

Newsletter of the



# Poly Speaks

Edited by Jim Mildice

**Poly Photo  
Camera Club**  
San Diego, California

Volume 5, No. 6

July, 2014



© SignoretPaar 2013

*"The Quiet of the Night in Transylvania" by Kim Signoret-Paar*

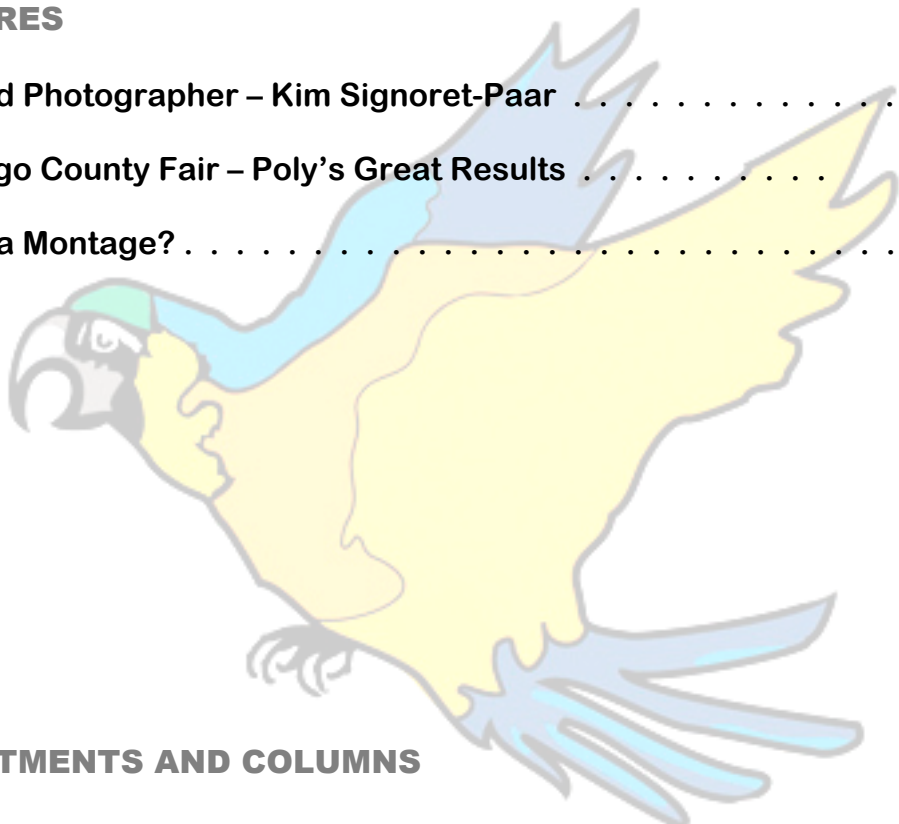
**"Best of Show"**

# CONTENTS

**News and Views of Poly Photo Camera Club Members**  
**July, 2014** **Volume 5, No.6**

## FEATURES

Featured Photographer – Kim Signoret-Paar . . . . .	3
San Diego County Fair – Poly’s Great Results . . . . .	6
What is a Montage? . . . . .	7



## DEPARTMENTS AND COLUMNS

From the Editor . . . . .	2
Jim Mildice	
This and That . . . . .	5
Clark Winsor	
Coming Events . . . . .	8
Darlene Elwin	

Poly Speaks is published by the Poly Photo Camera Club, in San Diego, California. Editor – Jim Mildice  
President – Alan Haynes | Vice President – Darlene Elwin | Secretary – Josi Ross | Treasurer – Beverly Brock

## From the Editor

Our featured Photographer this month, Kim Signoret-Paar has provided us with an interesting combination of events. One of the favorite images for her feature was also selected as the San Diego Fair, Exhibition of Photography “**Best of Show.**” So we can simultaneously show you a sample of her work and the Fair Winner on this month’s cover. Congratulations, Kim.

This issue also has a story about the Poly members who were very successful in the Fair this year; winning awards and honors. We offer special congratulations to Michele McCain. She won a first, second, third, and fourth place award, distributed among four different classes. That’s the first time I’ve ever heard of that happening. Considering her success in Poly competitions, perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised.

This year, I got to spend enough time looking at the Fair’s Photo Exhibition to contemplate what I saw. Here are a few of my random thoughts:

There sure were a lot of *Nature–Bird* images. They hung almost 100 pictures, which means that about 400 were entered. If you are entering and want to win one of the four top awards, there is a lot of competition in this class.

The displays (printing/mounting/ matting) seemed better than average; and thankfully, the lighting gets a little better every year. But there is getting to be an interesting mix of fluorescent, tungsten, and LED sources that can provide different effects on print color balance. I wonder how this will effect future white balance requirements.

The “*John Watts*” prints (high-gloss with printed-on “mats”) were easy to identify and could be found in most of the classes.

Images printed on metal provided shockingly superior sharpness, contrast, and color, especially on larger prints. It’s a technology to consider if you want to add impact to a print you want to hang.

Judging by the success of B&W entries, the inherent abstraction of B&W prints seemed to add to their artistic appeal.

