

snap shots

Volume 19 Number 5

January 2014

Ruth Thomasian Presents *Historical Memory Through Photographs: Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives*, January 5, 2014, 1:30 P.M. The Woman's Club Workshop, 72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA



Albert's Photo Studio, Waltham MA

Thirty-eight years ago, in quest of her ethnic identity, long-time PHSNE member and past president Ruth Thomasian discovered a way to reclaim the lost memory of her Armenian ancestry. At the January meeting, Ruth will share images from the collections of Project SAVE Armenian

Photograph Archives, the nonprofit, tax-exempt organization she founded and for which she serves as Executive Director.

Ruth will tell a bit of her own story about how she started Project SAVE Archives in 1975 in New York City with one photograph. She will explain how, with persistence and passion, she was able to turn her idea into a well-established and respected organization that serves the public in numerous ways.

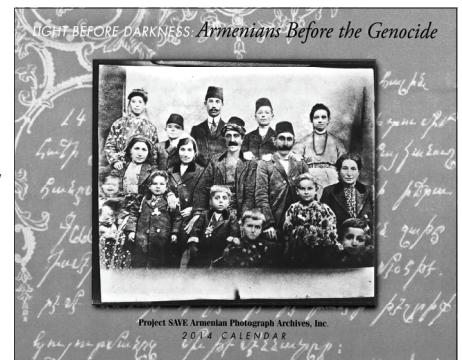
She will describe the archival methods she and her staff use to preserve Project SAVE's 40,000+ images and their documentation and make them accessible for public use. Her PowerPoint presentation will feature a variety of historical formats including salt prints, cartes de visite, stereo cards, panoramas, press photos, cabinet cards, boudoir prints, and even a one-hour color-photo contact sheet. Members are invited to bring their own examples for show and tell.

Ruth will show images about a variety of subjects to illustrate the wide range of social historical memory that is Project SAVE's focus. Images showing families, religion, weddings, and businesses will provide a look at Armenian ethnic community life worldwide—not only in American communities such as Watertown and Worcester, Massachusetts; Philadelphia, and California, but also Paris, Yerevan, the capital of today's Republic of Armenia, and even China and Japan.

Armenian photographers, who, since the beginnings of photography in the Middle East, have been the pre-

dominate native-born photographers, comprise another subject area. Project SAVE attempts to identify the photographer of each image to give proper credit. Since Project SAVE's collections policy includes all photographs taken by Armenian photographers, this includes non-Armenian-related subjects and thus extends the reach of the archives beyond Armenian identity. Of special interest to PHSNE members will be images that document the work of photographers or that include a camera or a photograph.

Every year, Project SAVE Archives publishes a calendar featuring images and their stories. Over the past 27 years, Project SAVE calendars have reflected changes in technology. The 2014 calendar *LIGHT BEFORE DARKNESS: Armenians Before the Genocide*, is beautifully designed and printed digitally in color. The calendar will be available on January 5th, at a special price for attendees. You will want to read it like a book before hanging it on your wall. Visit projectsave.org for more information.



Ruth is dedicating her program to the PHSNE members who have supported Project SAVE Archives through the years in many ways, everything from providing archival services, photographs, exhibit and archival materials, graphic design, and news clips, to being archives advisors and assistants, computer specialists, editors, and a host for Project SAVE's 20th anniversary event. This is a great illustration of PHSNE's most important resource, our members.

Please join us for this fascinating look at one of our member's endeavors to preserve history through the photograph.

Board Members and Officers Elected

Board members and officers were elected at the December meeting. The members of the Board, as of January 1, 2014, are as follows:

Officers:

- President—Richard (Whitey) Morange
- Vice-President—John Wojtowicz
- Secretary—Allan Goodrich
- Treasurer—position not filled
- Immediate past president—John Dockery

Members at large:

- Jay Goldman
- Lewis Regelman
- Ruth Thomasian
- Henry Weisenburger
- Lawrence Woods

We are in the process of hiring a bookkeeper to maintain all accounts, and the investment broker who has monitored our investments for many years will continue to do so. Our books are reviewed annually by auditors who file all necessary paperwork with the state and federal governments to maintain our 501c3 status.

As Membership Chair, Joe Walters will become an ex-officio member of the Board.

All mail-in ballots were counted. Attendees who had not previously voted did so by a show of hands.

PHSNE Membership

New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals and institutions, \$40 for a family, and \$45 for foreign membership. Join or renew online at phsne.org/join or phsne.org/renew, or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: membership@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

snap shots, edited by Beverly Regelman, is published monthly, September through June, by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. Articles and exhibition/book reviews are always welcome. Send to snapshots@phsne.org. Authors retain copyright to their original articles; however upon written application to the *snap shots* editor, PHSNE may grant non-profit societies with similar aims and interests a one-time right to reproduce a *snap shots* article as long as the author and source are credited and a complimentary copy of the publication is sent to the PHSNE mailbox.

