

NVPS NEWSLETTER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



February 2024 Issue

This month's meeting

January 26: Aileen Savage

Theme: Preserving Family Memories

As February's guest presenter, Aileen Savage, explains on her website, it was never her intention to make

photography a career. Early on she planned to be an architect and interior designer, but her life changed and instead she went on to earn a degree in psychology. But it wasn't until she started a country music website (NorCal Country) “for fun,” she said, and began taking her camera to performances that her focus shifted. The death of an older brother in an auto accident had already underscored the importance of family photos. When friends and family began relying on her to record their milestones—pregnancy, birth, newborns, growing families—and returned year after year for their family portraits, she realized she had found her photographic niche. She has been doing photography full-time for 10 years, specializing in newborn and family photography.



In 2020, she received the Bohemian award (Best of the North Bay) for Photography Services; and in 2022, she was voted Napa Valley's Finest for the Photographer category.

You can see her landscapes hanging on the walls of Brewed coffee shop in Napa and Cafe Della Valle in St. Helena.

To learn more and view her work, visit her website:

<https://aileensavagephotography.com>

NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

The theme for the meeting is People You Know. So, it's the exact opposite of what we did for the January meeting. Remember the photos submitted must be taken in the month before the Saturday prior to the monthly meeting.

For the meeting, members may submit two photos according to the guidelines at the end of the newsletter.

Field trips and workshops

James Katz

Check out his photography 1-day workshops at Point Reyes this spring. They are specialized and reasonably priced.

<http://www.riverjourneys.com/photoworkshops.html>

Events

Remarkable Journeys

Remarkable Journeys is an ongoing travel program at the Napa County Library. It is now held quarterly. Several members have participated in the past showing images and presenting information on a memorable trip. Judd Howell is scheduled for June 20. Additional NVPS members are invited to contact Stephnia.Pramuk@countyofnapa.org or call her at 707-253-4223 for more information. A program is needed for the quarter July/August/September and one for October/November/December. She can also pre-book for next year. The programs are from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Community Room with the presentation usually 45 minutes and Q&A for 15 minutes. The library does promotion, set up, and take down of the room. It's a good opportunity for our members and can also provide visibility for the club.

Art in the Library

March 31 is the deadline to apply for Art in the Library for next year. It is a juried competition. Works will be exhibited for two months. Several members have done Art in the Library shows in the past and a club show was also held there. At our January meeting interest was expressed in applying to do another club show. Phil requested members send in an image. Five images will be needed to accompany our club application. Contact Phil for more information about submitting an image to support the club application. Postcards with more information were available at our January meeting and will be available at the February meeting. If you are interested in doing an individual show see the website:

<https://www.countyofnapa.org/2270/Art-in-the-Library>

Note: Art in the Library submissions are due by March 31, but prior to that we need to select 5 of our best photos. What I would like each of you who want to enter the show to do is select your two best photos and send them into the photo critique email address with the subject line stating the photos are Art in the Library submissions. I only need to send 5 into the library so the best 5 submissions will be sent. If your photo isn't sent it DOES NOT mean you won't be able to enter the show, it just means your photos didn't make the sample size. I would like those photos to be submitted by Feb 10. What I need with each photo is the title of the photo, the name of the photographer, how you

plan to show the photo (i.e., framed print, metal, canvas, acrylic) and the size of the photo (if framed, the outside dimensions of the frame). This info is required by the Library, not by me. All photos must be JPG. Please if you shoot with an iPhone, convert to JPG if you shoot in the HEIC format. DO NOT WATERMARK your photos. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Photo Finale Napa Valley Mustard Celebration



Jessup Cellars Gallery, Yountville, CA Friday, March 1,
2024 to Sunday, March 31.

Opening event reception Saturday, March 2, 2024 -
5:30pm to 7:00pm.

