

# The Lens and Eye



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1st Place  
Story of Spring  
© **Ruiqing Pamboukian**

This photo was taken in a residential area of a neighborhood in Germantown last year. Every spring, Great Herons make nests on the same tree. I was thrilled to catch this moment - two of them sharing affection beneath a breathtaking sunset light which casts them in a radiant frame. The dark blue background is the roof of a house in the neighborhood. I was touched by this truly romantic scene.

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### December Competition Assignment: OUT OF FOCUS

The photograph must contain at least one element that is purposely out of focus that contributes in a significant way to the overall success of the image. The creation of your "out of focus" element(s) must be done "in-camera" and NOT on the computer. Examples include: bokeh, blur motion, intentional camera motion, or shallow depth of field. The entire image also can be out of focus to achieve a painterly aesthetic. (Must be taken on or after December 1, 2021)

**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, **December 3.**

**Print** 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, **December 3.**

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 7:20 p.m. on competition night.

### Calendar

Events are **(V)IRTUAL** (only on Zoom and not in person) or **(I)N PERSON** only. Links will be sent by GordieGram. **Events start at 7:30 p.m. unless noted otherwise.**

**Dec 3** Deadline, Competition Entries  
**Dec 6** Competition: Out of Focus (I)  
**Dec 13** Program: Panel Critique (I)  
**Dec 20** Board Meeting (V)  
**Dec 27** No meeting - Holiday Break





## December 6: OUT OF FOCUS Competition Judge Rob Hill

Robb Hill's photographic work focuses on understanding how identity and place intersect to create our notions of self and belonging. By emulsifying two photographic traditions - documentary and landscape - into one methodology Hill takes a fresh approach to both forms. His blending of personal narrative with a documentary approach is his attempt to remove the omniscient narrator from his work to allow viewers to be welcomed participants.

Hill grew up in Southern Indiana and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Documentary Photography. He has lived and worked in Budapest, Chicago, Atlanta, and now Washington D.C. During the Pandemic, in 2020, Hill returned to his journalistic roots by freelancing mostly for The Washington Post and other news organizations.

Robb's project *HomeLands* has been featured in the [New York Times Lens Blog](#), [NPR's The Picture Show](#), and [Lenscratch](#). He has exhibited throughout the midwest.

When not wandering the streets photographing, he can be found playing drums in Midwest Industrial, an all-original rock band with his wife, or the Big Bang Jazz Band.



© Robb Hill



**December 6: OUT OF FOCUS Competition (cont'd)**  
**Judge Robb Hill**



© Robb Hill



© Robb Hill

## Program December 13: Panel Photo Critique

**N**BCC Members are invited to submit up to 4 photos to the 2023 Panel Photo Critique scheduled for Wednesday, December 13. The Panel Photo Critique will employ a panel of three experienced NBCC photographers to review and comment on your images: Evelyn Jacob, Cynthia Keith, and Kent Mason.

This is an excellent opportunity for NBCC members to get quality feedback on their photographs. There are no awards – just actionable advice from some of our top experts. Names will not be displayed and participants may choose to remain anonymous. We encourage you to speak up if the panel has questions or if you need to clarify their comments.

The critique is conducted as follows:

- Each NBCC Members may submit up to 4 electronic images.
- Number your submitted images 1 through 4 in your priority order for having them critiqued (just in case we don't get through all the images). The panel will critique all #1s first, then proceed with #2s, etc., until we either finish them all or run out of time.
- The panel will view each image and offer their assessment of its strengths and weaknesses in the context of an external competition or juried exhibit.
- A timekeeper will assist the panel in staying on pace, so they complete a thoughtful analysis and commentary on as many images as possible.

Participants should submit images in a process similar to the Electronic Image Competition: JPG files with maximum dimensions 1920w x 1200h pixels. There is no time restriction on when the images were taken, no theme, and no level distinction (novice, intermediate, or advanced). Each image will be critiqued on its merits.

The filename convention for the Panel Photo Critique is as follows:

Priority Number-Your Name.jpg.

For example:

1-John Smith.jpg

2-John Smith.jpg

Submit up to 4 images as attachments to a single email, and send them to: [nbccmdprog@gmail.com](mailto:nbccmdprog@gmail.com)

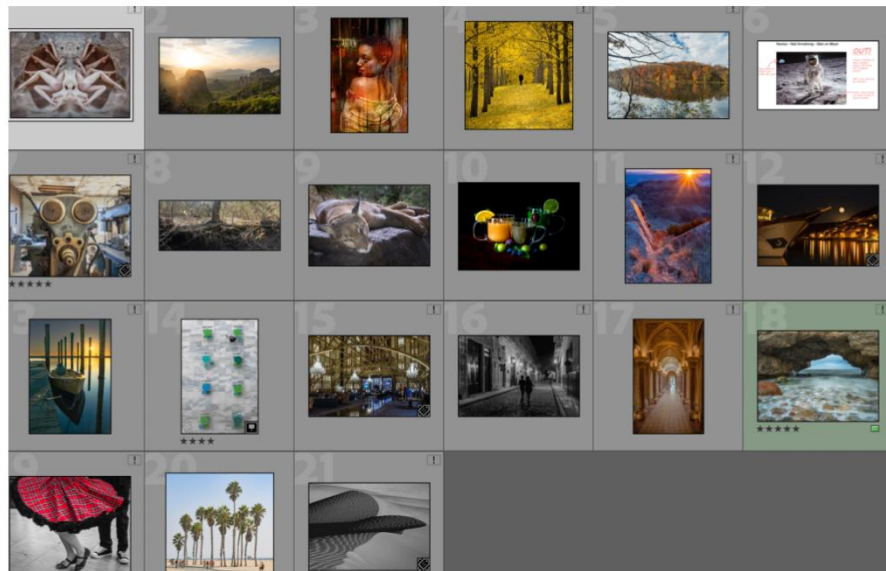
Submissions will be accepted from **7:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 29** and until **7:30 p.m., Sunday, December 10**. Receipt of your images will be confirmed by personal email. Make sure to follow up if you do not receive a confirmation email. Contact [nbccmdprog@gmail.com](mailto:nbccmdprog@gmail.com) with questions.

