

# inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

June 2024



## INSIDE:

Coming Up

Self-Assignments

St. Augustine

Field Trips

Competition 6A

On the Road with Jerry and Jane



## Please Share

We are still looking for a ninth member for our board of directors so if you are interested in helping us direct the operation and future of WPS, please let us know by contacting any current board member.

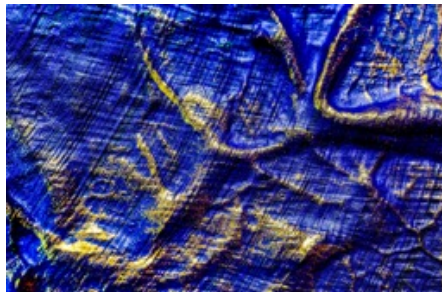
In last month's issue, Dennis Thornton put out a call for members to share their personal projects, also known as "self-assignments." These are longer-term photography projects with a predetermined theme, versus a one-shot collection of images. They provide an opportunity to concentrate on a key feature, whether it is a specific subject, location, technique, style, etc. We want to have you present these projects over a series of Friday night sessions. Please reach out to Dennis for more information and to sign up for a slot.

I've also previously made a call for members who have online portfolios (e.g. a Flickr site, Zenfolio, SmugMug, 500px, Adobe Portfolio, or personal web site) to let me know as I would like to put together a program where we can share these portfolios and give some information on which platforms they are hosted on.

If you haven't updated your profile on our new website, please do so. Please share some details of who you are, your interests, etc. with other members. Don't forget to make your profile "public" which will let other WPS members see it (don't worry, no one else can). For details on how to do this, please see the April [issue](#) of inFocus.

We have had several new members join recently. Please give them a warm welcome and introduce yourselves when you see them on Zoom or at a field trip, etc. Belatedly, I want to restart an old idea, "Member in Focus," where I "interview" a member to get to know them and share something about them with the rest of you here in the pages of inFocus. If I reach out to you, whether you're a brand new member, or an old-timer, I hope you'll accept my invitation to share.

And finally, let me share one of my latest personal projects. I'm painting abstracts with acrylic paints and taking macro photographs of portions of the canvas, or even of my palette. (More on [Flickr](#).)



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

Fuat Baran, *President*

## COVER PHOTO

### BEST FRIENDS

By Eric Albert

That's my current canine companion, Emma. She was rescued from a "kill" shelter in South Carolina two years ago. She was abandoned and abused. She's terrified of all people except me. She was considered unadoptable because she's large and afraid of all people. She would have been euthanized but I thought she could have a good home with me. She's affectionate, smart, verbal and a great companion.



## inFocus

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*  
Julie Van Benthuyssen, *Community Outreach*  
Dennis Thornton, *Competition Chair*  
Leon Zelazny, *Membership Committee, Community & ArtsWestchester Liaison*

### Volunteers

#### Competitions

Mark Friedman

#### Competition Catalog

Jim Christensen

#### WPS Official Photographers ("Sharpshooters")

Arnold Breisblatt, Julie Van Benthuyssen, Melanie Rush

#### Guests Greeter

Silvie Epperly

#### Judge Coordinator

Dennis Thornton

#### Hospitality

Jane Gordon, Julie Van Benthuyssen, Silvie Epperly

#### Equipment

Fuat Baran, Gregory White

#### Competition Scores Reporting

Mark Friedman, Ken Salstrom

#### Equipment, Projectionist

Jonathan Kaplan

#### Award Certificates

Ron Carran

#### Field Trips

Jackie Ross

### Committees

#### Publicity

Fuat Baran

#### Social Media

Fuat Baran, Kenny Salstrom

#### Hospitality Coordinators

Silvie Epperly

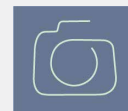
#### Competition Evaluation

Dick Budnik, Lois Barker

newsletter: [infocus@wpsphoto.org](mailto:infocus@wpsphoto.org)  
[www.wpsphoto.org](http://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

**ARTSW**  
ARTSWESTCHESTER



## FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

## June

- 7 Process the same image in Color and B&W
- 14 End of Year Competition
- 21 Process our Stock Photos
- 28 **Jennifer Leigh Warner**, "*Conservation Photography*"

## July

- 5 No Meeting: Independence Day
- 12 **Fuat Baran**, "*An Introduction to Social Media*"
- 19 Before & After: Members discuss post processing
- 26 **Arnold Breisblatt**, "*Exceptional Pictures with Your Phone*"

