



# August 2023

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

## August 2023 President's Letter

Hello PPLAC!

August is here and we're over halfway through the year. Hard to believe. We've had a lot of opportunities to go photographing with other members of our group so far this year and many more are coming up. I haven't been able to attend as many of these outings as I would've liked this year and I was thinking about that and realized that what I miss is not only the photo opportunities but also meeting up with people, getting to know them better and the overall sense of community you get from such excursions. Interestingly enough, I recently realized that I'm not the only one having these thoughts and feelings. This seems to be a topic of conversation among others as well. I recently went to the PPC awards luncheon and more than a few people I spoke to made comments like, "I really miss going to in-person events like this" or "We should do this more often" or some other variation of that thought. I think that we are inherently social creatures by nature and we need to feel that sense of community. So, here's my challenge to you for the rest of 2023; find your sense of community again. Go on an outing, make new friends, volunteer to help in some way and just immerse yourself in our great community of photographers. Maybe it's something you've been missing too; you just didn't realize it.



Speaking of the PPC awards luncheon, congratulations to the following PPLAC members for their incredible achievements!

**Prime Image Collection Awards**

John Powers  
John Grusd  
Sharon Lobel  
Angela Chen  
Gary Parsons

**President's Choice Award****Certified Professional Photographer Award****ASP State Elite Award****Best of Show**

John Powers

**Judge's Honorable Mention Awards**

Angela Chen  
Gary Parsons (2)  
John Grusd (2)  
John Powers  
Sharon Lobel

**Judges Choice Award**

Angela Chen  
John Powers

**Top Ten Cases**

Gary Parsons  
Angela Chen  
Sharon Lobel  
John Powers  
John Grusd

**Best of Reportage Category**

Angela Chen

**Best of Nature Category**

Sharon Lobel

**Best of Commercial Category**

John Grusd

**Best of Illustrative Category**

John Powers

**Best of Landscape Category**

John Grusd

**PPC PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR**

**John Grusd**

Congratulations again, everyone. That is an impressive list of awards.

A full list of winners along with the winning photos can be found [here](#).

And a huge congratulations to PPLAC as a group for winning the 1<sup>st</sup> PPC Affiliate Cup Award! Nicely done!

We have a lot of events coming up- including the 3<sup>rd</sup> DPC of the year. Get those images ready, registration is August 7<sup>th</sup> through August 13<sup>th</sup>. Check out PPLAC.org for more details.

Photograph your heart out PPLAC! Hope to see you

soon.

Nikki Washburn

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## PPC 2023 STATE IMAGE COMPETITION WINNERS PPLAC Members



John Grusd  
PPC Photographer of the Year



President Nikki Washburn with the Affiliate Cup



John Powers

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Gary Parsons

Sharon Lobel  
Best of Category - Nature  
Top Ten Cases  
Prime Image Collection

Angela Chen  
Best of Category - Reportage  
Judge's Choice  
Top Ten Cases  
Prime Image Collection

## Coming 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  
or website for more details\*\*

August 7, 2023  
DPC Submissions open

August 13, 2023

## Stay Connected

### Facebook

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

### Meet Up

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

PPLAC is a Proud Affiliate  
of...

PPC

<https://ppconline.com/>

PPA

DPC Submissions close

August 12, 2023

Outing

"Wings Over Camarillo" Air Show

August 24, 2023

DPC #3 (Zoom)

September 2, 2023

Outing

Civil War Days - Huntington Beach

September 28, 2023

General Meeting

Gary Parsons

"Topaz Photograph Plugins for Light Room and Photoshop"

October 3 - 5, 2023

Three Day Outing to the Eastern Sierras

October 26, 2023

General Meeting

George DeLoache

October 28, 2023

Outing

"Day of the Dead"

Hollywood Forever Cemetery

November 7 - 9, 2023

Three Day Outing to Death Valley

November 16, 2023

DPC #4

December

No General Meeting

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

**\*\***<https://www.pplac.org/calendar>

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## August Sponsor of the Month

**ProLab Digital**

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

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

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## PPLAC Sponsors

**DxO**

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

**Imagenomic**

<https://www.imagenomic.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>

**Think Tank**

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

**Topaz Labs**

<https://www.topazlabs.com/denoise-ai>

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**2023**

## Board of Directors

**President**

Nikki Washburn

**1st Vice President**

(Programs, Speakers, Workshops)

