

July 2024

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



JOIN US FOR THE JULY GENERAL MEETING

On ZOOM — *Friday July 5th at 7pm*

*“History of Jade in Monterey”
with Justin Barrett*



Dear members and friends of the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society:
Our July 2024 First Friday Zoom Program will feature **Justin Barrett**.

Justin is a jade diver, dealer, gallery owner and member organizer of the jade festivals in Monterey, CA.

Justin’s presentation is titled **“History of Jade in Monterey.”**

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

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcuGqpzoiGNdo3ttk6WgMVcU1A2fKWe5c>

SPECIAL DATES IN JULY 2024:

July 5th @ 7 pm - First Friday General Meeting on Zoom

July 6th @ 11 am - In person Instructors meeting with Zoom option

July 14th @ 11 am to 3 pm - Club Open House

July 15th @ 7pm - SFGMS **Monday Night** Board Meeting on Zoom

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

(415) 564-4230

NOTE: There’s often more detail about club events on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SFgem.mineral

The 2024 Monterey Bay



Jade Festival

by Robin Crabill

The 3rd **Monterey Bay Jade Festival** has now come and gone, but it deserves mention for becoming the annual event for California followers of the “Stone of Heaven.” When this new Monterey show began in 2022, its inspiration and granddaddy, the Big Sur Jade Festival, was still happening as usual in October in the National Forest lands of southern Big Sur – at least in years when the winding, two-lane road in and out wasn’t buried (or undermined) by landslides, and no wildfires were raging nearby. (See my Nov. 2022 Mineralog article) As it turned out, another factor cancelled the 2023 Big Sur event, which would have been the 28th jade festival on the South Coast, now facing a challenging search for a new site. Unless that succeeds, the original festival – held a short walk from the celebrated Jade Cove beach where generations of California travelers, rockhounds and divers have gladly caught “jade fever” – may join the “27 Club.” (see: 1960s history)

What we have is a new jade festival, similar but different — better in some ways, though with some significant trade-offs. Right off, this new show is much easier to travel to and experience: right near the tourist hub of Fisherman’s Wharf in the historic core of a city once the capital of California, with affordable parking, many restaurants and urban conveniences nearby. The new urban setting next to the Stanton Center museum lets the festival host there during the festival weekend the inspiring Georg Schmerholz Jade Carving Exhibition, which this year drew over 40 artworks from varied jade artists, mostly from the U.S. but also from Mexico, Canada, China and New Zealand. Carvers from beginners to seasoned professionals are encouraged to display their creations, carved in a range of nephrite and jadeite varieties from worldwide sources.

Also next door at the Stanton was an interesting and educational companion exhibit, “History of Jade in Monterey County,” set to return annually to accompany the festival but remain up for several months. It introduces visitors to jade, describing the history of the stone in California beginning with its use by Native American peoples and the place of jade in Big Sur culture and recreation. Videos of scuba divers

searching for and harvesting jade boulders underwater in Big Sur’s Jade Cove region can be seen. The exhibit continues, portraying the successful campaign against proposed federal bans on recreational collecting by rockhounds and visitors in the early 1990s, the evolution of distinctive Big Sur jade jewelry and carvings, and the growing community of California jade-lovers centered around the still-wild coast. The “Friends of Jade” dinner Saturday night was attended by over 100 people this year.

Also close by are: the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, worth a visit for exhibits featuring jade, Monterey County geology, paleontology and mineralogy, as well as for “Leucothea,” a polished 2400 pound Big Sur jade boulder found by Don Webber that you can walk around and touch in the central native plant garden. Nearby, Barrett Fine Art & Jade features collectible worldwide jade specimens, Chinese jade carvings archaic to antique, and contemporary jade carvings from China and top Western carvers. The Artisana Gallery also has Big Sur jade pebbles and carvings available.

The new Monterey festival seems more focused on jade and jewelry, with some of the other Big Sur festival craftspeople and importers of antiques missing. More dealers feature Wyoming jade and other imported worldwide rough and polished jades such as Siberian nephrite and Guatemala jadeite, perhaps a reflection of the fact that the supply of Big Sur jade is uneven, and that it is not often an ideal carving material, even though many folks in person and online seek out things made from it. Examples of the rare jade varieties that helped put Big Sur jade on the world map — its distinctive blue-green and blue nephrite jade, found as ocean polished pieces and large boulders, “Vulcan” jade with its skin (rind) colored by iron compounds during long burial in the soil, and the rare grape-like clusters of botryoidal jade — will be on view, though the best examples may be for display only, and top examples fetch premium prices. Carving points are for sale at many booths, and there is much to be learned from practicing carvers and lapidaries at the show.

For those who made the trek earlier to the original

Big Sur Jade Festivals, the new urban festival will be recognizable, mainly due to the presence of many (though by no means all) familiar dealers from the south county events. The festival is still open-air, admission is still free, it still features live music, and still benefits the small, isolated public schools of Big Sur and worthy nonprofits.

Longtime visitors may still find the differences between the two festivals jarring. Slow, thorough shoppers who can steal away on Friday for the noon opening may have trouble seeing everything in one day, making for lodging expenses that cut into one's spending budget, and adding in city concerns about driving, parking, finding good restaurants, and travel challenges. You will not be "getting away from it all in Big Sur;" not camping or self-contained, not necessarily eating healthy food at food truck prices, so expenses will mount higher, as they do for the dealers as well. Other materials besides jade have always appeared at Central California's jade festivals and that continues, but the main focus remains on the varieties of the two different minerals known in the trade as jade, and more than ever on contemporary carvings by a growing community of lapidary artists.

