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The LENS PAPER

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On January 25th, Dr. Ivan Rothman shared his expertise in wildlife photography with the NCCC. Presenting a slide show entitled "Creatures, Large and Small", the audience was treated to one awe-inspiring photograph after another. The presentation was enhanced by both music and special digital effects and reflected the breadth of Ivan's travels around the globe. From majestic eagles to fluttering hummingbirds, from the brown bears of North America to the gorillas of Africa, his photographs captured animals in their natural habitats. Ivan candidly recounted the challenges of traveling and photographing in such rough terrain, even with the assistance of guides and animal experts. His images of the beautiful children of Rwanda were tempered by the knowledge of the horrible genocide that was part of that nation's recent history and of which Ivan spoke so poignantly about. The evening concluded with a demonstration of the latest photographic equipment that he uses in the field.



Calendar of Events

Feb.	19	Field Trip Photo gallery
	22	Dennis Golin "Chasing Rainbows" slide show
March		Levittown Library Exhibit
	6	Lighting/Exposure Compensation Panel discussion
	15	Competition Optional topic "High Places" Judge Andrew Kurchey
	22	Program
	TBA	Bronx Zoo
April	TBA	Farmington Library Show
	3	The Photo Challenge - One image-your interpretation
	19	Competition Optional topic-Curiosity Judge John Brokas
	26	Berger Brothers Adobe Photoshop CS2 Digital slide shows
	TBA	Field trip Planting Fields Arboretum
May	1	Workshop Scanning Techniques and Pin Hole Photos
	17	Competition Assigned topic Sports Judge Glen Tinnie
	24	Bob Simari slide show
	TBA	Field trip Pepsico Gardens
June	5	Competition Print and Slide of the Year Judges Nelson Burack, Dick Hunt, Joe Senzatimore
	16	End of the Year Party
July	14	Amhearst Trip

Our upcoming **field trip** is a local one in Huntington to FotoFoto Gallery, 372 New York Ave, Huntington, NY, (631 549-0448) We will be going February 19th at 3pm. We will meet there at that time
Amhearst Trip A photography conference held on July 15-17. It is recommended that reservations be made early.

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The Lenspaper is published monthly, September to June for the members of the Nassau County Camera Club, A PFLI and PSA affiliate.

Meetings are held on the first Monday, third and fourth Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM in the Levittown Library

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Stephanie Cowan preparing exhibit for Desktop Photo discussion.



Some of the simplest and most elegant images can easily be created on a desktop in your home. Thanks to Stephanie Cowan, Joanna Gazzola, Paula Lindenberg and others, the NCCC was presented with several ways to create tabletop images. One method uses a slide projected on a translucent screen to provide the backdrop for an object like a crystal vase. The light presents an added aura and makes the images very appealing. Another method uses a dark backdrop to enhance the object in front of it. Also used were reflecting surfaces that the object rested on, so as to produce a sense of symmetry.



Steve Hirsch photographing a vase



In many of the competitions judges have mentioned general guidelines to enhance the quality of the pictures. Below is a list of some that have been mentioned.

Suggestions from the judges

Use the rule of thirds.
 Have leading lines lead to the main subject.
 Keep the image simple, don't have conflicting areas of interest
 Avoid having a bald sky.
 Have the corners darkened so as to lead the eye into the picture
 If you have a white border make it about ¼ inch.
 Use diagonal lines for dramatic effect.
 Don't have a bright spot that leads your eye away from the main subject.
 The horizon line should not be in the middle.
 The picture should not be tilted away.
 Using a polarizer on a wide-angle lens may cause different parts of the sky to look different and unreal.

Use a polarizer to give more snap to colors.
 Be aware that warm colors appear to advance and cool colors appear to recede.
 Odd numbers of flowers or other subjects usually look better than even numbers.
 Your subject will stand out from the background if it is sharper than the background, or if it is a warmer color than the background, or if it is lighter than the background. Your eye is drawn to sharpness, contrast, and light.
 All rules are guidelines and can be broken in many instances and the image will still work.

