

## The Wells Point in the time of Covid 19

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The Corona virus has suddenly reshaped our lives (and the world) in ways that will take us years, even decades, to understand. First, the good news. Annu and I are fine and healthy and fortunate. We left India in mid-February, got back to Rhode Island, from where we started a two-week road trip across the United States to California. Listening to the news as we drove west we heard the crisis unfolding. We wound up in a rural part of the central coast of California just as the world was turned upside down. We are there now, safely sheltering in place, taking lots of walks, enjoying the California sun, online chatting with family and friends, and living with the worry of what the long-term consequences of the pandemic will be.



Other than the obvious warnings about social distancing, hand washing and getting your news from reliable sources, I cannot imagine a way to add anything to the larger moment we live in. I offer you a bit of continuity at a moment when continuity may be the one thing we all need the most. In a weird way, photography, especially outdoors, may be the perfect response to the pandemic. If you follow my Instagram feed you have noticed I am mostly creating landscape images lately. As many of you know, that is not my usual photographic genre, but these are unusual times! I am not the first person to observe how photographing nature can be calming. Some of the landscape images from our road trip and California are interspersed throughout this newsletter.



Why photography now? Photography is something we usually practice on our own (thus social distancing). It is something that requires us to live in the moment (a good thing right now). Photography helps us build and hold new memories. Photography is a process that gets our creativity going. All of these are good things at this moment.

In between photographing, also consider reading on-line. Here are a few blog entries that caught my attention:



A [crowdfunding campaign](#) for what I know is the best Cafe in London caught my eye. Yes, Michelle the proprietor is an old friend. And yes, [Maison Bertaux](#) needs to stay in business.

We have all seen plenty of panic buying. I hope you have resisted that urge just as the [wise Jimmy Colton suggests](#) you should.

How to [Disinfect Camera Equipment and Spaces](#) written by a guy who takes care of a ton of camera equipment and who was a physician has to grab your attention.



Speaking of films and all of the new movies we are now watching while sheltering in place, one film in the making [worthy of your support](#) is the film [Slatersville: America's First Mill Village](#), by Christian de Rezendes. It is a historical documentary series filmed in seven states and the U.K. focusing on the two-hundred-year history of the first industrialized mill village in America, right in the heart of northern Rhode Island.

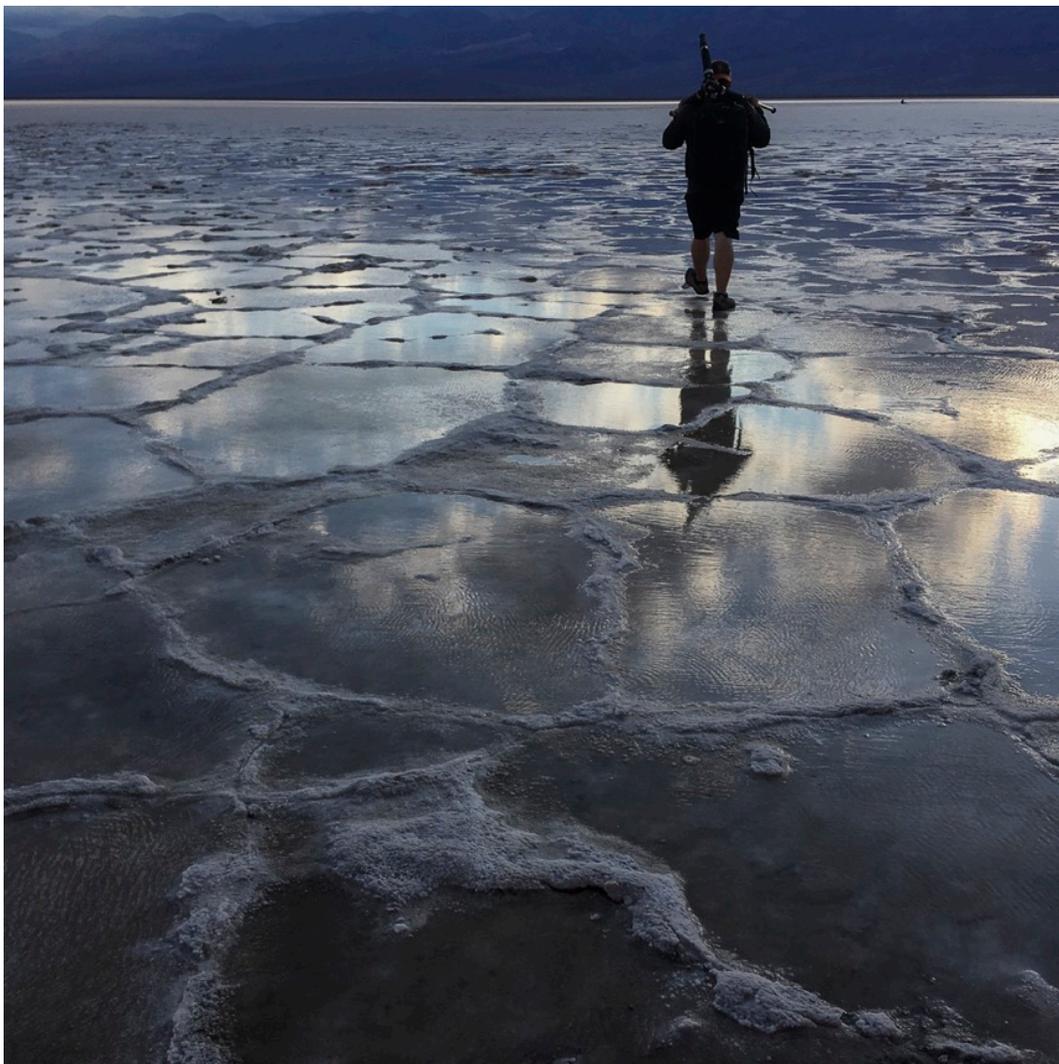
Though it is not in any way related to this moment, a great obituary for the photographer Jill Freedman reminds us once again how our photographs are our legacy. How one photographer shared America's untold stories - [Remembering Jill Freedman - Driven by empathy for victims of injustice, Jill Freedman used her camera to give a voice to the voiceless.](#)



**POINTS OF PRIDE:**

Quahogger David Andrade ([who I profiled in a video](#)) and his family have been working hard to support local fishermen at this difficult time, as noted in a nice NY Times article "[One Shop Became a Lifeline for Rhode Island's Solitary Clam Fishermen.](#)"

**WORKSHOP NEWS:**



If you are social distancing, as you should be, and you want to keep growing as a photographer, check out these suggestions:

Professional Photographers of America has made all of its 1,100+ [online photography classes free](#) for the next two weeks.

[Justin Kerr](#), a R.I. based designer and brand specialist who is focused on helping businesses be clear, strong, and consistent in their visual communication. just posted the offer of a [free branding strategy session](#).



Look at my [Dramatic Light From Day to Night](#) class on BluPrint which is FREE till April 9th, so jump on that!

To expand your storytelling skills look at [Create Powerful Photo Essays & Personal Projects](#). That class is also on sale right now.

Make sure to share a small selection of your best work with me and with the world. Sharing beauty at a time filled with fear is one of the keys to surviving a moment like this.



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