

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

September 2022



INSIDE:
Coming Up
Members' Summer Pictures
Remembering Harvey



Welcome Back

WPS operates on a calendar year that starts in September, when we return from the summer refreshed and ready for a new year of photography. As always, we have a full schedule of competitions and speakers lined up. Please remember to renew your membership as soon as possible; a current membership is required to participate in competitions, field trips and exhibitions.

On Monday, September 12 an "End of Summer Picnic" will be held at Muscoot Farm in Katonah. We hope you will be able to attend and meet with fellow members in person. Please contact Jackie Ross with any questions.

For those of you who compete, Competition 1a is coming up on September 16 (submissions are due by September 11). Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19 and the availability of judges we are continuing to hold competitions online over Zoom this year, and once again we have digital theme competitions replacing the print competitions. Dennis has chosen a wonderful set of themes for this year: Cars, Minimalism, "Let it Rain", Depth and Perception, Dutch Angle, and Still Life.

A few weeks ago, we sent out a link to a [survey](#) soliciting your opinions on Zoom vs. in-person meetings; your preferences on locations, day of the week, and time; and your thoughts on what we could do better and how we could grow the membership. Many of you have responded, and I thank you for that. If you haven't yet, it isn't too late and it only takes a few minutes to respond.

We have two new exhibitions being planned for October and November at the Greenburgh and Ossining libraries. Please contact Arnold Breisblatt for more information.

Serge is always looking for members who would like to present at meetings. These can be short presentations of a handful of photos, a 15-20 minute slideshow, or a full evening program. If you would like to share something with us, please contact Serge Migdal. Maybe share what you did this summer?

Till next time, may you always see beauty in your viewfinder.

Fuat Baran, *President*

COVER PHOTO

TWO CLIMBERS AT ARCHES NP

By Jerry Hoffman

Utah's five national parks are all so special, but our all-time favorite is Arches NP, which draws us back over and over. The arches themselves are so unique and in such a quantity, that they alone would make it a great park, but there is so much more, with amazing rock formations of every shape and size, and great photo ops in every direction. It was only after we stopped to admire this one, that we spotted the climbers...Wow, what a treat!



inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web Edition

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newsletter: infocus@wpsphoto.org
www.wpsphoto.org

Westchester Photographic Society
Meets 12 months a year, on Friday evenings at 7:30 pm (excepting school holidays). **Meetings are virtual now until further notice. Start time is 7:30 pm.**



Member of



FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

September

- 2 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 9 Mark Battista, "Still Life Photography"
- 16 Competition 1A
- 23 New Member Introductions/Pot Luck
- 30 Members' Presentations, 5-20 minutes

October

- 7 TBA
- 14 Competition 1B (Theme: Cars)
- 21 How I Did It
- 28 Competition 2A

November

- 4 Members process the same image in color and B&W
- 11 Competition 2B (Theme: Minimalism)
- 18 Clifford Pickett, "Lightroom cliff notes"
- 25 No Meeting: Thanksgiving week

December

- 2 Peter Baumgarten, "Seeing Differently: Creating More Interesting Compositions"
- 9 Noah Buchanan (Hunt's), "Upcoming New Cameras and Equipment"
- 16 Competition 3A
- 23 No Meeting: Christmas weekend
- 30 No Meeting: New Years weekend

January

- 6 Competition 1B
- 13 TBA
- 20 TBA
- 27 TBA

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

Contact Information

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.

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COMING UP



Mark Battista on September 9

Still Life Photography

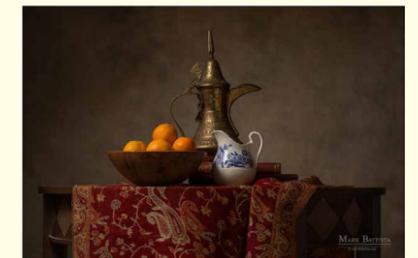
Mark Battista, a nationally recognized fine art photographer and painter, will discuss the "Art of Still Life Photography" and share his approach for creating images that tell a story, communicate an idea, and express a mood.

Through this workshop you will be inspired to create impactful still life imagery through the use of simple tools such as natural light, single light flashes and constant light. Emphasis will be placed on how to modify light and use directional light to create drama.

