



SOUTHTOWNS CAMERA CLUB

VIEWFINDER

VOL 1, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 30, 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends, Just a quick note to say we are ready for another season. It will certainly be different, but I think it is going to be fun. Needless to say, none of this would have been possible without Janet's hard work.

I just want to remind you that to be eligible for monthly club competition, and the McKellar and the PSA competitions, you must be a paid-up member of our club.

Speaking of that, the following members received Honor Awards for the last McKellar competition held in March: Michael Fairbanks, Janet LoPresto, Carol Pustulka, and Maureen Szuniewicz. For the 2019-2020 McKellar season, we wound up in second place.

We also competed in the PSA competition and wound up in fourth place. We had 186 points and the first place club had 197 points. Some of the clubs that we beat were from Belgium, UK, Ireland and Canada. I don't know about you, but I'm impressed. So I'm looking forward to another year of international competition. Please remember you must be a paid-up member (\$25 dues) to compete in any of the competitions.

Stay safe,
President, Manny LoPresto

***DUE TO COVID-19 ALL MEETINGS ARE VIRTUAL
FOR THE 2020-21 SEASON***

CLUB INFORMATION

MEETINGS:

1st and 3rd Thursdays
September through May
7:00 pm

Basic Photo Class
6:00 pm on 1st Thursdays
Hamburg Community Center
107 Prospect Ave
Hamburg, NY 14075

INFORMATION:

Call Joan at 716-652-7419
Call Sarah at 716-655-3891

WEBSITE:

<https://stcc.photoclubservices.com/>

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

[Southtowns Camera Club](#)

MEMBERSHIPS:

Niagara Frontier Regional Camera Clubs: <https://nfrcc.org/>

Photographic Society of America:
<https://psa-photo.org/>

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME!

STCC OFFICERS—2020-2021

President, Manny LoPresto mlopresto21@gmail.com 716-648-7534	Hospitality, Clare Ennis cennis100@verizon.net 716-823-3039
Vice President, Janet LoPresto jlop206@gmail.com 716-913-9788	Publicity, Joan Erickson jericksonphotos@aol.com 716-652-7419
Treasurer, Lisa Gorski lisacgorski@gmail.com 716-575-7123	Publicity, Sarah Connaughton sarahc9516@aol.com 716-655-3891
Secretary, Darleen Stry darleenstry@verizon.net 716-649-8851	Equipment, Tony Mikulec Tmick437@verizon.net 716-662-5759
Slide Chair, Karl Miller millerkarl@hotmail.com 716-364-5379	Equipment, Bob Gorski bobgorski@gmail.com 716-575-7123
Slide Statistician, TJ Popielski TJPopielskiPhotography@gmail.com 716-535-9491	Technology&Web Chair/Historian Billy Callaghan billy.callaghan3@gmail.com 703-938-0727
Print Chair, Deanne Cunningham deecunning@aol.com 716-435-8558	Membership, Tim Grabowski timothytimdad@aol.com 716-337-3680
Print Chair, Sally Zervas szervas60@yahoo.com 716-560-9826	Past President, Norm Queeno dajokerman72@gmail.com 716-697-3312

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	Page 1
STCC Club Info	Page 1
STCC Officers	Page 2
Letter from Editor and VP	Page 2
Membership Application	Page 3
Program Schedule 2020-2021	Page 4
Important Competition Information	Page 5
Program Information—Lisa Langell	Page 6-7
McKellar Competition Award-winning Images	Page 8
Corona Competition Results and Images	Page 9-14
NFRCC Speakers Series	Page 15
NFRCC News	Page 16
Summer Picnic	Page 17-20
Before and After—Luminar and Aurora HDR	Page 21-24

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR AND VP...



Greetings!

Hoping you and your families are healthy and doing well. I am looking forward to the upcoming Camera Club season as we have an exciting year planned.

First of all, I would encourage everyone to join the club at the reduced dues of \$25!! Although we need to be careful right now to stay safe, we can still enjoy some virtual camaraderie and per-

haps safely get together in small, masked groups to take photos! The Board is working on ways we can all stay connected, including using our website and Facebook. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Expert speakers are scheduled each month from all around the country. All the programs will be live, not pre-recorded, and we will be able to ask the presenters questions during or after the program.