John Powers

**2nd Vice President**

(Membership)

Roy Patience

**Treasurer**

Mel Carl

**Secretary/Newsletter**

Teresa Pepe

**Digital Photographic**

**Competition Director**

Gary Parsons

**Digital Photographic**



**PPLAC Team Wins PPC Merit Cup**

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**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

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## **July Meeting Highlights**

**John Grusd**

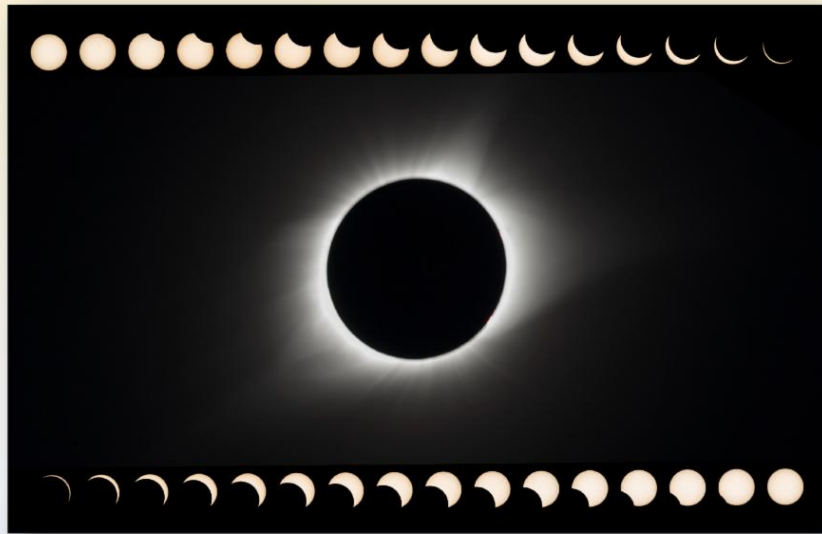
**"Everything You Wanted to Know About Photographing  
the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse But Were Afraid to Ask"**



**PPLAC General Meeting  
Presentation  
Thursday, July 27th, 2023  
6:30 PM**

***“Everything You Wanted to Know About  
Photographing the Total Solar Eclipse 2024  
But Were Afraid to Ask!”***

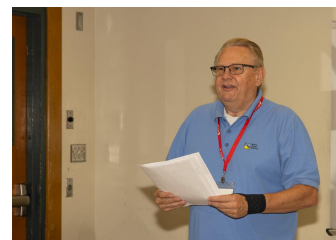
**John Grusd, M.Photog, M-PPC**



Join us as John Grusd shares with us everything involved in making this event a reality for you in 2024, to include logistics, technical set-ups, and what to expect. You don't want to miss this intriguing evening!

**Veterans' Memorial Center  
4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230**

**EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO  
KNOW ABOUT  
PHOTOGRAPHING  
THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024  
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!**







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## May - June - July Outings & Photo Reviews

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**PPLAC/CIPPA Safari: "Central California!"  
The Winning Photographs!**

From May 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> PPLAC and CIPPA came together for a joint three-day Safari to Central California. Eleven people in all attended. A great time was had and a lot of wonderful photographs were taken.

So, on Thursday evening, July 6<sup>th</sup> we came together with other members of PPLAC and CIPPA via Zoom to look at the 19 images we wanted to share. We discussed each image and then everyone voted for their favorites. The first-place winner was Mike Mercadante. Second place went to John Powers while third place was Hutch Hutchison. Mike received a \$25 Amazon gift card and John got a \$15 Amazon gift card and the \$10 Amazon gift card went to Hutch. Congratulations to Mike, John, and Hutch and also big thanks to all who participated.



First Place: Mike Mercadante



Second Place: John Powers



Third Place: Hutch Hutchison

John Powers  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

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## ***“Getty Museum and It’s Photography Study Room!”***



On Wednesday morning, June 28<sup>th</sup>, PPLAC was off to the Getty Museum and it’s Photography Study Room. Seven of us were given a photographic history with sampled photographs dating back to 1839 through the 1940s, with an emphasis on several prominent women. Led through this journey by one of the museum curators, Antari, we spent almost two hours learning insights and details. Pictured are John Powers, Denise Comeau, Roy Patience, Liz Chalmers, Mel Carll, Leslie Geffen, and John Grusd, who set the whole trip up. And a grand time was had by all!

