

Through Their Lens

A Series of Interviews with Active Grand Photos Volunteers

Jeanne Hladek



Since she joined the Club in 2009, Jeanne has served in various capacities as a monitor, as outside speaker coordinator, and since last year, welcome team coordinator.

When did your interest in photography begin? I have always taken pictures of my travels and created a photo album when I returned home. Like others I also took pictures of family and special events. After moving to Grand several years ago, I discovered Grand Photos and all the things I could do to an image using post-processing software.

How did you arrive at Grand? Initially we thought we'd be Snowbirds. Many years ago, we purchased a home in another age-restricted community in Surprise and visited several times a year when it wasn't rented. But when we got serious about living in Arizona, we decided to move to Grand full time and travel during the summer season.

What do you most enjoy about Grand Photos? I especially enjoy the camaraderie, the friendships I've made through the years and the sense of community. Members share photography techniques and tips, but the friendships go beyond the Club. Members also share a variety of life experiences that relate to our stage of life and living at Sun City Grand.

How did you find yourself involved as outside speaker coordinator and welcome team coordinator? A number of years ago the Board wanted to spread club responsibilities to involve more people in club activities and operations. I was asked to serve as outside speaker coordinator. I recalled what Stan Bormann said in one of his classes, "I've gotten a lot out of this club. I should give something back to it." That resonated with me, as I too had learned a great deal, so I decided that I needed to help out. Last year I was asked if I would take the responsibilities of the welcome team coordinator and I accepted.

What is it about photography that has maintained your interest over so many years? What first piqued my interest were the many cool things I could do in post-processing to improve an image or create a totally different one. From attending workshops and special interest groups (SIG's) I've learned there are many ways to look at an object or





view a scene before clicking the shutter. Grand Photos members are always searching for the latest photography apps, techniques, equipment and software programs. I enjoy learning these new things.

What are your favorite things to photograph? Travel is still my favorite. I also like photographing food and taking videos of people and places I visit. It's fun to relive those experiences through the videos. Lately though, my grandson has become my favorite subject to photograph!

