

## Holiday Party: Save the date!

Sunday, December 14, 2025, noon to 4 pm at the Toledo Artists Club

- Noon: Scavenger Hunt!\* Bring your camera, stop into the Toledo Artists club to pick up the list and a cup of cocoa
- 1pm- 1:30pm: Party Kick off! Membership Meet & Greet
- 1:30pm - 4:00pm: Let's eat!

RSVP by registering via the [Event Calendar](#) and include your guest. Bring a dish to share! Meat, cutlery and beverages provided.

\*The Scavenger Hunt: Each attending member receives a list of concepts or images like red, small, rough, reflections, moving water, patterns, shadows, etc. The members photograph what they find fits each of these and sends in their photos, which are then sorted and shared at a later date. You must bring your camera to shoot these things at the Botanical Garden on that Sunday!



Jim Hagan's beautiful "Norwegian Village" was awarded First Place in the Open Advanced Category of the November competition.

## Call to Action

We are currently looking for a Webmaster to oversee and maintain our club's website. This role includes managing back-end updates, keeping links current, and responding to – or forwarding – emails that come in through the site. We strongly prefer someone with experience in website management or a solid understanding of back-end workflows.

If this sounds like a fit for you, please reach out to [Michelekipplen@gmail.com](mailto:Michelekipplen@gmail.com). Thank you for stepping up and supporting the club.

## Monthly Contests

The November contest received 57 entries from 20 members. There were 41 entries in the Assignment (In a Garden, Flower, Vegetable or Combo) category and 16 entries in the Open category. Each month we see an improvement in the photography from our members.

The December competitions are open for entries (assignment: Urban Decay). Contests will be in the clubhouse and on Zoom every month.



“Point of View” by Susan Shull  
Basic - 1st Place

“Early Frost” by Kathryn Nelson  
Basic - 2nd Place



## Monthly Contest Winners (con't)



“Not Enough Pollen” by Sumit Khadka  
Intermediate - 1st Place



“Milkweed” by Kathy Fisher  
Intermediate - 2nd Place



This creative shot by Matt Buchanan, “Six String Supermoon,” took First Place in the Open Intermediate Category.

Check out all the entries on the [PACT website!](#)



The Annual Contest is fast approaching – and we still need a Co-Chairperson to work with Jack Myers. [Reach out to Jack](#) for more details.

## Monthly Contest Assignments

December 2025: Urban Decay

January 2026: Bokeh

February 2026: Black & White

March 2026: Print - Rule of Thirds

April 2026: Food Photography

See the [Events Calendar](#) for submission and voting deadlines.

## Future Monthly Contest Assignments?

Our Competition Chair, Jack Myers, asks members to suggest topics for the next year of monthly assignments. Send 1-2 ideas for topics to Wennie Anderson, [wennieanderson120@gmail.com](mailto:wennieanderson120@gmail.com) by January 10, 2026.

## Book Review by Rick Francis

### *52 Assignments: Macro Photography* by David Taylor

Ammonite Press has published dozens of books on various types of photography, and among them are a series called **52 Assignments**. In that series are Street Photography, Travel Photography, Experimental Photography, Drone Photography, Underwater Photography, and many more. Each book on the series has exactly 52 different approaches (one per week of the year!) as assignments within that photography genre, with the idea that the reader-student who works through the book will learn new tricks or be inspired to revisit and improve on familiar ones.



David Taylor's **52 Assignments: Macro Photography** covers a wide range of techniques or subject matter approaches, generally within the reach of novices, including those with limited budgets. The assignments are roughly in order of increasing complexity, and all are brief and inviting rather than intimidating. Techniques covered include extension tubes, close-up filters, and focus stacking. Other assignments center on particular subjects, such as soap bubbles, flames, bugs, frost, and jewelry. Still others address lighting techniques with assignments on diffusers, softboxes, snoots, and high- and low-key lighting. It's a fairly complete and welcoming introductory approach to macro subjects and techniques, and the brief Tips section for each assignment are succinct, relevant, and constructive.

