SLAB & GAB

Website: sjvls.club ⁂ Instagram: @sjv_lapidary ⁂ Facebook: San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society

President's Message

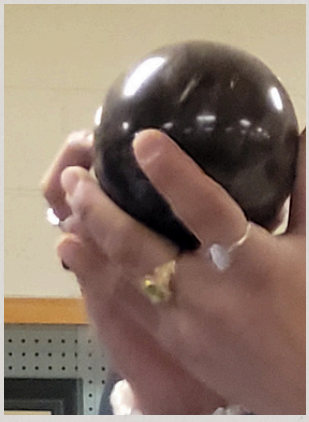
What We Leave Behind

A beautiful stone may hold a history far beyond our understanding, yet it takes only a moment for someone to recognize its beauty.
I've been thinking lately about how much the same can be saif of our Society. what we enjoy today wasn't built overnight. It took years of dedication, countless volunteer hours, and people who believed that something worth sharing was somethng worth preserving.
Tis issue celebrates that spirit. From the incredible exhibits at the Kern County Fair to the legacy of founding members like Marvin, we're reminded that our greatest treasures aren't always the ones we bring home in a bucket.
As we approach our November elections, I encourage everyone to consider what they can contribute to the next chapter of our Society. Leadership isn't just a title. Sometimes it's simply showing up, sharing what you know, or making someone new feel welcome.
After all, the most valuable thing we can leave behind isn't a collection of beautiful stones. It's a community that continues to discover them together.

See you at the next meeting!

Yours Truly,
Cristian Baltazar
President
SJVLS





Cover Story

Lapidary Arts

Lapidary is the practice of shaping stone, minerals, or gemstones into the decorative items such as cabochons, engraved gems, and faceted designs. A person who practices lapidary techniques of cutting, grinding, and polishing is known as a lapidary or lapidarist. Hardstone carving requires specialized carving techniques.

History

The earliest known lapidary work likely occurred during the Stone Age. As people created tools from stone, they realized that some geological materials were harder than others. The next earliest documented examples of what could be considered lapidary arts came in the form of drillign stone and rock. The erliest roots of drilling rocks date back to approximately one million years ago. The early Egyptians developed cutting and jewlry fashioning methods for lapis lazuli, turquise, and amethyst.
The art of lapidary was relatively well-developed in the Indian subcontinent by the erly 1st mellennium CE. The surviving manuscripts of the 3rd century Buddhist text Rathanpariksha by Buddha Bhata, and several Hindu texts of mid-1st millennium CE such as Agni Purana and Agstimata, are Sanskrit treatises on lapidary arts. They discuss sources of gems and diamonds, their origins, qualities, testing, cutting and polishing, and making jewelry fromthem. Several other Sanskrit texts on gems and lapidary arts have been dated to post-10th century, suggesting a continuous lapidary practice.

Lapidary was also a significant tradition in early mesoamerica. The lapidary products were used as status symbols, for offerings, and during burials. They were made from shell, jade, turquoise, and greenstones. Aztec lapidarists used to string saws and drills made of reed and bone as their lapidary tools.

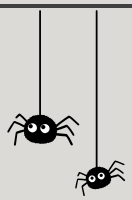
Medieval Lapidaries

The history of lapidaries can be traced back to the classical world, where writers like Theophrastus and Pliny the Elder laid the foundations for later medieval interpretations of gemstones. In his examination of lyngurium - a mythical gemstone described by Theophrastus - Steven A. Walton discusses how classical knowledge was transmitted and adapted in medieval lapidary traditions. Despite the mythical nature of some of these stones, medieval lapidaries continued to draw on classical sources, blending scientific knowledge with magical beliefs. Walton highlights how these texts catalogedstones not only for their aesthetic and material properties but also for their purported magical and medicinal functions, making lapidaries sources essential for texts for both scholars and practitioners of natural philosophy during the medieveal period.
The Old English Lapidary, for instance, detailed the healing properties of stones, reflecting the belief that gemstones could cure illnesses and provide spiritual protection. Some argue that lapidaries in this period served a dual purpose:

Continued on pg 3...

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Meeting



Monday, November 9th @ 6:30 pm
East Bakersfield Veterans Hall
2101 Ridge Road
Bakersfield, CA
Join us for a night of fun, creativity, community, laughter and an important opportunity to help shape the future of the San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society.

We will be starting earlier than usual to make room for all the festivities.

