



Creativity: Inspiration or Perspiration?

ould you make better photographs if you were more creative? Many of us (including me) would say yes, but how do we do it? It's kinda fun to think of creativity as a flash of brilliance... a cosmic alignment of thoughts that illuminates something amazing, unique, and praise-worthy. But that may not happen much. While creative insights can strike unexpectedly from left field, they may more commonly be coaxed out by habits that foster creative thinking. I heard a couple of people make that claim anyway, and it's worth considering.

Brooks Jensen is one of those people. He's the editor of LensWork (a classy publication and website on photography that's been around for 20 years or so). In addition to his work as a publisher and photographer, Brooks has recorded and freely distributed podcasts on photography and creativity. Recently he did a series of five podcasts on habits that promote creativity. You can (and should) listen to them on iTunes or on the website daily.lenswork. com. I'll mention a few of his ideas here. First, accept and believe that you are creative, but you need to give your creative side time and (mental) space to work. He suggests you make art-making a part of your everyday life, and also make time when you clear out that swirl of mundane thoughts and worries so your creative thoughts and subconscious can explore, discover, and express your unique vision. In addition you can encourage new ideas with stimuli (art, music, outings, etc) outside of your comfort zone or "groove". And while he doesn't tell you how to make the lightning strike, he has several good and practical suggestions on how to capture the sparks when they occur, and making more time for the right side of your brain run the show. Give his podcasts a listen. He's an entertaining speaker and has a practical approach to life.

Another person I heard talk about creativity was Manoush Zomorodi, host of the WNYC podcast New Tech City. She cites a study by U.K. psychologist Sandi Mann that suggests we get our most original ideas when we stop the constant stimulation and let ourselves get bored. Do you believe it? Well I was skeptical, but Manoush started the "Bored and Brilliant" project for NPR listeners in February, asking them to put down their smart phones, and get bored! I have to admit that I'm intrigued by this idea... but it's scary to think about jumping off the grid. The project is still going, so look it up if you're curious. I do plan to try a variation of this experiment in May however. I'm spending the entire month at Acadia National Park as an artist in residence. I bet I'll be bored after a week in the same place, but then I'll see if creative ideas rush to fill the void... or if I get cabin fever and ask myself, "What where you thinking nature boy?"

While there are tons of books and articles out there on creativity, it is a very personal thing... but something you may have to court actively rather than waiting for it to discover you. When Picasso famously said, "All children are artists. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."... I wonder if he was thinking about the free reign that creativity has when we're children, and how life tends to crowd our heads with so many other things as we grow up?

Sincerely yours,

Jim Christensen, Pres.

Cover photo
Pocantico / Three Trees
by Yoram Gelman

inFocus

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newsletter: <u>infocus@wpsphoto.org</u> <u>www.wpsphoto.org</u>

Westchester Photographic Society

meets 12 months a year, on Friday evenings at 8:00 pm (excepting school holidays) in the Technology Building of Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY (across from parking lot #11). Guests are welcome.



WPS Friday Evening Program Schedule

March

- 6 Competition 4B
- 13 Joseph Squillante, B'Day/Mentoring
- 20 Elinor Stecker-Orel, "Be Stylish...Using Photoshop's Blends and Styles for Fun Effects"
- 27 Competition 5A

April

- 3 No Meeting: Easter
- 10 Aldara Ortega, B'Day/Mentoring
- 17 Competition 5B
- 24 Annual Members Meeting

May

- 1 "Show Us What You've Got"
- 8 Competition 6A
- 15 Megan Snedden, B'Day/Mentoring
- 22 No Meeting: Memorial Day
- 29 Competition 6B

June

- 5 Andi Schreiber
- 12 "Techniques for Improving Your Photography", B'Day Mentoring
- 19 End of Year Competition
- 26 End of Year Party

July

- 3 No Meeting: Independence Day
- 10 No Meeting: NECCC Conference
- 17 TBD, B'Day/Mentoring
- 24 Theme 2 Competition
- 31 TBD

August

- 7 TBD
- 14 TBD, B'Day/Mentoring
- 21 TBD
- 28 TBD

September

- 7 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 14 TBD
- 21 TBD
- 28 TBD

Please note:

Check the WPS website (wpsphoto.org) for recent changes.

