



Geometric Shapes- HM by Jeanne McDowell. See additional winners p. 6-8.

In Focus

December Program- End of Year Awards Night

Due to the pandemic, an Awards Banquet for 2020 is just too much to risk, especially with infection numbers continuing to rise daily. In lieu of that, however, we will have an End of Year— Awards Night on Zoom, December 14, at 7 p.m. Since we only had a couple of months in 2020 when we were able to have print competition, the winners of those competitions will be included in the competition for “Best of Year” awards in 2021, in the hope that we can begin print competitions again in 2021. Digital Best of Year awards will be presented on December 14, 2020 along with and other awards that we normally present at the End of Year Banquet. Please join us as we see again the best images of 2020 and recognize those individuals in HPS who have made major accomplishments during this very challenging year.

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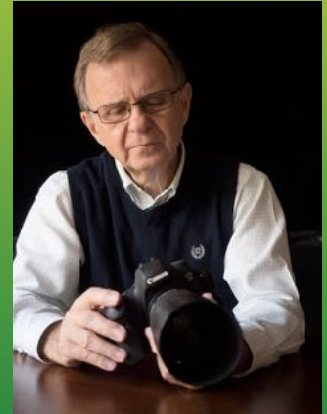
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From the President Year's End

"A picture is worth a thousand words," they say. It's a half-truth, like the wisdom passages in the book of Proverbs—pithy statements, easily memorized and taught to young men which were supposed to shape their moral life—yet still only half truths. "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man." (Proverbs 6:10-11) There is a certain truth to that, but today we also know the other side of that truth, "Too little sleep, too little slumber, very little folding of the hands and a heart attack will come upon you like a robber, and the destroyer of health like an armed man." There is a truth to both, but each is only half of the real truth.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," but each picture can be represented by a different thousand words, depending on the life experiences of the viewer. You can see that clearly in the subjective choices our judges make in competition. Of course, they are always considering the quality of our art, but that's only half of the story, or maybe just half the truth. Each image they see conveys, or should I say echoes or resonates with something in that judge's own life experience. I would venture to say also that unless the artistic quality of the art is pretty bad, the resonance of the image with the life experience trumps the art every time. A visual expression can have a powerful conscious and sub-conscious power over a person, as psychologists tell us, seconded only by our sense of smell. The shapes, colors and arrangement of objects in a piece of art connects with the scattered and even hidden pieces of our own lives and influences us in powerful ways.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," but the words have both similarities and differences for each viewer. The famous contemporary of Freud, Carl Jung, explored the similarities in visual expressions in his understanding of archetypal phenomena. He concluded that there are similar images or visions that live in our subconscious, somewhat common to each individual—we might think of them as instincts. These could be concepts of mother, father, hero, home, country, child, etc. Notice as you think of these how the archetypes are both somewhat clear in your mind but also somewhat



Charles Gattis
HPS President

subjective and blurry. We recognize the “child” in a painting or a picture and connect that image to feelings we have about our a child of our own which may vary in different ways from the feelings about the child in the image from the painter or photographer. Images are both similar and different for each of us.

Art has its own language, but what it conveys is different for each viewer. Written language is not like that. Even though it can also contain archetypical images in the words used that may vary in the experiences of the reader, written language has the ability to convey a more precise expression. Perhaps that is why scientific texts, particularly medical texts, often use both images and words to more precisely explain what they are trying to say.

I have been interested to learn that great photographers often became writers in order to express a little more fully what they were communicating in their images. I have been reading, for example, Ansel Adams’ book, Examples: The Making of 40 Photographs. I look at the image for a while on my own, trying to understand the feelings and experiences the photograph brings out in me; “What do I really see in the image and how does it affect me?” Then I read what Adams says about the image and find the photograph of the scene deepening and rounding out for me. The writings convey not only the technical aspects of the image but Adams’ feelings and experiences that brought the image into being.

The Daybooks of Edward Weston, by Edward Weston of course, is a dissimilar, but equally interesting book. Weston’s journals talk about the process of photographing different subjects as well as his feelings and his frustrations about them. The following is a good example of what you find in the book:

Reviewing the new prints, I am seldom so happy as I am with the pear-like nude of A. I turn to it again and again. I could hug the print in sheer joy. It’s one of my most perfect photographs. If (the saddest of words) If I had not needed to remove the spots in the patterned background so carelessly used, I might be almost satisfied (p. 147-148)

To my own interest, he often describes in the “Daybooks,” “Sights I have Seen in Mexico,” in graphic detail. One wonders why he just didn’t photograph them. Could it be that the “language of words” expressed more fully what he saw than he would be able to convey with “the language of his art”?