On September 3rd, at 7:00 pm, we will have our first meeting featuring Lisa Langell from Scottsdale, AZ. Lisa will teach about using contrast to improve our photos. I will be sending all members an email with the link to register for her program. Look on page 6 for info about Lisa and her presentation.

Competitions for digital images are scheduled and a Monochrome category has been added. **An important change is that images must be entered for competition on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month.** This will allow enough time for the images to be judged before the virtual competition meeting on the third Thursday of the month. During this meeting the images, scores and judges comments will be shared.

So, as we navigate these interesting times, I encourage you to let me know what you are thinking and offer suggestions. My email is jlop206@gmail.com.

Stay-Tuned and Stay Safe!!!

Janet LoPresto, Editor and Vice President

STCC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Fill out your application and mail it, along with \$25 check (made out to STCC), to:
Lisa Gorski, 2841 Roswell Pkwy, Eden, NY 14057



[Click Here for Membership Renewal Form](#)

[Click Here for New Membership Form](#)



PLEASE JOIN
AND KEEP
SOUTH
TOWNS
GOING
STRONG

STCC PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2020-2021

All Meetings are "Virtual" Due to Covid-19
Prior to each meeting, members will receive an email with a link providing access to the meeting

September 3	<i>The Visual Power of Contrast—Lisa Langell</i>	Website: www.langellphotography.com
September 17	1st Projected Image Competition Submit images by September 3, 2020	
October 1	<i>Photoshop: Targeted Adjustments—Tim Grey</i>	Website: http://www.timgreyphoto.com/
October 15	2nd Projected Image Competition Submit images by October 1, 2020	
November 5	<i>The Secret Power of RAW Files: How to Get the Most Out of Your Raw Digital Files—Joe Edelman</i>	Website: https://www.joedelman.com/
November 19	3rd Projected Image Competition Submit images by Nov 5, 2020	
December 3	<i>Flower Photography—Mollie Isaacs</i>	Website: http://awakethelight.com/
December 17	To Be Announced	
Jan. 7, 2021	<i>Light...Shadow...Background—Kevin Loughlin</i>	Website: WildsideNatureTours.com
January 21	4th Projected Image Competition Submit images by Jan 7, 2020	
February 4	<i>The Art of Landscape Photography—Kah-Wai Lin</i>	Website: https://kahwailin.com/
February 18	5th Projected Image Competition Submit images by February 4, 2020	
March 4	<i>Making the Most of the Wildlife Photographic Experience: Preparedness & Skill Meet Luck- Lee Hoy</i>	Website: WildsideNatureTours.com
March 18	6th Projected Image Competition Submit images by March 4, 2020	
April 1	<i>Top 10 Ways to Make Your Photography Worse—Lee Hoy</i>	Website: WildsideNatureTours.com
April 15	7th Projected Image Competition Submit images by April 1, 2020	
May 6	Projected Image of the Year Competition Submit images by April 22, 2020	
May 20	<i>Annual Awards Banquet</i>	

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO COMPETITION

1. Digital images must be submitted to competition on the FIRST THURSDAY of the month by midnight

2. The Monochrome Digital Image Category has been added

- There now are three Digital Image Categories: General, Monochrome, Creative/Artistic
- Into each category, you can enter:
 - ⇒ General - Up to 2 images
 - ⇒ Monochrome - 1 image
 - ⇒ Creative/Artistic - 1 image
- **Monochrome Digital Image Rules:**
 - ⇒ A member CAN submit an image in the General Category, then convert that image to monochrome, and submit it into the Monochrome Category
 - ⇒ A member CANNOT submit the same monochrome image into both the General Category and Monochrome Category
- **Definition of Categories:**
 - ⇒ General – Open category. Includes all genres such as nature, pictorial, monochrome, infrared, etc.
 - ⇒ Monochrome – Image must be tints/shades of one color
 - ⇒ Creative/Artistic – Photography producing an image using imaginative skill or originality of thought, including the altering of reality. Includes modifications made on the computer or in the camera

LISA LANGELL

Presenting "The Visual Power of Contrast"

Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm

"Great photography shouldn't just document what you saw...or even how you experienced it. It should capture how you want your audience to experience that moment!"

