

NECCC Bulletin

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President's Message
We Are in This Together
By Antoinette Gombeda, APSA,
HonNEC



This president's message is a bit different from the one I wrote last fall. I would be congratulating Lisa and Tom on the great success of the well planned 75th Conference. I would be thanking the many volunteer committee members for the countless hours they spent prior to, during and after the conference. I would be recognizing the various speakers for



NECCC is a proud member of PSA



for your constant presence and support for this and all past conferences. While I can't do this for the fall bulletin of 2020, I am hoping I can start the Fall 2021 that way. I am asking for your help in showing appreciation to the various speakers, vendors and sponsors who have so generously helped NECCC in past conferences. Please visit their websites to see what they are offering in terms of virtual programs, meet-ups, individual portfolio consultations and special sales.

On a bright note two of our board member received special recognition from the Photographic Society of America. Both William Barnett, Co-Chair of the Interclub Digital Competition, and Shiv Verma, Chairman of the Digital Circuit, received the Fellowship (FPSA) which is awarded for outstanding service to PSA and photography through organizational and administrative work. Former board member, Hazel Meredith, received the Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction. Congratulations to NECCC for taking first place in the PSA Council Challenge. You can see the images and results in a video. The direct link to the video is: http://www.greaterylynphoto.org/images_neccc/2020_Council_Challenge/2020_PSA_Councils_Challenge.mp4.

And on an even brighter note, Chane and Rhonda Cullens have been hosting a monthly virtual meeting for all club reps, presidents and NECCC board members. These meetings have been excellent. They have provided a venue for sharing that has never been done before. I would like to quote from an email I received from Michael Karchmer of the Cape Cod Viewfinders Camera Club. Michael wrote, "I wanted to write to express my appreciation for convening the NECCC reps/presidents' group. The focus on how to keep the clubs going during the pandemic continues to be important and informative. I think that even when the COVID restrictions allow people to meet face-to-face, this kind of internet based regular meeting has a lot going for it. It serves the important function of making clubs feel that they are working toward a common goal--that we are all in it together. The ideas for partnering and sharing programs will help the clubs emerge as stronger groups."

I hope Chane and Rhonda will continue to host these meetings beyond the pandemic because I feel we are meeting the needs of our clubs as never before by listening to and sharing with each other.

In closing I had an idea that my photo for this message should be changed. I appreciate the photo Tom Cuchara took of me many years ago but I thought I would go with the times. My son took this picture of me and said, "Mom. Smile" and I did.

Stay well, stay safe. We are in this together!

**"Great photography is about depth of feeling, not
depth of field." – Peter Adams**

CONGRATULATIONS RICK CLORAN HonPSA, GMPSA, HonNEC



The highest accolade a member of the NECCC Board can receive is that of Honorary Life Vice President. Rick Cloran is now the ninth member of the Honorary Life Vice Presidents. He received a unanimous vote from the NECCC Board of Directors when the following proposal letter was read at the October NECCC BOD Zoom Meeting.

To Antoinette Gombeda, APSA, HonNEC

President New England Camera Club Council

Dear Antoinette,

The highest accolade the NECCC Board can bestow upon an individual is Honorary Life Vice President. No one is more deserving of this honor than Richard Cloran, HonPSA, GMPSA, HonNEC.

He is a leading figure in the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and was recently awarded **"The Lifetime Achievement Award"**, one of the Society's most prestigious awards and the Society's highest award to a member for a combination of service to photography and photographic achievement. At PSA, he has served as committee member and past chairman of the PSA Nature Division, Honors Committee and Nominating Committee. Perhaps most importantly, Rick has served the Society as Chairman of the Investments Committee and as the Lead Trustee of the PSA Endowment Fund Board of Trustees.

On a local level, Rick's bio also reads past president and treasurer of Greater Lynn Photographic Assoc. (GLPA) and current Chairman of the GLPA BOD. Rick is also a member and past chairman of the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists (CamNats), a by-invitation only organization dedicated to the art and teaching of natural history photography. His administrative duties for other photographic organizations have included past chairmanship of Yankee Photographic Society and Camnats.

He has lectured and judged photographic exhibitions throughout the United States and Canada and is an internationally recognized exhibitor who has had his work accepted over 2500 times in international photographic exhibitions earning him PSA's **ROPA Distinction of GMPSA**. He is

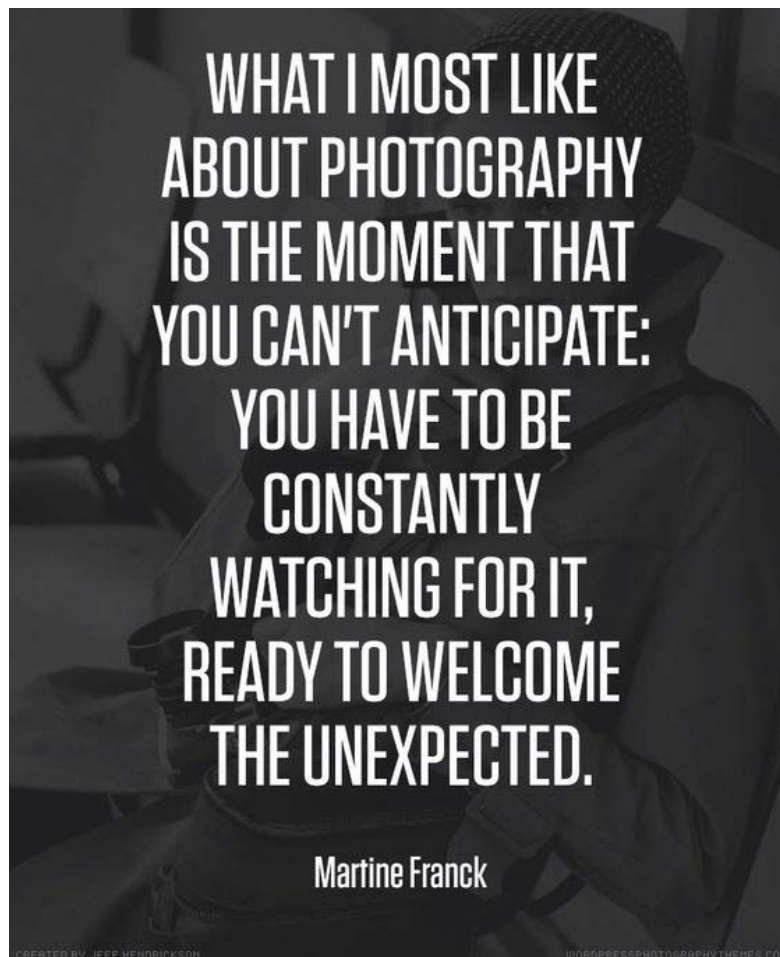
highly sought after for his photographic knowledge and skills as evidenced by his receiving two prestigious PSA recognition Awards - the *PSA **Appreciation Award for Teaching and the Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction.***

He is admired and appreciated, for his generous commitment of time and expertise and is always available when called upon to lend a hand by the members of organizations to which he belongs such as Greater Lynn, CamNats, PSA and the New England Camera Club Council where he is the current treasurer and serves on the Steering Committee and Scholarship Committee.

The above examples are just a few of the reasons why Richard Cloran, HonPSA, GMPSA, HonNEC should be an **Honorary Life Vice President of the New England Camera Club Council.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan & Jacob Mosser, HonPSA's, HonNEC's

Our sincerest congratulations to Rick. This is an honor well deserved. You bring so much to us with your vast knowledge of photography, your willingness to go above and beyond to help photographic organizations in many different ways, your expertise in managing the many aspects of preparing a budget and sticking to it, and the wisdom you bring to any discussion. It is always a pleasure to work with you on board issues, local New England club issues and anything to do with photography.



