

# FOCUS

## Jajja's Kids - January 20

by Connie Frisbee Houde with Diane Reiner and M-J Adelman



Speakers Night will be a discussion of how a non profit developed from a photographic Journey and how two good friends joined the Ugandan effort. We will hear from Diane Reiner as she shares her experiences and the development of Jajja's Kids, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit, independent organization, is dedicated to creating a home and building a family for children who are on their own. She will be joined by M-J Adelman and Connie Frisbee Houde both actively involved in the organization and who traveled to Uganda last year.

On her first trip to Uganda in 2006, Diane Reiner was introduced to 20-year-old Ronnie Sseruyange. Diane was in Uganda for a photography workshop Ronnie was her

guide when she wanted to document the lives of street children. Getting to know Ronnie, Diane was touched by his dedication to the children and moved by the difficulties facing them, She decided to work with Ronnie to make the children's lives better. And, Ronnie adopted Diane as his "Jajja" (grandmother).

Diane returned home and began to seek broader support for the work Ronnie was doing. She founded Jajja's Kids in the United States to raise money for the program Ronnie established in Kampala. Jajja's Kids, Inc., an all-volunteer, non-profit, independent organization, is dedicated to creating a home and building a family for children who are on their own.

The beginning of Ronnie Sseruyange story isn't just his story - it is the story of tens of thousands of children in Uganda today. At the age of 6, Ronnie became homeless. According to UNICEF, as many as 10,000 children live on the streets in



*Continued...*

## Jajja's Kids (Cont'd.)

Uganda, many of them migrating from the provinces to the capital city of Kampala. War, poverty, hunger and disease have forced them to fend for themselves in impossible circumstances. Mostly his grandmother raised Ronnie, and when she died, it left him alone with his mother who was terminally ill. Before she died, his mother told her six-year-old son he had to find his own way to his father's village. Not knowing how to heed his mother's instructions, Ronnie eventually found his way to Kampala. There he wound up on the streets.

Street children do not have an opportunity to go to school, because in Uganda formal education is not free, not even at the elementary level. So for the next ten years, Ronnie hung out with other street children and got an education of another sort—how to survive.

This is where Ronnie's story is different from most other street kids. At 16, he moved into a youth shelter and his life took a turn for the better. Although he was no longer living on the streets, Ronnie began helping other street kids who, like him, were orphaned or had lost contact with their families.

Fast forward with the assistance of Jajja's kids, in January 2013, Ronnie found a perfect house to rent and shortly thereafter, under the watchful eye of Ronnie, 14 former street children, ages 5-12, began living

together in a loving family environment. In 2014, three more boys joined the family.

Cared for by Ronnie and his staff, the boys now eat three meals a day, receive medical care when needed, sleep on bunk beds with real mattresses, and all attend primary school outfitted with school uniforms and book bag.

The house continues to grow in comfort, with the addition of books, bookshelves and donated computers. Tables and benches on which to eat and do homework were added along with a refrigerator that allows the boys to have a greater variety of food including fruit and vegetables.

In 2013 M-J Adelman joined Jajja's Kids board and Connie Frisbee Houde joined the advisory board. Both M-J and Connie traveled to Uganda in March of 2015 to visit the boys.

For more info:  
[www.jajjaskids.org](http://www.jajjaskids.org)



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# MACRO INSECT PHOTOGRAPHY - January 6

