

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

September 2024



INSIDE:

Coming Up

Mano's Obituary

Member in Focus

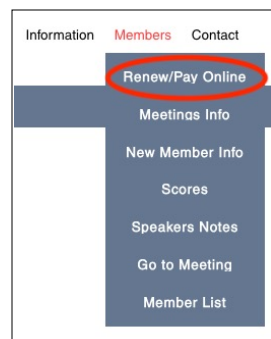
Competition Corner

Pictures from Nickerson



Welcome to September

Once again the world has finished making a complete trip around the sun and we're back to September, the start of our new membership year. Membership renewals are due by August 31. I hope you've all renewed by now. You can renew online (preferred) by clicking on the renew link from the Members menu at the top right of the website. If you don't see it, please make sure that you are logged in (if you're not logged in you'll see a "Join Us" button at the top right).



And for those of you who might not know, the "Meetings Info" link in the Members menu is where you can find recordings of past meetings.

We have wonderful speakers and great programs lined up for the 2024-2025 season. Some of the guest speakers tentatively scheduled include Joe McNally, Bobbi Lane and Ken Hubbard.

We hope you enjoyed the self-assignment projects presentation organized by Dennis Thornton in August and that you are inspired to embark upon a project of your own. There will be more opportunities to present member projects this season.

Our competition season will begin with our first competition, 1A (Color Digital and Open Mind), on September 20 with judge Kathy Baca. As they say, you've got to be in it to win it.

As I've mentioned during the weekly announcements, if you are reluctant to volunteer to present a project or showcase because you are intimidated by the process, please contact me and I'll be happy to arrange (or give) personalized help in a one-on-one setting to show you some very simple ways to put together a photo presentation. And you've seen even the experts occasionally fumble while screen sharing in Zoom, so we can help with that as well. We want members to participate as much as possible in our vibrant community and we'll do what we can to make that as fun as possible. Please also submit your summer photos to our newsletter.

In this issue we bid farewell to our beloved former member Mano Orel. Jane Gordon gave a wonderful eulogy at Mano's funeral.

In this issue we also introduce one of our newest members, Richard Camp, in our Member in Focus column. We've had many more new joiners recently, and I hope to have similar interviews with them in future issues.

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

Fuat Baran, *President*

COVER PHOTO

ZABRISKIE POINT - DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA

By *Leon Zelazny*

Iconic vistas point in the Death Valley National Park, where photographers can capture nature's beauty of colors, shapes, and textures. These badlands and ridges are a result of eruptions and flowing lava that occurred three to five million years ago. This photo was taken in a morning hour with the moon still visible in the sky.



inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web Edition

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Dennis Thornton

Hospitality

Jane Gordon, Julie Van Benthuyzen, Silvie Epperly

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Fuat Baran, Gregory White

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Mark Friedman, Ken Salstrom

Equipment, Projectionist

Jonathan Kaplan

Award Certificates

Ron Carran

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Jackie Ross

Committees

Publicity

Fuat Baran

Social Media

Fuat Baran, Kenny Salstrom

Hospitality Coordinators

Silvie Epperly

Competition Evaluation

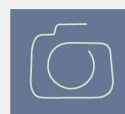
Dick Budnik, Lois Barker

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

- 6 Arnold Breisblatt, "Basic Photography"
- 13 Jean-Marc Barra, "The Biology of Seeing and the Implications for Photographers"
- 20 Competition 1A
- 27 Bobbi Lane, "High and Low Key Lighting"

October

- 4 Competition 1B (Theme: Leading Lines)
- 11 Fuat Baran, "One Photo Per Day"
- 18 Ken Hubbard, "Let's Go to the Zoo: A Guide to Wildlife Photography"
- 25 Members, "Straight Out of Your Phone Images"

November

- 1 Competition 2A
- 8 Member Critique
- 15 Joe McNally
- 22 Competition 2B (Theme: Perspective Looking Down)
- 29 No Meeting: Thanksgiving

