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March 2, zoom only meeting 7:30

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*Featured Cover by Chris Cassell  
(see makers description on page 7)*

# Notices and Coming Events

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

## Next Competition - Mon. Feb. 2, In-person & Zoom

**Submission Rules** – Members may enter a maximum of two projected images. On months with prints, a maximum of three images may be submitted as three prints or a combination of prints and (up to two) projected images.

**Our meeting judge** for March will be TJ Campbell. In stating her philosophy, she says, “I try to honor the maker by explaining what I see and giving helpful advice on improvements. I look for composition, visual impact, use of color/tones and technical exploration. Mistakes, which are inevitable, should be seen as learning tools to help one grow and become a better photographer.”

**Categories for March** - Besides the monthly categories of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Creative and Journalism projected.

### Creative Category

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 . . . [MORE](#)

### Journalism Category

Images with informative content and emotional impact

- Reflecting the human presence in our world.
- The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality.
- Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
- The title should identify the activity (answer who, what, where, when and why) and complement the story as shown in the image and is restricted to 200 characters including spaces in this category.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Removal or correction of elements added by the camera or lens, such as dust spots, noise, chromatic aberration and lens distortion.
- Global and selective adjustments such as brightness . . . [MORE](#)

## Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For 2026, prints will be judged in . . .

April – Nature, Travel, Mono, Color  
June- Journalism, Creative, Mono, Color  
August - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color  
October – Journalism, Creative, Mono, Color  
December - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color

### Special Interest Group Links below

(Click on any SIG title for detailed information)

- [Special Interest Group - Seeing in Sixes](#)
- [Special Interest Group in Monochrome Photography](#)
- [Special Interest Group in Photoshop](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Hands-on Editing](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Astrophotography](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Eastern Sierra Photography](#)
- [Special Interest Group - Landscape Photography](#)



2017 - A Woman Oversees rehabbing her historic building in central Havana

**Monthly Hands-on Photo Editing Session** - register to attend – Check the Club Calendar for dates, usually the last Wednesday of the month 3:45 - 5:45 at the Saratoga Library. We’ll edit photos you bring. **How to Register:** - Log-on to club website, Click event under “[calendar](#)” Questions, email [here](#)

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## Member Bio - Shahrooz Shahparnia, Joined 12/2025

Based in Monte Sereno, California, where I live with my wife and two children, I am a photographer and traveler driven by the pursuit of emotional light and the ‘decisive moment.’ From the rugged coasts of California to the vibrant streets of Rome, my photography explores the intersection of world cultures and the natural environment. My work is rooted in a deep connection to the scene, ensuring that every frame is an intentional record of a moment that will never happen quite the same way again.

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*“I strive to create images that are not just observed but felt. While I capture the world in broad strokes . . .”*

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My philosophy is that a great photograph should feel cinematic—a single frame where the viewer can imagine a larger story unfolding. I aim to capture this narrative depth, blending composition and aesthetics with raw emotion. Inspired by the humanistic storytelling of Sebastião Salgado, I strive to create images that are not just observed but felt. While I capture the world in broad strokes, my deepest passion lies in street and documentary photography.



Technically, my journey has evolved from a purely digital beginning back to the enriching discipline of analog film. I utilize a hybrid kit of Leica and Canon systems and sometimes just my iPhone. To maintain a unified workflow, I digitize my negatives using a camera scanning setup. In the digital darkroom, I rely on Lightroom for library management and essential editing, occasionally turning to Photoshop, Nik Silver Efex, or Luminar Neo when a specific image requires a specialized touch.

See more from Shahrooz at -

Website: <https://www.fibradicotone.com/> Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/shahroozshaphoto/>

## February Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



### ▲ Absence and Desire (Bologna, Italy, October 2025), Shahrooz Shahparnia, Mono Projected

This photograph was captured in Bologna, Italy, on a heavily rainy autumn day in October 2025. It specifically frames the city's iconic porticoes, a defining architectural feature for which Bologna is globally renowned. There are over 24 miles of these elegant, covered arcades winding through the historical center alone. These structures serve a highly practical purpose, making it entirely possible to walk for incredibly long distances while remaining completely sheltered from the harsh elements.