High End Flea Markets

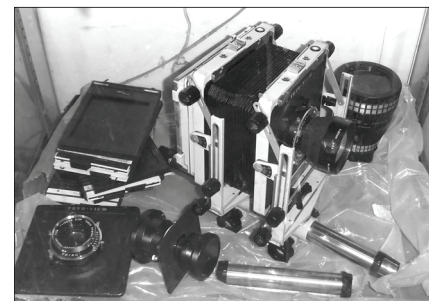


You can find exquisite antique cameras and photographica at Paris flea markets—at “exquisite” prices! Wandering through Les Puces de Saint-Ouen at Porte de

Clignancourt, one of the largest of many Parisian flea markets, I came across a stall specializing in collectible photographica.

Wooden cameras in pristine condition, century-old rotary stereo viewers, studio cameras, and an assortment of other format cameras beckoned to me, but the price tags kept them on the shelf. There were so many to choose from, but each at

McKeown book prices. After adding the cost of shipping back to the U.S., the price was truly prohibitive. It was disappointing to walk



away empty-handed. I appreciate the bargains at PHSNE auctions and *Photographica* shows more than ever.

~Lew Regelman; photos taken at Saint-Ouen

Recent Donations Help PHSNE Build Archive of Publications

Occasionally PHSNE receives requests for particular articles or issues of old *Journals* or *snap shots*. We have many in storage, but not all. Recent donations from PHSNE members may help fill those gaps.

Ralph Johnston donated his collection of *Journals*, gathered over many years, to the Society. This will be a valuable addition to the PHSNE archives. Likewise, the early issues of *snap shots* donated by Henry Weisenburger will bring that collection nearer to completion.

Thanks to both for saving these publications through the years and helping us build the PHSNE archives. If other readers have vintage PHSNE publications that they no longer want to store, we would welcome the opportunity to add them to the files.

Native American Tribes Documented By Modern Day Curtis

Photographer Matika Wilbur writes, “Matika means ‘The Messenger’ in our language. While holding true to my Coast Salish heritage and tradition, I give rise to contemporary black and white photographic visions. I believe that my work is the answered prayers of my ancestors, as I walk the path they fought to pave.



Mary Evelyn Pueblo of Isleta

Last year, I sold everything in my Seattle apartment, packed a few essentials into my car and hit the road. Since then, I’ve been embarking on my most recent effort, Project 562. The plan is to photograph citizens of each federally recognized tribe. Sometimes I’ll journey to an isolated reservation, other times I’ll meet some of the 70 percent of Native Americans living in urban settings.

Project 562 is the solution to historical inaccuracies, stereotypical representations and silenced Native American voices in massive-media. Several people have attempted this feat, none have succeeded; to date, I have photographed 161 nations, which is double the number of Tribes that Edward S. Curtis photographed. However, that is not what makes this project ‘exceptionally original’. There is an open space that is yet to be filled - that space is authentic images and stories from within Native America. My work aims to humanize, the otherwise ‘vanishing race’, and share the stories that Native Americans would like told about themselves.



Sage Romero, Big Pine Paiute

Project 562 evokes conversations about tribal sovereignty, self-determination, recovery from historical trauma, decolonization of the mind, revitalization of culture and elevating our current social status. Each of these conversations are recorded with professional sound equipment, and excerpts from each participant will accompany the photos in audio recordings at the exhibits. Fifty of these silver gelatin hand colored black and white prints from Project 562 were shown at the Tacoma Art Museum in 2012.”

