

**Bold red texts
are
interactive links!**

FOCUS

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

Volume 91 - No. 4

<https://spsphoto.org/>

January 2025

**EVENT
NIGHT**

ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY Buildings Inside And Out by Rick Hulbert - January 29 - on Zoom

Rick's presentation is designed to appeal to all photographers, regardless of their level of experience and expertise.

We will explore an example of how we can learn about artistic compositions that excel at "visual comfort".

Four perceptual challenges will be presented that will enhance your understanding of photographing both contemporary and historic environments that were designed and constructed.

You will learn about key compositional principles that will guide your portrayal of enhanced photographic "realism" in the documentation of building exteriors and building interiors.

You will be exposed to various methods of portraying a sense of 3-dimensional volumetric depth on a 2-dimensional screen or canvas.



© Rick Hulbert

Continued...

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Architectural Photography

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ABOUT RICK HULBERT

Rick is a “Life Member” of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, and a “Fellow” of The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Rick’s photography is informed from his background as an international award winning and published Architect, Urban Designer, and Photographer. His teachings reflect his knowledge of both the History of the 2-Dimensional Arts of Drawing and Painting along with the Sciences of Human Vision.



Rick has lectured and taught photography courses at Simon Fraser University, Langara College, and the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, and has led multi-day photo-workshops throughout Europe and North America.

He was chosen as one of only two photographers from North America to be invited to participate in the World Art Games held in Bratislava, Slovakia, where he was asked to address the global attendance of artists.

**To learn more about Rick and his photography,
check out his website:**

<https://www.rickhulbertphotography.com>

PHOTO ESSAY INSPIRATION

January 22, 2025

Join us on January 22 when the winners of the 2023-2024 Photo Essay Competition share their winning entries and reveal the stories behind their creations.

PHOTO ESSAY 2024
~ Print ~

The purpose of this Event Night is to inspire others to participate in the 2024-2025 Photo Essay Competition on March 19 (in-person at First United Methodist Church in Schenectady).

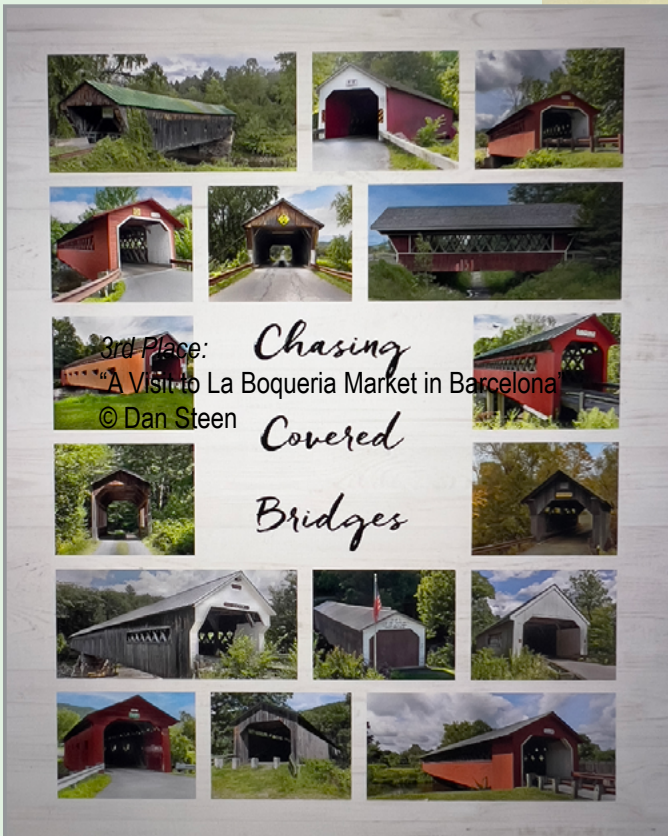
As you will learn from last year's winners, creating a Photo Essay is a personal journey that is rewarding in many ways.

Joe Cotroneo will take you through the steps necessary to create a Photo Essay, both digitally and in print.



© Linda Tommasulo

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



2nd Place:
"Chasing Covered Bridges"
© Kristina Young



3rd Place:
"A Visit to La Boqueria Market in Barcelona"
© Dan Steen

Photo Essay Inspiration

(Continued from page 3)

PHOTO ESSAY 2024

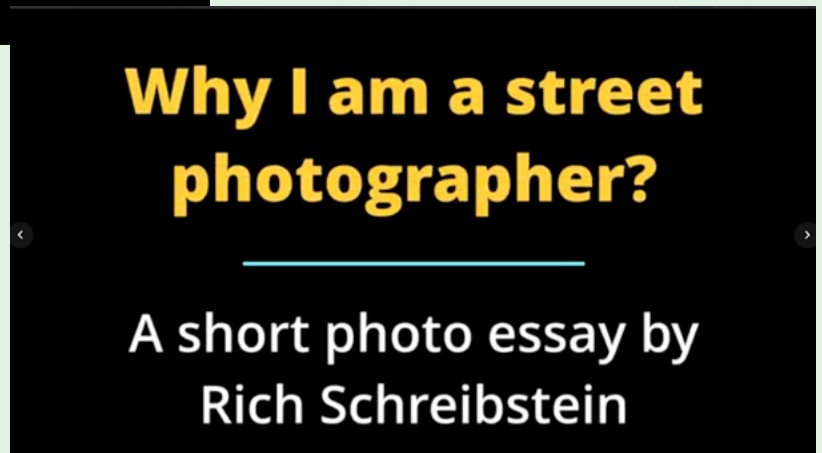
~ Digital ~



First Place:
"September"
© Janice Prichett



2nd Place:
"Sites and Sounds, Kampala, Uganda"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



3rd Place:
"Why I am a Street Photographer"
© Rich Schreibstein

PRINT NIGHT
SHORT PROGRAM

PHOTO ADVENTURES: A QUICK DAY TRIP TO THE COAST OF MAINE

by Doug Mitchell

In Person at FUMC - January 8, 2025 - 7 pm

So, you want to plan a quick day trip photo outing? Considering Maine??? Anyone from the Capital District who's been to Maine would likely agree that there really isn't such a thing as a "quick" day trip to Maine.

With its expansive coastal areas and inland forests, Maine is nearly half the total area of New England. If traveling from Albany, NY expect at least 4 hours travel and over 8 hours if traveling to the farthest point, which is Lubec, Maine.

