



HUNTINGDON VALLEY CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

Open Competition at January 7th HVCC Meeting

The Huntingdon Valley Camera Club's first meeting of 2009 will feature an open competition. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7th, at 7:15 PM in the Community Room of the Huntingdon Valley Library, 625 Red Lion Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA. We especially encourage our new members to enter the competition. Please try to sign in your entries, up to three in each category, by 7:00 PM.

SANDY & FRANK'S CORNER

Picture Perfect! That's how our Holiday Party turned out, with a BIG THANK YOU to member Tom Brady. He set up his backdrop and lights for anyone to use. As I primped and posed members, the smiles came and Frank and Tom shot away. The results will be seen as we post these new images to our website. As a special treat, Tom has printed some 8x10s (small prints and CDs).

A little extra team fun was a photography facts question game put together by Edie and Sherry. There was conversation, food and fun for everyone. Thank you all for attending and supplying us with such tasty goodies.

During the holidays, colorful lights are all around us. Remember to carry your cameras in your travels to capture these beautiful Night Lights for our March 4 competition. A members night out will be planned, possibly in April, to help with these more challenging images. More information to come.

JANUARY 7, 2009 is our next OPEN COMPETITION. This is your opportunity to enter a variety of images. ANYTHING you like. Any subject you like. Any way you like. Go out or stay in, but observe your surroundings. There are great images to be found. You need to be ready and sometimes very patient. We're excited to see what subjects interest you.

Our wish for you is Peace and Happiness as you gather with Family and Friends this Holiday Season and in the New Year.

~Sandy Livezey and Frank Linder, Co-Presidents

CESOP Offers Opportunity for Photoshop Learning

Member Jack Weinstein, the newly elected president of CESOP (Computer Education Society of Philadelphia) extends an invitation to HVCC members to learn more about Photoshop, or if you're new to computers, to learn more about basic computer operation. The next meeting of the Photoshop/Digital Imaging Special Interest Group (which will be led by Jack and another HVCC member, Harvey Ballen, is scheduled for Monday, January 26th, at 7:30 p.m., at JEM Computers, 6622 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149.

Photography Tricks and Tips from David Pogue

David Pogue has been writing a photography column for the New York Times since 2000. It is accessible online at www.nytimes.com. Here are a few tips from his December 18, 2008 column:

For the blurred-background effect, back up and zoom in.

In technical terms, what you're looking at is a limited depth of field. That's a geek-shutterbug term meaning, "which part of the scene, front-to-back, is in focus." Subject yes; background, no.

That beautiful, professional effect is easy to get if you have an S.L.R.; it practically happens automatically. (Dial up a wide aperture—a low f-stop number—to accentuate the effect.)

On a pocket cam, choose Portrait mode. Move your subjects away from the background—the farther, the better. Finally, use the back-up-and-zoom-in trick. That is, stand away from your subjects—the farther, the better—and then use the camera's zoom to "bring you" back up close. Thanks to a quirk of optics, zooming in helps create a shallow depth of field.

You may look like a weirdo, backing way up like that. But it really works.

Force the flash outdoors.

It might not occur to you to use the flash when you're taking pictures of people on a bright, sunny day. It certainly wouldn't occur to the camera.

Problem is, the camera "reads" the scene and concludes that there's tons of sunlight. But it's not smart enough to recognize that the face you're photographing is in shadow. You wind up with a dark, silhouetted face.

The solution is to force the flash on—a very common photographer's trick. The flash can provide just the right amount of fill light to brighten your subject's face—without affecting the exposure of the background.

It eliminates the silhouette effect. Better yet, it provides very flattering front light. It softens smile lines and wrinkles, and it puts a nice twinkle in the subject's eyes. (It also means that you can ignore the old "rule" about taking photos on a sunny day—the one that tells the photographer to "Stand with the sun behind you.")

Exploit the magic hour.

Hate to break it to you, but serious photographers don't get a lot of sleep. Show me an award-winning, breathtaking landscape—a pond shimmering in the woods, golden clouds surrounding a mountain peak—and I'll show you someone who got up at 4:40 am to be ready with a tripod as the sun rose.

That hour after sunrise, and the hour before sunset, is known as the magic hour. The lower angle of the sun and the slightly denser atmosphere create rich, saturated tones, plus what photographers call sweet light. It's an amazing, golden glow that makes everybody look beautiful, every building look enchanted, and every landscape look breathtaking.

It's a far cry from the midday sun, which creates much harsher shadows and much more severe highlights. Landscape shooting is more difficult when the sun is high overhead on a bright, cloudless day.

Around and About HVCC

Welcome to new members **Stanley Singer** and **Suzanne and Stewart Snyder** (Stewart is son of the late Sol Snyder).

HVCC extended our condolences to **Stanley Green** and made a contribution to the Susan Komen Foundation in memory of **Bobbi Green**. Stan's new address is: Dr. Stanley Green, Blue Bell Place, 777 DeKalb Pike, Apartment 217, Blue Bell, PA 19422-1297.

Online Photo Exhibit on Jews of South Philadelphia

Browsing on line, your editor found the website of the National Museum of Jewish History. Among the past exhibits that are available on their site is one titled Still Home: The Jews of South Philadelphia, www.nmajh.org/EXHIBITIONS/stillhome. Take a look at it as an example of interesting portrait photography and also for the fascinating reminiscences.

Time to Mark Your 2009 Calendars!

The new year brings new calendars. Before you hang yours on the wall, take a few minutes to note the 2009 schedule for the Huntingdon Valley Camera Club, as listed below. Your Board is planning several other exciting activities and field trips, which will be announced in the newsletter and by e-mail.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HVCC

MARK YOUR 2009 CALENDARS!

Wednesday, February 1st – Themed Competition – Abstracts and Patterns

Wednesday, March 4th—Open Competition

Wednesday, April 1st –Themed Competition—Night Photography

Wednesday, May 6th—Themed Competition—Nature

Saturday, May 16th—Scavenger Hunt & Picnic

Wednesday, June 3rd – Major Competition

Wednesday, June 17th – Awards Banquet

NOTE:: Meetings will be rescheduled whenever the Huntingdon Valley Library is closed due to inclement weather conditions—their telephone number is (215) 947-5138. If a meeting must be rescheduled, the HVCC board will call members to notify them of the new date.

PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT PHONE NUMBER.

Thoughts for the Month

Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still.
~Dorothea Lange-

It's weird that photographers spend years, or even a whole lifetime, trying to capture moments that added together don't even amount to a couple of hours.
~James Lalropui Keivom

The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time.
~James Taylor

Officers & Contacts 2008-2009

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