



## A Cuba Photography Workshop with Peter Turnley

by John Terwilliger – Austin Shutterbug Club

During the first week of November 2025, I joined a workshop under Peter Turnley in Havana, Cuba. I had been following Peter's work for some time, so I found his web page and looked through the available options for workshops. I have traveled the world as part of a long career in the computer industry and always want to travel to places I have not seen before, so Cuba sounded right. My wife saw my interest and gave me this trip as a birthday gift. What a gift!



A little about Peter Turnley. He and his twin brother David are renowned photojournalists of the 1970's through the 2000's. Peter and David have been to every natural disaster, plague, and war during this time. Peter shot the cover of Time Magazine 43+ times. My investigations of Peter noted that his first time to Cuba was with Mikhail Gorbachev visiting Fidel Castro. In fact, Peter is the only American artist to have a show at the Cuban National Museum. Peter has been to Cuba over 80 times. All of this made me feel pretty good that Peter knew his way around Cuba.

What is the experience of a Peter Turnley Workshop – just amazing. Peter is a fantastic teacher and guide to help you grow in your photography. On top of that, photographers and people. I would have to say, my time talking with Peter and my fellow workshop photographers was probably the most important part of the workshop. We stayed at the Casa Particular, which was a grand home with ample facilities to provide a great learning environment. In Cuba, Americans are not allowed to stay in many of the hotels because they are all government run. We are not allowed to support the government in any way while we are in Cuba.



Now, let's talk about Cuba. The people are a wonderful, warm, resilient people that are very photogenic. They are friendly and, as I had already read from other photographers on workshops in Cuba, would invite you into their homes to take photos. Just an amazing culture. While the people are warm and friendly, the Cuban infrastructure is challenged. We had electricity for only four hours daily (likely less now), groceries were scarce, and the roads required repairs. All that said, it was a wonderful experience.

## Article by John Terwilliger cont.

Our daily routine was to be out photographing from 9:30 to 3:30. Then we would all go back to our Casa Particular to work through our images, selecting our top 30 (I would be taking around 1000 to 1500 per day). Around 5:30 we would head to a group review session where Peter would take your top 30, present them, and critique with the group. If one of your images passed the initial critique it would be set aside for a final review session with the class on our last day. This was all pretty intimidating for a guy who has only shown his work to family members and a couple of images to our club, but Peter quickly put us at ease and was very constructive in his critique.



Each day we visited a different location – usually two to three different places every day. These ranged from walking the streets to schools of dance to a family tobacco farm. We broke into groups with either Peter or a professional Cuban photographer and would walk the streets. With each new location, we gained insights from our leader and the group about approaching people and getting to know the Cuban people.

I have heard, “if you want to improve your photography take a workshop”. My experience would support that statement wholeheartedly. Peter still has a few openings for his workshops in 2026. You can find more info on his web page. If you would like to hear more about my experiences in Cuba, I will be talking about the details at our February meeting. See you there.

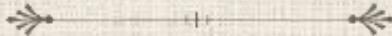
## Cuba

Officially the **Republic of Cuba** is an island country in the Caribbean. It comprises the eponymous main island as well as 4,195 islands, islets, and cays. Situated at the convergence of the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico, and Atlantic Ocean, Cuba is located east of the Yucatán Peninsula, south of both Florida and the Bahamas, west of Hispaniola, and north of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Havana is the largest city and capital. Cuba is the third-most populous country in the Caribbean after Haiti and Dominican Republic, with about 10 million inhabitants. It is the largest country in the Caribbean by area. Culturally, Cuba is considered part of Latin America.



# Total Lunar Eclipse – March 3, 2026!

**Our Assignment for May 2026 is the Lunar Eclipse that will take place on March 3, 2026. Below are more details of what to expect and how to prepare for the event.**



On **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**, a total lunar eclipse will take place across several time zones. In this data visualization, the Moon moves from right to left, passing through Earth's shadow and leaving in its wake an eclipse diagram with the times (in UTC) at various stages of the eclipse.

