

Focal EXPRESSIONS



Newsletter of the Nevada Camera Club • A Member Club of the Photographic Society of America • May 2026
 See the Nevada Camera Club Web Site at <http://nevadacc.org/>

Val d'Orcia Farmhouse by Julie Chadburn. Awarded a Purple Ribbon with 27 point in Advanced Color Creative



This was taken during a recent visit to the Tuscany area of Italy. Taken at Sunrise in the hills above the farmhouse. It is a well photographed area and this farmhouse, the Podere Belvedere is especially photographed. I originally submitted an image from the same shoot in another monthly print competition in the Pictorial Category. I did well but didn't earn a first place. I listened to the constructive feedback from the judges and went home and worked on another image using their suggestions. Once I finished those edits, I felt that a painterly filter would really make the image remind me of how I felt when I shot it. I loved how Photoshop's oil paint filter really made the image come to life! I then printed it on my favorite textured photo paper, Hahnemuehle William Turner. That really completed the look. ●

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

NCC Calendar

Events listed in **BOLD FACE SMALL CAPS** are open to the public. Events listed in plain face are open only to NCC members. Unless noted, all General Meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 8901 Del Webb Blvd., Las Vegas. All Executive Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM by Zoom.

- MAY**
- 5 Executive Board Meeting, 7 PM, on Zoom.
 - 8 **PROGRAM MEETING FEATURING KASSIDY WHETSTONE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM**
 - 9-10 **Beginner's Group** - Scavenger Hunt Field Trip.
 - 11 Judges' Corner on Zoom. 8:00 PM
 - 18 Deadline to enter and pay for Monthly Electronic Image Competition, 11:59 PM.
 - 22 **MONTHLY ELECTRONIC IMAGE COMPETITION MEETING ON ZOOM, 7 PM.** Club Challenge: *Opposites.*
 - 26 Deadline for the June issue of *Focal Expressions.*
- JUNE**
- 2 Executive Board Meeting, 7 PM, on Zoom.
 - 12 **PROGRAM MEETING, FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.**
 - 13 **Beginners Group.** 2-4 PM. Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew Lutheran Church
 - 18 Take down - Annual Open Print Competition Exhibition, Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, 9 AM.

- 22 Deadline to submit entry data for the June Monthly Print Competition, 11:59 PM.
- 26 **MONTHLY PRINT COMPETITION, FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.** Club Challenge theme: *Shadows*
- 27 Light painting field trip, 8:30 PM.
- 30 Deadline for July issue of *Focal Expressions.* ●



President's Message

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC

We are already a third of the way through the year and we have been very busy, field trips, competitions, great speakers and even cookies. There is lot more to come. Members attending meetings will go down a bit as we move into summer travel season, but that will lead to a fall of great photographs for us to enjoy. I hope everyone is safe on your travels and wish you all great photography.



We have had great participation at most events this year. However the hanging of the Annual Open Print Competition images at the courthouse was lacking in volunteers, making it difficult for those who did come out. Please, if you are available, consider helping out when we take down those prints the morning of June 18th.

One last thing, the July 4th field trip to Mono lake is fast approaching. If you are thinking about attending, make your plans as soon as possible. If you would like to have more information, a few members have put together an info sheet. Let me know and I will get you a copy. Thanks. ●

May's Club Challenge

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC

For May the challenge will be "**Opposites**" (something that is [opposed](#) to some other often specified thing).

Think Yin and Yang, or Fire and Water, or Sad and Happy, or think of another interesting way to convey **Opposites**. ●

Beginner's Group

by Serena Scalzi



Last month's Beginners Group was a hands-on event focused on mat cutting methods, including normal, circle, and oval cuts. Congratulations to **Donald Florkey** for winning the deluxe mat cutting kit!

This month's Beginners Group will coincide with the Scavenger Hunt Field Trip. Pick up a list of 10-12 items at the May Program Meeting in the Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on Friday, May 8 at 7pm. Drop off your images at the Starbucks at 8975 South Eastern Avenue on Sunday, May 10 from 12pm to 2pm. Images must be in JPG format, as shot in camera. No editing allowed. **Ed Stiglitz** will download your images for judging and return your card immediately. Good luck and have fun! ●

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Merits

by Linda Hicks, DNCC

Congratulations to who **Philip Cenicola** amassed 1000 merit awards to reach Master merit status. ●

Membership

by Julia Mejorada

#516 **Pam Borgos** : Welcome back! She has rejoined at the intermediate level. She is interested in nature and joining our field trips. ●



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Website: bandccamera.com



Monthly Competition

by Paul Bessette, HNCC

The March print competition attracted 76 entries submitted by 28 members 36 unique categories. The judges awarded 9 perfect scores of 27 and a total of 29 first place ribbons.

Those receiving perfect scores were:

Narcy Alprecht	<i>The Aurora</i>
Michael Braunstein	<i>Going for Lunch</i>
Julie Chadburn	<i>Val d'Orcia Farmhouse</i>
Jerome Hamilton	<i>The Beginning</i>
Ken Lawrence	<i>Purple Finch</i>
Jim Ludwick	<i>Daybreak 59th Street Bridge</i>
Steve O'Melia	<i>Goose Feathers</i>
	<i>Blowin' Off Some Steam</i>
Juliana Stratton	<i>Inquisitive Elephant</i>

The Club Challenge of *Life* had 22 entries.

