

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

 JOIN US FOR THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

**On ZOOM — Friday February 2nd at 7pm**



## *“California, As Told Through Fossil Evidence” With Crystal Cortez*

Dear members and friends of the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society: Our February 2024 program will feature paleontologist **Crystal Cortez**.

Dive into California's rich and dynamic past as we explore the many changes California has experienced. We will take a journey through time and space and use fossil and geologic evidence cemented in time to relive some of the state's most iconic geologic moments.

**Crystal** is a Mexican-American vertebrate paleontologist with over 10 years of experience working with geological and paleontological collections. She holds degrees in Geology (BS) and Environmental Science (MSc). Her research interests include Cenozoic fossil shark assemblages and conservation paleobiology topics.



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

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMscOmhrzwpEtcw5MhLwA8mFiI52csyOvnm>



## *Field Trip: Año Nuevo State Park*

*Saturday February 10th, 1pm • by Tony DeLeon*



Our February field trip will be to the beach south of **Ano Nuevo State Park, San Mateo County**. We will look for fossil whale bone, shells, jasper, and agate. Open to all SFGMS, Sequoia, and PGGS club members, with a **maximum of 20 participants**.

If interested, please contact Field Trip Leader Stan Bogosian ([sbogosian@aol.com](mailto:sbogosian@aol.com)) for the meeting location. **NOTE: Heavy Rain cancels.**



**MINERAL GEM**



SAN FRANCISCO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. WWW.SF-GMS.ORG

(415) 564-4230

# One Journey, Many Museums Part II

*Story and photos by Robin Crabill, A Mineralog Editor*

**M**y previous article (*Mineralog*, Dec. 2023) described the mineral and gem aspects of two suburban Washington D.C. museums created from private art collections, beginning with the Imperial Russian jewelry and decorative art collections at Hillwood. Later we found our way to Dumbarton Oaks, an estate and conference center in the tony Georgetown neighborhood that is also open to the public, though less known. There we saw fascinating pre-Columbian jade, stone and gold displays, which appealed to me since I've always liked reading about gold and archaeological discoveries (on land and undersea, thanks to *National Geographic*), and since I moved West, the mining history of gold and silver.

The jade carving I had hoped to see at Dumbarton Oaks, a small, blue-green jadeite marvel of the lapidary art, I knew in advance would not be on display. Somehow though its photograph did not make it into my previous installment, so I am including it below. Though I've still

only seen it in photos, to me this carving is the finest work of pre-European jade from the Americas. Though a broken fragment of a larger carving, and only 2.6" (6.7cm) tall, it is still a masterpiece, well photographed and accessible online. It is a creation of Mexico's Olmec culture, from its Middle Formative period, dated 900-300 BCE. Not crude or stylized like many Mesoamerican jades, it is an uncannily lifelike portrait bust of a real person, most likely a man.

But these two treasure houses pale when compared with Washington's National Museum of Natural History, which most rockhounds and mineral collectors just refer to as "the Smithsonian." In fact there are multiple Smithsonian museums in our nation's capital (we also went to the newer African-American and Native American museums), and even Smithsonian-affiliated museums in other cities, and in D.C. admission to them is free. (Anyone listening out there at San Francisco's hugely overpriced California Academy of Sciences?)

I am in a sense comparing apples to oranges: two small and refined, wealthy country house collections of the works of top jewelers and lapidary artists (pre-revolution Russian antiques and ancient Mesoamerican discoveries), both far from where most D.C. tourists roam, in contrast to a sprawling, mazelike repository of all of life and Nature, land and ocean, stuffed African animals and dinosaurs, Neanderthals, mummies, giant squids and life-size whale models, right on the National Mall for the throngs of visitors and school groups.