Evening Schedule:

- 5:00 pm - Member's Market Vendor Setup
- 5:30 pm - Member's Market Opens for Shopping
- 6:30 pm - General Meeting
- Special Presentation - The SJVLS Hanksgiving Special
- 2027 Board Elections

Member's Market – Showcase your treasures

- Our Member's Market is an opportunity for our talented members to showcase and sell their creations, collections, lapidary work, and other treasures. Whether you're selling or shopping, come support the creativity within our Society!

Vendor Participation Guidelines:

- Current SJVLS membership is required to sell.
- Vendor RSVP is required to reserve a space.
- Table will be provided
- Vendors must provide their own tablecloth
- Space is limited to one table per vendor.
- 10% of all sales must be contributed to the Society.

Please RSVP early if you'd like to participate as a vendor!

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL - OUR POTLUCK NIBBLE BAR

Bring something you'd find on a Thanksgiving table, a favorite everyday dish, or simply something you'd enjoy sharing. Sweet, savory, homemade, or store-bought - it's all welcome.

INTRODUCING THE SJVLS HANKSGIVING SPECIAL FEATURE: THE SHYANNE SHOW! A lighthearted presentation featuring our very own members. Expect a little humor, personality, and a fresh approachto Society business!

IMPORTANT – 2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

This meeting will also serve as our official election for the 2027 SJVLS Board of Directors.
To cast a vote, you must be a current SJVLS member and physically present at the November 9th meeting. Voting by proxy or absentee ballot will not be available.

A Living Legacy: Celebrating Marvin

Every club has its history. But if you're really fortunate, some of that history is still sitting right there int heroom with you., ready to tell a story, answer a question, share a little wisdom, and probably identify a rock the rest of us have been staring at for twenty minutes.
For the San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society, Marvin is one of those people. As one of our founding members, Marvin represents something incredibly special. He isn't simply someone who has been part of the club for many years. He helped create the foundation that generations of members have been able to build upon.

And wow, what an incredible man!

The amount of knowledge Marvin carries with him is remarkable. Rocks, minerals, lapidary, collecting, techniques, history, and stories from yers gone by... there seems to be an endless library tucked away in his mind.
But knowledge alone is what makes someone special. It's the willingness to share it. That's one of the things I appreciate most about Marvin. When someone has spent a lifetime learning a craft, that knowledge becomes priceless. Every story shared, every technique explained and every question answered passes a little piece of that experience on to someone else.
That's how a hobby survives. That's how a club survives. And that's how a legacy is built. Think about how many people have walked through our doors over the years because a small group of people once believed there should be a place where those who loved rocks, minerals and lapidary could come together.
Today we get to enjoy the friendships, equipment, events, field trips, knowledge and community that grew from those beginnings. Marvin was there at the start of that story. There is something pretty incredible about that.
So, the next time you see Marvin, don't just say hello. Ask him a question. Ask him about an old collection location. Ask about a stone you can't identify. Ask how something used to be done. Better yet, ask him to tell you a story. Becasue rocks may preserve millions of years of Earth's history, but people preserve our history. An Marvin, we hope you know how much we appreciate yours.
Thank you for helping start something that continues to bring friendship, knowledge, creativity and joy to so many people today.
What you helped build all those years ago is still growing.
And that may be one of the most beautiful things our club will ever uncover.







Continued Cover Story

Lapidary Arts Continued...

they were not only scientific texts that described natural phenomena but also moral and religious guides that connected materal objects to divine forces. Medieval lapidaries were deeply embedded in the practices of lithotherapy, the belief in the healing properties of stones. John M. Riddle's analysis of lithotherapy in the Middle Ages emphasizes the medical role lapidaries played, particularly in guiding the use of gemstones for healing, These texts described how different stones, often categorized by cold, composition, and astrological associations, could be used to treat specific ailments. Riddle points out that medievallapidaries were not merely collections of folklore; they were often considered legitmate medical texts, consulted by physicians and healers to guide treatment practices.

As detailed in A Medieval Book of Magical Stones: The Petersborough Lapidary, this text catalogs various gemstones and their magical properties, emphasizing the belief that stones could influence human behavior, protect against harm, and even cure diseases. The Peterborough Lapidary demonstrates how lapidaries were used not only for healing but also for magical and prtective purposes, reflecting the medieval understanding that the natural world was imbued with supernatural power.

