

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

April 2023

INSIDE: Coming Up Abstract Photos Competition Corner Competition Election



Spring Has Sprung

C pring is here! Our clocks have sprung forward, I've had my biannual rant Jabout Daylight Saving Time, flowers are springing up out of the ground, cherry blossoms are at a peak down in Washington D.C., and will be blooming here as well soon.

And now that the weather is getting warmer, it is time to do a little spring cleaning of the ol' camera bag, fix the clock in your camera, and get out there on some photo walks. I had a very enjoyable hike in Sprain Ridge Park this past weekend. I look forward to spending more time outdoors and in parks, enjoying the light and getting some exercise.

I don't get much feedback from you, our readers of inFocus. I sometimes wonder if you read this column! If you are reading this, give me a sign. Let me know at a meeting, drop me an email with your thoughts and suggestions about anything related to WPS or photography, or better yet, write in to the newsletter. Do you have some recent spring photos? Send them in, share them with our readers. Here's a spring photo of mine from a previous year:



As I mention during the announcements each week, I'd love to feature your photos on WPS's Instagram. If you have some photos you'd like to share, get in touch with me and I'll be happy to post them.

Another sign of spring is that it is almost time for our annual meeting. This year it will be on April 28th. If you are a member (sorry, members only for this meeting), please make a point of attending. We need a quorum to make things official, elect next year's board, hear reports from each board member, and celebrate last year's competition season with awards. I hope to see you all at the meeting.

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

Fuat Baran, President

COVER PHOTO

WHO'S THERE

By Barbara Kapetanakes

Who's There. This photo was taken on Machias Seal Island off the coast of Maine. After COVID and bad weather upended my plans for 2020 and 2021, the third time was the charm in 2022.



Ron Carran, Editor Dick Budnik. Web Edition

WPS Board of Directors

Dick Budnik, Chairman of the Board, WebMaster Fuat Baran, President, Social Media, Publicity Ron Carran, Corporate Secretary, Executive VP, Treasurer, Newsletter Serge Migdal, Programs Arnold Breisblatt, Exhibits Joe Pollock, College Shooting Program, WCC Liaison, Annual Dinner, Mentor Program Julie Van Benthuysen, Community Outreach Dennis Thornton, Competition Chair Carl Zucker, WPS Community Liaison

Volunteers

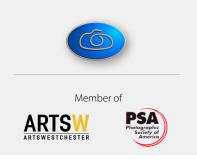
Competitions Mark Friedman Competition Catalog Jim Christensen WPS Official Photographers ("Sharpshooters") Arnold Breisblatt, Julie Van Benthuvsen, Melanie Rush **Guests Greeter** Silvie Epperly **Judge Coordinator** Dennis Thornton Hospitality Silvie Epperly Jane Gordon, Julie Van Benthuysen Equipment Tom Streppone, Joe Ferreira, Fuat Baran, Gregory White **Competition Scores Reporting** Mark Friedman, Ken Salstrom **Equipment**, Projectionist Jonathan Kaplan **Award Certificates** Ron Carran Field Trips

> 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.



FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

April

- No Meeting: Easter 7 14
- Peter Lekos, "How to Take Award-Winning Nature Images"
- Competition 5B (Theme: Dutch Angle) 21 28 Annual Members Meeting

May 5

- Silvie Epperly & Arnold Breisblatt, "Preparing Images for Exhibitions" 12 Competition 6A
- 19 Dawn Wilson, "Nature Photography on the Road—a Year in an RV"
- No Meeting: Memorial Day 26

June

- 2 Brooke Shaden
- Competition 6B (Theme: Still Life) 9 16
 - Members Process Same Image in Color
- and B&W
- 23 EOY Competition How I Did It

30

- July Caleb Hoover, "Urban Wildlife"
- 7 14 Members Critique
- 21 Members Showcases
- 28 Kenny Salzman

August

- Members Process Stock Photo 4
- 11 YouTube Videos
- 18 How I Did It
- 25 Matthew Christopher, Abandon America

September

- No Meeting: Labor Day 1
- 8 Chris McGinnis, The Little Things
- 15 TBD

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

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and should be addressed as follows: I concerning the WPS Newsletter, In Focus, address comments to the editor at i . If concerning our website, address comments to our webmaster, Dick Budnik, at v . All othe comments should be addressed to our President.

