



*Focusing on...*

**Rotaplast Medical Mission to Oaxaca**

by Jerry Meshulam

In January 2009, I completed my second Rotaplast mission, this time in Oaxaca, Mexico, to treat children born with cleft lip and palate anomalies. Serving as the photojournalist provides an opportunity to put my photographic skills to work for a cause that literally transforms the lives of children and their families. The work is demanding and challenging and involves very long hours but experiencing the joy our team brings provides all the energy necessary to make it happen. Capturing the emotions in photographs is incredibly rewarding.

As the photojournalist I had several responsibilities: make a photographic print of each child during the opening clinic for their medical chart; document the mission in photographs; upload photos to the Rotaplast Flickr site; post stories and photos to the Rotaplast blog; create a video slide show to be presented on the final night of the mission.



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**~ CALENDAR ~**

**MARCH**

- 06 Digital images due**
- 12 Dinner with the Judge 5:30pm**  
**Monthly Competition 7:00pm**
- 23 Newsletter items to Sheri**
- 26 Program: Electronic Salon 7:00 pm**

**APRIL**

- 03 Digital images due**
- 07 Board Meeting at LBA&G Center 7:00 PM**
- 09 Dinner with the Judge 5:30pm**  
**Monthly Competition 7:00pm**
- 23 Program: Bird Photography by Oliver Klink, Incredible Travel Photos 7:00 pm**
- 24 Newsletter items to Sheri**

**MAY**

- 08 Digital entries due**
- 14 Dinner with the Judge 5:30pm**  
**Monthly Competition 7:00pm**
- 16 Field trip, Angel Island**
- 21 Newsletter items to Sheri**
- 28 Program: Matting and Framing, Diane Miller 7:00pm**

**~ EXHIBITIONS AND ONGOING CALLS TO ARTISTS ~**

**EXHIBITIONS, ETC.**

**Deadline March 31:** Napa City-County Library invites artists and photographers to submit work for jurying to exhibit at the library in the coming year. For details, email Stephania Pramuk at [spramuk@co.napa.ca.us](mailto:spramuk@co.napa.ca.us)

**ONGOING CALLS TO ARTISTS**

**Santa Rosa Recreation and Parks Department:** Exhibits at Finley and Steele Lane Community Centers and City Hall. To apply, go to Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa, to pick up an application. Community Center hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 7:00 pm and on Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. For further information, call 707-543-4512; contact is Tara Matheny-Schuster, email [tmatheny\\_schuster@srcity.org](mailto:tmatheny_schuster@srcity.org)

**The Atrium Gallery** at Marin General Hospital mounts four shows a year of "healing art." The gallery is looking for local artists for future shows. Previous artists have included Ernest Braun. Send slides and SASE to Wende Heath, Institute for Health and Healing, PO Box 8010, San Rafael, CA 94912.

**~ Al Shelton Competition, 2009 ~**

Landscape/Seascape	Winter at Cooper Landing	Linda Caldwell
Print	Tai Chi Tree	Howard Bruensteiner
Nature	Winter Wanderer	Gus Feissel
General	Peek A Boo	Marilyn Brooner

Congratulations to you all!!

**~ March PSA - YELLOWSTONE IN SEPTEMBER ~**

The PSA 2009 Conference is being held in West Yellowstone, MT. It runs from September 20 to 26 at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort.

This is PSA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and special programs, tours, and presenters are scheduled. George Lepp, John and Barbara Gerlach, Barrie Wilkins, Jill Sneesby and Art Wolfe will be our special evening presenters. Thirty five tours are scheduled during the conference to various locations in Yellowstone Park and Grand Teton National Park. In addition, each day has a full schedule of programs, exhibitions, and meetings.

Don't miss out on this exciting 2009 conference.

Visit the website: <http://www.psa-photo.org/conferences> for more details and registration.

