

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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Diane Reiner and Connie Frisbee Houde to Demystify Travel Photography March 17th

Have you always wondered how the National Geographic photographers manage to get those fantastic images we see between the covers of that little yellow magazine? Diane Reiner and Connie Frisbee Houde will give their versions of the answer. Topics they cover will include:

- How to prepare, research, research, research; where to go; how to get there; state department information; culture; money; clothes; health; security; camera equipment
- How to pack, choice of bags; what to take on the plane
- How to shoot, the nitty-gritty of the day-to-day in the country

Diane and Connie will share the fun and excitement of travel photography, telling many antidotes to illustrate their guidance. Mark your calendars to attend SPS speaker night on March 17th 2010 for what should be a wonderful program.

[Continued on page 5]

Grab Bag Schedule

March 3rd: Grab Bag Sign up

Cost to enter is \$20/person - This includes 1 roll of slide film and developing cost. As usual topic will only be revealed once you sign up.

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Best of Show. Prize amounts will be determined by number of entries.

March 17th: Roll of slide film to be returned to me at meeting, undeveloped

March 24th: developed slides returned and grab bag contest begins.

Journey Within the Human Landscape with Karin Rosenthal on Fine Arts night March 31

— Sukumar



Karin Rosenthal has photographed nudes in the landscape since 1975, finding resonance between body and nature, first in traditional black and white images and now in digital color photography. In this talk, she will draw from a variety of series to convey the evolution and range of her motivations, ideas, and explorations. Primarily using light and reflection, Karin creates abstractions and illusions that challenge us to see beyond the predictable.

I have known Karin for nearly ten years and have taken workshops with her on Cape Cod and Prince Edward Island. Much of her work centers on water, as a result of spending a year's fellowship living in the Greek islands several years ago. Her images are straight photographs that tightly integrate the human figure with the landscape and challenge the viewer's mind to conceive. Her recent work is inspired by the play of light on the nude in tide pools and in the southwestern deserts. Karin's images will change your way of viewing the world and the human figure.

[Continued on page 3]

From the Editor's desk...



The Photographic Association of Dum Dum's 9th International Conference

Attending the 9th International Conference of the Photographic Association of Dum Dum (PAD) in Kolkatta, India, last month was an interesting experience. I was honored to be a special invited speaker and presented a program on abstracts from the American southwest. About 200 participants were in attendance, with 40 from out of town, including representation from various parts of India, USA, Canada, UK, Denmark, South Africa, Ukraine and a sizable contingent from neighboring Bangladesh. The program consisted of a mix of audiovisual programs or digital slide shows on nature photography, travel photography, tutorials on digital photography, reading of technical papers on scientific advances and new photographic processes, on restoration of archival prints, on marketing and persuasion through photography, philosophical tomes on aesthetics and art appreciation, and personal accounts on gender roles in the photographic profession. There was also an exhibition of prints and a remarkable, large-size lawn exhibit on the history of photographic processes from early pinhole images over a thousand years ago and aerial photography with pigeons to the latest advances in the digital realm.

One of the most remarkable features was the large attendance by young photographers, including students. In fact, PAD <http://www.padonline.org.in/> conducts regular diploma and certificate courses in photography, which are well regarded by newspapers, print and film media and others seeking to employ photographers. All classes are absolutely free and are conducted by PAD's volunteer faculty. At a time when many camera clubs in the US are seeing a graying of their membership (inspite of photography being more ubiquitous than ever, easily accessible to and ever more popular among youth), PAD's example in being able to attract this demographic and provide them meaningful mentoring, is thus worthy of emulation.

— Sukumar

SPS Traveling Exhibit

The Traveling Exhibit of the Society is currently showing in the Spectrum theatre in Albany.

Print & Projected night programs

On **March 3rd** Nick Argyros and members of the Photo Center will show images from their trip to Tuscany last year.

On **March 10th** Ruby Gold, Ken Deitcher and David Jeffery will present a short program on the interclub competition which they judged back in January. They will show some of their favorite images from the competition and give us an overview of the process.

Member News... Congrats!

Drue Sokol, a freshman at the University of Rochester, has been named staff photographer for the University newspaper, where many of her photographs have been published.