Weather Notice

If driving conditions are hazardous, meetings will be cancelled. Look for announcements of Westchester Community College (WCC) closings on the following media outlets:

WFAS 103.9 FM / 1230 AM WHUD 100.7 FM WCBS 880 AM TV News 12

www.wfasfm.com

Members are advised to check their email for emergency weather notices from WPS.



Joseph Squillante presents on March 13

Joseph Squillante has been photographing the Hudson River for more than 35 years. He has traveled the length of the river, from its source at Lake Tear of the Clouds on Mount Marcy in the Adirondacks to its

mouth at New York Harbor.

A New York Times reviewer noted that some of Joseph's pictures are similar in style to Hudson River School, Barbizon, and 19th-century Realist painters. Like the Hudson landscape painters before him, Joseph is attracted to the beauty and romance of the river.

Joseph's work also includes portraiture and still life and is sold internationally through the photography agency Getty Images, in New York, and through his own studio, "Silver Ink," in Peekskill, NY. Joseph is a member of the American Society of Media Photographers, ArtsWestchester Teaching Artist Roster and the Peekskill Arts Alliance; and is the Vice-Chair of the Historic and Landmarks Preservation Board for the City of Peekskill.

For the presentation Joseph will be showing the Hudson from its source at Lake Tear of the Clouds in the Adirondacks to Manhattan, while speaking about the evolution of these works from traditional landscapes, architecture and people along the Hudson and then move in for a "closer look" leading to abstracts also on the River. Last year when invited to the Beacon Institute of Rivers and Estuaries, I came up with the idea of *A Closer Look*: As my work keeps evolving the abstract sensibility has emerged. Since my use of the digital camera began in 2008 until now, my shooting in color & abstract parallels my continued work on the River. In fact two of these new abstracts are now on exhibit in the Katonah Museum of Art's show *Line Describing a Cone* until February 15.

MARKETPLACE

FREE Tamron 70-210mm f/4-5.6 lens with Adaptall-2 mount.

Was used on Sony DSLR's but it should mount on other bodies (see Wikipedia).
Compliments of Bob Blumenthal.
Pls contact mrjimchristensen@gmail.com

Nikon N-80 film camera in perfect condition. Includes original box \$50.00

Please call Mano at 271-5542.

RadioPopper for Sale for Nikon Speedlights

in excellent condition—Used once Contact Ron Carran at roncarran@gmail.com

Epson Exhibition Canvas Matte 17" x 22" 22 sheets of 25 \$108.00

contact: Deborah dcohen99@optonline.net

Still Available from the Estate of Ann Raine

Remaining Lenses. Suggested sale prices:

 Nikkor AF-S 70-200mm f/2.8 G-ED VR2
 \$1760

 Nikkor AF-S DX 16-85mm f/3.5-5.6 G-ED VR
 \$500

 Nikkor AF-S 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6 G IF-ED
 \$300

 Nikkor 80-200mm f/? (#905518)
 \$65

 Contact Peter Grassl at (914) 953-7551 or pgrassl@verizon.net

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Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and should be addressed as follows: If concerning the WPS Newsletter, In Focus, address comments to the editor at infocus@wpsphoto.org. If concerning our website, address comments to our webmaster, Dick Budnik, at webmaster@wpsphoto.org. All other comments should be addressed to our President, Jim Christensen.

New York City Museums

Metropolitan Museum

(www.metmuseum.org)

Captain Linnaeus Tripe Photographer of India and Burma, 1852–1860 Exhibit: Feb. 24 - May 25

Museum of Modern Art

(www.moma.org)

Modern Photographs from the Thomas Walther Collection, 1909–1949

Exhibit: Dec 13-April 14, 2015

International Center for Photography

(www.icp.org)

Closed till Fall 2015

Museum of the City of New York

(www.mcny.org)

Jeff Chien-Hsing Liao's New York
Exhibit: Through Mar. 15, 2015

New York Historical Society

(www.nyhistory.org)