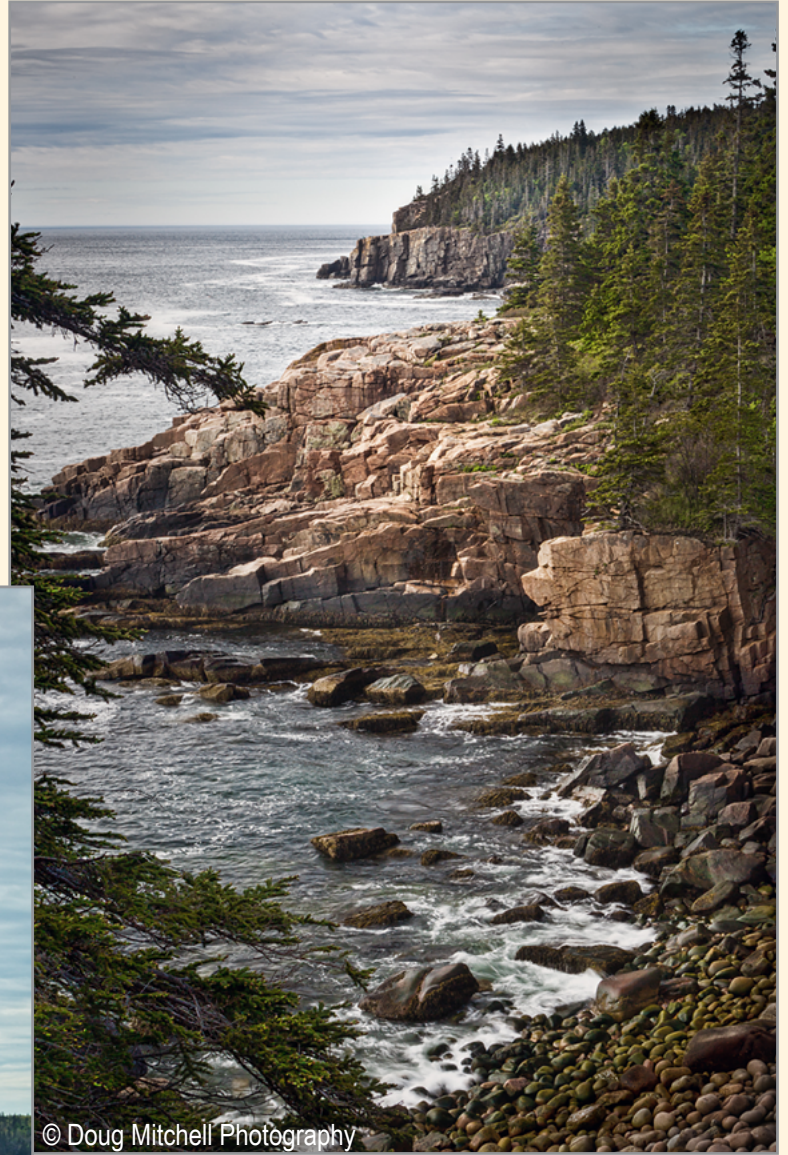


A Quick Day Trip to the Coast of Maine

(Continued from page 5)

Campobello Island, just across the bay in Canada is where President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once had his summer home.

Known for its rugged and rocky shoreline, mountains and forests, Maine provides limitless possibilities for photographers. The in-person presentation on January 8th will present photos of some of the locations in Maine that offer great photographic opportunities which can't be found in our area and will also cover simple ways to research and plan photo trips, whether a "day trip" or "multi-day" trip and apply to any where you choose to travel.



© Doug Mitchell Photography



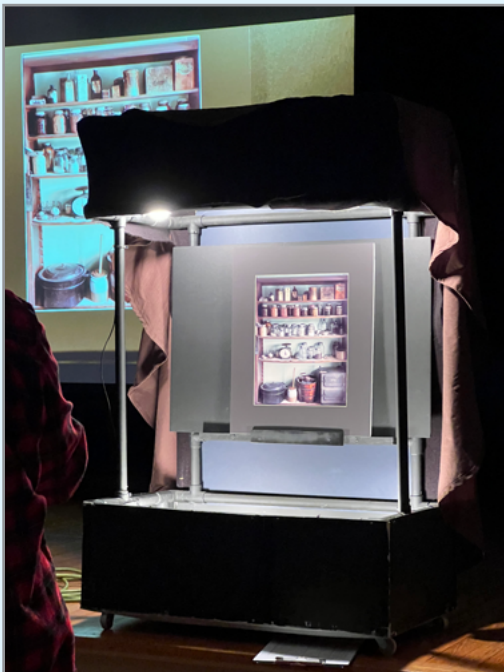
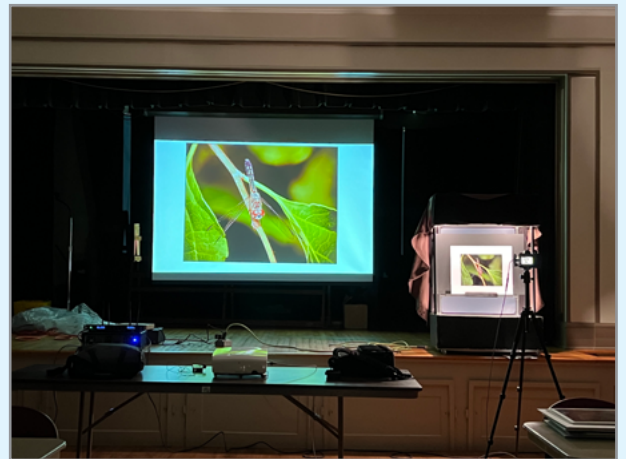
© Doug Mitchell Photography

As many of you may know, Doug doesn't just do travel photography. He is a master at Fashion, Portrait, Model and Concert Photography too. Check out his website for more great images:

<https://dougmitchellphotos.com/>



DECEMBER'S PRINT COMPETITION



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

We got some nice PR from Honest Weight in their December newsletter.

4

HONEST SLATE

December 2024



Alan Wiggins, *Ghost in the Circle*

HWFC's current art exhibit runs from Tues., Dec. 3, through Sun., Dec. 29, with an opening reception from 3–4:30 pm on Sat., Dec. 7.

Featuring member work, the exhibit includes 23 images from 13 photographers with a wide variety of interests in topics and techniques.

Artists include M-J Adelman, Jerry Boehm, Greg Efner, Ray Henrikson, Connie Frisbee Houde, Elena Keesee, Janice Prichett, Neil Shapiro, Linda Tommasulo, Tom Whittemore, Alan Wiggins, Dale Willman, and Kristina Young.

Images shown are copyrighted by the artists and may not be reproduced without permission.

Schenectady Photographic Society Exhibit To Show at Co-op Throughout December



Janice Prichett, *Hidden Pond, Saranac Lake*

Founded in 1931, the Schenectady Photographic Society offers programs and activities for photographers of all levels from the Capital District, ranging from beginners to serious amateurs to professionals.

With about 80 members, the group meets on Wednesday nights (either in person or via Zoom) to engage in various competitions and attend guest speaker presentations to further their knowledge, creativity, and inspiration.

The society meets throughout fall, winter, and spring. Meetings are held in the

Now through Dec. 29, works by over a dozen area photographers will hang on display in our hallway gallery.



Connie Frisbee Houde, *Drawing Together, Nepal*

fellowship hall of the First United Methodist Church at 603 State Street in downtown Schenectady and are open to the public. Occasional field trips allow the opportunity to expand photographic vision, and regular regional exhibits allow for sharing that vision. More information can be found at www.spsphoto.org.

The next exhibit by the members of the Schenectady Photographic Society will be at the Niskayuna Public Library in March and Professor Java's Coffee Sanctuary from Wednesday, April 2, 2025 through Monday, September 29, 2025.

The exhibit space at Professor Java's will comprise the full two walls in the main room and the full wall opposite the counter leading to the hallway.

Members will be notified via email when and where collection of photos will be held. We encourage participation by all members of SPS.

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

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

Thanks go to Bert van Grondelle and his team for their continuing hard work on behalf of SPS.

FOCUS ON Joan Heffler Photography

If you've been to a corporate event, a wedding, or a bar/bat mitzvah, the person working the room with her camera is Joan Heffler. And for 25 years, Joan has lived up to her tagline, "Pictures with Personality." Her photos are alive and vibrant and tell stories about people's personalities.

Joan humbly shared her thought that after thousands of events and over ten thousand headshots, every single one made her happy.

What a gift to enjoy what you do, and how lucky to have Joan in our midst!

Joan has degrees in psychological counseling and she hoped people would listen when they needed to change their ways. Most did not. When she decided to become a full time professional photographer at age 50, she realized that people do listen when you have a camera in hand.

When shooting in a corporate setting or for a family, her masterful eye composes people and furniture to get that perfectly balanced shot. It's about feng shui, a natural flow of things and people complementing each other. That is one of her most expert talents; and with all the psychology credits, her ability to relax people and bring out their true personalities has been a rewarding asset as well.

