

**Bold red texts
are
interactive links!**

FOCUS

**IT'S OUR
94TH
SEASON!**

Volume 92 - No.5

<https://spsphoto.org/>

February 2026

**EVENT
NIGHT**

NOSTALGIC BLACK AND WHITE with Chuck Kimmerle February 18, 2026 - 7 pm - on Zoom

**PROGRAM
CHANGE**

This presentation explores the art of black-and-white photography as a way of seeing and responding. Through tone, texture, light, and shadow, black and white imagery strips a scene down to its visual core. We'll look at how nostalgia is not about recreating the past, but about using simplicity and intention to create images that feel timeless, personal, and deeply resonant.

Editor's Note:

The originally-scheduled presentation by M-J Adelman has been postponed to next season. At the eleventh hour I was fortunate to secure Chuck Kimmerle for his amazing presentation on "Nostalgic Black and White." As a testament to the quality of this presentation, this was my email to Chuck last summer when I was trying to book him for this season:

Chuck, I just watched your presentation on Nostalgic Black & White on the Nature Photography Collective and was blown away. I am sincere when I say it is one of the best presentations I have seen (and I see a LOT!). Are you available to present this to my to camera club, the Schenectady Photographic Society?

Needless to say, our wires got crossed and I wasn't able to get Chuck into our schedule. Of course I thought of him first when M-J's program was postponed, and (fortunately for us) he was available. I am really glad to share this presentation with you.

Continued...



© Chuck Kimmerle

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Nostalgic Black and White

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Nostalgic Black and White

(Continued from page 2)



© Chuck Kimmerle



Chuck Kimmerle

ABOUT CHUCK KIMMERLE

Chuck Kimmerle is a fine art photographer whose work often explores the quiet intersections between landscape, memory, and the human presence. Working primarily in black and white, Chuck creates images that are spare, contemplative, and deeply personal—photographs that ask viewers to slow down and engage with what is often overlooked.

Chuck began his career as a photojournalist, earning recognition as a Pulitzer Prize finalist

for Spot News Photography, before gradually turning toward a more introspective and expressive photographic practice. That transition marked a shift from documenting events to exploring personal and emotional space, using the landscape as a vehicle for reflection rather than description. His photographs move beyond traditional scenic imagery, favoring subtle gestures, open compositions, and quiet tension. Through careful use of light, form, and restraint, his work invites narrative without imposing it, allowing viewers room for their own interpretations.

Chuck's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the United States and published in respected photography journals. In addition to his creative practice, he is a dedicated educator and mentor, known for helping photographers develop a stronger personal vision and a deeper connection to their own personal and creative work. You can view Chuck's work at <https://www.chuckkimmerle.com/>



© Chuck Kimmerle

GETTING CREATIVE WITH SMART PHOTO EDITOR

with Hazel Meredith

February 25, 2026 - 7 pm - on Zoom

EVENT
NIGHT



© Hazel Meredith

This is an inexpensive, yet powerful, program for basic editing as well as thousands of creative looks. Give your images the look of a watercolor painting, grungy drama, and much more.

Smart Photo Editor's ever-growing community of enthusiastic users has produced thousands of sophisticated effects for you to use. This makes it the world's largest library of effects for you to browse and use in your photographs.

Effects can be easily customized and tuned to your exact needs and are grouped into styles to speed your workflow.

You can produce artistic effects; black & white effects; double exposures and composite images in this easy-to-use program.

Getting Creative with Smart Photo Editor

(Continued from page 4)



© Hazel Meredith



*Meredith
Images*
PHOTOGRAPHY | TRAINING | WORKSHOPS



© Hazel Meredith

Hazel Meredith, APSA, HonNEC Meredith Images

Hazel Meredith is an award-winning photographer and a sought-after teacher, speaker, and competition judge. She began teaching in 2007, and now does seminars at camera clubs and conferences across the U.S.—both in-person and virtual. She offers her own workshops and webinars, and has done webinars for several software companies. She has written two eBooks on working with textures, and released two creative courses. She and her husband, Dave, produce the “Virtual Creative Photography Conference” with attendees from around the world.

Hazel loves the creative aspect of photography and post processing, especially the use of textures and software to create unique images. She is actively involved with the photographic community, and has held leadership roles and received honorary distinctions from several organizations. In the Fall of 2020 she was the recipient of the Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction from the Photographic Society of America.

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Get in Touch with Hazel:

www.MeredithImages.com

www.MeredithImages.wordpress.com

www.Facebook.com/MeredithImages

EVENT
NIGHT

GET READY FOR THE 2026 PHOTO ESSAY NIGHT

March 18

Live at First United Methodist Church

LAST SEASON'S WINNERS:

It's here! Another Photo Essay Competition at SPS—live and in person at the First United Methodist Church in Schenectady. Once again we will include print as well as digital essays. There's still time to get your digital essays in! Joe Cotroneo will be collecting the essays:



A big change to this season's Photo Essay evening is IT WILL NOT BE A COMPETITION. We will have an experienced mentor (formerly "judge") to comment and critique our submissions; however, there be no prizes awarded. We are hoping this will encourage more members to participate.

