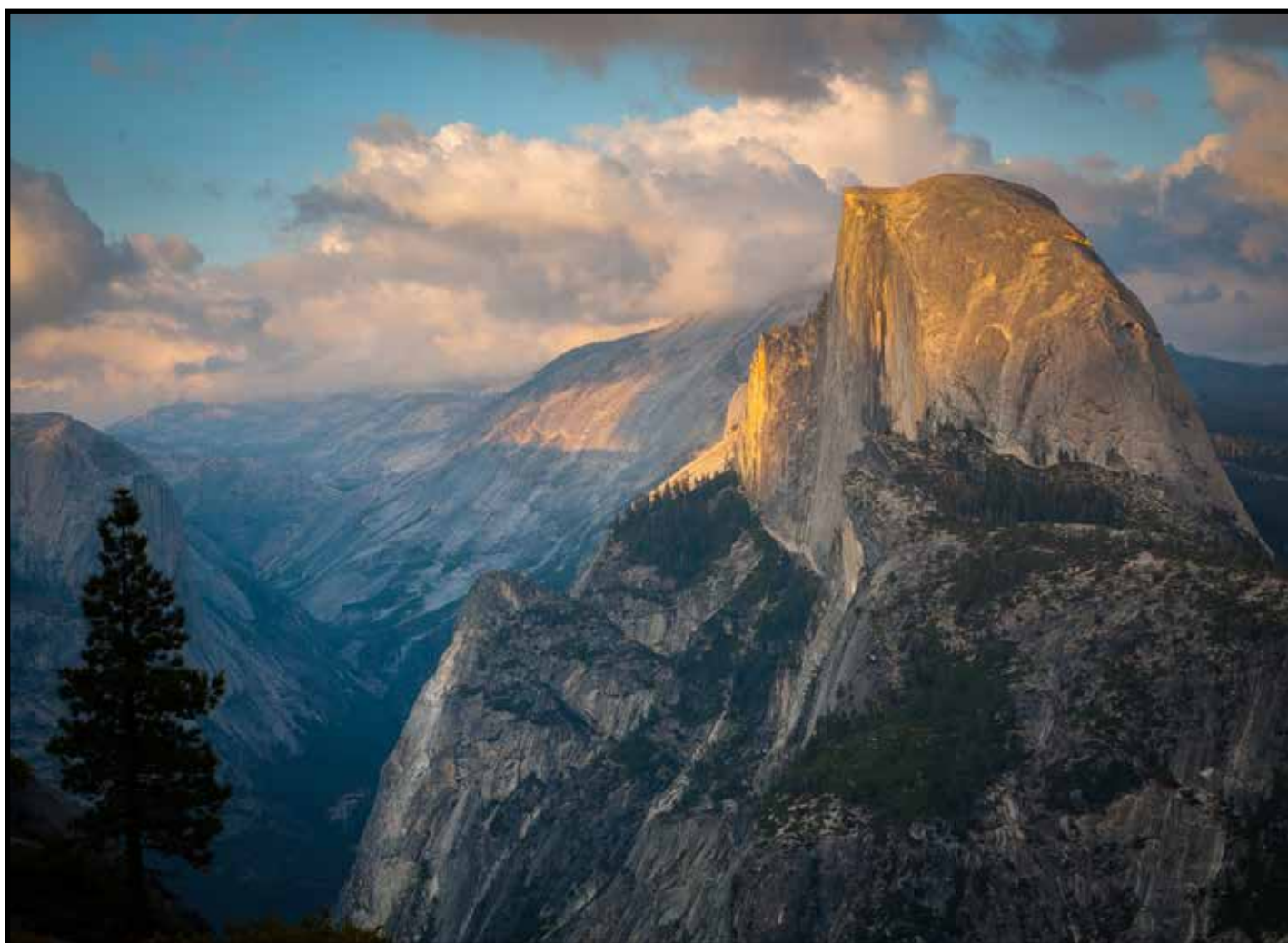


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August Travel Single of the Night "Sunset Over Half Dome" by Kristin Leide-Lynch

CONTENTS

Travel Single Honors	2
Travel Sequence Honors	3,4
Travel Scores	3
Theo's Article	5,6
For Sale	6
Photo Opportunities.....	6

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Thursday 3rdPrint Competition
Tuesday 8th..... Nature Competition