## August

- 2 **Carl Walsh**, "*A Photojournalist View of the Natural World*"
- 9 My Personal Project/Shoot with a Purpose
- 16 Member Critique
- 23 Members' Showcases
- 30 No Meeting: Labor Day

## September

- 6 *Straight out of the phone*: Talk about your spontaneous unprocessed phone shots
- 13 Jean-Marc Barra, "*The Biology of Seeing and Implementations for Photographers*"
- 20 Competition 1A
- 27 Bobbi Lane, "*Hi and Low Key Lighting*"

## October

- 4 Competition 1B
- 11 TBD
- 18 TBD
- 25 My Personal Project

## November

- 1 Competition 2A
- 8 Member Critique
- 15 **Joe McNally**
- 22 No Meeting: Thanksgiving
- 29 Comp 2B

Check the WPS website ([wpsphoto.org](http://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](mailto:infocus@wpsphoto.org). If concerning our website, address comments to our webmaster, Dick Budnik, at [webmaster@wpsphoto.org](mailto:webmaster@wpsphoto.org). All other comments should be addressed to our President.

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## COMING UP



## Jennifer Leigh Warner on June 28

### Conservation Photography

## Bio

Jennifer's images and writing have been published in Outdoor California Magazine, Gizmodo, the NANPA Expressions Magazine, Outdoor Photographer Magazine, WIRED, The New Yorker, National Geographic Online and Wild Planet Photo Magazine, among others.

In addition to Jennifer's photography she is a public speaker, who has presented for Professional Photographers of America, NANPA and was the 2022 Keynote speaker for the Winter Wings Festival. When she is not speaking in person she also runs an online workshop community.

Jennifer is deeply passionate about sharing the natural world with others and thoroughly enjoys teaching photographers how to create images that they can be proud to hang on their wall.

You can learn more about Jennifer and the conservation work that she does by visiting her website at [www.experiencewildlife.com](http://www.experiencewildlife.com).



## Fuat Baran on July 12

### An Introduction to Social Media



## Arnold Breisblatt on July 26

### Exceptional Pictures with Your Phone



## AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

**Metropolitan Museum**  
([www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org))  
Met Collection

**Museum of Modern Art**  
([www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org))  
Before Technicolor  
Through July 21

**International Center for Photography**  
([www.icp.org](http://www.icp.org))  
Many Exhibits  
Through Sept. 2

**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=sendy&utm\\_content=NL-03-07-2024&utm\\_campaign=NL-03-07-2024&authtoken=](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=sendy&utm_content=NL-03-07-2024&utm_campaign=NL-03-07-2024&authtoken=)

## CURRENT EXHIBITS

Northern Westchester Hospital  
Cancer Center  
**Spring has Arrived! I See Color and Light**  
April 10th through September, 2024  
For more information  
click [HERE](#)

## WPS FIELD TRIPS

**Green Chimneys**  
(Birds of Prey)  
June 2

**Rockefeller**  
June 7

**Planting Fields**  
TBD

**Wave Hill**  
TBD

(<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>)

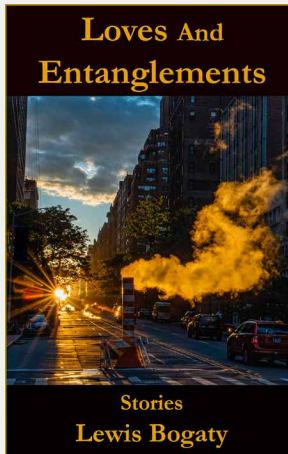
## SPECIAL INCENTIVES

### A MEMBERS-ONLY DEAL!

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

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

## OTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENTS\*



**Loves And Entanglements**

Stories  
Lewis Bogaty

Just published:  
*Stories of romantic relationships in turmoil.*

"An impressively thoughtful and compelling collection of tales."  
-Kirkus Reviews

"Vivid Storytelling."  
-Midwest Book Review

A masterclass in storytelling... visceral and subtly brilliant...a page-turner from one story to the next.  
-SPR

More information at  
[www.lewisbogaty.com](http://www.lewisbogaty.com)



green chimneys



ADDITIONAL NAVIGATION

**Birds of Prey Day**

Sunday, June 2, 2024  
10:00am - 4:00pm

Green Chimneys Brewster Campus  
400 Doansburg Road, Brewster, NY 10509



Erie Canal Paddler near Macedon by Dan Judd

## 2024 Erie Canalway Photo Contest: Call for Entries!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: AUGUST 30, 2024

The Erie Canal turns 200 in 2025! Submit up to three photos of your favorite places, views, and people enjoying the canals for a chance to win a spot in the special 2025 Bicentennial Erie Canalway Calendar. Images of the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego and Champlain canals and their surrounding communities are eligible.

