



JCC CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008

## **Officers & Contacts 2007-2008**

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### **Open Competition on January 8<sup>th</sup>**

An Open Competition is scheduled for the JCC Camera Club's first meeting in 2008, which will be on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM, at the JCC Klein Branch, 10100 Jamison Avenue, Philadelphia. While the meeting will begin at 7:30 PM, please sign in your entries by 7:15 PM

### **Members Critique Night on January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Are you wondering why it's a good photograph but not great? Or why you thought it was a winner but the judges didn't? Or do you just feel you have something to learn about taking better photographs? Members Critique Night provides an opportunity to benefit from the JCCCC's collective wisdom. Bring in up to five of your prints or slides to be critiqued on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM

### **January 29<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**

A meeting of the JCC Camera Club Board has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM, in Room 206 of the JCC Klein Branch.

### **Winter Weather Alert**

The weather has been good so far this winter, but if we do get a snow or ice storm on a meeting date, information on meeting cancellation will be posted by 6 PM on the JCC Camera Club Hotline at (215) 789-4345. The snow date for January meetings is Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Marty's Corner: Travel and Photography**

Isn't it unbelievable how travel and photography go hand in hand? We work hard to save our money to travel to a specific destination and the first thing that we think about is photography. What photo opportunities will we have? What equipment do we do need to take these award winning photos? What is the best time to visit these exotic destinations? The questions and excitement always add to the anticipation of our photo trip.

I have been fortunate because my work has afforded me to travel to countless destinations that, at times, I cannot believe that I have visited. The great wall of China, the colorful temples of Japan, the tea slopes of Darjeeling, the pyramids of Egypt, the fantastic Himalayas, the desert of Wadi Run, the forbidden land of Tibet and one of the most beautiful things in the world, the weaver of dreams known as the Taj Mahal. There are times when I am in the presence of these magnificent places and I see them through my camera's view finder, that I am in disbelief and extremely happy of my hobby of photography.

We all enjoy traveling to either far away lands, or perhaps a few miles away. Photography helps us capture the images to share with our family and friends. When we are home and have some free time to ourselves, we often take out the old family photo albums and go through the pages and look at the images that have become important in our life. Old family photos taken during vacations or some other important time in our life are absolutely priceless. They remind us of things that we have often forgotten. When we see these photos the memories they offer bring us back to that special time and we relive those moments over and over again.

Belonging to a camera club, such as JCCCC, is a wonderful opportunity for us to tune in our skills and become better photographers. We are now taking photographs, not just snaps. We have become more artistic and more careful as to how we photograph a special place or function. We have been blessed in JCCCC because we have several people who are accomplished photographers and freely share that knowledge with us. Isn't this why a photo group exists? Our group however, has developed not only as friends, but into a family. What makes us unique is that we care about each other, not only as photographers but also as friends..

With the coming of the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone the very happiest New Year. I wish it to be filled with health, happiness and a continued joy of our beloved photography.

I would also like to thank the fantastic people who work so hard to make the club what it is without these hard working people, there would not be the JCC Camera Club. Each one knows who he/she is and a special thank you goes out to each and everyone.

Enjoy our world through the magic of photography!

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

## **CESOP Workshop on January 28<sup>th</sup>**

The next meeting of the Photoshop/Digital Imaging Special Interest Group is Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM The group meets downstairs at Jem Electronics & Computers, 6622 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia.

For more information, contact Tom Burke at [tetd4@tjburke.com](mailto:tetd4@tjburke.com).

## **Around and About JCCCC**

Attendees at the JCCCC Holiday Party were treated to **Marty Malgieri's** delicious pasta, **Charlotte Bernstein's** knishes and the many delectable deserts and treats contributed by other members. Thank you, Charlotte, for coordinating this event.

New Year's "shooters" **Marty Malgieri, Rhissa Levy** and **Sherry Resnick** enjoyed the Mummers Parade.

We're proud as can be of members **Ken Sichel** and **Charlotte Micklos**. Ken is serving as President of the Delaware Valley Council of Camera Clubs, and Charlotte is Treasurer.

## **January 19<sup>th</sup> Deadline for Wilmington International Entries**

Some JCCCC members may want to consider submitting their best images to the 75<sup>th</sup> Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography. The Delaware Photography Society has set a deadline of January 19<sup>th</sup> for entries. More information and an entry form can be found on the Delaware Photographic Society website, <http://delawarephotographicsociety.org/wiep>.

If you'd like to attend the exhibition: Prints will be exhibited at Arsht Hall, University of Delaware, Wilmington Campus, February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 PM and Sundays 12 noon to 5 PM. Audio-visual presentations of pictorial and photojournalism slides will be given on February 24<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 PM and 3 PM Admission and parking are free.

## **Free Software Downloads for Your Digital Tool Kit**

If you own a digital camera and a computer, you may want to explore some of this free software, listed at [www.download.com](http://www.download.com), which features software that is safe, tested and spyware free:

**Art Plus Digital Photo Recovery 3.1:** Free Art Plus Digital Photo Recovery tool can help you recover lost images from corrupted or accidentally formatted digital camera memory cards. Program works with all types of memory cards. It's able to recover images from formatted cards. Reads corrupted cards (in most cases even if they're not recognized by Windows). Recovers JPEG, TIF and most RAW files. Version 3.1 includes full support for all major RAW formats and additional advanced recovery options.

