

FOCUS

IT'S OUR
95TH
SEASON!

Volume 93 - No. 1

<https://spsphoto.org/>

September-October 2026

EVENT
NIGHT

"Vision, Passion & Projects" with Cole Thompson October 21, 2026 - 7 pm - on Zoom

For many years I was a Photographic Grazer. I photographed wherever the grass was greener and resisted working on projects. And while I created some wonderful "greatest hits," the images weren't related in any way.

But then something happened that changed how I viewed projects, and now I'm project-crazy! Here are some of my projects:

Melting Giants
The Ghosts of Auschwitz-Birkenau
Monoliths
Harbinger
Trees from a Train
Linnie, A Portrait of Breast Cancer
Power Lines
Beauty in Death
The Lone Man
Ukrainians, with Eyes Shut
Ceiling Lamps
Ancient Stones
And many more



© Cole Thompson

I'm seriously hooked on Projects!

And do you want to know the secret behind creating a great project?

Continued...

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“Vision, Passion and Projects” with Cole Thompson

(Continued from page 2)

(Marketing people say that I’m supposed to use words like “secret” and “great” to lure you in...)

There isn’t one. But what I have learned is that all my portfolios have two ingredients in common: Vision and Passion.

So I’ve been invited to speak on the topic of Vision, Passion, and Projects.

I’ll talk about how I create projects, why I do it, and the critical role of Vision and Passion. I’ll also be talking about:

Where do my ideas come from?

Why a good idea isn’t enough.

How I create projects.

My least favorite type of portfolio.

The project you should give up on.

The rules for creating a project.

Join me on October 21 and learn how to start creating projects of your very own!



Check out more of Cole’s
dynamic black & white images
on his website:

<https://colethompsonphotography.com/>

“Vision, Passion and Projects”

(Continued from page2)

About Cole Thompson



Egg in Glass, taken in 1968 at age 14

At 14 years of age, I knew I was destined to be a fine art photographer. While hiking in Rochester, NY I stumbled across the ruin of an old home that George Eastman had once owned. This piqued my interest and I read his biography. I was fascinated with photography and before I had completed the book, before I had even taken a photograph or seen a print develop in the darkroom, I knew that I was going to be a photographer. For the next 10 years photography was my complete existence, if I wasn't taking pictures or working in the darkroom, I was reading every book and looking at every image I could find. There was nothing in my life but photography.

Even at this early age I found myself drawn to a particular style of image, one that would literally cause a physical reaction in me. They were dark images created by Adams, Weston, Bullock and others. I knew that I was destined to create such images.

I am often asked, “Why black and white?” I think it's because I grew up in a black-and-white world. Television, movies and the news were all in black and white. My heroes were in black and white and even the nation was segregated into black and white. My images are an extension of the world in which I grew up.

For me color records the image, but black and white captures the feelings that lie beneath the surface.

My art has appeared in many exhibitions, publications and has received awards. And yet I do not list these accomplishments on a resume, why?

In the past I've considered those accolades as the evidence of my success, but I now think differently. My success is no longer measured by my resume, but rather by how I feel about the art that I create. While I do enjoy exhibiting, seeing my work published and meeting people who appreciate my art, this is the “cherry on top” of the real prize: creating work that I love.

I believe that the best success is achieved internally, not externally.

Some have asked about my qualifications given that I don't keep a resume, and I answer: “My images are my qualifications, nothing else matters.”



“Top Tips for Selling Prints on Line” with Liesl Walsh October 28, 2026 - 7 pm - On Zoom



Are you looking for a way to make money with your photography by selling prints online? The process is easier than you think.

After 11 years of selling my art in person and on different online platforms, I can say without a doubt that Fine Art America is the easiest platform for selling online. It was a slow start for me, but now I'm a best-seller on Fine Art America with over 1085 sales online, hundreds of images licensed to clients, and over 2.91 Million visitors to my website. When I meet with you on October 28 I will share *the most important things about selling online* so you can avoid the mistakes I made in the beginning and have an easier start than I did.

**1. Why is it good to sell your prints online?
What are the benefits of selling online
compared to selling in a gallery?**

**2. Why I love using Fine Art America to sell
prints online:**

Fine Art America fulfills orders for you, ships worldwide, has very high quality prints, plus many other features that makes this the easiest platform for selling prints compared to other platforms. If you are brand new to selling online this is the best place to get started.

3. My top tips for selling prints online:

Don't skip any of these tips if you want to sell easily and more quickly. The images you post online need to stand out from the crowd and make a very strong impression in seconds to make an impact on buyers. How you set up your website can help or hurt your sales. Does your website entice people to buy or do people leave your page within seconds? How do you drive traffic to your website and build an audience that collects your work? How do you use social media? And what do you write to gain trust with an audience and entice them to buy your art?

Things will start to happen when you connect with more people and they see your art online. I started making more sales, got published many times, grew client relationships, became more well known locally, and received new business opportunities.

I want the same success for you! You can turn your photos into profit. Your art can impact lives in a positive way.

I look forward to sharing my top tips with you so you can have an easier and faster start than I did selling prints online.

See you on October 28!

Continued...

Top Tips for Selling Prints on Line

(Continued from page 4)

About Liesl Walsh

I am a fine art photographer in Venice, Florida with a background in art education. I teach photography online as an instructor at KelbyOne to thousands of students worldwide and have appeared on The Grid podcast. I have classes about editing, marketing, and how to sell prints online using Fine Art America.

In college I majored in art education, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree, and taught elementary art in Pennsylvania for nine years. After moving to Florida I earned my Masters of Photography. My work has sold in a gallery in downtown Venice, Florida and sells regularly locally and around the world as a best-seller on Fine Art America.

In the past I worked with renowned French photographer Serge Ramelli as an ambassador in his academy, assisting him in teaching photography online, and filling in for him doing live videos.

Art and photography have always been my passion. My love of painting, drawing, and colors influences my photography style.

My portfolio includes landscapes and architecture in Florida, Michigan, Europe. I enhance light, shadows, and color when editing to create powerful, dramatic, and peaceful images. Serenity and those “magic moments” that touch deep into the soul... my images show the world as a beautiful place to live and a wonderful place to explore.

My favorite things to capture are historical and tropical places, pink flamingos, trees, coastlines, and old buildings with charm. I like to give my photos a painterly look while others I'll give dramatic, bold lighting.



