

# South Shore Camera Club of NY



We focus on the fine points of photography

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## The Shutterbug Monthly

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### From the President...Gary Meyer



I truly look forward to every issue of our monthly newsletter. It looks and reads more like a professionally published magazine than an amateur club newsletter.

As I've previously wrote, the Featured Photographer is still one of my favorite columns. Our last issue highlighted Richard Cohen, whom I admire greatly and am inspired by his superior talent.

Stu wrote a column about his preference for a real camera over his cell phone. I must say I agree with him concerning the advantages of the camera's image quality and versatility. However, when you're in a pinch and don't have your camera, the cell phone comes in very handy. When mastered and used properly, it can offer a great alternative when that perfect shot is there, and your camera isn't. I have even entered cell phone

shots in competition and received good scores.

George Cutler is a true Renaissance person. We all know him as a fine photographer, but he is also a comedian, actor and playwright, not to mention a videographer, and a very funny and enjoyable person to be with. In addition, he is an accomplished poet, with a self-published book of poems that you can buy on Amazon and Banned & Noble. Each month we are treated to one of his poems that display a more ethereal and deeper side of George.

When Meghan Clifford first joined the club, I was immediately impressed by her work. Her images are mesmerizing and her column "Practice Makes Perfect" gives us an insight as to why.

The horror that occurred in Israel on October 7, 2023, can still be felt by all of us no matter what nationality or religion you are. Ellery Samuels authored a compelling article about his last visit including several photographs of his experience.

Our April issue included a background article about our live presentation's artist, Alan Richards, as well as a few sample photographs of his work. It didn't do justice to the real thing. Alan was engaging and entertaining and his work was beautiful.

Our publisher, Steve Friedman, included one of his "How I Did That" columns called "The Photo". He breaks down the steps in detail and the result is amazing, yet I would need the rest of my life to achieve this level of expertise.

To reiterate what our editor, Stu, and publisher Steve, have said from the beginning, we can only continue to publish this superior newsletter with the ongoing contributions of material submitted by our members. Please continue to send your photos and commentary and keep this publication alive and growing

# Featured Photographer: Carole Meyers

Interview by Stuart Konecky

We moved to Oceanside forty years ago, starting fresh with new places, friends, and hobbies. In Brooklyn, I spent my youth in the garment center, working in sales and fashion, using fabrics and colors to individualize clothing for clients. My husband bought me my first real camera, a Nikon 300, and we joined the SSCC camera club, taking courses and photography tours to Africa, China, and other locations. We had a dark room for developing, matting, and framing our photos. I served as vice president and president of the club.

Today, I use my Nikon Z6II with my 100-400 Sigma and 24-200 Nikon lenses, focusing on light than fabric. While I enjoy photographing children, animals, and relationships, the process itself is most rewarding. Post-editing transforms ordinary images into extraordinary ones. Photography, traveling, and sharing images with my husband, my partner in photography, bring me joy.

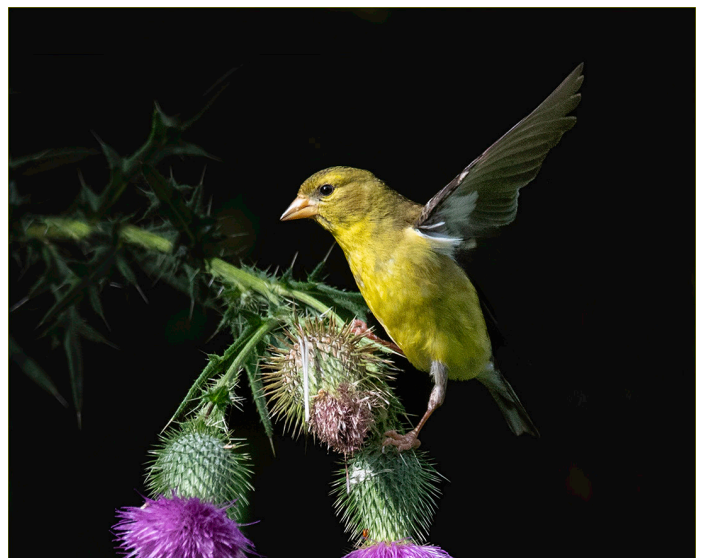
Fashion like photography is interested in controlling the area of interest - the focal point of the image. The parallels are self-evident.

