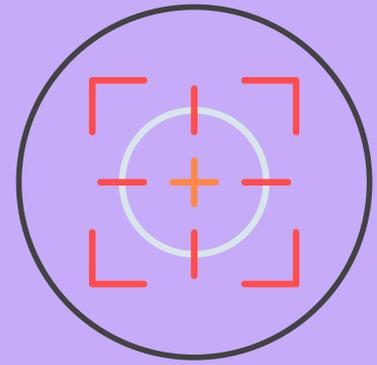


THE VIEWFINDER



Newsletter Volume 21, February 2026

A note from the Editor - by Christiane Menelas

Hello my friends,

Well here you have it - the new name for the newsletter is going to be “**The Viewfinder**”! Thank you to all who participated, and suggested names - this one was my personal favorite.

We had a few fun outings this month starting with the MLK march in New Braunfels. We also had a few outings that involved bird photography, and spring migration hasn't even started yet!! If you're interested in going, check with your birders during club-meetings. We can exchange phone numbers, and plan little day trips!

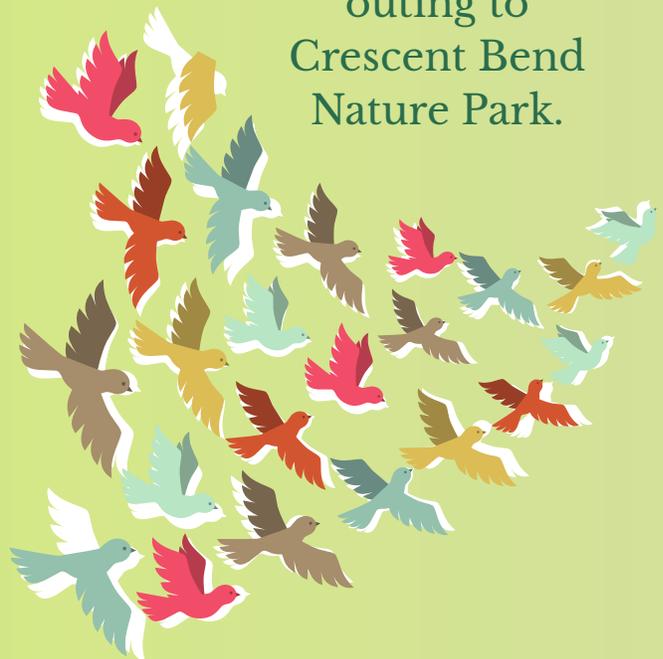
It might also be fun to have someone in charge of monthly outings, and people that are interested could all be in a group chat? Just food for thought.

Happy clicking
Christiane





Here are a few
pics from our
outing to
Crescent Bend
Nature Park.



Christiane



Sandy



Patricia



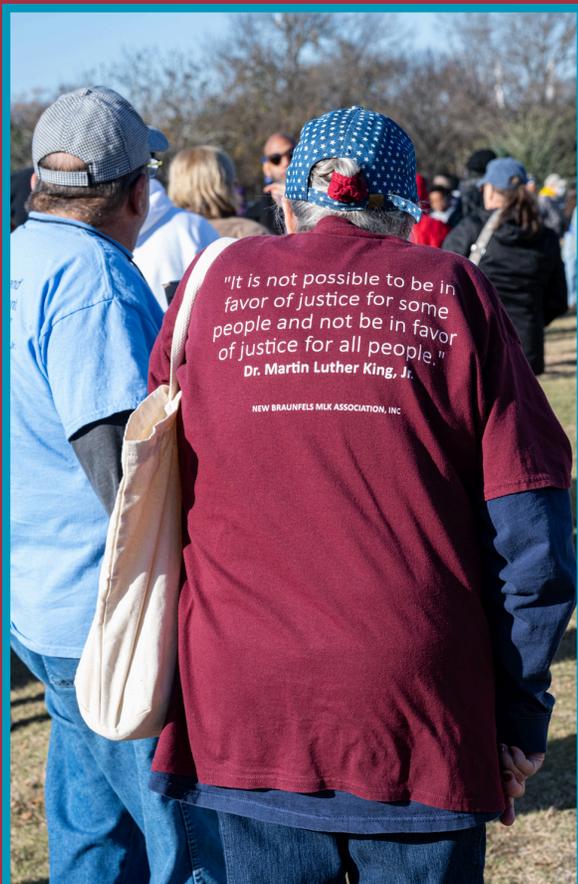
MLK march on 1/19/26 in New Braunfels:

Here are some impressions by Sharlana Dillard



A few by Suzanne (Suki) Daunt

There is a very heartwarming story that goes along with these first two pictures. Some of you may remember the first picture. Suki entered it last year in the photojournalism competition and won. Well this year at the march, she recognized the same dad with the two girls, and chased him down to do a re-take! The girls were absolutely enthralled to know that they were a little bit famous! I believe Suki promised them copies of the pics.



A few by me, Christiane Menelas



Sam & Mia

Outing to Choke Canyon

We went for the Green Jays and were rewarded with all kinds of bonus birds. Among them Northern Bobwhite Quail, Inca Dove, Oreole, Great Kiskadee, Titmouse, Cardinal, Red-Winged Blackbird, Long-Billed Thrasher, Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Orange-Crowned Warbler, and Golden-Fronted Woodpecker.

Talk about a successful day of birding!!

Enjoy a few of Barbara Beversdorf's stunning shots





© Barbara Gail 2026



© Barbara Gail 2026





© Barbara Gail 2026



© Barbara Gail 2026





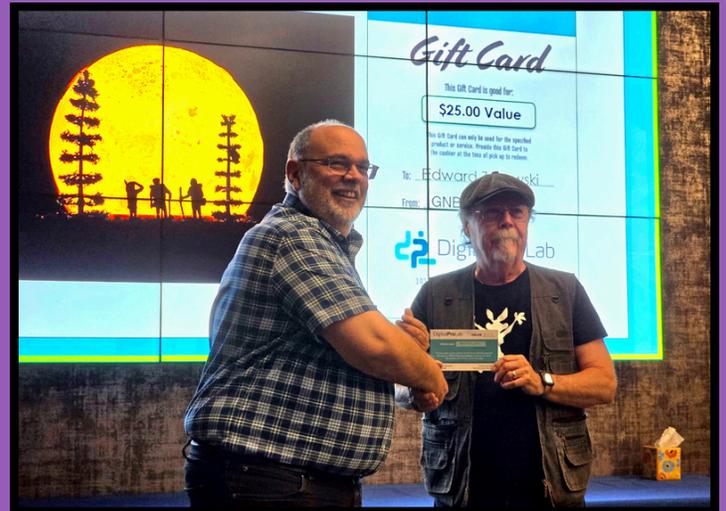
**MEET
THE
GANG**



RECOGNITIONS



The winning image in our monthly competition for the category "Shadows & Silhouettes" goes to Ed Zukowski for his entry "End of the Trail".
Congratulations Ed!!



Congratulations



Member Spotlight

Meet Sharlana Dillard

By Mia Hendricks

When and why did you become interested in photography? And what was your first camera?

I became interested in photography in 1979, after my second year of college. My father gave me his old Pentax Spotmatic F 35mm camera with a 30mm f/1.8 lens. At the time, I knew absolutely nothing about photography, and my father only explained the basic functions of the camera. We walked out to the horse stables on campus, and by pure chance, a horse was running at full speed through the pasture. I took a few shots, and to my amazement, I managed to capture the horse in full stride. That moment was all it took to spark my lifelong interest in photography.

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

Over the years, I've gone through four cameras, three of which have been Nikon. My current camera of choice is the mirrorless Nikon Z8, and my go-to lens is the 70-200mm f/2.8. This combination gives me the versatility, speed, and image quality I rely on most.

What genres of photography do you enjoy the most? Is there one that really sets you apart from the others?