Per Joe: "The Digital Photo Essays must be submitted by a google drive or dropbox link in an email to:

joecotroneo1@gmail.com

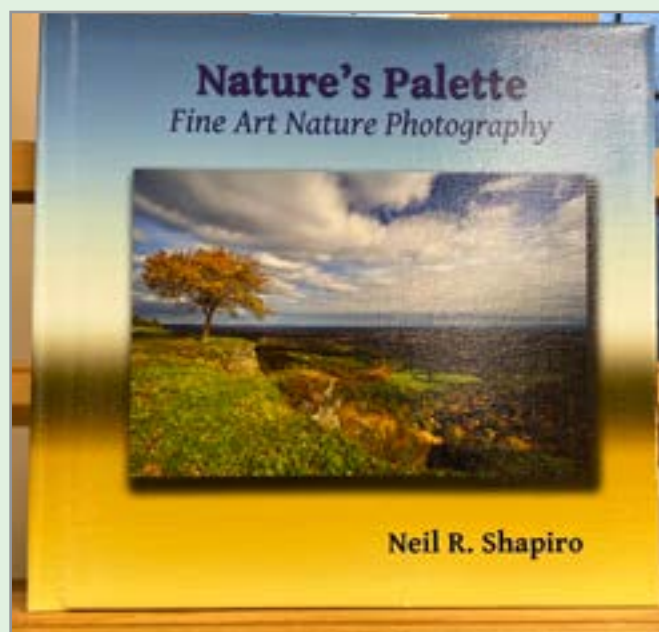
by Saturday March 14 midnight. If you don't get a reply email from me it means I didn't get your essay. I say this because our SPS mail server may not get email from nycap.rr.com and maybe some others. Use gmail if you don't get a confirmation that I received it. Please don't wait until the last minute. Bring the Print Photo Essays the night of the competition by 6:50 pm."

See you—in person—on March 18.

First Place **PRINT**:

"Small Wonders"

© Joe Cotroneo



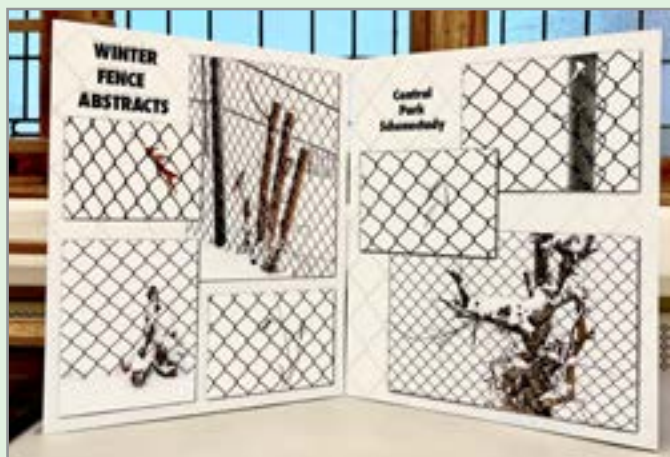
Second Place **PRINT**:

"Nature's Palette - Fine Art Nature Photography"

© Neil Shapiro

2026 Photo Essay Night

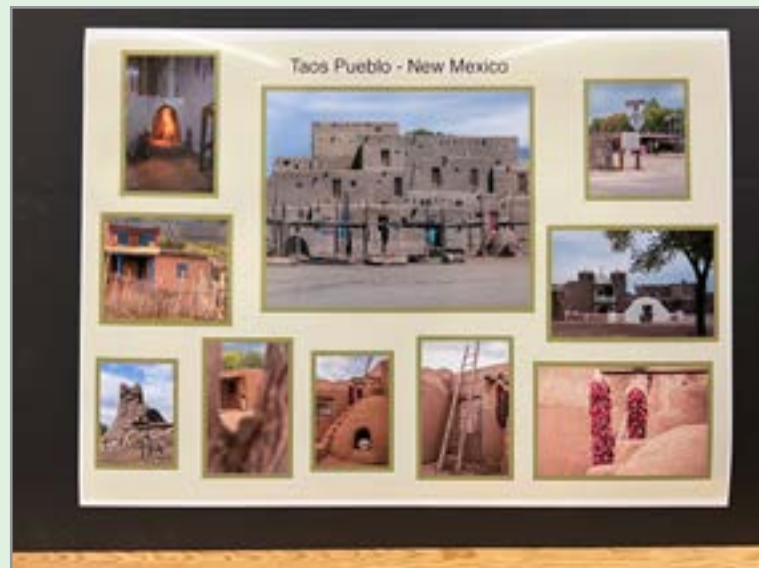
(Continued from page 6)



Honorable Mention PRINT:

"Winter Fence Abstracts - Central Park"

© Linda Tommasulo



Third Place PRINT:

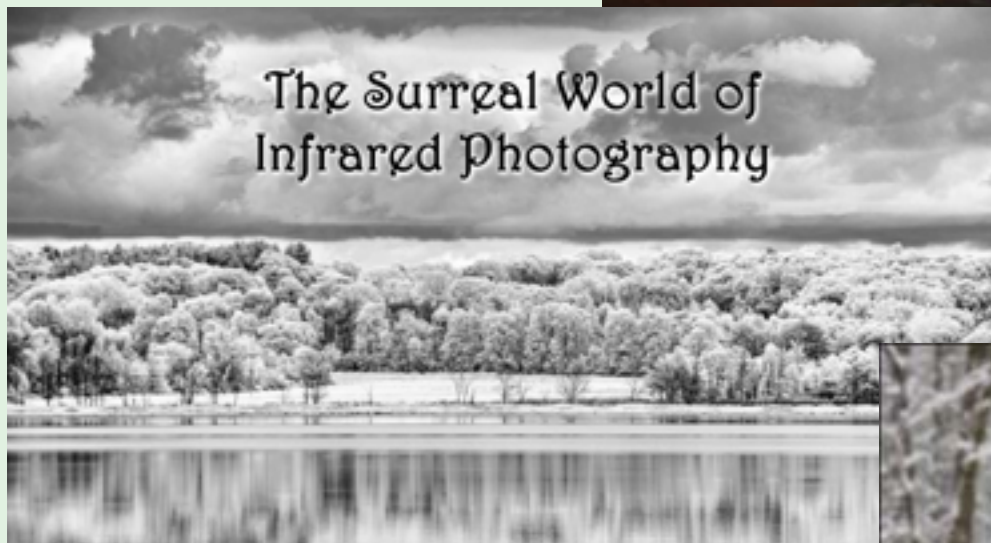
"Taos Pueblo - New Mexico"