Still Life can be done in a small space within your home using objects that are readily accessible. The concept of "shooting with intention" will be addressed in order for one to take control of the creative process, from selecting props and arranging them in a pleasing composition, using light effectively to direct the eye through the image and create a center of interest. Strategies to tell a story and create a mood will be shared in order to make better decisions regarding lighting and design.

BIO

Mark Battista is a painter and fine art photographer specializing in portrait and still life photography. He graduated from Paier College Art of with a B.F.A. After working for several years as a fine artist and illustrator, Mark received a M.S. in Art Education degree from S.C.S.U and has served in the West Haven School System as an art teacher for the past 35 years. He recently presented several days of workshops at the New England Camera Club Council's Annual Conference at UMASS College at Amherst. Mark's artwork and photography has been internationally recognized and has won awards from organizations such as the Salmandi Art Club in NYC, the New York Center For Photographic Arts, the American Artists Professional League and the CT Watercolor Society.



Free Gear!

Lisa Zarkower has lot of old Canon camera lenses, bodies and bags she is willing to donate to anyone.

If interested please contact Lisa at
914-588-2874 or lisazarkower@gmail.com

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)
Bernd & Hilla Becher
Through Nov 6

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
Our Selves: Photographs by Women
Artists from Helen Kornblum
Through Oct 2

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)
Many Exhibits
Continuing

Hudson River Museum
(hrm.org)
Collection Spotlight: Women Photographers
Through Sept 11

New York Photography Diary
(<https://ny-photography-diary.com/exhibitions/current-exhibitions/>)
Many Exhibitions

WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital
"How Beauty Frames Sculpture"
Exhibit: Jun 4 - Jan 2023

WPS MEMBER EXHIBITS

Watch for new member exhibits

WPS FIELD TRIPS

<https://www.wpsphoto.org/members-field-trips>

More Photo Opportunities in the Field Trip area.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

Please log on to websites to see the entire schedules. Many events are available online. Also see last page.

Hunts
<https://edu.huntsphoto.com>

B&H
<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp>

Adorama
<http://www.adorama.com/alc/events>

WPS FIELD TRIPS HIGHLIGHTS

A few places to go to!

Let Jackie know if you are interested in going! 914-843-0015

Dutchess County Fair
August 23-25, Rhinebeck NY

COMPLETED

Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome
9 Norton Rd Red Hook, NY
Open every Saturday and Sunday until October 16
www.olderhinebeck.org

Jumper Classic Old Salem Farm
190 June Road, North Salem, NY
August 25-28
www.oldsalemfarm.net

COMPLETED

Lime Rock Park historic races
Labor Day weekend (September 1-5)
60 White Hollow Rd, Lakeville, CT
www.limerock.org

Our picnic is scheduled for September 12.
It's on a Monday at Muscote Farm!

51 NY-100, Katonah, NY 10536



Member InFocus

By Fuat Baran

Chris Bruno

When and how did you first get involved in photography? When I was 20 (in 1969) I got a Honeywell Pentax which I just used when on vacations and travelling. Never got too involved with it but I did take a course at the New School in the Village. I guess I just wanted to be a photographer—to be cool, you know—but not to work too hard at it.

What is your profession? I am a lawyer. Retired (but not disbarred).

How long have you been a member of WPS? I felt very limited in just using the automatic settings so I joined WPS in 2018 or 2019 but never really got going with it. Then the pandemic hit and I forgot all about photography until last September when I took a photography class with Westchester Community College.

What type of photography do you enjoy? I enjoy landscape, birds, macro, and small object photography. People too but I get too nervous when trying to take candid street shots. Never have tried portraits but that seems like something I would like.

Do you do photo projects, and if so, please describe a recent or favorite one? No, never have done one.

What inspires you? Nature mostly. Plants, scenes, weather, different kinds of light. Walking around with a camera really makes you pay attention.

Do you have any favorite photographers? Yes, Berenice Abbott, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Andreas Feininger, Ansel Adams.

What gear and tools do you use (cameras/lenses, Photoshop, etc.)? When I retired 6 years ago, my coworkers gave me a Leica Q as a retirement gift. I love using that camera but felt constrained just having a 28mm. So, I recently bought an Olympus OM-1 and a bunch of lenses. I have been learning a bit about Lightroom and Photoshop but am very much a beginner.

