

New blog: Orange County Daily Photo



"Photography, as a powerful medium of expression and communications, offers an infinite variety of perception, interpretation and execution." Ansel Adams

Creating an Orange County Daily Photo Blog has been on my mind for a while. I used to post a daily photo right here on Alive in Wonderland, but it became too difficult to keep up with it regularly and I felt it infringed on my writing time. But the desire to share Orange County through photography was still there, so I started this collaborative blog that launches today:

[Orange County Daily Photo](#)

The photographers include [Marcy](#), [Jeff S.](#), [Chris](#), [Jeff D.](#), [Tracey](#), [Susan](#), and [moi](#). Head over and take a look. We love Orange County and hope to show you why with our photography and stories.

You can also follow us on Twitter: [OCDailyphoto.](#)

Orange County Bloggers I'm crushing on you



"A little nonsense now and then is cherished by the wisest men."

Gene Wilder

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Are you a blogger? Do you live in Orange County? Has your family banned phrases like "If you read my blog, you wouldn't have asked me that" or "I'm so blogging this" from leaving your lips? Do you take pictures of your dinner? When you start to talk about your blog does your best friend (IRL) start to dig around aimlessly in her purse? Are you up late at night writing your insights on '80s music or the redeeming value of Target?

I've got the group for you.

BlogCrush is a group I created for all OC Bloggers. We meet-up once a month in a safe environment where we can talk freely about page views, Flickr, BlogHer ads, and the wonder of Twitter without the fear of non-bloggers roller their eyes at us or threatening to never comment again.

Last month we got together on a warm weekday night at the [Veggie Grill at the Irvine Spectrum](#). It was great to meet blogger who I have been reading, some of them, for years. I gave each and every one of them a hug and it wasn't weird at all (*for me*) because I felt like I knew them—they were my friends.

It was a little bit of nonsense on a Wednesday night. It was eating sweet potato fries and drinking fruit tea. It was a bunch of people who had a common passion sharing it with others. It was awesome.

If you are an OC Blogger, please head over to [BlogCrush's Facebook page](#) and join us or if you're not on Facebook (*gasp!*) you can email me at suzbroughton@yahoo.com and I'll keep you in the loop for the next meet-up.

Our hope is that we can grow a strong, loyal, and supportive blogging community in Orange County ~~that's way better than any group in Los Angeles~~ that will inspire and enrich our county. Really.

+++++

These are the bloggers that pulled themselves away from their computers long enough to meet-up at The Veggie Grill:



(Here are some of us are now. I swear there are boys in the group.)

[Marcy of The Glamorous Life](#)

Marcy also designed the BlogCrush logo. Thanks, Marcy.

[Julie of Angry Julie Monday](#)

[Dana and Jeff Sipper](#)

(Note Jeff is a boy.)

[Elaina of Restore](#)

[Kristin from Meringue Bake Shop](#)

[Stacey of OC Food Mommy](#)

[Roxanne of Me and My Monster](#)

[Aracely of Day Tripping Mom](#)

[Jeff from OC Metroblogging](#)

(Note Jeff is also a boy.)

[Kara of Eli's Lids](#)

[Sara of Ducks and Pucks](#)

[Jen from Tiny Oranges](#)

[Kirsten of Wright Creativity](#)

[Debbie from Peace Love and Momminess](#)

[Martha from Melody Gibbons](#)

[Sandra of Toldu0C](#)

[Suzanne of Twenty Four at Heart](#)

[Becky from Happy Hour Mom](#)

[Tracy from Tracy Clark](#)

[Lorna of Calif Lorna](#)

Auckland Daily Photo: BBF



I have started to read a lot of photo blogs lately, especially other Daily Photo blogs. One of my favorites is [Auckland Daily Photo](#). So, I was super happy to be given a “Blogging Best Friend” tag from Lachezar of that very blog.

I have always been fascinated by New Zealand—springing from my Split Enz/Neil Finn/Crowded House adoration ([read a little about that here](#)), then lasting due to New Zealand’s beauty—and his blog brings me a slice of that beautiful country daily. His pictures are simple and precise, truly an inspiration.

