



Newsletter for November 2011

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

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 **57 members!** Thank you for your continued support.

Welcome to new member **Tina Nelson** from Walnut Creek and welcome back **Lynn Watson** from Pleasant Hill. We look forward to seeing them at future meetings and field trips.

Photography Forum Meeting
November 15, 2011

Share Photos Theme: Lachryma Montis

Program: Susan Skinner: "From Buckingham Palace to the California parish pump: A photojournalist's journey."

We meet in
Walnut Creek Civic Arts,

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

Program: As one of the Princess of Wales' accredited press people, **Susan Skinner** followed in royal footsteps for eight of the incredible Diana Years. She gained insights into what spurred Diana as a mother, humanitarian and survivor and has written three books about Princess Diana. She is now a freelance photographer working out of Carmichael, California. She will relate some of her adventures in photojournalism and reveal



how she got some of her nicest shots. Her general policy as a photographer is to position herself, wait, focus and pray! She says "I do occasionally get very lucky and I flatter myself that I can compose a shot instinctively as well as anyone I know. It's really an art, I suppose, but it's some much instinct that I never even consider it. I somehow get right. My greatest skill is patience and persuasion. I can talk almost anyone into cooperating and I'll wait out any man or beast to get my shot. I am the Annie Leibovitz of Carmichael. Everyone knows me. A politician once saw me in a crowd of pro-cameramen and held up her ribbon cutting while I changed a camera battery." For more information on Susan, check out her web site at: <http://www.susanmaxwellskinner.com>.

Camera Clinics which address single item issues related to cameras, photography, or Photoshop have been held before the regular meetings and have been well received. Unfortunately classroom scheduling conflicts preclude our having Camera Clinics for the time being. A suggestion has been made to have a Saturday Workshop incorporating a number of the Camera Clinic subjects. If anyone has any comments or suggestions for future Camera Clinics or Workshops, please pass them to **Tom Crews**.

Members are encouraged to visit the web site often as it is updated quite frequently. You might wish to "book mark" it.

Thirty-six Members and guests met in October to share our photographic experiences. We shared some of “Our Best People Photos”. You can see these photos on the “Members’ Gallery” page of the web site.

We had a short discussion on pricing photographs for sale. One person generally prices 11x14 prints at \$100 to \$150. One suggestion was to just look around where photos are sold, such as the Civic Arts Winter Art Show. **Michael Warwick** says that “With matted prints, I try to get at least 3-4 times cost.” For a more detailed discussion go to the “Hints & Tips” page of the web site.

For the October Program Bay Area native and emerging pro photographer **Eric James Leffler** shared some of his favorite places to shoot around the San Francisco and East Bay areas. Often using a telephoto lens he has created some stunning photos of many familiar locations seen with a different perspective. He also discussed the rise of the new social media platform Google+ and why everyone in the photography community is so excited about it. Here is a link to Eric’s Web Site: <http://www.ericjamesphoto.com/>.

The winners of the “**Edge of the Bay**” Contest are:



FIRST PLACE: Tom Donahoe

Comments: Nice layering of light and dark. The dark shapes of the two people really make the picture. Good composition. Good Background. Subjects are seen

in Good shape. Great composition, the silhouettes really tell a story about enjoying "the edge of the bay". Simple and beautiful. Background sets the place. Use of thirds balance of light and shade; asymmetric composition with couple as focal center. This is the perfect "Edge of the Bay" shot. I love it. Lots to look at in this black and white. The island in the background the dogs and people. Also textures of the sand in the foreground in the middle and the water, birds passing by. Very creative image especially in B&W. The image has a full range black and white values, is visually balanced, uncluttered and juxtaposes abstract patterns of light and shadow plus the figures on the beach against the soft atmospheric outline of Alcatraz and the bay's horizon. A variety of nicely placed textures of land and water and yet the picture reflects a sense of calm and serenity.



SECOND PLACE: Marilyn Verducci

Comments: Well composed with lovely reflections on the water. Exposure and composition are good. Lighting is good. Image is very good for the subject. This photo captures serenity and peacefulness. Reflection perfection. Love the sunset colors of the sun on the buildings and the reflections in the water. Sharpness draws me into this image waiting for something to happen. Instantly wanted to know, Where is this? (Answer: Sausalito Houseboats.) Beautiful light, reflection and composition. Creative subject choice for this contest.



Third PLACE: Lisa Franklin

Comments: Image is good. Composition is good. Lighting is very good. Love the simplicity! Best in B&W like diagonal. composition-animated corners, excellent clarity and balance of light and shadow. Beautiful picture, but nothing about it identifies it as being taken on the edge of SF Bay. Interesting look, the sand looks liquefied, creative. This is a clean, nicely composed and visually balanced black and white image with a full range of values and a nice mix of shapes and textures formed by the surf, sand and rocks on the beach. Very serene capture.

