

# The Lens and Eye

North Bethesda Camera Club



Volume 55 Number 4 | December 2019 | Editor: Cherry Wyman | Website: [www.nbccmd.org](http://www.nbccmd.org)

## Calendar

*Events start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.*

### December Events

- Dec 4** Competition: Nature - EIC
- Dec 11** Competition: Nature - Print
- Dec 18** Program: Member Expo
- Dec 25** No meeting - Christmas

### January Preview

- Jan 1** No meeting - New Year's Day
- Jan 8** Competition: B&W Open - EIC
- Jan 15** Competition: B&W Open - Print
- Jan 22** Board Meeting
- Jan 29** Program: 3-Member Presentation

## December

### Competition Theme: Nature

Nature photography may depict observations from all branches of natural history in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject and agree to its honest presentation. Images including the "hand of man" (such as roads, fences, manicured lawns, etc.) will be disqualified. Any adjustments to the image must appear natural. Color images may be converted to monochrome. Infrared images are not allowed. (Photos must be taken on or after December 1, 2017)

**Electronic images are due no later than 7:30 pm on Sunday, December 1.**

As always, each member may submit no more than two entries per month.



*Shadow © Christina Papakonstantinou*

*For more winning images from the  
November competition, see  
pages 14 - 18.*

## December 4 Judge: Wayne Wolfersberger

Wayne Wolfersberger is an ecologist-naturalist, teacher, and photographer by education and passion. He taught biology and earth science full-time for years while expanding his photography skills. His photographic expertise was further honed by working for a D.C.-area commercial photography firm and the U.S. Navy Photographic Center, by becoming involved in numerous professional seminars and workshops, and by working in Yellowstone National Park for 14 years. He is a member of North American Nature Photography Association, Frederick Camera Clique, Vienna Photographic Society and Northern Virginia Photographic Society (vice president and president). He is cochair of the student competition with Nature Visions and has earned a reputation as a well-respected professional photographer.



*Rose in Rain*



*Red-Eyed Leaf Frog*

Wayne has been teaching photography classes for 20 years and has led many workshops and seminars (most recently to Yellowstone). He has delivered numerous photography programs in the D.C. area and the Southern Appalachians, and internationally in the United Kingdom and Australia. Wayne's images have appeared in local, national, and international magazines, on calendars and postcards, and have been exhibited and sold as fine art prints and now - across the globe - as stock photography. Awards include Nature's Best (5), NANPA Showcase (4), PSA, Glennie, and many juried exhibits.

*- Photos © Wayne Wolfersberger*

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## December 11 Judge: Dick Sprott



*50's Diner © Dick Sprott*

Richard L. (Dick) Sprott, Ph.D., is a behavior geneticist who spent 15 years at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine before moving to Bethesda to head the Biology of Aging division of the National Institute on Aging. During that time he obtained an associate degree in photography and taught photography at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for 14 years. During those years he earned master status in the NIH Camera Club (NIHCC) and served as its president for five years. He served as NIHCC president again in 2013-2014. He is a graduate of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) image evaluation course which certifies PSA judges and has judged for area camera clubs and the PSA Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

### Upcoming Competitions

*January - Black and White Open*

*April - Reflections*

*February - Human Relationships*

*May - Open*

*March - Rim Light or Starburst*

For more information, go to <https://www.nbccmd.org/docs/NBCCassignments.pdf>

## Mark Your Calendars: Member Expo Coming Wednesday, December 18th at 7:30 pm

The purpose of the Member Expo (ME) is twofold: (1) to give all NBCC members an opportunity to share their work, and (2) for NBCC members to learn about – and be inspired by – the creative things their fellow members are doing. This NBCC event is totally non-competitive and informal. New NBCC members: This program is especially for you, both as a participant and as an audience member. It will give you a chance to show other members some examples of your work and interests, and you can learn about what other members are doing.



Please put it on your calendar and plan to participate and/or attend. Please make sure that if you are planning to participate and enter images in the ME that you plan to attend in order to show your work. All NBCC members are encouraged to participate.

