

FOCUS

IT'S OUR
94TH
SEASON!

Volume 92 - No. 1

<https://spsphoto.org/>

October 2025

EVENT
NIGHT

EXPLORING CREATIVE STILL LIFE with Alan Shapiro October 8, 2025 - on Zoom

Join acclaimed New York-based photographer Alan Shapiro for an intimate and inspiring discussion on his unique approach to still life photography. Known for his painterly sensibilities, masterful use of color, and ability to transform ordinary objects into extraordinary works of art, Alan will share the philosophies and practices that shape his creative process.

This conversation will dive into how he chooses his subjects, builds emotion into composition, and draws on influences ranging from classical painting to contemporary design. Alan will speak candidly about experimentation, embracing imperfection, and discovering beauty in the overlooked and everyday.



© Alan Shapiro

Whether you're a seasoned photographer seeking fresh inspiration or just beginning your creative journey, Alan's insights will encourage you to see differently, slow down, and create still life images that resonate with mood, meaning, and personal expression.

Prepare to be challenged, inspired, and reminded of the joy in making photographs that go far beyond documentation—Alan's images tell stories, evoke feelings, and invite deeper reflection.

Continued...

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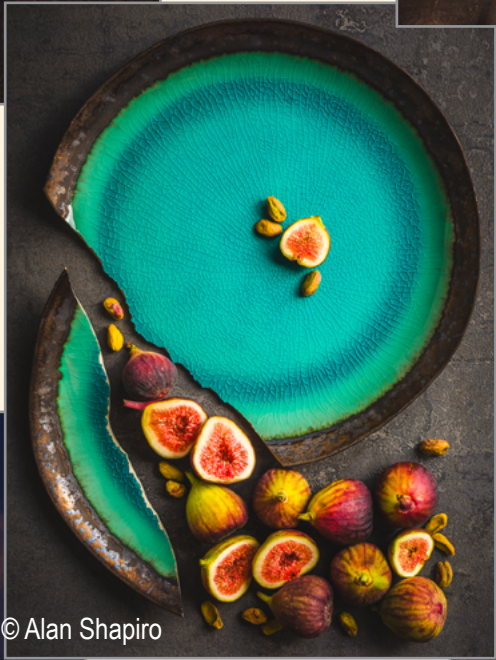
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Exploring Creative Still Life
with Alan Shapiro
(Continued from page 2)



© Janice Prichett



Exploring Creative Still Life with Alan Shapiro

(Continued from page 3)



© Alan Shapiro



© Alan Shapiro



About Alan Shapiro

Alan grew up on the creative side of the advertising world, working with clients around the world; telling their unique stories in very unique ways. He had the pleasure of collaborating with many, talented photographers and film directors and became envious of their art and craft. At first, he saw it as a means of reducing his stress-filled life. As a Chief Creative Officer at the world's largest Advertising Agency Network, he needed a distraction. A friend gave him a camera. Then he bought another and another. His new hobby and daily "creative exercise regimen" turned into a joy-filled and all-consuming passion. Then, his first photo client called....then many more.

His work can be seen throughout the entire hospital set on ABC's The Good Doctor and HBO's Sex and the City, in launch campaigns for the Apple iPhone as well as for Cadillac, OnStar, U.S. Navy, Lockheed Martin,

Scholastic and numerous others. His work fills entire walls in Bose stores and Ritz Carlton Hotels worldwide and hangs in numerous private and corporate art collections. His macro, food and still life work can be seen in countless editorial publications and products from housewares to clothing to puzzles.

As much as Alan loves creating images, he genuinely loves to teach; sharing his workflow from capture through post-processing and printing. He is a super high-energy instructor with a knack for getting people out of their comfort zone as well as helping them discover and capture beautifully simple things in beautifully unexpected ways.

Alan does much more than still life!

Check out his website:

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

TAKING YOUR IMAGES FROM GOOD TO GREAT

with Joe Brady

October 29, 2025 - On Zoom

What makes a great photograph? Of course, that adjective is sometimes subjective based on the viewers experiences and passions, but having an image with simplicity, a clear subject, balanced composition and story telling draws the viewer into the photograph. When the viewer is drawn in and lingers, the full impact of the scene unfolds and you understand what the photographer means to share.

It's the photographer's mission to capture and present beauty and story to share their feelings of

the place and subject. When the viewer becomes immersed in the scene, that's a great photograph.

This talk also includes post-processing demonstrations to fully illustrate the effects of reshaping color, tone and light in your digital captures.

Join Photographer Joe Brady as he shares his approach to creating images that draw you in and how to answer the challenges of light, composition and the limitations of our cameras.



above & below - Same file - What difference some light makes, before and after. **Monument Valley, AZ**



Editor's Note: Photos used in this article are representative of images Joe will use in his presentation. They may or may not be the actual images.

Taking Your Images From Good to Great

(Continued from page 4)



Taking Your Images From Good to Great

(Continued from page 5)

Notice how much the balance of the castle scene here flows better here with improvements to not only color and light, but with perspective changes. The reflection was important, but by compressing the river, the balance was more pleasing and we were able to keep the entire reflection



above & below - A lovely morning at Trim Castle - used frequently in the movie "Braveheart", Trim, IE



About Joe Brady

I've spent most of the last twenty years full-time in the photography business and exclusively as a photographer for the past five. I'm a writer, workshop leader, video producer and passionate about my photography, both portrait and landscape.

Please sign up the Foto-Friday newsletter on my website and keep an eye out for new Blog posts.

Website:

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

Hone your post-processing skills with Joe and The Photography Kitchen!

THE PHOTOGRAPHY KITCHEN

"COOK UP YOUR BEST PHOTOS YET"

**Join Joe Live,
Two New Episodes
Every Month!**

A brand-new live, online seminar series from Joe Brady, designed to help you turn your raw photos into beautiful images. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned photographer, this interactive, twice-monthly series will serve up the perfect blend of tips, tricks, and creative "recipes" to refine your editing skills.



<https://www.joebradyphotography.com/category/all-products>

CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF FALL With the I♥NY Fall Foliage Report

Not sure what kind of fall we'll have this year, but you won't want to miss it.