Tell me something about you unrelated to photography. I used to be pretty active physically—I've run 3 marathons, have done a couple of triathlons, have completed really long-distance bike rides. I'm nearly 72 but am still pretty active with hiking and kayaking. Married for 42 years; one 'child' who is now pushing 36 (yikes!).

What's one piece of advice you would give our readers (photographic or otherwise)? Well, I would share the 15-40-60 Rule: When you are 15 years old you are really concerned with what people think about you; when you're 40 you don't really care so much; when you turn 60 you realize that people were never really thinking of you at all. So, I guess it is best just to follow the beat of your own drummer.

Are your photos available online on a web site, social media, etc.? If so, can you share a link? Nothing on line. Yet.

See some of Chris's photos on the next page.



Chris Bruno



Spirals



Train



Pillars



Beg Your Pardon



Spillway at Croton



Abstract

Fuat Baran



I got a new 1-5X macro lens this summer and have been having fun with it. My first test shot was of an old penny. Note the minuscule Lincoln statue. And here's my trusty pencil tallying the number of guests who registered for a recent WPS meeting.

Kenny Salstrom



My Backyard



Dominica



Friend's Pool



Roatan

Barbara Pollack



Mitchell Druck



Too Cute

Jim Dwyer



Girl on Rock Ogunquit



Morning, Ogunquit



Buggin out



Pileateds



Ogunquit, Me—Sunrise



Shoreline, Ogunquit



Scenic Osprey

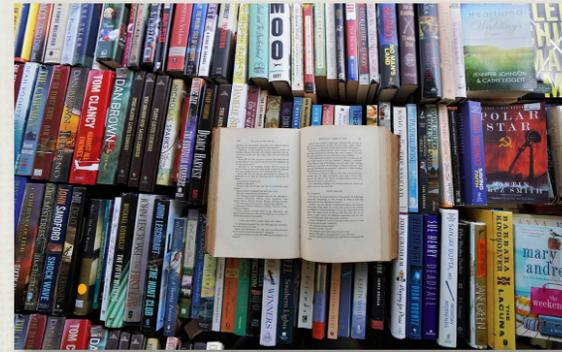


Twin Egrets

Leon Zelazny



Interior of State Capitol building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



Street Bookfair—Raleigh, North Carolina



Corolla Park—Corolla, North Carolina



2nd St. and Locust St.—Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



Canal Walk Murals—Richmond, VA



US Naval Academy Cadets—Annapolis, Maryland

Julie Van Benthuisen



Farewell to Harvey Augenbraun, a WPS leader for 4 decades

Barbara Kapetanakes

I remember when I first started getting to know Harvey and, of course, the love of his life, his partner in photo, Anastasia. Early on in attending WPS meetings I went to a presentation that Anastasia was giving about their trip to Africa. She was so bubbly, and outgoing, and energetic, and excited, and well—LOUD **Labor Day weekend** when talking about the amazing time they had on this trip, while showing incredible photos, and Harvey was so even keeled, quietly hilarious, unassumingly brilliant, and incredibly supportive of his “Stasia’s” presentation. That was Harvey. Brilliant without being pompous, hilarious without being in your face, a constant, stable presence, Anastasia’s biggest cheerleader, and a damn good photographer to boot. I immediately adored them both.

I then found out that Harvey’s birthday was November 13th, the day Felix Unger was “asked to remove himself from his place of residence,” and that Harvey not only loved *The Odd Couple*, but apparently in his many years as a teacher, he put on his quizzes something along the lines of “What two historical events happened on November 13th?” which were of course, his birth and Felix’s separation. I just felt a connection to Harvey when I experienced his welcoming ways at WPS because he could make anyone feel like the only person in the room.

Harvey’s generosity knew no bounds, and he never begrudged anyone their competition wins or good luck. Indeed, we all heard him announce, on those nights where he came in second to Anastasia, “Good, there will be peace in my house tonight.” Though corny, that joke got me every time. Harvey encouraged me to join the Bronx club (and then promptly moved out of town, leaving me to find my way on my own!). He told me that I’d like it, because there were “a lot of women in their 40s and 50s there” to which I said, “What are you implying, Harvey? That I’m



middle aged?” Wink wink. Anytime my photos did well, anytime I moved up a level, anytime I shot a winner, Harvey was supportive and congratulatory, as he was to all of us, often singling out what he liked about someone’s winning photo to show he was really paying attention. That was Harvey.

