Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

March 2026 Newsletter

We're Movin' on Up! To the Uptown!

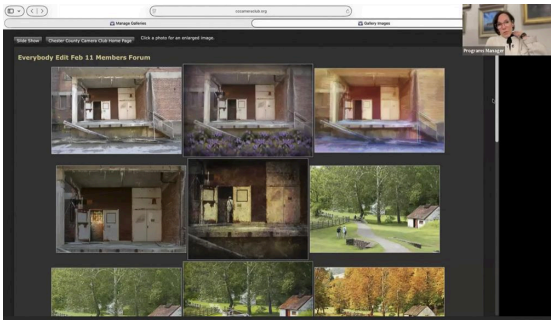
CCCC photographers are headed to Knauer Uptown Performing Arts Center in West Chester! We are honored and excited for the opportunity to have our artwork on display at Uptown! a world class performing arts center in historic downtown West Chester, which offers Broadway style theatre, opera, jazz, comedy, classical and contemporary music, film and renowned speakers.

Artwork submitted by CCCC photographers will be on display in their foyer for the months of March and April, with an artists reception on March 15, from 2-4 pm. This exhibit is a wonderful opportunity for our group of talented photographers to share their work with Chester County and neighboring communities. Photographers will have the option to sell their work, with a portion of the proceeds going to Uptown! which will help support their mission of keeping the performing arts alive and allowing all to experience the magic of the arts.

In the image above, Jennifer Powell, Lee Ann Embrey and Chris Calhoun are getting into the community spirit as folks drop off their work prior to the exhibit. Be sure to stop by the Artists Reception on March 15 to mix and mingle with the community and share your support for the arts in Chester County.

February Happenings:

Members Forum: "Everybody Edit"



Another fun challenge during our winter zoom sessions invited multiple people to take the same image and put their own creative spin on it using editing techniques.

CCCC President Jennifer Powell moderated the session and asked each person to tell how they made their adjustments and the thought process behind it. A fascinating and interactive meeting!

The original image (top left) was submitted by Jennifer Powell. Howard Sunwall transformed it into a dark and moody sunset setting. Anita Bower switched up the orientation to match the way we read, left-to-right, and added a very painterly texture. Lisa Suchower untethered the boat from its mooring and placed it adrift at sea under a stormy sky.

You can watch the recorded zoom presentation here.

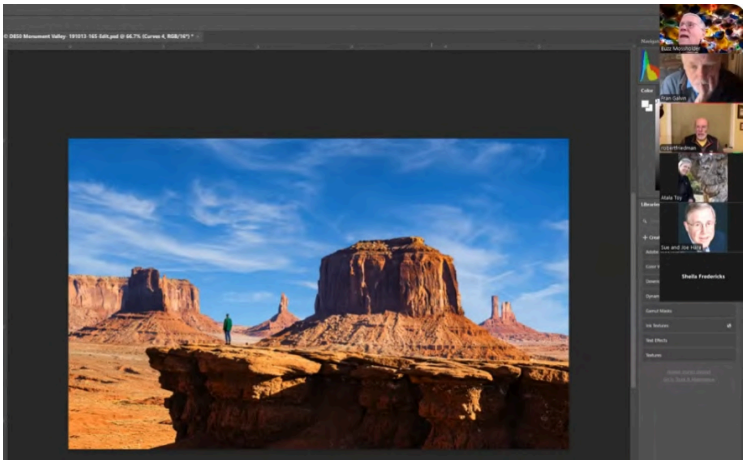
Monthly Meeting:

Don Toothaker - "The Joy of Travel Photography"

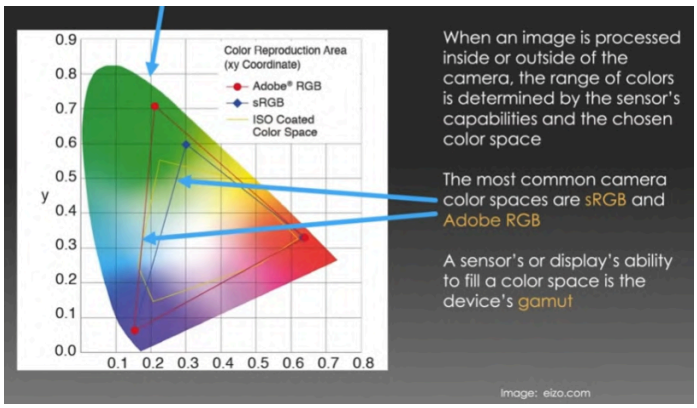
Don shared his experiences and many inspirational images about travel photography. Whether it is a tank of gas or a round-trip ticket, there are an abundance of creative and learning opportunities for everyone. "To travel is to learn. To learn is to grow. Growth in our photography begins with ourselves". See the zoom video here.

