Schenectady Photographic Society Newsletter

Bold red texts are interactive links!

FOCUS

IT'S OUR 95TH SEASON!

Volume 93 - No. 2 https://spsphoto.org/ November 2026

EVENT NIGHT

"Musings From 35 Years as a Photographer" with John Barclay
November 16, 2026 - 7 pm - on Zoom

I have been a serious photographer for over 30 years. During those years I have thought deeply about what photography means to me and why it is so important. I've asked myself, "Why do I photograph?" I've wondered what my role is in the creative act. I've had in depth conversations with many other photographers about their process. I've led over 150 workshops or tours where I have learned so much about why others create.

In this presentation, I will share my ah-ha moments, my revelations, and my learnings from my journey. My musings, if you will, about my journey with photography. I will share my transition from photographer to artist creating expressive images.



© John Barclay

Continued...

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Musings From 35 Years as a Photographer

(Continued from page 1)

The intent of this presentation is to inspire you to think more deeply about your process, how you show up to make images and to move towards creating personally expressive images



Dream • Believe • Create
with John on his website:
https://johnbarclayphotography.com/





Continued...

Musings...

(Continued from page 2)







Musings...

(Continued from page 3)





About John Barclay

I always created images, but I was never "a photographer." I told myself I wasn't creative. I wasn't artistic. My stick figures were failures. But I had this new camera and I wanted to learn how to use it. On the first night of my first photo workshop, I stared in awe at the images shared by the group. The dream of being a "good" photographer was born. I sought out great photographers like Dan Sniffin, Tony Sweet and Nancy Rotenberg and I emulated them, listened to them, and learned from them. But I became a photographer in my own right when Nancy forbade me to look through anyone else's viewfinder for the entire duration of an epic trip to Africa. "Follow YOUR vision," she said, "and make the pictures that only you can see." Doubtful, but willing, I began looking for the images that spoke directly to me, that pulled my eye or aroused my imagination. I looked for connection, and found my photographer self.

I created my program "Dream • Believe • Create" to reflect my artistic journey. I began my journey with few skills, but aspired to be better. I watched and learned, gained a bit of confidence, and then began to see photography not only as a reflection of the world around me, but also as the representation of the reality inside me. My photographic journey freed me to create what was uniquely mine. Being genuinely aware of the beauty around me as I look through my lens feeds my soul and brings me great joy. I encourage the participants in my workshops to share that journey and discover the artist residing inside each of them.

Following that inner eye, I photograph whatever makes my heart sing. I have explored diverse subjects and continue to learn processing techniques that bring my vision to life. I am eager to share my journey with my tour members, to help them pay attention to what turns their heads, to help them feel more connected to the experience of making unique images that make their hearts, too, sing.



BARCLAY photography

IN MEMORIAM - RON HERNDON

Sadly, we have another former SPS member to remember. Ron Herndon was one of the original SPS members and an active participant for many years. I was privileged to know him, although for a short time; but I can attest to the fact that he loved photography. Sincere condolences go out to his wife, Suzy, and the family.

Ronald F. Herndon



Ronald Herndon Obituary

Herndon, Ronald F.
CLIFTON PARK - Ron Herndon, 84 years old, passed away October 15, 2026. He was born in Pulaski, Va., to James and Ruby Herndon. Ron attended The University of Florida, and earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. While there, he met and married his loving wife of 64 years, Suzy. They eventually made their way north as Ron was hired by GE, where he worked for over 30 years. Ron and Suzy loved to travel, and upon Ron's retirement, bought an RV, and headed west for months at a time. Ron was an avid outdoorsman, photographer, and marksman. He is survived by his wife, Suzy Herndon, of Clifton Park. His ability and acumen as an amateur photographer brought him to many parts of North America where he captured in photos some of the most amazing interactions and landscapes in nature one might see. He, along with Suzy, was an active member of Shenendehowa United Methodist Church. A private service will be held at a later date.