Yet the educational goals of this Smithsonian natural history museum soon distinguish it, and in its earth science halls you can learn a good deal about geology, crystal growth and gemstones, the colors of minerals, meteorites and astrophysics, and some about chemistry, lapidary and optics. Mineral deposits are explained and mining equipment is on view. The meteorite collection is first rate. The mineral and gem areas have been recently renovated and are now well displayed and dramatically lit, and of course the specimens from around the world are some of the best to be seen anywhere. The Natural History Museum has acquired some of the finest gem tourmaline specimens from the gem-producing pegmatites of northern San Diego County and devotes several cases to these exotic gem pockets worldwide,

*(continues on page 5)*



*Olmec,  
Blue-Green  
Jadeite*



*Fluorite, Illinois*



*Aquamarine, 6.7 lbs, Brazil*



*Rhodochrosite, Argentina*



*Calcite crystals, Tsumab*



*Kunzite, Brazil*



*Crystal Ball with "phantoms"*



*Blue Wavellite, Germany*



*Concretion, Fontainebleau France*



*"Strawberry Quartz", Mexico*



*Giant Topaz crystals, Brazil*



*14" Aquamarine carving by Munsteiner*



*Orbicular granite, Finland*



*Chrysoberyl, Madagascar*



*Sapphire, 423ct*



*Tourmaline, San Diego County*



*Calcite, China*

(from on page 2)

including giant Brazilian topaz crystals. Through 2026, the museum also has interesting special exhibit, "Cellphone: Unseen Connections," about the minerals and resources consumed by the booming worldwide trade in cell phones, and their many impacts on our planet and cultures.

The National Gem Collection has more than 10,000 specimens, and of course only a fraction are on display. Included is an entire case of "phenomenal" gemstones displaying cats-eyes or star effects (mostly six rays, but one had twelve!); the historic, ultra-rare blue Hope

Diamond; the world's largest flawless quartz crystal ball (12.9" in diameter, 106.75 lbs.); the stunning red Whitney Flame topaz and much more. Jeffrey E. Post has written two illustrated books on the gem collection, in 1997 and in 2021; SF Public Library has the newer one to borrow as both a book and e-book.

In a coming article I hope to continue on to Connecticut, to a mining museum and an underground tour of the Newgate copper mine, dating to 1705 (and at times doubling as a prison), and then on to a couple of New England's finest mineral museums! ■



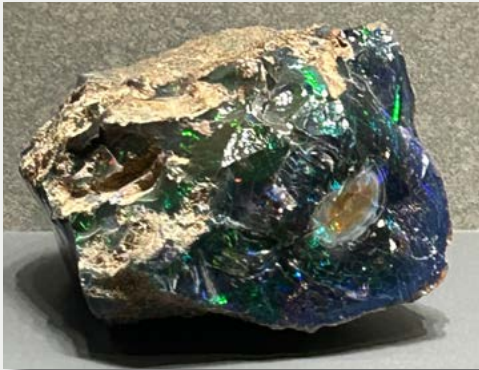
*Iron meteorite slab, Mexico*



*Amazonite crystal, Colorado*



*Copper minerals, Bisbee Arizona*



*Virgin Valley Opal, Utah*



*Lavender calcite, Missouri*



*"Blue Cap" tourmaline, California*



*Crystalline gold, California*



*Fluorite, New Hampshire*

## 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	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	6 PM - 9 PM Gem Carving		

## SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY

-  **February 2, Friday • 7:00 pm**  
General Meeting on Zoom

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-  **February 3, Saturday • 11:00 am**  
Combined Instructors Meeting & Board Meeting  
In-Person at the clubhouse  
*\*Zoom option - Info: [tonythetm@aol.com](mailto:tonythetm@aol.com)*

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-  **February 10, Saturday • 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
SF Gem and Mineral Society Fair & Open House  
*Contact Tony to reserve a spot: [tonythetm@aol.com](mailto:tonythetm@aol.com)*

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-  **February 10, Saturday • 1:00 pm**  
Field Trip: Año Nuevo State Park  
*Contact Stan Bogosian to reserve: [sbogosian@aol.com](mailto:sbogosian@aol.com)*

