

OCTOBER 2026

VOL. 62, NO. 2

62 YEARS

FOTOFAX

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

**“Steely Gaze and
Hands”**

by
Tom Brett



FOTOFax is the newsletter
of the

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
NVPS**

FotoFax is published monthly
September through June.

FotoFax issues, past and
present, can be found at
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shows in which they have
images should write to
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CONTENTS

President's Message	3
From the Editor	4
NVPS Club Calendar	5

NVPS PROGRAMS 6

October 6, 2026 (Zoom)	6
Sharon Tenenbaum—The Power of Colour in Photography	

EDUCATION & TRAINING 8

October 13, 2026 (In Person)	8
Roger Lancaster—Photographing History	
Join the Portfolio Project for Another Year of Great Learning	10

NVPS COMPETITIONS 11

October 20, 2026 (Zoom)	11
Tom Cuchara—Theme: None (Digital)	
September 22, 2026 Competition Results	12
Competition Themes for 2026–2027 and 2027–2028	18

MEMBER'S GALLERY 21

October 27, 2026 (In Person)	21
Print: Siva Vittala—Seeking Calmness: My Three-Year Photographic Journey	
October 27, 2026 (In Person)	23
Slideshow: Wayne Guenther—What Do I See?	

MEMBER'S FORUM 25

October 27, 2026 (In Person)	25
Suzy McIntire—Photographing the American Tracksides 2023–2026	

FIELD TRIPS 27

October 11, 2026—L'Enfant Plaza (In Person)	27
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MID-ATLANTIC PHOTO VISIONS 29

EXTRAS 30

Member Recognition	30
Member Announcements and Outside Competitions	30
Workshop Offerings	31
NVPS Elected Board Members 2026–2027	34

MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT**



Art Rose

“The so-called ‘rules’ of photographic composition are, in my opinion, invalid, irrelevant and immaterial—nothing but obscurations between the spirit and the revelation of the world of nature and of man...It is affirmed here that there are no rules of composition in photography; there are only good photographs!”

Ansel Adams

As photographers we learn many rules, ranging from the technical aspects of exposure and focusing to the rules of composition that will make the photo aesthetically pleasing in some fashion.

We often hear the judge cite these rules in their critique of a photograph during competitions. They may say that the eye is too centered, the subject should be entering the frame more, the horizon is too much in the middle, and so on. Yet, we then often see where photos that don't adhere to standard rules are awarded over those that do. There's no doubt that there is something else about these winning photos that make them more compelling and justify their selection.

It can be argued that learning the standard rules is important when we are first starting out as part of the photography learning curve. However, as our skills progress both with our camera and with the processing software, we can also learn to be more creative. This often requires breaking the rules. As photographer and philosopher Guy Tal said, *“Following rules restricts artists to preconceived templates, having the effect of limiting novelty and promoting conformity: the opposite of creativity.”*

On social media, in photography workshops, or our club programs, we often come across an image that draws us in, that causes us to pause and look more closely—and it's not that we notice how well it conforms to the “rules,” about how the eye is placed in the perfect intersection of the rule of thirds grid, or how there is breathing room on the sides. It is more likely the way the image was processed, how the tones have been accentuated and the lighting makes the subject stand out and leads our eye through the picture. We may even want to emulate or at least learn more about the technique that created these images.

Many of the professional photographers that display these images teach their philosophy, photographic approach, and processing techniques through downloadable classes or tutorials. Some that I'm familiar with, including Blake Rudis, Joel Grimes, and Alex Noriega, teach beyond the basics of photography and treat photography as art. They strive to produce captivating images that draw the viewer to what they want them to see, not just what the camera captured.

A benefit of this club is that we have many talented photographers at all levels that can also teach this to us. By sharing their images in Competitions, Members Galleries, and Portfolio Projects, giving Education & Training sessions, Forums, and Mentoring, they demonstrate not only the rules but how we can go beyond these to process our images more artistically to better engage the viewer.

In our photographic journey of learning, exposure to the work of others sparks our creativity and teaches us more about how we can take compelling images that express our own artistic style.

“Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.”— Pablo Picasso

Art Rose
President
2026–2027

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR



Anita Feidler

“Nothing is less real than realism. Details are confusing. It is only by selection, by elimination, and by emphasis that we get at the real meaning of things.”

Georgia O'Keeffe

Welcome to the October issue of FotoFax!

I just returned from a trip to New Mexico where I visited the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe. The above quote really struck me as I viewed her work. I was familiar with her paintings of calla lilies and cow skulls, but her paintings of skyscrapers, trees, and church steeples were less known to me. Regardless of the subject, her paintings capture the

essence of a flower, building, or vista, omitting extraneous, distracting details. There is no question as to what she was seeing. I hope to carry that discipline with me as I continue my photographic journey!

October's NVPS events kick off with a presentation by Sharon Tenenbaum on using color as a creative tool to influence how your images are perceived. Next, Roger Lancaster will share his photographs of barns, churches, and houses that capture the historical beauty of northern Virginia. Tom Cuchara will judge this month's open competition on October 20. You can appreciate the talent of NVPS members by viewing the results of our first competition of the year, beginning on page 12. October's Member's Galleries offer retrospectives from two of our members' photographic journeys as Siva Vittala and Wayne Guenther share their images. And in this month's Member's Forum, Suzy McIntire will share her techniques for capturing the 'iconic American landscape' during her rail journeys across the U.S. Save the date for our October 11 field trip to photograph the museums, memorials, and gardens in the L'Enfant Plaza neighborhood.

Have you registered for MAPV yet? This year's event provides the opportunity to learn from renowned photographers through presentations and hands-on workshops. Read more on page 28.

It's never too early to start thinking about portfolio projects for this year. Learn more about the projects and timeline on page 10.

