



# FOCUS

IT'S OUR  
93RD  
SEASON!

Volume 91 - No. 8

<https://spsphoto.org/>

May 2025

## OUR SEASON CONCLUDES...

Print Images of the Year - May 7

Digital Images of the Year - May 14

### Prints of the Year - May 7, 2025 - 7 pm In person at FUMC

If you participated in our Print Competitions this season (October, 2024 through April, 2025), you are eligible to enter the Prints of the Year Competition.

- Only prints that have been entered into a monthly Print Night competition during the current season may be entered into the Print of the Year Competition.
- There are two categories: *General (Color)* and *Monochrome*.
- Prints entered in the Assigned competition MAY BE submitted under General or Monochrome.
- Prints need not have placed to be entered. All entries must bear the original entry card on the back of the mount.
- Entries must be the same image as entered previously. Retouched, reprinted, or replicated images are not allowed.
- Presentation and entry rules are the same as for the monthly competitions.
- Each maker may submit up to **ONE** entry in each of the Print of the Year categories.
- One General Print of the Year and one Monochrome Print of the Year will be awarded..

*Continued...*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Our Season Concludes .....	1-3
April Print Night.....	4
SPS Celebrates Luba Ricket .....	5
You're Invited - SPS 2024-2025 Awards Banquet .....	6
Focus On: Barbershop to Brownie, Kim Koza .....	7-9
On the Road Again .....	10
Turning Digital Images into Tangible Treasures, Joe Brady .....	11-13
Assigned Topics.....	14
Print & Digital Competitions 2024-2025.....	15
Print Entry Competition Cards .....	16

## HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

How Do Our Competitions Actually Work? .....	17
Join us on Facebook .....	18
Winners Luba Ricket Creative Competition.....	19-22
April Winning Prints .....	23-28
April Winning Digital Images.....	29-36
Please Support our Sponsor .....	37
Not a Member of SPS? Join Today.....	37
About SPS & Board of Directors.....	38
2024-2025 Season Judges.....	39
2024-2025 Season Calendar.....	40

# Digital Images of the Year

## May 14, 2025

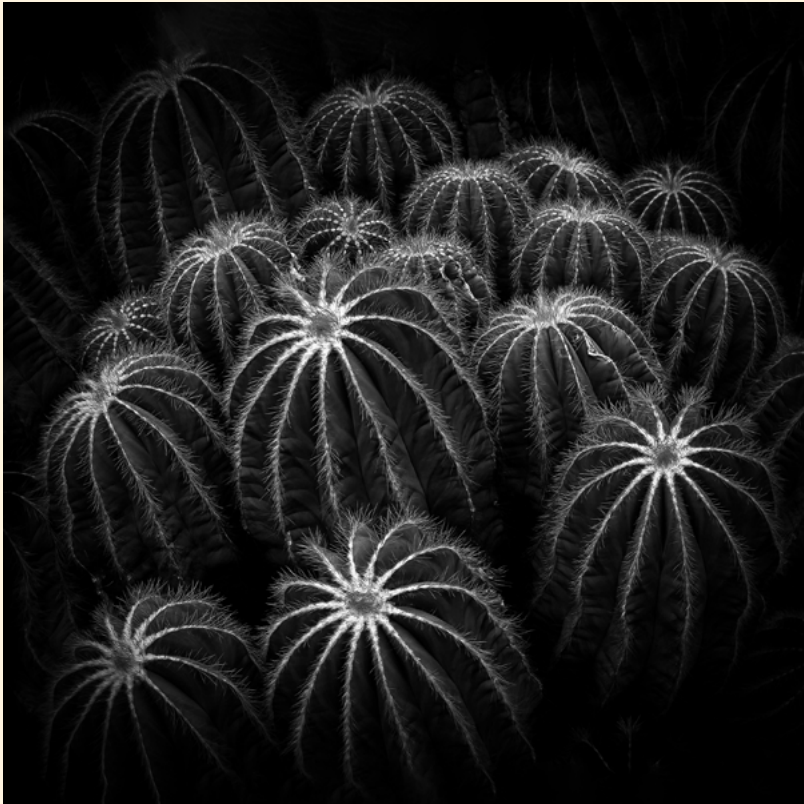
### on Zoom

If you participated in our Digital Competitions this season (October, 2024 through April 2025), you are eligible to enter the Digital Images of the Year Competition.

- Only images that have been entered in a regular monthly competition during the current year may be entered.
- There are three categories, *Assigned*, *General*, and *Monochrome*.
- Each maker may submit up to **TWO** images in each category.
- Participants will receive their images via email from which to choose.
- Presentation and entry rules are the same as for the monthly competitions.
- Awards will be given for Digital Image of the Year in Assigned, General and Monochrome.



2023-2024 Print of the Year - General  
"Nest Building Time" - © Greg Efner



2023-2024 Print of the Year - Monochrome  
"Look, But Don't Touch" - © Linda Tommasulo

## Last Season's Winners... Print



## Our Season Concludes...

(Continued from page 2)

## Last Season's Winners... Digital



2023-2024 Digital Image of the Year - Monochrome  
"Flying Home" - © Neil Shapiro

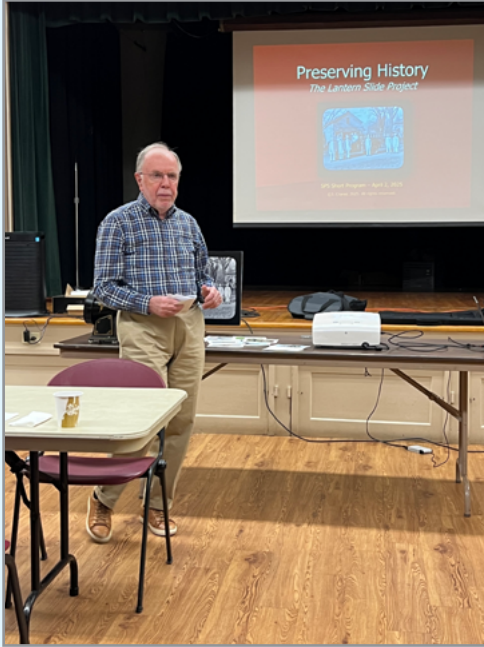


2023-2024 Digital Image of the Year - General  
"Foggy Take-Off" - © Linda Tommasulo



# APRIL PRINT NIGHT

Bert van Grondelle introduced our short program presenter, Jim Craner



Jim's presentation of "The Lantern Slide Project" created a lot of interest.



Check out the winning April Prints on pages 23-28.



Neil Shapiro introduced our judge, Evan Lauber.



Silhouette of our Print Chair, Alan Wiggins, projecting the winning General Print by our presenter, Jim Craner!



# SPS CELEBRATES LUBA RICKET

Our annual Luba Ricket Creative Competition brought out the best of SPS.  
See the winners on pages 19-22.



Joe Cotroneo introduces our judge, and  
Alan Wiggins prepares the digital submissions for  
critique.



A very animated Lawrence White critiques the  
submissions and picks the winners.