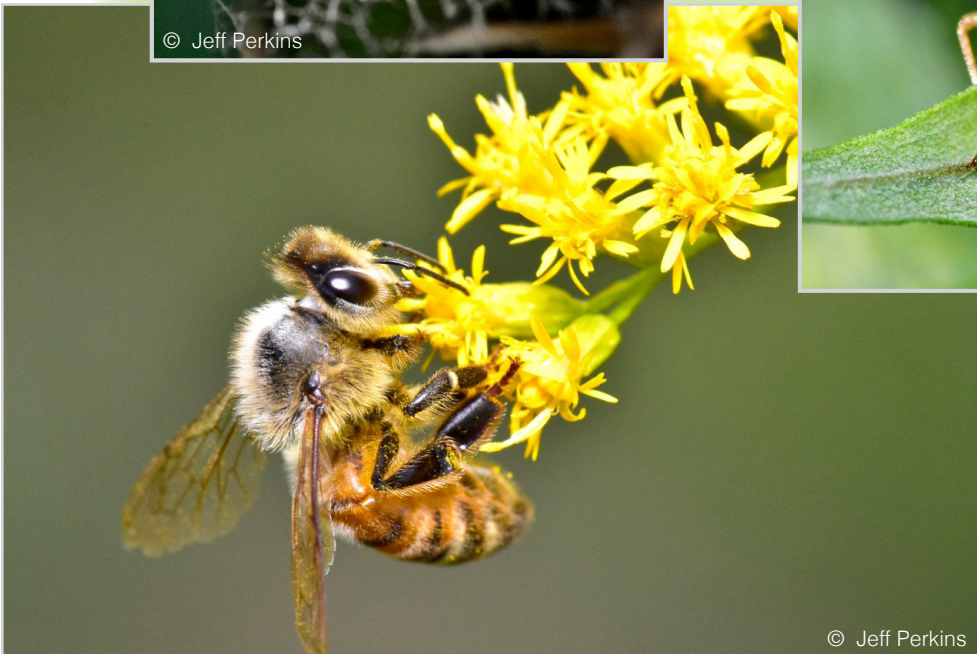
Presented by Jeff Perkins

On January 4, Jeff Perkins will discuss his method of live insect macro photography. Jeff has been working on this for several years now. During the evening, he will review equipment options, and some of the more subtle points involved in capturing decent photographs of moving insects.

Macro insect photography really is quite an adventure...somewhat like going on a miniature safari in your neighborhood.



*Go on a safari in your own backyard!*



# PHOTOGRAPHY AS ART - January 13

Presented by Robert Coppola



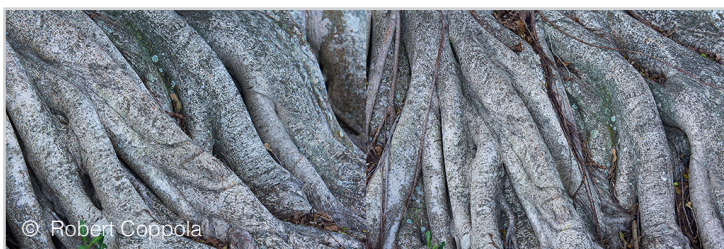
© Linda Tommasulo

Robert Coppola is a member of the Schenectady Photographic Society and he has practiced photography for over 50 years. He studied photography at the Rochester Institute of Technology and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Photographic Arts and Sciences. Recently, he has exhibited his photographs in local venues including The Jonesville Country Store, Clifton Park Center Gallery, Clifton Park Library, Saratoga Springs Library, and The Photo Center of the Capital District. Robert lives in Clifton Park, NY.

Robert's artistic style celebrates the camera's unique capacity to replicate fine detail, isolate fleeting moments in time, and present uncommon vantage points and curious perspectives. He has produced a collection of work that celebrates life, contemplates beauty, and documents the rich legacy of urban architecture. His lifelong involvement in other art-related endeavors has influenced his aesthetics and also his appreciation for fine craftsmanship. He is a gourmet cook, an aficionado of fine wine, and dedicated to his appreciation of orchestral music and a devoted concert attendee. In addition, he has a growing interest in art history.

Photography as Art will explore multiple possibilities for artistic expression. As part of our discussion we will contemplate the opposing viewpoints mentioned in the following passage by photographer Bruce Davidson:

"In photography's early decades, photographs were expected to be idealized images. This is still the aim of most amateur photographers, for whom a beautiful photograph is a photograph of something beautiful, like a woman, a sunset. Since the 1920's ambitious professionals, those whose work gets into museums, have steadily drifted away from lyrical subjects, conscientiously exploring plain, tawdry, or even vapid material."