The primary goal of this street image is to authentically capture the moody, cinematic atmosphere and the unique, diffused light present during that precise, rain-soaked moment. Furthermore, it seeks to document a lively portion

of everyday human activities unfolding beneath the arches. Finally, it highlights the profound aesthetic value of careful black and white conversion, demonstrating how targeted dodge and burn techniques powerfully emphasize the narrative story within an image.

Camera/lens info: Leica Q3, 28mm , 1/250s, f3.5, ISO1000 and polarizer (to increase contrast after black and white conversion).

Singer & Activist, Joan Baez addressed and led protest songs at the May Day Strong Protest against the current administration at City Hall, Mountain View, CA. May 1, 2025. Estimated Crowd 300 people, Jim Katzman, Journalism Print ▶

I joined a group of volunteer photographers about a year ago: Pro Bono Photo ([www.probonophoto.org](http://www.probonophoto.org)) after asking Chris Cassell how he got all his excellent PJ images over the years. He told me about this group that did work in the bay area for non-profit organizations and social justice groups. I volunteered to cover this protest in Mountain View. The group has at last count 77 photographers in the Bay Area. I've covered several protests and several non-profit functions so far. Many of the photos wind up being published in local newspapers or in marketing materials for the non-profits. As the name implies, we charge nothing for the photography or the use of the images. The only requirement is attribution to the photographer "and ProBonoPhoto.org"



The tech details: Shot with a Sony A7RIV using a Sony 18-200 lens at 87 mm at f/8.0 for 1/250 sec at ISO 320

## February Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Brick carriers move in continuous rhythm, stacking heavy bricks onto their heads, lifting, crouching, rising, and repeating the same motion hundreds of times a day. Dhaka, Bangladesh, Pam Perkins, Travel Projected

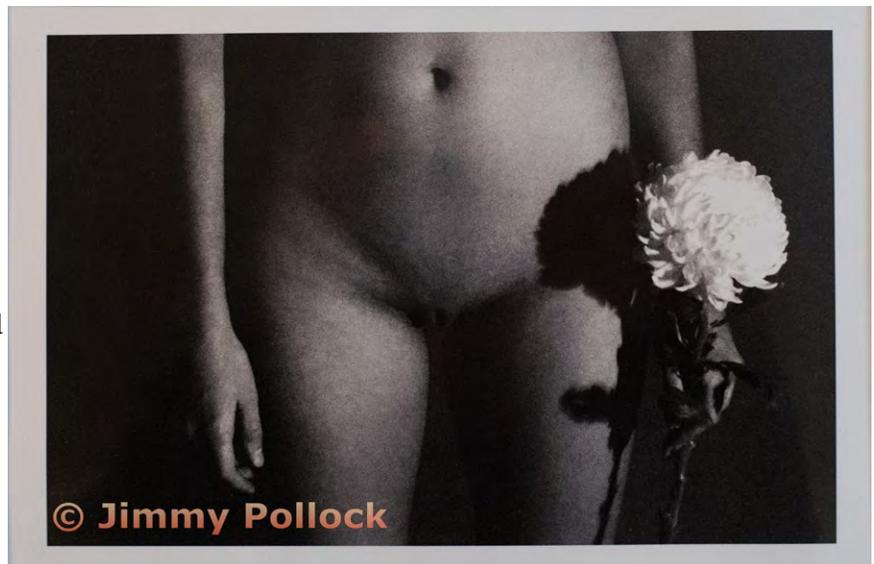
I took this at a brickfield just outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh where men stack heavy bricks on their head. Dust hangs in the air, coating their skin and clothing as well as my clothes and my camera which I covered in plastic. The work is punishing. The ability of these men is measured not just in their muscle strength, but in their balance, coordination and sheer stamina. This photograph is just one of many I took

there. It reveals the human cost behind the bricks that build cities and towns. A terrible situation. You could say a form of human bondage. Leica SL3, 62mm. 1/320 f8, iso 2000.

### Flower, Jimmy Pollock, Monochrome Print ▶

For my first-place image, “Flower,” I used a Nikon D7100 with a Nikkor 17-35 lens. This has been my primary setup for quite some time, except when I am shooting with film. The shot was taken in a dark room with a single softbox positioned to the model’s left. The settings were f/4 with a shutter speed likely in the low 1/100s. Regarding post-processing, I used Photoshop and the Nik Collection for editing. The final image was printed on Canson metallic gloss paper. In terms of inspiration, I am a great admirer of Jean-Loup Sieff’s figure photography. While I wasn’t attempting to recreate a specific work, the simplicity of the pose, the lighting, and the grain were influenced by his 1969 classic, “Derrière.”