Reading elsewhere that Ansel Adams thought a notebook carried in a camera bag was one of the most essential pieces of equipment to have with you at all times, I have started trying to make a few notes on my own work—brief descriptions of what I was feeling and seeing, something of what interested me and what I was trying to convey, how I made use of available light, and the feelings represented in the colors. These are

often just words and phrases in the little journal that I hoped to expand on a little more on a later occasion. I find that it slows me down, makes me think, encourages me to work the scene more carefully, and adds some meaning, at least for me, to the images I am trying to capture.

I have also found myself examining more carefully the image itself. What archetypes are present here? How to they affect what is felt and viewed in the picture, and how do I want to bring them out more and present that meaning more clearly in post? Am I learning how to use the “Language of Words” to express more clearly what I am trying to convey through the “Language of Art”? Maybe!

PayPal December Payments from Emily Saile, Treasurer

Everyone please check your PayPal account to be sure that it is accurate for **recurring** payments in December. I've been getting some duplicate payments that could be the result of November/December dues **AND** a payment for the End of Year Banquet or maybe signing up for a workshop, etc. When I get duplicate payments, I will refund them, of course--but it costs HPS approx 90 cents each time. Thanks in advance. Questions?, contact Emily at resaile@bellsouth.net

November Competition Results		
Subject - Geometric Shapes		
Judge- Cindy Shaver		
	Color Digital (67)	Monochrome Digital (66)
1st	Charles Gattis	Mat Bevill
2nd	Emily Saile	Douglas Channer
3rd	Mat Bevill	Chris Baker
HM	Jeanne McDowell	Martha Teal
HM	John Shriver	Gayle Biggs
HM	Joy Henderson	Sam Alexander
HM	John Dillingham	Hank Miller
HM	Barbara Staggs	Eddie Sewall
HM	Eddie Sewall	Eddie Sewall
HM	Gayle Biggs	C.T. Chi

2021 Competition Topics	
Jan 25	Vintage
Feb 22	Bridges
Mar 22	Open
Apr 26	Food & Drink
May 24	Paths & Trails
Jun 28	Empty
Jul 26	Scenic North AL/Southern TN
Aug 23	Modes of Transportation
Sep 27	Barns
Oct 25	Open
Nov 22	Still Life

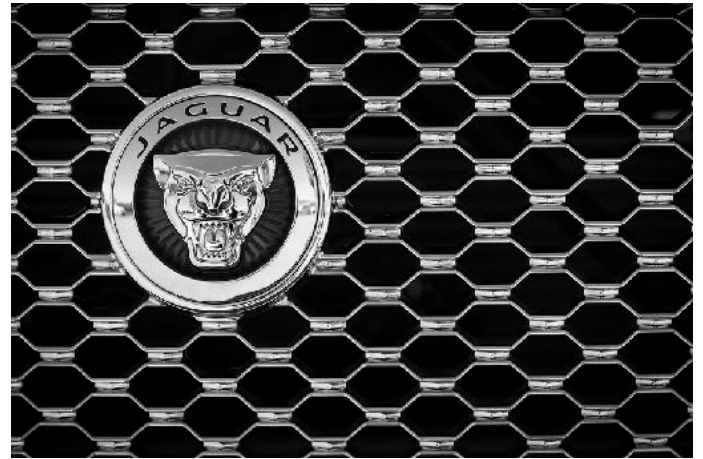
Name	2020 Points	2020 Wins
Christopher Baker	43	18
Barbara Staggs	40	13
Mat Bevill	32	12
Eddie Sewall	25	10
John Shriver	20	10
Earl Todd	18	9
Susan Chi	18	7
Diana Davidson	16	9
CT Chi	15	11
Julie Gary	15	8
Emily Saile	15	8
Allen Gary	15	6
Joy Henderson	14	
Charles Gattis	14	6
Martha Teal	13	7
Barbara Montgomery	13	5
Margaret Phillips	11	5
Gayle Biggs	9	5
Ernie High	9	5
Margaret Todd	9	5
Doris Leverett	9	3
Henry Smith	8	3

Name	2020 Points	2020 Wins
Ed Townsend	7	4
David Blue	6	4
Joe Matus	6	2
Alice Searcy	5	5
Charles Leverett	5	2
John Dillingham	4	2
Liz High	4	2
Nathan Robbins	4	2
Douglas Channer	4	1
Virginia Gilbert	4	1
Sam Alexander	3	3
Alan Forney	3	3
Jeanne McDowell	3	3
Hank Miller	3	3
Carolyn Shadden	3	3
Jim Spinoso	3	3
Tom Bryant	2	2
Steve Newton	2	2
Jim Smothers	2	2
Brian Boardman	1	1
Rosemary Davidson	1	1
Barry Freeman	1	1
Thomas Johnson	1	1