Favorite quote: Doesn't have one! Joan does not need one. What she sees through the eye of her lens exceeds any thought or emotion that a quote could offer.



© Joan Heffler Photography

Few people know Joan's love of ballroom dancing. She finds the motion of dance graceful and elegant. The Bolero is her favorite, and is a slow dance characterized by smooth, gliding movements, dramatic arm styling with a romantic feel. Joan does not competitively dance but participates in recitals for the past 15 years at Fred Astaire Dance Studio. The similarities between dance and photography are evident. The feelings, the emotions, and the attention to detail sum up what makes Joan a gifted photographer.

The feelings, the emotions, and the attention to detail sum up what makes Joan a gifted photographer.

Joan's studio is in the Capital Region and she travels anywhere to be a part of your world...



© Joan Heffler Photography



All photos © Joan Heffler Photography



Focus On: Joan Heffler Photography

(Continued from page 10)



All photos © Joan Heffler Photography

Focus On: Joan Heffler Photography

(Continued from page 11)



Focus On: Joan Heffler Photography

(Continued from page 12)



All photos © Joan Heffler Photography

Focus On: Joan Heffler Photography

(Continued from page 13)

All photos © Joan Heffler Photography



Check out more of
Joan Heffler's Photography
on her website:

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



Contact Joan Heffler Photography at
joan@joanheffler.com
or call (518) 346 – 4485
for more information on portrait,
corporate, branding, event, and
wedding photography.

GIVE YOURSELF A SELF-ASSIGNMENT TODAY

by Taya Iv and Photo Masters

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

Self-assignments are an effective way to improve your photography skills, get out of a creative funk, and try something that you typically wouldn't be comfortable with trying in any other setting.

Essentially, self-assignments are photo projects that aren't commercial (i.e. paid) and involve using your imagination to create unique photos. You can come up with a theme for your photoshoot based on your own interests or something random that you stumbled upon online.

What's powerful about these assignments is that they can give you the freedom to explore all kinds of themes in different genres. As a result, you'll strengthen your imagination and discover new ways to approach your photography.

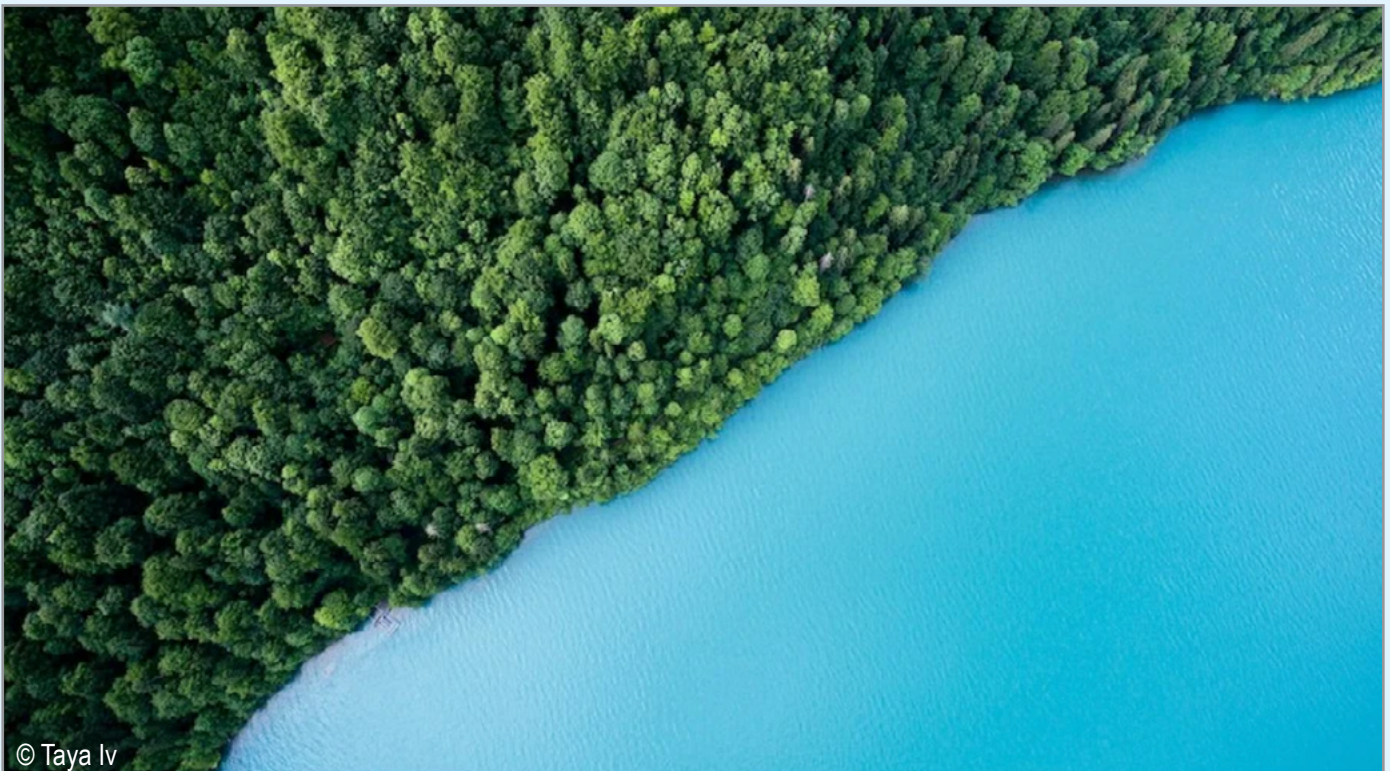
So, if you've been in a funk lately or if you just want to try something new, I highly recommend giving yourself your very own photo assignment. Read on for some tips, ideas, and guidance to make the most of your first self-assignment.

Commit to a Bigger Project for Self-Assignments

When I first started taking photographs, I didn't have a specific plan in mind. Even though this was liberating, there came a point where I craved some kind of guidance or direction. Around that time, the 365 Project was very popular. I had to take photos every day for a whole year, which was quite a big commitment. Fortunately, I found a supportive community that encouraged everyone to regularly share their progress and ask for guidance. Even though taking photos every day was challenging, the group's daily themes inspired me greatly.

Even if you can't take photos every day, you can commit to a smaller project that will allow you to track your progress consistently. You can start a 52-Week Project, for which you'd need to take one photo every week for a year. You can come up with your own weekly themes or use other people's themes as inspiration.

If you're not ready to commit to something like this, either, you can always come up with themes on the go. I don't think there should be a strict deadline for your photoshoots, unless that's the kind of approach that motivates you.



© Taya Iv

Give Yourself a Self-Assignment

(Continued from page 15)

Last but not least, you can join our **Photo Masters challenges** for an opportunity to receive feedback, win prizes, and interact with inspiring people from around the world. Even though it's possible to successfully complete self-assignments on your own, it's much more fun and interesting to do it with a group of people.

P.S. We're currently working on an exciting new photo challenge theme for the New Year, so stay tuned!

How to Find Inspiration for Self-Assignments

Coming up with a list of themes is only one part of the equation. If they're random themes, they might not necessarily inspire you. First, think about what intrinsically motivates you.

By intrinsic motivation, I mean the things that truly matter to you. There's always going to be a new trend, but what truly matters in your photography is what speaks to you.

Take some time to think about people, places, or objects that are very meaningful to you. They don't need to be popular, but they should inspire you to pick up your camera. It doesn't need to be a specific subject, either. It can be a general experience or an atmosphere.