Thank you to the following volunteers that made the competition possible.

Set-up assistance: **Paul Bessette, Jeff Hahn, Linda Hicks, Edward Stiglitz**

Take in Assistance: **Sandy Cornwell, Juliana and Michael Stratton**

Entry Fees: **Linda Hicks, Mary Sheets**

Announcer: **Linda Hicks**

Print Handlers: **Jeff Hahn, Craig Hicks**

Scorekeeper: **Mary Sheets**

Merit Recorder: **Julie Chadburn**

Ribbon Writer: **Sandy Cornwell**

Judges: **Michael Chapman, Ron Fraass, Jerome Hamilton, Janice Phillips, and Edward Stiglitz.** **Craig Hicks** stepped in as an alternate judge.

Members are reminded to double check their print's dimensions prior to submitting them for judging. According to our competition rules, the long edge of a print must be at least 8" with the maximum size allowed being 16" x 20". For a refresher on competitions, see https://nevadacc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Competitions_3.2026.pdf.

Our next monthly competition is an electronic image competition. Make sure you have your entries uploaded and paid for by 11:59 PM on Monday, May 18th. The Club Challenge will be *Opposites*. ●



CLUB CHALLENGE THEMES

<u>May (electronic)</u>	<u>September (electronic)</u>
<u>Opposites</u>	<u>Exactly Seven</u>
<u>June (print)</u>	<u>October (print)</u>
<u>Shadows</u>	<u>Weather</u>
<u>July (electronic)</u>	<u>November (electronic)</u>
<u>Mirrored</u>	<u>Death</u>
<u>August (print)</u>	
<u>Music</u>	

Field Trips

by Edward Lee Stiglitz



Photos from Springs Preserve Field Trip by Doreen Lawrence



Great LV Scavenger Hunt

After the May 8th program meeting, I will pass out an instruction sheet, with 10 to 12 items listed.

The idea is you have about 35 hours to go out, find and photograph these items, not find them in your files, new photos only. You need to find and photograph them in the allotted time. Please shoot in JPG. You may shoot multiples of an item but must delete all except the one photo of each item before you turn them in, on your card. No photoshop, only as shot images straight from your camera. You will turn them in to me at the Starbucks at 8975 south Eastern, on May 10th, between noon and 2pm. I will copy them into a file for presentation to an outside Judge. They will be judged on artistic value, photo quality and completion of the items on the list. And yes there will be a small prize for the winner.

If you cannot attend the May 8th meeting text me Friday night and when I get home, I will send you a copy of the list and instructions.

Questions text me, **Edward Stiglitz** at 702-271-5011. ●



Focal Expressions is published monthly by the Nevada Camera Club for its members. Focal Expressions uses a two-column format. Cost of advertising is \$10 per column inch per issue. Minimum ad size is one-half column inch (\$5). Standard business card size (2" x 3.5") is \$20; a quarter page is \$50; a half page is \$100; and a full page is \$200. Semi-annual and annual rates receive a discount.

Submit ad copy with payment to:

Nevada Camera Club
P.O. Box 19451
Las Vegas, NV 89132.

For further information contact Mary V. Sheets by phone at 702-521-9569 or by e-mail at: sheetsmva@gmail.com. Submission deadline for June is May 26, 2026. Linda Hicks, editor: publisher@nevadacc.org

Results from the April 2026 Monthly Print Competition

Abstract

Intermediate – Monochrome

Blue 24 Julia Mejorada Microcosmic

Advanced – Color

Blue 25 John Johnson Night Swirl
 Red 23 Paul Bessette Seeing Spots
 White 21 Dale Kavula Life on the Beach

Advanced – Monochrome

Red 23 Michael Chapman Three

Animals/Pets

Intermediate – Color

Red 22 Julia Mejorada Road Runner

Advanced – Color

Purple 27 Steve O'Melia Goose Feathers
 Red 27 Ken Lawrence Purple Finch

Commercial

Intermediate – Monochrome

Blue 24 Serena Scalzi Downtown Tattoo

Creative

Advanced – Color

Purple 27 Julie Chadburn Val d'Orcia Farmhouse
 Red 26 Janice Phillips Blood Moon

Master – Color

Blue 26 Linda Hicks Kinderdijk

Documentary

Advanced – Color

Purple 27 Michael Braunstein Going for Lunch
 Red 23 Michael Stratton African Countryside

Advanced – Monochrome

Purple 27 Jim Ludwick Daybreak 59th Street Bridge
 Red 26 Jerome Hamilton The Museum

Master – Color

Blue 25 Craig Hicks Many Bridges
 Red 24 Stephen Cupp Team USA's Most Decorated
 Curlers



Join PSA

For membership information, go to

<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

or contact PSA Liaison,

Jerome Hamilton

702-682-9514

Master – Monochrome

Red 23 Linda Hicks Protecting the Synagogue

Nature/Wildlife

Beginner – Color

Red 23 Eric Courtney Hi There

Intermediate – Color

Blue 26 Stephanie Phillips Staying Close to Mom

Advanced – Color

Blue 26 Michael Stratton Silently Watching
 Red 26 Ken Lawrence Green-breasted Mango
 Hummingbird
 White 24 Allan Duff Glacial Lake
 ---- 24 Gina Geldbach-Hall Roots in Bryce
 ---- 21 Sandy Cornwell Lone Pine

