



# January 2021

*Happy New Year!  
Welcome 2021!*

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[www.pplac.org](http://www.pplac.org)

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## JANUARY 2021 – PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I hope your holidays were quiet, safe and wonderful. Are you as thankful as I am that 2020 is behind us? It is my hope (as I am sure it is for many) that we will begin to transition to some kind of normal and meet face to face again. We will keep you updated when we have more information, until then we will continue to meet via zoom. In the sidebar you will see the activities PPLAC is planning for 2021, we have more events in the works when we are allowed to meet again, so stay tuned for that.



We will start the new year with our annual Open House and Awards Celebration on 1/28/2021. We are pleased to announce LEE Filters as our keynote. If you are new to the world of filters and filter holders, you will be astonished at how these amazing filters can revolutionize your photography! Check them out at [www.leefilters.com](http://www.leefilters.com) The evenings agenda is full and includes award distribution for the 2020 DPC winners, 2021 Board installment, photography bingo, gifts, prizes, a silent auction, as well as many other activities that promise to keep you entertained! This year's Open House theme is "Travel Photography", so dress up, choose your virtual zoom background to represent a location you have visited or dream about visiting! This will be a virtual event like no other!! You do not want to miss it!

Our first DPC is in February, so start preparing those images now! DPC's are great fun and there is no better way to improve your photography than by receiving the constructive feedback from a panel of experienced judges.

Finally, a shout out to our new 2021 Board. John E Powers joins us as our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice

President (speakers, outings, etc.), Roy Patience will step into the Membership position as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Nikki Washburn will continue as Treasurer, Teresa Pepe will continue as our Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Our Directors and Chairs are as follows: Parliamentarian and Webmaster John Grusd, Sponsor Management Mel Carl, Fundraiser Ira Mintz (who stepped into position mid-2020), DPC Director Gary Parsons and Event Photographer Angela Chen. We could not function without this incredible group of hard working, dedicated photographers!

We know times are tough right now and I would like to personally thank you for continuing your membership! You are a valuable part of this organization and we welcome your attendance, participation and suggestions!

Happy New Year!

Stay well, stay safe and keep shooting!

Eleanor

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## Upcoming Events

### General Meetings

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

### Save The Date

Meetings and  
Events

Visit our Meetup  
Calendar for more details\*

January 28, 2021 - Open House,  
Photographer of the Year Awards and  
Officer Installation

February 12, 2021  
DPC Submission Opens at 12:01 AM  
(Friday)

February 14, 2021 DPC Submissions  
Close at  
11:30 PM (Sunday)

February 2021 - DPC  
(Fourth Thursday)

March 25, 2021  
General Meeting

April 22, 2021  
General Meeting  
George DeLoache - Portrait  
Photography

## 2020 (Outgoing) Board of Directors

**2020-21**

**President**

Eleanor Gray

**1st Vice President**

(Programs, Speakers, Workshops)  
Roy Patience

**2nd Vice President**

(Membership)  
John Powers

**Treasurer**

Nikki Washburn

**Secretary**

Teresa Pepe

**Digital Photographic  
Competition Director**

Gary Parsons

**Digital Photographic  
Competition Co-Chairs**

Nikki Washburn  
Mel Carl

**Digital Photographic  
Competition Moderators**

Mel Carl  
Bob Young

**Fundraiser Director**

Norman Reneau  
Ira Mintz

**Event Photographer**

Angela Chen

May 27, 2021  
DPC

June 24, 2021  
General Meeting  
John Powers - Travel Photography

July 22, 2021  
General Meeting  
Tim Mathiesen - Panoramic  
Photography

August 26, 2021  
DPC

September 23, 2021  
General Meeting  
Roy Patience - Macro Photography and  
Focus Stacking

October 28, 2021  
General Meeting  
TBD

November 18, 2021  
DPC (**THIRD THURSDAY**)

December 2021  
No meeting

January 27, 2022  
Open House and Awards

*\*Please note that speakers may  
change at any time.*

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## Stay Connected

### Facebook

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

### Meet Up

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

PPLAC is a Proud Affiliante  
of...

**PPC**

<https://ppconline.com/>

**PPA**

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

**Newsletter**  
Teresa Pepe

**Sponsor Management Chair**  
Mel Carll

**Parliamentarian  
& Webmaster**  
John Grusd

## 2021 (Incoming) Board of Directors

**2020-21  
President**  
Eleanor Gray

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

**2nd Vice President**  
(Membership)  
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John Grusd

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## PPLAC Sponsors

**Howard Burkholz  
Allstate Insurance**

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

**Think Tank**

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

**Mind Shift Gear**

<https://www.thinktankphoto.com/pages/mindshift-gear>

**StudioMagic**

<https://www.layercakeelements.com>

**ProLab Digital**

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

**Jixipix**

<https://jixipix.com/>

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## Donate to a Veteran

Help a Veteran interested  
in Photography!

