

NVPS NEWSLETTER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



January 2024 Issue

This month's meeting

January 22: Norma I. Quintana

**Theme: Environmental portraits of someone you
don't know**

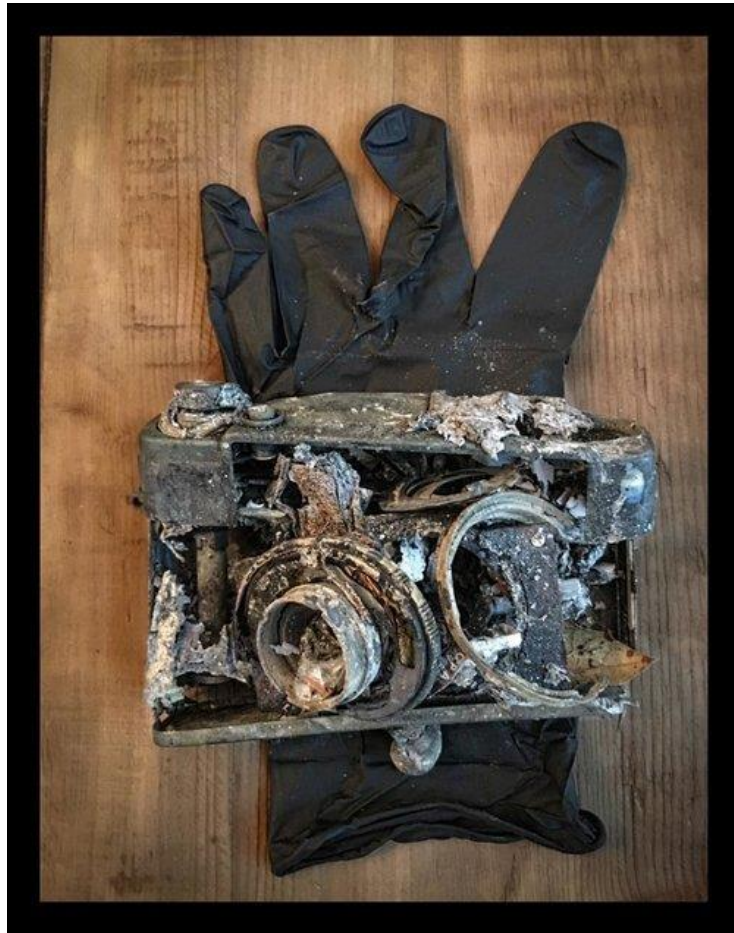
Norma I. Quintana is an American photographer and educator based in California. Born in Cleveland Ohio, she earned her Masters in Social Sciences from Case Western University and worked in human resources during her corporate career. Quintana began her career in documentary photography in the late '90s, attending Napa Valley College for a photography degree completed in 2001.

Quintana has also studied under influential photographers including Mary Ellen Mark, Shelby Lee Adams, and Graciela Iturbide. She works in the tradition of social documentary—primarily in black and white, film photography. Collaboration is essential to her process: the images, Quintana insists, would not be possible without her subjects' willingness to reveal themselves.

Her initial project documenting a one-ring American circus took place over a decade, as she embedded herself behind the scenes to follow the same group of tight-knit performers. Images from her series *Circus: A Traveling Life* have been exhibited around the world and were published as a monograph by Damiani Editore and distributed by D.A.P. Artbook Catalog in 2014.

Quintana's portrait series *Forget Me Not* is an archival project inspired by her family's immigration from Puerto Rico. Based on photo-booth images she collected from relatives, she recreated the backdrop

and wooden stand to capture the extraordinary lives of every-day people within her community. The collection has traveled to Washington DC, and Norma continues to develop the project with hopes of returning to Puerto Rico for more research.



Quintana's recent *Forage From Fire* series documents the excavation of objects and memories after California wildfires destroyed her home and studio. Documented with her iPhone X as she sifted through the ruins, the images of jewelry, camera bodies, Christmas ornaments, pendants, doll parts, and kitchen tools represent not only a collection of

memories, but also a path to recovery. Works from this series were exhibited in 2018 in a solo exhibition at SF Camerawork and included in group exhibitions in Sonoma and Napa. *Forage From Fire* was included in the traveling exhibition *Facing Fire: Art, Wildfire, and the End of Nature in the New West* originating at the California Museum of Photography, traveling to St. George Art Museum, Utah, Jundt Art Museum at Gonzaga University, Washington, and Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Utah State University.

Quintana is a founding member of the Bay Area non-profit *PhotoAlliance* and has lectured nationally at Stanford University, UCLA, American University, Penn State University, NYC, and internationally in Madrid, Spain.

The theme for member photos is *Environmental Portraits of Someone You Don't Know*.

