

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

September 2023

A photograph of an elderly Buddhist monk with a shaved head, wearing traditional orange robes and blue flip-flops. He is standing in a doorway with green louvered shutters. The doorway is framed by a yellow archway with ornate carvings. The background is a light-colored wall with a decorative golden element on the right side.

INSIDE:

Coming Up

Competition Corner

Car Show Field Trip

Chincoteague Pony Swim

NYMACC



A New Season

As we enter September, we begin our new season, and I'm excited to see all your new photos. I look forward to all the great speakers Serge has lined up for us.

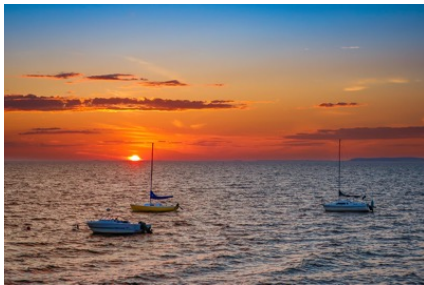
Membership dues are due in September. Please renew promptly. You can easily pay online with credit card, Paypal, or Venmo. No need to write and mail a check (though if you prefer, you can). You may have received an automated email from our website/Ron saying that your membership has expired. These messages may be incorrect and are based on the date you renewed last year, and can be ignored. Regardless of the exact date you paid, our membership year starts on September 1 and runs till the end of August.

With the new season, our competition series starts as well. Competition 1a is on September 22 and submissions are due on the 17th. See the schedule on our website, including the judges and the theme competitions. If you click on a theme you'll see a detailed description of the theme. Please consider participating in our competitions.

I hope you've all had a chance to relax and recharge this summer and that you had an opportunity to go out and take photographs. I hope we'll see your photos in our competitions and exhibitions. Participation was low last year and it would be great if more members submitted photos this year. In addition, we also have member programs where we all edit the same stock photos or give a brief presentation on the concept and execution of our photos. These sessions are a lot of fun, with a lot of creativity and humor, and we'd love to see your works too.

We are always looking for members who would like to present a program. If you have something you'd like to show us, please contact Serge and we'll find a slot in our calendar.

I just got back from Cape Cod. Here are a couple of my photos from there:



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

Fuat Baran, *President*

COVER PHOTO

BUDDHIST MONK IN DOOR

By *Dennis Thornton*

Vietnamese Buddhist monk at pagoda in the Mekong Delta region. Monk was consoled, by our guide, to pose for a few pictures. He was very patient, photogenic and in the end we all enjoyed the moment



inFocus

Ron Carran, Editor
Dick Budnik, Web Edition

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Silvie Epperly

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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

- 1 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 8 Chris McGinnis, "The Little Things"
- 15 Roger Ballen, "A Retrospective"
- 22 Competition 1A
- 29 Dennis Thornton, "Jewels of the Orient"

October

- 6 Competition 1B (Theme: Stairs/Staircases)
- 13 Members Critique
- 20 Lori Lankford, "Intentional Camera Movement"
- 27 Competition 2A

November

- 3 Arik Gorban, "Street Photography"
- 10 Competition 2B (Theme: Necropolis: City of the Dead)
- 17 George Preoteasa, "Night Sky Time-Lapse Photography"
- 24 No Meeting: Thanksgiving

December

- 1 Competition 3A
- 8 Guido van der Water, "Playing with Light"
- 15 Members Showcases
- 22 No Meeting: Christmas
- 29 No Meeting: New Years

January

- 5 Competition 3B (Theme: Backlit)
- 12 TBD
- 19 Members Showcases
- 26 Competition 4A

February

- 2 TBD
- 9 TBD
- 16 Competition 4B
- 23 TBD

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

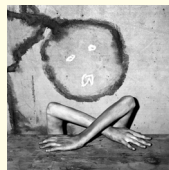


Chris McGinnis on September 8

The Little Things

Chris McGinnis will bring you into the often-overlooked, tiny world of insects and spiders through field macro photography. Chris will show his ideal gear, teach how to set yourself up for success in the field, share his baseline camera settings, and explain how he uses a lightweight macro rig to capture razor sharp, high-magnification images of live subjects—without a tripod!