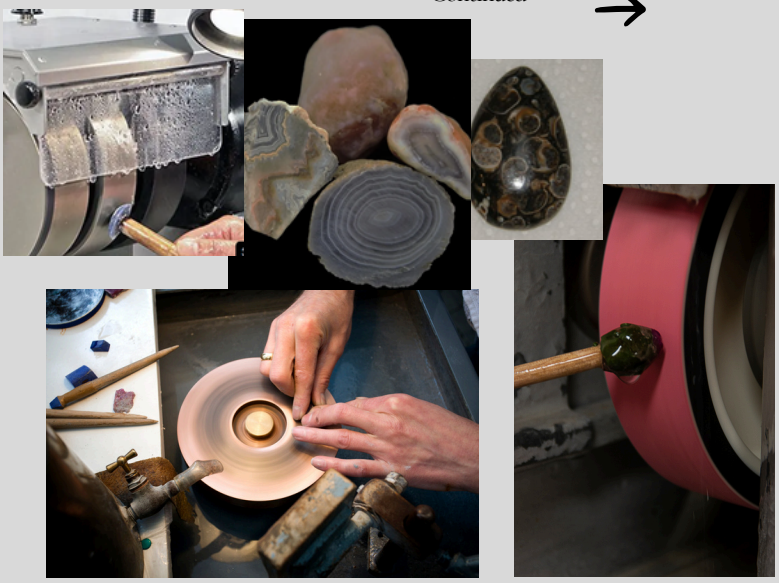
Lapidaries like the Peterborough Lapidary reinforcd the idea that stones had scred meanings, offering protection and spiritual benefits to those who used them correctly.

Techniques

There are 3 broad categories of lapidary arts: tumbling, cabochon cutting, and faceting. Among a modern gemcutter's work are the following activities:

- Positioning rought stone in a holder, andholding the stone against the edge of a revolving saw or lapidary slitter impregnated with diamond dust to cut and slit stone.
- Removing cut stonea nd placing it in lapidary stick. A gemcutter then selects the shaping whell and applies abrasive compound. They hold a lapidary stock against the revolving shaping wheel and lapidary disk to further shape stone and grind facets.
- Depositing stone within a barrel with both water and a grinding/polishing medium and either vibrating or totating said barrel using friction to grind and polish the stones over time.
- Examing stone for accuracy of cut, using a magnifying glass. A gemcutter polishes stone, using felt or canvas-covered polishing wheel, and polishing compounds, such as tripoli or jeweler's rouge.

Continued →



- Possibly using a mechanical facet-cutting device. A gemcutter may cutand polish diamonds for industrial prurposes, and be designated as an industrial diamond polisher.
- The Mohs hardness scale is a commonly used tool in lapidary to help measure a mineral's scratch hardness.A mineral's scratch hardness is measure by seeing how easily scratched it is, andwhat otherminerals on the Mohs hardness scale can scratch it. this tool is helpful in indicating what different lapidary methods should be used on the material.

Cutting

Cutting of harder stones is done with a diamond-edged saw. For softer materials, a medium other than diamond can be used, such a silicon carbide, garnet, emery, or corundum. The cutting, grinding, and polishing operations are usually lubricated with water, oil, or other liquids. Beyond these broader categories, there are other specialized forms of lapidary techniques, such as casting, carving, jewelry, and mosaics.

Faceting

Faceting requires equipment allowing for very precise adjustment of angle and location around the gemstone for faet-placement, a process sometimes referred to as indexing. the design may be computer-generated or left up to the skill and expertise of the individual cutting the gemstone.

Cabochons

Smooth-shaped gemstones without facets such as jade or turquoise, and indeed most gemstones - are instead shaped and polished in much the same manner. they are usually left up to the skill and expertise of the individual cuttingthe gemstone andto similar equipment such as the lapping equipment.

Polishing

Most modern lapidary work is done using motorized equipment. Polishing is done with resin- or metal-bonded emery, silicon carbide (carborundum), aluminum oxide (corundum), or diamond dust in successively decreasing particle sizes until a polish is achieved. in older systems, the grinding and polishing powders were applied separately to the grinding or buffing wheel. Often, the final polish will use a different medium such as tin oxide or cerium (IV) oxide. The initial shaping and facet placement may be done using laps with grits of 220, 600, and/or 1,200. The polishing step requires grits of a much higher grade, such as 8,000, 14,000, 50,000 and even 100,00. This grit is also embedded into a metal lap, but sometimes applied manually to the lap during polishing.

