

JULIUS JAFFE

Sonoma County Nature Photographer

Life presents us with many choices and sometimes we get to excel in multiple ways. That is the best way to understand Dr. Julius Jaffe, an esteemed leader in medical care in Sonoma County, avid cyclist, runner of marathons (including one in Greece), and respected member of the PPWC (Professional Photographers of the Wine Country).



Julius' photography celebrates the beauty of Sonoma County, focusing on nature and wildlife subjects, especially birds. True to his photojournalistic style, his pictures go beyond landscapes and animal portraits — they capture a moment in time, a feeling, an emotion.... they tell a story.

The Early Years:

Julius' love of photography developed as a boy. At a young age, his parents gave him a Kodak "Baby Brownie" that he took with him everywhere. In his early teens, he saved up and purchased a Retina 3c camera with a folding front and spent time wandering around New York. He loved to capture candid images of people in the streets, parks, bars and cafes, reacting with other people and showing emotions.

Julius has a photojournalistic style and drew inspiration from "The Family of Man," a great collection of images from many famous street photographers. He was also inspired by an uncle who was a studio and event photographer; as well as another uncle who had been a combat photographer with the US Army overseas, and who set up a darkroom with Julius, taking him to a whole new level.

A Man of Many Talents Arrives in Sonoma County:

Julius graduated from Rutgers University and then studied medicine at Leiden University in Holland and did postgraduate training in hematology and oncology at UCSF. In 1971, he arrived in Santa Rosa, where he was the first fully trained cancer specialist in the region. He became well-known for his ability to lighten the heaviness of oncology with his caring, competent treatment. His medical colleagues describe him to this day as a true "Mensch," a person of integrity and honor.

Artist's Statement:

"Throughout my professional career as a doctor, photography has continued to be an important part of my life. Sonoma County is a photographer's paradise and it is my pleasure to share my work."