Making a self published photo book

March 24th: Two different speakers, N. Sukumar and Julie Palyswiat, will show how to construct a photo book using two different software packages. And that's not all – McGreevy has offered to work with you to custom design your very own photo book. If you have always wanted to self-publish a photo book, but were unsure how to go about it, this program is for you.

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Fine Arts speaker Karin Rosenthal*[Continued from the page 1]*

© Karin Rosenthal

“When Karin Rosenthal talks about the light in Greece, it’s almost as mesmerizing as when she describes it in photographs: ‘On some days, the water would be absolutely still and actually evaporate into the air, so you’d have no horizon; the sky and water would become one. Those were days that were perfect for my work. You’d look into the light, and everything would be silver. The water seemed to have a skin on it and would heave like a giant animal.’ In Rosenthal’s work, as in her words, figure and landscape are united. Stones and liquid take on the substance of flesh, while human forms become an outgrowth of their aqueous surroundings and are transformed, through the tricks of light and craft, into peninsulas, coastlines, islands.”

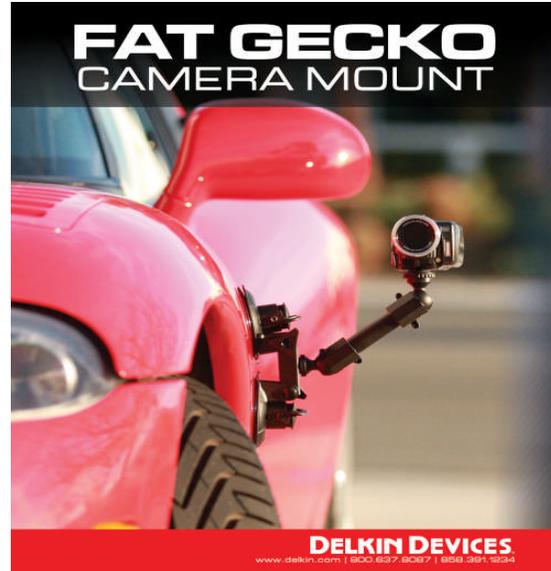
— Excerpts from an article by Julie Lasky in Print Magazine, Sept/Oct. 1991

Karin Rosenthal’s work is represented in art galleries and photographic collections worldwide and on her website <http://www.karinrosenthal.com/>. Karin will be available for individual print critique sessions, open to any level of photography (digital and traditional) on Thursday, April 1. Contact Sukumar (274-2968) for details and to sign-up.

Silver & Alternative process print competition on Fine Arts night March 31

We will hold a new competition this year on Fine Arts night March 31st – only photographs printed yourself using a silver or alternative chemical process are eligible. There is no restriction on when the prints were made; so bring out the oldies if you want! Limit: one matted silver print and one matted alternative chemical process image per member. The images can be from negatives, slides or digital negatives, but must have been printed yourself using a chemical process. Sorry, no digital prints!

Jon Lawton is a sales associate at Hunt’s Photo and Video in Melrose, MA. Feel free to contact Jon at jlawton@wbhunt.com or at the store at 1-800-221-1830. If you have any questions on the Fat Gecko Mount or any other photo related topic. Jon is a 2003 graduate from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he studied photojournalism. He operates a photography business, specializing in wedding and portrait photography. www.jonathanlawton.com

**Delkin Fat Gecko Camera Mount***by Jonathan Lawton*

Delkin Devices has just released an innovative camera support system called the Fat Gecko. The Fat Gecko is a device that will allow you to secure your camera to objects you never thought possible.

The Gecko is constructed of hardened steel and when fully extended reaches 8” tall. It also features a universal mounting screw (1/4 x 20) that will accept virtually any still or video camera on the market. The two adjustable locking ball joints, on the center column, permits the photographer to arrange their camera in nearly any position. At the base of the Gecko is the feature that makes this support truly unique. The two large and lockable suction cups allow you to secure your camera to either a car, bike, snowboard or practically any other smooth surface.

The Gecko’s powerful suction cups can securely hold up to six pounds so you won’t have any problem mounting most still or video cameras. During my evaluation, the Gecko securely supported a Canon 40D and 50mm lens while mounted to my vehicle’s windshield. I could see this product being very useful for photographers looking for a unique perspective while on their next assignment or as a creative way for outdoor enthusiasts to document their travels whether on the road, the trail or track.

