Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

February 2026 Newsletter

Still Life Masters at Work!

2026 is off to a great start! Who knew we had so many Still Life Masters in our club!

The Still Life workshop was so popular it filled two sessions. Hosts Carol DeGuiseppi, Ginia Apostolacus, and Betsy Wilson kicked things off with an inspiring slideshow packed with practical how-to tips before attendees were set free to create their own still life images. You can see some of their masterpieces on the next page and also in the gallery on our website.

Members helping members, lots of laughs, meeting new friends, and a great opportunity to expand our photography skills were all elements that helped make this workshop a great success.

The image on the left shows a newer member, Jennifer, with Jim, Marc, and Atala as they all anxiously await to see what the monitor reveals about her layout on the scanner. The final image is on the right. While this may look simple enough, scanography is a tricky technique - the layout is done upside down! Many folks tried it today for the first time, and now have a new photo skill to experiment with and perfect during the cold winter months!

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers Jim Wilson and Rob Porter, and to the Workshop Committee: Wayne Dixon, Marc Horton, and Jim Samanen.

January Happenings:

Still Life Workshop!

Top row: Marguerite framing her shot, "Found objects" by Marguerite Hamilton , George, Atala and Jim try out the scanner, "The Vices" by Doug Cinoman. Second Row: Jennifer checking out the pheasant wing, "Feathers and Skins" by Francis Galvin, Francis setting up his still life with all the feathers he brought, Rob Porter demonstrating how to position flowers. Third row: "Overflowing with Jewels" by Debbie Laverell, Doug with a rose and a smile, "Feathers and Shells" by Deanna Francis, Deanna setting it up. Bottom row: Workshop Chairperson Wayne happy as always, "Bottles" by Drew Aungst, Scott framing his shot, "Workshop Study" by Pat Rhubottom.

Members Forum:
"Morning Coffee in the Style of..."

Members Forum coordinator Anette Karlsson challenged us with a fun assignment - Create an image in the style of a favorite artist. Every artist has a recognizable style, so we were challenged to create a photo of a favorite morning beverage; it could be coffee, tea, juice, or whatever you prefer. Then, edit it into the style of an artist: a photographer or a painter.

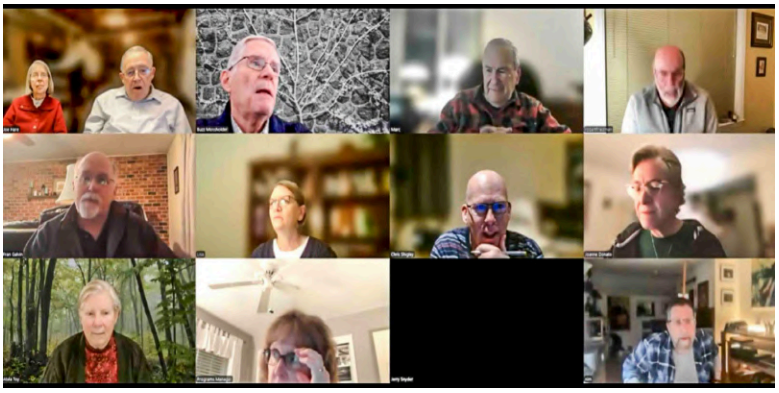
During a zoom meeting, those who submitted images had the opportunity to share a bit about how they came up with their idea, and how they created it. Lot's of creativity was shared as you can see by these two examples by Lisa Suchower and Ralph Nigro. You can check out the zoom meeting recording here.

Monthly Meeting:

Arik Gorban
Bad Weather Photography

Weather is such a critical factor in our outdoor photography, yet it's a factor that we have no control over and cannot predict, especially when we plan a trip well in advance. Photographer Arik Gorban demonstrated that bad weather shouldn't mean bad conditions for photography. He shared images showing special opportunities for unique photographs with different subjects, as bad weather conditions often make pictures moody, expressive, and different from standard calendar shots. He talked about conditions and how to handle the challenges that they present. Great inspiration during these cold winter months! See the zoom video here.

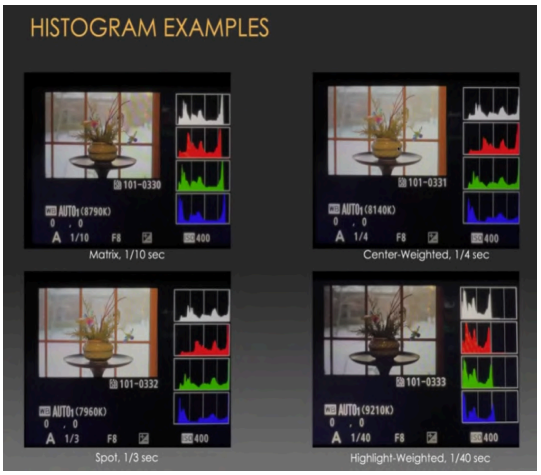
Post processing zoom group



Hosted by Buzz Mossholder, the group watched Buzz do a live demonstration editing submitted images in both Lightroom and Photoshop. This session had a focus on using masks to creatively edit targeted portions of an image to maximize improvement. Lots of questions helped everyone learn how to improve their editing skills. You can watch the video here.

Technical and Creative Exchange

Light, Metering and Exposure



Program host Ralph Nigro expertly covered all the basics to understand how and when to use these powerful tools, with the goal of improving your images. Metering, Histograms, Exposure Comp, Bracketing and HDR It's all about the light, but your camera sees things differently than the human eye. The group had lots of questions - and got lots of answers!. Watch the zoom video here.

New Member Feedback

Following the Exchange, CCCC president Jennifer Powell asked participants on the zoom to take a few minutes to share their photography goals, and their impressions of the club:

"I learned more tonight than I did watching many YouTube videos" -Jon

"It's really good to be in group where people encourage one another" -Ellie

"I use the outings a lot just to pick other people's brains and learn what they're doing" -Drew

"I can't thank everyone enough for what you're contributing to help other members, and it's been a whole lot of fun" - Lisa

Club Outing - Simeone Car Museum

CCCC Photographers got out of the cold and into the warmth of the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum to photograph one of the world's largest collections of racing sports cars. And a few intrepid photographers did brave the cold outdoors to witness a live demonstration of some of the cars in action, as you can see by both an indoor and outdoor image above by new member George Dangerfield.

Taking advantage of this great opportunity to photograph some absolutely stunning autos, are Francis Galvin, Scott Zinman, Tina Camuso, and Marc Horton. To see more images, check out the [club gallery.]

Important Announcements

All February regularly scheduled meetings will be via zoom only. Curl up with your beverage of choice and join in from the warmth and comfort of your own home.

New Membership Coordinator!

We're happy to welcome ***Joanne Donato*** as our new Membership Coordinator!. She joined our club in December and has really jumped in feet first! We all look forward to working with her in her new role and as a member of the Steering Committee. What a great addition to our team of volunteers!

Special thanks to ***Helen Wagner*** who has been covering membership in addition to her treasurer duties for the past several months.

January Competition - "Bokeh Bliss"

The challenge was to embrace the beauty of bokeh with shallow depth of field photography, creating dreamy, blurred backgrounds that accentuate your subject.. Guest judge, Jordan Basem shared positive observations and comments that provided a learning experience.

First Place ribbons in the assigned category were: Valerie Dunn in the color category for "Signs of Spring", and Corinne Masur in the monochrome category for "Queen Anne's Lace with bokeh".

In the open digital categories, Rob Doerr, Jr was awarded first place in color for "Historic Yates Mill", and the blue ribbon in monochrome went to Jennifer Hahn for "Columbia River".

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".

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Groups - *February 1*

Didn't start on your New Year's Resolution to join the Monthly Critique Group? No problem, this group welcomes members at any time. It's a great way to get input on your images, get inspiration from other club members, meet new friends, and spend a Sunday afternoon with others who share your passion. This group meets 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 - *Feb 11 - Zoom Only*

"Everybody Edit"

Anything goes in this fun and creative Members Forum in which folks will have a chance to edit one of these pre-selected images any way they wish! The images shown here were also sent in an email from Anette; you can get directions for accessing, downloading, and posting them via the link above.

Monthly Meeting - *February 11 - Zoom Only*

The Joy of Travel Photography
Presented by Don Toothaker

Our members love photography and most of us love to travel. Put the two together and we have a winning topic for February's presentation!

Member's Critique Workshop - *February 14 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.

Post Processing Group - *February 22 -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 - *February 18 -Zoom Only*

Do you know when your colors are really accurate? We'll discuss how color is perceived by humans and cameras, color temperature, and how all of this comes together in post processing. Color and white balance can make or break an image.

Upcoming Outings:

Chinese New Year in Philly - *Saturday, February 21*

Chinatown is always an interesting place to visit, but during the Chinese New Year celebration it is even better. During the weeklong celebration, festivities continue with lots of street photography opportunities as seen in this image by Mayra Talunas. And a stop inside Reading Market will provide more colorful photo ops and some yummy treats!

Snow Geese at Middle Creek - *Friday, February 27*

Here's your chance to see up to 100,000 snow geese as they migrate north. The geese roost on the lake at night and start leaving around sunrise. What an amazing site to watch and hear them as they all lift off the lake and go out to the fields to feed. More details to come as we get closer including what time we will need to be there - it will be early! Keep in mind that we are at the mercy of the birds, and this date may change.

The image shown here by Svenne Juul is from a sunset outing a few years ago.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sun, Feb 1	Monthly Critique Groups
Sun, Feb 8	Deadline to submit for "Everybody Edit"
Wed, Feb 11	Members' Forum and Monthly Meeting
Sat, Feb 14	Member's Critique Workshop
Wed, Feb 18	Technical and Creative Exchange
Sat, Feb 21	Club Outing - Chinese New Year
Sun, Feb 22	Post Processing Group
Sun, Feb 22	Deadline to submit for monthly competition
Wed, Feb 25	Monthly Competition
Fri, Feb 27	Club Outing - Middle Creek
Sat, Jun 20	Coney Island Bus Trip - Save the Date!

Our Spotlight is shining on Chris Shigley!

We're happy to have our spotlight shining on Chris Shigley this month! Chris joined us in 2022, but wasn't really active until 2024 when he went on his first club outing to Graffiti Pier. What a great start with the club!

He's always been fascinated with photography, but his journey really started to bud in the early 2000's with his wife's Fuji point-and-shoot camera which was sadly destroyed in the Pensacola surf as he was trying to get the PERFECT shot of the cresting wave. He found out very quickly that salt water isn't very forgiving and his wife never let him live that one down ... .but the hook was set, and that experience whetted his appetite to explore more avenues of photography. He bought his first DSLR and continued on.

His career led to several relocations including a 5 year expat stint in China that encompassed the entire Asia-Pacific region, which afforded fantastic opportunities for travel, landscape and cultural photos. After they moved back to the US and his son started group activities in high school, he became the de facto photographer for his Marching Band and Rowing Crew. This really pushed his limits, requiring new techniques and developing a different eye for each type of activity.

Chris has tried many genres over the years, starting with landscapes then adding architecture and wildlife; currently his favorite is street photography, especially getting shots of cross-generational interactions. Grandparents with their grandchildren are his absolute favorite to capture.

Chris shared that "*CCCC has helped me learn many interesting and valuable techniques. I joined Tom Weishaar as 2nd shooter at a couple of charity 5k events and learned several key elements from him, including the importance of synchronizing camera clocks, back button focus and how to rate photos in camera for quick delivery. Jim and Betsy Wilson have been a wealth of knowledge, Buzz Mossholder is a magician with LrC and PS, and many more. The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know, but this club is a great place to learn.*"

In his BR (Before Retirement) years, Chris was in corporate IT for the past 28 years leading the function either regionally or globally for several large-ish international manufacturing companies including SPX Corporation, II-VI Incorporated (now Coherent) and Mannington Mills. This kept him incredibly busy, but afforded him exciting travel and amazing photo opportunities.

Chris enjoys road bike cycling with the West Chester Cycling Club; he blends these hobbies, and has taken many photos at club events over the years. Some of his photos are displayed in West Chester at Gresh Fit, a local bike fitting and training shop.

In closing, Chris wanted to share that he waited many years to join a photo club, mostly due to fear he would just end up copying someone else's photos. It was very important for him to develop his own eye and style before joining a club, then soaking up as much feedback and as many ideas as possible to aid him in his photographic journey. CCCC has been such a wonderful group, and members are so supportive of each other.

New Members

We're happy to welcome **Jill Nigro, Lynn Goldfinger, Anthony Fisher, Sondra Cotton,** and **Jon Roberts** to our family of photographers. We're so happy to have you and look forward to getting to know you both and your photographic styles in the coming months.

Members in the News

Wow! We have a record number of CCCC members who have had images accepted into the juried photo exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Congratulations to **Ginia Apostolacus, Laura Ducceschi, Valerie Dunn, Debbie Laverell, Nima Marsh, Rob Porter,** and **Betsy Wilson.**

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 images from our CCCC members!

Learning Opportunities

11th Virtual Creative Photography Conference
February 21 - 22, 2026

Spend a creative weekend at home when you register for this two day online conference that includes eight speakers over 13 hours of instruction. Click here for more information and to register.

Foundations Photoshop Virtual Summit ~~ February 23-27, 2026

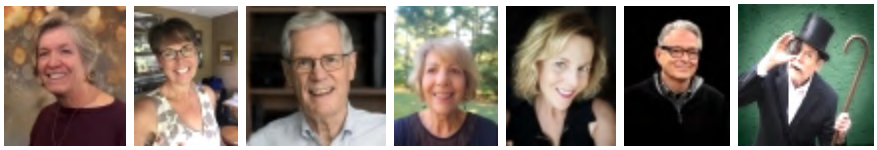
If Photoshop has ever felt confusing, inconsistent, or harder than it should be, this is for you. Here's some instruction for anyone who uses Photoshop and wants stronger fundamentals, clearer understanding, and better results. Perfect for Brand-new Photoshop users; Self-taught users; Intermediate users who want a reset; Experienced users looking for a foundations refresher. ***And, best of all -- it's FREE!***

Competition Tips:

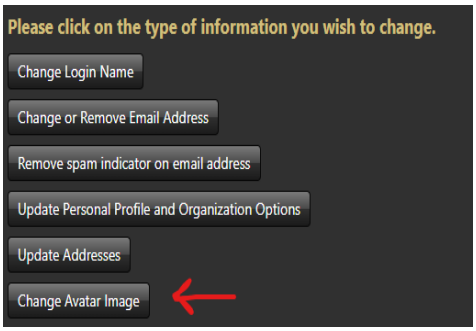
Forced Perspective Illusions is the assigned theme for this month's competition. Here's your chance to bend reality and challenge perception through forced perspective photography. Play with scale, distance, and angles to create mind-bending illusions that leave viewers questioning what they see. Here's 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 Hurrah

"Morning Coffee in the Style of Robert Friedman"

James Samanen

Kudos to Jim for really stepping outside the box for this Members' Forum Challenge.
If you're familiar with Bob Friedman's work you know where Jim got his inspiration from and he really did his style justice! Who knows, they may both be famous outside of CCCC one day!