



# Newsletter

Volume 37 Issue 10

October 2015

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## *Reminders*

### **Creative Definition**

Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. No image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept. Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker's photograph or a collection of photographs.

Images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit. The image should have strong composition, pleasing quality, and color, texture, pattern, and/or tone impact. The appropriateness of the technique selected to create altered reality is considered in judging. The content is unrestricted.

### **Redefining Photography: A Closer Look at Contemporary Image Makers**

In the October program Ron Herman will examine the work of contemporary photographers who are exploring new ways to work with traditional photographic materials. He will use artists and artwork in the Getty's exhibit Light, Paper, Process: Reinventing Photography as a framework for his presentation.

## *Coming Club Events*

See the [Calendar](#) on our web site for updates or further details.

### **Saturday, October 3, 2015**

11:30pm Projected Image Entry Deadline:  
Color, Monochrome, Creative

### **Monday, October 5, 2015**

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline  
7:15pm Print Entry Deadline  
Competition: Color, Monochrome,  
Creative  
Judge: George Ziegler

Refreshments: Alan Levenson, Michael Liebermann, Stan Litwin

### **Saturday, October 17, 2015**

Milky Way Field Trip

### **Saturday, October 17, 2015**

9 am -4:45 pm PSA Yerba Buena  
Chapter [Russ Burden Seminar](#)

### **Monday, October 19, 2015**

Program: Redefining Photography: A  
Closer Look at Contemporary Image  
Makers by Ron Herman

### **Monday, October 26, 2015**

10:00am or 7:00pm Workshop on  
Mounting Prints for Competition hosted  
by Harvey Gold at his home

### **Saturday, October 31, 2015**

11:30pm Projected Image Entry Deadline:  
Color, Monochrome, Nature

## 2015 Member Program Night

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The club usually has a program night each year where members can put together a short show. This provides the opportunity to share a subject of interest to the photographer. Below is information on most of the shows that were presented on Monday September 21, 2015. We asked for the program title, an image, and a short paragraph. Thanks to everyone who participated this year. Start thinking about the subject for your show next year!



### Larry Rosier by Birds of Iceland

The photos in this presentation were taken on a NatureScapes.net Iceland workshop. A 2016 version of this workshop is described at [http://www.naturescapes.net/workshops/iceland\\_adventure\\_arctic\\_2016](http://www.naturescapes.net/workshops/iceland_adventure_arctic_2016). The workshop was led by [E.J. Peiker](#) and [Johann Hilmarrsson](#). E.J. is an outstanding photographer and Johann is a world renowned Ornithologist. The presentation contains at least one photograph of all of the species that were photographed. The species is listed followed by at least one photograph. A number of the species contain photos of the birds in flight.

### Scenes from Inle Lake, Burma by Ken Bloomfield

Inle Lake is a large, shallow lake in Eastern Burma that supports floating gardens and stilt-house villages, temples and floating markets. It probably best known for cage-like fish traps and the unique leg-rowing technique of the inhabitants who propel their flat-bottomed boats with a leg wrapped around a single wooden paddle.



### Wildlife/Beavers this year at Los Gatos Creek/Lexington Reservoir by Mercury Freedom

This has been a really interesting year to see/photograph the beavers that live here on Los Gatos Creek/Lexington Reservoir – they kind of set up in my back yard! – Well truly they're maybe a 300 yard walk away. I also have a couple of decent photos of 'our local' Bald Eagles to share along with a smattering of other wildlife.

### Mirrorless Photography by Jeff Balfus

The slide show has images of the Pyramids in Cairo. Transitions to Old Jerusalem and Church of Holy Sepulcher and final to the Memorial for 9/11 at the World Trade Center in NYC. I was struck by the formation of the Pyramids, the holiness of the grounds, and finally the resemblance of the modern structures to old pyramids. I was hoping to show that the new mirrorless cameras are quite capable of a range of photography. Traveling with a smaller lighter camera is a pleasure.