As in prior years, you may submit up to 12 images. We recommend that each presentation have a central theme or common thread (e.g., flowers, street photography, travel, portraits, B&W, etc.). Your images do not have to be current. All levels of expertise are encouraged to participate. This is NOT just for the best images in the club. Entering images in ME does not restrict these images from being entered into other venues, including competitions, exhibits, photo essays, etc. Submit your images in a process similar to the Electronic Image Competition: **JPEG files with maximum dimensions of 1920 pixels (width) and 1200 pixels (height)**. Detailed submission guidelines can be found at: [http://www.nbccmd.org/docs/EIC\\_submissionguidelines.pdf](http://www.nbccmd.org/docs/EIC_submissionguidelines.pdf)

However, ME uses a different filename convention: **YourName-Theme-SequenceNumber.jpg**. Use a leading zero for sequence numbers 01-09 so your images are displayed in the order you set. For example: JohnDoe-Birds-03.jpg; SallySmith-Clowns-11.jpg

At the presentation, we encourage you to give a brief introduction before we show your images to provide any useful or interesting background information.

Get ready to be surprised by the quality, depth and breadth of your fellow members' work. Undoubtedly, we'll learn things from each other: places to go, techniques to explore, and new adventures to creativity.

Please submit your images in a single email (if possible) to the following email address: **programs@nbccmd.org**. The portal for entering images will open December 1st and close COB December 15th.

- David Terao, Programs Committee



## Farewell to a Legend

On November 14<sup>th</sup> NBCC lost a legend. Gordie Corbin, who had long been struggling with a variety of health issues and enduring a great deal of pain, lost the battle and passed away. She had fallen October 2 and fractured her pelvis and had been in Manor Care Potomac Rehab for over a month. Her room was decorated with all the photos and cards that many of you sent to her. She couldn't believe the outpouring of friendship. She is survived by her two sons, David (Laurie) and Stan (Pam), and three grandchildren who live in Atlanta, Georgia. She is also survived by her closest friend of almost 50 years, Judy Switt, who has been her caregiver and advocate for these last hard years.

For the last several years, Gordie's health has prevented her from attending many of our activities, but her support and commitment to this club was ongoing, nonetheless.



*Photo © Judy Switt*

Gordie joined NBCC in 1967, two years after the club was formed. Her legacy in the club could be intimidating, but Gordie was gracious and generous beyond words, and her accomplishments and contributions all met with the same incredible sense of humility. For some of you, this is "old news" ... but it is the stuff legends are made of.

She served the club as vice president, president, and director. Involved in photo essay production since 1975, she also served on the following committees: competition image review, Potomac Community Resources outreach program, and the newsletter (editor for many years of the Bulletin - the Lens and Eye predecessor). She originated the membership position before it was part of the board. As unofficial club ambassador, Gordie has spread the good name of North Bethesda Camera Club throughout the country with her presentations, judging, appearances, contacts and regular club communications (which eventually became known as "GordieGrams" in her honor).

Gordie's photographic honors are nearly too numerous to mention. She has been named Photographer of the Year 22 times in various categories including:

- Color Slide Photographer of the Year - 10 times
- Black and White Photographer of the Year - 6 times
- Color Print Photographer of the Year – 1998
- Altered Print Photographer of the Year – 2004
- Electronic Image Photographer of the Year – 2008
- Altered Electronic Image Photographer of the Year – 3 times

