

Pandemic Protocol Relaxed - Come Healthy - Sign In - No Temp Checks - Masks Are Optional

 **JOIN US FOR THE APRIL GENERAL MEETING**

On ZOOM — Friday April 5th at 7pm

**“Artisanal Mining & Regenerative Agriculture”
with Ethical Metalsmith Brian Cook**



Dear members and friends of the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society:
Our April 2024 First Friday Zoom Program will feature **Brian Cook**.

Brian is co-founder of the jewelry company **Nature’s Geometry** (<http://www.naturesgeometry.com>) which he runs with his wife Kendra Grace and their daughter.

Brian is a gem and mineral dealer, a lapidary artist, and a jewelry designer. His working past includes being a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Brian has titled his presentation **“Two Stones With One Bird.”** Two unique mining localities in Brazil will be described, featuring photos that span his decades-long involvement at both locations.

Wherever you are, settle in with a favorite drink or snack and enjoy! After Brian’s presentation a general discussion will follow.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrf-6uqDkuHtaD1r4g_uJc6VQhMnV1HmA8

MINERAL G



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(415) 564-4230



Part 158

Masthead by Kevin Anderson

A Search For Truth!

Or...a rose by any other name. I was visiting Nextdoor, a website for neighbors, and someone posted a simple photo of a rose she'd seen. She said, "I love this rose, I want one, does anyone know what it is?"

Being a rose nut myself, I checked the answers people gave, and the first one said, "Oh yeah, that's Tropicana!"

That was so wrong! Tropicana was my very first rose and THAT WASN'T TROPICANA! The next respondent said, "That's Joseph's Coat." Well, it might have been, I had one of those too, but there are a great many roses that look like Joseph's Coat. People continued to claim this name and that, but what disturbed me was that NOBODY said, "I'm not sure, I'm only guessing."

Everyone who answered absolutely KNEW what that rose was, no ifs, ands, or buts about it! I proceeded to email the person who took the photo and explained that there are thousands of different rose cultivars in this world and you would need a DNA test to identify the one in the picture. Also, it would be helpful if she had taken a picture of the whole bush to show the growing habit. Lesson learned, don't trust anyone who says "I KNOW what something is!"

Like many others, I came to our club years ago from Wanda Baczek's Gemology class at SF City College. So much of her class was about gem identification. She taught us just how hard it could be to identify a gem and how often the stone could be a fake. Wanda specialized in ferreting out "Fabulous fakes" as she called them. Some stones were easy to recognize, but some needed instruments like Polariscopes, Dichroscopes, Refractometers, and Microscopes to identify them... and she taught us how to use these things. Wanda also sent us to the big gem show down in San Mateo. "Find at least a dozen gems." she told us, "Get a good look at them, spend some time there and ask questions, familiarize yourselves."

Weird story: She told us that she once had some new students in her class who were so shocked by learning about the deceptions in the gem trade, that they dropped out of class rather than face the truth. Like babes in the woods, we had no idea about all the scams that have existed since gems were first dug out of the ground. I myself, before I took her class, had purchased a string of "turquoise beads" that turned out to be died Howlite.

You guys remember Sid Brown, our beloved Shop Foreman? Sid once glued a piece of iridescent plastic film between two pieces of glass, epoxied it, then cabbed it and mounted it in a pendant so you couldn't see the edges. Looked like a real opal! This caught on and a bunch of our club members followed suit, making their own "opals." Some fun! Wanda nicknamed these fake opals "Sly Creek Opals."

I once took my crazy sister to the San Mateo gem show. She fell in love with a table full of different kinds of opals, and I said with a grin, "Dorothy, what you really need is a Sly Creek Opal."

The man selling the opals said, "We carry that."

"What!, I answered, "You have Sly Creek Opals!!!!"

"Yep, we've got um."



ANNOUNCING A NEW WORKSHOP AT THE CLUBHOUSE!

In Person — *Sunday April 21st from 3-6pm*

“San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society 2.0”

by *Tony DeLeon*

All Members are invited to our first in-person workshop and social event of the year.

Our new Lapidary 101 Manual and instructional videos — addressing the proper and safe use of lapidary equipment — will be officially premiered at this event.

This free program is for all members — experienced or beginner — and especially for members who have never taken advantage of our shop.

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

- 3-4pm Social Hour - Please bring food and drink to share.
- 4-6pm Hands-on group workshop and discussion.
- As an ice-breaker, bring in projects completed in our club.

Cassandra Adams Named Front Room Committee Chair

by *Tony DeLeon*

Last December, the club approved funds to update the West wall cabinets. The long desired goal is to match the cabinets on the east side.



Cassandra in front of museum display cases on the East wall of the clubhouse.

On February 3rd 2024, during the combined instructor/Board meeting, instructors and board members nominated and approved member **Cassandra Adams** to lead and facilitate this project. Her job is to communicate the needs of the club on the project, and to coordinate and collect bids from contractors. Once a bid is accepted, she will project manage the work to be done. Cassandra will report to the board.

Cassandra's Professional Experience:

- 10 years with a large construction firm as an on-site engineer or superintendent on a variety of institutional, civil, and industrial projects.
- 8 years as professor of construction materials and methods at U.C. Berkeley.
- Currently a semi-retired licensed green architect in California, with a small primarily residential practice.

Her experience will benefit the club and we are thankful to have Cassandra lead the team. This is a big project and Cassandra will need help getting input on what is needed from the club. She would especially like to get any recommendations for local cabinet-makers, electricians, small residential wood-framing/insulation contractors, and air quality testing companies.



If you want to help, please contact Cassandra Adams by email: cassadams7@gmail.com with a description of how you would like to participate.