NVPS comprises an incredibly talented group of photographers. I encourage you to share your perspective and expertise by contributing a guest article to FotoFax or submitting a cover image. If you're interested, feel free to reach out to me through the [Board Contacts](#) address for FotoFax Editor.

Let's continue to celebrate the world through our lenses, one frame at a time.

Happy shooting!

Anita Feidler
Editor

CLUB CALENDAR

NVPS conducts meetings every Tuesday evening September–May. Program meetings and digital-only Competitions are virtual and Zoom links are sent out the day of the meeting. Information regarding in-person Education & Training, Member's Gallery and Forum, and digital and print Competition meetings will be shared as well. The NVPS meetings and events for the next two months are listed below. Please check the [NVPS Calendar](#) for up-to-date information.

OCTOBER

Tuesday	6	PROGRAM: Sharon Tenenbaum—The Power of Color in Photography (Zoom)
Sunday	11	FIELD TRIP: L'Enfant Plaza (In Person)
Tuesday	13	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Roger A. Lancaster—Photographing History (In Person)
Tuesday	20	COMPETITION: Tom Cuchara—Theme: None (Digital) (Zoom)
Tuesday	27	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Siva Vittala—Seeking Calmness: My Three-Year Photographic Journey (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Slideshow: Wayne Guenther—What Do I See (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Suzy McIntire—Photographing the American Tracksides (In Person)

NOVEMBER

Tuesday	3	PROGRAM: Deborah Loeb Bohren—The Art & Science of Abstraction (Zoom)
Sat–Sun	7–8	MID-ATLANTIC PHOTO VISIONS: Annual Meeting (In Person)
Tuesday	10	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Bring Your Camera Night (In Person)
Tuesday	17	COMPETITION: Frank Van Riper—Theme: None (Digital and Print) (In Person)
Saturday	21	FIELD TRIP: Great Falls Park, VA (In Person)
Tuesday	24	MEMBER'S GALLERY: Print: Philip Winters—Some of My Favorite Photos (In Person) MEMBER'S GALLERY: Slideshow: David Kravitz—A Month in Portugal and Spain (In Person) MEMBER'S FORUM: Gary Perlow—Blur (In Person)

DECEMBER

Tuesday	1	PROGRAM: Jennifer King—The Fine Art of Black & White Photography (Zoom)
Tuesday	8	EDUCATION & TRAINING: Anonymous Critique (In Person)
Tuesday	15	COMPETITION: Russ Young—Theme: Industrial (Digital) (Zoom)
Saturday	TBA	FIELD TRIP: Meadowlark Winter Walk of Lights (In Person)

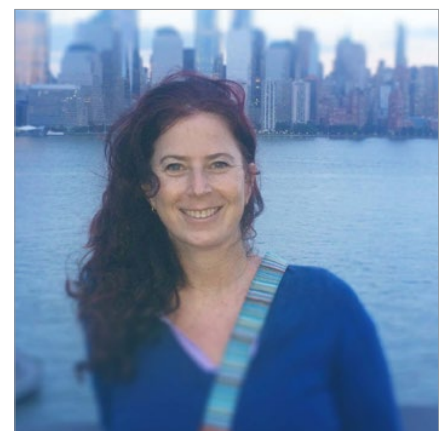
OCTOBER 6 (ZOOM)

Sharon Tenenbaum

The Power of Colour in Photography

Colour is one of the most powerful storytelling tools available to a photographer. In this presentation, we'll explore how colour harmony, saturation, and brightness influence the mood, emotion, and impact of an image. You'll learn why some colour combinations feel pleasing while others create tension, and how subtle adjustments in post-processing can completely transform the way a photograph is perceived.

The goal of this presentation is to help participants become more intentional in their use of colour—both in-camera and during post-processing. By the end of the session, you'll have a deeper understanding of colour theory, practical techniques for enhancing your images, and the confidence to use colour as a creative tool to strengthen your photographic vision.



Sharon Tenenbaum



by Sharon Tenenbaum

Sharon Tenenbaum defines herself as an artist working within the medium of photography. The artistic process is paramount in every creation she completes. She always aspires to 'show reality in a different way,' creating images rather than capturing them. Sharon is constantly challenging herself: whether experimenting with bicycle parts to create composite cityscapes or painting selective overlays onto her images. She is committed to the artistic process of growth and change in the continuous pursuit of novelty.

Sharon was educated as a Civil Engineer. Her love for structures is reflected in a vast body of work that celebrates more than mere architecture, but rather, the *art* of architecture.

(Programs continued)

As an artist, Sharon has won numerous international photography awards and has been published in esteemed magazines such as National Geographic. As an educator, Sharon has taught group workshops from New York to Melbourne, as well as online workshops and courses. She has a variety of video tutorials and e-books and is the founder of Talk-&-Learn, a free one-hour weekly Zoom session for image critique and creation.

Visit Sharon's [website](#) to see more of her work and learn about her workshop offerings.

Sharon will explore how colour harmony, saturation, and brightness influence the mood, emotion, and impact of an image.



Images by Sharon Tenenbaum

OCTOBER 13 (IN PERSON)

Roger Lancaster

Photographing History

Roger Lancaster has been a member of NVPS since 2008. He has served in a number of positions with the club, and also served as President of Nature Visions, now known as Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions, for two terms.

Based in Waterford, Virginia, Roger is known for his nature-focused portfolio that captures the beauty of northern Virginia and beyond.

A native of Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada, Lancaster's interest in photography began at the early age of six. He was introduced to the craft by his grandfather, a photojournalist who allowed him to experiment with an old folding camera. This early exposure to the mechanics and art of photography laid the foundation for his lifelong pursuit of visual storytelling.



