

# The Lens and Eye



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## A Very Hot but Successful Annual Picnic

Fifty-two members and guests turned up in the 96-degree heat on July 14 for our annual picnic held at Steve and LeeAnna Silverman's home. Cherry Wyman organized the event with help from Riko Saidel, her husband and grillmaster Andy, and Claudia and Bill Seelig.

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### September Competition Assignment: Worn or Weathered

Photograph an object, person, or animal that depicts a worn or weathered state such as an abandoned building, a rusty truck, wrinkled hands, a withered leaf or a shed snake skin. The theme embodies the Japanese concept of "Wabi Sabi," in which aesthetic beauty is discovered in impermanence, imperfection and incompleteness. (Must be taken on or after September 1, 2022)

**Electronic (EIC)** competitors, please send your images as email attachments to [nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com](mailto:nbccmdEcomp@gmail.com) no later than 7:30 p.m., **Sunday, September 1.**

**Print (PIC)** competitors\*, please send your images as email attachments to [nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com](mailto:nbccmdPcomp@gmail.com) no later than 7:30 p.m., on **Sunday, September 1.**

You are responsible for confirming with the coordinator that your [correctly formatted](#) entries have been received. Failure to do so may result in your images not being entered.

\*Your mounted prints must be at the church by 7:15 p.m. on competition night.

### Calendar

Events are **(H)YBRID** (in person and on Zoom), **(V)IRTUAL** (on Zoom only) or **(I)N PERSON** only. Links will be sent by GordieGram. **Events start at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.**

- Sep 4** Competition - Worn or Weathered Judge Bidyottam Mittra (I)
- Sep 8** Field Trip: Brookside Gardens, 9:00 a.m.
- Sep 11** Program: Visual Storytelling (V)
- Sep 18** Board Meeting (I)
- Sep 25** Member Expo Reception (I)
- Sep 25** New Member Reception, 7:00 p.m. (I)
- Sep 27** Field Trip: Dolly Sods, WV September 27-29





## September Competition: Worn or Weathered (I) Judge Bidyottam Mitra

**B**idyottam is an infectious diseases scientist by profession, currently at NIH, and a photographer by passion. His photographic journey started with a Fuji point-and-shoot camera he received from his dad as a high-school graduation gift. The limitations of a point-and-shoot camera forced him to explore compositional ideas from his formative days, seeking unique light and points of view to make his photographs stand out, qualities he found extremely helpful when he moved to an SLR and DSLR.

Bidyottam's foremost passion is nature photography, inspired by the masters Ansel Adams and Sebastiao Selgado. He has traveled extensively to photograph the American West as well as across the globe with the sole intention of capturing stories of the places and people in his images.

After settling in the DC area, he joined the Gaithersburg Camera Club in 2014, which opened a completely new world of photographic possibilities. He enjoyed planning and shooting photographs for themed competitions.

Currently, Bidyottam is one of the most successful members of the club, being named a "Grandmaster" in 2018 and winning six "Photographer of the Year" awards between 2017 and 2019. He has won awards in other competitions including a first-place award in the 2019 Maryland Photography Alliance (MPA) Photo Contest. His photographs have been published in magazines and



his images have been exhibited in multiple juried exhibits including MPA exhibits from 2017-19.

Bidyottam considers his association with the camera club to be a major influence in his personal development as a photographer. He gives back to the club in various capacities—in mentoring newcomers as well as sitting on the board. He discovered a new avenue to share his photographic experience and passion with fellow enthusiasts in the role of an MPA certified photo competition judge.



## September 11 Program: Visual Storytelling (V) J. P. Stones

Great storytelling can help your audience connect emotionally with your images. But understanding how to weave a narrative into your photography can be confusing. How can one photo tell a whole story, with a beginning, middle, and end?

J.P. has spent the last 5 years photographing the same group of Mexica, or Aztec, dancers. In that time he learned how connected the Mexica are to their mythology. To stories passed down across generations. That's when he decided that, as these stories were so vital to Mexica culture, they needed to play a bigger role in his portraits.