Since this PPLAC Outing focused (*no punned intended*) on observing photographs more than taking photographs, there will be no PPLAC Photo Review for this event.

All the best,

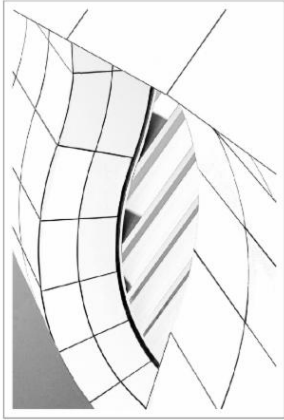
John Powers  
1<sup>st</sup> VP

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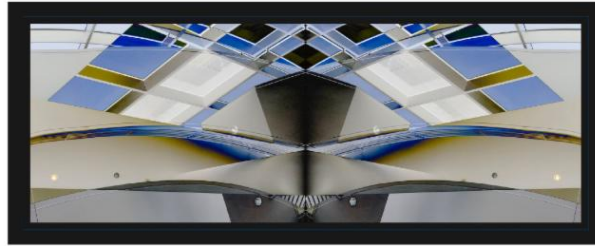
**PPLAC Outing: "Getty Museum!"  
The Winning Photographs!**

On Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, seven members from PPLAC (John Powers, Denise Comeau, Roy Patience, Liz Chalmers, Mel Carll, Leslie Geffen, and John Grusd) were at the Getty Museum for an insightful and informative look at the history of photography in its special Photographic Library. Afterwards we had lunch and then walked through various areas on the museum grounds. While walking around, people took photos of the buildings and other areas of interest.

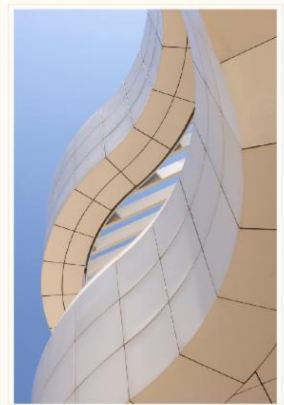
So, on Tuesday evening, July 18<sup>th</sup> we came together with other members of PPLAC via Zoom to look at the 19 images we wanted to share. We discussed each image and then everyone voted for their favorites. The first place winner was John Powers. Second place went to John Grusd while third place was a tie between John Grusd and Mel Carll. John P. received a \$25 Amazon gift card from PPLAC and John G. got a \$15 Starbucks gift card and the \$10 Amazon gift card went to both John Grusd and Mel Carll. Congratulations to John Powers, John Grusd, and Mel Carll and also big thanks to all who participated.



First Place: John Powers



Second Place: John Grusd



Third Place: John Grusd



Third Place: Mel Carll

John Powers  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

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## “We’re Seein’ Pirates, Matey!”



On Saturday morning, July 8<sup>th</sup> , PPLAC was off to the *Pirate Invasion* in Long Beach! The weather was warm, the skies were blue, and everyone had a grand time photographing all the pirates (and a couple of mermaids) that we could handle. After a couple of hours, we gathered for lunch amongst all the trailers serving food and a wonderful time recapping the excursion. Pictured are John Powers, Victoria Bolotina, Ira Mintz, Roy Patience, and Angela Chen.

There will be a PPLAC Photo Review on this event on Tuesday evening, July 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM. Details and Zoom link to follow as we get closer to the date.

All the best,

John Powers  
1<sup>st</sup> VP

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**PPLAC Outing: "Pirate Invasion!"  
The Winning Photographs!**

On Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, five members from PPLAC (John Powers, Angela Chen, Roy Patience, Victoria Bolotina, and Ira Mintz) traveled to Long Beach for the annual *Pirate Invasion*, the largest gathering of pirate reenactors in the state of California. We gathered for lunch on the grounds after several hours photographing people in various outfits. A grand time was had by one and all!

