



Slab & Gab



May/June 2026

President's Message

Memorial Day asks us to pause—not only to remember sacrifice, but to reflect on the legacies we inherit and the ones we leave behind.

In the lapidary world, we understand something about endurance. Stones outlive us. Techniques are passed hand to hand, generation to generation. Knowledge is preserved because someone cared enough to teach it, share it, and carry it forward.

This month, I encourage each of us to honor that spirit of preservation—not only in the specimens we collect or the skills we refine, but in the way we show up for one another as a community.

As this issue reaches you a little later than intended, we find ourselves already moving from remembrance into the full energy of summer.

Field trips are underway, new friendships are forming, and the shop continues to welcome both familiar faces and newcomers eager to learn. It is a reminder that growth rarely follows a perfect schedule—but it comes nonetheless.

Perhaps that is a lesson stones teach us better than anything else. Transformation happens over time. Not all progress is immediate, and not every chapter unfolds exactly as planned. Yet with patience, persistence, and a shared sense of purpose, something meaningful continues to take shape.

Whether you're volunteering at an event, helping in the shop, bringing food to a meeting, teaching a technique, or simply showing up with curiosity and kindness—you are contributing to something lasting.

Like stone shaped through time, SJVLS continues to grow through patience, care, and shared purpose. May we never take for granted the people who came before us, the freedoms we enjoy because of sacrifice, or the opportunity we have to build something meaningful together.

With gratitude and remembrance,

Cristian Battazar

President
San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society

President's Message

Society Info

On the Cover
Tradition: Military Grave

Gem of the Month:
The Moonstone

Stones of Service

From Pebbles to Power
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Birthday Spotlight:
June

World's Rarest Crystals

The Whispering Whimsy

Upcoming Gem &
Mineral Shows

SJVLS Member
Submitted Events

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Directors





General Meeting: July

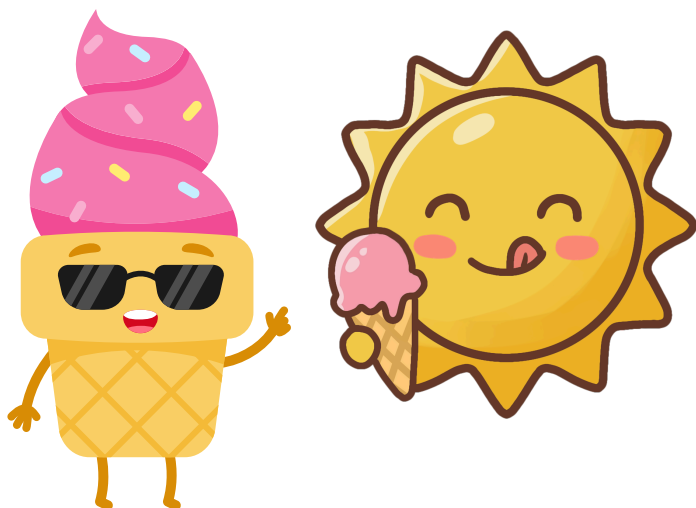
July 13th @ 6:30 pm at

East Bakersfield Veteran's Hall

2101 Ridge Road, Bakersfield, CA 93305

We will be having our Ice Cream Social
Bring a topping of your choice and come
cool off while taking rocks

Look forward to seeing you all there!



Support SJVLS and look out for updates
on our socials

Website: <https://sjvls.club>

Instagram: @sjv_lapidary

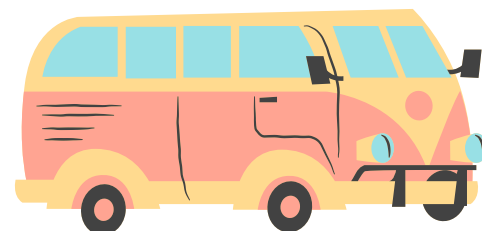
Facebook: San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society

Submission Deadline for Slab N Gab:

The submission deadline is the 25th of every month.

This is for articles, photographs and any other
information you would like to be included.