Bill Cunningham: The Façades Project Exhibit: Through Jun. 15, 2015

Stephen Somerstein: 50th Anniversary of Civik Rights March Exhibit: Through Apr. 19, 2015

Whitney Museum

(www.whitney.org)

Steichen in the 1920s and 1930s: A Recent Acquisition Exhibit: Ongoing

WPS Group Exhibits

NWH Chappaqua Crossing

"Sports Photography" Exhibit: Mar. 4 - Sept. 14 Drop Off and Pick Up: Mar. 4 at 9 AM

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center Northern Westchester Hospital

"Beauty of the Seasons" Exhibit: Jan. - June, 2015

JCC of Scarsdale

"Travels With Your Camera" Exhibit: Mar. 15 - Apr. 24 Drop Off: Mar. 15 at 12:45 PM

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center Northern Westchester Hospital

"The Allure of the Farm"
Exhibit: June 12 - Jan., 2016
Drop Off & Pick Up: Jun. 12 at 9:30-10AM
Reception: Jun. 20, 3-5PM

WPS Member Exhibits

"Quintessentielle: Variations 3"
Ossining Public Library
Exhibit: Mar. 1 - 30
Reception: Mar. 7, 2-4 PM

Westchester Museums

Neuberger Museum of Art

(<u>www.neuberger.org</u>)
Becoming Disfarmer

Exhibit: Nov 9 - Mar 22, 2015

Katonah Museum of Art

(www.katonahmuseum.org)

Photo Seminars

(Samplings only. Please log on to websites to see the entire schedules)

B&H Photo

http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/ EventSpace.jsp

Mar 2 Cuba 20-12 to 2015: Ev-olution

with Tony Sweet

Mar 9 Portfolio Development: NEW Work Crit with David Brommer, Deborah

Gilbert, Lois Youmans, Sandra Carrion

Mar 11 Working With Light Field Images
with Rick Berk
From Camera to Client—Winning

Workflow for Success with Terry White

Mar 15 Crafting Great Light with Speedlites

with Syl Arena

...more online

Adorama Photo

http://www.adorama.com/workshops

Mar 1 SEMINAR: The Multi-Billion Dollar Industry: Doing Homework Before

You Buy

Mar 3 SEMINAR: Simple Techniques &
Dramatic Effects with Photoflex
SEMINAR: Lifestyle Photography
with Sue Barr

Mar 9 SEMINAR: Less Doing System with Ari Meisel

Mar 10 SEMINAR: Overcoming Obstacles with Debra Rothenberg

Mar 12 OnSet Day: How to Light and Shoot Great Interviews

Mar 15 SEMINAR: Shooting Special Effects
Make-Up

with Seth Miranda

...more online



Jude and Mark Goldstein Host on January 30, 2015

WPS was fortunate to have the father/daughter tag team as our January 30 hosts. Mark is man of many talents and interests beyond photography which has been an important part of his life since elementary school where he first learned

to process black/white images in the darkroom. Now he loves macro, people, seascapes, landscapes and street photography and more! When not working for the Village of Rye Brook or running his busness building custom made fishing rods and working on a charter fishing boat Mark works on a farm in CT. Ask him about is many other interests. Jude Goldsmith, Mark's delightful daughter, loves music, tattoos, dying her hair and her cats. Photographing people and animals are her greatest draws. The Goldsteins are a perfect match with WPS, especially as he also is a gourmet cook!

Fuat Baran Hosts on January 30, 2015

Our January 30, 2015 host was Fuat Baran, an eclectic addition to WPS. Although Fuat's career as an information technology professional

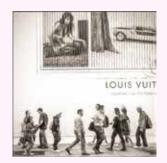


has brought him to academia, technology startups, hardware and software companies and financial services, this has not prevented him from reading voraciously, photographing his "Project 365" (ask him!), and being an amateur ham radio operator. There's more!! He'll be happy to talk to you about his many interests. We are fortunate to welcome Fuat to our ranks.