After Harvey and Anastasia moved to their dream home in South Carolina, living the lake life, madly in love, with their cameras always mounted on tripods ready to shoot whatever came their way at any time, my husband and I visited them Christmas week of 2019. As we all know, this was a few months before COVID shut everything down, and I’m so glad I was able to visit them there. We kept hoping to visit again, hoping that things would get back to normal, hoping that there wouldn’t be restrictions on trav-

el, etc., so that we could have another wonderful visit. Well, wonderful being relative. Seeing good friends was wonderful. But we brought torrential rains with us and couldn’t go out shooting, didn’t see any of the birds in the yard I’d been promised, and Harvey and I spent a good deal of time on the couches doing crossword puzzles. But we still had a lovely time, with Harvey making gourmet meals, and taking us out to some favorite restaurants as well. Sadly, another visit didn’t happen before Harvey got sick. However, things seemed good, everyone was optimistic, and it was believed he’d get through this crisis and be fine. Unfortunately Harvey got sick right before a planned trip to Mexico for his beloved Stasia’s birthday, and obviously this prevented them from going, though he reportedly confirmed this with the doctor, hoping against hope, “So, does this mean that we can’t go to Mexico???” There was the expectation that it could be rescheduled, as he had responded well to his treatment and was planning to continue the regimen so that he could go into remission and live out his days in his dream house with his dream family. In the last days of Harvey’s life Anastasia was texting photos to friends and loved ones of him in the hospital getting his planned treatments and doing well. The last photo she sent me was Harvey giving the “thumbs up” in his hospital bed and smiling widely. The downward turn he took shortly after was completely unexpected.

Harvey was a member of WPS since 1981 (WOW!) and was president more than once, as well as VP of various things at various times. Chairman of the Board, lecturer, field trip leader, scorekeeper, and database manager were just some of the titles he held. He took many people under his wing over the years and saw his fellow WPS members as family. He was a native New Yorker who attended a yeshiva as a boy and returned later on to teach there. Most of his career he was a New York City public school teacher, teaching science for many years due to his love of and background in meteorology. Every year he had more kids to whom he could tell his corny jokes and more kids who would renew his love of teaching and give him a reason to get up and out in the mornings to work. When Harvey married Anastasia, after becoming friends at WPS and lat-

er falling in love, he became stepfather to her two young daughters, who took to him immediately and adored him until the end. As his health started to fail in those final days, they ran to be at his side as well as to comfort their mother. He was a fantastic and loving stepfather to Makenzie and Graysan, and they were loving and devoted stepdaughters to him. With Harvey’s marriage to their mom, they got to see a loving, committed, and blissfully happy marriage up close. A tremendous gift.

As I said, Harvey was forever kind and always generous. He delighted in both subtle humor and corny jokes and making people laugh. He cheered for all who won competitions, even if that meant he came in second, or even—gasp!—third (!!!). Harvey was the kind of person who seemed to find the good in everyone and was easy-going enough to not let little things get to him, so he forgave easily. He had close relationships with his two sisters as well as with everyone who knew him from the multitude of photo clubs he was a part of and touched, all the judging he did at clubs around the country, and even the world (judging with Anastasia over the pandemic virtually in South Africa!). Anastasia shared with me how many people broke down crying when she shared the news of his death, even in their new home of Rock Hill, where they had barely put down roots before the pandemic interrupted their lives and caused isolation. That is how quickly people got to know and love Harvey, that even in their new home, even with limited contact throughout the pandemic, people who had met Harvey only recently were reduced to tears upon hearing of his death. WPS and the world are sadder places today because of the loss of Harvey. His family has lost a cheerleader and supporter, and his photo family has lost a leader, teacher, and guide. The thousands of students he touched in his career, the friends and family he leaves behind, and the people who experienced his kind and astute judging will forever mourn his loss.

Harvey, every November 13th I will think not only of Felix and Oscar, but I will drink you a toast and remember you fondly. We love you and will miss you forever.

inFocus

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Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor

P.O. Box 405, Ossining, NY 10562

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www.thomsonsart.com

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