

From the President

Dear Focused Photographers,

I hope that your new year has already presented you with some wonderful opportunities for photography & that you'll share your best discoveries with the rest of us.

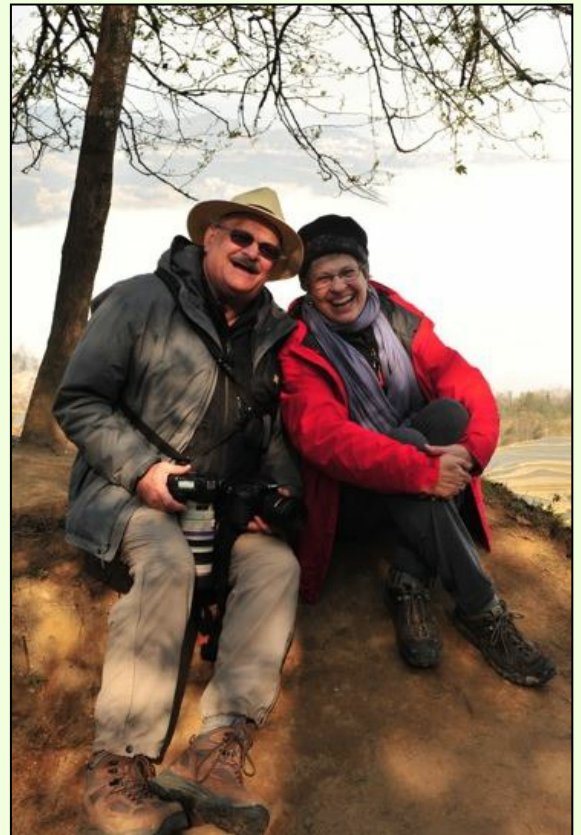
The Richmond Public Library show in December 2014 was one of the best we've ever mounted. Immediately after it closed, our busy group hung a show in the General Assembly Building on Capitol Square. Last fall, Gilpin Brown recognized an opportunity for a small group to hang in March 2015 at Crossroads Gallery. When Gilpin sent an email to club members, the chance to exhibit was fully subscribed in a flash! Meanwhile, Bob Coles opened a large 1-man show at Richmond Public Library in January, Linda & Al Warfield created a very professional show of their work at St. Paul's, & Cyane Lowden was selected to show 6 of her new images at Glave-Kocen Gallery on Main Street.

Our club's ability to mount a visually compelling show has made us desirable to many venues, because the work of our members has continued to improve exponentially from year to year. Our long-time members are continuing to fine-tune & explore, & our new members are bursting onto the scene to share their vision. Trying new techniques keeps our work fresh & exciting, for us & for our viewers.

A special thanks goes to our Exhibit Co-Chairs, Al & Linda Warfield! They have organized & hung many shows in the past few years. The RPL hanging & the subsequent move to the GA Building was accomplished by a group of enthusiastic helpers: The Warfields, Gary Sargent, Wade Emmett, Hal Tyler, Richard Schieken, Vicky Eicher, Durwood & Lynn Felton, Jimmy Roberts, John Garofalo, Kathy Benham, Bob Coles, Cindy Krumbain & others. It's particular work hanging with fish line, & very satisfying when the exhibitions are as spectacular as these. Hal Tyler's determination to include the show in the RTD's Weekender section enticed new visitors to RPL, making our photo & display efforts that much more satisfying.

Spring brings us new opportunities to shoot for future exhibitions, for our own pleasure, & to share with family & friends. Whether we prefer to sell our images or to give them away as gifts, photography is a wonderful way to capture, create, document & share the world as we see it.

Charles & I are off on an adventure again... we'll see you at the March meeting!



The FGCC Officers and Staff

Cindy Krumbein	President
Bev Nelson	VP and Programs
Stephen Retherford	Secretary
Sid Koerin	Treasurer
Bob Coles	Chief Editor
Frank Feigert	Copy Editor
Ron Ratcliffe	Publishing

Committees and Chairs

Debbie Roberts	Field Trips
Bill Billings	Website Coordinator
Al Warfield	Roundtable Org. Hal
Tyler	Exhibits
Cyane Lowden	Past President
Frank Feigert	Membership

Membership News

BIG NEWS!! Rob Sabatini has been notified by the National Wildlife Federation that he was a finalist in the 2014 NWF photo contest, and received an honorable mention. The picture was a brown bear cub, one that hung in our show last year and is reproduced here. It will likely be in a slide show on the site in the near future. Congratulations to Rob, from all of us. It's a tough competition, and this reflects well on Rob's work.