Advanced – Monochrome

Purple 27 Juliana Stratton Inquisitive Elephant

People

Beginner – Color

Red 22 Eric Courtney Waiting Patiently

Intermediate – Monochrome

Blue 24 Serena Scalzi In the Spotlight

Advanced – Color

Red 22 Dale Kavula I'll Let You Know I'm Thinking
 About It
 White 23 Philip Cenicola Men at Work
 ---- 21 Sandy Cornwell My Stalker

Photojournalism

Advanced – Color

Blue 26 Michael Braunstein Horses on the Run

Pictorial

Advanced – Color

Blue 26 Julie Chadburn Las Setas Metropol Parasol
 Red 27 Nancy Alprecht The Aurora
 White 26 Gina Geldbach-Hall Ciudad de las Artes y las
 Ciencias
 València, Spain
 ---- 26 Jon Hayslip Pont De Garde Aqueduct
 ---- 24 Allan Duff Arch View

Advanced – Monochrome

Blue 24 John Johnson Mission Inn
 Red 23 Jerome Hamilton The Harbor Village

Master – Color

Blue 26 Doreen Lawrence Rose Light

Portraiture

Advanced – Color

Blue 26 Janice Phillips Elegant Pose

Master – Color

Blue 26 Clayton Fox Female Hummingbird

Master – Monochrome

Blue 25 Stephen Cupp Look Into My Eyes

Continued on page 5

Results from the April 2026 Monthly Print Competition

Continued from page 4

Still Life

Advanced – Color

Blue	24	Juliana Stratton	Spring Blossoms
Red	24	Paul Bessette	A Few Flowers
White	22	Philip Cenicola	Take Me to Your Leader

Master – Color

Red	23	Craig Hicks	Play Dirt
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Unclassified

Intermediate – Color

Blue	25	Stephanie Phillips	Such a Handsome Guy
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Advanced – Color

Blue	26	Michael Chapman	Bamboo
Red	25	Jon Hayslip	Venice Residential Parking

Advanced – Monochrome

Purple	27	Steve O’Melia	Blowin’ Off Some Steam
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Master – Color

Blue	25	Clayton Fox	Red Rock Sky
Red	23	Doreen Lawrence	Out of the Green

Club Challenge – Life

Beginner

Blue	24	Eric Courtney	The Happy Life
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Intermediate

Blue	24	Julia Mejorada	Magenta Bloom
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Advanced

Purple	27	Jerome Hamilton	The Beginning
Red	26	Michael Stratton	First Minutes of Life
White	26	Ken Lawrence	A Mothers Watch
----	25	Janice Phillips	My Cubs
----	24	Julie Chadburn	Mikey Likes It
----	24	Juliana Stratton	Baby Ellie
----	23	Michael Chapman	Joshua Tree in Bloom
----	23	Allan Duff	New Life Needs Feeding
----	23	Gina Geldbach-Hall	Life of an Alaskan
----	23	Dale Kavula	Life Is About Getting All Your Ducks in a Row
----	22	Narcy Alprecht	It All Starts Here!
----	22	Paul Bessette	The Struggle for Life
----	22	Philip Cenicola	Which Came First
----	22	Sandy Cornwell	Desert Spring Life
----	22	Steve O’Melia	Care Free Life
----	21	Jon Hayslip	Engineering Life

Master

Blue	26	Clayton Fox	Mother and Nest
Red	24	Doreen Lawrence	Desert Turns to Gold
White	24	Linda Hicks	Springing to Life
----	23	Craig Hicks	The Good Life ☺

Programs

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC

Sometimes life gets in the way of things we want to do as it did for **Dave McDuffie** who was scheduled to be our April program speaker. Luckily our own **Harry Ghuman** stepped in to save the day. I did not make it to the program night, but I heard great reviews for Harry’s presentation from a some of the attendees.

In the month of March, we had **Jerry Ghionis** and I wanted to share a few pictures from that presentation as he shared some great posing techniques. Plus, it was such a great turnout with close to 70 people in attendance that night.



This month we will have **Kassidy Whetstone** from the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas. Kassidy will be doing a presentation talking about the museum and research library that she is nestled in. She will also talk about the photo digitization program and the efforts put towards preserving historical materials. I met Kassidy after reading an article about a bulk set of old printed images from the 1930’s – the 1950’s that had been found. The article talked about Kassidy’s work on the preservation process, and I thought this might be of interest to many of the club members. I hope she is able to show some of those images although they have just been found and are still be recorded into the Museum Archives.

Kassidy is the Curator of Library, Manuscripts, and Photographs in the Cahlan Research Library at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas (NSMLV). Born and raised in Las Vegas, Kassidy specializes in western public history and collections management. She received bachelor’s degrees in history and criminal justice from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She also received a master’s degree in United States history with a specialization in public history from UNLV, and another master’s degree in library and information science from Louisiana State University with a graduate certificate in archival studies. In her current role as curator at NSMLV, she serves as department head to oversee archival manuscript and photograph collections while stewarding preservation of materials and public access. She has most recently been recognized for the library’s photo digitization program, which has increased preservation, digitization, and outreach efforts among the museum’s historic photograph collections. Be sure to come and welcome Kassidy Whetstone and the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas at the May Program Meeting. ☺

NEVADA CAMERA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nevada Camera Club shall be to promote the art and science of photography by sharing what is known and continuing to learn with support and respect for one another.

