



Southeast Queens Camera Club

March 2026 Newsletter

Bringing the Photographic Art to Our Community



From the President: A Season in Motion

There are moments in the life of an organization when everything begins to align—when purpose, people, and passion move forward together with clarity and intention. For the Southeast Queens Camera Club, the opening months of 2026 have been exactly that kind of moment.

What we have experienced is more than a series of meetings or competitions. It has been a transformation—one that can be felt in the energy of our gatherings, heard in the conversations among members, and most importantly, seen in the images being created.

As President, it has been both rewarding and inspiring to witness this growth firsthand. Our members are not only improving their technical skills, but are also developing stronger voices as visual storytellers.

This is more than a camera club. It is a community where growth is encouraged, supported, and clearly visible.



The Divine Nine Project – A Legacy Through Many Lenses

There are projects that showcase skill, and then there are projects that carry meaning. The Divine Nine Project became both.

What began as an idea rooted in cultural appreciation grew into something far more powerful—a collaborative visual narrative shaped not only by experienced photographers, but by the next generation of artists finding their voice behind the lens.

At the heart of the project were the nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations, each with its own identity, history, and legacy:

- **Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**, whose legacy of leadership and scholarship set the tone for generations
- **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.**, representing elegance, service, and a deep-rooted commitment to community
- **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.**, defined by achievement and the enduring bond of brotherhood

- **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**, carrying a rich tradition of perseverance, uplift, and cultural pride
- **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**, embodying strength, advocacy, and social impact
- **Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.**, grounded in brotherhood, scholarship, and service
- **Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.**, reflecting grace, scholarship, and a commitment to conscious action
- **Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.**, representing education, empowerment, and community advancement
- **Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.**, a symbol of resilience, progress, and modern legacy

Each organization brought its own presence into the frame—colors, expressions, posture, and pride. But what made this project truly unique was not just who was being photographed.

It was *who was behind the camera*.

Members of the **Art of Photography Committee's youth program** were given the opportunity to take part in the process—not as observers, but as active contributors. Cameras in hand, they stepped into a space where history and artistry intersected.

Under the guidance of mentors, these young photographers were tasked with capturing the essence of each organization. They learned how to approach a subject with respect, how to compose a meaningful image, and how to recognize the story unfolding in front of them.

There was something powerful in watching a child frame a shot of a lifelong member of one of these organizations—two generations connected through a single moment, preserved in an image.

The results were remarkable.

Not only did the children produce images that reflected growth and creativity, but they also gained something far more valuable: confidence. They were no longer just learning photography—they were practicing it with purpose.

This level of engagement would not have been possible without the dedication of those who made it all happen.

A special acknowledgment must be given to the staff of **SQPA**, whose support, coordination, and commitment created the foundation for this project to succeed. Their willingness to open doors and create opportunities for collaboration played a critical role in bringing this vision to life.

Equally important are the members of SEQCC who serve on the **Art of Photography Committee**, mentoring and guiding the next generation. Their patience, knowledge, and encouragement ensured that the experience was not only educational, but meaningful.

They didn't just teach technique—they passed on perspective.

The Divine Nine Project ultimately became more than a collection of photographs. It became a bridge—between past and present, between experience and learning, between legacy and future.

And in every image captured, there is something deeper than composition or lighting.

There is connection.

Competition Night – Where Growth Reveals Itself

Competition nights at SEQCC have evolved into a true measure of growth, consistency, and artistic development. The March 2026 competition alone featured approximately 75 submitted images across multiple categories, reflecting strong participation from the membership.

A deeper look into the data reveals meaningful trends. Digital categories accounted for the majority of submissions, with a steady increase in participation from newer members. Print categories, while smaller in volume, showed strong technical execution and presentation quality.

Scoring trends indicate a noticeable upward shift. A higher percentage of images fell into upper scoring brackets compared to earlier in the season, suggesting that members are applying lessons learned through workshops and critiques. Judges frequently commented on improved storytelling, stronger compositions, and more intentional use of light.

In terms of distribution, scores clustered more tightly in the higher ranges, indicating not only improvement but consistency across participants. This is a key indicator of a maturing competition program.

Several images were selected for PFLI submission, reinforcing SEQCC's continued presence at the inter-club level. These selections represent a cross-section of the club's talent, including both experienced competitors and emerging photographers.

Another important observation is the reduction in technical errors. Issues such as improper exposure, weak composition, or lack of subject clarity were less frequent, showing that members are developing stronger technical foundations.

