

February 2021

A new logo for Latow

Frank Myers, for the Communications Committee

Latow's unofficial slogan is, "not your average camera club". Our programming, facilities at the AGB, and members' work bear this out, but many will agree our public image could use a refresh.

Two projects have been underway to bring our public "face" in line with this aspiration: In the coming months, we'll be launching a new website featuring a brand-new look and improved functionality. A smaller but also important project is the development of a new logo.



In November, the Communications Committee obtained the Board's support and a modest budget to have a new logo professionally designed. We selected a designer and worked with her to present the Board with several proposed designs and ultimately a choice was made.

Our designer, Cindy Jeftovic, describes the new Latow logo this way. "The logo was redesigned with a view to modernization and concurrently to mark the anniversary of 50 years of the club going forward. Created with two strong blue colours in a change to the previous black and white — the guild name itself now impacts more boldly as a strategic brand element. This will lend itself to greater retention and awareness. The logo retains a more abstract versus literal thematic association with the graphic "eye" image of the existing logo as a parallel to both the camera iris and an eye. This iconography speaks to creative and technical vision and focus."

Cindy has provided a version of the logo with the 50th anniversary reference, which we will use throughout 2021. (It's used in the banner at the top of this page.) We also have all relevant file formats, plus a comprehensive design guide to ensure the logo is used effectively in all print and electronic applications.

The existing logo has technical limitations, such as lack of a useful colour version or original vector-based files for professional design of print materials. No one seems to remember when it was introduced, but it's decades ago. Our 50th anniversary seems a good time for an update.

Test your mettle; win a medal

Tom Stephens, O3C rep

The 2021 O3C **Open Challenge** is coming this Spring and it will be a challenge worthy of attention by Latow's top photographers. With 36 clubs now part of O3C, this will be a better opportunity than ever to test yourself against your peer photographers in southern Ontario. As O3C puts it, this challenge is to "share and showcase [your] art among almost 3,000 of your peers. Clubs, and their members, may be recognized through various individual and club awards."

There is an image category for everyone in this challenge -- Architecture, Pictorial, People, Creative Vision, Expansive Views, People in Action, Birds, Animals, Botany and Landscapes/Geology. Not enough? There is also a theme – **Lines & Curves**. You can choose to enter any or all categories (but not Prints, which are being accepted this year due to the pandemic).

The deadline for submission of digital images [to me](#) is May 23. The rules have been rewritten and should be very clear, but I'm happy to take questions. The full set of rules for 2021 is online, in the **Members Download** area of the website. It would be great to see a strong showing from Latow, "not your average camera club."

What's Happening in February?

Guest speaker George Kourounis, The Stormchaser: Feb. 2

Ready for some serious outdoor adventure? Join the session on the 2nd of February for an evening of wild storms, tornadoes, floods, volcanoes, avalanches, and other natural mayhem.

Our guest George Kourounis is an explorer/photographer/storm chaser known globally as an expert who specializes in documenting extreme forces of nature and natural disasters. For over 20 years he has been on the scene in 75+ countries during Mother Nature's worst tantrums.

George is an explorer-in-residence with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, a National Geographic Society expedition leader, and the chairman of The Explorers Club Canadian Chapter. George comes highly recommended by other O3C clubs where he has made presentations. You don't want to miss this!



First Time Ever Latow Challenge – Photographing Food as Art: Feb. 4

Gail Burstyn and Marguerite Botting

Photographing food is similar to telling a story on a plate. Food styling creates the best visual to connect the viewer to mouth-watering images.

Covid has kept us inside our homes for months now, so there have been lots of opportunities to consider our food menus and how they translate into appetizing meals.

The next new step for a Latow member is to memorialize that great meal by lighting setups, considering colour, choosing equipment, adding props, etc.

Web-based food shows have helped us learn about food prep, but it is now time for us foodies to eat with our eyes first! Food photography is a perfect next step. Camera gear or cell phone – your choice!