© Dan Steen

First Place DIGITAL:

"The Journey Home - Visions of the Divine"

© Janice Prichett



Second Place DIGITAL:

"The Surreal World of Infrared Photography"

© Joe Cotroneo

Third Place DIGITAL:

"My Neighborhood Winter Trees"

© Linda Tommasulo



All you need to know about the 2026 Photo Essay Competition

Photo Essay

Digital Essays are a collection of images that will be projected in some fashion, typically, but not necessarily, accompanied by a soundtrack. The presentation should be in a format that is compatible with the projection equipment available on the night of the competition (i.e. .mov or .mp4). To ensure compatibility with the club's hardware and software, Digital Essays must be submitted prior to the competition date. Members will be notified in advance of the required deadline.

Print Essays are a collection of prints displayed in some fashion, including a book (such as available from vendors including Shutterfly, Snapfish, Blurb, and others), a poster, a storyboard, or any method of presenting a collection of prints that can be physically managed by the entrant.

Prepared by: Joe Cotroneo

With Credits to: Dow Smith

The rules for entry are as follows:

1. One entry per person per category [print and digital].
2. The maximum length of a digital projected essay is 8 minutes. The maximum dimensions of the projected essay is 1920×1080. Suggested and preferred length is 3 to 5 minutes.
3. Participants are encouraged to use only their own images. Other images may be used only if they are vital to the narrative quality of the essay. Any images not made by the participant must be credited. No more than 10% of the total images may be non-participant images.
4. It is the participant's responsibility to know the rules. Submissions outside of these guidelines will not be accepted. Digital essays must be submitted by the previously announced entry deadline, which will be no later than midnight the Saturday before the competition date. (The earlier the better). This is to ensure compatibility with the club's hardware and software.

2026 PHOTO ESSAY NIGHT

(Continued from page 8)

Submitting Your Entry

Digital Photo Essays

1. Must be submitted by midnight Saturday, March 14, 2026
2. Save as a video file with .mov or .mp4 format
3. Email to JoeCotroneo1@gmail.com via a link to a large file app such as Google Drive (preferred) or Dropbox

Print Essays

1. Must be submitted between 6:30pm and 7:00pm the night of the competition, March 18 2026

Photo Essay Topics

Show us your passion

1. A collections of photographs that are tied together
Flowers, pets, babies, models, old cars ...
2. Event
parades, protests, fund raisers ...
3. Location
Myrtle Beach, Lark Street, NYC ...
4. Type of Work
Macro, Landscape, Impressionistic ...
5. Story
Day in the life, visit to an attraction, visit to a park ...

Editing

Lots of different editing programs

Adobe Express (free version available)
Premiere Rush (comes with Adobe Photography Plan)
DaVinci Resolve (free version available)

And many more

Check out the online tutorials

Music

Vital for a photo essay video

1. Sets mood of essay
2. Determines pacing
3. Match the music to the story

Copyright

1. Copyrighted music without a license is not allowed
2. Buy Music: Pond5, Triple Scoop, many more
3. Free with credit: Bendsound, Musopen

Editor's Note: I have found the Uppbeat website an excellent choice for royalty-free music. You can get three free downloads, or subscribe for the month (unlimited downloads and access to premium music) for \$6.99. <https://uppbeat.io/>



Photo Essay Judge: Cindy Schultz

Independent Photographer based in Albany, NY.

Without a doubt, the best part of my job is meeting people from all walks of life and telling their stories through pictures. Originally from Minneapolis, a staff position with the Albany Times Union brought me to the East Coast by way of Michigan. Politics rule the day in this capital city, and I've witnessed history in the making while covering the statehouse. After nearly 20 years with the Capital Region's largest publication, my sense of adventure took over, and I headed for the Last Frontier. For two summers, I worked in Alaska as a photography guide leading small group tours and workshops.

Today I'm a regular contributor to The New York Times and other national and local editorial publications. I also collaborate with educational institutions, nonprofits and small businesses creating brand libraries for digital platforms and marketing materials. My work has been recognized by American Photography for the past three years in a row, and I've exhibited regionally. A participant in the prestigious Eddie Adams Workshop, I hold a journalism degree from the University of Minnesota where I graduated magna cum laude.

I do not discriminate based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion or politics.

*Select Client List: The New York Times, Washington Post,
The Wall Street Journal
CNN, Reuters, New York Post,
Adirondack Explorer, The Evangelist*

cschultzphoto.com

CONNIE FRISBEE HOUDE EXHIBIT AT SAND LAKE TOWN LIBRARY March & April 2026

If you attended Connie's Zoom presentation on January 28, or have seen her wonderful photos in competition, you know a bit about her world travels.

Here's an opportunity to see Connie's images from her Central Asia trip up close and personal.

Reception: March 7, 2026, from noon to 1 pm.

* CONNIE FRISBEE HOUDE *

Connie traveled to Central Asia in September 2025.

She photographed the land she walked and the heritage sites she wandered through. Her goal as a photojournalist is to depict the spirit and sacredness of people and their surroundings.

Her work will be on display at Sand Lake Town Library in March & April.

