

# World Documentary Photographer

Travel & Documentary Photography / Blog: Frances Schwabenland

## A DAY OF BRIDGES AND CONNECTIONS

MARCH 26, 2017 BY ADMIN

Yesterday, I received a message from Facebook reminding me that on this day last year, I was walking across the Brooklyn Bridge. March 25th seems to be a day of bridging and making connections because yesterday I attended the [Philadelphia Travel and Adventure Show](#) and was able to cross worlds and cultures... Tibetan prayer flags, trains and planes, new friends from Morocco and becoming more acquainted with all that exists so close to home.



Russell Hannon

The celebrity travel speakers were Adam Richman, Rick Steves and Peter Greenberg, Russell Hannon and Angel Castellanos. "99 Ways to Cut Your Travel Costs – Without Skimping" was where I started off of course! Russell Hannon of [breakthetravelbarrier.com](#) suggested using the following on line resources: [airfarewatchdog.com](#), [farecompare.com](#), [yapta.com](#) to find less expensive fares. Airlines have started to set up bidding for upgrades now. Air Canada and Virgin Atlantic hold a bidding session at the gate using cell phones. Things are a changing!  
[Tingo.com](#) for hotels and [autoslash.com](#) for car rentals will constantly search for better fares after you book and alert you when they find lower fares for the identical itinerary with an option to cancel your existing reservation and **rebook at the lower fare at no extra charge**. [Hopper](#) crunches historical data specific to a flight you want and show you the best price you can get now, whether it is likely to drop, when and by how much. One should try to avoid ATM fees and the [Charles Schwab Investor Plus](#) checking account is a no-fee account with a minimum 1 penny balance. The account includes unlimited free ATM cash withdrawals and reimburses you any ATM charges by third part backs. [Gasbuddy.com](#) is a GPS integrated app that shows all the nearby gas stations with prices by fuel grade and directions. I walked away from this talk with Russell's book and started downloading new and helpful apps right then and there.

[Johnny Jet](#) spoke about how to travel like a movie star without movie star money. His website holds so many tips and tricks and he was so informative. He suggested taking bags of Hershey Kisses and giving them to those who check you in as well as the flight attendants. Don't we all love getting surprises!? He suggested signing up for the following newsletters (besides his ): [Pointsguy](#), [Scott's Cheap Flights](#).



## ARCHIVES

Archives

- ["b" by donna m](#) (2)
- ["On the Wings of Music: Art](#) (1)
- [Acadia National Park](#) (1)
- [Amish](#) (3)
- [Amish Mud Sale](#) (2)
- [Amish Quilt Sale](#) (3)
- [Arpillera](#) (3)
- [bird migration](#) (1)
- [Brooklyn Botanical Gardens](#) (1)
- [Brooklyn Brownstones](#) (1)
- [Brooklyn tourism](#) (1)
- [Bryn Athyn Cathedral](#) (1)
- [Byers' Choice](#) (1)
- [Canon 5D Mark II video](#) (1)
- [Cape May architecture](#) (2)
- [Cape May Firehouse](#) (1)
- [Cape May Photography](#) (3)
- [Cape May tourist](#) (1)
- [Cape May Tourist Attractions](#) (1)
- [Cape May, NJ](#) (1)
- [Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul](#) (1)
- [Catholic Cathedral](#) (1)
- [cemetary](#) (2)
- [Christmas Sites](#) (1)
- [Christmas Tours](#) (1)
- [Churchville Nature Center](#) (1)
- [city view](#) (2)
- [Civil War photography](#) (1)
- [Comcast Center Holiday Show](#) (1)
- [Comic Brigade](#) (1)
- [Constitution Center](#) (1)
- [Countries](#) (5)
  - [D.C.](#) (1)
  - [D.C. tourism](#) (1)
  - [dangos](#) (1)
  - [David duChemin](#) (1)
  - [Eastern State Penitentiary](#) (1)
  - [Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion](#) (1)
  - [Egyptian photographs](#) (1)
  - [Egyptian reflections](#) (1)
  - [engagement photographs](#) (2)
  - [Faces of Peru](#) (3)
  - [Fairmount Park](#) (3)
  - [fall colors](#) (1)
  - [fall foliage](#) (1)

After armed with so much useful information to feed my obsession for travel, I was off to travel the aisles of the convention center. Three local areas I must get to are the [Hudson Valley Region of New York](#), [Gettysburg](#) and [Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands](#)



*Exotic and Distant Lands*

I have new best friends, Sharon and her husband, Ishmael who I spoke with at length for a possible photo tour through the exotic and amazing land of Morocco. (If interested, let me know!).

Travel for Impact is a unique and powerful new enterprise which arranges trips to Botswana that provide opportunities for the visitor to work side by side with locals on community initiatives and the women sell their art and crafts to further these initiatives. I am now the proud owner of a beautiful black and white beaded bracelet!



*Botswana Travel*

Going off to new lands to experience new adventures may sometimes be overwhelming. [Tours By Locals.com](#) has 1977 hand vetted guides in over 158 countries to help you customize your experience with 24/7 customer support.

As a plug for an excellent travel agent who can also set up the experience you are looking for, may I suggest to those who live in and around Philadelphia, Debbie Ryan of [Springhouse Travel](#). She can provide a full service travel and leisure experience and is totally dedicated to providing excellent customer service!