Will appreciate your donation of any old  
camera bodies, lenses, reflectors, tripods,  
etc...

These are men and women suffering from  
post traumatic syndrome.

Contact Carlos Lozano

323-721-6665

or email

[Lozano720mp@gmail.com](mailto:Lozano720mp@gmail.com)

Thank you in advance for your kindness!

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*Why all the purple in the newsletter this month? Well, **Purple is a lucky color** and has been the color of royalty since antiquity. **Wearing purple can bring about luck in areas of wisdom, passion, and creativity. It's also a great choice for those who are looking for professional success.***

*Aren't we all looking for professional success and creativity in the coming year?! So add some purple to your life and grab all the creativity and success you can in 2021!*

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## PPLAC Open House and Awards



***This Year We Are Virtual !***



***Travel!***

**From wherever you are in the world, please join us virtually  
for PPLAC's Annual Celebration!**

**Featuring:**

**A special presentation by LEE Filters!**

**Installation of the 2021 PPLAC Board of Directors!**

**Giveaways and a Silent Auction!**

**2020 Digital Photographic Competition Awards!**

**Where:**

**On your computer  
or device.**

**It's virtual!**

**The Zoom link  
to sign up will be  
in the newsletter,  
blasts and the  
website.**

**When:**

**January 28 at 6pm**

**All are welcome!**

**We look forward to  
seeing you there!**



You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jan 28, 2021 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMtd--qrTkpGdAhSMajy->**



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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## Member Spotlight: Teresa Pepe

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### A little about me:

I'm a native Pennsylvanian, attended college in West Virginia and Maryland, moved to DC in 1979 to work for the federal government, was transferred to LA in 1980, then to Baltimore in 1986, Kansas City in 1987, went back to Washington, DC, in 1989, and wound up in LA in 1991 and have been ever since.



I have dabbled in photography since I was a kid and decided to get serious about it when I was looking for something creative to do in retirement. I have taken on-line classes from the New York Institute of Photography, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh and numerous other on-line sources. However, I think my best teacher has been my significant other, who is an assignment photographer for National Geographic.

### How did I get interested in photography?

My father had a 1950's Argus 35 mm camera and shot mostly slides. We weren't allowed to touch that camera, but because I was interested, I received a simple box-type camera when I was 8-9 years old. I used that to irritate family and pets constantly and on family vacations through high school. (No, I did not learn to develop the film, we sent it out to various labs and waited for the photos to return in the mail...long process, especially when you're a kid!) Even though it took weeks to get the photos back, I loved seeing what was captured, trying to figure out how to show on film what I saw in front of me.

I bought a Pentax 35mm SLR with a two lens kit (50mm and 200mm) in 1981, added numerous lenses and extenders over the years, and used that kit until the late 90's... shuttle landings, the 1984 LA Olympics, trips to Hawaii, other holidays and family pets.....all documented on film (prints of which are still stashed in various boxes and albums!). In the late 90's I received a 3 mega pixel Fujifilm digital camera as a gift, and that rekindled my interest in photography as I could immediately see the results and make changes to improve the image on the spot. I eventually moved up to the Canon system, starting with a couple of Canon Rebel models.

### What's in my bag?

I currently use a couple of 7D's (old but reliable, especially in dusty outdoor settings), a 7D MkII and a couple of 6Ds for low light, full frame shooting. Most of my lenses are Sigma, and favorites include the 100-400mm f/5.6, a 150-500mm f/5.6, a 24-70mm f/2.8 and a 70-200 f/2.8 for low light/indoor events as well as an 18-300mm f/3.5 for walk around use.

### What am I passionate about?

We do outdoor events (mostly). I was a history major, so when I discovered the reenacting community in Southern California, I was hooked. In a normal year we cover reenactments

February through November, plus a few car and air shows and then whatever else looks interesting. I love capturing candid images of participants as well as action shots. Lately I've been trying my hand at landscapes and nature subjects.

My style is documentary for the most part, showing individuals as they appear in character during an event or catching action shots at their peak.