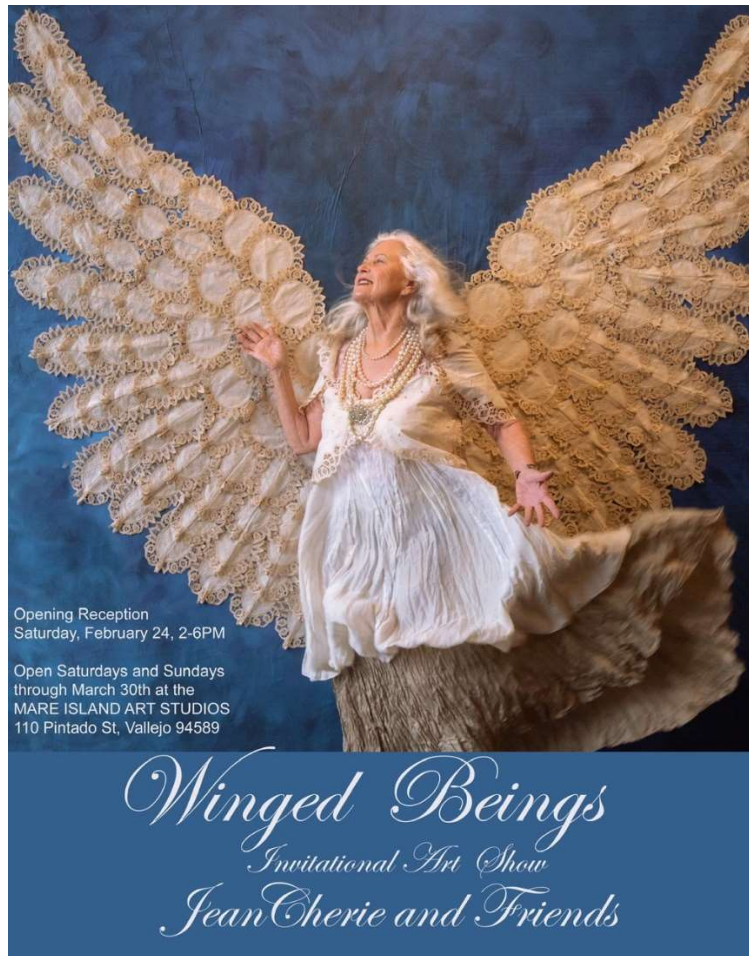
[http://www.photo-finale2024-
napavalleymustardcelebration.artcall.org](http://www.photo-finale2024-napavalleymustardcelebration.artcall.org)

<http://www.photo-finale.com>

Winged Beings

Photographer Jerry Downs (a past speaker at NVPS) is one of 12 artists in a show titled *WINGED BEINGS*.

The opening reception is Saturday, February 24, 2-6 pm. The show is open Saturdays and Sundays through March 30th at the Mare Island Art Studios, 110 Pintado St, Vallejo.



Member news

Volunteers

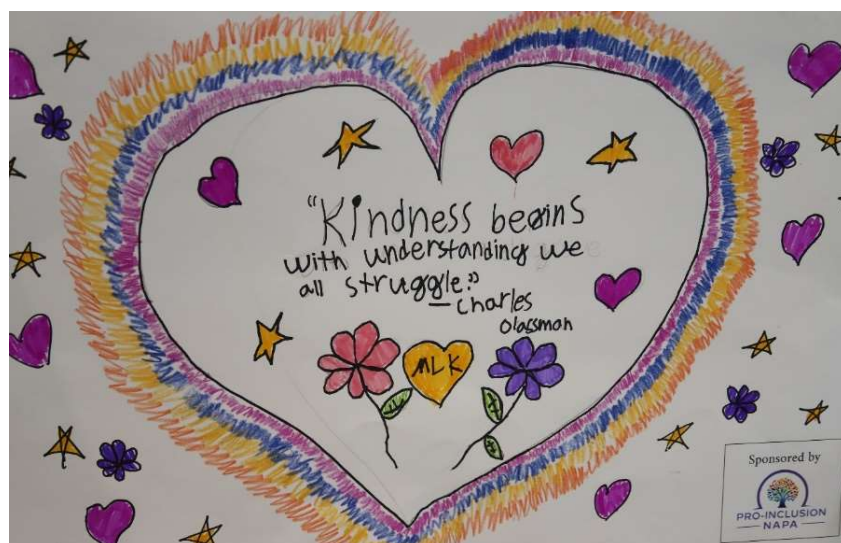
NVPS members have recently volunteered to photograph community events. Member Sally Seymour informed members of these opportunities which provided good visibility for the club and opportunities for members to shoot diverse events.