I enjoy wildlife photography, old architectural structures, and street photography/photojournalism. At this point, there isn't one specific genre that sets me apart from others. I'm still learning and exploring a wide range of photographic techniques—some that I really enjoy and others that I'm less drawn to—but each experience helps me grow as a photographer.

Do you think photography can make an impactful difference in times of uncertainty or even war?

Yes, photography can make a powerful difference during times of uncertainty and even war. It has profoundly impacted society by documenting history, driving social change, shaping culture, fostering empathy, and serving as compelling evidence in the defense of human rights.

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

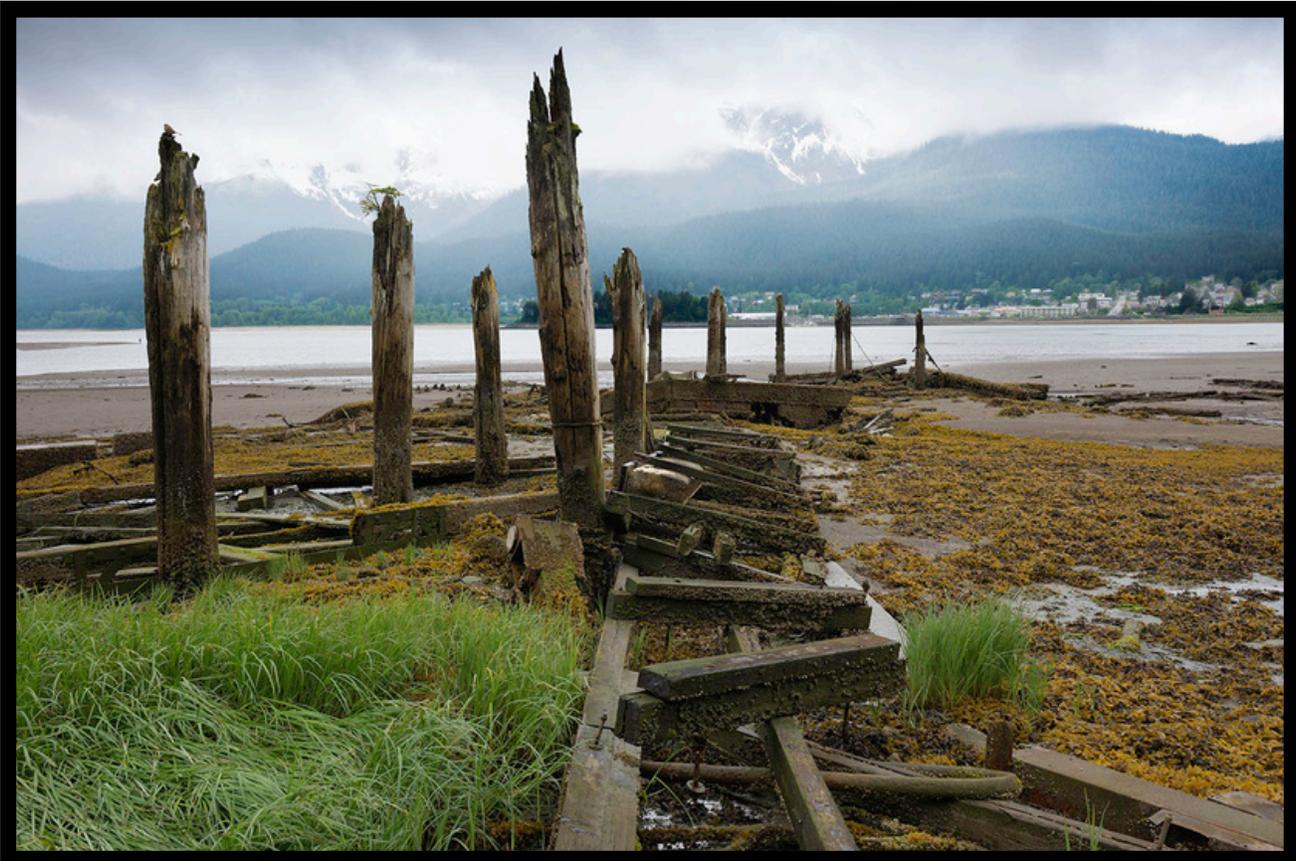
I believe photography is just as much an art form as painting or sculpture. It takes creative imagination to visualize a potential image in advance and to understand how you want to shape it through post-editing even before you press the shutter.