Field Trips

I have been in touch with Cyrus at Prequile National Wildlife Refuge and IField Trips am hoping to set a date for the trip to the island in early April.

I have also contacted the Byrd Theater about getting a personal guided tour through the building so we can get the history of the building while taking photographs. Linda made a good suggestion yesterday at the Krumbein's Social, so we might make it even more interesting. More to follow as it comes together. The date that is scheduled is unday, **March 15th at 1:00.**

Segway anyone? I am going to inquire on a photography Segway tour for later in the Spring. Could be alot of fun! I will get the cost and discount details and let you know.

If you have any other ideas for some great adventures let me know. OR if you would like to join in and help organize a few outings please step up and let's get going. We might have more fun with more minds! Thank you!!

Debbie Roberts

Work Shops

Ellen Martin of martin photo@centurylink.net has one more space for the Platinum Process workshop held 5-6 February in Lexington, VA. The cost is \$650.

Fenland School of Crafts for the Summer 2015

open to 3 workshops

24 May-5 June *The Theater of Photography*

It is a studio workshop on how to create your own visual fictions

7-19 June *Physical Photography*

it is about using the dark room to make photograms, chemigrams and other cameras processes done in unusual ways.

21 June-3 July *Amazing Alternative Processes*

This will focus on the contemporary use of four 19th century processes: gum, casein, cyanotype and platinum.

Celebrating Spring in Alaska

Years ago I spent a bitterly cold winter in Fairbanks, Alaska where the temperature reached down to 50 and 60 below zero. Some nights it even reached 70 below! Besides the intense cold there was the darkness of the winter both day and night. When spring came it was such a relief to have not only daylight but even sunlight! And with sunlight came warmer temperatures. The warm weather brought the great thaw and it was a wonderful relief from the grip of winter.



This picture was taken that spring on a wonderfully warm day. It was so warm that I saw that the headwaters of the Chena River was mostly clear of ice! The sun was beating down and this was the first flowing water I had seen that spring. I had Spring Fever and couldn't wait to get my feet wet so I waded across the river. When I reached the other side I sat down on the ice to get feeling back into my feet. At that time I decided that the concept of a wonderfully warm day was relative. I really needed to get more feeling into my frigid feet but I was getting very cold sitting on the ice. And despite my weather reality check I still had to make my way back across the freezing water.

It was painful but I did make it and the picture is priceless!

Bill Billings

Iron Man Candidate

Many years ago I got a chance to go SCUBA diving in Canandaigua Lake, New York.

It was December 31 and the ice had blown off one end of the lake. The water was cold.

But I got a great picture!