The rules of the tag are below, I have chosen the following blogs in part based on the rules, and in part because I haven't ever linked to them before and I wanted to introduce them:

[Big Hair Envy:](#) Her own tagline says it best "Confessions of a former spiral perm addict." I don't know where she is, somewhere country-ish. Where are you?

[The Mental Pause Chronicles:](#) Serious fun and she never, ever talks about shoes, chardonnay, laundry, football,, how best to clean your kitchen...or [llamas.](#), she never talks about llamas. She kicks out the humor from this place called "Connecticut."

[Dry as toast:](#) My newest follower. She is a young writer living in New York. I just want to squeeze her she's so adorable and then get all bossy every time I read her posts.

[I love retro things:](#) After reading Amy's blog I feel like I have just chatted with a friend. She's also in New Zealand.

[Yankee in Belgrade:](#) Bibi's daily photo blog is like going to Serbia daily, without the jet lag or language barrier.

If you have the time, feel free to respond to the tag—I will still be your BBF, even if you can't do it.

1. Only five people are allowed
 2. Four have to be dedicated followers of your blog
 3. One has to be someone new or recently new to your blog and live in another part of the world
 4. You must link back to whoever linked to you
-

Make that four...

Being patently bossy—especially when it comes to things I know a little about—I have coaxed not one, not two...fine, four people into starting their own blogs. They are, in order:

[Marcy at “The Glamorous Life.”](#)

[Andrea at “Bakers Love.”](#)

[Carrie at “Splendid Press.”](#)

and now, [Jenny at “Brain Bunnies.”](#)

I have also given my long-winded, moderately inspired, coffee-got-cold-while-I-was-talking opinion to the following people about their already fantastic blogs:

[Chris at “Dharma Bum.”](#)

[Lisa at “Lisa Mertins Life Illustrated.”](#)

[Nannette at “Girl Friday.”](#)

To be noted: Personal “advise” has been handed out to countless bloggers in comments, direct messaging on Twitter, and via email.

Marcy’s not so glamorous life

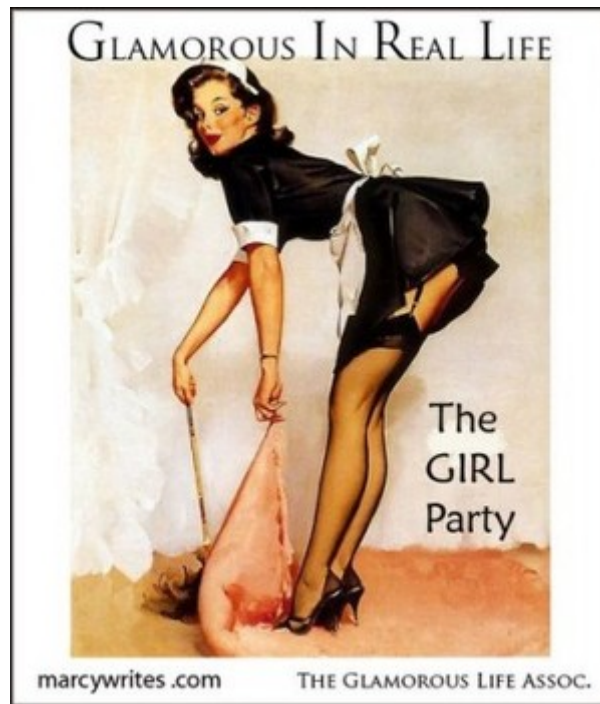
My dear friend Marcy over at [The Glamorous Life](#) (read in sarcasm here over use of the word “glamorous”) is having a G.I.R.L. party on her blog. G.I.R.L as in Glamorous In Real

Life.

Bloggers can join in by sending her posts that detail their domestic goofs and blunders or just send embarrassing photos. We love those. If you have a blog, this is a fun and ~~painless~~ way to get connected with other bloggers.