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-  **February 18, Sunday • 5:00 pm**  
*Mineralog March 2024 Submission Deadline*



## BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

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

Thomas Taffel  
Jun Wang  
Irina Khavina  
Kirk Kwiatkowski  
Jessi Rinard  
Patricia Quevedo  
Robert Patrick Kozak  
Nancy Bach  
Adriana Orland  
Adam Snyder  
Cecelia Kudlick  
Kim Slaughter  
Eric James  
Hrisztosz Joresz  
Zacch Katz

Patty Lauritzen  
Les Lin  
Susan Dionne  
James McCromick  
Ronald Hall  
Fernando Chavez  
Rachel Valentine  
Mary Marzotto  
Adam Lang  
Paul (Bodo) Langen  
Annaliza Underdown Savage  
Katie Peeler  
David Young  
Kimberley Thompson  
Michael Henkin

## UPCOMING SHOWS

**Antioch Lapidary Club's Jewelry, Gem and Rock Show**  
2/17/2024 - 2/18/2024  
Hours: 10:00-5:00  
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th St.,  
Antioch, CA 94509  
Website: <https://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>

**Vallejo Gem Show**  
2/24/2024 - 2/25/2024  
Hours: 10:00 - 5:00  
Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall, 900  
Fairgrounds Dr., Vallejo, CA 94589  
Website: <https://www.vjgems.org>

**San Francisco Crystal Fair**  
3/2/2024 - 3/3/2024  
Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, 1199 - 9th Avenue (at  
Lincoln Way), SF. Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4. \$14 (12 & under free).  
Discount tickets & vendor list at <https://www.crystalfair.com>

## NEW MEMBERS FROM JANUARY

*A warm welcome to the following new members!*



*Grace Dai  
Howard Wease  
Rita Jarrett*



**To add, update or change a calendar event,  
please contact [mineralog@protonmail.com](mailto:mineralog@protonmail.com)**



# 15 Ways to Show Your Love to Our Club

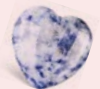
by Club President and Membership Chair Tony DeLeon



**H**appy Valentines Day to members and friends of the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society. We are fortunate to have many loving members serving as Instructors, Club Officers, Newsletter Editor, Proofreaders, Social Media Managers, Club Historians, Tech Support and Board Members. My heartfelt thank you for your service to the club. Many of us have stepped up to serve the club and make it one of the best clubs around.

**Please consider getting more involved with our club – we are an all-volunteer organization. Below are 15 ways to show your love.**

1. Renew your membership/join the club.
2. Write an article for the *Mineralog*.
3. Come to or participate in a club open house.
4. Attend our First Friday General Zoom Meetings.
5. Come to our live events, our Open House sales and holiday gatherings.
6. Take the next step and join one of our club lapidary or faceting sessions and do something creative and artistic.
7. Come in and help clean the club house.
8. Help setup for one of our special events.
9. Consider being an instructor.
10. Consider running for club office
11. Consider being part of a committee – nomination – cleaning – tool/instrument maintenance – club improvements.
12. Lend a helping hand to our instructors – help open or close a session.
13. Be an ambassador to our club and help bring in a new member.
14. Organize and lead a field trip
15. Make a financial donation to the club



To add more, please use the following link:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YzrmpdfOP87W1\\_k-GYFDHk1a64Fd-eLe3XgJ4-0rCm4/edit?usp](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YzrmpdfOP87W1_k-GYFDHk1a64Fd-eLe3XgJ4-0rCm4/edit?usp)

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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](mailto:mineralog@protonmail.com)

Deadline for **March** Mineralog is 5:00 PM  
**Sunday, February 18**

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

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For Membership Info, contact the Membership Secretary:  
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Membership Activities Include:

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

*An Educational Non-Profit Organization Founded in 1935*

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