Chris McGinnis is a field macro photographer and OM SYSTEM Ambassador from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He grew up at the Jersey Shore and spent a good deal of his childhood searching for creepy crawlers and drawing in sketchbooks. His relationship with photography began at Moravian College while taking film photography courses en route to a degree in graphic design. Since 2007, Chris has been part of the Olympus America creative team, where he now oversees all graphic design, photography, and video production for Olympus' medical business units.



Roger Ballen on September 15

Boyhood

Born in the US and based in Johannesburg, South Africa, Roger Ballen is one of the most important photographers of his generation. He has published over 25 books and recently Thames and Hudson published his book *Ballenesque, Roger Ballen—A Retrospective*, a major book of his collected works. His photographs are collected by some of the most prominent.

His oeuvre, which spans five decades, began with the documentary photography field but evolved into the creation of distinctive fictionalized realms that also integrate the mediums of film, installation, theatre, sculpture, painting and drawing. Ballen describes his works as "existential psychodramas" that touch the subconscious mind and evoke the underbelly of the human condition. They aim to break through the repressed thoughts and feelings by engaging him in themes of chaos and order, madness or unruly states of being, the human relationship to the animal world, life and death, universal archetypes of the psyche and experiences of otherness.



Dennis Thornton on September 29

Viet Nam and Cambodia: Jewels of the Orient

For a generation, the countries of Vietnam and Cambodia were defining terms. Accounts of a war that impacted and divided American society were broadcasted graphically on the nightly news. Iconic images and disturbing stories of war, carnage and protests were staples of our daily experiences. Then the war ended. Now, fifty years later, what are these countries like? Has the war left lasting effects? Have they recovered economically? What are these peoples like culturally?

This presentation will take you on a tour of Viet Nam, both northern and southern regions. You will be shown images of people and places. The names of some places may be familiar while others will be novel. Then travel to Cambodia to visit Angkor Wat, the "City of Temples". A UNESCO heritage site, Angkor Wat is designated as the largest religious structure in the world.

You will be presented with pictorial stories of people in both countries. Will the current depiction of the people and places match or challenge your preconceived notions?

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)
Richard Avedon: Murals
Through Oct 1

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
New Photography 2023

**Ongoing International Center for
Photography**
(www.icp.org)
Love Songs:
Photography and Intimacy
Ongoing

Fotografiska, NY
<https://www.blind-magazine.com/events/hip-hop-conscious-unconscious-at-fotografiska-new-york/>
Many Exhibits

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

WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

**Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital**
What Can Grow—What Can Fly
April 4-September 26

WPS FIELD TRIPS

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

**More Photo Opportunities
in the Field Trip area.
Stay tuned for more
information on these
upcoming trips!**

AVAILABLE

16 x 20-inch paper cutter,
Clip on light for a workstation with two
14-inch arms extending 28 inches,
Black metal frames with glass—(4) 14 x16
and (2) 14 x 18
If interested, please contact Lois at
firstphotomom@aol.com

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](#).**

WPS EXHIBITS

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.

FALL 2023 EXHIBITS

Northern Westchester Hospital
**Theme: What a Wonderful
World! Oh Yeah!**
Drop off: Oct 3 (runs for 6 months)

Greenburgh Public Library
**Theme: I Came, I Saw,
I Took the Picture**
Drop off: Oct. 18 at 9:30am
Pick-up: Nov. 30 at 10am

Ossining Public Library
**Theme: Do You See What
I See? A Photographer's
Perspective**
Drop off: Nov. 2 at 10am
Pick-up: Nov. 29 at 1pm

For more information contact
Arnold Breisblatt at abreis@aol.com.