An environmental portrait is a portrait executed in the subject's usual environment, such as in their home or workplace, and illuminates the subject's life and surroundings.

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

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.

A word from the president

Welcome to a New Year. We accomplished quite a bit in 2023. We had an increase in membership, our publicity outreach is increasing, and we had a very good Christmas Party. Many thanks to Nancy Hernandez who took lead on getting the Christmas Party up and running.

We still lack one thing however, volunteers. Currently it is about 8 of us that keep the club running, and a couple of us are getting burned out. We have more positions to fill than volunteers to fill them.

I know, I keep repeating the same thing. We have over 40 members and only 8 of us are keeping the ship running. We need volunteers to help us out. Our needs are as follows:

Hospitality Chair - Responsible for organizing club social events, specifically the May picnic and the December Holiday Party.

Exhibits Chair - Responsible for finding venues for us to show our work, working with the venue to organize the show, and working with the hanging crew to get it hung.

Master Communicator - Works directly with the Board to get information out to the members in a timely fashion. The information would include any meetups or field trips, events of interest to the members, and general meeting information including presenter, theme, and photo submission reminders.

Projectionist/Tech Expert - This doesn't have to be a single individual. It can be a shared duty with 3-4 people working together or to act as relief in the event one or more cannot attend the meeting. The group would be responsible for showing the member photos at the meeting, working with the presenter to show his/her power point presentation, and assisting in resolving any technical issues that might arise.

Field Trip/Meetup Chair - Responsible for organizing field trips and meet ups throughout the year for members to attend. These field trips and meet ups will be photography related, either as photo opportunities or educational opportunities.

All of these positions, except Projectionist/Tech Expert, are Board positions, and you will be invited to attend the monthly Board Zoom meeting. Since the meetings are Zoom meetings, you can enjoy your

favorite beverage while participating. Sobriety is encouraged but not required.

If you have any questions about any of these positions, such as time consumption or specific to the duties of the position, feel free to reach out to me or any other Board member. Please consider volunteering a few hours each month for the betterment of the club. Thank you!

Philip Venable, President

Email: philven@pacbell.net

Phone: 707-689-3092

Field trips and workshops

Napa Valley College

This is as close to home as it gets. It's also about as inexpensive as it gets. The college offers a variety of 3-unit photography classes on a variety of subjects.



The cost is \$46 per unit. If you're an out-of-state student, such as from Brasov Romania, Yby Yau Paraguay, or Boone Iowa, the tuition is \$448 per unit. The hours of instruction per unit vary from 27 to 108.



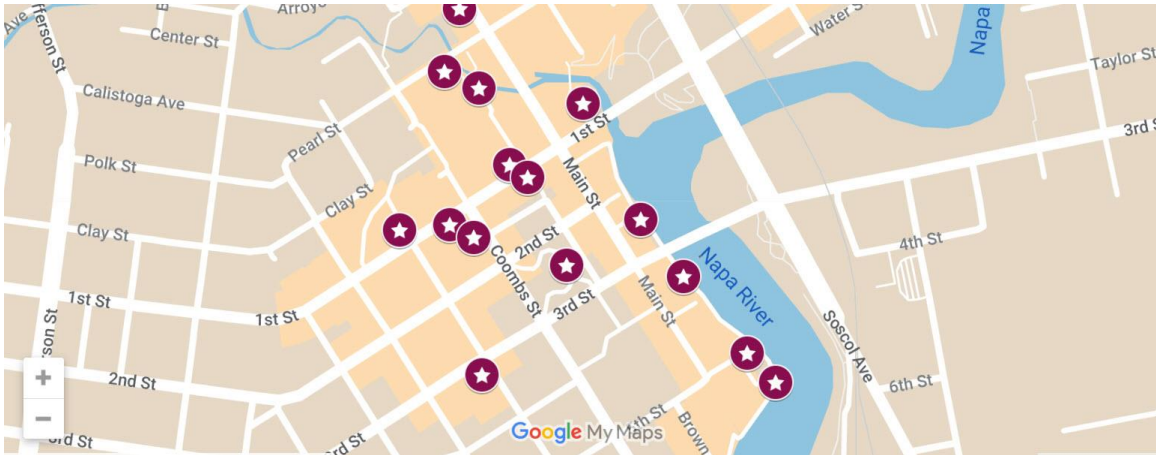
<http://catalog.napavalley.edu/courses/phot/>
<http://catalog.napavalley.edu/financial-information/>

Events

Lights



The Napa Lighted Art Festival starts January 20. A free walkabout outdoor experience in downtown Napa is the first event. NVPS members have taken many photos of this festival in years past.



Friday (January 20) and Saturday 6-10pm / Sunday--Thursday 6-9pm

On February 10 at 6:30pm there is a lantern parade.