Please submit to the Newsletter Director at
chelle.colemanmc@gmail.com



Field Trip Info:

June 20th: Potluck in San Simeon

We will leave at 7:30 am at Harbor Freight. Cost is \$10 per person to pay to hound
on the private land where the river bed is located and will also go down to Pico
Creek Beach which is on Ruta Lane.

Club will be providing hot dog and hamburgers, you provide the side dishes.

Make sure to bring chairs, sunblock, tennis shoes or water shoes and your
buckets. There's lot to find at this location.

ON THE COVER

Traditions: Military Graves

Military grave traditions run deeper than most visitors realize. From ancient coins placed with the dead for safe passage to quiet tributes left at headstones across VA national cemeteries today, each small object on a veteran's grave carries meaning — a silent message between the living and the fallen, and between service members who share a bond that outlasts a lifetime. If you are exploring ways to honor a veteran's memory, our guide to honoring a veteran's service covers benefits, products, and planning options beyond graveside tributes.

The Coin Tradition:

Placing coins on military headstones became a hugely recognized practice in the U.S. during the Vietnam War. It became a way to say “I was here and I remember.”

The tradition draws on much older roots. In ancient Greece, families placed coins in the mouths or on the eyes of the dead as payment to Charon, the mythological ferryman who carried souls across the River Styx into the afterlife. Roman soldiers carried forward the custom, and variations spread throughout Western Europe over the centuries.

Each coin denomination has its own meaning.

Penny: Means someone visited and paid their respects and can be left by anyone.

Nickel: The visitor trained at boot camp with the deceased

Dime: The visitor served alongside the deceased in some capacity.

Quarter: The visitor was present when the service member died. This would be the most solemn and personal tribute in the coin tradition.

Placing Challenge coins is a tribute among Comrades.

While pennies through quarters follow a denomination-based code, challenge coins occupy a different category entirely. These small medallions bear the insignia of a specific military unit, branch, or organization. Commanders present them to service members as recognition of achievement, unit membership, or shared experience.

Challenge coins gained prominence during the Vietnam War era, when Special Forces units used them to confirm group membership. Each coin was unique to its unit, making it both a personal keepsake and a form of identification among brothers and sisters in arms.

When a veteran leaves a challenge coin on a fallen comrade's grave, it is among the most personal tributes possible. The coin says: "We served in the same unit. I carry this symbol of our shared mission, and I am leaving it with you." Because challenge coins are prized possessions — not currency — finding one on a headstone signals a deeply personal visit.

Challenge Coin Etiquette at Gravesites

Never remove a challenge coin from a veteran's grave. Unlike standard currency, challenge coins are not collected by cemetery staff. They remain as permanent markers of a comrade's visit. If you see a challenge coin bearing a unit insignia, it was placed there intentionally and holds irreplaceable meaning for the family and the veteran community.

Stones and Rocks: An Ancient Practice at Military Graves

Visitors to Arlington National Cemetery and other military burial grounds sometimes notice small stones resting on headstones alongside coins. This practice is rooted in Jewish mourning tradition, where placing a stone on a grave indicates that someone has visited and remembers the deceased.

The custom reaches back thousands of years. Before modern grave markers existed, cairns — piles of stones — served as burial markers. Visitors would replace stones that had fallen away, maintaining the grave's integrity as an act of care. Over time, the practical necessity evolved into a ritual of remembrance. Stones endure through weather and seasons in a way that flowers cannot, making them a symbol of permanent memory.

At military cemeteries, the tradition has crossed religious and cultural boundaries. Service members and civilians of all backgrounds leave small stones on the graves of veterans as a universal gesture of respect. Audie Murphy's headstone at Arlington, for instance, routinely accumulates both coins and stones left by visitors.

A Note on Stone Placement

If you choose to leave a stone, select a small, smooth one that will not scratch or stain the headstone surface. Sandstone or rough rocks can leave mineral deposits on polished marble or granite — the standard materials used for government-issued military headstones. Place the stone gently on the top or base of the marker, and keep the tribute modest.

Buddy Poppies and Red Poppies: The Flower of Remembrance

The red poppy is one of the most recognized symbols of military remembrance worldwide. Its connection to fallen service members traces back to World War I and a poem written in 1915 by Canadian Army physician Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. Serving near Flanders, Belgium, McCrae observed bright red poppies growing among the graves of soldiers killed in battle. His poem captured the image of resilience blooming in devastated ground, and the poppy became a lasting symbol of sacrifice.

