



February 2019 President's Letter

Dear Members.

Have Camera, Will Share

I know that many of our members are involved in serving the community in a host of ways. Having just returned from three weeks of photographic volunteer work in Africa, I wanted to share my thoughts on the experience of "giving back."

There's nothing like visiting a third-world country to realize how blessed we are in Marin. Relative to almost anything, we've had advantages that relatively few others have. And most of us know that we don't have to travel halfway around the world to gain that understanding.

What you may not know about me is that I spent the first two decades of my professional career as a licensed clinical social worker, working with distressed populations on both coasts. Not easy work and, despite still wanting to help others in some way, not something I have the energy to dive back into at this time of life.

But I've discovered there are myriad opportunities to put my photography skills to use, blending and merging my passion for our art with the very real needs of others.

Many of our local non-profit organizations need imagery to tell their story to prospective donors, but can't afford to hire professional photographers. Often we just need to ask.

Family shelters welcome volunteers to take holiday photographs of their residents. Schools and event organizers - and their participants - such as at the Dipsea, Marin Human Race, Tiburon Mile, etc, are happy to have photographers capture and share the excitement of their sports.

Since 2016, a group of several dozen photographers - including several MPC members - formed Pro-Bono Photo, covering scores of environmental and social justice events for non-profits all over the Bay Area.

The Marin Photography Club has annually participated in the Senior Fair, providing consultation, free prints and free portrait sittings. If you've ever volunteered with us at one of these, you understand the amazing gratification gained from handing a senior their portrait.

To the very real benefit of helping others and the gratification of giving back, I've found that participating in these efforts has served to improve my photography. Like joining the club ten years ago, these experiences help me to stretch my skills by pushing me into situations and settings that are new and different.

So, for those not already involved in the community in some way – and who are so inclined – do know that these opportunities are out there for the seeking and I'm always happy to chat with you about them.

Steve

Editor's Note

Welcome readers to the February issue of Focal Plane News. The year is off to a good start with excellent attendance/participation at Club competitions and SIGs, as well as at meetings of the Golden Gate Computer Society (GGCS).

Coming up there is a MPC Field Trip to the Japanese Tea Garden (page 6), the Mar/Apr Photo Challenge (Page 6), the Street SIG Challenge and the Street Photography exhibition in San Rafael (Page 5). Get involved!

Marnie Walters has also produced an excellent summary of the presentation that Roxanne Bouche' Overton gave on Education Night (Page 8).

It is also time to **take action** on submitting your prints and projected images for the MPC 2018 Annual Competition. Winners will be showcased at our annual club awards banquet on March 24th, details of which will be available shortly.

Noel Isaac
Editor

"Images of the Month - February"



Kayaking in Wilhemina Bay, Antarctica one gets to experience the striking contrast between the beauty and desolation.

Pamela Plumer

Projected Image Travel - Intermediate

Judge: Jack Hecker

Behind the Image: To experience the peacefulness and raw beauty kayaking in Wilhelmina bay, Antarctica was amazing. The bay is surrounded by high mountains and steep cliffs covered with snow and topped with glaciers. There were gorgeous formations of icebergs that we were able to get so close, but not too close as they are very unstable. We also lucked out that afternoon with the spectacular blue sky and lenticular cloud (my favorite!)

I use a Sony a7iii. The settings for this image were f/8, 1/640, iso 100.

[.....Pamela Plumer](#)



Sunrise over San Francisco Bay Area

Rosemary Greenberg

Print - Color Pictorial - Masters

Judge: Gene Morita

Behind the Image: This photo was taken from a window as I left SFO on a United Airlines flight to Molokai on November 5th, 2016. I was holding my iPhone 6+ against the vibrating window! I have never shown it before!

The meta data said ISO 32, 1/30 sec, f2.2, 4.15mm

[.....Rosemary Greenberg](#)

MPC Event Calendar

- **Monday, March 4th: Projected Competition.**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Monday, March 11th - Education Night**
6:30pm @ Town Center, Corte Madera.
- **Monday, March 18th - Print Competition.**
6:30pm @ Drakes Landing Community Room
- **Thursday, March 14th: MPC Board Meeting****
11:00am @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church +
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.
- **Thursday March 28th: Street SIG Meeting:**
6:30pm @ GGCS Meeting Room, First Presbyterian Church +
1505 Mission Ave. San Rafael.

Editor's Note:

**Any member of MPC can attend the monthly Board Meetings. If you have any questions or subjects that you would like it to discuss, please put them into writing and send an e-mail to one of the two Presidents.

Monthly minutes of the MPC Board are posted shortly after being approved at the following month's Board meeting. Copies can be found in the Club and Committee Information section of the website <http://tinyurl.com/ya9kkbb6> here: "Board Info>Board Minutes>2018 Board Minutes"

New Members to the MPC

Please join us in welcoming the following new Members to the Club:

Associate Members:

Paul Taylor
Lynn Sieben



Do introduce yourselves to new members at upcoming MPC events and competition nights.

