

APRIL, 2022

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980



***Black Sun* by Søren Solkær**
A Murmuration of European Starlings
See Story, Pages 5-7

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The Future of CLCC

Notes and News from March, 2022

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

As of this writing, we continue to look for a **webmaster** to manage the club web page (www.crystallakecameraclub.com). Sandy Wittman has done a terrific job for 9 or 10 years. If you have some experience managing web pages, or know someone who does, contact Rich Bickham.

It's time to pay CLCC dues for 2022. Please send in a check to our new CLCC Post Office Box. Dues are \$25.00 for the year. Mail a check for that amount to:

Crystal Lake Camera Club
PO Box 2193
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-2193

From Rich's Archives

*Rich Bickham was Editor of the CLCC newsletter for over five years (October 2013 to January 2019)
In this column, he shares some of his previous stories.*

ICONIC PICTURE OF AN APRIL DAY IN HISTORY

Submitted by Rich Bickham

(Originally published in the April 2015 CLCC newsletter)

The early hours of what was supposed to be an unseasonably warm, clear and windy spring day in San Francisco, CA on April 18, 1906 suddenly turned frightening and deadly at 5:12 a.m. At that time, the enormous stress that had built up over decades in the San Andreas fault was relieved when a 270 mile stretch of the fault slipped laterally up to twenty feet in some areas, the result of an earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale* that struck, lasting 45-60 seconds. The earthquake was felt as far south as Los Angeles, as far north as Oregon and as far east as central Nevada.

Many parts of the city were reduced to ruins by the shaking, especially those areas that had been built on landfills (so-called "made land" along the shores of San Francisco Bay) in order to extend the shoreline. Enormous fires raged in many areas of the city – most of the casualties resulted from those fires. Initially the casualty total was greatly underestimated at a few hundred people, but ultimately it was raised to be in excess of 3,000 deaths.

As news spread around the country and the world, pictures were published in newspapers showing the devastation. Photo journalism was not yet mature in 1906, and many people had never before seen such pictures – few had experienced first-hand what an earthquake of that magnitude could do. The old quote "A picture is worth a thousand words," comes to mind as the most accurate way to describe the catastrophe to readers, even though that quote was not coined until about five years later by New York City newspaper editor *Arthur Brisbane*†.



Looking Down Sacramento Street, San Francisco, April 18, 1906, by Arnold Genthe

The above photograph taken on the day of the earthquake by photographer Arnold Genthe shows a view from Nob Hill looking east down Sacramento Street toward the Bay. Genthe's camera was damaged beyond use in the quake, so he went to his dealer's shop and asked for a loaner. The dealer let him take any camera and all the film he wanted, since he was sure the shop would burn down due to the fires. He chose a 3A Kodak Special and took 180 photographs around the city that day – the one shown being the most famous. It shows buildings damaged from the earthquake, the approaching fire, and the dazed and seemingly relaxed state of mind of the residents as they stare at the approaching flames. Note the residents of the partially collapsed building on the lower right of the image, on the sidewalk calmly sitting on chairs watching the disaster continue to grow.

Insurance companies paid out an estimated \$235 million in claims (mostly due to fire damage – many policies did not cover earthquake damage due to shaking). That amounts to about \$6.2 billion adjusted for inflation (2014). Until the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on 9/11/2001, it was the largest insurance payout ever made for a single 'incident'. A total of 154 insurance companies were directly or indirectly involved, twenty of which declared bankruptcy.

The widespread newspaper coverage of the tragedy did much to educate politicians, architects, city planners, emergency organizations and the general public. With more acute sensitivity to the impact of such disasters, building codes, zoning laws, and many other facets of business and government began to change to better adapt to the environment within which cities and towns were located. The practice continues to evolve today as new threats emerge.

* Magnitude 7.8 is the generally accepted estimate of the main shock - other estimates range from 7.7 to 8.25.

† Brisbane's actual quote was "Use a picture. It's worth a thousand words," during an instructional talk to the Syracuse Advertising Men's Club in March, 1911.

LOOKING AHEAD - CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

CLCC meetings are always on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and will remain Zoom meetings until it is safe to meet in groups, and we have a place to meet. Before each meeting, members are sent the Zoom login information by CLCC Secretary, Royal Pitchford.

Competitions are always at the February, April, October and December meetings.

April 5, 2022	Competition and discussions (Submissions closed)
May 3, 2022	Show and Tell - Email JPG images to <u>Rich Bickham</u> (richbickham@comcast.net) no later than Sunday, May 1 Image of the Year Presentation Lynda Christopher - <i>WWI Photo Album Discoveries</i>
Jun 7	Show and Tell - Email JPG images to <u>Rich Bickham</u> (richbickham@comcast.net) no later than Sunday, June 4 Joe Norton - <i>Africa Wildlife Photography Safari</i>

CLUB MEMBERS TO SHARE PHOTO EXPERIENCES

At the May and June meetings, two CLCC members will give presentations on their recent unique experiences with photography.

