

Member of the PSSA

Website: http://helderbergphoto.co.za

Founded in 1954: For the Encouragement of Photography

HELDERBERG PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

It's hard to believe that we have already arrived at the last month of the year! Some of us have been able to get away – which is usually the only way we get time to do photography in 'one fell swoop' these days. However, there is much to be said for having your camera always at the ready on a day to day basis ... and you will find out more about that at the Gala Evening on 14th December! A few of our members who *were* able to get away during the year, will be showing their images ... so please come along, bring family and friends, enjoy snacks and drinks, and some wonderful photography. See you on the 14th!

In the meantime, in case you are unable to come to the Gala evening, the Committee and I extend our warm wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a great slide into the New Year!

Nettie

CLUB MATTERS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 2017 will be as follows:

R280 per person, for the year, payable as soon as possible. No discount available. From July – for the remaining months of the year R150

Country Members, Students R150 per person, for the year, payable as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, if you have not paid your subs, you may not enter work for the competitions or review evenings.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The club relies on timeous payment of members' subscriptions

Banking Details

Account name: Helderberg Photographic Society

Bank & Branch: Nedbank, Stellenbosch

Branch code: 107110 (+00 at end, if necessary for your bank)

OR

198765 (Nedbank Universal code) SUBSCRIPTIONS 2016

Account Number: 2608001130 (it is a SAVINGS Account)

NB: Please indicate your name as reference, or send an e-mail with proof of payment to Michele at michele@michelemoss.co.za.

All subs to be paid ASAP please.

If you no longer wish to be a member of HPS, please send an email to Nettie at nettie28@iafrica.com with 'PLEASE UNSUBSCRIBE' in the subject line. This is only fair.

Please e-mail Michele Moss (our Treasurer) at

michele@michelemoss.co.za should you experience difficulties with the eft process.

Our finances pay toward hall rent, insurance and upkeep of equipment, provision of tea, coffee, biscuits etc., rental of a post box (P.O. Box 2004, Somerset West), Affiliation Fees to the PSSA, travelling money and chocolates for visiting judges, etc. The R10.00 fee for tea or coffee pays for the car guard, Jeremy, and his wife, Gillian, who does the washing up for us.

FUTURE PRINT SIZES FOR HPS (and for Interclub)

- 1. The *minimum* size of a print (without its mount) is 150 mm x 200 mm. (6" x 8")
- 2. The *maximum* size of a print (without its mount) is 300 mm x 450 mm. (12" x 18")
- 3. The maximum size of the mount board may not exceed 400 mm x 550 mm.

PROGRAM: 2017

As you may notice from the program below we have managed to reclaim the *first WEDNESDAY* of every month, for the Black and White Interest Group. The *second WEDNESDAY* of the month is devoted to our Club Meetings (except on 7th August – which is a Monday – due to the fact that Wed. 9th is a Public Holiday, and the Tuesday was already taken up by another group). Also, our Audio Visual meetings are going to take place every SECOND month, starting from January 2017 (viz. Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) on the *last WEDNESDAY* of the month, at Irmel's home in De Boord, Stellenbosch, now starting at 7pm. Address and directions will be sent in January.

Regarding Club Meetings -your Committee has chosen the Set Subjects bearing mind the many facets of photography — macro, creative, abstract etc. which any member can tackle ... and we persuade you to 'tackle' these genres even though they may not be in your comfort zone. Don't be hesitant about entering your work ... Just Do It!

Please take particular note of the changes in the Program for 2017 ... in fact it might be a good idea to print a couple of copies for your car, diary and the fridge!

We are planning to hold two workshops during the year, details of which will be advertised as soon as the details are complete.

| Tue 6 December 2016 | Black & White | Texture |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|
| Wed 14 December 2016 | Gala Evening | 7.30pm |
| | | |

