

CRACK 'N CAB

Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, PO Box 2801, Syracuse, NY
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3 inch
ROCK HOUND
bumper/window
Stickers
will be on sale for
only \$1 at Club
meetings



To submit
questions,
corrections,
requests, news,
pictures and
suggestions for
our newsletter
and/or web
page
www.gmss.us
contact our
Editor at
editorgmss@gmail.com

Monthly Meeting January 18 at 7PM

Rick Moore will discuss Mineral Evolution

In 2008, a new theory was proposed that the mineralogy of terrestrial planets and moons evolved as a consequence of changes in various physical, chemical, and biological processes. These changes, in turn, lead to the formation of new mineral species.

Rick will discuss what happened along the way in the 4.5 billion years and the 10 "stages" of the the Earth's geologic history. Changes occurred in available mineral components and expanded the diversity of mineral species.

See <https://hazen.carnegiescience.edu/research/mineral-evolution> for background and a preview.



GemWorld 2016 Update

From Judy Cook:

John Sweeney will wow us with his cutting/polishing skills. Kathy Brown, physic medium, will do an audience reading in the Learning Center. A crowd favorite, Rock Doc, will be back teaching classes for free.

You can create all or part of a display case for upcoming 50th anniversary show. Examples on the left include Joe Kapelewski's - Herkimer Diamond display and Keith Gilmer's - Malachite display.

From Bob Livingston:

Golden Anniversary GemWorld is this July. This means we have to do lots of special things. No doubt, this will mean more workers are needed. That is where you come in as a GMSS Member. We have around 150 adult members by show date in early July, yet we struggle to have 40 on duty to do the myriad of tasks. This is not right, not fair to have those few -- approx 20%+ handling the whole load. Since this year's show will be our most important in 50 years, please make it your New Year's Resolution (PLEDGE) to give the club at least 4 hours of work at the show. That still leaves you 10 hours to scope out good deals and buy. If we ever needed you, we need you this year. Believe me, it is a rewarding feeling to know you were part of making it happen -- a real successful 50th Anniversary GemWorld. My Joan and I are already committed to work.

President's Message



**John Sweeney - President
January 2016**

Happy New Year. It's January 2016 and it is a big year for our club. This is the 50th year of our GemWorld show. It being our Golden anniversary, the show should be better than ever and we're working on a gold related theme for the event. Oddly enough, I don't believe there has ever been an authenticated naturally occurring gold deposit found in New York State. But don't worry, come July we should have plenty of metals and minerals at the SRC arena where our show is held.

Speaking of shows, the club is running a field trip to the Albany for the New York State Museum Show on February 13th. It will be a bus trip and a great way to beat the winter blues without the hassle of driving. Consider it an early Valentines Day date, a way to do some shopping and looking or better yet a way to see if there really is gold in NY state. The answer should be at the museum. See page 6 for details.

The Board is in the process of instituting a formal Conflict of Interest Policy to protect our Non-Profit status. It will effect board members and officers of the club and will require an amendment to our constitution. There will be more discussion of this at the full club meetings and board meeting as we iron out the language.

Lapidary/silver classes will be starting Wednesday February 17th and will run for eight weeks from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Wed. evenings. In order to secure your spot in the class, you should sign up and pay at the January or February meetings. The class fee is \$80. There are a limited number of spots. It will be "first come, first serve".

We would like to put together some other classes at the Skill Center including wire wrapping and soap stone carving. If you have the skill and the time, contact me. Classes can be a one time events or several sessions.

We will be having our annual auction in April (**see page 6**). It's one of my favorite events and I'm reminding you now so you can start putting those hobby related items aside that you would like to

pass on to others, perhaps at a profit. If you are handy and can use tools, we're looking for a few volunteers to help spruce up the meeting hall. Let me know if you are available.

In the mean time, sort your specimens from last year. Plan your jewelry projects. Get out your topographic maps and guide books to plan field trips for the spring. It's going to be a great year.

See you at the meeting.

