



the Viewfinder

Barry Goldstein, Editor

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Breakfast and field trips every Sunday starting at 8 AM at the Plainview Diner.

Meetings are at the Old Bethpage Community Center on Haypath Road, 7:30 PM

Welcome Back! *Al Herbst*

Ladies and Gentlemen -- Start your engines! We are off to another great start for the 2008 – 2009 Season at The Syosset Camera Club ...a lot has been planned for you to enjoy.

I hope that we all had a good summer, the weather was great..... I don't remember having a summer with so many 1/00 at f16 days.... a photographer's delight.

We welcome back John Brokos as the first judge of the season. This has been a tradition at the SCC for John to open up our season for more years anyone can remember.

By now, I am sure that we all have examined the new SCC Field Trip Log for 2008 – 2009. Look it over, bring your ideas to the table, and remember it is not written in stone. Please look at page 5, there are some real exciting locations listed for your consideration.

Theme competitions for the season – the Board has chosen two themes – abstracts and tabletop photography. The competition dates will be announced . . .stay tuned.

Mark your calendar for a few special events:

September 25th, 2008 – Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at the Bethpage Library – 47 Powell Avenue, Bethpage.

A masterful presentation by the "Photoshop Diva" – Katrin Eismann. She will be presenting a two-hour program on Photoshop and Lightroom. As many of our members will be attending this event, we will not have our usual meeting on the 25th. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and must be purchased in advance – **they will not** be sold at the door. Let me know if you plan to attend, I will get the tickets for you.

October 2008 – The Syosset Camera Club will have our annual Library exhibit at the Bethpage Public Library during the month of October. Thanks to Aileen Harrison for all her work to make this happen. Stay tuned for details

October 19th, 2008 – The Third Annual PFLI Photorama at the Planting Fields Arboretum starting at 9:00 A.M. Coffee and pastries will be served in the A.M..

Program 2008

September

11th Competition- judged by John Brokos

18th Joel Lucks- "Intermediate Digital Photography

25th Photoshop and Lightroom presentation by Katrin Eisman at Bethpage Library

October

Library Exhibit at the Bethpage Library for the entire month.

16th Competition- judged by Laura Eppig

19th Photorama

23rd Sheldon Pollack-"Zoo Photography"

November

13th Competition- Andrew Kurchey

20th John Brokos- "Looking Back; My Memories As A Photographer"

For your shooting pleasure, there will be Parrots, Costumed Models, Orchid set-ups, Reptiles, Shell and sand still lives and Models and Models and Models.

Doug Going will be putting on one of his exciting travel shows.

There will also be a presentation by Ron Caldwell on Elements 6. These events are free to PFLI members. Parking is \$6.00

October 23rd - 25th, 2008 – The Photo Expo – Javitz Convention Center – The Annual Worlds Fair of Photography that is held in New York. This event has become a must for those of us that want to see the latest in equipment and trends.

We welcome Doreen Rose as our new chairperson for programming. Doreen will make all those calls to line up the speakers, presenters, vendors and members to make our programs memorable, educational and enjoyable. She is looking forward to your input. Thanks Doreen.

The Chairperson for recruiting our Judges will be Aileen Harrison. This was a job that Moshe did so well for so many years. Thanks Moshe. After many long and hard conversations the Board finally convinced Aileen to only get Judges that have bad eyesight and give high scores! We know Aileen will do her usual 'best' of what she does.

With all the activities planned and the efforts of our Board Members, it looks like we are in for another exciting year.

Then again, it's **YOU** that make all this happen.

In the Eye of the Beholder *Barry Goldstein*

What makes Mona Lisa a great work of art even after 500 years? Could it be that her demeanor resonates with

In its purest form a photograph is a metaphor of a life experience.