75th Anniversary NECCC Conference July 16-18, 2021

Our 75th Anniversary NECCC Conference, like the Olympics and many other 2020 events, was **postponed to 2021**. We certainly missed getting together with our photography friends at UMass this past July. We were very happy that we were able to preserve the content of the 75th Anniversary conference! That is, we still have the same speakers, activities, and events!

We thank you all for your past, present, and future support of the conference and we look forward to hopefully seeing all of you July 16-18, 2021. Check our photo conference website for further updates: <http://necccphotoconference.org>



We are looking forward to July and hopefully being able to get together IRL (In Real Life), so save the date **July 16-18, 2021**. **More information will follow sometime in January.**

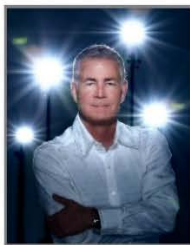
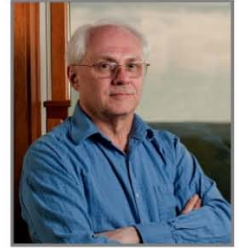
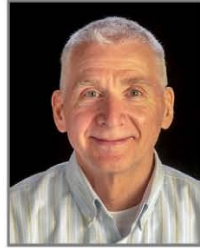


MARK YOUR
CALENDAR NOW
AND JOIN US AT THE
75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NECCC PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE
www.NECCCPhotoConference.org
JULY 16-20, 2021





- * LOTS of active hands-on learning!
- * We have tons of photography programs and MORE
- * Bring your camera for hands-on workshops & photo ops!
- * Photo-ops: A plethora of subjects to photograph: female and character models, animals, raptors, flowers, food, still life, props -- photo-ops galore!
- * Trade Show -- Vendors! Plus Camera & Lens loaning!
- * Interact with presenters and fellow photographers
- * Image critiques and portfolio reviews
- * Print and Digital competitions
- * Fun weekend of Immersion into Photography!



New England Camera Club Council 2020 NECCC Honors Recipients

NECCC has recognized these well-deserving individuals for their accomplishments and contributions to the photographic community with honors that have been bestowed on them in April 2020. Even though they will not be officially honored on stage until the 75th Anniversary Annual Conference of the New England Camera Club Council on July 17, 2021, along with next year's 2021 honors recipients, they are free to use the initials now. NECCC hopes that their individual clubs will make an announcement to their membership and offer them congratulations.

Two people have been selected this year as **Honorary Member (HonNEC)** recipients, six as **Master Member (MNEC)** recipients, and one **Associate Member (ANEC)** recipient.

Tom Cuchara, Honorary Member (HonNEC)



Given in part for his expertise in photography and his willingness to teach and encourage others. For his numerous photography awards, recognitions, and outstanding contributions to many local, national, and international photography organizations. For his key leadership roles in his local camera club and as NECCC vice president and conference co-chair, speaker and presenter. For his ability to inspire through his contagious passion for photography in group and individual settings and through his published books.

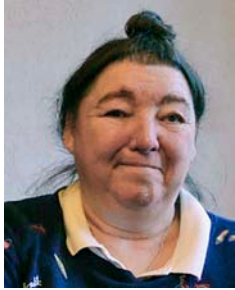
Rich Novak, Honorary Member (HonNEC)



Given in part for his commitment to Springfield Photographic Society and NECCC spanning over 5 decades. For serving as his club's president for seven terms and newsletter editor for over 20 years. For co-leading the Springfield International Salon for many years with professional, detail-driven management. For tutoring others, serving as a judge, and producing presentations using his technical expertise acquired through a long career in photography. For his long service as NECCC vice president and on numerous committees including most recently as Historian and Memorial Fund chair.

Note: It is with great sadness, however, to report that Rich Novak, HonNEC age 78, passed away just a few weeks after receiving this honor. He was such a kind and gentle soul who will be greatly missed by so many of us whose lives he touched. His certificate will be sent to his family and he will be honored posthumously on stage in 2021.

Denise Benavides, Master Member (MNEC)



Given in part for being a tireless worker for Greater Lynn Photographic Association serving as Library Committee Chair since 2008 and on their Board of Directors since 2012. For serving on the NECCC Photo Ops Committee and being willing to help people with their cameras and setups. For her extreme dependability and hard-working attitude helping with any activity including the past processing of entries for the Greater Lynn International Exhibition. For her photography which has been accepted in international salons.

Patrick Brosnan, Master Member (MNEC)



Given in part for his selfless dedication and support for Greater Lynn Photographic Association and to NECCC. For serving on the NECCC equipment committee for over 10 years helping with lighting, set-ups and monitoring conference speakers. For going above and beyond in loading and unloading equipment from the storage locker, doing a major part of teardown and packing, inventorying and organizing it. For assisting speakers and judges at his club with equipment and for teaching others about underwater photography.

Lisa Bushee, Master Member (MNEC)



Given in part for her involvement with Photographic Society of Rhode Island on their Board of Directors as secretary and digital competition chair. For her commitment as an NECCC vice president, managing the Sigma Showcase photo competition, working at the Hospitality desk and lending tables and assisting in pre-conference workshops. For her service as NECCC assistant vendor coordinator and ensuring the vendors have what they need. For her expertise as a photofinisher and designer as well as an accomplished photographer.

Richard Kunsch, Master Member (MNEC)



Given in part for his leadership skills and service to both Milford Camera Club where he is currently vice president and to Greater Bridgeport Camera Club where he is currently president and print director. For his award-winning photographs in competitions, fairs, juried programs and exhibitions. For his dedication as a judge and mentor encouraging new members and sharing his passion for night photography. For his enthusiastic support for NECCC assisting in pre-conference and conference workshops, lending lenses, and working with character models.

Nancy (Marshall) Orbe, Master Member (MNEC)



Given in part for her service to NECCC as vice president and in various capacities including as Vendor Coordinator which includes deciding which vendors to invite, coordinating contracts, payments, and other commitments, ensuring the vendors have a successful event, and ensuring attendees have vendors that provide products and services of interest to them. For being an accomplished and prolific photographer, particularly in nature and landscape and for her presentations at camera clubs on "Wildlife and Nature Photography."

Terri Smith, Master Member (MNEC)



Given in part for her dedication and commitment serving Greater Bridgeport Camera Club and NECCC. For currently serving as club treasurer, and previously as Hospitality chairman and outside competition chairman. For being a strong mentor to new members and encouraging all to become better photographers. For serving as vice president of NECCC and as the conference hospitality committee chairman where she is extremely organized and thorough and devoted to answering all of the attendees' questions.

Bobbie Lane, Associate Member (ANEC)



Given in part for her work as an award-winning commercial photographer specializing in creative portraits and a dedicated photo educator. For the enthusiastic instruction she has given as a speaker and presenter at NECCC conferences numerous times and at many New England camera clubs as well as being a featured speaker at many photo conventions around the country. For sharing her multi-faceted approach to photography that incorporates over 35 years of technical experience with innovative artistic interpretation.

Submitted by:

NECCC Honors Committee
Mike Di Stefano, HonNEC, Chairman
Shiv Verma, MNEC
Rhonda Cullens, MNEC

NECCC



NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL, INCORPORATED
WWW.NECCC.ORG

NECCC HONORS

The New England Camera Club Council would like to recognize the hard work of your area's dedicated photographers/organizers.

You know these people; every club has them, that person that makes things happen! First to arrive, last to leave, on the phone, on the computer, planning months ahead, writing newsletters, running inter-club competitions, teaching, driving 100 miles to present a program or judge. They do it for the love of photography and they make the New England photographic community one of the most active and rewarding in the world.

Please take the time to review the below criteria and complete the attached application form for becoming an "Honor Member" of the New England Camera Club Council. Service for the photographic community beyond your immediate club though not required is a plus for your candidate. If you have a worthy candidate, follow the procedures and submit the application to:

**Shiv Verma
652 Dedham Street,
Wrentham, MA 02093-1149
sv@shivverma.com
2021 Honors Chairman
by March 1st, 2021**

Please remember, not every person submitted will automatically receive an honor. The applicants' proposals will be evaluated by a three-person honors committee, and ratified by a quorum vote of the council. The Honors will be given out to the most deserving candidates, based on the applicants' contributions to the New England photographic community.

NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL, INCORPORATED

HONORS

Honorary Member, New England Camera Club Council --- HonNEC

Awarded for superior leadership in the operation of our Council, such as a minimum of two years as president or five years in any other office or combination of offices and/or superior photographic leadership in the New England area. For achieving substantial and outstanding recognition in the field of photography through activities for a minimum of ten years through lecturing, judging, writing and administrative activities in the New England area. This honor is limited to a maximum of two each year.

Master Member, New England Camera Club Council --- MNEC

Awarded to those who have (1) performed exceptional service to the Council for several years, and (2) have substantially advanced photography in the New England area through lecturing, teaching, judging and through other administrative activities in photographic organizations in their community. This honor is limited to a maximum of five each year.

Associate Member, New England Camera Club Council --- ANEC

Awarded to those outside of the New England area who have made significant contribution to the promotion of photography in the New England area through extensive appearances on the program of the NECCC annual conference or 20 lectures to New England camera clubs.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION - AWARDED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Honorary Vice-President New England Camera Club Council

This honorary officership is not intended as a lettered honor, but is awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee for superior and sustained contribution to the organizational efforts and activities of the Council's annual conference. This award is intended for those outside of New England or those in the New England area who are not photographers, but who have contributed tremendously to the success of our annual conference.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PROPOSER

The NECCC Honors are awarded in recognition of contribution to the advancement of the art and science of photography in the New England area. Quality of character, administrative activities, service through lecturing, teaching, judging and writing are as important as an outstanding competition record. Before proposing a candidate, weigh carefully the responsibility you are assuming and your duty to the New England Camera Club Council. These considerations should transcend any desire you may have to do a favor for someone. Do not submit an application unless you are fully convinced that the candidate's qualifications are far above average. Try to give the committee a verbal picture of the candidate as an individual as well as a photographer. Present all facts in a brief and concise manner, avoiding exaggeration. List the candidate's qualifications under each of these general headings:

1. Administrative activities
2. (A) Lecturing, (B) Judging, (C) Teaching, (D) Writing
3. (A) Photographic Achievements, (B) Exhibition Record, (C) Competition Awards
4. Other qualifications
5. Summarize the candidate's most outstanding qualifications in a short cover letter which accompanies the application.
- 6.

**PROPOSALS MUST BE LIMITED TO FIVE 8-1/2" X 11" PAGES, ONE SIDE ONLY
FOLLOW THE ABOVE FORMAT TO INSURE COMPLETE CONSIDERATION
APPLICATION DEADLINE – MARCH 1, 2021**

NEW ENGLAND CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL, INCORPORATED

HONORS APPLICATION

Title of Honor (circle one) HonNEC MNEC ANEC Honorary Vice President

Candidate:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Proposer(s):

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Camera Club Affiliation(s) of Candidate:

Using the following format, describe the candidate's record in five pages or less:

- I. Photographic Administration Activities
- II. General Activities
 - A. Lecturing
 - B. Judging
 - C. Teaching
 - D. Writing
- III. Photography
 - A. Achievements
 - B. Exhibition Record
 - C. Competition Awards
- IV. Specific contributions of service to the New England Camera Club Council
- V. Other Qualifications
- VI. Summarize the candidate's most outstanding qualifications in a short cover letter which accompanies the application.

Deadline: March 1, 2021

Return completed form to:

**Shiv Verma
652 Dedham Street,
Wrentham, MA 02093-1149
sv@shivverma.com**

Keeping Clubs Active Monthly Meetings Chane Cullens

The Keeping Clubs Active meeting series started in August and continues to meet every month. The meetings focus on sharing ideas during these COVID-19 social distancing times. Meetings begin with a 30-minute open discussion followed by guest speakers on specific topics. Over the last four months, these topics were discussed:

What are clubs doing – competitions, programs, photo challenges, exhibits, field trips, end-of-year activities, websites, newsletters and social media.

Running a virtual competition

Multiple-club competitions

Running a scavenger hunt

Finding speakers

Virtual exhibit movies

Preparing for virtual exhibits

NECCC Club Services information

What is working, what is not working

Many thanks to guest speakers from Simsbury Camera Club, Boston Camera Club, Flagpole Photographers Camera Club and Camera Club of Oxford Greens. Also, a special thanks to everyone that actively contribute to the monthly discussions.

The <http://w.neccc.org/keeping-clubs-active> web page includes meeting recordings, handouts and presentations slides.

If you would like to join the meetings email ClubServices@NECCC.org

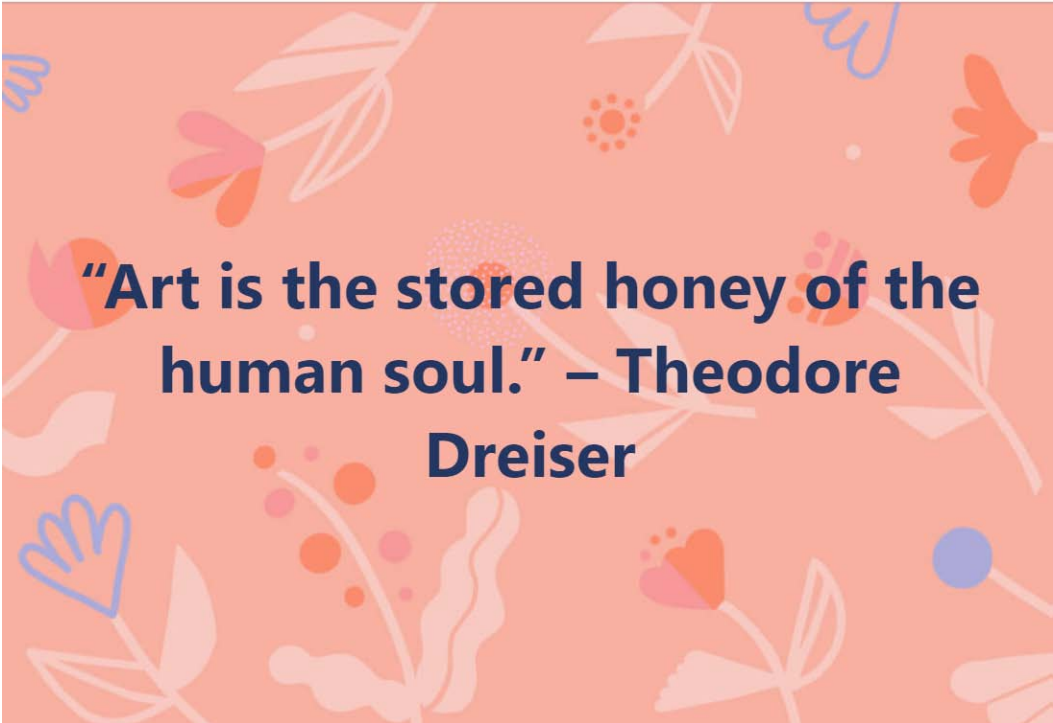
Scholarship Report

By Antoinette Gombeda, APSA, HonNEC

Congratulations go to Riley Halliday of Franklin, Massachusetts for her continued success at Massachusetts College of Art and Design where she is a film and video major. This is her third scholarship award from NECCC. She is also receiving her third scholarship award from Greater Lynn Photographic Association. Riley is sponsored by the Stonybrook Camera Club. All the best to Riley as she continues on her quest for graduation in 2021.