- - Lisa Langell



The Power of Contrast

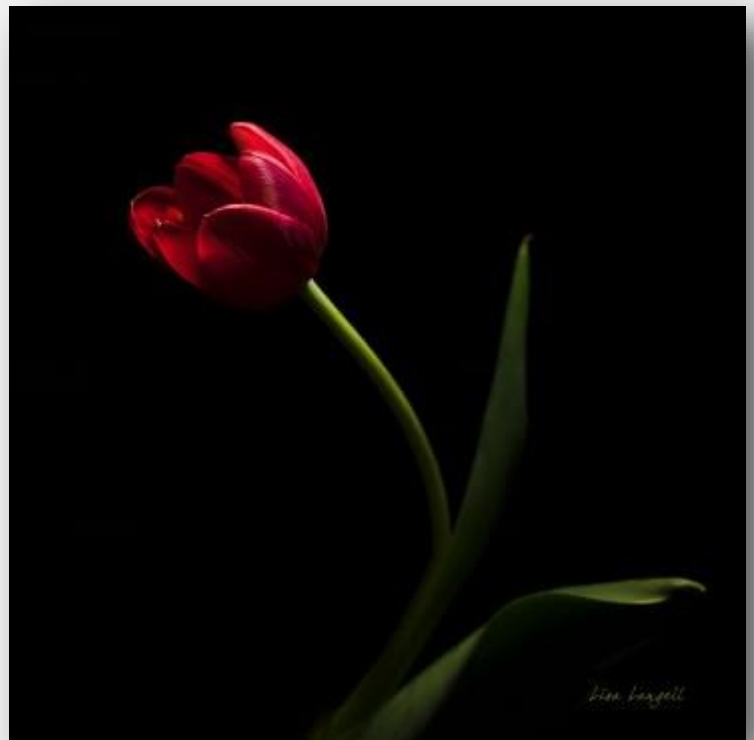
During this presentation, Lisa will explore before-and after examples and teach you how you can use contrast to improve your own images simply and effectively. Get ready for a game changer!

Whether you are controlling for contrast in your exposures themselves, and/or in post-processing, this fun, informative and interactive session will help you learn the tricks and techniques necessary to make your images go from drab to fab!

She will cover WHY contrast is so critically important and explain HOW and WHERE you use it to make all the difference!

You will learn critical components of powerful images that can all be significantly enhanced by the proper use of contrast. There are special techniques that can be accomplished in-the-field as well as during post processing that will amaze you.

Watch for the email with a link to this fun and informative presentation!



LISA LANGELL

Presenting "The Visual Power of Contrast"

Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm



©2020 Lisa Langell

Lisa Langell is a full-time, award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in numerous prestigious publications including Outdoor Photographer Magazine, art galleries and more. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the North American Nature Photographers Association (NANPA). Lisa is a proud ambassador for Tamron, FotoPro and H&Y filters.

Whether it was working as a master floral designer, a licensed psychologist, university faculty, an international consultant in K-12 education, a writer, or an

artist—she enjoyed meeting each challenge. Still, her strongest calling is photography. In 2015 she transitioned to photography full-time.

The journey with photography has definitely been Lisa's favorite—she loves combining her diverse background and skills into her photographic art and instruction. Bringing joy to others brings joy to her! She thrives on creating innovative learning experiences and pushing photographic boundaries. She equally enjoys enriching, stimulating and expanding fellow photographers' minds emotionally, creatively and intellectually.

You may read more about Lisa or see her work at:

<http://www.langellphotography.com/>



Watch for an email with a link to sign-up for her live, online presentation taking place on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm

MC KELLAR COMPETITION HONOR AWARD WINNERS

MARCH 2020



Michael Fairbanks
"Feeling Small"



Carol Pustulka
"Spock"



Janet LoPresto
"Proud Mama"



Maureen Szuniewicz
"Snowy Owl"

STCC CORONA COMPETITION 2020 RESULTS

In an effort to have some fun and get motivated to go out and shoot, South Towns Camera Club held the "STCC Corona Competition 2020" in August.

Eight subjects were assigned and the member with the highest cumulative score for all their images was declared the winner.

The assigned subjects were:

- Water
- Night Scene
- Reflection
- Place of worship
- Cemetery
- Flower
- Town or City Hall
- "The Virus"

Here are the final standings for the top three competitors:

First Place:	Karl Miller	107 points
Second Place:	Manny LoPresto	106 points
Third Place:	Jan Barton	104 points
Third Place:	Janet LoPresto	104 points

It was a close competition with many interesting and beautiful images. Karl Miller was presented with the prize of a \$25 gift certificate to Ilio Dipaolo's Restaurant. Congrats Karl!!

