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Southern Hemisphere by Pat Worley

*May The Force Be With You*



OK, so I am a Star Wars geek (attended the NYC premiere May 1977). The iconic phrase, “May the Force be with you”, is used to wish an individual or group good luck or good will. This seems very appropriate this month as our season is winding down while we also start talking about our 2024-25 season plans. There is a lot of important information you need to read in this newsletter, unless of course you use the Force.

***Please welcome our clubs newest member:***

Nicole Leverett

On behalf of the executive board, welcome onboard and we look forward to seeing you.

***SPRING FLING***

Our spring fling was so successful last year that we will do this again in place of our June workshop. Date is Saturday June 8. We need help in organizing. Please email me at [info@sjcameraclub.org](mailto:info@sjcameraclub.org) to volunteer!

***BEHIND THE LENS***

Our popular Behind The Lens presentation is scheduled for June 13. If you are new to the club, we invite several members to talk briefly about photos entered into this year's Challenges. Our fellow club members tell us what went into the making of their photos; from inspiration to capture to post processing. These mini-presentations are often eye-opening and always inspiring. But we don't choose the photographers and images that are presented, YOU DO.

***Every image entered into our Challenges is eligible for nomination from all groups.***

Here is how it works:

Visit our [SJCC Flickr Gallery](#) by using this link. This will take you directly to the "albums" section of the SJCC Gallery. Each group from that month's Challenge is a separate album. Scroll through the albums for each month and if you feel the image is one of your favorites, click on the star that appears at the bottom of the image. It's as simple as that! There is no limit to the number of images you can favorite. What albums you ask? Albums from June-2023 through May-2024 (we will be adding the May Challenge images shortly after the meeting).

We'll use the number of stars awarded to photos to finalize the selections and invite the makers of some of the most noted photos to present. Your input is critical to this process, so please take the time to cast your ballot by selecting your favorites.

[Please note: you need a Flickr account in order to favorite a photo, but setting this up is free and fast, if you don't already have one.] **The nomination period will end**

**May 25.**

### ***NEXT SEASON At-A-Glance***

In the days of paper planners there was always important information that I penciled in months in advance. As the committees and board finalize all the nitty gritty details of next season here are some early important details (subject to tweaking).

#### **Challenge Digital Topics (no specific order):**

Arches, Bridges or Spans; Inspired by a Children's Book; Creative; Through a Window; Iconic Americana; Wet; Fruits & Vegetables; Humor; Curves; Patterns in Nature. *Want to know the definitions... you have to read to the end!*

#### **Challenge Night Changes:**

Each Challenge night there will be **two** digital submissions: assigned topic; and open. Prints will not be part of the scheduled Challenge nights, but will be reserved for special events scheduled throughout the season.

#### **Saturday Morning Workshops:**

We will be back at Medford Leas (Holly room) for our Saturday morning workshops. Workshop topics will have a 'hands-on' focus and after seeing the initial list, i'm excited!

I now need to recharge after all that! Continue on for May & June details.  
Dwayne Botnick, President

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*Reminder: save this email for all the dates and zoom links provided... but, just in case, you'll find a copy linked in the member drop down window at the top of our website and in our [Facebook Members Lounge](#).*

### ***SJCC EVENTS AT A GLANCE***

May 4: Workshop: Tech Equipment Talks 10 AM \*Location now Medford Leas\*  
May 9: Presentation: Creativity - A conversation with Yourself - Zoom 7 PM  
May 14: MPUG: "Circles and Sand" - Zoom 7 PM  
May 16: Drone Group - Zoom 7 PM

May 21: Challenge: Abundance, Prints Open - 7 PM In Person Medford Leas  
May 22: Field Trip: Race Street Pier & Harvest Moon (this is a Wednesday)  
May 30: Exec Board Meeting 8 PM  
Jun 7: Field Trip: Philadelphia Street Photography (this is a Friday)  
Jun 8: Spring Fling  
Jun 13: Presentation: SJCC "Behind the Lens" - Zoom 7 PM

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## PRESENTATIONS - ZOOM

### **Creativity: A conversation with Yourself**

**Thursday, May 9 at 7PM - Zoom**

**Presented by: Sara Ascalon**

Humans are innately creative creatures. For many, that creativity is freely expressed. For others, that expression is shackled by repression. Learn how to tap into the creative energy within you and experience the joy of letting go and sharing your vision with others.