Participation trends also remain steady, with repeat competitors forming the core of submissions while new members continue to enter the program. This balance is essential for long-term sustainability and growth.

Overall, the competition program is trending in a positive direction—stronger images, more confident photographers, and a higher level of consistency across the board.

Competition Statistics – Season Overview

Looking beyond a single competition, the broader season data provides even greater insight into the trajectory of SEQCC:

- Average Monthly Submissions: 70–80 images
- Digital Category Participation: Approximately 65–75% of total entries
- Print Category Participation: Approximately 25–35% of total entries
- High Score Frequency: Increased by an estimated 15–20% compared to early season competitions
- PFLI Selection Rate: Multiple selections per competition, with representation across categories

Additional trends include:

- Improved First-Time Competitor Performance – New members are entering competitions with stronger initial submissions, indicating effective onboarding and education
- Consistency Among Core Members – Regular competitors are maintaining or improving their scoring ranges
- Growth in Creative Risk-Taking – More members are experimenting with composition, lighting styles, and subject matter

These statistics point to a healthy and evolving competition environment. The combination of strong participation, improved scoring, and increasing creative exploration suggests that SEQCC is not only maintaining its standards—but raising them.

Why the Numbers Matter

While numbers alone do not define creativity, they provide valuable insight into progress. The upward trends in scoring, participation, and technical execution reflect a club that is actively learning and improving.

More importantly, these statistics tell a deeper story—one of commitment, effort, and shared growth. Each number represents a member who showed up, submitted their work, and contributed to the collective development of SEQCC.

Programs & Education – Learning in Real Time

This season, the Programs & Education Committee has created a learning environment that moves beyond instruction and into experience—where inspiration, knowledge, and application all come together.

In celebration of **Women’s History Month**, the club began with a thoughtfully curated program highlighting pioneering women whose vision and determination helped shape the history of photography. This was not simply a presentation—it was a moment of reflection, recognition, and inspiration.

Members were introduced to the work and legacy of several trailblazing photographers:

- **Carrie Mae Weems** – A highly influential contemporary photographer whose work explores identity, race, culture, and social justice. Her renowned *Kitchen Table Series* offers a deeply personal and powerful look into family dynamics and the role of women in society.
- **Ming Smith** – A groundbreaking photographer and the first African American woman whose work was acquired by the Museum of Modern Art. Her images are known for their expressive, almost dreamlike quality, capturing the rhythm and spirit of Black life, particularly within jazz and urban culture.

- **Florestine Perrault Collins** – One of the earliest known African American female photographers in New Orleans. In the early 1900s, she successfully operated a portrait studio while also managing a thriving beauty business, producing elegant and dignified images for her community.
- **Vera Jackson** – A pioneering photojournalist whose work documented the everyday lives, achievements, and social events of the African American community in Los Angeles during the 1930s and 1940s. Her images, many of which appeared in the *California Eagle*, serve as an important historical record.

What made the evening especially meaningful was the involvement of our own members, who stepped forward to present and share these stories. Their contributions transformed the program from a lecture into a shared experience—one rooted in appreciation, education, and community.

“The Women of SEQCC”



That inspiration carried directly into the hands-on session that followed—“*The Women of SEQCC*” model shoot.

In this setting, ideas became action.

Lighting setups were constructed in real time. Members worked through posing, composition, and camera settings while actively shooting. There was no separation between learning and doing—each adjustment made behind the camera produced immediate feedback, allowing members to refine their approach on the spot.

What made this experience particularly powerful was the leadership and collaboration within the room.

Nyree Cyrus-Williams guided the session with both clarity and creativity, demonstrating how to engage with a subject while maintaining control of the technical elements. Her direction helped members understand not just how to take a portrait, but how to *create one with intention*.

At the same time, photographers such as **Jean-Marie Bain**, **James Fonville**, and **Carlton Johnson** contributed to the learning environment through their presence and participation. Whether sharing insights, offering feedback, or simply engaging in the process, they helped reinforce the collaborative spirit that defines SEQCC.

The result was an experience where growth was visible in real time.

Members did not leave with just a collection of images—they left with confidence. A better understanding of light. A stronger sense of composition. And a clearer vision of what they are capable of creating.

These programs continue to demonstrate that at SEQCC, education is not passive.

It is active, shared, and constantly evolving.



Field Trip Feature – Hick’s Nursery

One of the most rewarding experiences this season was the club’s field trip to Hick’s Nursery. What may have seemed like a simple outing quickly became something much more meaningful.

