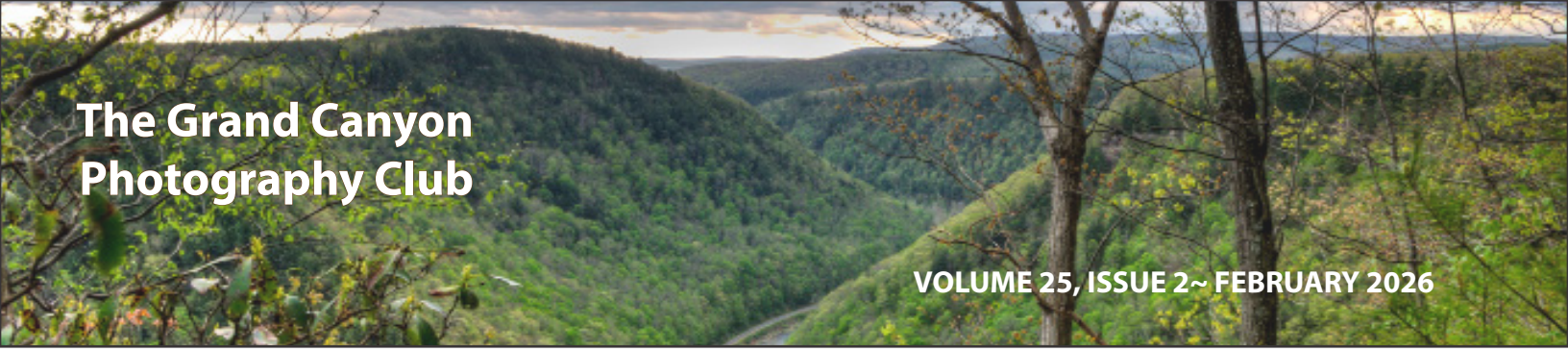

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2~ FEBRUARY 2026

Photographer Presents "Winter Light"

Linda Stager will lead a discussion at the February 10th meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography club titled "Winter Light: Seeing and Creating During the Quiet Season". "The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA after a short business meeting.

Linda describes her program: "Winter can be the most magical time for snow scene pictures. But it's also a difficult season for photographers, with short days, low sun angles, and long stretches of overcast skies. We'll be talking about both of these conditions with a special emphasis on dealing with the uniqueness of winter light. Rather than avoiding these conditions, let's look at what possibilities lie ahead for us right now."

Linda's program will focus on understanding the qualities of winter light and learning how to work creatively in the cold season. Her presentation encourages us to shift our attention toward subtle light, quiet color, simplified compositions, and meaningful subject matter.

"Winter light often isn't about super saturated colors and bright light, although there are still moments of light that allow that. Instead, it is so often much more subdued." Stager says," We need to be in tune with that change. There is still a place for bright, colorful photos in the winter, but if we listen carefully enough, we will also see in subdued ways for the most part. It's a time to change tactics to meet the mood of the season. If we do that, winter becomes one of the most honest and rewarding seasons to photograph."

We will look at photographing in flat light, selecting winter-friendly subjects, changing perspective when conditions are limiting, and using subtle color effectively.

As usual, Linda emphasizes a deeper way of seeing: a skill that is reflected in every photo we take in every season.

Linda is the club's corresponding secretary. She is also a member of the Professional Photographers of America and a "Sony Pro". She is a multiple award-winning author-photographer who lives in Wellsboro and is a juried pro-level artisan of the PA Wilds. Her studio, Suncatcher Lodge, contributes to many community-related projects. She has just published the second edition of her Pine Creek Rail Trail Guidebook, a major project in collaboration with Todd Heckler Designs and Jennifer Heinser Watercolor and Design.

She continues her free-lance writing assignments and photographic essays for a variety of regional and state organizations so look for her photos and articles.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our last meeting, I was inspired by members' stories about why they choose to take photographs. Each of us has arrived at photography in our own way. For some, it's a recently discovered hobby; for others, a lifelong pursuit. No matter our background or experience, we're connected by a shared love of photography.

