Passionate Photography!

A Message From President Ron Meyers

It's been said that "ideas without passion illuminate but do not inspire" and that "passion is what drives us to push boundaries, explore and create". I often think of how that applies to photography. Good photography typically starts as an idea in the mind's eye. A photographer’s passion is usually apparent in their work as they push the boundaries of skill and experience, explore new techniques to create and somehow capture the images they see in their mind’s eye.

Do you sometimes feel stuck in a rut with your photography and/or feel like there is nothing good to photograph? If so, work on developing new ideas of what you would like to photograph. Visualize how you think the image should look and get passionate about capturing it as a photograph. Your idea may require that you learn a new technique, a new tool, or perhaps work with a subject you are not familiar with. Let your passion drive you to research, learn and utilize as much information as you can about the subject, the tools and techniques required to capture an image that is as inspiring as your passion.

That said, remember this: A good photograph starts as an idea, an image in the mind's eye of a photographer. An inspiring photograph is often the result of a photographer's passion to create and capture that image to its fullest extent.

Dates To Remember

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Passion
By Ken Johnson

Passion (from the Ancient Greek verb πάσχω (paskho) meaning to suffer) is a term applied to a very strong feeling about a person or thing. Passion is an intense emotion, compelling feeling, enthusiasm, or desire for something.

In doing some research, I ran across this excellent paragraph from an episode of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, created by Joss Whedon. In one episode, Angel is systematically stalking Buffy’s friends and attempts to break her emotionally. Just before trying to kill her, he narrates:

Passion. It lies in all of us. Sleeping…waiting…and though unwanted…unbidden…it will stir…open its jaws, and howl. It speaks to us…guides us. Passion rules us all. And we obey. What other choice do we have? Passion is the source of our finest moments. The joy of love…the clarity of hatred…and the ecstasy of grief. It hurts sometimes more than we can bear. If we could live without passion, maybe we’d know some kind of peace. But we would be hollow. Empty rooms, shuttered and dank. Without passion, we’d truly be dead.

Cant you just sense the intensity of this paragraph?

So what makes people who live for their passion different from others that do not? Passion is not something you want to do. Passion is something you are compelled to do, something you must do. If a beautiful yard makes you happy and a large amount of time or energy is spent doing yard work, this is passion. The same can be said of photography; shooting, editing and sharing.

When you are passionate about something, the energy and desire to pursue the passion wells up within you; it happens spontaneously, without effort on your part. Energy is contagious. If you spend time with someone who exudes passion about a subject, some of it will rub off on you. Seek out people who have the energy you want and get them to describe their passion. Often it will point you to key information you had no idea could be so interesting.

Someone who lives his or her passion is not afraid of taking risks and will have an unusual amount of endurance and commitment.

“Passion is what drives us crazy, what makes us do extraordinary things, to discover, to challenge ourselves. Passion is and should always be the heart of courage.”
― Midori Komatsu

Share moments of passion. Share passionate photography.

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Don Chen
John Rouse

Yahoo Group Moderator
Margie Hurwich

2011—2012 Board and Committee

We are proud members of the Photographic Society of America and the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association.

Visit our website www.lakecountycameraclub.org.
We meet the first Thursday of every month at: 418 N. Prairie Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060.
Questions or comments about this newsletter? Please contact Ken Johnson, Newsletter Editor at ken.johnson@lakecountycameraclub.org.
Mick’s Picks
By Michelle Cox

When I sat down to research and provide ideas for the month of April, I have to admit I am a bit confused. The weather has been so warm, that the plants are acting like it's almost May. So what could I recommend, the weather is really nice but no festivals or events are open yet. I went to the zoo and I'd say about a third of the animals were still not on display even though it was 87!

The birds are returning, flowers and trees budding as well as the lakes are open. This is a great time to get out for fun photography. Hopefully you have a few nature shots on that list of yours. You can practice using your photography skills trying to capture birds as they flit about. Keep your eyes open for new species that you've never noticed before. Be sure to share your photos and shooting experiences with the rest of the Club in the Yahoo Group.

Now is the time for macro photography! Nature is budding so get your camera ready. It's an opportunity to learn to use your tripod and lenses! Enjoy, experiment and share with others.

Grab someone from the Club to hike with you thru the forest preserve, head to the park or enjoy a sunset (or sunrise) on a nearby lake. Take time to shake off the winter doldrums, dust off your equipment and get that shot you've always wanted!

