

# The Lens and Eye



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## Calendar

### September Events

- Sept 5** 7:30 p.m. Competition: Nature  
**Sept 12** 7:00 p.m. New member reception  
7:30 p.m. Program: Selective  
Focus on Food Photography  
**Sept 15** 9:00 a.m. Union Market Field Trip  
**Sept 26** 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting

### October Preview

- Oct 3, 10** 3-Month Open Competition  
**Oct 17** Program: Alaska  
**Oct 20-21** Shenandoah Field Trip  
**Oct 24** Board Meeting  
**Oct 31** Program: Body-of-Work Primer

## September Competition Theme: Nature

Photograph taken outdoors that is devoted to displaying natural elements such as landscapes, wildlife, plants, bodies of water, mountains, skies, and closeups of natural scenes and textures. No hand of man may be visible. **Electronic images are due no later than 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 2.**

Photos must have been taken no later than September 1, 2016.

## Welcome New Members!

This program year we welcome 20 new members joining our club. They are: **Larry Ballon, David Banks, Stephanie Banks, Christopher Cavas, Dennis Glanzman, Francis Grant-Suttie, Sue Green, Bob Greenberg, Geoff Hornseth, Pat Joseph, Max Kantzer, Kay Kohl, Yuan Liu, Lisa Maco, Don Picard, Shelley Price, Riko Saidel, Michelle Weakley, Peter Winik and Rose Yee.**

Their name tags will have a special red dot identifier that says, "I'm New." We encourage all of you to greet our new members and to make them feel at home. We will have a special New Member Reception on Wednesday, **September 12 at 7 p.m.**, just before our regular club meeting that evening. This will be an excellent occasion to get to know each other and to chat about our common passion for photography, so we ask everybody to attend and enjoy this unique opportunity.

On Wednesday, **August 29 at 7:30 p.m.**, there will be a new member orientation session at the Fellowship Hall of the Faith Methodist Church, located at 6810 Montrose Rd, Rockville MD 20852. We encourage all new members to hold this date and time in your calendars and to attend this important orientation session which is specially prepared for you.

*(continued on next page)*

New members will have the chance to meet each other and will be welcomed to the club by representatives of our leadership team, who will provide useful information that will help you take advantage of the many opportunities offered by NBCC as the new program year begins. All the information needed to enter our competitions, as well as details about the activities of the club and opportunities to get involved will be discussed.

- Guillermo Olaizola, Membership Chair

## September 5 Judge: Victoria Restrepo

I love photography! I can spend endless hours finding a perfect frozen icicle or a little shiny raindrop splashing on a leaf. I can get wet, cold, hot, and I don't even notice anything if I am following a bird in the rainforest.

Photography has been in my family for six generations now. I remember when I was a growing up in Colombia, walking into the darkrooms of my family's lab; the smell of the photographic chemicals marked my life forever. I grew up looking at the stunning lithographs, daguerrotypes, glass negatives, and prints created by my family since the late 18th century. I also loved listening to all kinds of fantastic stories about my ancestors' voyages - traveling from Europe to photograph in the Americas.

I started my career as a photographer in a completely different world. My first camera was a Kodak Brownie, and at the New England School of Photography I worked with a 4x5 view camera. I transitioned toward the digital world when the first cameras were introduced in the market during the '90s.

My photographs are poised between reality and illusion, and through them I face the same challenges that artists have been facing for centuries: How to get a perfect balance between color and transparency, light and shadow, texture and delicacy, and also how to attract and communicate with my viewers.

The camera, the tripod and my digital darkroom are just my tools, but I mostly work with light, my imagination and my own memories.



*Rainbow © Victoria Restrepo*



*Hummingbird © Victoria Restrepo*

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## September 12: Food Photography with Renee Comet

Renee Comet is a noted advertising photographer who has specialized in food photography for the past 22 years. She is a nationally recognized, seasoned commercial photographer whose distinctive images can be seen in advertising, packaging, cookbooks and magazines. She shoots food, products and lifestyle subjects with a distinctly clean, elegant style. She uses exquisite lighting techniques, minimalist propping and uncomplicated backgrounds to create simple, sophisticated images that display and enhance the natural beauty of her subjects. Many of her images exemplify "selective focus" which is our competition topic for November.