Bill Billings

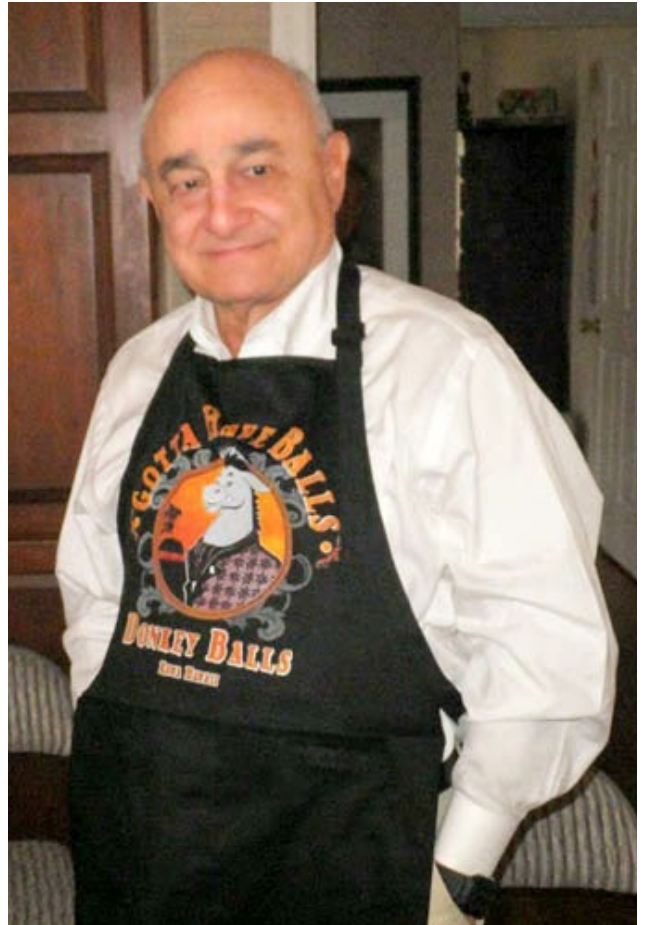
Desert Snow

While traveling north of Sedona AZ, a winter storm moved in and dropped snow into air so dry it bounced and rolled off the road.



Ron Ratcliffe

The Annual Pizza Party





Favorite Places

There is a place I would dearly love to travel to to photograph. It is deep in the bayous of Louisiana, south of Houma called Isle de Jean Charles (80miles south of New Orleans).

It's in Terrebonne Parish. I read an article about it in the New York Times on 2 June 2014.

The sea is reclaiming the land which is inhabited by native Americans, the Biloxi- Chitimacha-Choctaw indians. They are poor and have little power. They are recognized by the state of Louisiana as a native american tribe but not by the Federal Government yet. It is federal dollars that would be needed to help save the land.

I am wondering whether anyone else in the Club would like to go and spend a week or two shooting and getting to know the people. I would welcome any and all ideas.

Bev Nelson

Places I Would Like to Visit and Photograph

I would like to take a trip to **Isle de Jean Charles, Louisiana**. I have read in the NYTimes that Louisiana is losing an acre a day. I would love to learn if anyone in the Club would like to go and shoot a beautiful area of the United States that we are about to lose. I want to go but not alone. An old lady, with expensive camera gear and a car would make me very vulnerable. BUT if anyone in the Club would like to shoot water, wildlife, rural people, disappearing history, I would love to know.

– Bev Nelson

A return trip to **Venice** is high on my list. While the city itself offers many great opportunities for photography and eating (how about scallops with pistachio sauce?), the highlight for me was a day trip to Burano, even though we were there for less than two hours. Google it, or see the two attached pictures, and you'll see what I mean – the most vivid colors imaginable. The streets are crowded with markets, all delights for the senses.

– Frank Feigert

Boulder, Utah is not very generally known as a place to photograph landscapes, but Linda & I have been there twice. On Highway 12 east of Bryce NP and south of Capital Reef NP, it is actually in (or borders on) Grand Staircase Escalante Nat. Monument. The town has 3 good restaurants in walking distance, and good lodging. Within easy drives are Lower Calf Creek Trail, numerous sites in the Grand Staircase, easy access to the southern portion of Capital Reef NP via Burr Trail, Long Canyon, Boulder Mountain, Devil's Garden, Escalante Overlook, and Big Bown Bench, to hit the highlights. It is a frequent site for photo workshops.

We have been to Boulder, Utah in late May and in early September. Either are good, but the latter gives a chance to include some Fall color. Spring is a good time as well. For some scenes it doesn't matter. Time of day is also important. In Long Canyon you can do well in midday by photographing walls lit by reflections off the opposite wall. In Lower Calf Creek (where there is a 3 mile hike to get to the falls) it's best to be there later in the morning to give the light a chance to enter. But for most other areas early and late are the best times. Some examples of our images from Boulder are here:

<http://www.allindaphoto.com/SceneryNatureTrips/Western-USA-Images/>

– Al Warfield

Yosemite is mentioned by two members:

In my view, Yosemite National Park is a superb location for landscape photographers and, in this brief article, I'd like to tell you why. Yosemite is an extremely well-known destination, both in this country and abroad. Each year, millions of visitors go there, and you'll likely hear positive, and sometimes negative, reports based on individual experience.

Situated in the high Sierra mountains, about 200 miles east of San Francisco, California, Yosemite Valley lies at an altitude of about 4,000 feet. Its scenery, including the great, towering monoliths of El Capitan, Half Dome, Yosemite Falls, Bridal Veil, Three Brothers, Vernal Falls, and the giant Sequoias, among others, soar high above the valley floor. In some ways, these great monoliths are Yosemite's most-appealing, and least-appealing, attributes. Most appealing because they're clearly world class scenery and the photography can be incredible. Less appealing

because they've been photographed, over more than a century, by some of the world's best (think Ansel Adams *et al.*) and worst (think families with cell phones) photographers, and the park can be extremely crowded with camera-toting visitors, especially at the most well-known sites, in summer. This year, Yosemite will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its establishment as a National Park and, if anything, the summer visiting pressure will likely be as high as, or higher than ever.



