



"IN FOCUS"

Newsletter of the
Morgan Hill Photography Club

<http://www.morganhillphotographyclub.org/>

**April
2011**



Editor
Susan Brazelton
brzltn@garlic.com

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Happy Anniversary to Us!

The April meeting marked the third anniversary of the club, which gave us a reason to celebrate. With cookies served and sparkling cider poured, charter member Marty Cheek led the celebratory toast with an original poem:



Throughout our South Valley's geography,
Abides plenty of photography.
Images of sunsets, mountains and trees,
Flowers, meadows, and Pacific seas.
Downtown with its old church steeple,
Smiling faces of happy people.
Clouds sailing across an indigo sky,
A rose kissed by a butterfly.



You will be sure to get a thrill
With your camera in Morgan Hill.
But if you really want some photo fun
Join the group formed by Susan Brazelton.
The Morgan Hill Photography Club is for friends
Who like to get behind a camera lens.
May I suggest you forget all the rest
Cause Morgan Hill's photo club is the best.
So to all the members here,
People whom I hold so dear.
I wish you a happy anniversary
As we pass year number three.
Let's now all raise a toast
To the photo club we love the most,
And to end this rhyme I ask you please
Lift up your glasses and everyone say "Cheese!"



New Member Orientation

Fifteen people attended the New Member Orientation held prior to the start of the general meeting. They learned about the club's philosophy ("Fun Friendship & Photography"); how to participate in the many club activities, including shoot-outs, Flickr theme projects, community service projects, Focus Groups, and gallery shows; and how to utilize the club's electronic resources (Yahoo Forum, Flickr and the club website). Everyone received an "Online Resource Guide" with instructions on obtaining a Yahoo ID, setting up a Flickr account and joining a Flickr group, and joining the Yahoo Forum. This guide is available on the website.

Print Share

The people who attended the first club meeting back in April 2008 made it clear that they wanted a club that was very social. They did not want to sit and look at photographs on a big screen; they wanted an opportunity to talk to other photographers and ask questions about their photographs. Thus, a print sharing session was included in the very next meeting, and although the format has evolved, sharing prints and talking photography has become an integral part of every meeting.



All members and guests are encouraged to bring a print (any size, any subject) to share. This is not a critique session. We just want to get to know each other, meet new members, and welcome guests. The photographer showing a photo doesn't need to make a presentation. We encourage others at the table to ask questions that go beyond the camera, lens, and location: such as, "What do you like about this photo?" and, "Is this photograph typical for you?"

Member News

Welcome to April New Members

- Margie Robatto • Diana Cooley • Nicole DeCanio • John Conde
- Tami Wilduner • Karen Perkins • Rodney Myatt • Kyrod Myatt
- Sara Anne Nesse • David Anderson • Veronica Gilbert

and two returning members

- T.R. Smith • Susie Smith



The club's 2011 membership is now now stands at 116.

New members and guests are always welcome.

Please feel free to invite your photographically inclined friends to attend a meeting.

Susan Brazelton and **Noella Vigeant** photographed the AAUW Wildflower Run and each had a photograph published in the Morgan Hill Times.

You may read the article and view the photos by clicking on this very long link:

<http://www.morganhilltimes.com/sports/274604-the-finish-line-taking-part-in-another-big-turnout-at-the-aauw-wildflower-run>

Print Critique

It is always a delight to have **Claudia Peterson** as a guest commentator. With a critical eye, Claudia viewed each of the fifty-one prints that were submitted and slipped onto the light box easel. In general, Claudia commented on the immediate impact an image made, compositional components, and technical proficiency.

Some of her specific comments included:

- Make sure the subject is worthy of a photo.
- Don't clip the edges of your subject. Leave space between the subject and the edge of the frame.
- Darken the edges (subtly) to keep the viewer's eye in the frame.
- Making the bottom portion of the composition darker than the top portion will give added depth to the photo.
- A still life must be sharp front to back.
- Leading lines (to the main subject) are like a map for the viewer.
- An odd number is more interesting than an even number.
- With a portrait, keep the subject's hands close to the body so they will be sharp and not look too big.
- If a photo is too complex (busy), the viewer gets tired of searching for what to look at.
- Lighter in front and darker in back will add dimension to a photo.
- One subject may be static; three is dynamic.
- Getting closer to the subject makes it more powerful.
- The viewer's eye will be drawn to whatever is white, bright or red.
- Small light spots distract the eye from the main subject.
- Side light will add dimension to the subject.
- The eye moves from left to right so make sure there is nothing on the left side of a photo to block the eye. (If you have a large tree trunk on the left side, try flipping the image horizontally.)
- To enhance the colors in a print, use the whitest white mat you can find.
- Only use a black mat if there is black in the image. This goes for any color mat: it must match a color in the image.
- A mat that is cut slightly wider at the bottom will help ground a photo.
- The most dramatic color combinations are orange & blue, and red & green. Purple & yellow, not so much.



“Simplicity is wonderful in photography.”

“Go cut that blossom off and toss it.”

“Don't chop off a person's toes. It hurts.”



Focus Groups Review

Focus Groups are self directing, with the members deciding where and when to meet and how they want to pursue their interest. Each group has a facilitator who is the contact person for the group and helps organize the meetings and activities. If you are interested in joining a Focus Group (must be a member of the club), please contact the facilitator.

Point and Shoot Cameras - Dan Gregg: dwgdvm@aol.com

This group usually meets twice a month: first for a practice shoot using point & shoot cameras, and then again to review the photos, exchange ideas, and learn more about the capabilities of the cameras. In March, several members met at Hot Java in Morgan Hill and then strolled down third street to the Grannary, shooting all the way. Their assignment for April is to photograph action.



You may view photos taken by members of this Focus Group at:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1605480@N21/>

Next Meeting: Thursday, 9 June 7:00pm

Macro Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

The members of this group choose a project for each month and post their photos on their proprietary Flickr site. Previous projects included: *In My BackYard* and *Scavenger Hunt*.

For April, their macro photos will have an Easter theme.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-macrofocusgroup/>

Lightroom - George Ziegler: George@gwzphotography.com

In its monthly meetings, this group continues its exploration of the many tools and modules in Adobe Lightroom. At the April meeting members will continue to explore features and shortcuts, and view Adobe podcasts.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 21 April 7:00PM at George's house

Photoshop Elements & Picasa - Bob Smith: rwsjls62@gmail.com

This group usually meets once a month at a computer lab in south San Jose to practice using Elements and Picasa.

Next Meeting: TBA - Contact Bob

Photographing People - Noella Vigeant: nvigeant@gmail.com

Want to learn more about photographing people in difficult lighting situations (such as shade & sun, dappled light, back lit subjects, etc.)? This group meets every month to practice, practice, practice. In early April they met at the Morgan Hill House and shot on the porch, in the shade of the trees, and under the Wisteria. They have a private website to view and critique photos.



Next Meeting: Time & Place: TBA

Night Photography - Susan Brazelton: brzltn@garlic.com

Finally, this group was able to get out and shoot the full moon rise. Conditions weren't perfect, but over a two night shoot (first at Guglielmo Winery and then on the road up to El Toro), the elusive moon was captured. View moon photos: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhpc-night-focusgroup/>



Flickr Theme Projects

The Flickr Theme Projects were established at the very first club meeting in April 2008. This group now has 115 members, and close to 3,000 photos have been posted. Each club member may post up to five photos for each theme.

View these “Special Effects” photos and more at: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclub/>



©Roy Hovey



©Jim Burzo

Flickr

2011 Themes

April: **Special Effects**

May: Stormy Weather

June: Doors

July: City Lights

August: Street Scenes

September: Out of Town

October: Fences

November: Alphabet

December: Seasons



©Bob Smith



©Duane Middlebusher



©Dan Gregg

Shoot-outs

In a continuing effort to support the members who want to participate in planned shoot-outs, we are creating a **shoot-out committee** that will organize a variety of photographic events. Shoot-outs are a way to connect with other members and photograph places you may not have known about or been to. They offer an opportunity for members to share and learn together in an interesting setting. “What f-stop are you using?” “I didn’t know my camera could do that” “Use my diffuser and see if that helps.” How do you like that tripod?” “That’s so cool. Where did you get it?” “Hey, come look at this.”

If you would like to be on this committee and help plan future shoot-outs, please contact Susan: brzltn@garlic.com

Wednesday, 27 April - 4pm -

San Francisco Palace of Fine Arts

(Please note the change in the date and time)

Photograph the building and grounds in the magic light before sunset

Saturday, 7 May 4:30pm - Sunset

Gilroy Ranch

Photograph landscapes, horses, cows, sheep, goats, cats, dogs, & chickens on a ranch in Gilroy. Since this is private property, directions will be sent only to those who reply.

If you plan on attending either of these shoot-outs, please send an email to Susan and indicate one of the following:

- I’m going to drive on my own
- I’d like to carpool
- I’d like to carpool and I will drive.

View photos from club shoot-outs at:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/mhphotoclubshoot-outs/>

Editor's note: Marty Cheek writes an occasional column for this newsletter. This month he tells us about Helen Levitt, a relatively unknown photographer. (All club members are invited to write a column for *In Focus*. Please send your thoughts to this editor at brzltm@garlic.com for inclusion in a future issue.)

Helen Levitt

Helen Levitt has been described as New York City's "visual poet laureate" as well as "the most celebrated and least known photographer of her time." Born in 1913, she grew up in Brooklyn and taught herself camera skills to find employment as a commercial photographer during the 1930s. She used a Leica camera to take candid street shots of ordinary people living their lives in the Big Apple.