We are grateful for the many donations to the scholarship fund by individuals and by camera clubs. Lois Clarke, Roslyn MacNish, and Jane Sibley were long time NECCC Board members and excellent photographers who knew how important an education was and established their scholarships. David Stone, President of Photosol, Inc established the Charles W. Wyckoff Memorial Scholarship in memory of his friend who was a significant contributor to the field of photography. Greater Lynn Photographic Association and Gary Farber of Hunt's Photo and Video have also contributed to the yearly scholarships. Education is important!

Now down to the nitty gritty. I need your help in talking about the scholarship program to college students who are majoring in photography. We cannot give scholarship awards unless we have applicants. Scholarship information is on our website http://neccc14.neccc.org/Club-Services-Packet-Current/17_Scholarship-Program.pdf Please help if you can. Many hands make light work.



**“Art is the stored honey of the
human soul.” – Theodore
Dreiser**

General Fund Donations

Donations to the **NECCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND** help defray the operating expenses of the Council, including the cost of services provided to member clubs and the expense of the Annual Conference at Amherst. Donations are also used to purchase much needed new equipment for the conference.

When donating to the General Operating Fund, checks should be made payable to "NECCC" and should be sent to:

Susan Mosser HonPSA, HonNEC
173 Central St
No. Reading, MA 01864
s.jmosser@comcast.net

No Donations were received since our last report

All contributions are tax deductible and will receive a written acknowledgement.

Memorial Fund

A donation to the **NECCC Memorial Fund** in the memory of a beloved family member or friend who enjoyed the craft and art of photography is a fitting tribute to that person in that your gift will help to perpetuate their love of photography in a young student who is undertaking a photographic curriculum at an accredited school of higher learning by endowing that student with a scholarship to assist them in their academic quest.

There were no donations made since our last bulletin

A couple of reminders:

- When making a memorial donation, please include the name and address of the person's family so that a notification of the gift can be sent to them.
- As the NECCC is a fully recognized 501.c organization, all donations to the Memorial Fund are fully tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Checks should be made out to: The Memorial Fund, and mailed to:

NECCC Memorial Fund
c/o Karen Geaghan, MNEC
15 Addison Road
Wilbraham, MA 01095

Interesting Websites

[<https://garyhartblog.com/photo-tips/big-moon>](https://garyhartblog.com/photo-tips/big-moon)

Photographing a BIG moon by Gary Hart

[<http://www.ggcreativeimages.co.uk>](http://www.ggcreativeimages.co.uk)

Glenys Garnnett, Digital Artist

[<https://backcountrygallery.com/fall-photo-basics>](https://backcountrygallery.com/fall-photo-basics)

Tips for shooting fall color

[<https://intothentheightphoto.blogspot.com/2020/09/focusing-aids-for-astrophotography.html?fbclid=IwAR1--f28XY3k6Q7HUZU_KLun_qJFvM-p4QQRfu2R8-trbnr4Az8CijGnOmw>](https://intothentheightphoto.blogspot.com/2020/09/focusing-aids-for-astrophotography.html?fbclid=IwAR1--f28XY3k6Q7HUZU_KLun_qJFvM-p4QQRfu2R8-trbnr4Az8CijGnOmw)

Focusing aids for astrophotography

[<https://www.shuttermonkeys.com/post/with-photography-you-get-what-you-give?postId=5f8760ec46a3760018d8a394>](https://www.shuttermonkeys.com/post/with-photography-you-get-what-you-give?postId=5f8760ec46a3760018d8a394)

Ian Plant's Fall Color from Lake Superior

[<https://backcountrygallery.com/quick-photoshop-fix-for-a-tight-crop>](https://backcountrygallery.com/quick-photoshop-fix-for-a-tight-crop)

How to fix a too tight crop in Photoshop

[<http://www.lisatom.photography/2020/10/live-composite-versus-long-exposures.html>](http://www.lisatom.photography/2020/10/live-composite-versus-long-exposures.html)

Live Composite vs Long Exposure

[<https://f64academy.com/fix-highlight-blowout-photoshop-seconds/?mc_cid=922b677786>](https://f64academy.com/fix-highlight-blowout-photoshop-seconds/?mc_cid=922b677786)

Fixing blown highlights in clouds

[<https://vimeo.com/417713123/9d019a8ea2>](https://vimeo.com/417713123/9d019a8ea2)

30 Photoshop tips

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zwIWhDcTEY>](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5zwIWhDcTEY)

7 of the best Nikon Tricks

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr6x63lad_A>](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr6x63lad_A)

Badlands National Park Photo Adventure Part I

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1K0-BqoxqU>](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1K0-BqoxqU)

Badlands National Park Photo Adventure Part II

[<https://www.popsci.com/story/diy/protect-yourself-from-photo-copyright-infringement/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email>](https://www.popsci.com/story/diy/protect-yourself-from-photo-copyright-infringement/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email)

Keep your photos from being stolen on the Internet

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0_oQ3je4gc

How to stack files to reduce noise in night sky images

<https://www.shutterbug.com/content/5-quality-inexpensive-lenses-photographers-budget>

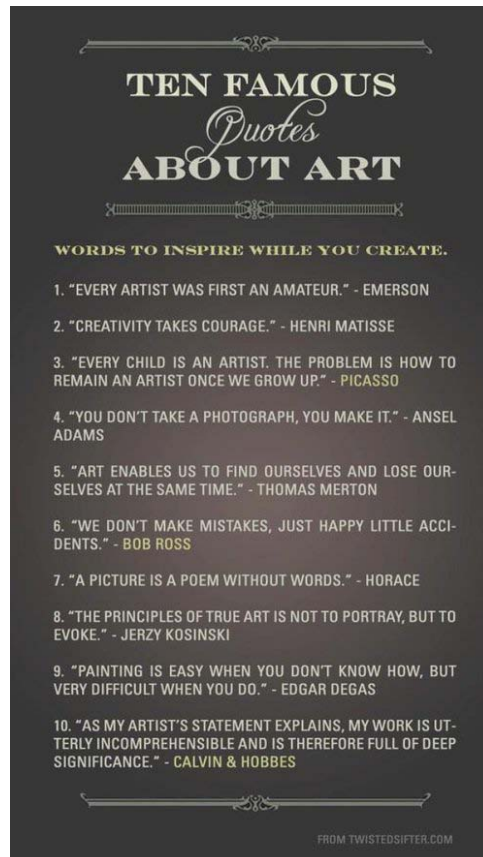
5 Quality Inexpensive Lenses for Photographers on a Budget

https://mattk.com/big-update-whats-new-in-photoshop-2021/?utm_source=Matt+K+Subscriber+List&utm_campaign=6bca12520c-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_05_17_01_33_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ac5889bd7-6bca12520c-431182709&mc_cid=6bca12520c

What's new in Photoshop 2021

https://tonykuyper.wordpress.com/2020/10/20/new-and-free-tk-lum-mask-plugin-for-adobe-photoshop-2021/?fbclid=IwAR1mtsDtDeL7ln8rh1hwDqa-NOerZexJ1pX3S1AEyFwE5_vW7tkblklIBV4

NEW and FREE: Tony Kuyper Luminosity Mask plugin for Adobe Photoshop 2021



In Memoriam
Les (Leslie) Campbell, FPSA, HonNEC
1925-2020



Long-time Belchertown resident and nationally recognized photographer Les Campbell has passed away at the age of 95. Les was considered by many to be western Mass's most well-known photographer. His interest in photography started 80 years ago as a teenager. By 1981 he held two of the Honors awards given by the Photographic Society of America (PSA). This certificate read "In special recognition of his long-term dedication and encouragement to photographers of all ages by teaching them to enjoy, improve and share photography both as a hobby and profession." Over the course of his 80-year career, he was an innovator, entrepreneur, inventor, lecturer, teacher, as well as a master of his craft (writing with light).

In 1984, his love of the Quabbin motivated him to establish the Quabbin Visitors Center and its support organization, the Friends of Quabbin. He wanted to use his photo skills to help preserve old photographs of the Swift River Valley for future generations. The Visitors Center has continued to grow and expand their scope ever since.