Post processing zoom group

Buzz Mossholder again gave a live presentation via zoom and demonstrated editing techniques in both Lightroom and Photoshop. These sessions are quite interactive, with lots of questions from the group to clear up any areas that might need further understanding. A great session to learn how to improve editing skills. Watch the video here.



Technical and Creative Exchange



Color and White Balance

Program host Ralph Nigro gave an in-depth explanation about how color and white balance can make the difference. With lots of charts to help with the explanations, he discussed how color is perceived by humans and cameras, color temperature, and how all of this comes together in post processing.

Club Outing - Chinatown and Reading Market in Philly

After a long stretch of frigid temps, the sun finally emerged, inviting CCCC Photographers out to enjoy a day of shooting. The sights and festivities of Chinese New Year filled Philadelphia's Chinatown, and continued into the lively Reading Terminal Market, where we watched a vibrant dragon weave its way through the aisles.

We were happy to be joined by some new members as well as some guests, one of which graciously took the group shot. A sampling of other images include “Awaiting the Dragon Dance” by Betsy Wilson, “Contrafuerte Sculpture” by Patricia Verbovszky, “Talk on the street” by Margaret Munshower and “Everyone’s taking pictures” by Doug Cinoman. Take a look at some of the images from the day in the CCCC gallery.

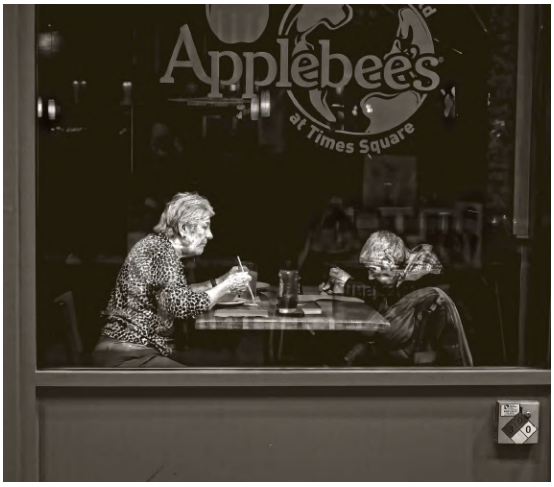
Club Outing - Middle Creek Snow Geese at Sunrise

CCCC Photographers got up very early and braved frigid temperatures for the opportunity to photograph the snow geese migration. Not as many birds as the day before, but we all know that’s part of the game of photographing wildlife. George Dangerfield captured some morning sunrise action during a quick takeoff of the snow geese before they disappeared into the nearby fields.

February Competition - "Forced Perspective Illusions"

A difficult assignment this month -the challenge was to bend reality and challenge perception through forced perspective photography. Play with scale, distance, and angles to create mind-bending illusions that leave viewers questioning what they see. Guest judge Don Schroder took the assigned topic into consideration in his scoring, and he shared observations and comments that provided a learning experience.

First Place ribbons in the assigned category were: Doug Cinoman in the monochrome category for "Skyward", and Sally Loken in the color category for "My morning cup of Joe".



In the open digital categories, Ralph Nigro was awarded first place in color for "The Busker", and the blue ribbon in monochrome went to Robert Friedman for "Pass the Salt Please".

Congratulations to all! To see all images in the competition, go to [Competitions / Competitions Results](), then choose the competition (eight categories), and check the box "Display all images".

Important Announcements

Welcome to Spring and the return of in-person meetings! March will see a return to our hybrid meetings (in-person and via zoom) for our general meetings and competitions. Be sure to check the website calendar for details on any other meetings. We look forward to seeing you in person again!

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Groups - *March 1 and March 29*

The return of spring and warmer weather will likely get you photographing outside. Our critique groups are a great way to get input on those new images, get inspiration from other club members, meet new friends, and spend a Sunday afternoon with others who share your passion. These groups meet both in-person and via zoom, typically the first Sunday of the month. Contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up.

Members' Forum - *March 11*

Rob Porter will present on Verre Eglomise, Gilded Photos on Glass

Rob will show examples of his work and discuss the use of dye-sublimation to transfer photographic images to glass plates, as well as how he applies gold leaf to create a background. He will bring examples of his work to the forum so that you can get a real-life view of his beautiful work.

Monthly Meeting - *March 11*

The Awe of Capturing Architecture
Presented by Dutch Bagley

Photographing architecture allows you to capture the essence and character of urban landscapes. Join us as Dutch demonstrates his process to identify, capture, and create compelling architectural images.

Artist's Reception at Uptown! Knauer- March 15

Join us for an afternoon of art and camaraderie as we celebrate our exhibiting photographers at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. This reception is open to the public and will be held from 2-4 PM. Click on the link above for a map to the location. While there is limited street parking, the Chestnut Street Garage (14 E. Chestnut Street) and the Lot 10 / Patton Alley Surface Lot are both nearby. Hope to see many of you there!