**Comic Life:** You ought to be in pictures--or at least in comic books. And that's exactly what this unique little program does. With it, you can gather your photographs and make comic books out of them. Just arrange your photos on pages and resize them, add thought balloons and talk balloons, jazz it up with colors, and create a comic book out of your life. The application has a tremendous number of graphics and effects that you can use, so each comic book can be unique. Comic Life also includes sound effects that add to the fun as you work. If you find yourself with plenty of photographs but you aren't sure what to do with them all, here's an easy answer.

**MemoriesOnTV:** includes a sophisticated set of tools for creating your slide shows. For example, it has a timeline view that allows you to build your slide show by dragging and dropping photos, audio files, and animation files, and then adding effects. It includes enough visual effects to make you feel as if you're Martin Scorsese--pans, zooms, fade-ins and fade-outs, and even audio fading so that your sound comes in or out as your photo does. When you're done with your project, you can burn it to DVD or SVCD formats, both playable on living-room DVD players. Note that the

downloadable demo version has no limitations on it, but your slide shows will appear with a watermark. To make the watermark disappear, you'll have to buy the software.

## **New Cameras Blur Reality**

It's getting easier all the time to fib with photos. First, photo-editing programs made it possible to tweak a photo in ways that once required hours of painstaking toil with an airbrush. Then digital cameras began to automate some of the most common photo fixes, such as correcting red-eye effects and picking the best shot in a series. Now some digital cameras can generate pictures that look better than reality. You, too, can engage in the kind of photographic deceptions once available only to politicians and movie stars!

I've been trying out a couple of new cameras, one from Hewlett-Packard and the other from Fuji, that incorporate one form or another of digital-image trickery. HP's \$300 Photosmart R937, like some other recent HP models, offers a "slimming mode" that, HP says, can put the subjects of photos on an immediately effective diet. Fuji's F50fd, also \$300, provides a "portrait enhancer" mode that's intended to wash away wrinkles. When they work, both can generate a photographic likeness that looks more attractive than the real you -- a SuperYou that you can post on Facebook, MySpace, Match.com or any other site.

HP's photo alterations are more ambitious than Fuji's (and probably more in demand, given the hefty state of many Americans). To use the slimming mode, you take a picture as usual, then switch to the camera's playback mode. Bring up the photo, tap the "Design Gallery . . ." button on the screen, tap "Enhance Photos," and then choose "Slimming." There, you can then select one of three levels of shrinkage to determine how much narrower the person in the shot will appear. The camera will save a new copy of your shot, allowing you to compare the original and the edited version back on your computer.

On the Fuji F50fd, the "portrait enhancer" mode doesn't require any extra work after taking the shot. The work comes beforehand, in the form of the steps needed to activate the mode -- a confusing process that requires first turning a dial on the back of the camera to "SP1," pressing the menu button twice, then scrolling up or down with the four-way controller until "Portrait Enhancer" is selected. The camera will then slightly soften the appearance of any faces that it detects in the image. This doesn't always work out: In many of my tests, either I couldn't see any difference, or the "enhanced" shot merely looked a bit out of focus. With the right kind of photo, though -- a close-up portrait with the subject centered or nearly so -- this mode made people's faces look slightly smoother and younger. Think of it as the reverse of what high-definition TV does to actors: Where one adds five years to a person's appearance, this feature can knock five years off.

Neither of these cameras will make a regular schmo look like a supermodel. That still requires other forms of technological intervention -- cosmetics, injections, implants. But both can cater to people's vanity at a low cost. That makes them a pretty smart business move for manufacturers. This kind of photo fakery -- I'm sorry, embellishment -- also fits in with the overall evolution of digital cameras.

So why not build cameras that know more of the editing tricks creative photographers have used on their computers? If a camera can make people look thinner and younger than their physical selves, why not have it also whiten their teeth, dye their hair and blot out their birthmarks? You will, however, have to know when to stop upgrading your image. At some point, you'll have to meet people who know you only as a younger, slimmer, blemish-free version of yourself. They could be shocked to see how scruffy you look in real life -- unless they've been even more aggressive about polishing their own portraits. (*Source: Rob Pegararo, Washington Post, 10-11-07*)

## UPCOMING EVENTS @ JCCCC

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We've attached a list of upcoming camera club activities so that you can mark ALL the JCCCC scheduled dates for Winter/Spring 2008 on your new 2008 calendars.

The following event is NOT on the schedule.

2008

April 28 – DVCCC Spring Foto Fling at Moorestown Friends School

## Thoughts for the Month

*"The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera"*

*~Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe*

*"Photographers never have much incentive to show the world as it is."*

*~Dorothea Lange*

*How many photographers does it take to change a light bulb? 50.  
One to change the bulb, and forty-nine to say, "I could have done that!"*

*~Anonymous*

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



### **ABOUT THE JCC CAMERA CLUB**

*The JCC Camera Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting artistic values of photography and helping beginners as well as experienced photographers express their creative abilities through lectures, workshops and competitions. Founded in 1981, the JCC Camera Club is one of the largest camera clubs in the Philadelphia area. Guests are always welcomed. We are affiliated with the Photographic Society of America (PSA), the Delaware Valley Council of Camera Clubs (DVCCC) and are sponsored by the Jewish Community Center, Raymond & Miriam Klein Branch, 10100 Jamison Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19116 Telephone: (215) 698-7300. Our club serves the Philadelphia metropolitan area. Meetings are held at 7:30 PM, September through June unless otherwise noted.*