



IN FOCUS

Member Photographic Society of America since 1982
Award: Best Use of Color for a Small Club Newsletter, 2001

February 24: Full Competition
Guest Judge: Jan Maguire
Competition Subjects: Nature, Open
Creative: Altered Reality in Red
Special Project: Sequences
Rotating: People

February Guest Judge: JAN MAGUIRE

Photographer **Jan Maguire** has worked at her craft for over 25 years. Her photos and articles have appeared in various local newspapers and trade magazines and recently in the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens 2003 calendar. Pending publication includes photos in a book on the national parks.



She has accumulated almost 3000 hangings in international exhibitions on every continent except Antarctica, and over 150 medals and trophies. She has attained a "top 25" ranking in the Photographic Society of America's annual "Who's Who" 19 times. In the role of judge, she has juried over 100 competitions at schools, camera clubs and councils, fairs including the Date Festival, and other international exhibitions. She recently held one-man shows at The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Garden in Palm Desert, the Claremont Community Foundation, and Western University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Jan has shared her skills over the years by presenting programs, workshops and field trips. Her interests are widely varied but focus mainly on wildlife and landscape nature, and animal portraiture. Her favorite places are many of the U.S. national parks and Africa. Her work is characterized by a sensitive intimacy with her subject, whether animal or plant. Water and reflections are recurring themes in her 'scapes.

She is an active member of the Photographic Society of America and has achieved the high honor of Fellow (FPSA) and distinction of Excellence (EPSA) within that organization for her leadership and proficiency as a photographer.

Upcoming Events:

Feb 7: S4C Competition - Prints!
Contact Lillian to carpool.

Feb 17: DIPSIG Meeting

Feb 24: Full Club Competition
Guest Judge: Jan MaGuire

March 6-7: WORKSHOP!
MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY
with Nancy Rotenberg
Register Now!

March 13: S4C Competition

March 16: DIPSIG

March 23: Regular Meeting
Program TBA

April 2-3: 24-Hour Joshua Tree
Photo Shoot-a-thon! Visit
<http://artmojave.org/jtmp24hr.html>
for more information, or contact
Georg Burwick: 909.787.5314
email: georg.burwick@ucr.edu

April 27: Regular Meeting
Full Competition
Guest Judge: TBA

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The **MACRO WEEKEND**, March 6-7, with renowned photographer **Nancy Rotenberg** is approaching fast! Door prizes will be given away Saturday, on top of a day of intense macro photography instruction. As of this writing, there are 2 openings left for the Sunday "Day in the Field" so if you've been putting it off, now's the time to sign up! Registration forms are included in the printed version of this issue or can be found at <http://cvdcc.org/events/events.html> (you'll need Acrobat Reader 6.0 to download it). Visit <http://naturaltapestries.com> for more about Nancy and her astonishing work! Article by Nancy on page 2.

A room hung with pictures is a room hung with thoughts. -Sir Joshua Reynolds

THE CREATIVE PROCESS: Beyond The Documentary Photograph... Exposing for eye, mind and heart, by Nancy Rotenberg (first published in OUTDOOR PHOTOGRAPHY) *Part 3 of 3*

“The limitations of photography are in yourself, for what we see is only what we are” -*Ernst Haas*.

Tell A Story:

“What are you trying to say with each photograph?” As artists, we are poets in the language of symbols. Try to discover images that portray concepts such as innocence, harmony, competition, quietude, strength, repetition, movement, etc.

If the symbol isn't available in nature, supply one that adds to the storytelling. I love to rummage through yard sales and antique shows in search of interesting props. Placed in just the right spot, they provide imaginative additions to photographs.

Our goal as creative photographers is to convey vision. In Tolstoy's essay, “What Is Art”, he likens art to an infection. The artist has a feeling; he expresses it, passes the feeling on and infects another so that they have it too. What a wonderful disease!

