

# LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

[losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org](http://losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org)

Volume 46 Issue 12 ► December 2024



**In this issue** - underlined items are links  
*December 2, hybrid - in-person and zoom*

- 2** *Notices/Upcoming Events*
- 3** *Member Bio Debbie Sy*
- 4** *November Winning Images*
- 6** *Second Place Images*
- 7** *Member Styles - Focus Stacking*
- 8** *Fun Field Trips*
- 9** *Annual JCC Exhibition*
- 10** *Iconic Photograph*
- 11** *Photographers to Watch*
- 11** *Great Photo Articles/Videos*



*Featured Cover by Alan Levenson  
(see makers description on page 5)*



# Notices and Coming Events

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

## Next Competition - Mon. December 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 December will be Len Cook. My philosophy - Decades ago, presented with work I didn't understand by a staff photographer I trusted, I learned to observe rather than judge, to learn rather than decide, to open my mind to discomfort rather than leave it smugly closed. In looking at work offered in competitions I bring that same approach. <https://www.flickr.com/people/lencook/>

**Categories for December**- Besides the monthly categories of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Creative projected, Journalism projected and Nature print & projected.

### Journalism

- 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 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 . . . [MORE](#)

### Nature

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

- Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living . . . [MORE](#)

Competition is in-person at Shir Hadash Dec. 2  
There is no program in December.

*Happy Holidays to all*

## Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For next month and 2025, prints will be judged in:

December - Creative, Journalism, Nature, Color, Monochrome  
February - Journalism, Travel, Monochrome, Color  
April - Nature, Creative, Color, Monochrome  
June - Journalism, Travel, Monochrome, Color  
August - Nature, Creative, Color, Monochrome  
October - Travel, Creative, Color, Monochrome  
December - Creative, Journalism, Nature, Color, Monochrome

### 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](#)



2020 Creative Image by Irina Nekrasova



© David Kirsch

2019 Nature print by David Kirsch

Bay Area native Debbie Sy started her journey into photography when her two children were born, about 20 years ago. While the kids grew up, there were many photographic opportunities for candid, family photos, and youth sports photos. In the beginning, she started on a point and shoot and gradually upgraded cameras until her normal vocabulary included the words “aperture, iso, and shutter speed”.

---

“she tends to shoot photos with people in them (or something funny)”

---

Currently, she enjoys taking time to explore different photography techniques and styles. While she does shoot a variety of photos like landscapes, still life, and nature, she tends to shoot photos with people in them (or something funny). Creating humorous photos has been a wonderful challenge because there have to be enough elements in the photo to communicate a story or an idea.

Debbie lives in Los Gatos with her husband and new kitten. When she is not taking photos, she enjoys Zumba, cooking, and drawing.





## November Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made



◀ **Cái Răng floating market Can Tho, Vietnam. Pineapple vendor positioning herself to sell produce, Susan Dinga, Travel projected**

I was on a month-long Vietnam-Cambodia trip rescheduled after COVID during the hottest April on record, 99 degrees 90% humidity, sweating, doing mostly “drive-by shooting”. Discouraged, I didn’t look at any of the images until last month. As I looked, painfully discouraged at the dearth of even acceptable images, this one popped up. I had forgotten about taking it. The light that morning was beautiful and it was cooler! Even though everything was moving, I had a little time to actually compose this! I know what Henri Bresson meant about capturing “the decisive moment.” I always miss those moments! Ha!

Finally caught one! Everything lined up, the angle of the boat, the configuration of her oars, the position of the two tourist boats with tourists in orange life jackets, the boats in the background lined up so close together in the perfect spot, the little opening at the left side, the light, AND, most surprising of all, I actually snapped the shutter!

Capture: Canon R5, 31mm, ISO1600, f-11, 1250 sec.

