ogden, the refreshment chairs and Jane Riley greet each other.

Below: Luba Rickett, the incoming membership chair is flanked by Rosemarie and Frank Bumbardatore, the incoming president.



Year End Competition Results

Color Print of the Year

1st	Kim Koza	Ladybug
HM	Max Tiller	Shapes and Angles
HM	Jane Riley	At the Tate Gallery

Monochrome Print of the Year

1st	Jennifer Young	Field of Dreams
2nd	Kevin Sarsfield	Going Toward the Light
3rd	F. Bumbardatore	Smokestacks

Judges: Gary Hollinger and Leif Zurmuhlen

Monochrome Printmaker of the Year

1st	Frank Bumbardatore
2nd	Max Tiller
3rd	Jennifer Young

Color Printmaker of the Year

1st	Kim Koza
2nd	Jeff Perkins
3rd	Connie Bush

Assigned Printmaker of the Year

1st	Kevin Sarsfield
2nd	Jane Riley
3rd	Jeff Perkins

Photo Grab Bag

Linda Heim	Contrast
Jim Scribner	Transformation
Ray Hull	Repetition

Judges Michael Ciarmiello and Colleen Brescia

Slide of the Year

1st	Jeff Plant	The Shark
HM	Kevin Sarsfield	Waiting for Spring
HM	Ken Deitcher	Hot Air
HM	Dave Lilac	Spruce House

Judges Joe Schuyler and Joe Pryzbello

Slidemaker of the Year

1st	Jeff Plant
2nd	David Lilac
3rd	Ray Hull (tied) Jean Burton

Assigned Slidemaker of the Year

1st	Howie Johannessen
2nd	Jean Burton
3rd	Connie Bush (tied) Connie Houde

Slide Photo Essay of the Year

1st	Connie Houde	Wheel of Time
2nd	H. Johannessen	Alf
3rd	Jim Craner	Animals on Parade

Print Photo Essay of the Year

1st	F. Bumbardatore	Edison Elem. School
2nd	Ken Deitcher	Pipers

Judges Greg Yankowski and Joan Oliver

Betty Barker Award

N. Sukumar
Jeff Perkins

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News You Can Use

Three members in Photo Regional

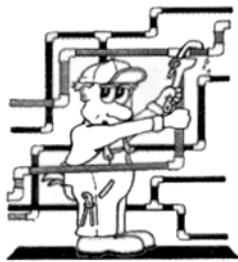
Three SPS members had photos selected for inclusion in this year's Photo Regional. They are Bill Delaney, Ken Deitcher and N. Sukumar.

Evening of Afghan Culture

On June 18, 2005, from 6 pm to 9 pm, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut St, there will be a program that includes Afghan food and music and an auction of photographs from Connie Houde's journey to Afghanistan in 2004. \$25.00 donation per person
RSVP 436-8544

Proceeds will be used by NOOR, the only eye care program in Afghanistan to develop ophthalmic care.

*Trip to Bronx Zoo
Saturday October 8th
see page 3 for details*



Frank Bumbardatore

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**SPS records with sorrow
the death of
Dot Lynch
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and the incredible cookies that she
baked every Wednesday evening**

J. Harvey has photo in text book

Jennifer Harvey has had a transparency selected for school book (one-quarter page) publication by Pearson Scott Foresman. The text books are for New York grades 1 and 2. Jen took the slide as part of her Renewable Resources Project Manager duties at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

NECCC meeting in July

New England Camera Club Council will hold its annual conference at UMass Amherst, July 15, 16, 17

The conference draws a yearly attendance of around 1300. It is the complete

photographic weekend for instruction, fun and good fellowship.

Approx 20 SPS members attend every year and have a wonderful time.

Visit NECCC on-line at www.neccc.org

Sue Gersten has exhibit

Sue Gersten is having a big photo exhibit at the East Greenbush Community Library..from June 1st to June 30 ,2005...It will include work from her Flowers, Dance, Faces of the world and Cuba...The library is located on 10 Community Way in East Greenbush,NY near the new YWCA

Have a laugh

A photographer was invited to dinner with friends and took along a few pictures to show the hostess. She looked at the photos and commented, "These are very good! You must have a good camera."

He didn't make any comment, but, as he was leaving to go home he said, "That was a really delicious meal! You must have some very good pots."

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Web Page Address
www.schenectadyphtographicociety.com

Summer Calendar

Wednesday, June 1	Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
Wednesday, June 8	SPS Joint Board Meeting - Old and New Boards
Wednesday, July 6	Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 10	Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 7	Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 21	Kick-Off Meeting



Meetings are at 7:30 p.m.
 *Board meetings are at 6:30 p.m.

The *Focus* is published nine times a year by the Schenectady Photographic Society. The organization meets each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. from October through May to promote and present informative programs, activities and competitions in the photographic arts for photographers throughout the Capital District. Members range from novice to expert.

Annual dues are \$30.00 for individuals and families. The *Focus* newsletter is included in the membership dues. SPS meets at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, New York. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. Guests are welcome at all regular meetings.