

 JOIN US FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7TH IN PERSON  
AT THE CLUBHOUSE • FROM 4 - 8 PM

## *“The Colorful World of Sea Glass” Show and Sale with Artist Jo Fry*

Dear members and friends of the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society:  
You are cordially invited to our February in-person clubhouse meeting.



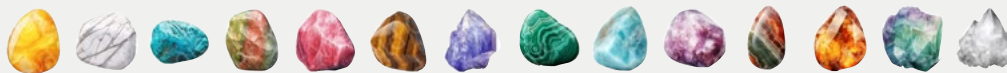
Owner/Artist of Half Moon Bay’s **Fierce Siren Studios**, Jo Fry describes herself as an avid beachcomber and history geek. She incorporates beach finds into her art and jewelry. She researches, writes, and speaks about what she finds. Jo says “I love to discover and share the history behind these lost treasures. The sea has rekindled my creative spark; I like to think of myself as an artist whose inspiration is the waste of the past.”

————— **EVENT SCHEDULE:** —————

- **4 to 6 pm - Sea Glass Sale and Reception**
- **6 to 7 pm - Social Hour** - Enjoy food, drink, and conversation. Sale Continues.
- **7 pm - General Meeting and Program**

To make this event successful we need your help to set up and clean up after the event. The food theme for this month’s gathering is “Nacho Bar Fiesta”. We have a special request that you bring to share your favorite Nacho Toppings... beans, salsa, tomatoes, shredded cheeses, veggies... as you like!

Come early and of course, parking’s hard; but the N Judah street car goes right by the club.



**MINERAL**

SAN FRANCISCO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. WWW.SF-GMS.ORG (415) 564-4230



## Part 158

*Masthead by Kevin Anderson*

# ELECTRUM!

No, it's not about politics. Electrum is a natural alloy (a mixture of metals) of gold and silver. I think I'll go melt some gold and silver in the kitchen tonight and mix it together ... or ... nah... I'll make a chocolate cake.

We all know what elements are right? The basic building blocks of EVERYTHING. What I find weird is that out of the 90 naturally occurring elements, 66 of them are metals, and almost all of the 28 artificially produced elements are metallic. Even elements like Sodium, that thing in salt that the doctor wants us to cut down on, is a metal. Sodium doesn't occur by itself in nature. Our chemistry teacher in high school had a piece of pure sodium in some kind of solvent, a beautiful silvery thing. When he pored the solvent off, the sodium dried out and a violent reaction occurred as the sodium mixed with the oxygen in the air. At least that's how I remember it so many, many, many, years ago.

Sterling silver is an alloy of 92.5% silver and 7.5% copper, or other metals, and gold is alloyed with other metals to change its color and make it harder and more affordable. White gold gets its color from mixing gold with metals such as nickel, silver, platinum, or palladium.

Rose gold, Red gold, and Pink gold are made with a mixture of gold and copper. Electrum, that natural alloy of gold and silver gives us green gold, and gold and palladium produce something called Gray gold.

Now, here's a weird one, Purple gold, also known as Amethyst gold is made by mixing gold with aluminum. Part

gold, part Diet Soda can. I've also heard of gold mixed with iron to produce Blue gold, also made by adding gallium or indium. It's rare, almost mythical.

So, where does this take us? Do any of you old farts like me remember "Black Hills Gold" jewelry? As a kid I saw rings and pendants produced by this company in high-end jewelry stores and I WANTED SOME! Of course I never got any, but recently I wondered how those wonderful pieces were made? Good old Wikipedia, answers the question.

Black Hills Gold jewelry is manufactured in the Black Hills of South Dakota. It was first created in the 1870s during the Black Hills Gold Rush by a French goldsmith named Henri LiBeau, who is said to have dreamed about the design after passing out from thirst and starvation (Or maybe too much of the grape). As I remember, the designs were of grape clusters and vines done in various colors of gold on a yellow gold background. Pink and green gold, and maybe white gold figures trailed over the surfaces of the jewelry making a striking contrast to the yellow gold base.

Since then, I started wondering how it was that these pieces were made? You certainly couldn't cast them? Well, it turns out the jewelry is cast, in yellow gold. But, the leaves and vines and other designs were stamped out of colored gold sheets using individual stamps and dies. They were cut out and hand soldered onto the yellow gold bases or sometimes soldered in soldering ovens.

The state of South Dakota designated Black Hills Gold jewelry as the official state jewelry in 1988. It's still made, but the really beautiful stuff is vintage.

As I did my research, I was reminded once again that nickel should be avoided when alloying metals for jewelry. Nickel is BAD for the human body. As a teenager I pierced my own ears and had fun buying lots of base metal earrings. Cheap earrings, lots of nickel in them. Ears broke out, turned red, swelled, oozed, *yuck!* Couldn't figure out what was wrong. Then I found out about the nickel problem. Too late, I developed a nickel allergy. Once you've been exposed to it, I think it messes with your body.