During a virtual meeting on August 20th, the images, scores and judge's comments were revealed and the winner was announced. Thank you to all the participants—the images were terrific and it was great seeing you all during the meeting.

Thank you also to the following members:

- Billy Callaghan who set up the competition on our website and coordinated the judging & the virtual meeting to view the images.
- Deanne Cunningham for judging and providing helpful comments for each image.
- Gerrie Gilcrist for creating a beautiful slide show of the images.

Below is the highest-scoring image from each participant, as well as every image entered into "The Virus" Category.



Karl Miller "Forever Love"
Entered in the Flower Category
Score 15



Manny LoPresto "City Hall"
Entered in the City or Town Hall Category
Score 14

STCC CORONA COMPETITION 2020 RESULTS



Janet LoPresto "All American City"
Entered in the City or Town Hall Category
Score 14



Jan Barton "Beauty Reflected"
Entered in the Reflection Category
Score 15



Darleen Stry "Cemetery Gate"
Entered in the Cemetery Category
Score 15



Clare Ennis "Remembrance"
Entered in the Cemetery Category
Score 14

STCC CORONA COMPETITION 2020 RESULTS



Tom Vassie "OLV Basilica"
Entered in the Place of Worship Category
Score 14



Charles Zementsch "Cemetery"
Entered in the Cemetery Category
Score 14



Gerrie Gilcrst "Flower"
Entered in the Flower Category
Score 14

STCC CORONA COMPETITION 2020 RESULTS



Michael Fairbanks "An Unknown Soldier"
Entered in the Cemetery Category
Score 14



Sarah Connaughton "Over the Moon Grab"
Entered in the Night Scene Category
Score 14



Maureen Szuniewicz "Flower"
Entered in the Flower Category
Score 14

STCC CORONA COMPETITION 2020 RESULTS

BELOW ARE ALL OF THE IMAGES SUBMITTED INTO THE CATEGORY "THE VIRUS." ENJOY!!



Karl Miller "Virus"



Manny LoPresto "COVID"



Jan Barton "Hard to Smell the Lilies"



Janet LoPresto "Dealing with the Virus"

STCC CORONA COMPETITION 2020 RESULTS



Clare Ennis "The Royal Swabbing"



Darleen Stry "No Visitors"



Charles Zementsch "The Virus"



Gerrie Gilcrist "The Virus"



Tom Vassie "Covid 19 Doctors"

NFRCC SPEAKER SERIES

{ SEPTEMBER 2020 to AUGUST 2021 }

HIGHLIGHTS

1

11 PRESENTATIONS

2

VIEW DETAILS & SIGN UP AT

<https://nfrcc.org/nfrcc-speaker-series/>

3

ONLY \$45 CDN

For NFRCC Members

The NFRCC & Hunt's Photo and Video are offering virtual presentations. There are 11 speakers scheduled in this series covering multiple genres.

The series spans from Sept 2020 to Aug 2021 with most of the presentations on a Monday evening each month.

You can register for the entire series of speakers for \$45 CDN (NFRCC members) or \$55 CDN (non-members). Or you may choose which speakers you want to see for \$10 CDN (NFRCC members) or \$12 CDN (non-members).

SPEAKERS

Sep 14 Noah Buchanan
[Mirrorless vs DSLR](#)

Oct 11 Doug Hansgate
[Less is More](#)

Nov 9 Emily Hojnowski
[Lighting for Still Life & Macro](#)

Dec 7 Don Komarechka
[Down the Rabbit Hole](#)

Jan 11 Tim Shields
[How to Take Award-Winning Photos](#)

Feb 8 Harold Davis
[Photographing Flowers for Transparency](#)

Mar 15 John Walrath
[Color Workflow for Print](#)

Apr 26 Roman Kurywczak
[Photographing Birds: From Portraits to Flight](#)

Jun 14 Cheryl Belczak
[Light From Darkness](#)

Jul 19 Noah Buchanan
Filters

Aug 9 Ellen Anon
[Landscapes/Seascapes That Take You Away](#)