HAPPY SUMMER!

The Competition Corner

By Dennis Thornton



Use of AI Technologies in WPS Competitions

WPS has a long tradition of requiring that images submitted into all competition categories be “original” captures of the member. Latitude has been given to image makers to use various techniques to help refine and enhance their image. However, this has been with the understanding that these manipulations do not result in a transformation from the original “photographic truth” of the image.

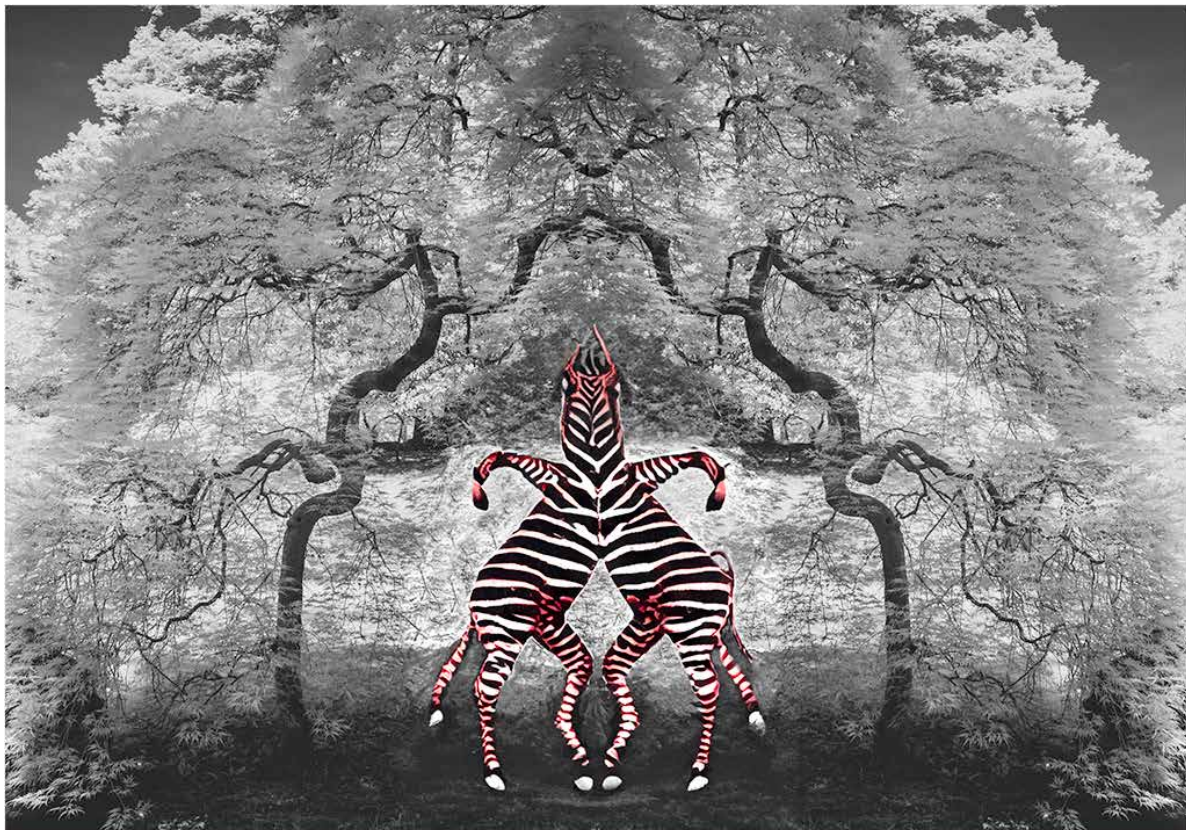
Current photographic software has made it possible for photographers to alter their image in ways that was previously unimaginable. Whole elements can be eliminated or introduced with the click of a button. While eliminating elements will alter the image, this process may not violate the concept of maintaining the “photographic truth” of the capture. However, employing AI technologies to independently generate new content is viewed as pushing the limits of staying true to the original capture.