End of Year Judges- Bobby & Cheri Saint



Color Digital 1st Place by Charles Gattis



Monochrome Digital 1st Place by Mat Bevill



Color Digital 2nd Place by Emily Saile



Monochrome Digital 2nd Place by Douglas Channer

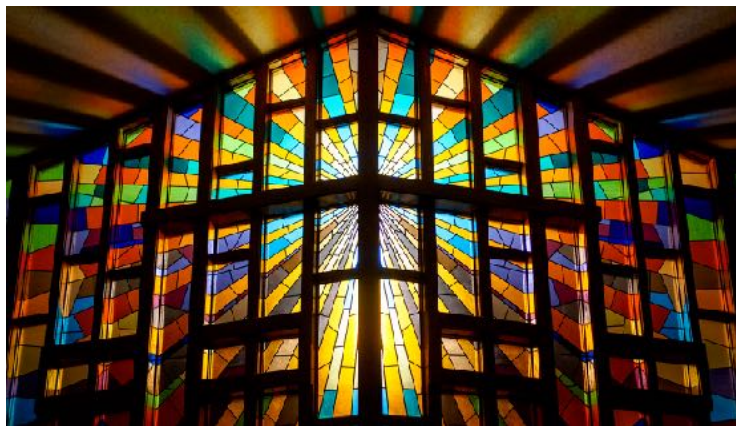


Color Digital 3rd Place by Matt Bevill

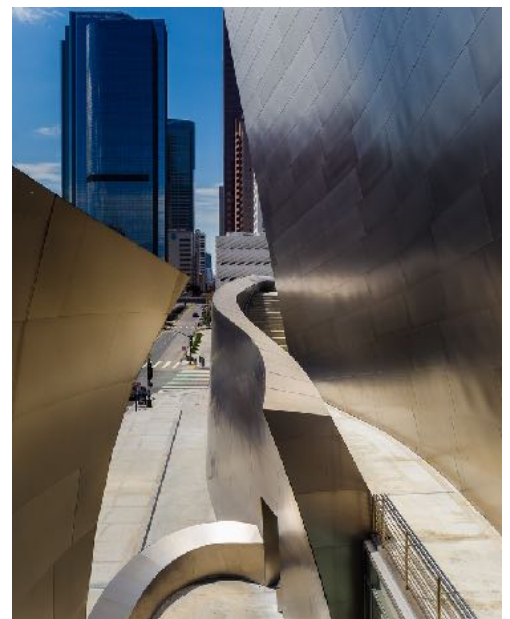


Monochrome Digital 3rd Place by Chris Baker

Honorable Mentions



John Dillingham



John Shriver



CT Chi



Eddie Sewall



Gayle Biggs

Member News

- We are sorry to report the passing of Dr. Harry E. Kinnane in November and send our condolences to Brenda and his family. He was a psychiatrist by profession and an avid photographer. Harry is a past president of HPS and served both in 1988 and 1989 and is an HPS Master. Harry is survived by his wife Brenda, also an avid photographer, two daughters and son and grandchildren. Brenda, also an HPS Master was HPS president in 1987 and the first lady president of our organization.
- Long time member William (Bill) Gates is moving from the Huntsville area to Washington, PA, to live near his youngest daughter. He has enjoyed the society tremendously and per Bill "it is by far the best photography group of which I have been a member. I'll miss meeting once again with all of you and all of the wonderful images I see produced by the group. I hope you continue to prosper and keep the Huntsville community interested in photography. Send me a message if you visit the Pittsburgh area and we'll plan something to do. Wishing ya'll the best, Bill "Gator" Gates"

Officers of HPS

President: Charles Gattis

Primary Competition Officer: Steve Mitchell

Digital Competition Officer: Chris Baker

Competition Records Officer: Eddie Sewall

Program Officer: Roger Hunter

Outreach & Activities Officer: Rosemary Davidson

Workshop Chairman: Jeanne McDowell

Publicity Officer: Sam Tumminello

Treasurer: Emily Saile

Communications Officer: Geri Reddy

Historian: Tom Bryant

Exhibition Officer: Bob Gower

PSA Representative: Lee Pratt

Non Board Positions

Webmaster: John Shriver

Membership Officer: Bess Wills

Mentor/Novice Program Officer: Vacant

HPS is currently meeting through Zoom, the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Website: www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/399566463394251/> (closed group)