Check the NYS Fall color on their website:

<https://www.iloveny.com/things-to-do/fall/foliage-report/>



PLACES
TO GO

THINGS
TO DO



PLACES
TO STAY

EVENTS

BLOG

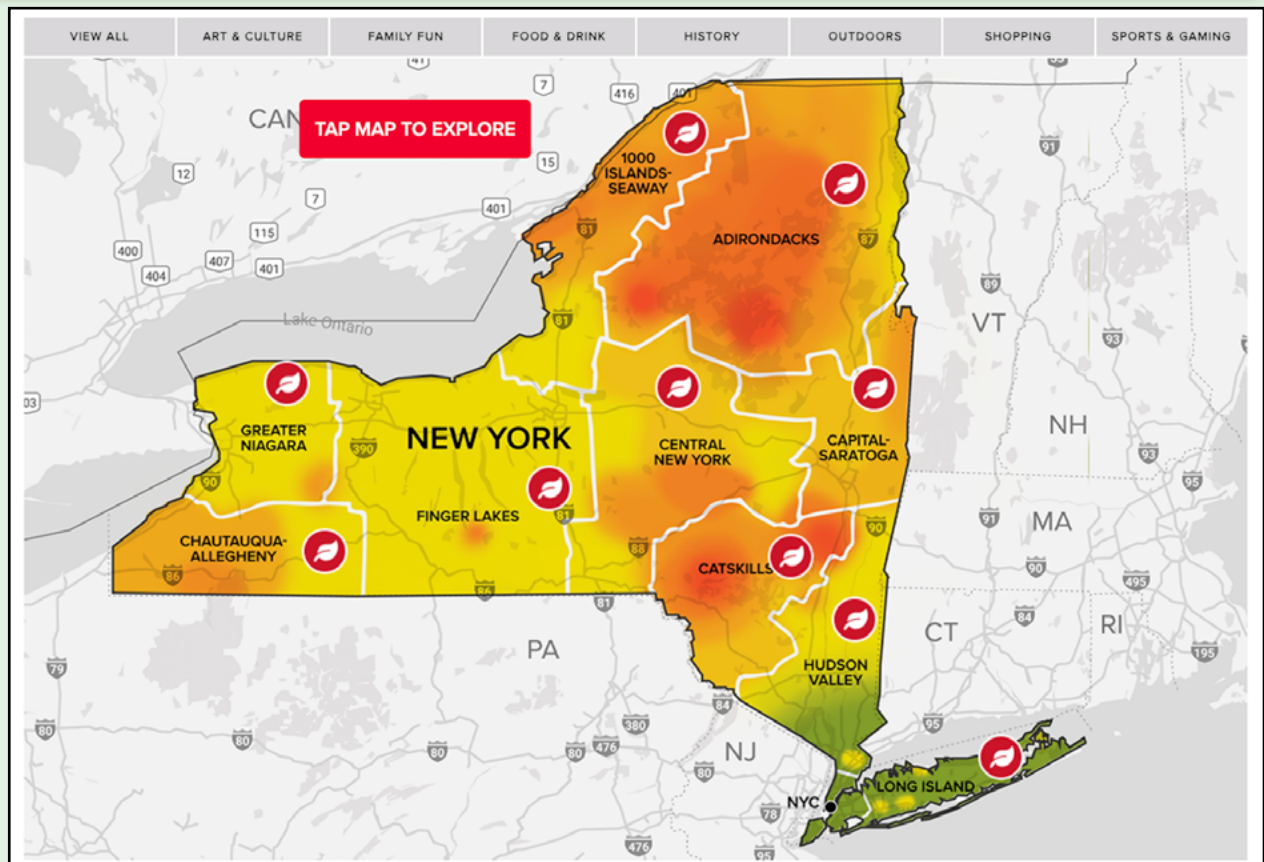
PLAN
YOUR TRIP



Coney Mountain, Adirondacks

Editor's Note:

If you Google the name of a town and "Fall Foliage," you may be able to hone in directly on your area of interest.



*Worth a Reprint
From Last Season!*

TEN TIPS TO PREPARE FOR FALL COLOR

by Rich Seiling

(Reprinted with permission)



Fall has always been my favorite time of year, and the season I have made some of my favorite photographs. To get the most out of your autumn photography, I've put together a list of helpful tips.

1. Practice

Great photos are fleeting, so you need to be fluent with your camera. Like anything in life, fluency requires practice. Find some time to go out and practice in the coming weeks, so you can build that all-important muscle memory with your camera's controls. Practice photos don't have to be artistically beautiful, but they should be technically excellent.

2. Equipment Check

Is your equipment in good working order? Is your tripod and head wobbly or solid? Do you have

enough batteries? Do you have a way to carry it all? Now is the time to make sure your kit is tight, so you can run out the door when opportunities arise.

3. Trip Planning

Planning time to photograph will help make it happen. It could be to a park across town or to another state. Plan what days you want to photograph based on website predictions for peak color, and where you want to visit.

4. Scouting

They don't hand out maps to the perfect photo, so you will have to find it yourself. That means scouting. Start visiting nearby locations before peak color to get an idea of what might work. For travel

Ten Tips to Prepare for Fall Color

(Continued from page 8)

photographs, the middle of day light may not be the best for photographing, but you can use it to scout where you want to be at golden hour.

5. Technique

Polishing up your technique will make you ready for challenging circumstances.

6. O' Dark Thirty

Sunrise photography gives you a second chance at golden hour, typically has less wind than sunset, and offers a chance for frost. Scout out a location beforehand, so you don't have to find the photo in the dark.

7. Sunrise/Sunset Times

Autumn brings shorter days. You'll want to check sunrise and sunset times to plan your activities to get the most from each day.

8. Meal Times

If you are traveling for fall color, you'll want to get the most from your trip. That includes adjusting

meal times. What works for me is breakfast after the morning shoot, a large slightly late lunch, then dinner after sunset. And pack lots of snacks and caffeine drinks of your choice. In far-flung places, restaurants often close early, so be sure to check and have a plan.

9. Stop and Smell the Roses

Some of my most favorite moments in life have been spent just sitting in an Aspen grove in full fall color. Take some time to stop and soak it all in, maybe with a picnic lunch.