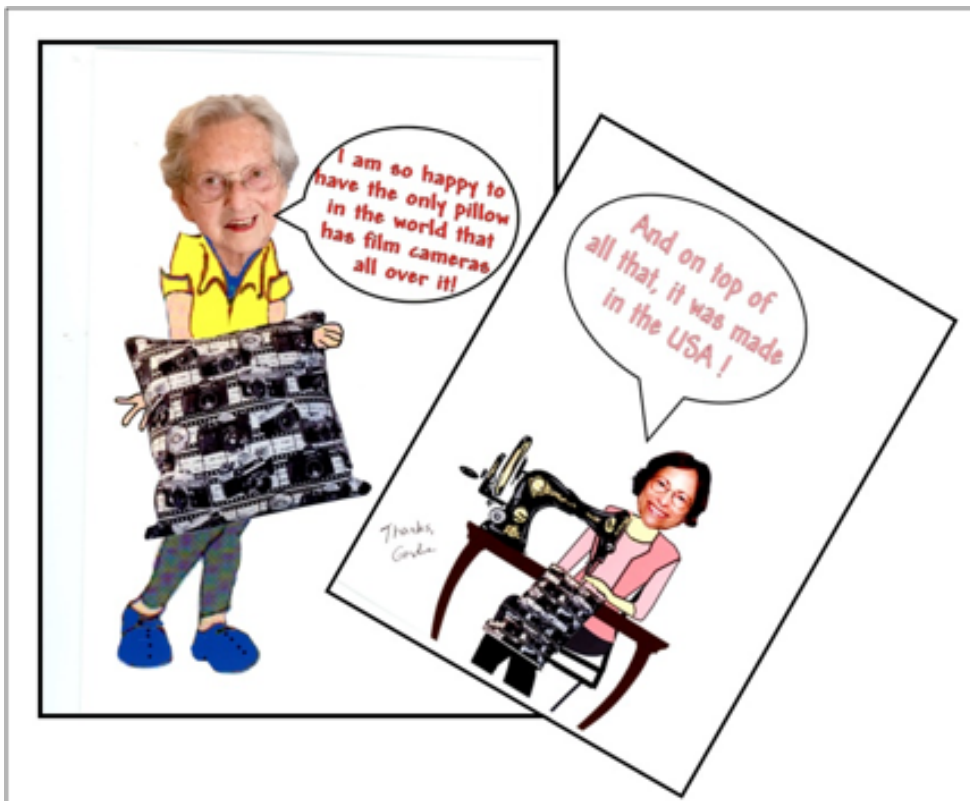
Altogether, Gordie accumulated 4,213 NBCC Star points, putting her in a galaxy all her own. Her star has shined beyond the club as well. In 2004, our honoree won first place in Nature's Best "Digital Creative Category." And in 2012 year she won a merit award in the International Glennie competition. In 2013, for a lifetime of achievement and dedication, and for being the heart and soul of NBCC, Gordie was named the first (and to date only!) Lifetime Achievement honoree.

In addition to her GordieGram legacy, Gordie (along with Judy) came up with the idea of a club mug to provide a unique gift for our speakers and judges. Gordie and Judy photographed and designed the first of our club mugs. They consisted of nine active members' silhouettes arranged on a white mug. Since then 12 of the current 13 designs came out of Gordie's darkroom or computer. Each mug – often in a new color - has a different set of members.

All of this is what Gordie brought to the club; it barely touches what she brought to her friends and community. She convinced Joe Razza, past member for whom our annual service award is named, into starting the Potomac Community Resources (PCR) photography class. Gordie, Judy Switt, Joel Hoffman, Bob Peavy, José Cartas, and Ron Dietrich continued working with this organization for 16 years (with the addition of Jack Rosenberg). With photographic partner and dear friend, Judy Switt, she worked with Ford's Theatre doing their promotional photos as well as the Presidential Galas. Often, they photographed private events held at Hickory Hill for Mrs. Ethel Kennedy. Together they wrote articles for national magazines such as Popular Photography and Petersen's Photographic.

Gordie taught workshops, presented programs throughout nearby states, and judged at area camera clubs and PSA International Salons. One of her and Judy's specialties was photographing in Black Light. She presented many programs at the New England Council of Camera Clubs Conferences in Amherst, Massachusetts as well as programs at PSA Regionals, NJ Federation of Camera Clubs, Delaware Valley Council, Kodak Teach-In, Berks Photographic Conference, etc.

One of Gordie's hobbies was making photographic books, first in the darkroom and then digitally. Her other hobby - which gave her much pleasure - was producing greeting cards which she personalized with the recipient's face. Many of us have been lucky recipients. Here is her very last one:



## Memories of Gordie

My wonderful wife, Claudia, recently made me a shirt with images of old black & white cameras but realized she had extra fabric so she proclaimed "I will make a pillow for Gordie; she can really appreciate this better than just about anyone I know".

Claudia got right to work and ran it right over to Gordie and, as a result, they had a super visit together.

In response, we got this thoughtful card. What wonderful memories of a super lady!