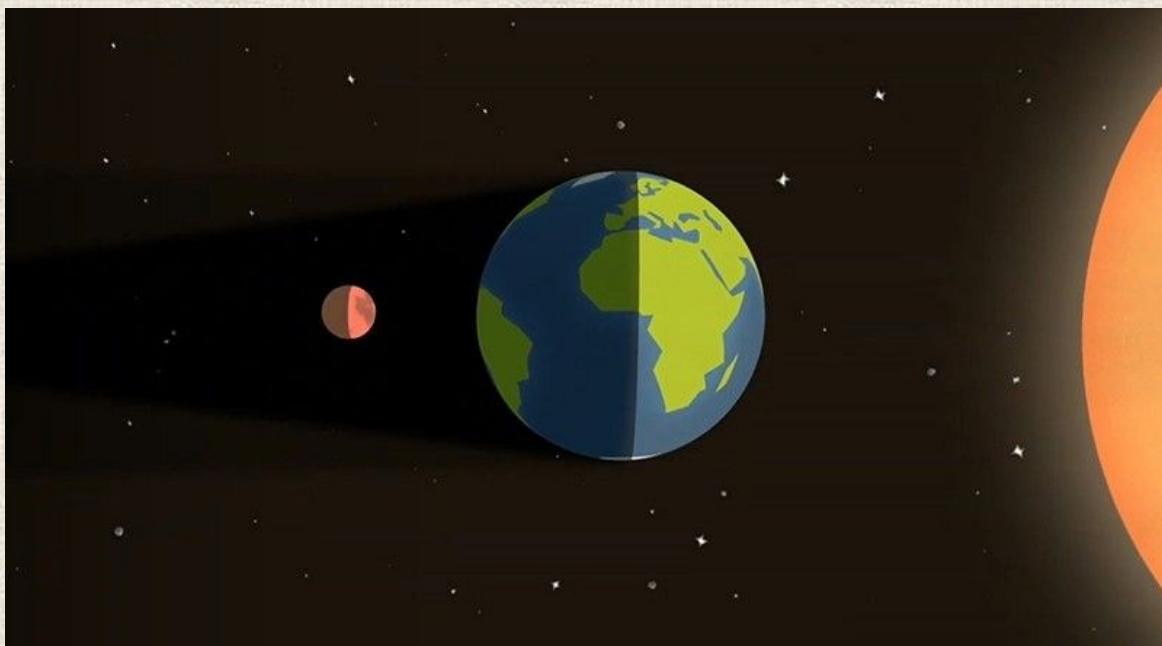
## **How does a lunar eclipse work?**

A lunar eclipse occurs when Earth passes directly between the Sun and Moon, casting a gigantic shadow across the lunar surface and turning the Moon a deep reddish-orange. This alignment can only occur during a full Moon phase.

## **How can I observe the eclipse?**

You can observe a lunar eclipse without any special equipment. All you need is a line of sight to the Moon! For a more dramatic observing experience, seek a dark environment away from bright lights. Binoculars or a telescope can also enhance your view.

On March 3, totality will be visible in the evening from eastern Asia and Australia, throughout the night in the Pacific, and in the early morning in North and Central America and far western South America. The eclipse is partial in central Asia and much of South America. No eclipse is visible in Africa or Europe.