Whatever the subject, her visual treatment can best be described as uncomplicated, fluid, and elegant.

Her clients include: Food Network, PopCorners, Glutino, Marriott International, Australian Lamb, Itoen Tea, Ritz-Carlton, US Postal Service, USDA, Butterball Turkey, Washington Post, Choice Hotels, American Diabetes Association, and Total Wine.

Renee also teaches classes on food photography for the Capital Photography Center.

Her photos can be viewed at <http://cometphoto.com>



*Photos © Renee Comet*

## September 15: Union Market Field Trip

We will have a field trip, open to all members, including those on the waiting list, as well as guests, on Saturday, September 15 at DC's Union Market (1309 5th St NE, Washington, DC 20002). This field trip complements the club's February 2019 competition theme of "Hometown DC, a Very Different Perspective." Participants will have the opportunity to make images of a variety of subjects, including architecture, street, and urban graffiti. Please note that photos should not be made inside the market, and if your camera is visible, be prepared to be approached by security guards – just explain that you know about the market's policy that prohibits photography inside the market.



Photos © Jean-Pierre Ple

neighborhood; see this link for more info: <https://unionmarketdc.com/the-history-of-union-market/>.

We will meet at 9 a.m. at Buffalo & Bergen, an eatery inside the market. Everyone is also welcome to join Jean-Pierre (trip leader) for breakfast at Buffalo & Bergen at 8 a.m.. RSVPs are not required but would be appreciated ([ple.jpp@gmail.com](mailto:ple.jpp@gmail.com)).



- Jean-Pierre Plé, Field Trips Committee

## Call for Entries - Nature Visions Photo Expo 2018

Nature Visions Photography Exposition (NVPE) 2018 will be held on **November 2-4, 2018**. The location will be the same as last year, the Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas, VA. The overall schedule will be similar to last year's, with 3 full days of seminars, lectures, vendors, workshops, parrot shoots, raptor shoots, image reviews, and other activities. The schedule again includes numerous well-known speakers, including Julianne Kost, Thomas Heaton, Cole Thompson, Denise Ippolito, Tim Cooper, and numerous others.

NBCC members are urged to attend and to enter the competition. Details on the expo and the competition were given in the summer NBCC *Lens and Eye* newsletter and several Gordiegrams and can be found at the NVPE webpage (<http://naturevisions.org>). **Upload of images ends September 21** (Note that images uploaded before September 15 will be examined by a NVPE committee to check for adherence to the rules and those that are rejected can be replaced). The list of accepted images will be released in the second week of October and prints will be collected by NBCC before the end of October. There have been no major changes in the rules or topics for the annual competition. The 6 nature categories are: birds, wildlife, macro, landscape, flora, and water. The photo art category is for images that do not qualify for the nature categories. The rules for nature entries state that no human elements can be present. Please read the competition rules carefully before submitting entries.

For questions, contact a member of the NBCC Nature Visions committee:

John Norvell [norvellj@msn.com](mailto:norvellj@msn.com)

Steve Silverman [ssilverman8384@comcast.net](mailto:ssilverman8384@comcast.net)

Beth Altman [BLAltman@juno.com](mailto:BLAltman@juno.com)

Guillermo Olaizola [golaizola@verizon.net](mailto:golaizola@verizon.net)

Ray Whitman [raywhitman@icloud.com](mailto:raywhitman@icloud.com)

- John Norvell, NVPE Chair



## Splinters from the Board

By the time you are reading this, we will already have had our first board meeting, held our first field trip, welcomed our 20 new members, and kicked off our education committee small group program! If you take a look at the calendar on our website, you will see almost every single meeting for this entire program year has a topic and guest (judge or speaker) already identified! There are field trips planned for virtually every month of the year, several coordinated with our competition topics. The variety and number of small groups being offered is inspirational. NONE of this happens by accident, and HUGE kudos and appreciation to the dedicated and conscientious committees and individuals that have made this possible. Oh, and let's not forget the "behind the scenes" people who make things happen and keep them functioning. That would be our membership, equipment, website, newsletter, competition, hospitality ... essentially every single person whose name is on the ROLL CALL. So please take a minute to pat yourself or someone else on the back – or both! What makes most volunteer organizations fail is the lack of people willing to participate in its running; you may be as astounded as I was when I counted how many of us are on one or more committee: 63 wonderfully generous souls!