These changes are yielding a remarkable annual weekend show that is easier to get to, near other popular tourist attractions, and will be of interest to casual visitors seeking local souvenirs, plus a must-see event for jewelry customers, rockhounds and lapidary artists seeking jade material to work with, and for a growing community of dedicated collectors.

SFGMS members Bob Kozak, his son Robert, and Charles Larribeau were seen perusing the ephemeral jade show.



Top international jade carvers.



Guatemala jadeite carving.

Next year's Monterey Bay Jade Festival show dates will be June 13-15, 2025.

Visit: www.montereybayjadefestival.org

On Facebook - Friends of Jade 2.0

is a good way to follow the jade scene:

www.facebook.com/groups/297545254049889



Large Big Sur ocean boulder.



Blue-green Big Sur jade boulder.

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
	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary	7 PM - 10 PM Lapidary	6 PM - 9 PM Lapidary, Faceting			

SPECIAL DATES IN JULY

General Meeting on Zoom
July 5th, Friday • 7:00 pm

Instructors Meeting
July 6th, Saturday • 11:00 am

In-Person at the clubhouse

*Zoom option - Info: tonythetm@aol.com

SFGMS Club Fair & Open House
July 14th, Sunday • 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Contact Tony to reserve a spot: tonythetm@aol.com

Board Meeting
July 15th, Monday Night • 7:00 pm

In-Person at the clubhouse

*Zoom option - Info: tonythetm@aol.com

Mineralog August 2024 Submission Deadline
July 16th, Tuesday • 5:00 pm

****NOTE: TRAFFIC AND PARKING ADVISORY****

- August 9 to 11th - Outside Lands Music Festival
- October 4 to 6th - Hardly Strictly Bluegrass

CLUB BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

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

Aaron Lerer
Angela Omran
Anne McFarlin
Antonio Chavez
Augusta Szego
Barbara Voltaire
Ben Gutierrez
Betty Iseri
Carly Bliss
Carol Wentzel
Charles Larribeau
Charles Ayers
Chris Wiebe
Christine Doo
Clio Herbert
Dane Volek
Daniel Tenenbaum
David Cipriano
Dianne Estrin
Dyanna Quizon
Dylon McManus
Elizabeth Blackwell
Heather Peguero
Jack Bascom

James Picerno
Jane Storseter
Janet Dudley
Jason Lizotte
Jean Ng
Jim Ambrose
John Lang
John Kriebel
Johnny Wan
Judith Piccini
Judy Kahn
Karen Athanasatos
Katherine Anne Scott
Kent Carter
Lars Johnson
Lily Dang
Melissa Davdson
Micah Welsh
Mignon McGregor
Nicole Chaney
Patricia Forte
Rebecca Cstiglia
Rebecca McMullan
Robin Brandt

UPCOMING SHOWS

Roseville Gem, Jewelry, Fossil & Mineral Show

08/03 - 08/04/2024

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

Venue: @the Grounds Roseville

700 Event Center Dr., Roseville, CA 95678

Website: <http://www.rockrollers.com/show.html>

Contra Costa Crystal Fair

08/10 - 08/11/2024

Venue: Civic Park Community Center

1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, CA

Website: <http://www.crystalfair.com>

Tehachapi Valley Gem and Mineral Society

08/17 - 08/18/2024

Hours: 9:00 - 5:00

Venue: Tehachapi Senior Center

Address: 500 E F St., Tehachapi, CA 93561

Website: <http://tvgms.org>

NEW MEMBERS FROM JUNE

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Robert Bodlak	Diane Pollock
Olga Belyntseva	Briana Schweizer
Joe Sulley	Dmitri Yevstfeev
Jeri Sulley	David Cipriano



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

Thank You Steve Browning

– by Tony DeLeon

On behalf of the club, I thank member Steve Browning for his \$500 donation to the club. Steve has earmarked the donation to go toward the lapidary shop. Steve has been a member since 2013. He is an instructor at the clubhouse, helped find speakers for our First Friday general meetings and recently led a field trip for a behind the scenes look at the San Francisco Academy of Sciences.

Thank you, Steve.

Donations to our club are welcome and appreciated. Over the years we have received collections of specimens, and equipment that have supported our sales and auctions. Financial donations are also welcome and can be designated, such as “new lapidary wheels” for example.

Founded in 1935, The San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization dedicated to the study and enjoyment of its members and the community at large with respect to geology, mineralogy, gems and gemology, rocks and minerals, and lapidary and associated creative arts as related to the earth sciences.



New {TEMPORARY} Jade Train Lighting Installed!



Reminder: 2024 Locker Fees are Due ...

Locker fee reminders have been placed on all the lockers at the clubhouse for calendar year 2024.

Club Members are requested to place their payments in the Locker Fee box at the end of the jewelry benches.

\$15 for small and \$20 large locker.

GEMS OF KNOWLEDGE

*An educational evening brought to you by
WJA Northern California and the GIA Alumni Collective,
Golden Gate Chapter*

**Tuesday, July 16th • 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Ciel Creative Space • 935 Carleton St, Berkeley, CA**

6:30 - 7:00: Arrive, grab a drink and a bite. Catering by Picante

7:00 - 7:10: Introduction of WJA NorCal

7:10 - 7:40: Keynote speaker, Robin Kramer, on The Art of Networking

7:40 - 7:50: Introduction of the Golden Gate Chapter of GIA and a brief explanation of our educational stations.

7:50 - 9:30: Presentation stations, networking, and refreshments.

This event is \$20 for the general public and \$10 for GIA Alumni and Guests by using Code GEMS at checkout.

RSVP REQUIRED. Visit https://www.womensjewelryassociation.com/ev_calendar_day.asp?date=7%2F16%2F24&eventid=1350



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 **August** Mineralog is 5:00 PM **Tuesday, July 16**

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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415-564-4230 • www.SF-GMS.org

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