



# The FLASH!

February 2016

Newsletter of the Plano (Texas) Photography Club

[www.planophotographyclub.com](http://www.planophotographyclub.com)



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### Best in Show: *Mom* - By Marie Hansen

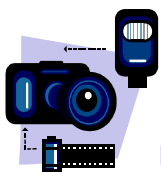
This is a picture of my mom, Mervice Hansen, taken a month before she died at the age of 92. She spent the last months of her life in a nursing home, where I visited her daily. We didn't have much conversation during these visits, but she enjoyed my presence.

On a late afternoon in August, around 5:00 PM, we were sitting in the lounge area prior to going to the dining room for dinner. Mom was wearing a yellow sweater, a yellowish blanket was in her lap, and golden sunlight was streaming in from the nearby window. Shadows from the window pane dividers were marking a cross on her body. It was a magic moment. She looked so beautiful, so sweet, while at the same time so sad, dejected, and frail. Her diminishing health was obvious; yet, even in her decline she was still an elegant woman. Her hair was a beautiful white; her skin was remarkably free of

wrinkles. I felt compelled to take her picture and grabbed my iPhone. Somehow the image captures the essence of my mom. The image haunts me and evokes a lot of emotions ranging from sadness to grief to love. One wonders what she was thinking. Perhaps I should title it "Waiting".

The image was captured with an iPhone 4S. The iPhone settings were f2.4, 1/620 sec, ISO 64, 4.28mm lens. It was processed in Lightroom. Due to the inadequacy of the iPhone's camera to deal with the high contrast lighting situation, I had to fiddle around with exposure, particularly where highlights were blown out in her sweater, which also had taken on a sort of a wonky greenish color. I also found it interesting that there was a faint ghostly glow that seemed to be coming off Mom's body.





## Upcoming Club Activities

**February 27, 2016 – Camera Fundamentals** A workshop dedicated to those club members who would like a better understanding of their camera and how to use it. We will start the day at 9:00 with coffee and donuts. At noon we'll take an hour break for lunch provided by the club. If you wish to sign up for the workshop, please notify Bud Mallar at either [bmallar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bmallar@sbcglobal.net) or [training@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:training@planophotographyclub.com) and indicate your brand of camera.

**March 2 & 5, 2016 – Dallas Arboretum** - Pick & choose your day; Wednesday ticket is buy one get one free at the gate; parking \$8 (online purchase); Park features the largest floral festival in the Southwest, the theme "The Artistry in Nature" featuring renowned sculptor Gary Lee Price's Great Contributors exhibit on display throughout the garden. The garden explodes with color from the 500,000 spring-blossoming bulbs.

**April 2-3, 2016 – Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, Glen Rose, Texas** – (Saturday Evening Tour Full! Spots Still Open for Sunday Morning Tour). We will be taking a private photography tour Saturday, April 2nd, in the late afternoon and Sunday morning, taking pictures of wildlife animals. We will get together for dinner after the tour and stay over for the evening in the area. There is a fee of \$65 per person for the photo tour. Please e-mail [activity@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:activity@planophotographyclub.com) if you are interested.

**October 27-30, 2016 – Fall Color trip to Petit Jean State Park Arkansas** - We will be going to Petit Jean State Park in Arkansas next fall for a fun trip with fall colors. Call the Mather Lodge at 501-727-5431 or 800-264-2462 to reserve your room or cabin. Tell them you are with the Plano Photography Club. You will have up to 30 days before your arrival date to cancel. Please e-mail [activity@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:activity@planophotographyclub.com) if you are interested.

## Guest Speaker – *Take A Longer Look - Impact and Visual Polarity* – John Murray

John Murray, Master Photographer and Photographic Craftsman, received his Bachelors degree in Business from North Texas State University in 1983. He was awarded the Master of Photography Degree from the Professional Photographers of America in 1991. John has one hundred twenty four Exhibition National Merit Awards with twenty-three International Loan print awards. Three were chosen to be displayed at Florida's Epcot Center. Twice, he won the Past President's Trophy at the SWPA competition and once received the Best Of Show By A Master. He holds many distinguished print awards. John is one of the first to hold the "Excellence In Imaging Award" presented by the PPA. His articles have been published in the American Society of Photographers Magazine, Professional Photographers Magazine, Southwestern Image, and the Texas Professional Photographers Magazine.