### CONTEST CATEGORIES:

- On the Water
- Along the Trail
- Canal Celebrations & Communities
- Classic Canal

Judges will select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category.  
Note: Images must be horizontal format.

Electronic submission— Find rules and entry forms:  
[www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved/photo-contest](http://www.eriecanalway.org/get-involved/photo-contest)



For more information, contact Lena Phillips:  
Lena\_Phillips@eriecanalway.org; 518-237-7000, ext. 207

P.O. Box 219, Waterford, NY 12188 • P: 518-237-7000 • [www.eriecanalway.org](http://www.eriecanalway.org)



# Self-Assignments: Opportunities For Creative Advancement

Moderator: Dennis Thornton

Presenters: Jennifer Dooley, Rob Dublin, and Dennis Thornton

Self-assignments are both challenges and opportunities for the photographer to advance their creative interests, develop/refine skills, expand their comfort zone and foster personal satisfaction by fulfilling a goal and producing new unique images.

The goals of this program are to provide the audience with a working definition of "self assignments" and how they differ from other image sharing activities. The moderator will inform the listeners of the diversity and potential technical and creative benefits of these activities. Examples of and resources for exploring ideas for self-assignments will be provided. Potential hurdles that may interfere with the initiation and completion of self-assignments will be noted. Strategies and encouragement for enjoining oneself in self-assignments will be promoted.

The theoretical aspects of self-assignments will be brought to life via member's presentations. Three WPS photographers will discuss their personal projects. Each presenter will identify motivational/inspirational factors contributing to the selection of their given self-assignment. They will illustrate the progress through their respective projects through presentation of images captured and a narration of the steps taken. Last, each presenter will share some of the benefits derived from the investment in their self-assignment.

Fellow members will be encouraged to get inspired and volunteer to give themselves a self-assignment.

## The Competition Corner

### Theme Assignments 2024-2025

The Theme Assignments for the upcoming competition year have been selected. The exact order and accompanying descriptions will come later.

Theme Assignments are meant to be challenges and opportunities for you to broaden your photographic interests and skills.

Have fun.

#### Topical:

"Pair"

"White"

#### Technique:

"Perspective: Looking Down"

"Leading Line(s)"

#### Conceptual:

"Hard to Touch"

"Give Us Your Daily Bread"

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

## Spring has Arrived! I See Color and Light!

Begins April 10, 2024



Presenting a lot of wonderful color pictures of flowers, gardens, and birds that show the beauty of Spring from a photographer's point of view.

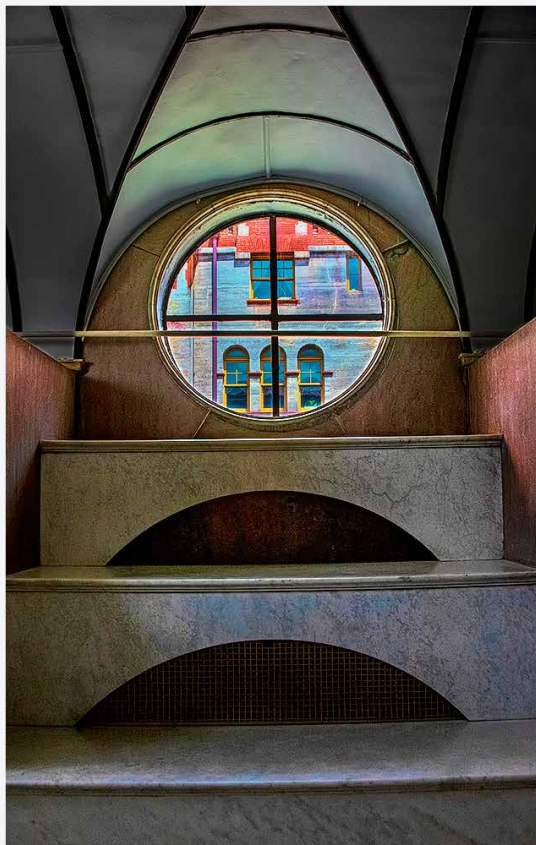
Northern Westchester Hospital Cancer Center, 400 Main St, Mt Kisco, NY 10549  
Telephone (914) 666-1200

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](mailto:abreis@aol.com)



