

Flushing Camera Club Summary of Accomplishments: 1972 - 2017

The Flushing Camera Club (FCC) was organized in the Spring of 1972 for persons who are interested in all aspects of the art of photography. Over the next four decades, the FCC has become a fun place for all who enjoy the different aspects of this amazing art. FCC initially met at the Free Synagogue of Flushing and the former Booth Memorial Hospital (now NYP) and in 1979 the meetings were held at Flushing Hospital and have continued. Meetings are held monthly (except July and August) every 1st, 3rd, 5th Wednesday. Three of the current members joined in the 1970's: Dennis Golin, 1974, Ettore Trauzzi, 1975, and Martin Fleischer: a mere lad of 17 joined in 1976!

In the mid-80's, Dennis Golin developed a musical slide show called "Musical Images" and all members' images were part of this "traveling show" of outstanding photography set to music. This show was taken to various senior citizen centers by Joe Mancher and Al Robbins so the residents could enjoy the efforts of the members' photography. It was very well received.

The slide show for "Musical Images" was eventually donated, along with a member's projector, to the NY Harbor Health Care System, St. Albans Community Living Center Campus. Their response: *"Our Community Living Center truly appreciated your efforts in letting our veterans know that they are not forgotten. By donating this projector and trays of slides, you have contributed to the quality of their lives. We appreciate your generosity."*

In its early years the FCC monthly newsletter was called "*The Spot Light*" with Harold Leand as editor. By the end of 1993 Joe Walc became the editor under the new title, "*Highlights & Shadows.*" By the end of 1997 the newsletter "*Through the Lens*" was looking for an editor and by the following year "The Info Sheet" with Marty Fleischer as editor was born. At some point, Dorothy Gist joined Marty in working on the newsletter; in September 2005 Dorothy became editor with Ron Caldwell. In September 2012 Joe Crupi became the editor with Ron continuing as publisher under its newest title: "*In Focus.*"

Sometime between mid-1990's and 2000, the FCC Website – www.flushingcameraclub.org - was created by Ron Caldwell to keep members and others aware of FCC events and news. Ramiro Agredo joined Ron on Website duties and after Ron relocated to Florida, Ramiro assumed full responsibility. More recently Andrew Silver, Tony Coppeta and Ron Caldwell have worked with the Website.

A new DVD of photos was prepared by FCC members and shared with residents at the Bridge View Nursing Home, Whitestone, and Ozanam Hall Nursing Home, Bayside, by Joe Crupi, Michael Sender, Joe Caruso and the late Pat Burns. The presentations were well received and enjoyed by all.

The Queens Courier conducted a photo contest and FCC's Michael Sender and Ron Caldwell were winners. All winners were honored at the Queens Museum Exhibit/Reception and Victoria Schneps, President Queens Courier, presented her "Salute To Queens Parks" book with all the winning photos. This Exhibit traveled to the Arsenal Gallery in Central Park. Following the Reception, Michael Sender made arrangements for space at the Courier for an FCC exhibit and worked with Joe Crupi and Stan Goldstein on the project. Roy Woelful was the photo winner at this event.

Michael Sender made arrangements with the Main Street Library, Flushing, to exhibit FCC photos and he coordinated the project with Joe Crupi and Stan Goldstein. Michael Sender also coordinated arrangements for the FCC to participate on Arbor Day at Queens Botanical Gardens and this enabled FCC to meet visitors, share the photo involvements, and to support the community. Several members participated in this.

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Over many years, the FCC has contributed photographs to both the New York Presbyterian Hospital as well as the Flushing Hospital Medical Center. In showing FCC's thanks, Flushing Hospital was afforded the opportunity to select from among members' award-winning photo prints which were then donated to line the walls of main hall, waiting rooms, surgical waiting areas as well as ICU. The FCC's goal is to give the hospitalized community the feeling of comfort and a calming and peaceful experience at these Hospitals with FCC's photographic galleries. These prints were well-received and Tony Coppeta and Helen Repstad coordinated these

involvements. Besides donating prints, the FCC also provided monetary donations over the years to Flushing Hospital.