There are LOTS of ways to follow Liesl Walsh!

Website (Photography Courses): <https://www.lieslwalshphotos.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/liesl.walsh>

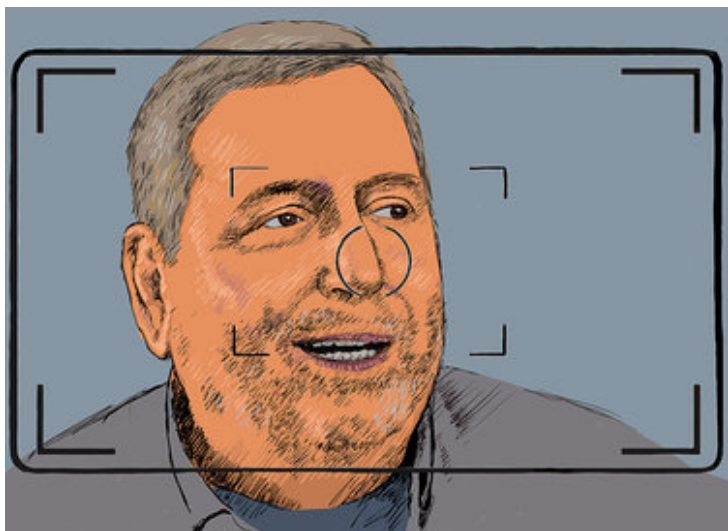
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lieslwalshphotography/>

Twitter: <https://x.com/LieslWalsh>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@lieslwalshphotography>

My Fine Art America personal website for selling prints: <https://liesl-walsh.pixels.com/>

My page on Fine Art America: <https://fineartamerica.com/profiles/liesl-walsh>



MILESTONES

REMEMBERING RICH SCHREIBSTEIN

In 1953, when Rich was 6 years old, his father moved the family to Japan where he was stationed. There, Rich was given his first camera, a Brownie — basically a cardboard box with a simple convex-concave lens.

Rich liked to say the first picture he ever took was of Mount Fuji “because you could see Mount Fuji from nearly everywhere.”

In 1961, the Schreibsteins moved to Fort Bliss in Texas. Rich started his freshman year in the brand new Eastwood High School in El Paso, where he took a journalism class with Jackie Goodwin whom he said “probably influenced me more than any person in my life other than my mother and father.”

Rich was the first person to use the new school’s darkroom, developing and printing pictures he’d shot with an old reflex camera. “I took all kinds of photography, from portraits to sports,” he said of his four high-school years.

Rich went on to major in journalism at the University of Texas at El Paso, and after graduation in 1970 was commissioned into the Army as an officer in the Signal Corps. He was stationed in Germany, close to where he’d spent his youth.

During a visit to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey in 1971, Rich looked up his parents’ old friends, the Quercios. He and their eldest daughter, Ellen, would marry within the year. He was 24 and she was 23. They were married for 55 years.

“We went back to Germany and Ellen gave me a Canon FTb,” Rich recalled. “I must have shot thousands of slides.”

Ellen and Rich then moved to Fort Lewis outside of Seattle and bought their first house in Olympia, Washington. That’s where their daughter, Margaret, was born in 1975. Maggie was bright and beautiful and he and Ellen wanted to go home to New Jersey.

Thursday, August 27, 2026 - 08:47

Art by Elisabeth Vines

Richard Schreibstein had an easy way with people. He was clever and witty and curious about the world. He loved his wife and daughters, his grandkids and grandnephews, and he was loved by every friend he ever had.

Rich also loved the village of Altamont where he lived for more than 40 years; The Altamont Enterprise, which he ushered into the computer era during his tenure as editor; and photography, recording life with a journalist’s eye.

On Aug. 8, 2026 during a visit from his daughter and grandchildren, where they played poker and talked about the Rolling Stones, Rich went upstairs, sat down, and while listening to the sounds of the people he loved, he left us.

Rich was the second son of Robert and Mildred (née Winick) Schreibstein. Rich was born May 2, 1947 in Sheepshead Bay, New York on his father’s 26th birthday. Rich and his father also died on the same day, 22 years apart.

Growing up, the family lived in New York, New Jersey, Georgia, Japan, Germany, and Texas. He and his older brother, Bert, were partners in crime. As children they ran unsupervised through the streets of Europe and touched the Mona Lisa, back when you could do that sort of thing.

He separated from the Army as a captain in 1976 and they moved to Jamesburg, New Jersey where their second daughter, Katherine, was born. The Schreibsteins stayed there until 1984 when work led them to upstate New York. The family moved to Altamont, a place he fell in love with and where he would be reintroduced to journalism.

The former long-time Enterprise publisher, Jim Gardner, recalled, "Rich was getting the newspaper. He came in to see me and introduced himself. We kind of gelled. First thing you know, I had him doing odds and ends."

Apple had introduced its first Macintosh computer in 1984 and Rich taught himself how to use it. "He guided us into the computer era," said Jim, adding, "As the Mac changed, he changed."

Rich's passion was writing a humor column, "Done with Mirrors." "I was always fascinated how he could come up with something for that column every week," said Jim.

Rich's topics ranged from national politics to family crises. His humor was never mean and was often self-deprecating. In his column, Rich would repeat his wife's joke that he was "Mr. Good Enough" because, in restoring his house on Altamont's Main Street, he had many projects to do, and was pleased if the results were not perfect but "good enough."

In his later years, Rich returned to photography with a passion. His pictures were not sentimental or cute. Rather they captured moments that felt real and provoked thought.

Rich built dollhouses for Maggie and Katie, he did science-fair projects and taught his daughters to drive. He was there for graduations and car crashes. He took them to see James Taylor.

Rich loved being a grandfather. He cried the first time he held his eldest grandchild. Evan is now 15, followed by Adam 12, and Lucy 8. He taught them to fish and play cards. He shared with them his love of history, writing, and photography.

There will be a display of Rich's photography at the Altamont Free Library beginning on Oct. 13, 2026.

THE ALTAMONT ENTERPRISE

MILESTONES

Continued...

Editor's Note:

Rich Schreibstein was an active member of SPS, being a former President (2019-2020 and 2020-2021 seasons), a dedicated member of the Traveling Exhibit Committee, and a frequent participant in our monthly competitions. Staying true to his favored genre, Rich almost always entered his beloved street photography photos, accompanied by his witty and imaginative captions. Often frustrated, his love of street photography did not waver...win or lose!