# St. Augustine

Barbara Kapetanakes



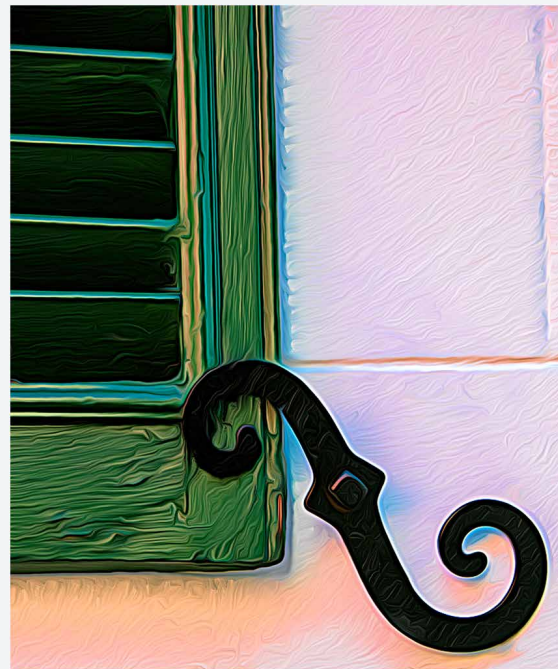
Old Turkish Bath

In April I went to the annual Florida Birding and Photo Fest and had a great time. I had never been to St. Augustine before and arrived a few days before the festival to do some sightseeing and hanging out before the photo activities started. I stayed outside of downtown, in St. Augustine Beach, which had its own “main drag” and enough going on, but was close to the city itself, just a hop over the bridge (though the bridge had to open at times to let boats through, and traffic could be rough sometimes!). Most of the festival activities were actually outside of downtown, with the classroom activities, vendor area, registration, etc., all at a large church campus in St. Augustine Beach. The alligator farm and the beach photo ops were also in that same area, so staying there meant I rarely had to cross the bridge and deal with downtown parking.

I had a great time participating in the activities I signed up for. The festival is set up with an a la carte registration system. You pay a registration fee and then can sign up for as many or as few activities as you’d like. It’s tempting to do it all, but that can become pricey, with classroom activities at about \$20 each and field trips up to about \$100 each. Plus if you want to go to the alligator farm (a gem!) you have to pay the photographers’ annual membership fee. What’s nice, though, is that the groups are kept small, making it easy to navigate a shoot and not get in each other’s way. I did a bunch of classroom lectures and also a handful of field trips, including horses on the beach at sunrise--which was amazing because we couldn’t have asked for a better sunrise, shorebirds at dusk, which was



**Above: Morning Shadows;**  
**Right: On a morning walk, we were encouraged**  
**to look for abstracts and shadows.**



a bit of a dud simply because there weren't that many birds hanging out, a morning photo walk downtown, and a morning trip to shoot backlit birds at the alligator farm. That trip threatened to be impossible when there was a downpour on my way there, but the storm passed quickly. While I didn't get the golden sunrise through the birds' feathers like I anticipated, I did use the white sky for some fun high key images and as a stark background. You have to understand, the alligator farm is not really about the alligators, it's about the wild birds that live in the trees. So, cool, sure, you can watch the captive gators and crocs in their pools swimming around, hanging out, doing their gator things, but then you look up and there are literally hundreds of birds above you, nesting, feeding their babies, flying around, you name it! Mostly egrets, with many spoonbills, some anhinga, and a few other species that call the farm home.

There's a ton to photograph in St. Augustine, with a few museums and tourist attractions that are worth seeing. St. Augustine is the oldest, continuously settled city in the United States, and the city plays that up for tourism, with attractions such as the oldest house, oldest school, a Spanish military hospital, and of course Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth. You can drink water from the fountain and watch actors in period costumes do things like perform archery, set off explosives, and demonstrate blacksmithing. The pirate museum is also worth a stop, with its interactive setup encouraging you to find some hidden items to win a doubloon at the end of your trip. For a small city, there's actually a lot to do.

As for my photo field trips, I went on a walk downtown in the morning, with the intention of looking for abstract details in the architecture or interesting shadows. The light and set-

ting did not disappoint. And with businesses not quite open yet we had some areas of the downtown to ourselves and could spend quite some time in the outdoor garden of a Japanese restaurant shooting the interesting decorations, and walk down the usually busy pedestrian strip and stop at every window, flowerpot, or cool door hinge. As I said, the birds at dusk was not what I had hoped since there simply were not a lot of cooperative birds hanging out on the beach. However, we did get a fun photo op when we came upon a fisherman who had a couple of egret companions who visited with him regularly for the promise of some scraps for dinner. THOSE avians were cooperative! I guess the others were just holding out for their paychecks.