Secretary's Report



**Cheryl Brown - Secretary
Meeting Minutes**

General Meeting December 2015

There was no General Meeting in December. We enjoyed each other's company at the annual Holiday Party at Traditions at Erie Village. A good time was had by all.

Respectfully Submitted, Cheryl Brown

Executive Board Meeting January 5, 2016

An ad hoc committee was formed to review suggestions made for GMSS charitable donations this year. They will submit their recommendations to the Board at the next executive board meeting. A draft State mandated Conflict of Interest Policy for our organization was distributed for review. It will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

We are still looking for a new location for the clubhouse. The discussion is on-going regarding whether we should purchase our own building or continue to seek rental space somewhere else. Have you signed up for a seat on the bus to the James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale at the New York State Museum in Albany? It's not too late (**see page 6 for details**).

Plans are continuing for our 50th Anniversary Gem World Show on July 9th and 10th (**see page 6 for Show Committee info**).

Rick Moore will be our January 18th meeting presenter - (**see page 1 for details**). Cheryl Brown and Donna Dow will provide our meeting snacks.

We learned the St. Lawrence club's gem and mineral show had to be rescheduled to the third

only anchor left is Sears, and with each move out, less customers will go there. News stories say our wing will be torn down and converted to a strip mall more like Towne Center at Fayetteville. Three months notice will be a panic. So bring any suggestions you may have to the January meeting so we can kick around some ideas.

Anita is Still a Jewelry Hound – Many of you remember Anita Curran from back when the beader's group met with us at the church.

Nowadays, we frequently see Anita at Garage/Rummage sales in her wheelchair and at the Jewelry table where her bright eyes go over the wares. She sure loves to admire, handle, and if it tickles her fancy, buy a ring, a bracelet, necklace, etc. Don't know what she does with them all? Her fingers are loaded with colorful, sparkling rings. She probably tours around GemWorld, too! Seems a family member drives her to the sales and pushes her in the wheel chair as she no longer can get around or walk, but her determination is strong and her spirits are still pretty good. Anita thinks of you, misses us, but cannot make meetings yet wishes to say a great big HI to all.

The Evolution of Birthstones

by Shannon Phillips

I feel as though I've always known about birthstones. My first conscious connection to my own, topaz, is based on the fact that I share this birthstone with my grandmother and my father. I now also share it with three nephews and a niece. I never liked the stone itself, but I didn't have much experience with it when I was younger. I didn't know that the unattractive "brown" stone I so often saw is actually citrine. Topaz is far more beautiful. Because true topaz is not readily available, I chose December's birthstone, blue zircon, for my high school class ring, which was more my style.

The history of birthstones, most agree, is connected to the Biblical book of *Exodus* in which the prophet Aaron was instructed to make a breastplate containing twelve stones. According to many sources, these stones were meant to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. These jewels in gold settings were, in the first row, "a sardius [margin, "ruby"], a topaz, and a carbuncle [margin, "emerald"]"; in the second row, "an emerald [margin, "carbuncle"], a sapphire, and a

diamond [margin, "sardonyx"]"; in the third row, "a jacinth [R. V.: margin, "amber"], an agate, and an amethyst"; and in the fourth row, "a beryl [margin, "chalcedony"], and an onyx [margin, "beryl"], and a jasper." While there is no direct link between months of the year and the stones mentioned, somewhere in ancient history a selection of the stones, including some from the Biblical source, became connected with the months on the Julian calendar.

No one really agrees when the tradition of wearing birthstones came into existence, but two prominent sources have theories. According to the Gemological of America, wearing stones associated with birth months came into fashion in Germany in the 16th century. George Frederick Kunz, a self-taught mineralogist and author of the book *The Curious Lore of Precious Stones*, traces the tradition to the Jewish community in 18th century Poland. Either way, the fashion of wearing birthstone jewelry is relatively modern when considering the Biblical origins of the practice. Looking back from the early 21st century, however, the tradition appears to have a long history.