Do you have any favorite artists/ photographers that have influenced you?

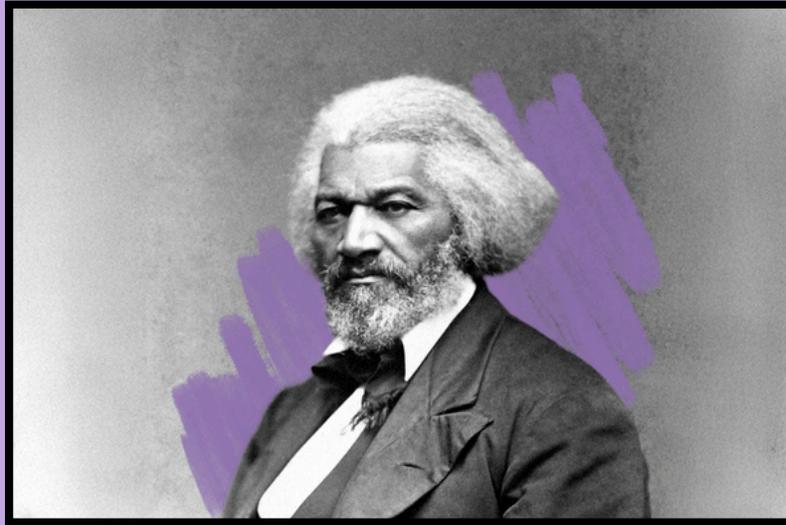
I study and read about many different photographers, so I don't have a single favorite. Each photographer has offered me inspiration in their own way, and I've learned a variety of techniques from their work.



Sharlana still loves taking pictures of horses, among other things. Here are a few of her favorite shots.



Frederick Douglass was once the most photographed American



Frederick Douglass once said, "It is evident that the great cheapness and universality of pictures must exert a powerful, though silent, influence upon the ideas and sentiment of present and future generations."

He would know: The abolitionist, author, and civil rights leader was the most photographed American of the 19th century, having sat for more portraits than the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Mark Twain, and Thomas Edison. There are more than 160 pictures of Douglass taken during his lifetime, reflecting his unique stature in America's cultural fabric.

Born into slavery in 1818, Douglass escaped at age 20 and later wrote that in freedom he "lived more in one day than in a year of my slave life." He saw photography as a great leveler, a means of presenting himself in a dignified manner that undercut any preconceived notions his critics and peers might have of him. He illustrated this idea in his 1861 speech "Lecture on Picture," saying, "The humbled servant girl whose income is but a few shillings per week may now possess a more perfect likeness of herself than noble ladies and court royalty."

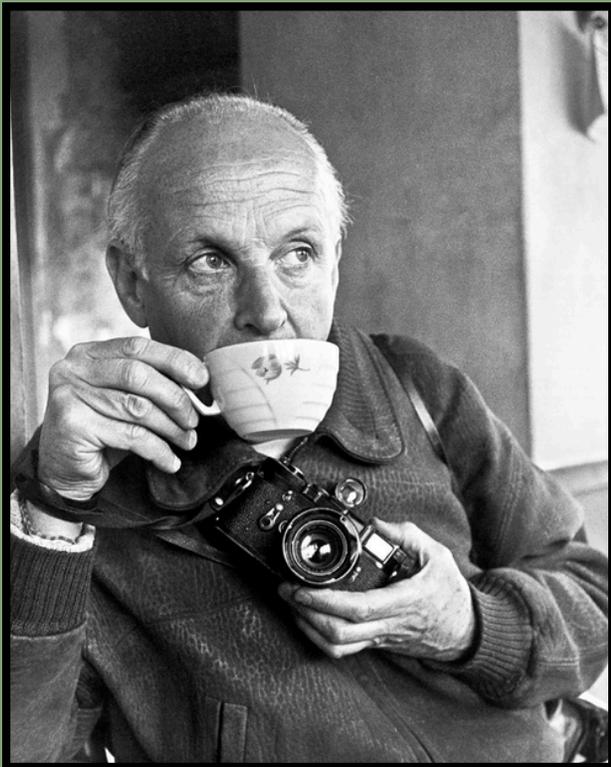
*This little piece of history was brought to you by Suzanne Daunt.
Thank you for sending it in - I love learning new and interesting things!*