Inlaying

Another specialized form of lapidary work is the inlaying of marble and gemstones into a marble matrix. this technique is known in English as pietra dura, for the hardstones that are used, like onyx, jasper and carnelian. In Florence and Naples, the technique they use is called opere di commessi. In China, the lpidary work specializing in jade carving has been coninuous since at least the Shang Dynasty.

The Symbolism Behind Popular Halloween Gems

In the mystical world of gemstones, each stone tells a story, especially when the tales are as dark and enchanting as those of Halloween. The Halloween gemstone symbolism is rich with legends, myths, and folklore. From the protective aura of black onyx to the mysterious allure of moonstone, these gems have captivated our imaginations for centuries. But amidst this colorful tapestry, the timeless elegance of diamond studs stands out, adding a touch of brilliance to the darkest of tales.

Black Onyx:The Stone of Protection

Historically revered as a powerful ward against negative energies, the black onyx has been a staple in protective amulets and talismans. Its deep, opaque hue is reminiscent of the darkest Halloween nights, making it a favorite for those seeking both style and spiritual defense. Pairing black onyx with diamond studs can symbolize the balance between darkness and light, protection and brilliance.

Bloodstone: The Stone of Courage and Sacrifice

With its deep green hue speckled with red, the bloodstone is often associated with tales of bravery, sacrifice, and the supernatural. Legends say that the stone first formed when drops of blood feel on green jasper at the crucifixion. Its haunting beauty, combined with diamond studs, can evoke a sense of courage that shines brightly even in the face of adversity. Cont. on page 8...





This Month in Pictures



NECKLACES MADE DURING THE SEPTEMBER MEETING



MAKING USE OF THE WORKSHOP



FILLING GRAB BAGS FOR THE FAIR



Hazards of the Jumping Cholla in your Desert Rockhounding Adventures

The jumping cholla (Opuntia fulgida) is a deceptive desert hazard whose barbed spines can cause painful punctures, infections, and allergic reactions, making it a serious risk for rockhounding explorers the in the Mojave.

How the Jumping Cholla Works:

This cactus produces 1-2 cm long, sharply curved spines covered in microscopic barbs that latch onto skin, fur, or clothing. When a pad or segment brushes against you, the glochid spines detach and "jump" onto your body or gear. The wind can also dislodge segments, turning them into projectile hazards. These cactus spines have reverse barbs that make it difficult to remove them.

Physical and Medical Risks:

- Puncture wounds: Spines penetrate deep into your skin, creating micro-tears that allow desert bacteria to enter.
- Infection: Embedded spines can cause swelling, redness, and push; infection risk increases if left untreated.
- Allergic reactions: Some people develop a rash, itching, or prolonged discomfort after contact.
- Hidden Injuries: Spines can lodge in clothing or between fabric fibers, becoming apparent only later.

Common Rockhounding Scenarios:

- Bushing against a standing pad while scanning for fossils or wildlife
- Sitting or lying on a fallen pad that has already released spines
- Stepping on a detached segment rolled onto a trail
- Reaching into dense brush or retrieving objects near cholla plants

Prevention Strategies:

- Stay alert: Scan for cholla pads before sitting, lying, or stepping in desert areas
- Wear protective gear: Long sleeves, pants, gloves, and sturdy boots reduce exposure
- Avoid loose clothing: Tight-fitting garments reducesnagging risk.
- Clear the path: Remove fallen padsand segments before walking through or walk around

Safe Removal and First Aid:

If stung:

- Do not touch the segment with bare hands - this transfers spines and drives them deeper.
- Stabilize the area and cut away clothing around the segment.
- Proper Tools (cactus saw, pliers, tweezers, or gloved hands) to remove the segment and any visible spines.
- Clean the wound with soap and water; apply an antibiotic ointment.
- Seek medical care if there is deep embedding, signs of infection, or allergic reaction.

Key Takeaway for Rockhounding:

The Mojave's beauty is matched only by its hiddendangers. the jumping cholla can turn a peaceful fossil hunt into a paintful fossil hunt into a painful emergency in seconds. Awareness, protective gear, and correct removal techniques are essential to emjoy the desert without unjury.

Tip: Always plan your route to avoid cholla-prone areas, and carry a cactus removal kit for emergencies.