### Gold Mountain Architecture by Jim Lafferty

The Gold Mountain Community is located 50 miles north of Truckee along the Feather River. The video I displayed at the club is a four minute piece devoted to the architecture and decorating of existing Gold Mountain homes. If you are interested in knowing more about Gold Mountain, please visit our new website [goldmountainhoacsd.org](http://goldmountainhoacsd.org). There are three additional videos and lots of information about our beautiful and unique community.

### Glamour Portraits by Serena Hartoog

I love to take photos of woman or girls. This one is from last year's collection.



### The Many Facets of Venezia by Mary Ellen Kaschub

Thanks to Ken Bloomfield's recommendation, we did a photo walk with a lovely man and photojournalist Marco. Besides taking us to special spots for early morning light, he filled us in on the changes Venice has been undergoing - rising sea levels, declining population and the onslaught of tourists from all over the world, massive numbers now since they dredged the Grand Canal to allow gigantic cruise ships entrance. From 9 am (when the ships dislodge their passengers) to their 5 pm return aboard and a night sail to another destination), the main arteries of Venice are clogged with visitors.

A year ago last spring I spent six days in Venice with a Canadian photographer friend of mine. We stayed in an apartment off the beaten path which gave us the experience of daily life of Venetians and how life in Venice with its labyrinth of canals is led.

It was fascinating yet sad to see this beautiful city diminished in scale with the large cruise ships entering, and the mass of foot traffic that they dislodged. As one writer mused, "Is Venice becoming an adult Disneyland?" I hope not - but maybe. So my slideshow is about all of it, the beauty in the City, living and working there, technology with cell phones in surprising places; and finally asking the question, "Is Venice being loved to death?" The music I picked is by Vivaldi, one of the famous Venetians. Beautiful City, great trip!

### Never know what you might see when looking for birds by Rob Fox

Was walking up an incline at Vasona when saw this photo op below-- -lucky the exposure was on as there was no time to change it. They were participating in a walkathon for canine cancer.



## ***Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It***

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We asked the makers of the first place images to send stories about what their subject was, when and where the image was taken, how it was created (photographed and/or processed), and why they created it.

The story from one of the August winners was left out of the newsletter by mistake and is included this month.

The September judge was Melanie Lewert.

### **August 2015 First Place Travel Digital Projected Image - Basic**

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***Mysterious doors inside walled city of  
Dubrovnik, Croatia***  
Bob Downs

This photo was taken from atop the city walls in Dubrovnik, Croatia and it was a lucky capture. I looked down and spotted a girl climbing the stairs and peering in at a door that was ajar.

Her curiosity about what was behind the door caught mine. I captured a few photos as she pushed the door slightly and peeked in. Then she walked away and I never found out what was inside. I think the mystery is what drew me to take those photos.

When I travel I take a lot of pictures. Many of them uninteresting or throwaways, but some I keep and post on Facebook or make into a slide show using Lightroom along with some local music from CD's I buy on the trip. Maybe my heirs will enjoy looking at them.

This photo was handheld at 1/320, f/14 and an ISO of 400, using a Nikon D800E with a 24-120 lens at 31mm. I don't carry a tripod and usually travel with a group that's not conducive to stopping. It was an overcast day but the ISO was fast enough to get a sharp picture even at f/14. I used Lightroom to crop, align, reduce highlights and make other minor adjustments.



## September 2015 First Place Journalism Digital Projected Image - Advanced

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*Chalking the batter's boxes at home plate, Giants stadium, San Francisco*  
Mary Ellen Kaschub

### Take Me Out to the Ball Game

I love watching baseball, the nuances of strategies, positions and players. And going to a game is always fun because so much is going on all the time, everywhere, as well as the game itself.