Tom's winning photo is on display at Action Photo Services in Concord. As Second Place Winner, Marilyn received a \$25 Gift Card from Camera West in Walnut Creek. As Third Place, Winner Lisa selected "B&W Urban Landscapes" as the theme for the April 2012 contest.

The subject for the **October Photo Contest** is "Gates". Eight entries have been submitted and may be viewed at <http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/contest.html>. Voting must be completed by November 14. 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 **November Photo Contest** is “Reflections in Objects*”. All November entries must be submitted by November 15; voting must be completed by December 19. All images should be in jpg format (no TIFF or PSD files). Entries may be submitted by email, cd, or flash drive.

PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM PHOTO CONTESTS

<u>Month</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Submittal Deadline</u>	<u>Voting Deadline</u>
November	“Reflections in Objects”*	November 15	December 19
January	“Texture”	January 17	February 20
February	“Everyday Life” **	February 21	March 19
March	“Curves”	March 20	April 16
April	“ B&W Urban Landscapes”	April 17	May 14

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

*** Reflections in objects as opposed to a body of water, something a little more creative.**

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

The **2011 Photo Scavenger Hunt** ended on September 30. We received 371 extraordinary photos. Judging is currently underway. Results will be announced at the November 15 Meeting. All of the entries may be viewed on the “Contest” page of the web site.

For discussion and comment: Our recent Field Trips have shown an increase in interest and attendance. Also participation in our monthly contests has increased with submittals of some really fantastic photography. Part of our **Mission Statement** “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 purpose of the **Photography Forum Contests** is “to provide an opportunity for members to work on techniques, to engage in creativity, to see in unaccustomed ways, and/or to capture a place or a setting.”

It is proposed to combine these two activities to take advantage of our photographic experiences by not only sharing those experiences but to add the challenge and rewards of our efforts by making the Field Trip destination the subject for that month’s photographic contest. Photos taken on the Field Trip would continue to be the subject of the Photo Sharing portion of our monthly meetings. Since some people may have conflicting obligations that make it difficult to attend the Field Trips some of the contest subjects will continue to be “non-trip” related. (Details will be promulgated in future Newsletters.)

No changes to present procedures will be made until next year. This is your Photography Forum. Your thoughts and desires are very important to making your participation meaningful and fulfilling. Please send your comments to **Tom Crews**.

To date we have received only three comments: 1 pro, 2 con.



Last month **Tom Crews** gave a tip for Photoshop MAC users: seeing your desk top through the workspace background is standard MAC behavior. In Photoshop CS4 and beyond select Window>Application Frame = “ON”, to make the workspace background so that the desktop is not visible select.

Tom also talked about this email that was recently making the rounds on the internet: “My car was broken into on September 18, 2011 around 6:05 PM. The entire incident was recorded on a nearby security footage. The burglar took several hard drives, a laptop, and other misc stuff. Although the burglary was recorded, there is no way to get the things back. My backup drives had failed. I was worried about fire hazards and I carried those hard drives with me. There is no backup available at this time. I have my lifelong work on it. I've a lot of unpublished copyrighted work along with my videos for 10 years on it. I am extremely depressed. I need help.”

Needless to say the lesson here: **BACKUP – BACKUP – BACKUP!** External hard drives are really inexpensive: 1TB for less than \$100; 500GB for less than \$50.

Former member **Doreen Miller**, now from Chicago, sends these two pieces of information on new technology coming down the line. [Lytro](#) unveils radical new camera design and [Image Deblurring](#) from Adobe. Doreen says, “I guess you don't even need to be a good photographer anymore. Just snap a shot and let Photoshop do the rest! “



DOES THIS KID UNDERSTAND PHOTO SHOP OR WHAT?

[Click here for more amazing art work.](#)

“Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.” – Henri Cartier-Bresson

Eleven Members, family and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at the home of General Vallejo’s “Lachryma Montis” in Sonoma. We look forward to seeing their great photos at the November 15 meeting.

November 19 Field Trip

Destination: Castello di Amorosa Winery

Time & Location: Meet at the Parking Lot at 11:00am.

Photos for Sharing: Submit six (6) digital images to share at the January 17 Meeting.