This is a talk is about what happened next. About how a desire to tell stories visually, ended up changing his entire creative process, and the way people react to his photos. Using examples from his [cultural photography](#) work in Mexico, J.P. Stones explores different ways to improve that emotional connection. Including how myths and character archetypes can be harnessed for better storytelling.

Working with narratives won't just change the way people engage with your photos, it will fundamentally change the way you create them. The narrative can also be used to guide decisions on posing, composition, lighting, and color, focusing your creative decisions and ensuring you create cohesive work.

JP has presented for professional organizations and camera clubs across the US, Mexico, and the UK. His work has been featured on the cover of multiple publications, including Good Light Magazine. He's been teaching his Photo Workshops for close to 10 years.

Topics discussed:

- How much of a story can one photo really tell?
- How being more intentional can change your approach.
- How photography can be about making an emotional connection as well as creating beautiful work.
- How thinking in stories can help guide your entire creative decision-making process.

- Tammy Trocki, Programs Committee



## September 25 Program: Member Expo - A Once-a-Year Opportunity (I)

A club favorite, this is a wonderful opportunity to share 6-12 images with a common theme. There are no critiques, no ins or outs - just an opportunity to showcase your photographic interests, new techniques, or your recent captures. Presenters will be invited to offer a few comments about why they chose their images, and then the Program Coordinator will project each image, one at a time, for about 10 seconds. Questions and comments are welcomed for each presentation. A sampling of submissions, images and topics, from years past are shown below.

Additional topics from prior years have included: birds, landscapes, guitar, monuments, memories, dreamscapes, creative macro, geometry, Baltic Sea, fall, animals, Great Smoky Mountains,

and Great Falls. As you can see, there is a wide range of topics! We only request that your images not be just a travelogue.

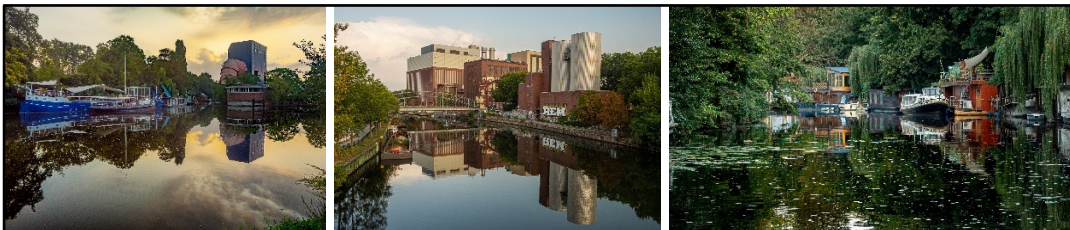
We look forward to another great evening this year, and hope to see work especially from, but not limited to, those who do not typically compete!

Submit your images from Monday, August 19 until Sunday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m. See a forthcoming GordieGram for submission guidelines. Until then, start thinking about and collecting images you would like to share! Participation will be limited to the first 20 submissions received.

Contact [Steve Lapidus](#) with comments or questions.