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Peter is a former Associated Press sports photographer. He has photographed the Giants, Jets, Mets, Nets, Devils, college football games including Army Navy, Rutgers, and many other events.

America and #12 in the World.

club competition.

winner of the best nature slide in N.J.



On our presentation, we will show all the details involved in preparing photos for framing including matting, glazing, and fitting. In addition, we will demonstrate short cuts on retouching, sizing, ordering photos for printing and ways to save money by reusing mats and frames.



Dawn Wilson is a professional and award-winning nature photographer and travel writer who specializes in photographing wildlife and visiting places of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska. She has more than 600 bylines to her credit, has been identified as a Top Ten Female Nature Photographer to Watch, served as president of the North American Nature Photography Association (NAN-PA), and is the co-host of The Nature Photographer Podcast. Her written and photographic work has appeared in many national and regional publications, including MotorHome, Outdoor Photographer, National Geographic calendars, Colorado Life, *Colorado Outdoors, Wyoming Wildlife, and many more.*

your own road adventure.

22 Competition 1A 29 Dennis Thornton

Contact Information

Jackie Ross

Committees Publicity

COMING UP

Peter Lekos on April 14

How to Take Award-Winning Nature Images

When he competed in individual P.S.A. nature division, he was ranked #4 in North

He is the winner of the best nature digital image of year in 2007 P.S.A. international club competition and winner of the best nature slide of year in 2003 P.S.A. international

He is the winner of the best color print in N.J., best B&W print in N.J. and four-time

He has published in many newspapers, magazines and nature guides, including Outdoor Photographer, Birder's World, N.J. Outdoors.

Silvie Epperly & Arnold Breisblatt on May 5

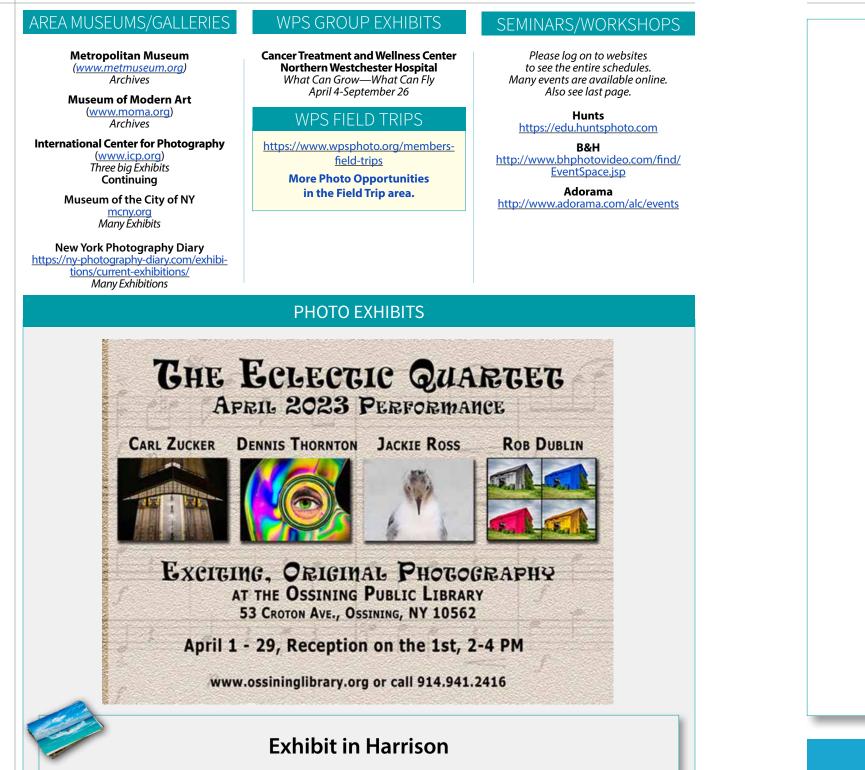
Preparing Images for Exhibition

Dawn Wilson on May 19

Nature Photography on the Road— A Year in an RV

In September 2015, Dawn Wilson sold her home, downsized her stuff, packed up her pets and hit the road in an RV on a solo adventure to photograph a long list of places and animals. When she left, she was unsure of how long the adventure would last, estimating six months. It turned into a 15-month journey that took her to all corners of the U.S., including a summer in Alaska, capturing more than 100,000 images and making some unexpected changes in her life. Join her for a presentation talking about what led to the decision to make such a change, what she saw and wrote about, and tips for doing

Bulletin Board



Artists who are interested in exhibiting at the Harrison Public Library, Bruce Avenue, Harrison, NY for approximately one month during 2024 are invited to submit samples of their artwork for review by a Juried Art Committee sponsored by the Harrison Council for the Arts.

