Celebrate!

A collection of wonderful images from the “Celebrate What’s Right with the World” facebook page - featuring one of our frequent contributors:

Gary Larsen

I have been fortunate to experience the photographic adventures reflected by the images in this Themed Celebration. Sharing them on the “Celebrate What’s Right with the World” page has provided many renewed rewards. Each posted image refreshes the sense of adventure and appreciation I felt at the time of the experience. Then each post brings new rewards as I see responses from others that express the pleasure they also experience from those images. This worldwide communication and optimism is key to preserving these spectacular places and to fostering deeper appreciation of our common interests.

I am thrilled to be part of the Celebrate movement!

http://www.lighteffectphoto.com/
One of the most popular spots to photograph in Yosemite National Park is from the Northside Drive turnout affording a view eastward up the valley toward El Capitan on the left. You can see Bridalveil Fall as well above the tops of the trees to the right.
Being in the right place at the right time is a goal that everyone probably shares. Not many images present a more upbeat sentiment than a lighthouse sharing the scene with a nice rainbow! This stroke of luck happened shortly after sunrise. It made the day feel promising.
"BEALS ISLAND BUOYS" - Beals, ME

I was captured by the colorful array of lobster pot buoys that were scattered on the grass and the pier on Beals Island, ME. The boats in the background completed the typical harbor view of an active seafood operation - part of life on the coast of Maine.
The lake is near the top of the Mount Evans Scenic Byway, at an elevation of almost 13,000 feet. The Byway is the highest paved road in the U.S. reaching to over 14,000 feet. Out of breath, trudging through snow melting into my hiking boots and soaking my legs, I was thinking what I do for a composition that pleases me. I also observed the gathering clouds that foreshadowed what might be a thunderstorm. Overwhelmed by the colors in the frozen lake... the snow... the rocks... and the sky, I just could not help myself. It was all part of the drama of the moment!
The view from the Pu'u o Kila Lookout in Koke'e State Park is spectacular! It is at the end of the road that first winds upward through Waimea Canyon State Park. The light seemed perfect to highlight the clouds, the textured green slopes and the deep blue Pacific Ocean. This valley is the largest and widest on the Napali Coast.
Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is often teeming with birds and maybe even more people. My visit wasn’t during one of those times - and I liked it that way. I’m not patient enough to be a wildlife photographer, so I have no business adding to the crowds at those times anyway. But the Refuge has so much to offer photographically at other times... especially on a nice calm day. I was nearly alone in the Refuge enjoying the solitude and the scenery reflecting in the pristine settings.
Valley of Fire State Park is one of the most stunning places I have visited. The colorfully striped formations defy your imagination. Walking on and among them is simply a humbling adventure and you wonder whether a simple photograph can do justice to your surroundings.
The morning I was driving up the slopes of Mauna Kea, there was drizzle falling and a fairly thick fog. It didn't seem like a promising opportunity to make a pleasing image! But I spotted some twisted trees through the fog, and they were just too interesting to pass up even in the wet conditions. I could feel the challenges they were feeling just to exist in this difficult environment... as the wetness covered me and my infrared camera.
Great chunks of ice from the nearby glacier are continuously calving into a small lagoon at Jökulsárlón. These ice flows are melting and moving toward the open ocean. They shift around in the lagoon depending on currents and winds. The birds seem to enjoy the area as well. Sometimes the ice, clouds and birds all come together for a colorful combination, and the light is just right for the full effect.
In spring, Texas roadsides are in full bloom creating a stunning array of color. You can "wade" into the middle and be surrounded by a sea of brilliance. The blue ones are bluebonnets and the red and cream colored ones are paintbrush. The yellow flowers are poppies. The whole scene is a celebration of color!
Sand Harbor Beach provides an endless array of rock formations that offer striking sculptures when framed against a blank sky. You have to climb down among them and essentially disappear from the rest of the world in an almost claustrophobic environment. They just keep drawing you in deeper for new viewpoints. Because of the drought in the southwest, they are much more exposed than usual. This is oddly bringing new vistas to enjoy... hopefully temporarily. It's very easy to get scraped up and/or fall off them... but maybe the sense of peril is all part of the inspiring experience!
A few years ago the old Batchellerville Bridge across Great Sacandaga Lake in Upstate New York was replaced. The old green, truss bridge had existed since the 1930's when the lake was created to provide flood protection. Being within 2 miles of my home meant I crossed it hundreds of times over the years. The new, wider bridge has a much cleaner appearance with longer spans and greater clearance. With change, some things are lost... but some things are also gained... when seen in the right light!
Celebrate the beauty of Bow Lake. Such dramatic reflections double the impact of the surrounding landscape. It’s probably the symmetry that makes it so impressive. I find myself thinking how many other times a similar reflection happens when I’m not there to enjoy it. Fortunately, I believe others are.
Glacial melt creates the waterfall. As I looked through the camera, I was focused on keeping my lens dry from mist but I suddenly noticed a very bright, colorful area on my right. I became mesmerized by the emerging rainbow(s). They continued to grow in my direction and slowly the closer one wrapped around me to my left... and beyond my view in the frame. I have never before been that close to a rainbow... nor been surrounded by it. I felt like I could touch it.
Some places have light that defies description. At Lake Louise, morning light and mist create a glow that seems surreal. Add red canoes, some mountains, streaking clouds and a touch of snow, and you have a celebration! I stood admiring the scene so long that I almost forgot to set up the camera to try to preserve a little of the magic.
Morning light defines the extraordinary textures that have been created by wind in the gypsum sands. The silence accented by a faint sound of crunching grains is intoxicating. When you find a bush for some color, a brilliant blue sky and a few dynamic clouds, the whole scene seems to celebrate.
The strange formations of Hopewell Rocks are exciting when you visit at low tide. You can descend to the ocean floor of the Bay of Fundy and walk among the monumental sculptures that the tides and flow have created. You are 30 feet below the high tide seeing shapes up close that are almost completely hidden at other times. The infrared medium emphasizes the details and textures of their intimidating presence.
Early light emphasizes intriguing shapes among the gypsum dunes. You search for areas that have not been tracked by people... You know you are the first to see this view. The quiet essence of the walk over the dunes is so well worth it.
Snæfellsjökull is a 700,000-year-old volcano with a glacier covering its summit. It is a famous site in Iceland, primarily due to the novel "Journey to the Center of the Earth" (1864) by Jules Verne. The protagonists find a passage leading to the center of the Earth on Snæfellsjökull. While walking in the lava fields surrounding the entire area, one could easily believe this might offer a portal to the center of the Earth! Most striking was the beautiful "sunset" light near midnight.
The often celebrated but elusive "Door to Love" has been found. It’s been hidden on Prince Edward Island in Canada! It’s hidden in the shadows. And while it’s unlocked, it seems to get little use - note the rusty hinges and overgrown grass. There’s that modest invitation to smile - it probably helps! Wonder what’s inside? Well, the door is right in front of you!
The Celebrate Webpage