Click on links
for more info

NFRCC NEWS

{ Events and Competitions }

Lisa Langell

The New
Nature
Photography:
Trends for the
Future



©2017 Lisa Langell

**August 31st 7:00 pm
online presentation**

Free!!!! For Info and to Register: <https://nfrcc.org/>

WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST

- ◆ The NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife is asking for photographs from the public to use on reports, social media, posters, DEC's website, and more.
- ◆ Capture and share moments in the lives of your wild neighbors -- whether feathered, smooth, furry, or scaly. If you sit outside quietly for an hour, you might be surprised at what kinds of critters visit your own backyard!
- ◆ Conditions:
 1. Animals featured in photos must be live, native to New York State, and in their natural habitat.
 2. Photo(s) must have been taken in New York State by the person entering.
 3. A max of 2 photos per submission. You may complete as many submissions as you wish.
 4. Maximum file size is 10 MB per photo. Formats accepted: png, gif, jpg, jpeg, bmp.
 5. The latest you can submit is Saturday, September 12 at 11:59am.

FOR INFO AND TO SUBMIT PHOTO:

<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5618925/wildlife-photo-submission>



JANET AND MANNY LOPRESTO
NOT ALL CORONA IS BAD!!!



CHARLIE AND JOANIE METZLER
MANNY LOPRESTO EXPLAINS HOW TO GET A 15!



CLARE AND BOB ENNIS

It was a beautiful day in Chestnut Ridge Park where South Towns' members gathered (socially distanced) for the Summer Picnic. Thanks to Clare Ennis for arranging for the picnic and picking the perfect, very large shelter, (close the the bathroom too)!



TJ POPIELSKI, TIM GRABOWSKI AND CLARE ENNIS



**GERRIE AND MIKE GILCRIST
PLAYING IT SAFE!**



TOM VASSIE AND JAN BARTON



MAUREEN SZUENIEWICZ, SARAH CONNAUGHTON AND JAN BARTON



MIKE AND MARY FAIRBANKS

**“ LIFE IS LIKE A
CAMERA ...
FOCUS ON
WHAT’S
IMPORTANT
AND YOU WILL
CAPTURE IT
PERFECTLY ”**



Before and AFTER

Easy to Use Editing Tools to Make Your Photos Pop

Using some fairly simple software, you can turn a dull image into something really cool and impactful.

Gerrie Gilcrist has been kind enough to share some of her before and after images to illustrate Luminar 4 and Aurora HDR software. Luminar makes it super easy to change the sky (among other things) and Aurora HDR 2019 is an

HDR (high dynamic range) photo editing application. Both are from Skylum software and do not require a subscription. Luminar uses Artificial Intelligence to brilliantly and simply allow you to replace a sky! (Keep in mind for competition at South Towns you have to use a sky you photographed—not one that comes with the software).

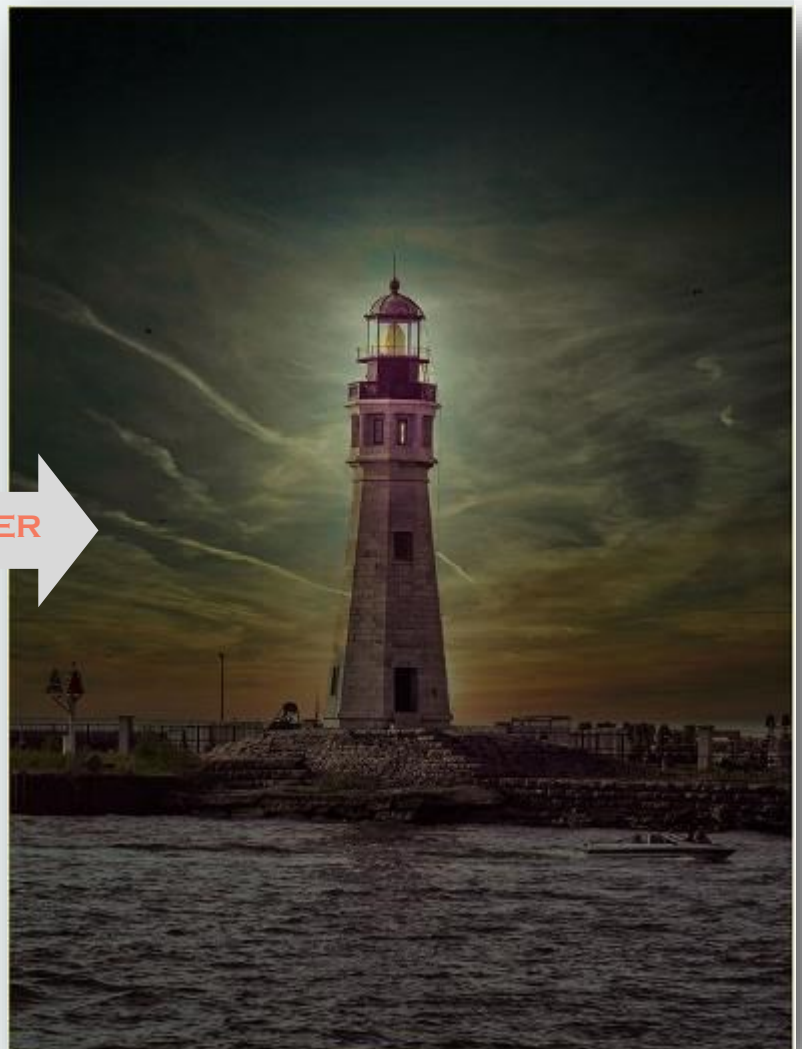
NOTE: RIGHT NOW SKYLUM IS RUNNING DISCOUNT ON LUMINAR!!! [Skylum Discount on Luminar](#)

