Camera Club Celebrates 50 Years

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When the Huntington Camera Club was first started in 1966 by Nat Scherer, an educator and professional photographer for Grumman at the time, it consisted of 20 members. Now, the club holds nearly 120 members and recently celebrated its 50th anniversary on Tuesday.

Nancy Garner, club president, said the celebration was "an outpouring of the fact that we are a family in the club. We really support each other and help each other.

"I just want to see everything that is great about the club continue," Garner of Coram said. "I'm really happy that we're celebrating our history and looking in the future to keep growing."

With members ranging from high school students to adults in their 80's, Garner said three quarters of the members live within the Huntington township. Others venture from as far as eastern Suffolk and Queens.

Every week, the club meets on Tuesdays at the Huntington Public Library, and covers different photography topics such as flowers, landscapes and more. Guest speakers also attend the meetings and discuss a variety of helpful tips such as composition, post-processing, and tricks for Photoshop.

Garner said that, when it comes to photography, it's a passion and a way of sharing "your view of the world."

She added, "If you have a passion for something like photography, you tend to be more involved in things and you observe things better."

Throughout the year, the club participates in several competitions, including monthly and yearly competitions, and also host a high school competitions with nine different districts within the Huntington area.

As members, photographers benefit from each other by swapping their equipment, having first pick to purchase someone's equipment, and assigns mentors for new members seeking assistance.

With that, the club has a 52-week photo challenge on Flickr, where photographers go out, take pictures resembling the theme of the week and post them to the account.

"It kind of encourages you to get out of your comfort zone and take pictures that you wouldn't have normally taken," Garner said. "It's just a challenge to think differently because the more you shoot the better you get."

Now, the club is planning to host its first art gallery show at the Huntington Public Library in 2017.

"The thing about the club is it's really photography with friends and we've made so many friends in the club," Garner said. "It's just a great group of people and we want to leave a legacy for years to come."

Garner said that meetings are open for anyone to attend. For those who want to be a member, annual prices vary between $20-$110. For more information on how to join, visit Hccny.org.