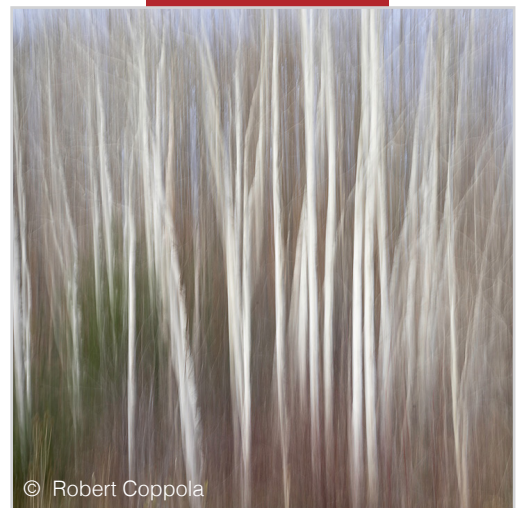
© Robert Coppola

*Some root causes of my creative blues*



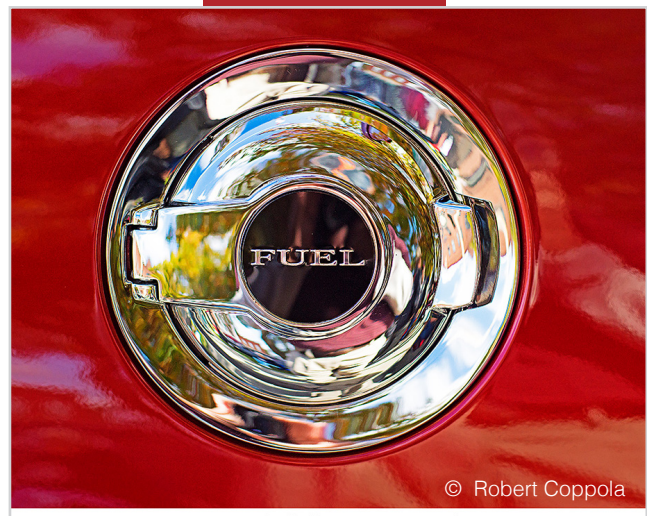
© Robert Coppola

*Photography as Art - a direct interpretation*



© Robert Coppola

*A sharp image of a fuzzy concept*



© Robert Coppola

*Suggestions for fueling your creative drive*

# 2016 PHOTO ESSAY REVIEW - January 27

Thinking of trying your luck in the 2016 Photo Essay Contest? There are three ways to enter: Print, Projected or Book. You have a lot of time to prepare; contest date is April 27. Come to our meeting on January 27th to get all the info you need to compete.

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## PSA INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS



We already had winners in the Interclub PSA competitions for this season. (Way to go, Connie and Kim!) Why not try your luck? Here are the deadlines for the January and February 2016 Interclub Competitions:

### Deadlines for January:

PSA Nature - January 5

PSA Photojournalism - January 5

PSA PID Creative - January 20

### Deadlines for February:

PSA Travel - February 5

PSA PID - February 18

The Photographic Society of America, of which the Schenectady Photographic Society is a club member, sponsors a number of interclub competitions and SPS participates in many of them.

We make it easy for you, just upload your submissions on the SPS website:

[www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org)

Click on Competitions –  
PSA Interclub

A committee of club members reviews and selects the images for final submission to PSA. More information and a copy of the Guidelines and Procedures for the Projected Image Division can be found at The PSA Projected Image Competition website. The comparison chart listing all of the Interclub Competitions can be found at:

<https://www.psa-photo.org/index.php?interclub-comparison-chart>

Contact our PSA Interclub Competition Coordinator, Sean Sullivan, if you have any questions: [sullise@gmail.com](mailto:sullise@gmail.com).

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## 2016 PHOTOGRAPHY REGIONAL



Fulton Street Gallery will be hosting the Annual Photography Regional in 2016. It will be happening a bit earlier than usual due to schedule conflicts. Juror this year is Dan Burkholder.

***Drop off of entries is January 23-27.***

***Initial Salon Show will hang from January 29 to February 12.***

***Salon Show reception is January 29 at Troy Night Out.***

***Work not chosen for Select show must be picked up on February 13-15.***

***Select Show will hang from February 20 - April 2.***

***Select Show reception is February 26 at Troy Night Out.***

***Dan Burkholder will speak on March 25 at Troy Night Out.***

The Gallery is located at 408 Fulton Street in Troy. Phone: (518) 331-0217. Additional info is available on the Photo Center website: [www.photocentertroy.org](http://www.photocentertroy.org).