Twelve artists will be awarded one person shows by our jury, with three alternate artists chosen as well, should unexpected circumstances prevent artists from exhibiting according to schedule. Group shows (2, 3 or 4 persons) will also be considered provided these artists register and submit work together. Please note for group shows, all entrants must be chosen.

If you are interested in competing for one of these shows, please bring samples to the Community Room, Harrison Public Library, 2 Bruce Avenue, Harrison, NY on Friday, May 12, 2023 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. All artists must pick up their samples on Saturday, May 13, 2023 between 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. See harrisonpl.org/art

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

What Can Grow – What Can Fly

April 4 – September 26, 2023



What Can Grow - refers to an image that shows a plant, flower, tree, fruit, vegetables or landscapes.

What Can Fly - can refer to a photographer's image of a bird or insect in flight, nesting or on the ground.

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

Please call-in advance for admittance and exhibit hours.

NOTICE **Annual Membership Meeting: Vote for Board Members** April 28, 2023

The annual membership meeting of WPS will be held on April 28, 2023, at 7:30 pm. We will be voting for the WPS Board of Directors. Only members as of the record date of March 1, 2023 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 April 7, 2023 so it can be placed on the agenda. No topics will be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Brief biographies of the candidates will be published in the April issue of inFOCUS.

Abstract Photography

By Anastasia Tompkins

Seeing a recent program on Abstract Photography (in the Charlotte Camera Club) inspired me to look through my files and see what images I could come up with to further illustrate the beauty of abstract photography in its purest form. This genre of photography, different from crazy manipulated abstracts, are done in camera. The goal is to take ordinary subjects and photograph them in such a way that, for a moment, your eye isn't sure of what it's looking at. Abstracts come in many forms, and the images below are just a few examples of fun things that we can produce with our cameras.

IN-CAMERA PANNING



This image is of Bamboo trees. The technique is achieved by moving your camera up and down, or side to side, or in any which direction, while your shutter is open. f/8 1/8s ISO 200

This image is of fall leaves on trees. f/122 10s -0.3 ISO 200

IN-CAMERA ZOOM



This image is of Christmas trees during a holiday celebration. This technique is achieved by quickly turning your zoom lens while the shutter is open. I love using this mostly at night. I just love the rays from the lights. f/13 60s ISO 200

IN-CAMERA NATURAL ABSTRACT



This image is of smoke from incense. Smoke with an LED light and a black background gives off many beautiful colors. f/10 1s -0.3 ISO 100



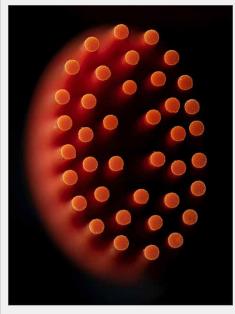


This image is of of the Eiffel Tower at night. f/10 6s ISO 4000



This image is taken with a technique called selective focus. This works well with a flower subject. You select one focus point and then let everything else fall off. f/2.8

IN-CAMERA NATURAL ABSTRACT



This image is of my red silicone dish scrubber taken with a macro lens. f/2.8 0.5s -0.7 ISO 200

This image was taken in NYC from a taxi on a rainy evening with my camera on manual and just a slight bit out of focus. These images can be very effective and give a watercolor effect. f/3.5 1/200s ISO 2500

IN-CAMERA ABSTRACT FROM ON HIGH

This image was taken in Italy from up on a mountain looking down on the beach. These images are different and just by virtue of the height, make them an abstract to the eye on first view.



This image was taken from a private elevator going to the top of the Eiffel Tower.

The Competition Corner

By Dennis Thornton

We are well into this season's competition year. Members have been submitting impressive images, across categories, which helps make our competitions not only viable but a great resource for all of us to learn ways to improve our photography.