Confederate Soldier



Topanga Banjo & Fiddle Contest



Topanga Banjo & Fiddle Contest



Shakespeare in the Park



Jane Austen Day



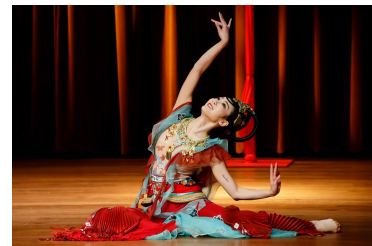
Northrop YB-49 flying wing



Federal Cavalry



Huntington Hawk



Chinese New Year Dancer

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## Planetary Conjunction, December 2020



This holiday season we were treated to a celestial treat—a conjunction between the great gas giants Jupiter and Saturn. Even though they are nearly 500 million miles apart they appeared to be as closely spaced as any of us will ever see them. I

won't go into the scientific explanation here, but feel free to contact me if you want more detail. Jupiter and Saturn were especially well-placed in the southwestern sky-for an event like this and I didn't have to wake up before dawn and put on every piece of cold weather gear I own.

I started photographing the conjunction on the fifteenth of December to practice and to capture a series of the two approaching each other. I pulled out my airshow arsenal: my Nikon D810 and Tamron 150-600mm lens. My 2000mm astronomical telescope would have been better, but it is living with my daughter now.

Each night I activated Live View, carefully focused on the Galilean moons of Jupiter, activated Mirror Lockup, and fired away. I examined each image at the highest magnification of the LCD and adjusted the exposure with ISO and shutter speed. Early attempts were aimed at capturing the moons of Jupiter and resulted in the planets being over-exposed. Jupiter is about 650 times brighter than its moons.

The montage starts on December 15<sup>th</sup> and ends on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

My favorite moment was on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> when the Jupiter, Saturn, and the Cheshire-Cat Moon made this grouping.

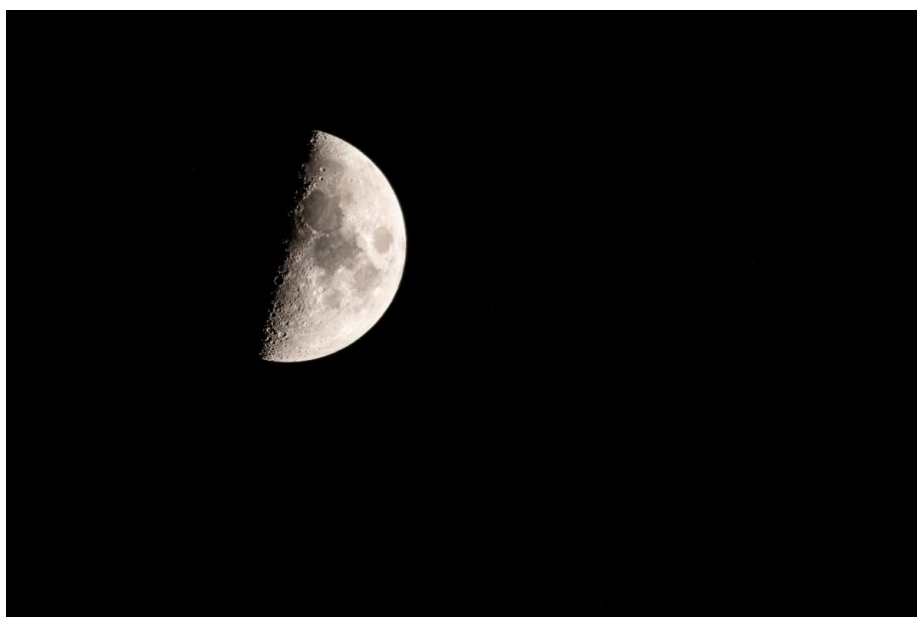


**Article and photos by Roy Patience**

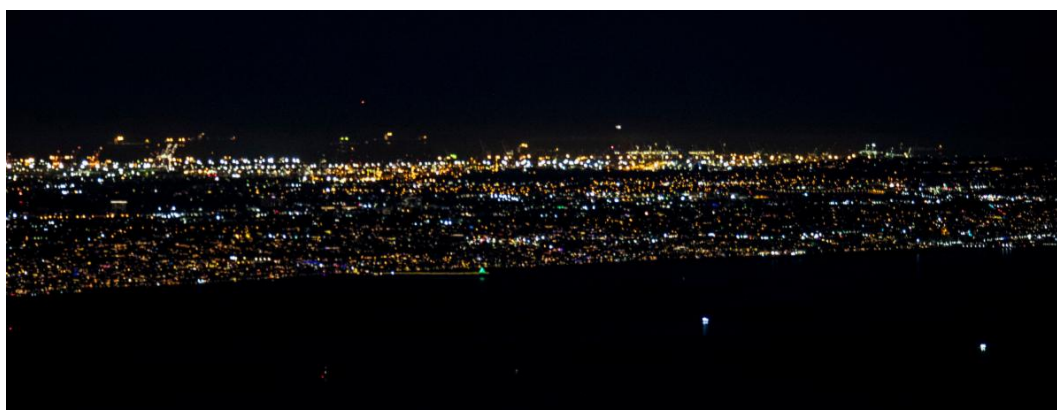




Convergence by John Grusd



Moon over Santa Monica Bay by John Grusd



Santa Monica from the Santa Monica Mountains by John Grusd

The newsletter would like to share any planetary conjunction photos or other night images made by our members. Please contact the editor to submit.