I also felt the flower was a compelling element for the composition. I aimed to create a timeless, intimate atmosphere that draws viewers closer into the frame.



## February Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



▲ Hunting Gentoos. A rare scene of dozens of gentoos hunting in the freezing cold Antarctica. December, 2025, Kelly Zhang, Nature Projected

This image was taken in Antarctica in December 2025 during a zodiac cruise. It was a rare opportunity to encounter dozens of Gentoos hunting so I felt very lucky. The image was shot with Sony A1, 600 fixed lens with 1.4x extender.

It's laughter that keeps Bijala Roy young at heart  
Pam Perkins, Color Projected ▶

I made this photograph when visiting the West Bengal home of Bijala Roy, whose grandson was a photographer. He had a photo of someone's eyes on his cell phone, and I made a joke about posing Bijala, using photo of the eyes to cover hers and taking a portrait. Although it was a joke at first, we decided to try it, especially since Bijala had a good sense of humor and wanted to do it. We all laughed about it, but in the end I thought it was a good portrait so decided to submit it to the club's competition.

Leica SL3, 27mm. f5.6, ISO 800



## February Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



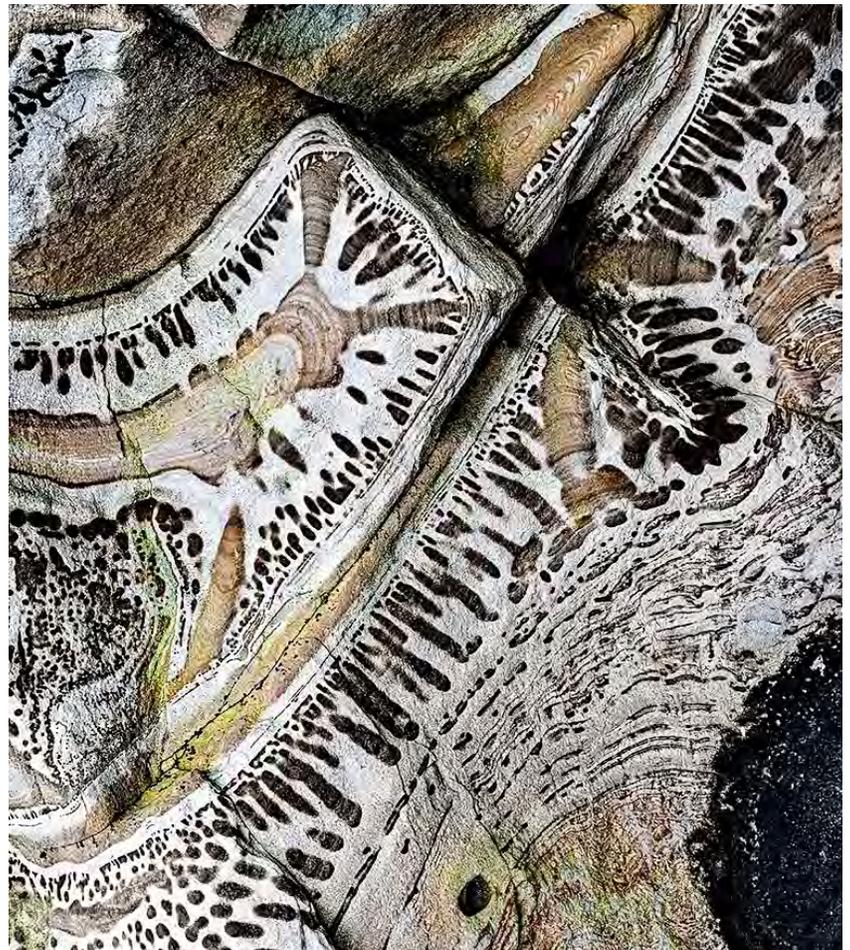
◀ An eggshell of a day, hanging by a sole, Irina Nekrasova, Creative Print

A shoe tree and a broken shell hold the weight of small truths: days that fracture quietly, and the patience required to pass through them. This is a conceptual project.

