



# Happy New Year!



## *ViewFinder*

Member: Photographic Society of America and  
The Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs



**December 2023, Roll 88, Exposure 12**

**Contact:** [tccvfinder@gmail.com](mailto:tccvfinder@gmail.com) **Website:** [twincitycameraclub.com](http://twincitycameraclub.com)

521 Elm Street, downtown St. Joseph, MI 49085

**Photographers at Krasl:** Several club members have their work on exhibit at the Krasl Arts Center as part of its annual exhibit of works by KAC member artists and the community at large. Club members and works are Sandy Hafer, “Bubbles Rising,” digital photography; Marguerite Echelberger, “Handsome Wood Duck,” photography; Jim Genellie, “Winter Wetlands,” photo on canvas; and Ron DeKett, “North Pier, St. Joseph,” photography. Club member John Kubicek showed his talent beyond photography with his entry, “A Box,” wood. The exhibit closes Jan. 21. Visit [krasl.org](http://krasl.org).

**Photo contest:** Resthaven Care Center in Holland, MI, is sponsoring the “Bringing the Outside In” photo competition and exhibit with the theme “Closer to Home.” The following is from its website: “Ideally, we will see images that reflect the concept of ‘home’ along the Lakeshore. While that does not exclude the many amazing views of Michigan, we would encourage the capture of more ‘local’ landscapes, points of interest, and places of familiarity to Southwest Michigan ... This could include subjects as small as macros or close-ups, but could also include patterns found within larger scenes, or things that represent the home of wildlife or even historical homes of humans, so long as they are part of the landscape or represent the cultural character of the area.”

The judge will be the Honorable Ed Post. The submission window is Feb. 1-29. There is no entry fee. Submit up to two images. More details are at the website: [rb.gy/hy9r2m](https://rb.gy/hy9r2m)

**January competition:** The Select Subject for January is Creative: The image is manipulated or enhanced with in-camera techniques or with photo enhancement software, filters, plug-ins, or actions showing the maker’s creativity. The image should be unique and different, out of the ordinary. The deadline to submit is midnight, Jan. 1.

**Painting with Light:** Longtime club member Dennis Hafer will conduct the interactive program “Painting with Light” starting at 7 p.m. Jan. 22 at the clubhouse.

**Editor's note – Help!:** I have been selecting Photos of the Month since we switched to the new voting system with all attending club members voting. I have included any photo that received an Honor as a Photo of the Month because I did not want to be the sole arbiter. Sometimes it was just two photos, as in November (way to go Becki Utigard), and sometimes many more. Pre-pandemic, when a three-judge panel selected Honor photos, club members had the opportunity to vote for one color and one black & white image as Photos of the Month. That practice has fallen by the wayside with the new voting system.

It doesn't make sense to me to include all the Honor photos because doing so dilutes the meaning and purpose of having a Photo of the Month. In my view, it should be just one color photo and one black & white photo. So, as a temporary measure, I will select one color photo that received an Honor and one black & white photo that received an Honor as the Photos of the Month.

Here is where I need your help. I do not want to be the sole decision-maker because I have my own biases about what constitutes a Photo of the Month. I am open to practical, doable and hopefully hassle-free suggestions on how to select Photos of the Month. The February business meeting is an opportunity to make suggestions about what to do, or you can email me at [tccvfinder@gmail.com](mailto:tccvfinder@gmail.com) or contact any of the club officers.

**Photos of the Month:** Congratulations go to Dennis Hafer whose photo, "Waiting for Windows," was selected as the Color Photo of the Month for December, and to Becki Utigard whose photo, "Solitary," was selected as the Black & White Photo of the Month for December. Both photos were among the images that received Honors in the December competition.

## **Waiting for Windows** – Dennis Hafer



## Solitary – Becki Utigard



**Photography awards:** Club member Marguerite Eichelberger continues to receive honors for her photographic work. One of her photos was selected as Photo of the Month for November 2023 by The Universe of Colour Photography, an international monthly photo contest for color photography. A black & white photo was selected as a Photo of the Month for November 2023 by the Club of Black and White Photography, an international monthly photo contest for monochrome photography.

**Texture, clarity, dehaze:** Many thanks to Ted Post for posting a downloadable document on the club Facebook page about the differences between texture, clarity and dehaze. There's a real danger of over-editing images using those valuable tools. John Kubicek also reports that Mark Denney has a great YouTube video on the same subject.

**Annual business meeting:** The club's annual business meeting starts at 7 p.m., Feb. 26. Club members are encouraged to ask questions and make suggestions on how the club can better serve its members. Please do not invite visitors to this meeting.

**Box Factory exhibit:** Photographs by club members Sherry Saenz, Jim Genellie and Ron DeKett are part of the "Remembering Songs of Youth" exhibit at the Box Factory for the Arts. The exhibit, which continues through Jan. 14, is an annual event during which Box Factory members are invited to submit up to two works for the show. Visit [boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://boxfactoryforthearts.org).

**Photography teachers needed:** Webmaster Jasmin Bretaña has created a form under the website membership tab where members can sign up to conduct a class on photographic skills.