December

- 6 TBA
- 13 Comp 3A
- 20 No Meeting: Christmas
- 27 No Meeting: New Years

January 2025

- 3 Comp 3B (Theme: Hard to Touch)
- 10 TBA
- 17 Showcases
- 24 Process Stock Photos
- 31 Competition 4A

February

- 7 TBA
- 14 Member Speaker
- 21 Competition 4B (Theme: Give Us Our Daily Bread)
- 28 My Personal Project

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

Arnold Breisblatt on September 6 Basic Photography



My presentation will review basic photography techniques, terms, and captures for beginner to advanced photographers. I will cover shooting portraits, macro images, landscapes, and more by knowing your camera and its capabilities. I have found that anyone with a little basic knowledge can shoot high-quality photos with any camera as never before. Join me in exploring the benefits and satisfaction of taking exceptional pictures.



Bio

Over the years I have worked with many professional photographers creating ad campaigns, PR, brochures, and many other communication projects. As a photo enthusiast, my subjects include just about anything that catches my eye and is in front of my camera's lens. My camera has enabled me the flexibility and creativity, resulting in many fine-quality photographs.

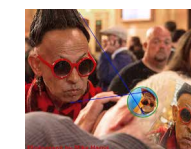
Several of my photos are in the permanent photography collection of Lawrence Hospital's Cancer Center in Bronxville, New York. I have also had a solo exhibition at the Harrison Public Library.



Jean-Marc Barra on September 13 The Biology of Seeing and the Implications for Photographers

The Biology of Seeing and the Implications for Photographers

Join Jean-Marc to explore the fascinating world of how the brain processes vision. Drawing from the latest findings in neuroimaging, machine learning research, and psychological studies, this presentation will highlight key takeaways relevant to photographers.



Learn why the visual system is not like a camera and understand how our brains process luminance and color differently. Jean-Marc will share insights to enhance your shooting, editing, and post-processing.

Bio

Jean-Marc Barra was born in France, raised in Brazil, and has lived in the US since 1980. Jean-Marc has integrated the values of these three cultures into his worldview. This multicultural perspective informs his photography.

Photography is more than an art form for him. Jean-Marc also uses photography to understand, structure, and simplify the world. He enjoys capturing candid street moments that are interesting, funny, or raise questions. He likes American contemporary photographer Alec Soth's wording of the key ingredients: Light, Moment, and Magic.

Since 2011, he has exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally. He was a finalist in the 2022 Miami International Street Photography Festival and his images won Silver Awards at the 2023 Paris and Tokyo International Street Photography Awards. His series "Encounters with my Childhood" won a category 2nd place at the 2023 International Photography Awards - IPA. Lawrence Hospital's Cancer Center in Bronxville, New York.

See another Coming Up program on next page.

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Metropolitan Museum
www.metmuseum.org
 Met Collection

Museum of Modern Art
www.moma.org
 LaToya Ruby Frazier: Moments of Solidarity Through Sept 7

International Center for Photography
www.icp.org
 Many Exhibits Ongoing

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

Lens Culture Recommendations:
 Photo Festivals & Photo Fairs 2024
https://www.lensculture.com/articles/lensculture-editors-lensculture-recommendations-photo-festivals-photo-fairs-2024?utm_term=NL-03-07-2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sandy&utm_content=NL-03-07-2024&utm_campaign=NL-03-07-2024&authToken=

CURRENT EXHIBITS

Northern Westchester Hospital Cancer Center

Light

April 10th through September, 2024

For more information click [HERE](#)

WPS FIELD TRIPS

Planting Fields Week of September 16

Nickerson Beach TBD

Ellis Island October 7

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

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>

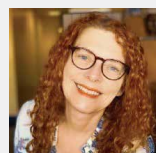
SPECIAL INCENTIVES

A MEMBERS-ONLY DEAL!

Susan Magnano has offered special pricing on many of her workshops.

If you are a WPS member, click [HERE](#).

