



*Newsletter for February 2012*

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**Visit the Photography Forum Web Site**  
<http://www.photo-forum.info>

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## **Mission**

**The Mission of the Photography Forum** is to encourage photographers of all levels to continue to study the art of photography, practice and produce new work, and to share ideas and experiences. The Forum is open to all who have an interest in continuing to improve their photography skills. Both digital and film camera users are welcome. The Photography Forum is for the exclusive benefit of all members and is not to be used for any commercial purpose.

Our membership is **60 members!** Thank you for your continued support.

Welcome to new member **Ana Djordjevich** from Lafayette. We look forward to seeing her at future meetings and field trips.

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**Photography Forum Meeting**  
**February 21, 2012**

**Share Photos Theme: Fort Point**

**Program: Jerry and Nancy Samelson:**

**“Italy Remembered”**

**We meet in**

**Walnut Creek Civic Arts,**

**Shadelands Facility**  
**111 North Wiget Lane**  
**Walnut Creek, California**  
**Time: 7:00pm**

**Program: Jerry and Nancy Samelson:** "Italy Remembered" will have photos in "photo genres" of landscape, candid or environmental portrait, architectural, and photo-journalism.

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<p><b>Members are encouraged to visit the web site often as it is updated quite frequently. You might wish to "book mark" it.</b></p>
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Thirty-six Members and Guests attended the January meeting to share our photos and experiences. Six people provided their photos for critique. A very interesting and information discussion was lead by **Jerry Samelson, Michael Warwick** and **Jeff Smith**. We thank them for providing their expertise to this popular program.

**Jessica Sarber** from Sarber's Camera in Oakland introduced herself to the group. Sarber's is one of the major supporters of the Photography Forum. She introduced **Dick Dischler** who talked about his upcoming Pre-Visualization Workshop being held at Sarber's. She handed out a sheet of coupons that may be used for a variety of goods and services at her store. You may find a copy of these coupons on the **Membership>Membership Benefits Page** of the web site.

We shared our photos from the November Field Trip to Castello di Amorosa Winery. **Michelle Su** shared her photos of the Christmas Lights at the Oakland Mormon Temple. These photos may be seen on the **Field Trips Page** of the Web Page.

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The winners of the "**Reflections**" Contest are:



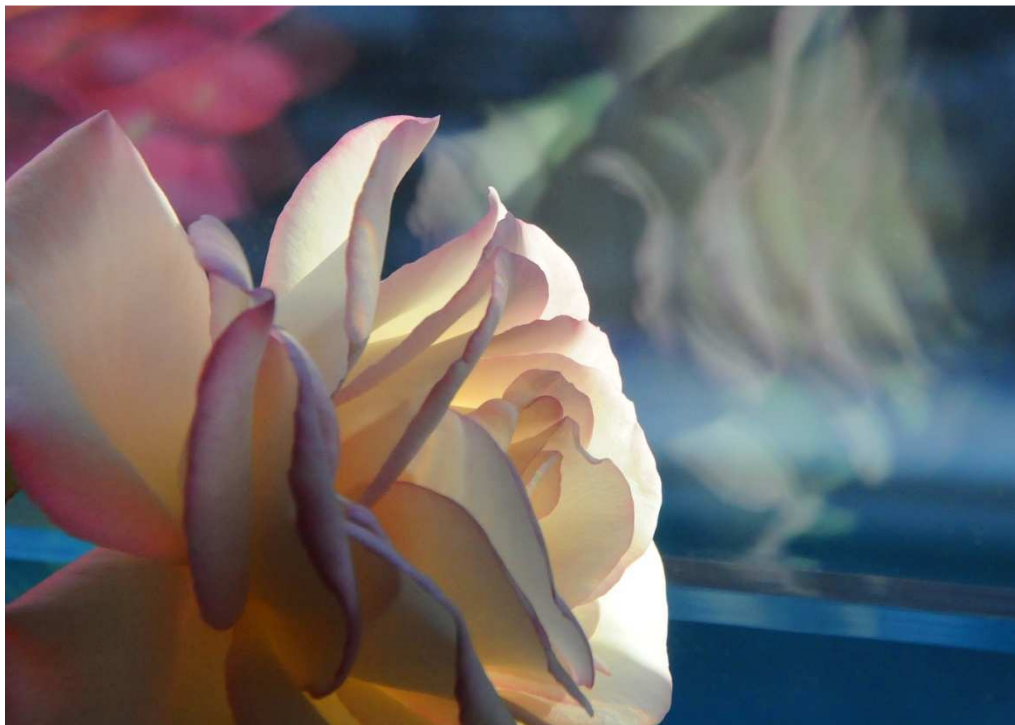
**FIRST PLACE: Stephen Smith**

**Comments:** Multiple reflections make this creative capture of the theme an interesting picture. I like the perspective on this and the great reflections in the glass. Everything is perfect in this photo. Wonderful subject matter. Beautiful clear photograph.