| PROGRAM 2017 | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Wed.4 th January | B&W | Library closed –no meeting |
| Wed.11 th January | Club | 'In the Kitchen' ** 7.30pm |
| | competition | |
| Wed.25 th January | Audio Visual | At Irmel's home Stellenbosch 7pm Analysis of Interclub AVs |
| Wed.1 st February | B&W | 'Transport' * 7.30pm |
| Wed. 8 th February | Club competition | 'Transport' ** 7.30pm |
| Wed.1 st March | B&W | 'Macro'* 7.30pm |
| Wed.8 th March | Club competition | 'Macro'** 7.30pm |
| Wed.29 th March | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7pm Set Subject: A Landscape AV using a few third images |
| Wed.5 th April | B&W | 'Lines'* 7.30pm |
| Wed.12 th April | Review | *** 7.30pm |
| Wed.3 rd May | B&W | 'Mystery' * 7.30pm |
| Wed.10 th May | Club Competition | 'Mystery'** 7.30pm |
| Wed.31 st May | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7pm Set Subject: 'Out of the Blue' AV |
| Wed.7 th June | B&W | 'Street Photography' * 7.30pm |
| Wed.14 th June | Review | *** 7.30pm |
| Wed.5 th July | B&W | 'The Drama of Light'* 7.30pm |
| Wed.12 th July | Club Meeting | 'The Drama of Light'** 7.30pm |
| Wed.26 th July | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7pm |
| Wed.2 nd August | B&W | 'Interaction'* 7.30pm |

| MONDAY 7 th Aug | Club Meeting | 'Interaction'** (Wed.9 th P.Hol. Library closed) |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Wed.6 th September | B&W | 'Emotion'* 7.30pm |
| Wed.13 th September | Club Meeting | 'Emotion'** 7.30pm |
| Wed.27 th September | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7.00pm |
| Wed.4 th October | B&W | 'Ruins'* 7.30pm |
| Wed.13 th October | Review | ***7.30pm |
| Wed.1 st November | B&W | 'Illuminated' *7.30pm |
| Wed.8 th November | Club Meeting | 'Illuminated' **7.30pm |
| Wed.29 th November | Audio Visual | At Irmel's 7pm |
| Wed.6 th December | B&W | 'Waterfall'* 7.30pm |
| Wed.13 th December | Gala Night | Bring eats & drinks & glasses! 7.30pm |

^{*}B&W: Prints: 1 Set Subject (SS) + 2 Open

GALA EVENING Wed. 14th December Save the Date!

Final arrangements for the Gala evening are in hand. Members are asked to bring a plate of snacks, their own glasses and drinks of their choice. Theo Naude is once again sponsoring wine from Distell (per kind favour of his wife!). There will be a loop up on the screen of our images made during the year, Antenie's Interclub loop, audio visuals, as well as contributions from various members who have been on photographic trips lately! Please bring family and friends!

HPS always gives Jeremy and Gillian a Christmas Box at the Gala Evening. Many of us do Santa Shoeboxes and care packages for the elderly etc. If you have any handy odds and ends for the kiddies, non-perishable food, or some appropriate clothing, please bring it to the Gala Evening. Any donations will be sincerely appreciated.

^{*}B&W: Projected Images: 1 SS + 2 Open

^{**}Prints: 1 Set Subject(SS) + 2 Open; or ... 2 SS + 1 Open

^{**}Projected images: 1 SS + 2 Open; or ... 2 SS +1 Open

^{***} Review: 2 Prints and/or 2 projected images allowed, or 1 of either

OUTINGS



Photographic Rally FRIDAY 16th December (Public Holiday) 9.30am

Paddy has mapped out a RALLY which takes place in Franschhoek. You will receive a list of instructions as to the photographs you have to take, at the venue.

Please meet at the old picnic site, first RIGHT over the Berg River Bridge on the R45 (coming from the Stellenbosch side), by 9.30am (near Bridge House School). Bring water and hats, as well as a packed lunch!

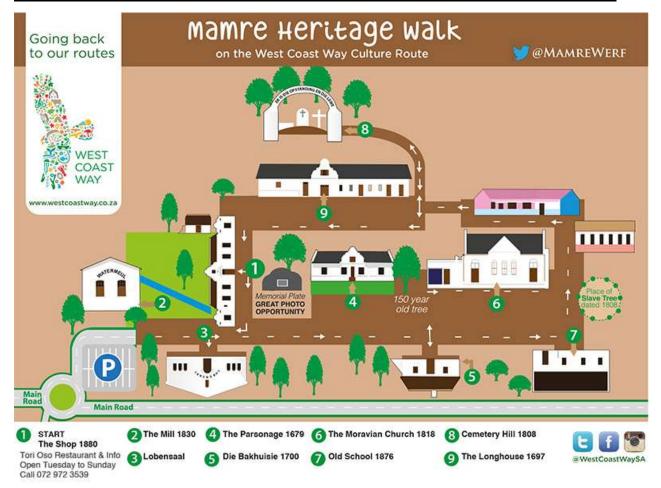
This will be our last outing this year, and is great fun ... do join in!