Important Notice!

Please remember, the next competition meeting location has been changed. We will not be meeting at the church, but instead be meeting at the University Center of Lake County, 1200 University Center Drive, Grayslake.

The University Center is located off of Washington Street just west of Route 45. There is parking on the north side of the building. Once you enter the building, follow the hallways to the right towards the south west wing. We will be meeting in the Lecture Hall.

The meeting will still start at 7:00 p.m. Printed images must be turned in the evening of the competition no later than 6:45 p.m. to be eligible.

2011 - 2012 CACCA Schedule

Special Category

Individual DPI Competition

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CACCA conducts seven Special Category competitions during the year as an individual Class of competition. Subject matter of entries in each monthly competition is restricted to the pre-announced category for that competition. Images may not have been previously entered in a CACCA competition.

All entries must follow the standard DPI naming and sizing requirements. Submit your entries to: submissions@lakecountycameraclub.org.
Creativity Drives Passion
By Birgit Tyrrell and Margie Hurwich

Creative causes must be dictated by passion...without passion we are doomed to mediocrity.
“Richard Paul Evans”

The above quote by author, Richard Paul Evans sums up exactly what Birgit and Margie feel each and every day. Being able to use creativity in their images is their passion.

Birgit's Story
My passion for photography has expanded to more than just taking a picture. It is taking my image and seeing what my creativity will produce. My passion borders along obsessive! I create conceptual images for book covers so taking an image and creating it into something that creates a specific mood or feeling is what drives me with each and every photo. I have always had a camera in hand since high school and a few years ago started doing sporting events and portrait studio work. One afternoon, while watching my daughter cheer at a basketball game, I sat next to our very own Margie Hurwich (who I used to work with many years earlier). In talking with her we realized we were both photographers. That conversation with her that afternoon has changed my life! She introduced me to stock photography and when she explained her work for book covers, I knew deep in my soul that is exactly what I wanted to do and I am doing it now!

When I have my camera in hand, I look at any image I may be taking to be great. If I end up deleting any that just means that I have many others that are similar. If it ends up a bit blurry, I can still make it great by being a blurred image to submit, books covers are blurry too. What a beauty! I get up every morning and look forward to turning on my computer to see what I get to create that day with the images I have taken. To see one of my images on an actual book cover is a feeling of such gratification and yes VERY exciting! I love what I do and to get paid for it is almost surreal!

(continued on next page)
Margie's Story

For me, my photography passion was found over time. I wasn't one of those people who had a camera in hand at an early age. I actually picked up my first camera about seven years ago. At that time, I had surrounded myself with other photographers online at www.betterphoto.com. Many of those photographers started selling their photos as stock images. So, I figured I'd give it a try. At the time, I would shoot objects and upload them to microstock sites. Microstock photos are photos that can be used for website design or corporate material with a basic concept in mind. Microstock sites have very strict rules on what is allowed but even stricter rules on what isn't allowed in each photo. My creativity with my images was stopped by their rules. I would go for months without even picking up my camera and what passion I had found for photography was lost.

A couple of those same friends that I had followed into the stock arena had branched off to find a more creative release. They had found the book cover industry. I knew as soon as I started seeing their images...this was the field for me! Creative textures, blurs and crops are welcomed in images. My creativity, and most importantly, my passion for photography had come back and magnified tenfold. Being able to develop an idea in my head; find the props, clothing and models for the idea; create a plan of how I will capture the idea with my camera; and then taking that image into Photoshop to create the final image, is all thrilling to me! And then to see my final image on a book cover, conveying the feelings that I hoped people would see, is even more thrilling!

True Passion

By George Haasjes

Passion. This word has many meanings to many people. For instance, the female gender can produce synonyms that use love, romance, and emotion, etc. For the male gender, it can produce these same feeling to an emotion that is also deeply stirring or ungovernable such as; the love of cars, racing, gambling, etc.

Yet, how many have seen true passion carried to unflagging pursuit of an aim or devotion or criteria even when the expression of that belief is judged wrong by many?

I recently had the opportunity to observe judging at another club and saw an example of passion that was intense as much as it was biased in it's viewpoint.

An individual defined a element of photography as, “All flowers must be taken with either 1 or 3 flowers and always offset. Images that are shot with a wide angle fish lens should never be used.” This was not a criticism or judgment of right or wrong. The passion expressed by this individual was real. While the passionate belief of the convictions expressed were unchangeable, you have to respect his passion.