# January 2026 Assignment Images

## *An Iconic Austin Mural*



Barbara Hunley



Joe Bryson

# January 2026 General Images



Barbara Hunley



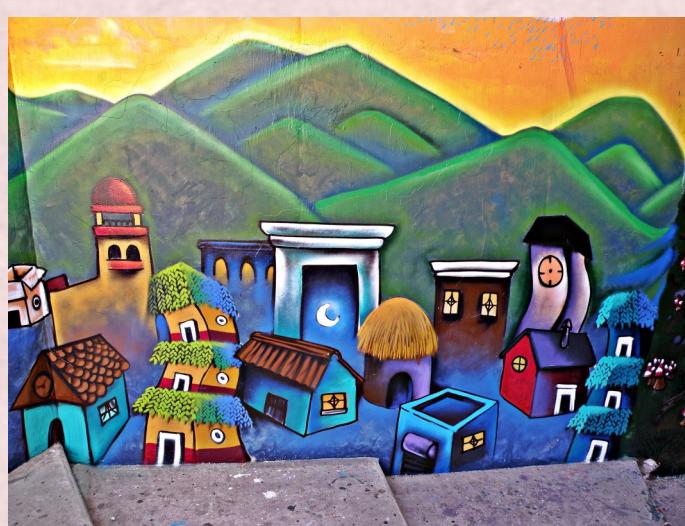
Jill McLain



Clarence Ranzau



John Terwilliger



Therese Beck

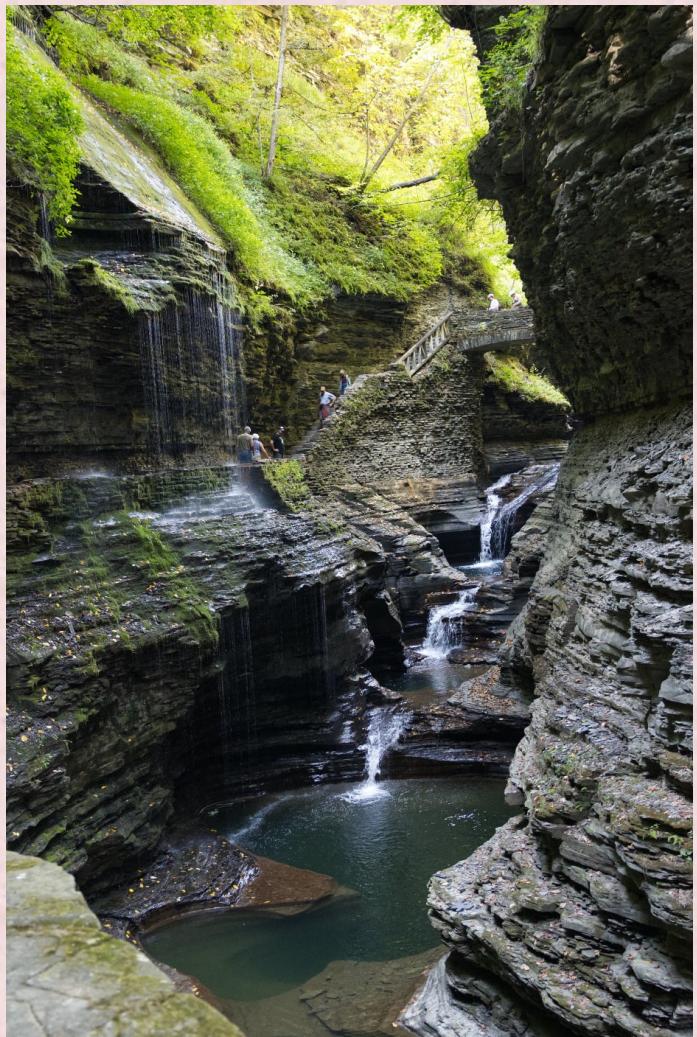


Mike Stys

## January 2026 General Images



Clarence Ranzau



Dave Wolter



Jill McLain



Mike Stys

# January 2026 General Images



John Terwilliger

*"Photography takes an instant out of time,  
altering life by holding it still"*

Dorothea Lange

*"You don't take a photograph, you make it"*

Ansel Adams



Therese Beck



Dave Wolter

*"Look and think before opening the shutter.  
The heart and mind are the true lens of the  
camera"*

Yousuf Karsh



# Assignment Topics for 2026

## January 2026

***An Iconic Austin Mural*** – Must include the architecture that supports the painting. Color.

## March 2026

***A shadow of Itself*** – A photograph of a shadow. Must include at least a portion of the object making the shadow. Color or monochrome.

## May 2026

***Lunar Eclipse*** – A total lunar eclipse of March 2-3, 2026. Color.

## July 2026

***Texas Wildflowers*** – Any flower, grouping, or landscape. Must be wild. Color only.

## September 2026

***Fireworks Display*** – Color.

## November 2026

***Tabletop Still Life*** – Any subject. Composition and lighting are critical. Color.



Taking a picture is like giving a piece of your soul away. You allow other people to see the world through your eyes.

- Katja Michael -

# Austin Shutterbug Club

## Northwest Recreation Center

### *Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2026*

The meeting was called to order by Brian Loflin. There were several guests attending. Brian mentioned that it is time for annual dues to be paid - \$25 per person or \$35 per family. Students can join for \$15.

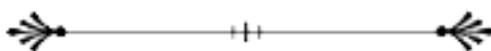
Assignment and General Category photos were shown and critiqued. The assignment was “An Iconic Austin Mural – Must include the architecture that supports the painting. Color only”.

Brian briefly discussed his latest project which was publishing a book entitled Adventures in a Minor Order by Diane W. Young – the last remaining expert on the Tree Lice. The book is her work on that insect.

We are attempting to get a library room reservation in February for a Water Droplet Photography workshop. More will come on that once a reservation is obtained.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jill McLain  
Secretary



*Visitors welcome!*



### **NEXT MEETING DATE!**

Thursday, February 5, 2026

7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

*We are on Facebook!*