Elvira Lavell, PSA representative. [elavell@sonic.net](mailto:elavell@sonic.net)

## ~ MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ~

### SPRS WEBSITE

<http://www.santarosaphotographicpicsociety.org/index.html>

### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION AND CORRECTIONS:

Contact Sheri Prager, Editor, The Positive Print

See SRPS roster for email address

## ~ Program ~

Electronic Salon  
26 March 2009

**Salon Definition:** Salons have been a part of society for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. They have provided a place where people interested in art, philosophy, politics, music, etc., might explore their interests in the company of like-minded people. The Salon, as envisioned for Santa Rosa Photographic Society, would be a venue for interactive conversation about images. The focus of the Salon is to generate a discussion about submitted images by engaging the maker and members of the club in an artistic dialog. The purpose is to enlighten members on the different perspectives and choices involved in still imaging.

**Salon Format:** A panel comprised of three members (preferably one master) will discuss the images submitted for review. When possible, a fourth panel member from the photographic or other aspects of the artistic community will be included.

**Members who wish to do so will submit an image for inclusion in the Projected Image Salon to SRPS Electronic Entries e mail address ([srpselim@sonic.net](mailto:srpselim@sonic.net)) no later than midnight on Friday, March 20. It must be marked SALON with the title, month and year of the meeting.**

**Example: My Photo-Drew Jackson-SALON-0309**

**If the image is a slide, the title of the image and the month and year of the meeting must be submitted to SRPS ElectronicEntries by the same date as electronic images in an e-mail format.**

The first fifteen images from the B, A, AA and Masters Level Received shall be the images submitted for the upcoming Salon. This will limit the discussion to the first 15 images. The makers of the images presented at a Salon will not be entitled to enter an image for discussion at future Salons until all others wishing to participate have done so. The makers may remain anonymous or, they may identify an image as being theirs during the course of the discussion. Members **MUST be present** to have their images discussed at a Salon.

When an image is presented, the panel will make its brief comments regarding the image as an opening to the discussion. The maker may, if they so wish, respond and add any additional information they think appropriate. The members present will then be encouraged to participate in a discussion about the image. A moderator will limit the length of discussions as necessary in order for all fifteen of the images to be reviewed.

## ~ New Members ~

CAROL BERRY  
CHARLES COOPER  
JOAN PALMER  
KATHY KLOPP  
ROGER MERCER

**WELCOME!**

## ~ Good News! ~

Jim Oswald is having a show at Chateau Saint Jean from March 2nd to April 29th. Reception on Sunday March 8th, 10:00 to 4:30. Come over and say Hi!

## ~ Thank You! ~

Big thanks to PG&E for their \$250 donation to SRPS, and to Ray Legoretta for setting it up. Your generosity is very much appreciated!!

# FEBRUARY COMPETITION RESULTS

## GENERAL

### Level B

1st Red Kite	Steve Lowry
2nd Almost Breaking It	Steve Lowry
3rd Cusco Lady	Bob Walker

### Level A

1st A Mighty Hand	Bob Alwitt
2nd American in Paris	Kevin O'Connor
3rd Sunny Delight	Phillip Hann

### Level AA

1st Parked Bicycle	Sheri Prager
2nd Temple Woman	Drew Jackson
3rd Star Trails Desert Sky	David Henneman

### Level M

1st At the Cathedral	Jerry Meshulam
2nd Dawn Patrol	Diane Miller
3rd New Zealand Cliff Walk	Russ Dieter

## NATURE

### Level B

1st Newborn Sea Lion	Bob Walker
2nd Dryocopus Pileatus	Ken Hutchins
3rd White Crowned Sparrow	Anne Abrams

### Level A

1st Winter Patterns	TJ Mills
2nd Mossy Dew	Adele Wikner
3rd Red Winged Blackbird	Harold Moore

### Level AA

1st Western Yellowjacket Colony	Linda Caldwell
2nd Flamingo Neck Shapes	Marcia Hart
3rd Young Redtail Hawk	Gary Saxe

### Level M

1st Roaring River Kings Canyon	Russ Dieter
2nd Monarchs Gathering Pollen	Marilyn Brooner
3rd Mud Curls	Barbara Haskins

## CREATIVE

### Level B

1st Photo Haiku: The City	Lance Plaza
2nd Concrete Harbor	Lance Plaza
3rd XXX	

### Level A

1st Trees in Morning Fog	Ira Gelfman
2nd Maggiore and Map	Jeremy Joan Hewes
3rd Mum Revisualized	Dick Weston