10. No New Gear

There is a temptation to rent or buy new gear for a trip. The problem is you won't be fluent with this new gear, and that will lead to missed opportunities. It is better to have less equipment that you know really well than a lot of gear you are not familiar with.

About Rich Seiling

Rich Seiling's passion for capturing light and beauty with photography has led him on a series of adventures that have shaped his vision and view of the craft.

From a stint at The Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite as an assistant curator, to his pioneering work in digital printmaking, to founding a leading fine art printmaking studio, and 22 years living in, and photographing, the Yosemite region of the Sierra Nevada, Rich has deeply explored the vision and craft of photography.

Working in both B&W and color, Rich strives to capture the profound beauty of creation and communicate it through vibrant, and sometimes large, prints. He considers himself to be a student of light, discovering its qualities and how it communicates the inherent realities of a subject, often seeking out fleeting moments of rare light that make the landscape sing its own voice.

Rich lives just outside Nashville with his wife and creative partner Susan, and his three children.



Check out Rich's images and workshops at:

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

Register for more of Rich's articles at:

richseiling.substack.com

You are responsible for everything in your photo. As photographers, we were told that repeatedly. If you shoot landscapes, seascapes, still life, portraits, architecture, etc., what you capture is easy to control.

However, street photographers have little control over what is in our photos. If you are a “fisher” type street shooter, you can set the stage and patiently wait for your photo to come together, but that is not guaranteed. If you are a “hunter” street shooter who seeks out decisive moments, you can decide where and when to take your shot. Beyond that, you will have no time to fiddle with lenses or settings because if you do, you will miss the moment. Where you do have control is in your post-processing. The most critical decision I make, and the one I spend the most time on, is how I crop my photo. My simple rule is to keep the elements

that contribute to the photo and eliminate the rest. Cropping is brutal because our images are like our babies, and we fall in love with them. I go through multiple crops before deciding which one best reveals the story I want to tell.

Early in my digital street photography journey, I couldn't wait to get on my computer, do a quick edit, and post the photos I took on that day's photo walk. I quickly learned that is not how it works. A good street photo is rare. Now, if I get one good one on a walk, I consider that a successful day. And a good photo can take a while to reveal itself. Not only do you need to capture a moment beyond the mundane, but you must know how to present it to emphasize the strongest elements. A good crop is the first step.

Here are some before-crop and after-crop photos.



Focus On Cropping Your Street Photos

(Continued from page 10)



OUR SPECIAL SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP

We were pleased that our own Jim Craner offered to present a workshop on "Preparing Prints for Competition and Hanging/Exhibit." If you missed it, M-J Adelman is working on preparing the video, which will be posted on our website.



SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

****SPECIAL FREE WORKSHOP****

**Saturday, September 6, 2025
12-3 pm**

**Schenectady County Public Library
99 Clinton St. #2, Schenectady**

Preparing Prints for Competition and Hanging/Exhibit Presented by Jim Craner



I'm looking forward to seeing some SPS members and their guests on Saturday, September 6 from 12-3 at the Schenectady County Public Library for a workshop on preparing prints for monthly competitions and framing for exhibits.

I will demonstrate the best techniques for attaching prints to mounts, and affixing mats to your prints. Plus I will show an option for creating a reusable mat/backing combination allowing you to submit different prints for competition without creating/buying a separate mat every month. Important differences between archival and non-archival materials and techniques will be briefly discussed. (Mat cutting will not be demonstrated; however workshop[s] can be arranged separately if this is of interest.)

Tips for inserting prints into frames and preparing the framed piece for hanging will be demonstrated as well. Properly prepared/framed prints will assure there will be no issues hanging at the SPS exhibits.

Finally, I'll provide a comprehensive printed list of local and web-based resources for matting and framing supplies.

Note: Due to space limitations, participation is limited to the first 25 attendees.

www.spsphoto.org



© Rich Schreiberstein
Members of the SPS Traveling Exhibit team preparing photos for hanging



© Linda Tommasulo
Frank Rapant judging at SPS Print Competition - March 2025

**Contact Jim for printing, matting and framing services
(by appointment) at: 518-526-2253
Office location:
1915 5th Ave, Troy, NY
at the corner of 5th and Fulton St.
Email: renarc@aol.com**

September Workshop by Jim Craner

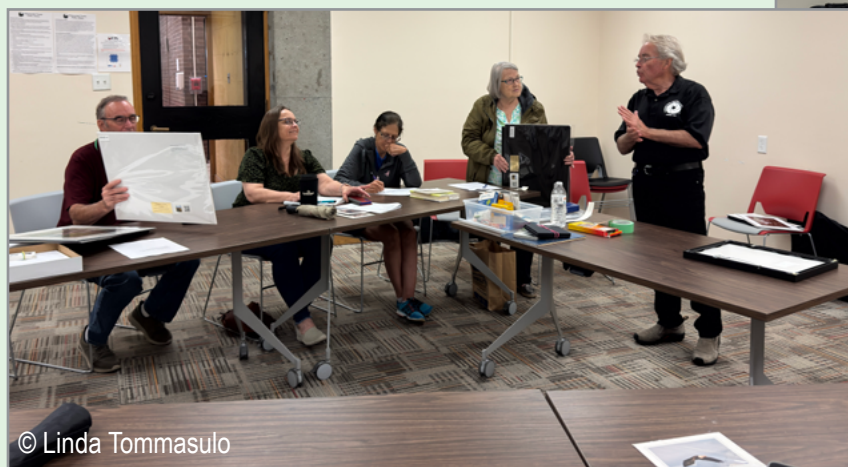
(Continued from page 12)



© Dan Steen



© Dan Steen



Thanks, Jim, for a thorough and informative workshop!



SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

****OUR SEASON BEGINS****

**Wednesday, September 24, 2025
7 pm**

**At First United Methodist Church
603 State St., Schenectady**

**THE 94TH
SEASON
OF SPS
BEGINS!!**

Topic:

Bring One Favorite Photo-Print or Digital-to Share



© 2025 Linda Tommasulo

SPS members celebrating the 2024-2025 season at our Annual Awards Banquet (June '25)
Duo at the Dunes, Albany, NY

We are happy to announce Opening Day of the 2025-2026 94th season of the Schenectady Photographic Society at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 24, at First United Methodist Church in Schenectady.