## JIM CRANER - "GIVING BACK"

~ Equine Advocates ~

*Editor's Note: I saw our own Jim Craner instructing a group of photographers at an Equine Advocates' open house last fall. Being familiar with his wonderful work with this organization, I thought it would be great if he would provide an article for our newsletter. If you know Jim, you know he said, "Yes!"*



At first glance Equine Advocates Rescue and Sanctuary looks like just any of the other horse properties dotting the landscape of northern Columbia County, New York. But this one is very different. Equine Advocates is home to upwards of 80 rescued horses, mules, and donkeys.

While each equine resident has an individual story, the common thread in each story is a life of mistreatment, neglect, and sometimes outright abuse. There are thoroughbreds 'off the track' due to poor performance or injury; American mustangs abruptly ripped from western public lands; an urban carriage horse scarred by years of wearing heavy tack and lame from walking on hard city pavement; mares kept constantly pregnant to produce urine used by the pharmaceutical industry in the production of hormone replacement therapy drugs. The list goes on.

Equine Advocates is a 501(3)(c) non-profit and annually struggles to raise the huge amount of money needed to maintain the 140 acre facility, and care for the equine residents who know it as home. Equine Advocates depends on the financial generosity of donors, and a large cadre of volunteers who provide a variety of 'pro bono' services including direct horse care, event organization, and public relations support. Equine Advocates publishes a huge volume of printed material, and has added a robust social media presence to its fund-raising efforts. All of this results in a never-ending need for high quality photo and video work.

I've been privileged along with my wife Marlene to be a part of the work at Equine Advocates for nearly 10 years. Horse owners ourselves, we find working



© Jim Craner

for Equine Advocates to be a natural extension of our love of horses. All the members of the Schenectady Photography Society have special skills that are desperately needed by any number of community-based organizations. Photography is among the most powerful tools for social, political, and environmental change. I urge all members of the Society to search out an opportunity to use your photographic talents to give back to a favorite organization whose mission and values you share.

For more information on Equine Advocates:  
[www.equineadvocates.org](http://www.equineadvocates.org).

Check out Jim's blog at:  
<https://pawsphoto.wordpress.com>

*Continued...*



© 2014 (from a. Strombus)



© Jim Craner



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*Have you "given back" through your photography? Perhaps you volunteer to take photos for a local charity... or attended a fund-raising event and donated your images. Your fellow Club members want to know! I would love to include details in a future edition of the Focus. Send info and images (and inspire us!) to: [focuseditor@icloud.com](mailto:focuseditor@icloud.com).*



© Jim Craner

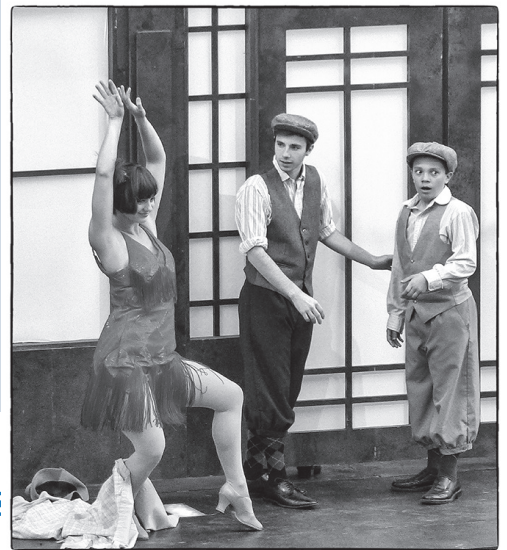
1st Place  
NOVEMBER WINNERS  
\*PRINT\*

1st Place Assigned  
(Topic: Nature / PSA)  
"The Curl"  
© Marianne  
Rahn-Erickson