One of the most anticipated activities of the week is the horses on the beach. So much so that it's offered several times throughout the festival, sometimes at sunrise and sometimes at sunset. I went to one of the morning shoots and the sunrise was magnificent! About a dozen horses and riders paraded around for us, running through the surf, posing with their horses on the beach, coming towards us, riding past us, anything you could imagine. You couldn't get away with taking fewer than 500 pictures in the couple of hours you were there.

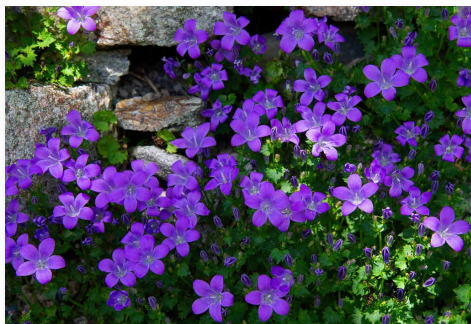
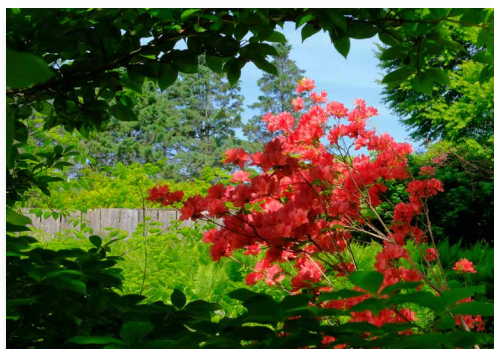
I would highly recommend going at least once to the Florida Birding and Photo fest and taking some time to see St. Augustine's other attractions as well, from the alligators to the old homes turned into museums, to the people-watching on the main strip. The beaches are pretty, clean, and not too crowded, and you may luck out and see nesting turtles. Because of the a la carte nature of the fest, you can pick and choose your activities and do as much or as little as you want, with breaks to sit on the beach or have a cocktail and a leisurely lunch. And you could end up with some winning images!



## Stonecrop Gardens

Our trip to Stonecrop Gardens was wonderful and the weather finally cooperated, with a beautiful blue sky. The flowers were gorgeous, the smell from the Wisteria was intoxicating and the poppies were on fire! The bamboo was fabulous for practicing your ICM. We had a great lunch, and afterward, we stopped at the Chuang Yen Monastery to photograph the big Buddha! We had a great day with our WPS members!

**Photos by Roger Chenault, Carlotta Grenier, Serge Migdal, Paul Moulton, Jackie Ross and Joe Williams**

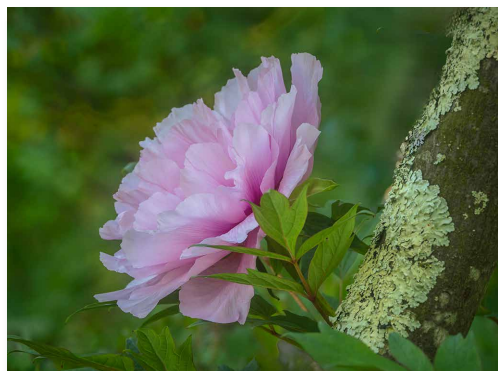
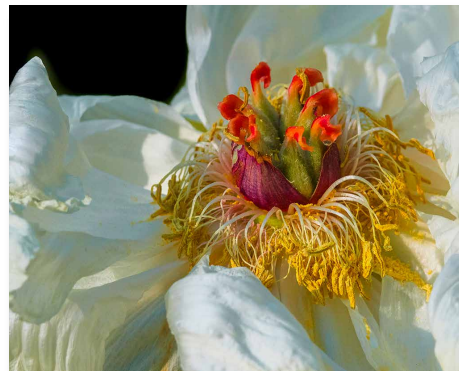
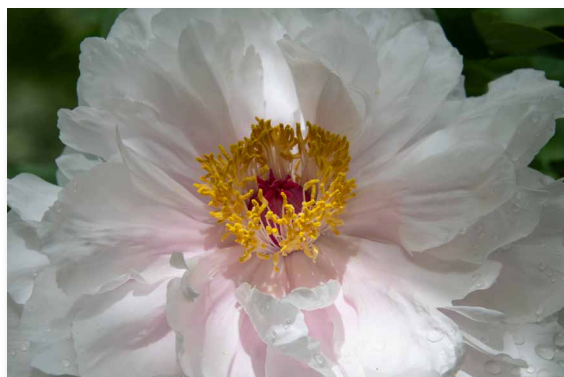




## Rockefeller Preserve

The Rockefeller State Preserve this year did not disappoint us. There were fabulous peonies! It's a must-see. Hopefully you'll come next year!