NCCC contest scores Jan 15, 2006

Black and White A		
Flower & Buds in B&W	9	Cowan, Stephanie
B&W Amaryllis in Window	9	Gallagher, Ellen
A Simple Jack	9	Interligi, Valerie
An Old Camera	9	Interligi, Valerie
Badlands Aglow	9	Simari, Bob
High Country	9	Simari, Bob
#32	8	Ettinger, Mel
Design # 12	8	Ettinger, Mel
Nun at Door	8	Ettinger, Mel
Conservatory Windows	8	Gallagher, Ellen
Infrared Fence	8	Gallagher, Ellen
Umbrellas at Pike's Market	8	Gallagher, Ellen
Clownfest Portrait	8	Gazzola, Joanna
Dual View	8	Gazzola, Joanna
Saugerties NY	8	Gazzola, Joanna
Kathryn's Cordial Glasses	8	Interligi, Valerie
Nantucket	8	Thalheimer, Ken
Color A Prints		
Strolling	9	Barasch, Herb
Pink Cyclen Group & Buds	9	Cowan, Stephanie
Leaf	9	Ettinger, Mel
Far Place	9	Ettus, Ronald
The Underworld	9	Ettus, Ronald
Another Window	9	Gallagher, Ellen
Leaf Abstract 2	9	Gallagher, Ellen
Rowboats # 3	9	Gallagher, Ellen
Through a Window	9	Gallagher, Ellen
Come Up & See Me Sometime	9	Gazzola, Joanna
Iris Trio	9	Gazzola, Joanna
Tetons No.2	9	Gazzola, Joanna
Sizzling Bacon	9	Interligi, Valerie
Sizzling Egg	9	Interligi, Valerie
Angel's Landing	9	Simari, Bob
The Greatest Earth on Show	9	Simari, Bob
Paige # 143	9	Thalheimer, Ken
Going Home	8	Barasch, Herb
Over the Cobblestone	8	Barasch, Herb
Upstate Waterfall No. 2	8	Cowan, Stephanie
Iron & Steel	8	Ettinger, Mel
Planes	8	Ettinger, Mel
A Single Flower	8	Gallagher, Ellen
Two Trees in Autumn	8	Gallagher, Ellen
Death Valley	8	Imboden, Richard
Umbrella's # 1	8	Interligi, Valerie

Slides B		
Nice Pair	8	Tom Chambers
Bloom	9	Tim Chambers
Slide of the month		
Slides A		
Design #11	8	Mel Ettinger
Red Hot	8	Bob Simari
Desert Glow	9	Bob Simari
Badlands at Nippe	9	Bob Simari
Red Rocks Aglow	9	Bob Simari
The Windows Along	9	Bob Simari
Bench		
Whitehouse Trail		

Color B Prints		
Nesting	9	Brielmann, Bob
Somebody's Home	9	Brielmann, Bob
The Mask	9	Brielmann, Bob
Bird	9	Chambers, Tim
Jones Beach Sunrise # 1	9	Rathsam, Michael
Sunset at Point Lobos	9	Simari, Pat
Deep Stare	8	Rathsam, Michael
Droplets	8	Rathsam, Michael
Pacific Cove	8	Simari, Pat
Early Light	8	Rubenstein, Harvey
Did She?	8	Brielmann, Bob
Fall Cycle	8	Chambers, Tim
Grounded	8	Chambers, Tim
Cuba Libra	8	Piskin, Lorraine
Home Sweet Home	8	Piskin, Lorraine

Black and White B		
Reflection	9	Rubenstein, Harvey
Three Windows	8	Brielman, Bob
Country Road	8	Chambers, Tim
Tears	8	Chambers, Tim
Young Child	8	Rathsam, Michael



Photo Biography by Michael Rathsmann

I took a photography class in junior high and one in high school but nothing ever clicked. Asked for a camera for Xmas about 14 years ago and still nothing clicked. Then I asked for a zoom lens for the following Xmas and I was hooked. I started taking pix of concerts I attended (sneaking it in of course) and became obsessed with taking better pix. A few years of taking concerts along with sports pictures I decided to get really into it. I bought a Nikon N90S along with an 80-200/2.8 ED lens along with a 20/2.8 and a 28-70/2.8 lens, putting myself in debt in the process. I took pix of everything and subscribed to every known photo mag I could order. I also started doing weddings, which I really enjoy. I also started attending the PHOTOEXPO at the Javits center about 8 years ago. I attended anywhere from 5-8 seminars every year on a broad range of subjects. The amount of knowledge you learn from these seminars is extraordinary. These are given by not just pretty good photogs but the top professionals in the photo business. I ended up getting a second Nikon N90S as a backup for my wedding photography and adding a Tamron 200-400/5.6 lens about 7 years ago. This along with a set of studio lights and umbrellas/softboxes that I purchased also. A few years ago I also purchased 2 Pentax 6x7 along with a few lenses and a Polaroid back for one of them to check exposure with lighting setups. I bought an Epson R800 for some desktop photos and quick printing. I also bought an Epson 7600 along with an ImagePrint RIP 2 years ago when a business venture appeared. I use this for all my prints I enter into competition since it can print up to 24" wide. I bought a Nikon D70 about 1 1/2 years ago to enter into the digital realm and have never looked back. After printing a 12x18 from one of the first photo shoots with the camera I laughed out loud and said I'll never buy film again (p.s. 2 Nikon N90s and 2 Pentax 6x7's along with lenses and Polaroid Back are for sale). Even though this is only an advanced amateur level camera, it is ridiculously professional quality as to the print it outputs. I use Photoshop to open and adjust my photos but don't usually do anything outside of what could normally be done in a normal darkroom (ex. hue/sat, sharpen, crop). I belong to NAPP (Nat'l. Assoc. of Photoshop users) which is highly recommended to anyone. I'm always amazed at people who will spend about \$500 on a program but don't even spend \$30-40 on a book or a \$100 on a DVD learning program. I purchase as many books/videos/DVD's as I can, to me its so amazing as to what you can learn in a 2 hour DVD. As a final note I have interest in photographing just about everything, so I've never limited myself to say flowers/birds or whatever. If it looks good I'll take a picture. I try to schedule my vacations around photo excursions now, so I usually care more about my photo ops than a vacation itself since this really is my vacation.