I compete with other photographers at SSCC and appreciate the Shutterbug Monthly newsletter for its creativity and community connections. My husband and I continue to learn from SSCC members through this wonderful publication.



The little girl in this photo was a total stranger, I asked her grandma if I may take photos of her, and she said yes. I followed them all over the fields.

So, my P.S note would be don't be shy, ask and you may be rewarded with great pictures.



# Bopka by Andrea Baum

Bopka is a Soft Coated Miniature Wire Haired Dachshund who will be 8 years old in July.

She is truly the funniest pup I have ever owned.

She hates the camera and so I have fun sneaking taking photos of her!

The unusual thing about Bopka is that her father, who won at the Westminster Dog Show, died in 1988.... the breeder froze Bopka's father's sperm, and in 2017 the breeder used that sperm to breed Bopka's mother! The result was 6 puppies born July 20, 2017!!

While she is a pure bred Wire Haired Dachshund, she is a mutation and thus her hair isn't wire, it is silky and soft.

She loves her ball, loves to bury it in the garden and dig it up and run with it.

She is inquisitive, comical, kind, loving, sweet with a fabulous disposition...there isn't a mean bone in her body...she loves everyone!

The only photo she let me take of her without running when she saw the camera is the one lying down, posing on Alan's hospital bed we had in the house after his surgery.... she stayed with him on the bed continually...she is very perceptive!

It is a welcome challenge to photograph her!

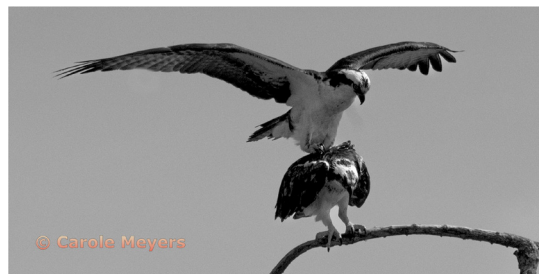
Andrea Baum



Our newsletter will only be as good as we make it...  
we need everyone 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))

# The NINER

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS IN LAST MONTH'S COMPETITION

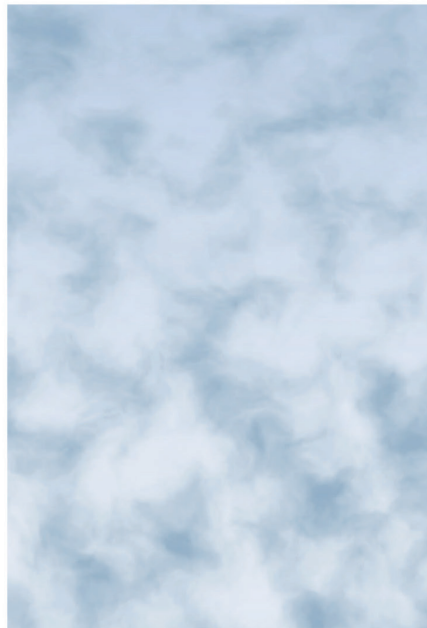


Check the club website to see all of the other photos entered this month

# HOW I DID THAT by Steven Friedman

## The Church

- 1- This is the original photo
- 2- I then use the RULER TOOL (it is with the eye dropper) by dragging it along the outside of the building on the left
- 3- I then crop the photo
- 4- I then added more to the bottom of the church and the building on the right
- 5- after that was done- I selected the building on the left with the MAGNETIC WAND (settings: Feather 0, Width 3px, Contrast 58%, and Frequency 57)
- Once the building was selected, I went to IMAGE / ADJUST / CURVES and opened up the building. I then went to FILTER/ UNSHARPEN MASK and brought the brick work out.
- 6- After I took a good look at the photo – I felt that the building on the right should not be touching the church so I removed it
- 7- Now I had one more step to go, It needs a sky So I added a new layer and created a sky
- 8- And thus, we have the finished photo
- OK but what about the BLACK PLUS -
- 9- I mask out the red banner and then went to SELECT / INVERSE which now selected everything but the banner. I then used NIK SILVER EFEX PRO to convert to a black and white I generally use the HIGH STRUCTURE setting and play with the Brightness, Contrast and Structure controls.
- NOTE: I made sure that the banner area and the sky were totally transparent so that the banner would show through from my color photo as will the sky.
- 10- This is the finished product in what I call BLACK PLUS



