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# Viewfinder

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## FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE

Bill Bowie

THAI FAIR - Sunday, June 5, 9 AM - 6 PM, Thai Music and Dance, Centereach, NY

CONEY ISLAND MERMAID PARADE - Saturday, June 18, Preparade activities - 10 AM, Parade - 1 PM

GREENWOOD CEMETARY - Sunday, June 26, Arrive at 10 AM, Brooklyn, NY

Details will be sent to you approximately 1 week prior to the event.

# *The Viewfinder*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Bonnie Forman-Franco**

It's difficult to believe that we are now at the end of our club's calendar year, and I have completed my first year as President of this wonderful camera club. I have always believed we are the premier club on Long Island with so many fabulous and talented members. Each one of you have brought much to the club and with each month we just got better and better.

Much was accomplished this year. We have some new, along with existing committees and chair people: Membership (Barry Goldstein); Critique (Alan Agdern); Social and Sunshine (Sylvia Goldkranz); Projection (Andrew Dubitsky and Ira Scheinerman); Judges (Valerie DeBiase) and Zoom (Alan Agdern). We look forward to our new Program committee composed of Sylvia Goldkranz and Jessie McGuire and who they will bringing to our club as presenters/presentations. A hearty thank you to all who have volunteered to serve on these committees and will be doing so this coming 2022-2023 calendar year.

Roni Chastain, our Second VP has initiated a successful and well received educational google group mail delivery, so that pertinent photography articles can be accessed by all. A thank you to Lorraine for her many years as program chair and who has stepped down from one position to participate in another as member of the Social and Sunshine committee. Thanks to Alan Ross for his Secretary Duties including minutes from our board meetings and to Ellen Gallagher who has done a very fine job as our Treasurer. Sandy Sommers has been a great webmaster keeping the Syosset web site colorful, up to date, and user friendly. A special mention and thank you to Joe Nightingale as First VP who has been my right arm (and ear) especially in my absence. Also, to Frank Kirshenbaum, President Emeritus, for his advice this year and as delegate to PFLI.

A very special thanks to Barry Goldstein who simply put “does it all” including taking on as editor of our monthly newsletter The Viewfinder. He oversees membership, competition, record keeping and anything else you might need him for. Every club should have a person named Barry Goldstein.

For the first time— in at least two plus years, we had our get together at the Haypath facility for our end of year party. I think you would all agree it was a great success. I would like to thank Sylvia and all that worked so hard including setting up and take down, to make this a special success. I look forward to more get togethers next year.

We had many terrific images for our end of year competition. Congratulations to all the winners who will be listed in this newsletter. As I’ve said at the meeting, it is my opinion you are all winners. I look forward to seeing many more great images next year.

A special thank you goes out to Andrew Dubinsky for a job well done as the projectionist for our monthly competitions (along with Ira Scheinerman), but this competition in particular. He and the team worked hard in getting our new software to work appropriately for three judges at one time. This was a first for our club.

Bill Bowie is in charge of Field Trips and will be posting about some very interesting opportunities in the weeks and months ahead. Please feel free to contact him with suggestions as they come up. Hopefully we will get a summer calendar posted of all activities so that you can attend as you can. It is our hope you will support the club and come out, join us and have a good time. A Field Trip section will be put on our web site for you to post images of our clubs activities.

It has been my pleasure to be your President. I have worked hard to have our club be warm and welcoming. I hope you found it so. The board and I are here for our members and are always open to suggestions. We are very much looking forward to serving again next year and continuing to grow our membership.

Wishing you all a wonderful, safe, and healthy summer. Looking forward to all your new images. Go out and keep on photographing. There is no end to what and how we each see things.

See you in the Fall.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Laurie Ellis



I have been intrigued with photography as far back as I can remember. A cherished memory I have is as a young child, sitting with my grandfather playing with his Minox, a tiny palm sized camera. As I got older, I took every photography class offered in school and went on to study it in college. I loved spending time in the dark room at school, a far cry from the small closet I had at home in the basement.