The following page shows a summary, by round, of the images submitted for the panel to critique in December, 2022.

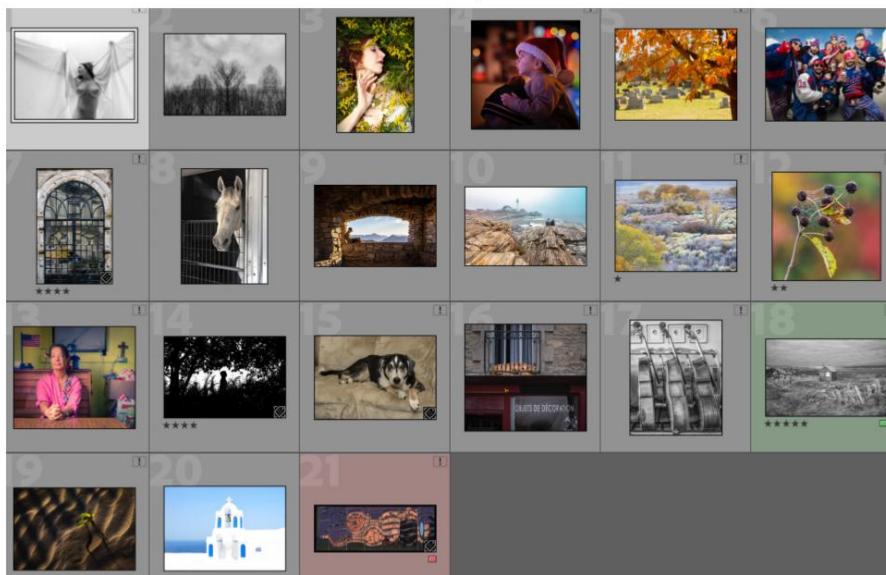


## Program December 13: Panel Photo Critique (cont'd)

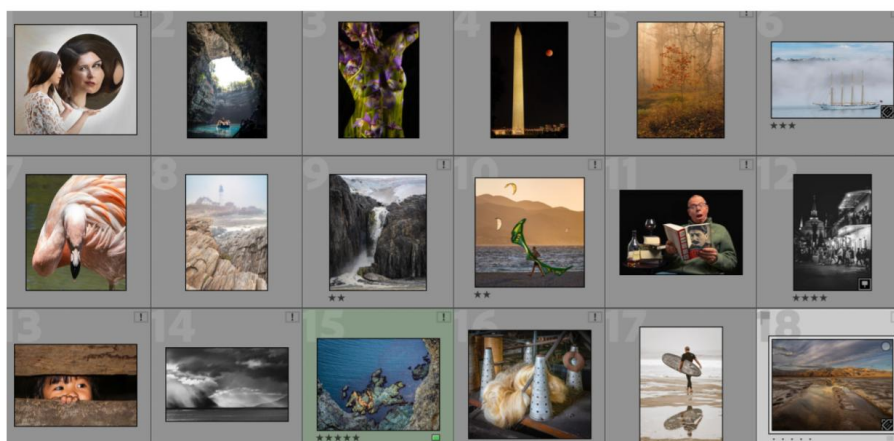
### Group 1



### Group 2



### Group 3



## Splinters from the Board

**W**e are well into the program year and members who have attended the last few in-person meetings can attest that we are greatly enjoying each other's company, refreshments, and glitch-free evenings. Meetings are now full of energy and members are connecting with each other. Special thanks go to Max Kantzer for setting up dry runs prior to meeting nights and resolving potential problems.

In-person meetings will always be the most satisfying for camaraderie, but for those of you who can't make them, Max has spent hours troubleshooting our hybrid setup and is close to a solution.

A reminder of our in-person meeting etiquette. Please arrive by 7:30 and to stay until the end of the program or competition. During competitions, please respect the efforts of the competitors by staying for the entirety of the judging. COVID is on the rise, again, so please take precautions and be proactive (wear a mask if you are concerned, and test if you have any, even minor, symptoms).

The board is moving forward on several new initiatives:

- One or two **short trips with a workshop leader** to supplement our field trip offerings. Margaret Colaianni and Rich Chitty have

assembled a team composed of most of the same members who created and managed the 2021-2022 Anonymous Gift trips and workshops.

- The implementation of a **Competition Image Gallery (CIG)** headed by Toni Robinson's team that will display all images submitted for competitions in an online gallery. Be on the lookout for a GordieGram soon. [Here's a sneak peak.](#)
- An **Artificial Intelligence Task Force** headed by Bob Murphy that will assess commonly used image processing software in terms of their compatibility with our existing competition rules and make recommendations for changes in the rules, if appropriate. It might also consider other options for engaging with AI.
- A tiger team headed by Toni Robinson that will explore ways to encourage printing for multiple reasons.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in person!

- Cherry Wyman, NBCC President

## New Member Profiles

### Amy Gilbert

Amy Gilbert spends her days immersed in photography - but not her own. She is developing and encouraging student photography skills as the photography teacher at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, MD. Three times students have received grand prizes. For the 2023 competition, five of her students were selected as finalists out of ten total. Her student Joseph Bloomfield won the MAPV student competition for his image "Fox." She believes competitions can be great motivators for talented students, especially those who lack confidence.

She has always been involved in the arts, starting out in the music recording industry in graphic arts and advertising. For NBCC members who love indie grunge music from the '80s to the early '00s, she probably knows more about these bands and has more first-hand accounts than anyone else in the club. For classical music lovers, she shared that she met Vladimir Horowitz at his last public appearance and saw Joshua Bell in a conference room.

Amy's interest in photography began in 2003 when she got her first point and shoot camera. This was also about the time she decided on a career change. She had taught herself the Adobe programs for graphic design and started taking classes at Montgomery College. "I was really planning on just getting a certificate to prove that I really knew those programs," she said. "I decided to take



photography classes just for fun. But after my first photography course, I realized this was for me." "I took all of their photography courses and had a 4.0. for my associate's degree." From there, she got her Bachelor's and Master's degrees at University of Maryland with a plan to teach. After a year of substitute teaching at four different schools including Winston Churchill High School, she was offered a full-time position there as an art teacher.