If you are looking for a very unique experience in Europe may I also suggest, [Untours.com](#). Untours pioneered apartment-based independent travel and has provided unique cultural vacation packages since 1975. They support the work and mission of the [Untours Foundation](#), which funds green projects that fight poverty around the world. Use their vast knowledge base to design your own trip or allow one of their expert Culturists to give you a hand.

Throughout the day, there were presentations on classical Indian Dance, South Pacific Island dance, Bahamas and Botswana movement and music. From information, to new discoveries and immersion into global beats, the Philadelphia Travel and Adventure Show had it all.

[flower photography](#) (4)

[Foreign Travel](#) (50)

[Cambodia](#) (10)

[Canada](#) (3)

[Egypt](#) (1)

[India](#) (5)

[Italy](#) (8)

[Peru](#) (5)

[Portraits](#) (4)

[Frances Schwabenland Photography](#) (29)

[Freemasons](#) (1)

[garden clubs](#) (2)

[Gardens](#) (5)

[Gen. George Meade](#) (1)

[Ghost Tour of Philadelphia](#) (1)

[Glen Carin](#) (1)

[Halloween](#) (1)

[Holiday](#) (7)

[Celebrations](#) (6)

[Hoover Dam](#) (1)

[horseshoe crabs](#) (1)

[Ice](#) (2)

[India photography](#) (2)

[India storytelling](#) (1)

[India street scenes](#) (3)

[India. India travel](#) (2)

[Indian photography](#) (1)

[Indian portraits](#) (1)

[Isajah Zagar](#) (1)

[Italian villas](#) (1)

[Italy](#) (3)

[Jaipur](#) (1)

[Jaipur photography](#) (1)

[July 4th celebrations](#) (1)

[Jun Kaneko](#) (1)

[Lake Mead](#) (1)

[Lake Mead Cruises](#) (1)

[Lancaster County](#) (1)

[landscape photography](#) (2)

[Las Vegas](#) (3)

[Las Vegas Blvd.](#) (1)

[last will and testaments](#) (1)

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#) (2)

[legacy of love](#) (1)

[Lenape Indians](#) (1)

[Lensbaby](#) (1)

[Life Stories](#) (6)

[lighting techniques](#) (1)

[Longwood Gardens](#) (3)

[Macy's Christmas Light Show](#) (1)

[Magic Garden](#) (1)

[Maine Coastal Flight Center](#) (1)

[Maine tourism](#) (1)

[Masonic Treasures](#) (1)

[Medieval Stained Glass](#) (1)

[Memorial Day](#) (2)

[Memorial Hall](#) (1)



South Pacific Beauty

- [Missionary Society of St. James](#) (2)
- [mosaics](#) (1)
- [Mr. Chojnacki](#) (1)
- [Mummer's Parade](#) (1)
- [Mummer's Parade 2011](#) (1)
- [Mummer's Strut](#) (1)
- [National Audubon Society](#) (1)
- [National Geographic](#) (2)
- [National Registry of Historic Places](#) (1)
- [nature photography](#) (2)
- [Nature Photography](#) (5)
  - [Seasonal](#) (2)
- [Nevada](#) (3)
- [New Year's Day Parades](#) (1)
- [New York City](#) (5)
- [New York photography](#) (3)
- [Newseum](#) (1)



Manimekalai Thiyagarajan

- [NJ](#) (1)
- [NJ Tourist Attractions](#) (4)
- [Northern Liberties](#) (1)
- [NY](#) (1)
- [oldest camera](#) (1)
- [Opera and You"](#) (1)
- [Operation Smile](#) (1)
- [Pearl Harbor](#) (1)
- [People of India](#) (1)
- [Peru photography](#) (5)
- [Peru Travel](#) (3)
- [Peru weddings](#) (1)
- [Peruvian Architecture](#) (1)
- [Peruvian Art](#) (3)
- [Peruvian Photographs](#) (1)
- [Peruvian Travel](#) (1)
- [Philadelphia City Hall](#) (1)
- [Philadelphia destinations](#) (6)
- [Philadelphia Flower Show](#) (1)
- [Philadelphia Historical Sites](#) (5)

Now I am off to see Rick Steves at the Keswick Theatre. The Montgomery County Libraries are the sponsors and Rick's topic is: "Broadening Your Global Perspective Through Travel" ... a topic I totally embrace!

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← [A Montage of Myanmar](#)

[Chants, Lamentations and Veneration](#) →

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Website

- [Philadelphia Mummer's Parade](#) (1)
- [Philadelphia Mummies](#) (1)
- [Philadelphia photographer](#) (47)
- [Philadelphia photography](#) (22)
- [Philadelphia snow](#) (1)
- [Philadelphia tourism](#) (9)
- [Philadelphia Tourist attraction](#) (14)
- [Philadelphia Tourist Attractions](#) (6)
- [Philadelphia tourist site](#) (5)
- [Philadelphia winter](#) (1)
- [Phillies](#) (2)
- [Photography](#) (51)
  - [Architecture](#) (1)
  - [Nature](#) (6)
  - [Portraits](#) (7)
  - [Travel](#) (44)
- [photojournalist vests](#) (1)
- [piper airplanes](#) (1)
- [Please Touch Museum](#) (1)
- [pohotography vest](#) (1)