This game was between the Giants and the Phillies and we got to the stadium a bit early. Our friends had invited us and they had terrific seats behind home plate. Of course I brought my camera and was having fun photographing some of the pre-game activity before doing my usual, trying to catch the pitched ball frozen in the frame with the batter swinging. When I saw field personnel carry out this contraption I couldn't figure out what it was, but as I watched and they proceeded I caught on - chalking the batter boxes on either side of home plate. Fun! It was unusual and a natural shot for photo journalism.

Sometimes I find it's the pre-game, pre-performance, "getting ready" shots that tell their own unique story. Camera setting was probably F8 with an ISO of 200.

## September 2015 First Place Journalism Print

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*Mother Guides Son's Early Climbing Adventure*  
Sherry Grivett

While photographing at a rodeo, behind the stands, I discovered this mother amusing her child with a climbing activity. It was printed and matted at home.

Entered previously in competition at LGSCC May 2014, it did not place.



## September 2015 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

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*Watching the Parade*  
Rebecca Smith-Coggins

This photo was taken at the 2015 Fourth of July parade in Chatham, Massachusetts. It is a colorful, small town parade that I have been going to for years. In fact, I was a clown in the parade when I was a teenager.

I had an interest in capturing reflections that day and spent a fair amount of the time shooting hubcaps, bumpers and other reflective objects. I was looking for an image within an image. All of a sudden this gorgeous old maroon car went by with a distinct reflection of the crowd. I was only able to take five shots, but I knew that one of them was the photo I had been hoping for. I was thrilled to see the reflection enhanced when I changed it to black and white and increased the "recovery" setting in LightRoom.

It was shot with my Nikon D300 at ISO 640, f/4.0, 70 mm, at 1/400th second. I wish I could tell you what type of car this is, but I am not 100% sure.

## September 2015 First Place Monochrome Print

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*Stairway to (Football) Heaven*  
Tim Meadows

My image is of the stairwell at the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art. I arrived at the museum right as it opened and went directly to the stairwell so that I could minimize the chance of people getting in the way of a purely architectural shot. I tried many perspectives and chose this one because of the quality of light and the interplay of the layers of stairs going up to the "football" skylight.

Technical notes: Sony A7R, Sony/Zeiss 24-70mm f4.0 lens at 24mm, ISO 2000, 1/40 second, F11. Minor spot removal, highlight and shadow adjustments and conversion to black and white in Lightroom CC 2015.



## September 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

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*Shadows*  
Craig Colvin

This shot was taken at the Opera House in Oslo, Norway, this past July.

Because of the high latitude of Oslo the sun only sets for a couple of hours each night in the summer. The great thing about this is that the golden hour before sunset lasts for hours (this shot was taken 10:15pm). The Opera House has very interesting architecture and I spent four hours there one evening, and came back the next evening and shot for 3 more hours.

I always assign myself projects when traveling and on this trip one of the projects was shooting people's shadows. The Opera House was a perfect place to do this, the low sun cast long shadows, and the roof overlooked the plaza below so I had a great vantage point. I shot many shadow photos there, looking for isolated subjects or separation between the subjects so they would have well defined shadows. The plaza was not smooth and had channels cut into it. I liked how the shadows of these two people intersected one of the channels.

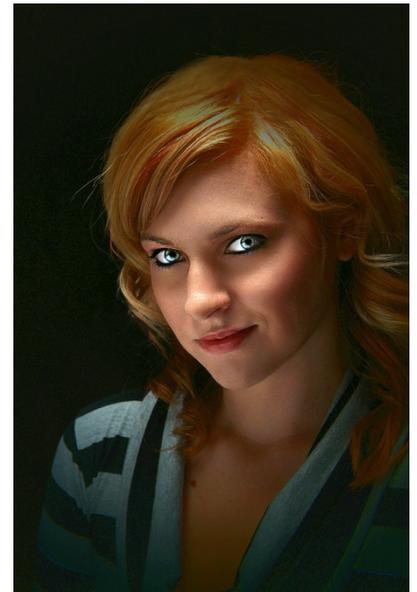
Shot with an Olympus OMD EM1, with a Lumix 35-100 f/2.8 lens at 35mm, 1/250s, f/10 at ISO 200. Post-processing was done with Lightroom.

