

# South Shore Camera Club of NY

March 2025: Vol. 01 No.05



We focus on the fine points of photography

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## The Shutterbug Monthly

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### *From the President... Gary Meyer*



**MARCH 2025**

The monthly newsletter continues to be both interesting and informative. One of my favorite columns is the “Featured Photographer”. It allows you to learn more about the other members of the club and their photographic journey. Last month it was Pat Walsh who has been a member for many years and has probably served in every executive position, including several years as president. This made for some very interesting reading. The Niner, which features those images scoring a 9 in the last competition, is always a stunning display of the talent and artistry of our members. However, the February competition did not produce its usual plethora of 9’s, so for the March issue we’re broadening our scope to include 8’s and above. You will be pleasantly surprised at how these images maintain the superior artistry of our club.

February’s major presentation was by noted architectural photographer Jay Cohen. It was presented live on zoom, and he couldn’t have been more interesting. He presented many of his images of unusual and distinctive buildings and interiors from various cities throughout the country. He explained how he achieved the shot both in the camera and in post editing. His approach to creating the strongest impact from the shot was extraordinary and educational. Presentations continue February 26<sup>th</sup> with Jordan, Carol and Andrea’s trip to the Amish Country.

Stu and Steve continue to do an incredible job and they welcome your continued contributions.

### **JUST A LITTLE NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS**

Our newsletter will only be as good as we make it... we need all to contribute to it.

Send all suggestions, stories and helpful hints to either

Stuart Konecky ([stuart.konecky@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.konecky@gmail.com))

or Steve Friedman ([steve@PhotosBySMF.com](mailto:steve@PhotosBySMF.com))

# Featured Photographer: Arlene Kyler

Interview by Stuart Konecky



## What sparked your passion for Photography?

My Daddy was Head of the Photography Club at Brooklyn's Seth Low JHS. All my life, he photographed me-sitting in my baby carriage, learning to skate, learning to swim, posing for him on our frequent Coney Island outings, etc.etc. Group pictures at family/friend parties included him as he darted in to join us using his timer. How cool!

The biggest treasure is that he left me numerous meticulously documented photo albums which captured not only my life, but his young adulthood, Brooklyn, our sleepaway camp and more. Truthfully, I was surprised to learn that most people were left just a folder of photos. So the love of photographing coupled with understanding the infinite value a picture holds is clearly in my genes.

## How and when did you join the SSCC?

Joining a Camera Club was on my Bucket List! I had phoned some man way back when you were meeting in Long Beach just for information. Our friends Carole and Jordie Meyers would invite us to their fantastic Annual Summer Parties. At one party, I walked into their living room where from afar I watched five photographers deeply enjoying and discussing a framed image. At that moment, I said to myself, "Wow, these are MY people."

That moment, plus Carole always encouraging me to join plus meeting Lisa Harris that day who even carried her own small album to share, motivated my finally becoming a member of SSCC at the JCC in 2016.

Photography has become an obsession and is my go-to place for joy and creativity. I love you guys— our shared passion has fostered a camaraderie and fraternalism we cherish as we even eat out frequently and truly care about each others' health, lives as well as tech tips!

As your Membership Co-Chair, I am dedicated to making members love SSCC as we do.

## Do you have a favorite type of photography or a signature style?

Appreciation of what the world has to offer is one of my views on what life means. I love lakes, Geometry, children, adults, architecture, scenery and more. I have very divergent thinking abilities. My SSCC friends often tell me I excel in Creative. As I am also a StandUp Comedian,

I find humor all over the place and believe it's healthy for us as a stress reliever. Thus, many of my photos provoke a chuckle which delights me. I must add that as photographers, we have



the ability to influence the world! Remember that war photo of the little girl running naked down the street? We should each know that our images could impart important messages whether depicting drama, failed climate change effects, human tragedy or human rights. Your photo could end up as timeless as a well-remembered song.

### **Which cameras and lens do you like?**

About 18 years ago, my older daughter bought me a small Panasonic camera with a Carl Zeiss lens which was lightweight and served me well, particularly on my trip to China.