Over the years the FCC has hosted many photography related programs to strengthen the members' skills ... and they're open to the community. For example for a couple of years during July and August, FCC presented "Beginners Photography" by presenters Stan Strauss and Ron Caldwell. They made those in attendance comfortable with the functions of cameras and suggested ways to improve one's photography.

FCC has a monthly competition for members who are in classes based on skill level.

Field Trips have been a great way for members and visitors to improve their photography and they travel near and far to meet this end. Locations like Queens Zoo and Queens Botanical Gardens are favorites as is Flushing Meadow Park. Hence our logo! More exotic trips included the California coast, Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, Glacier National Park, Banff, Canada. Other trips were to the Smokey Mountains, Skyline Drive, and parts of Florida to photograph nesting birds. FCC also traveled to Maine for lighthouses along with the picturesque coastline, to Vermont for fall foliage, and most recently to the long abandoned Eastern State Penitentiary and Longwood Gardens in southern Pennsylvania. The FCC has also traveled to various locations on Long Island to photograph birds and flowers. There are the many parades, including the Lunar New Year in Flushing each year as a favorite. FCC members have braved the usual frigid weather to get those great colorful images. Speaking of frigid, FCC also enjoys photographing those brave souls at the Polar Bear Swim at Coney Island on January 1st. These are just an example of the many locations FCC members have traveled for the purpose of expanding portfolios.

Following FCC's monthly digital competitions, "the better" entries are submitted to the Photographic Federation of Long Island (PFLI) to compete monthly along with the other 19 member camera clubs. Additionally, FCC was a sponsor of the Photographic Society of America's (PSA) Youth Showcase in Queens County. The goal of the Showcase is the promotion and education of photography among young people by highlighting outstanding photographs from high school age students. Joe Caruso was the liaison for Townsend Harris High School, Flushing, and presented information to the art teacher/coordinator of their Photography **Club**. **The goal was to** provide all requirements for the Showcase to assist in completing the necessary forms for competition. Additionally, through the PFLI, camera clubs on Long Island enabled high schools in Nassau and Suffolk counties to also participate in the Showcase. The images are submitted to the PSA for the nationwide competition. The Showcase is an excellent opportunity for eligible students to share their work across all boundaries and receive recognition for their efforts.

FCC Presidents:

1972-1974: Irving Chase
1974-1976: Al Bernstein
1976-1978: Seymour Scharf
1978-1980: Dennis Golin
1980-1982: Matthew Rosenzweig
1982-1984: Harold Leand
1984-1986: Russ Burden
1986-1988: Gary Spielvogel
1988-1990: Dave Gardner
1990-1992: Ben Grodner
1992-1994: Margaret Visentin
1994-1995: Ben Grodner
1995-1997: Mary O'Connor
1997-1999: Marty Fleischer
1999-2000: Steve Feldman
2000-2003: Dorothy Gist
2003-2005: Joan Egan
2005-2007: Ron Caldwell
2007-2009: Helen Repstad
2009-2011: Stan Strauss
2011-2013: Mary O'Connor
2013-2014: Dennis Golin
2014-2016: Tony Coppeta
2016-2018: Joe Crupi

Many members have expressed their appreciation that the FCC has been a warm and welcoming group as they joined as new members. FCC has worked along with all members through our programs and events as we, together, expand our photography horizons. One member, Tony Coppeta, shared his reflections: *"It was our late Pat Burns who introduced me to the Flushing Camera Club. He became my friend, mentor and my inspiration! In the five years as a member, I was inspired by many members including, Michael Sender, Joe Crupi and Helen Repstad...just to mention a few. Being a member allowed me to learn and improve my art. I won many awards over the years and participated in programs, events and was president for two years. I am proud to say, I am a member of the FCC... The Friendly Camera Club!"*

The FCC has accomplished much on our photography journey. However, we realize that there is so much more ahead of us to accomplish as we face the future with eyes wide open and cameras in hand.