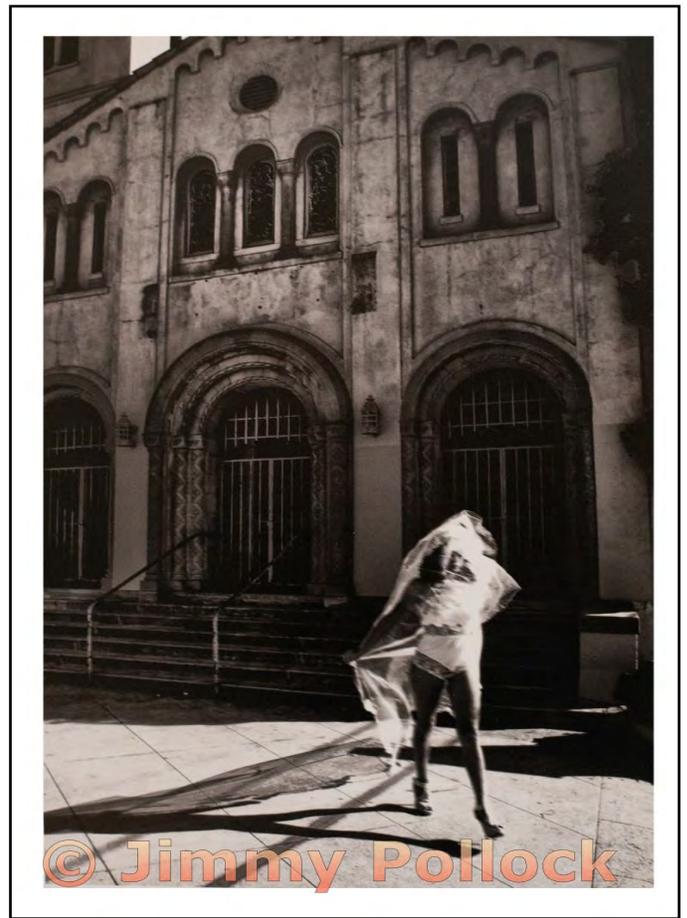
Canon : F/16, ISO 100,S/14sec 55 mm

Rock Abstraction at Natural Bridges State Park, Santa Cruz, Chris Cassell, Color Print ▶

I took this on 11/19/25 during a club trip to Natural Bridges SP in Santa Cruz, mainly to photograph monarch butterflies. After the butterflies we explored the tidal pool area just west of the Bridge formation, where I was fascinated by abstract compositions in the rocks. Nikon Z8 on tripod at 1/8 sec, iso 360, with 24-120mm lens at 62mm & f/11. But much of the adventure was in post-processing; in Photoshop/ACR I greatly exaggerated the contrast, vibrance, saturation, texture, clarity, & dehaze without cropping. Above this background layer I added a monochrome layer through Silver Efex, at 76% opacity which brought out much texture without fully eliminating color. I then brushed down the Silver Efex layer mask to selectively reveal more of the exaggerated colors. Also added a layer set to Overlay blend mode to selectively darken the edges.



February Second Place Competition Winners



*[All results and all images from a competition can be seen by clicking here.](#)*

February Second Place Competition Winners (continued)



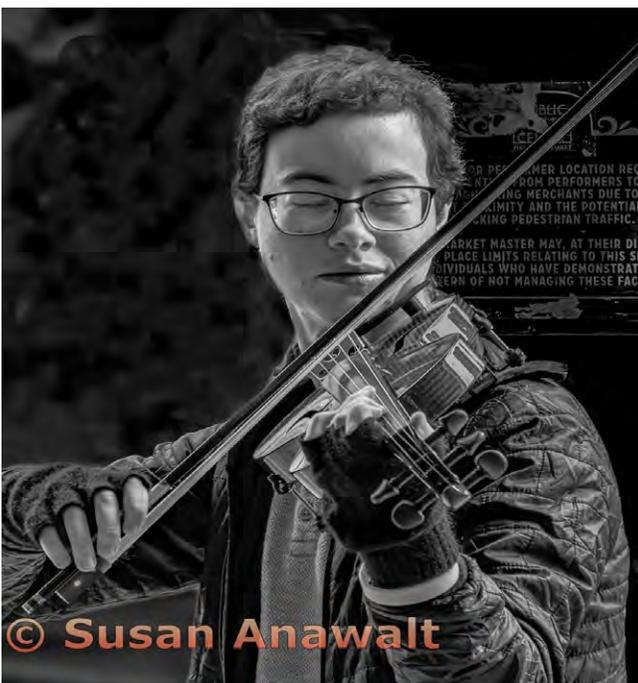
© Shahrooz Shahparnia



© Chris Cassell



© Kelly Zhang



© Susan Anawalt

*[All results and all images from a competition can be seen by clicking here.](#)*