*Bill & Claudia Seelig*

She also recently became a full-fledged Washington Nationals follower. She watched all the games, even from rehab. She loved the memorabilia that were brought to her. She fought to stay awake to see the final game. Appropriately, their "Fight Finished" towel hung in her room.



Gordie's association with NBCC, and all the people who have shared time with her, was incredibly important to her. Although more than almost anyone else, she was qualified to have Emeritus status, she staunchly held on to her full/active member status. Our importance to her life is reflected in her own words: "If you are on the waiting list and think I am going to drop out soon, don't hold your breath... I plan to be a full-fledged member until the day I die (and until the end of that current club year if permitted)." Dearest Gordie, that wish is honored. We will miss you.

"A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside.  
- Winnie the Pooh -

- Toni Robinson, President

*If you wish, donations may be made to Potomac Community Resources in her honor:*  
<https://pcr-inc.org/>

## Education Program Openings

There are still openings in two classes beginning in January 2020. Roy Sewall's "Body of Work" has 2 openings and Cynthia Keith's "How to Compete and Win- Novice Critique" also has openings.

Please click [HERE](#) for more information and follow the instructions to sign up.

- Jill Randell, Education Chair

## Member News

"Color and Form," photographs by **Kathryn Mohrman** and Mac Cosgrove-Davies, are on display at Photoworks, Glen Echo Park, MD, until December 29.

An exhibit by **Alan Simmons** is on display at the Bender Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Rd, Rockville, MD thru Sunday, January 5, 2020. The theme of the exhibit, "A Visual Journey," is a compilation of 40 prints presented in color and black and white. The images offer Alan's personal impressions of the places and moments he encountered while traveling throughout the United States and abroad. You are invited to the artist's reception on **Sunday, December 8, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.**

For center hours and additional information call 301-881-0100. For the exhibit announcement visit [www.benderjccgw.org](http://www.benderjccgw.org) and select Goldman Art Gallery under the Arts, Culture & Jewish Life tab.

**Tom Marchessault** has two images, "Bulkely Bridge-Connecticut" and "North End and Tobin Bridge - Massachusetts," on exhibit at the Crystal City Fotowalk Underground - Road Trip, through March. (See [exposeddc.com/crystal-city-fotowalk-exhibitions](http://exposeddc.com/crystal-city-fotowalk-exhibitions).)

**Al Neyman's** photo, "5000 Years Home," will be displayed at the Strathmore Mansion Music Center as part of their annual "Home" competition in January. The photo depicts Scara Brae, a neolithic archeological site, against the background of an 18th-century manor house in Orkney, Scotland.





## Third Annual Gallery Show



*Mark Segal, John Norvell, and Jill Randell*

*Photos © Chuck Lee*

All 70 images of the Maryland Photography Alliance gallery show have been hung at Borher Park in Gaithersburg. The very well-attended opening reception was held on Saturday, November 21st with many of the attendees commenting on the quality of the images. NBCC was very well represented in the show and if you were unable to attend the opening you may want to stop by and judge for yourself. The show will run until January 21<sup>st</sup> and then will be on display at the State House in Annapolis until April.



*Steve Silverman*



*David Terao*



*Tammy Trocki*



*Melissa Clark*

*- Carol Lee, MPA Representative*

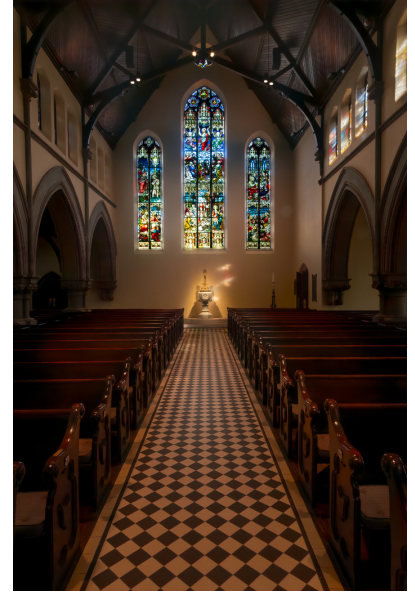
## January 21 Field Trip to DC Churches



*Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes*

There will be a field trip on Tuesday, January 21 to two beautiful, historic churches: Christ Church in Georgetown and Church of the Ascension and Saint Agnes on Massachusetts Avenue in downtown DC. We have special access including permission to use tripods in the interiors.