I used to have some very expensive knitting needles coated with nickel, then Germany—where they were made—made them illegal. Nickel is not even safe for knitting needles. Now I use knitting needles made only of surgical steel, a more recent invention. Metals can be toxic. Lots of things can be toxic. People can be toxic! Enough about politics.

# Club Scenes: *First 2025 Meeting & New Officer Installation*

Photos courtesy of Liz Lopez



Our first in-person club meeting of 2025 saw the installation of new (and retained) club officers, including from top left, Mary Sue Bucher, David Zandman, Mariana Photiou, Bob Kozak, Robert Courtney, Elizabeth Lopez, Andrew Chan, Tony DeLeon and Kirk Kwiatkowski. In between the delightful shared potluck, we heard from David Zandman about his experience at the Munich Gem & Mineral Show, and Barb Matz and Bob Kozak shared the best ways to enjoy the February 2025 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Below, Kirk and Tony pass the President's torch; while Christa and Suki and Heather enjoy the evening's festivities.



# New President's Message

by Kirk Kwiatkowski



## What an interesting time to be a PRESIDENT!

Let's gather together to flourish as an organization that's been growing together for over 90 years as a club!

This is so exciting. San Francisco has always felt like home to me. I love all the treasures that this city has to offer—and discover. All of our members have so many skills that we share, and bring into our lives.

As president I will continue to strive for excellence in all we do together at this great club of ours. Come into the club and share your wonderful treasures and finds.

Thank you for all the inspiration with the club projects.

Sign up and participate in person whenever you can.

I started carving early in my stained glass career with ruby cut stones, in a Phoenix Fire Bird that was made of blown glass. I make jewelry boxes, and jewelry with faceted stones that I have cut. I love the creative design process and would like to do a workshop about that this year if anyone is interested.

Learning at the club has always brightened my day. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to connect, teach, and explore lapidary art and gemstones — and to grow together. Let's deepen as a community together in the most meaningful ways. This is a really special community. So many wonderful people make this such an amazing place filled with artists and cutting edge craftsmanship!

# Attend Our Club's Annual Field Trip Planning Meeting

Wednesday February 12th @ 7pm on Zoom

Join fellow club members to plan our 2025 club field trips. Led by our club's field trip chair Stan Bogosian.

Please register in advance for this Zoom meeting:

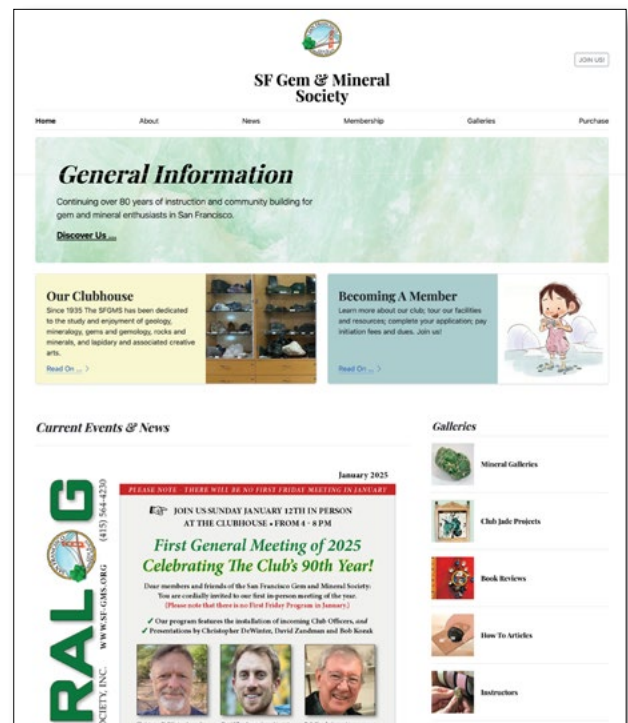
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(Plan to join a few minutes early so we can start on time.)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join the meeting. If you are new to Zoom and have any questions, please contact Tony Deleon: [tonythetm@aol.com](mailto:tonythetm@aol.com)



## Visit Our Club's Website



<http://www.sf-gms.org>

Check out our website to read the latest news and event announcements, to pay shop fees or membership renewals, and much more!

## February Golden Gate GIA Lecture Event

### The Trials and Tribulations of Tiaras and Other Bejeweled Headwear with Kerry Gregory

Kerry Gregory is not an expert in tiaras, but she is in love with them. In this lighthearted, but educational and interesting talk, Kerry will reveal her favorite tidbits about regal headwear including how to get a tiara to stay on your head! Anyone who has met Kerry Gregory, knows she's a one-woman whirlwind, passionate, funny and motivating, and her presentations are always fast paced, practical and entertaining.