At Thanksgiving in 1999, my grandmother passed down to me a beautiful birthstone ring, I'm not sure if it's topaz or citrine, set in gold. The stone is large, perhaps 5 carats, and a rich golden color. I wore it infrequently back then because it was so large and because I didn't particularly like the stone. More recently, however, I wear the ring often, especially during the month of November. I have come to appreciate a much wider range of gemstones than I once did. I also find humor in remembering the day she gave it to me when I asked her where she got the ring. My 73 year old Granny blushed and told me she had received it as a gift before she met my grandfather. I didn't pursue the story further than that, but perhaps this year I will pluck up the courage to get some details. After all, one of the traditional attributes of citrine is strength and topaz is believed to be a stone of truth.

There is no clear answer of how particular stones came to be associated with certain months. Even so, the associations have been fairly consistent over centuries. Although variations still exist in different traditions, based in part on regional availability, in the United States, at least, the list has not changed much since it was first standardized and published by the National Association of Jewelers in 1912. Notable additions

are alexandrite, which was added as a birthstone for June after the list was published. The stone had been discovered in 1831 and, thanks to the aforementioned George Kunz, who was president of Tiffany & Co. with many contacts in the mineralogical world who allowed him extensive buying rights from the Ural Mountain mines, became quite fashionable and popular. Tanzanite, was added as an alternative birthstone for December in 2002 by the American Gem Trade Association, about four decades after it was first mined; it remains the most recent addition. Both stones are beautiful and valuable, making them commercially significant additions to the list, published by members of the jewelry industry.

The range of gems identified as birthstones is very broad. From garnet, amethyst, and citrine, all relatively inexpensive stones that are widely available, to diamond, emerald, and ruby, some of the most valuable gemstones on the planet, the list appears to have no rhyme or reason. Some believe that the associations came from characteristics of the month each gem represents, others believe that there is a connection between the month and the metaphysical properties attributed to the stones. Those who embrace the metaphysical theory advise that people wear stones in their designated months, whether it's a person's birth month or not, to reap the healing benefits of each individual gem. Most of us are simply willing to accept the designations as tradition and wear whatever stone we were born with, if we chose to observe the tradition at all.

For those of you celebrating birthdays in January, enjoy your garnets. Most often, this month's birthstone is represented by the rich, deep burgundy of garnets found in New York state, but if you're feeling nontraditional, choose a green, orange, or pink stone. Birthstones for the other months are as follows:

February - Amethyst
 March - Aquamarine or Bloodstone
 April - Diamond (Zircon is often substituted because of the price)
 May - Emerald
 June - Pearl, moonstone (traditional), alexandrite (modern)
 July - Ruby
 August - Peridot
 September - Sapphire
 October - Opal or tourmaline (pink is the color designated by the 1952 guidelines)
 November - Topaz or citrine

December - Turquoise or Lapis Lazuli (traditional), blue zircon and tanzanite (modern)

Sources:

Bell, J. (2014) Answers to Questions about Old Jewelry: Identification and Value Guide. Krause Publications. Retrieved January 9, 2016

Grande, L. & Augustin, A. (2009). Gems and Gemstones: Timeless Natural Beauty of the Mineral World. University of Chicago Press. Retrieved January 9, 2016.

Knuth, B. G. (2007) Gems in Myth, Legend, and Lore (Revised edition). Parachute: Jewelers Press.

Jastrow, Jr., M., Price, I., Jastrow, M., & Ginsburg, L. (1901-1906.) Breastplate of the High Priest. In Jewish Encyclopedia. Retrieved January 9, 2016.

Wilson, W. (2016) George F. Kunz (1856-1932). Mineralogical Record Biographical Archive. Retrieved January 9, 2016.

Club Events and Field Trips

Field Trip suggestions are encouraged. For specific information and travel arrangements, meeting times and car pool locations, contact Mark Grasmeyer text or voice 317-1350 or get info at any Club Meeting. Trip details are subject to change, so it is best to reserve a spot with Mark before the event.

In case of bad weather and a club event is postponed, a notice will be sent to your email address, if we have it, posted on our web site <http://www.gmss.us/> and on local TV stations.