TOPLESS BUS TOUR SATURDAY 29th JANUARY 2017 AT 4pm



Meet at the Aquarium at the Waterfront. Bring water and a hat, and something warm to wear.

DAY OUTING TO MAMRE SATURDAY 26th FEBRUARY (PROBABLY)



2017 CAPE PHOTOGRAPHERS REGIONAL CONGRESS IN HOGSBACK



The East London Photographic Society invites you to

"ANOTHER WORLD, ANOTHER PLACE" – HOGSBACK 30 APRIL TO 3 MAY 2017

The 2017 Cape Photographers Regional Congress will be hosted by EAST LONDON PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

in the magical town of Hogsback from 30 April to 3rd May 2017.

Delegates can look forward to a congress in the spirit of the Cape Photographers in a really unique venue.

Who can forget the congress of 2004? Top class speakers will keep us spellbound sharing their knowledge and expertise with us.

Sufficient time will give delegates the opportunity to take advantage of the many photo treasures that abound at Hogsback.

Basil Holt describes the Hogsback region as follows: "The glories of the Tyhume region in scenery and story could be described only in a book of poetry... Here the great curve of the Amathole Range holds in its embrace the valley of grace and beauty, equalled in few other places and excelled by none in South Africa".

MMS Ballantyne describes Hogsback as "an earthly paradise of forest-clad mountains, grassy uplands and singing streams, a veritable haven of peace". Lots of additional information can be found at www.hogsbackinfo.co.za. Save the above date, you will not regret it.

PSSA Events Calendar 2017 go to www.pssa.co.za

- 14 Jan: Sandton Photographic Society Salon
- 21 Jan: 3rd Lowveld Salon
- 11 Feb: Suikerbosrand Salon
- 25 Feb: National Photographic Club AV Salon
- 25 Feb: PSSA National Salon
- 11 Mar: Krugersdorp Camera Club Salon
- 25 Mar: Bosveld Fotografieklub Salon
- 22 Apr: Tygerberg Photographic Society Salon
- 29 Apr: Youth Division Salon

SCORES FOR CLUB COMPETITION Wed. 9th November

HPS 2016-11-09 - Low Light - Projected: Set Subject

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

- 14 Viv Harpur Passing Stars 24 1 20 Viv Harpur Good Morning 23 2 1 Ben ter Huurne Load Shedding 23 3
- 3 Danie Coetzee This is the age of ... 23
- 8 Mark Smeddle Nicole 23
- 16 Ben ter Huurne Budapest bridge at night 23
- 4 David Damp Family Fun Night 22
- 5 Denise Whiteford South Bank 22
- 12 Peter Dewar Dawn on Miller's House 22
- 19 Paddy Howes Walls of Memory 22
- 21 Wessel Wessels Wisdom 22
- 6 Issi Potgieter Reflections 21
- 9 Neels Beyers Melkbaai at sunset 21
- 10 Nettie Warncke Wisteria in the Shade 21
- 11 Paddy Howes Pensive 21
- 13 Steve Crane Harbour Night 21
- 18 Marelize Wessels Silhoutte 21
- 2 Chris Herselman Wheat harvest 20
- 7 Marelize Wessels Overberg Sunrise 20
- 15 Wessel Wessels Peaceful 20
- 17 Denise Whiteford Past Fishing Time 19

HPS 2016-11-09 - Low Light - Projected: Open

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

- 3 Danie Coetzee Archangels 25 1
- 22 Florian Breuer Spirit Gull 24 2
- 19 Wessel Wessels Sweet Tooth 24 3
- 12 Nettie Warncke Fireworks 24
- 26 Nettie Warncke Cactus Flower 24
- 27 Peter Dewar Lighthouse Cape Columbine 24
- 10 Mark Smeddle On Reflection 23
- 15 Ronelle van Loggerenberg Sleepy flamingos 23
- 18 Viv Harpur A Perfect Fit 23
- 25 Neels Beyers Sunrise at Aus 23
- 1 Ben ter Huurne Vienna early morning 22
- 6 Florian Breuer Pink on Blue 22
- 7 Issi Potgieter Portrait of a Southern Ground-Hornbill 22
- 20 Danie Coetzee Runners 22
- 24 Mark Smeddle Langvlei Dawn 22
- 4 David Damp Streetside Workshop 21