Submitted by : Paula Scheidemann





Crystals and Halloween: Tapping into the Mystic Power of this Magical Holiday

Halloween, the much-anticipated holiday of costumes and candies, hold a deeper mystique than meets the eye. Beyond the spooky fun lies a time when the boundary between the physical and mystical worlds becomes a thin veil, allowing for a unique connection to the energies that surround us. Imagine infusing your Halloween with the power of crystals, elevating the experience to a realm where magic and moder mysticism coexist in harmony. Here we will explore the fusion of crystals and Halloween, and how these gems can add an extra layer of enchantment to this bewitching holiday

Halloween's Ancient Origins

Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve, was celebrated to mark the end of harvest and the commencement of the darker half of the year. This mystical holiday was believed to be a time when the boundary between the realm of the living and the spirit world was blurred, allowing mystical beings and spirits to roam freely in our world.

Crystals: Nature's Energy Amplifiers

Now the dazzling world of crystals- Nature's masterpieces that seem to encapsulate the universe's secrets within their intricate formations. However, these gems aren't just aesthetically pleasing; they possess the unique ability to amplify energies and intentions. For centuries, crystals have been utilized as tools to enhance spiritual practices and connect with the energies that surround us. each crystal resonates with a distinct energy that aligns with various intentions, making them ideal companions for those seeking to infuse their Halloween with mystical power.

continued on page 7...



CFMS Corner by Paula Scheideman

CFMS WEBSITE

The CFMS website is accessible at www.cfmsinc.org
There is a lot of information from the President's Message to Display Exhibits and communication to help your club run more efficiently.

There are DVD visual Learning programs available for you to view. There are a ton of them, and I have found several that I plan on watching. THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO LEARN!

November Gem & Mineral Shows

Humboldt Gem & Mineral Show
Start Date: 11/06/2026 - End Date: 11/08/2026
Hours: Fri/Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5
Redwood Acres Fairgrounds
Address: 3750 Harris St
Eureka, CA 95501

CMFS Corner Cont....

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society Holiday Sale - 11/07/2026
Start Date: 11/07/2026
End Date: 11/07/2026
Hours: 9:00-4:00
Address: 14515 Blaine Ave
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
Bellflower, CA 98706
Types: Rock & Mineral Shows

More shows listed on page 10

SAFETY:

Don't let your enthusiasm and passion for your rock hobby get in the way of safety! Keep up to date on workshop safety. Use hand tools and rock equipment safely. Wear gloves, safety glasses, face masks and hearing protection to keep you safe and healthy. Communicate any safety questions or issues to board members.

Your safety matters! Be aware of the area around you. Keep an eye out for snakes, spiders and don't forget about the Cholla Cactus

The next CFMS Business Meeting is November 13-15th, 2026 at Visalia at the Wyndham Hotel. The meeting begins on Saturday at 9 am, followed by a banquet that evening. Banquet is $45.00.

CFMSencourages clubs to post how-to-videos on their websites, Instragram, Facebook, etc. Brief visuals of your club showing off yours hip and rockhound techniques.

Bonterra - It's a group that say they are "technology for social good". They have free resources for non-profit organizations that include Bonterra Academay, that offers webinars, classeda nd trainings. They say they are used by over 170,000 nonprofits. Something everyone should definitely check out if they want to learn more.

JUST A REMINDER: Please follow the CFMS Facebook and Instagram. They may have pages about the Reno show held in September and feel free to share with other social media.

Rockhound of the Year

It's time to start thinking about who you want to nominate for Rockhound of the Year. Paula has forms available for your nominations.



Halloween Mummy Dogs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Ingredients :
10 hot dogs
1 crescent roll dough sheetor 1 can of crescent rolls
2 ½ slices of American cheese, quartered
Cooking spray
Ketchup or mustard, if desired



*If using crescent rolls: Unroll dough; separate at perforations, creating 4 rectangles. Press perforations to seal. If using a dough sheet: Unroll dough; cut into 4 rectangles.

*With knife or pizza cutter, cut each rectangle lengthwise into 10 pieces or under 1/2 inch (1 cm) wide, making a total of 40 pieces of dough.



*Slice cheese slices into quarters (1/2 slice cheese, cut in half).





*Wrap 4 pieces of dough around each hot dog and 1/4 slice of cheese to look like "bandages," stretching dough slightly to completely cover hot dog.