COMING UP (cont'd)



Bobbi Lane on September 27
High and Low Key Lighting

This presentation covers essential lighting techniques and tools for the photographer to create the impact and range of mood for the portrait. The classic High Key is a pure white background with the subject well illuminated for a bright, happy and lively feeling. Low Key traditionally is a dark or black background, with more side lighting and shadows for a dramatic and evocative portrait. Light is the essence of a successful portrait, so understanding the three key elements; direction, quality and depth, is crucial. Controlling these elements is essential in terms of retaining detail in both shadows and highlights without sacrificing your choices for establishing mood. The technical set up for high-key and low-key lighting will be fully explained.



Bio

Bobbi Lane, a Fujifilm "X" Photographer, is an award-winning commercial photographer specializing in creative portraits on location and in the studio. Lane's multi-faceted approach to photography incorporates over 40 years of technical experience with innovative artistic interpretation. Her corporate and editorial work includes corporate websites, annual reports and hundreds of environmental portraits for a wide variety of magazines. As a dedicated photo educator, she brings insight and enthusiasm to her students in workshops held worldwide. She is widely known as the "Mistress of Light," teaching portrait lighting techniques with both natural and artificial light. Combining her love of travel, photography and teaching, Bobbi also leads international photo travel workshops with her husband Lee Varis, such as Venice Carnival, Tuscany, Neighborhoods of New York and Scotland. Her dynamic workshops are always both educational and entertaining!



6:30 PM
Eldorado Diner III
784 Central Park Ave.
Scarsdale, NY 10583



WPS Picnic
September 19th
10AM - 3PM
Muscot Farms
51 Route 100
Katonah, NY 10536

The NWH Cancer Center is pleased to offer an exhibition of the Westchester Photographic Society titled:

I Saw it! I Liked it! I Took the Picture!

Begins Sept. 11, 2024



The Westchester Photographic Society (WPS) is one of the largest, and friendliest camera clubs in Westchester County, New York. WPS was established by enthusiasts with a passion for photography. We are currently presenting many wonderful pictures for viewing.

Northern Westchester Hospital Cancer Center, 400 Main St, Mt Kisco, NY 10549
 Telephone (914) 666-1200

Note: Photos are available unframed at a reduced price. Some photos are available in other sizes. To arrange a purchase of any picture in the exhibit, contact Arnold Breisblatt via email at abreis@aol.com

When one of your best friends DIES

August 16, 2024

By JANE GORDON

As a long time member of WPS, I have observed that members tended to form fast friends with other members due to the fact that we learned, not only from the others, but also through classes, meetings, field trips, weekly dinners, vacations, birthdays, holidays, competitions, all followed by trips to the diner. We tend to gravitate towards not just any friend, but a BEST friend. You know the kind of friend I mean. The kind of friend that is... family.

Mano and his deceased wife (Famous Elinor) were my closest, dearest friends for 22+ years. I can't be the only person dealing with these feelings. Look around you, here in the room, so many of you share these feelings that I feel. So with this in mind, I'd like to share with you excerpts from Mano's own writings.

Mano Orel had the most remarkable life of anyone I have ever known. Below I share with you some information which I obtained from his WWII Memoirs, in his own words. The Germans neither spoke Greek nor could they read or write Greek. It begins with "it's been a long time since the German occupation in Greece ended." Mano was in school when he heard that the Jews in Athens, including his mother and fourteen-year-old brother, were surrounded by the Germans and taken away. You see Mano was born in 1925, in Athens, Greece, to a middle-class family, at the foot of the Acropolis. His last name was Ostrow, first name Emmanuel, but he was called Mano. He was the only person in Athens who spoke German fluently; it was the language spoken in his home, since his parents had escaped from the Nazi Regime to the safe environment of Athens. His little brother, Rudi, was born on exactly the same day of the year when Mano was 5 years old.

They were both sent to the best private schools in Athens, first year to German School, then to French school for two years. Other Jewish families moved into the neighborhood with children the boys would play with. Then the Germans occupied Athens and things began to change.