Unfortunately, one of the images in competition 4B was challenged and disqualified. As per our tradition, I am sharing this decision, and the image in question, so the membership may be better informed as to guidelines employed in different competition categories.

The Black & White and Color Digital Categories are labeled as *Traditional* categories. This means that images are to have a "fundamentally naturalistic appearance." Images should not appear to have been overly processed, in any type of software. You can crop, dodge, burn or use any of the techniques employed in a traditional darkroom. Section 3 of the **Competition Guidelines** spells out what is permissible and not permissible. It specifically states that textures cannot be applied, in this category. That is the reason this particular image was disqualified.

Please be aware, that the over-arching construct, for the Traditional categories, it that of the *photographic truth*. You are able to make adjustments that are seen as enhancing the image without significantly altering its base presentation. For example, you can adjust the sky so long as it still fits the scene. Or clone out distractions as long as your actions do not transform the image into something is was not. This principle is applied to each image individually.

This may seem a bit vague so let's try to understand it better with the use of a hypothetical image. You have an image of a seascape, maybe a sunset. The image has some minor elements, but it *"reads"* as a seascape. The sun (the brightest and biggest element) is seen as the primary subject. You decide to add to "enhance" the image by putting a small bird in the sky, or a proportionally sized boat in the water or a beach ball on the beach. The element helps to enhance the image but retains the original photographic truth as it still *reads as a seascape*.

However, if you decide to introduce an element, say a bird, and upsize that bird you are approaching potentially dangerous waters. If your bird is sized so that it assumes a significant proportion of the frame then several issues arise. The size of the bird, the fact that it's an animate object, maybe it's bright, it has significant detail and it is viewed as being closer if not the closest element to the viewer. All of these things contribute to the bird assuming greater visual weight and it now becomes the primary subject. This is a transformation, as the image now reads as a bird in a seascape setting. This constitutes a violation of the "photographic truth" of the original image. It is therefore subject to being challenged and disqualified. Images that are worked in this manner and/or to such an extent are more appropriate for our Open Mind or Theme Assignment competitions. None of us want to spend time and effort trying to make our image more impactful only to have it disqualified because you didn't know about or forgot about a rule.



• In the "traditional" categories, you can do things that enhance but not transform the base image.

Another point I would like to make is in regard to the Theme Assignment (TA) competitions. TAs are presented to be fun challenges, to encourage all of us to shoot different material and/or to photographic specific subject matter or in a specified style. TAs are meant to help expand our photographic repertoire. To help you understand the intent of the specific TA descriptive write-ups are provided, in the competition section on our website. Fuat helpfully notes the dates, nature and judges for our competitions in his weekly announcements. He also flags that fact that if you are looking at the competition schedule, on the website, and you click on the name of the Theme Assignment (in blue), you will be taken directly to the TA description.

We've now passed the halfway mark where individuals may be a little discouraged for not doing as well as they hoped and/ or beginning to run short on their more desirable images. I will encourage you to keep submitting images in part to keep our competitions robust but mostly to provide you with an incentive to keep your photography active and progressive. Competitions are meant to act as a creative catalyst. They are an opportunity to show our work to others and to receive constructive feedback from the judge and encouragement from our fellow members. This will help you improve your photography but as the saying goes "you have to be in it to win it."