John Murray is a second generation photographer following his father, Paul Murray, who pursued portraiture as a business since 1948. Through nine years of apprenticeship and a continued lifetime of experience, John is acquainted with proper exposure for emotion, good lighting for appeal, and excellent printing of the photographic print and is dedicated to lifelong learning and teaching of photography. He currently teaches high school at Faith Christian School in Grapevine, TX. He is well know in the industry as a mentor and critic used by the masters while helping many professional photographers achieve their Master's Degrees from the Professional Photographers Association.

"Take A Longer Look" is about his approach to a photograph which will lend the image depth, the critical element for drawing any viewer into the image. The program is filled with illustrations and tips to entice the viewer to maintain emotion long enough to connect with each piece. His thirty four years of competing for the national award merit print in the PPA have given way to technical approach and applied philosophy in light, color, line, and circular observation which have influenced his 85% success rate for meriting an image.



## Fossil Rim Wildlife Center Overnight Activity - April 2-3

(Saturday Evening Tour is Full, Slots open for Sunday Morning Tour)

We are going to have a fun trip to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center near Glen Rose, TX on the late afternoon of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Please plan to be there at 3:30 pm to make sure we can start our tour on time at 4:00 pm. We will be photographing antelope, zebra, giraffe, white rhino, ostrich, emu, and exotic deer species. The tour is a private 4 hour photography tour led by a photographer that will lead us to the animals and to the spots with best lighting. We will be going on some of the roads as the regular tours and some roads only used by staff, depending on where the animals are. We are not allowed to get out of the van while on tour. You may bring a monopod, but there will be no room for a tripod while on tour. It was also suggested to use a bean bag (to rest the camera against the window frame). Each van will have 6 photographers. The evening tour has a maximum of 18 photographers. It will be first come first serve by requesting by e-mail to [activity@planophotographyclub.com](mailto:activity@planophotographyclub.com). If there are over 18 requests, we will have a private morning tour also at 8:30am. The private photography tour for the evening of April second is \$65 dollars/person. I will have to determine the price for Sunday morning tour based on the number of people going. We will not be going to the 'intensive management' area where the dangerous animals are (cheetahs, black rhinos) due to fact they are behind a chain linked fence unless consensus of the tour group is to spend time there. Before the tour, if you like, you can get lunch at the Overlook Café at Fossil Rim Park.

After the tour, we plan to have dinner at La Vita Italian Restaurant in downtown Glen Rose at around 8:30pm. The restaurant/Glen Rose is about 15 minutes from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. you can bring your own wine. It is a non-smoking restaurant.

We will all want to spend the night in Glen Rose or at the Fossil Rim Lodge. Everyone should make their own reservations. There is no group reservation of rooms. Please make a refundable reservation in case we have to postpone due to bad weather. We are allowed to cancel the tour 24 hours ahead of time. Several days ahead we will know if there is a prediction of 100%, monsoon type rain. The van has a canopy on top, but is open on both sides and they do close the park on occasions due to bad weather. There are several hotels along the main road coming into Glen Rose, Hwy 67. I chose Comfort Inn for myself and I know several are staying there. There is some rooms at the Lodge at Fossil Rim and there are some Bed and Breakfasts lodging near and around Glen Rose, but be mindful of cancellation policy. Fossil Rim Lodge and cabins are a bit pricey, but is on two acres of land and you are able to get up early in the morning and shoot pictures of animals on the property, especially near a water hole you can walk to. You are able to get in and out of the lodge or the cabins after park hours by going through a combination gate. The phone number to the Fossil Rim Lodge is the same for the park, 254-897- 2960. View the lodging information at <http://www.fossilrim.org/lodging.php>. They have several types of lodging such as tents and cabins as well as the lodge. I do not have group reservations there, but they said to let them know you are part of the Plano Photography Club so that they know you are part of a group.

If you were in the park on Saturday, and if you are not doing a private or public tour Sunday morning, you are able to drive through Fossil Rim Park for FREE before 10:00 am. The Fossil Rim Park opens at 8:30 am. If you are looking for other things to do on Sunday, there is Dinosaur State Park nearby. <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/dinosaur-valley>

Be sure to look over Fossil Rim's website carefully, the park has a variety of tours and activities. <http://www.fossilrim.org>. I will need to collect your money for the tour by cash or checks ahead of time by mail or at the February meeting. There will be a follow-up e-mail that I will send you for more detail concerning the tour and directions when you sign up.