Mano took to drawing and doodling because he always knew he was destined to be an artist and one day his parents sent him to study with a professional artist who lived nearby. He was in 7th heaven. One day a book of some stunning photographs of American National Parks fell into his hands. It made such an impression on him that ever since then, his dream was to go to America.

Mano found that he was a great businessman. Food became increasingly scarce in Athens in 1942 when the Germans occupied Athens so he joined the resistance (Underground EAM organization, the Greek Liberation Front) and was instrumental in bringing in food for the masses. His name was changed to Yanis. He transferred to a rooming house and his con-



Mano Orel

April 24, 1925 — August 14, 2024

Collage by Fuat Baran

tact with ELAS, the major mountain branch of the Greek Resistance. Mr. Omourloglou, who owned the rooming house, helped him until the very end of the war. Some of his comrades disappeared and never came back. It was at that time that the Italian Resistance overturned Mussolini, and the Fascist regime collapsed in Italy. Soon there was a black market for food and people were lying on the streets dying of starvation. The resistance started doing its job.

In Athens, an official of the German Police, Kostas, asked Yanis, as a favor, could Yanis replace him for a few days while he ran an errand. Yanis agreed. Then, Kostas came to him a second time but when he left this time, he never came back. So Yanis became the official interpreter working for the German Military Police. With the sanction of the Underground, Mano's job would be to uncover possible Greek traitors and help the local people with hard-to-get permits. Yanis decided to report his new job to the local Police Chief's office. It didn't take long for him to realize that the local Greek police force was also part of the Resistance. At this moment, YANIS became the Official Interpreter for the German Military Headquarters in Theva.

During that year Yanis worried that the Germans would discover that he was Jewish, and he lived in constant fear that he would be executed. Meanwhile he was living like a king. He was the liaison between German headquarters and the mayor. During the time that he served as interpreter there was only one case of Greek traitors.

The Nazis and the SS were the nasty/mean military, machine killing Greek folks after inspections. Soon all Greeks who owned a radio were told to bring it to headquarters to have it permanently tuned to the Athens Greek station and sealed so they were exposed only to Nazi Propaganda. No other radio news was available.

That evening, Yanis was tuning to Radio Cairo, on a short-wave radio that was not sealed, listening to the self-exiled Greek government. The Germans had no idea he was listening to a Cairo radio station because the transmission was in Greek (It was all Greek to them). They were searching for a person who was wanted by the Germans for assassinating one of the corrupt Greek ministers. This man was a member of the Resistance and stayed there for a few days, waiting for night to join the Guerillas. The next day, Yanis was taken on patrol, stopping people in the street asking for their IDs. The Germans had not the slightest idea how a genuine ID should look, and it was up to Yanis to

tell them. Suddenly they came across that man who was afraid of being arrested and was reluctant to show his ID. He desperately looked at Yanis, who said in Greek, "Show them any piece of paper, a receipt or so, they can't read Greek." He did that, and they let him go.

At one time the Germans rounded up the Jews in one small town and sent them to a concentration camp and the Jews in Athens became frightened. Some people who could afford to...left, and went to other towns or went into hiding. The Germans then announced they had no intention of harming the Jews in Athens, but they were obliged to report at the Athens synagogue once a week.

About two years passed without any incidents, the Jews in Athens began sending the message to their friends or relatives who were in hiding, that everything was all right in Athens. More and more Jewish people began returning to Athens until one day (in March 1944) they were all rounded up, first imprisoned in a camp in the outskirts of Athens, and after a few days, loaded onto trains, and brought to a concentration camp and killed. Yanis said, "I had great fear that my family was included. I went to their home and let myself in with my own key and nobody was home. Where is my mother and little brother, it can't be true." The neighbors confirmed and told me "Get out of here...Go home right away...don't stay for another moment." He said, "I couldn't keep my eyes dry, and he returned the same day. A man I met was one of the Jews arrested that day in March 1944 at the Athens synagogue but he survived and described the horrors that these people went through."