So, how is Yosemite best experienced by serious photographers seeking to make artistic images?

First, avoid visiting in summer, if possible. School's out and it's just too crowded. The Park is open year 'round, and there are many other times when visitation is lower, and the individual imaging experience can be much more enjoyable. Generally, each season offers its own excellent photographic opportunities, depending on the weather and other seasonal changes. In my opinion, the best time to visit is in the late spring, especially in years when the winter snows have packed deeply in the high Sierra. By mid to late May, the snow pack begins melting, and the flow over the Valley's great waterfalls can be incredible.

Second, recognize that, while things may become crowded (and the shooting perspective is limited) at well-known attractions like Tunnel View, the National Park includes about 1,500 square miles of the high Sierra, and there are plentiful opportunities to explore off the beaten track. Even with Yosemite's best known sites in mind, there are opportunities for

creative landscape photographers to find their own individual compositions, including the great monoliths, which are artistically pleasing and made from other less-accessible positions.

Third, do your homework in advance. There are numerous guides to Yosemite, which can help narrow your focus and improve your experience. The Photographer's Guide to Yosemite, by resident photographer Michael Frye, is a good place to start when thinking about, or planning a visit.

– Durwood Felton

Our first choice of a destination within the United States is Yosemite National Park. We were fortunate to visit Yosemite in February one year with a group of photographers under the aegis of ElderHostel (now Road Scholar). Each day we were there was different, each day more beautiful than the next.

The most famous view of Yosemite is from Tunnel View, and there is a wonderful, large parking lot and viewing deck, in one of the spots that Ansel Adams made famous. Bridal Veil Fall is ice-crusting and misty rather than a hearty waterfall in the winter; it runs heavy and full as the snow begins to melt. The heavy forest evergreens are covered with snow and the contrast is appealing, in color or in B&W. Half Dome is a granite dome, possibly Yosemite's most famous rock formation, steeply rounded on its back and sheer on its face. About 50,000 people climb the Cable Route to the top of Half Dome each year, and the National Park Service requires each to hold a \$1.50 climbing permit! We always remember how stunning Half Dome was in the snow and in the sunlight whenever we see someone wearing Half Dome's caricature on their North Face jacket.

Yosemite, at any time of year features that beautiful bright blue sky against the steely gray cliff faces. Spring with green budding leaves on the trees, fall with the full compliment of colors on the deciduous trees in contrasting to the evergreens anytime of year is magnificent in Yosemite Valley.

The Ahwahnee Hotel is a grand old hotel that opened in 1927. It sits on the floor of Yosemite Valley just below Half Dome. Designated a National Historic

Landmark, The Ahwahnee is almost always 100% occupied. Make reservations a year in advance for weekends and summers. There are other, more reasonably priced accommodations just outside the park to the east, in Lee Vining, CA. Lee Vining sits on the shores of Mono Lake, another spectacular spot for exceptional photography.



We loved seeing Yosemite in Winter, but it did snow foot upon foot upon foot while we were there. We were fortunate to have rented a 4-wheel drive vehicle with chains, and were able to leave at the end of our planned stay. The group of firemen who were meeting in our hotel could not move their trucks through the deep snow; we waved goodbye as we carefully drove around them.

– Cindy & Charles Krumbein

Where? Fairbanks Alaska !

When? March!

Why? Major photo ops -- such as dog sled races almost every weekend, and you can get close enough to the racers to get some great images!

Ice Art Alaska -- an international ice carving competition that can be visited in daylight and after dark. Organizers put colored lights on the sculptures so they look totally different at night.

The ice is so clear that one can take photographs thru 40" solid blocks of it. Some sculptures are two stories high, while others have been up to 30' tall. One can slide down an ice sled, or watch children play in the spinning **bowls** made of ice.

Chena Hot Springs outside of Fairbanks -- these are natural thermal hot springs, and I challenge anyone to stay in the open air pool for more than 20 minutes. It gets too hot for comfort after that. If it is cold enough, a person with longish hair can submerge his or her head and then watch as strings of ice crystals form on individual hairs! The trees, etc. surrounding the pool become coated with ice/frost from the evaporating hot water.

