

# Reflections

THE OFFICIAL P U B L I C A T I O N OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB



Volume 49 No. 3 | April - June 2025

© Stephanie Sioras

<b>COVER</b>	Stephanie Sioras	1
<b>EDITOR'S "REFLECTIONS"</b>	Tom Amsterburg	3
<b>PET PROJECT MSH CHECKED/COMPLETED/FINISHED!</b>	Joe Kennedy	5
<b>IMAGES OF THE YEAR</b>		7
<b>CANDID STREET PHOTOGRAPHY IN PRAGUE &amp; VIENNA</b>	Mike Schaffner	12
<b>IN MEMORIAM: IMAGES BY DONNA PARKER</b>	Donna Parker	17
<b>2025-26 MULTI-CLUB COMPETITION</b>	Mark Landman	20
<b>UPCOMING PSA CONFERENCE</b>		22
<b>STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB 2024-25 MEETING SCHEDULE</b>		23
<b>OFFICERS &amp; COMMITTEES</b>		25
<b>CLUB INFORMATION</b>		26



# Editor's Letter

By Tom Amsterburg



## In Memoriam

This is the first issue of *Reflections* since my friend and co-editor, Donna Parker passed away. It feels strange to be doing this alone after having collaborated with Donna on this publication for the past five years. One of the fruits of our partnership—and something we were both proud of—was that *Reflections* tied for first place in the Photographic Society of America's 2022 newsletter competition in the large club division.

Like many photographers, Donna never liked having her own picture taken but she sure did love making images, and in all genres of photography. She had a true artist's sensibility, always searching to find meaning and new ways of expressing herself through photography.

Donna's photographs appeared in a number of juried art exhibitions in New England, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. She also published a book, *Journey of the Lotus*, in 2022. This issue of *Reflections* features a retrospective of some of Donna's images, which I think is one of the best ways we can honor her memory. You can also enjoy her wonderful images on her website:

<https://dparkerphotography.com/>

This is also the time of year when we welcome a new President and Vice President. This year, we say good-bye and give a huge thank you to Amy Letourneau, our outgoing President, for all of her hard work and great organizational skills. Amy made the past season fun, inclusive, and enriching for all of us.

As Vice President, Ed Szymanski ran the Program Committee this past season. Now, by tradition, Ed takes over the reins as President. Of course, our club bylaws require open elections each year, but this practice of passing the baton from President to Vice President ensures continuity and keeps the club running smoothly. We are very much looking forward to having Ed's steady hand at the rudder for the 2025-26 season and thank him for his great work in running the Program Committee this past season.

Over the years, we have been fortunate to have a continuing supply of members who have been willing to step up and take on leadership positions. This year is no exception, as we welcome Hali Sowle as our new Vice President. Hali is a terrific choice and she, along with the members of the Program Committee, is already working hard on another exciting program for the coming season.

# Editor's Letter

By Tom Amsterburg

There are many other people to thank, but chief among them are our long-serving Treasurer, Ed Gooltz, and our Secretary Bill Manning. A huge thank you also to David Marshak for running the Technology Committee and the team that runs our hybrid meetings.

Many other Very Important People contributed in numerous other ways to help make this past year a successful one, including: Tony Mistretta (Competition Committee), Jim Borrebach (Four Score Raffle, Scholarship Committee), Cynde Cusack (New Members), Ray Guillette (Image Studies), Mark Landman (Multi-Club Competition), Janet Casey (SBCC Volunteers!), and Charlene Gaboriault (Webmaster), and Ellen Kawadler and Don Steele (Workshops).

Finally, congratulations to Steph Sioras, whose image graces the cover of this issue. Donna and I had selected this image as one of our favorites in the cover photo contest that we held earlier this year.

Let the warm days of summer bring you happiness, health, and stories to share when we meet again in September.

**PS** Don't forget to renew your SBCC membership on July 1!

**To provide feedback on *Reflections* or to contribute an article,  
please send an email to Tom Amsterburg ([tslhusa@comcast.net](mailto:tslhusa@comcast.net)).**



# Pet Project MSH Checked/Completed/Finished!

By Joe Kennedy

In my last *Reflections* article, I shared some of my thoughts about doing “pet projects.” They have a place on our desktop UNTIL they are completed and then moved to a final resting spot, generally an external hard drive. I am excited to be able to report on the completion of my Medfield State Hospital project!