**SECOND PLACE: Linda Wilcox**

**Comments:** Love that the reflection is less abstract than the reflecting subject.  
Liked the way the photo was seen.



**Third PLACE: Sandy Fox-Sohner**

**Comments:** Back lighting really sets up a nice reflection! Lovely, impressionistic use of reflection. The back lighting on the rose is lovely. The composition was very pleasing.

**Stephen's** winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord. As Second Place Winner, Linda received a \$25 Gift Card from Camera West in Walnut Creek. As Third Place Winner, Sandy selected "Vanishing Point" as the theme for the June contest. Wikipedia has a good definition of "Vanishing Point" .

The subject for the **January Photo Contest** is "Texture". Fourteen entries have been submitted and may be viewed at <http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by February 20. Please take a few moments to provide your comments so that we all may learn and improve our photography. **A REMINDER: YOUR VOTE WILL NOT COUNT IF YOU DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT.**

The subject for the **February Photo Contest** is "Everyday Life" to capture ordinary scenes and events in daily life that often remain unrecorded. All February entries must be submitted by February 21; voting must be completed by March 19. All images should be in jpg format. Entries may be submitted by email, cd, or flash drive.

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**PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM PHOTO CONTESTS**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Submittal Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Voting Deadline</u></b>
February	"Everyday Life" *	February 21	March 19
March	"Curves"	March 20	April 16
April	" B&W Urban Landscapes"	April 17	May 14
May	"Old Wooden Structures"	May 15	June 18
June	"Vanishing Point" **	June 19	July 16

**All photos must have been taken within 6 months of the contest.**

**\* Capture ordinary scenes and events in daily life that often remain unrecorded.**

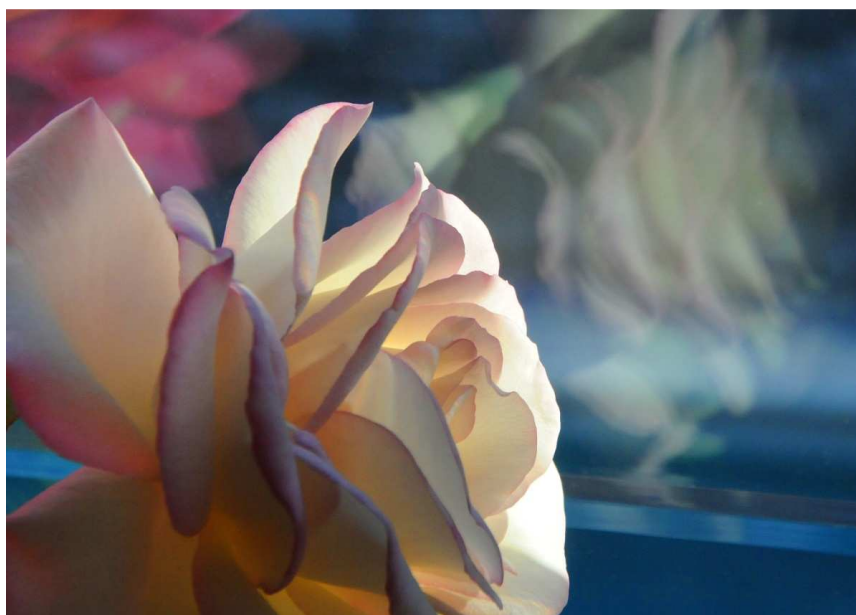
**\*\* Wikipedia has a good definition of "Vanishing Point".**

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Participation in our monthly contests has increased with submittals of some really fantastic photography. Very often the voting for the top three photos for each month's contest is very close. This year it was decided to honor the Third Place winners. **Eric James Leffler**, our October guest speaker, helped to judge the best of the 2011 Third Place Winners.