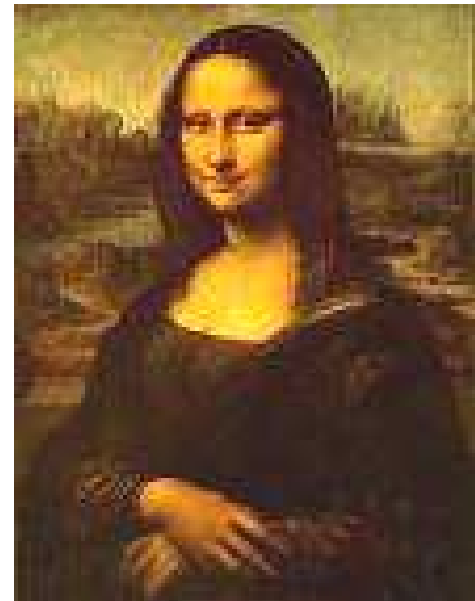
BG

something in our sub consciousness? Does the Mona Lisa expression have meaning to us based on life experience? If not, could it be from something in our DNA next to the baldness gene?

There are well-established principles of composition, the elements of which are normally present in a pleasing composition. Principles such as the rule of thirds, the use of leading lines, framing, accent colors, color harmony and so on. But these principles, even when present in total do not guaranty a great image.

Sometimes we see an image that is so well composed and technically perfect that we immediately say, "that's a nine." But in the thousands of prints that have passed through the light box, I recall few images that rise to the level of 'masterpiece.' So what gentle reader is the missing ingredient to achieve such a level?

Like all works of art, in its purest form a photograph is a metaphor of a life experience. The photograph shown below may be rather ordinary, but the photographer saw something more that cannot be quantified. As a competitive image it has little value, but through the viewfinder, the photographer saw a metaphor of something hidden in the recesses of his subconscious; perhaps Alice in Wonderland or a some other alternative vision.



"Art, in our society, has been so perverted that not only has bad art come to be considered good, but even the very perception of what art really is has been lost."

Leon Tolstoy

The question becomes, how does one person judge the merit of another's vision? The museums of the world are full of works so personal that they can be understood only after explanation by the artist, and not always then.

The bottom line is that competitions should be viewed as contests that can be enjoyed through photography, something that is separate and distinct from personal artistic expression. When the two objectives merge, it is a happy coincidence indeed.



Where does all that new technology come from?

Every new camera has some new innovation, so who are all these geniuses that are coming up with this stuff? It turns out that it isn't always the camera manufacturers. A software company called FotoNation invented face recognition, face tracking and a lot more. Now they have Smile Check, which analyses all the faces in a image and determines when they are all smiling. Another new wrinkle is for self-timing. When the self-timer is set, the camera will take a picture only after the photographer joins the group.



Ultimate Image Stabilization? *Barry Goldstein*

Image stabilization in photography is achieved currently via two main methods - by shifting a floating lens element or by shifting the sensor in such a way as to neutralize camera movement. A more sensitive and accurate method is one that is being developed for the Pan-STARRS telescope being built for installation in Hawaii.

The Pan-STARRS telescope will "break ground" in several areas. It will be the only instrument to constantly and automatically survey the entire sky visible from Hawaii; it will utilize the world's largest digital camera (1.6 billion pixels) and will employ image stabilization through a new method- by shifting the signals from individual pixels in an Orthogonal CCD. An orthogonal CCD (OTCCD) differs from others by transferring charge in all directions instead of a single direction. This makes it possible for an OTCCD to electronically compensate for image movement. I am not aware of any development of this technology for a consumer camera but it seems like the next logical step, requiring no mechanical manipulation of lens elements or sensors. Refinements of this technology may bring image stabilization to levels previously unimagined.

The Pan-STARRS telescope will be used to find previously unidentified objects in space that may potentially collide with Earth.

The huge resolution is achieved by using an array of 64 sensors and will generate 10 Terabytes of files daily.

ePhotonet and Portrait Studio
436 Woodbury Road
Plainview, NY 11803

Dear Danny,

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all of you at ePhotonet and Portrait Studio for presenting us with a free 25 and 50 4x6 prints to be won by two of our members at our annual awards dinner to be held at the 7th St Café on June 13.

The fact that your firm presented our camera club with this gift was announced at one of our recent meetings. Please know that this gift was well received and acknowledged by our members, when they learned that ePhotonet and Portrait Studio had made this presentation. This information will also be placed in our monthly newsletter, *The Viewfinder*.

