

Through Their Lens

A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

Arnold (Arnie) Becker

Arnie Becker is proud to be a charter member of Grand Photos and a Board member who has guided Club competitions.

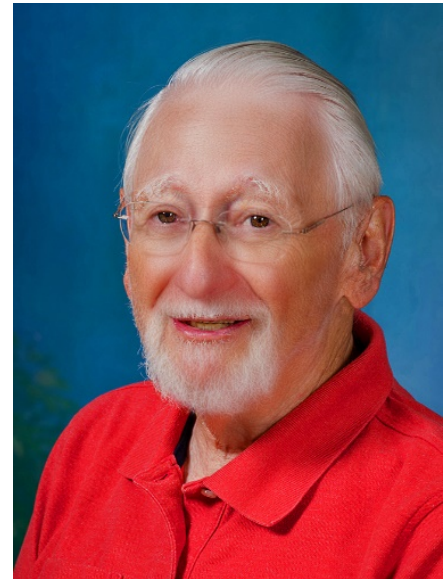
When did your interest in photography begin? It was sparked in the early 1950's when my father took me to a large camera store and bought me my first camera. My interest expanded in high school, and in college I was photo editor for the school newspaper. I never technically worked as a professional photographer; however, I did make a tidy sum during summer months taking shots of participants in activities and groups at a day camp and selling 8 x 10's to their parents who gobbled them up. I used this money to court my wife, Mary Ann. My first digital camera was a retirement gift.

How did you arrive at Grand? We moved to Sun City Grand when we retired. The southwest was a logical choice because of family in Colorado. We checked out several adult communities in New Mexico, Nevada, and Arizona before settling in SCG. Being active square dancers, we were drawn to the opportunities in the valley. Beautiful golf courses and water features are attractive to us even though we are not golfers. A close-by synagogue that met our needs along with great health care and a nearby hospital cinched the deal.

How did you find yourself involved as the Director of Competitions? As a born volunteer, when I was approached to be director, I couldn't say no. Among other things, I have also served Grand

Photos chairing the mentoring program, as a member of the education team, and in providing orientation for new members.

What do you enjoy most about Grand Photos? The Club provides me with avenues to explore a lot of the technical stuff and I love to learn new things.



What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years? Technological improvements and advancements in editing software. I'm a techie; the details are what fascinate me. I enjoy resurrecting old photographs and editing them with new technology. Older images from my archives are made new and better with technology. What I once considered good photographs at the time have become stunning new photos. A prime example is sky replacement. It is really amazing!



What are your favorite things to photograph? People! Without question, people; in particular street photography. I really like candid shots from my travels - not posed, not portraits – but everyday people just going about their lives. With powerful zoom lenses, it is easier than ever to take peoples' pictures and capture their expressions.