So I ask this, “Is your passion a belief in what you do and who you are, or is it who you follow”?
Accolades and Achievements

As you may or may not know, CACCA runs three individual Photojournalism competitions and three individual Portrait competitions per year. In each of these bi-monthly contests, a competitor can enter one to four images. Monthly Awards and HMs are handed out after each competition, regardless of how many images are entered. However, there is also a yearly component to these categories in which the only way to be a contender is to submit the maximum of four prints per contest for a total of twelve images for the year. At the end of each bi-monthly competition, a person's four scores are added together to get a numerical total. At the end of the third competition of the year, the person with the highest number of total points wins. At the CACCA banquet in August, awards are handed out to the first three places in each category. The CACCA Photojournalism and Portrait contests have concluded for the year.

Linda Kruzic finished first in the Portrait category and Bob Kruzic finished first in the Photojournalism category. The photographs below are a sample of the prints they submitted throughout the year.

Vietnamese Mama  © Linda Kruzic  
Saying Goodbye  © Bob Kruzic

PhotoEXPO is a major photography educational event coming to Northeast Illinois on June 9, 2012. The PhotoEXPO represents an outstanding opportunity for you to attend classes and receive hands-on training. You will have the opportunity to learn new methods and techniques, network with fellow photographers, check out new gear and mingle with the experts.

There are two separate education tracks. The first education track is "Nature, Wildlife and Landscape" with George Lepp as the keynote speaker. George Lepp is one of North America’s best known contemporary outdoor and nature photographers. The second education track is "Wedding, Portrait and Commercial" with Hanson Fong as the keynote speaker. Hanson Fong is globally recognized as one of the premier wedding photographers in the industry. Both have been chosen by CANON USA for their Explorers of Light Program.

We are extremely pleased with the quality of speakers, vendors and sponsors that have committed to this event. All area photographers are cordially invited to register early. Advance registration gives you the opportunity to ensure seating in the classes associated with your selected educational track and/or any computer labs or workshops that you desire to take.  

http://www.lcccphotoexpo.com
Ron showed us a thing or two (actually four) about Fabulous Flakes - editor
CACCA 2012 Post Card Competition

“Yosemite” - Award

© Ken Johnson

“Wild West of Ireland” - HM

© Jeff Bark

“Flight” - HM

© Michelle Cox

“Everyone’s Favorite Tree” - HM

© Ken Johnson

“Drop Your Anchor Here” - HM

© Bob Kruzic

“Welcome To Bode” - HM

© Margie Hurwich
Who Was Up To The Challenge
By Margie Hurwich

Not many of you participated in our Challenge this month, so I have to imagine that taking photos of concepts is a true challenge. But those of you that did take on the Challenge really created some powerful images!

I think the most powerful was Egon Schein's "Goodbye".

But we also had images that celebrated the holidays;

Celebrated the love between man and wife;

And celebrated the love between mother and child as well as pets.

Each of these images conveys love in its simplest form. Love can be found anywhere. You just have to look and feel. Don't be scared of Challenges that aren't tangible objects...meet the Challenge head on.

Are you up to our next Challenge? Images for the March Challenge, "Alteration of Reality", are due by Saturday, March 31. And then get ready for our April Challenge, "Faces" due on Monday, April 30. You can interpret "Faces" any way you would like. Have fun and be creative!

As a “right brained” individual, I look forward to “Alteration of Reality”. We all create our own individual reality in special ways. Perhaps this is a chance to imagine your dream.
### Individual Awards and Honorable Mentions From CACCA

**CACCA Individual Portraits Competition Award and HM images (score).**

- **Award and POM - “Civil War Surgeon” (24)**
  - © Paul Kurek

- **Award - “Lost In Thought” (23)**
  - © Linda Kurzic

**CACCA Individual Alteration of Reality (score).**

- **HM - “The Devil Within” (22)**
  - © Margie Hurwich

**CACCA Small Monochrome (score).**

- **HM - “A Distinguished Gentleman” (23)**
  - © Linda Kruzic

**CACCA Large Monochrome (score).**

- **HM - “Mushroom Island Cove” (24)**
  - © Paul Kurek

**CACCA Large Color (score).**

- **Award - “Rialto Theater Lobby” (24)**
  - © Paul Kurek