She is enthusiastic about many forms of photography, "liking a bit of everything." Abstracts and repeating patterns are a current focus. She mentioned that she had happened upon an old staircase at the



## New Member Profiles (cont'd)

### Amy Gilbert (cont'd)

Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery a few years ago when she was there for a Saturday course. "It was so beautiful, spiraling yet rectangular. All I had with me was an old iPhone, but I snapped the photo anyway," she said. "It was the first photo I ever sold."

One of the photographers she finds inspiring is Irving Penn, particularly his still lifes. "I love how the light hits the everyday objects, transforming them into art," she said. Another is the Chinese photographer, Fan Ho. She admires his almost minimalist style and pointed out that one of his most famous works, "Approaching Shadow," features a dramatic diagonal shadow, added in the darkroom. In a completely different style with his large formal industrial landscapes, Edward Burtynsky was the third photographer she mentioned with interest.

Some of her staircase photos were exhibited at a three-person show at Back End Studios in Washington, DC, in August through September of this year. You can see more of her work on Instagram @a.gilbert.photo.

When asked how she learned about NBCC, she said she had been going to Nature Visions (now Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions) for about 10 years and had noticed the quality and success of club members' photos.

*- Jean Solari, New Member Profile Volunteer*

### Cheryl Gillerman

Inspired by Andy Warhol, Cheryl likes her photos to "pop." She liked Warhol's ability to make art out of simple things. "I want my photos to be shocking, to make you feel something, and make you remember them." A great example is her October First Place NBCC Electronic Novice win for "Franken Apples," a photo of yellow and red apples cut and stapled back together, each consisting of a red and yellow half.



During the pandemic, She started taking and exhibiting more photos and had two honorable mentions in the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit. One was "Glowing Sparkler," a black and white shot taken when her family got sparklers for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The second was "Rainbow Thread," a photo she made in her basement studio out of some everyday sewing items. It takes talent, creativity and hard work

## **New Member Profiles (cont'd)**

### **Cheryl Gillerman (cont'd)**

to turn these common items into exhibited art. "It took me two months to make "Rainbow Thread." I tried shots from different angles and waited for just the right light," she said. "I think about shots for a long time -- what I want, and how I'm going to get that to work."

Cheryl's work has been in several exhibitions and has placed in some competitions in the past few years. For example, she exhibited in The Blackrock Center for the Arts exhibit, "Photography Now: The Abstract Eye," in 2022. She also won two Honorable Mentions in the 2023 Maryland Photography Alliance competition. One was in the Maryland After Dark category for her amusement park photo, "Hang on Tight." The other Honorable Mention was for "Black, White & Light," in the Black and White category.

A life-long love of photography has allowed Cheryl to express her visual creativity in every decade. As a child she started taking photos with "tiny, little cameras" of her dog dressed in little clothes. In the 1980s, she enjoyed studio photography using film and she recently set up a basement studio using her Canon 5D Mark III with a macro lens. Her other camera is a Sony a7RV.

After some years focused on running, including marathons, she still loves to work out at the gym and take her dog for walks.

A Gaithersburg resident, she is also a member of the Gaithersburg Camera Club. She found NBCC photos "phenomenal" and was encouraged to join the club by a member she met while waiting in line at Michael's to get a picture framed.

Her Instagram account is  
@c.gillerman.photography.

*- Jean Solari, New Member Profile Volunteer*

## **Tech Talk: *An Invitational Column for Members by Members* Using Adobe's Lens Blur Filter**

**A**dobe's recently introduced Lens Blur filter is designed to allow the emulation of photographs taken at extremely wide apertures such as F0.9, F1.0, F1.2, etc., regardless of the aperture used to capture an image. The Lens Blur filter is available in both Lightroom and Adobe Camera Raw.

### **The Background Tech**

The lens blurring emulation relies upon the ability to estimate the distance between every point in an image and the sensor used to take the image. The set of all estimates of such distances for an image is called its "depth map." Virtually every smart phone image includes its depth map in its EXIF data, but currently no DSLR or mirrorless camera creates images with depth maps. Instead, a Depth Map for an image is created using Artificial Intelligence (AI), specifically, a form of Performative (or Algorithmic) AI where machine learning is used to determine how to calculate a Depth Map. It is similar to the technology used to apply AI sharpening to an image. No Generative AI involving other images is used in this process.

Once a depth map has been calculated for an image, determining how each pixel should be rendered can be calculated from existing technology for creating blurs.

### **Where Would You Use Focus Blur**

In general, you might use this technology wherever you want a blurred background. Consider a bird photographer who uses one of several affordable telephoto zooms at 600mm with a maximum aperture of F6.3 to photograph warblers, which are hyperactive subjects approximately 4.5"-5.5" in size at distances of 10'-100' as they dart around plucking larvae and insects in newly leafed-out trees.

The backgrounds from the telephoto zoom have distracting details that wouldn't be nearly so salient if the photographer were using a 600mm F4.0 prime lens. The warbler shots of the hypothetical telephoto zoom bird photographer would be prime candidates for application of the Focus Blur filter. The possibilities are endless; it depends on the degree to which a busy background intrudes on appreciation of the subject of the photograph.

For example, many of the relatively inexpensive F0.9 thru F1.2 Chinese lenses currently being offered frankly produce poor results when used at their widest apertures. A kit lens used at F5.6 would likely render a sharper image than any of these lenses. You could apply a Lens Blur filter to such an image to produce the background blur of one of the inexpensive lenses while showing the subject to good effect. The background blur would complement the clarity of the portrait.