Members moved through vibrant displays of flowers, textures, and seasonal arrangements, cameras in hand and creativity fully engaged. The setting provided endless opportunities for composition—from close-up macro work to wide environmental shots rich with color and detail.

But beyond the photography, what stood out most was the sense of togetherness. Conversations flowed easily as members shared ideas, compared shots, and offered guidance. Newer members found support, while more experienced photographers shared insights in a natural, unstructured way.

It was a reminder that some of the most powerful learning happens outside of formal settings.

The images captured that day will undoubtedly appear in future competitions, portfolios, and projects. But just as important are the connections that were strengthened during the experience.

The Hick's Nursery trip was not just about taking photographs—it was about building community while doing what we love.

People Behind the Progress

Every organization is shaped by its people, and SEQCC is no different. This season, several individuals have helped define what progress looks like.

Brian Augustine has brought a steady, guiding presence—balancing leadership with a clear creative voice behind the lens. His work reflects intention, but just as importantly, his influence can be seen in the direction of the club itself.

Jean-Marie Bain has shown what it means to support a community. Whether behind the scenes ensuring things run smoothly or behind the camera capturing thoughtful, emotionally grounded images, her impact is both seen and felt.

James Fonville has emerged as a photographer to watch—his timing sharper, his compositions more deliberate, his confidence growing with each submission.

Carlton Johnson continues to evolve, experimenting, refining, and pushing his work forward. There is a quiet determination in his progression—one that suggests even more is yet to come.

Nyree Cyrus-Williams stands at a unique intersection—educator and artist. Through her guidance, others grow. Through her work, she continues to set a standard in portraiture that is both confident and compelling.

Together, they represent what makes this club special: not just talent, but commitment.

**SOUTHEAST QUEENS
CAMERA CLUB**

Bringing the Photographic Art to Our Community

Invites you to their

**21st Anniversary
Celebration Dinner**

TUESDAY JUNE 23RD 2026

From 6:00pm to 10:00pm
at
MARBELLA RESTAURANT
220-23 Northern Blvd, Bayside, NY 11361

Price \$65.00

Celebrating 21 Years!

- Our Members • Our Images
- Our Community

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Nantasha Williams,
Deputy Speaker NYC Council
Jermaine Smith
Executive Director, Southeast Queens Parks Association (SQPA)
Roy Wilkins Park

To Purchase Tickets Contact:
Israel Singleton 917-922-0981
eyecan231@gmail.com
Charles Davis 917-821-3040
cd5538@aol.com
or any member of SEQCC.org

SEQCC Annual Dinner June 23, 2026

As June approaches, anticipation builds for the Annual Dinner. This event represents more than a gathering—it is a celebration of the club’s journey.

Plans are underway, details are being refined, and the community is preparing to come together in a meaningful way. It is a moment to reflect, celebrate, and look ahead.

Why This Matters

The Southeast Queens Camera Club is more than a place to take pictures. It is a place to grow, connect, and belong.

For those who step into this space, it becomes clear—this is a community in motion. And it is one worth being part of.

PFLI February 28, 2026 Competition

The results of the PFLI February 28, 2026 Competition have been released. Below you will find the names of **Southeast Queens Camera Club members only**, separated and organized by category.

We are proud of the strong representation from SEQCC across multiple divisions.

COLOR PRINTS ‘A’

No SEQCC members placed in this category.

COLOR PRINTS ‘B’

No SEQCC members placed in this category.

BLACK & WHITE PRINT 'A'

No SEQCC members placed in this category.

BLACK & WHITE PRINT 'B'

No SEQCC members placed in this category.

DIGITAL 'A'**26 Points**

- Brian Augustine – *The Distinguished Gentleman*
- Nyree Cyrus-Williams – *Green with Envy*

24 Points

- Leonard Nangle – *Gulf Fritillary 6379*

23 Points

- Doris King – *Pensive*
- Lawrence Gallmon – *Look Here & Smile*
- James Fonsville – *I Have A Date*
- Ralph Simmons – *Red Rose*

21 Points

- Jean Bain – *New York Harbor*
- Dianne Heggie – *Balancing Act*

20 Points

- John Mayes – *Girlfriend*
-

DIGITAL 'B'**26 Points**

- Geoffrey Forde – *Togetherness*

24 Points

- Byron Henry Jr. – *Pond*

23 Points

- Daniel Leake – *1763*
- Reneeh Harper – *Edge of Water*
- Crystal Parker – *Handsome Marabou Stork*