~Matika Wilbur; matikawilbur.com: photos from Project 562

Great Gift Idea for Camera Collectors And Their Families

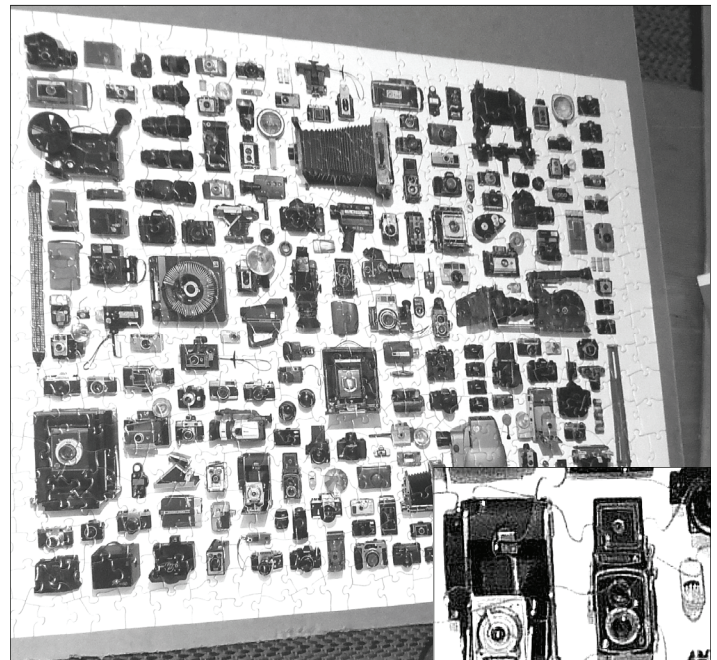
When the January *snap shots* arrives in mid-December, there’s still time to get a last-minute holiday gift that’s sure to be a hit for any puzzle-loving PHSNE member.



Three generations tackle a puzzle
Photo by Victoria Wank

Assembling a 500 piece puzzle titled *Camera*

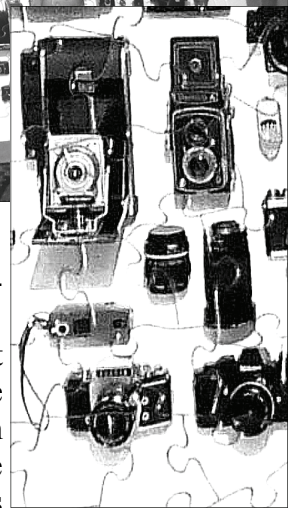
Collection was the high point of our family Thanksgiving dinner. Three generations pooled their talents to create the 18” x 24” montage picturing hundreds



Completed puzzle; photo by David Wank

of cameras, projectors and photographic accessories.

According to my Internet search, the only source of the puzzle, photographed by Jim Golden and produced by the New York Puzzle Company, is



Uncommon Goods (uncommongoods.com/product/camera-puzzle). When you complete the puzzle, you can take it apart to redo later—or frame it using puzzle sprays and glues that are on the market.

~BJDR

Photography Collection Donated To Portland Museum of Art



Portland Museum of Art
wikipedia.org

Sixty-nine photographs by well-known 20th century artists, many with ties to Maine, were donated by Maine philanthropists Owen and Anna Wells to the Portland Museum of Art. Forty-five of the photographs will be displayed in the exhibition *American Vision: Photographs from the Collection of Owen and Anna Wells* which opens December 21, 2013 and runs through February 23, 2014.

The collection includes images by Ansel Adams, Margaret Bourke-White, Paul Strand, Eliot Porter and William Wegman. The press release notes that “In addition to showcasing the remarkable diversity of photographic techniques, *American Vision* will also explore many facets of 20th century American life. Iconic images in black and white such as Margaret Bourke-White’s *Sierra Madre* (1935) and meticulously printed color works by Paul Caponigro, among other featured photographs, reveal the camera’s capacity for broad visual expression. Through the lenses of great photographers such as Berenice Abbott and Robert Mapplethorpe, the exhibition will take the visitor from rural scenes of small-town New England to the gritty streets of New York City to the magnificent expanses of American wilderness.”

Museum information is available at portlandmuseum.org.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

February 2— Margaret Bourke-White (aka Sally Matson)

March 2—antique brass lenses, Dan Colucci

Driving directions to Woman’s Club Workshop:

From I-95/Rt-128 exit 20 take Rt-9 East toward Brookline/Boston. Turn left at Woodward St then right onto Lincoln St. Turn left onto Columbus St. WCW will be to your right. The WCW is about 1.4 miles inside 128.

Coming west on Rt-9 from Boston, turn right on Walnut St then left on to Lincoln St, then right onto Columbus St. The WCW will be to your right.

Limited time parking rules do not apply on Sundays. Park on Columbus or Lincoln. There is a public parking lot on the other side of Lincoln opposite the Church.

Public transportation:

Using the MBTA, get off at Newton Highland Station on the Green Line (Riverside Branch). Exit via the Walnut Street exit. Lincoln St will be directly across Walnut St. Go down Lincoln St and turn right on to Columbus St. The Woman's Club Workshop will be to your right just after the building on the corner.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE’s Web site is online at phsne.org. Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion moderated by Joe Walters; sign up and log in at phsne.org/forum. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and meeting presentations, visit phsne.org/archive. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on phsne.org.

Requested
Address Service
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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, January 5th, Speaker, Ruth Thomasian
The Woman’s Club Workshop, 1:30 P.M.
72 Columbus St., Newton Highlands MA



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