© Tom Gross – On the Farm in Black and White



© Kurt Focke – Berlin Reflections



© Bob Henderson – Play



## 2024-2025 Programs Lineup

**M**ark your calendar for an exciting lineup of programs:

- **September 11, Visual Storytelling with J.P Stones.**
- **September 25, Member Expo.**
- **October 30, Title TBD with Regina DeLuise.** A Guggenheim Fellow, Regina works with a large format view camera and the platinum/palladium print process. Her work is displayed at MOMA, the Smithsonian Museum of American History, the Metropolitan Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago and other well-known collections.
- **November 13, Panel Photo Critique.** Club members will be invited to share up to four images for feedback from three of our advanced photographers.
- **December 11, The Elements of a Compelling Photograph with Judy Graham.** Creator of stunning landscape images, Judy instructs at Capital Photography Center and has guided photographers from all over the world in the slot canyons of Arizona and the Wave along the Utah border. She will focus on the four elements of a compelling photograph: subject, composition, lighting, and timing.
- **January 29, Fine Art Street Photography with Phil Penman.** Phil will show us how to explore light, composition and shadows in capturing everyday moments wherever we are. He is a well-known NYC photographer and works primarily in black & white to document the city's vibrant and quirky character.
- **February 26, Master Photographer with Ruiqing Pamboukian.** NBCC Electronic Image Photographer of the Year in 2022, 2023, and 2024, Ruiqing will present images and insights from her photographic work.
- **March 26, Intentional Camera Motion with Stephanie Johnson.** Stephanie is a popular instructor at Santa Fe Workshops, a world-renowned speaker and instructor, as well as the Founder, Creator, and publisher of ICM Photography Magazine.
- **April 9, Title TBD with Alex Kilbee.** Host of the popular YouTube channel, The Photographic Eye, Alex will discuss developing your creative vision and photographic style.
- **April 23, Body of Work Critique with Alan Sisley and Sarah Salomon.** A popular recurring program, BOW features 8-15 images from several members of varying photographic expertise who want their work critiqued as a collection. The critique will be conducted by two of our most accomplished members.
- **April 30, Photo Essay Night.** For the second year, our annual photo essay show will be presented in person at the church with delicious refreshments. The Photo Essay Committee will show a diverse group of photo essays that mix music with images and that reflect the skill and creativity of our members.
- **May 28, TBD**

- *Cherry Wyman, Programs Chair*

## September 25 New Member Reception (I) Recognizing Our Newest Members!

**W**e are very excited to have SEVENTEEN new members for the 2024–2025 program year! As has been our tradition, we will host a New Member Reception to welcome our newest members to the club. Some will be familiar faces, having been on the wait list and participating in events last year, but many are brand new to us. They will all have a nametag with a reddish dot.

Our new member are:

- Joan Acosta
- Russell Acosta
- Simon Bradbury
- Karen Comstock
- Joan Farragher
- Quentin Fisher
- Rodolfo Ghirlando
- Lee Goodwin
- Lees Hartman

- Ilona Linnoila
- Matt Logan
- Stephen Lowenstein
- AJ Murch
- Ed Pien
- Wayne Shore
- Brian Smith
- Maryrose Stevens

The reception will start at 7:00 p.m. Weather permitting, we will gather in the courtyard outside our meeting room. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres, so do come with an appetite as well as a curiosity to meet new (to you) people!

Immediately after the reception at 7:30 we will be treated to the Member Expo program.

*- Toni Robinson, Membership  
Committee Chair*



## September 8 Field Trip: Brookside Gardens

Our September field trip will be going to Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD on Sunday, September 8. The group will meet at 9 a.m., photograph the grounds for a couple of hours, and go to lunch together afterward.

The rain date is September 22, if necessary.

Debby Berlyne will be leading the outing.

Email [Debby Berlyne](mailto:Debby.Berlyne@brooksidegardens.com) to sign up.

- *Beth Altman, Field Trips*





## New Member Profile: Karen Comstock

**A**fter earning post graduate degrees, teaching elementary school, being a stay-at-home mom, practicing social work, and teaching college-level social psychology, I retired and recognized I was burned out. Once I slowed down and took time for myself, I felt the creative impulse beating within me. An artistic creative impulse was always with me, but a busy adult life led me to overlook it. I took photographs of my children when they were growing up with those old Kodak throw away cameras, and to my surprise the process must have resonated with me because I chose photography as a creative path to pursue after retirement.

I took a few courses and workshops from Wesley Bernard who taught photography at a local community college in the Hudson Valley. Wesley taught me the basics, but more importantly, he guided me toward the goal of listening to my own inner artist and to produce photographs that are an authentic expression of my feelings about the subject. I eventually recognized that nature scenes most resonated with me and came to realize that the inspiration I found in nature was due to the influences of my family of origin.