Welcoming Sign

Oh, the thrill of being able to move on from something which has been sitting on my computer since 2022. My first encounter with the architecture at the Medfield State Hospital was when I volunteered to shoot an event for the Bellforge Theater Arts. The activities were interesting but those buildings - red brick with detailed dental worked throughout really caught my interest. Over the next few years I casually took some images of the former state hospital while on assignment with SBCC Volunteers! It wasn't until I heard that most of them would be torn down that I tried to preserve the memory and craftsmanship of the many laborers who built these structures.



Architectural Poetry

How best to capture their essence? I painstakingly walked around each building making sure I had the assigned designation (number) of that red edifice.



Bldg. 8 - Men's Convulsive Unit

Some buildings only needed a half dozen shots while others were worthy of many more. I looked for any interesting brickwork? What about the angles chosen by the bricklayers? Doorways, stairs and windows were of particular interest as well.



CONTRIBUTION



# ***Pet Project MSH Checked/Completed/Finished!***

**By Joe Kennedy**

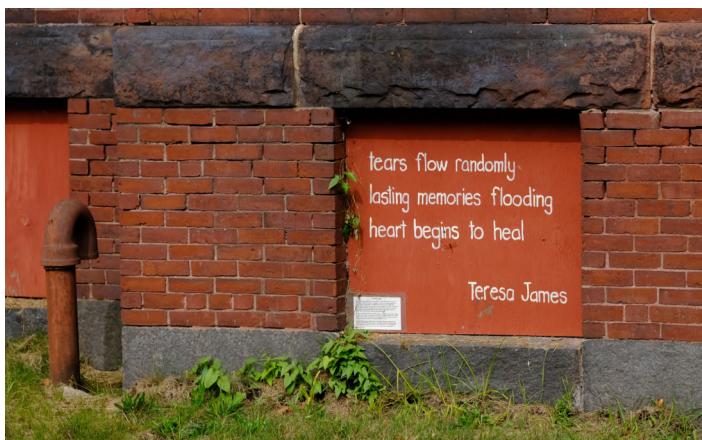


I think the Chapel topped my list of most images. This building will be the focal point for the Bellforge Arts program.

**The Chapel (Left: In Full Bloom;  
Below: Interior)**



I also picked up on the many quotes that were left by the residences and made sure they were part of my final compilation. Someone took the time to compose . . .



**Teresa James Haiku**



This past May, my project reached fruition when I managed to find the hospital's cemetery. It would be the final stop for over 840 residents of the hospital.

Over the years the grounds had been neglected but as recently as 2005, the simple markers were replaced by names and the years they were on this earth.



**Mary White's Marker**

So important to give these people an identity. And, my Pet Project continues that identity as I will offer my 600+ pictures to the Medfield Historical Society and to Bellforge Theater Arts.



**Memorial Marker  
at Cemetery**

"To all those who also lived, loved, and laughed . . ."

What's next????



# Congratulations to the Winners!

## IMAGES OF THE YEAR

CLASS AA - Digital Nature:

*Just a Sip*

© Hali Sowle



CLASS A - Digital Nature:

*Got It*

© Charles Call



# Congratulations to the Winners!

## IMAGES OF THE YEAR



**CLASS B - Digital Nature:**

*Lunch*

**© Nancy Jacobs Best**



**CLASS AA - Digital Open:**

*The Lone Boat in the Mist*

**© Ellen Kawadler**

# Congratulations to the Winners!

## IMAGES OF THE YEAR



**CLASS A - Digital Open:**

*Dahlia Up Close*

**© Barbara Asacker**



**CLASS B - Digital Open:**

*Thunder Surf*

**© Paul Guertin**

# Congratulations to the Winners!

## IMAGES OF THE YEAR

Digital People & Portraits:

*I've Got This!*

© Kathy Sferra



Digital Black & White:

*Focused Kick*

© Allan Litchfield



# Congratulations to the Winners!

## IMAGES OF THE YEAR



Color Print:  
*Trinity Church*  
© Tom Amsterburg



Monochrome Print:  
*Boston*  
© Lynda Appel

# ***Candid Street Photography in Prague and Vienna***

By Mike Schaffner

Candid street photography is one of my favorite photography genres. However, living in Houston, I don't get to do it all that often. That's because Houston life is very car-centric. People drive everywhere, nobody walks or least it seems that way. For sure, you can get some good street shots in Houston. You just have to work a little extra to do it. You have to be very patient and scout out good locations and times.