# YOU'RE INVITED!

## SPS 2024-2025 SEASON AWARDS BANQUET

### Dinner Buffet Menu:

Caesar Salad  
Dinner Rolls & Butter  
Marinated Grilled Vegetables  
Sliced Roast Beef  
in Mushroom Gravy  
Broiled Salmon  
Eggplant Parmesan  
Vegetable Lasagna  
Rosemary Red Potatoes  
Glazed Baby Carrots  
Freshly Brewed Coffee & Tea  
Unlimited Soft Drinks  
Apple Crisp

**Watch your email  
for  
details and  
registration!**

SPS 2024-2025 SEASON  
AWARDS BANQUET

Schenectady Photographic Society  
JUNE 11 5:30 PM  
WEDNESDAY  
Founded 1931

DUO AT THE DUNES  
257 WASHINGTON AVE EXT.  
ALBANY



A good time was had  
by all at last season's  
Awards Banquet.



## From Barbershop to Brownie: The Legacy of Henry Lewis Austin And Julia Baldwin Vanderwerker Austin by Kim Koza

My great-grandfather, Henry Lewis Austin, was a man of intriguing contradictions. Family lore tells of a charming, if somewhat roguish, figure—a philanderer, they say, and certainly the reason for my great-grandmother, Julia Baldwin Vanderwerker, being 29 years younger and his third wife. But beyond the romantic entanglements, a compelling story emerges: the story of a man who transformed himself from a barber-surgeon into a dedicated photographer and the woman with whom he chose to share this journey.



Henry Lewis Austin

Julia Baldwin  
Vanderwerker Austin

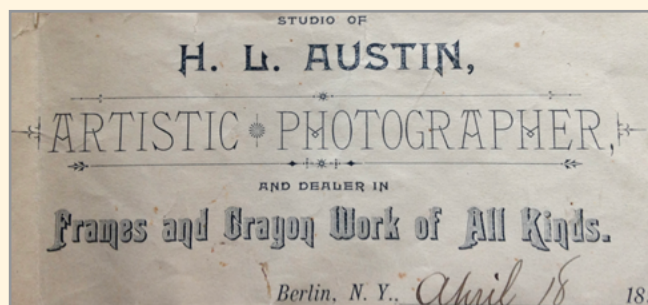


Imagine, if you will, the 1800s, where barbers wielded razors for more than just shaves. They were allowed to perform minor surgeries and even pull teeth. Henry, with his limited formal education, began his career in this very profession. But the allure of the art of photography proved too strong. He possessed a natural talent, a keen eye, and a desire to capture the world through a lens.

After his marriage to Julia in 1908, they ventured from Stillwater, NY, to Rhinebeck, NY. There, Henry's talent was recognized by the elite. He was commissioned to photograph the grand estates along the Hudson River,

the homes of the Astors and Vanderbilts. This success led him to open a studio on Fifth Avenue in New York City. However, a violent robbery, a stark reminder of the city's dangers, forced him to reconsider his path.

He returned to his roots in Rensselaer County, settling in Berlin, NY, known then as the "Gladiola Capital of the World." Here, he and Julia established a combined photography studio and general store within an old factory, its expansive windows and skylight providing the perfect stage for their portrait work.



Henry's Stationery

Julia, a skilled photographer in her own right, was his partner in every sense of the word, and they both meticulously printed and then, at times, even hand-colored some of their black and white prints before delivering them to the customer.



Hand-Colored  
Black & White  
Prints



## Focus On: Barbershop to Brownie

(Continued from page 7)

Their daughter, my grandmother, Coline Winifred Austin D'Avignon, born in 1912, became Henry's favorite subject. We are fortunate to have a rich collection of his plate glass negatives, many featuring Coline. I do find the historical relevance of their lives and mine to be remarkably similar. In some of Henry's photographs of my grandmother, I see that familiar look on her face: a child's exasperation at being asked to pose, yet again for photos. This is a look I've seen and captured countless times on my own daughter's face, in my 33-year career as a professional portrait photographer.



Coline Winifred Austin



Coline Winifred Austin

It was a profound experience for me to print Henry and Julia's negatives in my own basement dark-room, a tangible connection to the past; to the days of film, light sensitive papers and chemical baths. Recently, my mother, Claudette Koza, and I were fortunate to be able to donate the majority of Henry and Julia's glass plate negatives to the NYS Museum.



Glass negative of Henry

Glass negative of Henry & Coline



Glass negative of Julia & Coline



It is a source of immense pride to know that their work will be safely preserved for future generations, a testament to their dedication and artistry.



Henry & Julia's glass negatives



Julia and Coline with toddler



Still life by Julia



(Continued from page 8)

## Store Studio

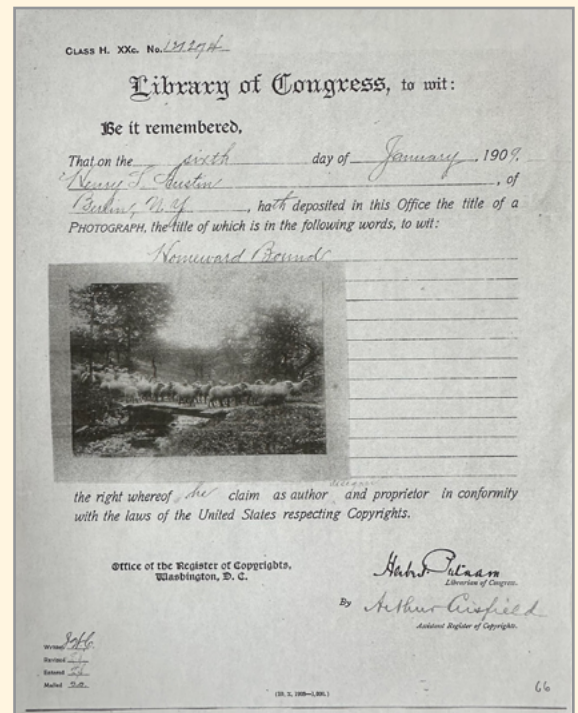


### Studio with window light

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



Portraits by Henry &amp; Julia



Copyright - Henry Lewis Austin



## Tintypes



# ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Our Traveling Exhibit Committee (Bert van Grondelle, Jerry Boehm, Rich Schreiberstein and M-J Adelman) were hard at work once again installing the exhibit at the Professor Java's Coffee Sanctuary.



Photos © Rich Schreiberstein



The exhibit at **Professor Java's Coffee Sanctuary** (145 Wolf Road in Albany) will run from **April 2 through September 29**. Take-down will be Tuesday, September 30.

***JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL GATHERING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, FROM 4-7.***

Two upcoming exhibits are:

October: Uncommon Grounds in Clifton Park, 9 Clifton County Road

December: Guilderland Public Library, Helderberg Room, 228 Western Avenue

Watch your email for details on dates and location for collection of photos.

Check out details on **how to prepare your photos for hanging** from the November *Focus*:

**[https://spsphoto.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/2024-2025/Focus\\_2411.pdf](https://spsphoto.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/2024-2025/Focus_2411.pdf)**



# TURN DIGITAL IMAGES INTO TANGIBLE TREASURES

by Joe Brady

(Reprinted with permission from Joe Brady's "Monday Morning Coffee" blog.)

I don't remember the first time I printed one of my landscape shots. I'm fairly sure that it was an image of sailboats sitting in a quiet harbor in Cape Cod. The shapes and the colors stopped me in my tracks, and I simply had to first take, and then print that shot. This one frame in particular struck a chord with me. I printed it, framed it, and hung it.



"Looking into the Black," Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, CO

And something happened.

