

snap shots

Volume 20 Number 8

April 2015

**Be there: *Photographica 83*, Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, 2015
PHSNE Auction Saturday, 4:30 P.M., After Show Closes
Americal Civic Center, 467 Main St., Wakefield MA**

The next *Photographica* Show takes place Saturday, April 11th, 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M., and Sunday, April 12th, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Tickets are good for both days. There is free parking near the Americal Center.

This show is already 2/3 sold out as of March 1st. If you wish to have a table, please contact me ASAP.

Photographica continues to draw people to photography with friendly and knowledgeable members and dealers, great prices, unusual items, dollar tables, and free food at the auction that follows Saturday's show.

Photographica is a great place to buy photo supplies, used cameras, and collectible images at discount prices. I believe *Photographica* represents something that is getting increasingly rare. Unlike Amazon, we ship nothing



Above: Mandel Post Card Camera
Below: Accessories



to anywhere - customers take the goods with them. They hold the items in their hands. Customers can barter and sell.

Saturday's auction, beginning at 4:30, is well attended by the dealers. My goal is to get more of the public to participate. It is shaping up to attract people looking for "shooters" as well as unusual examples of classic cameras. At the last auction, there were many wood and brass cameras. So far this auction includes four Leicas, a couple of Rolleiflexes, and some Bronica systems. One item of special interest is a post card camera from Bud Midgley's collection, with



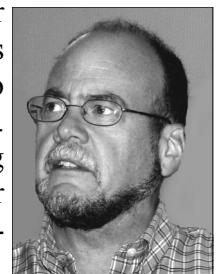
PHSNE postcard

a tripod made by Bud himself. The complete auction list will be on the website a week prior to the show. See page 2 for additional photos of auction items.

We are always looking for more volunteers. If you plan to attend the show, please consider donating an hour or two of your time. Contact me at photographica@phsne.org for information about *Photographica* or to volunteer; for the auction, please contact Lew Regelman at 781-642-7867 or auction@phsne.org. Help is also needed in the days and hours before and after the event for preparation and cleanup.

Finally, I ask all of you to come and visit with us. PHSNE members, current students with ID, and active duty military with ID get in for free; admission for seniors is \$4.00. Please mention the show to anyone interested in photography. We are amazed to find so many young people seeking classic gear and/or information on alternative photographic processes.

~John Dockery, Photographica Show Manager



Score: Snow 2, PHSNE 0

Karin Rosenthal Program Rescheduled

Weather cancellations have affected PHSNE meetings in the past, but for the first time ever, a meeting was postponed—*twice*. The mega-snowstorms that hit New England in February initially moved the February 8th meeting to February 15th, but when the second storm hit, the meeting had to be rescheduled yet again.

Please set aside MARCH 29th to see Karin Rosenthal's presentation, *Unearthed Treasures: The Street Photography of Vivian Maier*. Details about the program are on the cover page of the February issue and are also available at phsne.org.

Boston Hosts Flash Forward Festival

A little-known annual photographic event will take place in Boston, from April 24 to May 3, 2015. *Flash Forward Boston* is a FREE 10 day festival in the Boston area featuring work by international and New England artists.

The festival features works by members of the professional photographic community and teachers of photography at schools in New England. In addition, winners of a student competition will have their works exhibited at a special reception on April 24th and throughout the festival. Many images will be displayed on a special wall at the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

The featured speaker is the well-known Boston photojournalist Bill Brett who has worked at the *Boston Globe* for over 50 years. He has a weekly column in

the newspaper, *Party Lines*, and an online column, *The Seen*.

Visit flashforward-festival.com for a schedule of events and speakers and a list of venues in and around Boston.