As the Germans began retreating from Athens at the end of 1944 the Russian Army planned to cut off their retreat, so they left in a hurry confiscating any vehicle they could put their hands on in order to transport their supplies. Yanis feared that Mr. Brumer, the Nazi who always suspected him, might harm him, so he took off before the Germans had left. Mr. Omourloglou arranged a guide to take him to the nearest free village. He joined a group that lived in the forest and had a printing operation hidden from the Germans and even from the Greeks. They slept on the ground, under the open sky, eating only grapes and bread for every meal.

One day the bells of the church began ringing frantically. The printing facility was on a high hill. They quickly camouflaged it and ran up the hill to hide. Yanis said, "I am sure I would have found that I broke the world record in climbing speed. Fear can make someone a champion." Yanis left there after two days, since he was notified he was needed in the mountains because the guerillas were capturing Germans as prisoners and needed an interpreter. He was told, "Don't take any other clothes except the ones you are wearing." "Also, this was his first time riding a mule," he said.

Mano was a wonderful human being. After capturing the Germans, who expected to be slaughtered, he gave them food and shelter and treated them like human beings. Before the German retreat, the guerillas never took prisoners. Germans who

fell into their hands were shot.

After the war he moved to Israel, where he had to join the Army. After basic training, he was sent to Hebrew school on Mount Carmel in Haifa. It was an intensive two-week, twelve-hour-a-day crash course in the Hebrew language. He was admitted to school to learn about the new item, radar troubleshooting. Immediately after that, he joined the antiaircraft artillery. A few months later, he was offered a chance to join the air force and learn a profession, provided he would sign up for an additional three years of service. Mano then selected to learn everything about electricity. He was sent to take new examinations, which he passed with flying colors. He was accepted into the course and studied the technical side first of radio, and then of radar for about two years. He stayed in the air force for about fifteen years.

In 1959 Yanis was sent to California for a couple of months to study the technical side of some new radar equipment. He changed his name to Mano Orel, as was requested by Israel, then bought a used camera and studied professional photography for about two years at the New York Institute of Photography. He

joined the Westchester Photographic Society, met and married Elinor, then set out to see many of America's National Parks together. He also had another love and read many books to become an expert in cooking.

Mano had many friends, especially in Athens and Israel, some in very high places and verifiably helped building the technology world we live in and who gave Mano and Elinor the "VIP... Red Carpet" treatment whenever they visited Israel. He felt that he lived in Israel during some of the most im-

portant years of its development. He went back many times since he left in 1967, when he came to the USA. Sadly, he often had intense nightmares, dreaming that the Germans are back and that he must go into hiding again and woke up with his heart pounding. The scars were still there.

In a sense, Mano, you have attained greatness. Not in the sense that all the world knew of Mano Orel, but in the quiet fulfillment of the challenges that you accepted, the brilliance with which you carried out these challenges and the people who you have helped along the way. In my eyes you were a powerful man, as was often illustrated through the clear conception of your ideas, your high purpose, firm resolve and dauntless spirit. Not to mention the eloquent way in which you spoke, kept focused and won your point which clearly portrayed the strong will that was one of the qualities I admired most about you.

You and Elinor made a great team. You appeared to be on the same wavelength, and you were noticeably Elinor's favorite cheerleader. You were truly unique and an individual to be respected. Right or wrong, you thought for yourself. Thank you for being such a huge part of my life. God bless you and keep you forever.

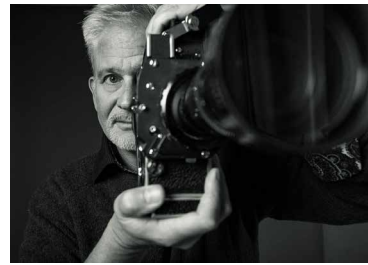
Jane Gordon



Photo by Jackie Ross

Member in Focus: Richard Camp

Richard Camp recently joined WPS and kindly participated in this interview.



[inFocus] When and how did you first get involved in photography?