**Tom Crews** presented a Gorilla Pod to **Lisa Franklin** for her “Edge of the Bay” photo judged to be the Best of the 2011 Third Place winners of our monthly contests. Eric says “Love the simplistic nature of it all, the composition in general, the way the eye is naturally led between the foreground and background, and the excellent choice of black and white.”



Tom presented **Sandy Fox-Sohner** with a copy of Susan Skinner's book *Carmichael - Americana on the Move* for her "Reflections" photo judged to be the Second Best of the 2011 Third Place winners. Eric says "The use of light is excellent and the various colors are extremely pleasing together. The composition and focus provide an image that is both recognizable and a bit abstract, which creates a very artistic image. It is a very interesting picture, an almost fine art capture of a very common subject...well executed."

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Although response from the members was sparse the general consensus was to not combine Contest Subjects with Field Trips, so we will not.

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**Question of the Month (December)\*:** Does anyone do stock photography? How does it work? Does anyone know of good online sites? How would one get started?

**Answer:** **Lynn Watson** sells on six different stock photography sites. Here is a link to her photos on Shutterstock <http://www.shutterstock.com/g/luckydog> . Lynn will be a featured presenter at the February Photography Forum Workshop (see below).

**Question of the Month (January):** A member is considering an upgrade to Photoshop CS5 or Photoshop Lightroom. Do you have any preference between the two?

**Answer:** Here is a link that discusses the differences between Photoshop CS5 and Photoshop Lightroom <http://thelightroomlab.com/2010/01/lightroom-vs-photoshop/> .

\* **Question of the Month** is a new feature in the Newsletter. We are always impressed with the knowledge base of our Membership. Anyone may submit a question that will be presented here for consideration. The response(s) will be posted in subsequent Newsletters and will be posted on the Lessons Learned page of the web site.

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**Tom Crews** will be teaching the following classes:

**Inside Your Canon Digital SLR** (1 session)  
Saturday, February 4

**Inside Your Nikon Digital SLR** (1 session)  
Saturday, February 4

**Introduction to Photoshop Elements (6 sessions)**  
Starts Thursday, February 9

See the Walnut Creek CAE Winter Catalog for complete details.

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**“Some hate broccoli, some hate bacon  
I hate having my picture taken.  
How can your family claim to love you  
And then demand a picture of you?”**

***Ogden Nash***

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Twelve Members, family and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at San Francisco’s Fort Point. This was a great venue to create Black & White images. To that end submit six (6) digital images (at least 3 of which are B&W) to share at the February 21 Meeting. We look forward to seeing their great photos.

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**No February Field Trip**

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**Photography Forum Workshop February 25:  
“A Little of This and a Little of That”**

**When and Where:**

Saturday, February 25, 10:30am – 1:00pm.

Location: **TBA**

**Lynn Watson** sells on six different stock photography sites. She will give a presentation on how to make money from your photography.

**James Rockafellow** will conduct a Camera Sensor cleaning clinic.

We will also cover previously planned Camera Clinic subjects:

“Blending Modes”

“Renaming and organizing your files”

“Using Filters with a Digital Camera”

**Additional Information:** These Workshops are in lieu of those respective months’ Field Trips (see the Plan Ahead section at the end of this Newsletter) and are for Photography Forum Members only. While there is no charge to attend this Workshop, please register with **Tom Crews** if you wish to attend.

Anyone having a suggestion for future workshops please contact **Tom Crews**.

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The **Friends of Civic Arts Education Foundation** provided \$50,000 in support last year primarily in scholarships for low income students and in meeting program needs for equipment. Every dollar raised ensures that classes continue and quality is maintained. In this difficult economy connections to high quality items for our annual action are particularly welcome. **Save the Date – Friday, February 3 is the annual VIVA ARTS! silent and live auction at Shadelands!** It is our major fundraiser and a lot of fun with entertainment by students including scholarship recipients, great food and wine included in the \$65 ticket price. Our emcee will be new city manager Ken Nordhoff!

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**WE ARE LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS**

**We are always looking for new speakers on anything photographic: techniques, vocations, experiences, trips, and different types of photography, Photoshop, anything**

**that would be of general interest. If you know of someone you would like to see, or if you want to make a presentation yourself, please contact Tom Crews.**

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### **WHEN DO PHOTOS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED ?**

**Sharing Photos:** Submit no more than 6 digital images on a cd or flash drive at the Photography Forum Meeting (or by email to Tom Crews, no later than Noon on the Monday before the Meeting). If you are not able to attend field trips, yet do shoot images at other events or locations, you may bring them to a meeting to share and receive comments or suggestions for improvement.