Les traveled often, to put on slideshows with multiple projectors and music on a widescreen. His production of Photo-Musicale in 1972 brought Belchertown High School international recognition. Many people have seen his work on display at his own Gallery at Sky Meadow. His work has been in many major magazines including National Geographic. He has received numerous awards and citations from prestigious organizations, but his passion, for the last forty years, and what he may be remembered most for is his love of teaching other people his skills. He may be best known for his nature photography and was a founder of the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists (CamNats), a by invitation only organization dedicated to the art and teaching of natural history photography. He also had a long time association with NECCC starting back when the annual conferences were just beginning and the Council was forming.

Les asked that we remember him at a celebration to be held at Sky Meadow in early May. For details, visit www.beersandstory.com

Edited by Susan Mosser, HonPSA, HonNEC Vice President on the NECCC BOD

**A Personal Note on Les from Dave Yankee, HonNEC
Conference Production Committee Chair & Vice President on the NECCC BOD**

Les was a great guy, a wonderful photographer and a terrific promoter and teacher of photography. One of the early efforts to raise funds and the profile of Stony Brook Camera Club was our sponsorship of one of Les's multiple projector audio visual shows. I remember making posters to advertise the event, which was held in the then Franklin High School auditorium (now the Oak Street School).

Les was involved with NECCC, and was a primary organizer of the outings which eventually evolved into the annual conference. He presented many times at NECCC, and his kids Ricky and Lisa were members of the Equipment Committee in my early days of serving on the equipment committee.

Les's legacy will live on through the work of the many photographers he taught and inspired, and institutions such as PSA, NECCC and CamNats.

To learn more about Les and to see his work, visit Les' website:

[<https://lescampbellphotography.com/about>](https://lescampbellphotography.com/about)



2021 OCEAN STATE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY



The Photographic Society of Rhode Island (PSRI) invites photographers from all over the world to submit [digital images](#) to the 2021 OCEAN STATE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

This International Exhibition is sanctioned by the
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA

PSA 2021-200

Projected Image Division (PID) – Color - OPEN

You may enter up to four (4) digital images. There is no restriction on subject*. Images can be changed right up to the [March 28th, 2021 deadline](#)

Go to <http://osiexhibition.us> which is the OCEAN STATE EXHIBITION page. From the link here you will be able to:

- 1 - register for the exhibition (**2020 participants have already done so**)
- 2 - submit an on-line entry form, and pay the \$10 fee which covers all 4 images
- 3 - then upload your entries to the FTP server. (**can be changed at any time up to the March 28th 2021 deadline**)

NB: There is no option for digital mail entry - All digital entries must be submitted via <http://osiexhibition.us>

Sizing

1400 pixels wide (horizontal) by 1050 pixels high (vertical). JPG/JPEG format in sRGB(best) with maximum file size of **800 KB** each.

2021 Ocean State International Exhibition of Photography **Projected Image Division (PID) - Color**

Chairperson

Karl M Zuzarte, MD
1 Mallard Lane, Tiverton, RI 02878 USA
+1 508-873-6081
OSIchair19@gmail.com

Calendar

Exhibition Closing date	March 28 th , 2021
Exhibition Judging date	April 11 th , 2021
Report Cards e-mailed by	April 21st, 2021
Catalog PDF file e-mailed by	May 28 th , 2021
Awards US Mail by	June 14th, 2021
On-Line Gallery by	May 28 th , 2021

Accepted Image Shows:

Photographic Society of RI, Lakewood Baptist Church, Atlantic Avenue, Warwick, RI –
7pm, June, 15th, 2021 (subject to change)

Gallery of Accepted Images will also be available for viewing at <http://www.osiexhibition.us>

Judges:

- 1 William Barnett APSA, GMPSA, AFIAP, HonNEC (Wallingford, CT – USA)
- 2 Ray Guillette, HonNEC (Massachusetts, USA)
- 3 Paul Smith, MNEC Marlborough, MA – USA)

Total of 27 Awards

Honorable Mention Awards (number will be determined at judging)

Image Acceptance Rate - 28-34 %

Awards 2021 Ocean State International 27 Awards

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| (1) PSA Gold Medal (Best of Show) | (1) Theme Medal: Best Nature (Bird) |
| (1) OSI Silver Medal | Image |
| (8) OSI Bronze Medals | (1) Theme Medal: "Best Nature Close-Up |
| (1) Best International Medal | Image |
| (1) Best New England Medal | (1) Theme Medal: Best Landscape |
| (1) Best PSRI Image Medal | Image |
| (3) Judge's Choice Medals | (1) Theme Medal: "Best PJ Image |
| (1) Chairman's Choice Medal | (1) Theme Medal: "Best Flower Image |
| (1) Best Club Award (Highest Six | (1) Theme Medal: "Best Portrait Image, |
| Scores) | (1) Theme Medal: Best Night |
| (1) Theme Medal: Best Nature (Non- | Photography Image |
| bird) Image | (1) Theme Medal: Best Creative" Image |

- Please be sure to read the Conditions of Entry here:
<http://osiexhibition.us>

The sponsors of this International Exhibition of Photography have been awarded Recognition by PSA, the world's largest patron of international photographic exhibitions. PSA, although it has provided recognition, is neither a sponsor nor directly involved in the operation of this exhibition.



Valid acceptances received by PSA Members in recognized sections of this exhibition are eligible for PSA Star Ratings, listing in the world-wide PSA Who's Who of Photography and credited towards the PSA Distinctions of QPSA, PPSA, EPSA, MPSA, MPSA2, GMPSA, GMPSA/B, GMPSA/S, GMPSA/G, and GMPSA/P.

PSA is a non-profit organization promoting the advancement of photography in all its forms to novice, amateur and professional photographers worldwide.

For information on membership and the many services and activities of PSA, contact:

psa

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA
8241 S. Walker Avenue, Suite 104
Oklahoma City, OK 73139-9401, U.S.A.
E-mail: hq@psa-photo.org
Web Site: <http://www.psa-photo.org>

Adjusting to Life During COVID

By Andrea Gardner, Gateway Camera Club



The pandemic and consequent shutdown of much of normal life has been difficult for everyone. Those of us of a certain age have had to largely curtail much of our lives. These changes, these losses, are different for each of us.

When my husband and I became grandparents five and a half years ago, we made the decision to commit to providing all the day care our grandson would need until he was in school full time. When our granddaughter came along three years ago, we extended that time horizon for her.



Enter 2020. Ugh! We were happily and busily devoting 25 hours a week to Ben and Eva. I was already planning September's schedule, when we would be coordinating the kids' school schedules on our childcare days. It was to be a busy school year. When my son picked the children up on March 8th, it would be the last time I would hold them for months - an eternity for me.



Cursing and crying and complaining only get you so far. My camera lay idle. My mood soured. My decades being a nurse gave me insights into how the virus was impacting its victims. With so much time to think, I was creating a worse situation for myself with my worrying about everything. It was enough to worry that my daughter-in-law, a nurse at Mass General, might be exposed to the virus and bring it home to her family, and I would be powerless to help.

With a lot of self talk, I started photographing with my phone on my daily walk. One day I took my DSLR. In early May it was warm enough to begin what I affectionately called "driveway visits" at my son's house. We brought our own chairs and bottles of water, and the kids kept a "bubble" around us. I desperately sought to connect with them in a meaningful way. That's when the idea for my "From Afar" project was born.



My goal was simple; photograph the kids "from afar," with my 70-200 2.8 lens. I wanted to document their lives during this period and somehow keep us close as the weeks dragged on. The project became therapy for me, and I routinely shot 100-200 frames per visit. When we came home, I would download and cull through them, and flag my favorites for editing. Something to do that added much needed meaning, and focus, to my life. Ultimately, this led me to create a photo book that, when they are grown, will connect them to what happened during this time, and to us. Through this they will know that we never stopped seeing them, or caring

about them, and kept the precious bond that had been created with them from infancy.