Participants seemed to have sorted out the multiple landscape classes (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) pretty well, with appropriate images in the right places.

As always, there were enough prints about which you thought (and sometimes actually heard someone else say), “How did they pick that?” or “They gave *that* an award?”

To be fair, the judges at the “*Judges Round Table*” emphasized the importance of subjectivity and opinion in the choices they made. Also, a satisfying number of people came to the the “*Judge’s (one-on-one) Feedback*” session to ask, “Why was this picture not accepted?” or “Why did you pick this picture for an award?”

One of the important lessons to take away is that any large, juried exhibition with many different judges has an understandable lack of objective standards about the selections it makes. You can expect that whichever images were selected or not selected this year, they will be different next year. And if you choose to enter again, your results this year might have little effect on next year’s successes or failures.

---

## Quote of the Month –

“Henry James proposed asking of art three modest and appropriate questions: What is the artist trying to do? Does he do it? Was it worth doing?”

*by Robert Adams*



## Featured Photographer of the Month – Kim Signoret-Paar

***“The quiet of the night in Transylvania”  
Piața Mică (Small Square) in Sibiu, Romania,  
2007 European Capital of Culture  
(Full image is on the cover)***

Best of Show and First Place in B&W  
Architecture/Cityscape, 2014 Exhibition of  
Photography at the San Diego County Fair.

I shot this photograph last September while on a nine-day car trip through Romania with my husband, Hans Paar. We had been out all day in the Transylvania countryside, and as we returned to our hotel in Sibiu, I told Hans that I wanted to get some night shots in the two squares in the city center: the Piața Mare (big) and Piața Mică (small). Sibiu was colonized by Saxon settlers in the mid-12th century, and most of the squares' buildings date back to the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. This historic center was renovated as a European Capital of Culture in 2007.

Hans and I went out walking around midnight, spending most of our time in the Piața Mică, which had the more intimate interesting light. To me, the scene has a mysterious, intriguing feel.



***At Cerro Alegre in  
Valparaíso, song  
graffiti:  
“Latinoamérica” by  
Calle 13***

Graffiti is an art form throughout South America. Some of it is defacing and ugly, but some is beautiful and fascinating. After I took this photo in the Historic Quarter of the

Seaport City of Valparaíso, UNESCO World Heritage Site, I spent some time on the Web trying to figure it out. I discovered that this is the lyrics to a well known song “Latinoamérica” by a popular group named *Calle 13*.

English translation of the Spanish lyrics on the wall:

“I’m what holds my flag, the backbone of the planet is my Andes. I am what my father taught me, He who doesn’t love his homeland doesn’t love his mother. I’m Latin America, people without legs but can walk.”



### ***The Jacaranda begin to bloom Chapultepec Park, Mexico City***

This past March, after lunch at the Meridien Restaurant on the lake in Chapultepec Park, my sister-in-law and I took a walk around the lake. A light rain began to fall and we made our way back to the restaurant and then the sun came out. I took photos of the blooming trees in late afternoon sun after the rain. Lunch in Mexico City starts late and ends even later ... this photo was taken at 6:02 p.m.

### ***The Bradbury Building***

I found this quote on the web which captures how I feel about this building ... "The Bradbury Building in downtown Los Angeles is an iconic part of film noir – it's as big a character as any of the actors." We spent time there on the Poly LA Field Trip that Judy Olesen organized in May. The light was fantastic! In processing this photo, I tried to capture that sense of film noir.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradbury\\_Building](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradbury_Building)



### ***Chile is a dog's heaven on earth***

A tour guide told us that everyone in the community is responsible for feeding and caring for the dogs, but no one needs to own them. As a result the dogs are friendly, content, cute AND everywhere!

## This and That

By Clark Winsor

Have you ever noticed that sometimes our competition judges make comments that don't line up with the scores they give.

Here's a few using my entries as examples.

Judge's comment on a photo of the Mount Rushmore Presidents. "This is the best image of Mount Rushmore I have every seen, eight points."

Judges comments on an image of our granddaughter's dance class. "This looks like a Norman Rockwell painting, eight points." Really, Norman Rockwell, eight points.

Same judge two years later, commenting on another granddaughter photo. This one was taken during her soccer game. "The color of the soccer jersey is not right, seven points." I guess I needed to be involved in the selection of the girl's jerseys.

Anyway you get the idea. I am sure you have your own memories of comical comments made on your photos from time to time. If so, please send them to me and I'll include them in next month's column.

A few months ago I passed along a few suggestions on improving your photography. These were taken from the Scott Kelby "Shoot Like a Pro Tour." I would like to pass on a few more. Today we'll look at Camera Settings.

Taken from the Kelby Training notes:

*"If you want more creative control over your images, I recommend shooting in AV mode. It's absolutely simple because you choose the f-stop and the camera chooses the shutter speed. Here's a simple guideline for f-stops, if you want your subject in focus (like a person, a flower, etc.) and the background out-of-focus, use the lowest use the lowest number your lens will allow (like f/2.8, f/4, f/3.5 and so on). If you want to shoot a landscape or cityscape where you need everything really in focus, use a high-numbered f-stop like f/22. If it's something where you don't really care, you just want a shot in focus, then use f/8 or f/11 (these are the "I don't want to fuss with it f-stops)."*

Well that's if for this month. I hope to hear from you.