### Level AA

1st Ascending	Cris Gondak
2nd Birkenau End of the Track	Drew Jackson
3rd Sunflower Trio	Linda Caldwell

### Level M

1st Only a Memory	Marilyn Brooner
2nd Blustery Branches	H Bruensteiner
3rd Melting Meters	Jerry Meshulam

### 2008 End of Year Winners AA—General

**"SHALLOW DEPTHS"  
BY LIZ LAWSON**



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Accomplishing all of that within the time deadlines was quite a challenge. I began preparing several weeks in advance. Most important was to have the skeleton of the slide show prepared in advance. I designed the border for the title slides, typed all names and positions for the credits and selected music for each section before I left.



One major mistake I made was to upgrade to Proshow Producer days before the trip. The lesson I learned was to be very, very familiar with your software before you're under pressure to use it. One thing I did right was to take back-up copies of all software and the registration codes to go with them in case I needed to do a reinstall.

For the medical chart photos, I took an Epson Picturemate, a 4x6 printer that is small enough to fit in a suitcase. I downloaded two programs from Nikon that were necessary to tether my camera to my laptop, quickly edit them, then send them to the printer. I also tracked photo and chart numbers of each child who

would be good candidates for "before and after" images so I could match them together later. When taking the photos, I had mom, dad or grandma hold the child in a position that I could also duplicate for the "after" photo so I could seamlessly morph from one to the other.

I used Lightroom to sort through the hundreds of photos I took each day, make adjustments and convert them JPGs. I also used Photoshop for more involved editing. Fortunately, there was an unsecured wireless network I could tap into at the hospital. Uploading images to Flickr was painfully slow but I could just let that run while I was running around taking photos. The areas richest in emotional images were the children's ward where families waited prior to surgery and the recovery room where they were reunited and saw the new smiles for the first time.



Unfortunately, hospital procedures required donning or removing shoe covers and gowns move from the surgical suite to the rooms and that hindered my ability to quickly move around. I arrived at the hospital each morning by about 7:30 to take the "after" photos of the kids who had surgery the previous day before they were discharged. I didn't want to pose any of the emotional shots so it was critical to pre-plan where I needed to position myself and how to have the camera and flash set so I could be ready in areas like when the kids were handed off to the doctors for surgery.

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On two different days, photographers from the local newspapers came by and wanted shots from the surgery rooms. Using their cameras I got the shots for them, but in the rush forgot to give them my name to get the photo credit in the next day's newspapers.



I worked especially hard the first three days to get a core series of shots to build the show. Then as better shots came along later in the mission I could drop them in. We arrived back at our hotel between 6:00 and 7:00, relaxed for a few minutes, grabbed dinner, then I was up in my room writing articles, tweaking photos and working on the slide show. I established an 11:00 curfew so I could try and get enough sleep although many mornings I was up well before 5:00 continuing my work.

Our final evening was a grand affair in the courtyard of the Oaxaca city hall, a magnificent colonial era building. My Spanish titled version of the show was projected on a large screen and despite the less than ideal playback picture quality there were many teary eyes in the audience. Another successful Rotaplast mission.



## ~ FIELD TRIPS 2009 ~

### MARCH FIELD TRIP

Our March Field trip will be a Photographic Potpourri and Potluck. You are so correct – originally it was to be a Mustard Shoot and Potluck. However, since we aren't sure what will be out there on March 21<sup>st</sup>, we will just make it a potpourri of whatever you find – mustard, spring blooming trees and flowers or something you find you just have to photograph. The plan: Bring a salad, appetizer, or dessert along with whatever you wish to drink to Donna and Tom Campbell's to drop off at 1 PM. Then you can gather together to go out and shoot – and we will have some suggestions for you – returning to the Campbells by 5 PM so that we can put together a meal and enjoy time with one another. Donna and Janet will provide Sloppy Joes and some other main course. Once we know approximately how many we will be, we will work out what else is needed to complete the meal. This is a very relaxed event – and please include spouses or significant others or friends or kindred spirits. Just let us know how many of you will be staying for supper. Maps to the Campbells will be available at the first meeting in March.