[Richard Camp] When I was ten years old, my Dad took up black-and-white photography. We were living in the Marshall Islands at the time and he had access to a darkroom. He invited me to join him one day to learn how to print photographs from negatives. I was fascinated with the process. Cleaning the negative. Positioning it in the enlarger. Focusing the negative image. Calculating an exposure. Sliding the paper in the developer tray. Carefully agitating the paper. Then, witnessing the magic. A faint image appeared, shadows and highlights growing stronger. Transfer to the stop bath and fixer. The finished

print hung to dry. I was hooked.

In high school, I did sports photography, shooting athletics, making 8x10 prints in my home darkroom and selling them for a buck on the school bus. My first publication was to the local Wellesley, MA newspaper, The Townsman. Ten dollars for a football shot. I thought, not bad, maybe I should make a career in photography.

Off to the Rochester Institute of Technology I went. Four years later, I graduated with a BFA in Photography. It was there that I shifted my interest to filmmaking.

[iF] What is your profession?

[RC] My career arc started in New York city as an assistant cameraman working in film, with a few assisting jobs with well known fashion photographers. I started shooting documentary and industrial films on 16mm, moved to 35mm TV commercials and began directing and shooting commercials and infomercials. With a growing family, eventually, and seeking stability, I moved to San Francisco and worked for a number of small agencies directing and shooting corporate film and video. A producer at Cisco Systems began calling me for direct work, and that led to the start of Camp Creative, my digital marketing agency that I ran for over 20 years.

Currently I am semi-retired. Not one to sit still for long, I started Camp Photo Tours. I am running photography tours and workshops with a couple of other photographer partners. We're leading groups of photographers to Costa Rica, Africa, Europe and other more familiar locations in the US to build portfolios in wildlife, adventure and cultural photography.

[iF] How long have you been a member of WPS?

[RC] Just joined.

[iF] What type of photography do you enjoy?

[RC] I love travel photography. It gets me out of well-worn comfort zones. It forces me to approach strangers and get to know them, walk in their shoes a bit before taking a portrait, photographing a festival, or exploring an interesting location. I also like the challenge of wildlife photography. One of the hardest specialties to get right and build expertise.

[iF] Do you do photo projects, and if so please describe a recent or favorite one.

[RC] Yes. One of my favorite photo assignments was shooting portraits of women agronomists for Yara International. Yara is based in Norway and is a global agricultural company. I traveled to Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Mexico, Singapore and US locations. Every woman had a unique story. My job was to capture the essence of their passion and dedication of their work for a book Yara published to encourage women to join their ranks and adopt careers in agronomy.

[iF] What inspires you?

[RC] People on the front lines of change. It can be almost anyone. People dedicated to wildlife and habitat conservation in Africa. People that support and preserve World Heritage Sites. A young woman in Laos bringing economic change to her village through entrepreneurship, or the country of Bhutan, balancing change with a strong environmental ethic.

[iF] What do you hope to get out of your membership in WPS?

[RC] The opportunity to share my knowledge and passion for photography and more importantly, learn from the shared experiences of other members. Engage in field trips to discover new subjects, and locations that allow us to practice the craft.

[iF] Do you have any favorite photographers?

[RC] Many come to mind. I worked for Albert Watson, a brilliant fashion photographer. Duane Michaels, Annie Leibovitz, Robert Frank, Richard Avedon, Nick Ut (AP photo-journalist), Joe McNally, Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus, Elliott Erwitt, William Eggleston and Jay Maisel, to name a few.

[iF] What gear and tools do you use? (Cameras/lenses, photoshop, etc.)

[RC] My principal equipment is Canon. Canon R5 body, 28-70mm zoom, 70-200mm zoom, 600mm prime telephoto. I also own a Leica M11-P, a favorite for low key portrait and street work. I also have an assortment of flash units and continuous lights. For image processing software, I use Capture One, Lightroom and Photoshop.

[iF] Tell me something about you unrelated to photography.