I was excited about going to Prague and Vienna as I knew there would be a lot of people out walking around. In reality, sometimes it was too much of a good thing; the crowds were overwhelming at some locations. However, a minor detour down a side street usually took care of that problem.

Prague and Vienna made it easy to find locations with great backgrounds. Both cities are beautiful and make for a great candid street photography environment.

Since there are always a lot of tourists around, nobody thinks twice about seeing a camera pointed in their direction. Everyone is snapping pics mainly on their phones so seeing a camera is no big deal. I dare say that I'm in hundreds of other people's photos although few, if any, are "of" me.

Another advantage of traveling to a new international location is that everything is new and different to you. Everything is a new discovery; a new surprise. Familiarity hasn't yet had the opportunity to cloud your photographic eye. This opens new possibilities to you for photo subjects and compositions.

## **The Photos**

During this trip there were 9 street shots that I really like. All were literally not on the street but fortunately "street" is a rather loose term in this context. A few of them presented some technical challenges as they were low-light, high-ISO shots. But challenges can be fun and it all worked out in the end.

### **– Prague**

Prague's Charles Bridge is perhaps its most famous landmark. Its a a medieval (started in 1357) stone arch bridge. The bridge is lined with 30 beautiful statues and has wonderful bridge towers at each end. As a result, the bridge is swarming with people. However, if you go beneath the bridge it is a beautiful, quiet respite which makes a great place for some candid street photography.



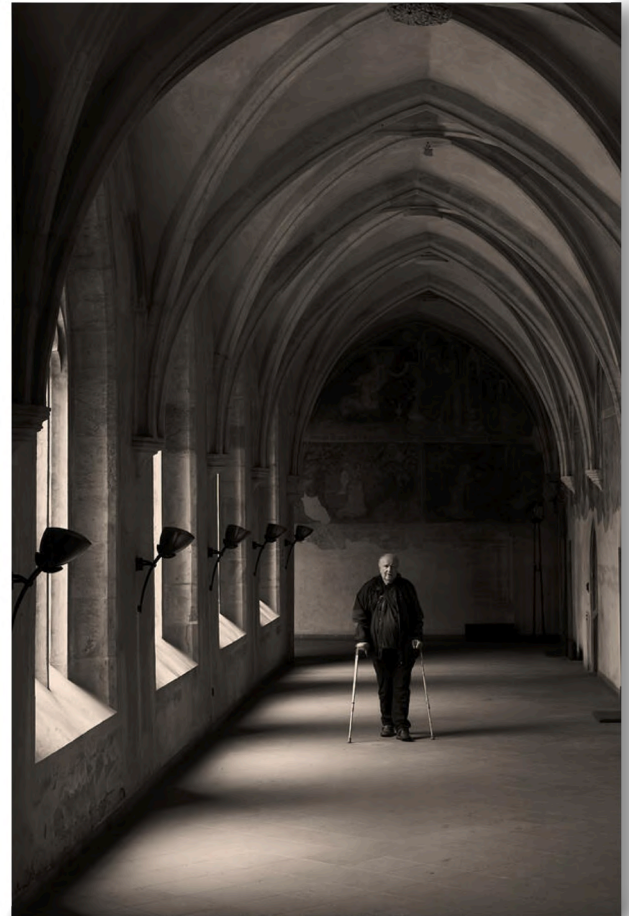
*Taking A Break Underneath the Charles Bridge*

# *Candid Street Photography in Prague and Vienna*

By Mike Schaffner

Unlike the Charles Bridge, Emmaus Monastery is a quiet place thankfully without many visitors. It allows you to enjoy the beauty in solitude. Below is a candid shot of a man walking through the cloisters.

Right: *Visiting The Cloisters*



*Lost in Thought*

This woman entered the tram and sat across the aisle from me. She sat quietly, seemingly lost in thought. I felt compelled to take a shot. I was holding my camera in my lap and didn't want to raise it to my eye as that would have been noticeable, ruining the moment. Because I was not able to see the LCD screen on the back of my camera, I was aiming blind. I did use back button focus but my aim for that was a bit off so the focus is soft. Fortunately, I think the soft focus works with the mood of the image.



# Candid Street Photography in Prague and Vienna

By Mike Schaffner

CONTRIBUTION



I really like how this walkway gives you got a peek of the restaurant with it's Coca-Cola awnings through the archway. I just had to wait a few minutes for people to come by to create a point of interest.