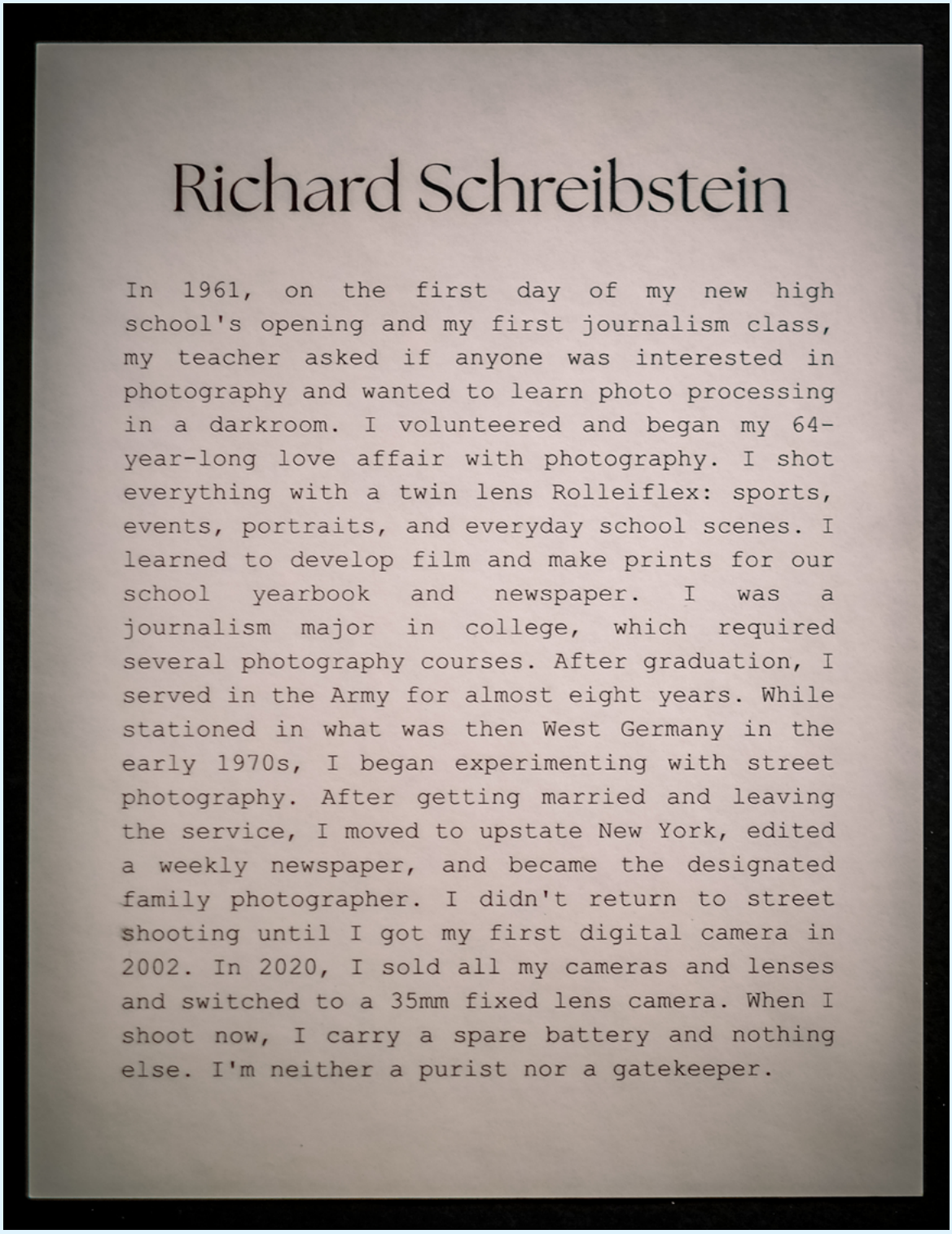
To plant trees in memory, please visit the Sympathy Store.

Published by Albany Times Union on Nov. 8, 2026.

FOCUS ON ALTAMONT LIBRARY RECEPTION
The Photography of Rich Schreibstein

A good turnout of family and friends attended the reception at the Altamont Library on October 31, 2026 to view the unique work of Rich Schreibstein.
It was a welcomed opportunity to say goodbye to this talented, very active former member while appreciating his talents, especially in street photography.

Here are some photos of the event taken by his brother, Bert.



Continued...

Altamont Library Reception

(Continued from page 6)



All photos © Bert Schreibstein

















Continued...

Altamont Library Reception

(Continued from page 7)





All photos © Bert Schreibstein



Rich's friend/neighbor for 40 years











Granddaughter, Lucy

SAVE THE DATE!
Smartphone Magic - with Kim Koza
in Person @ FUMC - May 5, 2027

Join us Wednesday, May 7, 2027 (Print Images of the Year evening) for an in-person presentation with award-winning photographer and 36-year SPS member, Kim Koza. Kim will reveal her step- by-step process for capturing extraordinary images using a smartphone. She will also bring a variety of the materials that she uses for her unique, at-home, nature set ups. You will have the opportunity to experiment with these set ups and see how easy it is. Editing and filter app suggestions will also be discussed and shown by example using her iPhone 16 Pro Max on screen.

Join us to make some magic!





Continued...

SAVE THE DATE!
Smartphone Magic with Kim Koza

(Continued from page 9)





Kim doesn't just create Smartphone Magic!

Check out Kim's website:

https://www.silhouetteimages.com/

and Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/SilhouetteImagesPhoto

GETTING OUT OF A PHOTOGRAPHY SLUMP

Time to point the camera at something usually ignored.

By Joe Brady

(Reprinted with permission)

Creative Ruts Are Just Comfortable Chairs.
Small, low-effort ways to nudge yourself out of a photographic slump.



I had never seen seagull chicks before! Mallaig, UK

There's a particular feeling to a creative rut that I think gets misdiagnosed a lot. It doesn't usually show up as some dramatic crisis where you can't take a decent photo anymore. It's quieter than that. You just keep shooting the same kind of shot, from the same kind of angle, at the same time of day you always go out, and none of it feels bad exactly, it just feels like you've already taken this photograph before. Because you have.

I've started thinking of ruts less like ditches you've fallen into and more like a comfortable chair you've been sitting in a little too long. Nobody forced you into it. It's just familiar, and familiar is easy, and easy is where you end up parking yourself without really noticing. The way out isn't some big dramatic leap, it's usually just standing up.