In the event we have a rainy day that won't permit shooting, we will still go ahead with the potluck but gather at the Campbells at 4:30 PM with food and we will have our potluck followed by a "photographic event".

**THE SIGN UP BINDER FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS FOR 2009 IS ON THE SIDE TABLE AT EVERY MEETING. PLEASE NOTE IF YOU PLAN TO BRING FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS WITH YOU.**

# ~ FORUM FEATURE ~

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## ~ Pigeon Point Lighthouse ~

Diane Miller, 18 February, 2009

On the way to Monterey Joan and I stopped to check out Pigeon Point. It was raining (lightly) and dreary but we shot a few anyway. They were imminently deletable until I started playing with a rust texture I shot at the same place.



### **Marcia Hart**

These are VERY interesting and fun to study. I love the perspective in the first one. I'm glad you didn't hit delete!

### **Greg Gorsiski**

Very nice, what do you think of aging them some more?



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**Diane Miller**

They're nice that way, too. I liked the blue and gold that happened in the bottom one and thought I should try to bring it out in the top one. But with your monochromatic treatment, maybe I'm seeing that the original versions are a case of color getting in the way. Opinions?

**Greg Gorsiski**

The reason I tried it was the old vs new feel.

It had an old looking feel to it, yet it carried some modern coloring, like the red chimney on the house. Maybe even just that little bit of red, made the whole image new looking, yet it has the very old weather feel. I liked the orange/yellow/rust colors, so I went with those in a DuoTone effect.

The originals are very nice indeed, especially the first one. Mine was just my 2cents.

By the way, does anyone feel like the first lighthouse was shot in the chest, twice? It gives it an almost violent feel to it, that's a very interesting reaction. Very cool.

**Diane Miller**

The "bloodstains" were actually on the lighthouse, not on the rusty metal I composited. I hadn't thought of it that way. Interesting take....

**Howard Bruensteiner**

IMHO, the buildings are really more clearly the subject in the monochrome... rather than the effect of the collage. Nice adjustment Greg.

**Gary Saxe**

Diane - Since I really like lighthouses and your composites are so good, you get a 10.

Greg - I like the warm sepia look that you put on them too. I can see that playing with Diane's images is too much for you to resist.

**Greg Gorsiski**

I never resist.

It's what makes me special.

**Marcia Hart**

Am I the only one who isn't seeing all of Greg's second do-over? The bottom 4/5 of it is grayed out. This is a first for me.

**Greg Gorsiski**

Try holding down your SHIFT key while clicking on the reload or refresh button in your browser. It will clear your cache and re-download the image.

**Diane Miller**

OK -- it needed a little more work.



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**Howard Bruensteiner**

This is so tastefully constructed that the rock pattern underlay just blends into the ambiance. My interest flows right up to the lantern gallery. And the color is no longer distracting. Nicely done.

**Diane Miller**

Thanks, Howard! It is so rewarding to work through the potential in a constructed image project, and to find the pieces to put together. I wouldn't have used just any tree, but the famous Monterey cypress, although a few miles down the coast, fit in somehow.

**David Henneman**



That's the one there. Beautiful.

**Marilyn Brooner**

I love this!!!!!!! (the last one) It's a winner, Diane.

**Diane Miller**

Thanks, Marilyn! The magic of blending layers really came together on this one -- after I spent many hours tweaking. It has 5 pixel layers (most masked) and 16 adjustment layers, most masked and many clipped to pixel layers. Plus 3 frame layers and some cloning.

**Marcia Hart**

Leave it to me to jump on a different bandwagon. I'm still more enamored with Diane's first image - I find it more dynamic. I was bothered by what looked like clouds emerging from a cave at the bottom of it so... I played. While I was playing, the line from a Jim Croce tune kept playing in my head - "Don't tug on Superman's cape..." - and maybe that should have stopped me. It didn't and here's what I did with it. It's a bit stumpy compared to the starting image, but no more distracting "clouds".