Every time I walked past it, I paused. Not because it was the best photo I'd ever taken—but because it reminded me why I picked up a camera in the first place.

## 2. It Reignites the Joy That Got You Into Photography in the First Place

When you print your work, you create something real—and there's something deeply fulfilling about that. For many of us, photography began as a way to slow down, to explore, to see differently. But over time, as gear gets fancier and editing more complex, it's easy to lose that spark.



"Morning on Mormon Row," Grand Teton National Park, WY

## 1. Printing Grounds You in the Experience, Not Just the Image

Digital files are fleeting. We shoot, we scroll, and often, we forget. But the moment you turn a photo into something tangible—something you can touch, frame, and place on your wall—you give it permanence. That permanence reconnects you with the moment you pressed the shutter.

You're not just printing pixels. You're printing a memory. A feeling. A moment when the light hit just right and the world seemed to slow down, or perhaps it made you slow down. And whether it's a 5x7 print on your desk or a 24x36 canvas over your mantle, that image becomes a portal. One that brings you back to how it felt to be there - those feelings are what make you a better photographer.

Seeing your work printed—not just on a screen, but framed and displayed—reminds you of the joy of the process. It reconnects you with your original why. You start to notice how far you've come. And suddenly, the effort you've put in feels worth it. That sense of pride and progress? It's fuel. And it keeps you moving forward.



"Afternoon at Balanced Rock," Arches National Park, Moab, UT

*Continued...*



# TURN DIGITAL IMAGES INTO TANGIBLE TREASURES

(Continued from page 11)

## 3. It Helps You Learn What Really Matters in Your Images

There's a quiet kind of clarity that comes from seeing your photo in print. When it's on a screen, it's easy to overlook flaws or skip past subtleties. We take so many images that if they don't initially appear perfect, they get ignored or thrown into the digital trash can. Once your photo is on paper, every detail demands attention—sharpness, composition, color, emotion.

Printing forces you to slow down and see like an artist. You start asking questions: Why does this image work? What mood does it convey? What story does it tell? And those questions sharpen your eye for future shoots.

In short, printing teaches you to edit with intention and shoot with purpose. That's how you become a better photographer.



© Joe Brady Photography  
"A Smoky Morning at Schwabacher" Landing"  
Grand Teton National Park

## What This Means for Landscape Photographers

Now, if you're a landscape photographer like me—when you are out there watching the chasing light in the Grand Tetons, marveling at the sandstone pillars and arches in Arches National Park or capturing soft light on quiet coastal evenings—printing your images is more than a technical step. It's an emotional reward.

## 1. It Connects You to the Land in a Deeper Way

When you print a landscape photo, you're not just printing scenery. You're printing an experience. The journey, the hike, the stillness of the air, the anticipation as you waited for the light to shift. Seeing it on your wall is a daily reminder that you were there. That you didn't just take a photo—you created something that holds meaning.

And let's be honest: that feeling never gets old.



© Joe Brady Photography  
"Doonagore Castle," Dingle Peninsula, Ireland

## 2. It Builds Confidence in Your Craft

There's something powerful about seeing your own landscape work displayed in your home. It doesn't have to be gallery-worthy. It just has to mean something to you. That kind of validation isn't about likes or followers—it's about knowing you're improving, that your images are getting stronger, and that you're capable of creating art that belongs in a frame.



© Joe Brady Photography  
"Trail to the Matterhorn," Zermatt, Switzerland



# TURN DIGITAL IMAGES INTO TANGIBLE TREASURES

(Continued from page 12)

For photographers who've spent a lifetime mastering other fields, this confidence in a creative pursuit is deeply fulfilling. It becomes a new kind of achievement - one measured not in metrics, but in meaning.

## 3. It Leaves a Legacy - One Print at a Time

Think about the long game. A printed photo has staying power. It's not going to get buried in a hard drive or lost in the cloud. It becomes part of your home, your story, your legacy. A print is an enduring reminder of both you and the feeling you had for the place.

Imagine your extended family walking through the house, stopping at a large framed shot of The Matterhorn, Bryce Canyon or Monument Valley, and saying, "Grandpa took that." That's not just photography, that's both a connection and a deeper insight into what makes you tick

## Final Thought: Start Small, But Start Now

You don't need a gallery wall to get started. Pick one image that means something to you—maybe from your last trip, or some unexpected scene where the light surprised you. Print it. Frame it. Put it somewhere you'll see it every day.

Diane and I do this every morning when we wake up to a beautiful sunset following a passing storm over the ocean in Provincetown, MA. It's a shot that will never be recreated and presents a unique moment in time.

Let your print remind you that this photography thing is more than just a hobby. It's how you see the world. And sometimes, the best way to keep seeing clearly... is to stop and look at what you've already created.

**You already have the eye.  
Now it's time to celebrate the results.**

Editor's Note: You don't have to be a landscape photographer to print, appreciate and enjoy your images. And an added bonus: You can participate in our print competitions and traveling exhibits!

"Clearing Fog or Approaching Storm?"  
Grand Teton National Park, WY



Joe has spent most of the last twenty years full-time in the photography business and exclusively as a photographer for the past five. He is a writer, workshop leader, video producer and passionate about his photography, both portrait and landscape.

Click on the logo to access his website, sign up for the Foto Friday blog, or learn more about upcoming workshops:





## 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.

**NOTE THIS EXCEPTION: FEBRUARY DIGITAL IMAGES DUE MIDNIGHT 2/5**

### 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: **Empty Chairs & Benches\***

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

\*Corrected

## 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*.

The Zoom logo, consisting of the word "zoom" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font.

### **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/competition-rules/](https://spsphoto.org/programs/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.*

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## 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.

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## 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!



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*.

LUBA RICKET CREATIVE COMPETITION WINNERS - NON-DIGITAL

C  
R  
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V  
E



**First Place: \$100 Winner**  
"Vortex"  
© Elena Keesee



**Second Place: \$75 Winner**  
"Strangling Cancer"  
© Neil Shapiro



# LUBA RICKET CREATIVE COMPETITION WINNERS - NON-DIGITAL

CREATIVE



Third Place: \$50 Winner  
 "Dogs Make a House a Home"  
 © Linda Tommasulo

## OUR JUDGE

Lawrence White  
 Fine Art Photography

After 4 years of military service during the Viet Nam War Era, Lawrence White received an MFA in film from the San Francisco Art Institute (75).

Since that time Mr. White's photography has been seen worldwide in publications that include Time Magazine, Rolling Stone, Vogue, Vanity Fair, Le Monde, Der Spiegel, George, NY Times, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle to name only a few.

For a period of time in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Mr. White served as a staff photographer, at Rolling Stone Magazine. After that experience, Mr. White continued to work in New York City capturing images for several agencies worldwide and serving as a fine art photographic printer for an exclusive list of clients.