We shall start off the evening with some great photography ideas and then we invite you to submit your very own food photos to Jim Lait, laitjames@gmail.com by 5 p.m. on Feb. 4th to be viewed that same evening.

Meanwhile check out YouTube videos to learn more about food styling, using colour theory, best lenses, flying food, lighting hacks and DIY photo backdrops, all possible within your home. Further suggestions:

<https://www.lightstalking.com/how-to-photograph-food/>

<https://foodphotographyacademy.co/blog/smartphone-food-photography/>

Christmas holidays have always been a feast of food so check out Tom Stephens's great link:

Festive Food Photography with Gavin Hoey [#12DaysOfChristmasPhotography](#)

February at a Glance

(All events online via Zoom. Watch for invitations in your email.)

Tuesday, Feb. 2	General Meeting: Guest Speaker George Kourounis, Forces of Nature
Thursday, Feb. 4	How and Why: Food photography
Tuesday, Feb. 9	Street Photography
Thursday, Feb. 11	Members Sharing: Different formats
Saturday, Feb. 13	Evaluation #3 intake deadline
Tuesday, Feb. 16	New Members and Masters
Thursday, Feb. 18	Board Meeting: Members are welcome to attend
Tuesday, Feb. 23	Night Sky and Night-time Photography

February cont'd:

Street Photography—something different: Feb. 6

Monique Campbell

In 2016, I learned that the Art Gallery of Ontario made a major purchase of photographer Diane Arbus' work and planned to exhibit it in 2020. I discovered the New York City photographer while in photography school and had read her biography so I was thrilled for the opportunity to see her collection.

Then the pandemic hit and the Gallery closed. It didn't look like I'd get the chance to see it. Fortunately it did reopen and I was able to see the exhibition last September. It was quite an experience to view, especially since security was only allowing 50 people into the four large rooms at a time. Perfect for getting up close to the over 150 prints and really seeing them in all their glory.

Afterward I headed to the gift shop to browse the catalogues and was ecstatic to find "A Box of Ten...Eleven* Photographs by Diane Arbus." Only 5,000 copies were printed by the Smithsonian in Washington to commemorate her original portfolio. In late 1969 Arbus began to work on a portfolio with the intent to sell 50 of them at \$1,000 a piece. She made eight sets and only sold four before committing suicide July 26, 1971.

The book simulates the experience of her original intent that included the box designed by Marvin Israel, the selection of photographs she chose, the prints themselves and the titles written by hand that would establish her posthumous career.

Her work was finally being recognized. In May 1971 she was the first ever photographer to be featured in *Artforum* and photography was finally realized as "serious art."

In 1972 the Museum of Modern Art did a retrospective and in another pioneering breakthrough, her portfolio was sent to the Venice Biennial, another first.

I have been so inspired by her legacy that I'm reaching out to members of Latow Photographers Guild to choose 10 photos that they have created and we will share them on Zoom together on February 6 at 7:30 p.m. The idea is to show our work that defines who we are as photographers. This doesn't need to be perfection but rather a snapshot of the work that we do in any genre.

Submit your 10 images sized 1080 H by 1920 W pixels to Jim Lait via We Transfer (<https://wetransfer.com>) at laitjames@gmail.com by 5 p.m. On Feb. 6. Please use a numbering system (i.e.. 01-filename, 02-filename) Let's start a discussion around selecting the images and why.

Members Sharing Night: Feb. 11

Jim Lait

On Thursday, February 11th, our theme for the Members Sharing Night is ***Different Formats (including panos, square, etc.)***

Have you tried different image formats or aspect ratios? Why did you choose the particular format? Possibly show before and after versions.

Do you have any tips on taking the photo or processing the image to the particular aspect ratio? This night is an opportunity to share your results and techniques.

And looking further ahead, we have some other nights this year for sharing work, so here's a reminder and a chance for some forward planning. These were all suggested by members this past summer:

- March 4 - *New to You - Different Genres or Techniques*
- Apr 15 - *Diptychs, triptychs, other collections*
- May 6 - *From the Archives*
- May 27 - *Different treatments, e.g. old-film look and other filters*

As usual, we're looking for a few images, up to four minutes per member. Any questions, please contact either Tom Stephens or Jim Lait.