**Photos by Mitchell Druck and Jackie Ross**



DIGITAL COLOR B



**Barbara Pollack, First**  
*Mini Yellow Daffodils*



**Mitchell Druck, Second**  
*Blue Heron at Waterfall*



DIGITAL COLOR B



**Mitchell Druck,, Third**  
***Snuggling Fledgelings***



**Barbara Pollack, HM**  
***Backs of Daffodils***



**Serge Migdal, HM**  
***Let's Go Western***

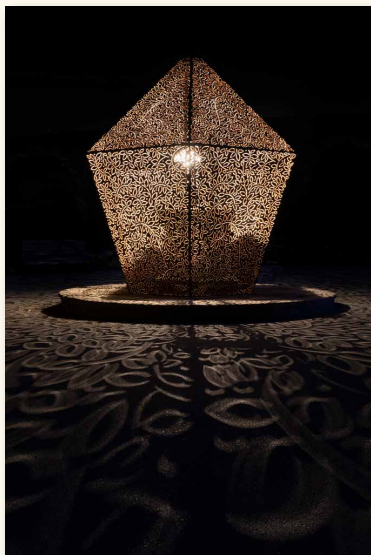
DIGITAL COLOR A



**Arnold Breisblatt, First**  
*Fading Iris in the Sun*



**Roger Chenault, Second**  
*White Necked Jacobin*



**Jennifer Dooley, Third**  
*Illumination*



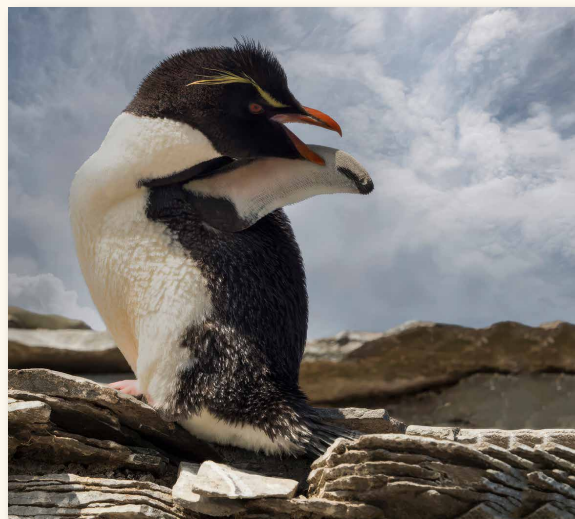
**Roger Chenault, HM**  
*Purple Honeycreeper*