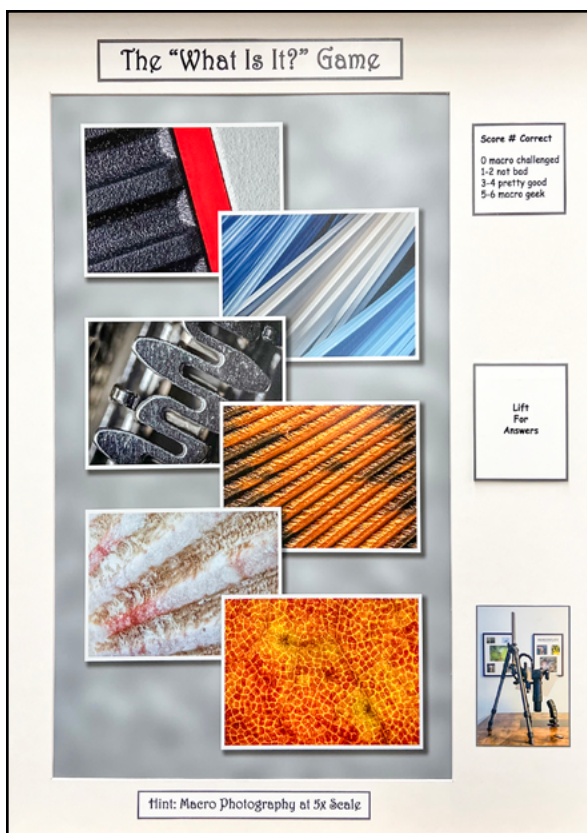
In 2001 Mr. White won an N.Y. Press Association Award for photographs captured in his downtown NYC neighborhood during, and after the terrorist attacks of 9-11-01.

Mr. White is also an accomplished filmmaker who has won awards from the American Film Institute, Chicago Museum of Art, and the Seattle Film Festival among others. Mr. White writes and performs the soundtrack music for many of his films.

Mr. White also teaches photography courses and workshops. These have included Adirondack College, Saratoga Arts, Art Center of the Capital Region and The School of the Arts / Museum of Dance.

Mr. White was the Chief Photographer for Saratoga Living Magazine for nearly 15 years. Current photographer/writer for 518Profiles Magazine.

lwhite18@nycap.rr.com  
 347-891-0408



Fifth Place: \$15 Winner  
 The "What Is It?" Game  
 © Joe Cotroneo

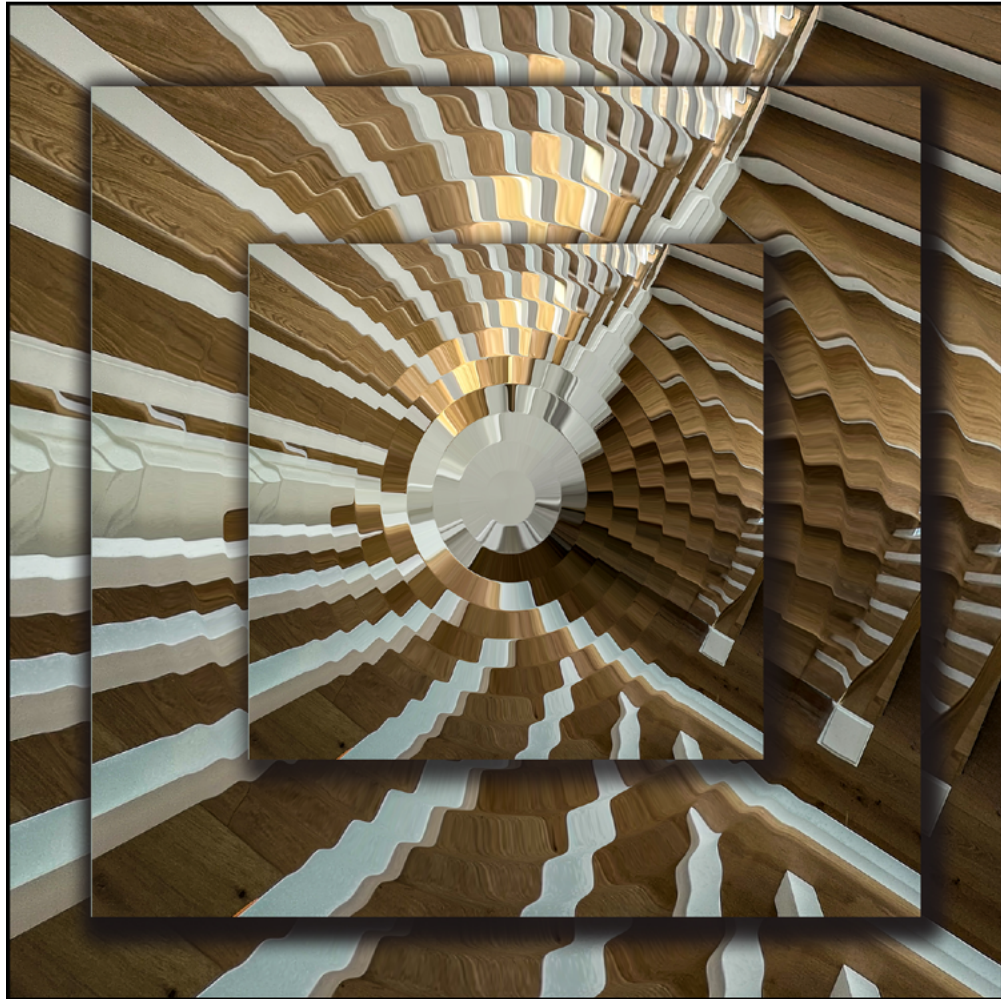


Fourth Place: \$25 Winner  
 "Wild Blue Lupine on Canvas"  
 © Dan Steen



# LUBA RICKET CREATIVE COMPETITION WINNERS - DIGITAL

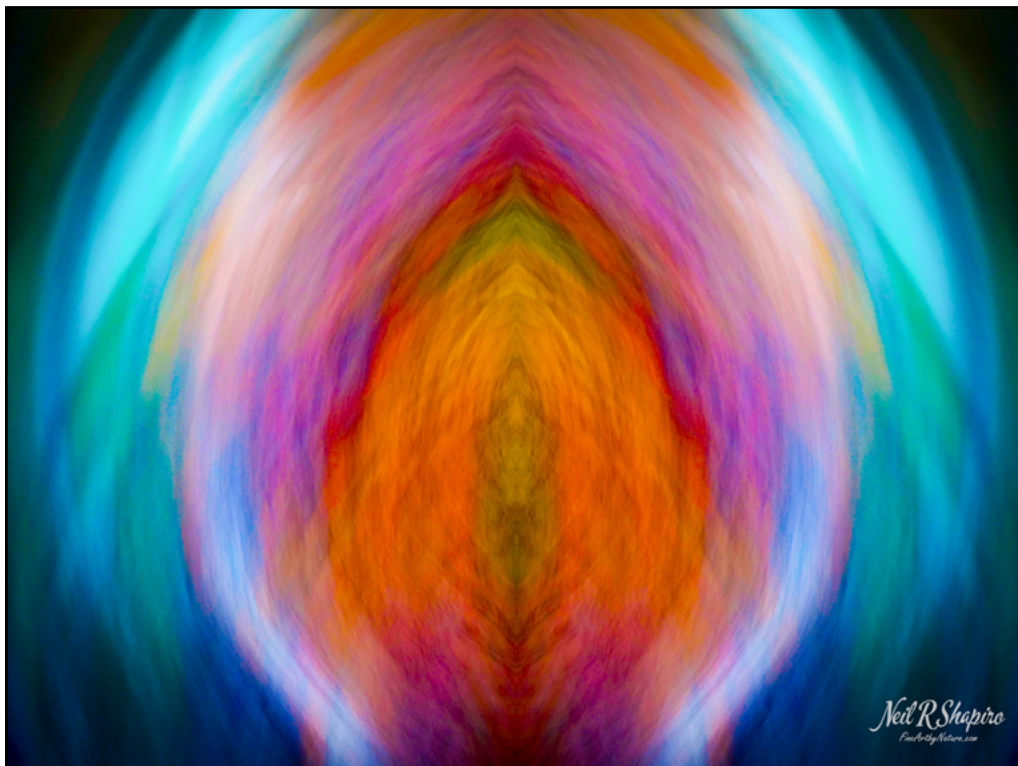
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**First Place: \$100 Winner**