Open Mind Lite / Judge: Lori Adams



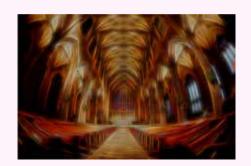
Rob Dublin: First



Bob Piro: Second



Martin Bernstein: Third



Jennifer Dooley: HM





Quintessentielle Variations 3

at the Gallery of the Ossining Public Library 53 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY www.ossininglibrary.org

Imaginative abstractions and striking realitythe photographs of

Deborah Lea Cohen Jane Castorina Gordon Jun Shihoten Elinor Stecker-Orel

Exhibit: March 1-30, 2015

Artists' reception: March 7, 2:00-4:00 PM





THEME COMPETITION 1, "OPEN MIND LITE"























photos by Terry Hanson & Heather Turnbull

ARTHUR VAUGHAN / NECCC



























photos by Deborah Cohen, Mano Orel & Sherm Shiao

COMPETITION 4A FEB 13



photos by Terry Hanson & Heather Turnbull

CHRIS MOORE FEB 20



photos by Deborah Cohen

Digital Color B



Rafael Molina: First



Lewis Appel: Second



Adelaide Boemio: Third



Rafael Molina: Third

Digital Color B



Carolyn Colella: HM

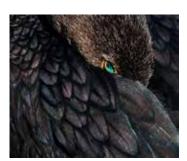


Jun Shihoten: First

Digital Color A



Jun Shihoten: Second



Jackie Ross: Third

Digital Color A



Linda Austrian: HM



Robert Blumenthal: First

Digital Color Salon



Anastasia Tompkins: First



Harvey Augenbraun: Second

Digital Color Salon



Joyce Blumenthal: Second



Chris Moore: Third



Dennis Thornton: Third



Anastasia Tompkins: Third

Digital Color Salon

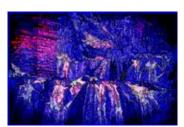
Digital Open Mind







Joyce Blumenthal: HM



Lewis Appel: First



Albert Tang: First

Digital Open Mind



Chris Moore: Second



Elinor Stecker-Orel: Second



Anastasia Tompkins: Second



Tom O'Connell: Third

Digital Open Mind



Elinor Stecker-Orel: Third



Tom O'Connell: HM

Judge: Steve Morton



Steve Morton

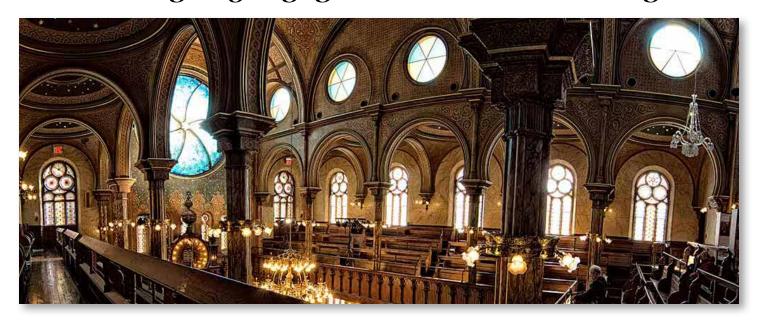
NOTICE

Annual Membership Meeting:

Vote for Board Members April 24, 2015

The annual membership meeting of WPS will be held on April 24, 2015, at 8:00 pm. We will be voting for the WPS Board of Directors. Only members as of the record date of March 8, 2015 are entitled to vote. You must be present to vote. At the Annual Meeting members may vote for other matters that are brought before them. If you wish to submit an item for action at the Annual Meeting, you must do so—in writing to the Board—before March 8, 2015 so it can be placed on the agenda. No topics will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting. An agenda for the Annual Meeting and brief biographies of the candidates will be published in the April issue of **inFOCUS**.

The Eldridge Synagogue, Not Lost, Not Forgotten



anuary 25, 2015 was a beautiful day sandwiched between two snow storms. Someone up there was making sure we'd have a good day...and we certainly did! The Synagogue set aside it's first "Arts Day" for any artist, painter, sketcher, photographer, etc, to take advantage of their stunning historic building with none of their usual restrictions on tripods and flash. Eight members took advantage of the day and scrambled around fascinated by what we encountered. Having gotten there early, we pretty much had the building to ourselves for at least an hour before other artists arrived. While we were shooting, docents were giving tours so we were able to learn how the synagogue was a haven to waves of immigrants in the early twentieth century. With the area changing into a Chinese haven, the synagogue was less used and started to go into disrepair. Throughout this "quiet" period the building was maintained as much as possible by a maintenance man who is still there today. With public support, the building is being restored to it's former beauty though not exactly as before. For instance, the great chandelier is now hung upside down because that is the only way to keep the electricity flowing in it!