Left: *Coca-Cola And A Cell*

This was my last photo in Prague. While waiting for the train to Vienna I noticed these two gentlemen. How could I resist? The scene just screamed for a photo.



*Waiting for the Train*

# Candid Street Photography in Prague and Vienna

By Mike Schaffner

## – Vienna

The open air sidewalk cafés are a great place to relax, have a drink and watch the world go by. They are also great places to sit and take street shots. This is one of my favorite candid shots as I really love the woman's expression and the light.

Right: *Rainy Day at the Stephansplatz*



Museums are another great place for candid street photography. This scene caught my eye as it portrayed life imitating art. Two women observing art while the painting's subject seems to be observing the museum patrons.

Left: *3 Observers*

# Candid Street Photography in Prague and Vienna

By Mike Schaffner

CONTRIBUTION



Vienna loves its music. One evening I noticed a man buying a ticket at St. Stephan's Cathedral for an upcoming organ concert. I just loved the light in this scene.

*Left: Buying a Ticket for the Organ Concert*

If you're out and about in the US and are hungry you get a burger; in Vienna you get a sausage. ZUM GOLDENEN WÜRSTEL (For Golden Sausage) was a popular place.



*Grabbing A Bite at ZUM GOLDENEN WÜRSTEL*

This article is from an October 22, 2024 blog by Stony Brook Camera Club member, Mike Schaffner. See more of Mike's posts and photographs at: <https://mikeschaffnerphotography.com/>