**"Descending"**

© Linda Tommasulo



**Second Place: \$75 Winner**

**"Origin"**

© Neil Shapiro



# LUBA RICKET CREATIVE COMPETITION WINNERS - NON-DIGITAL

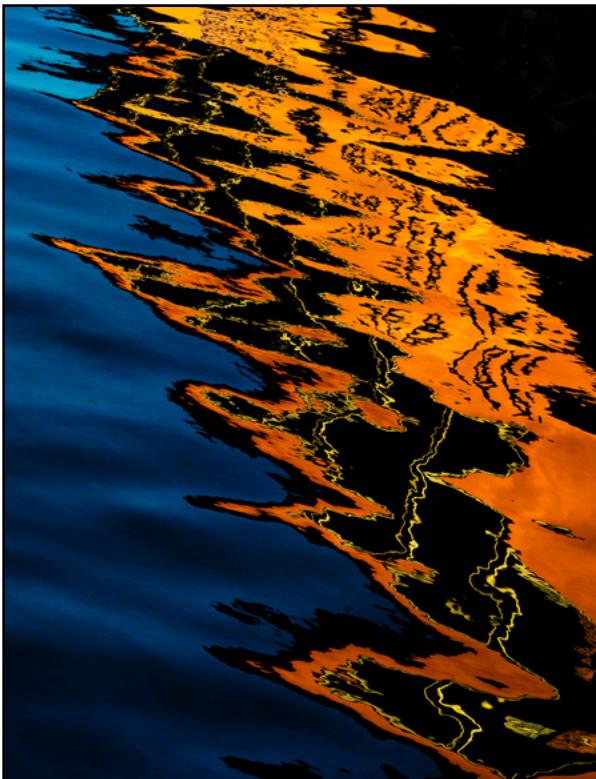
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*Third Place: \$50 Winner*  
"Simply S"  
© Elena Keesee



*Fourth Place: \$25 Winner*  
"A Man and Two Jaguars in a Tree Stump"  
© Joe Cotroneo

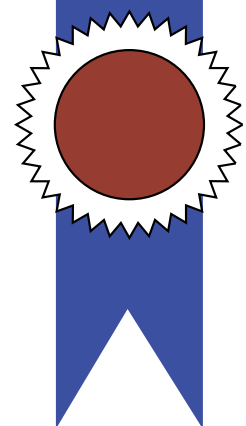


*Fifth Place: \$15 Winner*  
"Abstract Sun on Water"  
© M-J Adelman

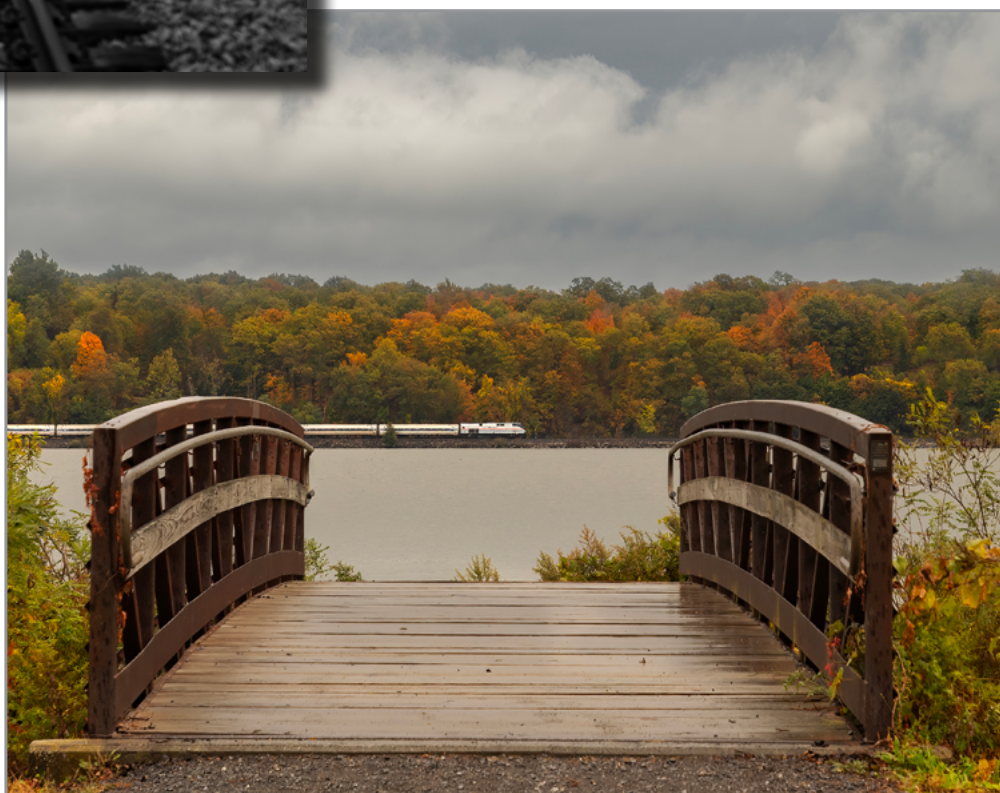


**APRIL WINNING PRINTS**  
**Topic: Anything Railroad**

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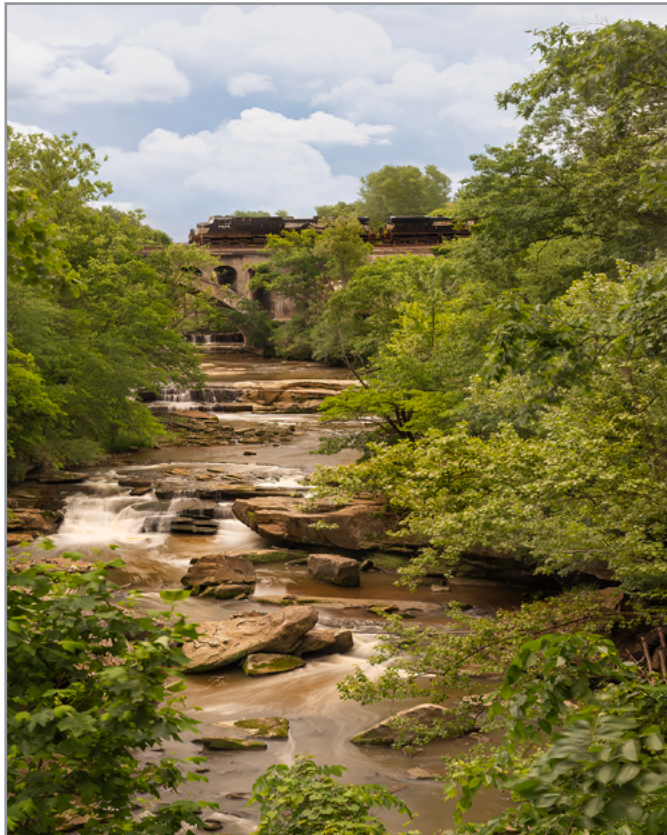
***First Place:***  
**"Railroad Tracks"**  
© Joe Cotroneo