Mail Order Hours: Mon-Thurs 8AM-7PM
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Demystifying Travel Photography Mar. 17



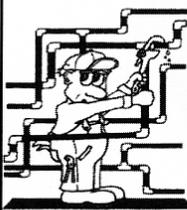
Images © Diane Reiner and Connie Frisbee Houde

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Demystifying Travel Photography

[Continued from page 1]

Connie Frisbee Houde - Global Village Photographer

Artist's Statement: My goal as a photojournalist is to depict the spirit and sacredness of people and their surroundings. The cultural heritage and way of life of many different people are often threatened by global events, war and industrialization. I focus on the nobleness of these people and their lands as they strive to keep their autonomy, culture and community alive. While each group maintains its own cultural identity, many attributes, expressions and concerns of living are universal, creating a sense of brotherhood, a global village.

Bio: I have always carried a camera on the many trips I took as a child with my family as we traveled around the United States visiting National Parks, museums and historic sites, camping and adventuring. I traveled to France and England in 1988 and on to other "foreign lands" with a trip to the north coast of Peru in 1990 and I was hooked. After each journey I have worked to share my experience and images of the cultures and people I have experienced. I have been exhibiting my images in the capital district since this first tour. In recent years I have challenged myself to see how I can observe my everyday surroundings as if I were in a foreign land and similarly capture my own cultural surroundings. I began to observe the little things in my five-minute walk to work. In pairing images I am taking my inner thoughts as I see the changes from day to day and capturing them in images for others to ponder.

Diane Heilbrunn Reiner

Artist's Statement: Motivated by a desire to experience the uniqueness of life first hand, I have always been inspired by exposure to new people and places, and the ability to respond spontaneously to a given moment. Within that context, I feel free to learn about the world at large and my place within it.

For many years my photographic subjects were inanimate objects. That changed when I traveled to Iran and Syria in 2005, and fell in love with the openness and warmth of the people there. Their graciousness compelled me to photograph them. That compulsion followed me on subsequent trips to Asia and Africa, where I continued to turn my lens toward the people of a place, as well as the environment those people inhabited.

Through these experiences I've learned that the world is both vast and small, and we are interconnected regardless of culture, color, language, or economic circumstances. Individuals can be rich without money or possessions, and people everywhere desire peace for themselves and their fellow human beings—across the street and across the planet. It is these concepts that I hope to put forth through my photographs.

Bio: As an independent photographer since 1975, my work has been exhibited in the Northeast and — as of 2009 — also in Europe. In the early 1980's, my nature and human interest photography was published in regional magazines. In recent years, photographs of the people of Iran and Syria have been featured in Metroland, the Times Union, Gazette and Troy Record newspapers. My portraits of Iranians were also featured on two billboards sponsored by Women Against War. Photos taken during three European tours with a jazz trio have been used on their recent CDs and DVDs. Work done with Ugandan street children resulted in the creation of a small foundation that raised money to provide these children with comfort, care and counseling. My photographic work has been represented by the Albany Institute of History and Art and Art Gallery Reutlingen, Germany.

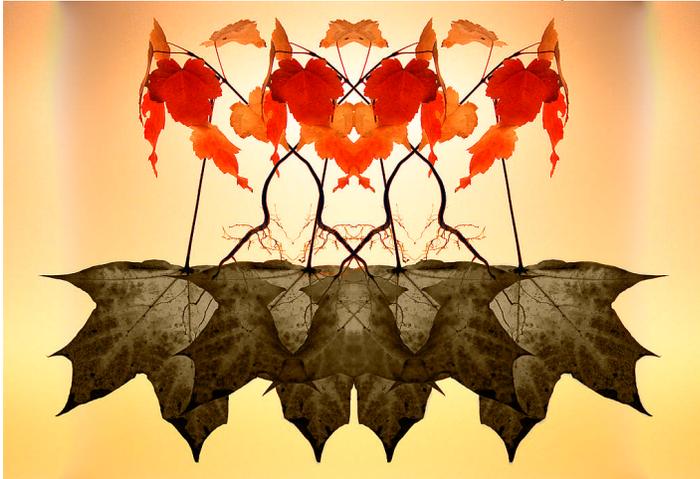
I first studied photography and art history at SUNY Albany, and have continued my photographic exploration at the Maine Photographic Workshops and the Center for Photography at Woodstock.