So, on Tuesday evening, July 25<sup>th</sup> we came together with other members of PPLAC via Zoom to look at the 30 images we wanted to share. We discussed each image and then everyone voted for their favorites. The first place winner was John Powers. Second place went to Ira Mintz, while third place was a tie between John Powers and Ira Mintz. John received a \$25 Amazon gift card from PPLAC and Ira got a \$15 Starbucks gift card and the \$10 Amazon gift card went to both John and Ira. Congratulations to John Powers and Ira Mintz and also big thanks to all who participated.



First Place: John Powers



Second Place: Ira Mintz



Third Place: John Powers



Third Place: Ira Mintz

John Powers  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

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**Coming Events!  
Meetings/Outings  
Safaris/Workshops**

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**August Meeting  
DPC**



**PPLAC DPC**  
**August 24, 2023**  
**6:00pm**

## **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

Join us for our 3rd Digital Photographic Competition of 2023 ! Yes, we compete, but it is really a learning exercise. There is no better way to improve your work than to receive constructive comments from knowledgeable photographers. A panel of 3 judges evaluates each image submitted into the competition and they do it live!



**"Fluid in Motion" by Gary Parsons**  
**May Best of Show**

Our DPC is conducted via Zoom meeting. For all of the details about how to enter as well as how to watch the competition, go to [pplac.org](http://pplac.org) and click on the "Photo Competition" tab.

The dates to submit images are August 7-13.

**Join us on August 24th at 6:00pm!**

**August 24, 2023**  
**DPC #3**

The third DPC of the year will be held via Zoom.  
Time to start thinking about your submissions while out and about this  
summer! Submissions open August 7, 2023.

Topic: PPLAC DPC

Time: Aug 24, 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83341181161>

Meeting ID: 833 4118 1161

PPLAC Members! Do you want advice about your images?

**We can help you!**

We can all use an second pair of eyes when evaluating our images. At PPLAC, we have PPC Certified judges who can give you one-on-one informal critiques of your potential DPC submissions so your images are the best they can be for competition. We can also meet with you after a competition to discuss in more detail the scores you received or to evaluate your images in general.

Contact any of the board members or through the PPLAC website (pplac.org) under the "Contact Us" tab and we will set up a meeting (Zoom, phone, email) or whatever works best for you. We are happy to review as many as 6 images per member.



Image by John Powers

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## May 2023 DPC Winners



Fluid in Motion  
Parsons, Gary



**Best of Show**  
**Best of Class - Open**  
"Fluid in Motion"  
Gary Parsons

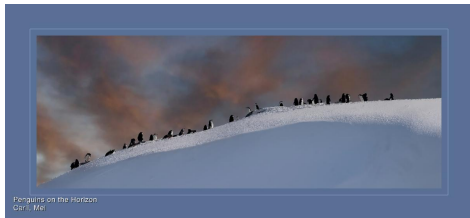
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**Best of Class**  
Architectural  
"The Old Mission"  
Kevin Karzin



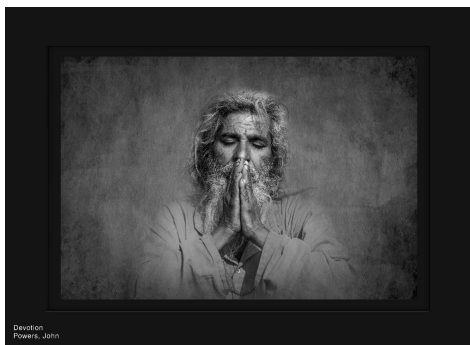
**Best of Class**  
Landscape  
"Lonely Winter"  
Mel Carll



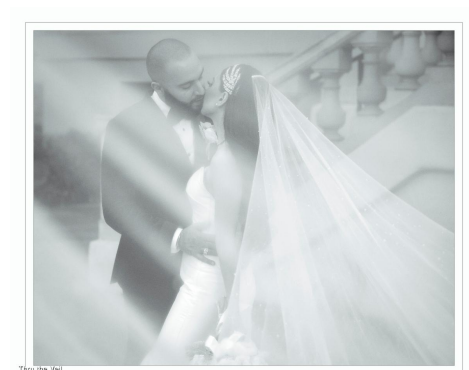
**Best of Class**  
Nature  
"Penguins on the Horizon"  
Mel Carll