This will be NBCC's 54<sup>th</sup> year of existence, so clearly there is a great deal that has been/is being done right! One of the things that I have come to truly appreciate about the organization (which is nothing more than the sum of its participants), having been involved in its "guts" for much of my membership time, is the commitment to excel, changing if/when/where necessary, without ego and contention. The discussions for all major ideas take time, and multiple perspectives are always considered. In the last issue of the *Lens and Eye*, I set forth my initiatives for the program year, all of which have some changes implicit. Some might require more people to step up to enforce, some might require money, some might just be a slight variation. Look for surveys in the upcoming months that will solicit your input on some of those possibilities. And, if you have ideas or concerns, please don't hesitate to let me know!

- Toni Robinson, NBCC President

## An Exciting Year Anticipated by the Education Committee

We have kicked off the 2018 – 2019 education committee program year with a great selection of small groups — thanks to the generosity of our fellow NBCCers. As we did last year, registration for the groups needs to go through the education committee email: [edu@nbccmd.org](mailto:edu@nbccmd.org). Requests will be managed so as to try and have any and all members get at least one of their choices, if not their first choice. As was the case last year, if there are openings in a group after members have registered, wait listers will also be able to participate. Some of the groups will have a more targeted audience; some are pretty wide open. All groups will be listed with details on the NBCC website; the list will be updated over time, and announcements will be made via GordieGrams when that occurs. In addition to the small groups offered by members strictly for our club, you will see a listing of classes being offered by our members either on their own or through other external organizations.

If you want to familiarize yourself with the website/navigation and check to see which classes are still open, here's what to do: From the NBCC main page, go to the Activities link at the top of the page and then click Education Programs, or go directly to the link on the left side of the page (right next to the L&E image!).

So, here's the list of people (so far) to thank for making this possible:

- Alan Sislen: Advanced Critique Plus
- Carol Walsh: Creativity — Compositing Using Photoshop
- Cynthia Keith: How to Compete & Win!!
- Evelyn Jacob: Olympus OM-D Cameras
- Jim Turner: Making and Using a Lightbox
- Joel Hoffman: Exploring Artificial Light Sources and Their Uses, Portraiture and Posing
- Roy Sewall: Intermediate Critique
- Sarah Salomon: Focusing Your Vision
- Stu Mathison: Photo Essay Study Group
- Guillermo Olaizola: A Path to Digital Photography
- Steve Silverman: Bird Photography Workshop

- Jill Randell, Education Chair

## October 20-21: Shenandoah National Park Fall Foliage Field Trip



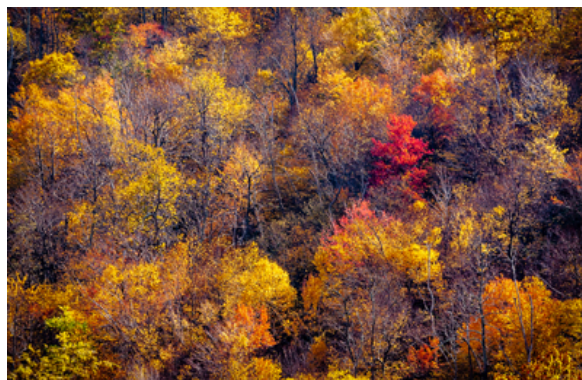
*Shenandoah images © Tammy Trocki*

Enjoy glorious vistas, intimate scenes, and fall color in the Shenandoah National Park the weekend of October 20-21. Limited to 12 members, this field trip will start at dawn on Saturday and will include several stops along Skyline Drive, an optional hike to a waterfall, possibly an old car and carriage museum in Luray, and a sunset shoot. We will have lunch and dinner together on Saturday at one of the lodges. One possibility for Sunday might be to drive home through Sperryville and/or Little Washington, where there is a lot of history and small town/rural images. The specific itinerary is still being researched, so please let us know if you have a suggestion.