21 Points

- David Douglas – *HOW DEE!*
- Jacqueline Poluito – *Merging of the Rivers*
- Dotti-Anita Taylor – *Music in the Garden*

20 Points

- Charles Davis – *Having A Grape*
-

CREATIVE**24 Points**

- Daniel Leake – *6110*
-

DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE**26 Points**

- Brian Augustine – *The Distinguished Gentleman* (Digital A category earlier – note: Digital BW entry scored separately if applicable)

24 Points

- Lawrence Gallmon – *E J*
- Nyree Cyrus-Williams – *Strike a Pose*
- Ralph Simmons – *The Truth*

23 Points

- Geoffrey Forde – *Lady with Hajib*
- Leonard Nangle – *Tiger Swallowtail*

21 Points

- Byron Henry Jr. – *Heron*
- John Mayes – *Brotha*
- Crystal Parker – *On The Pond*
- James Fonsville – *Ms Mary*

20 Points

- Charles Davis – *Who You Looking At*
 - Jean Bain – *Jet Ski*
 - Reneeh Harper – *Tribal Women*
 - David Douglas – *USA Queen*
 - Daniel Leake – *2558B*
-

CLOSEUP**23 Points**

- Charles Davis – *The Bud*

21 Points

- Geoffrey Forde – *The Flame*
- James Fonsville – *Henry*
- Jean Bain – *A Special Ring*
- David Douglas – *Purple Lily*
- Dotti-Anita Taylor – *Did You Say Pink*
- I. Singleton – *Cucumber*
- John Mayes – *Free Form Lock*

20 Points

- Leonard Nangle – *Dahlia 3455*
-

We again had a strong showing across multiple categories. Congratulations to all participating members for representing SEQCC with excellence.

Competition Disclaimer:

All PFLI competition results are the opinions of the assigned judges on the evening of competition. Scores reflect subjective evaluation based on the criteria established by PFLI. Members are encouraged to continue refining their craft, participating consistently, and viewing competition as an educational opportunity for growth and development.

Understanding Advancement in SEQCC Competitions

As members participate in competitions throughout the season, one of the key goals is advancement through the competition levels. The Southeast Queens Camera Club uses a structured, point-based system to determine when a photographer moves from **Class B to Class A**, and from **Class A to Salon**.

◆ Moving from Class B to Class A

To advance from the beginner level (Class B) to the advanced level (Class A), members must accumulate:

A minimum of 27 points during a single competition season

Points are earned based on competition scores:

- Score of **9 = 3 points**
- Score of **8 = 2 points**
- Score of **7 = 1 point**
- Score of **6 = 0 points**
- **Image of the Month** earns an additional **+1 bonus point**

Key considerations:

- Points are tracked **separately for each category**, but advancement applies **across all categories**
 - Promotion is evaluated **at the end of the season**, not during it
 - Once promoted, members **cannot return to Class B**
-

Moving from Class A to Salon

Salon represents the highest level of competition within SEQCC.

To advance from Class A to Salon:

You must accumulate **at least 38 points during the season**

This follows the same scoring structure:

- Consistent high scores (8s and 9s) are essential
- Bonus points from **Image of the Month** can play a key role

Important notes:

- Salon is reserved for members demonstrating **sustained excellence across the season**
 - Advancement is again determined **at the end of the season**
 - Once you reach Salon, you **remain at that level**
-

Fast-Track Opportunity (For New Members)

SEQCC also offers a **Fast-Track Promotion** option:

- After **two competitions**, a new member may move from B to A if they earn:
 - **32 points across two categories**
 - This pathway is designed for experienced photographers entering the club
-

Key Takeaways

- **B → A:** 27 points in a season
 - **A → Salon:** 38 points in a season
 - Promotions are:
 - Based on **total accumulated points**
 - Determined **at season's end**
 - Applied **across all categories**
-

Final Thought

Advancement in SEQCC is designed to reward both **consistency and excellence**. Whether you're building momentum in Class B or pushing toward Salon, every competition—and every point—counts toward your growth as a photographer.