## November's Winning Images – Portrait of Character

### Masters

<b>Marie Hansen</b>	Mom	15	1st, BoS
<b>Peter Staxen</b>	Jazz Jammin' Jenny	14	2nd
<b>Sam Wilson</b>	Derek	14	3rd

### Advanced

<b>Linfen Hwang</b>	The Portrait of A Jeweler	15	1st
<b>Jim Spencer</b>	Nick	14	2nd
<b>James Edward</b>	Me and my pet crab (A modern day little mermaid)	14	3rd
<b>Bud Barlow</b>	American Joe	13	HM

### Intermediate

<b>Ming Yang</b>	Life is sweet! Dude.	15	1st
<b>Valerie Johnson</b>	Felipe: Stone Sculptor, Mayaluum	14	2nd
<b>Bryan Zumbar</b>	She is always smiling	14	3rd

### Beginners

<b>Randy Ratzlaff</b>	CHEF	14	1st
<b>Cathy Lin</b>	The Girl at the Green Mosque	13	2nd
<b>Leslie Johnston</b>	Suppose	13	3rd

**Randy  
Ratzlaff**



**Cathy  
Lin**



**Leslie  
Johnston**



**Ming  
Yang**



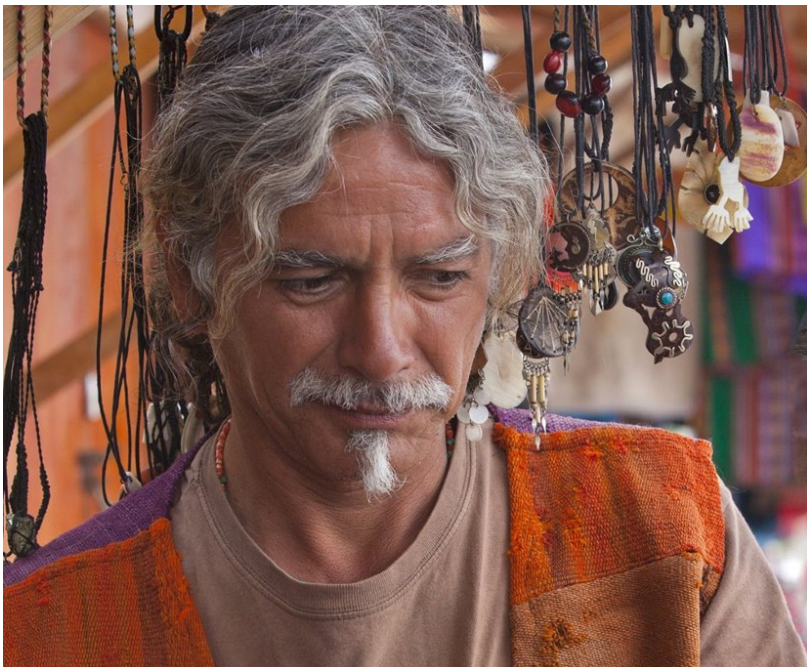




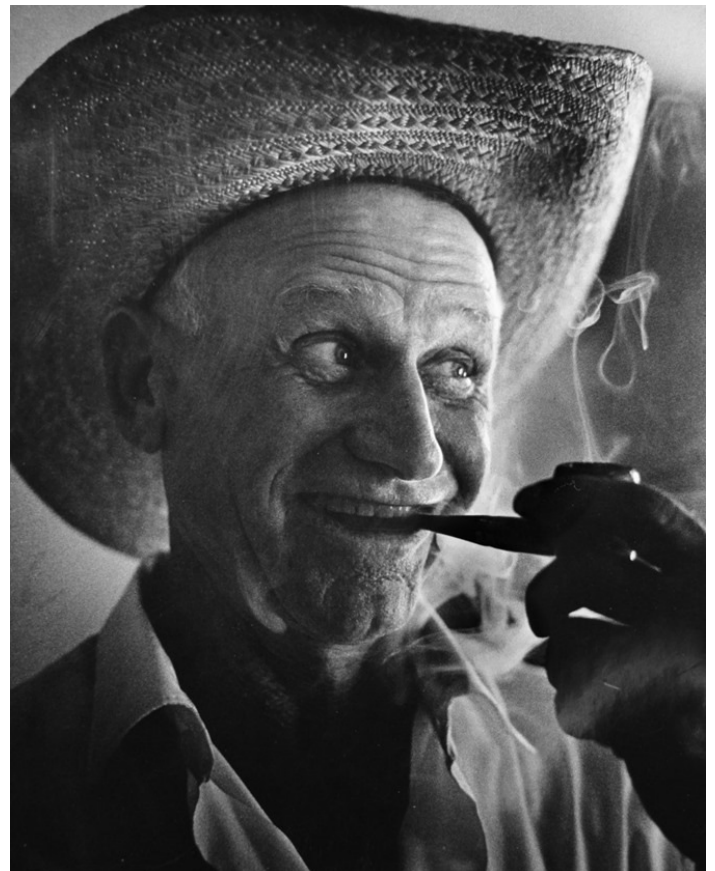
**Valerie Johnson**



**Bryan Zumbar**



**Linfen Hwang**



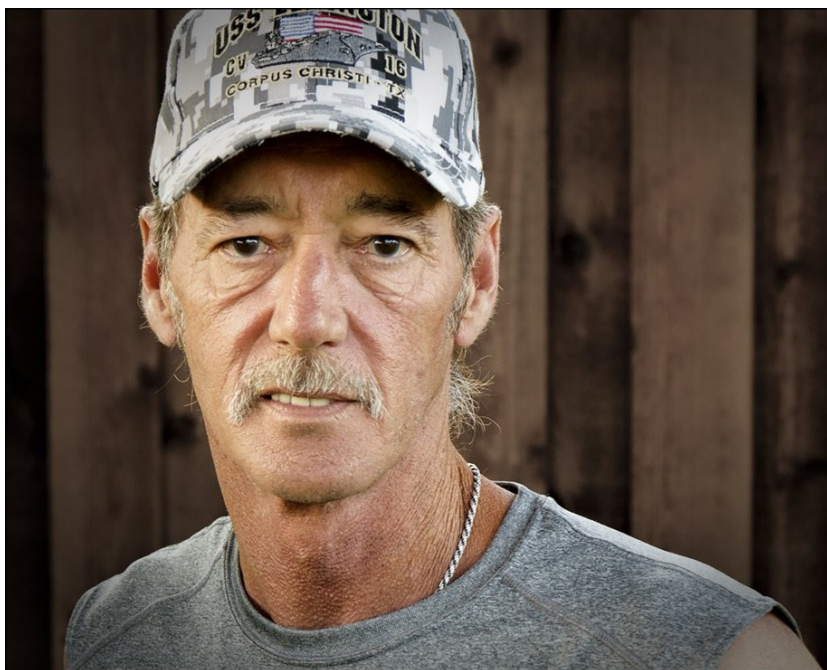
**Jim Spencer**







**James Edward**



**Bud Barlow**



**Peter Staxen**



**Sam Wilson**



## Competition Themes

February	Open	May	Repetition	September	Shadow Play	January (2017)	Photojournalism
March (Print)	Monochrome	June	Open	October (Print)	Open	February	Open
April	Open	July	Shallow Depth of Field	November	People (TBD)	March (Print)	Decrepit, Ruined or Broken
		August	Open	December	No Contest	April	Open