That photography freezes a moment in time is a compelling motivation for me. Looking at my photographs transports me back to another time and gives me an opportunity to relive those memories.

The very first camera I called my own was a Kodak Retina Reflex IV. I used that for many years until I retired it and purchased a Nikon 2020. When digital cameras were first introduced, I had a Sony Mavica, first with a floppy disk, and then a mini-CD. From there it was a Nikon d70, Nikon d200. I now have a Nikon d750 which I love! I have an assortment of lenses from macro, prime, wide, zoom, and birding lens. Not always wanting to carry heavy equipment, I purchased a Sony a6300, which is smaller and easier to carry in my bag. I also have an ancient Canon Powershot that I keep in my sailing bag.

I love to travel as much as having a camera in my hand, so travel photography covers two of my passions. Like everyone else, my wings have been clipped these past few years. After Austin and Tennessee to visit family and friends, I'd love to experience Norway and Canada. Also, on the list is blue skies, clear seas, palm trees and umbrella drinks.

As far as equipment is concerned, I am blooming where I'm planted with my d750, feeling grateful to have everything I need. The one piece of equipment I will need to replace soon is my Canon Powershot. Water and weather has not been kind, but I wouldn't want to miss capturing the excitement of the boats all vying for their spot on the starting line, or the chaos which happens rounding the buoys.

There is still so much to learn! I want to improve my post processing skills, which I admit could use the help. I also would like to learn about the technical and creative aspects of photography.

## **LIGHTROOM AND THE THROW AWAY SOCIETY**

### **An Editorial**

“Build it and they will come.” Is lightroom an Adobe adaptation to digital proliferation or is it a contributor to it? What sets LR apart from other programs is the superior ability to organize images, sort and retrieve them while employing some of Photoshop's killer features. It is a database and editor in one. It does all of this without a hint of the burden conventional software would demonstrate under such a workload.

Alas gentle reader, the ability to view and compare multitudes of images encourages the use of trial and error in place of thought and execution. I ask a rhetorical question once again, because I have not received an adequate answer. Why does anyone other than a professional photographer create dozens or hundreds of images in the pursuit of one? The question is rhetorical because I know the answer. If you throw enough darts, one of them may hit the bullseye. If an infinite number of monkeys, each bang on a typewriter for an infinite period, eventually they will duplicate Shakespeare's plays. If you believe the only thing that matters is getting the image, and the best way is by trial and error, then I postulate that you are participating in a sport, not an art.

Few will share my opinion, even most judges advocate taking many exposures at various positions and focus settings and then pick the best one later. Since the standard of judgement is the final image, they are not wrong because it works. The role of a judge however, is not to criticize the process; only the result; a standard not employed elsewhere.

An artist starts with a conception and applies his or her tools to the task of bringing that concept to reality. If more than a few exposures are required to achieve that result, I propose that the photographer has not yet learned the craft. It is only since the introduction of digital photography that this behavior has become mainstream. I believe there were more “master” photographers before the digital age when 36 exposures were a day's work.



This is where, the popularity of light room comes in. It is as much a symptom of a throwaway society as it is about photo editing. I believe that photography as an artistic endeavor, in which the journey is of no lesser importance than the destination. When one substitutes volume for expertise then I submit there is much to learn about the craft.

But I digress; Lightroom is a wonderful program worth mastering. Even a conservative photographer over time, will have a collection of work that is difficult to navigate. LR is the best among many solutions to organizing that collection in a way that makes your work accessible on demand. It should be used for the tool that it was intended to be, not to empower mediocracy.

I realize that what I have written is controversial. If you agree with me, you are indeed a very smart person and I would like to hear from you. If you disagree, you are dead to me, but I would nevertheless like to hear from you as well.

## **SOCIAL & SUNSHINE**

### **End of Year Party**

A good time was had by all, and a few had a really good time.

Joe Nightingale won a \$50 gift card from Cameraland

Barbara Titone won \$25 gift card from Cameraland

Sandy Sommer and Chris Ferrara won free classes at Cameraland

Mordechai Mellis and Chris Ferrara won free classes at Berger Bros.