The MPC "Street SIG"

The next meeting of the MPC Street SIG is at 6:30pm on Thursday, March 28. The theme is "Expose for the Highlights". The details, including upload info, are here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A7U84jUw0oEvZ6UBpY8tHo8JYZHCHXPYyYGVHxHImDQw/edit?usp=sharing>

Full details and an introduction to MPC's Street SIG can also be found through the following link:
(<https://goo.gl/kpofqr>)

[Doug Kaye & Steve Disenhof](#)

2019 Dominican Street Photo Show

The MPC Street Photography SIG is presenting an exhibition of Street Photography in the ground-floor lobby of the Joseph R. Fink Science Center on the Dominican College campus in San Rafael. Although the show started February 14 and runs through September, the official opening will be March 6 at a reception there at 6:30pm.

See <https://goo.gl/rA9nz2> for info about our meetings.



**2019 March - April MPC Photo Challenge -
"Window Shopping"**

We've just come off two months of Black and White, with voting open from March 1st to March 6th!
<https://www.meetup.com/marinphotoclub/photos/29580333/>

Now it's time for a new challenge, "Window Shopping". What is it you see when you walk down the street and look into a window. Use your imagination and show us what you see.

The next MPC Photo Challenge challenge for March/April is to create a dynamic Window Shopping image. Get there any way you like, but the image has to be taken between March 6th and April 30th. Details to follow on March 7th.

Presented by Nancy Barasch, MPC Meetup Challenge Committee Member.

.....[Harvey Abernathy](#)

MPC Field Outing: March 23: San Francisco's "Japanese Tea Garden"

Head gardener & historian Steven Pitsenbarger will provide a private tour for club members of the Golden Gate Park's crown jewel "The Japanese Tea Garden". Steven will take us on a walk around the gardens to provide some background on its history, on which he is writing a book. Following the tour, we will have an opportunity to capture the details of this garden during the peak of the cherry blossoms.

We will start the tour at 9am after paying for entrance into the park at the entry kiosk, which also opens at 9am. Best to arrive there early to locate parking, and taking the walk to the Tea Garden entrance. Carpooling is recommended. Details for entrance fees/parking can be found at: <http://www.japaneseteagardensf.com/visit.php>

This tour is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd at 9am, and brought to you by Harvey Abernathy and the MPC Field Trip Committee. Thanks to Doug Kaye for the suggestion. Feel free to contact Harvey if you have any questions and to also RSVP. For further information contact [Harvey Abernathy @ harveya@ndphotos.com](mailto:harveya@ndphotos.com) (415-385-0054)

PLEASE NOTE: This Tour is currently full. You can add your name to the Waiting List.

The Outside Photography World

EXHIBITS in the Bay Area:

- [Louis Stettner Exhibition @ SF MOMA](#)
- [This Land@ Pier 24](#)
- [Current Exhibitions.](#) @ the Harvey Milk Photo Center.
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ SF Camerawork
- [Current Exhibitions](#) @ Cantor Arts Center

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS:

- [Harvey Milk Photo Center](#)
- [Point Reyes National Seashore Association](#)
- [The Image Flow](#)
- [Photo Arts Marin](#)

NOTE:

Do you know another location with great classes and/or workshops?

Please send the information to:focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com

MPC Member Websites

Want to see more photos of our members, please visit their websites, the list is [here](#):

<https://focalplanenewsletter.wordpress.com/member-websites/>

If you want to add your website to the list, please send a request to focalplanenewsletter@gmail.com



Think Before You Shoot

The photograph is the very expression
of our inner voice bursting to get out.

Roxanne Bouche' Overton

By **Marnie Walters**

On Monday night, February 11th, we had the pleasure of attending an Education Night presentation given by Roxanne Bouche' Overton. Roxanne's theme was titled, "Think Before You Shoot," which she composed some years back (as a member of the Boise Camera Club) in response to her frustration with her travel photography at that time. She made a decision to focus on the possible causes of that dissatisfaction, and began her journey down a path that led to insights which she was kind enough to share with us, and many others over the years, in her presentations and writings.

This brief summary is an attempt to pass along to our members some of the highlights of what Roxanne taught us during this past Ed Night presentation. Roxanne was kind enough to allow me to tape her presentation, and I have attempted to stick as closely to her words as possible, in this condensed version of her hour long presentation.

1. **Individual Expression:** Be conscious of what you want to say with your photographs. Photography is unique to individuals. We see in collections of fleeting moments. The challenge is to capture what we see with our eyes and with our emotions. What we shoot is isolated by what we see just before we close the shutter. Some considerations: With our photography, we are flattening our three dimensional world into two dimensions. Find the spot where the lighting is right for you, even if you have to wait for it, and make the photo a moment that resonates with what you want to express, and the story you want to tell.

2. **Rules:** Rules are there to learn from, but don't get stuck on adherence to the rules. Rules can interfere with your ability to tell the story. Sometimes, that effort can defeat the subject. Ask first: What has caught your eye? Does an image have to be sharp to make it good? Does the light have to be one thing or the other? [.....read more.](#)