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## *Winter Wonder Land*







*Photos by Ira Mintz*

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**DPC Help?**



Want Help or Advice About Your Images?

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP!**

At PPLAC we have PPC certified judges who can give you one-on-one informal critiques or advice on your potential DPC submissions, or an explanation about why you received the score you did at our DPC.

PPLAC members can bring up to 4 images (in any viewable form) to our General Meetings at 6:30pm (NOT a DPC meeting) or contact John Grusd at [johngrusd@gmail.com](mailto:johngrusd@gmail.com) or call and leave a message at 310 365 6364 and we will make arrangements.



This image: May Portrait Category Winner "Irish Eyes" by John Powers

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## *Sponsor of the Month* *ProLab Digital*



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

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## **2021 Board of Directors**

President: Eleanor Gray  
1st Vice President: John Powers  
2nd Vice President: Roy Patience  
Secretary: Teresa Pepe

Treasurer: Nikki Washburn  
Sponsor Management: Mel Carll  
Fund Raising Chair: Ira Mintz  
DPC Director: Gary Parsons  
Event Photographer: Angela Chen  
Parliamentarian: John Grusd

If you are interested in joining the Board or volunteering to help in other positions, please contact Eleanor Gray or any of the Board members.

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## ***Find a Photographer***

If you would like to have your business added to our "Find a Photographer" link, or want to update your information, please go to the website at <https://pplac.org/contact-pplac>, click on the Membership button under "Contact Us" and send your information.

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## **Help Wanted**



# For Sale!!

## PPLAC is selling!

**Professional Equipment Case with configurable interior**

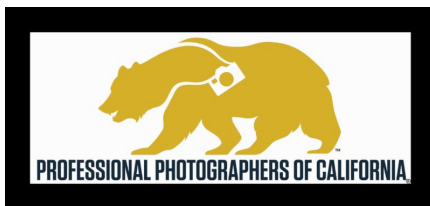
Width 32", Depth 17", Height 25"



## **\$250 or make an offer!**

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Contact John Grusd 310 365 6364 or [johngrusd@gmail.com](mailto:johngrusd@gmail.com)



## PPC News

<https://ppconline.com/>

PPC Quarterly Board Meeting:

January 24, 2021

9:00 am





# State Photographic Image Competition February 20, 2021



**Save the Date.**

For information and rules go to [www.ppsonline.com](http://www.ppsonline.com)



## West Coast School News

<https://westcoastschool.com>

**5 Day - June 6 - 11, 2021**

**3 Day - June 11 - 13, 2021**

Coming to WCS 2021!



WEST  
COAST  
SCHOOL

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

JUNE 6-11, 2021



CARL CAYLOR

**BE A BLUE COLLAR PHOTOGRAPHER AND BEYOND**

This new program will confirm the vision of light you already have and then bring that vision to much greater levels. You will learn to see light in its natural form as well as how to merge artificial light within a scene. You will learn more about composition, creation of depth, and the psychology of portraiture that will allow you to go from everyday simple portrait work to ridiculous concepts that will only be limited by your own creativity. You will be working with models on a daily basis. You will be working in Photoshop. You will get daily critiques of your work.



1(800) 439-5839 EXT. 3



Register Online at:  
[www.westcoastschool.com](http://www.westcoastschool.com)

Coming to  
WCS 2021!



WEST  
COAST  
SCHOOL

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

JUNE 6-11, 2021



TONY CORBELL

**BETWEEN LIGHT AND SHADOW**

Understanding and controlling light quality is at the core of all of Tony's workshops and presentations. Attendees will learn how to see a unique perspective and not be afraid to push the limits of their experience and talents. Corbell will discuss and illustrate all types of lighting and its tools in depth. Lighting tools include portable flash, studio strobes, sunlight and ambient light.



1(800) 439-5839 EXT. 3



Register Online at:  
[www.westcoastschool.com](http://www.westcoastschool.com)



Professional  
Photographers  
of America

## PPA News

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!

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