## Tech Talk (cont'd)

### Where to Add Focus Blur to Your Workflow

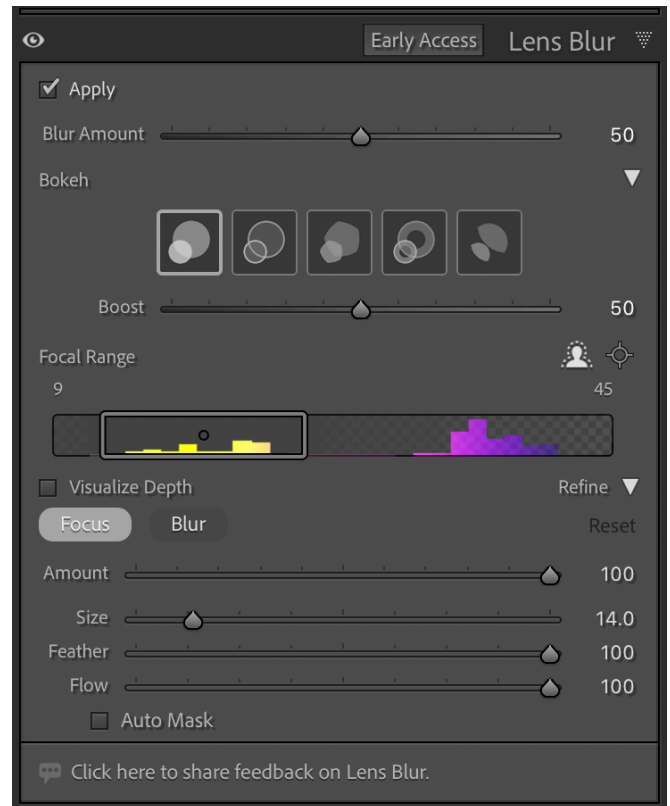
- Remove spots and do other major repairs before applying the Lens Blur filter.
- Apply masks after applying the filter. If you have masks applied before using the filter, their presence will drastically slow down performance of the Lens Blur filter.
- Do not sharpen your image before blurring. Blurring and sharpening have opposite effects on an image; you should carefully plan your sharpening so it does not operate in areas where the blurring effect is strongly present. Most sharpening software, such as Topaz PhotoAI, will selectively apply sharpening to the subject which probably would not be affected by the blurring process. You can always control where sharpening occurs by doing it in Photoshop and using a mask to select objects to be sharpened.

As Lens Blur is still under development, Presets, Copy/Paste settings, and Sync/Auto-Sync settings workflows are not supported.

### Where to Find the Tools

The Lens Blur filter is the third from last subpanel of the Lightroom Develop module. Click the “Early Access” button in the middle of the title line to reveal a dialog box that informs you that the feature is still under development. (While it doesn’t explicitly say that you might encounter unexplained problems, you should be aware that they are always possible.)

It offers you an option to inform Adobe of your experience with the filter in an online forum.



When you open the Lens Blur subpanel, the first option is a checkbox labeled “Apply.” Check this box and wait for the filter to work on your image. When finished, you can adjust the effect using the “Blur amount” slider (beneath the Apply Checkbox). I suggest playing with this slider to get a feel for what it is doing. Once you have adjusted it to one of the extreme positions you should pause and wait for the changes to become apparent.

Immediately beneath Blur Effect is a line labeled “Bokeh” with an arrowhead on the right side. If you

## Tech Talk (cont'd)

click on this arrowhead, it reveals five square icons. Each icon applies a different Bokeh effect:

- Circles: Modern circular lens
- Bubble: Standard circular shape with over-corrected spherical aberration
- 5-Blade: Commonly seen in vintage lenses
- Ring: Commonly seen in reflex or mirror lenses, also known as "Doughnut"
- Cat Eye: Typically caused by optical vignetting in certain lenses

The default option is the first one, Circle. The recommendation is to use Circle unless you are familiar with when and where the other four options are likely to occur. There is a further option line beneath "Bokeh" labeled "Boost", which allows you to darken or brighten the areas where the "Bokeh" effect is applied.

The next sections of the Lens Blue dialogue box are where you can begin to do serious work to affect the scope and nature of the blur affect. The next line is labeled "Focal Range." Right of this label are two icons. The first one is a depiction of the upper half of the human body in white with a kind of halo around the whole body. This icon represents the subject of the picture and is the default choice of the algorithm. Next to it is a kind of box which you can check if you want to indicate the point from which the blur should take effect.

Next is a graphic representation of the range of the blurring effect in relationship to the objects in the image. There is a rectangle that you can manipulate to change where the blurring effect takes place and how much of the image is affected by the blur.

Immediately beneath this is a line with a checkbox labeled "Visualize Depth." When you check the box, the image itself is covered by a mask whose colors range from bright yellow to dark purple. Bright yellow indicates something that is very close to the camera and dark purple indicates something that is distant from the camera. On the same line, on the far right, is an arrowhead labeled "Refine." Click to reveal a drop-down showing two boxes labeled "Focus" and "Blur." Clicking on either of these boxes bring up brushes and you use the sliders below to affect the brushes.

To learn more about how to apply the information in this article, I recommend the following articles:

- Julieanne Kost : [A fast and thorough walk through the controls.](#)
- Brian Matiash: [A Detailed, precise demonstration of how to use Lens Blur technology.](#)

## Tech Talk (cont'd)

- Anthony Morganti: [He is like a wise uncle who knows a lot of things but isn't the least bit pretentious in explaining them](#). He uses a different image to demonstrate use of each control. Lots of suggestions about how much/how little to apply blurring.
  - Colin Smith: [Text and included video that has detailed example of use of Focus and Blur Brushes](#).
  - Andrew S. Gibson: [Article on using Lens Blur's features](#).
- Bruce Cyr, Guest Contributor



**Lens Blur at 50**



**No Lens Blur**



**Lens Blur at 100**



## Club News

### Editor's Note News You Can Use

**T**his is my 3rd newsletter as Editor and I'd like to thank the people who have graciously helped me figure out what on earth I'm doing! They are Judy Switt, Toni Robinson, and Cherry Wyman.

This month, we are resurrecting our New Member Profiles thanks to volunteers Debby Berlyne, Michele Egan, Dick Knapp, Jean Solari, and Lorraine Vinci. One or more profiles will run each month through May.

We also have a new, periodic, column called Tech Talk intended to give everyone the opportunity to learn about some new technology related to our photography. It could be new camera gear, other photographic gear, new post-processing tools, new ways to use existing tools, and so on. My intent is for these to be columns contributed by any member of the club. If you have an idea for a topic you think would be useful to members, shoot me an [email](#) with the topic proposal. (I'd love to see a column about color grading.)