For information go to: <https://donapa.com/lighted-art-festival/>

Wildlife Photo Contest

The annual *National Wildlife* magazine photo contest opens January 17. The grand prize is \$5,000. Get information at:

<https://nwf.org/photocontest>



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.

For those interested in submitting photos, see:

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

General information:

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

Questions answered:

Phone/Text: (707) 225-1565

Email: photofinale.nvmc@gmail.com

MJ Schaer Founder, Director, and NVPS member

FotoClave

Fotoclave 2024, a three-day photography show at the Walnut Creek Marriott with a variety of national photographers presenting keynote talks and workshops at a reasonable price. If you're frugal, however, check out the parking situation before you sign up.



February 17-19

<https://fotoclave.slickpic.com>

Member news

NVPS Christmas party

We had our annual Christmas party in December at the Napa Senior Center.



The party was a fine success. It was a great chance to meet new members and get to know existing members better. The raffle had some interesting items and made some money for NVPS.

And, of course, the food was delicious and bountiful.



Thanks to Nancy Hernadez and others for organizing this event.



Newsletter content

Your content is needed for this newsletter. Please submit it according to the guidelines at the end of each newsletter. The latest revised guidelines are included in this issue.

Articles

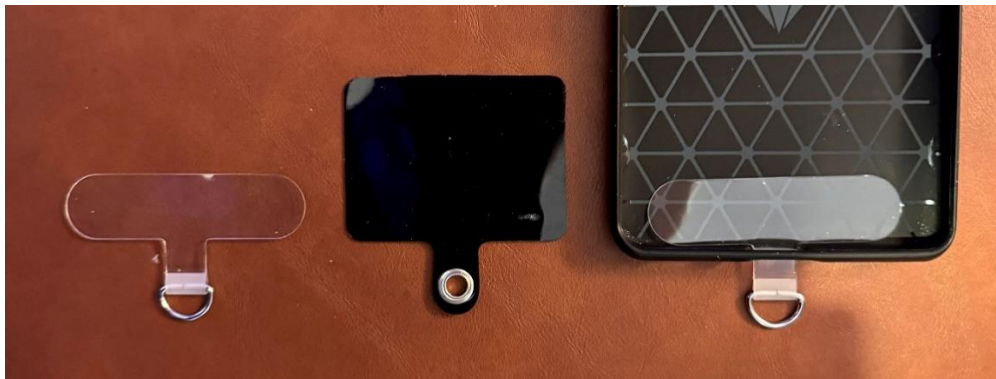
A lanyard ?

Where to keep your smartphone? One handy technique is to use a lanyard. A lanyard can be a loop around your neck or a single strand connected to your clothing or wherever. There's lots of ways to use one.

It keeps your phone from falling to the ground. Helps pull your phone out of your pocket quickly. Helps prevent a phone theft from your pocket or otherwise. Keeps your phone from getting lost. Keeps your phone always conveniently available.

Most importantly, it gives you confidence that your phone camera is always available and protected from damage. Ideal for quick-action photography.

You need a tether tab (see photo).



Place the tether tab inside your phone's protective casing with the tab protruding through the charging hole in the bottom of the casing. Then place the phone on top of the tether tab in the casing. The tether tab won't interfere with the charging connection. Tether tabs are available at Amazon (search *lanyard*).

You can purchase a tether, make one, or use one you received to show your name card at a meeting. Keep in mind, however, you never want to put anything around your neck that can hold your weight without

breaking; that is, you don't want to take the risk of an unusual but fatal accident.

I use a tether around my neck and keep the phone in my shirt pocket. My wife says I look like a geek. But I'm always ready to take a photo quickly and safely.

Smartphone cameras

Thinking about giving up your Leica and starting to use a smartphone camera? You can get a scientific evaluation rating at Dxomark (<https://dxomark.com>) to help you make a good buying decision. Objective ratings aren't perfect, but they carry a lot of weight.

Make a note that the apps that operate the cameras are not evaluated by Dxomark. In other words, you can have a great camera with a lousy camera app.

Indeed, I used a highly rated phone that took amazingly great photos, but the camera app is second rate.



So, for the current generation, I switched to an equally highly rated phone but with a better camera app. The photo quality is the same, but the app is easier and quicker to use.

An interesting thing to think about is cost. You can get the newest top-end smartphone camera each year and sell your year-old top-end phone for about a \$300 loss (e.g., on eBay). Thus, your expense is \$300/year. And you always enjoy up-to-date photographic technology.

In my case, if I use a new big-iron camera (e.g., Sony A7) and buy a new one every 8 years, it costs me about \$300/year. On one hand (smartphone), I always have up-to-date technology. On the other hand (big iron), I have a more flexible camera system.

Another thing to think about, if you get your phone through your smartphone service provider, the cost of your smartphone is a loan to you to be paid off at who knows what god-awful interest rate is buried in your monthly bill.