1st Place General  
"Golden Fields"  
© Ellen Christiansen

1st Place  
Monochrome  
"Oh My!"  
© Barb Lawton



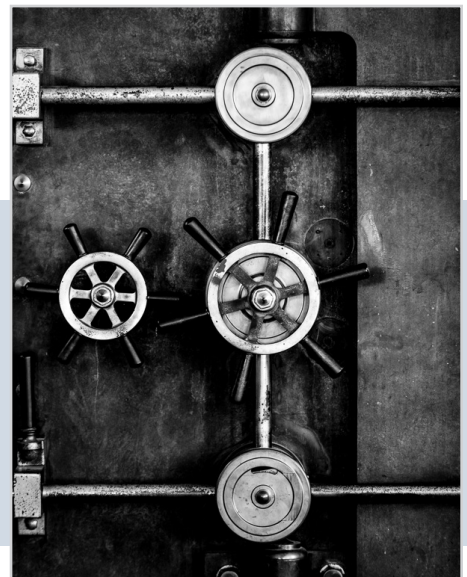
**PRINT JUDGE:** Photographer **Chris DeMarco** received her BFA from Rochester Institute of Technology and her MFA from Pratt Institute. She has served as an adjunct professor for the College of Saint Rose, Saint Anne Institute and Russell Sage College.

ADDITIONAL NOVEMBER WINNERS  
\*Print Monochrome\*



2nd Place Monochrome  
"The Face of Contentment"  
© Robert Coppola

3rd Place Monochrome  
"The Vault"  
© Sean Sullivan



*For Print winners, to include the best image in the Focus,  
e-mail a digital file (1024 x 768 max at 300 ppi)  
to: [focuseditor@icloud.com](mailto:focuseditor@icloud.com).*





2nd Place Assigned / "Bee in Flight"  
© Brian Sherman

## ADDITIONAL NOVEMBER WINNERS \*Print Assigned\*

3rd Place Assigned  
"Yosemite Bark"  
© Colleen Magai



4th Place Assigned - "Dandelion"  
© Robert Woll



5th Place  
Assigned  
"Sea Grass"  
© Luba Ricket



3rd Place General  
"Sunny Center"  
© Luba Ricket

## ADDITIONAL NOVEMBER WINNERS \*Print General\*



4th Place General  
"Waiting for Riders"  
© Barb Lawton



2nd Place General  
"The Toblerone Houses"  
© Marianne Rahn-Erickson

1st Place  
DECEMBER WINNERS  
\*PRINT\*

1st Place Assigned  
(Topic: Time)  
“Generations”  
© Sean Sullivan



1st Place General  
“Illuminated Geranium”  
© Jennifer Wilkerson

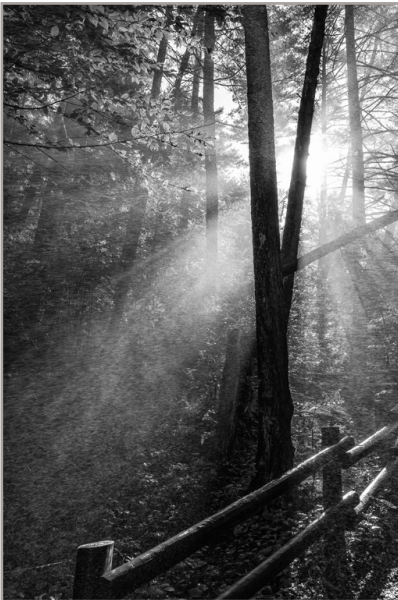
**PRINT JUDGE: Jim Craner**

“I’ve been a photographer for over fifty years, and so have seen a lot of milestones in the imaging industry. My personal photography is now devoted almost entirely to nature photography – with a particular emphasis on wildlife. What matters most to me is presenting a subject on both the informational and emotional levels. The decisive moment in wildlife photography is elusive, but when captured presents a beautiful creature in a dignified and enduring way.”

See some of Jim’s work with *Equine Advocates* on pages 6-7.