Phil Venable has been doing volunteer photography for *WeCares Pet Rescue* in St Helena after a referral by

NVPS member Sally Seymour. WeCares has been doing a lot of fund raising effort to improve their facilities. One such event involved the assistance of Jackson Galaxy, host of Animal Planet's show *My Cat From Hell*. The attached photos portray two cats available for adoption, and Jackson Galaxy charming a couple of small kittens.



Betty Malmgren provided photography as requested by a new organization *Pro-Inclusion Napa* at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day event at Justin-Siena High School.



Articles

A 5x Telephoto?

Let's set a standard for judgement for high quality. Film for a 35mm camera is the equivalent of 12 MPs for digital photographs. A 12MP sensor is good for producing a print of 14 inches at 300 dpi (long side – without enlargement) and 17 inches at 240 dpi. This 12MP size falls within the range of many photographers' printing practices and is more than adequate for viewing on a computer monitor or posting on the internet.

Thus, set standard for high quality = 12MP photo

The Sony A7R iv full-frame camera has a 61 MP sensor (as do several other brands of cameras). That means that five unique 12MP images can be cropped out of one 61MP image. That is, assuming a 50mm lens and the camera set at the highest image quality, you can crop out five images ($60 \div 12 = 5$) turning the 61MP lens into a 5x optical telephoto (250mm telephoto), in effect.

This idea makes financial sense. The Sony A7R iv body is about \$3,200. Add a high-quality 50mm lens for \$800. The total is \$4,000.

In comparison, add a high-quality 250mm telephoto lens in addition to the 50mm, and you spend \$2,500

more. That's a total of \$6,500; and you get a telephoto lens big enough to carry on your mule.

In other words, you can use a 60MP full frame camera with a 50mm lens, and it's as good as a 250mm telephoto lens to get a 12MP photo.

But does a 60MP camera make sense in regard to quality? That's the interesting question.

The lens you use has to have enough resolving power to match a 60MP sensor. That means that only top-quality lenses will work well.

- Every lens typically has its best quality in the middle, and cropping out an outer portion of the image may not provide the quality you expect.
- The exposure or focus may differ within the image, and the portion you crop out may not have the quality you want.
- The more MPs put on the same size sensor, the more noise results. Thus, a 60MP sensor for a full-frame is susceptible to more noise than a 25MP sensor. Thus, this scheme may not work well at high ISOs.
- There are multiple other factors that have a bearing on quality that are difficult to understand and difficult about which to find

the appropriate information. Moreover, each combination of camera and lens is unique.

- The research available on this idea is skimpy, and you're on your own to experiment.



24MP camera full size (1x)



12MP half size cropped from full (2x)

You can see the thin cross at the top of the steeple in both images.

These considerations, however, do not necessarily negate the idea of using a 60MP camera with a 50mm lens for a 12MP telephoto photo. For instance, let's say you shoot a Grizzly bear from a considerable distance (as you should). You can put the bear near the center of the image on purpose and crop around it to get a high-quality 12MP image. If you photograph the bear inadvertently in the outer portion of the image and then crop it out, however, the quality of the 12MP photo may not be quite as high.

Keep in mind that this idea works only for the scheme (numbers) I set above. Indeed, a different size sensor with a different size lens to get a different size photo will require you to rework the numbers.

Smartphones

Note that top-end smartphones cameras now have 50+ MP sensors. Nonetheless, the camera may not include the full amount of MPs in the photos it delivers. So, you need to know the size of the delivered photos in order to rework the numbers to make this scheme work.



iPhone 15 Pro Max 48MP delivers → 12MP or 24MP or 48MP photos

What does this all mean? It means you can have a 60MP camera with a prime 50mm lens that is, in effect, also a telephoto lens (but not a zoom lens); that is, you get prime lens quality without the larger size and higher weight of a telephoto lens or lower quality of a zoom lens. Many photographers, pundits, and critics have alleged that MPs don't matter. But quite obviously MPs do matter. A lot. It's time to send your spouse to the coal mines to earn enough extra money to buy one of those super cool 60MP cameras.

