

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

May 2022



INSIDE:

Coming in May
Tony Gezirjian
Pepsico Field Trip
Competition 5A



Mentoring

Like any other hobby or vocation, photography requires a combination of skills. However, no one is born with all the skills. It takes learning and lots of practice to become a photographer. While people may say “so and so really has an artistic eye”, a photograph is a combination of an artistic vision, a sense of composition, an instrument to capture an image, and the expert application of several acquired skills. Some of those skills are about how to operate the camera, others may be things like how to develop film, make a print in the darkroom, take a digital file from a camera and turn it into the final image using tools such as Lightroom or Photoshop, or make a print with an inkjet printer. Modern digital cameras can do truly amazing things in software, but even then a photographer combines their artistic abilities with operating skills to produce the final output.

So how does a beginner acquire the necessary tools and skills? One typically starts with a camera, and really any camera will do. Fancy cameras don't guarantee exceptional images. In the hands of a skilled operator even the simplest cameras can produce magnificent images. Google “[pro photographer cheap camera digitalrev tv](#)” and you'll see what I mean.

Once you have a camera, you will need to learn how to use it. Reading instruction manuals, watching YouTube videos on photography concepts (composition, lighting, exposure, etc.) will get you there. But it also helps to have someone you can talk to and ask questions and get “hands on” advice from. An experienced friend, a teacher or fellow photography club members can help you. In fact, if you're a WPS member there's our mentoring program. Board member Joe Pollock runs this program, organizing 30-minute educational presentations we hold periodically from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m. on Friday nights before our membership meetings. Joe or someone else will discuss a concept, a technique, a trick to using a program like Photoshop or it will be an “open night” where you can bring any question you have.

Joe also organizes one-on-one mentoring sessions. If there's a specific topic you would like to have some help with, such as how to use specific features on your camera, how to do a particular thing in software, how to use a specific accessory such as a speedlight, etc. contact Joe. He'll arrange to have a fellow club member meet with you at a time convenient to the two of you and help you out.

And if you are a more experienced photographer, consider paying it forward by volunteering to mentor someone. For all things mentoring, contact Joe.

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

–Fuat Baran, *President*

COVER PHOTO

BUTTERFLY

By Julie Serenson

One of my favorite flowers is the Zinnia. We plant all different shapes, sizes and colors. They are a favorite of butterflies and bumble bees. I love watching the butterflies fly from one flower to the next. Not only are they beautiful but they help pollinate our flowers.



inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web Edition

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newsletter: infocus@wpsphoto.org

www.wpsphoto.org

Westchester Photographic Society

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



Member of



FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

May

- 6 Members 5/20 Minute Presentations, Mentoring Session
- 13 Competition 6A
- 20 Mike Harris, "Now You Can Take My Picture"
- 27 No Meeting: Memorial Day

June

- 3 Competition 6B (+Theme, "Pepper No. 30")
- 10 TBD
- 17 EOY Competition
- 24 EOY Party

July

- 1 No Meeting: July 4
- 8 Arnold Breisblatt, "Great Local Spots to Shoot," Mentoring Session
- 15 No Meeting: NECCC Conference
- 22 TBD
- 29 TBD

August

- 5 Arnold Breisblatt, "Preparing Competition Photos," Mentoring Session
- 12 Members Process Same Stock Photos
- 19 Members Critique Your Images, Mentoring Session
- 26 Ron Landis, "What a Judge Looks For"

September

- 2 No Meeting: Labor Day
- 9 TBA
- 16 TBA
- 23 Competition 1A
- 30 TBA

Please note:

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

MARKETPLACE



COMING UP



Mike Harris on May 20

Now You Can Take My Picture**Topic**

Mike Harris talks about his new book, *Now You Can Take My Picture*. *Now You Can Take My Picture* brings to life the travels and photography of Mike Harris. What makes this book is Mike's stories where he describes what attracted him to take selected photographs and why these photographs have special meaning for him. He takes the viewer along on the journey. Mike focuses on capturing the essence of the people he meets and the places where they live. His goal is to share his vision of culture through photography. For more information, contact Mike at wilmoharris@me.com.