And there is always the possibility of an aurora! Never guaranteed. In fact, I've only seen it once during three March trips to Fairbanks . But what a sight! The real challenge is to photograph it, which I could not do.

Colder than Richmond ? Absolutely, but it is a dry cold that is not as penetrating as the damp cold of Richmond and C'ville. One really does not feel it if one is properly dressed.

Vicky

Member News – Exhibits

Rob Sabatini's exhibit, “Wild Things Far and Near,” will have an opening reception, Feb 4th at 5:30 PM at the Tompkins McCaw Library (12th St between Leigh and Clay on the MCV Medical Campus). The show consists of 32 pieces.

Bob Coles' exhibit. “Light Moments,” in the Gellman Room of the Richmond Library, opened January 9th with over 40 color and black and white images. The show runs through February 4.

The General Assembly exhibit of 26 images from 14 photographers will run through April. The CrossRoads Arts Center will host an exhibit of 32 images by 18 of our members in March.

The Crossroads Art Exhibit, of 32 images by 18 members, will open March 20 and run through May 5.

Member's Images

"Cityscape Rear View" – John Garofalo

I found that a mid-afternoon overcast and rather dank February day set the stage for a monochromatic conversion of a color capture. The interesting details, bare trees and varied building levels made for an interesting composition. Post processing was done in Lightroom 5 using some of the B&W LR presets. This image was taken from the Greater Richmond Convention Center in downtown Richmond. The tower on the right is the Centenary United Methodist Church on Grace Street. On closer inspection, I discovered the rear view of "Pasture", a restaurant, also on Grace Street.



• Burano Venice Frank Feigert



• Cyane Lowden



• Burano Canal Venice by Frank Feigert

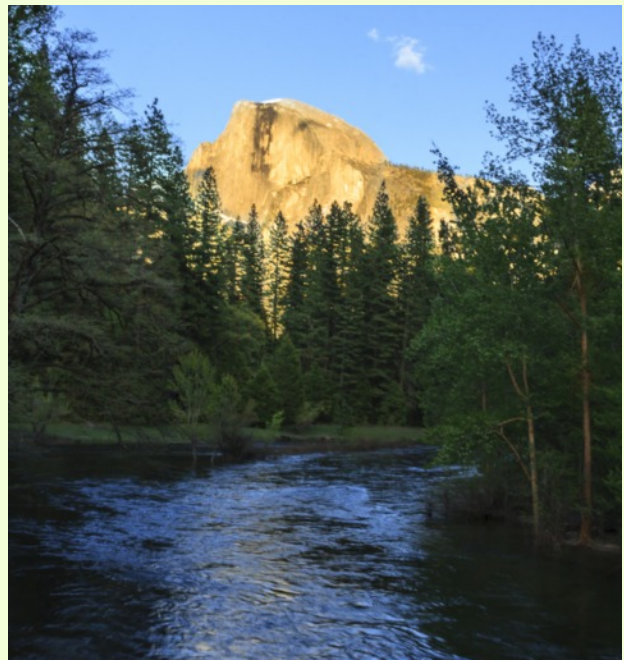


• First Flight by Cyane Lowden

Member's Images



China By Cindy Krumbein



Half Dome Yosemite

Durwood Felton

The Adobe Photoshop CC Book for digital photographers,

2014 release, by Scott Kelby.

The sheer number of new features released by Adobe for Camera Raw and Photoshop make this 379 page book almost essential for anyone using the subscription version of Photoshop; assuming you want to keep up with the changes that have happened since CS6. Released in 2015, the first 3 chapters are dedicated to how to make adjustments in Camera Raw (CR), which is approximately equivalent to the Develop module in Lightroom 5. Combining CR and Photoshop is frequently referred to when describing techniques throughout.

The book is available in e-book format as well as in print. For reading novels and newspaper articles I find e-books very convenient, but for a book about using techniques in Photoshop, printed versions work best because it's difficult to view electronic media and work on images in Photoshop at the same time, especially if the media contain detailed instructions on how to do something.

Some techniques covered are not just features of CR or Photoshop, but ways to get the most out of digital files. One example is double-processing in CR to generate two differently exposed images from the same shot, then blending them in Photoshop. Then there are practical things like how to make the screen match the angle of the Wacom Tablet in your lap.