Post-Processing: LR Denoise, a little cropping, a few minor global adjustments in LR Classic 165mm

### **Light on a Violet Night, Airdrie Kincaid, Color Projected**

▶ Last August on a U.S. Lighthouse Society tour, we climbed the 1909 Point Cabrillo Lighthouse in Mendocino in the afternoon and walked around on the balcony. The attractive building resembles a small church with a forty-seven-foot octagonal lighthouse tower attached to the eastern end of the small, one-and-a-half-story, fog-signal building.

After eating dinner, we returned to the lighthouse for photos just after sunset. Although I took several images on a tripod of the whole lighthouse with the beam of light from the rotating third-order Fresnel lens, this closer view of the lantern room was my favorite. The slant of the roof on the left serves as a leading line. I only cropped slightly on the left and right sides, reduced the highlights, and made small adjustments to the tint and vibrance so that the image looked the way I remembered it.

Canon EOS R5, 150-600mm, F5-6.3 DG OS HSM lens at 600mm, f/9.0, 1/8 sec., ISO 500



## November Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)



### ◀ If You Knew What I Know, Tim Meadows, Monochrome Projected

This image was made of a shopkeeper in Istanbul where we stopped on our way back from Africa in May of this year. I was taken in by the interplay of the patterns of her clothes and her willingness to pose for my photo. The colors in the fabrics in original image detracted from the woman, so I reduced them to an interesting array of patterns by converting to black and white. I did a fair amount of dodging and burning to even out the tones in her face and drop out the background elements.

Technical: Nikon Z7, 24-200mm lens at 32mm. ISO 200, F8, 1/60 sec.

### Standing For Those Who Stood For Us, Alan Levenson, Journalism Projected ▶

The photo is of a member of the Patriot Guard Riders which is a 100% Volunteer, Federally registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring Fallen Military Heroes, First Responders and honorably discharged Veterans. This photo was taken at an event honoring Gold Star families held at "One Step Closer" a therapeutic riding organization which provides therapy to veterans and others in need of support through contact and interaction with horses. I was asked to take photographs of the event.

Nikon Z8 1/125 f9, ISO: 220, Nikon 24-200mm @ 165mm.





## November Second Place Competition Winners



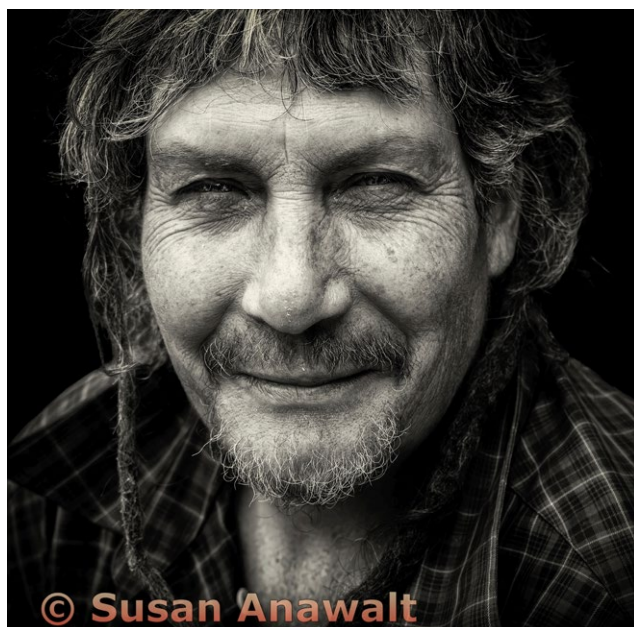
© Debbie Sy



© Harlan Crowder



© Irina Nekrasova



© Susan Anawalt

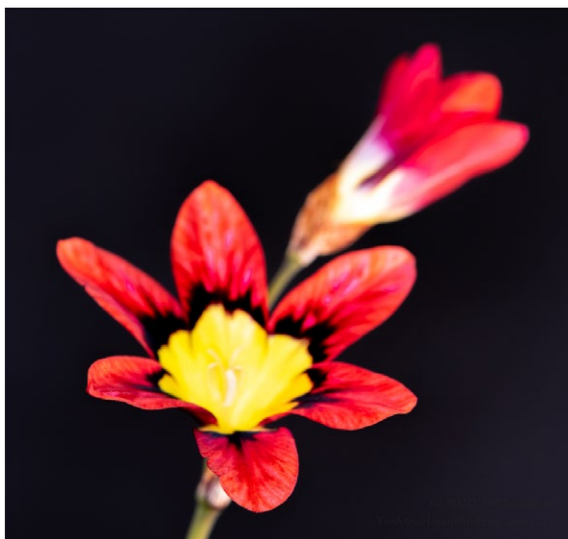
*[All results and all images from a competition can be seen by clicking here.](#)*