[RC] I have a lot of outside interests, including golf, pickleball, aviation, hiking and fly fishing. My wife and I have three granddaughters that keep us busy as we invest our time nurturing their interests.

[iF] What's one piece of advice you would give our readers (photographic or otherwise)?

[RC] From a photographic perspective: Do what you love. However, if you want to take photos that inspire others, find the places and subjects that are truly interesting, beautiful, unique, or simply have a story to tell. In other words, shoot subjects that other people will be attracted to, that make people feel.

Where to start? Annie Lebovitz once gave this advice: "I've said it a million times that the best thing a young photographer can do is stay close to home. Start with your friends and family, the people who will put up with you. Discover what it means to be close to your work, to be intimate with a subject."

I would expand that to mean photographing anything local to you: a garden, a fox in your backyard, local architecture, a St. Patrick's Day Parade in the rain, your grandkids at the pumpkin patch. Whatever stretches forces you to have intent and think creatively.

[iF] Are your photos available online on a website, social media, etc.? If so, can you share a link?

[RC] campphototours.com <https://campcreative.mypixieset.com/>



Member in Focus: Richard Camp

Black Skimmer Feeding Chicks

Nickerson Beach is a popular spot for photographers. Arrive at sunrise. The first hour is best for capturing warm tonality. Another hour and the sun gets increasingly harsher. You need a strong back to lay prone long enough to get good shots.



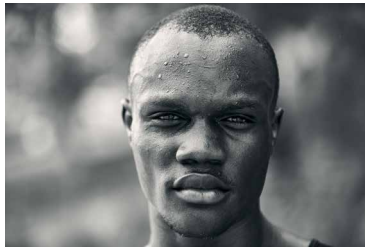
Black Skimmer with Foraged fish

This image of a Black Skimmer at Nickerson beach in Long Island has a painterly quality. I shot this with a 600 mm lens at f4 through beach plants. It's what I would call a dirty foreground that creates a visual signature different from smooth backgrounds. It's really a good technique to try on almost any subject, including portraits.



Boxer, Buffalo, NY

While on a business trip to Buffalo, NY, I came across a young boxer training in a park. I shot a lot of action shots then asked him if would mind a portrait shot. The workout left beads of sweat on his face, intensifying a look of determination and confidence.



Laos, Children at Play

During a recent visit to Laos, my wife and I visited the Wat Xiengthong temple complex in Luang Prabang. I took a couple of tourist snapshots and spied two girls twirling and playing nearby. Shooting with a 200 mm zoom, I discreetly kept my distance, capturing their exuberance.



Malaysian Women Harvesting Eggplant

On assignment for Yara International, we were visiting a farm in Malaysia near Singapore. One of the workers proudly displayed her eggplants. I was struck by her beauty and the color coordination of her jacket, scarf and the rich purple of the eggplant.



Mariachi Breaktime, Guanajuato

I love travel photography. It's always a challenge to get images that are different from the average tourist shot. After spending some time photographing mariachis serenading diners at the outdoor restaurants in the main plaza, I hung out waiting for other opportunities. That's when the mariachis took a break. I took maybe a dozen images before getting the perfect gestures between the four musicians.



Red Eyed Tree Frog, Costa Rica

I've spent a lot of time in Costa Rica and my favorite area for biodiversity of wildlife is the Osa Peninsula. This image was captured by carefully placing a red-eyed tree frog on a tropical flower. Shot with a macro lens, these nocturnal amphibians are about an inch long, hard to find and rarely hold still long enough for a shot. I'll be leading a tour to this location in December - <https://campphototours.com/tour/wildlife-photography-tour-of-a-lifetime-in-costa-ricas-rainforest/>



Uzbekistan, Dancers

A few years ago I produced a video for a travel company on a tour of the Silk Road. Whenever you are in a foreign city, parks are a great place to capture images of locals. I came across these dancers in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. After shooting shots freezing the action, I used a slow shutter to capture the flowing grace of their movements.



The Competition Corner

By Dennis Thornton



I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer.