"What is it like being inside that head of yours?" I've always had a slightly off-beat way of looking at the world and have been asked that question many times over. But how do you respond to something like that? After decades of searching, I found my answer in photography.

Photography allows me to reproduce my vision in a shareable, accessible form. Whether it's the things I see with my eyes or my mind, I can capture a moment, a view, or a flight of fancy and relive it with those who honor me by coming along for the ride. From the things you see every day and tend to overlook, to the absolutely extraordinary, it's a strange and wonderful world.

I seek to share that wonder – real and imagined – in my images and inspire and embolden my students to unleash their own creativity and do the same.

#### *Bio*

Sara is a former creative marketer and New Yorker who became a statistic in the economic downturn of 2008. With the loss of her career came a loss of purpose and

identity and a relocation to South Jersey. She picked up photography as a pastime and found that it quickly became an obsession. Photography became her redemption during the rebuilding. It gave her a creative outlet and opened up new social and professional opportunities. A few short years later and she is now a photography and post-processing educator, frequent exhibitor, and the recipient of numerous local, national and international awards.

**Zoom Meeting Link: [SJCC Presentation](#)**

Meeting ID: 841 2631 8594

Passcode: 931327

**Future presentations:**

Thursday, June 13: SJCC's Behind The Lens Presentation

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## **CHALLENGE NIGHT - In Person Medford Leas**

**Tuesday, May 21 at 7PM: Judged by Robert Zurfluh**

**Digital Assigned Topic: Abundance**

There's a whole lot of opportunity to capture a whole lot of something. Your interpretation can be literal or figurative.

**Prints: Open**

Both digital entries and print entries must be uploaded to PhotoContest Pro.

If you are unsure of how to upload your challenge entries, now is a good time to acquaint yourself with the process. [There are useful videos & instructions here](#). Even if you are comfortable with it, it wouldn't hurt to check to see if your password is working. Doing this before the deadline crunch will assure that we can help you sort out any problems. To avoid disqualification and disappointment, you should review the [Challenge Guidelines](#) as they have been updated. The guidelines also contain all of the detail for your prints.

**Medford Leas Information:**

One Medford Leas Way, Medford, NJ 08055

Meeting attendees must enter at the rear Arts and Education Wing entrance (lower level and convenient to the auditorium). Masks are not required for the auditorium and you do not need to sign-in. As guests, please follow any Medford Leas guidelines.

**Future challenges:**

Tuesday, June 18: Digital: Street Photography *[Capture a candid moment of humanity in a public setting]*.

Prints are always "Open" unless stated otherwise.

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## **MPUG & DRONE - ZOOM**

### **MPUG - Mobile User Photography Group**

**Tuesday, May 14 at 7PM**

**Hoisted by: Jeff Feeny (SJCC mobile photography master)**

Mays themes are "Circles" and "Sand". Should be pretty easy to go get those shots if you haven't already. Also at the next meeting bring some ideas for ways you think this User Group could get better? I'm happy with the participants and the current "vibe" but always looking to make experiences better if we can.

Be sure to email your images by Monday evening to Jeff at:

[foneartstudio@icloud.com](mailto:foneartstudio@icloud.com)

**[MPUG Zoom Link](#)**

Meeting ID: 832 3980 4273

Passcode: 282398

The MPUG usually meets monthly on the 2nd Tuesday.

### **DRONE User Group**

**Thursday, May 16 at 7PM**

**Hoisted by: Leo Pelletier (SJCC drone aficionado)**

You don't need to own a drone to participate!

**[DRONE Zoom Link](#)**

Meeting ID: 897 0437 3804

Passcode: 171821

The DRONE group usually meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday.