Currently, we have a block of eight rooms at the Days Inn in Luray. While not a “luxury” hotel, the prices are reasonable -- \$99 for Friday night, October 19 and \$139 for Saturday night, October 20. There are several other hotel/B&B options in the area, depending on your price range and preferences. We will give the Days Inn registration information to the first eight members to sign up. We also are working on finding a few other rooms and will share these and other lodging ideas, if you are interested or the Days Inn room block fills up.

We also will keep a list of RSVPs from those on the NBCC waiting list and members who wish to bring guests and will notify those people on October 1 if there is space available. (Note: we plan to carpool from the Days Inn, so members can bring a guest who might wish to explore the area independently and then join the group for dinner.)

Please RSVP to Tammy Trocki ([tammytrocki@comcast.net](mailto:tammytrocki@comcast.net)).



*- Tammy Trocki and Gail Bingham, Field Trip Committee*

# It's Photo Essay Time!

*A primer by Stu Mathison*



© Nancy Morrison

For the past 32 years, NBCC has presented an annual photo essay show in March for members and guests. The photo essays consist of still images (and possibly some video clips) accompanied by music (and narration, sound effects and captions, as appropriate).

The show consists of 15-20 photo essays by NBCC members. Guests include family members and friends, as well as members of other camera clubs. When the audience outgrew the church facilities several years ago we moved the show to comfortable 250-seat auditoriums at Asbury Village in Gaithersburg and Leisure World in Silver Spring.

**Photo Essay 2019 will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2019 at Asbury Village from 3-5 pm.** *Please note this on your calendars. Potential essayists should start thinking about their essay topics now.*

All members (and spouses) are eligible to participate in the essay show. Several members can work together on one essay. You may use your photos from any year. There is no time limit.

As soon as you have a tentative topic, please tell the essay committee (so we can avoid duplicate essays and repetition of recent topics). Members will work with essay committee members in developing their draft essays. Members submit draft essays, not later than December 31st, which are reviewed by a panel. Early submissions are encouraged. The panel provides feedback and selects essays based on factors such as quality and appeal of images, coherence and interest of theme, music and overall variety in the essays. Final essays are submitted in February. Members who have never made a photo essay and wish to learn how, or essayists seeking to improve their skills, can get one-on-one training from the essay committee. Additionally, a Photo Essay Study Group will be available through the Education Committee.

Members can use their choice of software to prepare their essays. Photodex ProShow Gold 9 (or Producer 9) software is recommended for PCs; iPhoto, iMovie or Aperture are recommended for the Mac. ProShow Gold software costs \$70 and KelbyOne members receive a 20% discount. iPhoto and iMovie are free on the Mac.

Detailed information on creating engaging essays, and formatting and submitting essays for Photo Essay 2019, as well as sources of additional information, is included in several articles on the club website at: <http://nbccmd.org/photoessay.htm>.

Reference and training information is available on the Photodex website. Even if you are not participating in Photo Essay 2019, you will learn a lot about essay making from these sources. And you will learn how to share your essays on DVDs for TV playback (in high definition and Blu-Ray format); as executable files for PCs; and as videos on YouTube, Vimeo, SmugMug, Facebook and other photo sharing websites.

## **Photo Essay Topics and Themes**

Photo essays can cover a wide range of subjects and styles. Virtually any body of work can be presented as a photo essay with accompanying music. Engaging essays tell a story, convey a mood, entertain, show off grand photography, explain or illustrate photo techniques (e.g., black and white, the "decisive moment", etc.), inform



(recall Ken Burns documentary photo essays) and in some cases persuade their audiences. Past NBCC essays have included:

- **destinations** such as New York City, Seattle, the Palouse, Cuba, Buenos Aires, Botswana, Tuscany, Venice, St. Petersburg, Morocco, Iceland, and Antarctica;
- **national parks** such as the C&O Canal, Yellowstone, Joshua Tree, Death Valley and the Canadian Rockies;
- **unique places** like East Broadtop Railroad, the Neon Boneyard, Ellis Island Immigrant Hospital, a horse ranch, Eastern State Penitentiary, Amish Country, the Kremlin, and the Hurtigruten Norwegian Coastal Voyage;
- **events** such as the Maryland Renaissance Festival, a dog jumping competition, Rolling Thunder, kayaking at Great Falls, Oktoberfest in Munich, Easter in Corfu, Rio Carnival, participants preparing for a parade, and the Aurora Borealis in Northern Canada;
- **places seen from unusual perspectives**, such as Rock Creek in infrared, street photography in NYC, Truk Lagoon underwater, White Sands in winter, fall color in Alaska, Cappadocia from a hot air balloon, and looking down/up;
- **themes not tied to specific places**, such as nighttime, happiness, abandoned pianos, windows worldwide, churches, reflections, rust, old houses, wildflowers, hummingbirds, insects, polar bears, or autumn leaves;
- **sports**, such as horseback riding, auto racing, and baseball;
- **photography techniques**, such as black and white, infrared, macro, light painting, and drone photography;
- and many more. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Viewing essays made by club members in recent years may provide you with good ideas for your own essays. For example:

- David Davidson has posted a variety of essays: <https://vimeo.com/user11295981/videos>
- Lori Ducharme has posted several of her essays [at this link](#)

*More detailed information about essay creation, preparation and submission is included in the above-referenced articles on the club website. And the members of the Photo Essay committee welcome your questions any time. We look forward to this year's submissions!*



© Roy Sewall



© Jin Gong

- Stu Mathison, Photo Essay Chair



## A Few Reviews

Our shelves are probably filled with how-to books on photography or anthologies of famous photographers' images. Less often we encounter books where photography is a literary device, or sit down with a collection of essays devoted to an intensive study of photography, its meaning and value.

Recently I was introduced to and read two compelling books. One is a piece of fiction where photography has a significant role in the narration. The other is a collection of essays whose critical writings encompass several esthetic and philosophical viewpoints. Finally, I have reviewed a podcast whose host conducts insightful and engaging conversations with a diverse selection of photographers.

***The Painter of Battles* by Arturo Perez-Reverte** tells the fictional story of a former world-renowned war photographer who had captured the image of a group of Croatian troops. The photo became widely known and earned the photographer a lot of money. One of the soldiers in the photo tracked down the photographer in order to confront him with the story of the consequences that photo had on his life and family with the intention of killing the photographer.

At the beginning of the story the photographer is retired and living in a lighthouse on the Spanish coast. He is embellishing an interior wall with a large mural depicting scenes of war. The mural, the result of years researching galleries, museums and libraries, is a combination of countless images taken from paintings of well-known artists, plus photography.

Profound discussions between the photographer, turned painter of battles, and the former soldier shape the narrative. The author weaves into the story the progress and meaning of the mural with conversations about war, evil, loss and love.

I was most interested in the questions regarding the role of photography as a witness to events. For example, do the rules of decency govern photography? Is the camera a passive accomplice? Is photography indifferent to the pain of others? What I learned is what aspects of photography affect the human condition or provide insight into the role and effect of a single image.

***Pandora's Camera* by Joan Fontcuberta** is a book of essays examining photography from its most fundamental role as a mechanical and chemical process to record light on a surface, to its many universal uses in medicine, science, history and as objects of art. He discusses photography as a digital process, and asks whether digital photography is still photography. The essays do not provide a conclusive answer. Several essays explore and analyze the developing concepts of contemporary photography. Fontcuberta also strays into areas where photography has, for a variety of reasons and purposes, been used (or misused) to mislead or manipulate public opinion or promote political propaganda. We live in an era of "fake news" where everyone can gleefully alter images, rendering every photo as a probable fiction.

The chapter which captured my interest discussed digital photography's role in creating false and misleading images through post-processing in order to convey information to us, either to promote consumer products or through altering a composition to make a political statement. I was intrigued by the question of whether digital retouching involves ethical limits. Who is to blame, the photographer or the news agency, who subsequently publishes an amended image in order to sell a story or manipulate the reader?