What tends to actually work, in my experience, is something small enough that it barely feels like an intervention. Grab the lens you never use instead of the one you reach for automatically. Go out at the time of day you normally skip because it's inconvenient, whatever that is for you. Point the camera at something you'd normally consider beneath you, a gas station, a puddle, whatever is directly in front of your house that you've walked past a thousand times without a second look.

None of these require planning a trip or buying anything. They just require doing the opposite of whatever your habit already has you doing.

I like these small nudges better than the bigger "reinvent yourself" advice you see floating around, honestly, because the big stuff is intimidating enough that it usually just adds to the rut instead of solving it. Telling someone in a slump to go book a trip to somewhere exotic and find their passion again is asking a lot of someone who can't currently work up the energy to leave their driveway. A small, almost silly constraint is a much easier thing to actually attempt on a random Tuesday.

Continued...

Getting Out of a Photography Slump

(Continued from page 11)



Snowy fenceposts on a cloudy day in Jackson Hole, Grand Teton National Park, WY

Sometimes the nudge isn't even about shooting differently, it's about looking backward for a minute. Go pull up some old work, from before you had any of your current habits, back when you didn't know enough yet to have settled into a comfortable way of doing things. You'll usually find something a little rough around the edges but genuinely curious, trying stuff your current, more polished self would probably talk you out of. That curiosity is worth borrowing back.

If you're in a rut right now, I wouldn't worry too much about it. It's not a sign anything's actually wrong with your eye. It just means you've been sitting in the same spot for a while, and the chair got comfortable. Stand up, walk somewhere you don't normally go, and point the camera at something you'd normally consider not worth the trouble.

That's usually enough to get things moving again.



Wheels of aging Gruyère cheese, Gruyeres, Switzerland

Continued...

Getting Out of a Photography Slump

(Continued from page 12)



A masked figure, directing other masked people to a private event, Venice, IT



A random collection of roots and textures



Not an unusual subject for me, but an active choice to not photograph the waterfall!

Continued...

Getting Out of a Photography Slump

(Continued from page 13)



About Joe Brady

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

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

Website:
https://www.joebradyphotography.com/

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



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

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/906936454705566groups/906936454705566

PRINT COMPETITION AT FUMC October 7, 2026

And so it begins...
our first print competition of
the 2026-2027 season.



Prints in the General category awaiting judging.



Enjoying refreshments
provided by John Ogden and
Judy Breslau



Participants eagerly awaiting the presentation by judge,
Jim Gilbert.





Judge, Jim Gilbert, did an excellent job
of critiquing our photos,
getting up close and personal
on stage with the projected images.

THE SPS TRAVELING EXHIBIT ON FINE ART AMERICA!

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

Home | Groups

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY EXHIBIT

FEATURED IMAGES

November 2026



Majestic Haleakal Crater
Dan Steen



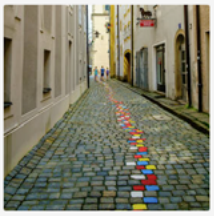
Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin
Dan Steen



The Gilded Sanctuary
Neil Shapiro



Sailors Delight - Sunset ...
Neil Shapiro



Morning Stroll Passu Ger...
Phil Olivo



Rain Forest Canopy, Pue...
Jerry Boehm



Salt Pond, Eastham, Cap...
Marty Bannan



Race Point Life-Saving S...
Marty Bannan



Canoe
Kim Koza



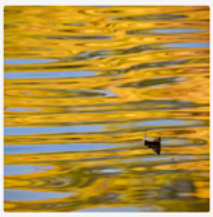
Panoramic View
Linda Tommasulo



1930 Ford Model A
M-J Adelman



1925 Rickenbacker
M-J Adelman



Autumn Reflections
Linda Tommasulo



Colorful Kitchen
Kim Koza



The Egg
Joan Heffler



Bryce Canyon National P...
Joan Heffler



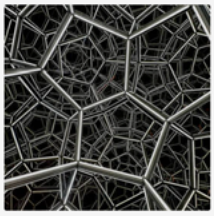
Something Is Not Right
Jeff Perkins



Life in a Bubble
Jeff Perkins



Rainbow Falls at Watkin...
Greg Efner



Geometry Abyss
Bert van Grondelle

Continued...

SPS on FAA

(Continued from page 16)

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 exhibit will be updated each month going forward.



These instructions will repeat in each edition of the Focus.

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**

Continued...

(Continued from page 17)