If you want to save money, buy your own phone and get a low-cost reseller smartphone service. My phone service cost is \$15/month from a reseller for T-Mobile. In other words, I use T-Mobile but don't pay the T-Mobile rates. The resellers won't tell you who they're reselling for, but that's easy to figure out.

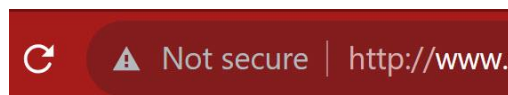
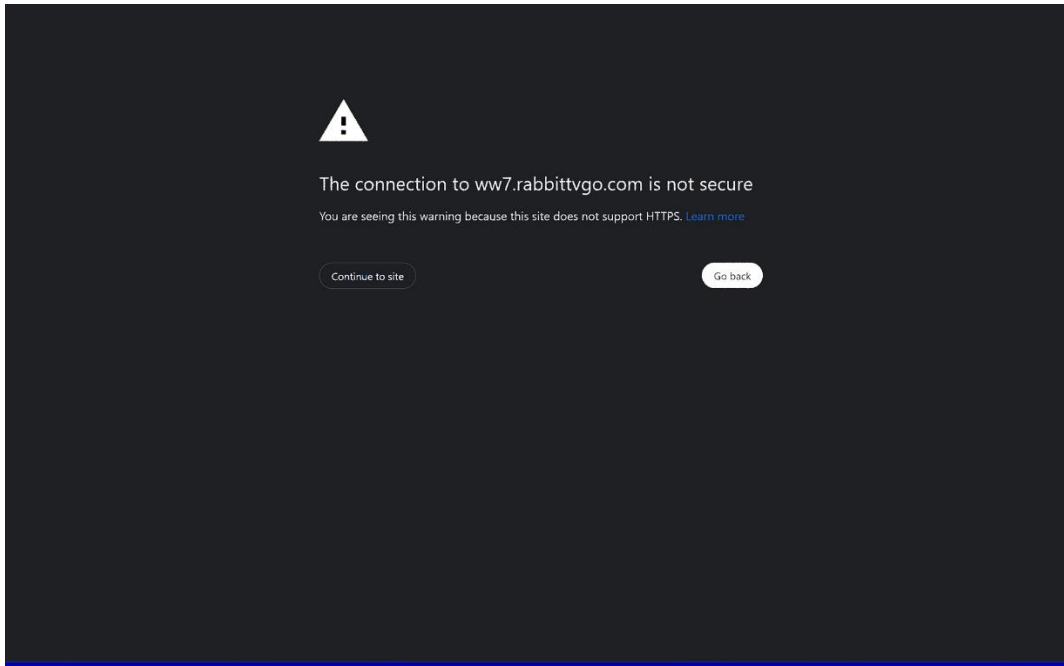


A final point. I don't care much about the communications or the other capabilities of my smartphone. The camera is my primary consideration. If you use your smartphone for other purposes than photography, you may want to rely on a more thorough evaluation.

Website warning

A few years back, the primary protocol for the web was HTTP. To get the secure HTTPS protocol, you typically had to pay your website host extra. Then Google announced in 2020 that if you didn't use

HTTPS, your webpages would carry a *security warning* from Google or perhaps even *be blocked* by Google.



Initially, after the Google announcement, this new policy became a boon to website hosts as a means of making extra money. Due to healthy competition, however, the HTTPS protocol soon became available free from most website hosts.

What's the situation today? Most website hosts will provide the HTTPS protocol free without a customer even asking for it. Some provide HTTPS free only if a customer asks for it. And some still charge extra for HTTPS.

Today HTTPS is the standard, and HTTP is substandard subject warnings and blockages by Google.

https://

The standard now

Why is your poor overworked, underpaid, and blithely ignored newsletter editor ranting on about web protocols? Because I am continually astounded that many webworkers do not know enough to make sure their websites run securely on HTTPS. You should be able to rely upon website hosts and web designers to take care of these complex issues. Unfortunately, you can't.

Many of the URLs (web addresses) published in this newsletter are not up-to-date: that is, not *https*. In other words, although it's not your fault, if it's not *https://*, you've got a serious problem. Consult your website host.

By a "serious problem," I mean a high percentage of your potential viewers won't be about to see your webpages without the *https://* protocol.

Note: If you're using *http://* and you change to *https://*, all webpages with an *http://* address will automatically go to your new *https://* address. You will not have to change your website.

For sale, giveaway, or wanted

We have had a section entitled *Equipment*, which no one has used for about a year. I have enlarged the title and content to include sales, giveaways, and items wanted (related to photography). Submit an entry according to the guidelines at the end of the newsletter. When there are no submittals, this section won't appear.

Featured photographer

MJ Schaer







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



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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.