To begin our season we are requesting members to bring in one favorite photo, print or digital, to share with the group. The subject can be ANYTHING. It does not have to be a competition-worthy image, or a winning image...just one that speaks to you and

you wish to share. Be prepared to spend between 5-10 minutes discussing your photo. Digital images can be on a thumb-drive, SD card or external hard drive. Prints can be matted, framed, canvas, etc.

As always with our in-person meetings, visitors are welcomed.

Join us! We look forward to seeing you to celebrate our love of photography and 94 years of SPS!

www.spsphoto.org

Opening Day Announcement



Our meeting at FUMC was well attended.



Favorite prints on display

The first meeting of our 94th season was a success, with many members bringing their photo and stories to share. Thanks to all who participated and attended.

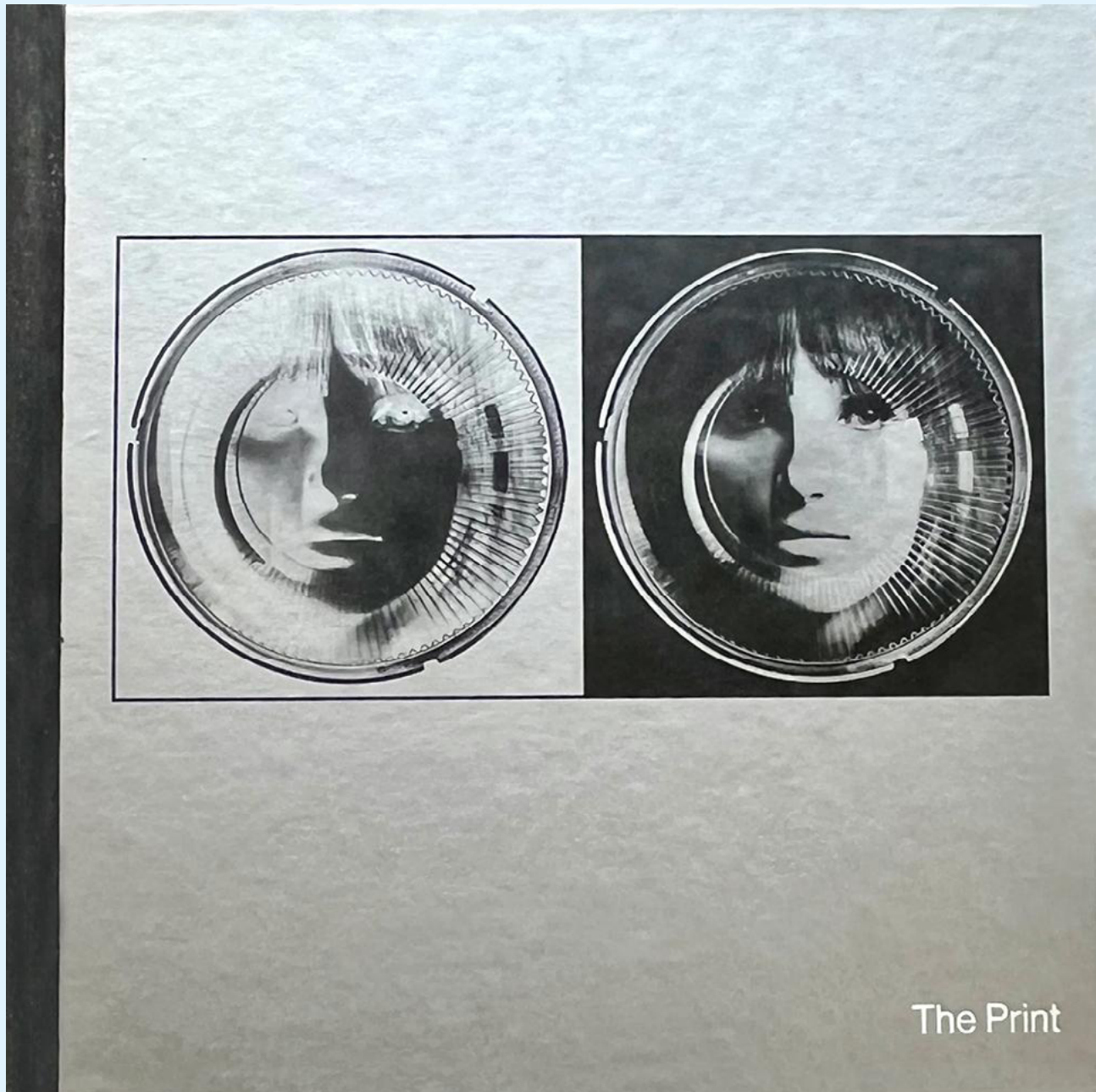


Alan Wiggins displaying
Zac Baldwin's print.

WHY PRINT?

by Cole Thompson

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



The Print

When I was a young boy my window into the photographic world was books, and there was one book that I really loved: "The Print." It was one of several in the Time-Life photography series that introduced me to the great masters of photography.

For 170 years, the print was the only way one could view a photograph. If you didn't print it, it couldn't be seen. Some even would argue that if you didn't print it, it wasn't yet a photograph.

The exception to prints were slides, which my grandfather used to torture us with his long vacation presentations on his Kodak Carousel projector: "And this is another photo of Old Faithful..."



Why Print?

(Continued from page 15)

Even at the beginning of the digital era, people still printed their photographs by going down to Walgreens and using the Kodak Kiosk. And later we had color inkjet printers in our homes so that we could print the images ourselves.

But then came along the iPhone and the iPad. We could now view any image from anywhere in the world, at any time and at any place, from bedroom to bathroom! It opened up the world to every photographer...and put one more nail in the coffin of the print. Who needs to print?

And while viewing an image on a digital screen has many, many advantages, it's not as personal as viewing a "real" print.

Digital viewing generally means small screens. And because there are billions of images available, we can scroll through hundreds per sitting and spend only seconds on each one: scroll, scroll, scroll, like, like, like, faster, faster, faster.

Viewing an image on a digital screen pales in comparison to holding and viewing a "real" print.

I can't tell you why that's true, and I have wondered if I'm just being nostalgic because I grew up in the era of "the print." But I don't think so and here's why: when I speak to high school students who grew up with digital images, and show them "real" prints...something interesting happens:

They hold them.