We will go by rented van from Cynthia Keith's house in Bethesda, departing at 8:30 am and returning at 1:00 pm. The van will take us from location to location



*Christ Church*

and back to Cynthia's house to avoid problems with traffic and parking. The cost per person is \$35 to cover van rental.

This field trip is limited to 12 people on a first come, first served basis. NBCC members have priority, but others are welcome to get on a waiting list. Those interested should email Cynthia at [clkeith@comcast.net](mailto:clkeith@comcast.net).

- Tammy Trocki, Field Trips Chair

### Call for Entries - 2020 Annual Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit

Matt Schmidt, the judge for our recent Found Abstracts competition, encourages NBCC members to submit entries for the 2020 Annual Joseph Miller Abstract Photography Exhibit on May 2 - 25, 2020. **JPEG files must be submitted by Saturday, February 22.** Details can be found at <http://nvacc.org/home/abstract-exhibit/>.

## Nature Visions Photography Expo 2019 Recap

Thank you to all who attended the Nature Visions Photography Expo this year and a special thank you to all who volunteered to help make this a wonderful event. (The expo management team consists of volunteers from the eight member camera clubs.) By now you should have received an invitation to participate in the post-expo survey. Please take some time to answer these questions, as we use this information to shape future expos. Be sure to be specific about the presenter or presentation in your comments so that we know how to categorize them. Producing this year's expo was more challenging than in previous years due to mandated changes to ticketing and to last-minute speaker cancellations. The Nature Visions board of directors would like to extend our appreciation for your patience during this challenging time.

NBCC members submitted 91 images to the nature competition and 36 were juried into the exhibit. We entered 18 in the photo art category and 14 were juried in. From these, NBCC had three images that scored high enough to be included in the people's choice awards:

*James Chia, Gilkey Overlook*  
*James Chia, Zion Sunset*  
*Steve Silverman, Ode to Ansel*

Five of the 50 NBCC images selected for the exhibition received speaker/vendor choice awards:

*William James, Saguaros in Monsoon*  
*John Norvell, Mohawk*  
*Guillermo Olaizola, Snowy Egret Combing its Feathers*  
*Steve Silverman, Ode to Ansel*  
*Nikos Zacharakis, Nymph*

While the number of NBCC images selected for inclusion in the exhibit was only slightly less than in previous years, we saw a larger decrease in the number of club members submitting images. If you have previously submitted but did not participate this year I would like to hear why. Unfortunately, NBCC did not win any category awards. This year's winning bird image (not from NBCC) was recently disqualified as it was a cropped copy of an image that had been previously juried into competition in 2015. The second place image, *The Catch*, by Stan Bysse, has been elevated to the category winner. The winning images will be posted on the Nature Visions website shortly.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Nature Visions 2020!

- *Steve Silverman, Nature Visions Chair*

# Competition Results: November (Found Abstracts)

## Judge: Matt Schmidt

| PRINTS |  |  | ELECTRONIC IMAGES |  |  |
|--------|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
|--------|--|--|-------------------|--|--|

### Intermediate (6 entries)

|     |                |                          |
|-----|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1st | Steven Lapidus | Spiraling Out of Control |
| 2nd | Kay Norvell    | Organ Pipes              |

### Novice (10 entries)

|     |                    |                    |
|-----|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1st | C Papakonstantinou | Shadow             |
| 2nd | Judy Ackerman      | Boatyard Job       |
| 3rd | Don Picard         | Baby Grand Strings |

### Advanced (16 entries)

|     |                  |                           |
|-----|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st | Joanne Mars      | China Bank                |
| 2nd | Nikos Zacharakis | Ominous                   |
| 3rd | Dick Pelroy      | Oval Graffiti - Silo City |
| HM  | Bruce Cyr        | Neck of an Hourglass      |
| HM  | Nikos Zacharakis | Shadow Triangle           |