www.celebratewhatsright.com

This is the webpage that gave rise to the Celebrate Facebook Page. It’s full of images, videos, blogs and quotes that can help make every day a Celebration. We invite you to partake in every part of it. Enjoy!

The Celebrate Themed Celebrations


This is the site where you can find more of our wonderful Themed Celebrations and Artist’s Collections. Enjoy them all and then download the PDFs to share with your friends and family.

The Celebrate Facebook Page

The entire collection of images presented in this PDF are from the Celebrate Facebook Page. Please come visit and enjoy the hundreds of celebrations posted here - then post your own and join the celebration!

www.facebook.com/celebratewhatsright
About Celebrate What’s Right with the World

Over 300,000 people have visited the Celebrate website since it went live 5 years ago. More than 10,000 people have ‘liked’ us on Facebook and more than 20,000 photographic celebrations have been posted!

Amazing! We have shared thousands of uplifting visual stories of joy and beauty, happiness and love.

For all of us who have been involved in the project, we see how much it has changed us. Not so much in an intellectual way, but rather in a deep and abiding emotional way. By seeing life as a celebration, by focusing on all we have to be thankful for, we find ourselves filling with gratitude. First, perhaps, for the big things in life. Now, more and more, for everything - every cloud, every tree, every person, every opportunity, every breath. Living life to the fullest is so much easier through the lens of celebration. Imagine what life would be like if everyone saw life that way.

Come to our sites and join the celebration!

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