More February programming:

Evaluation #3 Intake Deadline: Feb. 13

Toni Browning

Evaluation 3: entries are due Feb 13. Please don't wait until the last day to enter. The optional theme is "Isolation".

Results will be presented at our meeting on March 2.

New Members and New Masters Night: Feb. 16

Marguerite Botting, Joyce Munro and Wanda Lane

For the past several years, the program committee has hosted an evening for new members and members who have recently achieved the Masters level to share some of their photography. This gives us an opportunity to get to know our new members and their interests better and show our support. Five of our new members, Ilze Andrans, Alex Camilleri, Samantha Emmerson, Natalie Shields and Bert Neale have agreed to share some of their work.

Two of our members have recently achieved the Masters level. Don Munro, one of our most active members and former coordinator of New Exposures and Monique Campbell, who is well known for her work in the field of street photography will be sharing their exceptional work.

We are hoping you will join us for this special evening!

Come Over to the Dark Side: Feb. 23

Jay Trout

There's a rumour going around that the most important component of photography is light. Pfft! Where's the challenge? :)

There are plenty of opportunities to shoot after the sun sets. The moon, the stars, the galaxy and that other kind of space - the one that appears without crowds of people all going after the same shot or getting in the way of the one you want.

On February 23 we'll explore night photography. I'll share my experiences shooting late into the night and very early into the morning, including a chat about the planning and the equipment that makes it happen. The real secret though..... coffee.

It would be nice to expand this evening beyond astrophotography, so if there's anyone who would like to present their experiences shooting a different genre at night, let me know and we'll collaborate on an evening that offers more. You can reach me at jtroutmail@gmail.com.



Top-scoring images from Evaluation #2 included **Rolly Astrom's** *Ghost at the Wall* and **Stefan Danielski's** *White Water Rapids*.

Message from the President

James Elliott, President

Do the grey days seem darker than usual this year? Are you like me, spending an inordinate amount of time online shopping, not necessarily because I need the stuff but because deliveries have become a highlight in my day?

I find the winter months challenging. They tend to be grey and summer seems a long way off. Robbie Burns Day isn't even a holiday!

This time of year requires an effective coping strategy. Something that rewards and distracts. Consequently, January has become the month I plan our trip South. For us, a trip South entails loading the dogs into our camper van and heading to one of South Carolina's coastal State Parks. For the timing of the trip, we target late March. Weather-wise, things are great when we get there and are really starting to improve when we get back. That is a huge reward. The planning is a magnificent distraction.

This mood enhancer is obviously not available this year, so I've been forced to consider a different course of action. Recently I've been trying what I call "Photo Therapy". I have set myself the task of taking at least one photograph everyday, using a very simple set of parameters. I'm only using a normal lens (luckily for me, my wife gave me a Tamron 45mm F/1.8 Di VC USD SP for Christmas!) and I photograph nothing and everything (maybe this should be called the "Seinfeld Method"?). Most importantly, I have no expectations.

So, how's it going so far? I would say the resulting photographs are on par with those website pictures that they use to determine if you are a robot. You know, "Click on all pictures that have a car"! But that's okay. Maybe that's the point. I do know that it feels great to be carrying a camera again. And there is something magical in the sound of that shutter.

Perhaps most importantly, I'm spending a lot less time at the front window waiting for the delivery van to arrive.



Here are some recent results from my "photo therapy" project—taking one photo every day, using no fancy gear.



To no one's surprise, the Art Gallery of Burlington is facing serious financial challenges due to the ongoing Covid 19 restrictions. For example, facility rentals, which represent a major source of income, have dried up.

Along with other guilds, Latow has decided to help out to the best of our ability. On January 21, President James Elliott presented the gallery's CEO, Robert Stephen with a cheque for \$15,000.

Latow is in a position to help the AGB due to the ongoing success of our annual Photography Weekend.