Henri Cartier-
Bresson

Exploring the Icons Behind the Lens

Henri Cartier-Bresson was a French humanist photographer, and also an artist. He was considered a master of candid photography, and was an early user of 35mm film. He pioneered the genre of street photography and viewed capturing what he named the decisive moment as the essence of the very best pictures. [Wikipedia](#)

He was born on Aug. 22, 1908 in France, and died on Aug. 4, 2004 at the age of 95.



Henri developed a strong fascination with painting early on, particularly with Surrealism. In 1932, after spending a year in the Ivory Coast, he discovered the Leica, his camera of choice thereafter, and began a lifelong passion for photography. He had his first exhibition at the Julien Levy Gallery in New York in 1933. He later made films with Jean Renoir.

[From magnumphotos.com](#)

**"To take a photograph is to align the head, the eye
and the heart. It's a way of life."**

- Henri Cartier-Bresson

Some of his most recognizable photographs are:



The Decisive Moment



Henri's 1848 photograph of Mahatma Gandhi at his spinning wheel, documents one of the last moments of the leader before his assassination in Delhi.



His most famous photo from his trip to Seville, Spain, in 1933, is officially titled

Andalucia. Seville. 1933

It's often referred to as "Children Playing in the Ruins of Seville" or simply "Seville, 1933". It captures a group of children playing in a mound of rubble seen through a large, jagged hole in a white wall.

The picture was actually taken three years prior to the Spanish Civil War, and is noted for its eerie premonition of conflict.



Upcoming events:

Hello Photographers!

Fotoseptiembre may seem like a distant future event, but it will sneak up on you before you know it. Therefore, the Board is giving y'all a heads up as to the details.

Theme for 2026: My favorite photo! Yes, that means the subject matter is wide open and left to the photographers' discretion.

Install date: Monday, August 31

Reception date: September 20, from 1-4 pm

Uninstall date: Monday, October 5

There you have it! These dates will be communicated as we get closer to the event, but you can also mark your calendars now :)

Happy shooting everyone!

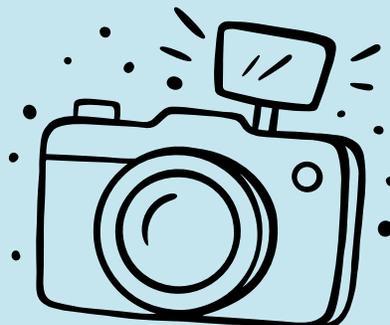
Regards,
Suzanne D



- Feb 19th - GSACC Swap Meet at 6:30pm at Lion's Field
- Feb 19th-22nd. - Port Aransas Whooping Crane Festival
- March 6th. - Art Haus
- April 10th-12th - Poteet Strawberry Festival
- April 11th - Thru the Chute (possibly sold out)
- April 12th. - Heritage Village Folk Fest
- April 17th-19th. - Port Aransas Sandfest
- April 18th. - NB Historic Homes Tour
- May 3rd. - Saengerfest



The deadline for entries to PSA's 3rd round interclub competition is April 6th!
We had great participation in round 2!!





Several club members are going to the 87th 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!

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