Enjoy a few comments of our day:

Erwin and Carol Krasnow: Great photo op. Carol and I had a great time

Tom Streppone: Experienced the Synagogue, its beauty and simplicity and to photograph was a wonderful experience.

Rob Dublin: It was nice, very inspiring but they put in too many lights.

Ernie Hammer: A sheer delight with fantastic opportunists for photography.

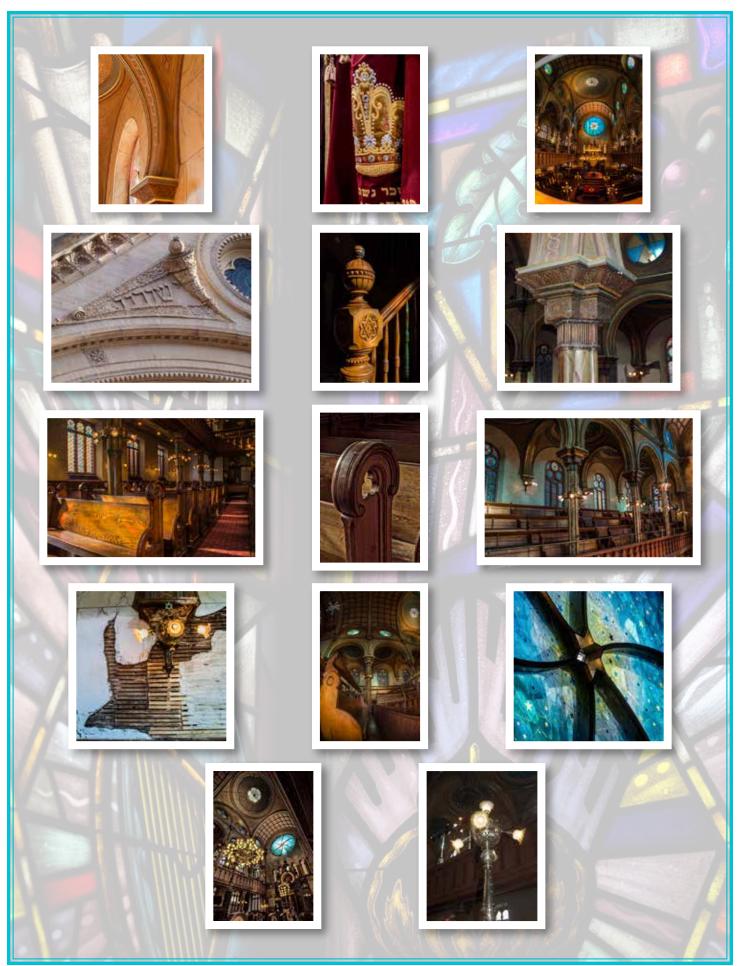
Deborah, Ernie, Erwin, Rob and Tom's images should peak your interest in this beautiful place.

The synagogue saw their Arts Day was so successful they are planning more in the future which will make the members who expressed disappointment at not being able to attend very happy. Also, a few of us are interested in returning. All artists were asked to submit one image (photo, drawing or painting) which they put onto their website. Erwin was asked to submit a full size of his image for their brochure. Not surprising that WPS made an impression. Please make sure Deborah knows if you wish to go.

Mark down Wednesday, March 11 for our trip to the Metropolitan Museum of art. Please read the details, join us and let Deborah know you're coming. http://wpsphoto.org/2015FieldTripMetMuseum.pdf

Keep shooting! Keep trying new subjects—especially the snow—

With any luck our snow opportunists will disappear until next year!