**Best of Class**  
Photojournalism  
"Celebration"  
John Powers



**Best of Class**  
Portrait  
"Devotion"  
John Powers



**Best of Class**  
Wedding/Event  
"Thru the Veil"  
Eleanor Gray

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## August Outing

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**PPLAC Outing!**  
**Saturday,**  
**August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### ***Wings Over Camarillo!***

**555 Airport Way, Camarillo, California 93010**

PPLAC is off to the *Wings Over Camarillo Air Show!* You don't want to miss this exciting opportunity to capture some breath-taking images as planes from different eras commit amazing aerial stunts. And there will be over 200 cars on display as well! Plan to join us!



Photo by John Powers

Gates open at 9 AM and air demonstrations start at noon.

You can purchase your ticket(s) NOW on-line at:  
<https://wingsovercamarillo.com/tickets>

The cost is \$30 for General Admission tickets when bought on-line and \$40 at the gate. The VIP tickets are sold out. Sorry!

If you're interested in attending the Zoom meeting and/or the air show and want details, contact John Powers at:

**[johnepowers@hotmail.com](mailto:johnepowers@hotmail.com)**

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## Future Outings/Safaris/Workshops

**October 3 - 5, 2023 Eastern Sierra**

**November 7- 9, 2023 Death Valley**



# Three-Day Outing!!

October 3-5, 2023

## Eastern Sierra and Fall Colors!

Join us on this exploration to some  
of the most dramatic scenery in the  
American West!



In this multi-day PPLAC Outing, John Grusd will lead us on a photographic adventure through some of the most spectacular landscapes in California! We will visit magnificent mountains, beautiful lakes, deep canyons and photograph some of the best fall colors in the west!



John will also assist you in learning Basic Landscape Camera Handling Techniques to help you set up your camera properly and understand the tools that will enhance your technical ability to create pro-level photographs!





**The Multi-Day Outing fee which includes three days of guidance and a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting is \$70 per person.**

**Lodging and transportation are not included. We will be based in Mammoth Lakes for 2 nights at the Quality Inn.**

**For questions or to register for this event, please contact [John Powers - johnpowers@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpowers@hotmail.com)**



**Join us on this inspiring 3-Day PPLAC Outing!**



**Three-Day  
Outing!!**

**November 7-9, 2023**

**Death Valley Adventure!**

**Join us on this scenic exploration  
to one of the most iconic and  
storied places in America!**



**During this multi-day PPLAC Outing, John Grusd will lead us on a photography adventure through Death Valley's most spectacular landscapes! We will visit the magnificent dunes, salt playas, and tortured geography that made this place famous!**



**John will also discuss Jump Starting Your Landscape Creativity to help you learn approaches and techniques that train your brain to be creative while adapting to the conditions at hand.**



**The Multi-Day Outing fee which includes three days of guidance and a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting is \$70 per person.**

Lodging and transportation are not included. We will be based at the historic Stovepipe Wells Resort inside the National Park.

For questions or to register for this event, please contact **John Powers - [johnpowers@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpowers@hotmail.com)**



**Join us on this inspiring 3-Day PPLAC Outing!**

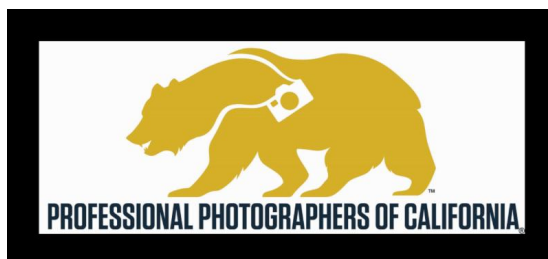
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**Sponsor of the Month**  
ProLab Digital

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**PPC News**

<https://ppconline.com/>

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**2023 PPC Affiliate Cup**

**PPLAC Affiliate Cup Team**

**PPC 2023 STATE IMAGE COMPETITION WINNERS**

Click here to view all of the winners:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/68366989/2023-ppc-photographic-image-awards>



# JUDGING ACADEMY

This workshop will cover all aspects of the judging process.

