



CHAGRIN VALLEY CAMERA CLUB

Bulletin



Hand of Peace

Photo by Marina Neyman

January, 2023

President's Message

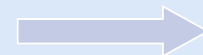
Jan 2023

Dear Member,

Scenes from the recent storms in Buffalo brought back distant memories. I moved to Cleveland in 1977. It was only a few months later that I experienced my first severe winter storm. They called it "the White Hurricane "and I was trapped indoors for three days. I'm sure that some of our members will remember it.

Our January 3rd meeting will be a virtual talk by Joe Edelman on the subject "Understanding Creativity". Joe is a prominent educator who worked as a professional for many years. He is known for his expertise in many areas, including creative problem solving, flash photography and creative portraiture.

The Western Reserve club has asked to be excused from the Tri-Club this year. They cited a decline in membership as the main reason. Erie Shores tried to bring in another club without success. We feel that even if a third club could be located at this point, the restrictions of shooting during the winter months would result in a less than enthusiastic response. We have therefore asked Erie Shores to table this event and to begin discussions for next year in the summer. The hope is that given more time, either Western Reserve will wish to participate, or that another club can be found to replace them.



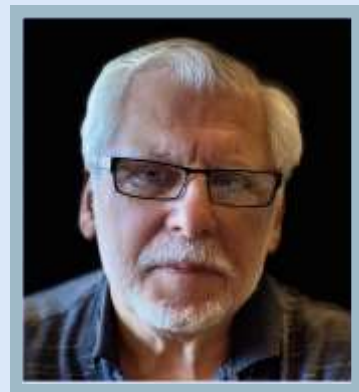
President's Message (continued)

We have reshuffled parts of our schedule, to allow more time for preparations for the exhibitions planned in the months ahead. "The Decisive Moment" exhibition is now scheduled for March 7th and the "Moving Water" exhibition will be on May 23rd, our last meeting of the year. The "Monochrome" exhibition is scheduled for April 11. Please start thinking about these events.

This month we have included an article about Henri Cartier-Bresson (HCB) and the origins of the concept of "The Decisive Moment". We hope that those who wish to enter the March 7th exhibition on this theme will take a few moments to read about this storied approach to street photography and photojournalism. Let's give some thought to the importance of composition, as well as to candidness and spontaneity. According to HCB "The Decisive Moment" should include careful curation of one's images, so there is no reason not to spend time looking through your photo libraries for appropriate images. The following article covers the topic in detail. We have also included an article on this subject later in this newsletter.

Skip Kremer

Skip Kremer
CVCC President
2021-2023 Program Years



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Feel Free to contact us via the following emails:

Comments & concerns: cvccnotes@gmail.com

Field trip suggestions: cvcctrips@gmail.com

Image Submissions: cvccpics@gmail.com

CVCC 2023 Winter Calendar

For latest Calendar updates see

<https://www.chagrinvalleycameraclub.com/schedule-2022-2023>

- Jan 02, Mon, 9:15AM (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
Look for an email with new ZOOM codes for future PS critique mtgs.
- Jan 03, Tues, 7:00PM (ZOOM) Joe Edelman, *Understanding Creativity*
- Jan 09, Mon, 9:15AM (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Jan 16, Mon, 9:15AM (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Jan 23, Mon, 7:00PM (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Jan 24, Tues, 7:00PM (ZOOM) Discussion, *Close Ups & Macro Photography*
- Jan 30, Mon, 9:15am (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Feb 06, Mon, 9:15am (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Feb 08, Wed, 7:00PM (ZOOM) Joe Edelman, *Abstract Photography*
- Feb 13, Mon, 9:15am (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Feb 20, Mon, 9:15am (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Feb 21, Tues, 7:00PM (ZOOM) Ben Williamson, *How Weather Affects Photography*
- Feb 27, Mon, 9:15am (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Mar 06, Mon, 9:15am (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****
- Mar 07, Tues, 7:00PM (BCH) Exhibition, *The Decisive Moment*
- Mar 13, 20 and 27, Mon, 9:15am (ZOOM) **Photoshop Critique Group****

**** MONDAY PHOTOSHOP CRITIQUE GROUP**

Mondays, 9:15am, ZOOM virtual meetings with members presenting 2 of their own images from their computers. Les Greenberg will invite members to a scheduled ZOOM meeting by sending an email invitation before the meeting. There are unique ZOOM codes for Jan 2nd thru Mar 27th meetings. If you do not have the session's codes, send an email to Les Greenberg, bikerles@yahoo.com, to join.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?

All CVCC meeting locations are branches of the
Cuyahoga County Library system
Click library name to see map

BCH [Beachwood Library, 25501 Shaker Blvd, Beachwood](#)
[216-831-6868](#)

To see latest Calendar update go to CVCC Website/Happenings
chagrinvalleycameraclub.com

2023 CVCC Calendar

Jan 3rd	Tuesday	Virtual	Joe Edelman	Understanding Creativity
Jan 24th	Tuesday	Virtual	Discussion	Close Up and Macro Photography
Feb 8th	Wednesday	Virtual	Joe Edelman	Abstract Photography
Feb 21st	Tuesday	Virtual	Ben Williamson	How Weather Affects Photography
Mar 7th	Tuesday	Beachwood	Exhibition	The Decisive Moment
Mar 21st	Tuesday	Beachwood	Exhibition	Close Ups
Apr 11th	Tuesday	Beachwood	Exhibition	Monochrome
Apr 25th	Tuesday	Beachwood	TBA	TBA
May 9th	Tuesday	Beachwood	Exhibition	The May Show
May 23rd	Tuesday	Beachwood	Exhibition	Moving Water

January 8th Portrait Exhibition at the Beachwood Library

Congratulations to Erwin Bruder and Phil Bailin, who were finally able to hang their portrait exhibition at the Beachwood Library one year after it was originally scheduled. The Library had canceled the exhibition and other activities last year due to Covid.