They slow down.

They look longer.

They look closer.

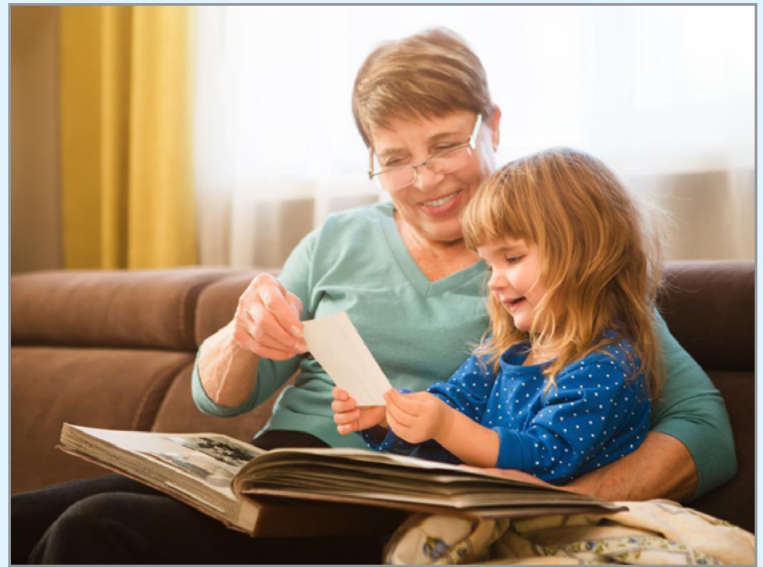
They contemplate the image.

And they express surprise at how different a print is.



There is something wonderful about a "real" print. Yes, I love the accessibility and reach of a digital image, but I'd far prefer that you hold one of my prints in your hands.

That's the reason I give a print away with each newsletter.



And here's another thought about prints: I heard a woman reminisce about how she would sit on her grandmother's lap and look through a family photo album that covered three generations. That caused the woman to wonder what it would be like when she was older and her granddaughter sat on her lap to view her photos.

Why Print?

(Continued from page 16)

She imagined the little girl opening the photo app on her iPhone and asking: "Grandma, what's this?" And she would answer: "This is a meal I once ate." And the little girl would go to the next photo and ask: "What's that?" And she would say: "This is a pair of shoes I was thinking of buying."

A single family album could hold the memories of three generations, while our iPhones can hold thousands of meaningless images that might cover only three years. And when we are gone, what will become of the tens of thousands of images that reside on our electronic devices or hard drives?

My guess is that they will never be viewed.

But an album of family photographs or a collection of the images that you have created and love...I think those will have a chance of surviving and being appreciated.

Keep your images alive: print them, hang them on your walls, give them away, and fill your albums and books with them.

If you're not familiar with Cole Thompson's photos—and prints!—you should be.

Check out his website:

<https://colethompsonphotography.com/>

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

As our new season begins, so does our Traveling Exhibit. There are two exhibits scheduled for the foreseeable future:

October & November

Uncommon Grounds
9 Clifton County Road
Clifton Park, NY 12065
(518) 280-2404

December:

Guilderland Public Library
Helderberg Room
2228 Western Ave.
Guilderland, NY 12084
(518) 456-2400

Photos have been collected for the October exhibit, Details will be forthcoming on the Guilderland Library exhibition.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please be sure your photos are ready for hanging. The November 2024 issue of the *Focus* included detailed information on the preparation of our traveling exhibits and how to properly prepare photos for hang-

ing 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.



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:

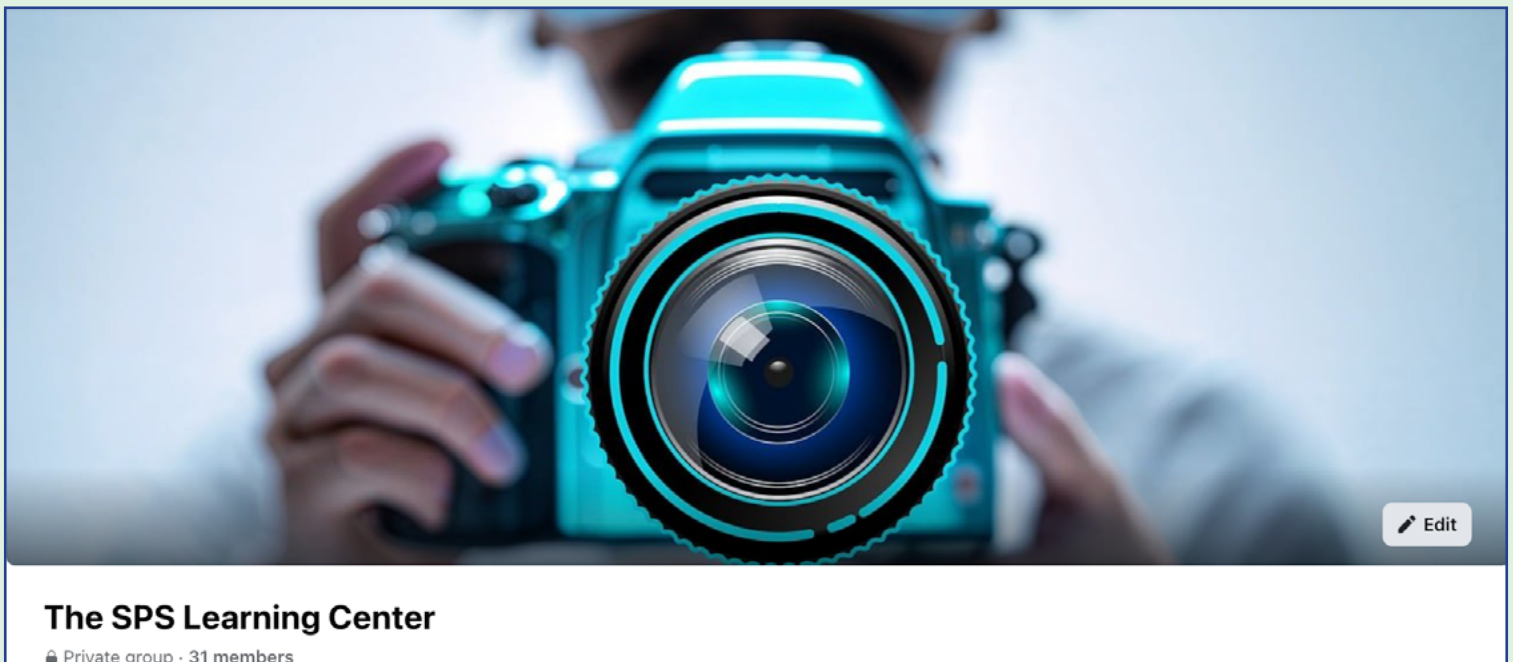
<https://www.meetup.com/photography-connection/>

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.