Roger Lancaster

Lancaster has lived in northern Virginia for several decades and has been a resident of Loudoun County since 2014. His work is deeply connected to his environment, often featuring:

- ▶ **Nature and Wildlife:** A significant portion of his portfolio is dedicated to birds, flowers, trees, and regional landscapes.
- ▶ **Rural Heritage:** He is recognized for his series on barns, capturing the historic and rustic character of the local countryside.
- ▶ **Digital Artistry:** Beyond traditional photography, he identifies as an “image artist,” utilizing digital techniques to interpret and enhance his subjects.

His work has been showcased in various exhibits and galleries throughout the region, including displays at government offices, community centers, and other venues in the DMV. Lancaster has received notable accolades for his contributions, including being named the winner of the “Best of Loudoun” photo award for two consecutive years at the Waterford Fair and for numerous categories with NVPS. His images can be viewed on his [website](#). Many of his images can be found in private collections in the US and Canada.

In his presentation to NVPS, Roger will explore how he has illustrated history through images of old barns, spring houses, churches, and other historical structures, primarily located in Virginia's hunt country. He will also discuss the digital techniques he uses in preparing the images for display.

(Education & Training continued)



Photos by Roger Lancaster

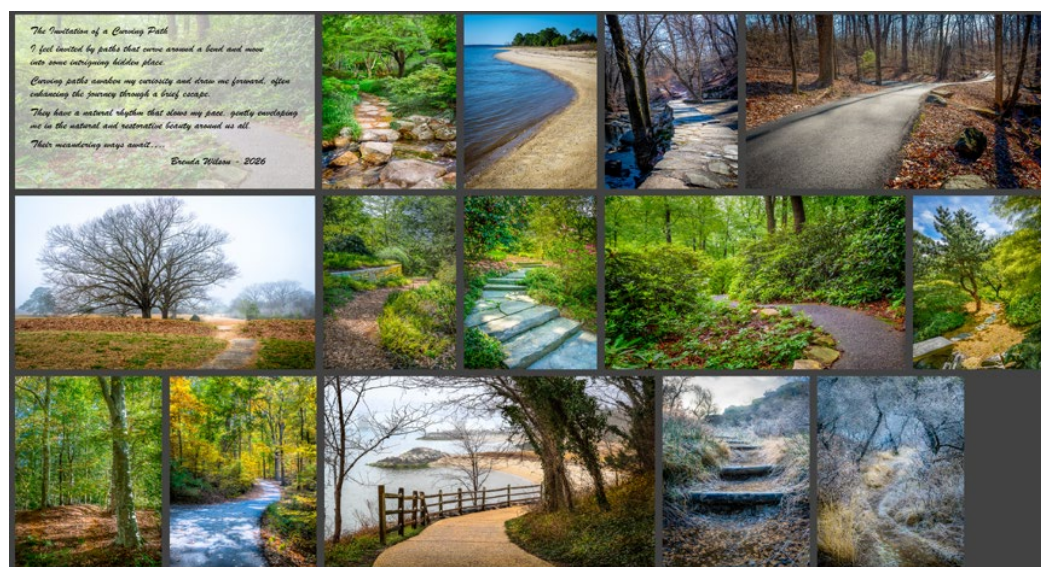
Join The Portfolio Project for Another Great Year of Learning

The successful and long-running Portfolio Project is looking for participants for this year. If you are interested in developing a cohesive body of work, this is the activity for you. Developing a portfolio helps every photographer—whether new or experienced—to see their work in a new light and imagine new avenues and possibilities. You may also have an objective for a book, calendar, website, or exhibit. To see past portfolios, go to the [Portfolio Project Gallery](#) on the NVPS website. There is also a considerable amount of information about the project on [Portfolio Project Page](#).

You will work on creating a group of approximately 12 images based on a concept of your choosing. You will express your idea in an Artist Statement and gather images to support your idea. There will be a preliminary review to offer suggestions and a final review where your final choices will be shown to the club. We also invite an outside reviewer for the final reviews. Depending on the number of people who sign up, we will have one or two preliminary and final reviews. The preliminary reviews will be in February and March and the final reviews will be in April and May. These are non-competitive. All are welcome! Please let us know by the beginning of November if you are joining us.

As a bonus, Portfolio participants have an opportunity to show their completed project at Beanetics Coffee Roasters in Annandale.

To sign up please contact the co-chairs of the project found under Portfolio Project on the [Board Contacts](#) page.



2025–2026 Portfolio Project by Brenda Wilson titled “The Invitation of a Curving Path”

OCTOBER 20 (ZOOM–DIGITAL)

Tom Cuchara

Theme: None

Tom Cuchara is an OM SYSTEM Ambassador, a Photographic Craftsman (PPA), and Honorary Member New England Camera Club Council (HonNEC) who brings heart, curiosity, and a keen eye to every frame he captures. Specializing in nature photography, especially birds, macro, and night scenes, Tom sees the world as a tapestry of intricate details, hidden stories, and fleeting moments worth preserving.

His journey through photography has taken him across varied landscapes and into deep connections with the photographic community. A natural leader and lifelong learner, Tom has served as President of the New Haven Camera Club, the Connecticut Association of Photographers, and currently serves as Vice President of the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC). He has also co–chaired numerous NECCC conferences, helping build a vibrant community of photographers who grow through shared experience and creativity.

Based in Connecticut, Tom shares both his life and passion for photography with his wife Lisa—his partner in art and adventure. Together they run [LisaTom.Photos](https://www.lisatom.photos), offering photo tours, studio workshops, and one–on–one mentoring. Their teaching spans the artistic spectrum—from light painting and macro work to still life and flower photography—blending technical know–how with heartfelt expression.