***Second Place:***  
**"Fall Amtrak"**  
© Kristina Young

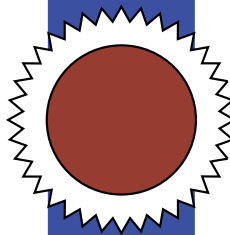


## APRIL WINNING PRINTS



Third Place:  
"Ohio Freight Train"  
© Kristina Young

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Honorable Mention:  
"Penn Amtrak"  
© Thomas Whittemore



Honorable Mention:  
"Railroad Crossing"  
© Linda Tommasulo

Check out all the print winners  
-this month-and past-on our website:

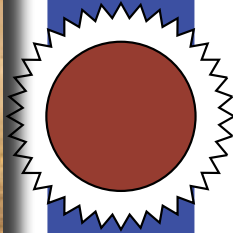
<https://spsphoto.org/category/competitions/print-competition-results/>



## APRIL WINNING PRINTS



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**First Place:**  
"A Kiss for Mom"  
© Jim Craner



© Linda A. Tommasulo  
PHOTOGRAPHY

**Second Place:**  
"Sunset Fisherman"  
© Linda Tommasulo



# APRIL WINNING PRINTS



Third Place:  
"Newly Fallen"  
© Jim Craner



Honorable Mention:  
"Taos Pueblo North House"  
© Dan Steen

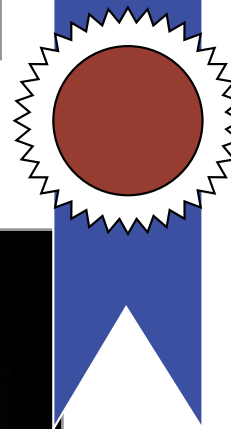


Honorable Mention:  
"Points of View"  
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:  
"Saede"  
© Neil Shapiro

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## APRIL WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



**First Place:**

"Spiral"

© Connie Frisbee Houde

**Print Judge: Evan Lauber**

**Evan Lauber** has been a professional photographer for over 30 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.

Browse his website at <http://photosbyevan.com/index.php>



MONOCHROME

## APRIL WINNING PRINTS

*Third Place:*

*"Door Lock"*

© Connie Frisbee Houde



*Second Place:*

*"Baroque in Glass"*

© Neil Shapiro



*Honorable Mention:*

*"Abandoned"*

© Kristina Young



*Honorable Mention:*

*"Free Ride"*

© Alan Wiggins

*Honorable Mention:*

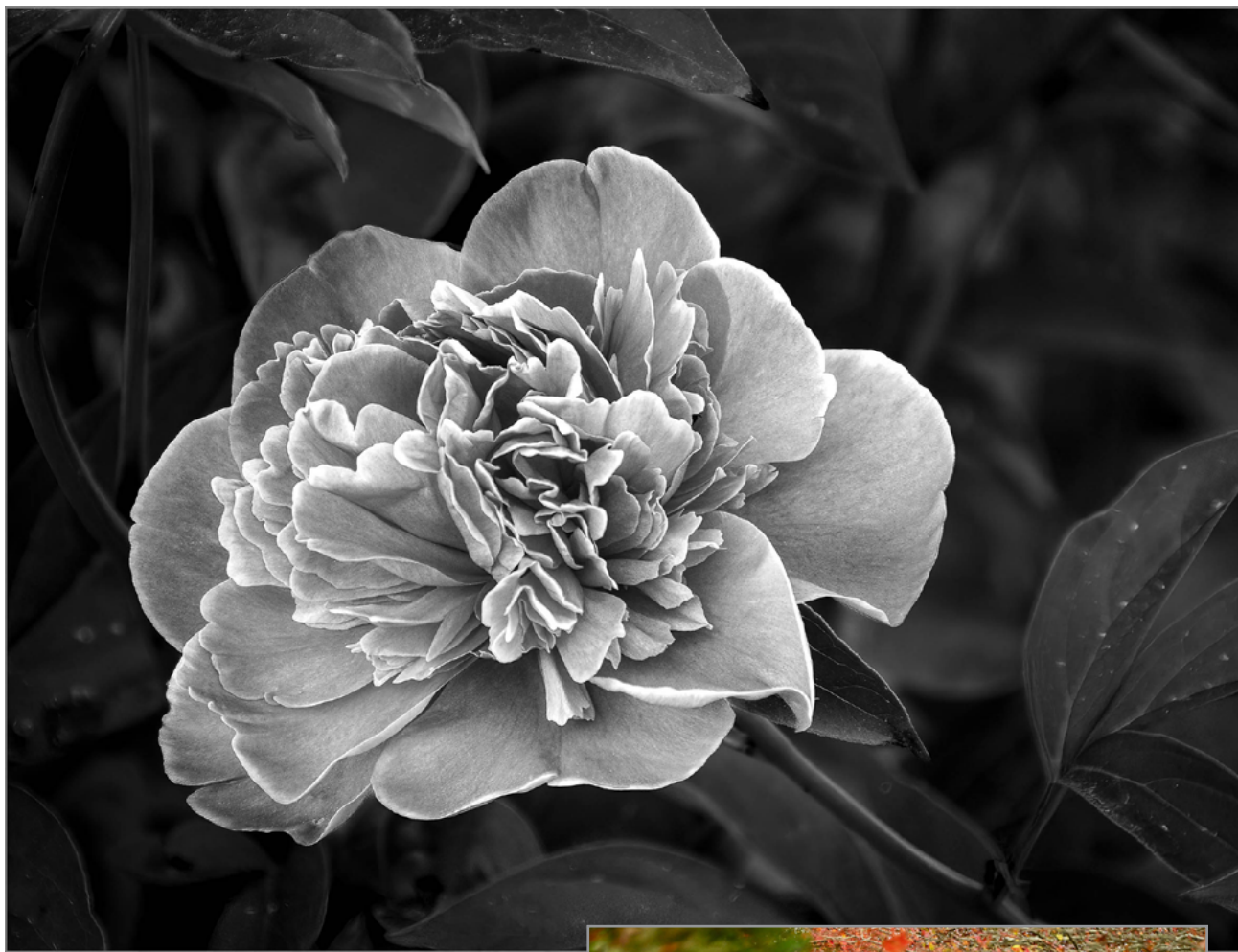
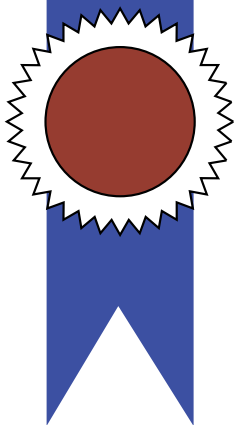
*"Swiss Monastery"*