Post Processing Group - March 15 -Zoom Only

Buzz Mossholder leads these informative sessions focused on Lightroom and Photoshop, which include live demonstrations on editing images submitted by members. Watch, ask questions, and learn! Contact Buzz for more information and to get on the distribution list.

Technical and Creative Exchange - March 18

When the day comes to get a new camera, the choices and features can be overwhelming. In this session, club members will share their experience with a number of brands and models of the most recent camera bodies. Cameras will also be available to check out first hand if you want to compare.

Member's Critique Workshop - March 21 - In-person!

Here's a great opportunity to learn how critiques can improve your photography. Gathering at the Powell party barn, we'll strive to provide heartfelt, honest AND respectful feedback on your photos and you'll get a quick review of what makes a great photo and best practices in photo critiquing. Check the link for more detailed information.

Upcoming Outings:

Philly Art Museum Area

Saturday, March 14

The area around the Philadelphia Museum of Art is a photographer's playground, especially if you like architecture! If you prefer landscapes, walk along Fairmont Park and the Schuylkill River where you might see crew teams practicing. Whatever your preference, there is something for everyone! The image of the Fairmont Water Works shown here by new member, Jack Paolini, received an Honorable Mention in the open monochrome category of the February competition.

Reading Pagoda and Walkabout

Thursday, March 26

We will start out at the top of Mount Penn in Reading to visit the historic Reading Pagoda and photograph the exterior and the view overlooking Reading. Then drive down into Reading for some street photography in town.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sun, Mar 1	Monthly Critique Groups
Wed, Mar 11	Members' Forum and Monthly Meeting
Sat, Mar 14	Club Outing - Phila Art Museum Area
Sun, Mar 15	Uptown Knauer Exhibit Open House
Sun, Mar 15	Post Processing Group
Wed, Mar 18	Technical and Creative Exchange
Sat, Mar 21	Members' Critique Workshop
Sun, Mar 22	Deadline to submit for monthly competition
Wed, Mar 25	Monthly Competition
Thu, Mar 26	Club Outing - Reading Pagoda
Sun, Mar 29	Monthly Critique Groups
Sat, Jun 20	Coney Island Bus Trip - Save the Date!

Our new Membership Coordinator, Joanne Donato, is in the Spotlight this month!

Joanne has been meaning to join CCCC for a long time, then Covid happened and that stalled her plans for a few years until our former president Denise gave her a gentle reminder and she and her husband Steve finally joined in August of 2025. She also admitted that she was hesitant and a little intimidated because of all the beautiful images created by the talented members in this club. Welcome, Joanne, and thanks for that wonderful compliment!

If there's one thing about our club, it's the willingness of our members to get involved in a volunteer role and Joanne did just that! As our new Membership Coordinator, she is our newest volunteer and holds a post on the Steering Committee. She's looking forward to her new role and meeting and getting to know our club members better.

Her beginnings in photography may be similar to many parents in the club. In her own words, "*I started taking a lot of pictures once Steve and I had children. I seemed to get good feedback from the pictures I took because I tended to fill the frame with the kids, rather than just a snapshot with them not taking up much space in the picture. Then when my daughter started having parties with her friends in middle school, I discovered the kids liked to "ham it up" and let me be in the room if I had my camera with me. They'd pose and enjoy the pictures.*"

While she still loves photographing her grandchildren and relatives at family events - like many of us, she's basically the family photographer - she also really enjoys taking landscape images. Looks like she may like Still Life too, as shown in the photo here from our recent workshop.

Joanne admits to being both amazed and inspired when she sees the images of other members of our club. She looks forward to the club outings where she can take photos alongside other club members and learn from them, and she's hoping to improve her photography skills "*slowly but surely.*"

In her previous life, or pre-retirement, Joanne was an Administrative Assistant at Wyeth/Pfizer. Currently, she volunteers as an ESL teacher at her church where she enjoys meeting people from so many different places; she admires their bravery to come here and start over.

Some of Joanne's hobbies include board games, cards, dominoes and dice games. A great evening to her is sitting around laughing and enjoying playing a game or two. "*It's not whether I win or lose, it's just being with friends and having a wonderful, fun-filled visit.*"

She especially enjoys that her husband Steve also loves photography and it is something they enjoy doing together.

New Members

Wow! We had a record number of new members last month! A warm welcome goes out to **Marc Baumser, Charles Darney, Patricia Dunn, Arthur Glenn, Margaret Munshower, and Dorothy "Bibzie" Priori.** We're happy to have you and look forward to getting to know all of you and your photographic styles in the coming months.

Members in the News

Congratulations to Lee Ann Embrey for her acceptance into the recent Chester County Arts Association (CCAA) Member Show that was on display in February. Her photo of the pig in the lower right, "*Hogsmeade*" and "*Sleeping Beauty*" the orange flamingo in the top row were the only two photographs juried into the show!

The Jenkins Arboretum is holding a "Visitors' Photography Exhibition" which runs through March 22. All photos were taken at the Jenkins Arboretum. Club photographers with photos on display include ***Tom Bernard, Laura Ducceschi, Jim Samanen, and Lisa Suchower.*** Congratulations to everyone!

Two of ***Jim Samanen's*** photos have been accepted in the Artist's Equity Juried Art Show "Awakening into Spring" at the Chester County Art Association, which runs from March 4 – April 2, 2026, with an artist's reception on March 5, 2026, 5–7 PM with refreshments.

Let's all give a great big shout out to CCCC member and treasurer, **Helen Wagner**, who has successfully completed her first year as Chair of the Photography Division of the Philadelphia Flower Show! Helen has been involved in various garden clubs and PHS (Philadelphia Horticultural Society) for several years, so this was a natural progression for her. As chair, she oversees the choosing of the photo classes, communications and scheduling, intake of all accepted photos, layout, hanging of the exhibit and more! Wow! She is one busy person! Congratulations and be sure to take a breather before getting started on next year's show!

Congratulations to the following CCCC members who were awarded ribbons in the 2026 Philadelphia Flower Show! **Ginia Apostolacus, Laura Ducceschi, Valerie Dunn, Debbie Laverell, Nima Marsh, Rob Porter,** and **Betsy Wilson. Laura Ducceschi** proudly poses below her winning image of hummingbird babies. The lower image of baby robins in their nest is an award winning image by **Debbie Laverell.**

Local Exhibits

Philadelphia Flower Show, Feb 28 - March 8

Flowers and photography are on display at the annual Philadelphia Flower Show. It's a great way to get out of the cold and have a sneak preview of springtime! Don't forget to look for all the award winning images from our CCCC members!

Opportunities to Show Your Work

Penn State Great Valley invites students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of our local community to share their vision of our region through photography. "*Through the Lens*" celebrates creativity, connection, and pride in the campus and surrounding area. Submissions are accepted through April 30.Get all the details here.

Learning Opportunities

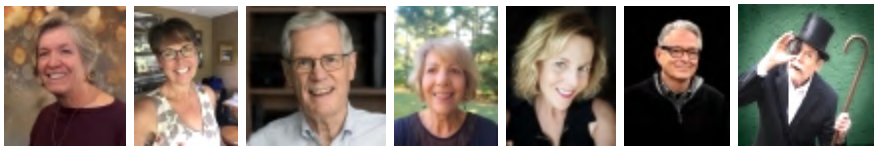
Delaware County Camera Club has invited our members to a presentation by a unique photographer, Donald Camp. His presentation is on ***Monday, March 9th at 7:30pm.*** They meet in the basement social hall of the Trinity Lutheran Church at 1141 W. Chester Pike in Havertown, PA. ***They ask for a $5 donation per person, and can accept cash or Venmo.*** They are limiting the invitee to 15 people. If interested, contact Judy Gallagher directly at JGallagherphoto@aol.com

Competition Tips:

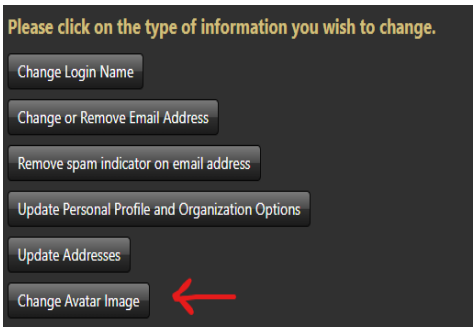
Hi Speed Hijinks is the assigned theme for this month's competition. Freeze fast-moving subjects in action with high-speed photography techniques (think sports photography and auto racing) capturing split-second moments in detail. Here's a link that has additional ideas and inspiration for all our monthly themes.

Website Wisdom:

Let's get to know one another - Update your photo on the Membership page!



Have you met fellow members at a meeting only to forget their name later on? Many members have uploaded their image on their membership listing - it is easy to do, and we encourage all members to include a photo of yourself. It will help us to attach a name to that familiar face! Be sure you are logged in, then go to My Account / My Account settings. Click on Change Avatar Image and upload your photo.



Be sure to regularly check the CCCC Homepage for news and updates, and links to galleries from recent outings. If you have any information you would like considered in an upcoming monthly newsletter, please contact newsletter editors Carol DeGuiseppi or Betsy Wilson.

The Last Laugh

The Jiffy Man

by Patricia Verbovszky

Ya never know what you'll see on the streets of Philadelphia. Jiffy Man, captured by Patricia Verbosky on a recent CCCC outing, looks like he's modeling his jacket, but is he actually looking for some jelly to complement his outfit?