As we look ahead to our upcoming topic, *Winter Light,* I've been reflecting on what it means to photograph winter in the Northeast. Our winters can be unpredictable and often feel monochromatic. Cold temperatures bring foggy lenses, frozen fingers, and shorter battery life, but they also invite us to slow down and look more closely.

Winter photography asks for intention. It encourages us to focus on texture, contrast, form, and most importantly light. We're often drawn toward simplicity, learning to capture mood and embrace monochrome images. Some of our most meaningful photographs emerge from these quiet, challenging moments.

I encourage everyone to embrace the cold and explore what winter has to offer, camera in hand. I look forward to seeing everyone's photos of the winter light in the March critique.

Missy

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GCPC January 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The January 13, 2026, meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was called to order by President Missy Volino. Missy asked if there were any additions to the minutes from the December 2025 meeting as they appeared in the newsletter and if not, a motion to approve was needed. The motion was made by Dennis Stager, and seconded by Casey Volino. The Treasurer's report was not given, as Treasurer Gary Thompson was not in attendance due to his winter holiday. Missy gave a reminder that membership dues are due at the beginning of the year, and that it is $35 for a family membership and $20 for a single membership. Missy reminded the membership that there is a sign-up sheet being passed around to sign up for providing refreshments for this year's meetings. If you were not in attendance at the meeting and are interested in providing refreshments for one of the upcoming months, please contact Missy or Mia Lisa.

Linda Stager provided information on the Club's exhibit venues for Susan and Jim Storment, who are now overseeing the sign-ups and the display venues. There had been an email sent out by Linda for Susan and Jim, where information about the venues and sign-ups was provided. There is a link that you can click on and sign up if you want to participate in the Club exhibits. You will be able to see which venues and what months are still available. If you have any questions on the process or about the exhibits, please contact Jim Storment at jamesstorment@gmail.com.

Next month's meeting presentation is *Winter Light* and will be presented by Linda Stager and next month's critique will be *Your Favorite Photo*, based on the topic of the January meeting presentation. Please provide a brief write-up about the photograph and why it is special to you so that it can be shared with the group. We had several new guests / potential new members in attendance and we look forward to seeing them at future meetings!

Missy gave congratulations to Bruce Dart on his retirement from his studio of nearly 50 years. Congratulations Bruce!

With no further new business, Missy asked for a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting, which was made by Jo Swenson and seconded by Tana Carpenter. The business portion was adjourned and we had our program which was a roundtable discussion on why we take photographs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tana Carpenter
Recording Secretary

We All See Differently

January's critique theme was holidays. Simple enough. And I thought I knew what kinds of photos I'd see.

As each photograph came up in critique, something unexpected happened, though. Each photographer who submitted a photo saw the holidays differently. And with each image came stories—quiet ones, tender ones, complicated ones.

For some, the holidays meant warmth and tradition. Family time. Familiar subjects. For others, absence. Change. Grief tucked gently behind a smile. Illness. Alone time.

The same theme. The same word. And yet no two meanings were the same.

That night, I was reminded why photographs matter. They hold room for the stories they tell.

I felt honored to be at our last meeting. The photos were beautiful. And they told their stories wonderfully.

©Bob Bair

©Paul Bozzo

©Tana Carpenter

©Mia Lisa Anderson

©Michelle Lawrence

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2026 Officers:

President: Missy Volino

Vice President: Brad Adams

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: Tana Carpenter

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Stager

Directors:

2025-2026:
Greg Caulkins, Will Slotter

2026-2027

Karen Mitcheltree, Casey Volino

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Open

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Linda Stager

For more information, please contact:
president@gcphotoclub.org

Club Reminders
Critique Submissions

Please send critique submissions (or other images you'd like to submit for the newsletter) to Mia at:

mialisa1957@gmail.com. Follow the guidelines we have always used, i.e. 1024 or 2048 pixels on the long side and one submission per critique. Remember to put your name in the file name, e.g. anderson_tulips.

Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	$2,677.66
Cash IN	
Dues	$20.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	$3.00
	$0.00
Ending Balance	$2,694.66
	Respectfully Submitted
	Gary Thompson, Treasurer

Dues for 2026 are now being accepted. Please bring cash or your check made out to the Grand Canyon Photography Club to the February meeting. Individual dues are $20/year; family is $35/year.

Working with February Light

February light can be a test of patience. The sun stays low, the sky turns white or flat, and days can pass without a hint of drama. It's easy to feel like the light is working against you—like photography itself has gone quiet.

I get it. Everybody loves golden light—warm colors, dramatic looks. I like them too. And anytime I can get it, I choose it.

And yet, February light sometimes isn't "perfect" at all.

Even with snowy scenes, we can end up with flat light. Light that doesn't "live"—doesn't feel alive.

So, what can we do?

When contrast disappears, look for subtlety. Snow-on-snow, bark against fog, the soft edge where sky meets hill.

Look for textures, cloud formations, structures, and reflections… they are all good topics for us in the winter. And when the sky gives you nothing, turn away from it.

Photograph inward: barns, doorways, windows, hands, quiet faces, small corners of daily life.

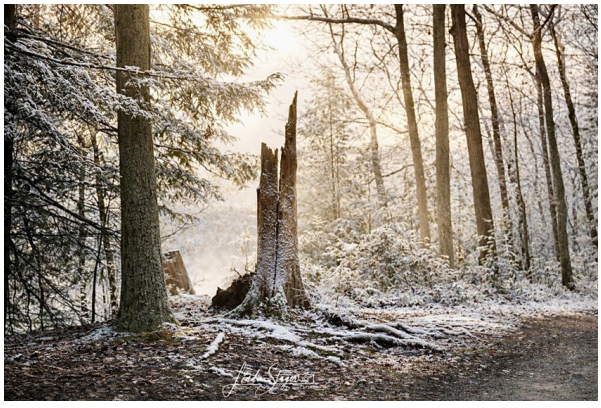
This is also a season for changing perspective. Get lower. Move closer. Let details become the subject. Texture, shape, and rhythm often speak louder than light this time of year.

Try a different lens. Try black and white. And by all means, let composition be your strength.

This is a good time to observe, experiment, learn, practice.

All photos this page ©Linda Stager

And if the camera stays in the bag for a while, that's okay too. February teaches as much about seeing as it does about shooting. Pay attention. Watch where the light almost happens.



It's time to make the best out of what we are given.

Come to the February meeting where we'll talk more about it all. Let's get through this quiet time together.

GCPC 2026 Calendar of Events

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.

Mini-Solo Shows at the Deane Center, Main Street, Wellsboro:

February: Linda Stager

Mini-Solo Shows at Arise Cafe, Central Ave., Wellsboro:

February: Shannon Davis

The Warehouse Theater: Bruce Dart & Linda Stager

The position of exhibit coordinator has been filled by Susan and Jim Storment

Please contact them if you would like to exhibit at one of the venues. First come, first serve.

jamesstorment@gmail.com

susanlovejoy@yahoo.com

Programs and Themes:

February 10, 2026: Winter Light presented by Linda Stager. Critique: Your Favorite Image and Why

March 10, 2026: Editing Panel-What You Use & Favorite Feature. Critique: Winter Light

April 14, 2026: Family Groupings for Portraits presented by Karen Mitcheltree. Critique: Before & After Edited Images

May 12, 2026:Social Media & Photography presented by Linda Stager. Critique: Family Portraits

June 9, 2026: Nature Photography Agenda presented by Brad Adams. Critique: Social Media Image

July 14, 2026: Macro Photography presented by Missy Volino. Critique: A Planned Photo and the Explanation of the Plan.

February Refreshments:

Snack: Shannon Davis

Beverage: Tana Carpenter

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