B&W DIGITAL

B&W DIGITAL





Ron Carran, First Bus





Linda Austrian, Second Pyramid of Smiles





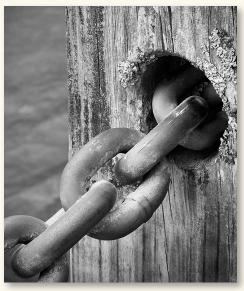
Carlotta Grenier, Second A Full Harbour

Dennis Thornton, Second Blacksmith Bucket



Arnold Breisblatt, Third Fallen Hero 1810





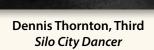
Adelaide Boemio, Third Chain

B&W DIGITAL

B&W DIGITAL

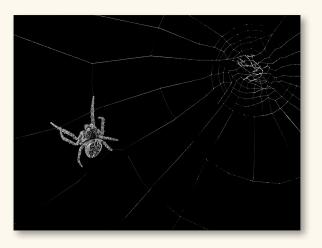


Barbara Kapetanakes, Third Have Gun, Will Travel





Linda Austrian, Third Who's the Most Handsome



Anastasia Tompkins, Third Spider Web



Carolyn Colella, HM Arches





Anastasia Tompkins, HM Apex Shadows

THEME: DEPTH PERCEPTION

THEME: DEPTH PERCEPTION





Anastasia Tompkins, First Water Buffalo Herd, Africa

Linda Austrian, Second Time for Pumpkin Pickers and Rock Climbers



Linda Austrian, Third Happy 4th of July



Anastasia Tompkins, Third Budapest Biker



Jackie Ross, Third Egret Sunset



Betty Leung, HM Hotel Lobby in Trento



Jackie Ross, Third Really Big Ship



Barbara Kapetanakes, HM Watching His Friends

WPS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ***************** *****

April 28, 2023

Brief biographies of the candidates for the Board of Directors are following



Linda Austrian

My interest in photography began when I sold my medical software company in 2001. I wanted a new hobby. With a used film camera, I took classes at the 92nd St Y in Manhattan. Soon thereafter, photography went digital. I

had worked with computers at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital - first doing research in Biochemistry, then as Director of Administrative Computing for the Department of Medicine. I then started and was COO of a Medical Practice Management Software company. With digital photography, my passion for photography became even stronger. I joined Dick Budnik's class and then WPS about 2009. I thoroughly enjoy the members and have made wonderful friends. I also enjoy learning from the frequent speakers, inspiring competitions, and friendly exhibits. For 8 years I have volunteered at NY Presbyterian Psychiatric Hospital in White Plains with my therapy dog. (We were awarded International Therapy Team of the year.) For the past few months, I served on the WPS Membership Committee helping plan how best to expand our membership.



Arnold Breisblatt

From the fall of 2011, I have been a proud member of the WPS and have served on the Board of Directors for the last six years. My primary responsibilities include handling the member group exhibitions and photo-

graphing as a "sharpshooter" our live meetings, events and parties. In addition, I volunteer as a presenter to club members, teaching better cell phone photography, how to take better pictures for competition and Photoshop Elements post processing. As a graduate of Pratt Institute, I have worked as an Art Director and in marketing communications during my professional career. In addition, I love to participate in the club's competitions, exhibits, field trips and get-togethers.



Julie Van Benthuysen

In the relatively short time that I have been with the WPS, the work of fellow members has never ceased to amaze and inspire me. I am a member of the board, working for the outreach and community contact area. Since at the

age of eight, my dad gave me a Brownie box camera, I have never looked back. My photography has been ongoing. The main areas of interest are nature, especially flowers and grab shots of anything that catches my eye. That being said, there is always a real camera with me. I am the official photographer for the Scarsdale Women's Club. I delight in showing my work because there is such beauty in all the earth for us to marvel at and enjoy.



Richard Budnik

Nature photographer, Digital Photography Instructor at WCC, 1998-2002, Greenburgh Seniors Center, 2002-23, Photography/Photoshop/Lightroom tutor, digital imaging services, computer consultant, retired chemist, WPS mem-

ber since 1983, Board Member, 1983-98, 2000-23; Competition Scorekeeper, 1990-2010, Acting Competition Chair 2019-20, Created WPS, Color Camera Club, Rockland Camera Club, DRPP web sites; Webmaster, 2000-23; Online Newsletter Editor, 2000-23; Chairman of the Board, 2006-23; President, 2006-10; Executive VP, 2003-06; Asst. Treasurer, 2000-04; WPS Lecturer, 1986-2023; Corporate Secretary, 1993-98; VP for Communication Coordination, 1990-98; Recording Secretary, 1992-98; High School Competition Judge; Newsletter Committee, 1990-98; Exhibits Chairman, 1990-91; Exhibits Committee, 1987-2002; Photoday Lecturer; Mini-Photoday Lecturer; Photoday Committees; WCC Exhibit Committees; competition judge and lecturer at CCC, BZCC, NJFCC, field trip leader, critique panelist; question and answer panelist, mini-Photoshop instructor, showcase presenter, digital imaging lecturer, Olympus M43 Expert/Fanboy (and probably the only one to have actually read the manuals).