To say he will be missed is truly an understatement. We will miss his unique sense of humor and his creative images capturing life in and around the Capital District. Personally he was my friend, always with an encouraging word whenever the newsletter was published, and for the work the Board does to keep SPS running. I'm including here my favorite Rich image.

Beginning October 16, the Altamont Library will feature a collection of Rich's photos. A reception is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, from 10:30-12:00. Registration is appreciated and members will receive an email to register.



"What Could Possibly Go Wrong?"

© Rich Schreibstein

LARK STREET PHOTO WALK

Remembering Rich Schreiberstein

August 24, 2026

On August 26 at 3 pm, a group of Rich's friends (Alan Wiggins, Dan Steen, Jerry Boehm, Neil Shapiro, M-J Adelman and Linda Tommasulo), along with his brother, Bert, joined in Rich's memory for a photo walk at one of his favorite locations: Lark Street in Albany. Here are some of their photos.

© Alan Wiggins



Lark Street Photo Walk

(Continued from page 8)

© Dan Steen



Lark Street Photo Walk

(Continued from page 9)

© M-J Adelman



Lark Street Photo Walk

(Continued from page 10)



© Jerry Boehm

Continued...

Lark Street Photo Walk

(Continued from page 11)



© Linda Tommasulo



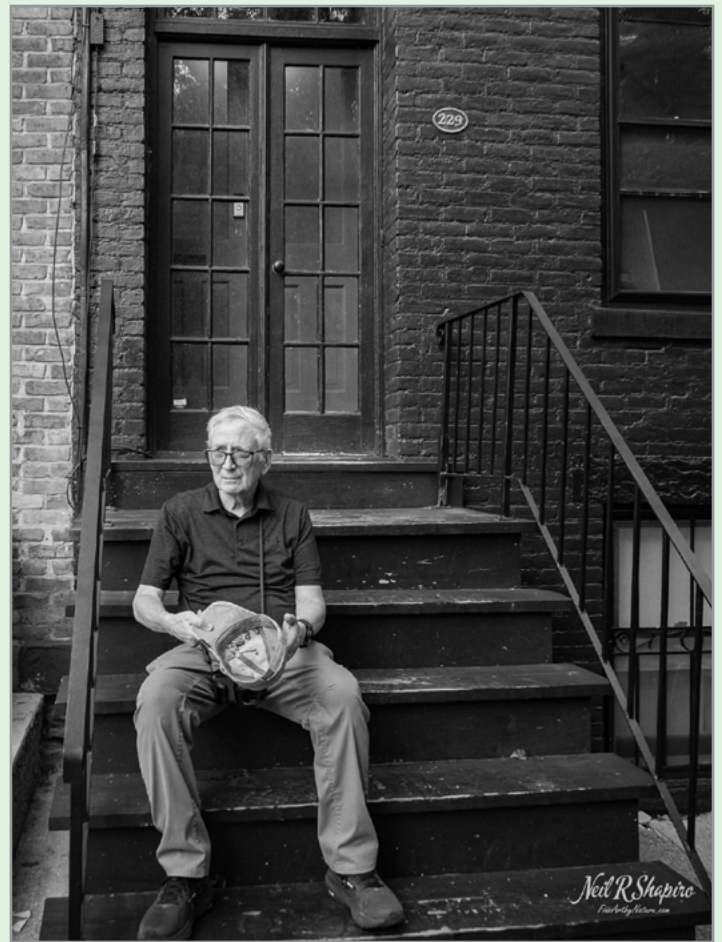
Lark Street Photo Walk

(Continued from page 12)



Group photo, minus photographer, Neil Shapiro

© Neil Shapiro



Lark Street Photo Walk

(Continued from page 13)



© Bert Schreibstein



Group photo, minus photographer, Dan

REMEMBERING JAY MAISEL

A number of tributes have been posted about the passing of world-renowned New York photographer Jay Maisel. As most of you know, Jay took street photography to a whole new level, and was an inspiration for photographers across the globe. Rather than highlight his accomplishments, I have put together some classic “Maisel-isms” that will hopefully inspire us to take better photos when we hit the streets with our cameras .

“If you’re out there shooting, things will happen for you. If you’re not out there, you’ll only hear about it.

—JAY MAISEL

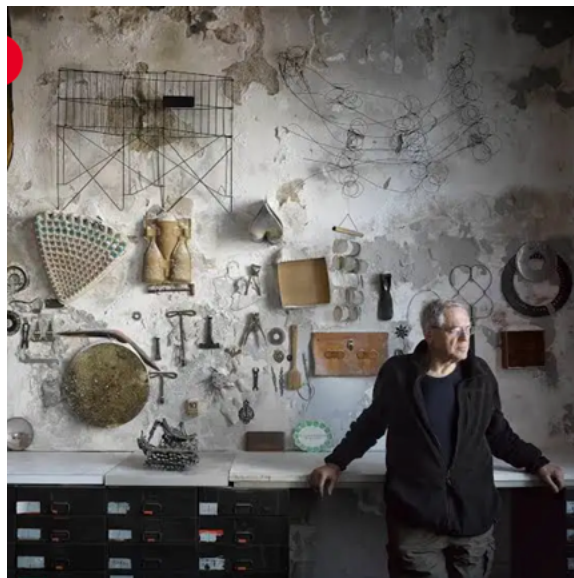
**THEY DON’T CALL IT ‘TRIAL AND SUCCESS,’
THEY CALL IT ‘TRIAL AND ERROR.’”**

“Obviously, you were moved to shoot this picture, so my question to you is, “Why am I not moved?”

“When you are walking, and walking slowly, you can start seeing relationships between people. You can start seeing things that are going to happen before they happen.”

There are a lot of people who feel that there are many, many things that they don’t want to shoot. I don’t care... I am open.”

**“If you embrace failure,
it can’t hurt you in any way.”**



“The whole point of what I am trying to teach you to do is to be open to whatever happens in front of you.”

“I AM NOT GOING TO SHOOT THIS. IT WOULD BE MORE FUN TO WATCH WITHOUT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF TRYING TO MAKE IT INTO SOMETHING.”

“You are responsible for every part of your image, even the parts you’re not interested in.”

