

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

# Portland Photographers' Forum

## Newsletter

*Portland Photographers' Forum meets from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Monday, January 23, in Room 30 of the Multnomah Arts Center, 7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland. ([See Map](#))*

January, 2012

### President's Message

#### **Putting Some "Soul" In Our Pictures**

by Pete Gomena



*"I would like to manage to prevent people from ever seeing how a picture of mine has been done. What can it possibly matter? What I want is that the only thing emanating from my pictures should be emotion." - Pablo Picasso*

As we bound into the new year, dodging piles of slush and puddles, I thought I'd look ahead a little to what PPF has in store for you in 2012.

None of this is concrete, mind you. It's a work in progress, a direction for events and programming that has been building for some time, driven by the fact that most PPF members are not beginners.

Most of us have been involved with photography as enthusiasts, serious amateurs, artists, professionals, or teachers for a couple of decades or more. We know how to use a camera. We know the basic rules of composition. We have some awareness of the art world and the history of photography, and we own and use computers or darkrooms or both. The quality of work we displayed in the Cedar Hills Recreation Center show and last summer's juried group show speaks volumes about our skills and vision.

As our work progresses and if we consider ourselves to be visual artists, we eventually reach a point where the technical becomes second nature. Aperture settings, shutter speeds and focus become intuitive, rules of composition become fluid. We've learned to "see" photographically, and we're using our knowledge and experience to produce strong work.

Once the process is mastered, we are freed to explore image content. We can decide how we want to light a subject or we know how to modify existing light to meet our needs. We are better able to react to a situation and come away with a strong image.

If this is true, we then are confronted by the problem of what it is we are trying to say,

and how to say it.

This year, our speakers will talk about image content in terms of emotional impact, symbolism and psychological effect more than about simple visual impact, technical matters or composition. We'll try to examine not just our motivations for making an image, but how it is perceived by others, and how we can better project our ideas through our pictures.

It's easy to record something, but much harder to evoke mystery, suspense, humor, or awe. Can this even be a conscious act? How do you inject feeling into a picture, or is it even possible? I suspect it's an organic process that is largely unconscious.

I think that if we look at our best photographs, we'll see that there is a successful communication of an emotion, maybe even one that is indescribable. Such an emotional confrontation makes our brains work to create context, a means of understanding. It may make us wonder for days on end. It creates an impact, and therefore is successful, even if we don't immediately understand it.

## This Month's Meeting

### **Dale Strouse**

*Visual Journeys*



*Frost Blossoms* ©Dale Strouse

January's guest speaker is photographer and graphic designer Dale Strouse.

Dale's favorite subject matter includes natural and urban landscapes and various topics he explores using traditional gelatin-silver and alternative photographic processes. He'll bring "actual, live prints" for his talk.

"My talk will be about the craft of creating images that impact the viewer in an emotional way," he said. "When I am shooting landscapes I consider more than just a good exposure and a decent

composition."

"I will discuss the methods I use to take the scene that is in front of me, the scene that has inspired me to take the photograph in the first place, and finally end up with a print that makes the viewer feel what I felt at the scene," he said. "It is at the same time a difficult process and an intuitive journey."

[Click here](#) to see Dale's photographs on-line.

## A Special Saturday, January 28

### **Beer With the Board**

*a pint and a sandwich with a side of pictures*



Join the PPF Board of Directors from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, January 28, for an afternoon of socializing over a beverage of your choice and a sandwich at the East Bank Saloon, 727 SE Grand, Portland.

We've reserved a few tables for our exclusive use in this Portland landmark, and we'd like to take the opportunity to hear your suggestions for 2012 programming and photography outings. Bring along samples of your work for sharing and discussion if you'd like. (There's no room for print easels, so think small and portable.)

This event will take the place of our usual "Sunday School of Photography" outing for the dark, damp, cold, dreary month of January. We've reserved space for 12 to 20 people, so come on along and join in the fun!

## 2012 Membership Drive

### **Join PPF or Renew Your Membership**

*the time is now!*

Friends, 2012 will be another exciting year of photography outings, guest speakers and group shows for Portland Photographers' Forum members. Take a moment soon to join PPF or renew your membership.

In 2011, we took weekend trips to Cannon Beach and Burns Farm, had private group tours of photography exhibits at the Portland Art Museum and Blue Sky Gallery, and took photo trips to the Columbia River Gorge, sites around Portland, Moulton Falls and Sauvie Island. Our first juried group show at the Multnomah Arts Center gallery was a huge success, and we're planning another show right now.

Our annual membership drive runs through March 31, 2012. Annual dues are \$45.00. Your dues pay for our meeting space, special events, this newsletter, our website, insurance, and sundry other expenses.

The easiest way to sign up or renew your membership is to use our secure PayPal account. [Click here](#) to access the PayPal link via our website. Please include your name, street address, phone number and e-mail address on the form provided.

You also may sign up at any monthly meeting between now and the end of March, or you may join or renew by sending a check along with your name, street address,

telephone number and e-mail address to:

**PPF**  
**P.O. Box 5643**  
**Portland OR 97228**

We never, ever, sell or give away our membership list, nor do we give out any other personal information without a member's consent.

## Various and Sundry

### **Area Photographic News**

*check these events!*

**MISSING!** If you know the whereabouts of Don Nelson's prints from the Cedar Hills Rec Center show, please [click here](#) to e-mail him. We assume someone helped out by taking them down after the show for Don while he was out of town. He'd like to retrieve them.

The Lake Oswego Festival of the Arts juried photography show **entry deadline has been extended** through Tuesday, January 21. [Click this link](#) to the festival's website for more information. Show jurors are digital imaging pioneer Dan Burkholder, Portland Art Museum photography curator Julia Dolan, and Charles Hartman, owner of Charles A. Hartman Fine Art gallery. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have your work seen by these jurors in a venue that attracts 20,000 people each summer!

Join PPF members **Mel and Janell Huffman** for a weekend photographic workshop at Silver Falls State Park near Salem, April 20-22, 2012. This workshop provides guided opportunities to photograph waterfalls, moss-covered trees, ferns, and spring colors in Oregon's favorite rainforest.

You'll also have the opportunity to attend sessions presented by experienced professional photographers. Attend evening presentations on composition guidelines, tips for taking better images, and night and low light photography. Personalize your workshop with a choice of topics and activities during day-time sessions. This photography workshop is suitable for beginning and intermediate photographers with all types of cameras. To see a list of these sessions, and details about this and their 2012 Palouse, Washington and Quinalt Rain Forest workshops, [click here](#) to visit their website.

Events at the **Northwest Center for Photography and i witness gallery** this month and next include David Zaitz' show, *View Finder*, through February 25, followed by Susan de Witt's exhibit, *Fabrication*, which opens Friday, March 2, at the gallery, 1028 SE Water Ave., Suite 50, Portland. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday noon to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, 1:00-8:00 p.m.

Upcoming workshops at NCP include Gregg Kerber's Lightroom, Level 2 workshop,



©David Zaitz

beginning February 21. For details on shows and workshops, [go the the NCP website.](#)

Peter Gomena, President  
**Portland Photographers' Forum**  
503-313-2309

Join Our Mailing List!

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to president@portlandphotoforum.com by [gomena@comcast.net](mailto:gomena@comcast.net) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Portland Photographers' Forum | P.O. Box 5643 | Portland | OR | 97228