In the United States, the poppy was adopted as an official memorial flower through the efforts of Moina Michael, a Georgia professor who began wearing and distributing silk poppies after the war. By 1920, the American Legion had adopted the poppy as its memorial symbol. Two years later, the Veterans of Foreign Wars organized the first nationwide poppy distribution before Memorial Day, launching the Buddy Poppy program that continues today.



What Makes Buddy Poppies Unique

VFW Buddy Poppies are handmade by disabled, hospitalized, and aging veterans. The VFW trademarked the name "Buddy" in 1924 — a term coined by the veteran poppy makers in memory of their fallen friends. Every Buddy Poppy sold raises funds for veteran welfare programs and provides supplemental income to the veterans who assemble them. More than 14 million Buddy Poppies are distributed annually in the United States. Families often place a red poppy at a veteran's grave during Memorial Day visits, sometimes tucking it into a small flag holder or laying it at the base of the headstone. The gesture connects a personal moment of grief to a century of collective remembrance



Flags, Ribbons, and Decoration Day Origins

Before coins, challenge coins, or poppies became common at military graves, there were flowers, ribbons, and flags. Memorial Day itself was originally called Decoration Day — a holiday established after the Civil War specifically for decorating the graves of fallen soldiers.

The tradition of placing small American flags at veterans' graves remains one of the most visible military cemetery customs. At Arlington National Cemetery, soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) place more than 260,000 flags at headstones each year during the annual "Flags-In" ceremony before Memorial Day weekend. The practice is replicated at national cemeteries and community cemeteries across the country by VFW posts, American Legion chapters, Boy Scout troops, and individual families. Proper Memorial Day flag etiquette includes flying the flag at half-staff from sunrise until noon and then raising it to full staff for the remainder of the day. At gravesites, small stick flags are typically placed to the left of the headstone (as you face it) or in a flag holder attached to the marker.

Ribbons — particularly red, white, and blue ribbons — are sometimes tied around veteran grave marker options or nearby fencing during patriotic holidays. While less codified than coin or flag traditions, ribbons serve a similar purpose: marking the grave as remembered and honored.

Personal Items and Unique Tributes

Beyond coins, stones, poppies, and flags, some visitors leave deeply personal items at military graves: Letters and notes — Handwritten messages to the deceased, sometimes sealed in plastic bags to protect them from weather. These are especially common at Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery, where service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan are buried.

Photographs — Small laminated photos of the veteran, their family, or shared moments from service. Some families tuck photos into the base of the headstone or lean them against the marker.

Beer, cigars, and playing cards — A tradition rooted in the promise many Vietnam-era veterans made to their fallen friends: "I'll buy you a beer when we meet again." Full cans of beer and packs of cigarettes or cigars appear regularly on graves, particularly on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Unit patches and insignia — Cloth patches from the deceased veteran's unit, sometimes pinned or weighted at the base of the headstone.

Dog tags — A duplicate set or a personal memento tag left by a fellow service member.

The traditions described here — coins, challenge coins, stones, poppies, flags, and personal tributes — all share one thing in common. They are acts of presence. They say: I came here. I remember. And that is enough.



THE GEM OF THE MONTH: MOONSTONE



Our love for the April birthstone started in India, where diamonds were gathered from the country's rivers and streams. Traded as early as the fourth century BCE, diamonds were coveted by royalty and the wealthy. Later, caravans brought Indian diamonds, along with other exotic merchandise, to medieval markets in Venice. By the 1400s, diamonds were becoming fashionable accessories for Europe's elite. The first diamond engagement ring on record was given by Archduke Maximillian of Austria to his betrothed, Mary of Burgundy, in 1477. Recent evidence supports the origin of the legendary 45.52 carat (ct) blue Hope diamond in India's Golconda mining area and its sale to King Louis XIV of France (then known as the French Blue diamond) in 1668.

