



# Greater New Braunfels Photography Club

## Newsletter Volume 20, January 2026

A note from the Editor - by Christiane Menelas

× ✨ ✨  
Happy  
New Year  
✨ ✨ ×

# 2026

*Hello my friends,*

and a very Happy New Year to all of you!

Our first club meeting of the year was very well attended - it was great to see so many faces, old and new! Our competition entries keep getting better every month, and I look forward to a new year of creativity and fun!

Speaking of creativity and fun - I decided we need to name our newsletter! Just newsletter is too boring, so I would like your input in coming up with a fun, creative, witty, or funny name for our newsletter!!

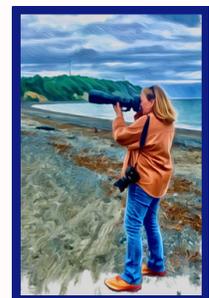
**Please email your suggestions**

**to:**

**[christianemenelas@gmail.com](mailto:christianemenelas@gmail.com)**

**Winner will be announced in  
the next newsletter!!!**

Happy clicking  
*Christiane*



*We had lots of awards and recognitions this month. Aside from our regular competition, it was time to announce the photographer of the year for 2025, picture of the year for 2025, the nine dots award for creativity, and two service awards. So without further ado we will jump right into recognitions!*

*Drum roll please...*



# RECOGNITIONS



The winning image in our monthly competition for the category "Patterns & Textures" goes to Jackie Wise for her entry "Fractured Symmetry".

Congratulations Jackie!!



*Congratulations*

The ***Picture of the Year*** award goes to Sharlana Dillard for her entry “Fight”, that she entered last year in the Nature category.  
Congratulations Sharlana!!



Congratulations!

The ***Photographer of the Year*** was awarded to Jackie Wise, who had six scores of 9, and seven scores of 8 from the PSA judges throughout last year. Congratulations Jackie!!



*Congratulations!*

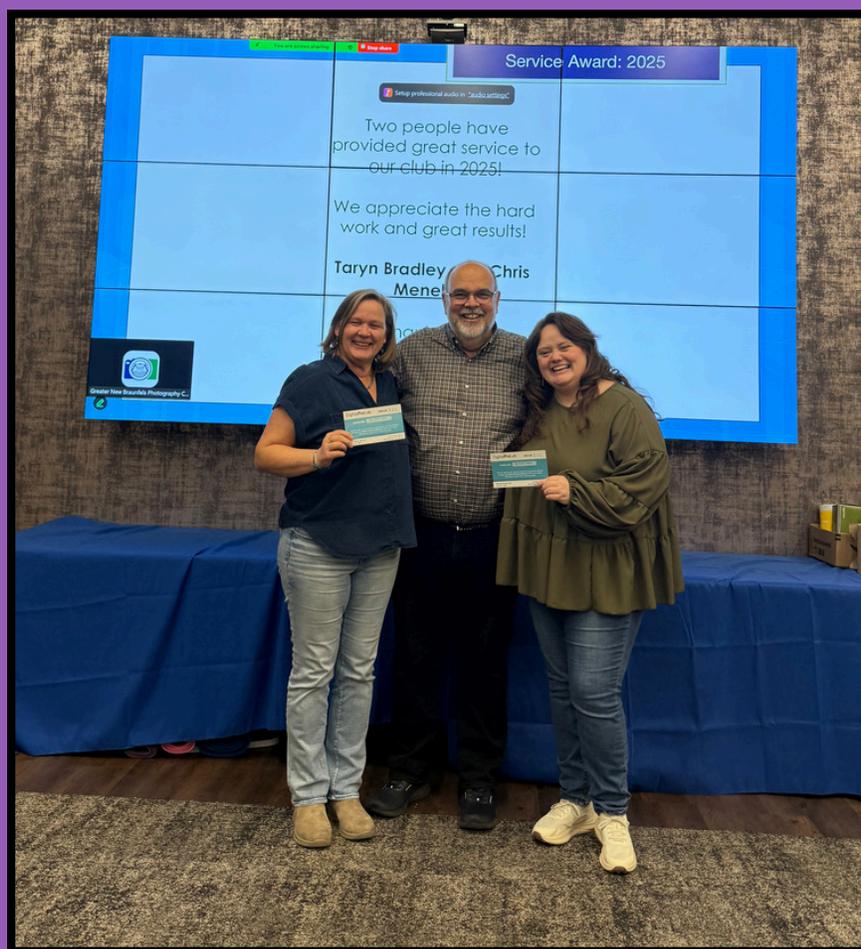
The nine dots award for creativity was awarded to none other than Ed Zukowski for continually inspiring us to think outside the box!  
Way to go Ed, and congratulations!!



CONGRATULATIONS

Two members received service awards:  
Taryn Bradley for her tremendous work managing the live stream during the meetings, preparing all the slides for our meetings, accepting and posting our competition entries, managing the voting platform, managing the Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as updating and maintaining our website. Not sure what we would do without her!  
Thank you Taryn!!

Christiane Menelas (myself), for bringing you the monthly newsletters - thank you so much, I'm honored!!



# Member Spotlight

## *Meet Mia Hendricks*

*By James Moseley*

### **When and why did you become interested in photography?**

I think I have always been interested in photography. When I was little, I wanted to be in front of the camera, or behind it, it didn't matter.