Landscape Photography and the Meaning of Life

Tom Stephens for the Photo Weekend Organizing Committee

Ticket sales for our April Weekend are off to a good start and a big majority of those buying tickets for the Seminar (10-11 April) are *also* buying tickets for both workshops led by Kas Stone (17-18 April).

What will they learn? Kas provides this as the objective for the Seminar: *How to use each step in the photographic process to help you explore and express your personal connection with the natural world.* Her "steps" are not the usual check-your-exposure-shutter-speed-ISO-lighting-focus-blah-blah-blah. No, it's less mechanical and more thoughtful. She'll answer four key questions:

1. *Why* am I making this photograph?
2. *How* do I make this photograph?
3. How *should* I make this photograph?
4. What can I *do* with this photograph?

That's why the sessions are collectively dubbed "Landscape Photography and the Meaning of Life" : don't miss it! There's [more detail online](#). Check it out and mark your calendar.



Ever wonder about **Landscape Photography and the Meaning of Life?**

The 41st Annual Seminar of
the Latow Photographers Guild
will explain everything!



Free Spirits © Kas Stone

Seminar & Workshops online with **Kas Stone**
Renowned International AV Festival

April 10-11 & 17-18, 2021
Join us from anywhere!

www.latowseminar.com

LATOW
PHOTOGRAPHERS GUILD / 50 YEARS

This ad will be in the March issue of PhotoLife and the Winter issue of Canadian Camera, the CAPA magazine. Both are due to appear in March.

Sadly, this next issue of PhotoLife will be the last, as current conditions have proven too much for the small but dedicated crew that publish one of the best photo magazines around. They expect to continue with an online presence for some time, however.

Thank you, PhotoLife, for your support of our Photography Weekend for the past several years!

A Big Latow Welcome to New Members!

Joyce Munro, Membership Coordinator

Even during these bizarre Covid times, a number of folks have joined our photography club since this craziness began last spring. We are delighted to have them with us.

Sadly, we have not had the opportunity to greet them in person with a warm handshake - as is so often our way at Latow. So please join me in offering a heartfelt welcome to the new Latow members listed below.

Have a look for them at upcoming Zoom meetings so that you can put a face to a name. Hopefully, it won't be too long before we are able to gather together. What a reunion that will be!

Joel D'Eath

Drew Maddison

Ilze Andzans

Samantha Emmerson

Alex Camilleri

Maryella Leggat

Natalie Shields

PhotoLife

Dear readers,

By now, it's likely that you've read the news [on our website](#) or Facebook page: the March 2021 issue of Photo Life will be our last. Since our announcement Friday, many of you have sent us heart-warming messages of support. Thank you so much; your kindness and understanding are helping us get through this difficult time.

As announced, the Photo Life March 2021 issue is now available exclusively for pre-order on our website. This is the only way to buy a copy of this issue, and the deadline for ordering it is January 31. This will allow us to give our printer an exact number of copies to print so we can avoid creating excess inventory.

All subscribers with an active subscription (print or digital) will receive the March 2021 issue automatically.

This issue was probably the most difficult one to produce. We put our whole heart into it, and we hope that it will provoke reflection and spark your creativity.

Our online store will remain active until at least the summer. You can continue to buy selected authors' books, and we've also added a few back issues to our inventory, in case you want to complete your Photo Life collection.

Thank you, once again, for your support!

Marketplace

For Sale: **Nikon D850 body**, excellent condition, 14K actuations, never dropped. Comes with box, accessories, covers over LCD screens, 64GB Sandisk SDXC card. For details contact Carla or Jason at avalineproductions@gmail.com.

For Sale: **AF-S NIKKOR 20MM F1.8G ED lens**, excellent condition, never dropped. Comes with box, Henry's H.E.L.P. extended transferable warranty. For details contact Carla or Jason at avalineproductions@gmail.com.