Frank Kirshenbaum won a \$50 gift card from Hunts

And

Vivian Bass won \$60 in the 50/50.

Congratulations to Sylvia on the highly successful End of Year Party. Thank you, Roni for the slideshow and Bonnie, Ellen and Joe, for all your help. Here is a link to the video of member pictures that were shown.

<https://www.customphotonotes.com/p928056444/h23>





*June 2022*









# DARK FRAMES IN ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY

## The second article in a series

Last month 's Viewfinder had an introduction to astrophotography dealing with equipment and general considerations. This article will cover another equally important aspect. That is, how to expose for the image and eliminate the inherent noise. When taking images of the night sky, you will be exposing for long periods of time at high ISOs. This is necessary to accumulate enough light from distant objects to make them register on your sensor. This is also the reason that a good deep space image contains details not visible to the unaided eye. The way to keep noise at bay is through a technique call star stacking. Star stacking is the layering of night sky exposures in alignment and averaging the brightness & color values of those exposures. This process cancels most of the noise. Noise differs between exposures, and averaging reduces that variation.

By using a high shutter speed the stars do not move appreciably in the frame. How fast? As a rule of thumb, you can use the '500 Rule'.

*Exposure time= (500/ focal length) X crop factor*

The exposures are subsequently 'stacked' in specialty software like DeepSkyStacker. The program allows you to achieve an image equivalent to a single exposure equal to the total of the individual exposures

### Calibration files

If it were that easy, more people would be doing it. To overcome the physical limitations of the camera, we must use calibration files. There are 3 types of

#### Recommended Exposures for Deep-Sky

##### Light-Polluted Suburban Observing Site (Bortle 7,8,9)

ISO \ F#	1.4	2	2.8	4	5.6	8
100	15 sec	30 sec	1 min	2 min	4 min	8 min
200	8 sec	15 sec	30 sec	1 min	2 min	4 min
400	4 sec	8 sec	15 sec	30 sec	1 min	2 min
800	2 sec	4 sec	8 sec	15 sec	30 sec	1 min
1600	1 sec	2 sec	4 sec	8 sec	15 sec	30 sec

##### Moderately Dark Observing Site (Bortle 4,5,6)

ISO \ F#	1.4	2	2.8	4	5.6	8
100	2 min	4 min	8 min	16 min	32 min	64 min
200	1 min	2 min	4 min	8 min	16 min	32 min
400	30 sec	1 min	2 min	4 min	8 min	16 min
800	15 sec	30 sec	1 min	2 min	4 min	8 min
1600	8 sec	15 sec	30 sec	1 min	2 min	4 min

##### Very Dark Observing Site (Bortle 1,2,3)

ISO \ F#	1.4	2	2.8	4	5.6	8
100	6 min	12 min	24 min	48 min	96 min	192 min
200	3 min	6 min	12 min	24 min	48 min	96 min
400	1.5 min	3 min	6 min	12 min	24 min	48 min
800	45 sec	1.5 min	3 min	6 min	12 min	24 min
1600	22 sec	45 sec	1.5 min	3 min	6 min	12 min

calibration files: Dark Frames, Bias frames and Flat Frames. The most important are Dark Frames which are made by taking a series of exposures of equal duration to the image capture(s) but with no light falling on the sensor. The result is an “image” of the sensor noise which is used to subtract noise from the image. The number of dark frames required is a matter of experience or trial and error. As a starting point, using a minimum of 10 frames may be adequate but 50 – 100 is not unusual.

Bias frames are used to eliminate ‘dark fixed-pattern noise’ which is present in every sensor. They are similar to dark frames except they are taken at the highest shutter speed that the camera is capable of.

Finally, Flat Frames are used to correct for lens vignetting. These are taken by photographing an evenly illuminated surface such as a white wall or a light box. vignetting is eliminated when the Flat Frame is subtracted from the image.

