



NORTH ANDOVER CITIZEN

July 22-28, 2011

WickedLocalNorthAndover.com

Vol. 46. No. 22 \$1

Local photographer sweeps international contest



'Discovery'



'Angel Eyes'



'The Elusive Squirrel Monkey'



'Coffee Talk'

All 4 entries take first place in respective categories

By Sally Applegate
Correspondent

Last year he became the first ever Massachusetts photographer to be named Gold Level Photographer of the Year by the Professional Photographers of the America -- one of 46 photographers worldwide to receive this award.

This year, he has taken first place with all four of the photos he entered in the organization's International Photographic Competition, earning the Silver Medalist Photographer Award. Jurors from across the country chose the winning competition photos from more than 4,000 entries.

One of the submissions, 'Discovery', has been selected for the prestigious Loan Collection, representing the best of the best in professional photography. The photograph, of young twins by a pond at Pedi's North Andover studio, will appear in the

"Loan Collection" book to be printed in January 2012.

"It's the greatest honor you can win in photography," Pedi said. "It's not an easy thing to do."

The other three winning Pedi photos were 'Angel Eyes', a portrait of a high school senior, 'Coffee Talk', a portrait of an elderly man in a Middleton restaurant and 'the Elusive Squirrel Monkey', shot in Costa Rica.

Pedi has won many honors in photography. His images have been on display at the Kodak Exhibit at Disney's Epcot Center. He has won the Kodak Gallery Award, four FUJI Masterpiece Awards, three Courts of Honor Awards and several Judges Choice awards.

Pedi is passionate about what he does because he knows how important it is to preserve one's family in photos. His mother, Jennie, died at age 54, leaving few photographic records behind -- and Pedi has no big family photo that includes his beloved mom.

"The family is the greatest gift you have, Pedi said. I'm very passionate about capturing families -- how they really look, not

posed with cheesy smiles. There's a method to getting a natural smile. That's my forte, working with a family and getting them to smile naturally. When you are entrusted with the privilege of preserving life memories for families through your portraiture, it should be the absolute best work you are capable of producing."

He worked in photography part-time during his 24 well-paid years working for the Post Office, and 16 years ago he left all security that behind to open a photography studio. He has done well, preserving life memories for many families.

He photographed the 2-year-old Mulhern twins, Max and Molly, for "Discovery" as they watched the gold fish swimming in his backyard pond in North Andover. The twins' mother, Susan Mulhern of Andover, thinks he captured them to perfection. "The shoot was phenomenal. He is so talented," Mulhern said. "He captured them so well. The water coming down, everything in it is exquisite. We were absolutely beyond thrilled to hear the photo had won, and is going into the Loan Collection

exhibit. The twins are 3 now. They look at the photo and they both say, "That's us! That's Max and Molly!" Our whole family is just thrilled that he captured that moment."

You can view Pedi's photos in various locations in North Andover, including the Boston Chowda Company. His body of work will be on display next year in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, Jan. 15 through 17, exhibited alongside other photographic works from PPA's photographic competition. Pedi will speak at the PPA convention on Jan. 16. He is not nervous about giving a speech to an audience of more than 1,000 fellow photographers. "It's fun to speak about something you're really passionate about," Pedi said.

View the portrait galleries of Ed Pedi online at edpediphoto.com. You can also reach him at his North Andover studio, where he and his wife Linda run the family portrait business by phoning 978.686.6535. You can email Ed and Linda at: edpediphoto.com and linda@edpediphoto.com.