Once again, Danny, on behalf of our president, Al Herbst, and all of the members of the Syosset Camera Club, I thank you most sincerely for making this presentation.

Jules Weisler

Neptune Camera
130 Seventh Street
Garden City, New York 11530

Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all of you at Neptune Camera for presenting us with a \$50 gift certificate to be won by one of our members at our annual awards dinner to be held at the 7th St Café.

The fact that your firm presented our camera club with this gift was announced at one of our recent meetings. Please know that this gift was well received and acknowledged by our members, when they learned that Neptune Camera had made this presentation. This information will also be placed in our monthly newsletter, *The Viewfinder*.

Once again, gentlemen, on behalf of our president Al Herbst and all of the members of the Syosset Camera Club, I thank you most sincerely for making this presentation.

Jules Weisler

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Officers may be con-
tacted via the link
in: www.syossetcc.org

Leonard Victor Champs

Members of the SCC have taken first place in both Color and Black and White Prints in Group A in the Leonard Victor competition.



Congratulations to Marty Silverstein and to Robert Glick. Robert's "Heeeers Johnny" took first place in Color A and Marty took first in Black and White "A" with "Dinner is Ready." A truly great finish to a very successful season for both.

Going Minimalist *Barry Goldstein*

Not everyone wants to master Photoshop or needs to. Some people love to take pictures and the rest is a drag. So don't feel guilty if you are so inclined. Keep life simple and spend your time creating images in the camera instead of reading software manuals.

There are many free software programs available with which you can make the basic adjustments with a minimal learning curve. The availability of powerful but inexpensive and even free software is evolving so fast that it pays to search for it from time to time. In fact, if you have Windows Vista you may have already discovered that *Windows Photo Gallery* included with the operating system does all the basics except for sharpening and is so intuitive there is nothing to learn. Photo Gallery even includes the ability to view metadata and has a star rating system like that in *Adobe Bridge*.

An upgraded version of Photo Gallery known as Windows Live Photo Gallery is also free and runs on XP as well as Vista; It includes a color histogram panoramic stitching, auto-tagging during importing and the ability to share photos by uploading them to "windows Live Spaces" or Flickr. For a different experience, try "Photoshop Express." This is a web-based application that is totally intuitive. It isn't Photoshop by any stretch, but it's good enough for many uses.

Then of course there is the old standby, and very capable Picassa from Google. The trick is to make sure your camera is set up to produce files that require little editing. Get the settings right before you shoot and rest will be easy.

Perhaps the most recent entry into the free goodies foray is the online version of Photoshop called Photoshop Express. It isn't really Photoshop but is a very powerful editing tool that works completely

online. If you have a broadband connection, check it out. It's very different from all the rest and may be a look into the future of computer software.

<https://www.photoshop.com/express/index.html?bypass&wf=testdrive>

A Good Time Was Had By All

The Annual Awards Dinner was a great success. It was great to see awards presented for the exceptional work that was done during the past season by both veterans and new members. It was a pleasant evening in every aspect. Thank you Aileen, for planning and executing another successful event.

How Good Are Third Party Inks? *Barry Goldstein*

Pretty good, Tests done by PC World, show that all the third-



party inks they tested, not only yielded more prints per cartridge but also cost less.

But what about quality you may ask? Well there's the rub. According to PC World, the original manufacturers' inks almost always produced better quality prints and were more resistant to fading than the third party substitutes. But how much better? In many cases not a hell of a lot, but you will have to be the judge of that.



It is well known that printer manufacturers make their money on the ink, not the hardware. Also be aware of the vast right wing conspiracy against generic ink manufacturers. According to a suit brought against HP, they alleged to have paid Staples \$100 million to refrain from selling inexpensive third-party ink cartridges (the suit doesn't make it clear how the figure was arrived at).

When it comes to pricing, ink manufacturers take a back seat to no one. A gallon of ink runs at least \$8,000. To make things worse, the technology built into ink cartridges that tells you when it is empty is always wrong in favor of the manufacturer. Just how wrong depends on the brand. The worst offender is the Kodak Easy Share according to a study by TÜV Rheinland. The study found that 65% of the ink was still in the cartridge when the printer indicated that it was empty and refused to print.