### **Monthly Photo Contests**

The **purpose of the Photography Forum contests** is to provide Members the opportunity to work on techniques, to engage in creativity, to see in unaccustomed ways, and/or to capture a place or a setting. It is not the theme or the subject itself that is most important; it's how the photographer goes beyond the theme by incorporating it into an "image" or a "keeper".

Each contest is open to all Members of the Photography Forum. Images may be either in color or black & white. Each Member may submit one image per contest. Members are encouraged to submit the best image they can create using all tools at their disposal, be it in-camera techniques or image processing software.

All images for each contest will be posted on the web site where members may vote for First, Second, and Third Place. Votes must be submitted by the deadline specified for each contest. Winners will be announced at the Membership Meeting. **Action Photo Services** will print and mount a 12x18 print of the winning image that will be displayed at their store in Concord. When the following month's winner is ready for display, the previous winner may pick up their print from Action.

**All photos must have been taken within 6 months of the contest.**

All images should be in jpg format. Entries may be submitted by email, cd, or flash drive.

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***FOR SALE***

**Anyone wishing to place an**



**Ad for Used Photographic Equipment  
(or seeking used equipment)  
please contact **Tom Crews****

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The “**Free Stuff**” Table has proven to be a popular feature of our meetings. The Table is for members to bring items to give away to other members. We have had everything from filters to memory cards to books and more. So if you have something you no longer need and would rather not just throw it away, bring it to the meeting.

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**Plan Ahead:**

**Anyone having a suggestion for interesting Field Trip destinations please contact Tom Crews. Please note that these schedules are as accurate as possible at the date of this Newsletter, however, they are subject to change.**

**February 3 :** Annual VIVA ARTS!

**February 21:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: Fort Point  
Program: **Jerry and Nancy Samelson:** “Italy Remembered”

**February 25:** Photography Forum Workshop:  
“A Little of This and a Little of That”

**March 20:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: “My Eight Favorite Photos”  
Program: **Robert Mandell:**  
"Twenty tips on photographing wildlife"

**March 22:** Pittsburg - Mt. Diablo Recycling Facility

**April 17:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: Mt. Diablo Recycling Facility  
Program: **Tom Donahoe:** Photographing in New Mexico

**April 28:** Field Trip to the Mt View Sanitary District Marshes

- May 15:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: Mt View Sanitary District Marshes  
Program: **Steve Hobbs**
- May 26\*:** Field Trip to San Francisco AT&T Park
- June 19:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: San Francisco AT&T Park  
Program: **Robert Cohen**
- June 23:** Field Trip to Preston Castle in Ione
- July 17:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: Preston Castle  
Program: **TBA**
- July 21\*:** Field Trip to Alameda – Hangar One
- August 21:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: Hangar One  
Program: **TBA**
- August 25\*:** Field Trip to Hayward Japanese Gardens
- September 8\*:** Field Trip to The Crucible in Oakland
- September 18:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: Hayward Japanese Gardens  
Program: **TBA**
- October 16:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: The Crucible  
Program: **TBA**
- October 20:** Photography Forum Workshop: **TBA**
- November 20:** Photography Forum Meeting  
Share Photos Theme: **TBA**  
Program: **TBA**
- November 24\*:** Field Trip to San Francisco Embarcadero Center

**December:            No Meeting or Field Trip Planned for December**

**\* Tentative Schedule**

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**Other Photo Opportunities:**

**If you know of any Other Photo Opportunities,  
Please contact Tom Crews.**

If you attend one of these activities and have some good images that you would like to share, please bring them to a Meeting.

- Lake Merritt in Oakland
- Heather Farms Rose Garden
- Alcatraz
- San Francisco Zoo
- Marin Headlands (Point Bonita Lighthouse, Bunkers, Rodeo Beach)
- China Town at night
- Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival

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## **Membership**

To become a member of the Photography Forum, bring a completed **[Application Form](#)** along with a check (payable to City of Walnut Creek) to one of our monthly meetings. You may also mail a completed application form to the address shown on the form.

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**Visit the Photography Forum Web Site**

**<http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/photoforum.html>**

**Contact: Tom Crews ([xptom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:xptom@sbcglobal.net))**