### Intermediate (32 entries)

|     |                  |  |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 1st | Bob Mazziotta    | Dandelion                                |
| 2nd | Karen Finkelman  | Fulton Street Station                    |
| 3rd | Kathryn Mohrman  | Bishkek Central Mosque                   |
| HM  | John Allender    | Sidewalk Near Black Hill                 |
| HM  | Michael Blicher  | Water Lily                               |
| HM  | Dillard Boland   | Dead Paint                               |
| HM  | Richard Chitty   | Harpa Concert Hall Interior in Reykjavik |
| HM  | Karen Finkelman  | NY by Gehry                              |
| HM  | Steven Frahm     | Vase Exploration                         |
| HM  | Audrey Rothstein | Flow                                     |
| HM  | Peter Winik      | The REACH Handrail                       |

### Advanced (32 entries)

|     |               |                           |
|-----|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1st | G Olaizola    | Decaying Jetty at Sunrise |
| 2nd | Gail Bingham  | Deck Abstract #7          |
| 3rd | Jose Cartas   | National Museum, Brasilia |
| HM  | Robert Barkin | Ellis Island              |
| HM  | Willem Bier   | Laundry on Drying Rack    |
| HM  | Jose Cartas   | Caribbean Abstract        |
| HM  | James Corbett | The Climb Ahead           |
| HM  | James Corbett | Waltzing Matilda          |
| HM  | Bruce Davis   | Running Colors 2          |
| HM  | G Olaizola    | My Fridge Doors           |
| HM  | Mark Segal    | Hot Spring                |

# NBCC Competition Results

## Cumulative Scores Through November 2019

### PRINTS

#### *Intermediate*

23 Debbie Menditch  
20 Steve Lapidus  
19 Kay Norvell  
9 David Sternbach

#### *Advanced*

42 Nikos Zacharakis  
21 Bruce Cyr  
16 Tammy Trocki  
14 Dick Pelroy  
10 Joanne Mars  
8 Bill Seelig

### ELECTRONIC IMAGES

#### *Novice*

32 Christina Papakonstantinou  
19 Steven Frahm  
17 Don Picard  
9 Judy Ackerman  
8 Louise Roy  
6 Riko Saidel, Jean Solari

#### *Intermediate*

27 Karen Finkelman  
25 Kathryn Mohrman  
23 Steve Parker  
18 John Allender  
16 Peter Winik  
12 Dillard Boland  
10 Bob Mazziotta, Claudia Seelig  
6 Beth Altman, Michael Blicher, Rich Chitty,  
Peter Dunner, Steven Frahm, Max  
Kantzer, Mark Leatherman, Tom  
Marchessault, Mike Mitchell, Jill Randell,  
Audrey Rothstein, Bob White, Cherry  
Wyman

#### *Advanced*

31 Guillermo Olaizola  
30 Steven Silverman  
21 James Corbett  
20 Jose Cartas  
18 Robert Barkin  
15 Gail Bingham  
14 Melissa Clark  
12 Eric Schweitzer  
10 David Terao  
6 Willem Bier, James Chia, Bruce Davis,  
Dick Knapp, Pat Joseph, Toni Robinson,  
Mark Segal, John Willis, Nancy Wolejsza



# Intermediate Print Winners

## November (Found Abstracts) Competition



*1st Place*  
*Spiraling Out of Control*  
© **Steven Lapidus**

This image was captured in Bled Castle, Croatia, while climbing the tower staircase. The stone castle and tower provided an inspirational backdrop which was captured on my Olympus OMD-EM Mark II. Other than normal adjustments – exposure, contrast, white and black point settings and cropping – no other Plugins were used. Interestingly, rather than cropping with the usual Rule of Thirds, I opted to use the Golden Ratio, which I felt made a significant difference. Technical: 1/20s @ f/6.3 handheld, ISO 6400.



*2nd Place*  
*Organ Pipes*  
© **Kay Norvell**

This is a photo of the Sibelius Monument in Helsinki. The memorial is composed of various old organ pipes arranged to resemble a sound wave. When the wind blows, it produces eerie sounds. The picture was taken from below the pipes looking up towards the sky.