Trust In The Process:

“I'm not responsible for my photographs. Photography is not documentary, but intuition, a poetic experience. It's drowning yourself, dissolving yourself and then sniff, sniff, sniff – being sensitive to coincidence.” -*Cartier-Bresson*

The creative process is like a birth. It has a power all of its own and your job is not to control it, but to let it happen naturally. Your responsibility is to lose yourself in the process, and let the baby come into the world.

When you let go of the search, things enter without conscious interference. This requires confidence in the process and in yourself. Not to be confused with conceit and arrogance, it is just a humble self-confidence that knows you are a striving, working, searcher of truth and magic. There is no more than that!

The Awe Of It All:

In the beginning, we started out as little children...full of light, clear vision, and raptness. Bringing that childlike state of wonder to the photographic process adds a magical quality to images. Rachel Carson viewed the world with this notion when she said; “What if I had never seen this before?” “What if I would never see it again?” With this view, the commonplace is revealed to be utterly incredible.

Joy Of Photography:

Why did you first pick up that camera? What drew you to the beauty and magic? Do you remember the sheer joy and pleasure of capturing a moment?

Go back to that joy. In that place lives the creativity and the love..both of which, when brought to your images and lives, make all the difference.

As creative individuals, we are lucky to have discovered photography. We've been handed a gift of giving shape to some mystical timing when heart and mind and eye come together.

This passion is crucial to the creative process but also to our own healing and the healing of the planet. Bring back from the journey a mirror of what you felt. Create images that would not have existed without you.

Nancy Rotenberg will be conducting a weekend seminar and workshop March 6-7, 2004, hosted by the Desert Camera Club. Watch IN FOCUS for more information. For a registration form visit CVDCC.org or email events@CVDCC.org

COMPETITION WINNERS

January 27, 2004

Judge: Dale Gilkinson

ADVANCED GROUP – PRINT DIVISION:

ROTATING CATEGORY – TRAVEL:

1st: Roger Kipp, WAITING FOR SOME
TOURISTS

2nd: Judie Ruzek, MEXICAN CHILDREN ON
PARADE

3rd: Ingrid Knight, GOLDEN ROCKS IN
ARIZONA

ROTATING CATEGORY – B&W: (Moved from November 2003)

1st: Stuart Lynn, POWER – OLD & NEW

2nd: Roland Chan, HAPPY FEET

3rd: Roger Kipp, TRAIN, TRACKS & STATION

CREATIVE CATEGORY – A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE:

1st: Judie Ruzek, A TIPSY PERSPECTIVE

2nd: Stuart Lynn, SUNNY SIDE UP

3rd: Stuart Lynn, NEEDLEPOINT

ADVANCED GROUP – SLIDE DIVISION:

ROTATING CATEGORY – TRAVEL:

1st: Roger Kipp, BRYCE MORNING

2nd: Ingrid Knight, DEVIL'S POST PILE

CREATIVE CATEGORY – A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE:

1st: Joe Ramsey, GOING UP

INTERMEDIATE GROUP – PRINT DIVISION:

ROTATING CATEGORY – TRAVEL:

1st: Bill Coleman, JOE'S AT 5:00

2nd: Ed Oppenheimer, MT. SHAKELTON

ROTATION CATEGORY – B&W: (Moved from November 2003)

1ST: Dan Chalfont, DOWNHILL RACER

CREATIVE CATEGORY – A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE:

1st: Dolly Dupree, FROM A BUG'S
PERSPECTIVE

SPECIAL PROJECT – RECREATE FALL IN JANUARY:

1st: Judie Ruzek, FALL IN JANUARY

2nd: Lillian Roberts, CHANGING SEASONS

3rd: Roland Chan, FARM HOUSE

HM: Jerry Dupree, RITES OF AUTUMN

HM: Woody Kaplan, BOO!

HM: Ruth Young, SHOULD WE GO
SOUTH FOR WINTER?

