Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

May 2026 Newsletter

One Person's Trash is a Photographer's Treasure!

Give a group of photographers a junkyard, and suddenly it's not junk at all—it's lines, textures, stories, and a whole lot of creative possibilities. Seen from above, we're just small figures scattered among rust and relics—but each of us found something worth capturing at the Airplane and Automotive Graveyard in South Jersey.

Rust and ruins, old cars, trucks, tires, and even old Uncle Dudley were among the many items that our talented photographers transformed into art on a wonderful Saturday afternoon in April. It was a wonderful opportunity for some of our newer members to attend an outing and meet other members. Our host, Photographer Richard Lewis, took this drone shot of our group, then led a tour of the sprawling area of airplanes stacked on top of buses, lots of junkyard chaos, even kitchen sinks!

If you weren't able to join us on this outing, there's always another one coming up soon, so be sure to keep an eye out for announcements and check the website for updates. And don't forget about the Coney Island Trip - there are still a few seats available on the bus!

April Happenings:

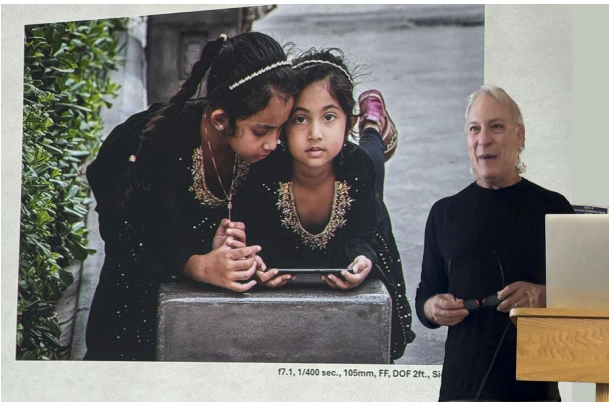
Members Forum: Svenne Juul

"A journey from photographic inspiration, to video editing app with global distribution."

Svenne shared his journey of the origin of the Pxlit video editing app. Inspired by a desire for 'Living Stills' to an app that friends and strangers world wide can download and use. He shared examples of before and after videos and everyone was amazed at the dramatic improvement. Click here to watch the zoom presentation, and use the QR Code to download the app - it's free!

Monthly Meeting: Ray Schneider

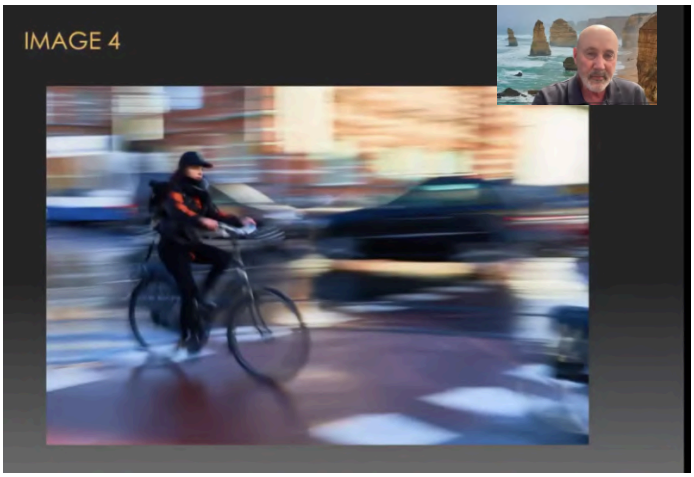
"Create Compelling Pictures of People"



Ray's lively presentation explored how to compose pictures with people in them that draw the viewer in, that evoke emotion, that tell a story. Posed portraits, environmental portraits, street portraiture, and travel photographs were all included in the discussion. He shared many of the core tenets of composition as well as how to capture the right gestures, background, expressions, lighting, perspective, camera settings, and more. Click here to watch the zoom video.

Technical and Creative Exchange: Composition!

There's more to photography than mastering the equipment. Session leader Ralph Nigro diverted from the technical aspects of photography to composition. What are the compositional tools that make a photo memorable? The session included a speed critique of impact, intention and composition of submitted photos which led to lots of lively discussion! You can watch the video here.



Club Outing - Airplane and Automotive Graveyard

Our outing to the Airplane and Automotive Graveyard in Atco, South Jersey was a true photographer's playground, with members exploring a maze of abandoned airplanes, helicopters, buses, and other relics. Rust-covered surfaces inspired striking abstracts, while details like hood ornaments and pine needles on windshield wipers offered quieter moments to capture. With a bit of creative play—repositioning objects and incorporating mannequins—members produced imaginative images and came away with a fresh appreciation for finding beauty in the unexpected.