- 8 Marelize Wessels Douvars 21
- 14 Peter Dewar Parched Point 21
- 16 Sonja Grünbauer Harvest Time 21
- 21 David Damp Fisherman 21
- 29 Sonja Grünbauer Cloudy day 21
- 17 Steve Crane Urban Buffalo 20
- 2 Chris Herselman Pastel landscape & clouds 19
- 9 Marguerite Waite My Nectar 19
- 11 Neels Beyers Down in Sesriem canyon 19
- 13 Paddy Howes Cactus 19
- 28 Ronelle van Loggerenberg Sail away 19
- 30 Steve Crane Subway 19
- 5 Denise Whiteford Tree Roots Over Ruins-Cambodia 18
- 23 Marguerite Waite Protea Kirstenbosch 18

HPS 2016-11-09 - Low Light - Prints: Set Subject

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

- 3 Issi Potgieter Starcast 25 1
- 2 Peter Dewar Hope 24 2
- 5 Neels Beyers Kokerbome 24 3
- 4 Neels Beyers Windmill at Sunset 22
- 1 Paddy Howes Dutch 19

HPS 2016-11-09 - Low Light - Prints: Open

No. Photographer Title Score Pos.

Peter Dewar Humble Dwelling 25 1 Peter Dewar Dark Solitude 25 2 Neels Beyers Airborne 23 3

Sonja Grünbauer Metropolitan 22 Paddy Howes Reach for the Sky 21 Sonja Grünbauer Moederkerk 21 Paddy Howes Jessica 20



Danie Coetzee 'Archangels'



Viv Harpur 'Passing Stars'

TOUR

TRIP TO NAMIBIA - 27 March to 14 April 2017

Go to Namibia in a group of three or more vehicles. Here is the proposed trip.

We leave Monday 27 March 2017 and sleep at Aussenkehr on the Orange river where we go to a canyon.

We then travel to Rosh Pinah on a scenic road and on the way to Luderitz we stop at the wild horses.

At Luderitz we go on tours to Pomona, Bogenfels, Elizabeth Bay and Kolmanskop. We then travel on the scenic D707 road to the Namtib Desert Lodge en route to Sesriem. At Sesriem we go to the canyon and Sossusvlei (Dead vlei).

Then to Swakopmund where we go on a Desert Tour or the Klipspringer Canyon tour or Sandwich Bay or an Ocean Adventure.

Then to Usakos for Gross Spitzkoppe and to two farms with a KhoiSan group and rock formations and Phillip's cave.

At Keetmanshoop we stay at the Quiver Tree Forest Camp where we feed the leopards and also go to the Giant's Playground. Our next stop is at Hobas to go to the viewpoint on the Fishriver Canyon – the second largest canyon in the world. Then home.

The cost of accommodation for a single person in lodges will be R13 531 (plus food) and for persons sharing rooms it will be R11 192 (plus food). If you prefer to camp the costs will be much lower. The total distance will be about 4 200 km.

If you want to join the group of photographers you must please let me know before 15 December 2016 so that the necessary bookings can be made by all.

For more detailed information contact Neels Beyers at beyersneels@gmail.com.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SALON

Name: The Photographic Society of India

Email: 1937psi@gmail.com

Comment / Query: We cordially invite you to participate in 15TH PSI INTERNATIONAL SALON 2016

Recognized by FIAP, PSA, RPS, GPU & FIP (Total-111 Awards)

hosted by The Photographic Society of India

Click http://psi.fotosalons.com/ Or http://www.photographicsocietyofindia.com/ Or http://www.photographicsocietyofindia.com/

Please forward to your friends & club members.

Time: 28 November 2016 at 07:50

IP Address: 120.63.35.78

Contact Form URL: https://helderbergphoto.com/contact/

Sent by an unverified visitor to your site.

WORKSHOP

AUS, NAMIBIA WORKSHOP with JJ van Heerden and Wicus Leeuwner



May21 2017 Enquire: Tanya at stejp@telkomsa.net

ARTICLE FROM THE HUFFINGTON POST

ARTS & CULTURE

Historic Woman Photographer Pays Stunning Tribute To Other Historic Women

Misty Copeland and Hillary Clinton are among the subjects in Annie Leibovitz's striking series.

Katherine Brooks Senior Arts & Culture Editor, The Huffington Post.



ANNIE LEIBOVITZ Misty Copeland, New York City, 2015

"We were looking hard in 1999 for women CEOs and women who ran companies," Annie Leibovitz told The New York Times last month, in a discussion centered on her ongoing "Women" series. She began the portrait project in the late '90s, working alongside her partner Susan Sontag, photographing women in leadership positions across politics, sports, business and arts.