I submitted my [Lessons of The Earthquake Cake](#). If you've read it, you know it hits the mark on all three of the criteria listed above.

The bonus for Marcy? All the strange and slightly questionable google searches that "Girl Party" will bring to her site.



(I begged her not to use this drawing of me cleaning my house, but I suppose she couldn't resist.)

Please excuse me while I slip my new look on

Thank you to the outlandishly creative Heather at [Bluhm Studios](#) who is busying herself right now with the important work of making my blog look fabulous.

The blogging result of being a geek

I wrote a “Friday Five” that consisted of five snail jokes. I have a private collection of snail jokes that I tell when I’m asked (which honestly **NEVER** happens) or I feel the party is in need of a little light snail humor.

If you must, you can see the original post: [Here.](#)

Now, I get THE most hits to my site from people “Googling” snail jokes. Who knew there was such an ardent need for snail jokes?

Just to show you how silly it has become, I Googled “snail jokes” and this is what comes up. Yep, my blog comes even before [snailjokes.com!](#)

[Snail Joke](#)

Snail Joke. There's a bloke watching TV, and he hears a knock at the door. When he answers, there's no one to be seen! Just as he's about to close the door, ...
www.ariel.com.au/jokes/Snail_Joke.html - 5k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[11 Reasons why snail mail is better « Funny Jokes](#)

Feb 18, 2008 ... Submit to our Funny **Jokes** mailing list for consideration. Very Funny **Jokes** - Whether You Spell It Humor or Humour These Are Funny **Jokes** ...
jokesfunny.wordpress.com/2008/02/18/11-reasons-why-snail-mail-is-better/ - 37k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Emphasis Mine: Five Snail Jokes](#)

Five **Snail Jokes** (these are from my private reserve. Must be told in this order). 1) A farmer hears a knock at his door late one winter's night. ...
emphasisallmine.typepad.com/emphasismine/2007/11/five-snail-joke.html - 37k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#)

[Snailjokes.com - Snail Jokes](#)

Nov 14, 2006 ... Website Title: SnailJokes.com | **Snail Jokes** | **Blonde Jokes** | **Humor Jokes** |

You have to be three kinds of geeky to get that kind of traffic.

My blog's birthday

My blog is one year old today. I thought I would celebrate by reposting the very first thing I wrote here. It was email correspondence between me and my friend, [Vicki](#). Everyone should have a friend like her.

Thanks for reading me! I am just as bewitched by blogging as I was when I started and haven't even thought about giving it up— which is unlike me (see Earthquake Cake story below to get up to speed on that whole issue).

Posted Sept. 3 2007

Movie trailer voice man:

“It started out innocently enough, just a simple girl looking for a simple hair cut, what comes next is a dizzying string of senseless emails that pulled them away from the people they loved and the work they tried to avoid”

From: Suz

To: Vicki

Subject: Ideas for haircut

Hi,

If you have time can you send me some ideas for my shorter hair cut. I can't find anything particular that I want. I want it short in the back but I don't want it to be short in the front. That is about it for ideas.

I always wear my hair in a pony. It would take me AT LEAST an hour a day to make my hair look "non frizzy" I love my hair, but I don't even devote that much time to my husband. let alone a beauty regime.

Love your blog...

From: Vicki

To: Suz

Subject: hair

Hey Suz

I think something like these. You have think, wavy hair, just thin it out, lots of layers and let the waves do what they want.

Something easy where you can wash it and put some product on it and go, let it either air dry or just lightly dry it.

I think that Meg Ryan has really wonderful hair and I think yours has curl / waves like hers. Any of the following would look great on you.

If you don't like these tell me so I can find some others.





From: Suzanne
To: Vicki
Subject: Re: hair

K- Your last email was in my junk mail.....now Yahoo! is making judgment calls on my friends, great.
I like the last one.

From: Vicki
To: Suzanne
Subject: RE: hair

Tell Yahoo! I am not JUNK!
But I think that the last one is too straight without a lot of work?
It is a very cute cut. What happens if you put product in your hair and let it air dry?