These guys make the oil companies look good. If the manufacturers of printers have their way, you may have no choice in the future but to buy their ink. For example, using a technology called CryptoFirewall, a printer manufacturer can make a generic cartridge inoperable by using high-level encryption. The technology is designed to obscure the inner workings of the cartridge electronics to hackers, with large portions of the embedded chip dedicated to redundant and obfuscated features. The Crypto Firewall people claim that their technology generates a separate and unique random code for each ink cartridge, making it difficult for hacking groups to find a workaround.

In Memoriam



We are saddened to report the recent passing of Ken Eastman on August 30th.

A photography enthusiast and member of multiple clubs including the SCC, Ken was ready to help whenever called upon.

We offer our condolences to his wife Margie and the Eastman family.

There will be a Wake at the Nolan & Taylor Funeral Home on Saturday, September 6th from 7 to 9 pm and on Sunday September 7th from 2 to 5 pm and from 7 to 9 pm.

The funeral home is located at 5 Laurel Avenue in Northport. You may contact them at 631-754-2400.

September & October field Trips

9/7/2008	Sands Point Castle
9/14/08	Huntington lighthouse Boat trip
9/21/08	William Floyd
9/28/08	East Village
10/5/08	Wading River State Park
10/12/08	New York Botanic Gardens (Hothouse, Lily Pond)
10/19/08	PFLI Photorama
10/26/08	Bronx zoo

Light Box Improvement *Barry Goldstein*

If you have been dissatisfied with the color rendition of your photographs in our light box, help is on the way. Immediately following the September competition, we will do a comparative test using 6500K compact fluorescents versus. "Cool white" incandescent bulbs. This should closely approximate the hue of the image as seen on your computer monitor. If you would like to participate in this test, hang around after the meeting.

As a refresher, color temperature is standard based on the color of light emitted by a block of carbon (black body) when heated to a very high temperature, which is measure in degrees Kelvin. The Kelvin scale starts at a theoretical point called absolute zero, so called because that is the temperature at which molecular movement ceases to exist. If you heat a lick of carbon to about 5,000°K, it will emit light the same color as sunlight at Noon.

Degrees Kelvin	Type of Light Source
1700-1800K	Match Flame
1850-1930K	Candle Flame
2000-3000K	Sun: At Sunrise or Sunset
2500-2900K	Household Tungsten Bulbs
3000K	Tungsten lamp 500W-1k
3200-3500K	Quartz Lights
3200-7500K	Fluorescent Lights
3275K	Tungsten Lamp 2k
3380K	Tungsten Lamp 5k, 10k
5000-5400K	Sun: Direct at Noon
5500-6500K	Daylight (Sun + Sky)
5500-6500K	Sun: through clouds/haze
6000-7500K	Sky: Overcast
6500K	RGB Monitor (White Pt.)
7000-8000K	Outdoor Shade Areas
8000-10000K	Sky: Partly Cloudy

What's New? *Barry Goldstein*

Adobes' **Lightroom** has undergone a major upgrade with version 2. Among other improvements is the implementation of the "Light Brush" which allows you to make local adjustments as opposed to being limited to the global adjustments of version 1.

The **Nikon D700** is here. It shares the D300's body, but it's more than a D300 on steroids. The D700 is a full frame (FX in nikonease) camera with a 12.1 MP CMOS sensor and is the only pro level DSLR with a built in flash. It's also the current low light champ.

The **Canon Rebel XSI** is the latest incarnation of Canon's flagship camera. It has major improvements in look, fell and performance and at retail price at under \$1,000 is a great value.

If you hurry you can still get one of the last 100 Leica **Noctilux f/1** lens for a mere \$15,500. The price might seem a little steep, but you get a custom-made lacquer box with it.

The **Panasonic Lumix DMC-FX150** gives you 14.7-MP that fits in your pocket for about \$400. It has an optically stabilized 3.6x Leica f/2.8-5.6 lens and a 2.7-inch LCD. In addition to automatic, you can set the camera for shutter priority. The camera can take RAW and RAW+JPEG. Want more? You can take 2.5 fps and 1280x720 video at 24 fps.