Nature was my father's refuge to relieve the stresses of the day. He taught me to appreciate the natural world and the health-promoting properties that nature provides. His own father, who grew roses for years, showed me what a passionate hobby looks like - and the pleasure of a



simple rose. My grandmother loved growing flowers and vegetables and helped me to understand how deeply connected we are to nature. Childhood summers were filled with hikes along the banks of waterfalls, picnics, walks on the beach and swimming. All of these experiences fostered my love for photographing landscapes, intimate landscapes, flowers, and other close-ups of nature.

I believe photography is an art form. It is something we do to explore and express something deeply personal. Nature connects me to the influences of my past and it is the scenes of nature that ignite a strong emotional response within me. Rather than photographing for competition, my goal is to produce photographs of real encounters with mother nature and to express my work as a unique reflection of who I am.

As Wesley taught me, photography is a personal endeavor and if I trust my intuition as a developing artist, my work will continue to improve. By doing work deeply meaningful to me, expressing how I experience my subject with honesty, by taking risks

## **New Member Profile: Karen Comstock**

through exploration, and by not measuring my work against the standards or artistic tastes of others, my work will more likely be an authentic expression of who I am. This is my challenge. Easy it is not, but ultimately I do photography because it enlivens my soul, and if by chance one of my photographs inspires another to appreciate nature as I was taught, then that would be an added bonus.

I look forward to learning from NBCC's exceptional photographers, from the club's terrific speakers who present

new ideas and skills, and to go on some of the interesting upcoming field trips the club has planned.

Several of my nature photographs have been exhibited in the Hudson Valley at the Education Center at Teatown Lake Reservation, The Westchester County Center, the Art Gallery at Westchester Community College, and the Greenburgh Public Library. In September and October, I will have a photo on display at the "Lens on Life's Lessons" exhibit at Montgomery College.



## Splinters from the Board

If you weren't looking, you would have missed that our club's new program year got off to a great start this summer. While many of us took advantage of the warm temperatures to hit the beaches, we also found time to prepare for our first in-person meeting in September and for the program year beyond.

At our summer Board meeting in July, we learned that our 2024-2025 membership includes 157 renewals (though this figure could change as people move about) and 17 new members, who attended an orientation session in August via Zoom. Our waiting list is a bit smaller than in the past, so we need to think about ways to get the word out about our great club.

We also had a fun time at the annual picnic in July, held at the home of Steve Silverman. Including guests, 52 members ate hot dogs and hamburgers and plenty of veggie options. It was quite a feast and is always a highlight of summer.

At the Board meeting, we received a report on our finances and we remain in good shape. We ran a small operating surplus in 2023-2024, used a portion of our dedicated funds for trips to New York and Pittsburg (and an upcoming trip to West Virginia) and still retained reserves that we are using to supplement programming, keep dues modest and have available for emergencies. Our final operating budget will be approved in September.

Our Exhibits Committee has been getting ready for a fall exhibit at Montgomery College that will be incorporated in the college's curriculum. It's an exciting idea combining photography with words. We look forward to a reception in September to view the exhibit and meet the students.

Both the Programs and Field Trips Committees have been putting together their schedules to be ready for take-off in September. Our Judges committee has been lining up our judges for the coming competition year. And our fellow photographers at MAPV and MPA will be supplementing our club programs with their own competitions and speakers.

All of this activity, of which so many of you are a part, is essential to what makes us so proud of NBCC. We can't put on the rich scope of activities without the planning and participation of our members. Our club is so rewarding because we make it happen.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you in September.

- *Robert Barkin, President*

## Community Outreach

### Phabulous Photographers

In an ongoing outreach program, North Bethesda Camera Club has sponsored the "Phabulous Photographers" for nearly 20 years. We work with Potomac Community Resources (PCR) to teach basic photographic skills to PCR members. PCR is a private, non-profit organization that promotes the inclusion of persons with developmental differences - intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) - into all aspects of community life. See a [short video](#) about PCR.