While the utilization of these technologies may be appropriate and useful in another context, we are a camera club.

Images submitted into our competitions are expected to be a reflection and product of the photographer’s personal vision, skill and applied post-processing techniques, not something independently generated by a computer. This would be seen as tantamount to transforming our competitions from photography to “Photoshopping” in their orientation.

In addition to the position stated above, WPS strives to create a relatively level competitive playing field. Allowing the use of current and future AI technologies would impart a decided advantage to those who have the latest software and employ it to achieve a “wow” factor, not as much by their own skill but through effective utilization of intelligent computer programming.

Therefore, the use of any AI technologies for the purpose of making novel substitutions, introducing new elements, making substantial changes, etc., to competition images will not be allowed.



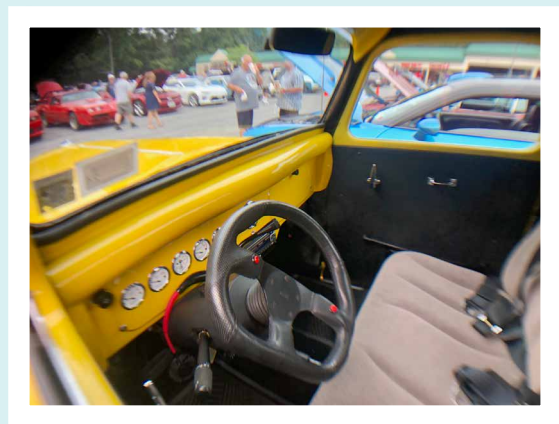
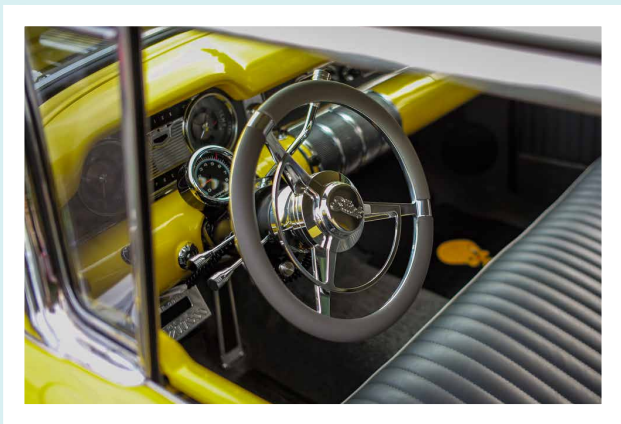
A not too subtle example

CAR SHOW

The Rose Hill Car Cruise in Thornwood

It was a beautiful evening to spend looking at incredible automobiles. Some as old as 1938, some brand new! Many photo ops for unusual angles, patterns, styles and colors! And of course we had to go to the diner for dinner. Looking forward to our next outing.

Pictures by Fuat Baran, Mitchell Druck, Serge Migdal and Jackie Ross.