Additional Information: First opening its doors to the public in April 2007, the Castello di Amorosa is located near Calistoga, California. It is the pet project of

4th generation vintner, Dario Sattui who claims to have spent nearly all his resources during the 14 year process of building this medieval replica castle on the vineyard grounds. For directions and more information:

<http://www.castellodiamorosa.com/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castello_di_Amorosa

HD VIDEO OPPORTUNITY

Through a partnership with Walnut Creek TV, CAE now has HD Video equipment including laptops and software for quality video instruction. CAE has also added digital drawing pads. The goal of the partnership is to generate video that can be aired on the Walnut Creek TV and uploaded to the city's YouTube site. **Gene Farley**, Digital Arts Coordinator will be offering two classes in the Spring: HD Video and Digital Story Telling. A video club is to be launched particularly for people interested in working with HD video. An open house is planned for November to check out the HD equipment, hands-on professional production set-up, meets the pros and more. If interested contact **Gene Farley**, Digital Arts Coordinator (gene@gfarley.com).

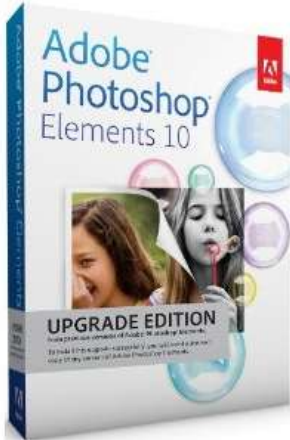
FUNDRAISING

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. Particularly welcome are time in a hotel or vacation property, dinners at a high-end restaurant, air miles, opportunities to meet "celebrities" or tours of insider locations like Pixar or Google! 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! Volunteers working 4 hours or more will be comped. Silent auction items will be available for online bidding in January. Please help promote ticket sales for the event and pass the word along!

Kathy Nelson
Arts Education Program Manager
City of Walnut Creek Civic Arts Education
Nelson@walnut-creek.org

Tom Donahoe has an exhibit of 24 photographs of the ghost town of Bodie on display at the downtown Walnut Creek library. They will be there until January 30. For more information click here: <http://walnutcreek.patch.com/events/walnut-creek-library-photography-exhibit-ghost-town-bodie-ca>.

Michael Warwick has 11-12 images on display in an art show at the Crowne Plaza Hotel by the Concord Buchanan Airport. He is participating with a few other artists and these are canvas prints. The show is in the main conference room immediately to the right of the entrance and will run through December 15th.



Adobe has announced the release of **Adobe Photoshop Elements 10** (Oh crumb! Another version to teach!) Amazon.com has the updated version for \$76.24 (5% off regular price). For more information go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop-elements.html>.

NAPP/Kelby Training Seminars

Light It. Shoot It. Retouch It. LIVE! South San Francisco, November 14.

Scott Kelby, awarding winning author of "The Digital Photography Book" and Editor of Photoshop User magazine, brings one of his all-time most popular Online classes to life in this amazing day where you learn it all; the lighting, the shooting, and the retouching, all live as it happens. [Click here for more info.](#)



[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.

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 an opportunity for members 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.

FOR SALE

**Anyone wishing to place an
Ad for Used Photographic Equipment
(or seeking used equipment)
please contact **Tom Crews****





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.

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.

November 15: Photography Forum Meeting
 Share Photos Theme: Lachryma Montis
 Program: **Susan Skinner:**
 “From Buckingham Palace to the California parish pump: A photojournalist's journey.”

November 19: Field Trip to Castello di Amorosa Winery

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

December 2-4: Winter Art Show

January 17: Photography Forum Meeting
 Share Photos Theme: Castello di Amorosa Winery
 Program: **Members’ Photos Critiqued**

January 28*: Field Trip to San Francisco - Fort Point

February 3 : Annual VIVA ARTS!

February 21: Photography Forum Meeting
 Share Photos Theme: Fort Point
 Program: **Tom Crews:** “Thailand Revisited”

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 21*:** Field Trip to the Mt View Sanitary District Marshes
- May 15:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: Mt View Sanitary District Marshes
Program: **TBA**
- May 26*:** Field Trip to San Francisco AT&T Park
- June 19:** Photography Forum Meeting
Share Photos Theme: San Francisco AT&T Park
Program: **TBA**
- June 23:** Field Trip to Preston Castle in Ione
- July 21*:** Field Trip to Alameda – Hangar One
- August 25*:** Field Trip to Borges Ranch
- September 8*:** Field Trip to The Crucible in Oakland
- October 20:** Photography Forum Workshop: **TBA**
- November 24*:** Field Trip to San Francisco Embarcadero Center
- December:** **No Meeting or Field Trip Planned for December**

*** Tentative Schedule**

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

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.

Visit the Photography Forum Web Site
<http://www.xphomestation.com/PhotoForum/photoforum.html>

Contact: Tom Crews (xptom@sbcglobal.net)