*About 1/2 inch from one end of each hot dog, separate "bandages" so the hot dog shows through for "face."
*On ungreased large cookie sheet, place wrapped hot dogs (cheese side down); spray dough lightly with cooking spray.
*Bake 13 to 17 minutes or until dough is light golden brown and hot dogs are hot.
*Using a toothpick, dip one end into mustard and draw features on "face."

The Mystical Connection Between Halloween and Crystals: Unveiling the Magic of Gemstones

In this article we will delve into the mystical significance of crystals during Halloween, uncovering the magical properties that make them an intriguing addition to this enchanting holiday. Crystals have captivated human fascination for centuries with their unique beauty and purported metaphysical properties. These mesmerizing gemstones come in a dazzling array of shapes, colors, and energies, each believed to possess distinct powers that can benefit the mind, body, and spirit. From promoting healing to enhancing spiritual growth, crystals have been used for various purposes across different cultures and traditions.

Halloween: A Time of Magic and Mystery

As the air turns crisp and the leaves rustle with an eerie whisper, Halloween beckons us to embrace the unknown and revel in the supernatural. This ancient festival, with its origins rooted in Celtic harvest celebrations, has evolved into a modern-day spectacle of costumes, candy, and spooky decorations. But beyond the surface-level festivities, could Halloween carry a significance tied to the cycles of nature and the unseen forces that shape our existence.

The Intersection of Halloween and Crystals

It is within this mystical backdrop of Halloween that the connection with crystals begins to unfold. Some believe that during this time of heightened spiritual energy, the vibrations of crystals become more pronounced, making them potent tools for manifestation, protection, and spiritual exploration. Whether used in meditation, rituals, or as talismans, crystals can amplify the magic of Halloween and deepen our connection to the spiritual realm.

Harnessing the Power of Gemstones

Certain gemstones are particularly associated with Halloween and its themes of mystery, transformation, and spiritual growth. Here are a few examples of gemstones that resonate strongly with the essence of this enchanting holiday.

Black Tourmaline

There are those that believe Black Tourmaline possesses protective properties, shielding the wearer

Continued on pg 8...

Crystals and Halloween continued....

Summoning Protection with Black Tourmaline

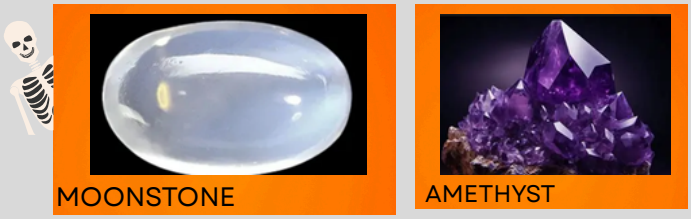
In the realm of crystal magic, protection is paramount. Black Tourmaline, often referred to as the "Spiritual bodyguard," becomes an invaluable ally during Halloween festivities. Placing a piece of thsi powerful black gem by your front door or crrying it while venturing out for trick-or-treating establishes an energetic shield, ensuring that only positiveand uplifting energies cross your path. With Black Tourmaline by your side, you can revel in the festivities without any unwanted entergetic baggage.

Channeling Intuition with Amethyst

Enhancing your intuition is an essential aspect of connection with the mystical energies of Halloween. Enter Amythyst, a mesmerizing purple crystal that serves as a catalyst for enhancing intuitive abilities. Whether you're tapping into your phychic sense or simply making decisions about which Halloween treats to indule in, Amythyst's gentle yet potent entergy serves as a guiding light. By keeping Amehtyst close, you're inviting an inner wisdom to rise to the surface, guiding you through the enchanting journey of Halloween.

Enhancing Enchantment with Moonstone

Halloween and enchantment go hand in hand, making Moonstone an ideal companion for this mystical holiday. Known for its ethereal glow and connection to the moon's entergy, Moonstone brings an added layer of magic to your celebrations. Wearing a Moonstonependant or placing a piece on your altar infuses your Halloween with a toch of moonlit mystery adn cosmic vibes. Allow the enchanting energy of Moonstone to transport you to a world where the mystical and the everyday seamlessly intertwine.



October Birthdays



10/1 Dennis Vandenkoek
10/5 Michelle Coleman
10/11 Julie Wade
10/11 Kim Trombetta
10/23 Fawn Dessy
10/30 Luis Cardona



Happy Birthday to all. We wish you all a wonderful day!!