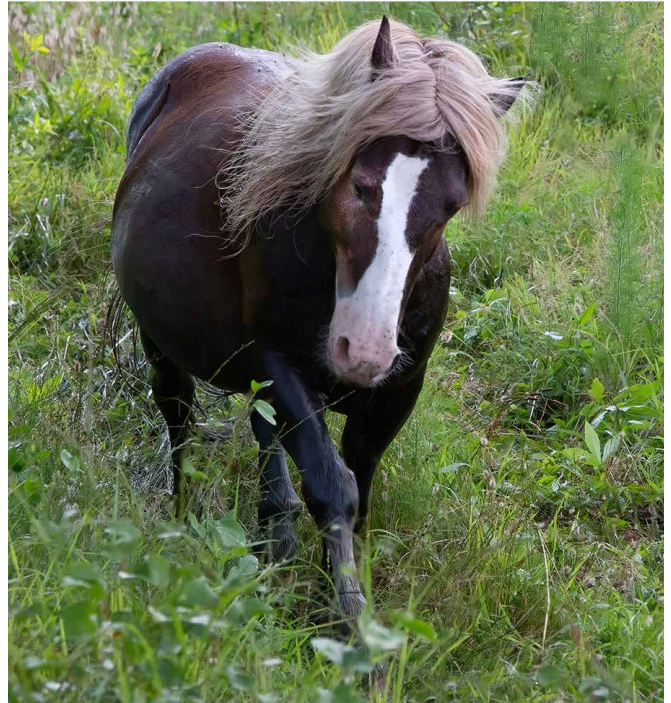
Chincoteague Pony Swim

By Barbara Kapetanakes

Every year, on the last Wednesday of July, the herd of wild ponies that lives on Assateague Island swims across the channel to Chincoteague, parades down Main Street to the carnival grounds, and via auction, raises money for the volunteer fire service and the maintenance of the herd and their environment. No, they don't do this instinctively like the swallows that somehow know they should arrive in Capistrano every year on March 19th; they are rounded up and guided across the channel by the "Saltwater Cowboys," volunteers who sign up year after year for this fun (and photogenic!) week of events. And volunteer year after year they do—the oldest cowboy this year was 90!

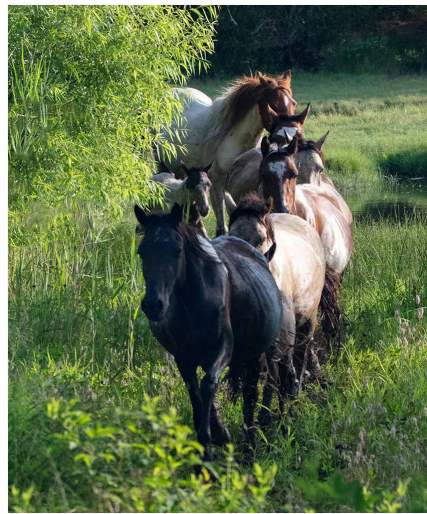
Assateague Island is a national seashore and protected by the National Park System. There are ponies on the Maryland and Virginia sides of the island, though they are dealt with differently as far as their roaming habits and how the herds are kept to a manageable number. On the Virginia side the ponies are rounded up once a year by the volunteer firefighters (most of the Saltwater Cowboys) and the babies are sold at auction to families looking to give a pony a home. Each year a few foals are also auctioned as "buybacks," meaning they stay on the island with the herd to live their lives. These foals replace any that have died in the herd in the previous year, and often bring the highest bids for the right to name the baby and donate to the cause. This year the highest buyback was around \$40,000, whereas a typical foal to take home and raise goes for about \$5000. Some people attend the auction with the sole intention of making a large donation to the firefighters and the pony program through this buyback program.

While most people travel to Chincoteague that week for the swim, there are many other events that are just as much fun to watch and photograph. On Saturday, the southern herd is rounded up and placed in corrals. On Sunday, the cowboys round up the northern herd as well. Monday is the beach walk, which many locals describe as "magical." At dawn the cowboys release the northern herd from their corral and walk over 100 ponies four miles down the beach to cheering crowds. What an amazing sight to see about 50 people on horseback rounding up and guiding over 100 wild ponies to join the southern herd where they will be vetted and get appropriate vaccines and medical care. The youngest and oldest will be taken out and brought across the channel by



truck so as not to make newborns or older horses make the short, but strenuous swim. Plus, every night there is a carnival, another fun place to do some shooting.

The swim takes place Wednesday morning during "slack tide," which is when the currents are completely calm and the water is not moving at all. This tends to be about an hour after either low or high tide, so attendees don't know exactly when it will be, but are given smaller and smaller time windows as the day grows near. When ready, the Coast Guard sends up a flare, and the ponies waiting on the shoreline jump into the water and start their swim to the marsh on the Chincoteague side of the channel. After the ponies are given about an hour to rest and catch their breath, they are paraded down Main Street to the carnival grounds where they will stay until the auction the next morning. There were 79 foals up for auction, and between that and some other auction memorabilia the program made almost half a million dollars. Oh, and the governor showed up to sign a declaration making the Chincoteague Pony the official pony of the state of Virginia.