# Advanced Print Winners

## November (Found Abstracts) Competition



*1st Place*  
*China Bank*  
© **Joanne Mars**

The China Bank in NYC is located on 6th Avenue and 40th Street. The striking reflections, geometric shapes and curves in its facade always fascinate me. I have returned to take pictures of this building numerous times. I find standing at the base of the building looking straight up to the very top to have the most pleasing composition choices to zoom in and out on. A sunny morning is the best. The color version is also quite nice as it reflects the beautiful blue sky. This image was taken with my iPhone X.



*2nd Place*  
*Ominous*  
© **Nikos Zacharakis**

I was exploring the macro-world dimension in the U.S. Botanic Garden and the appearance of this plant attracted my attention. The very shallow depth of field makes it abstract enough to trigger the imagination and, in my mind, those "spikes" look ominous. The black & white conversion emphasizes the textures and the mood.



*3rd Place*  
*Oval Graffiti - Silo City*  
© **Dick Pelroy**

This image was taken in an abandoned grain silo in Buffalo NY, a complex of abandoned grain silos. (Check out Silo City, Buffalo, NY on the internet) Great place for rusting, fantastic, machines and acres and acres of low-light and soft color photo opportunities. I noticed this partition with a cut circle and graffiti showing through. Took a couple of steps to my left (carefully) to convert the circle to an oval. Tried to balance the bright colors in the oval with a splash of color in the lower right corner. Other than that, nothing special in the processing mainly using Photoshop CC and the RAW filter.

# Novice EIC Winners

## November (Found Abstracts) Competition



*1st Place  
Shadow*

© **Christina Papakonstantinou**

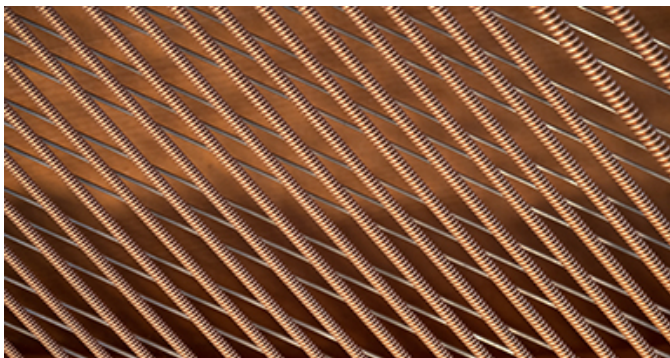
Looking for an abstract image all around downtown Washington, DC on a sunny Sunday, I ended up outside the National Gallery of Art. The shadow of a rail on the outside stairs drew my attention. The sunlight was strong, making the contrast between the shadow and the bright color of the stairs even more intense. My abstract image was of just right there.



*2nd Place  
Boatyard Job*

© **Judy Ackerman**

In September, I had some time to wander around a boatyard on Solomon's Island. The colors and textures of paint and sea life on the underside of the hulls was fascinating. This image captures parts of the rudder and the hull.



*3rd Place  
Baby Grand Strings*  
© **Don Picard**

Being new to taking abstracts I looked around the house for objects that might work and settled on a couple. Only the strings of our baby grand piano worked out. To get this picture I needed more light, so I propped up the top with a broomstick and then lit the interior of the baby grand with an incandescent light. I spent some time moving the light around to get the light and shadows I wanted.



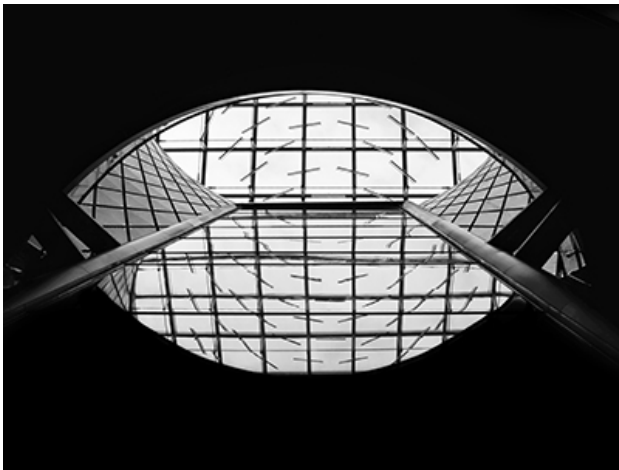
# Intermediate EIC Winners

## November (Found Abstracts) Competition



*1st Place*  
*Dandelion*  
© **Bob Mazziotta**

I propped the dandelion up and placed a black cloth behind it. I was shooting outdoors on an overcast day, so the light was very soft. I shot handheld, a stop down from wide open, so I could get a variety of selective focus images. At f4, I was able to use a high shutter speed and was shooting very close, at nearly a 1:1 ratio.