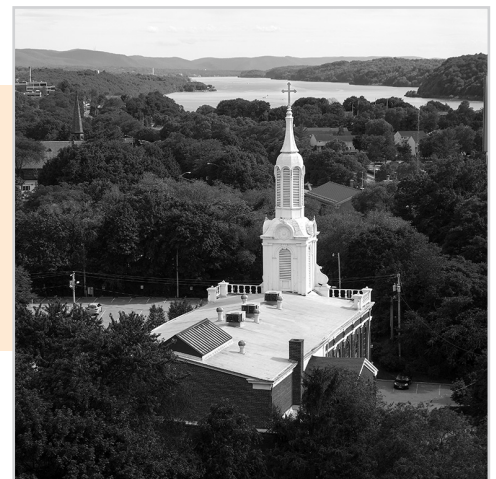
1st Place Monochrome  
“Rebirth at Ground Zero”  
© Barb Lawton



2nd Place Monochrome  
“Early Morning Poconos”  
© Lois Ginsburg

ADDITIONAL  
DECEMBER WINNERS  
\*Print Monochrome\*

*For Print winners, to include the best image in the Focus, e-mail a digital file (1024 x 768 max at 300 ppi) to: [focuseditor@icloud.com](mailto:focuseditor@icloud.com).*



3rd Place Monochrome  
“Fredericks Church”  
© Robert Coppola

ADDITIONAL DECEMBER WINNERS  
\*Print Assigned\*



3rd Place Assigned  
"Gulls by Starlight"  
© Dave Bennett



2nd Place Assigned  
"My Wife and Child"  
© Robert Coppola



4th Place Assigned  
"It's Miller Time"  
© Dave Bennett

ADDITIONAL DECEMBER WINNERS  
\*Print General\*



2nd Place General - "Painting the Street"  
© Dow Smith



3rd Place General  
"Autumn Contrast"  
© Dave Bennett

1st PLACE  
NOVEMBER WINNERS  
\*PROJECTED\*

**PROJECTED JUDGE:** Evan Lauber has been a professional photographer for over 24 years, and has personally trained hundreds of photographers. Evan has photographed models, celebrities, and actors all over the United States and in Europe. His work has appeared on international best selling book covers, award winning CD covers, fashion magazine ads, several of his own calendars, and some of the finest web sites. Evan immerses his imagination and artistic vision with classic techniques while also developing new techniques as needed. Evans' work is powerful with a refreshing distinct look, often showcasing models in a new light.



1st Place Assigned  
(Topic: It Ain't Over Till It's Over)  
"Tapped Out" - © Linda Tommasulo



1st Place General  
"Lost Leaf" - © Joel Fuschino

ADDITIONAL NOVEMBER WINNERS  
\*Projected Assigned\*



2nd Place Assigned  
"The Stretch"  
© Linda Tommasulo

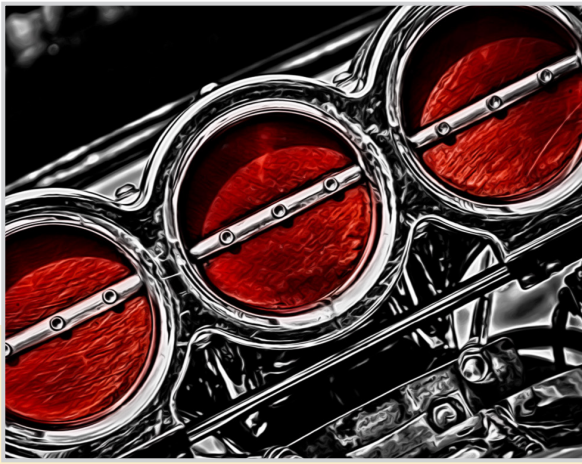
4th Place Assigned  
"Five Seconds to Go"  
© Robert Woll



3rd Place Assigned - "Is It Over Yet?"  
© Dave Bennett



To see all present and past winning images  
(including Honorable Mentions), log on to [www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org)  
click: Enter / Competitions / Recent Winners / Past Winners.



2nd Place General - "Open Throttle"  
© Sean Sullivan

## ADDITIONAL NOVEMBER WINNERS \*Projected General\*



3rd Place General - "Rupert Road Farm"  
© John Berninger



4th Place General  
"Morning Mist"  
© Julie Palyswiat



5th Place General - "Hostas"  
© John Berninger



## KIM KOZA EARNS HM in PSA PID ROUND ONE

Sometimes perseverance pays...sometimes it's just believing in yourself and your image.  
Kim's comment when she learned she garnered an Honorable Mention for her photo:

"Image did poorly in our club competition.  
I feel Redeemed!"