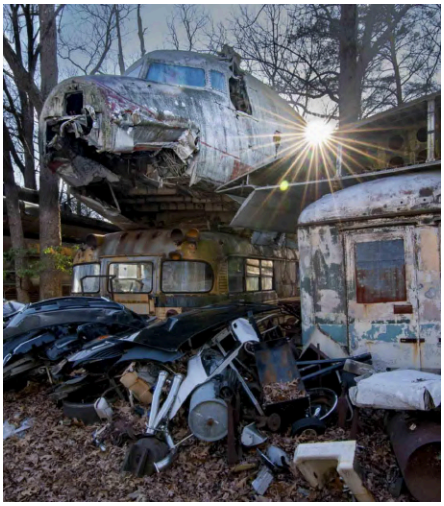
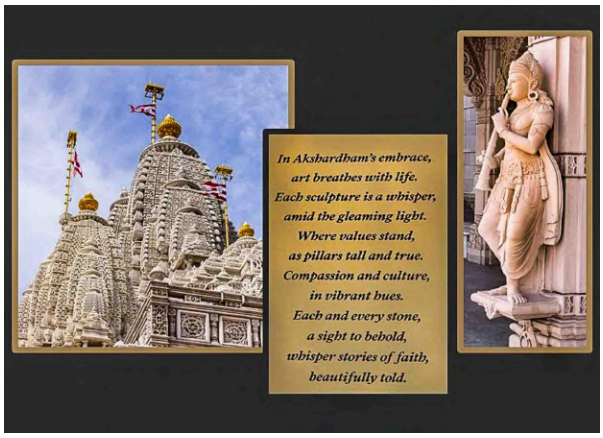


Image credits- Left column: Francis Galvin, Pat Rhubottom, Betsy Wilson. Middle column: Scott Zinman, Chaya Mohan Kataru, Eric Loken, Jennifer Hahn. Right column: Atala Toy, Jennifer Hahn.

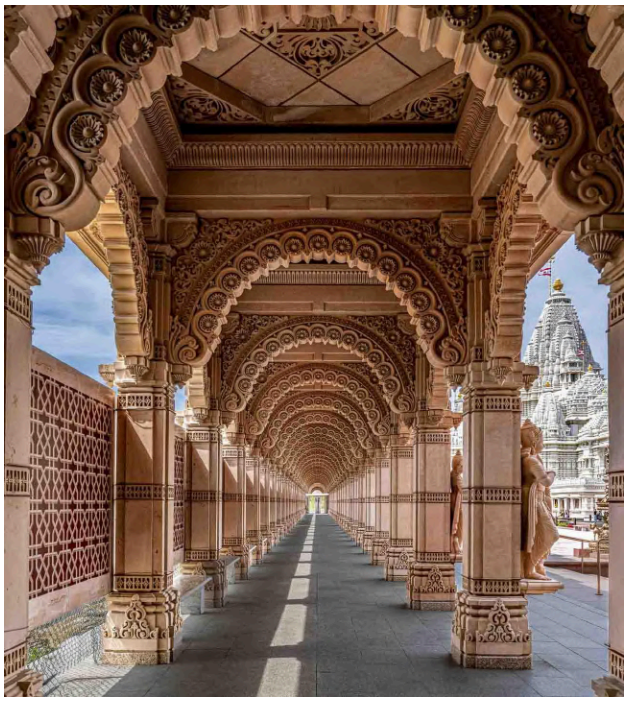
Click here for more pictures in the Gallery.

Club Outing - Akshardham Temple

Jennifer Powell, Jennifer Hahn, Tina Camuso and Randy Aylam with cameras ready at the Temple.



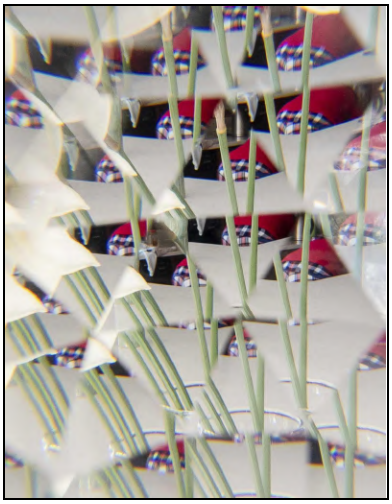
The Akshardham Temple in New Jersey is a spectacular campus open to all. It is a landmark of Hindu Culture, Architecture and Spirituality. The ornate architecture, murals, intricate artistry, and sacred sculptures are truly spectacular. We were entranced with the grand exterior architecture, beautifully landscaped gardens, and reflecting pools. And we met up at the café to enjoy a wide variety of authentic vegetarian Indian dishes.



The montage at top was created by Duane Erdmann, the repeating archways with the temple through the window is by Tina Camuso. The group shot was taken under the massive statue paying tribute to Nilkanth Varni, representing a spiritual journey. See the image gallery here.

April Competition - "Creative Lens Distortions"

The challenge was to experiment with lens distortions to add a unique twist to your photography. Whether it's through fisheye, tilt-shift, lensbaby, or Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) techniques, members pushed the boundaries of traditional composition and perspective to create visually striking images. Guest judge Karl Leck shared observations that provided a learning experience.



First Place ribbons in the assigned category were: Navjot Hanspal for color prints for "Through Faceted Ball". In the digital category, blue ribbons went to Eric Loken in color for "Seen better days" and to Ralph Nigro in monochrome for "Bryn Athyn Cathedral"

In the open digital categories, first place was awarded to Eric Loken in monochrome for "It's Mine", and to Christina Camuso in color for "Wood Duck Spray".

In the open print categories, the blue ribbon was awarded to Ralph Nigro in color for "Retired Fleetwood", and to David Ward in monochrome for "Nelumbo alba grandiflora 1 "

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".

Club Outing - Winterthur Gardens

A cool, overcast day provided perfect conditions to photograph one of the region's most spectacular destinations, Winterthur Gardens in Delaware's Brandywine Valley. The azaleas were in glorious full bloom, complemented by a wide variety of spring flowers and beautiful woodland paths that offered endless photographic opportunities.

CCCC Photographers gathered at the entrance and posed beneath the glorious wisteria. The artistic stairway outside of the DuPont Estate, and a creative image of the stairway inside, were both taken by Margaret Munshower. Pat Verbovsky captured the beauty of a sprig of azalea in all its glory.

Important Announcements

Coney Island Bus Trip has a few spots left!

There are still a few spots left - act now so you don't miss all the fun - and feel free to invite your friends and family! Our trip is the day of the annual Mermaid Parade, so there will be a wide range of subjects for you to photograph! Check out these images from our 2018 trip. (l to r: H. Sundwall, T. Goldman, B. Wilson, D. Grantham) Click here for all details and to register.

Election Day in May

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for the upcoming term:

President	Jennifer Powell
Vice President	Atala Toy
Secretary	Peggy Kane
Treasurer	Helen Wagner
Member-At-Large	Carol DeGuiseppi (Nominating Committee)
Member-At-Large	Sheila Fredericks (Nominating Committee)

The slate will be voted on during the meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. Members must be present at that meeting to vote.

Summer Challenge is Coming Soon!

It's hard to believe we're already talking about the Summer Challenge. To our new members who may not be familiar with the challenge, it's a great way to stay connected over the summer, improve your photography, meet new people, and enjoy two local outings (one in June and one in July) that culminate in a group dinner! Oh, and a final "Preview Party" in August where we'll enjoy a pot-luck gathering and you'll get to share your images. Look for an email that will explain all the details within the next month.

End of the Year Party - Wednesday, June 10 - Hold the Date!

It's time to get together and celebrate another successful year at CCCC. More details will be provided as we get closer, but be sure to hold the date. You won't want to miss it!

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Groups - May 3 and May 31

Our critique groups continue to get positive reviews from members with comments about being a wonderful club benefit and learning opportunity. Here's a great way to share your images and 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 - May 13

Ralph Nigro - Preserving Your Analog Legacy

We all have piles of photos from before digital cameras and the ability to store photos on our computers. This evening, Ralph will discuss ways to organize, digitize, and preserve negatives, slides, and prints from our pre-computerized era.

Monthly Meeting - May 13

John Barclay - Through the Lens of Love

We're happy to welcome back John Barclay as he shares stories and thoughts from his 25 year photographic journey. Realizing that photography is a creative art form, he has learned to photograph what he loves and what makes his heart sing. Join us for what is sure to be an inspirational evening!

Night Sky Instructional Meeting - May 14 - In person only

If you're planning to attend the night-sky outing on Saturday, May 16, this meeting is intended for you. Svenne and Ginia will get us ready and share tips for a successful outing. Be sure to check the schedule page for critical items to bring with you.

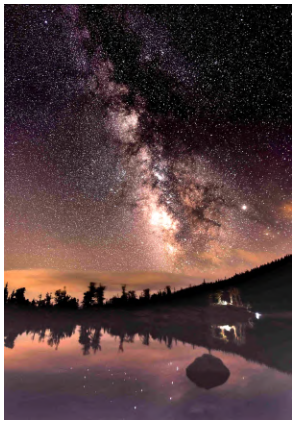
Post Processing Group - May 17 - Zoom Only

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 - May 20

Panoramas give the viewer a sweeping view that wouldn't be possible in one shot - and they're not just for landscapes. We'll discuss how to compose and then stitch multiple images to create compelling panoramic images.

Upcoming Outings:



Night Sky Photography - Saturday, May 16
Meet at the Stroke of Midnight!

Calling all Night Owls! Here's an opportunity to get outside and count the stars rather than lay inside and count sheep! If capturing an amazing shot of The Milky Way or some Star Trails are on your bucket list, this outing is for you! Be sure to attend the pre-outing instructional meeting on Thursday, May 14. Details and the directions to the site can be found here; be sure to read them completely and carefully!

Jenkins Arboretum - *Saturday, May 23*

It's springtime, so of course we need to visit another garden. Jenkins Arboretum is one of the prettiest in the Delaware Valley. We plan to be there at 9:00AM when they open, and then we will wander the grounds and explore for a couple of hours to photograph and take in the beauty. Lee Ann Embrey captured these lovely dogwood blooms during our last outing in April of 2021. There is no fee, and there is an area if you would like to picnic. Take a look at their website to learn more.

Natural Light Portrait Photography Workshop - *Sat, May 30*

Join us at the Powell Estate for a portrait photography experience. After a brief introduction in the Party Barn, we'll head outdoors to practice, using one another as models. The grounds offer a variety of ideal backdrops, including weathered stone structures, mature trees, and a pond. Limited space -register early.

WWII Reenactment - *Reading Fairgrounds - Sat, June 6*

The WWII Weekend in Reading offers **incredible photographic opportunities**—from vintage warbirds in flight and on the ground, to authentic reenactors in period uniforms, military vehicles, and immersive 1940s-era scenes. The combination of action, portrait, and storytelling images makes this one of the most dynamic events of the year.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sun, May 3	Critique Groups
Wed, May 13	Members' Forum and Monthly Meeting
Thurs May 14	Special Instructional Meeting for Night Sky Outing
Sat, May 16	Club Outing - Night Sky Photography
Sun, May 17	Post-processing Group
Wed, May 20	Technical and Creative Exchange
Sat, May 23	Club Outing - Jenkins Arboretum
Wed, May 27	Monthly Competition
Sat, May 30	Natural Light Portrait Photography Workshop
Sun, May 31	Critique Groups
Sat, Jun 6	Club Outing - WWII Reenactment
Wed, Jun 10	End of the Year Party!
Sat, Jun 20	Bus Trip - Coney Island - Register Now!

Bernadette (Bernie) Mathis is in the Spotlight this month!

Bernadette (Bernie) has been a member of CCCC for about a year and a half. She doesn't currently hold an official role in the club but looks forward to becoming more involved in a volunteer role in the future.

She has been passionate about photography since childhood. Her first camera was a Pentax K1000 in 7th grade after she learned how to use her dad's Canon FTb and Yashica Mat-124. They had a darkroom at home and she developed her own B/W film and photos. During college, she worked for a few newspapers and with a studio as a second photographer for weddings. After college, she was a medical photographer at the Medical College of Pennsylvania for four years. Later, she took on roles in the field that fit into her family schedule, mostly freelance positions in portraits and weddings.

Currently, she is photographing mostly for fun; her natural style is very photojournalistic and sees that for the reason she's enjoying street photography so much. She's also trying to learn more about post processing and master those skills.....which she says is a work in progress! Bernie shared that she "*is in awe of the range of skills in photography and post processing exhibited in this club! The work I see produced by other members inspires me to try new things and get out of my comfort zone.... I look forward to more fun outings and opportunities to get to know everyone better!*"

After photography, Bernie's other passion has always been the studying of people and she took a lot of social science classes in high school and college, which led her to pursue a degree in school counseling once her kids were in school full time. She's been a school counselor at Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School for 13 years, mostly working with 8th grade students.

Bernie volunteers her time as a photographer with the American Red Cross Southeast Pennsylvania Region and also works as an advisor for the students' photography club at PA Virtual. In addition to photography she enjoys kayaking, paddleboarding, and playing with her two grandchildren.

New Members

It's been a busy month for new members! A warm welcome goes out to ***Donna Angstadt, Mary Graceland, Amy O'Rourke, David Wade, and Jane Wilson!*** We're happy to have you and hope you enjoy all the club has to offer. We look forward to getting to know all of you over the coming months.

Instructional Opportunities

Here's an opportunity for a weekend full of learning from several well-known instructors - without leaving home! The 12th Virtual Creative Photography Conference hosted by Hazel Meredith is June 27 and 28. Our very own **Betsy Wilson** is honored to be on the schedule along with top presenters including John Barclay and Padma Inguva. Click here for more information - And if you register through the link on Betsy' bio page, she gets some extra credit!

Competition Tips:

Our final competition of the club year has an assigned theme of **Environmental Portraits.** Here's an opportunity to create images that tell a story through environmental portraits. Use portrait photography techniques to capture individuals in their natural surroundings, providing insight into their personality, lifestyle, and culture. As always, we also have open categories Here's a link that has additional ideas and inspiration for all our monthly themes.

Website Wisdom:

Past presentations - Did you miss a meeting presentation that you wanted to attend? Or want to repeat a zoom video to refresh your experience? Check out a list of many presentations on our website - go to News and Presentations in the menu bar, then Club Presentations and Events -click on the triangle next to the current or a past Club Year to expand the options. Enjoy!

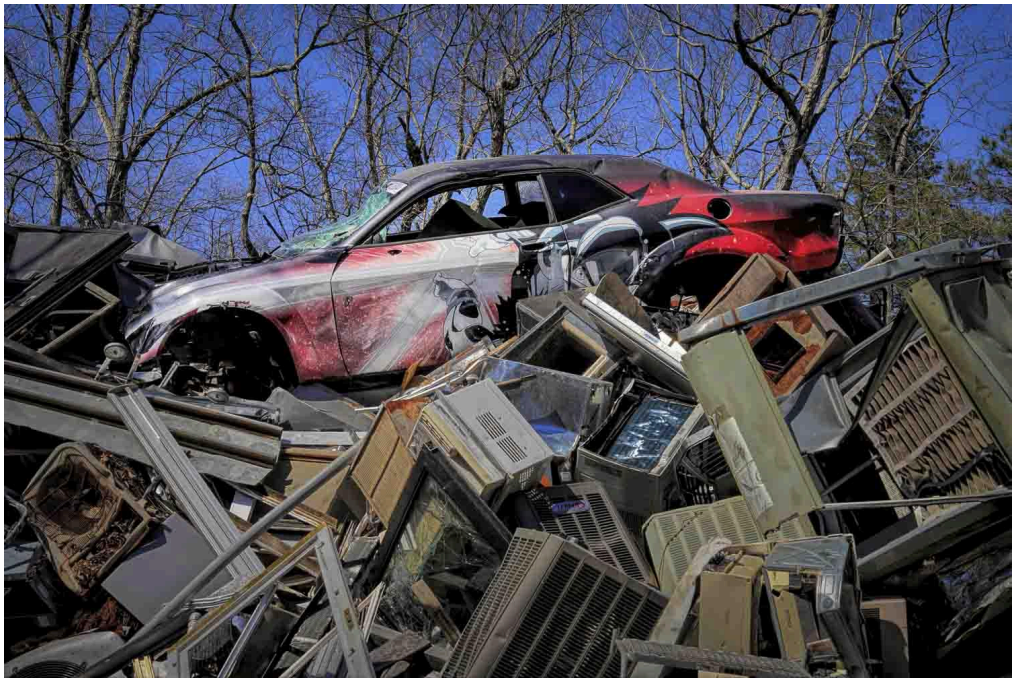
Be sure to regularly check the CCCC Homepage for news and updates, and links to galleries from recent outings.

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

“A Clearly Wrong Turn”

By Doug Cinoman



We’ve all taken a wrong turn at some point, but may have been able to recover and act like it was no big deal. That wasn’t the case for this driver who ended up in the trash pile at the Auto and Airplane Graveyard!