DIGITAL COLOR SALON



**Barbara Kapetanakes, First**  
*True Love*

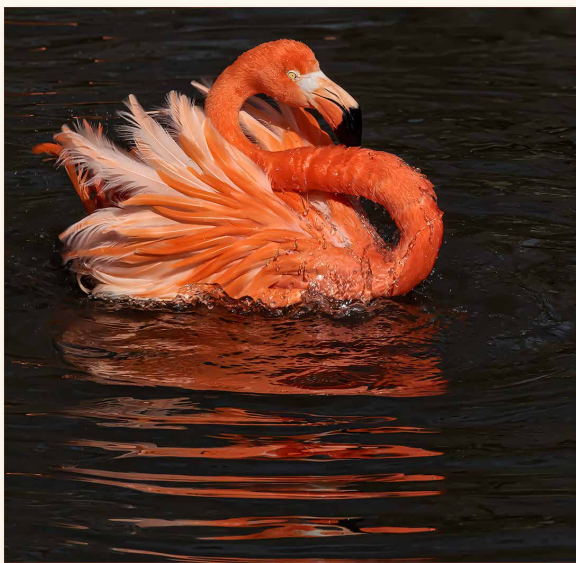


**Carlotta Grenier, Second**  
*A Preening Rockhopper*



**Barbara Kapetanakes, Third**  
*Dancing in the Sunrise*

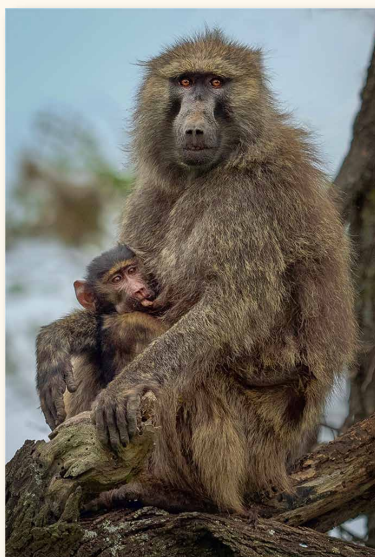
DIGITAL COLOR SALON



**Carlotta Grenier, Third**  
*Splish Splash*



**Dennis Thornton, HM**  
*Girl in Awe*



**Anastasia Tompkins, HM**  
*Mama's Love*



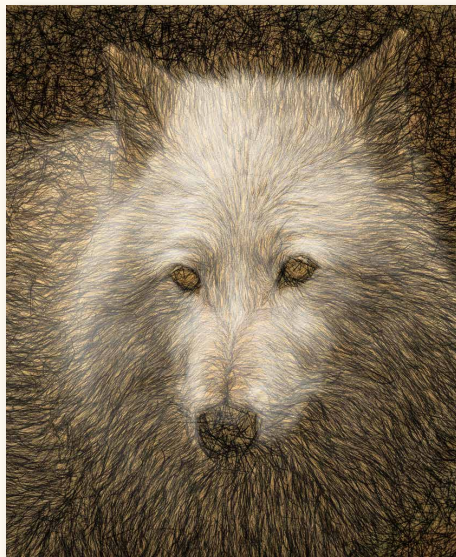
DIGITAL COLOR OPEJ MIND



Anastasia Tompkins, First  
*Chair Dancers*

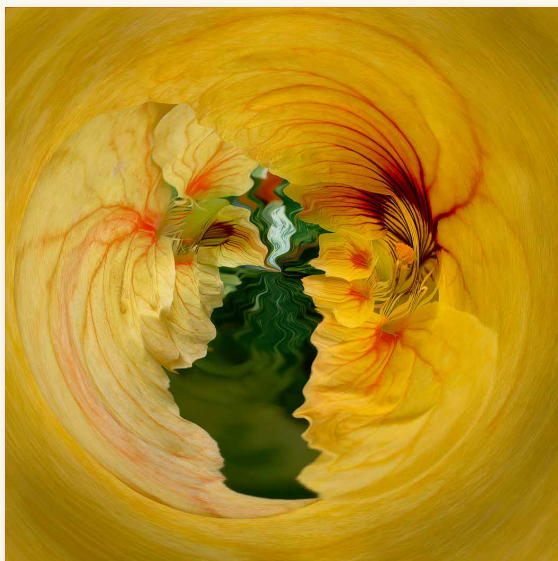


Barbara Kapetanakes, Second  
*Crazy Birds*

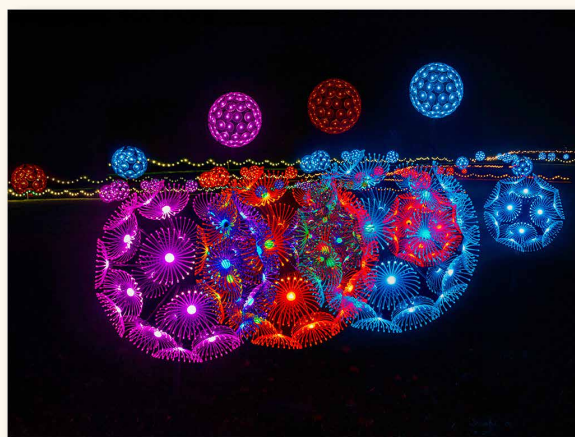


Dennis Thornton, Second  
*Wolf in Sepia*

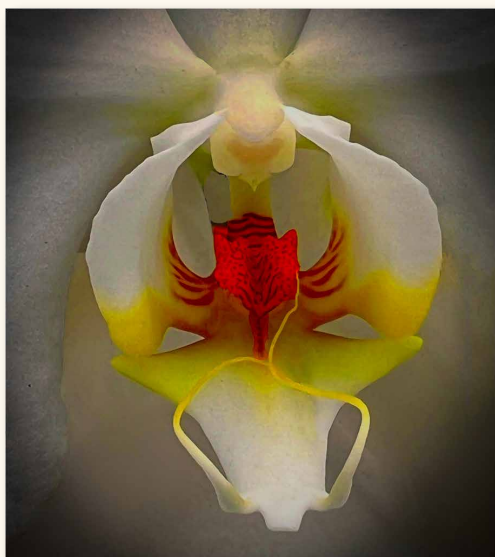
DIGITAL COLOR OPEN MIND



**Carlotta Grenier, Third**  
*Flower Power*



**Mitchell Druck, Third**  
*Glow*



**Arnold Breisblatt, HM**  
*Orchid Center*



**Anastasia Tompkins, HM**  
*Peter Max*



# On the Road with Jerry and Jane

By Jerry Hoffman

As you may know, Jane and I have spent many month-long holidays exploring the Southwest...the Four Corners area including New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado, but especially Utah. This "High Desert" area, with its amazingly varied landscape, including five National Parks, a number of indigenous Indian ruins and much Rock Art, captured our attention year after year.

On one such trip, while wandering the northeast corner, not far from the borders with Wyoming and Colorado, we heard about a remote byway called "Nine Mile Canyon" which had some unique Rock Art, and we decided to go for it.

The entrance is a few miles south of the Town of Vernal (Population about 7,500, the largest town in that northeast corner and where we had spent several days), just outside the town of Myton with a big sign announcing that you were entering Nine Mile Canyon, and then...oops! An unmarked "Y" in the road; we went left and suddenly found ourselves in a field of oil wells, it seemed hundreds, as far as our eyes could see. (This may help explain how the United States has now become the largest producer of oil in the world.) We finally stopped an oil truck driver who guided us back to where we needed to be, and we were on our way.

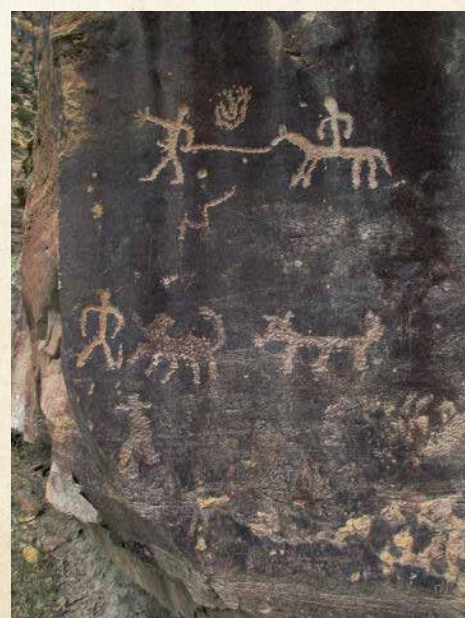