To nitpick, I found some sample photos less inspirational than one might hope, though all successfully conveyed the technique or subject. In this criticism I am very likely unfairly comparing this one to Alex Mustard's *52 Assignments: Underwater Photography*, in which a world-renowned photographer pulls on decades of award-winning images from the best dive destinations on the planet to illustrate each assignment, and manages to consistently challenge even experienced underwater photographers to match the composition, timing, subject, and execution of the examples. That's a very high bar, and one that novices might find off-putting.

In sum, I would recommend this book or others from the series for anyone looking for a structured but manageable list or "syllabus" as motivation to expand one's repertoire. If you have a budding photographer in your family, consider a Christmas gift from the series (<https://www.ammonitepress.com/photography/>) that matches his or her interest.

## Members in the News

Rick Francis placed second in the November monthly competition of the British Society of Underwater Photographers (BSOUP), with the theme Portrait. His shot of a playful juvenile sea lion in Snell's window, "Ready for My Glamour Shot" was chosen from forty-six entries. This shot was taken in October at the sea lion colony at Los Islotes in Baja California Sur, Mexico. Nikon D850, Nauticam housing, two strobes, ISO 250, f11, 1/80.



Ready for My Glamour Shot

## Upcoming events and meetings

December 12, midnight: deadline for submitting entries for the December competitions (Open Category and Assignment: Urban Decay)

December 14, noon to 4:00 pm: Holiday Party at the Toledo Artist Club

December 16, 6:00 pm: Photo Outing at Children's Wonderland

December 16, 7:00 pm: Voting closes for December competitions

December 17, 7:00 pm: monthly contest meeting in the clubhouse and on Zoom

January 16, midnight: deadline for submitting entries for the January competitions (open and assignment: Bokeh)

January 18, 2:00 pm: Deborah Orloff gives a gallery talk at River House Arts, 425 Jefferson, on her solo exhibition there titled *Archive of Absence*.

January 20, 7:00 pm: Voting closes for January competitions

January 21, 7:00 pm: monthly contest meeting in the clubhouse and on Zoom

Please refer to the website [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and more information.



## Local Gallery Events

Deborah Orloff, Head of Photography & Digital Media at the University of Toledo, has a new solo exhibition at River House Arts, a gallery at 425 Jefferson in Toledo. The exhibit, *Archive of Absence*, is open through January 18, 2026.

For more information see <https://www.riverhousearts.com/orloff>

### ARCHIVE OF ABSENCE

an exhibition featuring new work by  
Deborah Orloff



NOVEMBER 15, 2025 - JANUARY 18, 2026

#### RIVER HOUSE ARTS 2nd FLOOR GALLERY

425 Jefferson Ave, Toledo, OH 43604

Gallery Hours: Friday & Saturday 1 – 6 and by appointment

419.441.4025 or schedule a visit [here](#)

[RiverHouseArts.com](http://RiverHouseArts.com)

#### GALLERY TALK SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2:00

Free and open to the public

“I never have taken a picture I’ve intended. They’re always better or worse.” – Diane Arbus

Reminder to Members: We have returned to scheduling our Monthly Board Meetings on the first Thursday of each month. We will not be meeting in December due to ***Heralding the Holidays.***

## PACT Board

**President** - Michele Kipplen - michelekipplen@gmail.com 419-283-4616

**Vice President** - Ross Ellet rellet17@hotmail.com

**Treasurer** - Michele Ross - mickey.ross1204@gmail.com 419-360-0712

**Secretary** - Cindy White - cwphoto63@gmail.com 419-480-7485

**Past President** - Wennie Anderson - wennieanderson120@gmail.com 734-243-3346

### Board Members

Jack Myers - jrmyers@roadrunner.com 419-575-1558

Charlie Mather - matherc@yahoo.com 419-277-7060

Mary Mather - mmather@toast2.net 419-277-7050

Laurie Dietrich - diet6rich@hotmail.com 419-290-7551

### Committees

Lightroom - Charlie Mather - matherc@yahoo.com

Studio Group - John Dillon - jdillon356@aol.com

Photoshop Elements Group - Steve Stalker - sstalker@buckeye-express.com

Competition Chair - Jack Myers - jrmyers@roadrunner.com

Website Chair - Charlie Mather - matherc@yahoo.com

Membership - Cindy White - cwphoto63@gmail.com

Newsletter - Rick Francis - rick.a.francis@gmail.com