**August 9, 2023**  
**9am - 5pm**  
**via zoom**

**PPC Premium Members: \$99**  
**PPC Members: \$129**  
**Non-Members: \$179**

**800-439-5839 ext. 1**





PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

# TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday,  
August 10, 2023

7-8:30pm  
Via Zoom

Open to all PPC members



Information: 800-439-5839 ext. 1

## Topics of Discussion

PPC Awards  
Merits/Degrees  
Your Concerns



Arthur Levi Rainville  
Toni Marie Harryman

# Epiphany

Soul of an Artist

Technique & Inspiration  
for Photographic Artists

Sept 9-10 Hosted by Elizabeth Toller  
and Tashia Peterman

Irvine, California

Add on Day Sept 11

Limited to 20 registrants only

Join our industry's Art/Heart legends, Arthur Levi Rainville and Toni Marie Harryman, together for the first time, offering a workshop unlike any other. One-part Creative Retreat, one-part Artistic Learning Adventure, this dynamic duo will embroil you in a whirlwind growing experience for your work, your business, your very Soul.

Participants will discover unique techniques for lighting, posing, scene design and post-production all crafted for you to make original new work. Toni Marie will offer her personal style of photo-painting Art and using "art therapy" to tell creative stories of the soul. Arthur, as always, will guide you to connect deeper with your subjects through Heart Stories. You will leave these days changed forever, as a more creative Artist, a more engaging Heartist.

More info online-

<https://www.johnsonphotostudio.com/for-photographers-epiphany-retreatsworkshops>

<https://www.johnsonphotostudio.com/proofing/epiphany-workshop-irvine-california>

For more info or to register call, email or message

Arthur @ 508-641-2608 [rainfoto@aol.com](mailto:rainfoto@aol.com) or Toni @ 214-908-0322 [phototmj@aol.com](mailto:phototmj@aol.com)





# KILLER BBQ

with  
Mel Carll & Kevin Karzin



This workshop will include all meat, plus you get to take some home. Are your ribs & chicken dry? This is your chance to learn from the best!

**September 30, 2023**  
**8am - 5pm**

**25675 Yucca Valley Road**  
**Valencia, CA 91355**

**PPC Premium Members: \$149**  
**PPC Members: \$169**  
**Non-Members: \$199**



**Register at: [www.lppconline.com](http://www.lppconline.com)**



**WEST COAST SCHOOL**  
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

# WCS News

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



**WEST COAST SCHOOL**  
OF PHOTOGRAPHY



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

# TIME TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION

WCS is dedicated to provide the highest quality, hands on education and motivational workshops by the industry's top names and talent.

**June 9-14, 2024**

University of San Diego

## OUR INSTRUCTORS

**Michael Collins**

Photoshop – Zero to Sixty in a Week



**Scott Detweiler**

AI & Portrait Photography  
Leveraging Technology to see more portraits



**Sharon Lobel & Karen Nakamura**

Macro Photography and Floral Compositing



**Tim Meyer**

Fundamentals of Lighting and Posing



**Michelle Pennings**

Fine Art Masterpiece Portraits - Creation to Completion



**Pete Rezac**

Hard Light, Soft Light, Window Light, Strobe Light  
BLACK AND WHITE DONE RIGHT



**Chris Wooley**

Magic Marketing: Captivate and Connect with Your Brand



## About Us...

West Coast School is a week long photography school offering an outstanding lineup of instructor's and a full schedule of special events. Our commitment has been to teach attendees practical, real-world skills that can be used to build a satisfying and prosperous career in professional photography. Come experience an incredible week of networking, education & fun.

Community Network  
with PPA



**CALL US NOW**

1(800) 439-5839 EXT. 3



Professional  
Photographers  
of America

# PPA News

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

## The 12 Elements of a Merit Image

<https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/12-elements-of-a-merit-image>

Please note that PPA has a page dedicated to what is available. You DO NOT need to be a PPA member to look at their website.....and they are offering a lot of webinars this

year!

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If you are curious or interested in becoming a Certified Professional Photographer check out the PPA link below:

<https://www.ppa.com/credentials-mem/cpp-mem>

## 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>

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Professional Photographers of Los Angeles County | 10736 Jefferson Blvd., #859, Culver City, CA 90230

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