**THE MYSTERIES OF CENTRAL ASIA: KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN,
TAJIKISTAN, AND UZBEKISTAN.**

**ART EXHIBITION & RECEPTION: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026 -
12:00 - 1:00 P.M.**



SLTL 8428 Miller Hill Rd, Averill Park 518-674-5050 sandlaketownlibrary.org

PHOTOGRAPHY CONNECTION HOSTS DAVE KRAUS

At the End of the World: A Photographer's Journey Through Patagonia

February 19, 6-8 pm
Clifton Park Library

Join Janice Prichett and Photography Connection for a photography presentation with photographer Dave Kraus, as he shares images and stories from his recent journey through Patagonia, one of the most dramatic and remote regions of the world. From jagged granite spires and glacial riv-

ers to stunning landscapes and life on the move, Patagonia is a place of raw beauty and immense scale. Through photographs made across southern Chile and Argentina, Dave offers a visual exploration of this remarkable region, shaped by wind, ice, and time.



About the Photographer

Dave Kraus spent nearly 30 years in newspaper journalism as a photographer and editor. He now devotes his time to the more creative aspects of photography and travel. In addition to photographing locations throughout the northeastern United States, he has worked in the Falkland Islands, Antarctica, and the Dolomites of northern Italy. Dave also guides cycling tours in the Northeast U.S. and Canada for Discovery Bike Tours, combining his love of photography with his passion for bicycling.

The Clifton Park–Half Moon Library is located at 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park.
Click [here](#) for details, to respond or advise if you'll bring a snack to share.

FOCUS ON Photographing Close to Home

by Linda Tommasulo

I recently watched two webinars about photographing close to home. The first was called, "Fear of Flying." Pretty self-explanatory! The photographer, Paul Mitchell, was located in a wonderful town in the UK. His images were beautiful. So much so I posted in the Chat that this presentation motivated me to thinking I should relocate across the Pond. It elicited two responses from US photographers, one from PA and the other from CA, who had already done that! The second webinar focused on shooting closer to home was hosted by Tony Sweet. OK...you can put Tony in a dark room with no windows and he'll create magic!

As some of you may know, I have been a bit housebound for the last two years with my ailing aging dog, Shyla...and now with my little Maltese, Sunny, who has congestive heart failure. So I was really enthused with these webinars about shooting closer to home. In 2025, with one exception (an overnight trip to NYC), all of my photographic outings have been during the day and driving distance.



How lucky am I that Volunteer Firefighter's Memorial Park is at the end of my block and abuts the Albany Pine Bush Preserve? When the snow is really bad, I don't even have to get into my car.

So let's talk about the advantages of photographing closer to home:

1. *A lot easier on your wallet*
2. *Shorter travel time*
3. *You can revisit as often as you like*
4. *You can get great images*
5. *Your outing can be spontaneous*
6. *It's easy to get home and back when you forget something!*

Here are some general suggestions about where to go...

Streams, rivers and bodies of water

Local city and state parks

Museums

*Any open fields and valleys
(cemeteries are a favorite of mine)*

Conservatories, wildflower gardens

*Outdoor or indoor events
(festivals, flower shows, farmers' markets,
car shows)*

*Local farms and rural areas
(sunflowers, anyone?)*

*Old and interesting structures
(architecture)*

Take the road less traveled by!

Use Google Earth

*Get ideas from friends and events
posted on Facebook*

A few years ago my Photo Essay submission was about Steinmetz Park in Schenectady, which I happened upon by searching through the GPS in my car.

In 2025 I went to seven—yes, seven—car shows. I really enjoy shooting the details, but I also photograph the cars for my Facebook friends and family. Word of caution: Don't ask me the model or year of the cars!!

Photographing Close to Home

(Continued from page 13)

I also did a few outings with **Hudson Valley Community College's Center for Creative Retirement**. They have a lot of in-classroom sessions, but I prefer the outdoor locations. They take me to places



For you "people shooters (i.e. "street photographers"), there are people everywhere!

I have never been: Fort Plain, the Albany Rural Cemetery, Round Lake, a boat ride through the Erie Canal. And, once there, I can always venture back on my own.



Fort Plain Museum (above) and Cemetery



Albany Rural Cemetery (Infrared)



Navigating the Erie Canal



Round Lake

Continued...

Photographing Close to Home

(Continued from page 14)

A word of warning about the Center for Creative Retirement: You have to register quickly. All the sessions fill up fast.

Facebook is a great place to learn about potential photo-shoots. Our own Janice Prichett hosts a Facebook page called “**Photography Connection**,” where she posts numerous local outings. And if

you “like” certain pages or show interest in specific subjects, ideas pop up on your page. Somehow I found out about The Spiral House in Saugerties through Facebook. What a find!

So, yes, those of you who can travel, let me be the last one to discourage you. Nothing compares with seeing new lands, cultures, wildlife, architecture and more. But for those of us who find ourselves “stuck at home,” GET OUT AND SHOOT!

I hope I have motivated you to photograph close to home whenever you can.

Here are a few more photos of some of my favorite local “haunts.” Some are close by, other a few hours away. But I’m always home at night, taking care of Sunny and sleeping in my own bed. And the next day I have a lot of photos to edit.



Spiral House Park, Saugerties
(above and below)



Albany Art Fest

Corgi races
at the
Altamont Fair



Continued...

Photographing Close to Home

(Continued from page 15)



The Clark Art Institute
Williamstown, MA



Cohoes Falls



Fenimore Farm Museum

Old Gick Farm
at Wilton Wildlife Preserve

Hildene,
the Lincoln
Family Home,
Manchester,
VT
(right and
below)



Hancock
Shaker Village
Pittsfield, MA



Photographing Close to Home

(Continued from page 16)



Innisfree Gardens, Millbrook, NY

Stonecrop Gardens
Cold Spring, NY



Magic Wings, So. Deerfield, MA



Vischer Ferry Preserve, Rexford, NY

Washington Park Tulip Festival, Albany, NY



Hudson Valley Balloon Festival
LaGrangeville, NY



New York Botanical Gardens, Bronx, NY



Rockefeller State Park Preserve
Pleasantville, NY

Yes...there's a LOT more. But I'll let you explore and find some places on your own. Perhaps your discovery will be the next *Focus* article!