If you have ideas for other columns you would like to see in the Lens and Eye, I'm all ears!

- Lisa Maco, Lens and Eye Editor

### Education and Training Web Page has a New Look

Take a look at the [Education and Training](#) page on the club's website. It contains a sample of current and past classes with a brief overview of the class as well as images created by those in the small group.

We hope the amazing work produced by members who obtained new knowledge and skills will encourage more of you to sign up for groups or facilitate them. Our small groups are also a great opportunity to get to know club members better.

Check out the summary of classes that has some class openings and more program will be announced via Gordiegram and on the website in December for 2024.

- Jill Randell, Education Committee

### Exhibits Committee

On December 15th, NBCC opens *On the Streets Where We Live*, an exhibit of 60 photographs presenting glimpses of life in the Washington metro area. The Bohrer Activity Center in Gaithersburg (506 S Frederick Ave) is open every day, so come and see the great examples of street photography by club members. It's also a good activity for visiting relatives over the holidays!

## Club News (cont'd)

Advance alert: The next NBCC exhibit will take place at the Connie Morella Library in Bethesda for the month of March. The theme is *Closeups of Nature*. Stay tuned for submission guidelines and other details.

### Music for Photo Essays

The music soundtrack is a very important part of an essay. It's challenging to find appropriate music because there is so much music from which to choose. Good music choices can elevate an essay, and bad music choices can spoil an otherwise good essay.

Essay music is NOT background music. Background music is for elevators. Music that is dreamy and soporific will put the audience to sleep. Pick music that attracts interest and holds it. Music with energy is good. Music that conveys the right mood is good.

Your music can be instrumental or vocal. Vocal music should complement (i.e., be related to the images) or be in a foreign language that is not distracting.

Use high quality music files: e.g., MP3 format, 320 Kbps stereo.

Music can be copyrighted or royalty free. Most music purchased online or ripped from CDs is copyrighted and essays with copyrighted music **cannot be shown on the public internet,**

but **can be shown privately**. Essays with royalty-free music **can be shown on the public internet**.

Music sources include:

- Music files on your computer
- The music library in Photopia software (royalty free)
- Music websites providing royalty-free music, such as stock media website Pond5
- Music purchased from online sources such as iTunes, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Spotify, Pandora (copyrighted)

To assist in searching, these music sources may have filter categories such as instrumentals, vocals, length, themes, genre, styles, mood, tempo, and specific instruments. Using the search fields in music sources also allows you to use one or more key words.

You can think of the music in an essay the same way that movie makers think of the music in a film – intended to set a mood. The music may be dramatic, majestic, poignant, melancholy, happy/sad, lively/energetic, or tied to a place (e.g., "New York, New York").

Movie film scores are good music sources. For travel essays the music may come from the country, and it is a good idea when traveling to acquire a local CD that has local music not widely available.

## Club News (cont'd)

### Using Artificial Intelligence to Find Music

Some photo essays are more specific or esoteric than others and finding music, if you don't have a large personal library, can be especially challenging. Peter Dunner recently used Chat GPT to query "songs that are about Fall" and he found dozens of songs, including some easy-to-acquire Simon and Garfunkel songs. This is a more specific way to find songs that are illustrative. One could refine the the search and say "upbeat music about New York" or any other city.

A good choice is often jazz or classical music, both of which are vast, so you would need qualifiers such as "chamber music that is upbeat, or meditative, or slow and sad." The music could also be satiric or ironic or amusing.

Essay committee members are available to assist in selecting music.

The table below shows some essay music examples.

- *Stu Mathison and Peter Dunner, Essay Committee*

Essay Topic	Chosen Music
Street Photography	"Happy" by Pharrell Williams
Abandoned Psychiatric Hospital	"Amazing Grace" and "Change is Gonna Come"
Greek Island of Santorini	"Zorba Dance" from the movie
Autumn Leaves	French and English versions of "Autumn Leaves"
Children of the World	"May There Always Be Sunshine"
Africa	"Circle of Life"
Morocco	"Midnight in Morocco"
The Machine	"The Marvelous Toy" by Peter, Paul, and Mary
The Romantic Road (in Germany)	"Concerto in A for Flute, Strings and Basso"
Walking the Camino Trail (in Spain)	"Two Spanish Guitars" (Pond5)
Traditional Japan	"Dragon's Den" (ProShow library)
Mt. Hagen Sing Sing (New Guinea)	Live recording of the event
Aloft (drone photography)	"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" (movie soundtrack)



## Club News (cont'd)

### Phabulous Photographers

This month, the Phabulous Photographers were given the assignment "Worn or Weathered" and were instructed as follows:

"Your picture can be an abandoned building or even a rusty old truck. But it could also be an elderly person whose hands are very wrinkled. Maybe you just take a part of the rusty truck.

Your job is to make a really good composition. Here is your checklist:

- Are your lines straight?
- Is the lighting interesting?
- Maybe you could come back at a better time!
- Crop out the unnecessary background.
- Be SURE your subject is focused!!!"

Here are a few of the results.

- Judy Switt, *Phabulous Photographers Liaison*



© Mark



© Elaine



© Thomas



**M**id-Atlantic Photo Visions held its online Photo Expo on Sunday, November 5th. Over 350 people registered for the event. There were five excellent presentations:

- Rad Drew - The Power and Ease of iPhone Photography
- Tim Grey - A Great Photo from Planning to Post-Processing
- Julianne Kost - What's New in Lightroom Classic and Photoshop
- Simon d'Entremont - Sharpening Your Wildlife Photography Skills
- Colleen Miniuk - Finding Your Creative Voice

At the conclusion of the program, the winners of the 2023 MAPV Expo competition were announced. NBCC members received the two highest awards in Nature, which is very impressive, considering that there were 721 submissions in that category.

- Best in Show (Nature) - "West Virginia Falls" by Rob Barkin
- People's Choice (Nature) - "Misty Morning" by Ruiqing Pamboukian
- Best in Show (Flora) - False Dragonhead" by David Terao
- Best in Show (Landscape) - "Under Moon Light" by Ruiqing Pamboukian
- Best in Show (Macro) - "Long Legged Fly" by Jim Turner
- Best in Show (Water) - "West Virginia Falls" by Rob Barkin

Congratulations to Rob and Ruiqing and all of the NBCC members who submitted entries.