Podcasts are ubiquitous, and photography is a popular subject for many of them. ***The Candid Frame***, now in its twelfth season, is **hosted by Ibarionex Perillo**, who interviews some of the world's best photographers. Ibarionex is the author of *Chasing the Light, Improving Photos With Available Light*. He also writes articles reviewing lenses, tripods and other photographic tools. Some notables who have appeared on his show include Joel Meyerowitz (who is the co-editor of *Bystander*, a book of street photography); Marc Silber, an award-winning professional video producer and photography educator; and Chris Buck, whose clients include Google, *The New York Times* and *GQ*, and who is a recipient of the Arnold Newman Portrait Prize. The conversations are incredibly interesting and informative, he allows his guests to talk freely and at length, and the program exposes the listener to a number of really talented photographers. I listen to this podcast at least once a week, or retrieve older conversations through its archives. I have been introduced to a number of photographers, whose work I would otherwise not be familiar with.

- Stephanie Banks, new member

## ROLL CALL: NBCC OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS, 2018-'19

### OFFICERS

*President*  
Toni Robinson

*Vice President*  
Rich Chitty

*Secretary*  
Sarah Salomon

*Treasurer*  
Steve Parker

### DIRECTORS

Robert Barkin  
Kent Mason

Roy Sewall  
Cherry Wyman

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Competition

Judy Switt\*  
*Prints:*  
Dick Pelroy  
Jim Turner  
Nikos Zacharakis  
*Electronic:*  
Steve Lapidus  
Willem Bier  
John Willis

#### Education

Jill Randell\*  
Greg Holden  
Alan Sislen  
Roy Sewall  
Kent Mason  
Evelyn Jacob

#### Field Trips

Gail Bingham\*  
James Corbett  
Jack Rosenberg  
Dick Pelroy  
Jean-Pierre Plé  
Diane Poole  
Tammy Trocki  
Jim Turner  
Beth Altman

#### Programs

David Terao\*  
Evelyn Jacob  
Neil Hermansdorfer  
John Norvell  
Kent Mason  
Diane Poole  
Ray Whitman  
Rich Chitty

#### Judges

Bruce Cyr\*  
Debbie Menditch  
Kay Norvell  
Tammy Trocki

#### Exhibits

Lester LaForce\*  
Dawn Sikkema  
Sarah Salomon  
Alan Simmons  
John Willis  
Guillermo Olaizola  
Jack Rosenberg  
Stan Collyer

#### Nature Visions

John Norvell\*  
Ray Whitman  
Steve Silverman  
Beth Altman  
Guillermo Olaizola

#### Membership

Guillermo Olaizola\*  
Mark Segal

#### MPA

Carol Lee\*  
Stephanie Banks

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### Community Outreach

Joel Hoffman\*  
Kent Mason  
Jack Rosenberg  
Bob Peavy  
José Cartas  
Judy Switt

#### Equipment

Robert Barkin\*  
Tom Marchessault  
Neil Hermansdorfer  
Steve Frahm  
Steve Lapidus

#### Hospitality

Terry Van Houten\*  
Ira Adler  
Jitesh Batra  
Jim Render  
Virginia Render  
Geri Milman  
Claudia Seelig  
Ray Whitman

#### Photo Essay

Stu Mathison\*  
Stan Collyer  
David Davidson  
Tom Field  
Morris Liss  
John Willis  
Lori Ducharme  
Mark Segal  
Nancy Wolejsza

#### End-of-Year

TBA

#### Strategic Planning

Toni Robinson\*  
John Telford  
Bill Ho  
Audrey Rothstein  
Gail Bingham

### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

*Asbury Liaison*  
Rich Chitty

*Church Liaison*  
Rich Chitty

*Database Administrator*  
Bruce Cyr

*Webmaster*  
Robert Barkin\*  
Tom Field

*Share & Care*  
Pauline Jaffe

*PSA Representative*  
Judy Burr

*Facebook Group  
Administrator*  
Gail Bingham\*  
Guillermo Olaizola

*Lens & Eye*  
Cherry Wyman\*  
Pauline Jaffe

*Yahoo Group  
Administrator*  
Bruce Cyr

*Dinner  
Reservations*  
Kay Norvell

*GordieGram  
Administrator*  
Gail Bingham\*  
Toni Robinson

\* committee or group chair