## September 2015 First Place Color Print

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*Maggie*  
Harvey Gold

In the fall of 2009, several Club members and I attended a lighting workshop in a Mountain View studio. There the instructor provided models in several multiple strobe lighting scenarios. Frankly, I was not pleased with the results from the two sessions. Last week, while looking at my old image inventory, I resurrected this image. After applying several Photoshop filters, the result was an image worthy of competition.



## September 2015 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic



*See You Camaguey Cuba 2015*  
Alan Levenson

We were sitting in a small bar in Camaguey Cuba. It had just stopped raining. I noticed the bicycle taxi (which are fairly common in Cuba) sitting out on the street. An individual was standing near the door and kept moving in and out of the way. I took a number of shots. Eventually I cropped it so that the person was not visible and I used the doorframe as a frame for the subject.

I increased the color saturation in Lightroom. The camera was a Sony RX100.

## September 2015 First Place Journalism Digital Projected Image - Basic

*Trying to Photograph Brother at School Assembly / I got the Shot*  
Betty Toepfer

I was attending my grandchildren's school assembly. The room was standing room only. Every parent was jostling for a chance to photograph their child. Some walked the center aisle with their cell phones or point-and-shoot cameras and kneeled down to avoid blocking the view of others. They would retreat and others would take their place. Regardless of who or how many parents were scrunched down in the aisle trying to get the once-in-a-lifetime shot of their child, along comes this little girl with a cell phone, determined to photograph her brother. Back and forth she went aggressively elbowing out the grown ups who blocked her path to the front of the aisle. It was very annoying and embarrassing for the grown ups, some of whom lost their balance and toppled to the floor as a result of her onslaught. Repeatedly, she raced back and forth to her family to share her images only to return to pushing her way to the front yet again. Her parents and family were completely oblivious of her rude behavior and encouraged her to return to take more images.

I was shooting from the rear of the room with a longer lens so did not have to compete for floor space in the aisle and thus avoided her assaults. Suddenly, I realized that she was an excellent PJ subject. After I took the two images of this very enthusiastic photographer, the assembly concluded. The image was a grab shot and was slightly off kilter. It was straightened in photoshop, but other than that, it is as shot.

Canon 5D Mark II, Lens 75 mm - 300 mm,  
Lens 250mm at F 5.6 at 1/45 sec ISO 4000



## *Meet Ling-Kuo Lee*

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I was born and raised in Taiwan, a small island that is on the other end of the Pacific Ocean. I came to the US for a graduate program in Computer Science in 1983. After I graduated in 1985, I worked for several high-tech companies in Silicon Valley for many years.

I first became interested in photography because of my sixth grade science teacher and my father. When I was in sixth grade, my science teacher taught us how to develop film in a lab class. At that time, my father was also taking photos as well. He used one of the small bathrooms in our house to build a darkroom. That was my first exposure (and interest) in photography.

When I entered junior high, my father gave me a camera and started to teach me how to take pictures. The camera I got from my father was a very old fashioned one. It was all manual, of course. However, he only taught me the basics, such as aperture, shutter speed, ISO, etc.

When I was in high school, my father replaced my old camera with a much better one - a Nikon EM SLR camera along with a couple of lenses. That was the first time that I started to take pictures with color film.



I used this camera for many years, up until the period when automatic point-and-shoot cameras started becoming popular. I was tired of carrying the heavy camera and lenses, so I then switched my camera to a small point-and-shoot film camera. Several years later, I upgraded my camera to a point-and-shoot digital camera. For many years, I was using the camera mainly to document the life of my family.

Then, in 2010, I went to a friend's home and noticed several beautiful pictures that he had taken. My friend enthusiastically explained to me the story behind each picture and how he took it. That inspired me to once again get back into photography.