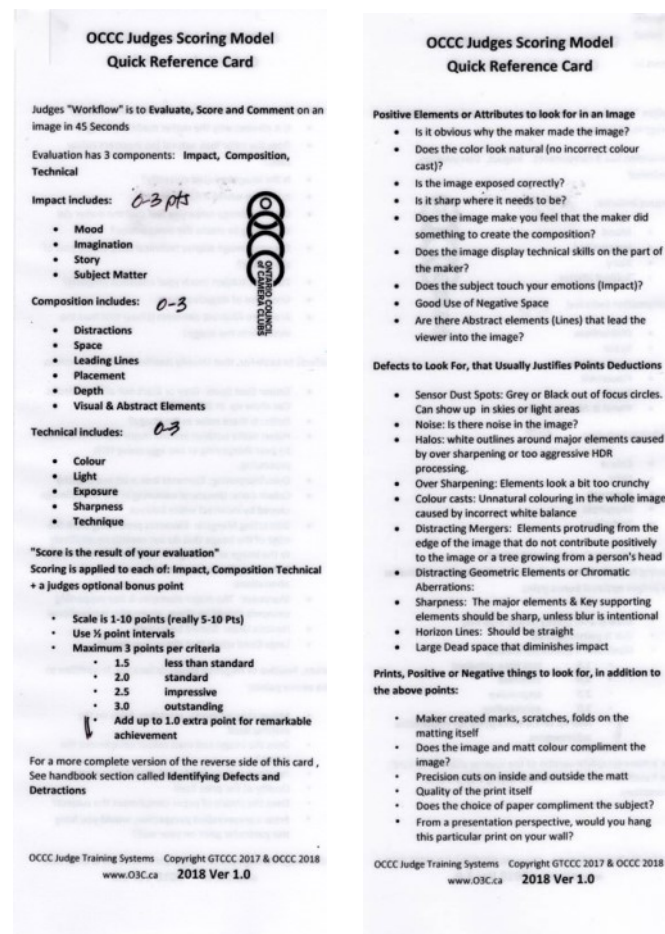
Who Judges the Judges?

Tom Stephens

When it comes to our evaluations, I think the answer is "We all do"! Sometimes we think the judges are too stingy, sometimes too generous (but not often). Sometimes it's clear they love (or hate) birds, but not portraits. Or abstracts. Or you-name-it.

All our judges should have been trained by OCCC or CAPA to consider certain elements for judging an image, and, more recently, to be more constructive in their comments. OCCC has done a lot of work to train judges and to insist they keep current with refresher training. They have also developed scoring guides and these "quick reference cards" describe the components of impact, composition and technical and how points are awarded. You may find them helpful to understand evaluation results.

Despite this, there is always a subjective element to judging and a certain tendency to be mechanistic or formulaic in following these guides. It's significant that OCCC is planning a new approach to judging, starting this Fall, that will give more weight to the artistic side of an image. (See David duChemin's article below for more on this topic.)



Clubs, Competitions, & Critiques (some excerpts)

David duChemin

Competitions and drive-by-critiquing do not measure how far you've come. In fact, they don't even tell you where you're at right now on your journey; *they tell you where your work is relative to the expectations and tastes of others*. Not to how brave you're becoming. Not to the risks you are taking. Not to the discovery of your vision or the refinement of your voice. They say nothing about how much stronger your composition is becoming or whether your images are becoming more poetic. They tell you, really, what other people think....

The great temptation of popular photography culture is to forget the difference between teaching aspiring photographers to use a camera, and influencing what they say with it and how they say it.

David was our seminar speaker in 2016 and he was a huge hit. An active writer, teacher and adventurer, this extract from his current blog offers a positive perspective on coping with low scores from unappreciative judges. For the full text, check out [David's blog](#).

“ For me, documentary photography has always come with great responsibility. Not just to tell the story honestly and with empathy, but also to make sure the right people hear it. When you photograph somebody who is in pain or discomfort, they trust you to make sure the images will act as their advocate.”

Giles Duley

An invitation from Nevada Wier

Here's an invitation from Nevada Wier, Latow's 2012 Seminar speaker. Nevada is a great teacher and photographer and the topic is intriguing. If you're interested, [check it out](#) and don't wait too long.

