



JCC CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

## Officers & Contacts 2007-2008

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### Focus on People at November 13<sup>th</sup> Competition

Those great shots you've taken of family, friends—and strangers—can be entered in the JCC Camera Club's competition on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the JCC Klein Branch, 10100 Jamison Avenue, Philadelphia, when our theme is "Focus on People".. Competition entries should be signed in by 7:15 p.m. Keep in mind that the subject should be the person or people, not their costumes.

Amateur photographers who are not yet members of the JCC Camera Club are invited to have one of their best photographs of a person critiqued by our judge. You are encouraged to invite former members, as well as other amateur photographers you know, to our November meetings. And if you see an unfamiliar face, please introduce yourself and welcome these folks to JCCCC.

### November 20<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Point & Shoot Cameras

Sandy Livezey, will lead a workshop on "Getting the Best from Your Point & Shoot Camera" on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM at the JCC Klein Branch. Even if you're primarily a SLR person, keep in mind that many professional photographers now keep a digital point and shoot camera handy at all times, so learning about the unique qualities of the point and shoot camera can be valuable for everyone.

There's still time for you to do the "homework" that Sandy has assigned for the workshop:

(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.

## Marty's Corner:

### Ancient Treasures of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Although the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a small country, most guide books focus only on its ancient treasures. Since I have visited Jordan several times in the past, this time I decide to visit one of the new seven wonders of the world, the red rose city of Petra.. This ancient treasure is perhaps the most fascinating place to visit in the Middle East.

The entire city is carved into several mountainsides and is only accessible by a long and narrow passage cut through solid rock. The passage, at times, is very narrow and it is impossible to see the sky above. After a 45-minute walk, one of Petra's most famous buildings comes into view, The Treasury. As you approach it and stand in its shadow, somehow you doubt its existence. How can an ancient people create such a masterpiece? Why was it hidden from the outside world for thousands of years? The questions keep mounting up and, as I venture through Petra, I am amazed by its hidden mystery. If these structures could talk, I imagine the tales they could tell, tales of ancient caravans coming from far away lands bringing with them precious spices, colorful silks, and treasures of gold.

Among Petra's ancient treasures is a Roman theatre cut into solid rock. It can hold 15 thousand people and, today, is still used for cultural programs. The tomb of Aaron, Moses' brother, is located high up on one of Petra's mountain tops. The monastery, another fantastic structure is reachable by climbing 1800 steps. For me, that is about 1799 too many steps to climb. I decide to visit the Monastery by riding on top of a donkey which keeps stumbling as it makes its way up the mountain side. Finally the monastery is in front of me and, again, I am breathless by its beauty. It is carved into the mountainside and, in the afternoon sunlight, it shines like gold. My camera is kept busy as I try to capture this magnificent treasure in all of its glory.

By the end of the day I return to my small hotel and cannot help but think of the fantastic things that I have seen. I can only imagine the thousands of people who have come to this land to see this fantastic new seventh wonder of the ancient world.

We are so blessed to have photography as a hobby. Travel and photography go so well together that, at times, we cannot imagine one without the other.

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

### Empty Cartridges? Stop and Recycle!

Years ago my synagogue recycled empty inkjet and laser cartridges. Times change and my former synagogue merged with another that does not have a recycling program. However we can still do our part and recycle empty inkjet cartridges through PetSmart. PetSmart has a program through it's PetSmart Charities which provides funding for homeless animals. Please bring me your empty inkjet cartridges and I will see that they are sent to PetSmart Charities. **PLEASE.....NO EPSON CARTRIDGES. NO LASER CARTRIDGES.** Brand name or refilled are OK to recycle under this program. To find out more about PetSmart Charities, please visit their web site <http://petsmartcharities.org>.

*~Howard R. Silverstein*

## Cary Rush's "British Library" was October Best in Show

Congratulations to Cary Rush, whose monochrome print of the "British Library" was judged Best in Show at our Open Competition on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Here's the complete list of October winners:

<b>Best in Show</b>	<b>British Library</b>	<b>Cary Rush</b>
<b>Color:</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Girl with Spinning Wheel	Jack Weinstein
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Sunday in the Park	Cary Rush
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Plumage	Phyllis Sander
Honorable Mentions	White Bell Flowers	Jack Weinstein
	Missed Hoops	Sherry Resnick
	Pink Bell Flowers	Jack Weinstein
	Water	Rhissa Levy
<b>Monochrome</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	British Library	Cary Rush
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Wagon Train	Jerry Schwartz
<b>Slides</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Arched Street	Harriet Richards
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Guitar Maker	Rhissa Levy
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Salt River Canyon	Howard Blume
Honorable Mention	Healer	Rhissa Levy
<b>Small Prints</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Monument Valley	Howard Blume

## Around and About the JCCCC

**Sherry Resnick's** images will be exhibited in "4 Photographers...4 Views," from November 4<sup>th</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>, at The Upstairs Gallery, Shop 10 in The Courtyard, Peddler's Village, Route 202 & Street Road, Lahaska, PA. You are invited to an Opening Reception on Sunday, November 4, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Past President **Marv Simon** and wife Yetta have relocated to Cherry Hill, NJ. Best of luck to you!  
(See phone list changes for details.)

Richard Leibovitz, son of member **Beth Leibovitz** and grandson of Past President **Marv Simon** graduated from George Washington High School with honors in June and is currently attending Temple University. Way to go Rich!

We welcome **Harvey M. Ballen & Phyllis Sander** as new members.