On May 3, Lynda Christopher will present *WWI Photo Album Discoveries*. She was given an album with over 300 labeled photos from World War I that was discovered in her great aunt's attic. The album is over 100 years old. This set her on a quest to find the story behind the album, and the people pictured in it. Her search uncovered the story of LT Cleo Ross - the only balloon soldier to die in WWI. This is an incredible story with many serendipitous turns, all starting with photos. This is sure to be an intriguing presentation!

On June 7, Joe Norton will share photos and stories from his recent *Wildlife Photography Safari* to Tanzania and Kenya. He spent most of the month of February 2022 visiting a number of national parks and private conservancy lands in search of the BIG FIVE and Birds of Prey. He will share with us a bit about what it takes to plan for such



a trip, the issue of travel in this time of COVID, what to pack/not pack, accommodations, and where he travelled. Most importantly we will have the opportunity to share in his experience on the Serengeti in his quest to capture interesting wildlife images and some of his photographic results!



Black Sun

Photo book by Danish photographer Søren Solkær

Wired Magazine, February 15, 2021, by Lauryn Hill

<https://www.wired.com/story/stunning-images-of-starlings-in-flight>

Photographer Søren Solkær describes early autumn in Denmark as eternal. When the sky grows darker around sunset, time stops. But this imperishable moment is sometimes caused by a phenomenon slightly rarer than a setting sun: hundreds of thousands of starlings gathering to accentuate the inevitable darkness of nightfall in a flying formation called a murmuration.



Søren Solkær - from *Black Sun*

The Danish refer to a murmuration as a “black sun,” which Solkær adopted as the title for his photo book devoted to the European starlings. He began documenting them in Denmark in 2017 and has since traveled to England, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, and Catalonia in northern Spain to follow their migration to southern Europe in the fall.

Solkær captures the most intricate moments of their flight when he freezes the starlings’ motion by using an extremely high ISO between 10,000 and

15,000. (ISO refers to the sensitivity of the camera's sensor to light; high ISOs allow photographers to capture darker environments while still being able to use a fast shutter speed.) Because dusk lasts so long this far north in summer and early fall, when the sun rarely fully sets, it’s the only way Solkær can photograph the ever-changing structure of the flock. Of the 120 murmurations he documented, most of them lasted seconds and only about six lasted up to 30 minutes. “That’s pretty rare to experience,” he says.

This most intricate and mysterious part of a murmuration occurs when a predator enters the frame, which is nearly impossible to see with the naked eye. Depending on the density of the flock and speed of the predator, the starlings’ reactions can take many escape patterns, including flying outward to create a vacuole—an empty space. Or they might fly swiftly in one direction, producing a pulsation through the flock resembling a wave. “It’s only when they get attacked by predators, especially falcons, that they create these amazing images in the sky,” Solkær says.

(Black Sun, continued)

The shapes formed by the starlings' anxious flight for survival can also be used to confuse their predators. Each bird will mimic the motion of its nearest neighbors, angling its back toward the predators.

The murmurations in the six locations Solkær has traveled to are similar, but the number of predators in certain regions in Europe will affect the variety of shapes Solkær can photograph.

"There's been way more falcons down in Catalonia than in

Denmark," he says. "Which is a bad thing for the starlings, but it's a very good thing for me, because, as mean as it sounds, I'm hoping they get attacked. That's when the visual action really happens."



Søren Solkær - from *Black Sun*



Søren Solkær - Starlings in Flight (Video - [Click to View](#))

(Black Sun, continued)

As lost in the moment as Solkær feels thanks to the fleeting nature of the murmuration, he will never miss the opportunity to capture them. “Sometimes I come home with a thousand pictures and I have no idea exactly what I've captured, because the birds move extremely fast. It's an ever changing organic shape.” he says. “It's very, very beautiful.”

For more images from this photo book and more information about the photographer's work, see:

Søren Solkær Gallery

THE ANNUAL CACCA POSTCARD COMPETITION OPENS

Entries will be accepted until Sunday, April 3 at noon

Each person is limited to two postcard entries. Digital postcard entries must be jpegs 1400 pixels wide by 933 pixels tall, or 1050 pixels tall by 700 pixels wide, to conform with a standard postcard aspect ratio of 6 inches x 4 inches for horizontal image postcards and 4 inches x 6 inches for vertical image postcards.

As before, maker-added text will be required.

Postcard entries must be submitted through Competition Assistant software.

