

SVNP NEWSLETTER, MAY, 2022

INCLUDING MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, MEETING

The group wish to institute a hybrid process that would allow in-person as well as electronic attendance was once again fulfilled this meeting. The in-person attendance was low but it is hoped that this will change. However, it is expected that the next two meetings will be limited to the Zoom platform, not for any prescient knowledge of coming Covid spikes, but for the technical difficulties we still experience in integrating the room and virtual populations. The contribution of any experience gained in a successful engagement in such a practice elsewhere would be very welcome.

The exhibit at Anne Umphrey's church, Trinity Church in Concord, is up and running. You may recall that the group's anticipated 2020 exhibit in this spectacular space was thwarted by the arrival of the plague. The church has given us to believe that the show may be able to stay up through August. We have also been encouraged to have a reception in the exhibit space. The last weekend in June is under consideration. Stay tuned for developments.

There are currently opportunities to give presentations starting as soon as July, 2022. As usual, any suggestions you may have for programs - especially of a how-to nature - would be appreciated. Please email (wah@waynehallphotography.com) or call (978-443-9226) Wayne if you are willing to give a presentation yourself or if you know someone to recommend.

May Presentation

Terri Ackerman gave a very complete presentation on her 2021 trip to Uzbekistan. Traveling through the country, which stands at the crossroads of the many "silk roads," she was much taken with the admirable state of preservation of many gorgeous and important antiquities, especially the architecture. Her travel included visits to Tashkent, Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand. Much of the region can be described as arid and it is that general dryness of the region that is credited with a large part of the preservation. One site, Khiva, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is contained within a walled fortress of mud brick and has been there for over one thousand years. While

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

the fortress is a no-nonsense structure, whose walls have been repaired many times in its life, the interior city is a gem. In a similar vein, the other three locations feature grand architecture largely commissioned by prominent political actors. They are all decorated with an emphasis on Islamic-appropriate decorations in mosaic and painted tiles as well as what appeared to be gilded bas relief.



Dome in Bukhara, glazed brick; photo, Terri Ackerman

Terri showed some slice-of-life images. One interesting detail was the absence of burqa or other efforts to hide women from the public gaze. It's intriguing to speculate whether this is a legacy of the time spent as part of the Soviet Union and an associated "westernization" or simply a regional, more utilitarian strain of Islam.



Tiger-Lion, Registan Square, Samarkand; photo, Terri Ackerman

Terri included photos taken at various museums and tourist displays throughout the region. It was interesting to see subtle variations in style between the various cities. For instance, art seen in Samarkand, of the four locations the most directly connected to the Indian subcontinent, displayed a more

marked Indian influence than was evident in Bukhara and Tashkent.

The liveliness and intricacies of the designs Terri observed and found so captivating *are* astounding. They serve as a sovereign reminder that different cultures share a common love for beauty and that a capacity for large-scale projects regardless of time and place.

Member Images



Curtains; photo, Jean Fain

One of **Jean Fain**'s personal projects is to document old, sometimes abandoned places in and around Concord, MA. She displayed several such images, each one different, each one equally lovely. The subject matter allows her at times to display her enthusiasm for the style of Andrew Wyeth (such as in the image, left).

Karin McQuillan showed several photos taken during her recent visit to Carmel, CA. One fetching subject was seal pupping beaches that could be discreetly observed from the cliffs above. The picturesque coastline featured prominently in her offering.



*China Cove, Pt. Lobos, Carmel, CA;
photo, Karin McQuillan*

June Preview

Susanna Kamon writes, "Concord is an amazing place to study wildlife. Our mixed landscape provides ample habitat for most of New England's typical wildlife to thrive. This talk will introduce you to some of the characters in our woods - a pregnant female coyote and her mate, small herds of deer who sleep in areas regularly (until the coyotes discover them), and a host of other animals whose behaviors suggest that animals regularly engage in cross-species communication of varied sorts."

Around the Web

UPCOMING SVNPN PROGRAMS

June 9	Susanna Kamon <i>Critters Cohabiting in Concord</i>
July 14	Semi-annual Member Images Night
August 11	TBA

Please Note - All meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm, either via Zoom or at our location (or both):

Great Room, Newbury Court
100 Newbury Court, Concord, MA

The decision to hold in-person meetings will be made on a month-to-month basis and communicated approximately a week before the meeting.

Updated directions to the Great Room and instructions for underground parking (to be available starting at 6:10pm on meeting evenings) may be found at the link immediately below.

http://svnp.homestead.com/files/Directions_to_Newbury_Court_Great_Room.pdf

<http://svnp.homestead.com>

SVNP EXHIBIT CALENDAR

Group Exhibits

Ongoing/ On Hiatus	Newbury Court - Community Room, 80 Deaconess Road, Concord, MA rotating exhibit
May-August(?), 2022	Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm St, Concord, MA; <i>25th Anniversary Exhibition (Belated)</i>
December, 2022	Wayland Public Library - Raytheon Room, 5 Concord Road, Wayland, MA

Individual Member Exhibits

SVNP members - please notify Wayne Hall (wah@waynehallphotography.com) of your upcoming individual exhibits for posting on the SVNP website.

Date	Member	Exhibit Location
Ongoing	Marijke Holtrop	Online Exhibit on the website of the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (http://farnwr.org/gallery.html)
Ongoing	Betsy Moyer	Newbury Court Senior Living, Concord MA <i>Neighborhood Flowers</i> , 5th floor, south bldg
Ongoing	Bob Cooke	Maynard Public Library, 77 Nason Street, Maynard, MA

An Invitation from your Editor

If having a meatier monthly read is of interest to you then, please, I invite you to send anything you may wish to contribute to future newsletters (a précis of an upcoming presentation, photos, personal news, reviews, neat tricks you find worth sharing, etc.) to me at henkbroekman@gmail.com. Please include SVNPNP in the subject line.

I especially invite presenters and members sharing images to select and submit files for illustrative purposes. I expect it would be possible to accommodate two images or so for main presenters and one each for after-presentation sharing. Generally, expect to see half-column layout along the lines of this example. If you have photos you may wish to share, please submit jpg files sized no smaller than 1200 px on the long side. Submission deadline will be 11:59 pm on the Monday following the meeting. Inclusion in any particular newsletter will be at my discretion based on newsletter length, distribution file weight, current workload, etc.

Hendrik Broekman



*Kestrel;
photo, Hendrik Broekman*