### **Do you remember your first camera?**

I remember when I was a kid, I would always use my dad's camera. It was just a simple point and shoot film camera. Once I got to high school, I borrowed one in my photojournalism class. It was a Nikon 35mm and I always saved up to buy black and white film. When I started my first photography business, I shot with a Sony Alpha and I LOVED it! I bought a second one, so I could have the updated technology and megapixels, but I still preferred to shoot with the older one.

### **What is your camera/lens choice (It might be film, digital or cell phone)?**

These days I shoot with my iPhone 16 ProMax. I catch a lot of flack or disbelief from people, that I solely shoot with my phone. I literally see the world in photos, so being able to always have my "camera" with me is another reason I love shooting with my iPhone. I also love the instant "feedback" of shooting with my iPhone. A quick glance and I know if I got the shot I wanted. Something that also makes me different, I do very very minimal editing!

### **What genres of photography do you enjoy the most?**

I love classic black and whites. I am absolutely drawn to Architecture, Street Photography, Fashion, and Fine Art. I love it ALL! Take me to a bookstore with a photography section...



## **I believe photography is art as much as painting or sculpture. Your thoughts?**

Absolutely! Photography is very much an art. If, as an artist/photographer, I deem something art, then it is! A lot of people try to “regulate” what art is - but it’s not really for them to say. If they do not like it, that’s fine, but they don’t get to say whether or not it’s art. That isn’t how art works. Does it make someone FEEL something? I think if it evokes feelings, you have created art!

## **Do you have any photography projects you are currently involved in?**

I am currently working on my first coffee table book. It has been in the works for the last two years and I would love nothing more than to get it completed and published. That is at the top of my to do list this year. And I am already working on my next Solo Art Show. I started working on it before I finished shooting the December show. It will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual and in the winter of 2026. Another Red Carpet Extravaganza! Very similar to the last three years, but with an exciting new twist.

## **Do you have any favorite artists/ photographers that have influenced you? Mine is Arthur Stiglitz and Georgia O’Keeffe.**

I think I have always just had an appreciation for photos/pieces of art. I remember in my late teens/early 20's I was really into modeling. I would tear pages out of magazines of photos I loved to see how I wanted to pose in photos. But also to use for inspiration of how I would pose the models I did photos of.

This time around with my photography, I am inspired by my peers. And some photographers on Instagram like Kara Marie, Jonny Edward, Whitney Dionizio, Lauren Porren, Teri Hoffard - just to name a few.

I love how we all can be looking at the same thing, yet we all capture it so differently. This is one of the most beautiful things about the art of photography.



Above: Mia at her most recent show “Rise”



Left:

A stunning self portrait of Mia to honor the history, culture, and perseverance of her ancestors.

You can follow Mia on Instagram  
[@unapologetically\\_mia](#)  
[@thekassidyjoneskollektive](#)

Interview by  
James Mosely



**New Feature**

## Exploring the Icons Behind the Lens

Since starting this series I came upon a very interesting documentary, that I highly recommend for you to watch. It's called "The Stringer" and it's on Netflix right now.



Above is a very famous photo, that I'm sure most of you will recognize.

It's called "The Napalm Girl" and earned Nick Ut the Pulitzer Price in 1973.

Without giving anything away, I encourage you to watch this documentary, and then we could maybe have a discussion about it at one of our socials or at the end of our next meeting. Curious to hear what y'all think about this!!

# Upcoming events:

11th Annual MLK March – (New Braunfels)

January 19 @ 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

The annual MLK march starts at Prince Solms Park on January 19, 2026 at 10 AM on the corner of South Liberty Ave. and San Antonio Street in New Braunfels, Texas. We will march down San Antonio Street and stop at the town plaza for a official welcome and invocation. We will continue down San Antonio St., and make a left on Seguin Avenue and conclude at the New Braunfels Civic Center for a ceremony of civil tribute and musical selections to commemorate the day.



Several club members are going to the 87<sup>th</sup> annual photo festival, sponsored by PSA. It will be held in Las Vegas this year. Many speakers, field trips, and seminars are being offered. Check it out on the PSA website and see if you would like to join the fun!



**Deadline for submitting images to PSA for round 2 is Feb 9th 2026. The recommended Image size is 1920 pixels wide x 1080 pixels tall. Unless your image proportions are exactly the file size given, one of these dimensions will be less than the maximum allowed size. Usually, it will be the width. Vertical images can be no more than 1080 pixels tall. The file format is JPG/JPEG only. Each image must have a unique title that relates to its content. Titles can be no more than 35 characters.**

**Filename format should be as follows:**

**C-Victor Watson-Life is Short.jpeg**

**M-Victor Watson-It's that Slow.jpeg**

**N-Victor Watson-Take That.jpeg**

**T-Victor Watson-If Only We Could.jpeg**

**C - stands for Color, M - stands for Monochrome,  
N - stands for Nature, T - Stands for Travel**

**Please submit your pictures to the club PSA Representative (Victor Watson) via  
[info@SchertzPhoto.com](mailto:info@SchertzPhoto.com)**

Please join us for our social after the monthly club meeting.  
We meet at La Cosecha Mexican Table in New Braunfels.  
The address is: 505 Business 1H 35 N, New Braunfels, TX 78130