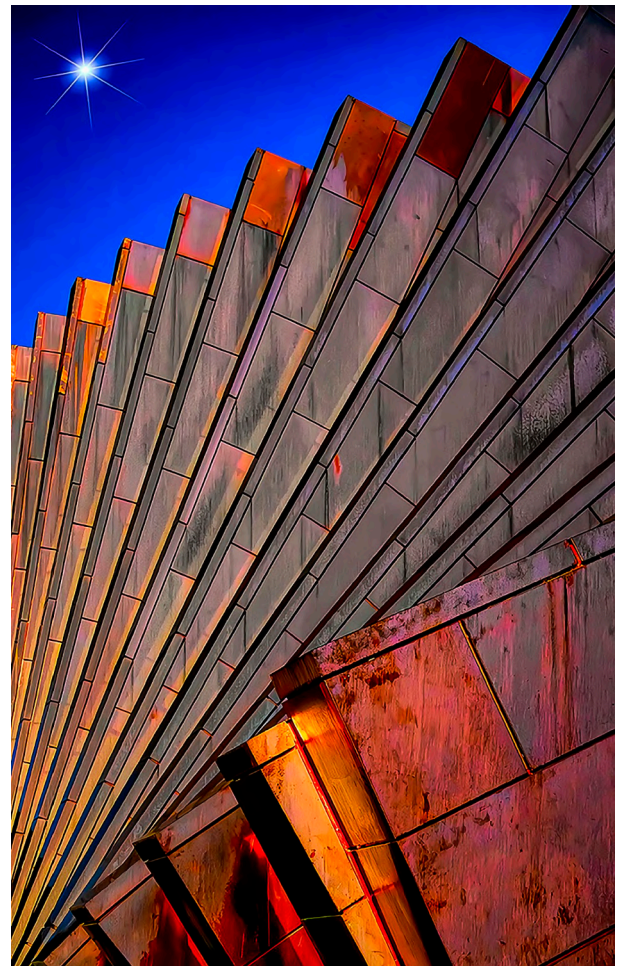
**At the Beach**



**Lotus MSH**



**Back of the Sunflower**



**At Night**

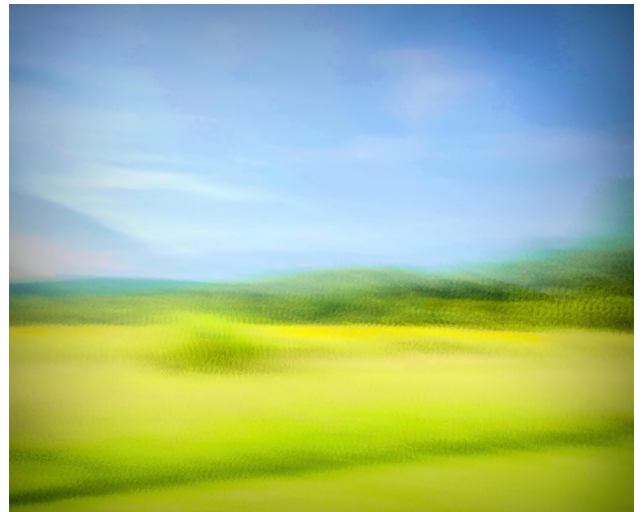




**The Music Session**



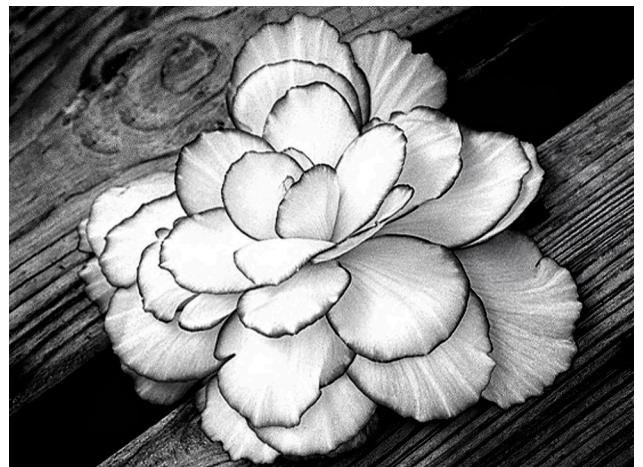
**Marshall Point Lighthouse**



**The Spring Fields**

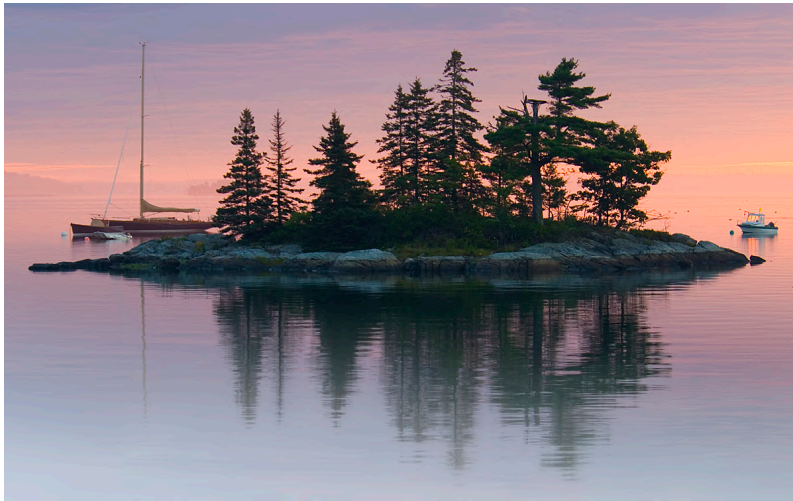


**Lotus Bud Beginnings**

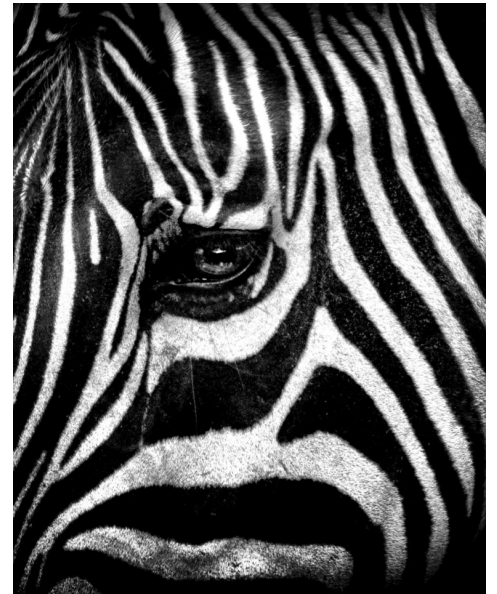


**Begonia and Wood**





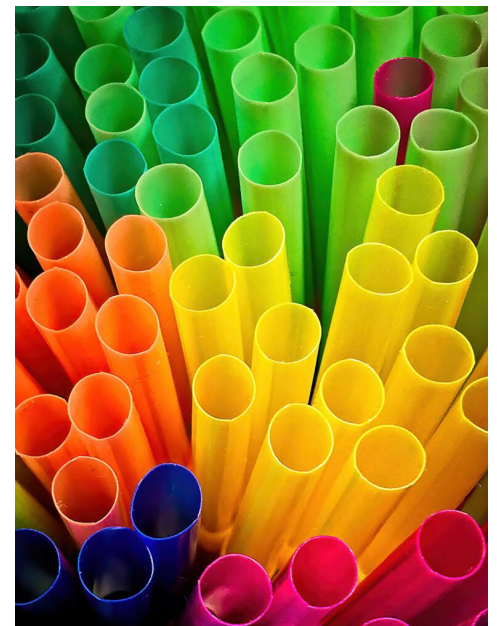
**The Island**



**Zebra's Eye**



**Winter Trees in Black and White**



**Straws**

# 2026 Multi-Club Competition

## 2025-26 Multi-Club Competition Boston, Gateway, Newton and Stony Brook Camera Clubs

All members of the Boston, Gateway, Newton and Stony Brook Camera Clubs are invited to participate in the friendly 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Multi-Club Competition to be hosted online in 2026 (date TBD).

All images must be created within a one-year period beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Members may choose to submit digital photographic images in any or all of the eight categories detailed below.

Category	Definition
1. <b>Black &amp; White Landscape</b>	Landscape photography is the art of capturing images of vast or intimate areas in nature and the outdoors in a compelling composition. The composition can be made even more compelling in black and white as you emphasize elements such as leading lines, shadow, dark and light tones, shapes and textures. Ansel Adams' iconic images are a good example of compelling B&W landscapes. Your image must be shades of black, gray and white only. Monochrome images with any other color (e.g., sepia or cyan) are not acceptable.
2. <b>Double Take</b>	Show us something that makes you go, "Huh?", "Wha???" or maybe even "WTF?". The image might look ordinary at first, until you realize that there's something about it that's a little off and makes you stop and reconsider what exactly you're looking at, often with a smile, a wrinkled squint or a sense of surprise spreading across your face. Odd angles and optical illusions might come into play in creating the image or you might create the effect by compositing something in post-processing that is incomprehensible or impossible in real life.
3. <b>Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) and/or Multiple Exposure</b>	ICM can include any movement that produces intentional blur. It can be a vertical, horizontal, diagonal, circular or any combination of movements. Multiple exposure (ME) can be done in camera, mobile phone camera apps or in post even if your camera has a multiple exposure feature. Both techniques offer opportunities for photographers who face challenges creating tack-sharp images. With both techniques, the emphasis in this category is on creativity, originality and artistic expression.