Tom and Lisa are also published authors, with two acclaimed books through Amherst Media: *Create Fine Art Photographs from Historic Places and Rusty Things* and *The Frog Whisperer: Portraits and Stories*. Their work has been featured in gallery exhibitions, on calendars and magazine covers, and in respected publications like *Adirondack Life*, *Wild Bird*, and *Birding* magazine.

Known for his calm presence, clear instruction, and passion for helping others grow, Tom is a trusted mentor and passionate photographer.



Tom Cuchara

COMPETITION RESULTS

September 22, 2026

THEME: **None**

Many thanks to our September judge, Lisa Cuchara, for her thoughtful feedback in judging our first competition of the NVPS year. Congratulations to the award winners. You can view all of the winning images on the NVPS website at [2026–2027 Competition Winning Images](#).

NOVICE COLOR DIGITAL



1ST PLACE

Dan Campbell, “Golden Hour Prowl”

2ND PLACE

Mark Seklecki, “Crystal Cove Cottage”



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

None



1ST PLACE
Dan Campbell, "Four Trunks"

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

None



1ST PLACE
Dorcas Brannock, "Raven"

2ND PLACE
Jagmeet Gill, "River and Ash"



3RD PLACE
Susan Blalock, "Skipper on Zinnia"

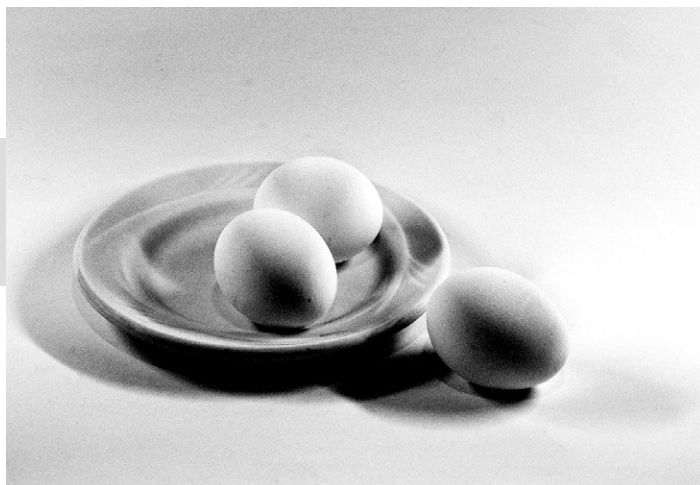
HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Cindy Hopkins, "Left Behind"



1ST PLACE
Nancy Galib, "At the Basin"

2ND PLACE
John Nash, "Egg Whites"



3RD PLACE
Elizabeth Mulcahy, "Signs"

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

None



1ST PLACE

Don Little, "Red-crowned Crane Dance"

2ND PLACE

Eva Lanyi, "Reunited"



3RD PLACE

Lidia Slominski, "Green"



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Bill Corbett, "Summer Hummer 2026"
Alan Goldstein, "Goodbye Cruel World"
Judy Graham, "Waterfall Slow Dance"
Janice Keenan Kane, "The Farrier"
Michael McConnell Mannix, "Mont Saint Michel"
Gary Rubin, "Framed Bridge"



1ST PLACE

Kieu-Hanh Vu, "MCA Art Museum and Grand Theatre"

2ND PLACE

**Don Little,
"Hokkaido Winterscape"**



3RD PLACE

Eva Lanyi, "Going to Sea"

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Ilenia Alvarez, "Water Dance"
Anita Feidler, "The Past Reflected"
David Kravitz, "Four Reflections"
Rena Schild, "Loon Ahead"
Brenda Wilson, "Aperture"
Philip Winters, "8th Ave NYC"

COMPETITION THEMES

Each year NVPS holds three themed competitions to focus and challenge members. The themes for the 2026–2027 and 2027–2028 calendar years (three themes per year) are described below. Keep these themes in mind as you photograph in the coming months. More information about competition themes may be found on the [NVPS website](#).

2026–2027

Industrial (December 15, 2026):

This depicts the essential machinery and equipment employed in a production process as opposed to the process of building something. Potentially, this could include the workers involved in that production process. It may highlight the complex technology on a production line, the maze of pipes in a power plant, or the unique apparatus used in food production. Industrial photography can be found in various settings, including plants, breweries and distilleries, welding shops, or even local coffee roasters, donut, and candy shops making your favorite treats.



Example for “Industrial”

Similar (February 16, 2027):

This theme challenges you to see new patterns in your environment. It involves identifying subjects that are distinct, yet appear in a manner that creates a complementary visual effect. This could encompass individuals wearing patterned clothes against a backdrop of similar patterns, objects of varying sizes reclining in the same posture, or the iconic image of people and pets that share a striking resemblance. The key is that the subjects are different and not simply a mirror image.



Example for “Similar”

(Competition Themes, continued)

Seascapes (April 20, 2027):

Seascapes capture the essence of the coast where the land meets the water. It can be a serene beach scene with umbrellas and chairs on a summer day, crashing waves with individual water drops emanating from the spray, long exposures with ethereal smooth water, or even a dramatic sunrise/sunset over the ocean.



Example for “Seascapes”

2027–2028

Glass:

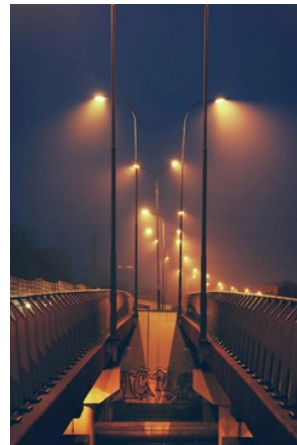
In this theme, glass should be the central element of the visual composition. It can be portrayed in diverse forms, including a collection of crystal goblets, windowpanes, or glass objects arranged in distinctive or repetitive patterns. Additionally, the unique properties of glass, such as refraction and reflection, can be employed to generate an unexpected and captivating visual effect.