Each month, we present them with an assignment which we hope will provide an incentive to try new things and learn to take better and more interesting images. We currently meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7-8 p.m. Since COVID, we have found Zoom to be a great way for all members to be involved in the discussions of their monthly results. Creating new, appropriate, and challenging assignments is always a tough part of our job.

We would love to have a few more NBCC members share an hour of their time each month to "gently" critique some unique photographs with some unique photographers. Please contact [Joel Hoffman](#) or [Judy Switt](#) if you are interested. It's only an hour of your time each month!

### June Assignment: Parts of Cars or Trucks



© Camille G



© Johnny K



© Michael A



© Thomas F



## Community Outreach (cont'd)

### July Assignment: Flowers



© Elaine F



© Mark F



© Marky L



© Elaine F



© Marky L



© Johnny K



© Sam F



© Sam F



© Mark F



© Thomas F

- Judy Switt, Phabulous Photographers  
Liaison

## Club News

### PSA Member News

**C**ongratulations to **Nancy Wolejsza** for winning a Silver Medal in the PSA Photo Travel Division Travel Essay Competition. Her essay is *Seeing Cuba Through its Art*.

**Judy Burr** received a Bronze Medal in the AFK Circuit in India in a portrait category for *Yukon Charlie*. "He was a character we met in Homer, AK years ago and was very willing to have his picture taken. I used Gigapixel to enlarge the original image and it has been successful in both color and monochrome." Judy also just earned her Galaxy 4 designation in PID-M (Projected Image-Monochrome Division) with 196 different titles and more than the required 588 acceptances. At the Galaxy level, a title can be used only 3 times, so often a person has extra acceptances that do not count towards recognition.

- Judy Burr, PSA Liaison



### Exhibitions

The next NBCC exhibit begins on Monday, September 9, at Montgomery College!

The opening reception is Thursday, September 12 from 5:00-7:00p.m. Be there to congratulate the 21 members displaying their work.

The venue is the Media Arts Gallery in Room 106 on the ground floor of the Technology Center (see map on the next page—there are no street addresses for buildings on the Rockville campus).