This year, the project has come back to life, with new subjects reflective of a different time. "Now, it seems that there really are many more women in high positions," the photographer added. "It seemed like issues were more in the forefront."

"Women: New Portraits," commissioned by UBS, is currently on view in New York City, bringing together Leibovitz's images from 1999 with photos from 2016, and several in between. Her subjects include Hillary Clinton, Misty Copeland, the Williams sisters, Gloria Steinem, Andréa Medina Rosas, Malala Yousafzai, Shonda

Rhimes, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Warren, Denise Manong, Adele, Sheryl Sandberg and Caitlyn Jenner, among many others.

"You can't look at all those images without seeing the true human diversity of women, not characterized by whatever feminine idea or roles of who we're supposed to be," Steinem, who helped configure the list of women photographed, added to the NYT.



© CASEY KELBAUGH

Gloria Steinem and Annie Leibovitz at "WOMEN: New Portraits."

It is certainly fitting that one of the world's most recognizable photographers — a historic woman herself — is taking the time to honor the women breaking down barriers in their respective fields. It's also no accident that, in New York, the images are currently on display in a former women's prison, the Bayview Correctional Facility in Chelsea, which will soon become The Women's Building, a space dedicated to addressing the rights of girls and women.

New York is the ninth city to pay temporary home to Leibovitz's photos. So far, the series has toured through Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mexico City, London, San Francisco, Milan and Frankfurt, with Zurich on the horizon as the last stop. A series of public talks, dubbed "Women for Women," are also taking place in conjunction with the tour, focused on topics of global and local relevance to women's rights. Plus, on social media, the hashtag <u>#ShareYourHero</u> is encouraging people to share their own images of women who inspire them on a daily basis.

Catch a preview of "Women" here, on view until December 11, 2016, at 550 West 20th Street in New York City. The exhibition is free to enter and no ticket is required.



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© CASEY KELBAUGH



© CASEY KELBAUGH



© CASEY KELBAUGH



TUTORIAL

Here's a quick tip from Photzy's guide, "Complete Landscape Photography".

White Balance

99% of the time you'll capture Mother Nature's rainbow of colors perfectly while in the auto white balance setting. In fact, trying to set your white balance manually could have an adverse effect by washing out the colors you're seeing with your eyes.

Sometimes, you can utilize the "White Balance" setting on your camera to add some colorful zing to anotherwise dull day!



Photograph by Antoine Gady

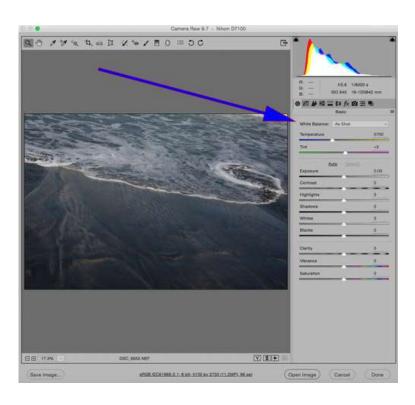
On this VERY gray day- the photographer accidentally set his white balance to the tungsten setting. The result was a much more interesting photograph (than he would have had at a normal white balance setting).

As you can see, manually setting the white balance can really change the look of your photograph.

Many photographers would argue that if you are shooting in the camera raw format, (and you should be), that the camera white balance setting doesn't really matter because it can be corrected in the raw processing window.

To some degree this is true.

BUT-



The camera white balance setting does get transferred into the ACR window via the EXIF data. This gives you a starting point to check and/or correct the image color.

The TWO important points to this Quick Tip-

Consider using the White Balance setting for creative alternatives in your landscape photography. Be sure to play with the white balance drop down menu in the ACR window, as it will provide some guidance as to how you want your color to appear in the final image. Perhaps, you want to change the color balance for creative purposes.

ARTS AND CRAFTS: BOARDWALK GORDONS BAY



WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2017

Would you like to enter?

For more than 50 years, Wildlife Photographer of the Year has championed honest and ethical wildlife photography, while pushing the boundaries of artistic freedom, narrative excellence and technical skill. We discover, encourage and reward nature photographers and wildlife ambassadors. Show us life through your lens and make your mark on the world of nature photography.

WPY 53 is now open.

Key dates

Competition opens on 24 October 2016.