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".**

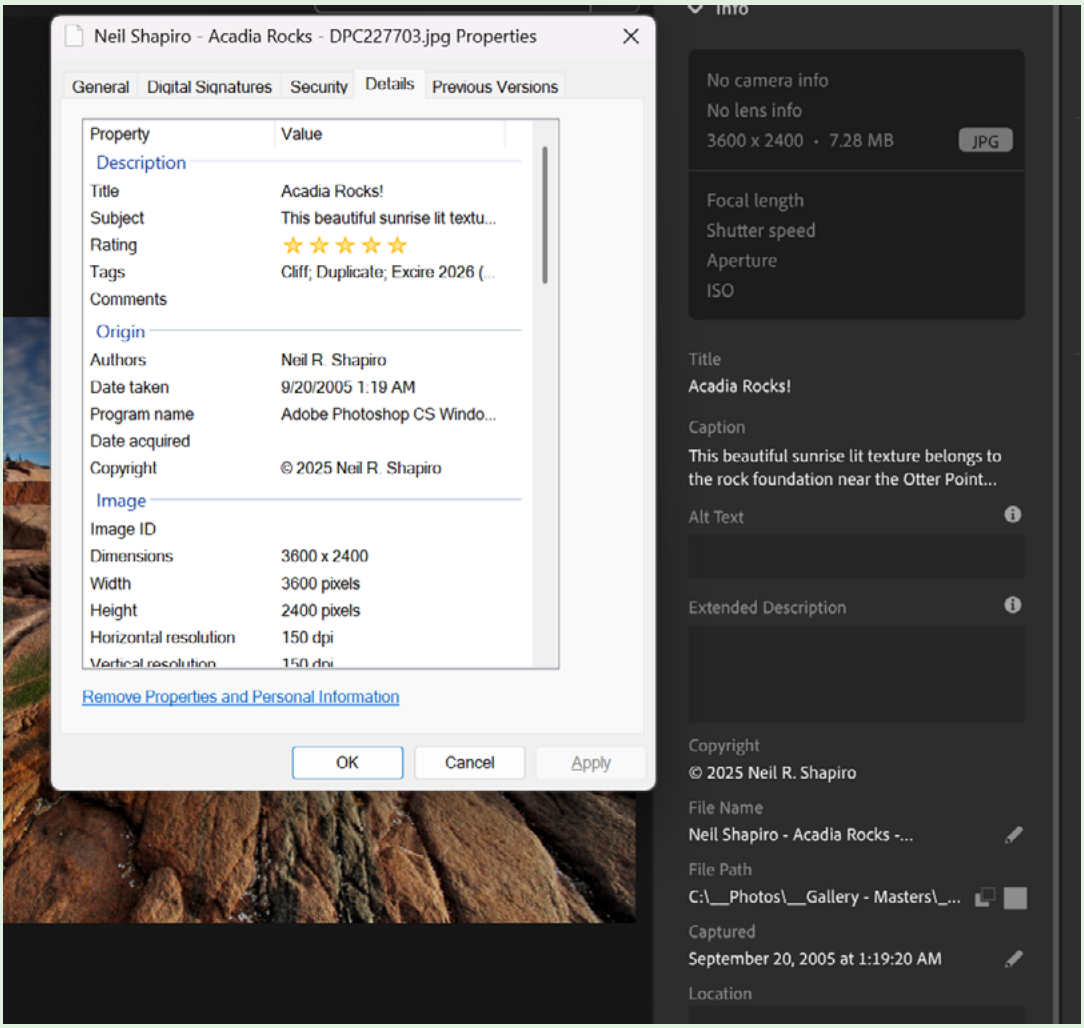
That's it. This avoids upload issues and keeps everything consistent for competitions and galleries.

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**.

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

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

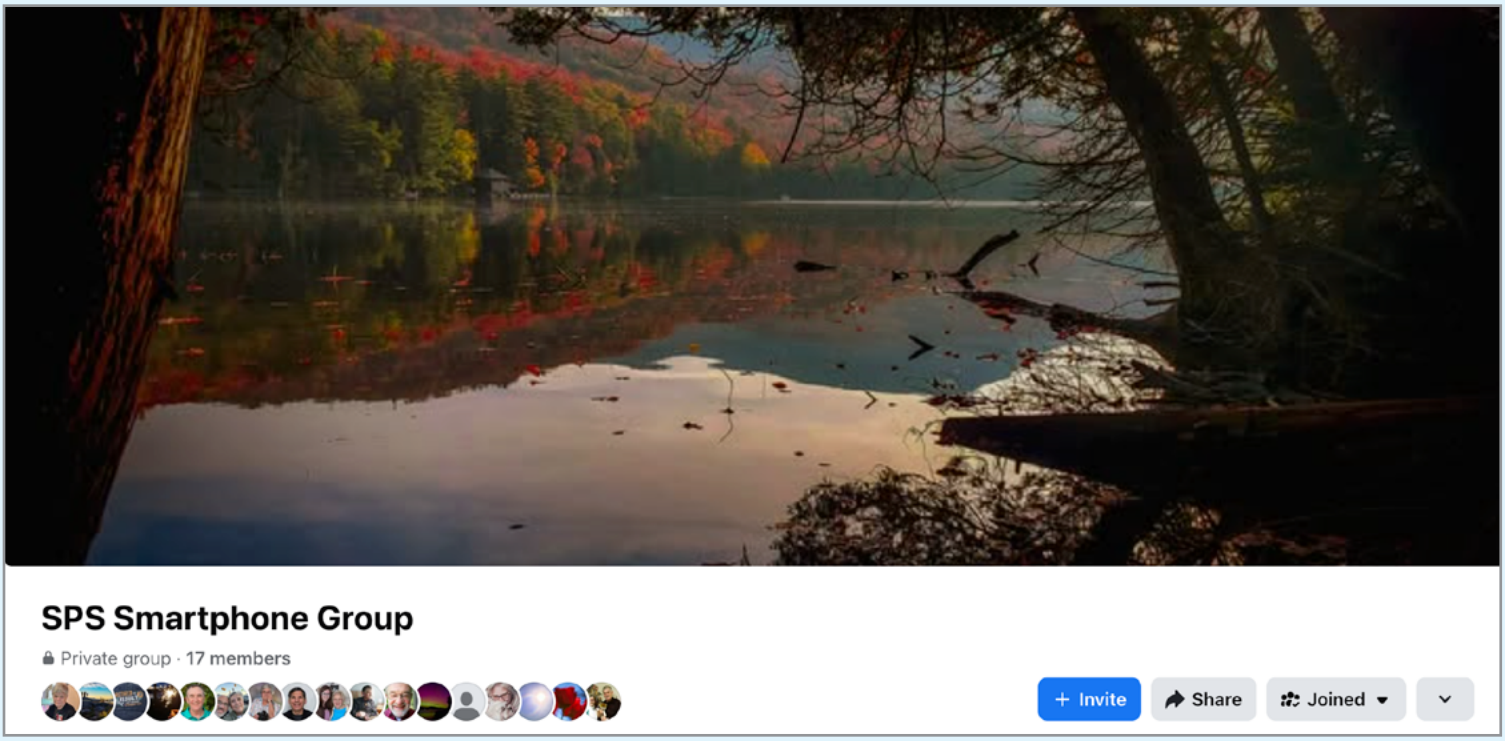
Our "community" SPS Facebook page is where we post notifications, events, etc.