Bio

Mike has had a one-person exhibit of his work at the Cos Cob Library and his photographs have been selected for shows at the Greenwich Library, the Bendheim Gallery in Greenwich, the Carriage Barn Arts Center in New Canaan, the Greenwich and Stamford Art Societies and the University of Connecticut Stamford Gallery. A numbers of his works are in private collections.

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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.

AREA MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)
Photography Exhibits

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)
Gordon Parks and
"The Atmosphere of Crime"
Through Spring 2022

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)
New Exhibits
Through May & June, 2022

Museum of the City of NY
(mcity.org)
Celebrating the City
Ongoing

Hudson River Museum
(hrm.org)
The World of Frida
Through May 22

WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

**Cancer Treatment and
Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital**
"The Healing Power of Gardens"
Exhibit: Through June 2022

**Cancer Treatment and
Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital**
"How Beauty Frames Sculpture"
Exhibit: June 2022 - Jan 2023

WPS MEMBER EXHIBITS

Watch for new member exhibits

Check out Jackie Ross' Exhibit
(next page)

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

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

Hunts
(<https://edu.huntsphoto.com>)
check online

B&H
(<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp>)
check online

Adorama
(<http://www.adorama.com/alc/events>)
check online

WPS FIELD TRIPS

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

**More Photo Opportunities
in the Field Trip area.**



Improving Black Metal Frames

Kenneth Salstrom

I have been helping to hang our exhibits for quite a few years and have noticed an issue with some of the black metal frames. When a frame is assembled the corners do not always fit together precisely, or perhaps they slip slightly. Since the outside is black and the frame is usually made of aluminum the bright inner edges can show up once the frame is assembled. I just use a Sharpie® marker to color in the bright aluminum edges in the corners.



Frame corner showing bright aluminum edges



Assembled frame corner showing bright inner surface



Frame corner with the bright edges blackened



Assembled frame corner showing no black edges



2022 NECCC 75th Anniversary July 15-17, 2022

NECCC has announced that the 75th Anniversary of their annual conference will be their last in-person conference making this an historic moment for photographers.

WPS has traditionally had a large contingent attending. If you've never been, read Dennis' article in April, 2022 inFocus to understand why so many of us have made this an annual experience.

https://www.wpsphoto.org/files/ugd/a1e134_d3919f53057449acb3f2ef5772b45368.pdf

Check out the NECCC website for further information: <https://necccphotoconference.org> Preconference Workshops, Programs, Demo & Interactive, Speakers, Photo Walks, Models, Extras, Competitions, Trade Show and Event info, Registration and On-Campus housing information is readily available. The great meeting for first timers will be held Friday morning and is highly recommended.

However, a crucial change this year is that no group discounts are offered so that each individual registrant can provide proof of their vaccinations. As always, each registrant must register separately.

Registration opened on April 13, 2022. Details, including the online registration form, can be found here: <https://necccphotoconference.org/necccregister/>.

[Please consult the WPS website for further information.](#)

Tony Gezirjian

WPS Founding Father

By Dennis Thornton

Tony was born in 1930 to Armenian immigrant parents. Along with his two brothers and two sisters, the family resided in the Yonkers, NY area. At the age of twelve Tony began to develop his interest in photography. He purchased a camera and was able to process some of his negatives in his friend's coat closet makeshift darkroom.

His parents discouraged Tony from formally pursuing a career in art, lest he not be able to make his way in life. Tony complied and pursued schooling to become an electronic technician. His first paid job was as a technical draftsman. Tony rose to the position of project director where he wrote and illustrated technical manuals for the military. In 1954, Tony opened his own TV repair service while simultaneously continuing to work as a freelance technical illustrator. Tony's attention to detail and draftsman skill would be applied successfully in his avocation—photography.