Kerry has delivered presentations, to critical acclaim, to many organizations and associations including; The National Association of Jewellers (UK), The National Association of Jewelry Appraisers, The American Gem Trade Association and Gemworld International. She has had numerous articles on practical gemology published in both UK and US publications.

**When: Tuesday February 11, 2025**

**6:00 to 7:00 - Social and Show and Tell (bring a special gem or jewelry you wish to share with your gem and jewelry colleagues)**

**7:00 to 8:15 Presentation and Q&A.** Please note, pizza and wine will be served (\$5 donation suggested).



**Where: World Affairs Center/Commonwealth Club in Union Square at 312 Sutter (at Grant), SF 94108. Parking is available at Stockton Sutter Garage.**

**Cost: \$30**

**Scholarships Available! email GIA at [sfgiaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:sfgiaalumni@gmail.com).**

First time attendees get in for free, so bring a gem/jewelry loving friend with you, just let us know you're coming!

**Register at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-trials-and-tribulations-of-tiaras-and-other-bejewelled-headwear-tickets-1139303510469?aff=oddtcreator>**

## Local Upcoming Events of Interest to Club Members:

### Antioch Lapidary Club's Jewelry, Gem and Rock Show 2/15 - 2/16/2025

Hours: Sat 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Sun 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Venue: Contra Costa County Fairgrounds

Address: 1201 West 10th Street, Contra Costa County Fairgrounds  
Antioch, CA

**Website: <http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com>**

### Vallejo Gem and Mineral Show 2/22 - 2/23/2025

Hours: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Venue: McCormack Hall

Address: 900 Fairgrounds Dr., McCormack Hall, Vallejo, CA

**Website: <http://www.vjgems.org>**

### San Francisco Crystal Fair Show 3/8 - 3/9/2025

Hours: Sat 10:00 am - 6:00 pm; Sun 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Venue: San Francisco County Fair Building - Golden Gate Park;  
1199 9th Avenue, at Lincoln Blvd.

Admission \$14 (12 and under free)

**Website: <https://www.crystalfair.com>**

### Santa Clara Valley Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show 3/15 - 3/16/2025

Hours: Sat 10:00 am -5:00 pm; Sun 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Venue: Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

Address: 344 Tully Rd. San Jose, CA 95111

Admission \$8 (12 and under free)

**Website: <https://www.scvgms.org>**

## CLUBHOUSE 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	Noon- 3 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing,	<b>CLOSED</b>	10 AM- 5 PM Lapidary, Silversmithing, Spheremaking
	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary	7 PM - 10 PM Lapidary	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary, Faceting	3 PM - 9 PM Lapidary, Faceting		

### SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY :

**SF Gem & Mineral Society Club Fair & Open House**  
February 2nd, Saturday • 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Contact Tony to reserve a spot: [tonythetm@aol.com](mailto:tonythetm@aol.com)

**In-Person First Friday Clubhouse Meeting & Potluck**  
**“Sea Glass” Presentation and Sale by Artist Jo Fry**  
February 7th, Friday • 4:00 - 8:00 pm

**In Person Instructors Meeting with Zoom Option**  
February 8th, Saturday • 11:00 am

**Board Meeting on Zoom\***  
February 10th, Monday Night • 7:00 pm

\*Zoom -Info: [tonythetm@aol.com](mailto:tonythetm@aol.com)

**Mineralog March 2025 Submission Deadline**  
February 19th, Wednesday • 5:00 pm



### CLUB BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

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

Thomas Taffel  
Krista Kaasik  
Rachel Deppe  
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  
Robert Bodiak  
Patty Lauritzen  
Les Lin  
Susan Dionne

Craig Chouraki-Lewin  
Diane Pollock  
James McCromick  
Ronald Hall  
Ciel Barba  
Sonia Seruge  
Fernando Chavez  
Rachel Valentine  
Mary Marzotto  
Adam Lang  
Paul (Bodo) Langen  
Annaliza Underdown  
Savage  
Sabrina De Silva  
Katie Peeler  
Brent Patterson  
David Young  
Kimberley Thompson  
Michael Henkin

### WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS FROM JANUARY:

Alex Lane  
Barbara Conde  
Brent Patterson  
Brent Williams  
Charlotte McKenzie  
Craig Chouraki-Lewin  
Dana Deros Santos  
Elaine Driskill  
Elaine Nguyen  
Frederic Poirier  
Jasamyn Wimmer  
Jeanne Mai



Karina Saekow  
Maeta Phoupraseut  
Maia Sanders  
Patricia Defechereux  
Richard Carman  
Serina Howard  
Tazna Anaya  
Violet Sanders



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

## 2025 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](mailto:mineralog@protonmail.com)

Deadline for **March** Mineralog is 5:00 PM **Wednesday, Feb. 19th**

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:  
[tonythetm@aol.com](mailto:tonythetm@aol.com)

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Membership Activities Include:

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

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