© Neil Shapiro



## APRIL WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

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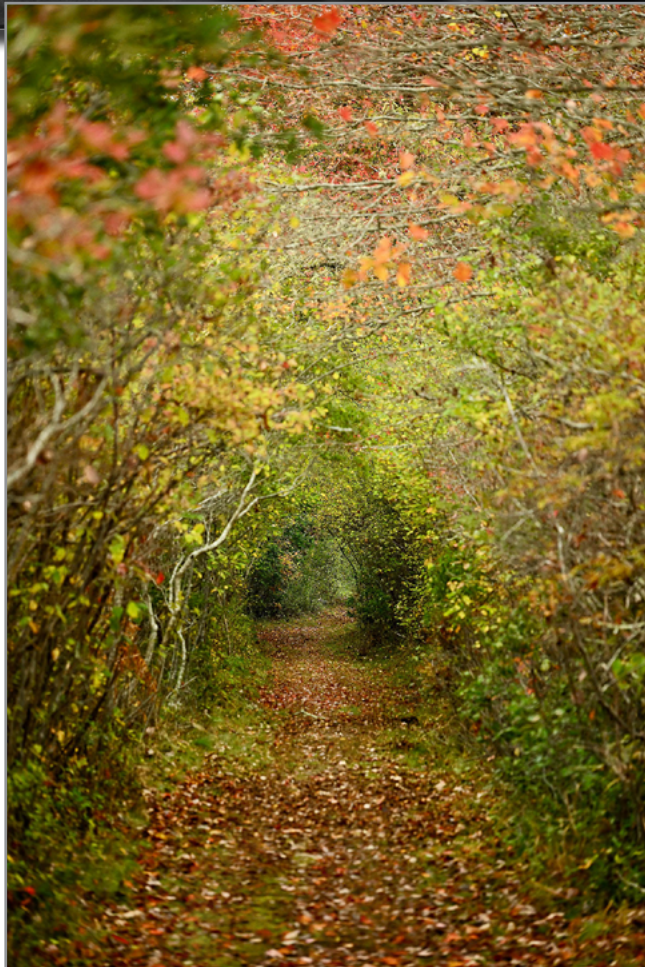


**First Place:**

**"Peony"**

© Linda Tommasulo

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



**Second Place:**

**"Portal to Autumn"**

© Elena Keesee



## APRIL WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

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*Third Place:*  
"Pink"  
© Joe Cotroneo



*Fourth Place:*  
"Portrait of a Parrot"  
© Elena Keesee

Check out all the digital winners  
-this month-and past-  
on our website:

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

# APRIL WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

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*Honorable Mention:*  
"Piggy"  
© Joan Heffler



*Honorable Mention:*  
"Pooch"  
© Rich Schreibstein



*Honorable Mention:*  
"Pair"  
© Ron Speier



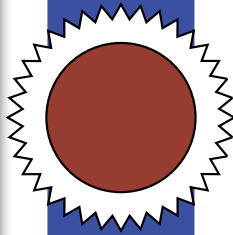
*Honorable Mention:*  
"Painting"  
© Sharon Silversmith



## APRIL WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES



GENERAL



### **First Place:**

"There is a Storm Brewing"  
© Phil Olivo

### **Digital Judge: Thomas Robinson**

Thomas Robinson is a follower of Jesus Christ, a husband, a web developer and passionate about photography. As a photographer since 2003, he has taken approximately half a million photos. He loves God's glorious creation, and hopes to share that love and joy with others through his photography. In 2009 he graduated from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington. Thomas works for Crowerks – a graphic design company in Bend, Oregon and travels and makes photos in his free time.

Thomas began Zoomdak Photography in 2009 as a way to share his nature photography with the world. Zoomdak specializes in Pacific Northwest nature and landscape photos, yet Thomas is available for hire for any kind of photoshoot.

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



**Second Place:**  
"Fly Tyer"  
© Bill Lanahan

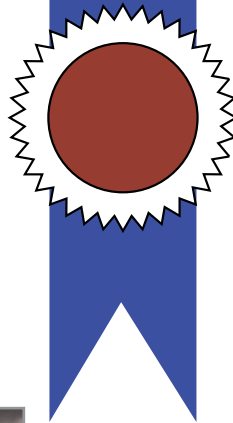


## APRIL WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES



*Third Place:*  
"Frozen Sweet Pea"  
© Kim Koza

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*Fourth Place:*  
"Canadian Beauty"  
© Neil Shapiro



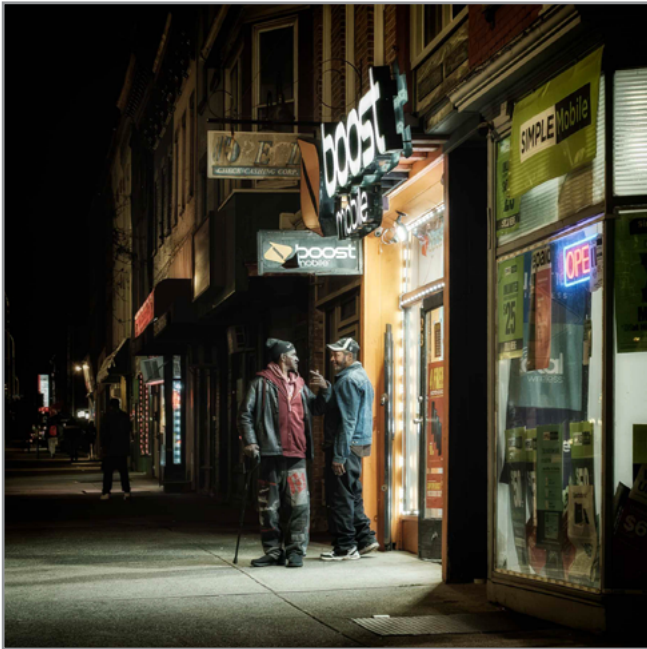
## APRIL WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES



*Honorable Mention:*  
"Some Icelandic Pie"  
© Neil Shapiro



*Honorable Mention:*  
"Mostly Cloudy"  
© Rich Schreiberstein

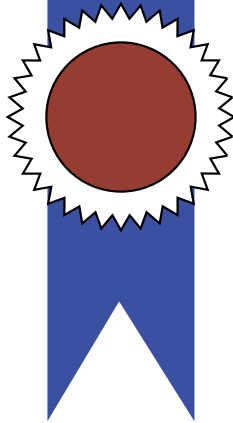


*Honorable Mention:*  
"Night Chat"  
© Rich Schreiberstein



*Honorable Mention:*  
"Passionate Protester"  
© Sean Sullivan

GENERAL



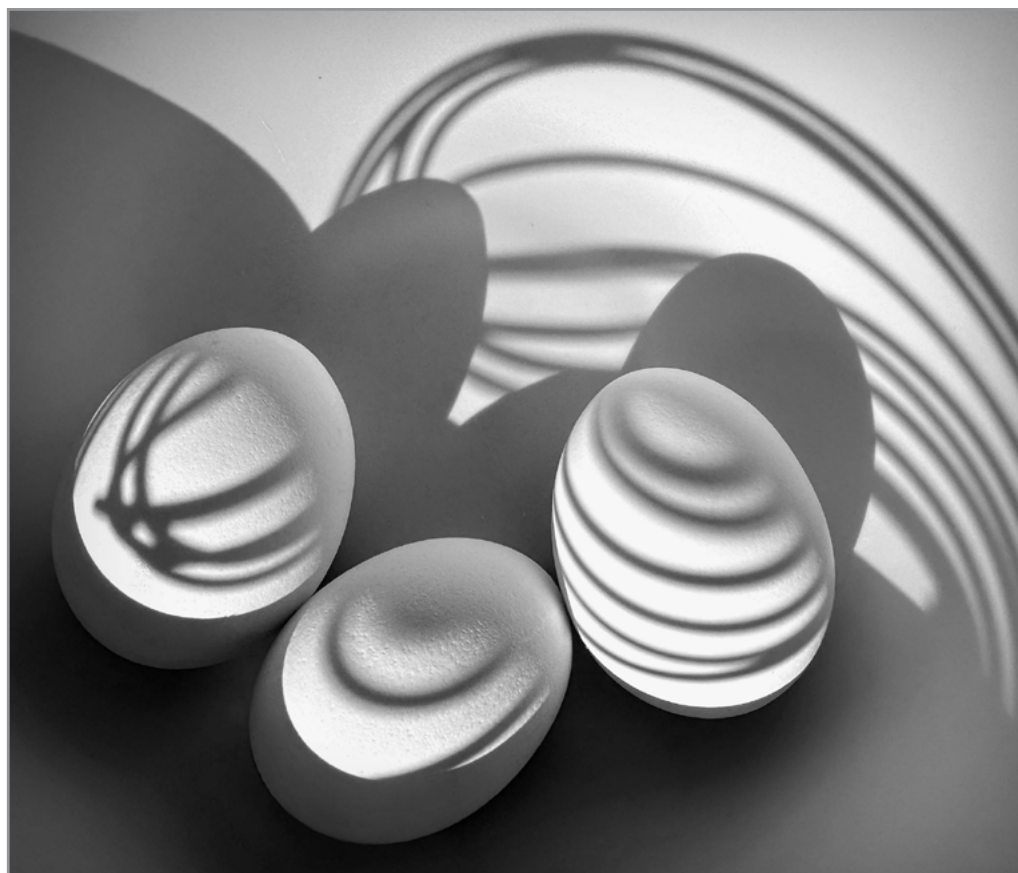


## APRIL WINNING DIGITAL IMAGES

MONOCHROME



**First Place:**  
"Abandon Ship"  
© Sean Sullivan



**Second Place:**  
"Eggs Whisk"  
© Kim Koza





*Third Place:*  
"Welcome to the Highlands"  
© Neil Shapiro

*Honorable Mention:*  
"Twilight on the Coast"  
© Bill Lanahan

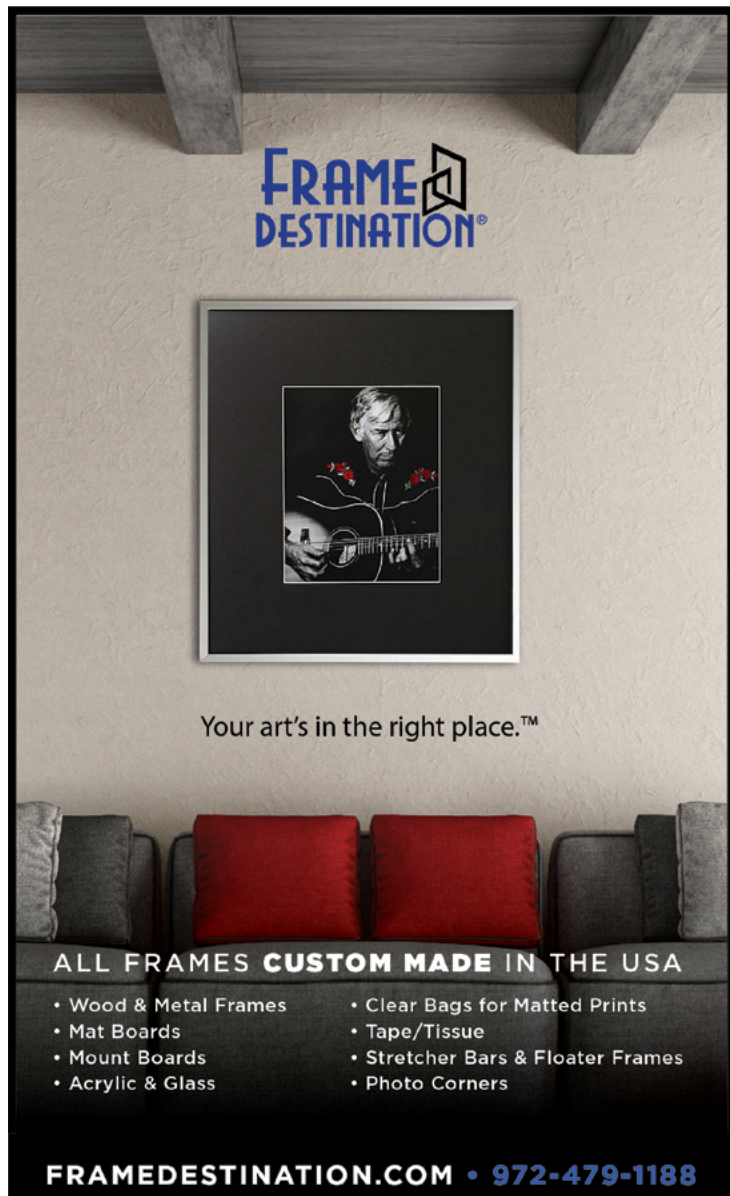


*Honorable Mention:*  
"Proud Mama"  
© Janice Prichett



*Honorable Mention:*  
"Tenacity"  
© Phil Olivo

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSOR



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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](mailto: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? JOIN (OR RENEW) YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

**MEMBERS JOINING NOW WILL BE PAID THROUGH THE 2025-2026 SEASON**

### **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 a great season we had.**

**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](mailto:president@spsphoto.org)

Vice President ..... Linda Tommasulo

[vp@spsphoto.org](mailto:vp@spsphoto.org)

Treasurer ..... Pat McCormick

[treasurer@spsphoto.org](mailto:treasurer@spsphoto.org)

Recording Secretary ..... Paula Keefe

[secretary@spsphoto.org](mailto:secretary@spsphoto.org)

Newsletter Editor ..... Linda Tommasulo

[newsletter@spsphoto.org](mailto:newsletter@spsphoto.org)

Webmaster & Annual Report Editor... Sean Sullivan

[webmaster@spsphoto.org](mailto:webmaster@spsphoto.org)

Membership Chair ..... OPEN

[membership@spsphoto.org](mailto:membership@spsphoto.org)

Print Group ..... Alan Wiggins

[printchair@spsphoto.org](mailto:printchair@spsphoto.org)

Digital Group..... Sean Sullivan & Alan Wiggins

[digitalchair@spsphoto.org](mailto:digitalchair@spsphoto.org)

Photo Essay ..... Joe Cotroneo & Linda Tommasulo

Judge Coordinator ..... Neil Shapiro

[judging@spsphoto.org](mailto:judging@spsphoto.org)

Communications..... Linda Tommasulo  
& Sean Sullivan

[communications@spsphoto.org](mailto:communications@spsphoto.org)

Field Trips..... [https://www.meetup.com/  
photography-connection/](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](mailto: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/schenectadyp photographic society>

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

Contact Linda at [newsletter@spsphoto.org](mailto: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: LEV TSIMRING**

<http://www.levtsimring.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: THOMAS ROBINSON**

<https://www.zoomdak.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: Jim Craner - Saving History: The Lantern Slide Project  
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  
Review of SPS Questionnaire  
5/14/25..... DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom

**June 11, 2025 - AWARDS BANQUET - 5:30 PM**