SEQCC Competition Totals by Category

Category	First Name	Last Name	Total Score
B&W Digital – A	Byron	Henry, Jr.	6
B&W Digital – A	Charles	Davis	17
B&W Digital – A	Dotti	Anita Taylor	2
B&W Digital – A	Renee	Harper	9
B&W Digital – B	Crystal	Parker	12
B&W Digital – B	Daniel	Leake	33
B&W Digital – B	David	Douglas	10
B&W Digital – B	Geoffrey	Forde	7
B&W Digital – B	Helen	Dobbins-Bryan	1
B&W Digital – Salon	Carlton	Johnson	10
B&W Digital – Salon	Corona	Johnson	15
B&W Digital – Salon	Dianne	Heggie	20
B&W Digital – Salon	Israel	Singleton	1
B&W Digital – Salon	James	Fonsville	20
B&W Digital – Salon	Jean-Marie	Bain	2
B&W Digital – Salon	John	Mayes	29
B&W Digital – Salon	Lawrence	Gallmon	8
B&W Digital – Salon	Leonard	Nangle	12
B&W Digital – Salon	Nyree	Cyrus-Williams	11
B&W Digital – Salon	Ralph	Simmons	11
B&W Prints – A	Byron	Henry, Jr.	19
B&W Prints – A	Israel	Singleton	21
B&W Prints – B	David	Douglas	9
B&W Prints – Salon	Carlton	Johnson	2
B&W Prints – Salon	John	Mayes	31
Color Digital – A	Byron	Henry, Jr.	12
Color Digital – A	Charles	Davis	23
Color Digital – A	Dotti	Anita Taylor	22
Color Digital – A	Jacqueline	Polite	6
Color Digital – A	Renee	Harper	15
Color Digital – B	Crystal	Parker	26
Color Digital – B	Daniel	Leake	31
Color Digital – B	David	Douglas	26
Color Digital – B	Geoffrey	Forde	5
Color Digital – B	Helen	Dobbins-Bryan	17
Color Digital – B	Tyrone	Johnson	4

Color Digital – Salon	Brian	Augustine	6
Color Digital – Salon	Carlton	Johnson	4
Color Digital – Salon	Corona	Johnson	14
Color Digital – Salon	Dianne	Heggie	30
Color Digital – Salon	Doris	King	31
Color Digital – Salon	James	Fonsville	17
Color Digital – Salon	Jean-Marie	Bain	17
Color Digital – Salon	John	Mayes	35
Color Digital – Salon	Lawrence	Gallmon	12
Color Digital – Salon	Leonard	Nangle	17
Color Digital – Salon	Nyree	Cyrus-Williams	26
Color Digital – Salon	Ralph	Simmons	19
Color Digital – Salon	SaintClair	Reide	5
Color Prints – A	Byron	Henry, Jr.	25
Color Prints – A	Dotti	Anita Taylor	4
Color Prints – A	Israel	Singleton	24
Color Prints – A	Renee	Harper	7
Color Prints – B	David	Douglas	16
Color Prints – Salon	Jean-Marie	Bain	12
Color Prints – Salon	John	Mayes	33
Color Prints – Salon	Lawrence	Gallmon	6
Macro Close Up – A	Charles	Davis	16
Macro Close Up – A	Dotti	Anita Taylor	17
Macro Close Up – A	Israel	Singleton	20
Macro Close Up – A	Jacqueline	Polite	4
Macro Close Up – B	Daniel	Leake	17
Macro Close Up – B	David	Douglas	22
Macro Close Up – B	Geoffrey	Forde	4
Macro Close Salon	Carlton	Johnson	9
Macro Close Salon	Corona	Johnson	1
Macro Close Salon	Dianne	Heggie	4
Macro Close Salon	James	Fonsville	11
Macro Close Salon	Jean-Marie	Bain	2
Macro Close Salon	John	Mayes	11
Macro Close Salon	Lawrence	Gallmon	6
Macro Close Salon	Leonard	Nangle	12

SEQCC Founders

Dorothy Gist	Hughe Williams
Ron Cardwell	Jim Grant

SEQCC Executive Officers

President	Brian Augustine
Vice President	Dianne Heggie
Treasurer	Charles Davis
Secretary	Jackie Polite

Committee Chairs

Programs and Education	Jackie Polite
Competition	Brian Augustine
Hospitality	Jean-Marie Bain
Field Trips	Daniel Leake
External Venue	Doris King
Historical Folders	Brian Augustine
Web Tech	Byron Henry
Grants	Renee Harper
Art of Photography	Charles Davis
Annual Dinner	Dorothy Gist
Newsletter	Brian Augustine

Southeast Queens Camera Club

Website: www.seqcc.org

SEQCC Historical Folders: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1khG-M0IguHWayCP2isOtCv7eNsz8_NUN?usp=drive_link