Examples for “Glass”

Night Street Lights:

Night street light photography thrives on contrast, shadows, and unpredictability. Artificial light reshapes familiar streets, while patience and awareness help capture fleeting moments that only exist after dark. Use street lamps as your main light source and compositional element for nighttime street and urban photography.



Examples for “Night Street Lights”

Amusement:

Capture images that simultaneously evoke a pause and a smile—photos that are both amusing and thought-provoking. Images may include people, animals, or just objects. The objective is to blend lightheartedness with a hint of curiosity or deeper significance. Look for scenes that feel slightly off, ironic, or delightfully peculiar.



Examples for “Amusement”

OCTOBER 27—PRINT (IN PERSON)

Siva Vittala

Seeking Calmness: My Three-Year Photographic Journey

Siva Vittala began his photographic journey during the pandemic, transforming early observations of his surroundings into a passion. His growth accelerated after joining NVPS two years ago, where community mentorship and critique helped refine his eye, and build a post-processing workflow.

Siva looks for simple subjects and clean compositions, often focusing on details like texture and light. He is currently expanding to macro photography to capture the beauty in natural subjects.

Residing in northern Virginia, Siva integrates photography into both local and international travel. His featured gallery, Seeking Calmness, showcases his work from 2023 to 2026 as he continues to improve his technical discipline and artistic expression.

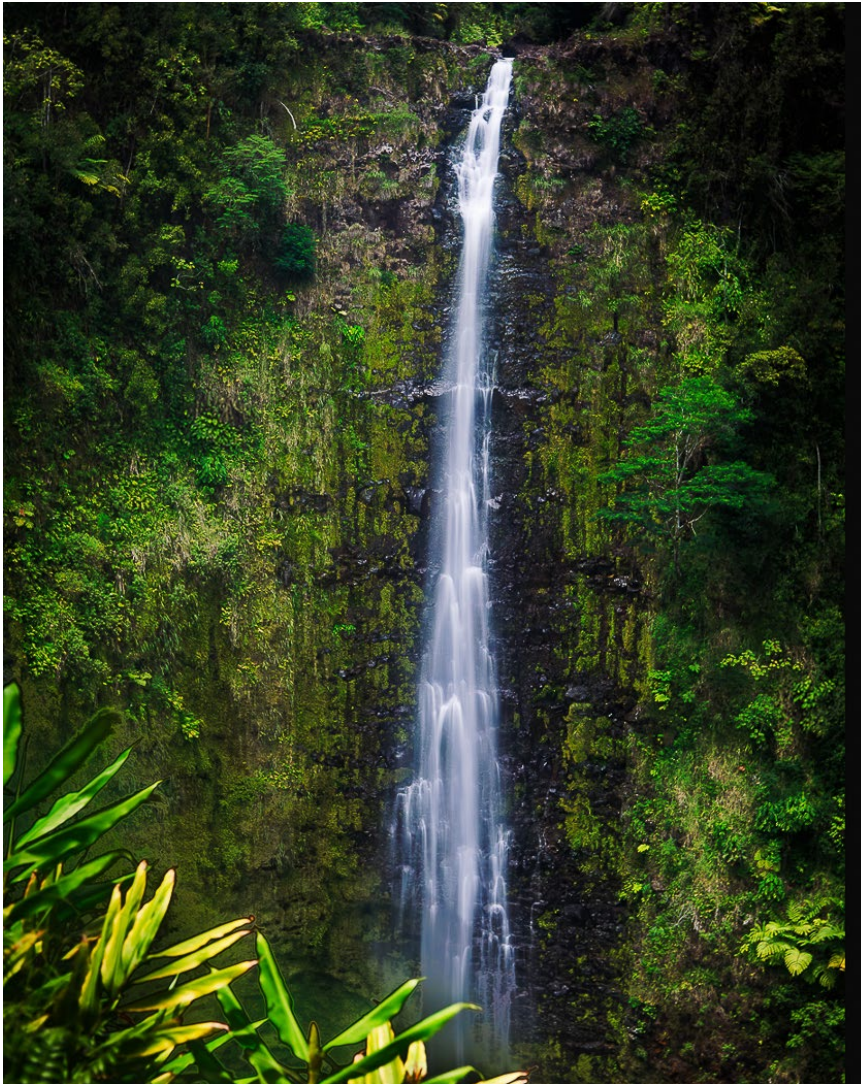


Siva Vittala



by Siva Vittala

(Member's Gallery continued)



Siva looks for simple subjects and clean compositions, often focusing on details like texture and light.



Photos by Siva Vittala

OCTOBER 27—SLIDESHOW (IN PERSON)

Wayne Guenther

What Do I See?

Since joining NVPS in 2015, Wayne's multiple presentations of his work have included images in nearly every genre, but he remains a fine art photographer at heart. His images often highlight his interest in patterns, lines, and geometric content like curves, circles, and triangles. But there's more to Wayne's subject interests, which he'll show in this presentation. It is a collection of work he particularly likes from the past five years, mixed together on purpose, and including a few images he may have shown in digital competitions or on his Facebook feed.

Wayne began his photography avocation in the late 1960s and became increasingly involved with fine art photography in the mid-1990s. Membership in two local art galleries and The Art League of Alexandria presented many opportunities to create new work for his pleasure and competitions. Joining NVPS in 2015 added both camaraderie and more opportunities for presenting new work. He has been fortunate to travel widely with his wife, Judy, which is a trigger to follow his basic photography rule: "Be There; Shoot."