March's Creative Subject is SPINNING WHEELS. It could be windmills, bicycles wheels, engine fans, or whatever, but it must be clear that the wheels are *spinning*! This is a good exercise in motion photography

March's Special Project is "Collage An Image Into Abstraction!" The object of this exercise is to manipulate an image by slicing and dicing it into pieces and then reassembling it to create a harmonized whole. There are (at least) two ways to do this:

__ You can slice and dice it by cutting up your print (for extra effect, you can use multiple copies of the same print to create extra pieces, perhaps printed at different exposures and with different color balancing), and gluing the pieces on to a mountboard to create your collage. If you are really energetic (*this is not required*), you can re-photograph and print the finished product to create an integrated result (and if you are *really* energetic, you can slice and dice that image all over again and create even more possibilities).

__ You can do all your slicing and dicing and re-assembly in Photoshop, Photoshop Elements or whatever image processing software you use. Hint: place your pieces on different layers, and use the possibilities of layer blending, opacity controls, and layer effects to create surprising results, and feather edges of the pieces into one another (see e-focus, January 2003 on how to use "transition layers"). You can also use Artistic Filters for other effects.

This is an exercise in photographic abstraction. If this is your first such effort, you may want to keep it simple with not too many shapes. Don't go overboard – abstraction does not mean mess-making! The final result should still juggle a balance between harmony and tension. Try to create interesting tensions, for example, between the pieces by just jiggling them out of their original position by a little bit. Even though this is an abstraction, try to create a center of interest, perhaps by using the right combination of lighter and darker pieces. The principles of composition that apply to real images can still be used with effect in abstractions. You can leave interesting shaped holes scattered between the pieces and around the edges. Think of the emotional impact of the image. The reality of your original image can still be apparent according to your taste, but seen through fresh eyes.

From the President's Desk--- *By Roger Kipp*

First, thanks for electing me club president. It's not often one gets elected with 100% of the vote—even Saddam got only 99.5% of the vote he called for a couple of years ago. It's nice to be so popular that no one runs against you!

Anyway, enough of that "humor". I'm actually looking forward to working with all of you this year. I think we have a great club. We have great photographers in that club. I am continually impressed at our competitions.

But the club is more than competitions. We're also here to learn and improve. Last Tuesday's meeting was an excellent example. The program on photographing pets was outstanding. The two speakers knew their stuff. And they had some great pet shots as examples. Made me want to get right home and shoot the dog....shoot the dog with my camera that is. I don't want anyone to get any wrong ideas. In short, it was a quality program. It is more programs like this that I would like to see over the next year.

And speaking of learning and improving, I've gotten excellent feedback on the great workshops Joe and Stuart present at the DIPSIG (digital) meetings. These guys have knowledge to pass on.

Lastly, I want to say that it is not the guy at the top that makes this a great club. It is the Board and Committee chairs who are in the trenches doing the "grunt" work that keeps this club running. My thanks to that team—Judie, Joan, Lillian, Stuart, Joe, Jean, and Shirley. I count on them. The club counts on them.

For those of you who are "Trekkie" fans, you know that Spock signs off with "Live long and prosper". For the camera club, I'll sign off the "Keep photographing and enjoy"!

Birds, and Kittens and Puppy Dogs Tails

On January 27 we had our Camera Club Meeting in a much smaller room, but in the end, it was really a lot cozier. Roger had us up and running on time and with the introduction of all the Officers and Committee chairman, he then turned the meeting over to Lillian.

She introduced us to Dale and Diane who put on a program about good techniques in photographing Pets.

The slide presentation and Diane's talk, were filled with information and some fantastic photos of Dogs, Kittens, Frogs, and lots of Birds. It was a good turn out of our Members and I am sure they all enjoyed our Guest Speakers. We had a break and then the competition began and Dale was our commentator and judge for the evening. The winners and their pictures will be posted on the web, www.cvdcc.org.

Congratulations to all the winners. If you didn't fill out a permission form for the WEB, please let me know and I see that you receive one.