Tony began to display a serious interest in photography, in the early 1950s, after meeting Tom Heneghan, a local professional photographer. They became fast friends. The pursuit of this avocation was interrupted when Tony was then called into the service. After fulfilling his service obligation, Tony returned home in 1957 and reconnected with a friend Tom, who had continued forming a nexus photography interest group. This loose knit group had come to refer to themselves as the Studio Boys, as they were hobbyists who liked working in the darkroom. Now, this group of friends decided to take their passion to the next level. Together, they created a formal entity dubbing themselves the "Yonkers Studio Guild Camera Club."

For a number of years, they met in local churches. In the early 1960s they found a more permanent home at the Hudson River Museum. Tony was instrumental in working out the arrangements between the club and the museum. The club worked out an amiable relationship with the museum. They built, stocked and ran a darkroom on the premises. Members of the club provided instruction on photography and darkroom skills to other members and to citizens in the community. This commitment of engendering a reciprocal relationship led to Tony referencing the club's activities as "photography with a purpose". This moniker would become an important aspect of the club's identification.

By the late 1970s, political changes in the city of Yonkers impacted the museum and its relationship with the club. New arrangements needed to be made. Tony worked with a club mem-

ber Dick Sternschuss who had a connection with key personnel at the Westchester Community College (WCC). In the closing months of 1978, Tony, Dick and several others formalized a relationship with WCC, officially became a non-profit and renamed themselves the Westchester Photographic Society.

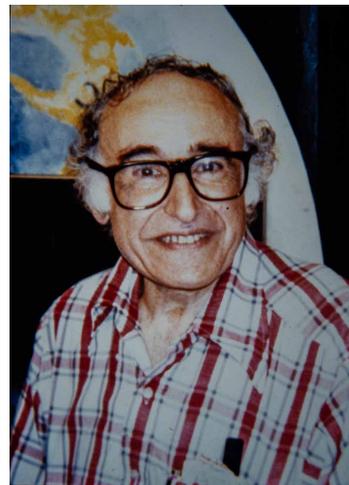
During the formative years of WPS, Tony and a small group of core members took the helm and began to structure WPS as a cohesive club. They began to meet weekly, initiated instructive programs, conducted competitions, held model shoots, conducted field trips and held regular social gatherings. The club prospered and grew.

By the mid-eighties the club had grown and new members wanted more of a say. The Board was expanded to twelve members. While Tony would remain a prominent member for years to come, others began to assume more responsibility for the day-to-day operations.

All during this time, Tony was described as being engaged in and orchestrating nearly all aspects of club activities. He was energetic and involved. Tony greeted everyone with a warm and vigorous handshake. He was known for always wearing a faux straw hat that read, "Ask Me". He was open, friendly and willing to help others learn to become better photographers. He could provide warm supportive assistance on one hand and brutally critical appraisal of your image on another. As the end of the evening, everyone would go to the local diner as friends for congenial discussion and to enjoy one another's company.

While Tony is respected for his commitment and efforts towards building a viable camera club and is rightfully credited for having a significant impact on the course of WPS he is also singled out for his unique and visionary work as a photographer. Surely, there were others that may have been better traditional photographers, some who were more skilled in the darkroom and others whose' prints were of higher quality. However, Tony's gift was his vision to transcend traditional photography and work towards creating images that were wholly different. Tony's images contradicted the normative standards of the day and introduced a concept of abstract photography that he stated, "you needed to have an open mind to appreciate". In time Tony's style came to be known as "Open Mind," a category/genre onto itself.