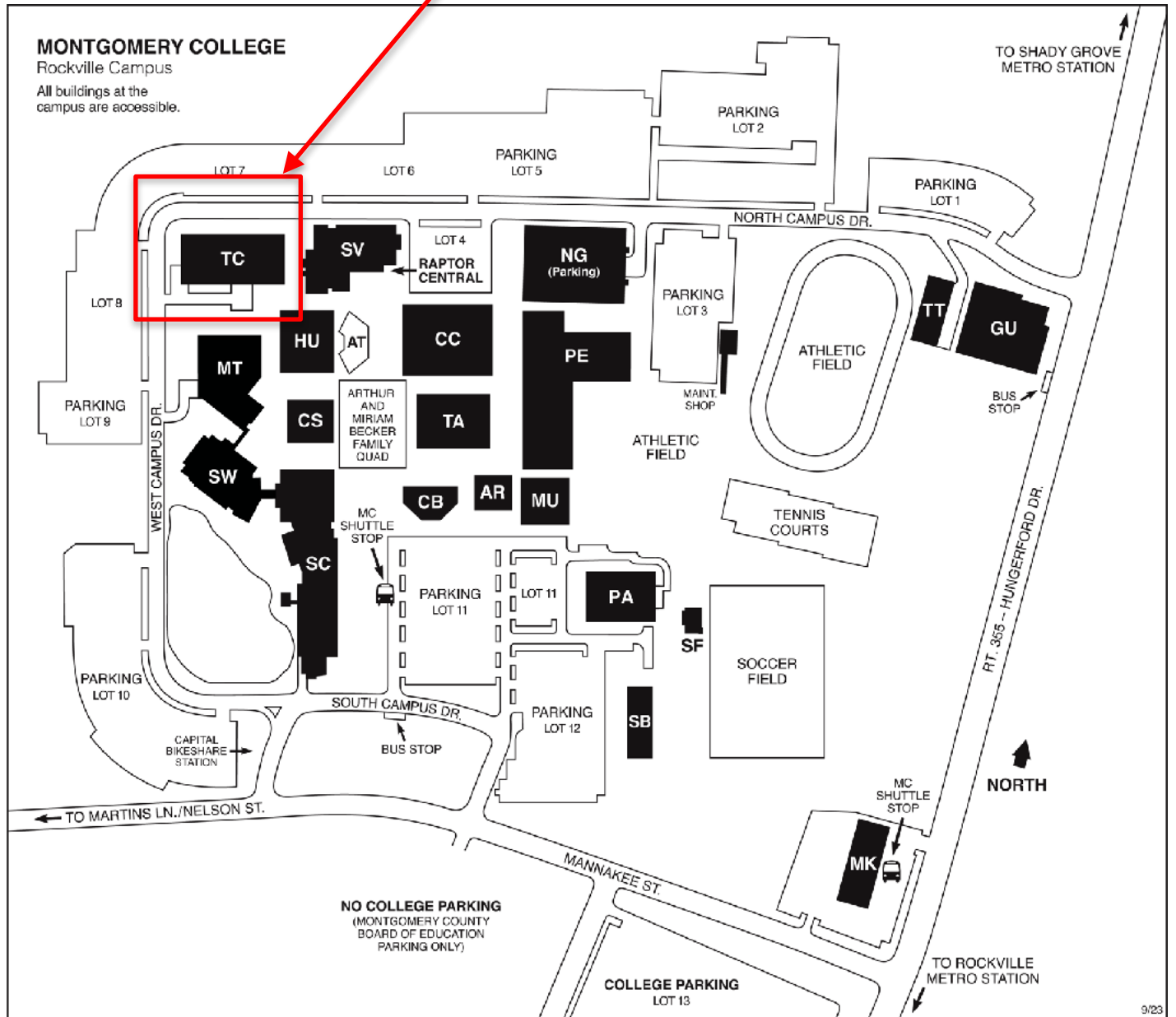


A Poor Man's Gift  
© Jack Rosenberg

- Kathryn Mohrman, Exhibits



# Club News (cont'd)



9/23

## Club News (cont'd)

### **Please Send Us Your Photography Workshop Reviews!**

Do you know that NBCC has created a listing of photography workshops and tours which our club members have taken and recommend? This resource can be found on the Club's website. (You can find it in the 'Members Only' section).

Have you taken a workshop or photo tour that you enjoyed and would recommend? You can provide a great service to your fellow club members by submitting your own reviews. We need just a few details:

- Workshop location (please include city/park and state/country)
- Names of workshop leaders

- Photographic focus, e.g. landscape, wildlife, architecture, ICM, etc.
- Website for workshop and/or leader - whichever you think would be most helpful
- Your name and email so members can contact you with questions
- A one-paragraph summary on what was special about the workshop and/or leader

Please email your reviews and any questions to [Craig Carlson](#).

- *Craig Carlson, NBCC Member with a Good Idea*



## NBCC Member News

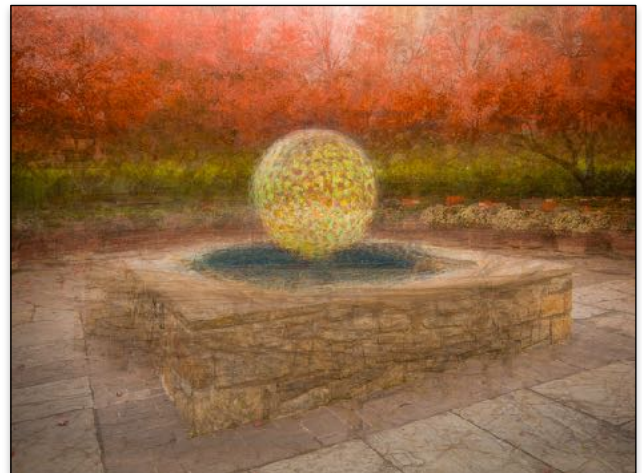
### Andrew Cohen

Andrew's photos and accompanying essay were selected to be featured in the magazine "Parenting Through Anything," a magazine focused on the diverse, creative experiences of caregivers. Issue number three, "Companionship," highlights relationships between fathers and their children. [View a preview of the magazine.](#)



### Debby Berlyne

Brookside Gardens featured Debby's photography in the summer issue of [Brookside Gardens newsletter](#). She thanks David Terao for recommending her for the newsletter feature, although she doesn't know why they call the feature "A Professional's View of Brookside," as she is not a professional nor does she think other featured photographers are professionals either.