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

FOLLOW THE MEMBERS ONLY–FACEBOOK GROUPS
"The SPS Learning Center" And '"SPS Smartphone Group"



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



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.*

OUR "FUN" COMPETITION

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**

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

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: NOTE CHANGE!

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 **five (5)** 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/

NOTE: Members must sign in prior to uploading their images!!

REMEMBER THAT:
Alternative processes, composites, and manipulations are allowed.
Major elements in a print must be the maker's own work and the majority of the elements must be photographic in nature.

PRINT COMPETITION ENTRY CARDS

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

Assigned Topic
General/Color
Monochrome

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

For complete rules:
https://spsphoto.org/programs/print/print-competition-rules/

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.

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

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

Topic:

Composite

ASSIGNED



First Place:
"Hangin' Out in Manhattan"
© Linda Tommasulo



2nd Place:
"Early Spring"
© Linda Tommasulo

Judge: **Jim Gilbert**

Jim Gilbert spent roughly three decades shooting concerts. Bad light, fast movement and no second takes were part of every night, and for years he went after the frame that captured the energy of the room. A couple of years ago he hung up his cameras and passed them on to his son, now the team photographer for the Adirondack Thunder and house photographer at MVP Arena.

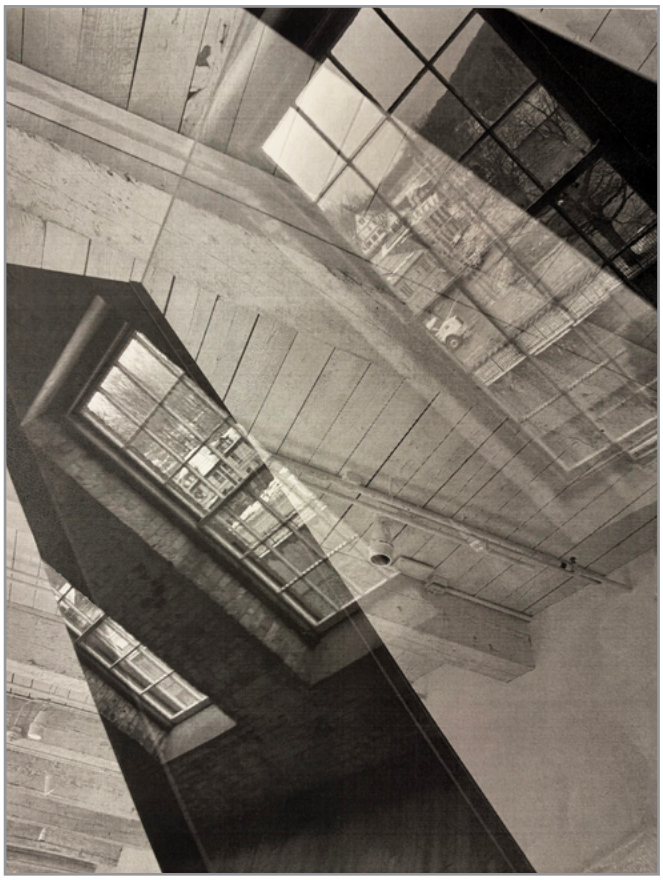
Continued...

OCTOBER
WINNING PRINTS
Topic: Composite

ASSIGNED



3rd Place:
"Sunflower Composite"
© Colleen Magai



Honorable Mention:
"My View"
© Greg Efner

Continued...