## Competition Standings\*

Photographer	Judge's Points	Place Points	Total Points	Photographer	Judge's Points	Place Points	Total Points
<b>Beginners</b>				<b>Intermediate</b>			
Mack, Nancy	85	32	117	Johnson, Valerie	87	27	114
Johnston, Leslie	71	29	100	Mangum, Joyce	84	23	107
Hwang, Jack	75	14	89	Yang, Ming	72	25	97
Ratzlaff, Randy	62	16	78	Zumbar, Bryan	64	3	67
Lin, Cathy	60	16	76	Warren, Lulu	62	4	66
Griffin, Lori	60	7	67	Carroll, Vincent	58	4	62
Armstrong, Brenda	43	11	54	Haynes, James	48	10	58
Barlow, Bruce	32	4	36	Davenport, Janet	48	3	51
Conard, Debbie	32	0	32	DeRouen, Robin	34	10	44
Farmer, Denny	20	3	23	Leshner, Aaron	39	3	42
Quinn, Stephanie	14	6	20	Roldan, Oscar	32	6	38
Srinivasan, Amita	13	0	13	Jaco, Sherry	27	10	37
Avellanet, Lois	12	0	12	Blevins, Mary Jean	26	10	36
Sarembock, Jeffrey	12	0	12	Stiles, Parvin	34	1	35
Dimmick, Russell	10	0	10	Flores, Jesse	30	0	30
				Sharp, Leo	27	0	27
				Moulder, Retha	26	0	26
				Blackwell, Larry	12	0	12
<b>Advanced</b>				<b>Masters</b>			
Hwang, Linfen	89	31	120	Downey, Marea	90	23	113
Barlow, Bud	83	23	106	Hansen, Marie	87	25	112
Barlow, Carol	82	18	100	Champlin, Don	81	17	98
Walsh, Jim	82	16	98	Hasty, Sharlott	88	8	96
Edward, James	70	16	86	Lehman, John	82	14	96
Spencer, Jim	60	16	76	Petterborg, Larry	89	6	95
Lin, Ron	62	6	68	Grigsby, Linda	82	11	93
Schlesinger, Jerry	66	1	67	Fritsche, Dennis	82	9	91
Henkle, Charlie	50	10	60	Hasty, Ron	76	13	89
Morton, Ken	46	1	47	Artiles, Jose	80	8	88
Shannon, Jim	14	3	17	Wilson, Sam	74	10	84
				Staxen, Peter	77	6	83
				Volkmer, Danette	81	1	82
				Carrick, Jennifer	75	0	75
				Stover, James	66	0	66
				Lehman, Lois	47	0	47

**\* Annual 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards in each Class based on Total Points. Photographer of the Year is based on Judges' Points. Promotion based on Place Points.**





## President's Message: *Change Your Vantage Point*

My wife is reading the book "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp. Ann is a writer and also does amateur photography. One evening my wife said, "You need to listen to this," and read me a passage from the book. In this passage, Ann's young daughter has begged to be allowed to use her mother's camera for a few minutes. She roams through the house taking pictures and then returns to show them to her mother. "We scroll through her pictures on the glowing screen... Frame of a table. A doorknob. A bookshelf skewed on a tilt. Yet her photos surprise, every single one. Why? It takes me a moment to make sense of it. It's the vantage point. At thirty-six inches her angle's unfamiliar to me and utterly captivating: the study ceiling arches like a dome, her bed a floating barge. The stairs plunge like a gorge. She's Alice in Wonderland all the world grown Everest-like around and above her."

There are two lessons to learn here. If you want to see the world through a child's eyes, hand them a camera. More to the point, if you want to freshen up your own photography, to make your images surprising and captivating (and don't we all?), change your vantage point!

- Sam Wilson

### **Plano Photography Club Officers & Volunteers**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Officer &amp; Volunteers</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
President	Sam Wilson	<a href="mailto:ppc@planophotographyclub.com">ppc@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Programs	Bud Barlow	<a href="mailto:programs@planophotographyclub.com">programs@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Activities	Parvin Stiles	<a href="mailto:activity@planophotographyclub.com">activity@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Secretary / Membership	Brenda Armstrong	<a href="mailto:membership@planophotographyclub.com">membership@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Treasurer	Peter Staxen	<a href="mailto:treasurer@planophotographyclub.com">treasurer@planophotographyclub.com</a>
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Calibration Equip	Dennis Frische	<a href="mailto:calibrate@planophotographyclub.com">calibrate@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Tabletop Equipment	Cindy Vaillancourt	<a href="mailto:table_top@planophotographyclub.com">table_top@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Slideshows	Lulu Warren	<a href="mailto:clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com">clubphotos@planophotographyclub.com</a>
Training	Bud Mallar / Don Champlin	<a href="mailto:training@planophotographyclub.com">training@planophotographyclub.com</a>

### **About The Club**

The club meets at 7 PM the third Thursday of each month (no meeting in December) at West Plano Presbyterian Church 2709 Custer Road, Plano TX. Visitors are welcome! Officers meet at 7 PM on the first Thursday of each month (except December) at our regular meeting location. Open to all members.

The club is a member of: *Gulf States Camera Club Council (GSCCC) & Photographic Society of America (PSA)*

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**JAMES T STOVER**

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**EDITOR**