Clark

---

## Poly Exchange

Do you have a youngster or photography beginner who would like to learn with a more-advanced digital camera without spending a lot of money? I recently came across a start-up kit that will fill the bill. It's a Nikon D-50 with an 18-55mm zoom (kit) lens and a Lowpro "Slingshot AW-100" carrying bag. Everything works. Make an offer. Contact Jim Mildice if you're interested.



## Poly “Rules” at the San Diego County Fair – Exhibition of Photography

This year, the Poly members who competed in the “*Exhibition of Photography*” did very well. First of all, Kim Signoret-Paar was first in the “*B&W Architecture or Cityscapes*” class, and that image was selected as Best in Show. She also had a second and a fourth in “*Color Scenic – Spring*” and in “*Cell Phone Photography*.”

If you will allow a baseball metaphor, Michele McCain “hit for the cycle” this year. She won a first, second, third, and fourth in “*Our Best Friend, Color Scenic – Fall, Color Architecture or Cityscape, and Color Scenic – Summer,*” respectively.

Beverly Brock won a first place award in the “*At the Fair*” class; and also picked up two Honorable Mention ribbons.

Jim Collier has a fourth place in “*Color Nature – Flowers,*” and two Honorable Mentions.

Darlene Elwin was first in “*Color Nature – Other Plants and Trees.*”

Joan Harris got three third place awards in “*Color Nature – Flowers, Macro, and Fair Theme,*” and an Honorable Mention.

Alan Haynes got a second and a fourth in “*Color Scenic – Winter*” and “*B&W Scenic – Landscapes and Waterscapes,*” and two Honorable Mentions.

Diane Marinos has a first place in “*Color – People,*” and four Honorable Mentions.

A total of 19 Honorable Mentions were gathered by: (in alphabetical order)

Mary Anderson  
Marietta Baginsky  
Beverly Brock  
Jim Collier  
Jan Handman  
Joan Harris  
Alan Haynes  
Diane Marinos  
Dorothy Mildice  
Rick Wiley



---

## Finally – Canon/Nikon Agreement



## What is a Montage?

According to the “*Merriam Webster Dictionary*,” it is a pictorial technique in which cut-out illustrations, or fragments of them, are arranged together and mounted on a support, producing a composite picture made from several different pictures. It differs from **collage** in using related images chosen for their subject or message. They can be realistic or impressionistic. The technique is widely used in advertising. Photomontage uses photographs only, which are usually combined into a single final print in software. Here are a few examples.





# Coming Events

Darlene Elwin

## July 5 – Competition. The “Project” subject is “*Montage*.”

There have been some questions about what comprises a Montage (which have been answered with different definitions). To find the official (Webster) description (with examples) go to Page 7.

**Vern Elmore** is our judge for this month. Here’s something about him, in his own words.

“My name is Vern Elmore. I learned photography as a boy, with my father, in a black-and-white darkroom. After high school photography, I became a U.S. Navy photographer, and graduated from the U. S. Navy Schools of Photography. I later studied, among other things, art at USC. Photography is a life-long passion.

Architecture is my commercial photography thrust. As a member of the American Institute of Architects – Palomar Chapter, I have photographed many projects for both architects and related industries. This is the exciting part of my photo career. Architectural photography has opened whole new fields of opportunity for me and my camera.

I live in the northern San Diego area, and I have recently helped to judge the prestigious San Diego County Fair Photo Exhibition at Del Mar Fairgrounds, where I judged the categories of “*Architecture*” and “*Night Photography*.” This has been a great experience and a way to give back to the photo community.

Over the years, I have participated in several camera clubs. I’m currently the projectionist for the North County Photographic Society, which meets at the Quail/San Diego Botanical Gardens in Encinitas. Also, I am an active member of the Darkroomers, a photographic print club.

A love for the outdoors and practical art experience contribute to my landscape, nature and fine art photographs today. Photo outings take me from the city, to the ocean, to the mountains, and to the deserts of the west. My art experience in woodcarving, fine woodworking, drawing and watercolor contribute to the creative process of making fine art photographs. Artistic interest in buildings, and their design, give foundation to the line and form of my architectural images. All my art experiences culminate in my photography today.”

## July 19 – Cataloging and Organization of Images using Lightroom, with Alan Haynes at the Photo Arts Building.

On July 19, Alan Haynes will be presenting a workshop on how to use Adobe Lightroom 5 to organize your images so you can find them fast.

Some of the topics to be covered include:

1. Creating a naming system so that every one of your images has a unique name.
2. Create a logical filing system using folders and subfolders.
3. Moving your old images into your new filing system.
4. Using keywords, captions and other metadata.
5. How to find your stuff using the filter bar, smart searches and other Lightroom tools.
6. And a lot more!

This will be a seminar and not a hands-on workshop. The goal is to give you the knowledge to organize your own images once you get home to your own computer.