When it broke several years later, I used only my iPhones for all my photographing and videotaping. I currently bought the iPhone Pro Max 15 for its 5 zoom and other photographing features. The ease of my iPhone literally being by my side as I appreciate the world is a huge advantage and I finally hear fellow members concur.

### **How do you approach post-processing your images?**

Ha! Again, only on my iPhone, The tiny screen is a challenge but Snapseed is an App with numerous Tools. I use Crop, Heal, Looks, Tones, Contrast and more. As it does not size images, I need to export to Image Size. None of these name my image so then I take to my 2008 computer or recent LG laptop.

Sometimes I edit on my phone with Pixlr or Enlight for things like Double Exposure or Templates.

I purchased ON1 years ago and thanks to Meghan Clifford am finally learning to use it on my Laptop. I believe seeing my images so much larger and with all its editing capabilities will enhance my images immensely.

What advice would you give to new photographers?

Have more confidence than you think you should have! Photograph away enjoying whatever catches your personal eye. In SSCC, no one will be little your efforts and if you want help, we gladly share information. Our Club members are everything from Beginners to Hall of Famers. Your own passion and style will begin to shine through, and we will relish it with you, SSCC hires monthly Judges who tweak each of our images. Each month, we spend another evening learning from a live or zoomed speaker. We are also trying to improve our Editing skills- will I finally learn how to Lasso? In addition, I learned many iPhone skills from You Tube Photographers like Emil Pakarklis. I also glean ideas from Googling "Best Reflection Photos" or "Best Shadow Images" and so on. My personal new enhancement is that my iPhone 15 Pro Max now gives me the ability to shoot in RAW for more striking images.

If you need help, ask me. If I can't assist, I'll guide you to someone who can.

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**THE TRADING POST** *Buy, sell or trade your photo equipment*  
Email: [steve@PhotosBySMF.com](mailto:steve@PhotosBySMF.com)

**I left this blank as a reminder that we need you to offer items.  
If I don't get any items for next month I will discontinue this column**

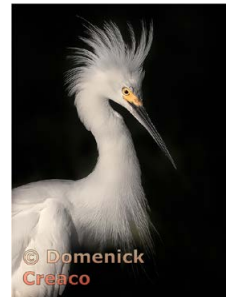
**If you have items to sell, trade, or are searching for something,  
please email [steve@photosbysmf.com](mailto:steve@photosbysmf.com)**

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# THE NINER AND A LITTLE BIT LESS

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS IN LAST MONTH'S COMPETITION







© Jordan Meyers



© Steven Friedman



© Domenick Creaco



© Richard Cohen



© Richard Cohen



© Edward Frankel



© Domenick Creaco



© Richard Cohen



© Carole Meyers



© Richard Cohen



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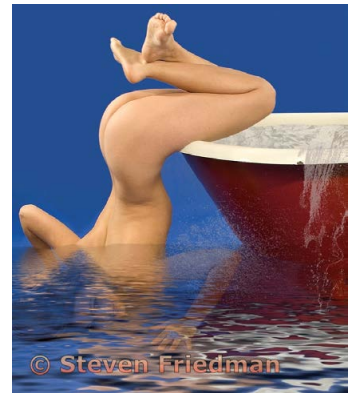
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© Stuart N Konecky



# How I did that...

Steven Friedman



1- The original photo

One of the things I try to do is pre visualize a shot before taking it. I was at a car show and saw this fellow walking, I asked him if I could take a photo of him. I told he to leave his glasses on. His girlfriend ask why, I told her that I was going add a car reflection in them.



5- I proceed to mask out the cars and eliminated the background. Then I flopped the cars so that they would look like a reflection. *Remember that when something that is mirrored it appears reversed*



2- I cloned out the cars in his sunglasses



3- I used photo wiz contrast master to increase the contrast and sharpen the photo. This can also be achieved by using the unsharp mask in Photoshop.