A few years ago, I committed to the 52-Week Photo Project. Even though I was excited to work on it at first, I lost a lot of motivation because the themes seemed very generic and didn't resonate with me. To make things more interesting, I decided to come up with my own themes, which helped a lot. If you collaborate with photographers whose work you like and combine that with themes that are meaningful to you, you're likely to enjoy your self-assignments even more.

Don't Be Afraid of Discomfort

Everyone always tells us to leave our comfort zones, but what does that really mean? If you push yourself too hard, you might burn out. If you're always doing what feels comfortable, you might get



© Taya Iv

Give Yourself a Self-Assignment

(Continued from page 16)

bored and lose motivation, like I mentioned earlier. There's a fine line between challenging yourself and enjoying the process. So, how do you find the perfect balance?

To me, this means picking themes that are very different to what I'm used to but are still in the realm of what I enjoy. For example, since I like to take self-portraits, I might experiment with taking photos of myself in urban locations. I typically shoot either indoors or in nature, so taking photographs in a busy city would be an interesting challenge.

This doesn't mean that you shouldn't pursue other genres, though. For his first Photo Wars episode, Ian had to take wide-angle photographs indoors. In the video, he says that he kept putting the photo-shoot off because he didn't want to do it. However, when he actually started taking photographs, he found himself enjoying the process. Don't be afraid of trying something completely new and be open to pleasantly surprising yourself.

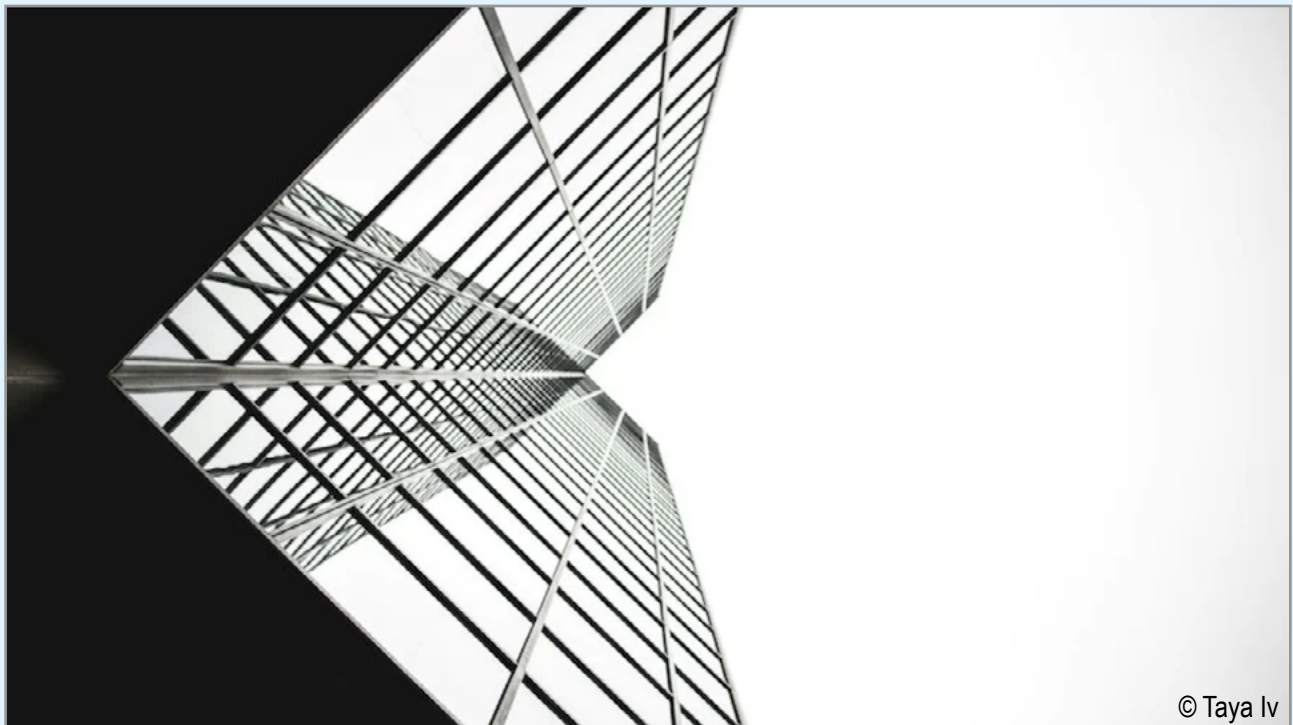
Share Your Photos With Others

If possible, join an online or offline community of passionate photographers. Surround yourself with caring and supportive people. These kinds of people

will inspire you to do your best and try new things. Social media can be a great place to find exposure and big photo opportunities, but it doesn't have to be your only source of motivation. In some cases, staying away from it might be a good idea. You don't need to make your photos public or build an online portfolio, but it would help tremendously if you had a few friends with whom you could comfortably share your work. It's not about getting compliments for the sake of your ego; rather, it's about receiving much-needed encouragement from loved ones.

Don't forget to get creative with sharing. In addition to literally showing your work to others, you can give gifts in the form of photo prints to your friends.

If you want to improve the quality of your photos but don't know where to start, especially if you're pursuing a completely different genre, it might be a good idea to join a photo club or online forum that prioritizes constructive criticism. Alternatively, you can hire a photography mentor to make things more personal and interesting. A professional photographer will provide you with invaluable knowledge that will not only improve your skills, but also motivate you to leave your comfort zone more often.



© Taya Iv

Give Yourself a Self-Assignment

(Continued from page 17)

Self-Assignment Project Ideas

You're free to come up with your own themes, but if you're feeling stuck, here are a few ideas. You can interpret the themes below in any way you like. You can approach them with a specific plan or just go with the flow, depending on where you want to shoot. The more flexible you are, the more interesting your photos will be!

Intimate landscape

Wide-angle portrait

Square format

Black & white street photo

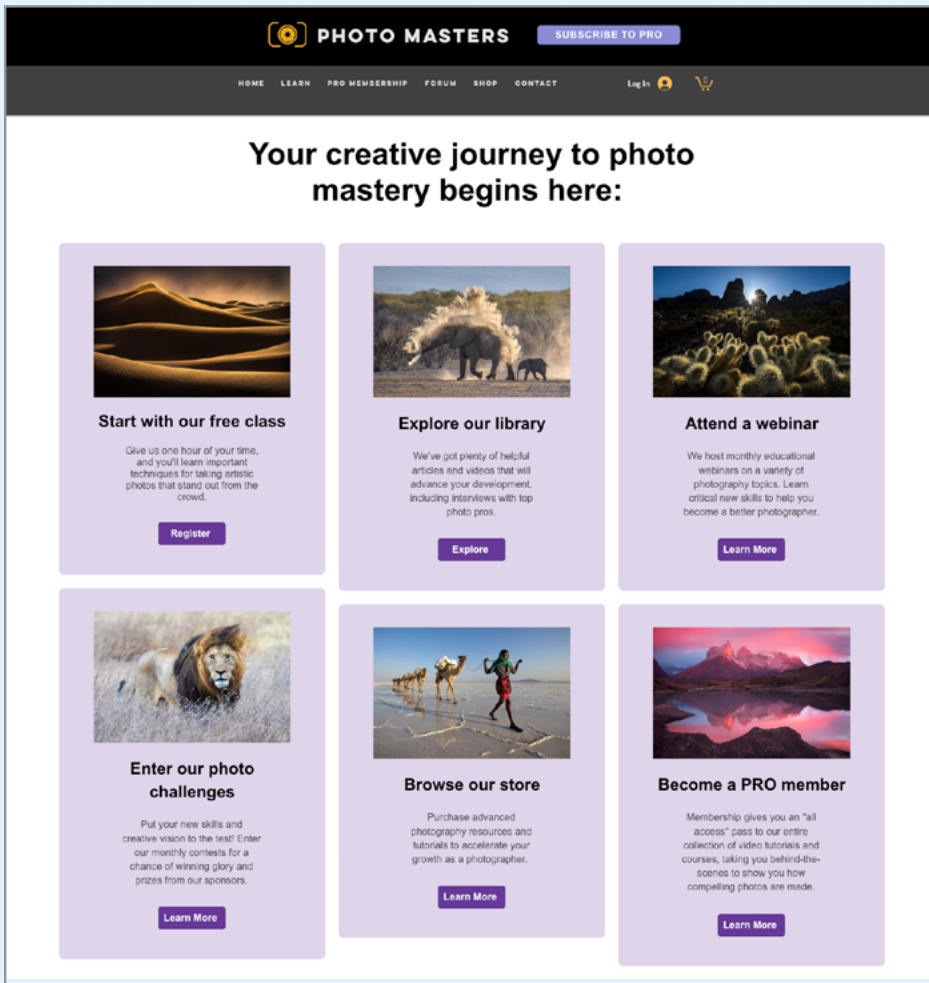
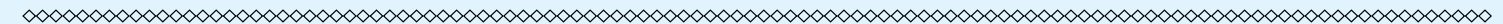
Colorful close-up