Schenectady Photographic Society is not responsible for anyone’s health or accident on any scheduled event. Attendance at all events by SPS members signifies acknowledgment, agreement and compliance to the SPS Liability Waiver which was agreed to upon membership registration.



OUR NEW-SPS MEMBERS ONLY-FACEBOOK GROUP “THE SPS LEARNING CENTER”



A new benefit of membership: a forum to share photography-related information, post images for critique and more.

If you haven’t joined yet, now is the time!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737>

JOIN ~~LIKE~~ US ON FACEBOOK!



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

Our “regular” SPS Facebook group (now renamed to “Schenectady Photographic Society FB Group”) is open to all interested photographers. Participants must request permission to join. It’s a great forum for all things relating to photography.



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

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

ASSIGNED TOPICS

Once again, for the upcoming season, we will have Assigned Topics for Print and Digital.
And, to give you a head start, we've announced the Assigned Topics for next season as well!

Digital images may be submitted on our website:

<https://spsphoto.org/competitions/digital-image/upload-projected/>.

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!

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2025-2026 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2025-2026 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Doors and/or Windows**

November: **Still Life**

December: **Water**

January: **Architecture**

February: **Abstract**

March: **Landscape**

April: **Animal**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Reflections**

November: **Circles**

December: **Fall Colors**

January: **Patterns**

February: **Primary Colors**

March: **City Scenes**

April: **Shadows**

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2026-2027 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2026-2027 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after June 1, 2025.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Composite**

November: **Symmetry**

December: **Everyday Objects**

January: **Nature**

February: **Multiple Exposure**

March: **Winter**

April: **Silhouettes**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Fruit and/or Vegetable**

November: **Barns**

December: **Standing Out**

January: **Car Details**

February: **Intentional Camera
Movement**

March: **Sunrise, Sunset and/or
Sunburst**

April: **Bridges**

PRINT AND DIGITAL COMPETITIONS

2025-2026 SEASON

For the 2025-2026 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.

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.

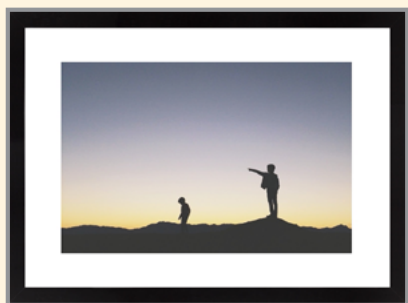
Members may submit up to **four (4)** images in our Print Competitions. Categories will include General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. You may submit up to **(2) in any category**. For example, two in Monochrome and one each in Assigned Topic and General.

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

zoom

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 2400 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 – 5 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 both Print and Digital, members are permitted to enter a total of 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.

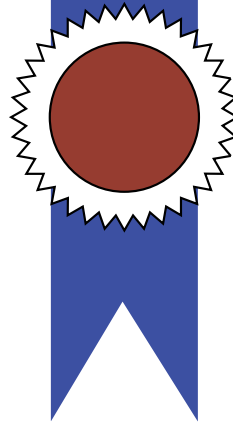
And, the best part...it gets you out and shooting.

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

We hope to see more members participating this season.

2024-2025 DIGITAL IMAGE OF THE YEAR

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Judges:

Skip Rowland

more than just a guy with a camera

I am a full-time photojournalist, shooting editorial assignments and providing photography services to small businesses, large corporations, private foundations, as well as a number of area colleges and universities. In addition to shooting assignments, I have produced a number of photo columns, such as “In Our Backyard” and “I am Here Because” which appeared various local weekly publications. And, of course, I shoot weddings and portraits.

It all started in high school when my best friend let me take some shots at a football game. I was hooked and have been taking photos one way or another ever since! Since turning to photography as a full-time profession over 20 years ago, I have earned numerous awards and distinctions, including four 1st place awards in the Virginia Press Association’s annual competition and have had four images selected by Kodak to appear on their “Picture of the Day” billboard in Times Square. Not the least of my recognitions was having an image selected as Best in Show for Non-Daily Publications by the Virginia Press Association. I also have 20 large canvas prints hanging in the Randolph-Macon Yellow Jacket’s Club.

Born in Richmond, raised in Southside Virginia, educated at William & Mary, I now reside in Hanover County (just north of Richmond) with my wife and our rescued pets.

<https://skippix.biz/about-skip-rowland/>

Topic: Planes, Trains and Automobiles

“Frecce Tricolor”

© Alan Wiggins

Shannon Calvert

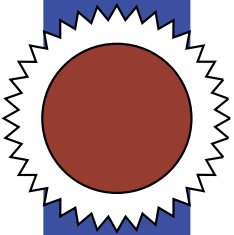
You’re a creative director or product manager ready to dazzle on a critical project, but there’s a problem. Maybe you’re struggling to come up with a great headline or product name. Perhaps the layout isn’t quite right or the supplied photos are lifeless. It could be that the image colors are off, the production specs are too complicated, or you’re simply out of time and have to get the job done right... and right away. You could call in freelance copywriters, photographers, art directors, and production specialists, or you could call me. I do all of this at a level that rivals the best in the business.

My unusual skill set means more than just convenience, though. It means your text and visuals are developed together with a unified vision. It means copy edits, proofing, and retouching can be done on the fly. It means design and production are not separate steps, and I can handle an entire project from concept through completion with incredible efficiency. It means an unfair advantage for you!