# Canada Geese Crossing the Street - Paul Oresky

Photographs by Jocelyn Weston, Arlene Kyler, and Paul Oresky

A gaggle of geese left the canal one day  
To seek out, possibly, a new flock member across the way.  
They crossed the Park Avenue Street with a goosey gait,  
In a straight line, heads held high on necks so straight  
So oncoming vehicles would stop for them and wait.  
How do I know this you might say....  
Well, my wife Jocelyn was driving home, at that time, that day.  
After stopping her car for them, she photographed their foray  
To Arlene's house, her wooden goose to meet.  
They congregated on the grassy strip on the western side of the street  
Snacking on green blades awaiting Arlene's wooden goose to stand up and greet.  
I do not know how she arrived at her front window this occurrence to view,  
But Arlene did witness this and photographed them too.  
Her goose did not stand, or murmur, or change its position.  
So, the gaggle must have eventually re-evaluated its situation.  
Off they meandered, perhaps a bit perplexed,  
As Arlene's wooden goose just sat there with its backwards curved neck.  
So, what do you make of this?  
What do you think?  
Canada geese aren't as dumb as a kitchen sink?!

(Just look at these pictures and  
This true story you will see.  
And you now know  
How this rhyme came to be.)



# Cell Phone Photography 5 Continued

by Paul Oresky

I have come to believe that the current overall quality of cell phone camera photography does not equal the quality of the traditional camera and lens for most 'photographers'. For 'picture takers' it does.

I had previously mentioned that making the cell phone camera adjustments such as changing magnification, shutter speed, etcetera is awkward in comparison with today's cameras. Subjects in motion present problems because the photographer cannot maintain contact with the subject while making cell phone camera adjustments. Effecting the adjustment(s) requires the photographer to look away from the subject and at the cell phone. Once the adjustment is made, the subject has to be relocated and repositioned within the cell phone camera frame. Before an image can be captured.

Attempting to get my cell phone camera ready for approaching flocks of Canada Geese spotted as small dots a great distance away has been especially frustrating. I know the distant dots in the sky are geese due to their 'honking'. Sometimes their flight paths change and they do not pass where I had anticipated. That calls for losing track of the subject until a cell phone camera adjustment is completed. A second change in flight path requires the same loss of subject to make the new needed adjustment. Even when they are true to form and pass as anticipated, I find it very difficult to make the adjustment(s) before they have passed me by. The tail feathers and formation, sometimes a side view, are not as interesting as a head on capture.

For landscapes this is not such a big imposition, unless clouds are moving or lighting is changing due to sunrise, sunset, or clouds blocking the sun as they move. It is just awkward. Depth of field can be a problem. Also, sometimes I forget how to bring up the symbol I need to make an adjustment. It seems easier with a standard camera, perhaps because most (older) photographers are accustomed to using these image capturing instruments.

Extreme telephoto is quite good on my cell phone, but not always as sharp as a dedicated or decent zoom camera lens with a comparable magnification, especially in capturing small subjects i.e. house finches and sparrows. The images appear sharp at small enlargement sizes. At larger enlargement sizes, the images tend to pixelate and take on a posterized appearance. This renders the images captured unappealing for most uses. In creative competition this might do well. (I may attempt to work with that in the near future. So far, it does not seem 'creative' enough to spend the time.) I am not quite sure how the depth of field compares. The increase in shutter speed does render the subject stationary.

Atmospheric interference can prevent capturing a sharp image, Domenick suggests. (This can be most apparent on hot days when curvy curtains of air seem to be rising off the ground.) On very windy days the moving air can create difficulty for focusing, auto and manual. Two of the images depicted in this article were taken on cold, very windy days. I have to allow for the possibility of 'atmospheric interference' as a possible source for the lack of a sharply focused image using my cell phone. (I have not experienced this type of interference using my DSLR with a telephoto lens on windy days.)