But the main reason I wanted this book was to have an easily available guide to new techniques in Photoshop CC. Examples are: Content Aware Scaling for stretching portions of an image; conversion to B&W- not only Photoshop but also using the Adaptive Wide Angle filter for fixing extremely distorted shots; the Shake Reduction filter; using Content Aware Fill and Content Aware Move; a large array of sharpening techniques; the Blur Gallery which includes Field Blur, Tilt-Shift, and Iris Blur; plus many more.

There are also lots of tips on how to do things such as make selections of hair; fix all sorts of problems; retouch portraits; use On-One software and plugins like Silver Efex Pro 2; reduce noise; create panoramas; even a little about working with videos.

If your workflow includes Camera Raw and Photoshop CC, The Adobe Photoshop CC Book for digital photographers will save you time and provide information that will make image editing easier and better. The very complete index will make it easy to search for what you need, and general reading will provide useful information you didn't know you could use.

Al Warfield

For Sale or Trade

Epson Stylus Photo R3000 printer, needs work (i.e. a new head). Complete with a good supply of inks (see below)

OR

Inks for above. Matte Black; Light Black; Yellow; Cyan; Vivid Magenta (2). Also, the full range, presently installed in the printer.

First response on either offer wins!

Frank Feigert

Giottos Ball Head for tripod. \$49.00

Model MH 7001 with a model 621 quick release.

Unit is like new. Mounted on tripod once and not used.



Ron Ratcliffe



"Before Sunset, Fort Island Beach" was taken on the Florida west coast (near Crystal City) about 1/2 hour before sunset, using my Canon 5D Mark III with 24-105 mm Canon lens at 40 mm. Directly into the full sunlight, shooting parameters were 1/500 sec @ f/11, ISO 100. Considerable adjustments were made in Adobe Camera Raw including setting the camera profile to "Landscape" and controlling the direct sun by reducing Highlights, then opened in Photoshop CC 2014. The image was converted to B&W using Silver Efex Pro, preset 109 (Fine Art) with further adjustments including light sepia toning, then some of the color was brought back by reducing the opacity of the SEP layer because it looked better that way than either the straight B&W image or the original color image. I have found that B&W images that include strong or direct sunlight work well using this type of treatment. In my experience it's not a good idea to simply convert to B&W without comparing to see whether you loose something doing that. - Al Warfield



Rob's photo won "honorable mention" in NWF's category, "Connecting People and Nature".

by Rob Sabatini

FGCC 2015 Club Calendar

Month	Day	Activity	What	Contact
February	3	Board Meeting	Bev's House 5:15 pm	Bev Nelson
	10	Club Meeting	Deb Snelson	
March	3	Board Meeting	Krumbein's Office 5:15 pm	Cindy Krumbein
	10	Club Meeting	FGCC Mini Program	
	15	Byrd Theater Tour	1 pm	Debbie Roberts
	19	Deadline	April Newsletter	
April	7	Board Meeting	Krumbein's Office 5:15 pm	Cindy Krumbein
	14	Club Meeting	Gilpin Brown	
	TBA	Takedown	General Assembly Exhibit	Cindy
May	5	Board Meeting	Krumbein's Office 5:15 pm	Cindy Krumbein
	12	Club Meeting	Brown Bag	Gary Sargent
	21	Deadline	June Newsletter	
June	2	Board Meeting	Krumbein's Office 5:15 pm	Cindy Krumbein
		SunTrust Exhibit	Pending	
	9	Club Meeting	Reception for SunTrust exhibit	
July		No Meetings		
August		No Meetings		
	20	Deadline	September Newsletter	
September	1	Board Meeting	TBA	
	8	Club Meeting	TBA	
October	3	Deliver Prints	James Center Show	Vicky Eicher
	6	Board Meeting	TBA	
	13	Club Meeting	Reception for James Center Show	
	24	JC Takedown	Takedown James Center Show	
	22	Deadline	November Newsletter	
November	3	Board Meeting	TBA	
	10	Club Meeting	TBA	
December	1	Board Meeting	TBA	
	3	Hang	Library Exhibit	
	4	First Friday	Reception - Library	
	8	Club Meeting	TBA	
	17	Deadline	January Newsletter	
	30	Takedown	Library Exhibit	