Tony created novel imagery through the use of different techniques. Images could be made via in camera multiple exposures,



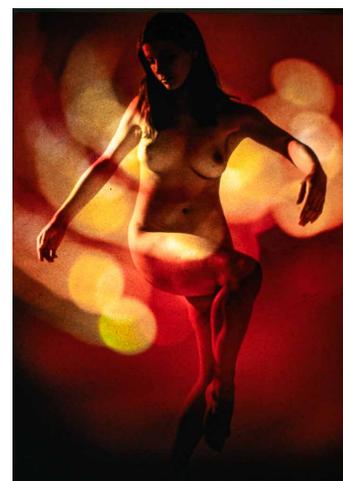
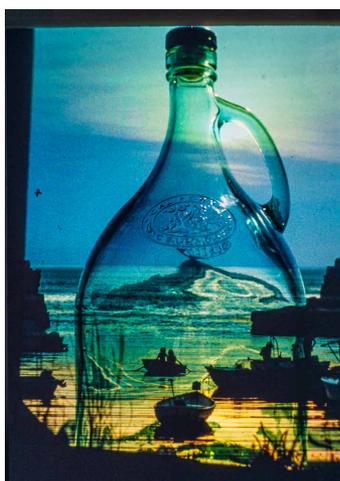
or sandwiching two slides together. Other images were created through the use of intentional camera movements made during the capture. Thought provoking compositions were conceived through the unique juxtaposition of subject matter. In addition, Tony would alter the emulsion side of slides and/or negatives. Alterations could be made by the removal of some of the emulsion and/or applying translucent paint on the slide itself. After this alchemy was complete the work would be re-photographed and presented as a final product. His creations were not just limited to two dimensions. Tony became known for his three-dimensional prints. The final print would come with instructions for the viewer/judge to open up a door; window or other hinged portal in order to expose some special aspect of the image previously concealed by the hinged facade. These unique reveals were always a treat because it was impossible to predict what hidden treat Tony had dreamt up.

Tony's creativity and enthusiasm for pushing the boundaries of what people considered photography became contagious. Soon, an increasing number of members were experimenting and expanding the type of non-traditional images they were producing. While many individuals produced interesting "open mind" imagery, one member, Elinor Stecker, stood out as being in a creative class of her own.

The reputation and popularity of Tony's concept of "Open Mind" took hold and evolved to become a staple genre for WPS. Open Mind image categories, originally slides and prints, were added to the traditional roster of WPS competition lineup. With the advent of the digital age, slides were eventually phased out. However, the digital format of "Open Mind" continued to grow in popularity with an increasing number of members venturing into this creative territory.

As the saying goes, "behind every great man is as great woman" and this was truly the case for Tony. In 1962, at a club Halloween party, Tony met Beatrice (Bea) Toris They married and formed a strong bond in and out of the club. Although Bea was not an avid photographer as Tony and although she never served on the Board, Bea was never the less instrumental in the club's development. She was a die-hard club member. Bea worked tirelessly to not just support Tony's efforts but to help bring people together to work for the greater good of the club. Even after Tony's death in 2008 Bea continued to be a strong promoter of WPS up until her own death in 2021.

To acknowledge Tony's significant contributions to the establishment of WPS and his singular efforts to establish "Open Mind" as a distinct photographic genre, Bea submitted a request to the WPS Board that an award be established in his name. This creative genre of photography had become woven into the fabric of our club. Open Mind had become a permanent category in our competitions. Support for such a proposal was strong. In 2007, the Board voted to create "The Tony Gezirjian Award." This genre had a firm place in the structure of the club and strong support for continuing it as a category in our competitions. Annually, this eponymous award is bestowed upon a WPS competitor who has demonstrated special accomplishment in the Open Mind competition category. Recipients are proud to receive that award, as it is representative of particular achievement in a style of photography that is unique, gives liberty to the photographer's creativity and has grown in popularity not only in our club but also in the photographic community at large. Whenever, WPS members see images that are reflective of visionary creative process, we can smile inwardly knowing that Tony Gezirjian was among the earliest proponents who sewed the seeds of this artistic photographic movement.



Also, check out this video clip to see one of Tony's "moving" pictures!