To utilize the power of the calibration files you need software like DeepSkyStacker<sup>1</sup>. The files are loaded into the software and the required information is provided. DeepSkyStacker takes care of the rest.

The difference between an image that has utilized calibration frames and those that have not is immediately evident. Calibration frames improve the *signal-to-noise ratio*. Signal is the actual light emitted from an object in space such as a nebula or galaxy. Noise is the unwanted electronic variation in color and brightness produced by the camera sensor.



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<sup>1</sup> deepskystacker is a freeware for Astro photographers that simplifies all the pre-processing steps of deep sky pictures. Registering, Stacking, simple post-stacking processes to quickly view the result and saving the resulting image to a TIFF or FITS file (16 or 32 bit). After a shooting night you give all your pictures (light frames, darks frames, offset/bias frames, flat frames) to deepskystacker and you go to bed. The next morning (or is it afternoon?) You can see the result and start post-processing. Deepskystacker Live is also available to watch the result of an ongoing imaging session being created as the images are downloaded from the CCD or DSLR.



# PFLI MAY COMPETITION RESULTS

## CREATIVE

Debbie Garafola	Autumn Walk	21
Ira Scheinerman	Shadowing the Geese	21
Sylvia Goldkranz	Rosie Red Hat	21
Ellen Gallagher	Faded Rose	24

## BLACK & WHITE

Frank Kirshenbaum	Flower 3782	20
Bonnie Forman Franco	Great Egret on a Branch	21
Ellen Gallagher	White Shutter Closeup	21
Alan Agdern	Landing Black and White	21
Debbie Garafola	Harbinder_DSC8478	23
Sylvia Goldkranz	Morning Fog	21
Joseph Nightingale	BEACH	21
Ira Scheinermann	Lonesome	24
Valerie DeBiase	Tracking The J Train	24

## COLOR A

Chris Ferrara	Big Sky Over Little Pond	21
Ellen Gallagher	Evil Eye Closeup	21
Bonnie Forman Franco	Juvenile Heron	21
Andrew Dubitsky	Lindsay 11	23
Alan Agdern	squawking	23
Joseph Nightingale	Sparrow	20
Frank Kirshenbaum	Sharing A Snack	21
Valerie Debiase	Junkyard Find	23
	Winter Yellowstone	
Ira Scheinerman	Denizen	24
Sylvia Goldkranz	Blue Poppy	24

## COLOR B

Debbie Garafola	Wabi Sabi Dancers	21
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## Judges

Pat Walsh

Val DeBiase

Dick Hunt

Harry Loud

Pat Walsh

Joe Pellicone



A totally candid photograph taken at Old Bethpage Village Restoration

## MARKET PLACE

*Digital Projector*-Optima EP719 in good working condition with all cables and case.

**PRICE REDUCTION** Best offer over \$45 with proceeds benefiting the Syosset Camera Club. Contact [editortheviewfinder@yahoo.com](mailto:editortheviewfinder@yahoo.com)

*Travel tripod* **Prima Photo PHTRSSL** New in the box, 4 leg sections, 13 inches folded, opens to 50.2 inches, weighs 2.65 lbs. Holds 8.8 pounds. Ball head with Arca Swiss type mount. Legs are adjustable to 3 positions from normal to flat. Best offer over \$35. Contact: [bg1958@live](mailto:bg1958@live)

*Fujifilm XH1* With vertical grip. like new condition. Complete with original packaging, 3 Fujifilm batteries and charger. Camera was only used a few times. \$850. Contact [bg1958@live](mailto:bg1958@live)

*Automatic Ext. Tube Set for Nikon* Set of 3 extension tubes. Has electrical contacts to make them fully automatic for autofocus and autoexposure for Nikon cameras. 12,mm, 20 mm and 36 mm. Like new. Contact: [bg1958@live](mailto:bg1958@live)

*8 mm Movie Projector* Revere Model 777—\$ FREE—WHAT A DEAL- NOW YOU CAN WATCH YOUR HONEYMOON MOVIES, TAKE IT AWAY! Contact [bg1958@live](mailto:bg1958@live)

*Slide Projector* Crestline 500 Still works great, \$FREE—COME AND GET IT! Contact: [bg1958@live](mailto:bg1958@live)

*Think Tank Sling Backpack Used* only a few times. Sells for over \$100 new. Asking \$50. Contact [ronimeetup@gmail.com](mailto:ronimeetup@gmail.com).