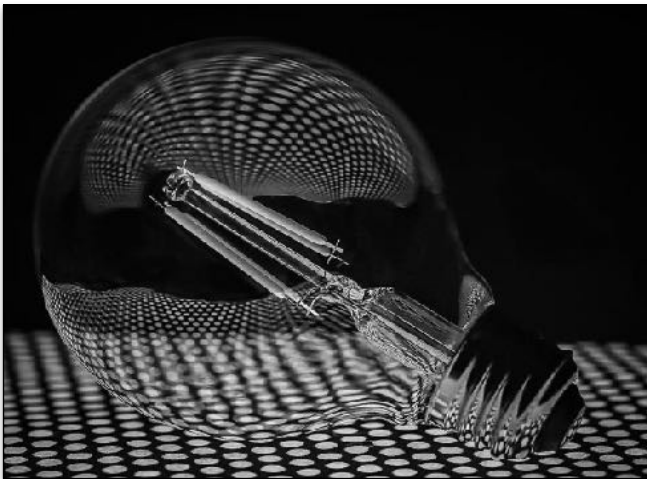




## NBCC Member News (cont'd)

### Cheryl Gillerman

Cheryl's photograph "Black White & Light" received a PSA Gold Medal, DPS Gold Medal and Judges Choice Award from the Delaware Photographic Society Circuit 2024 competition 2024.



### Matthew Jablonski

Matthew volunteers annually for the Arts & Crafts Exhibition at Montgomery County Fair. This year, he submitted two illustrations; one received a 1st Place honor and the other (shown below) received both 1st Place and Champion honors. He is authoring an article about his artistic process that will be featured in a later issue of The Lens & Eye.



### Beth Altman

Beth Altman was awarded first place for her image, Colors of Spring, at Dodge Chrome's photography exhibit.





**T**he MAPV 2024 Nature and Photo Art competitions are now open for entry. As an NBCC member, you can enter up to six images in each category. That means you have 12 chances to be juried into the show! The last day to submit images is Sunday **September 8, 2024.**

For descriptions of the categories, preparation of images, and a detailed calendar, go to the Competitions menu on the MAPV [home page](#).

To submit your images, log into with your existing log in ID and password. If you know what to do, click on "Enter your images here." If you need more instructions, click on "Submission Instructions."

New NBCC members who were on the wait list before June 1 should have received an email in July with login

information. If you were added to the wait list after June 1, please [email me](#).

If you do not have all of your login information, click on "Reset Password," enter the email address provided on your NBCC application and your last name. You will receive an email with your login name and a new password.

To confirm that your images have been received, click on the "Enter your images here" link to reach the submission page. You will see a list of categories and the number of images you have submitted in each one. Click on "Select" for a category to see thumbnails of the images you submitted. To delete an image, click on the applicable prompt.

*- Don Tobin, MAPV Representative*



2023 Best in Water and Best in Show  
© Robert Barkin



**T**his year, PSA is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The August issue of the *PSA Journal* includes an interesting timeline and shows when different aspects of PSA began. So this has been a great year for PSA—with a new headquarters building and adjacent gallery.

So you think you have to travel west for elk photography—you don't. The August *PSA Journal* includes an article on elk photography in Bennezzette, PA. The article includes information on best locations as well as equipment and other suggestions. Another article covers a small, interesting small town in Italy—Scanno. The local culture is shown well in the costumes and traditions.

NBCC is a club member of PSA and can take advantage of the services that are provided. More information is available on the [PSA website](#).