## PHONE LIST CHANGES

Please make these changes on your phone list:

**Herb Pincus:** Add e-mail address; [herb@carbonatorrental.com](mailto:herb@carbonatorrental.com)

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Phyllis Sander  
845 Sycamore Dr.  
Southampton, PA 18966  
(215) 322-4132    [psander1941@yahoo.com](mailto:psander1941@yahoo.com)

Harvey M. Ballen  
317 Felix Rd.  
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006  
(215) 379-4084    [hmbpa@yahoo.com](mailto:hmbpa@yahoo.com)

**ADDRESS CHANGE:**

**Marv Simon :**  
Saltzman House  
Apt. #106  
1401 Springdale Rd.  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003  
(856) 489-0411

*~Howard R. Silverstein*

## **Take Better Portraits**

“Most of my family lives a cab ride, three connecting flights, and a rental car away, so I don't get to see them very often. But when I do make the trip, I hear this all the time: "David, take a picture of your sister." "David, take a picture of your nephews." If any of that sounds familiar, you're in luck. This week, I'll equip you with a few tips and tricks you can use to take better portraits.

**Put Them at Ease:** Taking pictures of people can be intimidating. But if you think it's nerve wracking to take a picture of someone, try being the person in front of the camera. Uncle Ted doesn't want to stand around getting photographed, trust me. And so it's hard to get a natural pose from people when they know they are being photographed. The single best bit of advice is to put your subjects at ease. And if you're trying to capture spontaneous, candid moments, then back off and blend in with the background.

If you want to take formal portraits, though, you can't disappear into the trees and take your pictures surreptitiously. Instead, you'll want to talk to your subjects to get them to loosen up. Eventually, they'll exhibit more natural responses and look better in the photograph. Here's a trick: Take pictures periodically as you pose your subjects to get them used to the shutter going off, even if you don't intend to keep the shots. When you take the final shot, they'll never know it.

Digital cameras have an advantage that old film cameras don't: The LCD display lets you frame your picture without holding the camera up to your face. That leaves you free to interact with your subjects without having an intimidating camera obscuring your head. That gives you more opportunities to get your subject to relax and, if you're shooting more than one person at a time, interact with each other.

**Use a Shallow Depth of Field:** Most of the time, you'll want to focus exclusively on the person in the portrait. Notice the use of the word focus and its double meaning, implying that's where we want the viewer's attention as well as the actual lens focusing. (I include that pun free of charge.) In any event, configure your camera so the depth of field is as narrow as possible, leaving the background pleasantly blurry. To do that, you can use your digital camera's portrait mode, which is designed to minimize depth of field. If your camera has an Aperture Priority mode, you can switch to that and dial in the smallest f/stop value available, such as f/5.6 or f/4. Another option is to selectively blur the background using a photo editing program.

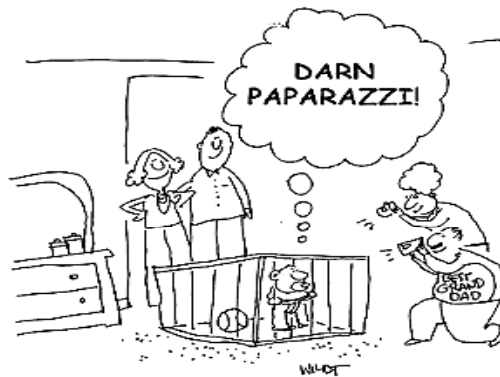
**Pick the Right Focal Length:** Another important piece of the puzzle is your camera's zoom setting. If you set the camera to a wide-angle position, the lens will distort your subject's features. If you're photographing Uncle Ned "Big Nose" Jackson, the last thing you want to do is make that proboscis appear any larger. The right focal length is usually between about 80 and 100mm, which turns out to be near the telephoto end of many point and shoot digital cameras' zoom ranges. So zoom all the way out and see what that looks like in the viewfinder. Go wider if necessary, but avoid dialing all the way back to the wide end of your camera's zoom range, or you might end up with something like this.

**Use Natural Lighting:** Finally, use natural lighting whenever possible; it will make your subjects look better. Shoot early or late in the day--and if possible shoot outdoors, in the shade. If you are taking pictures indoors and need to use your camera's flash, turn on the red-eye reduction mode and supplement the camera's flash with as much other lighting as possible. If your camera's flash can be tilted, bounce the light off a wall or ceiling.

*(Source: Dave Johnson, [pcworld.about.com](http://pcworld.about.com) on 9-17-07)*

## **CESOP Workshop on November 26**

The next meeting of the Photoshop/Digital Imaging Special Interest Group is Monday, November 26, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The group meets downstairs at Jem Electronics & Computers, 6622 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia.



## **Thoughts for the Month (About Portrait Photography)**

*“If I were just curious, it would be very hard to say to someone, I want to come to your house and have you talk to me and tell me the story of your life. I mean people are going to say, You're crazy. Plus they're going to keep mighty guarded. But the camera is a kind of license. A lot of people, they want to be paid that much attention and that's a reasonable kind of attention to be paid.”*

*~Diane Arbus*

*“The camera is a killing chamber, which speeds up the time it claims to be conserving. Like coffins exhumed and priced open, the photographs put on show what we were and what we will be again.”*

*~Jane Welsh Carlyle*

*“The camera can represent flesh so superbly that, if I dared, I would never photograph a figure without asking that figure to take its clothes off.”*

*~Arthur Schopenhauer*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS @ JCCCC**

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

December 11<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Party

**2008**

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Open Competition

January 15<sup>th</sup> - Program: Members' Critique Night  
(Snow date for January meetings is January 22<sup>nd</sup>)

**OUR CAMERA CLUB IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:**