In the early 1700s, as India's diamond supplies began to decline, Brazil emerged as an important source. Diamonds were discovered when gold miners sifted through gravels on the banks of the Jequitinhonha River in Minas Gerais. Brazil dominated the diamond market for more than 150 years.

The discovery of diamonds near Kimberley, South Africa, in the late 1860s marked the beginning of the modern diamond market. Entrepreneur Cecil Rhodes established De Beers Consolidated Mines Limited in 1888, and by 1900 De Beers controlled an estimated 90 percent of the world's production of rough diamonds. The largest diamond ever found – at 3,106 ct (621 grams) – was recovered from South Africa's Premier mine in 1905. From it was cut the pear shaped 530 ct Cullinan I diamond, also known as the Great Star of Africa, which is now set in the Royal Sceptre with Cross and housed with the other Crown Jewels in the Tower of London.

An anonymous second-century poet maintained that this birthstone for April warded off the evil eye – a malevolent look believed to cause sickness, poverty and even death. The April birthstone was even believed to have healing powers. Over the centuries, the diamond birthstone was thought to be an antidote to poison and provide protection against the plague. Some claim that it is a boon for longevity, strength, beauty and happiness.

In addition to being the April birthstone, diamond is the gift of choice for the 60th and 75th wedding anniversaries. And, of course, today the diamond engagement ring has become a near-universal symbol of love and marriage.

Where is Diamond Found?

The birthstone for April is now mined around the world. By the early 2000s, South Africa had been joined by other African nations as major producers of rough diamonds. These include the Democratic Republic of the Congo (previously known as Zaire) and Botswana. The former Soviet Union opened its first major mine in 1960, and Russia is now one of the top producers by both volume and value. Diamond mining expanded dramatically with the opening of the Argyle mine in Australia in 1983 and the discovery of several diamond deposits in northern Canada in the 1990s.

Diamonds in Botswana lie in the typically hot, semi-arid eastern region of the country. These prolific mines have brought a boom to the economy, creating a growing middle class. The country is also a diamond hub, where approximately 40 percent of the world's supply of rough diamonds are sorted and valued.

Stones of Service



How War, Veterans, and Conflict Unexpectedly shaped the world of rocks, gems and discovery.

When most people think about war, they think of battles, uniforms, and history books. Rarely do they think about gemstones, fossils, minerals, or lapidary discoveries. Yet throughout history, war and military service have unexpectedly changed the world of geology and rock collecting in remarkable ways. Soldiers stationed far from home became accidental explorers. Military maps revealed mineral-rich regions. Veterans returned from service with a deeper appreciation for the landscapes they crossed and the treasures hidden beneath them.

Even some of the world's most fascinating discoveries happened because someone in uniform stopped long enough to notice a strange stone in the dirt. During World War II, thousands of American servicemen trained in the deserts of California, Arizona, and Nevada under harsh conditions. The same deserts filled with tanks and military camps also happened to be rich with agates, jasper, petrified wood, fire agates, and colorful mineral deposits.

Many soldiers spent rare quiet moments exploring the desert terrain around their camps. Some mailed unusual rocks home to family members. Others developed lifelong interests in geology after seeing volcanic landscapes and mineral formations for the first time.

After the war ended, many veterans returned to those same deserts, this time carrying rock picks instead of rifles.

In fact, America's postwar lapidary boom exploded partly because returning veterans were searching for peaceful hobbies, outdoor adventure, and creative outlets after the hardships of war. Rock clubs across the country grew rapidly during the late 1940's and 1950's, fueled heavily by veterans and their families. The sound of saws and polishers humming in suburban garages became part of postwar America.

Following World War II, lapidary arts experienced enormous growth in the United States. Veterans used skills learned in the military such as mechanics, engineering, precision work, and equipment repair to build homemade rock saws, polishers, and grinding machines.

Many early lapidary workshops looked less like art studios and more like machine shops. Creative veterans transformed surplus motors, army equipment, and salvaged materials into polishing equipment capable of turning rough stones into shining works of art.

Some clubs even began in garages where veterans gathered to share stories, cut stones, and reconnect with community in quieter, more peaceful ways. For many, lapidary became therapy long before anyone openly called it that.