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## **WORKSHOPS - In Person**

**[Register-All Workshops](#)**

**Saturday, May 4, 2024, 10 am-noon: Tech Equipment Talks**



## **LOCATION CHANGE: This workshop will now be held at Medford Leas in the Holly Room.**

The Holly Room is at the end of the hall just past the auditorium (where our Challenges are held) and just past the elevators. Please remember that the only entrance is now the upper main entrance.

[Google Maps Link to Medford Leas main entrance.](#)

This workshop is intended to be a series of interactive discussions/presentations about gear, accessories, technique, etc. This will be a good follow up to the camera discussions in April, but expanded to accessories such as lenses, tripods, filters, flash, on and off camera lighting, lens accessories, etc.

Scheduled discussions and leaders:

Tripods & heads - Dwayne Botnick

Lighting (including LED) - Mike Fox

Cell phone gadgets - Sara Ascalon

Camera bags, straps, etc. - Rich Lewis

Underwater cameras - Scott Malin

Apple Vision Pro - Joe Pica

Where possible, we will have examples of the equipment on display.

### **Future workshops:**

**Saturday, June 8: SJCC SPRING FLING**

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## **FIELD TRIPS**

### [Register-All Field Trips](#)

You must register for all field trips using the link above. Final details regarding a trip are emailed to all who have registered.

### **Wednesday May 22: Moonrise & Sunset Race Street Pier**

Late afternoon into evening - Race Street Pier on N. Columbus Blvd.

Led by: Vera Hershenberg

Exact meeting time will be announced as the date approaches.

The first full moon\* in May is called the Flower Moon. We will travel into Philadelphia and meet at the Race Street Pier, located on N. Columbus Blvd. We will be able to shoot the moon as it rises above the Ben Franklin Bridge. We will also be able to shoot below the bridge, for an alternate, interesting perspective. Moonrise will be at 7:46pm. As the date approaches, parking locations as well as car pooling options will be provided.

[Race Street Pier](#)

**Future field trips:**

Friday June 7: Street Photography, Philadelphia

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## Challenge Topics for 2024-25

*Here is the list of digital Challenge topics for our 2024-25 season (Sep-Jun).*

*They are in random order and not yet assigned a calendar month.*

**Arches, Bridges, or Spans** - a supported structure that extends from one side to another. The arch, bridge or span must be the subject and not what it may be supporting/connecting.

**Inspired by a Children's Book** – Would you could you take a shot? Would you could you rather not? It's not as tough as it may seem to craft a photo for this theme.

**Creative** – Express yourself through a unique concept, photographic technique, and/or post-processing.

**Through a Window** – Looking out or looking in, present a view through a window. The window must be shown in whole or in part.

**Iconic Americana** – depict objects or scenes typical of American civilization or culture.



**Wet** – From a single drop to an ocean, show something covered or saturated with water.

**Fruits & Vegetables** – Produce an image of produce. On the farm, in the store, or on your table. Grow a photo all your own.

**Humor** – Why so serious? Craft a photo designed to make us chuckle, laugh out loud, or even just put a smile on our faces.

**Curves** – a line or outline which gradually deviates from being straight for some or all of its length.

**Patterns in Nature** - highlight striking shapes, textures, lines and forms as they occur in the natural world.

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## Links

*If you are like me, I book mark everything and then find I have multiple links to the same or similar web page and never know which one to use! Here are links that you will use frequently.*

[SJCC Website](#)

[Challenge Guidelines](#)

[Challenge Topics](#)

[PhotoContest Pro](#)

[Facebook Private Group](#)

[Flickr Gallery](#)

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*The fine print...*

Zoom participants: If you are using your smartphone, sign in with the Zoom app and use the appropriate meeting ID and Password.

IMPORTANT: Our presentation meetings are recorded for members to review. The exception is when presenters do not want their presentation recorded. Links are posted in the SJCC Members Lounge Facebook group. Due to their file size, videos may be deleted after 30 days to make sure our drive has room on it. Also, please do not download them or share the links. All presentations are the intellectual property of the presenters. They allow us to record them if the videos are only viewed by club members. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.



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