*“If you want to make more interesting pictures,
become a more interesting person.”*

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

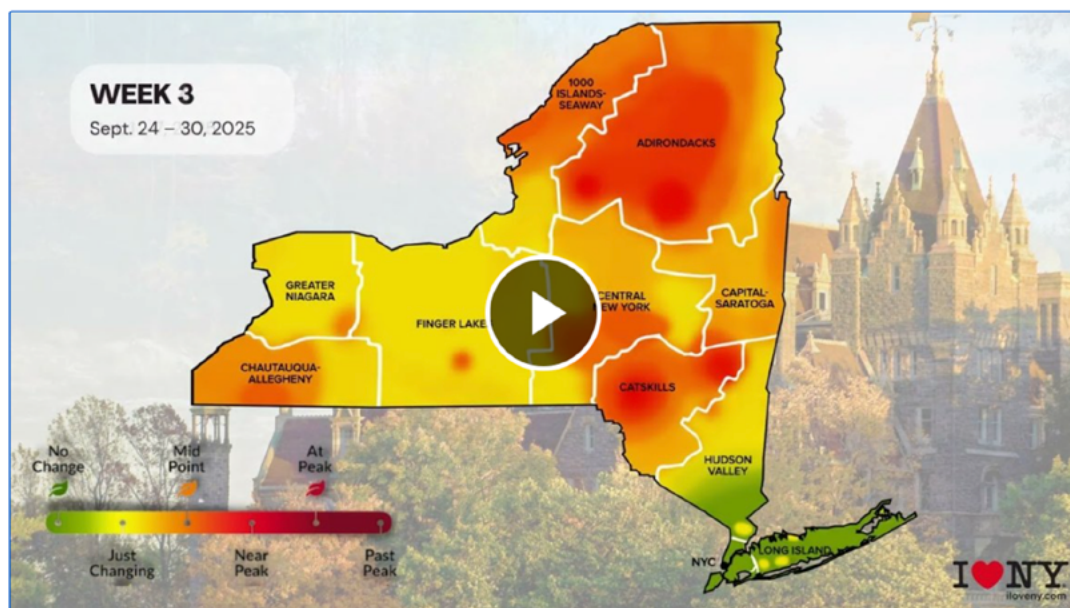
PLAN
YOUR TRIP



Coney Mountain, Adirondacks

FALL FOLIAGE REPORT

New York State boasts one of the longest and most colorful fall foliage seasons in the country, typically starting in late September and ending in November. As the landscape transforms into vibrant hues of red, orange, and yellow, I LOVE NY's weekly fall foliage reports track the changing colors across the state's 11 vacation regions to help travelers plan their trip to experience fall in New York State at its peak. Watch the video below to explore last year's color-changing timeline and [start planning your autumn adventure](#) in New York State!



TEN TIPS TO PREPARE FOR FALL COLOR

by Rich Seiling

(Reprinted with permission)

A recurring article to entice you to get out and capture Autumn in New York



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 17)

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



SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

****OUR SEASON BEGINS****

**Wednesday, September 30, 2026
7 pm**

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

Topic:

Bring One Favorite Photo—Print or Digital—to Share

We are happy to announce Opening Day of the 2026-2027 95th season of the Schenectady Photographic Society at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 30, 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 95 years of SPS!

WE'RE BACK!!

Season Opening Day 9/30/26

The first meeting of our 95th season was a success, with many members bringing their photo and stories to share. Thanks to all who participated and attended.



President, Alan Wiggins, addresses the group.

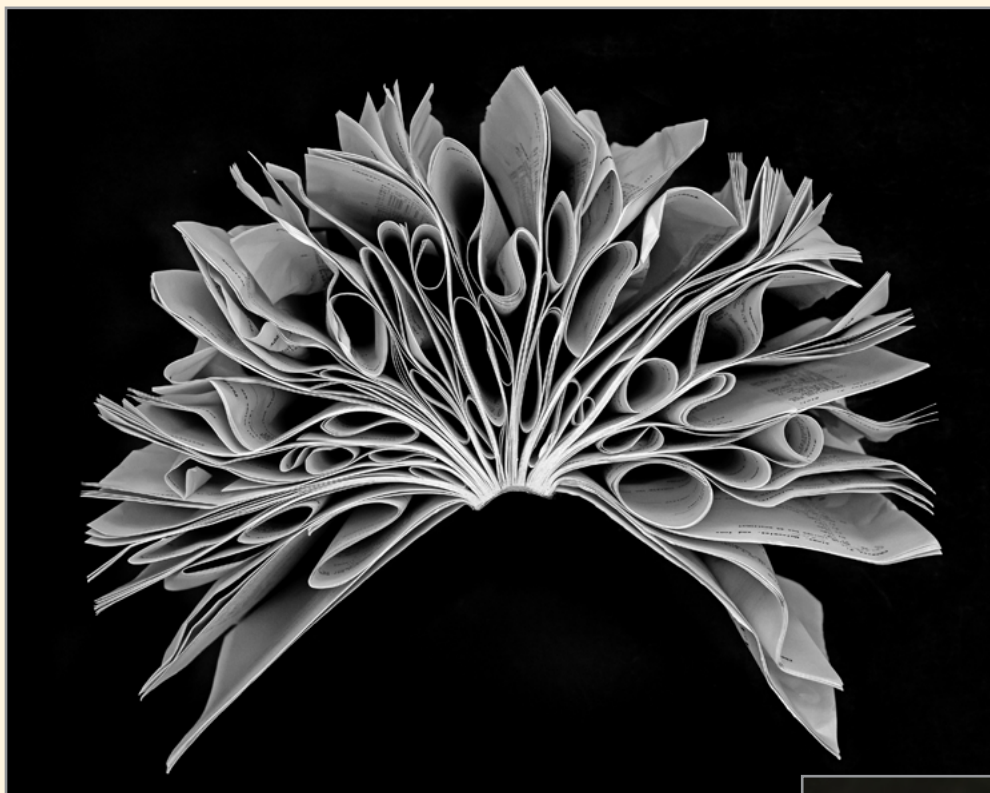


Favorite prints on display



Elena Keesee discusses her print.

SPSers "SELECTED" AT 47th ANNUAL PHOTO REGIONAL at Albany Center Gallery



Twisted Plot © Elena Keesee

Out of a total of 225 entries,
only 25 were chosen for the
"Photo Regional Select."

Five of those were images by
members of SPS:

Elena Keesee (2),

Jan Juliano (1)

and Linda Tommasulo (2).