Photographic Society of America 72nd International Conference of Photography



Charleston, South Carolina
October 3 - 9, 2010

February Print Winners



From the Earth (*1st place Color*) is one of **Luba Ricket's** Flippin Foto series that she has been having enormous fun with. Here she photographed a little seedling and a leaf with a Nikon D80 and Tamron 18-250 lens @ f/4.8 exposure +.65, on her homemade light table. The image was duplicated and flipped over the original image using one of the blend modes to produce an appealing composition. A simple flip won Luba the 2nd place in January's Assigned competition. For this image, after the original flip, two more flips were overlapped to get this simplified version of leafy soil that the seedlings (now there are 4) could grow from. The edges of the overlap were then softened and the color of the soil/leaf changed to a brown earth color instead of the original red & green.



Eighteen-Wheelers (*1st place Assigned*) shot by **Tom Miller** while walking back to his car from the Albany waterfront during the Henry Hudson quadricentennial festivities last September. Seeing the brightly-painted body of one parked trailer reflected in the shiny stamped-metal surface of another trailer parked beside it, Tom used a Sony Alpha-100 DSLR, with an 18-70 mm lens zoomed to 55 mm. Exposure: 1/80 sec @ f/25; ISO: 200.

Working Light (*3rd place Assigned digital Projected image, opposite page*) was photographed by **Connie Frisbee Houde** at an internally displaced persons' camp in Kabul, Afghanistan, around dusk with a Canon 5D and 17-35 lens. F/3.2 @ 1/40 sec. ISO: 1600 Available light from the tent flap rolled up, letting in the light.

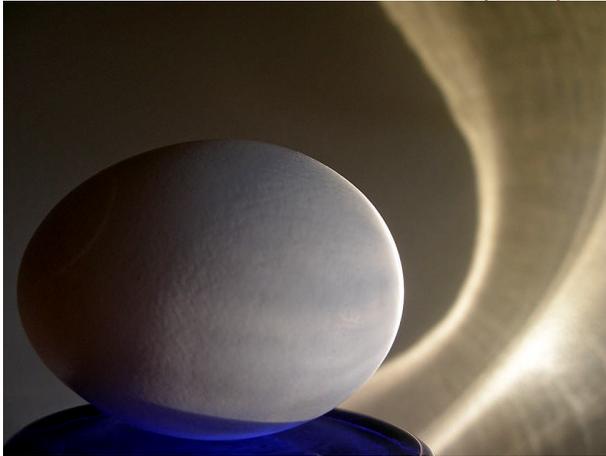


A True Hero (*3rd place Color*) was photographed by **Sean Sullivan** with a Nikon D700 and Nikkor 70-200 mm lens at f/5.6 and 1/160 sec; ISO: 200, at Ferry Hobbs, NY, using SB800/SB900 reflectors.



Philly Reflections (*3rd place Assigned*) was shot by **Sean Sullivan** with a Nikon D700 and Nikkor 70-200mm lens at f/8, 1/160 sec, ISO: 200, and cross processed with Nik Color Efex.

February Projected Image Winners



Luba Ricket sat this egg down on an inverted blue glass vase and shot **Eggeptional Light** (*1st place Assigned*) with her trusty Point & Shoot Olympus C7000 (hand-held -.7 on Program) on a July morning, with the early (6:30 am) sun peeking in through her window, casting light rays from a brass lamp onto the wall..



Moon Over Orlando (*1st place General*) was captured by **Jane Riley** around 8 PM in downtown Orlando with a Nikon D300 on a tripod, a 11-16 Nikon wide angle zoom lens and a polarizer, using just the illumination from the street lights and passing cars. She used a slow shutter speed and bracketed this shot in Aperture Priority at ISO 400; Imagenomics for the HDR and a filter from Topaz Adjust.



Jeff Perkins encountered spectacular light in **The Judean Hills** (*2nd place Assigned*), Israel, at sunset and realized the scene was begging to be captured with his SX10 and a 28-560 mm lens at 560 mm; f/11 @ 1/400 sec. ISO: 400. Light application of Curves.