In several war zones around the world, soldiers encountered landscapes unlike anything they had ever seen. Troops stationed in desert regions often discovered petrified wood fields, fossil beds, crystals, and strange rock formations while digging trenches or traveling to remote terrain.

There are often stories of soldiers carrying polished stones in their pockets for luck, mailing mineral specimens home, or trading unusual rocks like souvenirs between units. One soldier's battlefield curiosity became another generation's treasured family specimen.

There is something surprisingly similar between veterans and rockhounds.

Both understand patience.

Both endure harsh environments.

Both appreciate resilience.

Both know that the most valuable things are rarely found easily.

Rockhounding itself often feels like a quiet expedition: early mornings, rough roads, sunburned hands, dusty boots, and the hope that just over the next hill might be something extraordinary waiting beneath the surface. Perhaps that is why so many veterans found peace in the hobby after returning home. The earth offered stillness where the world once offered chaos.

This Memorial Day season, it feels fitting to remember that some of America's greatest generations not only helped shape history, but also helped shape the lapidary communities we enjoy today.

Many of the clubs, shows, workshops, and traditions still alive across the country were built by veterans who returned home searching for beauty, craftsmanship, friendship, and calm.

And something that healing began with something as simple as picking up an interesting rock in the desert and wondering: "What do you think this is?"

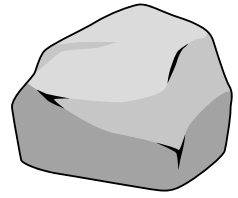


Submitted by: Gerald Capps





From Pebbles to Power: When Rocks Were Worth More Than Money



Long before credit cards, banks, or even coins existed, people carried wealth in a much more natural form: stones, gems, shells, and minerals. In many ways, the first “currency” on Earth came straight from the ground beneath our feet.

Thousands of years ago, rare stones were prized because they were difficult to find, beautiful to look at, and nearly impossible to counterfeit. A polished gemstone could represent power, status, spirituality, or trade value all at once. In ancient China, jade was considered more valuable than gold during certain periods of history. Nobles and rulers treasured jade not only for its beauty, but because it symbolized purity, strength, and immortality.

Meanwhile, across the Americas turquoise traveled hundreds of miles through Indigenous trade routes long before modern roads existed. Tribes exchanged stones, pottery, tools, and artwork through networks stretching across deserts and mountains. A single piece of high-quality turquoise could hold incredible value. Perhaps the most fascinating stone currency in history came from the island of Yap in Micronesia. The people there used enormous carved limestone disks called Rai stones as money. Some were as tall as a person and weighed thousands of pounds. The strangest part? Many of the stones never moved.

Ownership alone carried the value. Entire villages simply agreed who owned which stone. If one family traded a Rai stone to another, everyone in the community remembered the transaction. In a surprising way, it functioned much like modern digital banking, where value exists through trust and shared records rather than physical exchange.

Gemstones also became portable wealth for kings, travelers, and merchants. During wars or uncertain times, jewelry often acted as emergency savings accounts. A ruby sewn into clothing or a pouch of polished gems could help someone survive, trade, or rebuild their life somewhere new.

Even today, precious stones and metals still hold value during economic uncertainty. Gold, diamonds, and rare gems continue to symbolize stability, luxury, and wealth around the world.

For rockhounds and lapidary artists, it's fascinating to realize that the stones we cut, polish, and admire today once helped build entire economies. Every agate, turquoise cabochon, or jade carving carries a little echo of humanity's earliest marketplaces.

So the next time you pick up a beautiful stone at a gem show or club meeting, remember: At one point in history... someone might have traded a fortune for it.

Submitted by: Gerald Capps

CMFS CORNER

June Highlights

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies website: cfmsinc.org

"Crack the News" seeks Cub Reporter

"Crack the news" is an AFMS-sponsored newsletter for kids/by kids. Editor Denis Gertenbach welcomes submissions of brief rock-, fossil-, or lapidary related articles, field trip Reports, poems, cartoons, photos, articles and more. Kids who send material earn a "George the Geode" badge. They can send submissions to <https://www.juniors.amfed.org/juniors-newsletter>

Using "Rock holidays" to connect with your community

July: Celebrate "International Drop A Rock" day on the 3rd by painting a fun & positive message on a rock and dropping it into your neighborhood. Then celebrate "International Rock Day" on the 13th.