Framework of Time © Jan Juliano



How Did it Come to This? © Elena Keesee



**SPSers "SELECTED" AT
47th ANNUAL PHOTO
REGIONAL
at Albany Center Gallery**



Woodland Wonder © Linda Tommasulo



Textured Lotus © Linda Tommasulo
ALSO HONORABLE MENTION AWARD WINNER



CARRIE HADDAD GALLERY AWARD WINNER
Conversation Anthali, Nepal © Connie Frisbee Houde

THE SPS TRAVELING EXHIBIT IS NOW ON FINE ART AMERICA!

<https://fineartamerica.com/groups/schenectady-photographic-society-exhibit.html>

Home | Groups

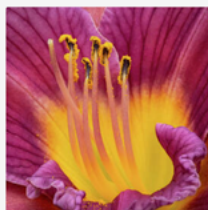
SCENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY EXHIBIT

FEATURED IMAGES

September 2026



The Urban Aisle
Neil Shapiro



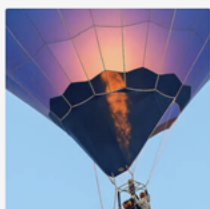
Daylily
Joe Cotroneo



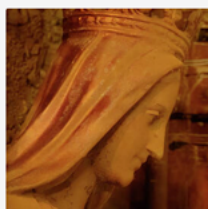
Ice Shanty, Mayfield
Kim Koza



Female Lion Relaxing in ...
M-J Adelman



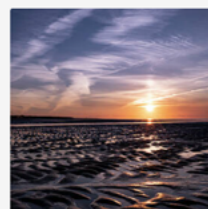
Dawn Patrol
Dan Steen



Madona in Storage
Dan Steen



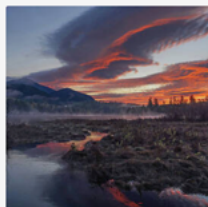
Sunflower And Barn
Phil Olivo



Sunset on Brewster Flats
Alan Wiggins



Gentle Invitation
Janice Prichett



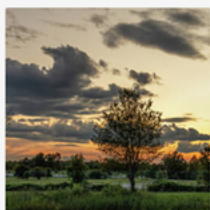
Embers of Dawn
Janice Prichett



Blondie
Joan Heffler



Rockport, Massachusetts
Joan Heffler



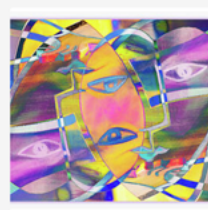
Sunset, Malta, NY
Joe Cotroneo



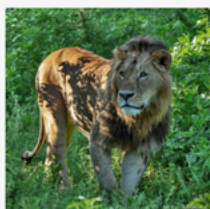
Kauai Blooms
Kim Koza



Capital at Night
Linda Tommasulo



Here is Looking at You
Linda Tommasulo



Male Lion with Tree Sha...
M-J Adelman



Painted Ladies
Bert van Grondelle



Lighting The Way
Vintage Car Headlights ...
Phil Olivo



Star of Canada
Neil Shapiro

SPS on FAA

(Continued from page 22)

Thanks to Traveling Exhibit Committee Chairman, Bert van Grondelle, his committee members Jerry Boheme, M-J Adelman and with the expertise of Neil Shapiro, the first SPS exhibit appeared on Fine Art America in August. The September exhibit is displayed on page 13.

ABOUT THIS GROUP



The Schenectady Photographic Society (SPS) has been a creative home for photographers of all levels for more than 90 years. For more about SPS, visit <https://spsphoto.org>.

This page is our monthly member exhibit, showcasing images created by members of the Schenectady Photographic Society.

Note: When you click an image in the exhibit to view it larger, you should use your browser's Back button to return to the exhibit page to view other images from this exhibit. A photo in this exhibit links to the photographer's own FAA gallery, if they have one. Once you're at their site, the Next and Prev buttons will show more of their work, and not another image in the SPS member exhibit.

SPS Online Exhibit Submission Rules by Neil Shapiro

This only applies to the files you are loading via dropbox for the SPS Online Exhibit Archive.

File Size:

JPEG

sRGB

Long edge: 2400–3600 px

Quality: 80–90

Sharpen for screen: Standard

These are guidelines. You can supply a larger image if you want. But the specifications above produce a clean, crisp file that FAA handles beautifully. FAA's viewer never shows full resolution anyway — it down-scales for web display. And remember, the submission here is not for sale or printing. What you put on your own FAA account is for sale and for printing. That's completely separate.

File Naming:

1. Use this exact file name format:

Your Name – Your Title – Your Original Filename.jpg

You do not need to change your own filename or numbering system. Just add your name and your title at the front. (You may leave off Your Original Filename if you don't use one.)

Examples:

Jane Smith – Sunset Over Mohawk River – XT1A7104.jpg
John Doe – Union College Nott Memorial – IMG_20240710_001.jpg
Jane Smith – Mohawk River Sunrise – MohawkRiverSunrise.jpg
John Doe – Adirondack Trail – DSC_1234.jpg

or if you don't care about including your own image name/identifier, it could be just

John Doe – Adirondack Trail.jpg

2. Use only letters, numbers, spaces, hyphens, and underscores. Allowed characters: A-Z a-z 0-9 space underscore and .jpg at the end

SPS on FAA

(Continued from page 23)

3. Do NOT use any punctuation or symbols. No quotes, commas, parentheses, slashes, periods (except the final .jpg), ampersands, colons, etc.
4. Keep the title short and simple. Recommended filename length limit: 80 characters (including spaces)
5. The ONLY period allowed is the one before “.jpg”.

That’s it. This avoids upload issues and keeps everything consistent for competitions and galleries.