MAPV hopes to hold an in-person Expo in November 2024 at the Hylton Center in Manassas, VA, with an on-line component for people living outside the Metro Washington area.



**Best in Show - Water**  
**West Virginia Falls**  
© Rob Barkin



**People's Choice - Landscape**  
**Misty Morning**  
© Ruiqing Pamboukian





Mid-Atlantic  
**PHOTO  
VISIONS**

(cont'd)



**Best in Show - Flora  
False Dragonhead  
© David Terao**



**Best in Show - Macro  
Long Legged Fly  
© Jim Turner**



**Best in Show - Landscape  
Under Moon Light  
© Ruiqing Pamboukian**





## PSA Member News

Four members of NBCC attended the PSA Festival in Williamsburg, VA in September. We all enjoyed ourselves and the tours and programs we attended. Janice Solomon, who attended with Maude Svensson and her friend Rose from Canada, wrote "The three of us went on the PSA tours of Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestown, a tour of the USS Wisconsin battleship and other boats parked at the Norfolk Naval Station, the world's largest naval base with some of the largest battleships in the world. The last few days we attended seminars all day, and each night there was a great [keynote speaker](#)."

There were several seminars on photography and post-processing on the iPhone. The iPhone 15 ProMax (newest version) is much more advanced than the earlier versions. The free Snapseed app is the top recommended app for post-processing and has an amazing set of tools which appear to be easier to use than apps like Lightroom and Photoshop. You almost don't need a DSLR camera anymore! 3D photography seems to be a big thing, even though it's been around since the beginning of photography.

Frans Lanting encouraged us to use our photos to make a change where we live, for example to fight climate change, promote awareness of endangered species, etc. His photos are being used to cover city buses.

Nancy Wolejsza wrote, "Of special interest to me was an all-day drive to Newport News and the Nauticus Museum which included a tour of the USS Wisconsin. In addition, we had a 2-hour cruise of the harbor, going as far as Hampton Roads, one of the world's largest natural harbors, where you can see the strong presence of the US Navy.

"This year there were several presentations on the increasing photographic capabilities of cell phones and several programs on nature and wildlife photography. I also found the session on Photoshop techniques especially useful. The print exhibit hall had a very interesting mix of interests, ranging from a youth photography showcase to some elegant prints using an antique silver gelatin process."

Since I have attended quite a few PSA conferences, I was glad to have one closer to home. We went to Jamestown on our own, but participated in the Ghost Tour and boat trip Nancy mentioned with PSA. We attended the Breakfast Meetings for the Photo Travel Division and the Chapters, which provided an opportunity to learn what other chapters are doing. I especially enjoyed both the iPhone programs and found them to be helpful. I especially enjoyed hearing Frans Lanting after taking one of his classes online with Creative Live. His points about what we can do to save wildlife made more sense to me than a lot of what we hear.

Maude Svensson summed it up very well by saying, "What a great time we had! The photo ops were plentiful and the company was terrific."

The next festival will be held in Tucson, Arizona, on September 16-21, 2024. This location will provide a very different experience for those who attend.

### **NBCC Competition Image Gallery Sneak Peak**

Coming soon...see [Splinters from The Board](#) for more info



**Advanced EIC Entry**  
**Gorilla with Infant**  
© David Terao



**Novice EIC Entry**  
**Look What I Brought You**  
© Patricia Bochi



**Intermediate EIC Entry**  
**Winding Down**  
© Cherry Wyman

**T**he Awards Ceremony for MPA's 7th Annual Photography Contest was held on Sunday, October 29th. As always, this was a very competitive event. There were 933 submissions from MPA camera club members and unaffiliated photographers. The categories of Wildlife and Architecture proved to be the most popular. The contest had a panel of three judges - Dennis Hammon, Susan Middleton, and Tom Bol - who provided commentary on the winning images.

Our NBCC members did very well with 9 of our members winning 14 awards in 4 categories.

#### Architecture:

Isaac Afrangui - 3rd and HM  
James Corbett - HM  
Al Neyman - HM  
David Terao - 2 HMs  
Tom Gross - Runner Up  
Ruiqing Pamboukian - Runner Up