Extreme perspective (e.g. very low or high angle)

Conclusion

There's nothing more exciting than trying something new that leads you to better photo opportunities and refreshes your creative mind. Novelty is good for the brain, so I encourage you to go out and give yourself a photo assignment once in a while. Make it into a project that encourages you to make mistakes, surprise yourself with unique photos, and enjoy the process of learning new things as you go.

Don't forget to join the **Photo Masters forum** for regular photo challenges and inspiration.



Ian Plant's Photo Masters website contains a wealth of information for photographers:

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

About Taya Iv:

Taya is a portrait photographer and 500px ambassador. She started taking photos at the age of 12, when she discovered a collection of self-portraits on an art website. Over the past few years, Taya has been active writing articles about photography and interviewing talented people around the world, always hoping to encourage others to find joy and inspiration in their everyday lives.

She photographs whatever she has on hand—whether it is her neighbor's cat, flowers from a shop, or even herself—and finds ways to get creative with composition, light, and the magic of the moment to transform the familiar into something extraordinary. Her photos are living proof that you don't need to travel to exotic locations to make compelling images, you just need an open and creative mind.

You can see more of Taya's work on 500px: <https://500px.com/p/Tayaiv>

OUR "FUN" COMPETITION

ASSIGNED TOPICS 2024-2025 SEASON

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

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

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

See the following page for details on submitting entries for both Print and Digital Competitions. Deadline for submission of digital images is midnight on Saturday (Sunday am) before the competition date—no exceptions!

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Arches**

November: **Blue/Blues**

December: **Old Things**

January: **Harvest**

February: **Odd Couples**

March: **Close Up**

April: **Anything Railroad**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

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

November: **Planes, Trains & Automobiles**

December: **Construction**

January: **Out of Place**

February: **Staircases**

March: **Stacks**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



© 2024 Janice Prichett

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPETITIONS 2024-2025 SEASON

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

PRINT COMPETITIONS:

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

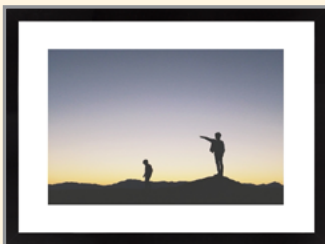
Members may submit up to **four (4)** images in our Print Competitions. Categories will include General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. You may submit up to **(2) in any category**. For example, two in Monochrome and one each in Assigned Topic and General.

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

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

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

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



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



DIGITAL COMPETITIONS:

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

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

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

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

Details on Digital Competition Rules can be found here:

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

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

REMEMBER THAT:

Alternative processes, composites, and manipulations are allowed.

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



PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARDS

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

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

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

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

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

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

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

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

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARD

(Affix to upper left corner of back of print)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Month (Circle Month): _____ Year: _____

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

Print Category (Select One):

- Assigned Topic
- General/Color
- Monochrome

PLACE:

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

HOW DO OUR COMPETITIONS ACTUALLY WORK?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHY COMPETE?

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

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

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

We hope to see more members participating this season.

JOIN ~~LIKE~~ US ON FACEBOOK!



Edit

Group by Schenectady Photographic Society

Schenectady Photographic Society

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

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



Schenectady Photographic Society

301 likes · 326 followers



Visit Group

Liked

Message

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

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

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

DECEMBER WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Old Things

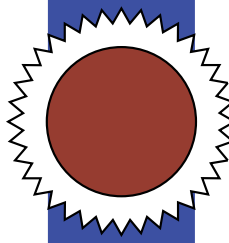


First Place:
"The Pantry"
© Kristina Young



2nd Place:
"Abandoned"
© Linda Tommasulo

Linda A. Tommasulo
PHOTOGRAPHY



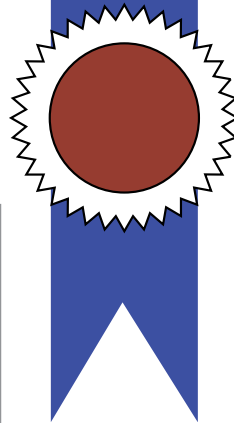
DECEMBER WINNING PRINTS



3rd Place:
"Keyboard Inspiration"
© Linda Tommasulo

Linda A. Tommasulo
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

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Honorable Mention:
"Just a Shadow"
© Greg Efner



Honorable Mention:
"Capital Columns (1828)"
© Neil Shapiro

Neil R Shapiro
FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

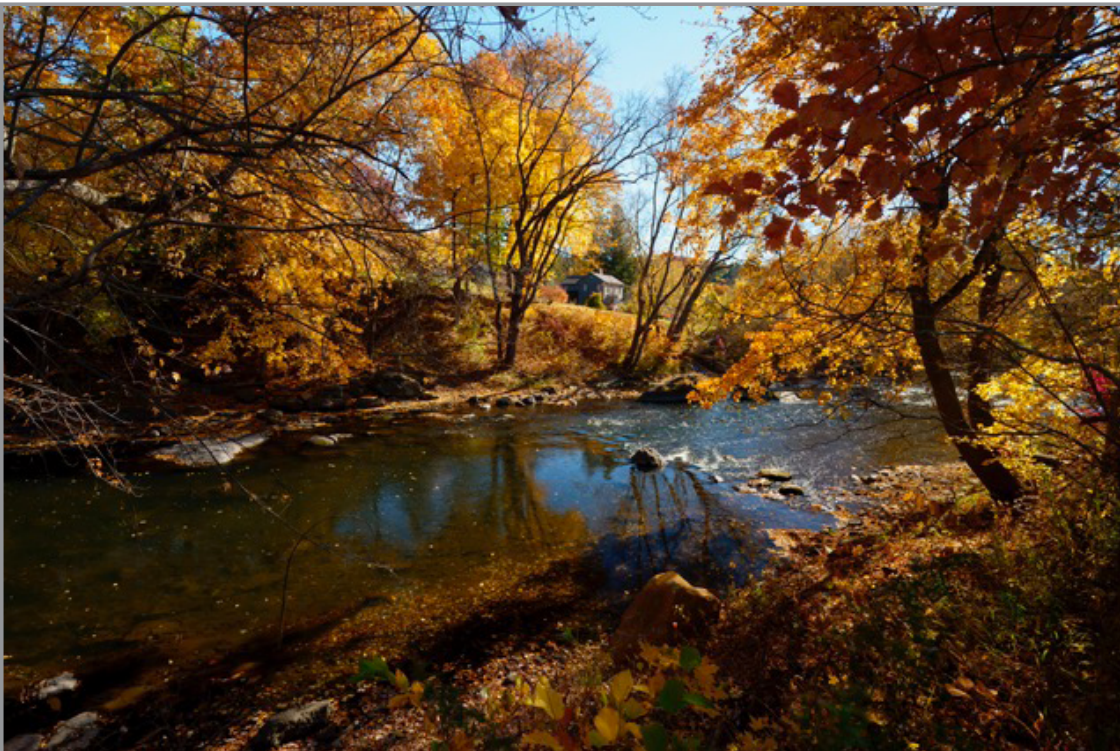
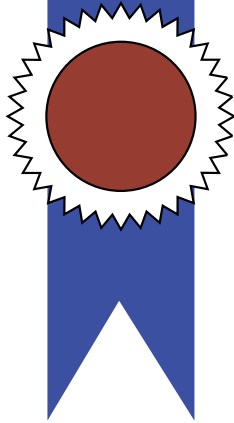