Wayne Guenther



Photos by Wayne Guenther

(Member's Gallery continued)

Wayne has been accepted in many regional juried art competitions and shows over the past 30 years, including MAPV 2021–2024, and placed in many NVPS monthly competitions. He uses two OM System bodies and two Olympus lenses (24–40mm f2.8 and 40–150mm f4) and, increasingly, the iPhone camera.



Photos by Wayne Guenther

In his slideshow, Wayne will share some of his favorite photos from the past five years, inspired by his basic photography rule: “Be There; Shoot.”

OCTOBER 27 (IN PERSON)

Suzy McIntire

Photographing the American Trackside

Suzy McIntire joined NVPS in 2019 and is club secretary for 2026–27. She shoots primarily with a Fuji X-T5 and loves her 17–40mm f/1.8 Sigma lens. Suzy enjoys street photography — capturing little-noticed moments in everyday life and the humor that sometimes comes with it. She's also partial to human-created vernacular landscapes. For several years she has been photographing from moving vehicles, usually trains, as a way of finding otherwise-inaccessible scenery and higher vantage points, always to discover what people are doing in their particular worlds.

"You can still see the iconic American landscape from the train," Suzy says, "fantastic agricultural scenes in particular. But much of



Suzy McIntire



by Suzy McIntire

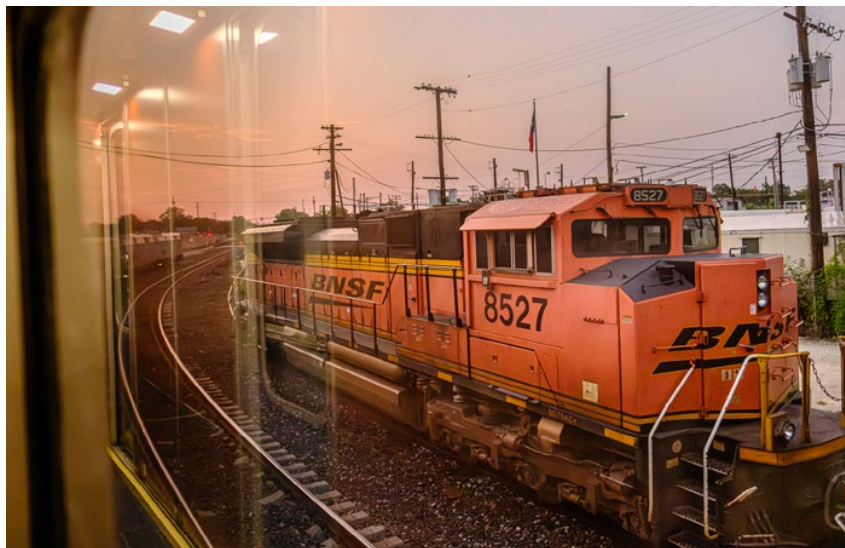
the trackside is marvelously decayed, slow to change, and regional." She finds it a more interesting, less-homogenized America.

In her presentation, Suzy will show landscape photos of the U.S. taken from 18 different Amtrak trains (such as the Empire Builder, Sunset Limited, Coast Starlight, Crescent, Floridian, and Southwest Chief) through 35 states, and answer questions about shooting from moving vehicles. She'll display a silicone lens hood for keeping reflections off the window glass and describe how to deal with dirty windows and motion blur. And, of course, there will be a few photos of trains, and everyone can ask about long-distance train travel!

(Member's Forum continued)



Learn and enjoy
as Suzy shares her
images captured
from her rail journeys
across America.



Photos by Suzy McIntire

OCTOBER 11 (IN PERSON)

L'Enfant Plaza

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

This is a neighborhood photo field trip and the locations mentioned below are generally within a five-block radius.

When:

- ▶ Sunday, October 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- ▶ We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bartholdi Fountain at the U.S. Botanic Garden (245 1st Street S.W., Washington, D.C.).
- ▶ Post field trip snacks at 10:00 a.m. at Starbucks, 409 3rd Street S.W., Washington, D.C. (3rd & D Streets, S.W., near the Federal Center SW Metro station)

Where:

- ▶ Bartholdi Fountain at the U.S. Botanic Garden
245 1st Street S.W. (1st Street S.W. and Independence Ave.)
Washington, D.C.
- ▶ Street parking is free on Sundays in D.C. There are also parking garages at 800 D Street S.W., as well as some garages near the International Spy Museum



Photo by Bill Huddleston

Locations (from east to west):

- ▶ U.S. Botanic Garden
Independence & Maryland Ave. S.W.
- ▶ Bartholdi Fountain (Built in 1876, he later created the Statue of Liberty)
1st Street S.W. and Independence Ave.
- ▶ American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial
150 Washington Ave S.W., Washington, DC 20024
- ▶ National Museum of the American Indian
Independence Ave. and 3rd Street, S.W.
The building is reminiscent of the Southwest Native American architectural styles. The exterior gardens include an extensive collection of Native American plants.

- ▶ Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial
540 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20004
Note: The panels behind are hard to distinguish in daytime—they represent the cliffs at Normandy Beach and are more visible at night.
- ▶ The Smithsonian Castle, and the Arts and Industries Building
1000 Jefferson Drive S.W. (at Independence and 9th Street)
The Enid A. Haupt Garden is located at the Smithsonian Castle.
- ▶ International Spy Museum
700 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
For outside photos of building—admission requires advance tickets @ \$35 plus)

Suggested Gear and Notes:

- ▶ Bring a camera and lens that matches your interests—lenses from wide angle to telephoto.
- ▶ Bring a macro lens if you love getting close to nature, with the most likely opportunities at the Enid A. Haupt Garden at the Smithsonian Castle and the Outdoor Gardens at the National Botanic Garden. There are also a number of native plants at gardens outside the National Museum of the American Indian.
- ▶ Tripods are allowed in outdoor locations, and you may find them useful for architectural photos. But the Smithsonian “...prohibits the use of tripods, monopods, selfie sticks or similar devices in our museums and gardens.”