THE HIDDEN BEAUTY OF STICK SEASON FOR LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS

By Chrissy Donadi

Below is an excerpt of Chrissy's article, and a link to the full post.
Being in New York, we are very familiar with "stick season"!

There's a stretch of the year that often gets written off by photographers. The leaves are gone, the forest looks muted, and everything feels a little bare. Around here in Appalachia, we call it stick season, that window between autumn color and snow. Your version might look different: the dry season, the dormant period, or simply winter's quieter months. Whatever you call it, the principle holds. This is when the landscape reveals its structure.

Stick season is when the forest shows you who it really is.

Without the sub-canopy and foliage filtering your view, the land opens up in a way it never does during the rest of the year. You're no longer looking at a wall of green. You're looking into the form and underlying shape of the forest itself. You can see the rise and fall of the land, the way a trail curves ahead, and how water once moved through an area. Those subtle S-curves and leading lines that are completely hidden in summer suddenly feel obvious.

This is why I love hiking during stick season. Everything looks familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. I'll be walking a trail I've visited dozens of times and suddenly stop because something catches my eye off to the side, a dip in the land, a stand of trees with a different rhythm, a slope that feels like it might glow with light in spring. With the visual clutter gone, it's easier to notice what's always been there.



Training Your Eye When the Structure is Obvious

Stick season is also when I'm actively training my eye, even if it doesn't feel like formal practice. With the forest stripped down, composition becomes much easier to study because the structure is laid bare. You can clearly see the density of tree trunks, how closely they're spaced, and where natural gaps form. Trail width becomes a compositional element instead of just a path. Slopes, ridge lines, and curves in the land reveal themselves without distraction.

This is the time to slow down and experiment with movement. Step a few feet to the left or right. Move uphill, then drop lower. Watch how the composition shifts dramatically with small changes in position. Without leaves filling the frame, it becomes very clear how perspective affects balance, depth, and flow. This is where you learn how much control you actually have, simply by where you place your feet.

Want to know what else stick season reveals?

Continue reading Chrissy Donadi's article [here](#).



The Hidden Beauty of Stick Season

(Continued from page 18)



Chrissy Donadi is a fine art landscape photographer, educator, and Master Naturalist with roots in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains who helps photographers develop their creative eye. Her work blends technical insight with a deep connection to the natural world.

Learn more at www.chrissydonadi.com.



**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/>

JANUARY PRINT NIGHT

January 7, 2026



It's a new year,
and our Print Competitions
continue at
First United Methodist Church
in Schenectady



Members enjoying social time while judging is taking place.



President Alan Wiggins introducing our judge,
Richard Lovrich.



Our judge giving valuable critiques on print submissions.



Whether you do your own,
or use an outside service,
printing is an art-form itself...
cropping, editing, choosing the medium.
**Nothing compares with holding a print in your
hand.**

With the expense of rent and insurance, we really
need more participation in Print Night for this
competition to continue next season.

Join us and try your hand at printing your photos!
You'll be glad you did!

JOIN US FOR FIELD TRIPS WITH JANICE PRICHETT

The Photography Connection has moved to Facebook!

www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566

The Schenectady Photographic Society participates in field trips organized by Photography Connection. They have moved from Meetup to a Facebook Group. Going forward all outings will be posted exclusively on the Photography Connection Facebook page. Events will be posted as private Facebook events—just click “Going” if you plan to attend. That’s it! For events that require reservations, please only mark yourself as attending if you truly plan to come.

Each month, they’ll post a theme to inspire shooting and sharing. Have a theme idea? Let Janice know!

Members are encouraged to post images from outings in albums on their Facebook page.

They will be inviting instructors to teach in-person workshops at the Clifton Park Library on topics of interest to the group. In addition, they plan to hold two social events a year—dinners, photo-sharing nights, etc., and larger in-person sharing sessions where members can present work or talk about recent trips.

Members can post photography-related announcements (workshops, locations, last-minute outings), and you’re welcome to suggest or lead outings. Janice will be happy to help with organizing and posting.

All SPS members are encouraged to go to the Photography Connection Facebook page, ask to join and wait for approval.. There is no cost.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566>



Full moon at Olana © 2025 Janice Prichett

Sorry to say the Smart Phone Focus Group is postponed for now.

We will need a member to head up this program. Contact our President, Alan Wiggins, to volunteer.

president@spsphoto.org



designed by  freepik.com

THE SPS SMART PHONE FOCUS GROUP

At the suggestion of member, Saul Seinberg, we are in the process of creating a Smart Phone Focus Group at SPS. The intent will be to share and encourage members to shoot with their phones, improve their skill and participate in competitions with smart phone images.

It is in the preliminary stages, and many members have expressed interest.

Stay tuned for more details in this newsletter and through our group email.

ASSIGNED TOPICS COMPETITIONS

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*.



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.

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.


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>

FOLLOW US ON  YouTube



Schenectady Photographic Society

@SchenectadyPhotoSociety · 41 subscribers · 81 videos

Photoessays and other short videos from the Schenectady Photographic Society. Feel [...more](#)

spsphoto.org

We hope to have our YouTube channel up-to-date soon,
Only SPS Members will be able to access Event Night presentations.