Here are links to a couple of training videos although there are lots more out there:

<https://skylum.com/academy>

[Anthony Morganti Luminar Sky Replace-](#)

ALL BEFORE AND AFTER IMAGES BY GERRIE GILCRIST



Before and AFTER

Easy to Use Editing Tools to Make Your Photos Pop

ABOUT LUMINAR 4

Luminar 4 is a superb photo editor developed by [Skylum](#) that allows you to edit your images manually and with clever new AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools, too. You can use it as a standalone program for all your image post-processing needs, or you can run it as a plugin within Photoshop or Lightroom. It's suitable for both Mac and Windows.

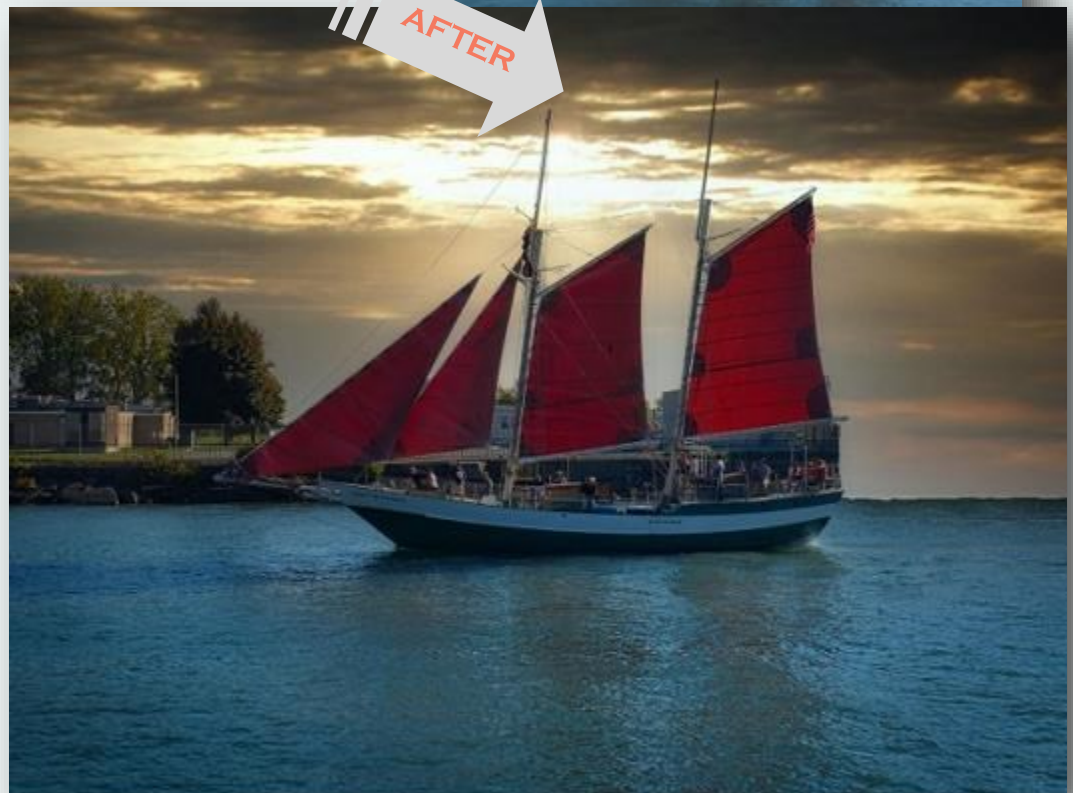
What draws most users to this software are the amazing