*Drawing/Editing Tablet* Works with Light Room, Photoshop etc.. Use instead of a mouse for greater control. **Insane price: \$5** Contact [bg1958@live.com](mailto:bg1958@live.com)

*FUJINON 70-300* Super EBC f4.5-5.6 R LM OIS WR, with hood caps, box manual NEVER USED \$399. Contact [bg1958@live.com](mailto:bg1958@live.com)





# SCC COMPETITION RANKINGS

## High Scores 2021-22

	BW Salon	BW A	BW B	Projection Salon	Projection A	Projection B	Creative
<b>1st Place</b> <i>Moshe Markewitz Award</i>	Valerie DeBiase	Bonnie Forman-Franco*	No person had the requisite 18 entries	Bonnie Forman-Franco	<b>Sandy Sommer*</b>	<b>Robert Kaplan</b>	Sylvia Goldkranz
<b>2nd Place</b>	Sylvia Goldkranz	Sandy Sommer		Sylvia Goldkranz	Ira Scheinerman	Debbie Garafola	Ellen Gallagher
<b>3rd Place</b>	Ira Scheinerman	Roni Chastain		Valerie DeBiase	Barry Goldstein	Laurie Ellis	Ira Scheinerman

First place in Group B advances to Group A.

First Place in group A with a minimum best 18 scores total of 155 has the option to advance to Salon.

To Salon

To Group A

## END OF YEAR COMPETITION RESULTS

*KLEINMANN AWARD*

*SECOND*

*THIRD*

<i>CREATIVE</i>	ANDREW DUBITSKY	IRA SCHEINERMAN	BARBARA TITONE
<i>BW B</i>	DEBBIE GARAFOLA	LAURIE ELLIS	ROBERT KAPLAN
<i>BW A</i>	RONI CHASTAIN	BONNIE FORMAN-FRANCO	LORRAINE PISKIN
<i>BWS</i>	IRA SCHEINERMAN	SLVIA GOLDKRANZ	VALERIE DEBIASE
<i>PROJ B</i>	DEBBIE GARAFOLA	ROBERT KAPLAN	LAURIE ELLIS
<i>PROJ A</i>	IRA SCHEINERMAN	JULES WEISLER	ELLEN GALLAGHER
<i>PROJ S</i>	ALAN AGDERN	SYLVIA GOLDKRANZ	VALERIE DEBIASE

## MAY IMAGES OF THE MONTH



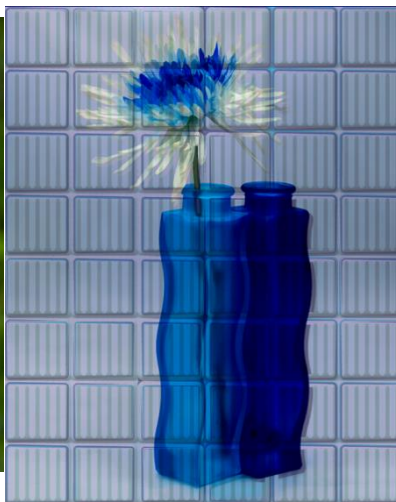
Bonnie Forman-Franco - Black and White A-  
Abandoned Church



Valerie DeBiase – BW S – Theater Fit for a  
King



Robert Kaplan – Color B –  
Prothonotary Warbler



Ellen Gallagher –  
Creative – Glowing



Sandy Sommer- Color A – Spoonbill  
Landing



Debbie Garafola – B&W B - Winter Beach -



Bonnie Forman-Franco – Color S –  
Goldfinch in Flight