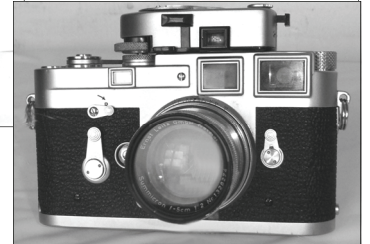
Fence at the Rose Kennedy Greenway

PHSNE Membership

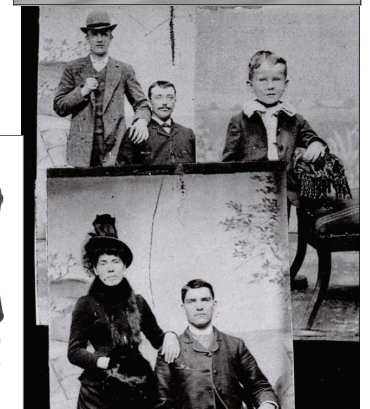
New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year. Regular PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals and institutions, \$40 for a family, and \$45 for foreign membership. Join or renew online at phsne.org/join or phsne.org/renew, or send a check in U.S. dollars, 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).

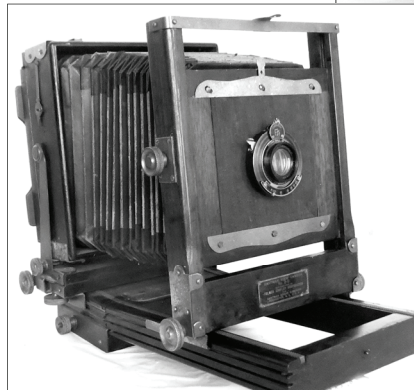
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**Preview:
Just a Few of the
Many Treasures
to be Offered at the
April 11th Auction**



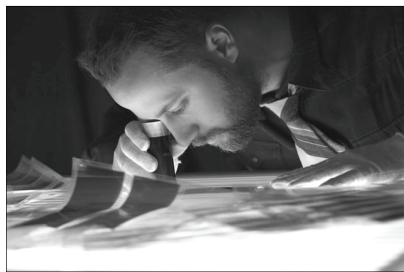
**Coming Soon—
Look for the full
list of auction items
at phsne.org**



Wondering What to Do With Old Unexposed Rolls of Film?

Hobby Becomes a Mission To Recover History

Photographer Levi Bettweiser searches in thrift shops, flea markets, auctions, and just about anywhere he might find an old roll of undeveloped film to process in his bathroom/



Levi Bettweiser inspects negative

kitchen darkroom. His goal in this self-funded endeavor is to uncover a bit of history—and possibly return the film to its owner. As word of his Rescued Film Project spreads, people from all over the world are sending him unexposed rolls of film.



His greatest “haul” was a treasure trove of thirty-one rolls of World War II photographs, all shot by one soldier—bits

of seventy year old history never before revealed. Many of the rolls were identified by location. He makes his best effort to trace the owners, helped by identification of photos he posts on social media. Bettweiser’s Rescued Film Project is well documented in a ten minute video that can be viewed, along with many of the WW II photographs, at petapixel.com/2015/01/16/31-rolls-undeveloped-film-soldier-wwii-discovered-processed/#more-156072.

The same film can be seen at the project’s website, rescuedfilm.com, which also has information about donating film. Processing is free to you; just print the form and mail with the film to the address shown. “Once processed, The Rescued Film Project will email you a digital copy of all discernible images for your personal use. Accreditation will be included when the images are posted in the archive.” Since Bettweiser covers the expenses personally, he adds that, “You can also help support The Rescued Film Project even if you don’t have film to contribute, with a small donation to help cover chemical and supply expenses.”

~photos courtesy of rescuedfilm.com

Gordon Parks: Back to Fort Scott Now at the MFA in Boston

In his review of Gordon Parks’ show at the Museum of Fine Arts (January 15, 2015), *Boston Globe* reporter Mark Feeney stated that, “Gordon Parks

(1912-2006) wasn’t the most talented photographer of the 20th century. Instead, he may well have been the most talented at the most things. Parks wrote novels, memoirs, poetry, and journalism, and advocated



Husband and Wife, Sunday Morning Detroit, Gordon Parks, 1950

for civil rights. He directed feature films (most notably, the original ‘Shaft’). He was a pianist and composer. His compositions included an opera. He wrote the libretto, too. What couldn’t Gordon Parks do? If all that weren’t enough, he had movie-star looks; even his mustache had personality. A great photograph, once seen, is impossible to forget. Gordon Parks was not unlike a great photograph.”