4. <b>Machinery</b>	How do you make photos of machines and industrial subjects interesting? Video can show them in action, but still photography often leaves them looking static. Can you find interesting lighting, a different angle to shoot from, maybe use a macro or telephoto focal length or find some out of the ordinary setting like an abandoned or historical machine or mill? Including the machine operator or other people in an industrial setting might help, too. Machines can be simple, like a pulley or lever, or complex, like engines or other manufactured devices. They can be current, obsolete or historical, large or small, bright and shiny or past their prime.
5. <b>Minimalism/Simplicity</b>	Minimalist photography is a style that prioritizes simplicity, focusing on capturing impactful images with minimal elements and a clean, uncluttered aesthetic. It emphasizes a sense of calmness, peacefulness, and order, achieved by reducing the image to its essential components.



# 2026 Multi-Club Competition

## 2025-26 Multi-Club Competition Boston, Gateway, Newton and Stony Brook Camera Clubs

Category	Definition
<b>6. On the Road</b>	Whether or not they show a road or are taken from one, photographs in this category should capture the sense of adventure, mystery, and discovery that ground-based travel can bring. This could include landscapes along a highway, elements of the overall experience of travel, interesting people encountered or sights like gas stations, roadside diners, quirky signs, abandoned structures, wildflowers in unplowed fields, sunsets and sunrises over the crest of a road, etc. Whether taken in rural, small town, suburban or urban settings, it's the mood of discovery while traveling along a street, road, highway or byway that's most important to capture.
<b>7. Softness</b>	Create an image with an effect or feeling is "soft." This can be based on animate or inanimate subjects or a by employing a technique that emphasizes softness, either in-camera or in post-processing. Typical examples include kittens, feathers and soft-focus scenes, such as with a Lensbaby or with techniques like applying a Gaussian blur or manipulating the contrast, clarity, sharpness and noise reduction sliders.
<b>8. Textures in Nature</b>	Texture may not be the first thing we associate with nature photography, but it's there. Texture can be captured in close-up, macro and even microscopic shots of leaves, fungi, moss, tree bark, frost, skin and feathers, among other small subjects, or in mid-range and grand vistas of water, rippling sand, forest canopies, flocks of animals and birds and rock formations. Your challenge is to find it and draw the viewer's eye to it in a way that makes it easy for them to imagine they can feel it for themselves. Other elements can be present, but it needs to be evident that the texture you've captured is what makes your image compelling.