A Field Trip to Pepsico Sculpture Garden

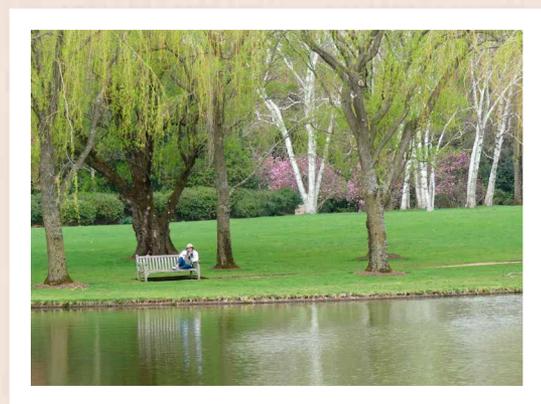
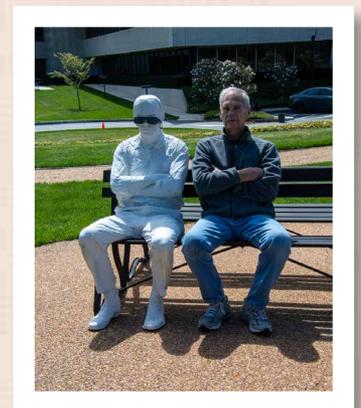
Jackie Ross

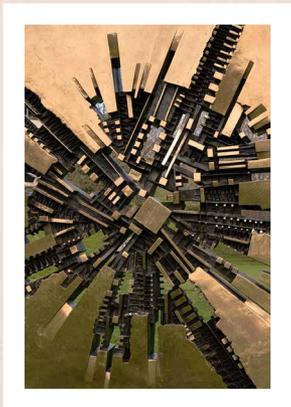
It turned out to be a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed just getting out and taking photos. it's a good start! The gardens are absolutely stunning and the sculptures are breathtaking.

if you get the opportunity go, you will not be disappointed!!

Here are a few images from our trip by Carlotta Grenier, Serge Migdal, Joe Williams, Linda Austrian, Deborah Cohen, Stephanie Feingold and Jackie.

The Pepsico Sculpture Garden is open weekends from 10 AM till 4PM.







DIGITAL COLOR B



Kenneth Salstrom, First
Lonesome Scull



Carl Zucker, First
Rainy Day Goose



Carl Zucker, Second
Tuscany Window

DIGITAL COLOR B



Serge Migdal, Third
Don't Tread on Me



Kenneth Salstrom, HM
Barbed Wire



Carl Zucker, HM
Red Leaf

DIGITAL COLOR A



Jackie Ross, First
Snack Time at Nickerson



Roger Chenault, Second
Wood Stork



Jennifer Dooley, Third
Seat Staring at the Sunlight

DIGITAL COLOR A



Adelaide Boemio, Third
Wheel Barrel



Jennifer Dooley, HM
Be Seated



Jennifer Dooley, HM
Faith Clear as Glass

DIGITAL COLOR SALON



Carlotta Grenier, First
Collard Aracarillo



Harvey Augenbraun, First
Feeding the Chick



Dennis Thornton, First
Fishermen at Sunset



Anastasia Tompkins, First
Next in Line

DIGITAL COLOR SALON



Anastasia Tompkins, First
Peek a Boo



Dennis Thornton, Second
Red McCaw Eating Foot



Carlotta Grenier, Third
Boreal Chickadee



Richard Micklish, Third
Orchid7

DIGITAL COLOR SALON



Carolyn Colella, Third
Snowy Day



Carlotta Grenier, Third
Young Eagle at Mid Turn



Carolyn Colella, HM
Calla Lily

DIGITAL OPEN MIND



Arnold Breisblatt, First
Girl Looking Up at a Meteor



Anastasia Tompkins, First
Melting Clock



Carolyn Colella, Second
Floral

DIGITAL OPEN MIND



Barbara Pollack, Third
Snow Women



Anastasia Tompkins, HM
Eye Roll

inFocus

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Westchester Photographic Society

Ron Carran, editor

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www.huntsphotoandvideo.com

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