*2nd Place*  
*Fulton Street Station*  
© **Karen Finkelman**

This photo was taken inside the Fulton Transit Center in Lower Manhattan. Upon entry, your eyes are immediately drawn to the skylight. Although you are unable to gauge the size of the structure from this image, it is 79 feet tall and 53 feet wide. There are lots of abstract photo ops here, but the one that caught my eye was when I stood on the lower level and gazed up at the skylight through the clear elevator. The top part of the elevator cut the skylight in half and created a mirror image through the reflective glass.



*3rd Place*  
*Bishkek Central Mosque*  
© **Kathryn Mohrman**

This photo was taken lying on the floor of the Central Mosque in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. I was on a photo tour of the Silk Road with Jim Zuckerman. The star-shaped structure was the chandelier of the mosque while the center and the blue areas came from the dome and ceiling of the mosque. What surprised me the most was the fact that I, as a female non-Muslim photographer, was given total freedom to take pictures in a main mosque in this city. (FYI, since Kyrgyzstan had been controlled by Russia for a century when religious devotion was discouraged, the attention to detail about Islamic practices was fairly relaxed.)

# Advanced EIC Winners

## November (Found Abstracts) Competition

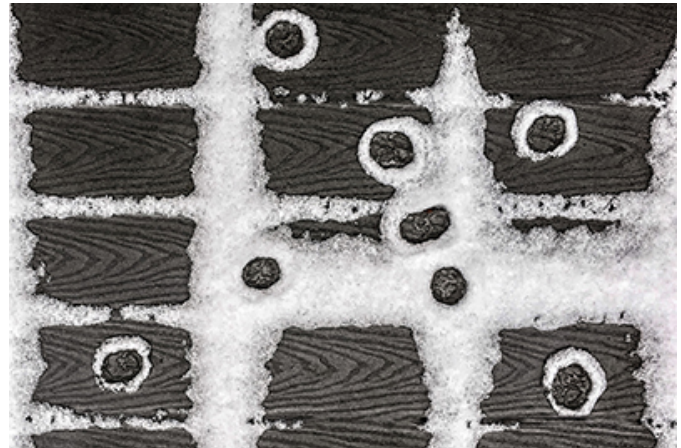


*1st Place*  
*Decaying Jetty at Sunrise*  
© **Guillermo Olaizola**

I shot this image on a very cold morning last February near the entrance to Blackwater Wildlife Refuge shortly before sunrise. The subject is part of a broken and decaying dock (not really a jetty, as I have learned). There was zero wind that morning, therefore the water was like a polished mirror, with the colors of the sky reflecting beautifully on the surface. I was attracted to the graphic nature of the shape created by the wooden pieces of the dock, their reflection and the color gradient of the water. I felt that there was a nice harmony created by the interplay of all the elements. I used a long telephoto zoom to isolate that section of the dock and moved around until I got the wooden pieces at the transition of colors from orange to blue.

*2nd Place*  
*Deck Abstract #7*  
© **Gail Bingham**

I "found" this image by surprise, looking out my back door to see the snow melting on my deck. I have never seen these kinds of circles before or since and loved the pattern with the rectangles. It reminds me of music. If you look closely, there are small paw prints in the middle of each circle. The image was taken with my iPhone.



*3rd Place*  
*National Museum, Brasilia*  
© **José Cartas**



Like most of Brasilia's buildings, the design of the National Museum is quite unique. It is a white half-sphere, with a half-ring coming out on one side (like Saturn's rings, but only on one side). While there for work in August last year, I went for a walk one Saturday. When I saw the structure, I thought of the "Abstract" assignment. I concentrated on a small part of the curved exterior wall and the half-ring, placing them against the blue sky, forming a kind of "D" letter. The photo was taken at around noon (50mm. lens).