Welcome back to another year of fun activities and learning opportunities, including competitions, with the Westchester Photographic Society.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two of our members: Barbara Pollack and Jackie Ross. Each of these individuals has worked hard in their respective Color Digital competition tiers and has been predominant over several successive years. As per our Competition Guidelines and Rules, this achievement earns them the opportunity to advance to the next category level.

For those unfamiliar with our competition system, we have four general categories: Color Digital, Open Mind, Black & White and Theme Assignment. Only the Color Digital category has an assigned three tier system: Group B, Group A and Salon. The other three categories are all inclusive – single groups. Advancement through the Color Digital tiers is based upon performance over successive years.

Being offered the opportunity to advance is an acknowledgment of the individual's dedication, hard work and achievement in improving their photographic skills. Therefore, it provides the entire club with a sense of pride to announce that Barbra Pollack will be moving from Group B to Group A and Jackie Ross will be advancing from Group A to Salon. Congratulations to each of them for a job well done.

For new and returning members who may be interested in participating in our competitions, I welcome you and encourage all to participate in competitions, as they provide great opportunities to challenge yourself, show your work to other members, and to receive constructive advice from our panel of outside judges. They are an opportunity to learn, and provide a forum to improve your skills.

In order to compete in any of the four categories, you need to be registered in our competition software program, PhotoContestPro (PCP). For this to be accomplished, you need to provide us with the information that is requested when you fill out your Member's Profile. Please provide all the requested data and also include a photo of yourself so we can incorporate you into our activities and get to know who you are.

As noted above, once I have your information, I can designate you, in PCP, as eligible for participation in our competitions. All categories except Color Digital will be universal, and you will need to do nothing more, other than enter images as per the PCP instructions. Again, only the Color Digital category has the three assigned levels. To streamline that process, the default placement for new members is in the first tier – Group B. If any member wants to compete in Color Digital, but feels their skill level is more advanced, there is a mechanism to apply for advance placement.

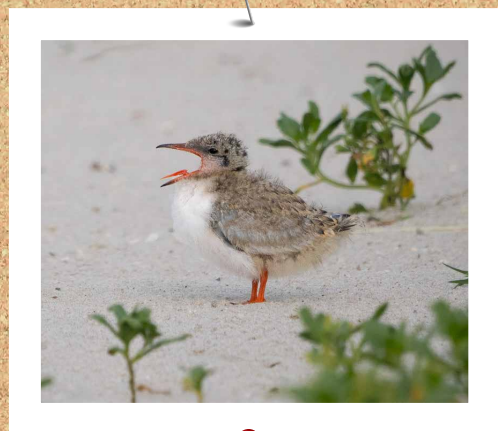
I would strongly suggest that you visit our website www.wpsphoto.org. Go to "Competitions," scroll down to the bottom to "Scores" and select the most recent year under "Image Catalog," and click on the "A" competitions. Note: the "A" format is for Color Digital and Open Mind competitions where "B" format is for Black & White and Theme Assignment competitions) There are six (6) "A"-format competitions, where you can see all the color images submitted in each of the three tiers, for a competition date. This will help you gauge how your work compared to others in our club. The collective skill level for every club is different.

If, after this assessment, should you feel that your work would more appropriately place you in a higher, more competitive tier, then you will need to do the following. Assemble 20 images that you feel are representative of your work. Contact me dennist@wpsphoto.org and I will pass that information along and arrange for the Evaluation Committee to review your work and make a written recommendation for placement.

Please be advised that once the competition year commences the individual's tier status will be locked in for that year. Therefore, if you would like to compete, on one of the higher Color Digital tiers, it is incumbent upon you to review the quality of the work of other club members, make a decision, and inform us so we can respond in a timely manner and have everything in place a couple of weeks before the season begins in September. If you are satisfied with starting off in Group B, you don't need to do anything other than submit images in Color Digital. Participation in competitions is encouraged but by no means mandatory.

A Few Photos at Nickerson Beach

from Linda Austrian, Jackie Ross and Julie Serenson



inFocus

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