The exhibition will run from January 8, 2023 through January 26, 2023. The show, which Phil has entitled, "It's A Pleasure to Meet You", has images of beauties, bikers, dancers, and more.

The opening reception is on Sunday, January 8, from 1:00PM until 3:00PM. Phil and Erwin will be there until at least 3:00PM to meet, greet, and talk portraiture photography with any who want to. The library is open until 5:00PM. Unfortunately, there will be no food or drinks as the Library still strongly recommends masks, which makes snacking impractical.

Come join them on Sunday, January 8, or view the images at another time, if more convenient for you.

"Hoping to see you there,"

Erwin and Phil



Philip on a photo shoot



Erwin Taking a break

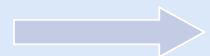
Exhibition topic for March 7, 2023

The Decisive Moment

As you probably know, the concept of “The Decisive Moment” stems from the writings of Henri Cartier-Bresson (known as HCB). Much has been written about HCB and of his theories as they apply to photojournalism and street photography. Let’s take a closer look at what he said and how it can be applied to contemporary photography.

Cartier-Bresson was one of the founding members of Magnum Photos, a coop photo agency that began in 1947. His first assignments for the agency were in India and China, from which he gained considerable recognition. Then in 1952 he published a volume of 126 photos along with extensive commentary in French under the title *Images à la sauvette*. This book was republished in English by Simon & Schuster as *The Decisive Moment* shortly thereafter.

HCB may be best known for his contributions to the genre of street photography. The ideas that he outlined in his book relate to views on how the photographer should approach the task of composing an image. These might be summarized in these comments: *“But inside movement there is one moment at which the elements in motion are in balance. Photography must seize upon this moment and hold immobile the equilibrium of it.”* So, according to HCB, aren’t composition and timing the most important aspect of a photograph?



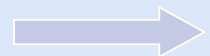
The Decisive Moment (*continued*)

Many people think of "The Decisive Moment" as referring specifically to our most important or even only to epic photographs. HCB stated however that *"In photography, the smallest thing can be a great subject"*. He said, *"thinking should be done before and after, not during photographing."* HCB emphasized the importance of practicing your craft and famously said *"Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst"*. The good news is that most of us are beyond our first ten thousand.

In discussing photojournalism HCB stated the importance of learning about the environment in which one is working. Trained as a painter, he often studied and sketched scenes in his notebook. In many cases, his images reflect a certain structure within the composition that he derived subconsciously from his early studies of artworks. Asked what the most important aspect of composition was, he simply said: "Geometry".

While HCB did not advocate strict use of any compositional rules, his images show the importance of the following:

- Leading lines & repetition
- Triangles and Diagonal Lines
- Shadows
- Figure and Ground



The Decisive Moment (*continued*)

While it is debatable how often HCB used traditional painting compositional devices such as Fibonacci's Spiral or the Golden Ratio, it is evident that he regularly used some sort of geometry in the design of an image. One quote tells the story: *"This recognition, in real life, of a rhythm of surfaces, lines, and values is for me the essence of photography; composition should be a constant of preoccupation, being a simultaneous coalition – an organic coordination of visual elements."* He shunned cropping of images and the use of accessories. And he also said that *"sharpness is a bourgeois concept"*.

To summarize, there are two main components of "The Decisive Moment": composition and action. In looking through the New York Times Photos of the Year, it is remarkable that although most of the images show strong compositional arrangement, less than 1 in 20 of the images show anything close to the use of the Rule of Thirds, touted by many as one of the most important of compositional rules. Many of the images evidence action, and I have included several of them to illustrate "The Decisive Moment". Study them to see how they were composed.

Finally, I found the following video about composition interesting and informative. You may wish to give some consideration to some of these alternatives to the use of the Rule of Thirds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ7fahM5sBQ>

The following 7 images are taken from the
New York Times, "A Year in Pictures"



Flooding in Assam State, India, destroys a farmer's crops and livelihood



President Hu Jintao being escorted out of a meeting of the Communist Party

New York Times, “A Year in Pictures” continued



The Slap – Chris Rock and Will Smith



Refugees leaving Kyiv after the beginning of the Russian invasion

New York Times, “A Year in Pictures” continued



Skater at the Olympic Trials



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Kurdish special forces conduct a house-to-house search for Islamic State militants

New York Times, “A Year in Pictures” continued



MANHATTAN, OCT. 17. At Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, one of the country's oldest L.G.B.T.Q. organizations, congregants unrolled a Torah during Simchat Torah, the Jewish autumn festival celebrating the end of the yearlong cycle of Torah readings.

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