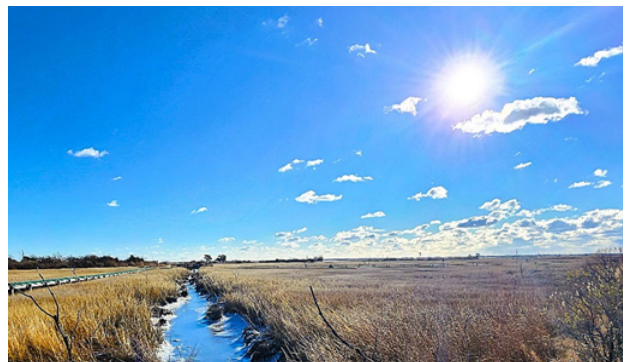
Images of House Finches and a Great Blue Heron that was over-wintering in the Oceanside Preserve have been included at the end of this segment. In the case of the Great Blue, I couldn't manage even a half sharp image, probably due to atmospheric interference on that extremely windy day.

The purpose of these articles was to attempt to provide some credibility and to point out some of the problems with the use of a cell phone camera as viable photographic equipment. I hope I have. I use my cell phone to photograph quite frequently now and many of the images are more than acceptable.

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



# My Recent Stay in Vermont

By Stuart Konecky

My wife and I stayed at Rockwell's Retreat, a restored bed and breakfast in Arlington, Vermont, 210 miles away. The property, once home to artist Norman Rockwell, holds historical significance. The area is surrounded by mountains and covered bridges, making it suitable for photography. Here are some photos from our stay.



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## Picture Poetry

By George Cutler

Who me?

Own a pet, oh, Hum Bug!  
Feed it, walk it, clean it?  
Restrict my lifestyle?  
Not me!

A dog comes close,  
its eyes speak,  
"Please hold me",  
I feel its nudging  
wet nose, then a lick  
on my hand.

I touch and get  
vibes back of love.  
Gee, that's nice!  
Attention,  
a sense of caring.

My self-indulgence weakens.  
Feelings of wanting a pet.  
The moment bursts,  
with thoughts of commitment.  
Oh, Hum Bug!



My poetry book is on sale at Amazon <https://a.co/d/7OptpZJ>  
And Barnes & Noble --<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/one-of-them-george-cutler/1142249426?ean=9781977256638>

# From the Publisher...

Steven Friedman

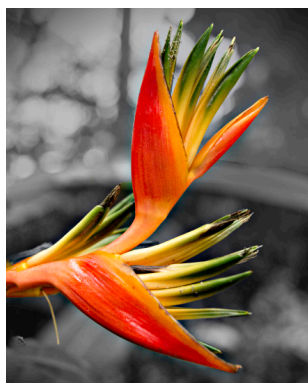


## What I have to say about an assortment of things

Another month has gone by and for some reason there was about thirty percent fewer photos this month. However, what we did see was some wonderful photos from all levels which has become the custom for our club. It was fun to see the themed photos and we should do more of these competitions to help get our creative juices flowing.

What we do need is more people to contribute to our club paper. I am sure that many of you have a creative side that you are not sharing.. let's get started and write something for us.

I am going to end my column with some of my photos.



### THE STAFF

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President: ..... Gary Meyer  
Vice President: ..... Domenick Creaco  
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#### Publication

Editor: ..... Stuart Konecky  
Publisher: ..... Steven Friedman

## The End...

Stuart Konecky, Editor



## Celebrating Our Seventh Issue of The Shutterbug Monthly



Encouraging Contributions and Future Perspectives

We are pleased to present the May 2025 issue of The Shutterbug Monthly, recognizing the outstanding contributions from all participants. We appreciate the commendations received from our members.

As we move forward, we invite continued submissions. Whether it is a photo essay, an article on techniques and experiences, or poetry, your contributions are vital to our publication. Kindly submit your work to [stuart.konecky@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.konecky@gmail.com) or [steve@tsga.com](mailto:steve@tsga.com).

Please remember that the club's website, accessible at <https://ssccny.visualpursuits.com>, offers newsletters, photo guides, galleries, field trip information, and various resources.

Best regards,  
Stuart Konecky