Club Scenes: St. Patricks Day Celebration March 17th



Photos by Elizabeth Lopez



L-R: Robert, Kris, Tony and Kirk



Lively Auction Scene!



Party Guest



L-R: Red Beard and Kevin



L-R: Peter and Mary Sue



L-R: Heather and Elizabeth



A Family that Rocks together!



Joe (photo bombed by Robert)



L-R: Harlan, Yana and Joseph



David shows off the Club T-Shirt



L-R: Bob and Mark



L-R: Daniel, Cassandra and Luke



L-R: Wanda and Charles

Special Froese Family Estate Sale

The family of Mary Lou Froese will hold a special sale at their home, on Saturday and Sunday April 20-21, from 10-3pm each day. The location is **119 Duval Drive, South San Francisco**. Please note: There will be no early showings and only street parking available.

SFGMS Members will need to bring their own buckets or boxes and gloves to go through material in their backyard including:

- 50 buckets of rough rock containing agate, jasper, jade, petrified wood etc from Clear Creek, Morgan Hill, Mojave desert, Black Rock desert, Stone Canyon, Covelo, Graveyard Point etc.;
- Over 50 shoeboxes of slabs and misc rock;
- Miscellaneous equipment including Genie capping unit, point carver, 4 Dremels; two tumblers; torch and regulator; 18 inch slab saw; small milling machine and metal cutter; Armeritool small diamond trim saw; two ten inch trim saws with motors; buffing unit;
- A table of jewelry books

The first weekend is dedicated to SFGMS. The second weekend (April 27/28) will be offered to the Sequoia Club and other clubs.

At a later time there may be another sale focused on beads, jewelry and finished items.



AN INTERESTING READ...

“Ancient Iberians Ingested Red Dust Loaded With Mind-Altering Mercury”

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ancient-iberians-ingested-red-dust-loaded-with-mind-altering-mercury-180983889/>

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**** PLEASE be sure to call the clubhouse (415-564-4230) before traveling ****

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 AM - 3 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing	10 AM - 1 PM Lapidary	9 AM - 10 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing, Spheremaking	9 AM - Noon Lapidary	9 AM - Noon Lapidary, Silversmithing 3 - 6 PM Gold/ Silversmithing 6 PM - 9 PM Gem Carving	10 AM - 5 PM Lapidary	10 AM - 5 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing, Spheremaking
	7 PM - 10 PM Lapidary	7 PM - 10 PM Lapidary	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary, Faceting			

SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

-  **General Meeting on Zoom**
April 5, Friday • 7:00 pm

 -  **Instructors Meeting**
April 6, Saturday • 11:00 am
In-Person at the clubhouse
**Zoom option - Info: tonythetm@aol.com*

 -  **Board Meeting**
April 13, Saturday • 10:00 am
In-Person at the clubhouse
**Zoom option - Info: tonythetm@aol.com*

 -  **SFGMS Club Fair & Open House**
April 14, Sunday • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Contact Tony to reserve a spot: tonythetm@aol.com

 -  **Mineralog May 2024 Submission Deadline**
April 15, Monday • 5:00 pm
- **Save The Date! April 21, Sunday - Special Clubhouse Social Event - See page 3**
 - **May 19th Bay to Breakers Race - Tough Parking/Traffic**



BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Note: Exact birth "DATES" are not shared to protect privacy.

Grace Cho
Janet McCandless
Annette Tran
Nina Adams
Anna Danilova
April Koh
Ellen Offermann
Carly Miller
Michael Hoffman
Peter Shemonsky
Laura O'Donovan
Elaine Benoit
Jose Rocha
Yacub Totah
Preeti Kelapure
Herbert Goldstein
Ronnie Goodlund
Jim Crim
Diana Stone
Erin Elskes
Mariana Photiou
Sarah Breivis

Tani Hasegawa
Alex Lobascoio
Heather Rowbury
Robert Darrah
Marlene Olivencia
Heather McCormick
Rocky Ferrano
Sarah Kirkbride
Sophia Kpaka
Paula Frazer
Travis Lang
Craig Jones
Ian Finley
Russell Bloomdale
Eleanor Coffelt
Suzanne Elliott
Samantha Ward
Elizabeth Lopez
Monroe McCormick
Melagrito Pacada
Lynn Magnet

NEW MEMBERS FROM MARCH

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Tom Higgs
Gayton Arrigotti
Joel Sayre
Kathy Hovland
Amy Chou
John Chiorarou
Steve Benitez
Benita Benitez

Dennis Freiburger
David Chen
Rebecca Simmons
Lewis Alacon
April Koh
Laura Wong
Anas Farhan



UPCOMING SHOWS

El Dorado County Rock & Gem Show
4/13 - 4/14/2024
Hours: Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr., Placerville, CA
Website: <https://www.edcmgs.org>

Santa Cruz Mineral and Gem Society Show
4/27 - 4/28/2024
Hours: Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sun 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
307 Church St., Santa Cruz, Ca.
Website: <https://cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>



To add, update or change a calendar event, please contact mineralog@protonmail.com

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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THE MINERALOG

We are always grateful for editorial and photographic submissions, especially from our members.

To contribute content, submit story or calendar additions, updates or corrections, please email the Editor: mineralog@protonmail.com

Deadline for **May** Mineralog is 5:00 PM **Monday, April 15**

Any submissions or changes received after the deadline will automatically be included in the following month's Mineralog.

Original material published in the Mineralog that is not copyrighted may be reprinted with all due and proper credits.

For Membership Info, contact the Membership Secretary: tonythem@aol.com

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Membership Activities Include:

Earth Sciences, Lapidary, Field Trips, Collecting, Jewelry Making, Classes

An Educational Non-Profit Organization Founded in 1935

Member, California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies