



JCC CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

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October 9th Competition will be Open

The JCC Camera Club has scheduled an Open Competition for Tuesday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the JCC Klein Branch, 10100 Jamison Avenue, Philadelphia. Competition entries should be signed in by 7:15 p.m. Amateur photographers who are not yet members of the JCC Camera Club are invited to have one of their best photographs critiqued by our judge. You are encouraged to invite former members, as well as other amateur photographers you know, to our October meetings. And if you see an unfamiliar face, please introduce yourself and welcome these folks to JCCCC.

Mark Aksoy is October 16th Presenter

Mark Aksoy will present an amazing slideshow, *Natural Wonders of the American West*, on Tuesday, October 16th, at 7:30 p.m., at the JCC Klein Branch.. The following autobiographical information about Mark appeared on the psaphoto.org website: "I have spent most of my working life as a research scientist, first as biochemist, and now a pharmacologist working in the Pulmonary Division of Philadelphia's Temple University Hospital. My interest in photography goes back to childhood when my father let me click a few pictures with his Kodak Retina camera on family vacations. It became more serious when I purchased my first SLR (a Pentax) and joined the Delaware County Camera Club in the early 80's. I also bought a computer (a Commodore 64) about that time, but it never occurred to me that computers and photography might someday coalesce into one single endeavor. I did marvel at my computer's immense 64K of RAM - more memory than I would ever need, I thought! Yet, by 1995, my beloved Commodore was on the verge of becoming an antique, and I bought my first PC - a Pentium 90. For 6 months or so, I had the fastest computer on the block! This, in turn, led to my growing interest in digital imaging, which continues to this day."

JCCCC Membership List Enclosed

Now you can find everyone! An updated JCC Camera Club Membership List, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses, is enclosed with this newsletter. Please **KEEP IT** with your Camera Club files. Treasurer Howard R. Silverstein, says he plans to keep the list updated via notices in this newsletter. **IMPORTANT NOTE: COMMERCIAL USE OF THIS LIST IS PROHIBITED.**

Marty's Corner -- From Russia with Rain—Lots of It, Too

I along with members of JCC camera club; Ken Sichel, Roseann Matz, Joanne Turk and Doris McCrossin, were among a group of 15 who went on a fantastic rainy river cruise, “Waterways of the Czars”. It seems that, after we left sunny Philadelphia, we encountered several days of sunless Russia. We were blessed with days of rain, lots of it. In some way, which for now I am still contemplating upon, regardless of the rain, we did enjoy ourselves. The laughs trying to learn a few phrases of Russian along with a couple of Russian songs (a total disaster, we really stunk) made up for the endless rain. Laughs were flying high for hours especially when a member of our group, Florence Robins, went to the bar and tried to order a “Black Russian”. The bartender was stunned. . We had countless laughs trying to explain to the bartender that a “Black Russian “ is a drink. The expression on his face was priceless.



Russia, September 2007: Roseann Matz, Doris McCrossin, Marty Malgieri, Joanne Turk and Ken Sichel

While in Moscow we ventured on our own on the Russian subway. We could not feel comfortable without the usual graffiti which is found on the American subways. Instead, we saw magnificent statues, beautiful tile works and countless young couples trying new ways of holding on to each other. At the end of our destination, we found a McDonalds which looked more like Macys Department Store. With a lot of laughter, we did manage to make our way back and forth to our destination without any problems.

We had heard of the magnificent palaces, golden domed churches and fantastic museums; however, this did very little to prepare us for the treasures that we were about to see and photograph. Palaces with hundreds of rooms all embellished with golden adornments were a feast for our photography. Each time we would enter a room, we would be speechless at the opulence of the images that we would see and photograph. A golden toilet embellished with diamonds, what a way to go!

Countless churches with magnificent frescoes covering the walls from the floor to the ceiling, thousands of golden icons and angelic voices from choirs filled the rooms. The tranquility was beyond expression. It would even stir the hearts of non-believers.

The highlight of the trip was a fantastic river cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow. The cruise was filled with mostly Italians, a few Russians and 15 soaked and wet Americans. You could tell us apart from the rest of the passengers when, on Captain's Night, the Italians and Russians came dressed in suits and evening gowns. The women proudly displayed their heels and cleavage and we showed up wearing sneakers, sweaters and Levis.

The days would be spent visiting villages along our cruise. We would stop in people's homes and enjoy sweets, tea, coffee and drinks with the locals. Their hospitality went beyond compare. While on board we would have a daily lesson on the Russian language which, by the way, we slaughtered. We had a Russian opera star trying desperately try to teach us a couple of Russian songs. One that comes to mind is Kalinga. If you would have heard us sing, you would have jumped overboard.

Everyone on board had to learn these songs, because on the last night of the cruise, we would have to entertain the crew. Along with the opera singing Italians, the dancing Russians and the spoon

playing specialists, our singing was so bad that the program director smartly decided to combine us with the opera singing Italians. I suggested to my group that during the performance we would mingle along the Italians and just mimic them without singing. They would drown us out and we would sound fantastic, great advice. Guess what, it worked, we were great. Lots of “Bravos” from the audience.

A memorable time came at end of the cruise. While leaving the ship in Moscow the cruise director came on the dock and waved us goodbye. I am sure she will never forget us, we had been the first group of Americans on that ship. Overall we had a fantastic time, even if the photography was a bit wet, the friendship we made on this memorable trip will linger in our minds for years to come.

*~Marty Malgieri, IIPC, PSA, FMMCC, FDVCC
President, JCCCC*

Remember, Pay Your Dues!

The deadline for payment of JCC Camera Club dues has been extended to our October 9th meeting. If you have already paid your dues, we thank you for your continued support of our club. If you have not gotten around to it yet, keep in mind that we are 100% dependent on dues for the operation of our club. Also, your dues must be paid in order to participate in our competitions. Our dues are a modest \$35 for an individual membership, \$40 for a family. Please send a check or money order payable to the JCC Camera Club (**do not send cash**) to: **JCC Camera Club, c/o Howard R. Silverstein, 8704 Frontenac Street, Philadelphia, PA 19152-1109**. An invoice and payment envelope were enclosed with the September newsletter. *Please consider contributing an additional amount in excess of your billed dues.*

Meet CESOP and Learn More About Photoshop

You may have already met some of the members of CESOP (Computer Education Society of Philadelphia). Their President, Tom Burke, generously assisted us in presenting our Digital Seminars last spring. Of particular interest to JCCCC members is CESOP’s PhotoShop/Digital Imaging Special Interest Group, which meets downstairs at Jem Electronics & Computers, 6622 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of every month. The next meeting is October 22. For more information check out their website, <http://cesop.org>.

“Homework” for November 20th Workshop

Sandy Livezey, who will be leading our November 20th Workshop on *Getting the Best from Your Point & Shoot Camera* has a homework assignment for you: (1) READ YOUR MANUAL. Learning to access your camera’s functions may be easier than you think. (2) At noon on a sunny day (when the light is at its worst) shoot a few pictures on automatic, preferably backlit and including the sky. (3) Now experiment by using exposure compensation (+/-), changing other settings, excluding the sky or whatever else you think might help.

“It’s not the camera, it’s the photographer,” says Sandy, who has taken many great shots with point and shoot cameras. Don’t just point and shoot. “You need to get excited about lighting and learn to use exposure compensation (+/-), ISO and metering. Getting to know your camera’s special features and limitations can give you the results you seek (and more time away from your computer). You will be able to shoot and create images you’ll love to enter in our competitions.”

Sue Kott's "Butterfly Love" Judged Best in Show

Sue Kott's color print of *Butterfly Love* took Best in Show in our September 11 Open Competition. Sue says, "I took this image in my backyard. I like to sit back there in the morning and have my coffee and I always take my camera with me, you never know what you are going to see or what's going to be out there. This butterfly was out there one morning drinking the nectar from all the flowers. It was so busy drinking I was able to take several images."

(Note: This black and white image does not do the photo justice.)



Here's the complete list of September winners:

Best in Show	Butterfly Love	Sue Kott
Color:		
1 st Place	Butterfly Love	Sue Kott
2 nd Place	Surprise	Charlotte Bernstein
3 rd Place	Umbrellas	Sue Kott
Honorable Mentions	Sorrow	Sue Kott
	Cityscape at Dusk	Sherry Resnick
	Falcon	Sol Snyder
	Curly Fibers	Sandra Livezey
Monochrome		
1 st Place	Father and Son	Sheldon Levy
	A Time to Rest	Sheldon Levy
Slides		
1 st Place	Pond Grasses	Harriet Richards
2 nd Place	Safe Harbor	Harriet Richards
3 rd Place	Bride	Rhissa Levy
Honorable Mention	Snowdrop	Sol Snyder

Around and About the JCCCC

We welcome the following new members to our Club: **Sheldon Levy; Jack L. Weinstein; Gerald Schwartz.**

Congratulations to **Howard R. Silverstein**, who was recently appointed to the board of Directors of Old York Road Temple Beth Am in Abington, PA.

Our President, **Marty Maligieri**, just back from Russia (see his column on Page 3), will be leaving for India on October 9th. He will be leading a private photo tour to the wildlife parks in Assam and a photo tour to Rajasthan for the Geographical Society.

Fred Spira, 83, Who Made Photo Gadgets Accessible, Dies

By Dennis Hevesi, The New York Times

Fred Spira, a photo historian and collector of photographic gadgets who is credited with helping standardize modern camera equipment and making it accessible to amateurs, died Sept. 2 at his home in Whitestone, Queens. He was 83. The cause was complications of Alzheimer's disease, his son Jonathan said.

Mr. Spira was the owner of Spiratone, a photographic accessories business that he started in 1941 as a film-development lab in the bathroom of his parents' apartment in Manhattan. By the late 1950s the company had grown into a multimillion-dollar business, occupying a vast loft space on West 27th Street and a showroom on the ground floor. It sold lenses, filters, lighting and darkroom equipment, but not cameras.

Because of his business success and his unremitting advocacy, Mr. Spira was able to persuade major producers to standardize photographic accessories and to make them more affordable. Amateur and professional photographers awaited each gadget catalog as if they were children waiting for a Christmas toy catalog.

In a 1979 article in *Popular Photography*, John Durniak, a former photo editor at *Time* magazine and *The New York Times*, wrote: "Henry Ford did not invent the automobile and Fred Spira did not invent photography, yet both these men have had almost as much influence on their respective fields as the original inventors. What Ford did to our economy and culture with the concepts behind the Model A and Model T, Spira has done to photography with his accessory lenses, close-up attachments and processing machines."

Mr. Spira was responsible, Mr. Durniak wrote, for the widespread use of the fish-eye lens, which can take a wide, hemispherical image; and for the proliferation of lenses that can be switched from one camera to another. He also got his system of interchangeable lens mounts accepted by makers in Japan, the United States and Russia.

In 2001, with his son Jonathan and Eaton S. Lothrop Jr., Mr. Spira (pronounced SPEE-rah) wrote *The History of Photography as Seen Through the Spira Collectio* (Aperture), tracing the technological development of photography. The study is based on Mr. Spira's collection of about 10,000 books, articles and documents written by or about prominent figures in photographic history — among them George Eastman, the founder of the Eastman Kodak Company; Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre, inventor of the daguerreotype, for which images were exposed directly onto a mirror-polished surface; and William Henry Fox Talbot, inventor of the positive-negative photographic process.

The collection also includes about 20,000 photographic devices, some of which were in use only briefly. Many of those ephemeral devices, which experts refer to collectively as *photographica*, were used to illustrate the book. Among the more fascinating examples:

- One of the earliest photographic images, a daguerreotype of a country road, taken in 1840. The image was unusual for its time because it captured an outdoor scene rather than a long-posed portrait of an individual.

- A Praxinoscope, a coin-operated, table-top device from the 1880s that played tunes in time with rotating, slightly varying images, giving the viewer a sense of motion.
- An 1858 image of a clock salesman’s slotted traveling case, showing 16 clocks and their prices. It is the first known instance of the use of photography as a selling tool.
- A camera called a Pistolgraph, made by Thomas Skaife in the late 1850s, that looked like a pistol.
- And of course the book includes photos of modern equipment, including the first digital camera model, the Kodak DCS, which was introduced in 1991.

Sigfried Franz Spira was born in Vienna on Aug. 7, 1924, the only child of Hans and Paula Back Spira. After emigrating to the United States, he changed his name to S. Franklin Spira, but he preferred to be called Fred. Besides his son Jonathan, of Bayside, Queens, Mr. Spira is survived by his wife of 48 years, the former Marilyn Hacker; and another son, Greg, of Kingston, N.Y.

Mr. Spira’s father, a Jew, had been a banker in Vienna. When the bank failed in 1929, he and a Christian friend opened a camera store. As the Nazis made inroads into Austrian politics even before they invaded, 14-year-old Franz Spira was barred from attending high school. He began working in the camera store — but only in the back, out of sight with his father. In 1939 he boarded a Kindertransport, one of the trains that rescued Jewish children by taking them out of the country. He was sent to England. Then, joined by his father in May 1940, he arrived in New York. His mother arrived later that year.

The small photo laboratory that Mr. Spira and his father ran out of their Manhattan apartment was eventually ordered closed by the Fire Department. It had become profitable thanks to word of mouth among Jewish immigrants on the West Side and by advertisements in photo magazines. In 1946 the Spiras opened their store on West 27th Street. In the early 1950s Spiratone became one of the first photo-supply companies to import Japanese accessories into the United States. Mr. Spira retired in 1987, and the business, which by then had been acquired by another company, closed in 1990.

“There will always be some form of recording of light images,” Mr. Spira wrote in his book. “What shape it will take in the future has yet to be determined.”

Tips for Snapping Fall Pics

By Tracy March Knotts, AP

Photographer Ferenc Mate lives in Tuscany, but his latest book, *A New England Autumn: A Sentimental Journey*, portrays the colors and landscapes of the woods, coast, farmhouses and even the doorsteps and porches of New England in the fall. For amateur photographers trying to capture the season's beauty, here are seven simple pointers from Mate on shooting in the fall:

- Shoot early and late in the day. Try to shoot a half-hour before and after sunrise or sunset. The colors will be incomparably richer, the shadows deeper, textures and forms stronger.

- Shoot during or right after storms. The light is more dramatic, and wet leaves, structures, and even roads take on more vibrant, intense tones.
- Move around to find the most dramatic composition, whether you are shooting a seashore, pond, leaf or covered bridge. A few steps can make the difference.
- Check for colors, shapes and light each time you shoot. A red leaf may be eye-catching, but it might look prettier when lit from a side that shows more texture, or, like a stained glass window, when lit from behind.
- Shoot close-up details. A whole barn might seem boring, but its old weathered door or a cobwebbed window reflecting a tree might be a compelling image.
- Shoot for depth. Try to compose so you'll have something in the foreground, middle ground and background.
- If you are serious about photography, use a tripod. It's a must in the lowest, and often best, light.

Mate's favorite places to photograph in autumn include Acadia National Park in Maine; Franconia Notch in New Hampshire; Woodstock, Vt.; Block Island, R.I.; Nantucket, Mass.; and Mystic Seaport, Conn. (Source: USA Today, 9-25-07)

Interesting Local Photography Exhibitions

The Philadelphia Museum of Art has opened the new Perelman Building, and one of the first exhibits, through January 31, is *Alfred Steiglitz and the Philadelphia Museum of Art*. This inaugural exhibition in the Levy Gallery, in its new location in the Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building, pays tribute to the Museum's integral and treasured holding of photographs by Alfred Stieglitz. The exhibition features a selection of approximately 40 masterpieces that demonstrate the range of both Stieglitz's work and the collection.

In addition, many Philadelphia area museums and galleries are featuring inspiring images by local photographers—here are three to consider:

Paul Grand is an art photographer who was selected as the first photographer for a solo show at the Trenton Museum, whose work has been discussed on National Public Radio.. His *New Works* will be exhibited at J&W Gallery, 20 West Bridge Street, New Hope, PA from October 20 to November 2, with an opening reception to meet the artist on Saturday, October 20, 6 to 9 p.m. (Thank you, Charlotte Bernstein, for this information.)

L'Autre, a group show of photographs at the University of the Arts' Rosenwald-Wolf Gallery, 320 South Broad Street, through October 14, offers a chance to catch up with one of the most popular trends in photography today, which is the portrait of the unexpressive, even zombie-like face.

The Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial, 719 Catherine Street, Philadelphia, offers *Challenge* through October 6, which features works by three artists who are “deploying photography as an idea”: Walter Plotnick creates monochrome photos of geometric shapes, which appear to be cut from paper; Richard Ryan offers ink jet prints of butterflies, displayed in a scroll format which seems to be referencing Japanese scroll painting; and Roger Matsumoto extends his images of plants and frogs with whimsical ink paintings of attenuated leaves and limbs.

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

“One photo out of focus is a mistake, ten photos out of focus are an experimentation, one hundred photos out of focus is a style.”

~Author Unknown

“There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs.”

~Ansel Adams

“All photos are accurate. None of them is the truth.”

~Richard Avedon

UPCOMING EVENTS @ JCCCC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 13th Theme Competition: *“Focus on People”* (not just their costumes)
November 20th Workshop – *“Getting the Best from Your Point & Shoot Camera”* – Sandy Livezey
December 11th – Holiday Party

OUR CAMERA CLUB IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:

