



June 2022

www.pplac.org

June 2022 President's letter

Hello and Happy June!

It's hard to believe we are halfway through this year. I hope you all enjoyed your Memorial Day weekend. School is out, graduations are almost finished, and summer is upon us. It's time for BBQs, beach visits and vacations.

PPLAC had our 2nd DPC of the year last week and I'd like to congratulate the winners:



Best in Show

Angela Chen *Pushing to the Max*

Best in Class

Portrait	John Powers	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
Landscape	Bobby Tan	<i>Firefall</i>
Architectural	John Grusd	<i>Mirrored Monster</i>
Photojournalism	Angela Chen	<i>Pushing to the Max</i>
Open	Sharon Lobel	<i>Inside the Bushman's Ride</i>
Nature	John Grusd	<i>Rage</i>

I'd also like to thank our judges, Yogi Patel, Jim Doyle and Hutch Hutchison for great critique and feedback. With 52 images to choose from, their job was not an easy one.

In honor of National Cancer Survivor's Day, we have Mel Carll speaking at the meeting on June 23rd. He will present his story of survival, "Inspiration & Change: My

Path My Story". You won't want to miss it!

If you are thinking about joining us for the "Wings Over Camarillo" air show on August 20th, please buy your tickets now, especially if you want the VIP experience. Those tickets sell out fast and can be found here: <https://wingsovercamarillo.com>.

Our latest "Shoot and Share" was also held last week for Angela Chen's Flower workshop and congratulations to Eleanor Gray for winning the top prize. Our next outing will be on June 19th at the Rodeo Drive Concours d'Elegance in Beverly Hills. A Father's Day tradition for many where the fancy cars come from around the country and around the world.

Whatever you like to shoot, there's plenty of things happening on any given weekend. If there's something you'd like to see us do or somewhere you'd like to see us go to, let us know! We are always looking for suggestions.

Happy Photographing!
Nikki

Sponsor of the Month Luminar Neo from Skylum

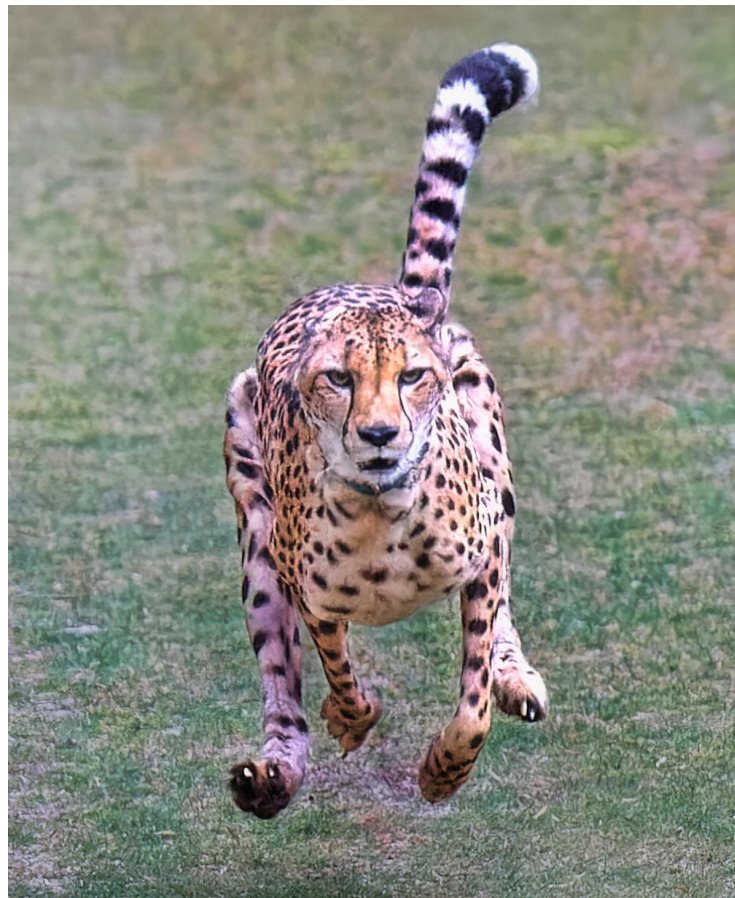
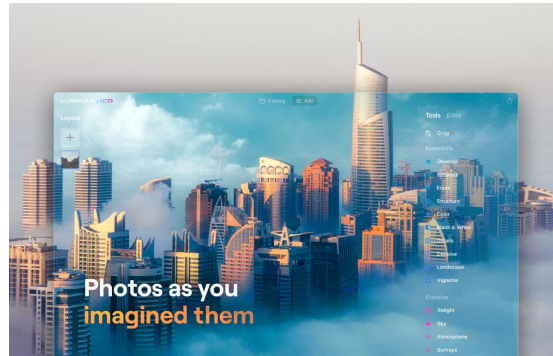
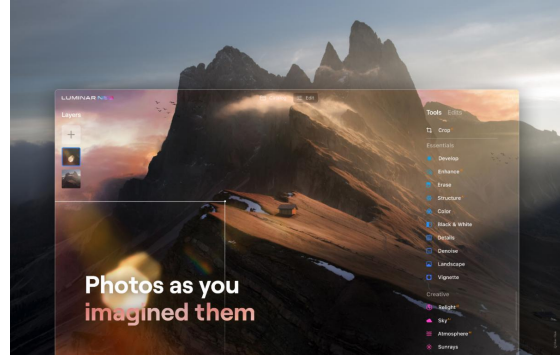
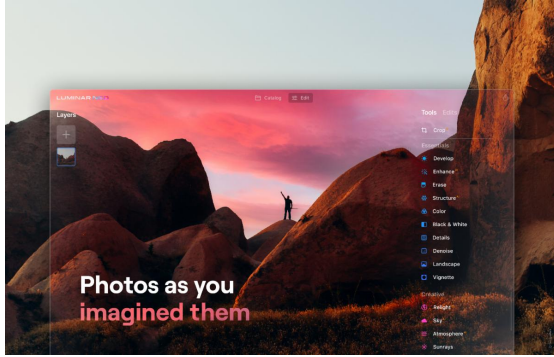
<https://skylum.com/luminar>

We often get photos that don't express what we saw and felt at the time we shot them. Sometimes the problem lies in flash misses, dull weather, or dust spots on the lens that require extra work in post-processing.

Luminar Neo is easy-to-use photo editing software for photography lovers that empowers them to express the beauty they imagined thanks to innovative AI-driven tools. Its powerful functionality helps artists fix things in post-processing as fast as possible — and save every moment at its best.

AI tools in Luminar Neo also allow you to automatically remove unwanted phone or power lines in travel and landscape photos, create AI-powered object masks in a click, and relight the scene with realistic virtual flash. Special portrait and landscape tools help you retouch photos in less than five minutes instead of the hours it takes in traditional editors.

Professional results will make you fall in love with every photo you edit. Now everyone can see your photos as you imagined them. Skylum continues to improve Luminar Neo and add functionality with every update. Luminar Neo is available as a one-time purchase or as a subscription.



Coming Events & General Meetings

Come join our monthly meetings held on the **4th Thursday of each month** (unless it falls on a

Stay Connected

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PPLAC/>

Meet Up

<https://www.meetup.com/Culver-City->

holiday).

Save The Date

Meetings and
Events

Visit our Meetup
Calendar for more details*

June 14, 2022

Outing review, 7:00 PM

June 19, 2022

Outing: Car Rally

Beverly Hills, CA

June 23, 2022

General Meeting - In Person

Mel Carll

**"Inspiration and Change: My Path, My
Story"**

July 3, 2022

Outing: Colonial Faire, Yucaipa, CA

July 26-27, 2022

**Safari: Milky Way Photography, Joshua
Tree**

July 28, 2022

General Meeting - In Person

John Grusd - "Lightning"

August 12, 2022

DPC Submission Opens

August 14, 2022

DPC Submission Closes

August 21, 2022

Outing: Wings Over Camarillo

Order Tickets Now!

August 25, 2022 - ZOOM

Third DPC of the Year

September 5, 2022

Outing: Civil War, Huntington Beach

September 22, 2022

General Meeting

October 15, 2022

Steampunk Festival

Oxnard

October 27, 2022

General Meeting

George DeLoache

November 2-4, 2022

Safari: Death Valley

[Photography-Meetup/](#)

**PPLAC is a Proud Affiliate
of...**

PPC

<https://ppconline.com/>

PPA

<https://www.ppa.com/>

PPLAC Sponsors

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Allstate Insurance

<https://www.nationalphotographersinsurance.com/>

Jixipix Software

<https://jixipix.com/>

**Luminar Neo from
Skylum**

<https://skylum.com/luminar>

ProLab Digital

<https://www.prolabdigital.com/>

StudioMagic

<https://www.layercakeelements.com>

Special Offer - see Sponsor section below

Think Tank

<https://www.thinktankphoto.com/>

DxO

<https://shop.dxo.com/?>

utm_source=PPLAC&utm_medium=usergroup&utm_campaign=pplac20dxo

**2022
Board of Directors**

President

Nikki Washburn

November TBD
"Day of the Dead"
Hollywood Forever Cemetery

November 4, 2022
DPC Submission Opens

November 6, 2022
DPC Submission Closes

November 17, 2022 - ZOOM
Fourth DPC of the Year

December TBD
"Boat Lighting"
Channel Islands

December 2022
No General Meeting

**Please note that speakers/schedule may
change at any time.*

June 2022

06/06/22 - D-Day (WWII)
06/14/22 - Flag Day
06/15/22 - National Nature Photography Day
06/19/22 - Fathers Day
06/21/22 - First Day of Summer

**"Summertime is always the best of
what might be."**

"Summer is the annual permission slip
to be lazy. To do nothing and have it
count for something. To lie in the grass
and count the stars. To sit on a branch
and study the clouds." — Regina Brett

"If summer had one defining scent, it'd
definitely be the smell of barbecue." —
Katie Lee

1st Vice President
(Programs, Speakers, Workshops)
John Powers

2nd Vice President
(Membership)
Roy Patience

Treasurer
Mel Carll

Secretary/Newsletter
Teresa Pepe

**Digital Photographic
Competition Director**
Gary Parsons

**Digital Photographic
Competition Co-Chair**
Kevin Karzin

**Digital Photographic
Competition Moderators**
Mel Carll
Bob Young

Fundraiser Director
Ira Mintz

Sponsor Management Chair
Mel Carll

Webmaster
John Grusd

Parliamentarian
Eleanor Gray

Event Photographer
Angela Chen

PPLAC Classifieds!

**Sell your unwanted/unused
equipment now!**

See details here:

<https://www.pplac.org/pplac-classifieds>

PPLAC Member Spotlight **Past President Mel Carll**

My path to photography wasn't exactly straight. My
background is actually in accounting. After earning my

BS degree in Accounting, I spent the next 20 plus years as the CFO for several companies. In 2009, I quit my life in accounting to pursue my passion for photography and established the SCV Center for Photography studio in Valencia.

My original business model emphasized education. For many years, the studio offered several classes taught by various photographers throughout the Western states, but eventually we started doing more and more commercial photography. I was eventually tapped as the main photographer for Inside SCV Magazine, a local Santa Clarita magazine that features a monthly spread on a home in SCV, for which I photographed. I still photograph for the magazine today, having earned more than 20 cover images over the years.



As some of you may know, I have an affinity for cupcakes (Lemon is my favorite in case you were wondering!). What good fortune I had to acquire Lady Di's Cupcakes as my client! I captured Lady Di's product photography for almost 10 years until the business was **sadly** sold! I also currently shoot for several local real estate brokers.

After expanding my skills and making so many contacts and friendships in the photography world, I was hired as the Executive Director of PPC in January 2015. I remain the executive director today. I truly enjoy working and talking with photographers throughout the state and without a doubt, these relationships have contributed to my success in photography.

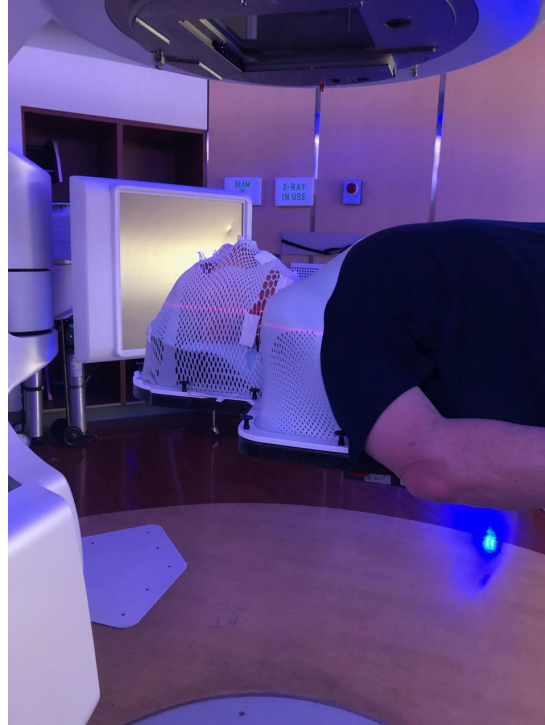
If I wasn't busy enough, in June 2020 I was hired as the Executive Director for ASP (American Society of Photographers), a very elite group of photographers that are located throughout the world. In 2021, I was elected as a PPA Councilor representing California. So, as you can see, I am all for assisting photographers in so many ways.

I earned my PPA Master of Photography degree as well as my California Master Photography degree in January 2021. In 2022, I will earn my PPA Craftsman degree. I have been competing in image competitions since 2010, and I am also a PPC qualified photographic image competition judge, having judged for many of the PPC affiliates.

In light of all of the fun things I've mentioned, my photography and my life have been dramatically impacted by 7 long years of battling cancer. However, with all of the life changes that happened during these years, I have never been happier in my life, and am so excited for new adventures to come. I can't wait to see what tomorrow brings!!!!

- PPLAC 2010 Aurora Image of the Year
- PPLAC Commercial Photographer of the Year 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018
- PPLAC Open Photographer of the Year 2020 & 2021
- PPLAC Electronic Art Photographer of the Year 2020
- PPLAC Overall Photographer of the Year 2020
- PPC West Coast School Photographer of the Year 2019
- PPA Bronze Medalist 2017 & 2019
- Best of Santa Clarita - Photographer 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
- Several images entered into the permanent collection of the California African American Museum in Los Angeles.

Join me for a deeper dive into how cancer changed my photography and my life as I present in-person “Inspiration and Change: My Path, My Story” at the PPLAC meeting on June 23, 2022.





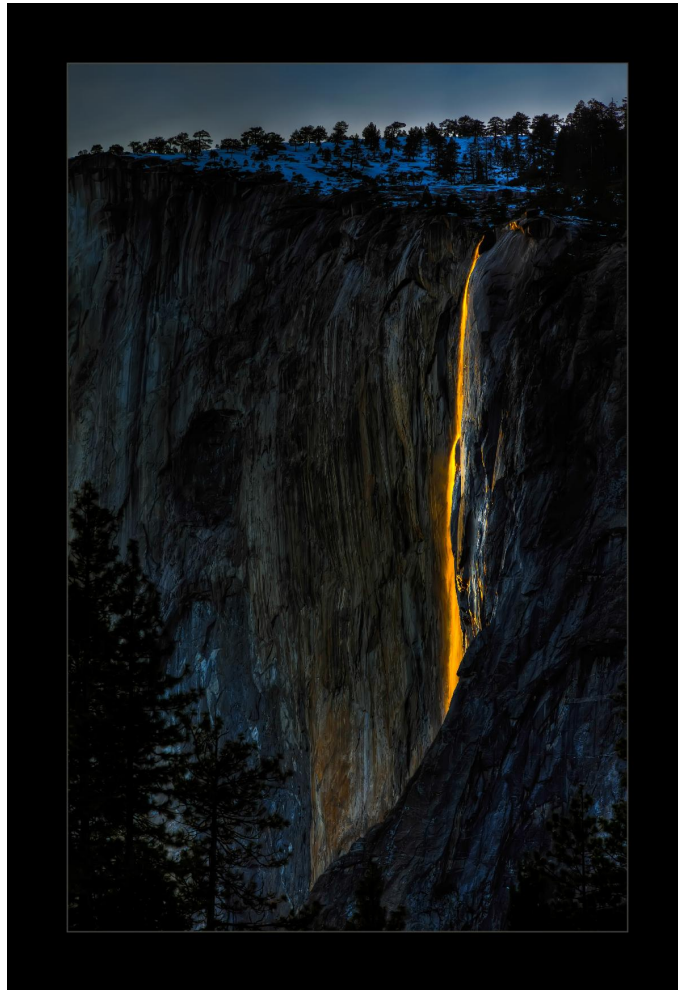
May Highlights DPC #2



**Best of Show
Best of Class - Photojournalism
"Pushing to the Max"
Angela Chen**



Best of Class - Architectural
"Mirror Monster"
John Grusd



Best of Class- Landscape
"Firefall"
Bobby Tan



Best of Class - Nature
"Rage"
John Grusd



Best of Class - Open
"Inside the Bushman's Ride"
Sharon Lobel



Best of Class - Portrait
"The Merchant of Venice"
John Powers

Outings
Workshops
Photo Reviews

PPLAC Workshop: *"Flower Photography!"*
The Winning Photographs!

On Saturday, April 30th, PPLAC conducted its first workshop of the year. Angela Chen created a workshop consisting of three stations and a multitude of flowers. The participants were taught how to create these unique set-ups and then how to post-process them in a way that would help produce amazing images! Everyone who attended had a grand time. Thank you, again, Angela, for a remarkable day!

Then, on Tuesday evening, May 24th PPLAC conducted a photo review, gleaming through 17 images that were shared from the workshop. We discussed each image and then everyone voted for their favorites. The first place winner was Eleanor Gray. Second place went to Ira Mintz and third place went to John Powers. Eleanor received a \$25 Amazon gift card from PPLAC and Ira got the \$15 Amazon gift card and the \$10 Amazon gift card went to John. Congratulations to Eleanor, Ira, and John and heart-felt thanks to all who participated. There were some amazing images created!



1st Place: Eleanor Gray



2nd Place: Ira Mintz



3rd Place: John Powers

John Powers
1st VP

"Huntington Gardens, One and All!"

On Saturday morning, May 21st, seventeen of us from both PPLAC and CIPPA met at the *Huntington Library and Gardens*. The weather was perfect: overcast and a cool 72 degrees! Even better was the company: it was great to meet with each other from the two affiliates. After several hours photographing we met up at the *1919 Restaurant* on the grounds for a time of food and fellowship. New friendships were formed and old acquaintances renewed. On Tuesday evening, June 14th, at 7 PM we shall have our PPLAC Outing Photo Review. We would normally have it a week earlier but due to West Coast School, we need to push it back one week. We will invite the CIPPA members to join in, if they would like to. Mark your calendar to see the wonderful images everyone took. The link will be published just before the meeting.



Pictured, back row: Angela Chen, Lloyd DeLaney, Martial Keyzer, Ira Mintz, John Grusd, John Powers, Robin Swanson, Larry White, Bob Reiter, Mike Mercadante, Bonnie Mercadante, Troy Linton, Roy Patience, and Hutch Hutchinson.

Pictured, front row: Mia Wang and Liz Chalmers

Not pictured: Victoria Bolotina

All the best,

John Powers
1st VP

Coming Events!

Live!

In Person!



**PPLAC General Meeting
Presentation
Thursday, June 23rd, 6:30 PM**

"Inspiration & Change: My Path, My Story!"

Mel Carll, M. Photog.

Join us as Mel shares his journey overcoming cancer and how photography played a key role in his journey through life-changing experiences!



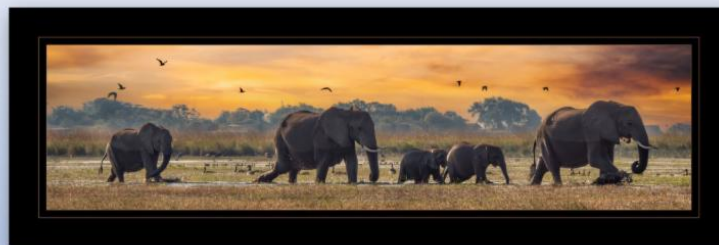
"Radiation"



"Which Way Is Up?"

You won't want to miss this extraordinary testimony and photographic experience!

**Veteran's Memorial Center, 4170 Overland Ave,
Culver City, CA 90230**



"Evening Walk"

June Silent Auction Portrait Pro 22 Studio Max from Anthropics

New, AI-powered PortraitPro 22 portrait-editing software is here! Designed to deliver professional results in minutes, it enables photographers quickly and easily to retouch the

skin, resculpt features, reduce noise, modify shadows and brightness, clone and remove objects, replace skies and bring outdoors into the studio, and offers a further array of easy-to-use retouching tools for magazine-quality results.

This newest edition includes neck and shoulder slimming, chin shadows, body lighting, neck wrinkle removal, lipstick colors, lighting brush improvements, and more.

Normal retail Price...\$169.95

<https://www.anthropics.com/portraitpro/>

2022 Speakers*

January 27	Open House	<i>Christopher Broughton</i>
February 24	DPC #1	
March 24	Bryan Welsh	<i>12 Business Practices</i>
April 28	John Powers	<i>Photography Thru Iceland</i>
May 26	DPC #2	
June 23	Mel Carll	<i>Inspiration & Change; My Path, My Story</i>
July 28	John Grusd	<i>Lightning!</i>
August 25	DPC #3	
September 22	TBD	
October 27	George DeLoach	<i>Portraiture</i>
November 17	DPC #4	

Future PPLAC Outings*

June 19 Car Rally Beverly Hills
July 3 Colonial Faire Yucaipa
August 21 Wings Over Camarillo Camarillo
September 5 Civil War Days Huntington Beach
October 15 Steampunk Festival Oxnard
November TBD Day of the Dead Hollywood Forever Cemetery
December TBD Boat Lighting Channel Island

Workshops / Safaris*

July 26-27 Milky Way Photography, Joshua Tree
November 2-4 Death Valley

**Please note that speakers/schedules may change at any time. Notice of changes will be sent out ASAP and posted on the website.*

Future Outings



PPLAC/CIPPA Outing!

**Sunday,
June 19th, 2022**

The Rodeo Drive *Concours d'Elegance* Beverly Hills Father's Day Car Show!

Crossroads of Crescent Drive and Santa Monica Boulevard

PPLAC and CIPPA join forces to take on one of the longest titled events we have encountered! The car show and rally kicks off at 11 AM in front of Beverly Hills City Hall. We will link up at the crossroads listed above at 10 AM to survey the area and settle in for some fun photo ops! There are parking lots along Santa Monica Boulevard so take advantage of those locations. This will be a fun, informal get-together. Plan to join us!



If you're interested in attending, contact John Powers at:
johnepowers@hotmail.com

August 20 Outing "Wings Over Camarillo Air Show" "Best Air Show in California"

Wings Over Camarillo is presented by Camarillo Wings Association (CWA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation (EIN #27-1789245). CWA promotes aviation and its heritage, while inspiring youth with aviation related programs, education and leadership opportunities.

wingsovercamarillo.com

Doing things a little backwards this time! Usually we send out a flyer telling you about an upcoming PPLAC Outing and then tell you to get tickets. Well, this time we are telling you to get your tickets NOW and then we will send out the flyer later!

For our PPLAC Outing in August (**Saturday, August 20th**), we are doing a joint-venture again with CIPPA as we photograph at the **Camarillo Air Show**. But tickets sell out fast, especially for the VIP section. Yes, the VIP section is very expensive (\$150) but many found it worthwhile. Regular tickets are \$30. Either way, go on line NOW to purchase your ticket(s).

The web site is: <https://wingsovercamarillo.com>





**Coming
Soon!**

PPLAC Classifieds

Do you have used photography gear you would like to sell? PPLAC will provide classified listings as a service to PPLAC members in good standing. Anyone can purchase but you need to be a member to sell.

This your chance to make a little cash for yourself and give a little back to PPLAC as well!

When this service is ready, the details will be published on the PPLAC website (pplac.org) and you will be notified in the newsletter and blasts. The ads will be published on the website. If you want to see the work in progress, go to the site and look under the Membership tab.

Here is an example ad:

Item - Ruggard Journey 44 DSLR Shoulder Bag



Description – This is a medium sized, padded shoulder bag that can hold lenses, a body or a body with a lens attached. It is also great for holding filters, batteries, memory cards, etc. For a complete description, visit the B&H Photo site and search for the item. New, this item at B&H retails for \$54.95. This bag has never been used and is complete.

Condition Rating – 1 (Like New – No signs of wear, functions like new.)

Sale Price - \$25.00

Seller's Name and Contact Information: Seller's Name – Phone Number and/or email address.

Stay Tuned and Make Some Cash!

Special Offer!



<https://www.layercakeelements.com/>

StudioMagic, a premier Photoshop plugin, is a compositor's dream loaded with tons of one of a kind features and compositing elements. **StudioMagic** has been given a **FIVE STAR** rating by Scott Kelby's Photoshop's User Magazine.

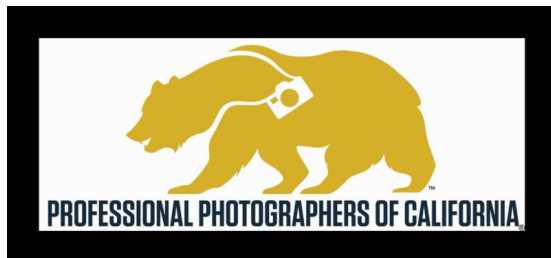
Both StudioMagic 1 & 2 Photoshop extensions are now available for free download! Each can be used with Photoshop Creative Cloud from 2014-2022.

For the free download links, please contact Alan Mayer, CEO of **StudioMagic** at Mayer11@earthlink.net. Provide Alan with your email address and he will send you the complimentary programs.

Ira Mintz

Imager700@aol.com

PS: I've been using this software for years and I strongly recommend it.



PPC News

<https://ppconline.com/>



JUDGING ACADEMY

This workshop will cover all aspects of the judging process.

**June 15, 2022
9am - 5pm
via zoom**

**PPC Premium Members: \$49
PPC Members: \$109
Non-Members: \$149**

800-439-5839 ext. 1



WEST COAST SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

WCS News

<https://ppconline.com/wcs/2020-west-coast-school/>



WEST COAST SCHOOL
OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Swap meet

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

6:30 - 9:00 pm

**University of San Diego
Maher Hall-Solomon Hall**

PPC Members: \$20 per table

Non-Members: \$40 per table

Contact: Mel 800-439-5839 ext. 1



Professional
Photographers
of America

PPA News

<https://www.ppa.com/>

The Twelve Elements

1. Impact
2. Technical Excellence
3. Creativity
4. Style
5. Composition
6. Presentation
7. Color Balance
8. Center of Interest
9. Lighting
10. Subject Matter
11. Technique
12. Story Telling

Please note that PPA has a page dedicated to what is available. You do **NOT** need to be a PPA member to look at what's there.....and they are offering a lot of webinars this year!

LET'S CONNECT

PPA - Professional Photographers of America

229 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30303

1-800 786-6277

<https://www.ppa.com/initttogether>