File Metadata

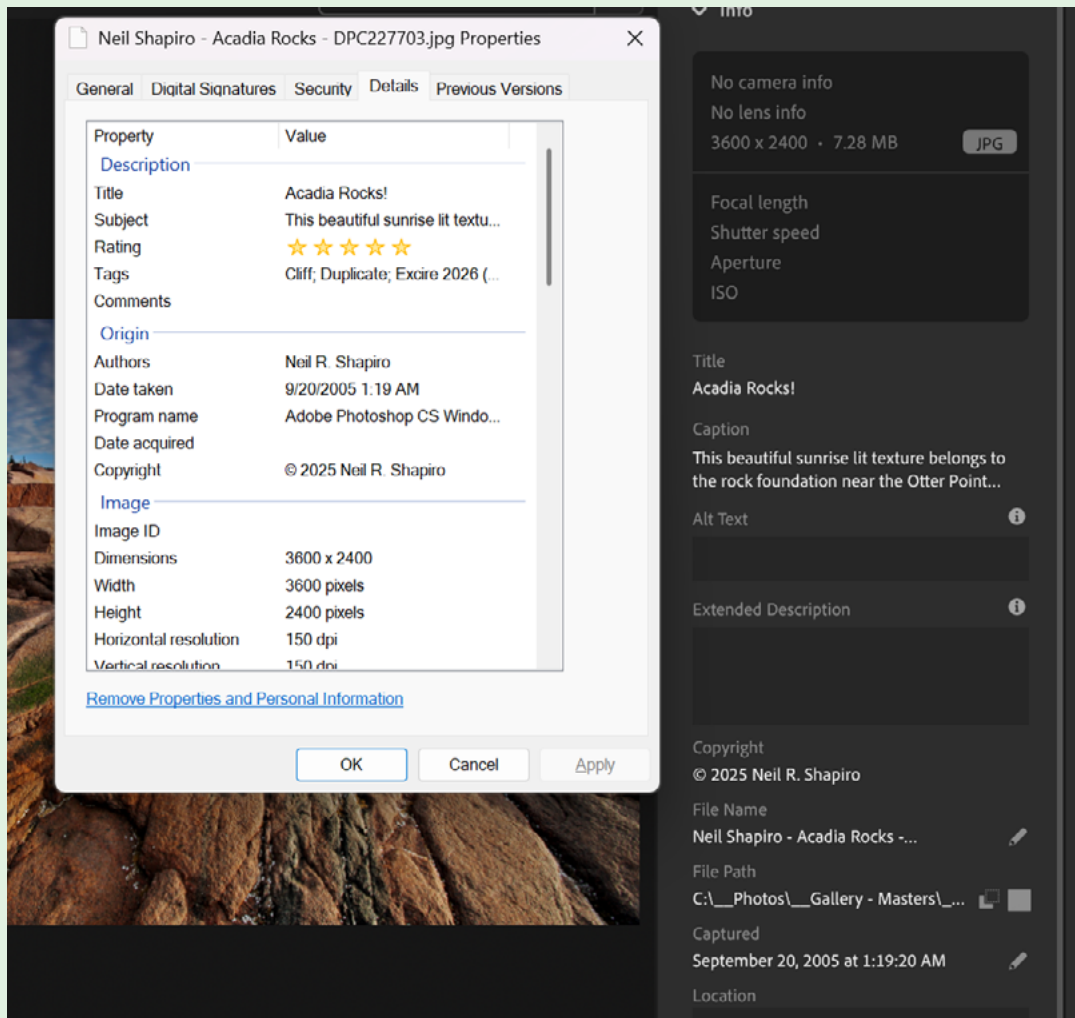
To help us with uploading to FAA, it would help, but it’s not required, if you fill in at least these two metadata fields:

In LR and LRClassic fill in the metadata fields:

“Title” and “*Caption”

*This shows as “Caption” in LR/LRC, “Subject” in Windows Explorer Properties, and “Description” on the Mac

Example - showing Explorer field properties in the foreground and LR fields in the background.



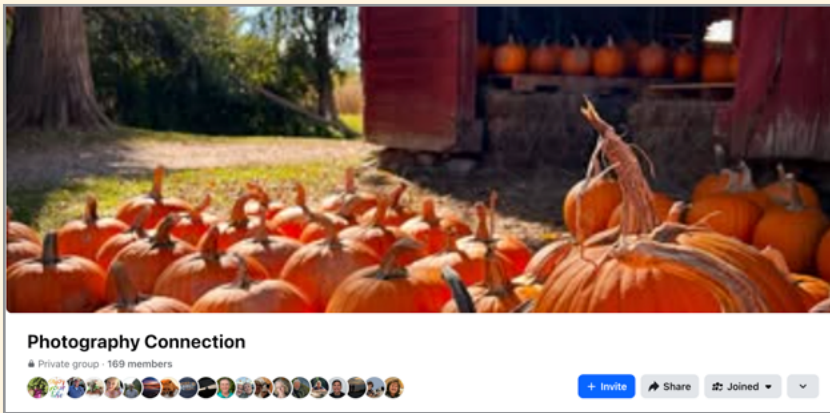
The exhibit will change monthly. If you need any assistance formatting or uploading photos, please reach out to Neil Shapiro: nrshapiro@gmail.com, or Bert van Grondelle: travelingexhibit@spsphotos.org.

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

The Schenectady Photographic Society participates in field trips organized by the Photography Connection Facebook Group. 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 Full Moon over Olana, Baby Animals at Hancock Shaker Village, Slate Hill Lavender Farm, Washington Park, Spiral House Park and Billing's Farm Sunflower House.

Special events last season included Dave Kraus' presentation, "At the End of the World: A Photographer's Journey to Patagonia" and Peter Bosco's presentation on "Walker Evans and George Tice: Unvarnished America."

Events and photo outings will continue through the SPS 2026-2027 season. Check out the link to learn more and Join Us!



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

YOU'RE INVITED TO

A Gentle Invitation

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JANICE PRICHETT

ON VIEW
SEPTEMBER 10 –
OCTOBER 10, 2026

OPENING RECEPTION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Photographs that invite you to pause, look closely, and linger a while.

ADIRONDACK LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS
8897 STATE ROUTE 30 • BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE, NY 12812

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.

FOLLOW THE MEMBERS ONLY-FACEBOOK GROUPS

“The SPS Learning Center” And “SPS Smartphone Group”



The SPS Learning Center

Private group · 31 members

A great 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>



SPS Smartphone Group

Private group · 17 members



+ Invite

Share

Joined ▼



Our newest Facebook Group: a forum to share Smart Phone photography-related information, post images for critique and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2036988370495453>

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

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: 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 Object(s)**

January: **Nature**

February: **Multiple Exposure**

March: **Winter**

April: **Silhouettes**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Fruit and/or Vegetable**

November: **Barns**

December: **Standing Out**

January: **Car Detail(s)**

February: **Intentional Camera Movement**

March: **Sunrise, Sunset or Sunburst**

April: **Bridges**

ASSIGNED TOPICS: 2027-2028 SEASON

IMPORTANT NOTE: 2027-2028 Assigned Topics must have been taken on or after May 1, 2026.