How do you go about creating a body of work when your subjects are constantly moving, don't take direction, might have dirty, mismatched clothes, dirtier faces, and you can have no physical contact? You just do it. I watched intently, looking for moments that spoke to me, showed emotion, seemed to tell a tiny story. Slices of life.

In the end, I shot thousands of frames. I carefully culled out a collection of images that depicted their little lives in a way that made me both smile, and cry. Last month, their photo book arrived.

We were able to have them back here this summer, and things were nearly normal, yet bittersweet, as we knew our visits had to end once the kids started school, and the need to do that to the extent they can. We have transitioned back to driveway visits, although there will be brief hugs and kisses for now. And maybe a new project.



A birth certificate
shows you were born.

A death certificate
shows you have died.

Photographs
show you have lived.

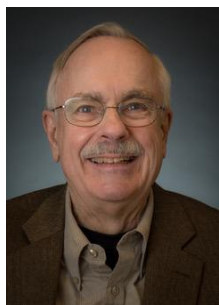


Photographic Society of America 2020 Honorees- Society Recognition Awards & End of Year Awards

Even though The Photographic Society of America's (PSA) annual conference was cancelled they still gave out their end of year and Honors Awards. This was done by posting the results online and in the PSA Journal Magazine. They also had a virtual day Zoom presentation that all members could sign in to and view. As is usual several New England Photographers were honored with very prestigious honors and awards.

2020 PSA Honorees

William Barnett, APSA, GMPSA, HonNEC, AFIAP



has been elected a **Fellow (FPSA)** for his service to photography, service to PSA, and the photographic community in the New England area: for his service to PSA as a member of the Portfolio Distinction Assessment Team, as an instructor for a PSA online course, and for his contributions to the *PSA Journal*; for his service to the New England Camera Club Council, including as interclub competition director and conference portfolio reviewer; for his service to the Connecticut Association of Photographers (CAP), including webmaster; and for his service as a presenter and judge.

Bill is a member of the New Haven Camera Club-CT, the Connecticut Association of Photographers (CAP) and is a Vice President on the NECCC BOD.

Shiv Verma, APSA, MNEC



has been elected a **Fellow (FPSA)** for his leadership and service to photography, including his service to PSA and the photographic community world-wide; for his outstanding service to PSA including service on the PSA Board as Learning and Technology Vice President, as PSA International Exhibition Chairman, and as PSA Webinars Director: for his service to the PSA Nature Division, including chairman; for his technical service to the New England Camera Club Council, the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists (CamNats), Gateway Camera Club, Stony Brook Camera Club and the Greater Lynn Photographic Association; and for sharing his photographic knowledge and skills as a writer, teacher, workshop and photo tour leader, presenter and judge.

Shiv is a member of the Greater Lynn Photographic Assoc- MA, the Massachusetts Camera Naturalists (CamNats) and is a Vice President on the NECCC BOD.

PSA Society Recognition Awards

Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction

The *Ashbrook Award* is presented annually to a member who has contributed to sharing knowledge of digital imaging through teaching such as providing classes, writing articles, presenting demonstrations and mentoring others.

Hazel Meredith, APSA, HonNEC



received this award for her knowledge on all aspects of photography and her expertise in post-processing using many different programs such as Lightroom, Pro Show, Topaz and others. She became active in a local camera in 2000 and began teaching in 2004. She has taught at numerous local clubs in New England and conferences throughout the USA and has been a presenter at the NECCC Conference on *Photoshop Elements*, as well as *HDR* and *Working with Textures*. Hazel is also a webinar presenter for Topaz Labs and has presented 13 webinars to date. She has written 2 eBooks: "*Working with Textures and Overlays*": and "*Turn Ho-Hum unto a Work of Art*". She has a 3-time a week blog free for all subscribers: **The Sunday Sampler**, Tuesday's **Around the Web** and Thursday's **Tutorial Thursday**. She also judges at many clubs, has also judged online competitions and loves to share her knowledge.

Hazel was a member of the Bridgeport Camera Club-CT and the Connecticut Association of Photographers (CAP). In 2018 she moved to Tennessee and continues to work from her new location.

PSA Service Awards

Congratulations to two hard working Massachusetts photographers.



Rick Cloran HonPSA, GMPA, HonNEC- a member of the Greater Lynn PA-MA, Rick was received this award for all the work he has done and continues to do for PSA as Chairman of the Investments Committee and as the Lead Trustee of the PSA Endowment Fund Board of Trustees.



Shiv Verma FPSA, MNEC – also a member of the Greater Lynn PA-MA. Shiv received this award for service to PSA as Learning & Technology Vice President, and as PSA Webinars Director.

PSA NEWSLETTER CONTEST

The 2020 PSA club/council/chapter newsletter contest is judged by 3 judges and the entries are split into large and small clubs. Only one New England Club won a top award.

Congratulations to:

Boston Camera Club – Honor Award- *The Reflector*- **Erik Gehring**, Editor

This is Erik's fourth year in row he has won an award.



End of Year Interclub Awards

There are a number of awards given –total club points and individual awards for Best Images of the Year:

Club Awards



Greater Lynn PA-MA won the 1st place award in the Group A Nature Interclub by 22 points. This is the 3rd year GLPA has come in 1st place. They also missed the 1st place award in Project Image Division (PID color) by one point.

Image of the Year Competitions- Please see the images elsewhere in the newsletter

Nature Interclub-Group A

Bronze medal:

"*Cheetah Family*"-**Frank Forward**-Greater Lynn Photographic Assoc.-MA

Honor Award:

"*A Meal Delivered*"- **Tina McManus**- Greater Lynn Photographic Assoc.-MA

Projected Image Division-Creative (PID-Creative)-Group B

Gold Medal-Best of Show

"*Dream Flying*"-**Irene Liebler**-North Haven Camera Club-CT

End of the Year Individual Awards

Group B Creative

Bronze Medal:

"Words Coming Right Off the Page"-**Frank Zaremba, MNEC-Simsbury CC-CT**

We in New England are very lucky to have such dedicated and talented photographers in our clubs and council. We congratulate them all on their accomplishments and thank them for all that they do for the photographic community whether locally or internationally.

Susan Mosser HonPSA, HonNEC Vice President on the NECCC BOD

PSA Color Council Challenge



A. 3rd Place Council Challenge – James Brady, MNEC (Greater Lynn PA – MA)
“Man Vs Steer”



B. Honor Award – Andrew Katsampes -(Greater Lynn PA – MA) “Daly Dash”



C. Honor Award- Michael Goodman, MNEC (Seacoast Camera Club-NH) -
“Northern Lights Dance 4”

PSA Council Challenge & Nature Image of the Year Interclub



A. 1st Place-Council Challenge- Sandy McMillan, PPSA (Seacoast CC-NH) -
"Piping Plover Stretching Worm"



**B. 2nd Place Winner –Council Challenge & Bronze Medal-Nature Interclub
Group A-Image of the Year - Frank Forward** (Greater Lynn PA -MA)–*"Cheetah
Family"*



**C. Honor Award–Council Challenge–
Peter Curcis, MNEC** Greater Lynn PA-MA)–*"Kestrel and Vole Kill"*



D. Honor Award – Council Challenge - Lesley Mattuchio (Greater Lynn PA-MA)
- "Queen of Samburu and Her Kill"



E. Honor Award – Council Challenge Honor Award & Nature Interclub Group
A-Image of the Year
Tina McManus (Greater Lynn PA-MA) - "A Meal Delivered"



PSA IOY Competition Results



A. Gold Medal-Best of Show-PID Creative Interclub Group B-Image of the Year - Irene Liebler (North Haven Camera Club-CT)–“Dream of Flying”



B. Bronze Medal-PID Creative Individual Group B –Image of the Year Frank Zaremba (Simsbury Camera Club-CT)–“Words Coming Right Off the Page”

Congratulations to Lisa and Tom Cuchara

Congratulations to Lisa and Tom Cuchara who recently participated in the CT-PPA (Connecticut Professional Photographers of America) image competition. They earned Best in Show Awards in all three categories: Fina Art, Portrait and Artistry. We also earned two first place awards, one second place award, two third place awards. Their case also was awarded a blue case award which means that 4/4 images in the case merited (scored 80 or above).