I hope you can join me February 13, 14, and 15 for the 5th (!) offering of
Introduction to Color Infrared Photography Seminar
a ZOOM ONLINE SEMINAR with Nevada Wier



This seminar is designed for people who are interested in discovering the beauty of color infrared photography.

Limited to 20 participants

Three live ZOOM sessions - 1 1/2 hours long.

Saturday, February 13 and 14 (10-11:30AM (MST **PST**);

February 15 (Presidents Day 2-3:30PM (MST **PST**))

All sessions will be recorded and made available to view for participants on a private video channel at any time.

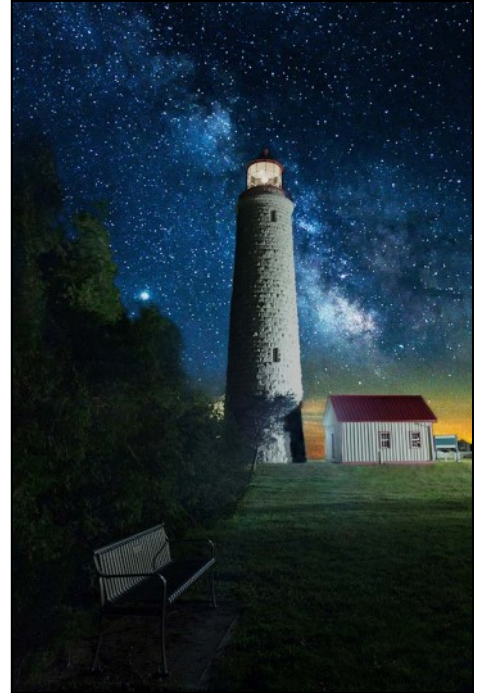
“ While the absence of color may contribute to our appreciation, at the same time it is important to assert that black and white is not photography minus color. Not at all. It's much more subtle than turning down the color saturation on your television.”

John Beardsworth

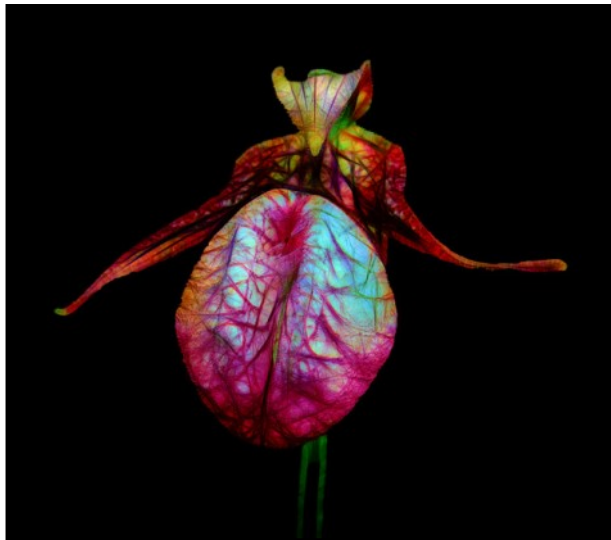
Five more top-scoring images from Evaluation #2



Mountain Biker by **Johnny Larsen**



Guiding Light by **Jay Trout**



Dancing Allan by **Gerda Wolker**



I hate your BUTT by **Keith Marshall**



Noah by **Rolly Astrom**

About Latow Photographers Guild

We normally meet every Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. from September to June at the [Art Gallery of Burlington](#).

General meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month and other meetings on various interests and topics occur on other Tuesdays and Thursdays each month.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions affecting the Art Gallery of Burlington facilities, Latow is making all meetings available via ZOOM, so that members have the option of participating from the comfort and safety of home.

Board meetings are held monthly and any Latow member in good standing is welcome to attend. There are also many special events throughout the year, often on weekends.

To ensure you do not miss any of these great offerings, there is an annual calendar that is frequently updated on the Latow website at: latow.com. For your convenience a hard copy can be downloaded and printed.

Latow Board of Directors

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