<https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos>

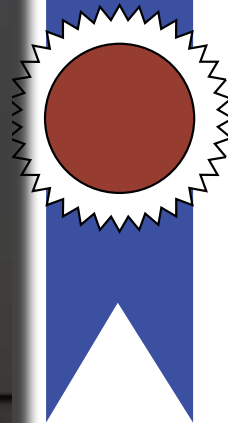
JANUARY
WINNING PRINTS

Topic:
Architecture



First Place:
"Window Dressing"
© Linda Tommasulo

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2nd Place:
"Spiral House Spiral Staircase"
© Linda Tommasulo

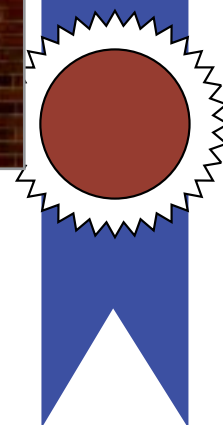
Continued...

**JANUARY
WINNING PRINTS**
Topic: Architecture



3rd Place: "Eave"
© Joe Cotroneo

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Honorable Mention:
"Gravitas"
© Janice Prichett

**JANUARY
WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Architecture**



Honorable Mention:
"Albright Knox Stairs"
© Colleen Magai



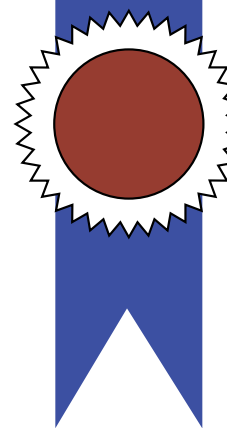
Honorable Mention:
"Window Dressing"
© Connie Frisbee Houde

Judge: Richard Lovrich

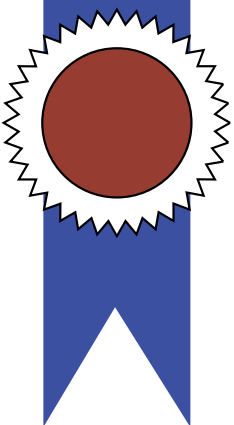
Richard was born in New York City, attended Parsons School of Design. Prior to moving to the Capital Region of New York, he worked as an independent photographer, designer and producer with clients in the U.S. and abroad in manufacturing, banking, publishing, pharmaceuticals, and fashion. Currently a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

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GENERAL



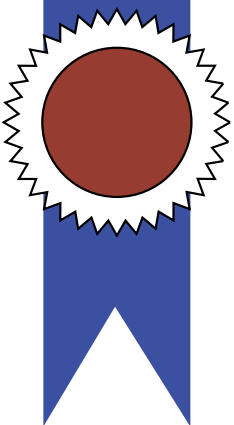
JANUARY WINNING PRINTS



First Place:
"Plaza Reflections"
© Jan Juliano



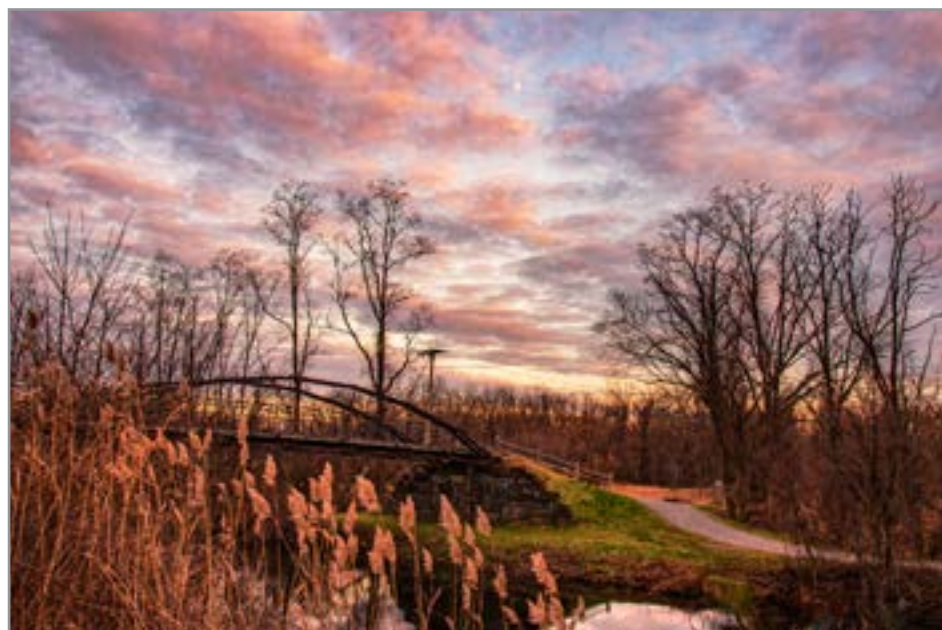
2nd Place:
"Blue Ivy"
© Janice Prichett



JANUARY WINNING PRINTS



3rd Place:
"MSU Vintage Pipes"
© Colleen Magai



Honorable Mention
"Cotton Candy Skies"
© Janice Prichett

JANUARY WINNING PRINTS

GENERAL



Honorable Mention:
"Untitled"
© Jina Mao

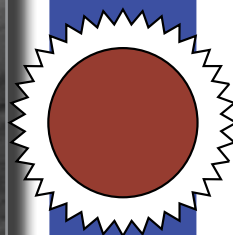


Honorable Mention:
"Inside and Out"
© Linda Tommasulo

JANUARY
WINNING PRINTS



MONOCHROME



First Place:
"In the City"
© Alan Wiggins



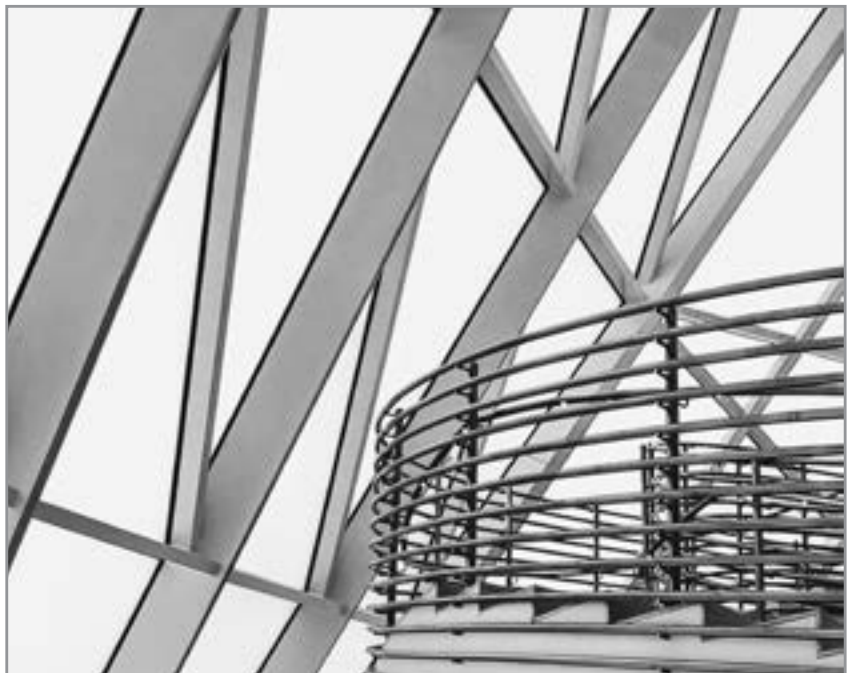
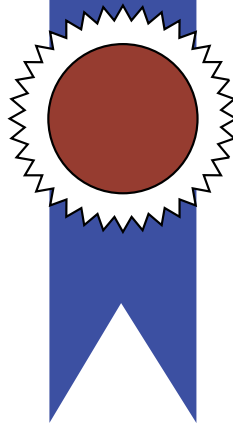
2nd Place:
"Misty Morning at Lodge's"
© Jan Juliano

JANUARY
WINNING
PRINTS



3rd Place:
"Forks"
© Joe Cotroneo

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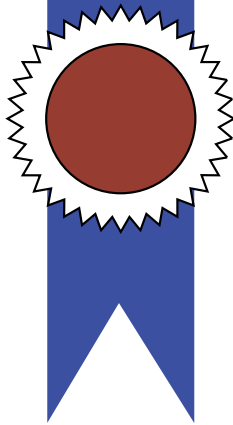
Honorable Mention:
"Albright Knox"
© Colleen Magai

JANUARY WINNING PRINTS



Honorable Mention:
"Abstract Reflection"
© Alan Wiggins

MONOCHROME



Honorable Mention:
"Untitled"
© Dave Koschnick

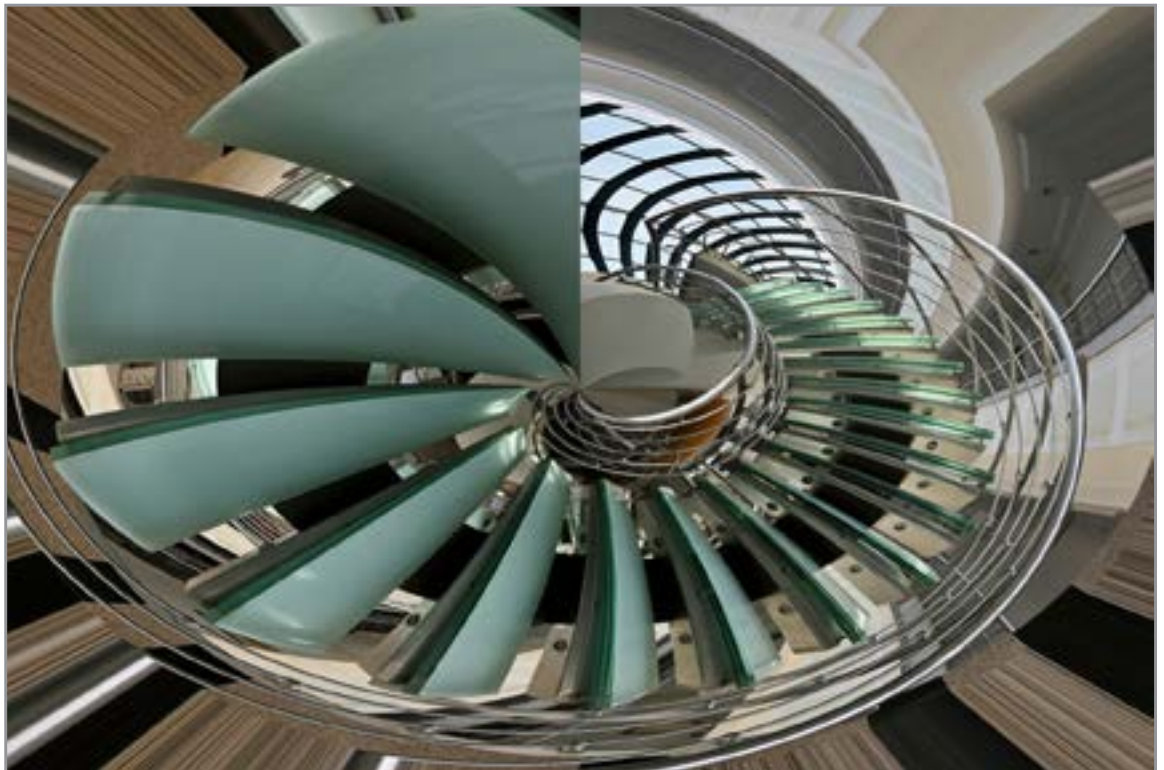
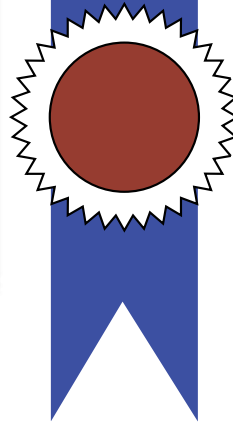
JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Patterns