BEST IN SHOW
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

*September 2020
Fine Art*



BEST IN SHOW
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

*September 2020
Portrait*



BEST IN SHOW
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

September 2020
Artistry



First Place
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

*September 2020
Artistry*



First Place
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

September 2020
Fine Art



Second Place
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

*September 2020
Portrait*



Third Place
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

September 2020
Fine Art

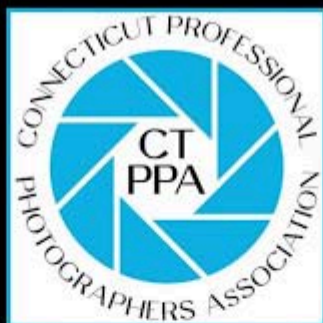


Third Place
Connecticut Professional Photographers' Association
Quarterly Competition

September 2020
Portrait

My case earned a Blue case awards, meaning that all four images in the case earned a merit (a score of 80 or above).

*September
2020*



**BLUE CASE
AWARD**



Lisa Cuchara

Lisa Cuchara earned an **Exhibition Merit** on her image "The PANES of homelessness" and an **Artist Exhibition Merit** for her image "Face in the Sparks" at the 2020 PPA (Professional Photographers of America) IPC (International Print Competition). IPC has been equated to the Olympics of photography competitions. You can click <https://www.ppa.com/credentials-mem/degrees/the-merit-system-explained> to see the explanation of merits. One learns a lot by entering IPC. In reality, you are entering to learn, to do your best, to compete against yourself and get better next time. While there is a lot of emphasis on earning a merit and other awards, but like many individual sports, you are really competing against yourself (aka "your best time"). Merits can also count towards one's Masters Degree (there are a few types of Master, see <https://www.ppa.com/credentials-mem/degrees> if interested in "what are the PPA Degrees?").

Lisa has earned the Photographic Craftsman (Cr.Photog.) degree and the Master of Photography (M.Photog.) and is two merits away from the Master Artist (M.Artist) degree.

The Photographic Craftsman (Cr.Photog.) degree is awarded to photographers for their service as a speaker, author, or mentor. This degree shows that you have gone beyond the creation of images and dedicated your time to move the industry forward and encourage education.

The Master of Photography (M.Photog.) degree is awarded to photographers for their superior photographic skills demonstrated through the Photographic Open category of PPA's International Photographic Competition, advanced education, and service to the industry.

The Master Artist (M.Artist) degree is awarded to photographers for their superior photographic skills demonstrated through the Artist Exhibition category of PPA's International Photographic Competition (with images evaluated for computer-applied techniques and proficiency), advanced education and service to the industry.

The 12 Elements of A Merit Image

"So just what does it take to have an image chosen for the International Photographic Exhibit at Imaging USA? When defining a "merit image", PPA's International Photographic Competitions Committee (IPCC) applies 12 distinct criteria. PPA-approved judges are trained to be aware of these 12 elements when judging images to the PPA merit level. These 12 elements bring together both the historical and modern practice of our profession." See page 3

Every year, PPA hosts District and **International** photographic competitions, where image-makers compete not against each other, but against a dozen ideals of excellence. Volunteer jurors complete classroom and hands-on instruction before they are invited to judge competition images. They use the **12 Elements** to grade images on a 100-point scale, awarding each maker one, two, or zero merits for each image based on its score.

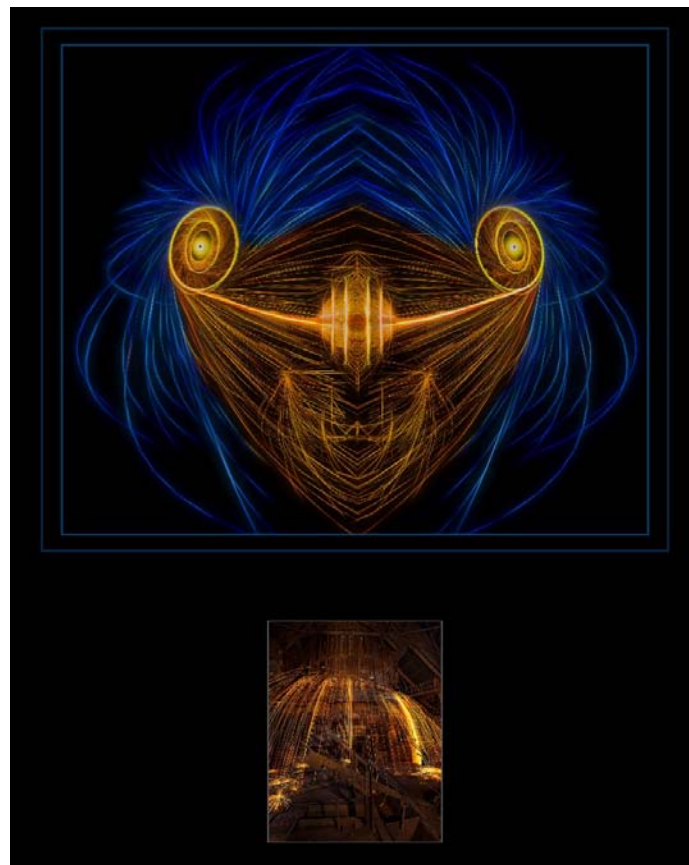
About PPA: Professional Photographers of America (PPA) is the largest and longest-standing nonprofit photography trade association with a 150-year history. It currently helps 30,000+ pros elevate their craft and grow their business with resources, protection, and education, all under PPA's core guiding principle of closing the gap between what photographers do as artists and entrepreneurs and what consumers want.

PPA Scoring Guide

100-95	Exceptional
94-90	Superior
89-85	Excellent
84-80	Deserving of a Merit
79-78	Deserving of Review
79-75	Above Average
74-70	Average
69-65	Below Exhibition Standards



The PANES of Homelessness

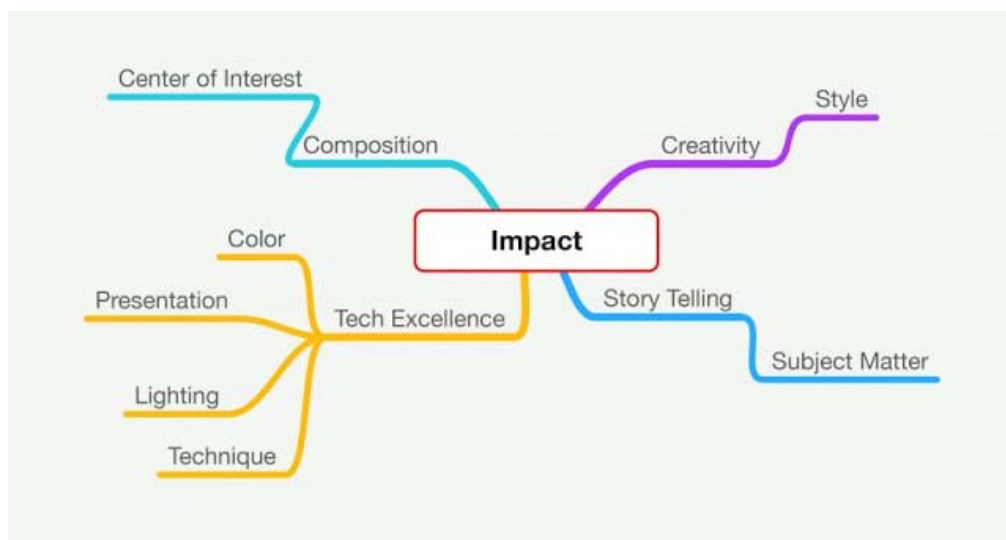


Face in the Sparks

The 12 Elements of a Merit Image:

<https://www.ppa.com/articles/photo-competition-prep-understand-the-12-elements-of-a-merit-image>

1. **Impact:** Compelling images evoke emotion—laughter, sadness, anger, pride.
2. **Technical Excellence:** The quality of the actual image as presented for viewing. Aspects such as retouching, sharpness, printing, color, and exposure should be spot on.
3. **Creativity:** The image is original, fresh, and an external expression of the maker's imagination.
4. **Style:** The subject matter meshes with the presentation. Style can also include the characteristic ways that an artist applies his or her specific lighting, posing, or compositional style to underscore the desired impact.
5. **Composition:** The visual elements of an image come together to express intent, whether that's to please the viewer or otherwise. The viewer's attention is captured and directed where the artist plans it to be.
6. **Presentation:** The way an image is showcased gives it a finished look. Everything in the presentation—mats, borders, color choices—should work to enhance the image.
7. **Color Balance:** Color work together to evoke feelings in the viewer. For example, it can bring harmony to an image and enhance the emotional appeal. It can also be incongruous to arouse diverse feelings.
8. **Center of Interest:** This is where an image's creator wants a viewer's attention focused. There may be primary and secondary centers of interest. Sometimes all the elements in an image work together to create the center of interest.
9. **Lighting:** The image demonstrates excellence in the use and control of light, whether natural or additive. Light informs dimensions and shape, sets tone and mood, and enhances the image.
10. **Subject Matter:** The subject matter is central to the story being told, so the subject should sync with the story.
11. **Technique:** The approaches used to create the image—lighting, posing, capture, presentation—work together to be effective.
12. **Storytelling:** The image evokes the viewer's imagination. While the act of creating is a personal thing, so too is the act of viewing. Each image is a story, and the one it tells a viewer may be unique to that person.



<https://ppmag.com/news/a-fresh-look-at-the-twelve-elements>

HOW JUDGES CRITIQUE PRINT AND DIGITAL PHOTO COMPETITIONS

As in any competition, judging is subjective with each judge bringing in their own personal biases, experience and likes. The following guidelines are meant simply to give entrants a basic understanding of what constitutes a good image. All of the guidelines, with exception of a few that are specific to prints, can be applied to your digital submissions.

The same guidelines can also pertain to monochromatic images. For more information on Black and White or Monochrome images click on the following link: [Black and White Photography Tips: The 5 Cornerstones of All Great Monochrome Photos](#).

The following 12 elements are listed in the guidance provided to entrants of the International Photographic Competitions organized by the [Professional Photographers of America](#).

1. Impact Viewing an image for the first time always evokes some kind of feeling. Sometimes they can make us sad, happy or angry. Sometimes they force us to look inward at ourselves. That's called an impact, and the more powerful the image, the more powerful the emotional response of the viewer.

2. Technical Excellence This is the print quality of the actual image itself as it's presented for viewing. There are a lot of aspects that speak to the qualities of the physical print. These can include Retouching, Manipulation, Sharpness, Exposure, Printing, Mounting, and Color correction.

3. Creativity Your point of view is exactly that—yours. And it's unlike anyone else's. This element speaks directly to that perspective. It shows your imagination and how you used the medium to convey an idea, a message or a thought to the viewer. This is how you differentiate yourself from others.

4. Style There are many, many ways to apply this element to your work. Maybe you use light in a specific way on a subject, or maybe you make a technical decision for the express purpose of underscoring desired impact. When subject matter and style come together in an appropriate manner, the effects on an image can be spectacular. But remember, when subject matter and style don't work together, the results can be, well, less-than-spectacular.

5. Composition When all the visual elements of an image come together to express intent, that's when the magic of composition happens. Good composition captures a viewer's attention and directs it where you, the artist, want it to be. Depending on your intent, you can make something that pleases the viewer— or disturbs them.

6. Presentation How you showcase an image is just as important as how you compose it. Everything in the presentation should work to enhance your image and not distract from it. Keep this in mind when choosing mats, borders and everything in between.

7. Color Balance Proper color balance can bring a sense of harmony to an image. When the tones all work together to support an image, the emotional appeal is that much greater. But color balance doesn't have to be used to bring harmony to an image. You can use color balance to evoke any number of feelings from a viewer. The choice in how to take advantage is entirely up to you, but no matter what, be sure your choice enhances rather than distracts.

8. Center of Interest This is where an image's creator wants a viewer's attention focused. Sometimes there can be a primary and a secondary center of interest. Sometimes everything in an image will work together to create that center of interest.

9. Lighting The use and control of light has an effect on every aspect of an image. It informs dimensions and shape, it sets tone and mood, and, like every other technique, proper lighting can be used to enhance your image while improper lighting can detract from it.

10. Subject Matter Even though it lacks words, your image is still telling a story, and your subject matter is central to that. So make sure that your subject matter is right for the story that you're trying to tell.

11. Technique How you choose to execute your image is key. It's also a holistic decision. Technique informs everything in the creation of your image. From lighting and posing to printing and presentation, it all works to show off the techniques that you've mastered and applied to your craft.

12. Story Telling What does your image evoke in a viewer's imagination? What do you want your image to evoke in a viewer's imagination? Keep in mind: You are creating art. And while the act of creating is a personal thing, so too is the act of viewing. Your image is a story, and the one it tells your viewer may be one you never knew you were telling.

Technical Flaws

A photograph, whether digital or printed, should be virtually free of technical flaws that would distract from the essence of the image. An absence of such is normally a prerequisite to qualify the image as art. Most judges begin a critique of an entry by noting any significant technical flaws.

Most technical flaws cited by judges can be summarized as follows:

1. Out of focus Do out of focus areas of the image enhance the subject or the story?

Sufficiently out of focus areas can create separation between the subject and the background.

Out of focus areas in the main subject can be distracting and draw the eye from the main points of interest. Does the combination of in focus and out of focus areas make it an appealing image.

2. Empty space Large areas of the image that have no content, such as a plain sky or wall. If the blank areas do not add to the impact of the image, they are likely unnecessary.

3. Distractions Anything that draws the viewer away from the subject of the image. These can be bright areas in the background, objects extending into the image from the edges, small parts of the subject extending out of the frame, a leading line that leads away from the subject, and the like.

4. Over Sharpening: The over ambitious application of sharpening to an image can cause halos at the edges between dark and light areas of an images, such as between the sky and mountains or buildings.

5. Excessive contrast Unless an image is obviously abstract or includes an intended area of dark shadow, all significant areas of a photo should be lit adequately to show some texture or other detail.

6. Weak coloration: The image appears flat. Faded color, or a gaping absence of tone where strong color saturation would normally be expected, is considered a technical fault by many judges (for example, a substantial white (or “bald”) sky.)

7. Over-saturation: Colors appear too strong or exaggerated for effect.

8. Overuse of HDR Correctly executed HDR looks as if the image was properly lit, as if the scene could be viewed as natural. Unless the intent is the so called “Grunge” look, or other unnatural effect, excessive use of HDR results in odd looking segments that do not contribute to the overall success of an image.

9. Over- or underexposure: A relatively rare occurrence these days with automatic exposure control with digital imaging.

10. Image not level Tilted horizons are often the first thing a judge notices, and an easy thing for a maker level in cropping to correct. Curved horizons in very wide angle captures may also be a distraction unless it contributes to the image design

Resources

<https://www.nmra.org/national-photo-contest-judging-guidelines>

<https://www.iconicphoto.com/pdf/how-judges-critique-photo-competitions.pdf>

<https://blog.lexjet.com/2009/05/28/twelve-criteria-used-to-judge-print-competitions/>

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