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For more discussion about MPs and sensors see:

<https://enthusiastphotoblog.com/sonya7riv-resolution-benefits/>

This resource is about photo printing and concludes by asserting that a 24MP sensor is enough for most photographers' printing needs. And a 42MP sensor (e.g., Sony 7R iii) is only necessary for very large prints. Although there is much discussion about MPs and sensors in this resource, the use of MPs to simulate a telephoto lens is never addressed directly. Thus, this resource's conclusions about printing don't apply to using a 60MP camera to get telephoto images.

Thoughts on Cropping

Some photographers think cropping is unethical; it's too much post-processing. This is absurd, of course. How the final image is made is not the determinant of its value. It's whether the image achieves its purpose or not (e.g., aesthetically or emotionally pleasing, etc).

Some photographers think that *real* photography is accomplished only by fitting the image, while taken by the camera, neatly into a box (frame), which requires no post processing. This saves a step in post processing, for sure, but is not necessary for excellent photography.

Framing an image perfectly was necessary for film photography due to the cost of film and the drudgery of physical cropping. Making a mistake was fatal. But that approach has gone with the wind since the advent of digital photography. Yet most of us older folks learned to photograph that way, and it's a tough habit to break.

In my experience, often when I take a shot, it turns out to be framed imperfectly due to lack of setup time or to distracted attention. Or there is something I didn't notice at the edge of the frame that spoils the photo and that could have been eliminated by different framing. This happens often enough that I'm training myself to overshoot. That is, take a larger photo and crop it to the perfect frame in post-processing.

Overshooting and cropping in post-processing has several advantages:

- Corrects unnoticed problems at the edge of the frame.
- Gets a more perfect frame in a photo editor than one gets in the hurry of the moment while shooting.
- Gets a different photo (about the same size) than one envisioned while shooting.
- Gets several different photos (about the same size) than one envisioned while shooting.
- Gets several different photos (of different sizes) that one did *not notice* while shooting. Or that one *did notice* while shooting.
- Gets a good frame of a photo that was very difficult to frame while shooting in a hurried manner.
- Enables image hunting *within* new and old photos to find new images to crop out.
- Gets telephoto photos from a prime lens without a zoom.
- Etc.

There you are. Get better photos with cropping: a quick and easy digital post-processing technique. In other words, cropping is a gift from the gods that

enables us to get better photos faster and more efficiently.