Competition closes on 15 December 2016 at 11.30 GMT.

Original and high-resolution files requested from 25 January 2017 until 10 February 2017 at 11.30 GMT.

Winners will be contacted by 17 March 2017.

Register now

Sign in

Categories

There are 16 adult categories.

Rules

Read the rules before entering the competition and submitting images.

Translations of adult categories and rules

Available to download in 12 languages.

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to the most common questions

ARCHIVES

About This Collection

In 1943, Ansel Adams (1902-1984), America's most well-known photographer, documented the Manzanar War Relocation Center in California and the Japanese-Americans interned there during World War II. For the first time, digital scans of both Adams's original negatives and his photographic prints appear side by side allowing viewers to see Adams's darkroom technique, in particular, how he cropped his prints. Adams's Manzanar work is a departure from his signature style landscape photography. Although a majority of the more than 200 photographs are portraits, the images also include views of daily life, agricultural scenes, and sports and leisure activities (see *Collection Highlights*). When offering the collection to the Library in 1965, Adams said in a letter, "The purpose of my work was to show how these people, suffering under a great injustice, and loss of property, businesses and professions, had overcome the sense of defeat and dispair [sic] by building for themselves a vital community in an arid (but magnificent) environment....All in all, I think this Manzanar Collection is an important historical document, and I trust it can be put to good use."



- Title: Dressmaking class, Manzanar Relocation Center, California / photograph by Ansel Adams.
- Creator(s): Adams, Ansel, 1902-1984, photographer
- Date Created/Published: [1943]
- Medium: 1 photographic print : gelatin silver. 1 negative : safety film.
- Summary: Mrs. Ryie Yoshizawa, instructor, standing in front of class of women students, one woman in foreground with dressmaker's dummy.
- Repository: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA Part of: Adams, Ansel, 1902- Manzanar War Relocation Center photographs

Steve's Corner #11

photographer/.

... Steve Crane

It's a busy time of the year work-wise and I have not been able to put together a decent column so I will just remind you all that I do post a weekly collection of links to the club web site at https://helderbergphoto.com. Some members have said they have trouble remembering to visit the site and asking whether I can create a mailing list to send out a reminder to you all when there is something new on the site. Luckily this already exists, being a standard feature of the software that our site runs on. Here is how you can make sure that you are notified by email when something new is posted to the site.

Go to https://helderbergphoto.com in your browser and scroll down until you see the Follow Blog via Email section (example to the right) in the left hand side bar. Enter your email address and click the **Follow** button. You will receive an email asking you to confirm that you wish to subscribe. Click the link in the email to confirm and you're done. You will then receive an email whenever something new is posted.

To whet your appetite, below is a link to the type of article I link to in the Other section of my weekly link post. We are probably all familiar with Edward Weston's photographs of peppers and other vegetables, but did you know that there was another photographer that photographed vegetables? I had never heard of Charles Jones until I came across this article, but I think you will agree that he certainly had a knack for showing the beauty in humble fruits and vegetables. Here's the link http://hyperallergic.com/329716/posthumous-fame-of-19th-centurys-greatest-vegetable-

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A CHRISTMAS POEM by Steve Gettle

T'was the night before Christmas, when all through the house.

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that new photo gear soon would be there.

The photographers were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of great light danced in their heads. Dreaming of new images that they would soon make, great pictures of wildlife, field, forest, and lake.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see, what was the matter. The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow made magic the light on the objects below.

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,

I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.

I grabbed my camera and snatched up my flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash
I must get this shot and I must be real quick,
I push down the shutter but alas there's no click!

I can't believe my luck, the batteries are dead, where is that spare set, I think in my head.

A fresh set of lithiums I have in my bag, If only I could get there, man what a drag!

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof, the prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

I think to myself I know his next play, down the chimney he'll come, today is the day!

I grab the fresh batteries and say a few prayers, I load up my camera as I dash down the stairs I hit the landing and stopped with great awe. Standing before me I must relay what I saw.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of new photo gear he had flung on his back, all kinds of new gadgets filled out his great sack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
I stood there slack-jawed utterly dumbfounded,
my camera at my side all my plans were confounded.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. With a twinkle and a nod, up the chimney he rose I fired off the camera. All I got was his toes.

Once he was gone I snapped out of my trance I smiled as I realized I had missed my big chance. But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all, Good Luck and Good Light!"

THE LAST WORD



Hope everyone gets to take some time off during the Season!

-000-