If we have missed your birthday please see one of the board members so we can make sure we have it down correctly.

Gem of the Month: Opal and Tourmaline



Opal is renowned for its play-of-color, which creates rainbow-like flashes that shift with light and movement.It's colors can range from multi-color to white or pink, and it is classified into precious opals, which display the dazzling color effects, and common opals, which do not. The name "opal" originates from the sanskrit word upala, meaning "precious stone", and the Greek opallies, meaning "to see a change of color." Opals are mined in Australia, which is the most productive source, particularly in Lightning Ridge for black opals, as well as in White Cliffs, Mintabie, Andamooka, and Coober Pedy for white opals. Other sources include Ethiopia, Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Madagascar, Peru, Turkey, and the United States

Tourmaline is the alternative October birthstone, with pink Tourmaline being the most popular variatn. tourmaline comes in a wide range of colors, symbolizing emotional healing, hope, and balance. Historically, it as believed in ancient Egyptt hat tourmaline passed throgh a rainbow, capturing its vibrant hues. This gemstone is prozed for its bold yet gentle energy, making it a menaingful gift for october birthdays and a poplular choice in modern jewelry.

Symbolism and Zodiac Connections

Both opal and tourmaline are associated with hope, innocence, and emotional balance**.** Opal is linked to **Libra** (September 24 – October 23) and early **Scorpio** (October 24 – November 22) signs, reflecting creativity, imagination, and fidelity. Tourmaline complements these traits with its heart-opening energy and vibrant colors.

Summary

October birthstones offer a unique combination of beauty, history, and symbolism. Opal dazzles with its kaleidoscopic colors and mystical heritage, while tourmaline provides a modern, colorful alternative with emotional and spiritual significance. Both stones make meaningful gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, or personal adornment, embodying the essence of October's transformative and balanced energy

The Symbolism Behind Popular Halloween Gems Continued...

Moonstone: The Gem of Mystery and Intuition

Moonstone, with its ethereal glow, has long been linked to the moon's phases and the mysteries of the night. Witches and seers have prized it for its supposed ability to enhance intuition and foresee the future. When set alongside the clear brilliance of diamond studs, the moonstone's subtle shimmer tells a story of mystery illuminated by clarity.



Opal: The Play-of-Color and Superstition

Opals, with their mesmerizing play-of-color, have been subjects of both admiration and superstition. Some cultures saw them as lucky omens, while others believed they brought misfortune. However, when paired with the steadfast sparkle of diamond studs, the opal's ever-changing hues symbolize the unpredictable beauty of life.

Garnet: The Gems of Passion and Depth

Deep red garnets have been symbols of passion, desire, and the afterlife. Their rich color is reminiscent of the heart's fervor and the depths of our emotions. When garnets are combined with the eternal shine of diamond studs, they create a look that's both passionate and timeless, perfect for a Halloween soiree.

Diamond: The Unbreakable and Eternal

Diamonds, beyond their renowned beauty, symbolize strenth, eternity, and unbreakable bonds. In the context of Halloween, they can represent the eternal cycle of life anddeath, and the enduring sprit that sines even in darkness. Diamond studs, with their unmatched brilliance, serve as a beacon, reminding us of the light that exists even in the spookiest of tales.

Conclusion

The world of Halloween gemstone symbolism is a treasure trove of stories, beliefs, and traditions. As we adorn ourselves with these gems, we not only embrace their beauty but also the tales they tell. And admist this rich tapestry, the unwavering sparkle of diamond studs serves as a testament to the timeless elegance that transcends seasons and tales.

(By Brian Carson from idjewelry.com)





Garnet

Diamond



The Mystical Connection cont....

from negative energies and psychic attacks. During Halloween, when the veil between worlds is thinnest, Black Tourmaline can provide a sense of security and grounding, allowing us to navigate the spiritual realms with courage and strength.

Amethyst

Amethyst, with its deep purple hues, is a crystal of spiritual insight and intuition. As we embrace the mysteries of Halloween, Amethyst can help us tap into our inner wisdom and psychic abilities, guiding us through the shadows of the unknown with clarity and grace.

Obsidian

Obsidian, a volcanic glass known for its reflective surface, is a powerful tool for inner transformation and shadow work. During Halloween, a time when we confront our fears and embrace the darkness, Obsidian can support us in facing our deepest truths and emerging stronger and more resilient.