Photo by Bill Huddleston

- ▶ If you enjoy capturing images you find during hikes and walks, bring a single camera with normal length, 35-100mm zoom, or a 50mm primary lens.

Seton Droppers and Bill Huddleston
Field Trip Coordinators 2026—2027

Images from the Field Trips may be viewed at [NVPS Field Trips Gallery](#)

MAPV will be held November 7–8, 2026, at GMU Mason Square

The MAPV event for this year is fast approaching. [Mid–Atlantic Photo Visions](#) (MAPV) is a premier photography event for our region. Once again, MAPV will be held at George Mason University, [Mason Square](#), Arlington, VA. In all, MAPV 2026 features 11 educational presentations, 14 hands–on workshops, seven different photo shoots, and one–on–one sessions with MAPV speakers and instructors. Renowned wildlife photographer Annalise Kaylor is the keynote speaker.

We are very pleased to announce that 35 of our members have been juried into the show with a whopping total of 109 images. That is a spectacular showing for our club. There were over 1200 images submitted by the eight member clubs and about 25% of those make it into the exhibit.

As of now everyone who was juried into the show has been notified, and can start getting to work printing and matting their images. Remember, everyone who was juried in needs to sign up for a volunteer slot during the weekend. This is an all–volunteer organization, and your help is paramount in making it a success. Even if you do not have images juried in you can still volunteer to help. Contact the NVPS MAPV Club Rep at the [Board Contacts](#) page for a link to the sign–up sheet.

Now is the time to secure your tickets and sign up for the extras. Tickets for the Hands–on–Workshops are going fast, so don't wait. Several workshops are already completely sold out, and several others are down to just a few seats left in a session.

This year's activities include:

- ▶ Hands–on photography workshops on macro, lighting, flowers, portraiture, light painting, and abstracts
- ▶ Photo walks with top professionals to shoot nature in Huntley Meadows Park, architecture and night photography in Washington, DC, and captive raptors in Arlington
- ▶ Presentations on lighting, smartphones, architecture, landscapes, nature, travel, macro, and black & white photography
- ▶ A free curated exhibit of outstanding photography by members of MAPV's eight organizing photo clubs
- ▶ A free presentation on how to photograph the moon, snow, waterfalls, and fireworks
- ▶ Two free workshops on printing your camera and camera–phone images
- ▶ A vendor hall where District Camera and experts from top photography brands will share their expertise and sell their latest equipment and supplies.

You can find more details about MAPV on the [website](#), including [Ticket Information](#), [Competition Information](#), and [Schedules](#).

This promises to be an excellent opportunity to further your photographic education, display your work, gather with fellow photographers, and generally have a great weekend.

Member Recognition

NVPS members have been busy creating photographic images, submitting them to shows, and winning awards. Congratulations!

Ilenia Alvarez's photograph, **"Acrobatic Precision,"** was awarded **Best Hummingbird in Flight** in the [2026 Sedona Hummingbird Festival Photo Contest](#). Congratulations, Ilenia!



Ilenia Alvarez, "Acrobatic Precision"

Member Announcements

Willa Friedman's show titled **"Pareidolia"** is on display at the [Beanetics Coffee Roasters](#) (7028 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA) through October 13. Willa's show will be followed by **Rena Schild's** show titled **"Coastal Birds of Long Island."** Rena's show will be on display from October 13 through November 17. A reception will be held on Saturday, October 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Outside Competitions

Architecture—The New York Center for Photographic Art (NYC4PA) invites photographers to submit their very best architecture images through November 22. Click [here](#) for full details and to enter.

Monochrome—No matter if your original image was shot with Tri-X film, a digital SLR, or your phone, if the end product is a terrific monochrome image, it fits the call. The NYC4PA's call for entries is open until October 18. View all details [here](#).

Share the Experience 2026, the official photo contest of America's national parks and public lands, is now open for entries through December 31. Categories include Wildlife, Scenery & Seasons, History & Culture, and People & Recreation. Learn more and enter [here](#).

Check these sites regularly or sign up for emails to learn about other upcoming competitions:

- ▶ **ArtCall**—A newer arts management organization for entering competitions is [ArtCall](#).
- ▶ **CaFÉ**—This [website](#) has an ongoing call for entries at Call for Entry. You can sort your search for open opportunities many different ways.
- ▶ **EntryThingy**—This is another management portal for entering competitions. The website is [EntryThingy](#).
- ▶ **Smarter Entry**—The website [Smarter Entry](#) is a valuable source of information for upcoming juried competitions with physical and virtual galleries all over the country. You can subscribe to their monthly newsletter which lists current openings.

Workshop Offerings

NVPS offers speakers and competition judges the opportunity to have notices about upcoming tours and workshops in FotoFax for two years after the date of their NVPS program.

Alain Lázaro Gutiérrez Almeida

Alain Lázaro Gutiérrez Almeida is a professional photographer who was born and raised in Havana, Cuba. Alain has created his own company “Thru Alain’s Eyes” that designs, coordinates, and guides individualized tours that meet the legal requirements for Americans visiting Cuba. Visit [Alain Gutiérrez Photography](#) for more information and to view his galleries.

Deborah Loeb Bohren

Deb Bohren, an award-winning travel and abstract photographer, leads creative photography adventures in London, Paris, Lisbon, and Berlin. From complete beginners to seasoned experts, these small group workshops help you hone your technical skills and expand your creative vision in order to capture the essence of place in new and unique ways. Deb also offers a range of classes and one-on-one mentoring programs online for photographers of all levels. To find out more about her destination workshops, online classes, and mentoring, visit [The Traveling Lens](#). And to see her award-winning work, visit [Deborah Loeb Bohren Photography](#).