PRINT ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **Photo Taken at Night**

November: **Diptych or Triptych**

December: **Street Scene**

January: **The Color Green**

February: **Flower(s)**

March: **Triangle(s)**

April: **Grain or Texture**

DIGITAL ASSIGNED TOPICS

October: **It's About the Details**

November: **Unusual Perspective**

December: **Americana**

January: **It's Not What You Think it is!**

February: **Low Key**

March: **Backlit**

April: **Wildlife That Flies**

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.

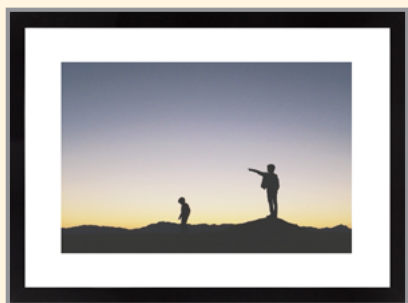
Members may submit up to **four (4)** images in our Print Competitions. Categories will include General (i.e., color), Monochrome and Assigned Topic. You may submit up to **(2) in any category**. For example, two in Monochrome and one each in Assigned Topic and General.

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):

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr _____

Year: _____

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):

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr _____

Year: _____

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):

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr _____

Year: _____

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.

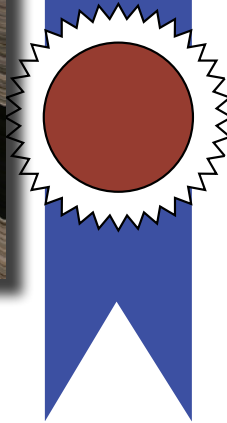
We hope to see more members participating this season.

2025-2026 DIGITAL IMAGE OF THE YEAR



“The Portal” © Elena Keesee
 (“Patterns” Assigned Topic)

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Judges:

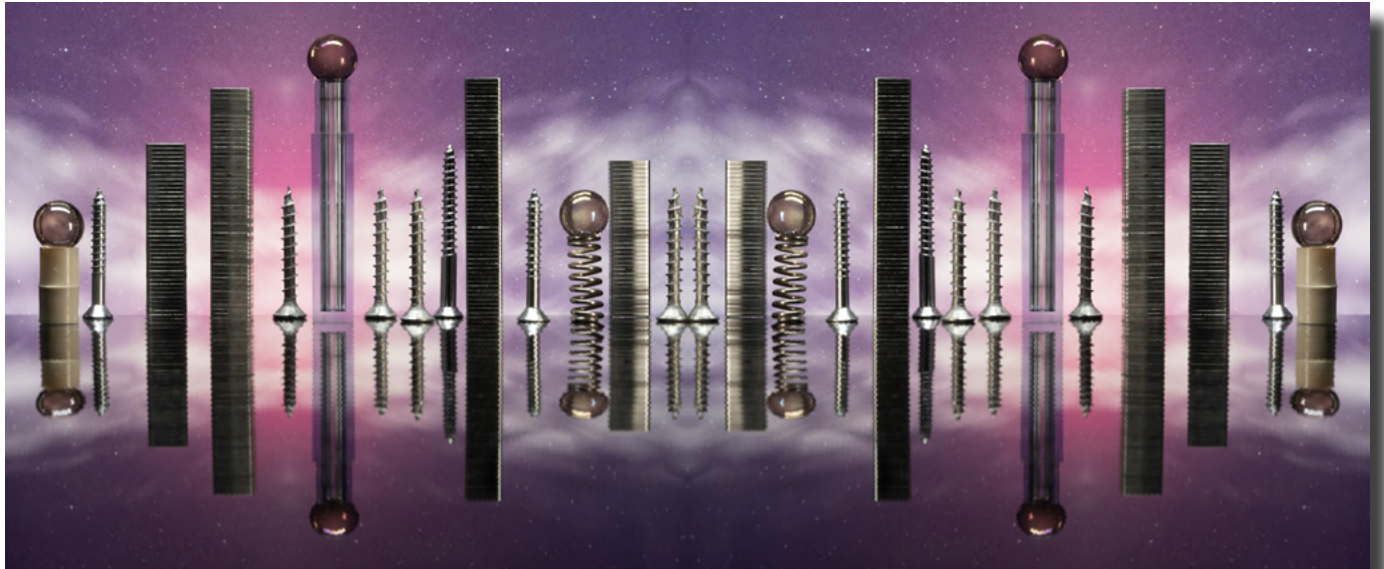
Nicholas Palmieri captures the essence of nature and architecture through his stunning photography. His work features a diverse range of subjects, from majestic snowy owls to vibrant landscapes during different seasons. The cityscapes at night reveal a striking contrast between urban lights and natural elements, reflecting a unique perspective. Nicholas’s images often feature rich colors and intricate details, drawing viewers into the scene. His collection also includes intricate celestial compositions, showcasing a deep appreciation for the night sky. Each photograph tells a story, inviting audiences to explore the beauty of the world around them. Through his lens, ordinary moments are transformed into extraordinary art.

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

Ellen J. Stein began her photography journey as a child, learning the basics of film from her father. She holds a degree in Fine Art with a concentration in photography. An avid nature and wildlife photographer, she also explores abstract, landscape, and B&W genres. Ellen is the current President of the NJ Federation of Camera Clubs (NJFCC), the Cranford-Millburn Camera Club (CMCC), and the Camera Naturalists Photography Club. She chairs the annual NJFCC Photorama Conference and is a frequent judge and presenter. Professionally, she has spent 30 years in government affairs, serving at all levels from municipal to the US Congress, and founded HPS Public Affairs Group in 2015.

2025-2026 DIGITAL IMAGE OF THE YEAR

GENERAL



"Screw City"
© Joe Cotroneo



"Fern Dew"
© Kim Koza

MONOCHROME

2025-2026 PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR



"Pipe Dreams"

© Linda Tommasulo

(:"Abstract" Assigned Topic)

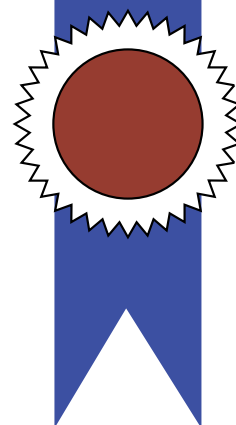
Judge:

Richard Lovrich

Richard Lovrich was born in New York City, attended Parsons School of Design and prior to moving to the Capital Region of New York, worked as an independent photographer, designer and producer with clients in manufacturing, banking, publishing, pharmaceuticals, fashion and for clients in the U.S., and abroad. Currently a creative director for theatricals where he also served as a marketing director, he also held the position of art director at a major daily. Portrait and food photography remain his passions.