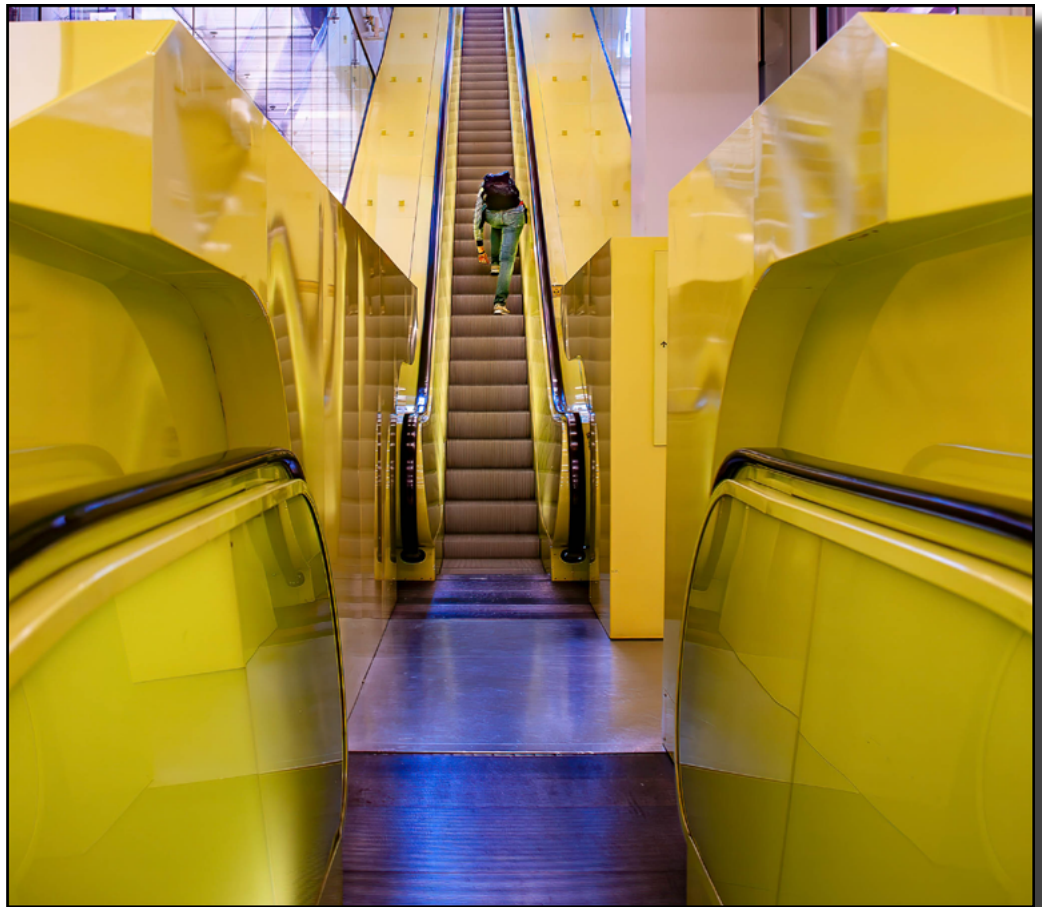
<http://hireimagination.com>

2024-2025
DIGITAL IMAGE
OF THE YEAR

GENERAL



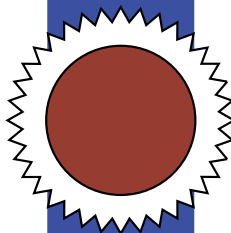
"Not a Good Place
to Tie Your Shoe"
© Phil Olivo



"Welcome to the Highlands"
© Neil Shapiro



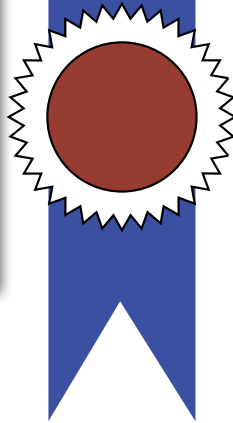
MONOCHROME



2024-2025 PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR



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“Autumn Tapestry”
© Neil Shapiro

Judges:

David Fingerhut

David Fingerhut had been taking photographs for over 50 years. He is a Saratoga Springs resident, specializing in nature photography and enjoys photographing the American Landscape. His photographs have been shown in 16 countries at exhibits sponsored by the Photographic Society of America, and has been designated a star exhibitor in both Nature and Color Photography.

David is a past president and director of the Colonial Camera Club in Massachusetts. He's won numerous awards and has judged photography competitions for 16 different camera clubs. His photographs have appeared in books, calendars, and magazines.

For two years David has had winning entries in the Boston Globe photo contest. His photo entitled “Royal Canadian Goose” won first place from over 3,000 entries and was subsequently printed in a *Time-Life* book, *The National Enquirer*, and *Popular Photography* and was placed on exhibit at the Epcot Center.

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

Richard Lovrich

Richard was born in New York City, attended Parsons School of Design. Prior to moving to the Capital Region of New York, he worked as an independent photographer, designer and producer with clients in the U.S. and abroad in manufacturing, banking, publishing, pharmaceuticals, and fashion.

Currently a creative director for theatricals where he also served as a marketing director, Richard held the position of art director at a major daily. Portrait and food photography remain his passions.