From: Suz
To: Vicki
Subject: RE: Hair

Think Gilda Radner, 1979.

From: Vicki
To: Suz
Subject: RE: Hair

No it's not that big and frizzy –

You just need the right products and you'll look just like Meg Ryan.

From: Suzanne

To: Vicki

Subject: RE: Hair

That is the **EVIL LIE** that has filled my bathroom drawers with an endless supply of products and emptied my wallet of much needed cash.

Listen sister, you can come over and look at ALL of my products. I could have bought a horse with the money I have spent on flattening, defrizzing and calming hair products. My hair can't read labels and therefore, doesn't know it is suppose to be sleek, shinny and flat. It just does what is does best, be a frustrating time suck.

All you good hair people are the same, "air dry"... please!!!!!!!!!!

From: Vicki

To: Suz

Subject: RE: Hair

I don't want it to be sleek or flat.

It should be crazy, wild and sexy just like you.

From: Suz

To: Vicki

Subject: RE Hair

While this is so true, I forgot one of the most important aspect of my hair problems, I hate to have my hair touching my face. I really really hate it.

It gives me the hebby jeebies.....wild would touch....

To: Suz

From: Vicki

Subject: RE: Hair

Geez – just get a buzz cut and be done with it!

The resulting hair cut...



Charles Leadbeater at Ted Talks

Awesome discussion addressing an issue close to my heart: journalism and the blogger. Even more exciting, the idea of amateur professionals (Pro-Ams), creative people committed to doing things well and with passion.

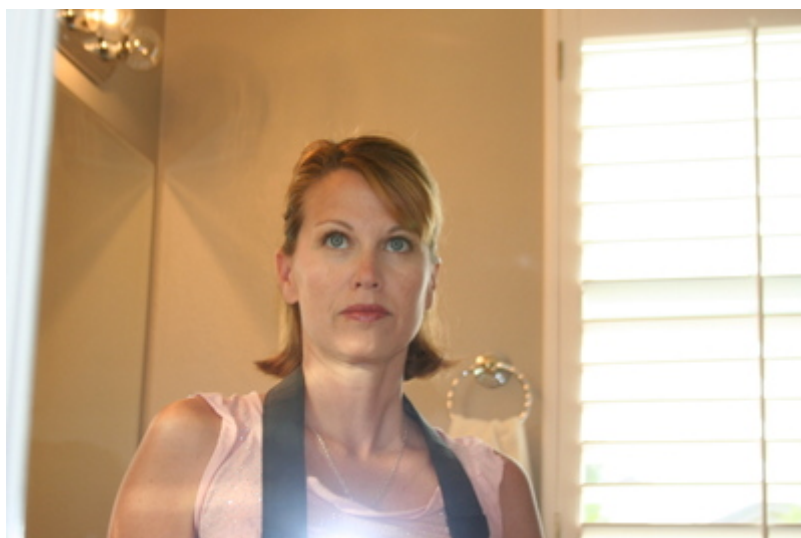
Leadbeater's idea of the new organization models sounds like OPPORTUNITY. There are still rules, just new ones.

Today's snapshot: Right back at 'ya Foolery

So, this is the classic blog photo: A shot of the blogger, taken by the blogger in their mirror. Almost every blog has at one time or another sported this picture. My guess is it's because:

- A. blogger has been banned from mentioning blog ever again to friends, hence, hindering ability to ask someone to take picture for blog
- B. always the dead of night while blogging and everyone else is fast asleep
- C. blogger likes the natural diffusion that usually occurs in one of these shots due to glare
- D. blogger thinks they look cute that day and no one is at home to take picture

I took this picture to post as a tribute to [Foolery](#), one of my favorite blogs. She uses it as her profile picture but I suspect her reasons are much more interesting and less petty than the ones listed.



If you are a fan of Foolery, or have another reason (see A-D above) please post your own obligatory "Blogger in the mirror"

shot.