4- I then opened my photos of the car that I took at the show original front and back



6- I then placed the cars in the sunglass lenses and trimmed the to match the lens frame. A good way to get them to fit correctly is by using the opacity setting on the layer with the object that you are adding and setting the opacity to about 40 or 50 percent. This will enable you to see the object that you looking to fit to.

Finally I convert the original photo of the person to black and white using Nik Silver Efex Pro (I used the high structure setting)

# Guest speaker of the month

## Howard Pohl

My presentation is, in one sense, a look back in time, before the digital age, when photographers used film and their work was printed in the darkroom. In another way, my work is common to all photographers as we try to capture images that appeal to the intellect and the senses. All of my photographs are analog in nature. In 1986, I purchased a darkroom package from the late, great 47th Street Photo in New York. I still have most of the equipment purchased on that day, supplemented over the decades with better versions of equipment and materials. When the rest of the world went digital, I stayed behind and continued to take photos on black and white film and print them in my home darkroom. I believe that

black-and-white film has a quality that cannot be reproduced digitally. While the latter technique may be more “perfect”, photos taken on film have a different aesthetic quality. Working by hand in a darkroom mostly prevents me from doing the ethereal, mythical, fact-altering work that digital photographers can attain. Still, I think there is a soul-satisfying truth that can be captured via film. This lack of transformative technology adds more pressure to the initial exposure as it may require greater preparation and care; you can't fix it in Photoshop. I believe that art and beauty can be found almost anywhere. I attempt to identify objects, landscapes, and other random features. Many of my images are of things that were once functional and productive but have reached their expiration. They exist only because something newer and shinier has not arrived to replace it.

My work has appeared in over 60 exhibits in galleries and museums, from Vermont to California. My photos have appeared in thirteen online photo exhibits sponsored by the Chateau Gallery. In August 2022, I had my first solo show of 25 photos at the Freeport Memorial Library in Freeport NY. Perhaps my greatest accomplishment was to have two of my photos selected for the 2020 Long Island Biennial at the Heckscher Museum in Huntington NY. Currently, my work can be seen at Art Intersection in Gilbert AZ, St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn (juried by the Art Guild of Port Washington), the Artlink Community Gallery in Fort Wayne IN, Gallery 14 Fine Art Photography in Hopewell NJ, the Members' Exhibition at the Art League of Long Island, and online at the Decagon Gallery (Honorable Mention.) My presentation will highlight photographs from my start to the present.



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## Look by George Cutler

I look I see  
Can't make it out  
There is something wrong  
It just don't belong

I come closer  
I see a pair of eyes  
That stares at me  
That's not suppose to be

I come even closer  
I see a doll in the trees branches  
I just wonder who put it there  
And does anyone seems to care

Is there some meaning to it  
Or just a mistake I see.  
Because it's so out of place  
I'll let my imagination race.

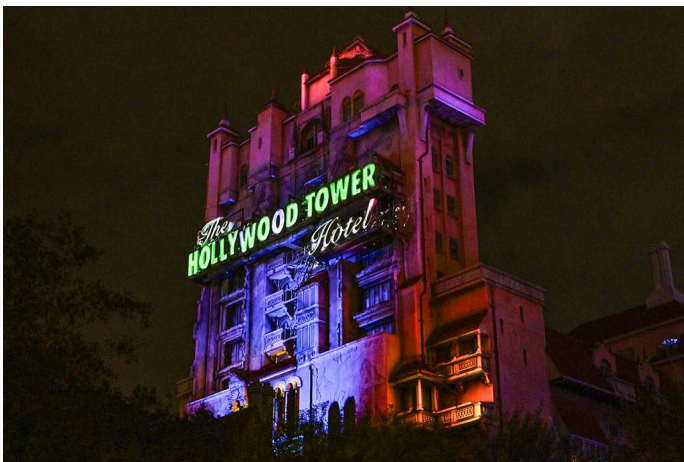
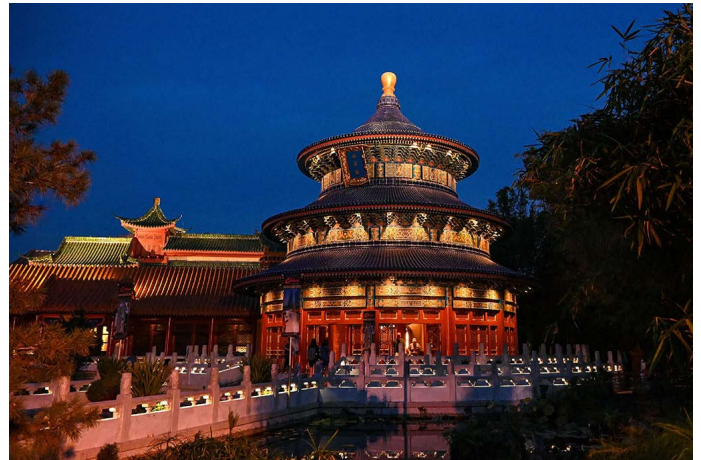