After Lillian presented with certificates of Appreciation to each of our Guests, Roger closed the meeting. To our numerous guests, and new members, Welcome! And especially our returning members. Welcome Back!! *Judie Ruzek, Secretary*

This Year's Year-End Awards:

Print Photographer of 2003: *Judie Ruzek*

Slide Photographer of 2003: *Lillian Roberts*

Most Improved Photographer: *Bill Coleman*

Print of the Year: Advanced Division

First Place: *Woody Kaplan: "Monster-Of-The-Deep"*

Second Place: *Ingrid Knight: "Evening in White Sands, NM"*

Third Place: *Joe Ramsey: "Webmaster"*

Honorable Mentions

Joan Petit-Clair: "Sabino Canyon"

Joan Petit-Clair: "Through The Porthole"

Slide of the Year: Advanced Division

First Place: *Roger Kipp: "Tranquil Setting"*

Second Place: *Ingrid Knight: "I Am A Yellow Beauty"*

Third Place: *Joe Ramsey: "Monument Valley"*

Print of the Year: Intermediate Division

First Place: *Stan Spiegel: "Christo Rey Church"*

Second Place: *Stan Spiegel: "Cart Of Dreams"*

Third Place: *Dan Chalfont: "Upside Down"*

Members' Page *by Shirley Brenon*

Meet Alice Hamilton, born and reared in Connecticut. Her educational background includes a master's degree in history and education, knowledge she used to teach school in Germany and her home state. Hamilton has also lived in Omaha, Neb, was married and had three stepsons. She worked for IBM for four years, the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition for nine years and is presently a freelance grant writer. She chose the desert in 1990 after sampling different communities.

Her interest in photography began when her parents gave her an Asahi Pentax as a gift for college graduation along with a few bells and whistles.

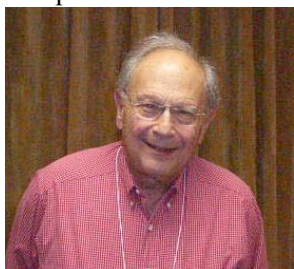
"The Asahi was a single lens reflex basic camera," she explained. "I also had a light meter, tripod and flash attachment. It was easy to adjust F-stops and shutter speeds. Over the years I have gone from taking lots of pictures to periods where I've taken none."

At the present time Hamilton uses a Canon Elan with a standard lens, a telephoto 100-300 zoom and an extension tube. Even though she has no digital camera, she attends the digital classes and just purchased Adobe Photoshop CS so she can make changes on scanned photos.

"Basically I like photos of meditative kinds of experiences, which includes landscapes, flowers and animals," she said. "Photography is a hobby that I'd like to know more about. I want to improve artistically and technically."



Stan Spiegel joined our camera club in November of 2002 due to the urging of members Bob Long and Roger Kipp. He plunged right into the competition frenzy almost immediately and so far has won seven ribbons, even though he is only in the desert about four months out of each year. In addition, he was awarded Best Picture and 2nd place in the Intermediate Division at the January banquet.



Born in a small town in Illinois, he graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in business. He spent his working years in sales management and company management, importing and manufacturing home textiles for the kitchen, dining room, bed and bath.

Most of his adult life was spent in the San Francisco Bay Area, but five years ago he moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, a destination he had been visiting on a yearly basis for 15 years.

"About three years ago my wife and I decided we wanted to have a place in the sun," he said. "Palm Springs was selected as it is a good tradeoff from our Santa Fe residence which can be cold in the winter."

The photo bug began to bite Spiegel in high school when he used a single frame camera and developed his own black and white film. He has added to his archives many times since then, and still has two 35mm, 20 year old Canons. Today he uses a Sony DSC S70 -3.3, but is toying with the idea of upgrading to a Canon Rebel or another Sony.

"I find it hard to do custom things with the one I have now," he said. "I go to the digital meetings as much as I can but have no lap top. I think you can learn by watching, but hands-on is really the best."