First Place:
"Wavy Reflections"
© Jan Juliano

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2nd Place:
"The Portal"
© Elena Keesee

JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL

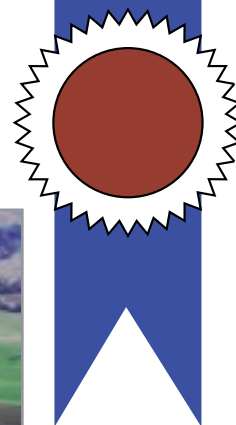
Topic: Patterns



3rd Place:
"Hanging Between
Storms"
© Elena Keesee



Honorable Mention:
"Earth Patterns"
© Jan Juliano



Judge: Chris Murray

I am a professional photographic artist, instructor, and writer living in the Thousand Islands, NY. I photograph primarily the landscape of my home, the woods, lakes, mountains, and streams of New York State. My work has appeared in several magazines including *On Landscape*, *Popular Photography*, *Adirondack Life*, *Life in the Finger Lakes*, and *New York State Conservationist*, among others. I lead photography workshops independently and through the Adirondack Photography Institute. For me, the appeal of photography lies in the opportunity to create art in an environment that ceaselessly inspires and invigorates me. In photography, I strive to make images that reflect my sensibilities and how I see the world. My goal is not to document literal appearances, but rather make photos that creatively express my emotional response inspired by the subject. My photography tends toward the quiet and intimate with a creative focus on simplicity and detail. With time I have realized that my most meaningful work comes from places with which I am most familiar and have a deep connection. Ultimately, I wish for my work to reflect what it is to me, a celebration of the creative experience in nature.

JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL

Topic: Patterns

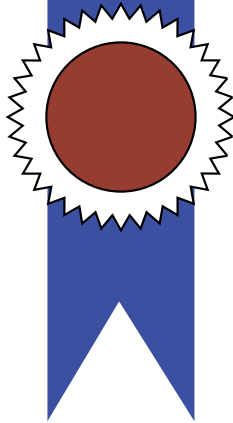


Honorable Mention:
"Fancy Paint Job"
© Linda Tommasulo



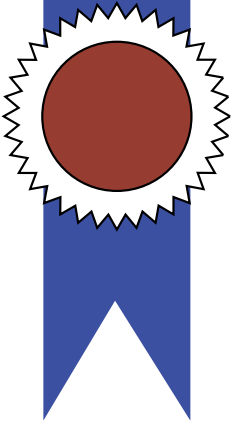
Honorable Mention:
"Manhattan Reflections"
© Linda Tommasulo

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JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



First Place:
"Reverence"
© Janice Prichett



2nd Place:
"City Sidewalk"
© Rich Schreibstein

JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



3rd Place:
"Earth Unbound"
© Neil Shapiro



4th Place:
"Upward Momentum"
© Zac Baldwin



5th Place:
"Island of Light"
© Neil Shapiro

JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL

GENERAL



Honorable Mention:
"Nature's Painting"
© Jina Mao



Honorable Mention:
"Thistle Pilot"
© Zac Baldwin



Honorable Mention:
"Blue Ice"
© Kim Koza



Honorable Mention:
"Garden Reflection"
© Nancy Pfuntner

Honorable Mention:
"Anchored in Light"
© Janice Prichett

JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL

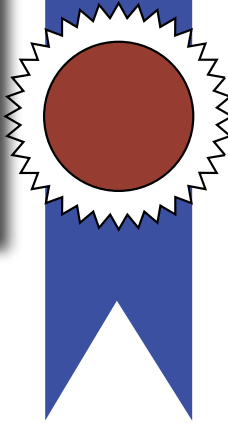


First Place:
"Surrounded"
© Neil Shapiro



2nd Place:
"Viral Video"
© Bert Schreibstein

MONOCHROME



JANUARY WINNING DIGITAL



3rd Place:
"Emerging Sun"
© Elena Keesee



Honorable Mention:
"Troy Public Library"
© Jan Juliano

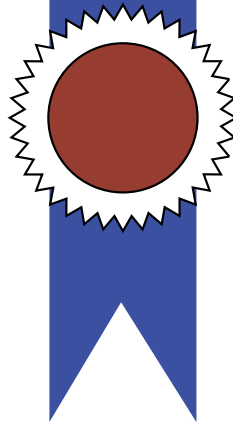


Honorable Mention:
"Tide and Rock"
© Jina Mao



Honorable Mention:
"Backward Glance"
© Rich Schreibstein

MONOCHROME



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 2025-2026

President Alan Wiggins
president@spsphoto.org

Vice President Linda Tommasulo
vp@spsphoto.org

Treasurer Pat McCormick
treasurer@spsphoto.org

Recording Secretary Paula Keefe
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Newsletter Editor Linda Tommasulo
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Webmaster & Annual Report Editor... Sean Sullivan
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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 Photography Connection
| <https://www.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566>

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>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@SchenectadyPhotoSociety/videos>



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

THE FOCUS NEEDS YOU! For articles, suggestions,
and member profiles (Focus on: YOU!).
Contact Linda at newsletter@spsphoto.org.

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: RICHARD LOVRICH

<https://www.studiolovrich.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

STEPHANIE PALAZEKE

<http://www.stephaniepalazeke.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!

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
Chuck Kimmerle:
Nostalgic Black and White
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!**