These events have been held for nearly 100 years, canceled only in 2020 due to COVID restrictions (auctions were held online since the herd still needs to be kept to a manageable size regardless of restrictions). A Chincoteague Pony named Misty was immortalized in a book and later in a movie, which of course was played for free all week at the local movie theater. Some of her descendants are now part of the local drill team and I was able to meet them during the festivities. The ponies are full of personality and admired by many. Riptide, one of the dominant stallions, is the spitting image of his late father, Surfer Dude, chocolate in color with a thick flaxen mane that looks like a blonde wig. He's a fan favorite and seems to know how handsome he is. I understand there was some drama when he encountered the rival who stole a couple of his mares while he was

laid up in the infirmary for a minor injury. Another attendee commented that it's like, "As the Marsh Turns," a soap opera for ponies!

I had been to Chincoteague before, just to enjoy the area and the wildlife, but had wanted to see the swim week activities. I'm glad I did and would highly recommend it--but book early, because a great deal of the area's tourism happens that week. There are also spring and fall roundups, but without all the pomp and circumstance, just to get the ponies into one place to be seen by the vets. These are probably also fun to photograph as well. I love that these are wild animals, but yet they are cared for to make their survival on the island easier, whether that be vaccines or supplemental hay dropped off when the weather is harsh. Feral ponies: like feral cats, only bigger.



New York Metro Area Camera Council

What is NYMACC?

By Deborah Lea Cohen, President

A majority of photo clubs, and possibly other special interest organizations, consciously work to resolve similar issues such as member volunteering, good speakers, good judges, inviting programs, attracting and retaining membership, and so on. In 2016 I believed there needed to be a place where clubs could share these conversations. Several others, including Harvey Augenbraun and Ron Carran, agreed and the New York Metro Area Camera Council (NYMACC) was born to share issues, solutions, and presentations. We further agreed that NYMACC be an inclusive resource for both members and non-members. Our vast email list reaches hundreds of photographers for discussions and invitations to member club events.

Before Covid, we concentrated on the NY metro area of NYC, Lower Hudson Valley, Connecticut and New Jersey as we met in person. However, since we are now permanently on Zoom, there are no geographic limits, allowing us to have membership in Pennsylvania and England as well as non-members on our private mailing list throughout the country.

Our second Tuesday of each month meetings consist of issues brought up by the participants. We have covered issues ranging from membership, presentation topics, competitions, hybrid meetings, and so much more. Everyone on the mailing list is welcome to attend.

The differences between members and non-members include:

- When a club joins NYMACC, all of their members are automatically members of NYMACC.
- Member clubs can extend invitations via NYMACC to attend an event. The terms of attending member events are strictly up to the individual members.
- Members of member clubs can have their events (exhibits, photo classes, etc.) posted on our homepage link “NYMACC Member Offerings.”
- Whenever NYMACC itself holds an event, all members get an attendance discount.
- Non-members are invited to attend all invitational events. It is important to note that each club sets its own terms of attendance. All invitations are intended to be shared with club members and photography friends so that we can all benefit photographically from attending each other’s presentations.
- All members, clubs and their membership, have full access to our private speakers and judges lists.
- Both members and non-members are welcome to be on our mailing list.

What NYMACC is not: We do not have any say in individual clubs’ internal organization or response to their guests.

Comments and questions can be directed to <https://www.nymaccphoto.org/contact-us-1> or to the President at deborah.nymacc@gmail.com

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The Newsletter of the
Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor

P.O. Box 405, Ossining, NY 10562

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PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

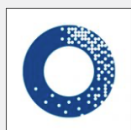
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