Artificial Intelligence tools and features included that make image manipulating quick and easy, with breathtaking results—especially the AI Sky editor. Now, you can harness fantastic tools to create beautiful landscapes, portraits with flawless skin, and even switch out the sky – all with the touch of a button.

Luminar 4, which usually costs \$89, does not require a subscription. It comes with a money back guarantee, so you can try it free for 30 days.



Luminar 4
Click Here For
Discount Code



Before and AFTER

Easy to Use Editing Tools to Make Your Photos Pop

ABOUT AURORA HDR

The brain is able to see what the camera sensor is not able to capture. The Aurora HDR techniques let you create the image which your mind sees.

Skylum's Aurora HDR has a brand new Quantum HDR engine that uses Artificial Intelligence. This facilitates the process of photo merging to produce natural results that don't look concocted.

A new Smart HDR Structure feature delivers precise details and sharpness without any artifacts, halos or noise. This software runs as a standalone app or as

a plug-in to Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

Conventional HDR photography merges several images. But, Aurora lets you change a single raw image to HDR using Artificial Intelligence. This rectifies colors, enhances contrast, reduces noise and prevents unnatural ghosting and lighting. It unlocks unprecedented detail and expanded dynamic range from single photos.

[Aurora HDR](#) currently costs \$99.00, or you can buy it in a bundle with Luminar for \$149. It does not require a subscription and comes with a money back guarantee so you can try it free for 30 days.



**Click Here For
Discount Code**

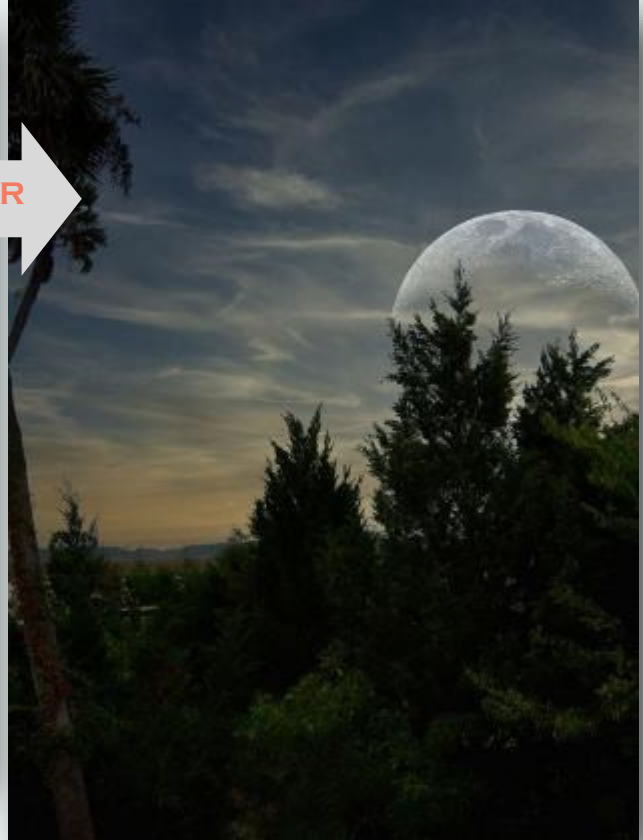


Before and **AFTER**

Easy to Use Editing Tools to Make Your Photos Pop



AFTER



**AFTER:
PORTRAIT
ENHANCED
IN LUMINAR**





THANKS FOR READING!

If you have any suggestions or questions please email me at jlop206@gmail.com.

Watch for the next issue of the Viewfinder in the Fall. I plan to include competition results and images, photo tips, upcoming events and more.

Until next time...stay safe and happy shooting!