**Select Subjects:** Here are the Select Subjects for the 2023-24 competition season:

- Feb. 12 – Sports: The object that is the focus of attention in the image must have something to do with sports.
- March 11 – Anything goes: The image can be anything the rules permit. Everything qualifies as Select. Use your imagination and creativity.
- April 8 – Shadows: The dark shape that appears on a surface when an object blocks light.
- May 13 – Architecture: Anything related to architecture, buildings, parts of buildings. You may isolate aspects of the subject to emphasize design portions.

**Editor’s choice:** This is the third installment of “Editor’s choice,” in which each month I will select a photo that I personally like and will tell you the reasons I believe it is a great photograph. This month’s pick is “Skyfall” by Marguerite Eichelberger. Before I discuss why I like Marguerite’s photograph, I want to describe another criterium I use for selecting the photographs. I will not pick a photo that has received an Honor, unless it is, in my view, so superior to other photos in its class that I can’t help myself.

### **Skyfall** – Marguerite Eichelberger



**Why I like it:** (First, I must point out that I added the border so that the image does not appear lost on this document. My apologies, Marguerite.) Now, why I like it. The photograph is a

wonderful example of minimalism, which is stripping a subject down to its essence and emphasizing its sparseness through careful composition. But a photograph taken in minimalist style is not necessarily a great or even good image unless it has emotional impact, unless it tells a story even if we are unable to clearly express what the story may be. Marguerite's image succeeds technically and emotionally.

First the technique: The image is cropped to a 9x16 format, which is a pleasing horizontal shape commonly used on television screens and movie theaters. The leaf is placed in the top left corner of the "rule of thirds" ratio. The angle of the image and the appearance strongly suggest it is a falling leaf devoid of life and floating downward and to the right. The leaf itself appears translucent with an array of veins, such as you would find on the hand of a very old human. The image and the composition are pleasing and suggest a final journey.

Now the tale: If one examines the image long enough, a story begins to reveal itself. The nature of the story depends on the imagination and history of the observer. I find several stories in that lone leaf as it drifts to its resting place outside time. The one I most enjoy is this: It is an allegory for the final stage of mortal life. The leaf could be the soul as it leaves the body and embarks on a journey to a destination unclear to the observer. Yet it is a hopeful journey because it is in a backdrop of white light. The leaf also has a pleasing gray tone which indicates lightness. There is sorrow to be sure because the final journey is always accomplished alone. But sorrow in the light fades.

So, the question arises: "Marguerite, what was your thinking and intention behind this image? Does it reflect what Ron prattled on about for too many paragraphs? At which point, Marguerite can smile that enigmatic smile that artists use and say, "Well, what do you think it says?" At which point we can tear our hair out. Such is the way of a great photograph.

**Quote of the Month:** Here's one from my favorite photographer of yore:

"Negatives are the notebooks, the jottings, the false starts, the whims, the poor drafts, and the good draft but never the completed version of the work... The print and a proper one is the only completed photograph, whether it is specifically shaded for reproduction, or for a museum wall."  
– W. Eugene Smith

**Magazines available:** Photographic magazines for the taking are available at the front table.

**Photography competition:** This is a partial list of upcoming photography competitions. Be sure to conduct due diligence if you decide to enter.

- Celebrate Michigan, an annual competition sponsored by The Detroit News, open to amateur photographers. Google "Celebrate Michigan Photo Contest."
- Michigan Trails Photo Contest, sponsored by Michigan Trails. Deadline for 2024 is Jan. 31. Visit [mitrails.org/photo-contest.php](http://mitrails.org/photo-contest.php).

**Feedback wanted:** Club members are invited to make comments, ask questions, give suggestions and voice concerns about club offerings. The board wants to know what the club can do to improve and expand its services and programs to benefit members. The feedback will be

used by the board of directors as it plans its programs for the coming year. Contact information for board members is available on the club website.

**Member Spotlight:** Check out the club website to learn more about club members. Webmaster Jasmin Bretana has created a Member Spotlight section under the “announcements” link on the main page.

**Facebook:** Don’t forget about the club Facebook page. Members are encouraged to post their images, report on photo opportunities and learn about up-to-date club news.

**Visit the Website:** Remember to regularly visit the club website, [twincitycameraclub.com](http://twincitycameraclub.com).

**Instagram:** Webmaster Jasmin Bretana has created a club Instagram account. Visit [www.instagram.com/twincitycameraclub/](http://www.instagram.com/twincitycameraclub/).

**December honors:** Congratulations go to the club members whose photos received Honors for the December competition.

#### **B&W Select**

- Becki Utigard - Solitary
- Sandy Hafer - Stairway in Museum of Contemporary Art
- Sandy Hafer - Mill in Cades Cover
- Bill Schalk - Catching the Train

#### **B&W Open**

- Barry Nelson - Hummingbird Feeding

#### **Color Select**

- Jim Genellie - Approaching Storm
- Bill Schalk - Fuchsia
- Sandy Hafer - Golden Beauty
- Sandy Hafer - My Secret Garden
- Dennis Hafer - Waiting for Windows

#### **Color Open**

- Jim Lynch - Flying away

**Keep those shutters clicking...**

*Take more pictures*

*But don't  
forget to*

*Enter competitions*



*We exist to encourage and develop an interest in photography.*