After hunting around for a camera in early 2011, I bought a Nikon D7000. Coincidentally, right after I bought the camera, I saw an advertisement in a Chinese newspaper for a free presentation about photography by a local photographer. The photographer covered several basic photography techniques such as aperture, shutter speed, ISO, and basic composition rules, etc. He also showed us several pictures he had taken. The pictures were very beautiful. While I already had basic knowledge of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, the composition rules really opened up my eyes. After the presentation, I started to realize that in order to take good pictures, there were many techniques I needed to master first.



The day after the presentation, the photographer took us to the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden for a photography shoot. After the shoot, I showed my pictures to the photographer, and he praised the shots I took. At that time, this gave me a much-needed confidence boost and let me know that I would be able to take good pictures. With this confidence, I decided that I needed a better camera; I returned the D7000 and went out to buy a used but fairly new semi-pro D300 camera.

From that point on, I gave up the point-and-shoot camera and switched back to the heavy and bulky DSLR camera. I bought several photography books and magazines to study photography by myself. I also started to look for photography classes in order to improve my photography skills. This was difficult to find at first, but in

August 2011, I stumbled upon an advertisement for a photography class offered by Tzu-Chi Buddhist Foundation. I immediately registered for the class, and was in the class for about two years. The teacher had forty years of photography experience, and he focused primarily on composition, color design, and photo critiques. This proved to be very helpful, and I learned a lot in the class.

In August 2012, a friend sent me an email for a photography outing held by a local Chinese church. I went out to join the photography outing at Golden Gate Park, where we were divided into several small groups, with each group being led by an experienced photographer. The group I was assigned to was led by Serena Hartoog. During the shoot, I had a chance to chat with Serena, and she told me that she had joined a camera club named Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club.

After the shoot, we were encouraged to submit three pictures for a photo competition. That was the first time that I participated in a photo competition, and one of my images won the honorable mention award. That was the first award I won after learning photography for a year, and I was very proud of the achievement.

After that, I wanted to join a camera club in order to continue my learning process. I looked around and went to several different camera club meetings. I finally decided that the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club is the one that is not only close to where I live but also well organized and with a great program. I joined in the club in August 2013. I submitted my first image for competition in December 2013 and won third place in the Monochrome Projected Image Category. The same image later also won Honorable Mention in the 2013 Annual Monochrome Projected Image Competition. Since then, I've consistently participated in photo competitions and have learned a great deal. At the end of 2014, I was surprised that one of my competition images won the "Image of the Year" award. That was after three years of learning photography, and I was incredibly honored. In September 2015, one of my images taken at San Gregorio State Beach was featured on NBC Bay Area's OpenRoad. Here is the link to the [video](#).



I retired from work in 2008, but ever since I started learning photography in 2011, photography has almost become a full-time job. I don't travel very much because I have kids to take care of, so my photographs are mostly taken around the area where I live. I think this is the most challenging part of photography: turning an ordinary scene into a beautiful image.

My topic of interest when it comes to photography is broad. I photograph pretty much everything, including landscapes, portrait, night photography, street photography, architectures, flowers, wildlife, birds, events, weddings, macro, etc. I once read a quote from a famous photographer saying that no matter how good you think you are in photography, never stop learning. That has become my photography motto.

Other than photography, I have varied interests. I enjoy music and am part of a band, playing guitar and singing with friends at local Chinese community activities. I play badminton and ping pong a couple times a week. I take social dance classes with my wife every weekend. I also love to go out hiking with friends. But no matter what, photography will always be my main interest and I will never stop learning and taking pictures.

### Key Contacts

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|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <b>President</b><br>John Perry<br>408-370-7229 | <b>Membership</b><br>Gary Marcos<br>408-741-5712 | <b>Webmaster</b><br><a href="#">Jim Katzman</a><br>408-867-6810 | <b>Newsletter</b><br>Airdrie Kincaid<br>408-247-3743 | Official publication of the <a href="#">Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club</a> , a club member of the Photographic Society of America |  |
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