Embracing the Magic Within

Whether you are a seasoned crystal enthusiast or someone curious to explore the world of gemstones, Halloween offers a unique opportunity to connect with the mystical energies that surround us. By incorporating crystals into your Halloween rituals or simply carrying them with you during this potent time, you can amplify the spiritual power of the season and unlock the magic within yourself.

Final thoughts

As Halloween approaches, let's remember the ancient traditions and sacred practices that have shaped this enchanting holiday. By exploring the mystical connection between Halloween and crystals, we open ourselves to a world of wonder, magic, and transformation. So, embrace the spirit of the season, adorn yourself with gemstones that resonate with your soul, and allow the magic of crystals to guide you on a journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth.

In the dance between light and shadow, between the known and the unknown, let the beauty and mystery of gemstones illuminate your path and remind you of the profound connection between nature, sporit, and the unseen realms.

Happy Halloween, and may the magic of crystals bring you joy, protection, and enlightenment in the days to come.



SJVLS Exhibit Entries at the Kern County Fairgrounds.

The Kern County Fair was filled with crowds, food, fun, and wonderful exhibits. Our club, along with several of our members, entered displays in the Lapidary, Gems and Minerals, and Fossils categories.

Of all the exhibits, the one that touched me most was the tribute Brenda created for Donna. While I didn't know Donna as well as many of our members did, the exhibit reflected the person I knew her to be and seemed to capture her spirit beautifully. Pictures simply cannot do it justice. I hope everyone had a chance to see it in person, because it was truly a beautiful and heartfelt tribute.



Brenda's own exhibits were also beautiful displays. She created one focused on fossils and another exploring the metaphysical and divinatory properties of rocks, crystals, and minerals. Both exhibits were thoughtfully designed, informative, and engaging for visitors. I know that one of these displays was put together on very short notice, which makes the quality and attention to detail even more impressive. Despite the time constraints, both exhibits were wonderful and reflected the dedication, creativity, and knowledge that Brenda brings to our club. They were truly a pleasure to see.





J.R. Kennedy submitted a lapidary display featuring carved skulls made from a variety of beautiful stones, including amethyst, agate, grape agate, jasper, quartz, and tiger's eye. It is a very impressive collection, and the display was arranged exceptionally well, allowing visitors to appreciate the unique colors and characteristics of each piece.

The craftsmanship and attention to detail were evident throughout the exhibit, making it both interesting and enjoyable to view. Great job, J.R.! The display was a wonderful addition to the fair and a great representation of the talent within our club.



Paula also submitted two exhibits. One was a display on Stones As Canvas, and the other was Desert Concretions Both of her exhibits were beautifully presented and thoughtfully arranged. Her Stones As Canvas display was especially enjoyable, as it highlighted the versatility of rocks and demonstrated how they can be used as a canvas for creativity, inspiration, and self-expression. The exhibit attracted plenty of attention and helped visitors see rocks in a whole new way beyond their natural beauty.





SJVLS Exhibit Entries at the Kern County Fairgrounds continued

Last but not least were the club exhibits. Cristian created a beautiful display highlighting Camp Paradise. His exhibit showcased the many different forms of artwork that participants can create or learn during their Camp Paradise experience. From lapidary arts to other creative projects, the display captured the spirit of the camp and the opportunities it provides for learning and artistic expression. The carefully designed background added to the presentation, making visitors feel as though they were actually at camp. It was a creative and inviting exhibit that did an excellent job of promoting one of the club's most treasured activities.



Bernie also contributed one of the club exhibits with his display of spheres. It was a wonderful exhibit that showcased the beautiful sphere work he has developed through his lapidary skills and dedication to the craft. The collection highlighted the variety of materials, colors, and patterns found in the stones, each carefully shaped and polished to perfection. His exhibit demonstrated both the artistry and patience required to create such stunning pieces, and it was an impressive addition to the club's displays at the fair.





More Gem and Mineral Shows

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Show -

Start Date: 11/07/2026 End Date: 11/08/2026

Hours: 9:00 - 5:00

Venue: Desert Empire Fairgrounds

Address: 520 South Richmond

Ridgecrest, CA 93555-8324

2nd Annual Central Valley Holiday Gem and Mineral Show

Start Date: 11/14/2026 End Date: 11/15/2026

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

Venue: Elks Lodge

Address: 5351 N Diana St , Fresno, CA



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