Best of NECCC Print Competition

By Dennis Thornton, Ph.D.

or our Friday February 6th meeting, WPS hosted the NECCC "Best of the Best," winners of their July 2014 Print Competition. Those familiar with the annual New England Camera Council Conference, held on the UMass Amherst campus each July, already know about their digital and print competitions. Open to all attendees, these events provide a chance to vie against photographers from other clubs. The winning prints are retained for the following year for the purpose of creating a traveling exhibit. NECCC clubs can request this exhibit as an opportunity to not just view the winning prints. Even though WPS is not officially in this circuit, Mr. Vaughan is committed to the craft of print photography and providing all to examine winning prints first hand.

Art Vaughan has been the presiding NECCC print competition chair for many years. In addition, Art is the President of the Merrimack camera club in No. Andover, MA. Art is also an accomplished macro photographer. Art and his sister Susie plowed their way through the snowdrifts to bring us this quality presentation.

Art provided an overview of the NECCC print competition, with their 3 judge system. Each of the winning prints was then displayed in our print box and paired with judge's comments and a personal critique by Art. The presentation moved along with specific aspects of each image being noted as contributing to their being viewed as award worthy. Art kept the program lively with his informal style, rye humor, informative commentary, attention to detail and appealing Down East inflection. I particularly liked the antidotes of comments that other club members have made to Art, about a given image, both positive and negative. Everyone has an opinion.

All of the prints were then laid out on tables for closer inspection, handling and discussion. For those of us who considers prints the gold standard for photographic presentation, because of their tactical nature and ability to withstand prolonged and close examination – in contrast to the ephemeral nature of the digital display, this aspect of the evening was a treat. We were even invited to touch one print of white aspens printed on canvas, which added an interesting dimension to its' presentation.

For those of you who did not attend this meeting you missed something special. It was an opportunity to familiarize your self with the NECCC print competition and to see winning images from a broad base of accomplished photographers. If you are primarily exposed to WPS submissions then you may become insular in your perspective. The range of styles of these prints was diverse and creatively stimulating.

So, plan to attend NECCC this July and submit entries in both the Print and Digital competitions. At this time, NECCC has not yet posted the program schedule. However, the list of sponsored presenters is up

and again the roster is impressive. I recently spoke to a NECCC board member who informed me that they are going back to the shorter time program format. I think most people will be pleased by that decision.

All in all, this was an informative and enjoyable WPS meeting. Thanks to Art and his sister Susie for their dedication to keeping the art of print presentation alive.





inFocus

The Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society Ron Carran, editor P.O. Box 14 Brewster, NY 10509

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- Canon EF 11-24mm f/4L preorder \$2,999
- Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM \$2,199
- Canon 7D Mark II body with FREE 16GB Class 10 SD card and FREE spare battery \$1,799
- Canon 70D Special Outfit includes 18-135 lens, 32GB SD card and Canon Camera Bag \$1,449
- Canon Pixma PRO 10 Printer \$199.99 or \$99.99 with the purchase of most Canon DSLRs after mail-in-rebate. Call for details.
- Tamron SP 150-600mm f/5-6.3 Di VC USD Lens \$1,069. (Nikon or Canon)
- Tamron SP 15-30mm f/2.8 Di VC USD Lens preorder \$1,199. (Nikon or Canon)

The following used items are currently in stock but are subject to prior sale. All items listed here are in excellent condition and come with a 90 day parts & labor guarantee.

Canon 70D body \$749.



- Nikon D7000 body \$549
- Nikon 16-35mm f/4G VR \$949
- Nikon 28mm f/1.8G \$499

The following pricing from Nikon reflect INSTANT SAVINGS and will only be available from February 15 - February 28, 2015! This is some of the best pricing I have seen. There are more items available with INSTANT SAVINGS between 2/15/15 and 2/28/15, please call for details!

- Nikon D810 with 24-120mm f/4G ED VR (#1556) \$3,699.95
- Nikon AF-S 24-70mm f/2.8G (#2164) \$1,689.95
- Nikon VR 70-200mm f/2.8G IF-ED II (#2185) \$2,099.95
- Nikon VR 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6G ED (#2208) \$2,299.95
- Nikon VR 105mm f/2.8G Micro (#2160) \$799.95
- Nikon 85mm f/1.4G (#2195) \$1,499.95