Parks was the first African-American photographer at *Life Magazine*. He grew up in a segregated Kansas town, having attended a segregated grade school. In 1950, he did a photo essay that addressed school segregation, a controversy later settled by the Supreme Court in *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, 1954.

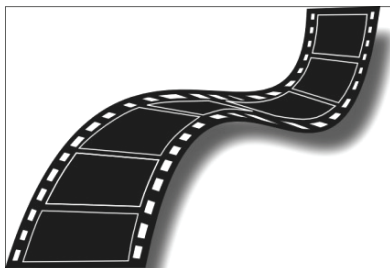
The show was not exhibited at the time. It was tabled when the news became dominated by the outbreak of the Korean War. The project was only resurrected when the MFA published *Common Wealth: Art by African Americans in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston* (January 2015) and organized the current exhibit.

Feeney notes that the 41 photographs are a “portrayal of small-town life at the middle of the last century: railroad station, ball field, movie theater, pool hall, elementary school, the local dairy, the mailman making his rounds. Fort Scott could be on an MGM backlot – except that MGM backlots were only covertly segregated. Here the segregation is undisguised.” Visit mfa.org for further information.

~Photo from mfa.org press release, copyright by Gordon Parks Foundation

Back Up Your Backup!

One of the messages delivered by Gordon Brown in his informative and fascinating PHSNE presentation on March 2nd was to back up digital photos with prints, using archival inks or dye sublimation, or the images will be lost. The imperative to find ways to back up and store images is evident to archivists and hobbyists alike.



A very informative article on the topic, written by Hiawatha Bray, appeared in the *Boston Globe* on February 26, 2015. He comments that, "In a perfect world, I would chisel ones and zeros into a stone."

Following warnings about the loss of digital information, Bray offers a number of suggestions about how to store and preserve it. He mentions data storage services, but adds, "If you prefer to manage your own data archive, do what big corporations and government agencies do and back up your backups. Buy yourself a storage device, such as a giant external hard drive, and make fresh copies of everything." The article can be accessed at bostonglobe.com/business/2015/02/25/don-let-data-die-old-age/qStvGxkCMzIEPqGJDeHelO/story.html. Bray also refers to "an excellent how-to guide available at www.digitalpreservation.gov."

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:

March 29—Vivian Maier, presented by Karin Rosenthal. *Rescheduled February meeting*, Women's Club Workshop, Newton Highlands.

April 11, 12—*Photographica 83* and PHSNE auction, Americal Center, Wakefield, MA

Driving directions to Americal Center:

I-95 to exit 39, North Ave. toward Reading/Wakefield (right turn on North from the south; left turn from the north). Drive approximately 1.5 miles, then turn left at Main St. Destination is on the left: 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA 01880.

Free parking available next door at the school, behind the building, and on Main St.

Public transportation:

The Wakefield station of the Haverhill rail line is within 1/2 mile of the Center, and MBTA buses #136 and #137 stop in front of the building. Details are available at mbta.com. Use weekend schedule

PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at phsne.org. See the president's blog at phsne.org/presidentsblog for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and PHSNE history visit phsne.org/archive. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, March 29, 2015
Vivian Maier, presented by Karin Rosenthal
Women's Club Workshop, Newton Highlands MA
Photographica 83, April 11-12, 2015; Opens 9:00 AM
PHSNE Auction, April 11, 4:30 PM
Americal Center, Wakefield MA



West Newton, MA 02465-0189

P.O. Box 650189

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