Max Tiller photographed **St. Mary's Church** (*2nd place General*) in downtown Albany around 9 AM with a Sony A200 DSLR on a tripod, a Sony 18-70 kit lens @ 18 (28mm) and a remote release. F/16 @ 8 sec. ISO: 400. Modified in Topaz.

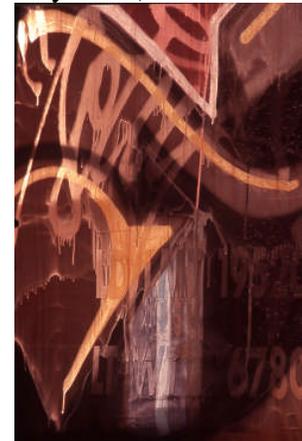
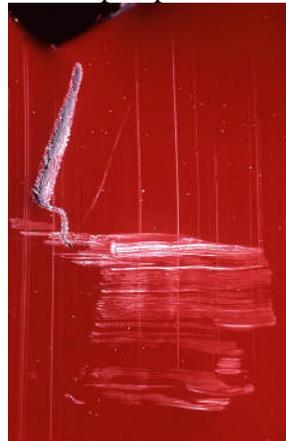


This view of the **Tuscany Countryside** (*3rd place General*) was captured by **Cynthia Placek** with a Nikon D 90 on a tripod and a Tamron 18-200 mm lens; F/11 @ 1/400 sec. ISO: 200.

December 2009 Slide Winners (Contest was postponed to January 2010)



Tipsy (1st place General Slide) was photographed by **Luba Ricket** over 10 years ago on Agfa film with a Pentax ME Super and Vivitar Series 1 lens. Captivated by how the winter sun casts colorful shadows, she set up different colored bottles, vases, goblets and a mannequin head (with a hat on) and played.

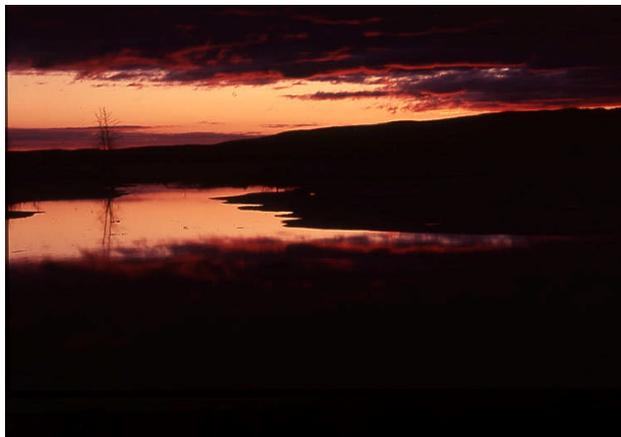


Silver on Red (1st place Assigned Slide) and **What the Freight Car Said** (3rd place General Slide) are both by **Jeff Plant**.



Sneaker (2nd place Assigned Slide) is by **Sean Sullivan**.

Old Song by **Luba Ricket** (2nd place General Slide) was also taken maybe 10 years ago. Another afternoon of playing with a dissembled violin and old Ukrainian sheet music that got stained. (In her youth, Luba actually sang these songs and played the violin!)



Red Sunset on Sacandaga Lake (3rd place Assigned Slide) is by **Jeff Plant**.



Sean Sullivan found **Room for more** (3rd place General digital Projected image, Dec.2009) here!

February Print Winners [Continued from page 6]



These **Ancient Hands** (1st place Monochrome) belong to the 95 year old mother of a friend of **Ken Deitcher**. Ken took the photo using available light with a Canon 20 D and a 18 - 135 mm lens hand-held. Processed in Photoshop.

December 2009 Projected Winners [Contd.]



Hand to God by **Jeff Perkins**
(1st place General)

December 2009 Projected Winners [held in Jan. 2010]



Max Tiller shot **The Dining Room** (2nd place Assigned) above;
Linda Buckman shot **The Doorway** (2nd place General) below

Cherry Chairs by **Luba Ricket**
(2nd place Assigned)



Victorian Beauty by **Katherine Wright**
(3rd place Assigned)