Honorable Mention:
"Ancient Temple"
© Connie Frisbee Houde

DECEMBER WINNING PRINTS



First Place:
"Red Eyes"
© Joe Cotroneo



2nd Place:
"Autumn Stream"
© Greg Efner

DECEMBER WINNING PRINTS

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Third Place:
"Home Sweet Home"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



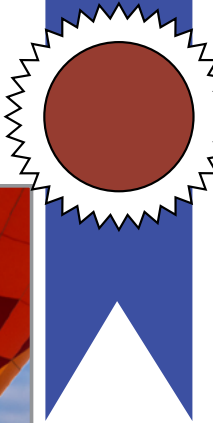
Honorable Mention:
"Sunset"
© Kristina Young



Honorable Mention:
"Up, Up and Away"
© Richard Long



Honorable Mention:
"Iconic Zion"
© Neil Shapiro

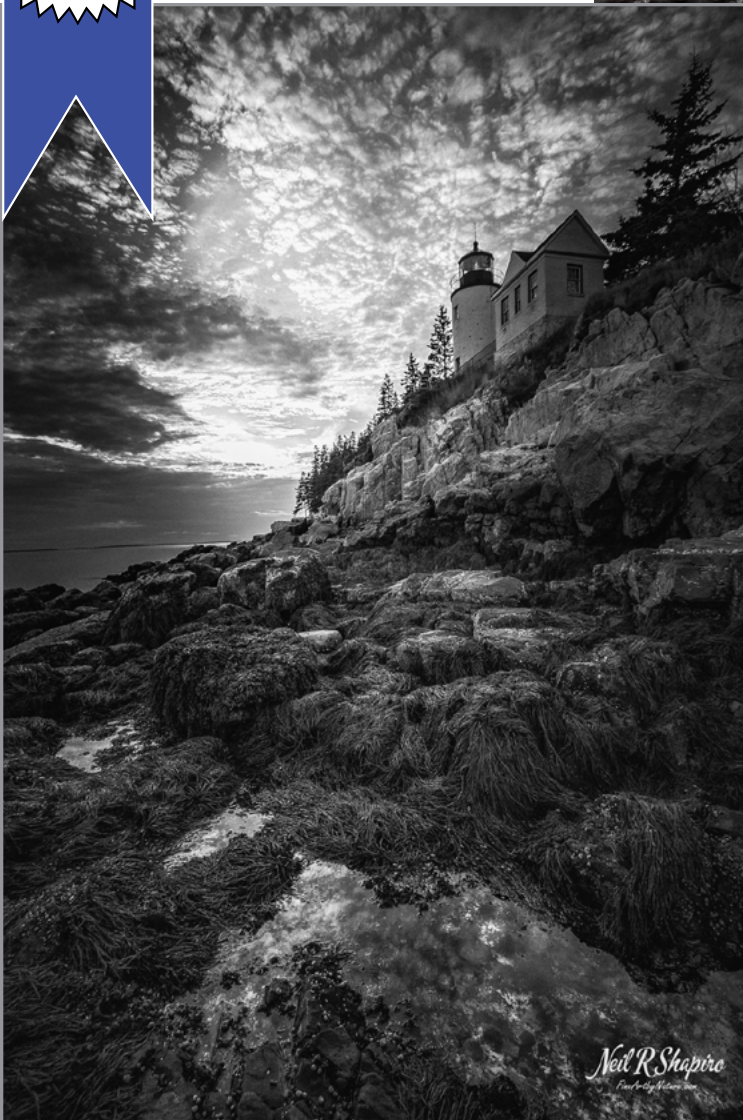


DECEMBER
WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Through the Fog"
© Kristina Young



2nd Place;
"Twilight Coast"
© Neil Shapiro

DECEMBER WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



3rd Place:
 "Doughnuts"
 © Connie Frisbee Houde

Print Judge: Natalie Cartz

After receiving her BA degree in Fine Art- Photography, Natalie began her photography career working for National Studio, in the travel division, taking portraits throughout the United States. Shortly after she opened her studio in Chicago and worked in the print production and advertising for major clients such as Pantene, Coco-Cola, Land's End and more. This experience broadened as well as enhanced her knowledge of client relationships, studio management and lighting techniques. Presently she maintains her own commercial, portrait and lifestyle photography business in the Capital Region of New York, which receives much praise from satisfied clients for her head shots in Albany and surrounding areas.

<https://nataliecartzphotography.com/>



Honorable Mention:
 "Christmas Spirits"
 © Alan Wiggins



Honorable Mention:
 "I Go Solo"
 © Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:
 "Timeless Journey"
 © Neil Shapiro

DECEMBER WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

Topic: Construction

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First Place:
"Construction Memorial"
© Kim Koza

Digital Judge: Tate Davidson

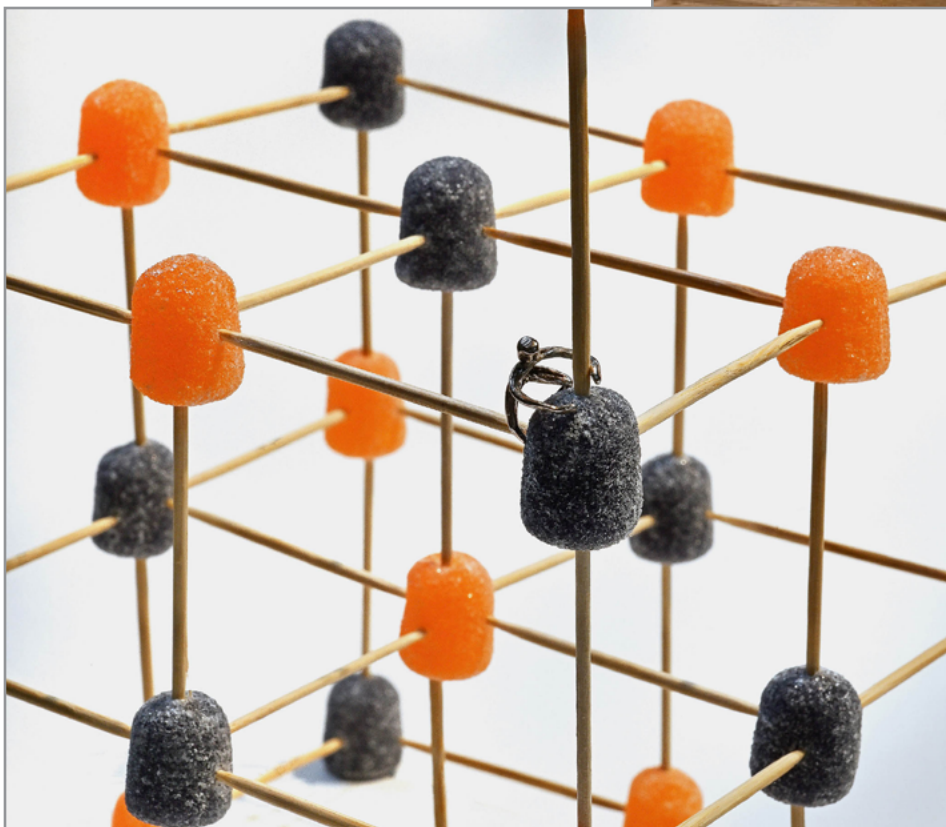
Davidson Creative LLC is an innovative graphics and design company. Tate works closely with his clients to truly understand their goals and create impactful and effective designs that accomplish exactly what they need.