## Member Styles - Focus Stacked Images

*This space is a monthly feature offering insight into how a member thinks about their photography style and the sharing of tips. — Eric from member Tim Meadows*

One style of photography that I've been interested in over the years is focus stacking, or what Nikon calls focus bracketing. It involves taking a series of images, usually while the camera is on a tripod, and you move the focal plane to ensure the entire image is in sharp focus. In a simple three image example you might focus on the foreground and take an image, then focus on the middle ground and take an image and finally focus on the background and take that image while never moving the camera position. Those images comprise a "focus stack" and are combined in software such as Helicon Focus, Photoshop and others. The technique is often used in macro photography, but it also has utility in landscapes, particularly if you have several interesting features at varying distances in your image. In the early days, this style was accomplished manually with a focus rail that allowed you to move the camera (and thus the camera's focal plane) further or closer to the subject. Many new generation DSLRs and mirrorless cameras now have the feature built in. When using this feature the photographer sets the number of images desired and the camera automatically clicks the shutter and adjusts the focal distance each time. If you are interested in learning the details of focus stack photography, I put on a workshop in 2022 and if you have questions please send an email to [tmeadows@comcast.net](mailto:tmeadows@comcast.net)

An additional article on focus stacking - <https://smallsensorphotography.com/in-camera-focus-stacking>



*The images above - at left a single shot of a flower at f8 vs a 50 shot in camera focus stack of same f8. Processed in Helicon Focus Software*



*a 30 shot in-camera focus stack at f8 processed in Helicon*



*a 30 shot in-camera focus stack at f8*



## Moss Landing Field Trip

by Irina Nekrasova-

Photography Safari Tour on October 20th was our last field trip for the year. The location was Moss Landing and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants! The weather was spectacular, the sunset dramatic, and the wildlife abundant at the Reserve.





## Annual LGSCC Exhibition at the JCC



*This annual club exhibition gathered more than 80 members and guests to the opening night reception on November 4th. Approximately 87 images were well displayed and enjoyed by all in attendance. Many thanks to Rick Varley and his crew for hanging and curating the exhibition.*





## Iconic Photo Back Story



*Distributed by Acme Newspictures, September 1932. Original caption: "While New York's thousands rush to crowded restaurants and congested lunch counters for their noon day lunch, these intrepid steel workers atop the 70 story RCA building in Rockefeller Center get all the air and freedom they want by lunching on a steel beam with a sheer drop of over 800 feet to the street level. The RCA building is the largest office building in terms of office space in the world." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunch\\_atop\\_a\\_Skyscraper#/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunch_atop_a_Skyscraper#/)*

As far as the subjects of the photograph, they were immigrant iron workers who, all but two, have remained anonymous to this day. A 2012 documentary, "Men at Lunch," by Seán Ó Cualáin revealed that two of the men were Joseph Eckner and Joe Curtis. The identity of the photographer has been just as difficult to pin down. Lewis Hine was thought to be the photographer for some time, but then that theory was rejected. It was later determined that Charles C. Ebbets was the one behind the lens, only to discover that there were actually several photographers present at the time. As a result, there



*Charles Ebbets shooting his famous photograph*

is no way of knowing for sure if Ebbets, is the one who took that specific shot. So, the photographer, just like nine of the 11 workers, officially remains anonymous. Despite the tantalizing idea that these brave men ate their lunch on an I-beam 850 feet above Manhattan's busy streets every day, that's simply not true. It was really all a publicity stunt by the Rockefeller Center to advertise their new RCA building, which was almost finished. The men did really sit on the beam and chow down, but it wasn't their idea, and not a regular occurrence. The building is now called the Comcast Building and nicknamed 30 Rock. [Entire article here](#)



