

Winter Arrives at The Wells Point

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thewellspoint

Here's what happened in November! Late in the month, I had a great time with my family in California, where I was celebrating Thanksgiving. I was reminded that I have a lot to be thankful for and how magical California can be in the winter, when it's cold back here and lovely out there. When I returned home, I was pleased to learn that one of my [images from India](#) was published in the First Look section of one of my favorite magazines, [Aramco World](#).



While I was back home in chilly Rhode Island, I was working on my feature film which is about my wife Annu's creative process. You can read more about that on the site of the American Society of Media Photographers, where [the project was featured](#) in November. During November, I also continued working on my informal, self-directed seminar in the art of documentary film-making. That included extensive reading on film-making, watching dozens and dozens of documentary films, reading many articles and blog entries, listening to numerous podcasts, etc. That wonderful educational experience was supported by two small grants from the [Rhode Island Council for the Humanities](#) and the [Rhode Island State Council on the Arts](#), news that I shared back in August.



Speaking of films, the images in this month's newsletter are from an important film I encourage you to see, [Island Soldier](#), by [Nathan Fitch](#), a former intern and long-time friend. The movie "...explores how the beautiful, remote islands of Micronesia, a US protectorate, contribute a disproportionate number of soldiers to the U.S. military. Looking for a way out of poverty, Pacific Islanders leave their communities in pursuit of the American Dream, but, unfortunately, some pay for it with their lives. Exploring the impact of their absence on the families and communities they leave behind, Island Soldier questions whether the benefits of US protection are worth the substantial costs of fighting its wars." The movie garnered a [great review in the Hollywood Reporter](#). When I saw the NYC premier of Island Soldier in mid-November, I was reminded again of the very important questions the film raises. Images from that film are interspersed throughout this newsletter.



When it comes to my short films, a number of them were honored with awards in November. The [Princeton Film Festival](#) made my film, "[Blending Into the American Dream](#)", an Official Selection at their 2017 festival. The [AgriCulture Film Festival](#) in Rome selected my video, "[Farm Time \(A Year on the Farm with Red Planet Vegetables\)](#)" as a finalist in their festival. The [Sarajevo Fashion Film Festival](#) selected my video, "[Sahro Hassan: Fashioning her Future](#)", to be included in their festival. As they did in 2016, [Turkey's Hak-İş Short Film Festival](#) selected one of my films, "[Quahogging on Narragansett Bay](#)", to part of their 2017 festival.



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

The folks at [PhotoShelter](#) are doing good things again. A guide titled, "[30 Organizations That Want to Fund Your Photo Project](#)", is an obvious read. I

encourage you to download it, read it and apply to some of the competitions. Make sure to read the fine print, since the art of getting a grant is making sure your work and the funder's interest align perfectly.



POINTS OF PRIDE:

Nathan Fitch's powerful film, [Island Soldier](#), which was six years in the making and is detailed above, is definitely this month's Point of Pride.

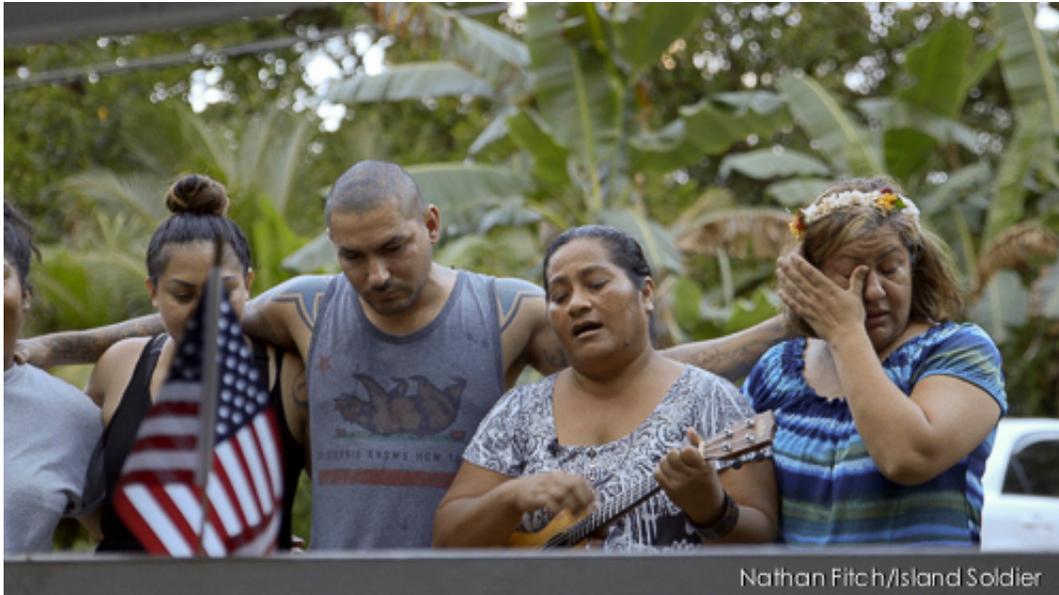


WORKSHOPS NEWS:

From March 25 to April 5 of 2018, I will be [teaching a workshop in Sicily](#), a place I think of as "The Island of Light." The class is carefully scheduled with photography in mind unlike other tours, to maximize the best opportunities for great

photography at a glorious time of year. We will also get to savor the exquisite Sicilian cuisine, culture, and history.

Later in the Spring, May 18 to May 20, I will be at the [Los Angeles Center of Photography](#), teaching my favorite [Light, Shadow, Night and Twilight](#) class in Los Angeles, my hometown and where I learned to understand those same essential elements in photography.



I hope you enjoyed my monthly newsletter. I welcome your feedback. If you know any photographers who would be interested in getting these updates, please encourage them to [sign up for this newsletter](#).

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