Featured photographer

Ron Rogers

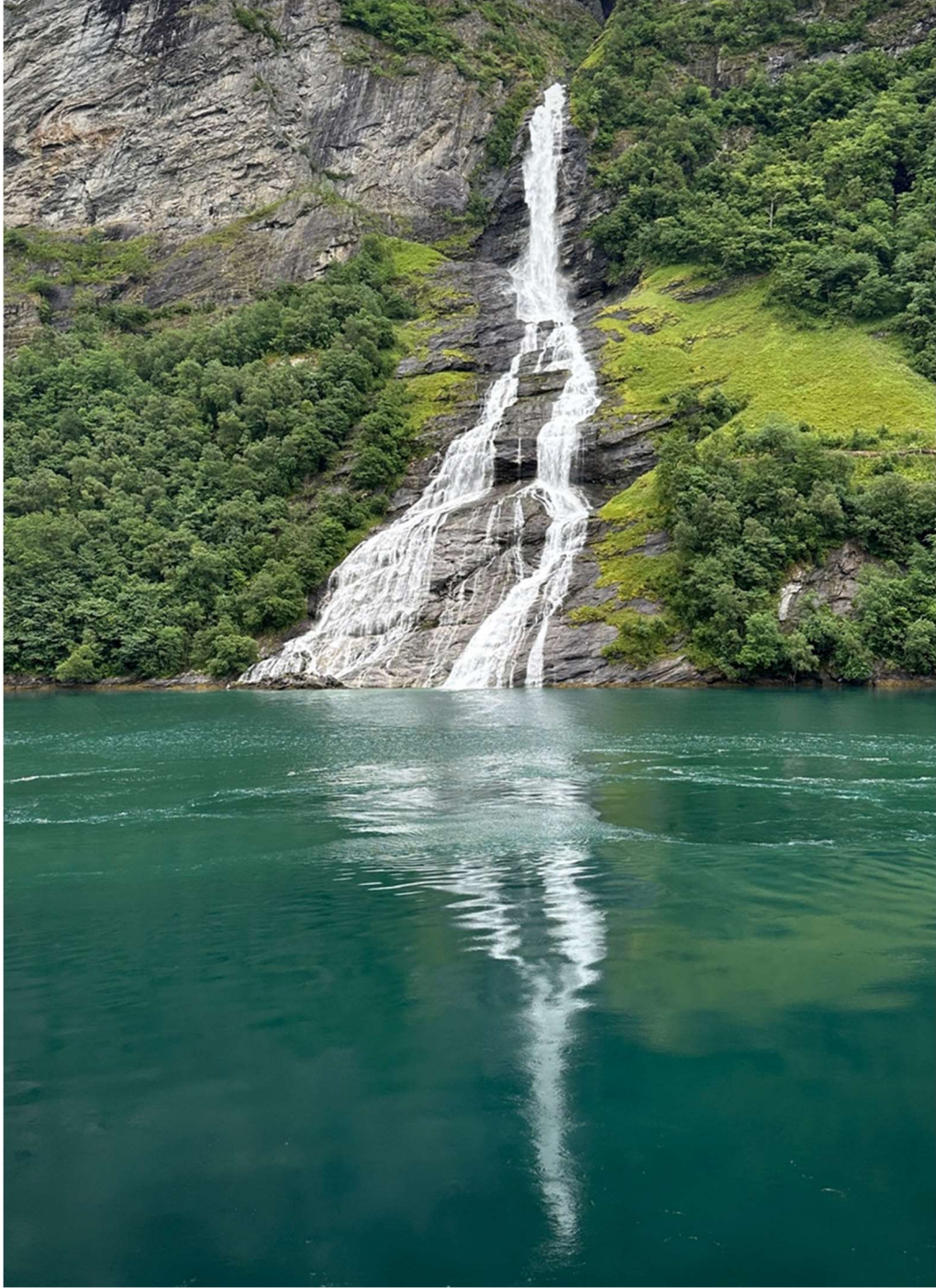
Amsterdam and Norwegian Coast















Officers & staff

Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable

Vice president - Terry Smith

Secretary - George Bartolome

Membership Secretary – Nancy Hernandez

Treasurer - Gary Sampson

Appointed board members & chairs

Member-at-large - Lanny Johnson

Program chair - Mitchell Glotzer

Website manager - Carolyn Younger

Newsletter - Joe Sinclair

Exhibit chair - open

Ongoing-exhibits chair - George Bartolome

Hospitality coordinator - open

Field trips - Irena Miles (Karen Noyes, Ann Seronello,
Geoff Hansen)

Workshops - Phil Venable

Publicity - Zach Berkowitz

Zoom coordinators - Phil Venable

Digital projectionist - Peter Guenther, Phil Venable

Facebook posting - Karen Noyes

Fundraiser chair – open



Head photo: A Beach to Themselves ©2024 Joseph T. Sinclair. All rights reserved.

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Newsletter Submittal Guidelines

Submittal deadline

The submittal deadline for newsletter text + photos (content) is the third Monday of the month.

Members' photos for the meeting

Members may submit images for the meeting and should be prepared to make a brief verbal explanation. To submit your photos for a meeting, send your images to the regular critique site in the usual format (no more than 2000 pixels on the longest side) no later than the Saturday prior to the monthly meeting. The file name for an image should be:

members first&last name_title or theme_order
number

Examples: John Everest_Harvest Time_01 and John Everest_After the Harvest_02

Send the files to: NVPS.Photo.Critique@gmail.com. Only photos taken by members accepted.