\*You can purchase George's book, One of Them, from Amazon.  
Go to <https://a.co/d/1gzUefW>



# Disney World at Night by Stuart Konecky

Last November, my family and I had the delightful experience of visiting Walt Disney World. The magic truly comes alive at night, making it the perfect time to capture some stunning photos. I'd like to share a few of the pictures I took after the sun went down.



## JUST A LITTLE REMINDER TO OUR MEMBERS

Our newsletter will only be as good as we make it... we need all to contribute to it. Send all suggestions, stories and helpful hints to either Stuart Konecky ([stuart.konecky@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.konecky@gmail.com)) or Steve Friedman ([steve@PhotosBySMF.com](mailto:steve@PhotosBySMF.com))



# Cell Phone Photography 3

By Paul Oresky

My desire to purchase new photographic hardware was diminished by my Samsung Galaxy S22 ultra pro cell phone's ability to capture a wide variety of images – day and night, large and small – of a quality that would seemingly allow them to be competitive in club competitions. None have been rated a "9" by a judge yet, the highest having received "8". (This may be due to my lack of post processing skills.) Several of my 'morning walk' cell phone images accompanied "Cell Phone Photography 1" and "Cell Phone Photography 2", printed in the January and February editions of our club's newsletter.

The winter holidays brought an appropriate drop in temperatures and featured some snow for Christmas. Only the rain deterred me from my morning walks. I did manage to venture into the Oceanside Marine Preserve and I have included one of the images below.

While searching for the limits of my cell phone photography, not yet trusting that the image capture capabilities are equal to a camera and lens, I have found that my phone offers much more than I had realized. The major problem is accomplishing needed or desired adjustments: okay for stationary subjects; for moving subjects (people, animals, clouds, vehicles, etcetera), it is problematic. Of course, some of the settings could be anticipated. However, if not set up appropriately in anticipation of the need, the phone has to be held in hand to push the appropriate buttons while the subject is in motion and not in the view of the photographer. Subject relocation can be difficult.

Holding the phone steady as I composed an image and punched the shutter button to capture it was a concern. The image stabilization seems to work very well.

Another concern was the possibility of pixelation when enlarging the image. With the number of pixels ranging in the 2,000s, I have consistently had to downsize for competition. A photograph up to 8"x10" did not seem like it would be a problem, however, since most of my photographs are larger, I was concerned that sharpness could be a serious matter. To date, I have been okay with printing the images in all the sizes I wanted (with some exceptions which will be discussed and shown in a future article). Of course, those images that are sharper when captured make for a better and larger print enlargement.

The relative size of the subject within its environs can be adjusted by spreading fingers on the cell phone screen or by pushing buttons to move to a wider or narrower angle while the phone is removed from 'viewing' the subject. This is faster than changing dedicated lenses. It is, however, more awkward and slower than adjusting a telephoto lens. Each time such an adjustment is made the subject has to be relocated.

The images below are fairly sharp and have all, except the field and sky image, been cropped. Their enlargement in printing sizes useful to me has been very good.