Members from the clubs will be assigned to either Class A (advanced) or B (beginner and intermediate) in Multi-Club to give all photographers a chance to compete fairly with others at a similar level of experience and skill. Next April, each club will select a single final image in each category and class to compete in the event. Only one image per member may be submitted to the finals, allowing 16 members from each club (8 categories x 2 classes) to compete.

Multi-Club will once again be judged by a distinguished panel of three judges independent of the clubs. The judges will offer their comments on all finalist images, especially focused on stressing each image's impact in communicating the category definition. Awards will be given to the best image in each class/category based on the judges' rankings. Club awards will be given for best total placement across all categories in Class B, Class A and Overall. Finally, at the end of the competition, the judges will also each choose a Judge's Favorite for each class, across all categories, for a total of up to 22 individual awards (16 category winners and up to 3 across all categories in both Class B and Class A).



MEMBER



OREGON

Portland



**PSA PHOTO FESTIVAL**  
September 24-27, 2025 | PHOTO TOURS  
SEPTEMBER 22-24

<https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/photo-festival>



# Stony Brook Camera Club 2024 - 2025 Meeting Schedule

Date	Club Topic	Presenter	Venue
9/5/24	Opening Night/Business Meeting	Members	Hybrid
9/12/24	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Hybrid
9/19/24	Minimalism	Denise Silva	Zoom
9/26/24	Making Competitive Nature Images	Rick Cloran	Zoom
10/3/24	Competition		Zoom
10/10/24	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Hybrid
10/17/24	Seascape Photography	Nancy Orbe	Zoom
10/24/24	Macro photography	Mike Moats	Zoom
10/31/24	Judges Point of View	David, Silvana	Zoom
11/7/24	Competition		Hybrid
11/14/24	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Zoom
11/21/24	Making Compelling Images at Events	Ray Schneider	Zoom
11/28/24	Thanksgiving Day	Closed	Closed
12/5/24	Competition		Zoom
12/12/24	Photography & Principles of Art and Design	Richard Bernabe	Zoom
12/19/24	Galapagos	Ellen Kawadler	Hybrid
12/26/24	Holiday Break	Closed	Closed
1/2/25	Holiday Break	Closed	Closed
1/9/25	Competition		Hybrid
1/16/25	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Hybrid
1/23/25	Landscape Technique, Vision, Processing	Nic Stover	Zoom
1/30/25	Oregon	Dan Gyves et al	Hybrid
2/6/25	Competition		Zoom
2/13/25	Concert Photography	Jake Jacobsen	Hybrid
2/20/25	Architecture	Joe Readon	Zoom
2/27/25	New Member Showcase	Cynde Cusack	Hybrid

# Stony Brook Camera Club 2024 - 2025 Meeting Schedule

Date	Club Topic	Presenter	Venue
3/6/25	Competition		Hybrid
3/13/25	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Zoom
3/20/25	Cabin Fever	Amy Letourneau	In person
3/27/25	Talk Photography	Faith Martin	Zoom
4/3/25	Competition		Zoom
4/10/25	The Connection Between Art & Craft	Freeman Patterson	Zoom
4/17/25	Black and White Photography	Geff Bourke	Zoom
4/24/25	SIG	Members	Zoom
5/1/25	Image of the Year		Hybrid
5/8/25	Multi-Club		Hybrid
5/15/25	Mastering the Light	Greg Basco	Zoom
5/22/25	Editing and Creating with AI	Jim Christianson	Zoom
5/29/25	Image Makers	David & Hali	Zoom
6/5/25	Men vs Women		Hybrid
6/12/25	Banquet/Business Meeting	Members	Hybrid

## Color Key

Guest Speaker
Internal Programs
Internal Speakers
Competitions
Image Study



## Stony Brook Camera Club - Officers and Committees 2024-2025

OFFICERS	
<b>President</b>	Amy Letourneau
<b>Vice President</b>	Ed Szymanski
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ed Gooltz
<b>Secretary</b>	Billi Manning
<b>Recent Past Presidents</b>	Cynde Cusack Tom Amsterburg Jim Borreback Silvana Della Camera