The Road to Success is to Keep Trying *by Stan Spiegel*

I take a lot of pictures and out of 50 I may have one good one. I just got back from a 10-day trip to Hawaii where I took 250 pictures. I hate to delete any of them, no matter the quality, as I may need them some day. Even this morning, I went out for a walk, took lots of pictures and probably none are exceptional, but you never know.

What the camera sees is not necessarily what you see. You have to get the camera to see it the way you want it seen. That is what I think separates the good photographers from the mediocre ones.

There are tricks or ways in which you can make the camera see what you want it to see. A good way to start is to begin with the basic rules. Consider the rule of 1/3 and 2/3's and have something in the foreground.

I appreciate the club very much and continually strive to improve my technique.

Welcome New Members! The following new or returning members have joined for 2004:

John Brantley, Banning

Eugene Lambert, Desert Hot Springs

Jake Gold, La Quinta

Edward Oppenheimer, La Quinta

Gitta Gorman, Cathedral City

Richard Rogers, La Quinta

Leo Gruenke, Thousand Palms

2004 Annual AWARDS BANQUET report by *Judie Ruzek*

The Awards Banquet was held at the Fountains this year with a large attendance of Members, new and old. All dressed up and ready to party. Joe was given his plaque for outgoing Pres. And awards for a variety of services were handed out



We were served dinner, and during the evening, we were shown images of winning photos. In between Awards and dinner courses, we had the Annual Raffle, proficiently handled by Lillian. We had a lot of donations and many tickets were sold. A Special Lifetime Membership Award was bestowed upon Chas Allan. The Photographers and Pictures of the Year were Awarded and a list of the winners can be found on our website: www.cvdcc.org. Congratulations to all the winners. Roger Kip, our new President and his board took office that night and we look forward to a good new term. Joanne Stolte was our Judge

Raffle Prize & Donor List

Please support the companies that support our club!

Local Businesses:

- Camera Exchange: Printer Paper Samplers
- Double Photo: 3-8x10 Print Enlargement
- Photo Colorgraphics: 2-Gift Certificates for Printing Services
- Sweetlight: 2-\$25 Gift Certificates: E6 Processing Services
- Sherry's Gifts & Stationery: 6-Picture Frames; Album, Note Cards
- It's In The Bag: 2-Backpacks
- CC Inn: \$25 Dining Certificate
- Islands: Dining Certificate

Manufacturers/ Others:

- Wimberley: 2 Plamps, Quick-Release Tripod Mounting Plate www.tripodhead.com
- Delkin Devices: PictureVision; Flashcard "Wallets" www.delkin.com
- Nancy Rotenberg: book, CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHY www.naturaltapestries.com

This year's raffle added excitement and suspense to our ceremony and raised \$536 for club coffers! As always, it would not have been possible without the support of the local businesses and manufacturers of photo accessories listed to the right. We make a special effort to contact unique companies for this purpose, and their donations are overwhelming! Remember these companies when you are shopping, and thank them for their support! Browse their websites or stop in to check out all they offer. -ed

We thank everyone that made this evening the success it was! I am sure a good time was had by all. I had fun taking lots of pictures and hope to show them off at the next meeting. As a final note, I would like to Thank Joe and Welcome Roger.
Judie Ruzek, Secretary

Club Members:

- 2 - \$25 Gift Certificates to Best Buy
- 2 - Coffee Cup/Mystery Book combos
- Assorted Note Cards & Stationery
- Sto-Fen Flash Diffuser Lenspen
- Virtual Picture Frame
- 2 - Videos: Rainforest Documentaries
- \$10 Gift cert: IT'S A GRIND
- 7 - Bottles of Good Liquor!