Follow Nevada Camera Club on Facebook & Instagram



Photography as a Social Service: Restoring Memory from Imperfect Images

by Harry Ghuman, HNCC

Every photographer eventually gets the request.

A friend, neighbor, or client reaches out after a loss. There's a service coming up, or a frame waiting to be filled. And the only image they have is far from ideal—a screenshot from Instagram, a compressed WhatsApp photo, or an old, faded print scanned years ago.

Technically, it's a weak file. Emotionally, it's irreplaceable.

That's where photography shifts from craft to service.

Restoration vs. Reconstruction

The first mindset shift is critical: this is not about creating a better photograph. It's about preserving a memory.

In many cases, the goal is not sharpness or detail. It's recognition. The family wants to look at the image and immediately feel, "Yes, that's them."

Over-processing—excessive sharpening, artificial detail, or aggressive noise reduction—can actually break that connection.

A useful rule: *if it looks "new," you've probably gone too far.*

Common Challenges

These images often come with predictable issues:

- Low resolution (often under 1500 pixels on the long side)
- Compression artifacts and blotchy tones
- Color shifts or heavy casts
- Loss of fine detail



For example, I recently worked on a portrait that existed only as a screenshot. The skin tones were uneven, the background was noisy, and one side of the hair appeared as a dense, dark block. Fixing everything globally would have made the image cleaner—but also less true to how the subject was remembered.

Best Practices from Experience

1. Clean before you scale

Start with gentle noise reduction and tonal cleanup. The goal is to remove digital artifacts while preserving organic grain. Grain often contributes to the image's authenticity; compression noise does not.

2. Upscale with restraint

AI tools can help, but they can also invent detail that was never there. Scale gradually (2x steps work well) and avoid pushing faces into hyper-real clarity. Slight softness is often appropriate.

3. Tone is more important than detail

Consistent, warm tonality usually matters more than sharpness. In many restorations, a subtle sepia or warm balance helps unify the image and restore emotional familiarity.

4. Use local adjustments thoughtfully

Small, targeted changes make the biggest difference.

- A gentle dodge can help the face emerge naturally
- Slight shadow lifts can open blocked areas without flattening them

In one case, the family was very specific: the subject's darker hair on one side was an important part of how they remembered her. Instead of lightening it globally, I used a soft, localized adjustment to reveal a bit of internal detail while keeping the overall darkness intact. The result felt both accurate and respectful.

5. Know when to stop

This may be the hardest part. There's always one more adjustment you could make—but often, restraint is what preserves the image's integrity.




The Human Element

What makes this work meaningful is not the technical challenge—it's the responsibility.

Families often care about details you might not expect: the softness of an expression, the tone of the hair, the overall "feel" of the image. Offering two slightly different versions can be helpful, but ultimately, the best result is the one they connect with immediately.

Continued on page 7

A Case Study

Restoring Readability, Not Perfection Improving a historical portrait within the original context			
Original Group Photo from 1952	Cropped Face of Subject	Restored crop	Restoration Approach (ACR)
			<p>Global Adjustments, light: Establish a neutral foundation: Exposure: +0.10, Contrast: +5, Highlights: -10, Shadows: +10 Texture: -5, Clarity: -5</p> <p>Face Mask: Brush over the face, Exposure: +0.15, Highlights: -10, Shadows: +10, Whites: +5 Texture: +5, Clarity: +5</p> <p>Background Mask: Exposure: -0.1, Clarity: -0.1</p> <p>Uniform Mask: Shadows: +5, Texture: +5</p> <p>Spot Cleanup: Healing brush tool to remove most distracting spots, preserving age</p> <p>Restraint is critical. Goal is recognition, not reinvention</p>
Group photo mounted on a yellowing mat. Only photo of the subject	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat midtones and low contrast • Spots, dust and age marks • Limited separation between subject and background • Loss of fine detail in facial features and uniform 	<p>Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved face readability • Cleaner tone while preserving original texture • Better separation between subject and background • Natural look maintained, age and authenticity intact 	
Key Takeaways			
<p>Work Locally Small, targeted adjustments make the biggest difference without making the edit obvious</p>	<p>Preserve Texture Do not remove all grain or age, it is part of the photo's history and authenticity</p>	<p>Respect the Original Do not oversharpen or brighten, Aim for natural readability, not a modern look.</p>	<p>Context Matters Subject should remain part of the historical and tonal context of the image.</p>

Final Output

Presentation matters. Matte or fine art paper tends to suit these images better than glossy surfaces, which can emphasize flaws. Slightly softer contrast often prints more naturally.

Closing Thought

In a world of high-resolution cameras and perfect files, some of the most important photographs we work on are anything but perfect. Our role is not to fix them completely—but to honor what they represent.

Sometimes, preserving the imperfection is what preserves the memory.