GENERAL

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS



First Place:
"October Stroll"
© Greg Efner



2nd Place:
"Red-Shouldered Hawk
Amid the Green"
© Neil Shapiro

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS



3rd Place:
"God Beams"
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention
"Green Sweat Bee"
© Joe Cotroneo

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS



Honorable Mention:
"Reflection"
© Connie Frisbee Houde



Honorable Mention:
"Sunburst Tulip"
© Alan Wiggins

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Silent Beauty"
© Greg Efner

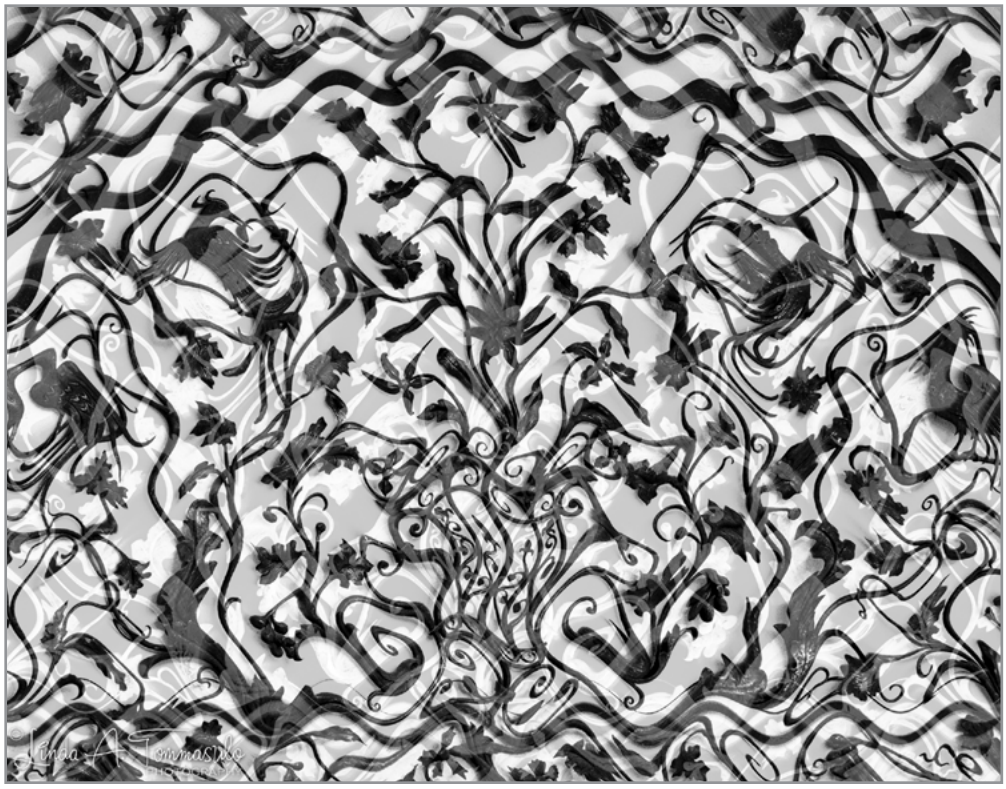


2nd Place:
"The Endless Passage"
© Neil Shapiro

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



3rd Place:
"Wrought Iron Abstract"
© Linda Tommasulo



Honorable Mention:
"Out of the Ashes"
© Alan Wiggins

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING PRINTS

MONOCHROME



3rd Place:
"Silhouette Symmetry
© Neil Shapiro



Honorable Mention:
"Fountains"
© Jan Juliano

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL
Topic: Fruit and/or Vegetable

ASSIGNED



First Place:
"Standing Room Only"
© Janice Prichett



2nd Place:
"Fruit"
© Linda Tommasulo

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL
Topic: Fruit and/or Vegetable

ASSIGNED



3rd Place:
"Runneth Over"
© Janice Prichett

Judge: **Lisa Cuchara**

Lisa and her husband, Tom, are the "Dynamic Duo" of Photography. They love any chance to take photographs and Teach/Mentor/Motivate. They relish the opportunity to inspire with their "Creativity is contagious, pass it on" philosophy and our "Don't shoot what it looks like, shoot what it feels like" approach.

Tom and Lisa are both OM SYSTEM (formerly Olympus) Ambassadors. They specialize in decorating homes with nature and UrbEx art. We enjoy taking "straight out of camera" photographs and equally enjoy creating ART from our photographs. Both allow us to capture the moment as our mind's eye sees it.

They love to teach photography and editing classes, and we lead photo tours and workshops. We offer a variety of photography classes for photographers of all levels.

http://www.lisaandtomphotography.com/



Honorable Mention:
"Pear"
© Kim Koza

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL
Topic: Fruit and/or Vegetable