Ron Carran

I've been a member of WPS since 2004, after rekindling a love of photography that had been dormant since I was young. In between, I pursued a career in music, first teaching in public schools, then owning a recording stu-

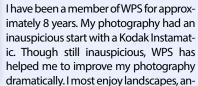
dio for many years. My interests then turned to computers, where I have been a software developer and graphic designer for almost 40 years. In the last 25 years, with the growing popularity of digital, I became totally immersed in photography again. I love shooting landscapes and am particularly attracted to the shapes and textures I find as I travel in the western US. I designed WPS's new brochure, logo and new web site, have been the InFocus newsletter editor for the last ten years, and would love to serve for another term on the WPS board.



I have been a member of WPS since 2014. I have a generalist interest in photography and dabble in many areas from nature to macro photography, digital and film, and have several long term "projects" such as my "One Photo a

Day" project. At WPS I have volunteered in the past as sharpshooter, help out with the projection equipment and have maintained the WPS's social media presence (Facebook, Instagram) for several years. I joined the WPS board in 2021.

Serge Migdal



imals and sports most. I enjoy my trips out west with visits to Utah, New Mexico, Montana and a three-month stint working at Yellowstone (highly recommended). You will find me around the club helping Jon set up and hanging exhibits. I manage the sports exhibit at Northern Westchester Hospital Chappaqua Crossing Facility. I am currently the program director for the club. I would like to continue to build on our success in obtaining outstanding speakers and help WPS grow and prosper.



Joseph Pollock

I have been a member of WPS for over 25 years and have served on the board for 18 years. My work on the board includes: overseeing the mentoring program and serving as the club's representative to WCC, overseeing the college shooting

program, and coordinator of the Annual Awards dinner. My main chore is to negotiate with WCC to get back on campus so that we can have a nice area to hold our weekly meetings. I encourage all members to take advantage of our mentoring program to learn how to become better photographers. We offer one on one sessions in many phases of the hobby and it is free to all members of the club. I strive to do my best for the club and to make it a friendly atmosphere for all our members to enjoy.

Dennis Thornton



I have been a member of WPS for a score of years. During that time I have enjoyed the company of good friends and accomplished fellow photographers. Participating in the various activities that have been organized by

the club has helped me grow as a photographer and enjoy interacting with others who share a passion for photography. During this tenure, I have found that competing in competitions has been most instrumental in helping me to learn technical photographic techniques and to cultivate a more insightful and mature aesthetic eye. Because I have found this particular club activity so strongly contributing to my development, I have been motivated to assume the role of competition chair. My intent is to strive to make competitions fun, interesting and engaging. Hopefully, by stimulating interest in this endeavor, it will encourage fellow members to participate and benefit from constructive assessments and suggestions.



Leon Zelazny

It is an honor and a privilege to be considered to serve on the board of WPS. Since joining in 2020, I found WPS to be one of the most inspiring clubs that captivate and captures the imagination of photographers with

different interests and level of experience. As a youngster I became fascinated with photography. Throughout my professional career as Transportation Planner and an Engineer, I used the camera to complement technical designs to help visualize complex engineering concepts before they were built. This experience led me to venture also into general street, landscape, and nature photography. My professional experience spans over 40 years. It combines visual arts and graphics in the field of Civil Engineering and Transpiration Planning. I have graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in civil engineering. I worked on numerous high-profile infrastructure projects for many transportation agencies in the NY Tri-State area. My work has been published in several technical books, and variety publications. I also had the privilege to display my photographs in several exhibits and venues. In my capacity as board member, I plan to help WPS grow, both in terms of membership and the high-quality programs it already offers.



Carl Zucker

I'm new to the board and would like to continue to serve. I have a varied background which I think has prepared me to contribute. I graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology with a BFA in Photographic Illus-

tration in 1970. I subsequently worked assisting NY photographers, eventually becoming a member of the Directors Guild of America as a Location Manager and Assistant Director. In this capacity I worked for twenty years on nine feature films and produced over 150 TV commercials as Producer and 1st AD. These positions took me to virtually every state as well as Europe and Japan. I then spent over twenty years in Sales and Marketing of entertainment industry payroll services, eventually becoming VP Production Business Affairs for the TEAM Companies before retiring. I served on various industry boards, including the DGA East Coast AD/UPM Council, the Association of Independent Commercial Producers Boards of Directors and the New York Production Alliance.

inFocus

The Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor P.O. Box 405, Ossining, NY 10562

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