February Print Competition Results

Assigned Topic: Colorful Reflection (24 entries)		
1	Tom Miller	Eighteen-Wheelers
2	David Jeffery	Ponte Vecchi
3	Sean Sullivan	Philly Reflections
4	Jeffrey Altman	Urban Reflections
5	Max Tiller	Reflection
HM	Kim Koza	Jess
HM	Fred Moody	Untitled
HM	Eileen Haldeman	Autumn in the Adirondacks
Color (31 entries)		
1	Luba Ricket	From the Earth
2	David Jeffery	Catskill Falls
3	Sean Sullivan	A True Hero
4	Rob Near	Crab Apples II
5	Jess Hohenstein	The Season is Over
HM	Jay Freud	Lynn Portrait
HM	Ken Deitcher	Unisphere 1964
HM	Bernie Herman	Mountain Farm
Monochrome (22 entries)		
1	Ken Deitcher	Ancient Hands
2	Connie Bush	Snow
3	David Jeffery	Oak Creek & Cathedral Rock
4	Doug Mitchell	Wedding Memories
5	Luba Ricket	Bottle to Goblet
HM	Rob Near	River Side Willow
HM	Harvey Gurien	Untitled

*Judge: Jim Craner***February Projected Competition Results**

Assigned Topic: The Beauty of Light Digital		
1	Luba Ricket	Eggceptional Light
2	Jeff Perkins	The Judean Hills
3	Connie Frisbee Houde	Working Light
4	Barb Lawton	Light in the Woods
HM	Luba Ricket	Reflecting Rays
HM	Jack Hurley	Ice Crystals
HM	Eileen Haldeman	Eastham Windmill
HM	Ken Deitcher	Autumn Storm
Slide		
1	Jeff Plant	Tree of Light
2	Jeff Plant	Side Lighted Tree
General Digital		
1	Jane Riley	Moon Over Orlando
2	Max Tiller	St. Mary's Church
3	Cynthia Placek	Tuscany Countryside
4	Tom Miller	Berkshire Hilltop
HM	Jane Riley	The Dining Car
HM	Bill Lanahan	Big Hat
HM	Drue Sokol	A Picture in a Picture
HM	Barb Lawton	Waiting for Summer Picnics
Slide		
1	Luba Ricket	Fall Away
2	Jeff Plant	Corrosion Flower
3	Jeff Plant	Dots Ascending
HM	Luba Ricket	Dean Beading

*Judge: Dave Waite***December 2009 Projected Competition Results (Held in January 2010)**

General (Slide)		
1	Luba Ricket	Tipsy
2	Luba Ricket	Old Song
3	Jeff Plant	What the Freight Car Said
General (Digital)		
1	Jeff Perkins	Hand to God
2	Linda Buckman	The Doorway
3	Sean Sullivan	Room for more
4	Bob Gough	Its Fun To Play With Dads Camera
HM	Aavo Merend	Homeward bound
HM	Jeffrey Altman	Morning Contemplation

Assigned Topic: Still Life (Slide)		
1	Jeff Plant	Silver on Red
2	Sean Sullivan	Sneaker
3	Jeff Plant	Red Sunset on Sacandaga Lake
Assigned Topic: Still Life (Digital)		
1	Max Tiller	The Dining Room
2	Luba Ricket	Cherry Chairs
3	Katherine Wright	Victorian Beauty
4	Ray Hull	Neu Deux
5	John Esford	Cherry Bomb
HM	Kevin Sarsfield	Bug Barn

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Schenectady Photographic Society
Bob Riccardo
108 Maple Ave.
Selkirk, NY 12158

Web Address:

www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com

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March Calendar

Wednesday, March 3 – Grab Bag Sign up; Print group:

Assigned topic: **Still Life**

Must contain: a book, an egg and a rock + anything else you want

Wednesday, March 10 – Projected Image group:

Assigned topic: **Machinery**

Any type of machinery, at rest or in motion

(for digitally projected images AND slides)

Wednesday, March 17 * Speakers: **Connie Frisbee Houde and Diane Reiner** on **Travel Photography**

*Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.; Grab Bag due

Wednesday, March 24: Grab Bag; **N. Sukumar and Julie Palyswiat** on **Making a self published photo book**

Wednesday, March 31 – Fine Arts Group: **Karin Rosenthal** on **Journeying Within the Human Landscape;**

Silver & Alternative process print competition

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 \$40.00 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. **If you change your email or mailing address, let Bob Riccardo know at briccardo@verizon.net**