PSA Competitions

by Stephen Cupp, HNCC



So we enter NCC Competitions and have fun, right? Why not try a different competition with different rules and a chance for your images to go up against people from all over the world? Now is your chance. With the PSA Festival being in town this fall, they put on a series of competitions where the winners are shown at the festival itself. Like NCC, they have both print and electronic competitions. The rules are quite different though, so I suggest you read them. The categories and deadlines are listed at <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/general/custom.asp?page=psa-annual-images>.

When you enter a category in a PSA competition you can enter up to 4 images in that category for the same price. In print competition you just enter loose prints. No matting allowed. A small print is 8.5 x 12 or smaller and a large print is between 8x10 and 16x20. You need to allow time for them to get to their destination in the mail because those dates are for them to be received not postmarked. In PSA competitions they have awards, but a certain percentage of them are accepted. The accepted images are shown at the Photo Festival. The electronic images are shown on a projector at certain times and the prints hang in the print room. Depending on space not all the accepted images hang. It just depends on how big the room is. So up your game by entering a PSA Competition! The deadline to enter is rapidly approaching. ●

Nevada Camera Club E-Notice

Subscribe to NCC E-Notice to receive timely and important announcements from NCC officers and chairpersons via E-mail. To start your subscription, update your newsletter preferences in your account on the Nevada Camera Club web site.

<http://nevadacc.org>

Cashman Pro Photo Selections

by John Carl Seeley

Thank you to all the Nevada Camera Club members who submitted images for consideration to be printed and displayed outside of our lab. We decided to choose 17 of the photographs sent over based off of the online voting as well as a second round voting of my colleagues. Some people had two images chosen so rather than picking a tie breaker we decided to choose one of each person who made it into the top 15 (ish).

Paul Bessette
Michael Braunstein
Julie Chadburn
Michael Chapman
Allan Duff
Gina Geldbach-Hall
Jerome Hamilton
Terri Hutchings
Doreen Lawrence
Ken Lawrence
Julie Mejorada
Steve O'Melia
David Parker
Janice Phillips
Stephanie Phillips
Juliana Stratton
Michael Stratton ●



Celebrate Mom

**20% off
Coffee Mugs**

use code: **COFFEE20**
offer expires: 05/31/2026



Cashman Pro Photo Lab 6295 S. Pioneer Way, Las Vegas, NV 89113
702.693.6822 | CashmanProPhotoLab.com

The painter constructs, the photographer discloses.
- Susan Sontag

April 2026 Monthly Print Competition Perfect Score Images

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Juliana Stratton
Inquisitive Elephant

27s



Jim Ludwick
Daybreak 59th Street Bridge



Ken Lawrence
Purple Finch



Steve O'Melia
Blowin' Off Some Steam



Steve O'Melia
Goose Feathers

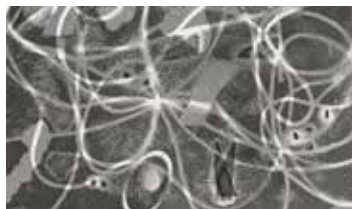
April 2026 Monthly Print Competition 1st Place Images

All photos © 2026 by named artists. All rights reserved.



Julie Chadburn
Las Setas Metropol Parasol

Blue Ribbons



Julia Mejorada
Microcosmic



Serena Scalzi
In the Spotlight



Craig Hicks
Many Bridges



Clayton Fox
Female Hummingbird



Stephanie Phillips
Such a Handsome Guy

April 2026 Monthly Print Competition 1st Place Images

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Linda Hicks
Kinderdijk



Eric Courtney
The Happy Life



Michael Stratton
Silently Watching



Clayton Fox
Mother and Nest



Doreen Lawrence
Rose Light

Blue Bibbons



Janice Phillips
Elegant Pose



Juliana Stratton
Spring Blossoms



Stephanie Phillips
Staying Close to Mom



Julia Mejorada
Magenta Blooms



Serena Scalzi
Downtown Tattoo



Michael Chapman
Bamboo



Clayton Fox
Red Rock Sky

Results of the 2026 Annual Open Print Competition

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Best of Show - Color

A Colonial Chef by Jerome Hamilton



Abstract

Color

1st	BoC	Jon Hayslip	Knight's Helmet
2nd		Anita Rama	Trapped
3rd		Juliana Stratton	Thin Trees

Monochrome

1st		Linda Hicks	Whirlpool
2nd		Julie Chadburn	Lines and Shadows
3rd		Sandy Cornwell	Jumble

Animals/Pets

Color

1st	BoC	Doreen Lawrence	Contemplation
2nd		Ken Lawrence	Tri-colored Heron
3rd		Julia Mejorada	Sealed in Salt
HM		Rolando Adriano	Mother of Dragon...Flies
HM		Stephen Cupp	Playtime

Monochrome

1st		Ken Lawrence	Mom Mom Mom
2nd		Janice Phillips	Like My Grin

Commercial

Color

1st	BoC	Linda Hicks	Lofoten Norway - The World's Most Beautiful Islands
2nd		Stephen Cupp	The Dress
3rd		Julie Chadburn	Manny's Delicatessen

Monochrome

1st		Julie Chadburn	The Hemispheric
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Creative

Color

1st	BoC	Jon Hayslip	Lil' Taxi
2nd		Linda Hicks	Neon Cobra
3rd		Julie Chadburn	Podere Belvedere
HM		Stephen Cupp	Aliens
HM		Julia Mejorada	Drops
HM		Paul Bessette	Two Glasses