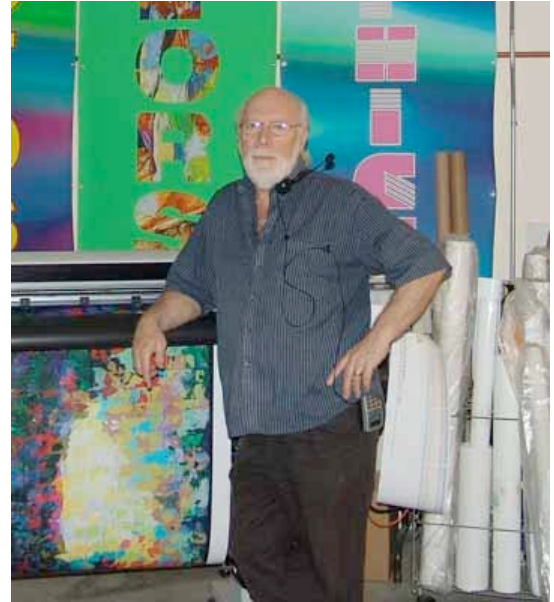
Camera Club Life Member

By Jerry Dupree

At the annual banquet on January 11, 2004, the Camera Club made Chas Allen an Honorary Life Member, only the second time the club has bestowed this honor. Chas has supported the Desert Camera Club actively club for many years, and has served as past president and a knowledgeable judge. Chas has been a friend and valuable resource for the Desert Camera Club and many members have learned from the knowledge he was eager to freely share.

Chas is knowledgeable as a photographer and photo processor. Chas, together with Sharron Kenty, operate Photo Colorgraphix in Thousand Palms, a graphic and photo processing studio which they established in 1994. They have maintained a cutting edge with technology and digital imaging, mainly for commercial graphics users. Several local interior designers, home builders, and other local businesses utilize their services.

Chas has spent his career in the photography and graphic arts field. Chas and Sharron sensed the advent of the digital revolution and have invested heavily in sophisticated equipment and software to maintain the pace of technology. Most of the business is making enlargements of photographs as large as 64" x 9' murals. Want your favorite images printed on canvas or made to look like watercolor painting? Need top-quality glossy enlargements for competition? Photo Colorgraphix is the place to go. They can produce museum-quality prints that are rated for up to 100 years.



Chas Allen among the colorful tools of his trade.



Sharron Kenty is the digital whiz behind Photo Colorgraphix.

Chas' wife, Sharron Kenty, is the digital brains behind the organization and actually owns the business. Thanks to Sharron's hours in front of her computer, the company offers high-resolution scanning of negative or slide film, and digital prints of a quality that boggles the mind.

In addition, Photo Colorgraphix offers a wide array of commercial printing services such as life-size cut outs, stick-on labels, and laminated posters in almost any size imaginable.

Although Chas has not been active in the Camera Club for the last few years, he has been very helpful to many of its members in their printing and enlargement needs.

A visit with Chas is an adventure and he will provide undivided attention to visitors as well as clients. He has many rare skills, which include quality communication and attention to detail. He has the rare ability to figure out the needs of clients and provide solutions they would not have known about.

The Camera Club is fortunate to have Chas as a resource and a life member.

Chas and Sharron have generously invited the club for a guided tour – watch IN FOCUS for details on this upcoming field trip!



Newsletter of the
Coachella Valley Desert
Camera Club
February 2004

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Meeting Information: The Desert Camera Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, 7PM at The Fountains, 41-505 Carlotta Dr., in Palm Desert. Go east on Hovley from Cook St., past two signals. Carlotta Dr. is the second left after the second signal. The Fountains is about 300 yards north, on the left.

Dial 100 and tell the receptionist you are with the Camera Club. Enter, and park almost straight ahead. The auditorium is easy to find down the hall and on the right. Please attend your first meeting as our guest. For information, contact Roger Kipp: prex@cvdcc.org Jean Cohen: members@cvdcc.org or Joan Petit-Clair: events@cvdcc.org.

DIPSIG, the Digital Photography Special Interest Group, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30PM at The Marriott Courtyard Inn, southwest corner of Frank Sinatra Drive and Cook Street. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop computer and an extension cord. For information, contact Joe Ramsey: 760-320-4678/ Dstcamtopdog@mindspring.com.

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