In July 1939, Levitt was honored when the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City included her street scene images in its exhibition inaugurating the newly built photography galleries in the museum. Four years later, Levitt's first solo show opened at the MOMA featuring her photographs of



children. Her works demonstrate a vibrant humanity in what happens among the ordinary people who live in a big city.

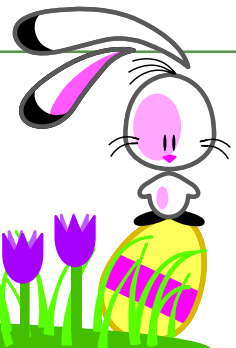
In the 1960s, many of Levitt's color photographs focused on the newly arising feminist movement's celebration of the creative achievements of women artists. Unfortunately, in 1970, many of Levitt's photographs taken in the 1960s were stolen by burglars who broke into her apartment in New York's 13th Street neighborhood.

Levitt died in 2009. Currently until May 1, her photographs can be seen in a special exhibit titled "In a New York Minute" at Stanford University's Cantor Art Center. Her works are being featured along with the photographer Leo Rubinfien who is featured in an exhibit called "Paths Through the Global City" which documents changes in urban life over the last 60 years.



Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center "In a New York Minute" exhibition:
When: Ongoing every day from February 2, 2011 through May 1, 2011.
Where: Stanford University's Cantor Arts Center, just off Palm Drive, at Museum Way and Lomita Drive
Contact: (650) 723-4177
Admission: Free
Open Wed-Sun 11am - 5pm, Thursdays until 8pm; admission is free.
Closed Monday and Tuesday.

Marty Cheek



Gallery Show at Villa Mira Monte
Co-sponsored by the Morgan Hill Historical Society
15 May 2011 - 10 July 2011

"Altered Reality"

Please join the 21 members with photographs in the show at an
Artists' Reception
Morgan Hill House at Villa Mira Monte
17860 Monterey Street
Friday, 20 May 2011
6 - 8pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 4 May 2011
7:00pm

Centennial Recreation Center (CRC)

Camera & Accessories Show & Share

Bring your camera and favorite accessories to share with other members.

First...

choose your group

(Nikon SLR, Canon SLR, Point & Shoot)

to share, ask questions & learn more about your camera,
then...

pull out your favorite photographic accessory

(bag, filter, remote release, extension tube, tele-extender, tripod, monopod, diffuser, etcetcetc.)

Before the meeting...

Photographic Swap Meet

6:00 - 6:45

Gather up all that excess camera gear and bring it to the **pre-meeting** swap meet.

Someone else may need what you no longer want
or want what you no longer need.

Sell it all...

cameras, books, bags, filters, tripods...

Optional:

Send a description of the treasures you want to sell to Noël at:

Have_camera.Will_travel@yahoo.com

by Friday, 29 April

to have your items included in the pre-sale catalog that will be sent to all members
prior to the meeting.

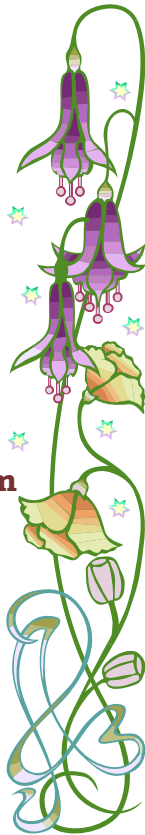
Calendar of Events

Thursday, 21 April 7:00pm
Lightroom Focus Group Meeting
Meet at George Ziegler home
George@gwzphotography.com

Wednesday, 27 April 4:00pm
SF Palace of Fine Arts Shoot-out
(See page 5)
RSVP: brzltn@garlic.com

Wednesday, 4 May 7pm
Pre-meeting Swap Meet 6: - 6:45pm
General Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM
Camera & Accessories Show & Share
Centennial Recreation Center (CRC)

Saturday, 7 May 4:30pm
Gilroy Ranch Shoot-out
(See page 5)
RSVP: brzltn@garlic.com



Wednesday, 11 May 7:00pm
Executive Board Meeting
CRC

15 May - 10 July
"Altered Reality" Gallery Show
Morgan Hill House
(See page 8)

Friday, 20 May 6:00 - 8:00pm
"Altered Reality" Artists' Reception
Morgan Hill House
(See page 8)

Check the Yahoo Forum
for last minute changes & additions
to the calendar

• Yahoo Group Forum

We encourage every member to join the Yahoo Forum. Just go to the site and click on, "Join" You will need a Yahoo ID, and the site will take you through the steps to get one. It's all free. Postings may include spontaneous shoot-outs, last minute changes to the calendar, upcoming events, valuable resources, and possible solutions to your photographic dilemmas. Only club members may join the site and see the messages and files.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/MHphotoclub/>

JAGO Frames
408-665-5441

Happy Easter