Monochrome

1st		Craig Hicks	In the Woods
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BoC - Best of Category
BoS - Best of Show
HM - Honorable Mention

Best of Show - Monochrome

Spirits of the Game by Craig Hicks



Documentary

Color

1st		Allan Duff	#93 is Smoking
2nd		Sandy Cornwell	Wukoki Pueblo
3rd		Michael Stratton	Palouse Barn
HM		Julie Chadburn	Chicago Skyline - Blue Hour
HM		Jon Hayslip	Hotel Dieu Hospital Ceiling

Monochrome

1st	BoC	Jerome Hamilton	Village of Stari Grad
2nd		Ken Lawrence	Primal Bond

Nature

Color

1st		Allan Duff	White Pocket Weather
2nd - T		Allan Duff	1000 Island Lake
2nd - T		Serena Scalzi	Cary, North Carolina
HM		Linda Hicks	Light Up the Sky
HM		Dave Parker	Northern New Mexico Landscape
HM		Rolando Adriano	Storm Brewing at Sunrise

Monochrome

1st	BoC	Doreen Lawrence	Twisted Tale
2nd		Rolando Adriano	Zabriskie Point, Death Valley

People

Color

1st	BoC, BoS	Jerome Hamilton	A Colonial Chef
2nd		Doreen Lawrence	Crowned Traditions
HM		Stephen Cupp	On the Dry Lake
HM		Rolando Adriano	Tiny Dancer
HM		Julia Mejorada	Sophia

Photojournalism

Color

1st	BoC	Allan Duff	Taking a Rest
2nd		Craig Hicks	Run for a Touchdown
3rd		Stephen Cupp	Nice Save
HM		Linda Hicks	Got It!

Pictorial

Color

1st		Doreen Lawrence	Pier'ing into the Sunset
2nd		Julie Chadburn	Las Setas and Seville Skyline
3rd		Juliana Stratton	A Place of Tranquility
HM		Michael Chapman	Bow River - Canada
HM		Michael Chapman	Calico Basin Rock Sculpture
HM		Jon Hayslip	Duoro River at Sunset
HM		Paul Bessette	Eagle Harbor Light
HM		Julia Mejorada	Echoes

Continued on page 12

HM	Michael Chapman	Godafoss Waterfall - Iceland
HM	Michael Stratton	Tulips

Monochrome

1st	BoC	Jon Hayslip	Cryptopotiques d'Arles
2nd		Doreen Lawrence	Superstition's Warning
3rd		Linda Hicks	Desert Beauty
HM		Craig Hicks	Utah Wilderness

Portraiture

Color

1st	BoC	Jerome Hamilton	Santa Frank
HM		Stephen Cupp	Lauren in White

Monochrome

1st		Jerome Hamilton	A Knight and a Queen
2nd		Stephen Cupp	Look Into My Eyes

Still Life

Color

1st	BoC	Michael Stratton	Fresh Fruit
HM		Juliana Stratton	Thinking Pink
HM		Sandy Cornwell	Yellow Barrel Cactus Flowers

Monochrome

1st		Paul Bessette	Sea Shells
HM		Linda Hicks	Antique Piano Pedals

Travel

Color

1st	BoC	Jim Ludwick	Paris Bookstore
2nd		Jon Hayslip	Venice Neighborhood Parking
3rd-T		Allan Duff	Geirenger Norway
3rd-T		Sandy Cornwell	Tetons in the Fall

Monochrome

2nd		Linda Hicks	Cathedral in Bordeaux
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Unclassified

Color

1st		Ken Lawrence	Ibex Dunes Milky Way
2nd - T		Michael Chapman	Eye of Marine Iguana
2nd - T		Stephen Cupp	Local Playing in the Valley's First Pro Volleyball Team
3rd		Janice Phillips	A Long Walk
3rd		Paul Bessette	The Dam
HM		Sandy Cornwell	For the Necessities
HM		Janice Phillips	Hummingbird
HM		Sandy Cornwell	Rawley Lighthouse
HM		Craig Hicks	Sunrise Over the Harbor
HM		Doreen Lawrence	Toward the Fading Light

Monochrome

1st	BoC, BoS	Craig Hicks	The Team
2nd		Jerome Hamilton	A Southern Barn
HM		Calvin Moore	Water Towers of Springs Preserve

Wildlife

Color

1st	BoC	Ken Lawrence	Acacia Pride
2nd - T		Michael Stratton	Lazy Leopard
2nd - T		Doreen Lawrence	Snuggles
2nd - T		Ken Lawrence	The Fighter
HM		Michael Chapman	Lilac-breasted Roller
HM		Janice Phillips	I'll Win This Staredown
HM		Juliana Stratton	Woodpecker

Monochrome

1st		Michael Stratton	Perfect Landing
HM		Michael Stratton	Eating Fresh Caught Sushi ☺

The Judges Corner

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC

The capacity to learn is a gift;
The ability to learn is a skill;
The willingness to learn is a choice.

Brian Herbert



I found this article online and thought I would share for the Judges Corner article. I believe it to be a little bit of AI as it did not have an author listed.