COMMITTEES	
<b>Competition</b>	<div> <div>Tony Mistretta (Chair)</div> <div>Patricia Cabral</div> <div>Bob Doyle</div> <div>Dan Gyves</div> </div> <div> <div>Ed Gooltz</div> <div>Allan Litchfield</div> <div>David Marshak</div> <div>Prasanth Mudundi</div> </div>
<b>Four Score Raffle</b>	Jim Borreback
<b>Image Study</b>	Ray Guillette
<b>Multi-Club Competition</b>	Mark Landman
<b>NECCC Rep</b>	Ray Guillette
<b>NECCC Digital Competition</b>	Patricia Cabral (Chair)      Amy Letourneau
<b>New Members</b>	Cynde Cusack
<b>Nominations</b>	<div>Alan Litchfield (Chair)</div> <div>Silvana Della Camera</div> <div>David McLaughlin</div>
<b>PSA Representative</b>	Ed Szymanski
<b>Program Committee</b>	<div>Ed Szymanski (Chair)</div> <div>Ginnie Castro</div> <div>Cynde Cusack</div> <div>Silvana Della Camera</div> <div>Ed Gooltz</div> <div>Amy Letourneau</div> <div>David Marshak</div> <div>Faith Martin</div> <div>Hali Sowle</div>
<b>Publicity</b>	(open)
<b>Reflections</b>	Tom Amsterburg      Donna Parker
<b>Scholarship Fund</b>	Jim Borreback (Chair)
<b>Special Interest Group: Nature</b>	Ed Szymanski (Chair)
<b>Volunteers!</b>	<div> <div>Sue Shirley (Chair)</div> <div>Jim Borreback</div> <div>Patricia Cabral</div> <div>Janet Casey</div> <div>Cynde Cusack</div> </div> <div> <div>Joe Kennedy</div> <div>Nancy Paradee</div> <div>Donna Parker</div> <div>Elizabeth Siftar</div> <div>Stephanie Sioras</div> </div>
<b>Technology</b>	<div>David Marshak (Chair)</div> <div>Jake Jacobson</div> <div>Amos Lu</div> <div>Noah Sylvia</div> <div>Ed Szymanski</div> <div>Jim West</div>
<b>Website</b>	Charlene Gaboriault (Webmaster)
<b>Workshops</b>	Ellen Kawadler      Donald Steele



Donna Parker and Tom Amsterburg,  
Co-Editors  
P.O. Box 20  
Wrentham, MA 02903-0020  
<https://www.stonybrookcc.com/>

## MEETINGS:

Currently, the Stony Brook Camera Club meets virtually on Zoom at 7:30 pm on Thursdays from September to June. Some of these meetings may be simultaneously held in person at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer in Franklin, MA. Zoom social hour begins at 7:00 pm, while the in-person social hour starts at 6:30 pm. See our calendar for the schedule of events. Our meetings feature competitions, speakers, image studies and discussions of general interest. We also sponsor a number of image-taking activities all year.

## DUES:

Regular member	\$75
Student member	\$50
Senior member	\$50
Family:	\$125
Family:	\$100
Family:	\$75

## NEWSLETTER:

Published quarterly solely for the information, guidance, and enjoyment of members of the Stony Brook Camera Club, Franklin, MA. All issues are available here:

<https://www.stonybrookcc.com/d/fe5bd610-7d5e-4507-ad26-eff1f109a464>

## WEBSITE:

Visit our website at [www.stonybrookcc.com](http://www.stonybrookcc.com) for the latest schedule, updates and breaking news, as well as photographs from our competitions, members, and activities throughout the year.

## FACEBOOK:

Our Facebook page is for current Stony Brook Camera Club members. You must register with Facebook before requesting to join our group. For any questions, e-mail David Marshak from the SBCC website e-mail tab (you must be logged in to view).

## OFFICERS:

Officers are elected annually and serve as the Executive Committee, together with the two most recent past presidents. SBCC is affiliated with the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) and is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Stony Brook Camera Club's mission is to promote enjoyment and proficiency in all aspects of photography through education, fellowship, exchange of knowledge and experience, and a broad appreciation of nature and our environment.