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## Deeper into an Image

by *Tim Meadows*

My wife and I took our Sprinter van on a trip to one of my favorite areas, the Desert Southwest, in May 2025. I have been to many iconic sights (Monument Valley, Zion, Bryce, Arches, etc, etc) and am pretty familiar with the endless photography opportunities. This trip, I wanted to visit new (to me) destinations that were unique and particularly photogenic. Those places included Bisti Badlands in New Mexico, Antelope Canyon, and White Pocket and the Wahweap Hoodoos in Southeastern Utah.

This shot of the so-called 'Towers of Silence' at the Wahweap Hoodoos turned out to be a bit more complicated than I originally thought. In doing some pre-visit planning I was hooked by this dramatic description from a photographer's blog, "There are few sights more inspiring than the ghostly white Towers of Silence emerging from the shadows at sunrise."

-Photographer Jeff Stamer



According to the blog, the key to the shot is to arrive early enough that the background cliff is still in the shadows, isolating the towers in full sunlight. Making the image required a 4-mile hike in the dark to get to the photo spot at sunrise, which in May is around 6am. That meant a 3:30am wake-up and a 4am start to the hike. No problem, until I got a little turned around driving to the trailhead, stopped to reconnoiter, and promptly got stuck in the sand. It took us a full hour to finally get the Sprinter freed, and by this time my heart had sunk, realizing that we would not get the shot I wanted because we'd be too late.

Turns out the blog was wrong. Even though we didn't get there at sunrise, the shot I had imagined was still possible, and the Towers of Silence did not disappoint.

Technical: Nikon Z8, 24-70mm at 69mm, f16, ISO 100, exposure bracketed 3-shot series processed in Lightroom HDR and Topaz Sharpen AI.

## Bird SIG Calero Reservoir

by Charles Rath

Our trip to Calero County Park (parking at the West Picnic area near the boat ramp on McKean Rd) was to view early breeding season for the flock of Western and Clark's Grebes, a large waterfowl. The nine members of the BirdSIG attended: Mercury Freedom, Kent Bossange, Alan Levenson, Airdrie Kincaid, Richard Ingles, Peter Hoffman, Joe Cervantes, Susan Lane, and Charlie Rath. Courtship behavior was captured and shared in our field trip gallery as well as some landscape photography and a dramatic sunset!



## Field Trip to See Elephant Seals

by Mercury Freedom

Recent news tells some 1,000 Elephant Seals can currently be found at Año Nuevo State Park. In winter, (December 15 through March 1) the only public accessibility is via Guided Tours. You may join this tour through [California State Parks @ Año Nuevo](#) and sign up for guided tours. Several members joined a tour there February 3, 2026 which was organized by Mercury Freedom. Elephant Seals gather to mate and give birth. Lots of activities with prime bulls jostling for harems, young bulls jostling for practice, and females with their pups. Club member/Año Nuevo docent, Jim Allen joined for a post event zoom discussion.



## Super Bloom - Save the Date Fieldtrip Excursion

by Eric Gray

When lucky, this is truly one of the best places in California to experience a predicted super bloom. Dates for this excursion are in flux because we are hoping to hit peak times. Eric Gray has been to this area multiple times and has scouted the best places to take photographs. Eric will lead those that wish to join him through Shell Creek area and then on to the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Hopeful plan is – Go to Atascadero the evening of April 1. Stay the night there and drive to these two memorable places on April 2; heading home that evening or return to flowers the next day. Secondary dates are April 8th and 9th. Many more details are to come.