# Photographing Flowers

By Richard Cohen

I have always loved flowers. I love their variety and colors. They are just beautiful. About 5 years ago, I began photographing them more frequently. During Spring and Summer, they are plentiful. I find them in Nurseries, Botanical Gardens and on many lawns and gardens throughout my neighborhood. During the Winter months, I find them in supermarkets and florists. photograph with my iPhone and with my Canon DSLR. What saddens me though, is that they bloom and flourish only for a short while and then they are gone until next year. I feel that by photographing them, I can keep them alive all year long.

I also enjoy editing my flower photos I like to isolate them from their busy and distracting backgrounds and thereby emphasize their beauty.



## Local Places to Photograph

- Avalon Hiking Trails
- Avalon Nature Preserve
- Bailey Arboretum
- Bayard Cutting Arboretum
- Bill Richards Park
- Blydenburgh County Park
- Bridge Gardens
- Caleb Smith State Park
- Captree State Park
- Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve
- Cedarmere Park
- Clark Botanical Gardens
- Eisenhower Park
- Fire Island Lighthouse
- Froehlich Farm Nature Preserve
- Heckscher Park
- Hoyt Farm Nature Preserve
- Landcraft Garden Foundation
- Makamah Nature Preserve
- Nassau County Museum of Art
- North Fork Sunflower Maze
- Northport Park
- Old Bethpage Village Restoration
- Old Westbury Gardens
- Planting Fields Arboretum
- Sagamore Hill National Historic Site
- Sands Point Preserve
- Seminary of the Immaculate Conception
- Smithtown Historical Society
- Suffolk County Farm and Education Center
- Sweet Briar Nature Center
- The Madoo Conservancy
- Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium

**Have an idea for a program... let Steve know**  
**Phone: 516.339.7912 • Email: [steve@PhotosBySMF.com](mailto:steve@PhotosBySMF.com)**



# From the Publisher...

Steven Friedman



## IT IS NOT ABOUT THE 9s!!!

Judging photography is a very subjective thing. One judge may give your photo an eight and another might give the same photo a nine.

To me, more important that

the score is the critique of the photo. Constructive criticism is what it should be about... letting you know how to improve you photo is what is important. Unfortunately, there are some judges that are not really qualified to judge and just give marks without any critiques of the photo at all. Other judges score based on the level of the photographer; they will give beginners a lot more leeway in scoring that an advanced photographer. I feel this is also wrong... you are not giving any incentive to get better... after all I got a 9!!! So, what more do I have to do to improve my work?

In my opinion, I feel we should use judges that have years of experience in photographing assorted venues. Prior to "hiring" a judge we should ask for their resume; this way we can have the better judges and can learn from their critiques.

Moving on, the warmer weather is coming, and I am going suggest something that we did in another photo club: start a Sunday Shooters group. We would meet for breakfast and then break up into groups and go shooting in various places. Please let me know if you would be interestd in this.

<b>THE STAFF</b>	
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Editor: .....	Stuart Konecky
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## Celebrating Our Fifth Issue of The Shutterbug Monthly



### Encouraging Contributions and Looking Ahead

We are pleased to present the fifth issue of The Shutterbug Monthly. This milestone acknowledges the efforts of every member who has contributed to our publication.

As we progress, we encourage continued contributions. Whether it is a photo essay, an article on techniques and experiences, or poetry, your input is essential to our publication.

Let us support each other's artistic expression. The unique perspectives of our contributors make The Shutterbug Monthly distinctive, and we look forward to featuring more of your work in future issues.

Please submit your work to [stuart.konecky@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.konecky@gmail.com) and/or [steve@tsga.com](mailto:steve@tsga.com).

Thank you for being part of our community. We aim for many more issues filled with creativity and inspiration.

Remember to visit your club's website at <https://ssccny.visualpursuits.com> for newsletters, photo guides, galleries, field trips, and more.

Best regards, Stuart Konecky

Editor, The Shutterbug Monthly