ASSIGNED



3rd Place:
"Lone Survivor"
© Bert Schreibstein



Honorable Mention:
"Warty Gnomes"
© Linda Tommasulo

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL



First Place:
"Veins and Wings"
© Zac Baldwin



2nd Place:
"Sheltered"
© Janice Prichett

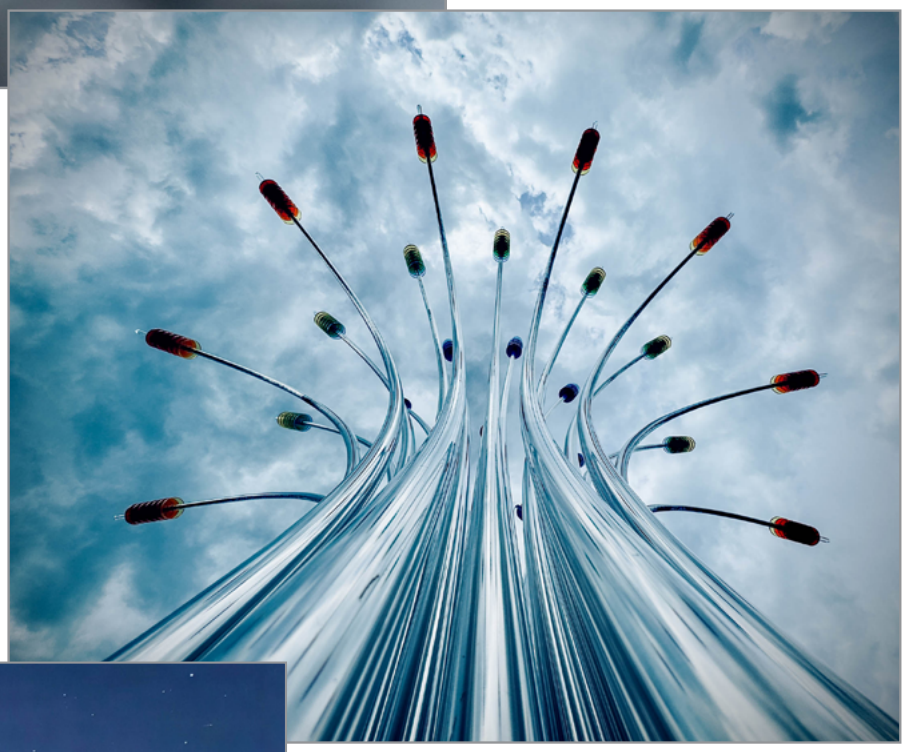
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GENERAL

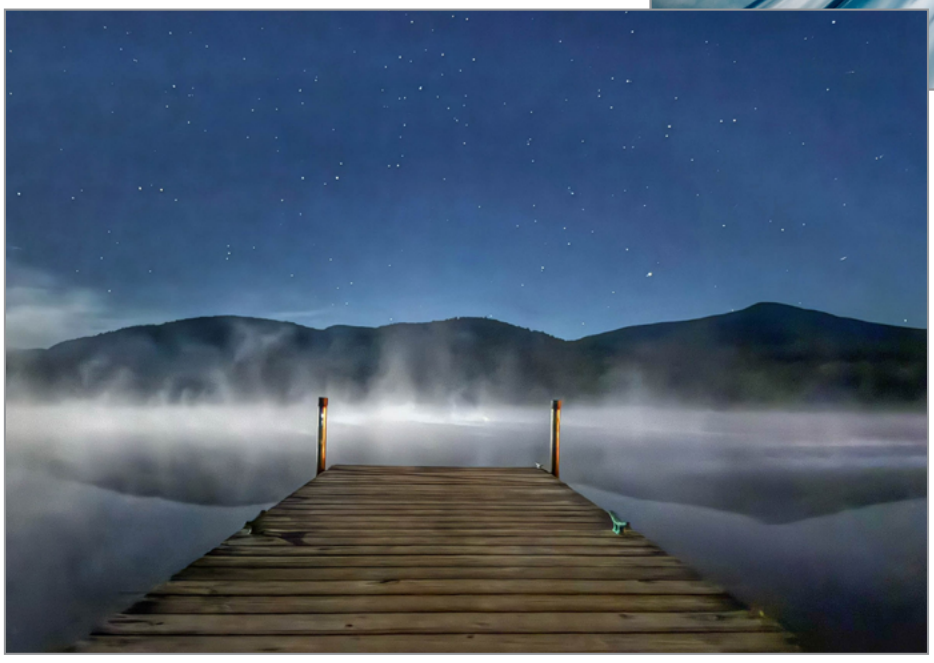
OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL



3rd Place:
"Hungry Bumblebee"
© Joe Cotroneo



4th Place:
"Contrails"
© Sean Sullivan



5th Place:
"Midnight at Lewey Lake"
© Kim Koza

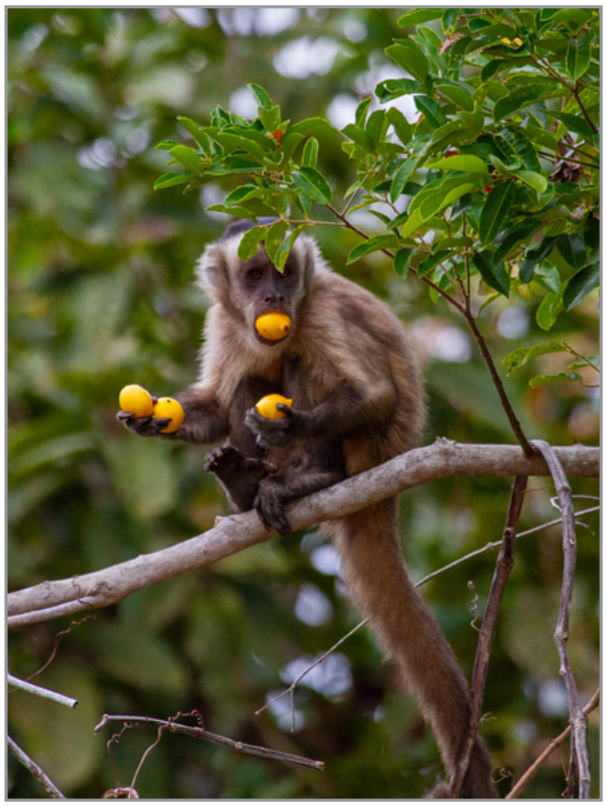
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GENERAL

