

May blooms at The Wells Point

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thewellspoint

May arrived with Spring in full bloom, meaning summer is not far behind. We spent the middle of the month in California, enjoying some family events and indulging in a little recreation on the beautiful Central Coast of California where Annu and I spent the first two months of the pandemic. During May I was also working on film projects and organizing my archive. (The latter being an ongoing, multi-year project.)



All of the editing and writing I have been doing with my films over the last few years paid off recently. My film-in-the-making, [Unheard Stories](#), won a small grant from the Derek Freese Documentary Fund, a part of the Derek Freese Film Foundation, which was first set up in 1996. The DFD Fund was set up in 2013 specifically to award cash grants to documentary filmmakers through a worldwide application process. Getting this kind of external validation is so important. With the grant in hand, I look forward to building on that to raise the funds to complete the film.



The short description of the film - the so-called log line - is:

"Through the journey of one artist and the people and histories that her art explores, Unheard Stories shows what our cultural conversations lack when subtle barriers circumscribe the voices and the reach of artists of color and negate the experiences, perspectives, and insights of immigrants like the artist Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, whom viewers will be rooting for as they see her realizing she has been sidelined into an ethnic art ghetto and now seizing the chance to break out."



The filming phase of [Unheard Stories: The Art And Life Of Annu Palakunnathu Matthew](#), is largely completed. Now we are editing the film and revising the texts we use to "pitch" for the film. You can read more about the film on the site of the [non-profit organization which is our fiscal sponsor](#). Images from the film are also interspersed throughout this newsletter. If you are so moved after reading, you are welcome to make a tax deductible donation to support completion of the film.

POINTS OF PRIDE:

One of my students from my [Storytelling Class](#) at the [Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts](#), [Carrie Usmar](#) won best series in the [Women Seen By Women Category of the 18th Julia Margaret Cameron Award for Women Photographers](#). Her series "[Resume Of A Stay At Home Mom](#)" dispels the stereotypes of the stay-at-home-mother role and forces future employers to rethink what they seek in a resume from stay at home applicants. By capturing ordinary moments with her family and choosing a title that corresponds to a skill on a resume, she hopes viewers will re-evaluate the stay at home mother role and stay-at-home mothers will realize they are more than "just a stay-at-home mom".



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

In May I posted a recorded presentation by [Stephanie Alvarez Ewens](#), a photojournalist, documentary photographer, and portrait photographer for over twenty years. In the presentation, [Stephanie Alavaerz-Ewens at the Wells Point](#), Stephanie talks about how it is in her studio where she is now able to take everything she's learned from each job and put that towards her work in photographing men and women, telling their story and empowering them to be confident in front of the camera.



WORKSHOP NEWS:

As summer arrives I look forward to teaching [Moving from Stills to Video](#) at the [Maine Media Workshops](#) in beautiful Rockport, Maine from August 8 - 12. This course will teach you how to create professional looking short films so you can take your visual storytelling to a new level. The secret sauce of the class is not teaching you a whole new language, but building on the essentials that you already know as a photographer - telling a story, looking for decisive moments, composing your shots, and sequencing the components for maximum impact.

From NOV 5 – NOV 16, I will be returning to Morocco for my workshop [Morocco: A Visual Feast](#), where we experience and photograph warm weather, great light and extraordinary culture.



Though it is far away, I am looking forward to traveling to see some of my favorite places to photograph in the [Undiscovered South India](#), from JAN 31 - FEB 14,

2023.

Next spring, I will be enjoying great Mediterranean light and partaking of wonderful Italian food while photographing Sicilians proudly performing century's old Easter rituals during my workshop [Sicily - A Photographic Journey on the Island of Light](#), APR 2 – 13, 2023.

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

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