A few satisfied clients: Amalu, Blue Sun Marketing, Bronx Arts, CLE-Jobs, Clean Solutions, Compassionate Coaching, Delong Staffing, DuraClean, E-Powered Benefits, ErieView Title, EyeMed, The Hunger Network, LP3 Experiors, A New Leash Animal Rescue, Papillon IT, Pandata AI, Quovis Health, Ray Charles Marketing, Responsible AI, RRUMC, Sanctus Capital, TextBook Painting, UKG, USS Cleveland, Virteom LLC, and many others.

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

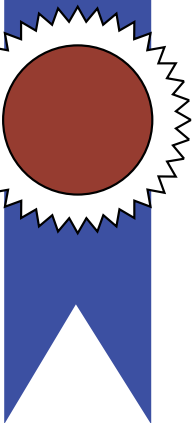
DECEMBER WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

2nd Place:
"Amazing Construction"
© Greg Efner

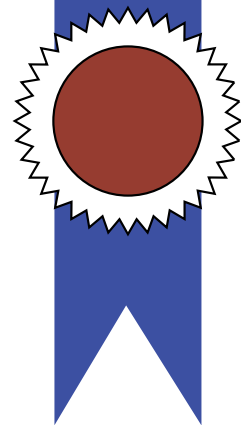


3rd Place:
"Constructing a Cubic Lattice"
© Elena Keese

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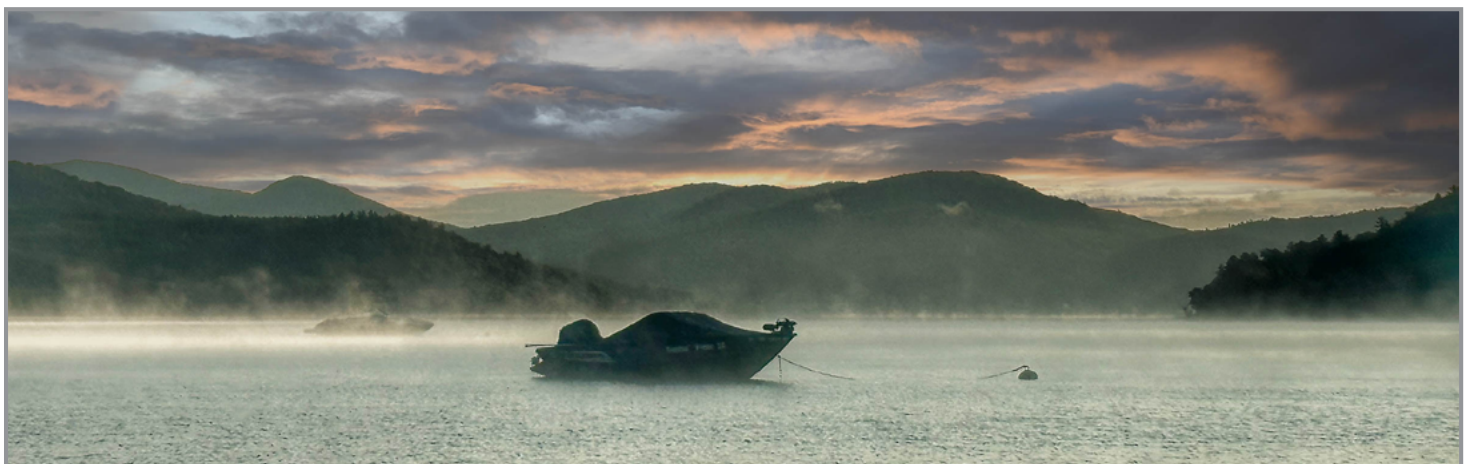


DECEMBER WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES



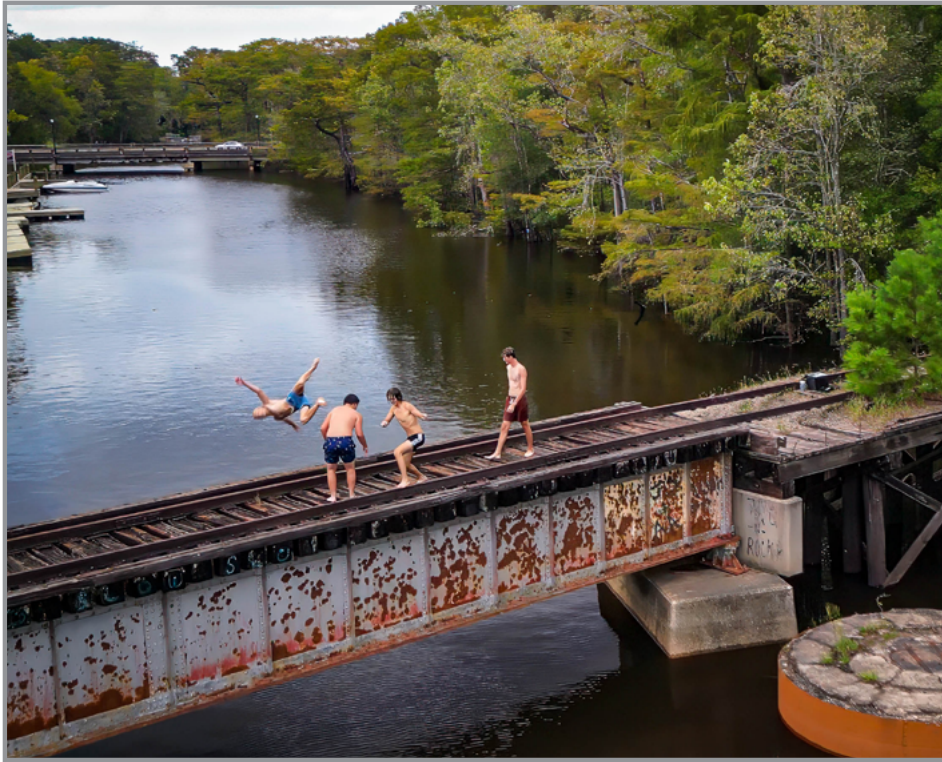
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First Place:
"In the Blue Mosque"
© Elena Keesee



2nd Place:
"Early Morning Ride"
© Kim Koza

DECEMBER WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

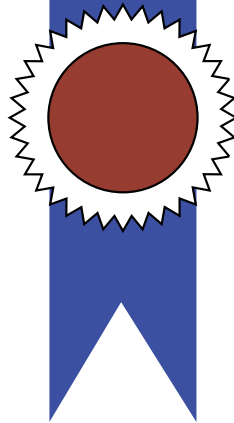


3rd Place:
"Geronimo"
© Sean Sullivan



Honorable Mention:
"Canadian Pot of Gold"
© Neil Shapiro

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DECEMBER WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Backlit in SoHo"
© Rich Schreiberstein



2nd Place:
"Oh Those Eyes"
© Alan Wiggins

DECEMBER WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

MONOCHROME



3rd Place:
"Loner"
© Greg Efner

COMING SOON!