Meet-up Exploring Photography page 6

August Travel Single Honors



"The Bus to Gorebridge, Scotland" by Cheryl Glackin



"Bamburgh Castle, England" by Cheryl Glackin



"Late Afternoon on Cannon Beach, Oregon" by Theo Goodwin



"Pier 7 San Francisco" by Kristian Leide-Lynch

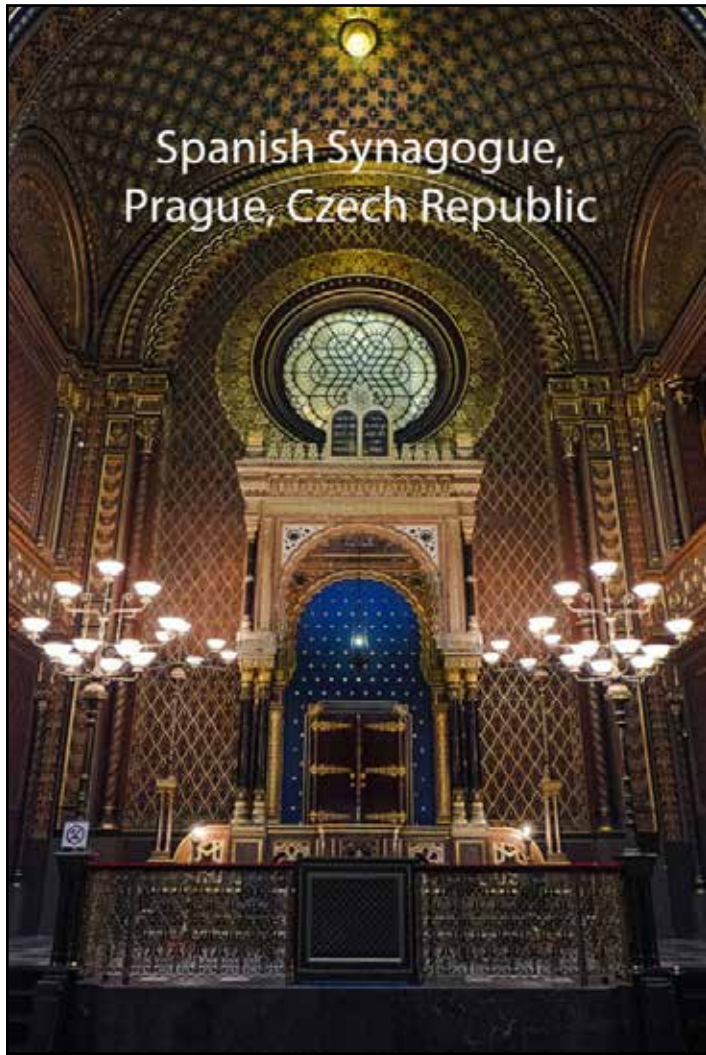


"Returning Home, Xia Pu China" by Willis Price



"Sunset at Bandon Beach Oregon" by Willis Price

Travel Sequence of the Night
"Spanish Synagogue in Prague, Czech Republic" by Theo Goodwin



September 2015 Travel Scores

Glen Cunningham, Director * Kristin Leide-Lynch, Assistant * Bruce Gregory, Judge

Travel Singles

Cawood, Gary.....	Oaxaca Street Vendors	11 ...	Paris in the Springtime.....	11
Filter, Gale	Wine Time Montevideo.....	11 ...	Hard Time, Buenos Aires.....	11
Glackin, Cheryl	Bamburgh Castle, England.....	12...	The Bus to Gorebridge, Scotland.....	12
Goodwin, Theo	Running with the Tide.....	11 ...	Late Afternoon on Cannon Beach, Oregon...	12
Krueger, Werner	Inside Passage.....	10 ...	Multnomah Falls No 3.....	11
Leide-Lynch, Kristian ...	Fort Point, San Francisco.....	10 ...	Sunset over Half Dome.....	13
Leide-Lynch, Kristian ...	Pier 7 San Francisco	12...	Sonoma Coast South of Duncans Landing...	11
Martin, Melba,	Shopping in China	10 ..	Cinque Terre Beach, Italy.....	11
Maurizi, Barbara	Ground Cloud with Yucca.....	10...	Wind Generators as Freeway Art.....	10
Maurizi, Barbara	Rio Grande on Cloudy Day.....	10...	Texas Day Between Rain Storms	10
Price, Willis.....	Returning Home, Xia Pu China ..	12...	Sunset at Bandon Beach, Oregon	12
Sydor, Marcia.....	School Time.....	10...	Sun-Drenched Tree.....	11
York, John.....	Fort Davis, Alaska	10...	Teller Highway, Alaska	11

Travel Sequences

Glackin, Cheryl	North Berwick Harbor	11
Goodwin, Theo	Spanish Synagogue in Prague, Czech Republic....	13
Krueger, Werner.....	Skagway	10
Martin, Melba	China	12
Maurizi, Barbara ...	Big Bend	11
Maurizi, Barbara ...	You are in Texas Now.....	11
Price Willis	Faces at Different Places.....	11
Sydor, Marcia.....	Alabama Hills.....	11