Jerome Hamilton's Judges Corner talks offer a sharp, disciplined look at what separates an ordinary photograph from a compelling one. While many photography discussions drift toward gear or trends, Hamilton keeps his focus where it belongs—on the fundamentals that consistently define strong imagery: light and composition.

At the heart of his sessions is a simple but often overlooked truth: the direction of light shapes everything. Hamilton walks participants through how front light, side light, and backlight each tell a different story. He demonstrates how side lighting can carve out texture and depth, how backlighting can create mood and separation, and how flat, front-facing light—while sometimes useful—can strip an image of dimension if used carelessly. By breaking down real photographs, he shows exactly how light placement influences not just visibility, but emotion and narrative.

Equally important in Hamilton's talks is composition. He challenges photographers to move beyond casual framing and start making intentional choices. Whether it's the use of leading lines, balance, negative space, or subject placement, Hamilton emphasizes that every element in the frame must serve a purpose. He often points out that a technically perfect image can still fall flat if the composition doesn't guide the viewer's eye or communicate a clear point of focus.

What makes Judges Corner especially valuable is its critique-driven approach. Hamilton doesn't just explain concepts—he applies them. Participants submit or review images, and together they dissect what works and what doesn't. His critiques are precise and grounded, often circling back to the same core questions: Where is the light coming from? What is it doing to the subject? Does the composition support the story, or distract from it?

There's also an underlying emphasis on discipline. Hamilton encourages photographers to slow down, observe more carefully, and become intentional with every frame. He reinforces that great photography isn't accidental—it's the result of understanding how light interacts with a scene and how composition organizes that scene into something meaningful.

In a space often crowded with shortcuts and quick fixes, Jerome Hamilton's Judges Corner stands out for its clarity and purpose. His talks remind photographers that mastering light and composition isn't just foundational—it's essential. And for those willing to study and apply these principles, the difference in their work becomes immediately visible.

Let's meet online again May 11th...8pm. ☺

Register Now for the PSA Photo Festival

Registration is now open for this fall's PSA Photo Festival. For more information, visit <https://psaphotofestival.org/>

NEVADA CAMERA CLUB

2026 ANNUAL OPEN ELECTRONIC IMAGE COMPETITION



For assistance contact: Special Competitions Chairperson by email at specialcomps@nevadacc.org or leave a message at 1-866-925-1447.

RULES

1. WHO MAY ENTER

Open to anyone of any age.

2. HOW TO ENTER

Images are to be submitted electronically online. Each entrant may submit a total of eight (8) images. The entry fee is \$4.00 per image for members of Nevada Camera Club and students. All others pay an entry fee of \$5.00 per image. Entries will be accepted starting July 1, 2026 at <http://nevadacc.org/content/annual-electronic-competition>. The entry interface will not be available until July 1, 2026. Payment for entries may be done one of three ways, (1) online at the Nevada Camera Club website. An additional \$1.00 convenience fee for online payment will be charged. (2) by a check mailed to NCC, P.O. Box 19451, Las Vegas, NV 89132, or (3) by bank transfer using Zelle. The email address to use for Zelle payments is nevadaccdotorg@gmail.com. Entry fees must be received by the entry deadline, 11:59 PM on Friday, July 17, 2026.

3. DIVISIONS

(C) Color (M) Monochrome

4. CATEGORIES

For category definitions, visit https://nevadacc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Category_Definitions_3.2026.pdf. Categories designated with a # are governed by the Special Competitions definitions on page 2.

(AB) Abstract	(PI) Pictorial
(AP) Animal/Pets	(PJ) Photojournalism*
(CM) Commercial	(PO) Portraiture
(CR) Creative	(ST) Still Life
(DO) Documentary*	(TR) Travel* #
(NA) Nature* #	(UC) Unclassified
(PE) People	(WL) Wildlife* #

***NOTE:** No specific category is defined by technique. Subject matter must be the defining parameter. Care must be taken in the Documentary, Nature, Photojournalism, Travel, and Wildlife categories. Normal photographic processes may be used to enhance the image quality in these five **reality based** categories but must not be used to alter the truth of the photographic statement. This means not altering the factual representation. All photographic elements of the entries in all categories except Creative must have been taken by the entering photographer. (See [Creative category definition](#).)

5. EXHIBIT, RECEPTION & MULTIMEDIA SHOWING

Prints of the category winners and Best of Show images will be exhibited at the Enterprise Library Gallery beginning August 25 through November 8, 2026. **Makers of the winning images will have their images printed from the submitted file.** Extra care must be taken to meet the file requirements. The print will be given to the entrant after the exhibit. A multimedia presentation of all competition entries will be shown at 6:00 PM on the opening day of the exhibit and awards will be presented. The exhibit and multimedia presentation are open to the public. The multimedia presentation of all competition entries may be shown during a regular meeting of Nevada Camera Club.

6. AWARDS

First place, second place, third place and honorable mention winners in each category will receive ribbons. A Best of Show ribbon and a \$100.00 cash prize will be awarded in each division (color and monochrome). A Best of Category ribbon will be awarded for each category. Best of Show and Best of Category winners will receive a matted print of the image.