Complete rules can be found on the CACCA website. Follow this link:

CACCA Postcard Competition

If anyone would like information about creating postcards, there are three articles from the CACCA News that are good resources:

November 2018 – “POSTCARDS – An Inspiring History”

January 2019 – “POSTCARDS – Getting the Message Right” (emphasizes use of the text tool)

March 2019 – “POSTCARDS – Making a Collage Postcard” (step-by-step instructions in Adobe Photoshop Elements)

The articles can be found on the CACCA website (www.caccaphoto.org) under the *Newsletters* tab.

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

Vice Presidents	<u>Rich Bickham</u> <u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Royal Pitchford</u>
Treasurer	<u>Gail Schulz</u>

YOUR IDEAS MATTER!

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to **Steven Szalaj**, **Newsletter Editor** at the email address in the club directory. **Please make your submission by the 15th of the month.**

6X6 PROJECT ARTS FUNDRAISER

Raue Center's **6×6 PROJECT** fundraiser and online art auction/exhibition celebrates its fourth year of supporting arts with Art! All proceeds benefit Raue Center's fine arts education programs, Mission Imagination and Raue Center School For The Arts, which have been enriching the lives of over 20,000 kids a year in the local community since 2001.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate by creating original works of art, in a variety of mediums, on 6×6" canvases. Since our inaugural event in 2019, 6×6 Project has raised over \$45,000 for MI and RCSA with canvases coming from around the nation!



All artwork submitted to the **6×6 PROJECT** will be available for viewing and bidding online at Auctria.com starting June 6, 2022. Artists and the public are cordially invited to our Reception on June 25, 2022, from 5:30-8 pm to mix, mingle and bid on your favorite pieces!

Create a mini-masterpiece and support the arts in your community!

Several of our CLCC members have participated in this event. It is a good way to get your images seen by a public that loves art, and you are supporting an arts venue right here in McHenry County. Entering is easy! Complete instructions are at the [6x6 PROJECT WEBSITE](#).

Purchase one or two 6" X 6" canvases from the project partners (listed on the website and the links below) for \$5 per canvas. You must use these official canvases. Mount or print an image on the canvas and drop your artwork off by May 9, 2022. All artwork submitted to the 6×6 PROJECT will be available for viewing online and can be bid on in an online auction starting June 6, 2022. All auction proceeds go to education programs at the Raue. On June 25, 2022 will be an artists's reception at the Raue Center that is free and open to the public.

[Click here for Participation Guidelines.](#)

[Click here for the FAQ Page.](#)

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS:

Out of the Box – 71 N. Williams Street | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 444-7446

Brush Studio – 121 W. Main Street | Cary, IL | (847) 516-3880

Creative Arts Inc. – 400 Highland Avenue | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 219-9243

Material Things – 103 E. Van Buren | Woodstock, IL | (815) 575-9710

Piano Trends – 35 Berkshire Dr | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-4266

SUPPORT THE ARTS WITH ART!

GALLERIES AND STORIES ON THE WEB

A Ukrainian Photographer Documents the Invasion of His Country

Ukrainian Maxim Dondyuk says “I don’t stay here and do this because I am a masochist, I do it because sometimes a photo can change people, change societies.” With luck, he says, it might help stop a war.

<https://time.com/6158001/ukraine-invasion-in-photos-kyiv-russia>

Agony and Ecstasy on the Scottish Archipelago of St. Kilda

The 85-mile boat ride through rough seas left some of us huddling in discomfort. But the scenery on the remote and windswept islands was otherworldly.

Six Days Afloat in the Everglades

After a storm disrupted plans for a 99-mile paddling trek, NYTimes journalist Stephen Hiltner’s time on the water took a more reflective turn. Look and listen alongside him.

Imogen Cunningham Gallery

Imogen Cunningham (1883-1976) was an American photographer known for her botanical photography, nudes, and industrial landscapes. She said:

“My interest in photography has something to do with the aesthetic, and that there should be a little beauty in everything.”

“The formula for doing a good job in photography is to think like a poet.”

Bill Cunningham On The Street

William John Cunningham Jr (1929-2016) was an American fashion photographer for the New York Times, known for his candid and street photography. This article references a recently published collection of 700 photos.

CLCC SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Newsletter Editor	<u>Steven Szalaj</u>	Publicity	OPEN
Webmaster	Sandy Wittman	Competition Chairman	Rich Bickham
CACCA Delegate 1	Lance Lagoni	Competition Assistant	John Williams
CACCA Delegate 2	OPEN	Competition Assistant	Ernie Hagenow
Education	Peter Pelke II	Small Groups	Maureen Harris
Advisor	David Jilek	Outings	Andy Gruber
Advisor	Jim Pierce	Refreshments	Larry Swanson
Facebook Administrator	Scott Migaldi	Librarian	OPEN
Membership	OPEN	Mentor Program	Paul Minkus