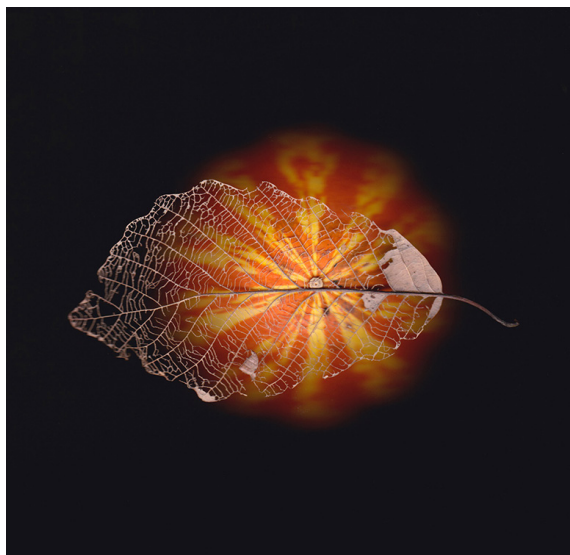
1st PLACE  
DECEMBER WINNERS  
\*PROJECTED\*

1st Place Assigned  
(Topic: Roof)  
"Roof Gone Wild"  
© Linda Tommasulo



**PROJECTED JUDGE:** Pilar Arthur-Snead is Chief Photographer, Gallery Director and owner of Photographic Expressions Studio & Gallery, LLC of Troy, NY, established in 2009. Originally focused on event photography, Pilar has expanded her operations to include studio/on-location portraiture, interior & exterior architectural

photography and editorial/lifestyle photography for feature magazines and publications. In 2011 she interned at the Center for Photography at Woodstock; and in 2013, she earned her MFA in Photography, with honors, from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.



1st Place General  
"Harvest Leaf"  
© Jess Hohenstein

ADDITIONAL  
DECEMBER WINNERS  
\*Projected Assigned\*

2nd Place Assigned  
"Old Forge Roof"  
© Linda Tommasulo



3rd Place Assigned / "The Church Roof"  
© Linda Wroble

4th Place Assigned  
"Bergen Rooftops"  
© Dick Mendelson



To see all present and past winning images (including Honorable Mentions), log on to [www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org), click: Enter / Competitions / Recent Winners / Past Winners.



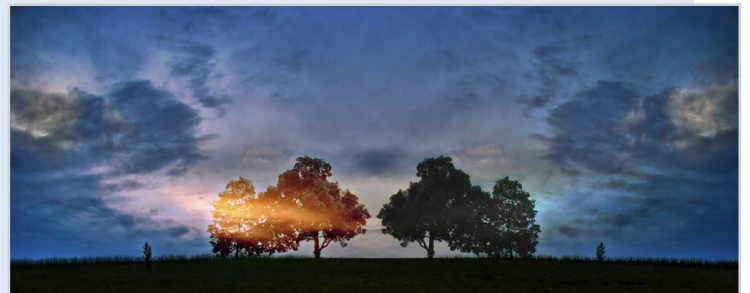
2nd Place General - "Double Exposure #3"  
© Jennifer Wilkerson



3rd Place General - "Leaf & Ice #5"  
© Linda Tommasulo



4th Place General  
"The Rug Merchant of Jaffa"  
© Jeff Perkins



5th Place General - "Twin Trees"  
© Luba Ricket



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## VIEWBUG GIVES "STAFF WINTER SELECTION 2015 FOR DECEMBER" TO SEAN SULLIVAN'S "PLYMOUTH SUNRISE"

Founded by photography buffs Ori and Jimmy, and supported by a team of all-star advisors, ViewBug is out to redefine the photo contest. Much more than just contests, they've built a unique photography community that fosters collaboration and rewards creativity. Check it out at: [www.viewbug.com](http://www.viewbug.com).

***And congratulations, Sean!***

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## COMING IN FEBRUARY...

February 3

“The Story Behind the Shot”  
Print Image Competition  
(Assigned Topic: Architecture)

February 10

“T.B.A.”