PFLI Scores February 10, 2006			B&W A Prints		
Color B Prints			B & W Amaryllis in Window	20	Ellen Gallagher
Grounded	22	Tim Chambers	An Old Camera	23	Valerie Interligi
Home Sweet Home	22	Lorraine Piskin	Badlands Aglow	25	Bob Simari
Sunset at Point Lobos	22	Pat Simari	Flowers & Buds in B & W	24	Stephanie Cowan
Deep Stare	22	Michael Rathsom	Saugerties NY	24	Joanna Gazzola
Somebody's Home	24	Bob Brielmann			
B&W B Prints			slides A		
Rock & Sand	23	Michael Rathsom	Doors	22	Mel Ettinger
Tears	21	Tim Chambers	Badlands @ Nipple Bench	24	Bob Simari
Reflection	22	Harvey Rubenstein	Cyprus and Weathered Fence	21	Bob Simari
Young Child	21	Michael Rathsom	Scene #2	24	Mel Ettinger
Three Windows	21	Bob Brielmann	Arch #5	22	Ed Sandt
Color A Prints			slides B		
Iron & Steel	22	Mel Ettinger	Reflection	22	Lorraine Piskin
Laundry Day	24	Herb Barasch	Nice Pair	21	Tim Chambers
Pink Cyclemen Group	24	Stephanie Cowan	Rhubbarb	21	Bob Brielmann
The Greatest Show	25	Bob Simari	Bloom	22	Tim Chambers
Fall in the Tetons	25	Joanna Gazzola	Glisten	20	Lorraine Piskin
Monument Valley	23	Richard Imboden			
Paige # 143	24	Ken Thalheimer			
The Underworld	23	Ron Ettus			
Umbrellas # 1	23	Valerie Interligi			
Another Window	21	Ellen Gallagher			

MUSING and MUSINGS

by **Vivian Bass**

Kevin, of the Huntington Camera Club wrote an excellent article called "Keeping a Camera Club Relevant in a Digital Age." His article can be found in the January 2006 "Contact Sheet" at www.HuntingtonCameraClub.org. One of the points he emphasizes is the importance of learning through individual contact. Do read the article; it is something worth pondering!

I use a film camera and I love it but I do not love traveling with it. The weight and the accessories just weigh me down. Where should I keep the bounty when I am not shooting with it? Certainly not in the car or in a hotel room as grand as the hotel may be. This leads me to a change in strategy. A Point and Shoot camera! I do not have to worry about dust and sand. The camera could probably fit in a pocket and always be ready for that special shot. I can walk into a restaurant unencumbered. It has a built-in flash. What more can I ask for? Who am I kidding a new technology means new learning skills. The mastery of Photoshop has my attention. The transference of information from the digital camera memory card to the computer would put me on overload. Not a good prospect! The heck with the analysis. It is the end result which counts. Whether taken with a digital or film camera is irrelevant. The only relevant issue for this viewer is how an admired image is achieved. Exposure and lighting are key. Flash can be very helpful. Hmm.....flash. I came close to learning manual flash last year while at the PFLI Round Robin. I met Tony Corrado in the lobby as he was leaving and he put some light on the subject. The 112 page flash manual is not of much help. I need individual contact!

I realize many of you are shooting with a digital camera and have seemingly retired your film camera for the time being. May I suggest that you bring it out of retirement, at least temporarily. You might experiment with a roll of Fuji Velvia 100 slide film or Velvia 50.

Please join me and a few others in keeping this art form alive. Not only is it satisfying to see an image projected with true colors, slides tend to showcase the photographer's knowledge and understanding of capturing the light in its purest form. In essence, slides pay homage to the film camera and the photographer.

There are many paths in photography. Reacquaint yourself with older paths. Try new paths, have fun and enjoy!