Lisa and Tom Cuchara

Lisa and Tom Cuchara are passionate educators who transform fleeting moments into lasting art. Alongside her husband Tom, Lisa leads inspiring photo tours, hands-on workshops, and personalized 1:1 mentoring sessions in person and on Zoom that blend creativity with technique. From light painting and macro to post-processing magic, they help photographers see the unseen and capture what moments feel like. Their award-winning work and books celebrate texture, beauty, and storytelling. Whether in the field or online, their mission is clear: spark joy, share knowledge, and pass on the contagious power of creativity. Learn more at [www.LisaTom.Photos](#).

Daniel Gregory

Daniel Gregory is a photographer, educator, and speaker dedicated to helping photographers create more meaningful work. As a core faculty member at Photographic Center Northwest and a frequent instructor at workshops and conferences nationwide, he teaches photographers how to develop creative vision through intentional image-making and personal projects. He is also the host of *The Perceptive Photographer* podcast, now in its eleventh year, where he reflects on creativity, craft, and the life of being a photographer. Learn more about Daniel's workshops, courses, and podcast at [www.danieljgregory.com](#).

Anja Hitzenger

Join Anja's photography platform "StrudelmediaLive," a space for learning, creating, and connecting through photography. Most classes are online, some are in-person, and all are live, interactive, and for small groups only, with students and teachers participating from around the world. Anja also hosts live online talks on photography-related topics and photobook presentations (recordings of all talks can be viewed on the StrudelmediaLive YouTube channel). For information about classes and additional programs, please visit [StrudelmediaLive](#).

Annalise Kaylor

Annalise Kaylor is a professional wildlife photographer and conservation photojournalist whose narrative-driven images have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Audubon*, *The Washington Post*, and on platforms like PBS and the Discovery Channel. Her small-group workshops—limited to just 6–8 participants—take photographers into the field in places like Alaska, Brazil's Pantanal, and around the globe to focus on fieldcraft skills and powerful visual storytelling. Annalise also teaches live online workshops and offers self-paced courses, making it easy to grow your skills no matter where you are. Explore upcoming workshops and online classes at [Annalise Kaylor Photography](#).

Angie McMonigal

Angie's mission is to help creative-minded photographers explore the world of architectural photography. Through blog posts, eBooks, newsletters, photowalks, and workshops, she aims to provide hands-on, practical, and creative training. You'll be able to improve your entire creative process from shooting to post-processing. Visit [Angie McMonigal Photography](#) for more information.

Colleen Miniuk

Take your photography skills, passion for the outdoors, and love for adventure to the next level! Combining Colleen's enthusiasm for learning and helping others—and life itself—her educational and inspirational photography workshops give photographers of all levels a supportive environment to explore their craft and their own creative talents in awe-inspiring surroundings. Colleen will help you develop your internal artist by fine-tuning your skills, techniques, and approaches, both technically and creatively, to enable you to become a more competent, confident, and expressive photographer. For more information and to register, visit [Colleen Miniuk Photography & Writing](#).

Mary Louise Ravese

Mary Louise offers online and in-person workshops. Information on her workshops can be found at [Bella Vista Photography](#). Use Promo Code NVPS for a discount on workshops. Discounts vary by workshop and discounts are in addition to early-bird pricing.

Sharon Tenenbaum

As an artist, Sharon has won numerous international photography awards and has been published in esteemed magazines such as *National Geographic*. As an educator, Sharon has taught group workshops from New York to Melbourne, as well as online workshops and courses. She has a variety of video tutorials and ebooks and is the founder of Talk-&-Learn, a free one-hour weekly Zoom session for image critique and creation. Learn more at her [website](#).

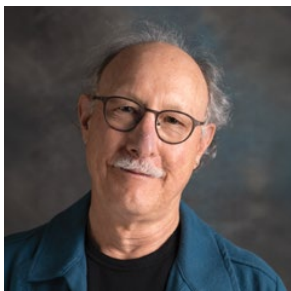
Frank Van Riper

Frank has been on the faculty of [Glen Echo Photoworks](#) for more than 20 years. As an instructor there, he teaches everything from studio lighting, to floral 'portraiture,' to street photography, to nighttime shooting among Glen Echo Park's art deco buildings and neon. His website is [Goodman-Van Riper Photography](#).

NVPS Elected Board Members 2026–2027



Art Rose
President



David Kravitz
VP Programs



Frank Napoli
VP Operations



Phil DeShong
Co-VP Competition



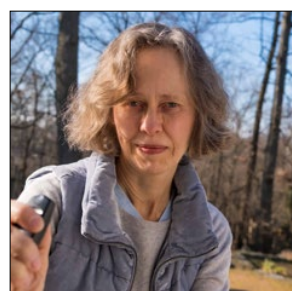
Richard Distlerath
Co-VP Competition



Pat Corey
Treasurer



Bill Kang
Assistant Treasurer



Suzy McIntire
Secretary/Historian

For a synopsis of the most recent Board Meeting minutes, please email the Secretary at [Board Contacts](#).



Photographic Society of America

NVPS is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA), a worldwide organization whose mission is:

- ▶ To promote the art and science of photography as a means of communication, image appreciation, and cultural exchange
- ▶ To provide education, information, inspiration, and opportunity to all persons interested in photography
- ▶ To foster personal growth and expression, creativity, excellence, and ethical conduct in all aspects of photographic endeavor

More information about membership and activities of PSA may be found at the [Photographic Society of America website](#).

NVPS FOTOFAX PSA award-winning newsletter 2024