7. JUDGING

Images will be judged by a panel of photographic judges. Judges have the right to re-categorize entries. **The decision of the judges is final.**

8. IMAGE REQUIREMENTS

Images that have won a first place ribbon in a previous Nevada Camera Club Annual Electronic Image or Annual Slide Competition are not eligible. Entries must have been photographed by the entrant. Images may be horizontal, vertical or square.

Horizontal Image – The width must not exceed 1920 pixels. If the height exceeds 1200 pixels, the height should be resized to 1200 pixels or less and the width should be adjusted to maintain the original aspect ratio.

Vertical Image – The height must not exceed 1200 pixels.

Square Image – Width and height must not exceed 1200 pixels.

Although there is no minimum size, it is to the advantage of each entrant to make the dimensions as large as possible without exceeding the maximum dimensions listed above.

File format must be **JPEG** using **.jpg** as the file extension.

Color depth must not exceed 24 bits per pixel. **All files should be set at 300 dpi.**

Nothing identifying the maker of the image, such as a signature or watermark, may be included on the image.

The entries need to comply with the above requirements to be projected, both for the judges and for the multimedia presentation. If an image is not in JPEG format, if an image exceeds 1920 pixels in width or 1200 pixels in height, if the image maker is identified in any way, it will be disqualified and will not be judged. There will be no refund for disqualified images.

9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The entrant grants to the Nevada Camera Club the right to display submitted images during the reception multimedia presentation and at a regularly scheduled Nevada Camera Club meeting. The entrant also grants to the Nevada Camera Club the right to make one print of each category winning image and display said print during the gallery exhibition period. The print will be given to the entrant after the close of the exhibition. All other rights remain with the entrant.

10. PICK UP OF FIRST PLACE AWARDED PRINTS

Matted prints of the winning first place images will be available for pick up following the close of the exhibit. Photographers may pick them up prior to the 7 PM start of Nevada Camera Club program meeting on November 13 in the Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 8901 Del Webb Blvd., Las Vegas.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

All possible care will be taken with prints. However, the Nevada Camera Club will not be responsible for lost or damaged items.

Nevada Camera Club Contact List

NCC Officers

President	Edward Lee Stiglitz	702-271-5011
Vice President	Narcy Alprecht	702-281-2569
Secretary	Jim Ludwick	443-994-4896
Treasurer	Mary Sheets	702-521-9569

NCC Committees and Trustees

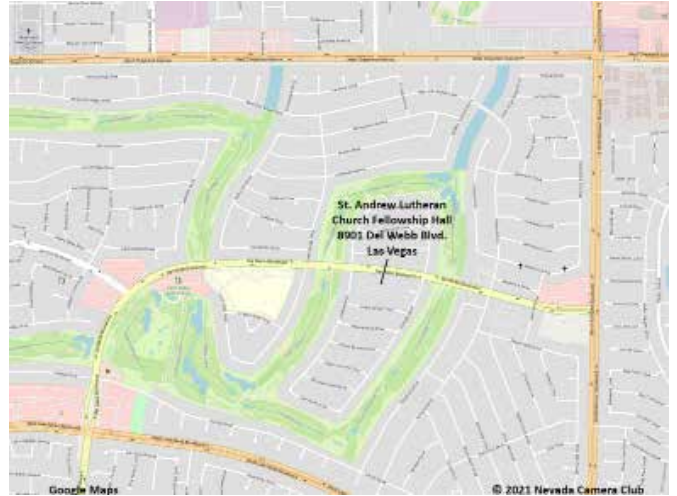
<p>Advertising/Resident Agent Mary Sheets 702-521-9569</p> <p>Beginners Group Serena Scalzi 702-755-2536</p> <p>Club Apparel Juliana Stratton 702-860-8394</p> <p>Club Publications Linda Hicks 219-477-0750</p> <p>Community Liaison Darryl Ginwright 808-782-5955</p> <p>Competitions (Monthly Electronic) Craig Hicks 702-497-5753</p> <p>Competitions (Monthly Print) Paul Bessette 702-561-7265</p> <p>Education Harry Ghuman 650-454-0751</p> <p>Exhibit Display Modules Michael Stratton 702-300-5027</p> <p>Field Trips</p> <p>House Ron Fraass 702-544-0513</p>	<p>Internet Administrator Stephen Cupp lvthunder@lvthunder.com</p> <p>Membership Julia Mejorada mejoradajulia@gmail.com</p> <p>Merits Linda Hicks 219-477-0750</p> <p>Programs Jerome Hamilton 702-682-9514</p> <p>PSA Liaison Jerome Hamilton 702-682-9514</p> <p>Public Relations/Social Media Ken Lawrence 505-250-5930</p> <p>Treasurer Emeritus Mary Sheets 702-521-9569</p> <p>Welcoming John Johnson 702-281-2569</p> <p>Trustees Valerie Christiansen 702-375-4492 Allan Duff 702-682-9688 Jackie Strat 732-829-8551</p>
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Contact us at info@nevadacc.org

Membership Information

Annual dues: \$48 for adults, \$36 for juniors (under 18) and students or seniors (63 and over). Dues are prorated for persons joining after January. Members automatically receive Focal Expressions. For further membership information contact Julia Mejorada, mejoradajulia@gmail.com

Meeting Location Map



Change Service Requested

First Class Mail

Nevada Camera Club
P.O. Box 19451
Las Vegas, NV 89132
1-866-925-1447