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

2024-2025 PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR

MONOCHROME

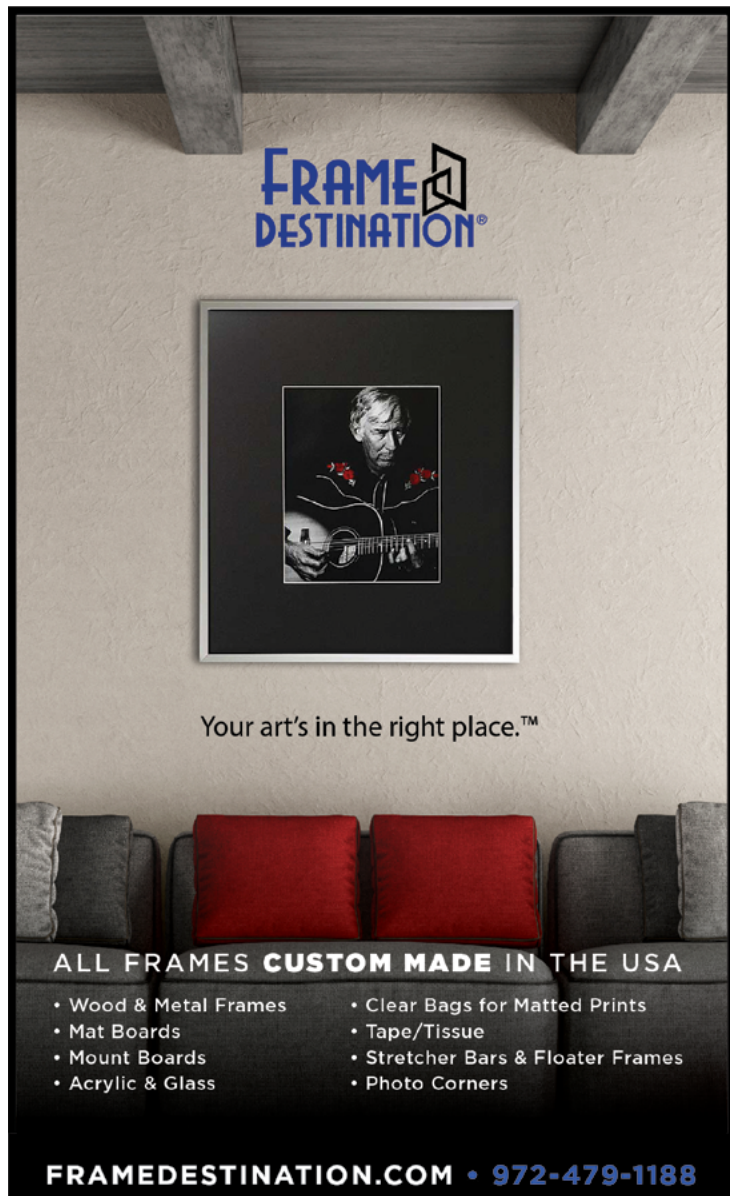


"Tractor"
© Jim Craner

Check out all of the past winning images
on our website:

<https://spsphoto.org/>

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- Tape/Tissue
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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 24, 2025.

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.

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 Alan Wiggins

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 Open

membership@spsphoto.org

Print Group Joe Cotroneo

printchair@spsphoto.org

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

digitalchair@spsphoto.org

Photo Essay OPEN

Judge Coordinator Neil Shapiro

judging@spsphoto.org

Communications..... Linda Tommasulo
& Sean Sullivan

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

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>

Members Only Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1073846327661737>

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 2025-2026 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, 2025

10/15/25**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows

JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER

<https://www.sphotosbyevan.com>

10/22/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Reflections

JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA

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

November, 2025

11/5/25**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Still Life

JUDGE: FRANK RAPANT

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

11/12/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Circles

JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA

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

December, 2025

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

Assigned Topic: Water

JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER

<https://neustudios.com/>

12/10/25**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Fall Colors

JUDGE: BUTCH MAZZUCA

<https://butchmazzuca.com/>

January, 2026

1/7/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Architecture

JUDGE: STEPHANIE PALAZEKE

<http://www.stephaniepalazeke.com>

1/14/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Patterns

JUDGE: CHRIS MURRAY

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

February, 2026

2/4/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Abstract

JUDGE: RICHARD LOVRICH

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

February, 2026 (Cont'd.)

2/11/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Primary Colors

JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN

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

March, 2026

3/4/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Landscape

JUDGE: DAVID FINGERHUT

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

3/11/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: City Scenes

JUDGE: LIESL WALSH

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

3/18/26**PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ

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

April, 2026

4/8/26**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Animal

JUDGE: HANNAH ZEL

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

4/15/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Shadows

JUDGE: NIKKI McDONALD

<https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/nikolynmcdonaldphotography/shop/framed+prints>

4/22/26**LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE

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

May, 2026

5/6/26**PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC**

JUDGES: DINO PETROCELLI

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

RICHARD LOVRICH

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

5/13/26**DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom**

JUDGES: NICK PALMIERI

<https://nicholas-palmieri.pixels.com/>

ELLEN STEIN

SPS 2025-2026 SEASON CALENDAR

For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after May 1, 2025.

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 , 2025

9/24/25..... OPENING DAY@ FUMC

Bring a favorite photo (print or digital)
to share and discuss

October, 2025

10/1/25..... NO MEETING (YOM KIPPUR)

10/8/25..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Alan Shapiro: Creative Still Life

10/15/25PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Doors and/or Windows

10/22/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Reflections

10/29/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Joe Brady - Taking Your Images From Good to Great

November, 2025

11/5/25.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Still Life

11/12/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Circles

11/19/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Rad Drew - Getting the Most & Best from your iPhone
Camera

11/26/25NO MEETING (THANKSGIVING)

December, 2025

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

Assigned Topic: Water

12/10/25DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Fall Colors

12/17/25 EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Jeff Perkins - Street Portraiture

12/24/25NO MEETING (CHRISTMAS EVE)

12/31/25 NO MEETING (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

January, 2026

1/7/26.....PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Architecture

1/14/26.....DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Patterns

1/21/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Ray Schneider: Intentional Composition

1/28/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Connie Frisbee Houde: Travel Photography -
Phone vs. Full Gear, Italy and Central Asia

February, 2026

2/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Abstract

2/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Primary Colors

2/18/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

M-J Adelman: Polar Bears, Arctic Wildlife &
Norway Highlights

2/25/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Hazel Meredith: Getting Creative with
Smart Photo Editor

March, 2026

3/4/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Landscape

3/11/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: City Scenes

3/18/26..... PHOTO ESSAYS @ FUMC

Constructive Critique by Cindy Schultz

3/25/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Caroline Preece: Street Photography - How to
Feel the Fear, Do it Anyway and Get Great Images

April, 2026

4/1/26.....NO MEETING (PASSOVER)

4/8/26..... PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC

Assigned Topic: Animal

4/15/26..... DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom

Assigned Topic: Shadows

4/22/26..... LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC

Judge: Lawrence White

4/29/26..... EVENT NIGHT on Zoom

Butch Mazzuca: Beyond the Rule of Thirds

May, 2026

5/6/26.....PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC

5/13/26.... DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom

June, 2026SPS AWARDS BANQUET

Date: TBA

**HAVE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE
AND PHOTOGENIC SUMMER!**