Newsletter head photo

If you desire to provide a head photo for one issue, submit a JPG 2000 pixels horizontal. The vertical can be between 450 and 1100 pixels. Anything outside these parameters cannot be used. The file name should be your name plus the title of your photo, the word *head*, and the date:

name_title_head_date

Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps). Only photos taken by members accepted. And photos that have been published before on the NVPS website or in the NVPS newsletter are not eligible.

This month's meeting

Follow the guide for *Articles*.

Field trips & workshops

Announcements of field trips and workshops of interest to members should include all information such as leader + contact info, date, time, meeting place, miles to location, cost, and nature of the photography as well as a general description. These are *participation* events. Announcements can run in two successive issues *before* the event.

Events

This is an announcement of a photo exhibit, contest, or photo op of interest to members or one that includes a member or multiple members. It can run in two successive issues *before* the exhibit.

This category also includes a call for member participants in future photo exhibits or contests with complete information on applying and participating.

If an event is a duplicate of full information elsewhere, it should be a brief announcement with a hyperlink to the information online elsewhere.

Member news

This is a one-time *brief* announcement of a member's *past* achievement, such as an exhibit, a photo experience, a travel-photo experience, a photo learning experience, and the like. Use a hyperlink to indicate where full information is available.

If this is the sole information on a substantial achievement, it can be written like an article with full information; but it shouldn't be a duplicate of full information published elsewhere (use a hyperlink instead).

NVPS administrative news or other news is also appropriate for this category.

Articles

Articles (e.g., magazine-like articles) written by members can be posted in the newsletter for one issue. They will be assumed to be published by permission. They must be relevant to photography, of course.

Articles published by non-members are likely to be copyrighted. See *Copyrights* for the treatment of non-member articles.

Generally, only one article per issue will be published with member-written articles given preference.

For sale, give away, or wanted

Photographic equipment for sale, giveaway, or wanted can be listed here for one newsletter issue. Provide full information about item and full contact information.

Photos for newsletter

Photos submitted for the newsletter should be: no more than 2000 pixels, and no less than 1000 pixels, on the longest side. Logos can be a smaller size. File names should be:

author_title of photo_date

Photos taken by members will be assumed to be published by permission. Photos taken by non-members are likely to be copyright protected. See *Copyrights* for the treatment of non-member photos.

Send the photo file *attached* (not *embedded*) to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps). Photos must have an extension that indicates their protocol (e.g., .jpg); that is, Windows compatible. Due to incompatibilities between Apple and Windows, photos that don't conform may be unusable.

Photo captions

If you want captions for you photos, include them in the photo file name.

Submissions

For all information (text) submitted, use a file name that identifies the subject matter and author. Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps).

Subject-line email

Unless you use the subject-line words requested for text or photos, your submission might be lost in the 400 junk emails received each day.

In the email, explain your submission. Example: *This photo goes with my article on shooting wildlife.*

Copyrights

For articles and photos by non-members, NVPS must have written permission for publication. The exception is articles or photos in the public domain; for such articles or photos, the author and source of the public domain archive should be stated.

One exception to copyright protection is the use of copyrighted text or images in teaching, such as an article on photography.

One way to circumvent copyright problems is to use a hyperlink to the article or photo published elsewhere.

Typography

Use italics for emphasis. Use emphasis sparingly. Don't use bold or all-caps. Bold and all-caps are difficult to read. Nonetheless, all-caps are acceptable for acronyms and designations.

Suggestions

Suggestions for the newsletter format or otherwise should be sent to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line NEWSLETTER in all caps.

Your editor

Your current newsletter editor is half-deaf with a short-term memory (25 seconds on a good day and getting shorter each month) and lives in Vallejo (doesn't know Napa very well). He receives about 400 emails every day thus requiring NEWSLETTER to be in the subject line of your emails. Although the newsletter editor reserves the right to edit submissions, the newsletter editor's job is to *receive* content (information + photos) for the newsletter, not create it. So, your publish-ready content according to these guidelines will be welcome.