

Remembering Tom

Thomas Stafford England (known to us simply as Tom) moved from Georgia (USA) to Lucca seven years ago.

Tom studied journalism at Northwestern University and began his career as a photographer during the 1960s and 1970s, commemorating the Civil Rights movement and Vietnam-era protests. This led to him working as a newspaper photographer in Chicago. Then, as a freelance photographer, he created images for magazines and newspapers such as *People*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times* and *National Geographic*. He collaborated with the Carter Center in Georgia, developing a close relationship with ex-President Jimmy Carter. Over the years, he taught photography both at universities and privately.

We were privileged at *Tuscany's Grapevine Magazine* by Tom's generosity in providing many cover images, as well as attending Lucca Comics & Games and the Viareggio Carnival as our designated photographer. In 2018, for an exhibition at Palazzo Blu (Pisa) in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on the fiftieth anniversary of his assassination, Tom, along with Geoff Pavitt, who painted a portrait of King, collaborated with *Grapevine* (curator of the exhibit) by providing a copy of one of his most iconic photographs (shown here), taken in 1968 when he was just 20 years old.

Along with his many friends in Lucca, we lament his passing and raise a glass in his memory.



The Importance of Light, article by Maria Tsaosidou.
December 2017/January 2018

Dream, 1968.
Shown at
Palazzo Blu (Pisa)
in 2018



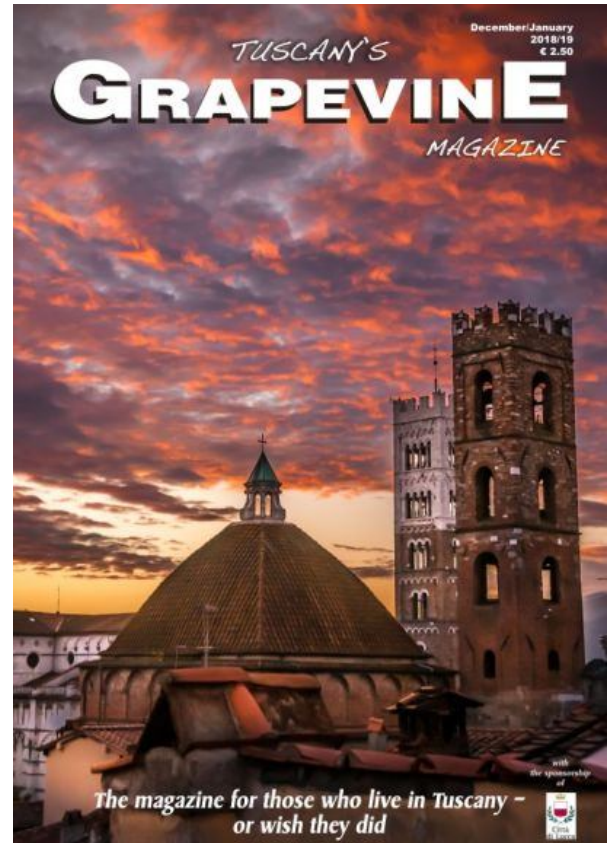
Championship of the Century, August 2021



Tuscany's **GRAPEVINE** Magazine August 2023



Carnival in Viareggio, March 2021



Sharing the view from his kitchen window,
December 2018/January 2019

Reflections on the passing of a friend

*You share with a friend, less so with acquaintances
Like talking in the dark, a safe unloading
An easing
The leap of faith in sharing strengthens you both
The whole is greater than the sum of the parts
Humanity
Thus, inevitably, it leads to mortality
Because that is the way of things
The passing of a friend perhaps prepares you too
The clock has not an infinity of those reassuring ticks
So enjoy the good memories of your friend
And be thankful for his gift to you of those
They are priceless.
Rest in peace Tom.*

- by Jim O'Neill



Comics & Games, November 2021