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL



Honorable Mention:
"But I Really Don't Want
to go That Way"
© Dan Steen



Honorable Mention:
"Capuchin Needing More Hands"
© M-J Adelman



Honorable Mention:
"Tulips in the Window"
© Phil Olivo

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL



Honorable Mention:
"Brazilian Green Iguana"
© M-J Adelman



Honorable Mention:
"On the Scale of Giants"
© Neil Shapiro

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

MONOCHROME



First Place:
"Sunset Light"
© Bill Lanahan



2nd Place:
"Geyser Brook Bridge"
© Joe Cotroneo

Continued...

OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

MONOCHROME



3rd Place:
"Between Cloud and Water"
© Zac Baldwin



4th Place:
"Forward and Back"
© Sharon Silversmith



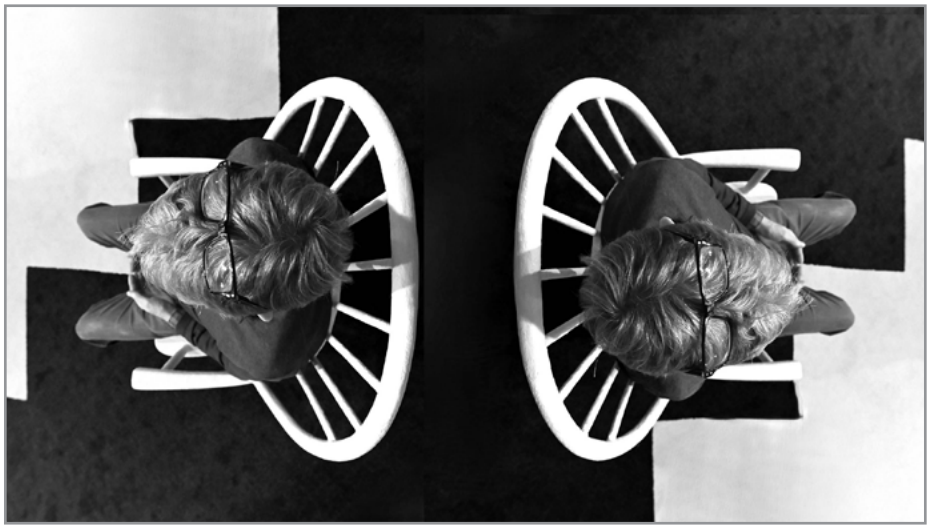
Honorable Mention:
"The Staircase"
© Sean Sullivan

Continued...

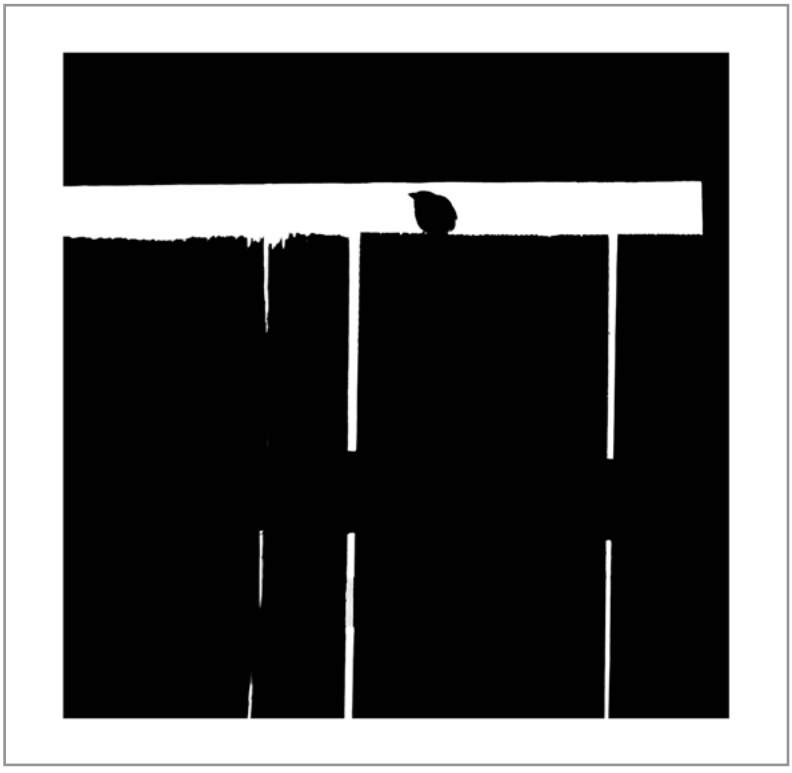
OCTOBER WINNING DIGITAL

Honorable Mention:
"The Hallway"
© Sean Sullivan





Honorable Mention:
"Back to Back"
© Jan Juliano



Honorable Mention:
"Perched"
© Linda Tommasulo

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

WWW.SCHENECTADYPHOTOGRAPHICSOCIETY.COM

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

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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/schenectadyphotographicsociety**
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: LISA 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: CINDY GOSSELIN

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 BUTCH MAZZUCA
https://butchmazzuca.com/

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

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!