Projected Image Competition  
(Assigned Topic: The Night)

February 17

Guest Speaker:  
John Crispin  
“Update on the  
Willard Suitcase Project”

February 24

Mentoring Night  
“Animal Portraits”  
Hosted by Dave Bennett

### THE FOCUS WANTS YOU!

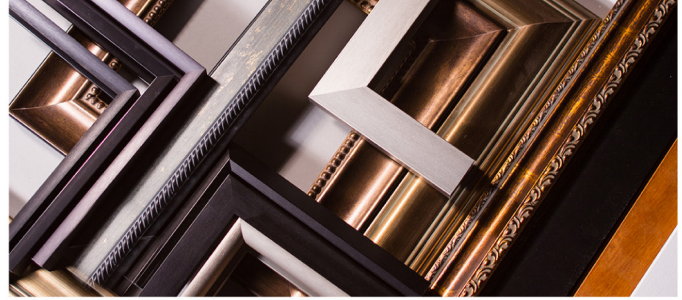
Have you been to a special place, seen a wonderful exhibit, or hanging your images on display? Are you experimenting with some new software or plug-ins, taken some fantastic images or have some interesting shooting or post-processing techniques to share with your fellow members? The *Focus* wants YOU! Send your photos, sized as you would for digital competition (1024 x 768 at 300 ppi), and accompanying text to: [focuseditor@icloud.com](mailto:focuseditor@icloud.com)

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## POSTSCRIPT

Were you inspired by Sean Sullivan's presentation on Frequency Separation, but do not have the full Photoshop Program? Rebekah Sokol (via her dad) has something you can try. This link adapts the technique for Photoshop Elements:

<http://eliaslopez.net/blog/?p=245>



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**SPS IS ON FACEBOOK!** Just type "Schenectady Photographic Society" in the search box.



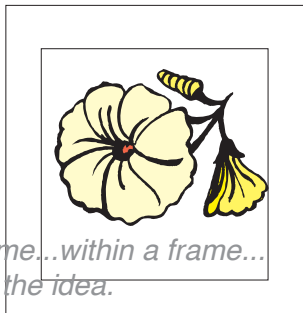
### WEATHER ALERT!

Some of us **do** like snow...but it certainly wreaks havoc on our meetings!

This is just a reminder that, in the event of inclement weather PLEASE check your e-mail and the SPS website before heading out.

In the event of bad weather it is up to the Program Chair to determine if a meeting will be held. Although we hate to cancel or postpone our meetings, your safety is our main concern.

**2015-2016**  
**Print Assigned Topics**



- 2015**  
**October 7** **Frame in Frame**  
*Show us a frame within a frame...within a frame... within a frame...well, you get the idea.*
- November 4** **Nature - PSA Rules**  
*No sign of man-made objects or presence.*
- December 2** **Time**  
*There is never enough. How do you visualize time?*
- 2016**  
**January 6** **Bokeh**  
*Use creative soft focus to highlight your subject.*
- February 3** **Architecture**  
*It's all around us, so show us some creative views.*
- March 2** **Green with Envy**  
*Show us the green!*
- April 6** **Get Low**  
*Get down and show the world from a low perspective.*
- May** **Print of the Year**



**2015-2016**  
**Projected Image Assigned Topics**

*Deadline for the Projected Image competition is Sunday at midnight prior to the competition.*

- 2015**  
**October 14** **I Heard That!**  
*Let us hear the sound in your image.*
- November 11** **Yogi said, "It Ain't Over Till It's Over."**  
*Show us what he meant.*
- December 9** **The Roof**  
*Make a roof or roofs significant in the image.*
- 2016**  
**January 13** **Crusty**  
*Literally or figuratively.*
- February 10** **The Night**  
*Outdoors, indoors, lit or dark. Show us the night.*
- March 9** **Barriers**  
*Show us why we can't get there from here (or how we can).*
- April 13** **Weather**  
*Shoot it now; it will change!*
- May** **Projected Image of the Year**

There are LOTS of ways to connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:  
**Website:** [www.spsphoto.org](http://www.spsphoto.org)  
**Facebook:** "Schenectady Photographic Society"  
**Meetup:**  
<http://www.meetup.com/Schenectady-Photographic-Society/>



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