#### Wildlife:

Ruiqing Pamboukian - 2 HMs  
Max Kantzer - Runner Up

#### Sports:

James Corbett - 2nd  
Saul Pleeter - HM

#### Maryland After Dark:

Lorraine Chickering - Runner Up



**Architecture - 3rd**  
**Fuji TV Tower**  
© Isaac Afrangui



**Sports - HM**  
**A Future Messi**  
© Saul Pleeter





**Wildlife - Runner Up**  
**Flamingos of the Camargue**  
© Max Kantzer



**Architecture - HM**  
**Tokyo International Forum**  
© Isaac Afrangui



**Architecture - Runner Up**  
**Going Up**  
© Tom Gross





**Wildlife - HM**  
**Playful Dustup**  
© Ruiqing Pamboukian



**Wildlife - HM**  
**Catch of the Day**  
© Ruiqing Pamboukian



**Maryland After Dark - Runner Up**  
**Blooming Over Baltimore**  
© Lorraine Chickering



**Architecture - HM  
Kalorama  
© David Terao**

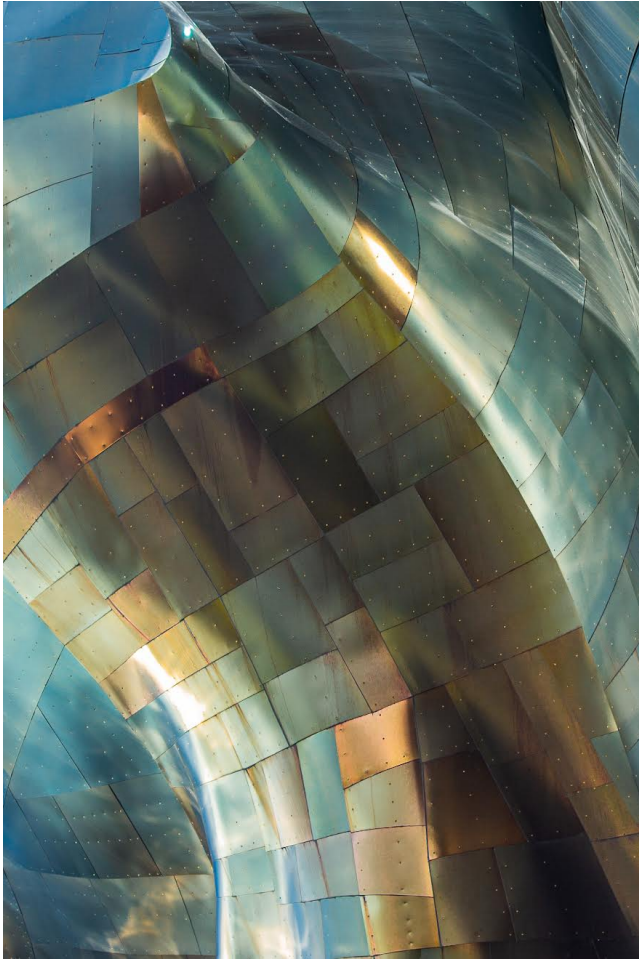


**Architecture - HM  
Framed  
© David Terao**

**Architecture - HM  
Architectural Flow  
© James Corbett**







**Architecture - HM**  
**Museum of Pop Art Detail**  
© Al Neyman



**Sports - 2nd**  
**Dirt Jump Dancer**  
© James Corbett



**Architecture - Runner Up**  
**Mystical Morning at Washington Monument**  
© Ruiqing Pamboukian

# Competition Results: November (FAMILY)

## Judges: David Blecman

### PRINTS

#### Intermediate (10 entries)

1st	Lisa Maco	Perfect Family
2nd	Lisa Maco	Sibling Connection

#### Advanced (10 entries)

1st	Nikos Zacharakis	Nature Gang
2nd	Nikos Zacharakis	Mother Nature's Kiss
3rd	Bill Seelig	Say Daddy

### ELECTRONIC IMAGES

#### Novice (18 entries)

1st	Nolan Rappaport	Birthday Party
2nd	Cheryl Gillerman	Newlyweds
3rd	Janice Solomon	Jonah & Micah's Bar Mitzvah
HM	Debby Berlyne	Laughing Duckling

#### Intermediate (39 entries)

1st	Jill Randell	Hungry Meerkats
2nd	Isaac Afrangui	Morning Swim
3rd	Jennifer Nguyễn	Siblings Playing Together
HM	Lorraine Chickering	Snowy Snookums
HM	Steven Hannes	Family of Elephants (Reacting to Hot Air Balloon)
HM	Cecelia Laurendeau	Family Feud
HM	Cecelia Laurendeau	Roseate Youngins
HM	Jennifer Nguyễn	Mom Feeding
HM	Don Picard	Holding Tight
HM	Cherry Wyman	Don't Leave, Mama
HM	Cherry Wyman	Winding Down

#### Advanced (33 entries)

1st	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Story of Spring
2nd	Max Kantzer	Sunset Walk
3rd	Robert Barkin	Lined Up
HM	Michael Blicher	Wood Duck Family
HM	Ruiqing Pamboukian	Nurturing
HM	Chet Stein	Mating Ritual
HM	David Terao	Gorilla with Infant

## Competition Reminder

Please remember that in ALL competition categories "Identifying marks such as a name or title must not appear on the image" as stated in Competition Rule #10.

# NBCC Competition Results

## Cumulative Scores Through November 2023

### PRINTS

#### Intermediate

19	Lisa Maco
10	Steven Frahm
10	Tom Marchessault
9	Steve Lapidus
9	Dennis Leister
8	Bob Henderson

#### Advanced

44	Nikos Zacharakis
20	Dick Pelroy
9	Peter Dunner
8	Bill Seelig
6	Bruce Cyr

### ELECTRONIC IMAGES

#### Novice

20	Debby Berlyne
19	Cheryl Gillerman
19	Pauline Jaffe
16	Janice Solomon
15	Mark McDonough
12	Sen Priyali
10	Nolan Rappaport
6	Judy Ackerman
6	Larry Brauer

#### Intermediate

21	Erico Silva
20	Jennifer Nguyễn
18	Tom Gross
18	Jill Randell
16	Steve Parker
16	Maude Svensson
15	Isaac Afrangui
12	Kurt Focke
12	Cecelia Laurendeau
12	Bob Mazziotta
12	Cherry Wyman
9	Beth Altman
8	Sue Guy
6	Lorraine Chickering
6	Meg Clark
6	Steven Hannes
6	Bob Henderson
6	Al Neyman
6	Don Picard
6	Don Tobin
6	Peter Winik

#### Advanced

39	Ruiqing Pamboukian
28	Michael Blicher
22	Toni Robinson
18	Chet Stein
18	David Terao
15	James Corbett
12	James Chia
8	Robert Barkin
8	Dick Knapp
6	John Willis



## Intermediate Print Winners November FAMILY Competition



1st Place  
Perfect Family  
© **Lisa Maco**

The mom is recently divorced with children aged 5, 4, and 3. They had been with their dad all weekend, apparently eating nothing but candy, had no baths, no naps, and the 3 year old was just potty-trained. The mom raced around frantically getting them ready for the session. The little one had a potty-accident during the session, but we still got lots of sweet photos. This is what life is like with little ones, and so it's Perfect!

2nd Place  
Sibling Connection  
© **Lisa Maco**

This Italian family with kids aged 18, 14, and 11, is here with the Embassy. Their home contains a giant gallery wall of family photos from all around the world due to their travels. The youngest boy has some learning differences and the oldest boy has been away at boarding school for the past 4 years and yet they have a deep connection. The sister adores them both. So they are siblings, very connected.



## Advanced Print Winners November FAMILY Competition



1st Place  
Nature Gang  
© **Nikos Zacharakis**

My daughter with her friends explore a hiking path during a camping trip. To see those young kids feel comfortable with nature and enjoying it too was rewarding. Their red clothes in this flourishing green environment and their walking formation made this a picture-worthy moment.

