

The end of 2019 at The Wells Point

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Happy New Year! Because December was a quiet month, spent in the warm weather of India, far from the winter cold that has descended on much of the United States, it hardly feels like the end of the year. We are now three quarters of the way through our time in India, so my inevitable return to that cold weather is not far away. With that in mind, I thought the best images to share this month were a few from my [Instagram feed](#), made while in India. Among the other things I did last month in anticipation of returning to the United States and getting back into working at home was finalizing my [on-line portfolio](#) at an interesting new web-site called [Storyhunter](#).



During the Holocaust, the Second World War genocide, over 10 million European Jews, ethnic Poles, Roma, the "incurably sick", political/religious dissidents, and homosexuals were murdered simply because of who they were. At the time, Jews were ordered to wear yellow badges in public, designed to mark them as religious or ethnic outsiders. A popular legend tells of the King of Denmark wearing the yellow badge of a Jew as he rode through Copenhagen, followed by Denmark's non-Jews. Collectively, they prevented the Nazis from identifying and targeting Jews.

During the second half of December, friends and family often wrote us: "We just saw a news report on the protests in India. Does any of this affect you?" We have been watching the [protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act](#), which is unconstitutional because it discriminates against Muslims. My mother-in-law has been going to some of the rallies. It's been interesting to see the whole process unfold and watch Indians of all ages and beliefs become active. Because the government has been deporting foreigners arrested at the protests, we have stayed away. As someone who is Jewish, my form of protest has been updating the yellow badges historically worn by Jews, under duress, to identify with Muslims who are being similarly singled out for ethnicity based oppression. If you want to see more (or make your own badge like the one above) see my [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) posts or get printable PDFs of the [front image](#) and [back text](#).



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

The fact that my birthday is in December and the fact that, despite my best efforts, I am not getting any younger, may explain why I have been thinking about what will happen to my work in the future. Not that many of us will be so lucky that our archives will be acquired by a major institution but we all should be pondering where our work will end up after our death. The news that the Center for Creative Photography at the University of Arizona announced that it had [acquired the David Hume Kennerly Archive](#) prompted this thinking.



To enter a photo contest can be a big decision. Beyond just the entry fee there is also the question of the submission rights for the contest, the makeup of the jury, etc. The folks at PhotoShelter posted a blog titled "[7 Tips When Entering Photography Contests](#)" where they "... rounded up seven tips to get you ahead of the competition and onto that list of finalists and winners. "



POINTS OF PRIDE:

Dallas-based photographer [Sheryl Lanzel](#)'s film, [Trailing Forward](#), is a short video about mountain biking in Maine. It also focuses on the the staff/volunteers of the Georges River Land Trust and Midcoast Maine members of New England Mountain Bike Association who help build and maintain some of Maine's mounting biking trails. I am proud to say that video was created in my [Narrative Videos for Storytelling Photographers](#) workshop at my [Maine Media workshops](#), in August of 2019.



[Andrea B. Swenson](#) is an accomplished New York City based food stylist turned professional travel and food photographer. She is also my friend and my long-time student. The latest issue of Whetstone magazine features [her story and images on Morocco's communal ovens](#). Find those on pages 24-31 as well as on the front and back covers. Andrea made these images during and after my 2018 workshop in Morocco.



WORKSHOP NEWS:

Speaking of Morocco, I am already looking ahead to returning to magical Morocco for my [Morocco: A Visual Feast](#) workshop, October 14th to 25th of 2020.



Before that, I will be helping still photographers transition into the world of video, taking the intimidation out of creating videos during my annual [Narrative Videos for Storytelling Photographers](#) workshop at my main Media Workshops, July 19th to 25th 2020.

In 2021, January 6th to 19th, I will be back in South India leading my [Undiscovered South India](#) workshop.



I will be in Sicily, March 28th to April 8th, of 2021, where I will be leading a fabulous workshop, [A Photography Journey, on the Island of Light](#), with Open Sky Expeditions.

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

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