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## Iconic Photo Back Story



*Google Gemini - This image captures football legend Harold “Red” Grange preparing to pass during a 1925 game between the New York Giants and the Chicago Bears at the Polo Grounds. Football legalized the forward pass in 1906.*

*According to Wikipedia -*Harold Edward “Red” Grange (June 13, 1903 – January 28, 1991), nicknamed “the Galloping Ghost” and “the Wheaton Iceman”, was an American college and professional football halfback who played for Illinois, the Chicago Bears and the short-lived New York Yankees. His signing with the Bears 100 years ago, helped legitimize the National Football League (NFL). Grange became a nationally known celebrity in the 1920s and is often cited as one of the most iconic athletes of all time, as well as one the greatest college football players ever and the biggest star of the early days of the NFL.

Playing college football for the Illinois Fighting Illini, Grange was a three-time consensus All-American and led his team to a national championship in 1923. He was the only unanimous All-American selection in 1924, making him the first player in college football history to receive that honor. The same year, Grange became the first recipient of the Chicago Tribune Silver Football award as the Big Ten Conference’s most valuable player. In 2008, Grange was named the best college football player of all time by ESPN, and in 2011, he was named the Greatest Big Ten Icon by the Big Ten Network.

Shortly after his final college game in 1925, Grange joined the Bears and the NFL, embarking on a barnstorming tour that raised professional football’s profile across the country. When his rookie contract expired, he and agent C. C. Pyle formed the American Football League in 1926, with Grange playing for the Yankees. The league lasted just one year before shutting down and the Yankees were assimilated into the NFL. Grange suffered a serious knee injury in 1927 that prevented him from playing the following season, and he returned to the Bears in 1929. He began contributing as an effective defensive back in addition to running the football, and was involved in two iconic plays: he caught the controversial game winning touchdown from fullback Bronko Nagurski in the 1932 NFL Playoff Game to win the league title for the Bears, and made the game-winning tackle on Red Badgro in the 1933 NFL Championship Game. He remained with Chicago until he ended his playing career in 1934, from which he became a backfield coach for the Bears for three seasons.

**He is a charter member of both the College and Pro Football Halls of Fame.**

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## Obituary for Michael Charles Liebermann

*Michael was a long-time active participant and competing member of the Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club.*

Michael Charles Liebermann, Los Gatos, California, died at age 90. Michael was born on May 3, 1935, in Dresden, Germany. At three months old, his family fled to Salzburg, Austria to avoid Nazi persecution. Following the Anschluss in March 1938, the family escaped aboard a steamship bound for Cape Town, carrying little more than ten English pounds and a typewriter, eventually settling in Southern Rhodesia. In 1947, the family immigrated to the United States, residing in Dayton, Ohio.

Michael earned his B.A. from Harvard University and his M.D. from Case Western Reserve University. He completed his OB/GYN residency at Stanford University, subsequently serving as a physician in the U.S. Air Force. It was there, late one night at the nurse's station, that he met a young nurse lieutenant with striking green eyes. Linda and Michael married in 1968 and shared a devoted and loving 58-year marriage.

Michael established a medical practice in San Jose, CA, where he was widely loved by his patients for his warmth, kindness, steady presence, and for the trust he built through genuine personal connection. At a time when many surgeries required large incisions, Michael recognized the potential of newly emerging, minimally invasive techniques. He sought out specialized training, invested personally in surgical equipment for the hospital, and became one of the first physicians in the South Bay to introduce and actively advance laparoscopic procedures – improving recovery times and outcomes for countless patients.

Outside of medicine, Michael was a founding member of Congregation Shir Hadash, serving terms on the board and as Chair of Adult Education. He enjoyed photography, travel, bicycling, history, and train journeys – often combining these hobbies on trips with Linda to explore the world. Michael is survived by his wife Linda, children Lynae and Marc, and grandchildren Ryan, Aidan, and Nora.

A memorial service was held at Congregation Shir Hadash on February 10th.



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### [Great Photography Articles/Videos](#)

Samsung Foldable Phones - <https://samsungmobilepress.com/feature-stories/samsungs-thinnest-most-refined-foldables>

Photo Edits by Casual Conversation - <https://blog.google/products/photos/android-conversational-editing-google-photos/>

Edit with ChatGBT - <https://gizmodo.com/chatgpt-can-now-use-photoshop-and-other-adobe-apps-for-editing-2000697834>

Better High ISO Output - <https://www.thephotoblographer.com/2026/01/07/dear-camera-manufacturers-please-take-seriously/>

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