2nd Place  
Mother Nature's Kiss  
© **Nikos Zacharakis**

This is my wife and daughter during a nature walk last autumn. The beauty in the leave's colors and the tremendous love of a mother to her daughter during a random moment makes the instance really worthy to be captured.



3rd Place  
Say Daddy  
© **Bill Seelig**

This photo was taken at a family picnic. It was in a backyard with soft light and it was lucky that the colors all happened to balance with one another. I was shooting straight-down and just happened to capture a moment with pleasing expressions.





## Novice EIC Winners November FAMILY Competition

### 1st Place Birthday Party © **Nolan Rappaport**

My picture captures parents taking a photo of themselves and their son with an iPhone mounted on a table tripod. They are celebrating their son's sixth birthday.



### 2nd Place Newlyweds © **Cheryl Gillerman**

I took the photo on March 6, 2023 when I went to the Tidal Basin to photograph the Cherry Blossoms. The high water levels in the Tidal Basin had flooded the walking paths near the Jefferson Memorial. As I walked the flooded Tidal Basin looking for a photograph, I met an adorable young couple who were just married. They were playfully walking in the flooded Basin with no shoes kissing each other. I asked the Newlyweds if I could photograph them and they agreed and posed for me. We exchanged information so I could give them their photo.



### 3rd Place Jonah and Micah's Bar Mitzvah © **Janice Solomon**

I took this image of my nephews before their bar mitzvah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. They had studied for several years for this event and were very nervous. About 25 relatives attended. It was very hot, maybe around 90 degrees. I cropped all around the boys for a tighter image, lightened their faces, darkened the fence on the right, and added a vignette.





## Intermediate EIC Winners November FAMILY Competition

1st Place  
Hungry Meerkats  
© **Jill Randell**

At the Smithsonian Zoo's Small Mammal House, we were lucky to see three newborns feeding. They were oblivious to us but their mother kept a watchful eye. Behind the dirty glass and harshly lit cage, I was able to get many shots but they all required considerable post processing. Cloning a few parts of the fur was the only way I could get rid of the bands of light effectively. Luckily their markings hid most of the process.



2nd Place  
Morning Swim  
© **Isaac Afrangui**



The photo was taken during an outing to Huntley Meadows Park with Steve Silverman as part of an NBCC SIG meetup. We met up around 6:30am, since the birds are the most active around that time. There were many ducks with their brood but this group was the most interesting to me. I studied them for a while and then took about 30 shots. I cleaned up some of the twigs around them and blurred and darkened the background to emphasize the ducklings.

3rd Place  
Siblings Playing Together  
© **Jennifer Nguyễn**

I took this picture during the 2023 Annual East Coast Surfing Championships Tournament along the ocean at Virginia Beach. While I was waiting for the next group to surf, I noticed two very cute little blond girls with the same red swimming suits playing together peacefully on the beach. Once I saw them, I no longer paid any attention to the surfers. Luckily, I had the Canon Tele Lens RF 100 - 500mm with me. The girls didn't seem to even notice me.



## Advanced EIC Winners November FAMILY Competition

### 1st Place Story of Spring © Ruiqing Pamboukian

This photo was taken in a residential area of a neighborhood in Germantown last year. Every springtime, Great Herons make nests on the same tree. I was thrilled to catch this moment - two of them sharing affection beneath a breathtaking sunset light which casts them in a radiant frame. The dark blue background is the roof of a house in the neighborhood. I was touched by this truly romantic scene.



### 2nd Place Sunset Walk © Max Kantzer



I captured this image at the Cape May workshop in May of 2022. It was right after the sun set and the sky was amazing. I like the mood set by the quality of the light, the slightly out of focus background and the slight movement of the couple. I think it beautifully portrays a peaceful shared moment at the end of the day.



### 3rd Place Lined Up © Robert Barkin

On Safari, in South Africa and Namibia, I became fascinated with zebras for their exotic look and grace. Just before sunset, I caught this touching and unusual moment between a mother zebra and her offspring.



# NBCC Board of Directors, Committees & Appointments 2023 - 2024

## OFFICERS

### **President**

Cherry Wyman

### **Vice President**

Margaret Colaanni

### **Secretary**

Sarah Salomon

### **Treasurer**

Claudia Seelig

## DIRECTORS

Rich Chitty

Kent Mason

Toni Robinson

## 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

### **Education**

Jill Randell\*

Lorraine Vinci

Gail Bingham

Dick Knapp

Toni Robinson

### **Field Trips**

Beth Altman\*

Larry Ballon

Marge Bloom

Bruce Davis

Sue Guy

Cynthia Keith

George Kiebuszinski

Shaun Moss

Bob Murphy

Dick Pelroy

Paul Schmitz

Jim Turner

### **Programs**

Tammy Trocki\*

Judy Ackerman

Robert Barkin

Harriette Fox

Beth Irons

Evelyn Jacob

Kent Mason

Toni Robinson

Jack Rosenberg

Tara Ryan

### **Judges**

Cat Simmons\*

Andrew Cohen

Pauline Jaffe

Debbie Menditch

Guillermo Olaizola

Ruiqing Pamboukian

Arash Pirooz

Sarah H. Salomon

### **Exhibitions**

Kathryn Mohrman\*

Beth Altman

Craig Carlson

Stan Collyer

Tom Gross

Sue Guy

Cecelia Laurendeau

Sarah H. Salomon

### **MPA**

Carol Lee\*

### **MAPV**

Don Tobin

## 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

## OTHER APPOINTMENTS

### **Lens & Eye**

Lisa Maco\*

Debby Berlyne

### **Facebook Group**

#### **Administrator**

Toni Robinson

### **Database**

#### **Administrator**

Bruce Cyr

### **Dinner Reservations**

Guillermo Olaizola

### **Share & Care**

#### **Representative**

Pauline Jaffe

### **Information**

#### **Systems Coordinator**

Rich Chitty

### **Chat Group**

#### **Administrator**

Dennis Leister

### **Website**

John Allender\*

Mark McDonough

Rich Chitty

### **PSA Representative**

Judy Burr

### **Church Liaison**

Rich Chitty