CFMS Annual Show & Convention

CFMS Annual Show & Convention will be held in Reno, NV hosted by the Reno Gem and Mineral Society, Fri-Sun., Sept.18-20, 2026.

Rock & Gem Magazine is endorsed as our hobby magazine. Pam Freeman, editor offers a 61% discount to you and AFMS gets

a 15% commission that goes to the endowment fund. Again, go to [cfmsinc.org/forms/Rock & Gem Magazine](http://cfmsinc.org/forms/Rock%20Gem%20Magazine).

CFMS Show dates for June 2026

June 27-28, 2026 – Culver City, CA Culver City Rock & Mineral Society Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave.,

Culver City, CA 90230 Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5

See CFMS website for list of shows for the rest of 2026

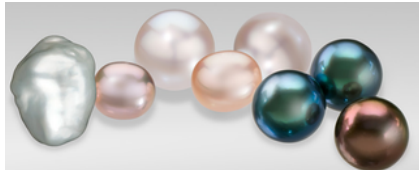
Camp Paradise:

Have you been to Camp Paradise? If no, you're missing out on an opportunity to learn metal smithing, beading, wax casting or soap stone carving, are just a few of the classes offered. Let your SJVLS Board know if you are interested, as the club will pay part of your week's fee. You must sign up online and pay fee and club will reimburse you when you return. Fee includes room, board and meals. Registration deadline is August 1st.

Session One: August 16 – 22, 2026 • Session Two: August 23 – 28, 2026



June Birthstones



June has 3 birthstones.

The first is the pearl which symbolizes purity, wisdom, and emotional balance. Pearls are unique because they are organic formed inside living mollusks such as oysters or mussels. Pearls come in a range of colors that include a creamy white, black, pink, yellow and silver. They often have an iridescent sheen that enhances their elegance. Pearls have also been associated with the moon, protection, and prosperity. Pearls are a 2.5 to 3 on the Mohs Scale of hardness, so they are a comparatively soft gem.

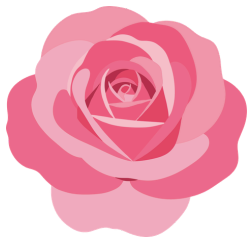


The second is the Moonstone. The Moonstone is best known gem of the feldspar group of minerals. It is known for its adularescence, the light that appears to billow across a gemstone, giving it that special glow. The finest moonstones show a blue sheen against a colorless background. Hindu Mythology claims that Moonstone is made of solidified moonbeams. It is often associated with love, passion, fertility and is believed to bring great luck. Moonstone can be found in the US in parts of New Mexico, North Carolina and Virginia. The most important locations for Moonstone are India and Sri Lanka. Moonstone is a 6 - 6.5 on the Mohs scale for hardness and poor toughness.



The third is Alexandrite. Alexandrite is a rare variety of the mineral Chrysoberyl that changes color in different lighting. The most prized are those alexandrite birthstones that show a vivid green to bluish green in daylight or fluorescent light, and an intense red to purplish red in incandescent light. Major alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. the gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. Alexandrite is an 8.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness. It makes it a good choice for rings & other mounting subject to daily wear.

June's flowers are the Rose and Honeysuckle



Roses are celebrated for their timeless beauty, captivating fragrance, and association with love and romance. They belong to the genus *Rosa*, with over 300 species and thousands of cultivars cultivated worldwide. Roses are often used in bouquets, gardens, and symbolic gifts, making them a versatile and meaningful flower for June birthdays or celebrations.

Honeysuckle, the secondary birth flower, is known for its **tubular, fragrant flowers** and sweet nectar. It can grow as a shrub or climbing vine, sometimes reaching up to 30 feet in height. Honeysuckle blooms in summer, often attracting pollinators like butterflies and hummingbirds. Its symbolism includes affection, bonds of love, and the sweetness of life, complementing the romantic and warm essence of June

June Birthdays

6/6 Bernie Bentsen

6/13 Keith Ogborn

6/28 Angel Conrad





Mother's Day (5/10/26)

Since we decided to extend May into two newsletters I thought I would put in a little history surrounding Mother's and Father's Day

Mother's Day began in the United States in 1908, founded by Anna Jarvis to honor her mother and the role of all mothers in society.