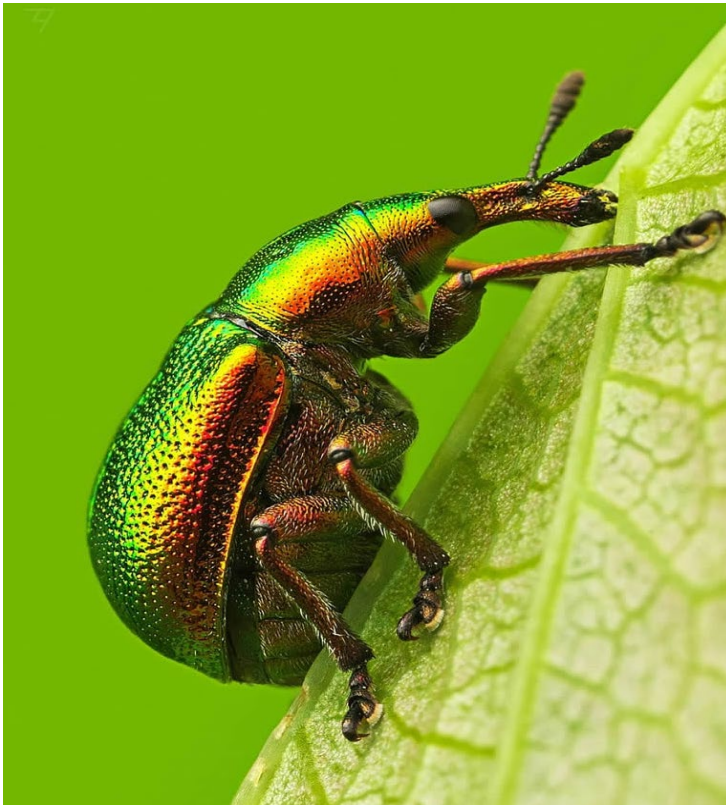
---

## Photographers to Watch— Andrey Aydarov

From <https://121clicks.com/inspirations/macro-photography-snails-insects-flowers-andrey-aydarov>

Andrey Aydarov, a talented photographer from Russia, has gained widespread recognition for his mesmerizing macro photography of snails, insects, and flowers. His work combines artistic composition with incredible detail, drawing viewers into a miniature world that often goes unnoticed. With a unique ability to highlight the delicate beauty of his tiny subjects, Aydarov's photos offer a fresh perspective on nature. This article delves into his approach, techniques, and the impact his work has on viewers and fellow photographers alike.

You can check Andrey's Instagram account for more amazing photos. See more - <https://www.instagram.com/andreyaydarov/>



*Our club magazine has been awarded 2nd place for best camera club publication  
by the Photographic Society of America (PSA)*

---

### Great Photography Articles

Free to Enter 2025 Sony Awards - <https://www.worldphoto.org/nine-reasons-why-you-should-enter-sony-awards-2025>

Best iPhone Camera(tests) - <https://news.yahoo.com/news/tech/asked-pro-photographer-best-iphone-120000357.html>

Results - Seven Pros Edit Same Image - <https://fstoppers.com/photoshop/what-happens-when-7-pros-edit-same-raw-file>

---

*Copyrights of all photos in this publication are retained by the photographers credited.*

### Key Contacts

#### President

Kent Bossange

[kent@bossange.com](mailto:kent@bossange.com)

#### Membership

Charlie Gibson

[charloose1@gmail.com](mailto:charloose1@gmail.com)

#### Webmaster

Rick Whitacre

[whitacre.rick@gmail.com](mailto:whitacre.rick@gmail.com)

#### Magazine Editor

Eric Gray

[eric@gdacreative.com](mailto:eric@gdacreative.com)

Official publication of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club, a club member of the Photographic Society of America