We could have been on the moon, with monotone colors, various shades of cream and brown, not a hint of anything green—no grass, no bushes, no trees, no houses, no stores, no services, no other people nor cars, just a single lane dirt road, winding and twisting through the canyon walls about 20 to 100 feet high. Every now and then we would see black seeping from the rocks and which turned out to be oil...fascinating to see.

About 40 miles in (yes, well beyond the expected Nine) we came to another "Y" and again took the left leg, and found our first image carved in the canyon wall, a Petroglyph of what appeared to be a hunting scene showing many animals; this one considered a major state treasure. Another showed a large animal, possibly an odd bull??? and very primitive. Imagine living in this remote place, estimated to be more than a thousand years old and created by people. Another image, more recent in age... how do we know? It shows someone on horseback, and horses were unknown in the US till introduced by the Conquistadors in the 1600s. The natives had no written language but they sure left their mark!

There were more, but these were the highlights for us.



The day was getting late and we finally got back on the road, exiting the Canyon at the town of Wellington. Our mileage indicator showed 80 miles, not the "Nine" we had anticipated, but we sure were not disappointed—simply another great adventure... on the road!





## inFocus

The Newsletter of the  
Westchester Photographic Society

*Ron Carran, editor*

P.O. Box 405, Ossining, NY 10562

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### Sponsors of the Westchester Photographic Society

\*Ask for your discount from sponsors marked with asterisks

\*\* Discounts with WPS identification

#### **Color Group 914-769-8484\***

168 Saw Mill Rd., Hawthorne, NY 10532-1505

[www.colorgroup.com](http://www.colorgroup.com)

#### **Hunt's Camera 1-800-924-8682**

100 Main St., Melrose, MA 02176-6104

[www.huntsphotoandvideo.com](http://www.huntsphotoandvideo.com)

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### PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

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#### Event Space

1. [Intro to Lighting Part 5: Mixed Lighting | Hosted by Sony](#)
2. [Best Sony Lenses for Landscape Photography | Hosted by Sony](#)



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