- Judy Burr, *PSA Liaison*

### **Notice for NBCC Membership Application**

PSA is a worldwide photographic organization. There are two main types of membership—club and individual. NBCC has been a club member since 1969 and that enables the club to participate in newsletter and website competitions as well as club photo competitions in different divisions of PSA.

Individual PSA members have different benefits, which include discounts on a variety of items, webinars, study groups/digital dialogs, individual competitions in architecture, landscape, still life, and portraits as well as membership in the Mid-Atlantic Chapter activities. A member-only section provides access to these activities.

Individual members pay for their membership, as does the club. If you are already a member of PSA, please answer yes on the NBCC application. If you are not a member of PSA and want to join, please contact me for more information. Do not say yes to the question on the club application if you are not an individual member. As the club PSA rep, I need to know which NBCC members are also members of PSA so I can help in any way you need to benefit more from your membership.



# NBCC Board of Directors, Committees & Appointments

## 2023 - 2024

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### OFFICERS

**President**

Robert Barkin

**Vice President**

TBD

**Secretary**

Sarah Salomon

**Treasurer**

Claudia Seelig

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### DIRECTORS

Rich Chitty

Kent Mason

Toni Robinson

Cherry Wyman\*\*

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### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Competition**

Judy Switt\*

*Lightbox:*

Geoff Hornseth

Dick Pelroy

Nikos Zacharakis

*Coordinators:*

Max Kantzer\*

Robert Barkin

Robert Mazziotta

**Membership**

Toni Robinson\*

Isaac Afrangui

Michael Blicher

Guillermo Olaizola

Cherry Wyman

**Judges**

Cat Simmons\*

Isaac Afrangui\*

Pauline Jaffe\*

Andrew Cohen

Ruiqing Pamboukian

**Exhibitions**

Kathryn Mohrman\*

Beth Altman

Craig Carlson

Stan Collier

Tom Gross

Sue Guy

Sarah H. Salomon

**Field Trips**

Beth Altman\*

Larry Ballon

Marge Bloom

Bruce Davis

Cynthia Keith

George Kiebuszinski

Shaun Moss

Dick Pelroy

Paul Schmitz

Maude Svensson

Jim Turner

**Education**

Jill Randell\*

Lorraine Vinci\*

Gail Bingham

Dick Knapp

Toni Robinson

**Programs**

Cherry Wyman\*

Judy Ackerman

Craig Carlson

Harriette Fox

Evelyn Jacob

Steve Lapidus

Kent Mason

Toni Robinson

Jack Rosenberg

Tara Ryan

Tammy Trocki

**MPA**

Carol Lee\*

**MAPV**

Don Tobin

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### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**Community Outreach**

*Phabulous*

*Photographers*

Joel Hoffman\*

*Montgomery County*

*High School*

*Photography Program*

Cat Simmons\*

*Focus on Climate*

Craig Carlson\*

**Equipment**

Max Kantzer\*

Ather Ashan

David Davidson

Bennett Fletcher

Bill Iverson

**Hospitality**

Riko Saidel

Ira Adier

William James

Paul Schmitz

Bill Seelig

**GordieGram**

**Administrator**

Christina

Papakonstantinou\*

Toni Robinson

**Photo Essay**

Stu Mathison\*

Betty Caldwell

Peter Dunner

Max Kantzer

Joanne Mars

Nancy Morrison

Mark Segal

John Willis

Nancy Wolejsza

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### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

**Lens & Eye**

Lisa Maco\*

**Facebook Group**

**Administrator**

Toni Robinson

**Database**

**Administrator**

Bruce Cyr

**Dinner Reservations**

TBD

**Share & Care  
Representative**

Pauline Jaffe

**Information  
Systems Coordinator**

Rich Chitty

**Chat Group  
Administrator**

Toni Robinson

**Website**

John Allender\*

Mark McDonough

Rich Chitty

**PSA Representative**

Judy Burr

**Church Liaison**

Rich Chitty