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

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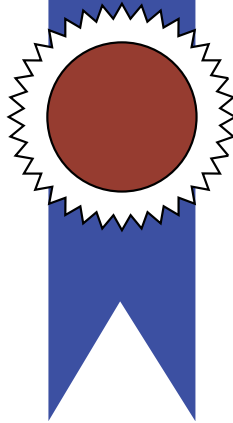
2025-2026 PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR



"Plaza Reflections"

© Jan Juliano

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2025-2026 PRINT IMAGE OF THE YEAR

MONOCHROME



"Skateboarder in Washington Park"

© Alan Wiggins

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

SEASON STARTED WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

Membership:

Individual: \$65 / Family (Same Address): \$80 / 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.facebook.com/groups/906936454705566>

LUBA RICKET CREATIVITY COORDINATOR

Joan Heffler

TRAVELING EXHIBIT COORDINATORS

Bert van Grondelle, Neil Shapiro

Jerry Boehm, 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 2026-2027 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, 2026

10/7/26.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Composite

JUDGE: JIM GILBERT

10/14/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Fruit and/or Vegetable

JUDGE: TOM CUCHARA

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

November, 2026

11/4/26.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Symmetry

JUDGE: FRED NEUDOERFFER

<http://neustudios.com>

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

Assigned Topic: Barns

JUDGE: LISA CUCHARA

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

December, 2026

12/2/26.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Everyday Object(s)

JUDGE: EVAN LAUBER

<http://photosbyevan.com>

12/9/26.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Standing Out

JUDGE: JOHANNA SIEGMANN

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

January, 2027

1/6/27**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Nature

JUDGE: DAVID FINGERHUT

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

1/13/27.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Car Detail(s)

JUDGE: DAVID CROOKS

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

February, 2027

2/3/27**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Multiple Exposure

JUDGE: HANNAH ZEL

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

February, 2027 (Cont'd.)

2/10/27.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Intentional Camera Movement

JUDGE: JEFFREY LEVY

https://www.dpchallenge.com/portfolio.php?USER_ID=60862&collection_id=24523

March, 2027

3/3/27**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Winter

JUDGE: EVEN LAUBER

<https://www.sphotosbyevan.com>

3/10/27.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Sunrise, Sunset or Sunburst

JUDGE: LIESL WALSH

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

3/17/27.....**PHOTO ESSAY COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: CINDY SCHULTZ

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

April, 2027

4/7/27**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**

Assigned Topic: Silhouettes

JUDGE: CHRISTINE KINGERY

<https://ckingeryphotography.pixieset.com/>

4/14/27.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**

Assigned Topic: Bridges

JUDGE: NICK PALMIERI

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

4/21/27**LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC**

JUDGE: LAWRENCE WHITE

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

May, 2027

5/5/27.....**PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC**

JUDGES: RICHARD LOVRICH

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

and T.B.A.

5/12/27.....**DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom**

JUDGES: CHRIS MURRAY

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

and T.B.A.

SPS 2026-2027 SEASON CALENDAR

For Assigned Topics, images must have been taken on or after June 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, 2026

9/30/26..... **OPENING DAY@ FUMC**
Bring a favorite photo (print or digital)
to share and discuss

October, 2026

10/7/26.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Assigned Topic: Composite
10/14/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**
Assigned Topic: Fruit and/or Vegetable
10/21/26 **EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Cole Thompson: Vision, Passion and Projects
10/28/26 **EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Liesl Walsh: Top Tips for Selling Prints on Line

November, 2026

11/4/26.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Assigned Topic: Symmetry
11/11/26**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**
Assigned Topic: Barns
11/18/26 **EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
John Barclay: Musings From 35 Years as a Photographer
11/25/26**NO MEETING (THANKSGIVING)**

December, 2026

12/2/26.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Assigned Topic: Everyday Object(s)
12/9/26.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**
Assigned Topic: Standing Out
12/16/26 **EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Travis Layton: Bird Photography From Start to Finish
12/23/26**NO MEETING (CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY)**
12/30/26**NO MEETING (NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY)**

January, 2027

1/6/27.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Assigned Topic: Nature
1/13/27.....**DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**
Assigned Topic: Car Detail(s)
1/20/27..... **EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Angie McMonigal: The Art of Architectural Form
Where Styles, Details & Abstractions Meet
1/27/27..... **EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Nick Palmieri: Enhancing Your Photography Ethically
with AI - Tools, Techniques & Ethics

February, 2027

2/3/27.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Assigned Topic: Multiple Exposure
2/10/27..... **DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**
Assigned Topic: Intentional Camera Movement
2/17/27.....**EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Joseph Thomas : A Keen Mind for Beauty
2/24/27.....**EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Jim Craner: Discovering Florida Wildlife

March, 2027

3/3/27.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Assigned Topic: Winter
3/10/27..... **DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**
Assigned Topic: Sunrise, Sunset and/or Sunburst
3/17/27..... **PHOTO ESSAY on Zoom (?)**
Critique by Cindy Schultz
3/24/27.....**EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Ian Howard: The Truth is Black and White
3/31/27.....**EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Deborah Loeb Bohren: The Art and Science
of Abstract Thinking

April, 2027

4/7/27.....**PRINT COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Assigned Topic: Silhouettes
4/14/27..... **DIGITAL COMPETITION on Zoom**
Assigned Topic: Bridges
4/21/27..... **LUBA RICKET CREATIVE
COMPETITION @ FUMC**
Judge: Lawrence White
4/28/27.....**EVENT NIGHT on Zoom**
Mike Moats: Does Your Flower Photography Suck?
Let Me Help You

May, 2027

5/5/27.....**PRINT IMAGES OF THE YEAR @ FUMC**
Special Presentation by Kim Koza
"Smartphone Magic"

5/12/27.... **DIGITAL IMAGES OF THE YEAR on Zoom**

June, 2027**SPS AWARDS BANQUET**
Date/Location: TBA

HAVE A SAFE, ENJOYABLE AND
PHOTOGRAPHIC SUMMER!