**Current Club and General
 Rock-Mineral-Fossil-Lapidary Events
 see updated events list at
<http://gmss.us/events>**

Jan 16 Jr Rockhounds – 11-1 see page 3 for more detail.

**Jan 26 GemWorld50 1st committee meeting
 7PM at the Gem Diner on Spencer Street.
 Come 6 PM or after to order dinner before the meeting.**

Feb 2 GMSS Board Meeting, Gem Diner 6:30

Feb 6 Newsletter Article Deadline - send to editorgmss@gmail.com

February 13 The 23rd Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show and Sale; Empire Plaza, Albany; Sat. 10AM-5PM

Bus departs Shoppingtown (behind Helping Hounds Dog Rescue) **8AM (don't be late)** - return 10PM. Dinner will be at the 99 Restaurant on the way home. BUS FEE \$35 per person - for reservation text/phone Mark Grasmeyer at 317-1350 note: Event Admission \$5 (cash) see <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/programs/minerals/>

Feb 15 GMSS Group Meeting – We will be honored with a presentation by Dr. Steve Chamberlain. He will discuss his new book (in progress) on Bower Powers farm in Pierrepont, NY. This book will offer a detailed explanation of the history of the geographic area and various landowners. It will also provide very specific information on the specimens found in the area. This will be a current and definitive description of this collecting site. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about an internationally known and renowned geological location.

Feb 17 eight weekly classes 6-8pm, fee is \$80. Contact John Sweeney 668-8470

Feb 20 Jr Rockhounds – tentative

Apr 18 - Group Meeting - AUCTION/SALE Guaranteed Fun! Buyers/Sellers Come on Down.

May 9-15 Spring 2016 EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres, N Carolina
See writeup in EFMLS Newsletter - <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efdec15web.pdf> and <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>

July 9-10 GemWorld 2016 our BIG 50th Anniversary Party! SAVE THE DATE.

Sep 5-11 Fall 2016 EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres, N Carolina
See writeup in EFMLS Newsletter - <http://efmls-wildacres.org/>

Oct 21 EFMLS Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY

Oct 22-23 Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show & Sale and 66th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Rochester Lapidary Society.

See More Events at EFMLS site
<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/calendar.htm>
and
Rock and Gem Magazine Show List
<http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

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Other Info Sources

AFMS (American Federation of Mineralogical Societies)
Current Newsletter



http://www.amfed.org/news/n2015_12.pdf

EFMLS (Eastern Federation of Mineralogical And Lapidary Societies)
Current Newsletter



<http://www.amfed.org/efmls/efjan16web.pdf>

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Bad Rock/Mineral/Fossil/Lapidary/etc. Joke Challenge

Question: Why did the Geologist stop working?
Answer: He was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Challenge from Anne Fitzgerald!

Send yours to editorgmss@gmail.com and we will print it next month!



Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse

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Crack 'N Cab
Newsletter of Gem & Mineral Society
Syracuse, NY
Web - <http://www.gmss.us>

Eight people organized the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse in 1951. Since that time it has grown in membership to include adults, families, and young folk. The Society was incorporated in 1969 under the same name.

The objectives of the Society are to stimulate interest in mineralogy, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. Member interests include collecting, identification, and display of minerals, gems, fossils. Members share and develop their artistic skills in jewelry design and creation.

Our monthly meetings provide social and educational experiences. Field trips give collectors chances to find specimens and enjoy the of outdoors, exercise and time with old and new friends.

We meet on the third Monday of the month (NOT in July, August, December) at 7:30 PM in the Clubhouse (Shoppingtown Mall on the 2nd floor near Sears).

Visitors are ALWAYS welcome

Annual member dues:

Adult \$10 • Family/Couple \$15 • Junior \$5 • Life \$5

If you would like to join or renew your membership, download the application form (PDF) [click here](#) or get a form at a meeting or send to the address at the top of this page and we will mail a membership form/card to you.

Club Officers 2015-2016

-President

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-Hospitality Committee - Judy and Harold Jones