We are always striving to make SPS better. And, in that regard, we hope to increase membership and participation in our competitions, field trips and other events.

Toward that end, your Board is in the process of preparing a questionnaire.

We want to hear from YOU.

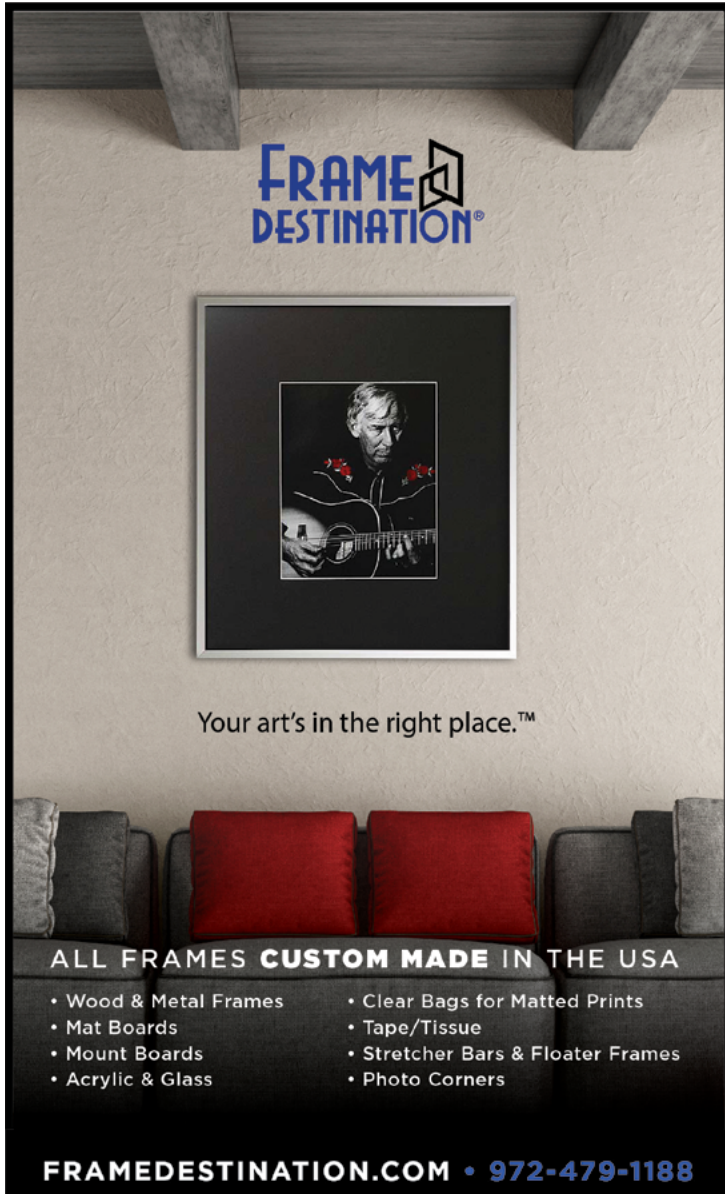
We want to know what you like about being a member of SPS,
and what you would like to see changed.

We rely on YOUR input—the input from our members—to help us shape the direction and future of our Club.

This is the 93rd year of the Schenectady Photographic Society.
With your participation, we'll celebrate our 94th and beyond.

Watch your email for the SPS Questionnaire coming soon.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSOR



FRAME DESTINATION

Your art's in the right place.™

ALL FRAMES **CUSTOM MADE** IN THE USA

- Wood & Metal Frames
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- Tape/Tissue
- Stretcher Bars & Floater Frames
- Photo Corners

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEASON STARTED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

Membership:

Individual: \$60 / Family (Same Address): \$75 / Student: \$25

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

These links **SHOULD NOT** be shared to non-members.

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

Click here to join/renew:

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

ABOUT THE SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



For 90+ years, the Schenectady Photographic Society has been the meeting place of photographers of all levels—from beginners to serious amateurs to professionals—with the goal of exploring and sharing their love of photography. Members throughout the Capital Region (and beyond, thanks to Zoom!) meet on Wednesday nights to engage in various competitions (digital, photo essay and more), share their vision with like-minded photographers, enjoy guest speaker presentations and other member benefits to further their knowledge, creativity and inspiration.

As part of our monthly competitions, we are challenged with an assigned topic—encouraging participants to venture out of their comfort zones. Members participating in competitions receive specific commentary and suggestions to take their images to the next level. Don't wish to compete? That's OK too. Observing competitions is always inspirational and a great learning opportunity.

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

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

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

SPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

President Joe Cotroneo
president@spsphoto.org

Vice President Linda Tommasulo
vp@spsphoto.org

Treasurer Pat McCormick
treasurer@spsphoto.org

Recording Secretary Paula Keefe
secretary@spsphoto.org

Newsletter Editor Linda Tommasulo
newsletter@spsphoto.org

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

Membership Chair Kristina Young
membership@spsphoto.org

Print Group Alan Wiggins
printchair@spsphoto.org

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

Photo Essay Joe Cotroneo & Linda Tommasulo

Judge Coordinator Neil Shapiro
judging@spsphoto.org

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

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

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR
Joan Heffler

TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS

Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm,

Rich Schreiberstein, M-J Adelman

travelingexhibit@spsphoto.org

REFRESHMENT COORDINATORS

Judy Breslau

John Ogden



Connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:

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

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

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

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

Contact Linda at newsletter@spsphoto.org.

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

SPS 2024-2025 SEASON COMPETITION JUDGES

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

October, 2024

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

Assigned Topic: Arches

JUDGE: STEFANIE PALAZEKE

<http://www.stephaniepalazeke.com>

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

Assigned Topic: The Color Yellow (No Flowers)

JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA

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

November, 2024

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

Assigned Topic: Blue / Blues

JUDGE: RICHARD LOVRICH

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

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

Assigned Topic: Planes, Trains & Automobiles

JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA

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

December, 2024

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

Assigned Topic: Old Things

JUDGE: NATALIE CARTZ

<https://nataliecartzphotography.com/>

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

Assigned Topic: Construction

JUDGE: TATE DAVIDSON

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

January, 2025

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

Assigned Topic: Harvest

JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER

<https://neustudios.com/>

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

Assigned Topic: Out of Place

JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN

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

February, 2025

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

Assigned Topic: Odd Couples

JUDGE: KEVIN Q. GRAY

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

February, 2025 (Cont'd.)

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

Assigned Topic: Staircases

JUDGE: NICK PALMIERI

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

March, 2025

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

Assigned Topic: Empty Chairs & Benches

JUDGE: THOMAS ROBINSON

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

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

Assigned Topic: Close Up

JUDGE: FRANK RAPANT

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

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

JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ

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

April, 2025

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

Assigned Topic: Anything Railroad

JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER

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

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

Assigned Topic: Something Starting with the Letter "P"

JUDGE: LEV TSIMRING

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

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

JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE

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

May, 2025

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

JUDGES: ANGELA JORCZAK

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

DAVID FINGERHUT

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

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

JUDGES: SKIP ROWLAND

<https://skippix.biz/>

SHANNON CALVERT

<https://hireimagination.com/>

SPS 2024-2025 SEASON CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

September 2024

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

October, 2024

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

November, 2024

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

December, 2024

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

January, 2025

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

January, 2025 (Cont'd.)

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

February, 2025

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

March, 2025

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

April, 2025

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

May, 2025

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

June, 2025 - AWARDS BANQUET Date/Location TBA