**Travel Sequence Honor
"China" by Melba Martin**

Interpreting the San Geronimo Church of Taos Pueblo, New Mexico

By Theo Goodwin



In mid-August, 2015, I visited the Santa Fe and Taos region of New Mexico. This was my fourth trip to this famous destination. I went there on a road trip in 1972 to make an early escape from law school exams. I returned with my wife about thirty years ago and then five years ago. This would be my first trip alone to meet the land of my mentors, Georgia O'Keefe, Ansel Adams and Paul Strand. Because of their work, the Taos Pueblo has become one of the most photographed places in North America. My quandary: How to present it differently or with a different artistic perspective.

I visited the Jemez Valley and the Abiquiu-Ghost Ranch areas where O'Keefe lived and found inspiration in the mountains, sky and rivers. I stayed overnight in the town of Santa Fe to visit the Georgia O'Keefe Museum and a wide range of paintings at the New Mexico Museum of History. I drove the high mountain road through tiny villages from Santa Fe to Taos. On my last day I arrived at the Taos Pueblo and Church of San Geronimo in the center of the pueblo. I had fifty minutes to photograph the outside of

the church before the guided tour began at 9 a.m. I was allowed to photograph the pueblo but not the inside of the church or anyone without permission. No Taos tribal members were walking around. However the sun was rising in the sky. At an altitude of 7,000, the sky had a rich blue tint while shadows still loomed.

I decided on three strategies to interpret this famous church: 1. To play with the contrasting light and dark colors; 2. To emphasize the natural materials, colors and tones of the building; and 3. To explore the surrounding neighborhood where the pueblo homes were located. I also adopted a prohibition to avoid the conventional, cliché images: Don't shoot the church head-on or from the side, as tourists often shoot European churches.

The first photo shows the entrance to the church taken from within a small courtyard as the sun rose in the sky and the doorway to the courtyard cast a strong shadow on the tile floor. I was pleased with the many contrasts of black to white, dark to light and strong rectangular angles.



The second image shows the church in a distant perspective shot from a nearby home with corn stalks and stones in the foreground. The stones display the very natural, informal setting. The corn represents the food staple of the Taos Pueblo; the corn is also a spiritual path linking the people of the earth to their gods. This remains important, because the native religious beliefs are combined with the traditions of the Catholic Church. Continued p6



The third image again leans heavily, both literally and figuratively, on the earth theme, showing the strength of the massive adobe wall that supports the church, that forms the wall around the church and that forms the adobe tiles in the courtyard. The repeating tones and colors of light-dark-light-dark represent the duality of both religious traditions as well as the earth and sky coming together to forming one spiritual and physical world.

The fourth image ties in the Taos Pueblo's past. The adobe ruin in the distance is a previous incarnation of the same church, which was destroyed by the Spanish to vanquish the Taos revolt of 1850. When the conquistadores began their military occupation of Taos in 1615,

they created an unequal and exploitative relationship. After the Spanish destroyed the church in 1850 and the Taos people buried their dead, the people of Taos built the standing church, which became a central institution of the Taos Pueblo. This photo shows the cross as a religious symbol but also a reminder of the many Native Americans who were killed by the Spanish or who subsequently died from other causes.

The four images depict the sun, the sky, the earth, the living plants and the legacy of conquest and death. These elements are crucial to the Taos Pueblo today as they have been for the one thousand years that the Taos people have continuously lived in their unique place on this earth.



Congratulations to Theo Goodwin

This is the seventh article that he has written this year. His 2nd article in the March Gammagram entitled "Vivian Maier, the Enigma" won an award from the PSA Newsletter Contest for "Best Opinion Article". We have enjoyed your articles Theo, keep up the great work.

FOR SALE

Projector and Laptop

Sierra camera club is selling the old projector and laptop.

First come.....

Projector \$50
SHARP XR-11XC XGA
 (1024x768) resolution
 With aluminum carrying case.

Laptop \$100
Dell Inspiron N5110 i3-2350M CPU
6 GB of RAM 500 GB hard-drive
Windows 7 Home premium (64-bit)

Welcome to our New Members

Gale Filter	Joey Johnson
Yukiko Rodriguez	Jane Mrowka

Exploring Photography

<http://www.meetup.com/exploringphotography>

Dahlia Garden and the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers
Tue. Sept. 15, 10:15 AM

Chimney Rock, Point Reyes
Sat. Sept. 26, 12:30 PM Wait list