Early Influences

The modern Mother's Day was inspired by Ann Reeves Jarvis, Anna Jarvis's mother, who was a peace activist and community organizer. Ann Jarvis had created "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" in the years following the American Civil War to improve public health and

foster reconciliation between families divided by the conflict. She also organized Mothers' Friendship Day to promote unity among former Union and Confederate families. Earlier, in 1870, Julia Ward Howe had proposed a "Mother's Day for Peace," encouraging mothers to advocate for peace, though her initiative did not gain widespread adoption.

Anna Jarvis and the First Celebration

After her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis sought to honor her mother's legacy and the broader contributions of mothers. She organized the first official Mother's Day service on May 10, 1908, at the Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia, which is now the International Mother's Day Shrine. Jarvis's vision emphasized personal reflection, handwritten letters, and acts of gratitude rather than commercialized gifts.

Establishment as a National Holiday

Anna Jarvis campaigned for the recognition of Mother's Day as a national holiday. By 1911, most U.S. states observed the holiday, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day, encouraging Americans to honor mothers with displays of the U.S. flag and public expressions of love and reverence. Despite its popularity, Jarvis later opposed the commercialization of the holiday, which she felt deviated from her original intent.

Broader Historical Context

While the modern holiday originated in the United States, celebrations of motherhood have existed for centuries worldwide. Ancient festivals honored mother deities, and in Europe, Mothering Sunday was a Christian tradition where children visited their home churches and mothers. The American version, however, is distinct in its personal and national focus, rooted in post-Civil War social activism and the dedication of one daughter to her mother's memory.



FATHER'S DAY 6/21

Don't forget to celebrate your Father's on 6/21



Father's Day began in the United States in 1910, inspired by Sonora Smart Dodd to honor fathers and fatherhood, and became a national holiday in 1972.

Early Inspirations

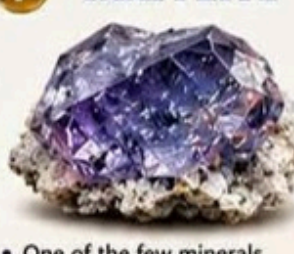
The idea of honoring fathers emerged after Mother's Day gained popularity. The first known Father's Day service occurred on July 5, 1908, in Fairmont, West Virginia, organized by Grace Golden Clayton to commemorate fathers who died in a coal mining disaster, though it was a one-time event and did not become annual.

Sonora Smart Dodd and the First Official Celebration

The modern movement for Father's Day is credited to Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington. In 1909, inspired by a Mother's Day sermon, she wanted to honor her father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran who raised six children alone after his wife died. Dodd proposed a special day for fathers, and with support from local churches, the YMCA, and community leaders, the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in Spokane.

08 WORLD'S RAREST CRYSTALS (NOT GEMS)

✦ EXTREMELY RARE MINERAL CRYSTALS FOUND IN NATURE ✦

1 PAINITE  • Once considered the rarest mineral on Earth. • Only a handful of crystals were known for decades. 📍 Found in: Myanmar RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★	2 MUSGRAVITE  • Extremely rare magnesium aluminum oxide mineral. • Only a small number of gem-quality crystals exist. 📍 Found in: Australia RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★	3 RED BERYL  • One of the rarest crystal varieties in the world. • Found mainly in Utah, USA. 📍 Found in: Utah, USA RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★	4 JEREMEJEVITE  • Rare aluminum borate mineral. • Highly prized by collectors for its crystal quality. 📍 Found in: Namibia RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★
5 GRANDIDIERITE  • Beautiful blue-green mineral discovered in Madagascar. • Museum-quality specimens are exceptionally rare. 📍 Found in: Madagascar RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★	6 POUDRETTEITE  • Rare pink mineral first identified in Canada. • Known for its delicate crystal formations. 📍 Found in: Canada RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★☆	7 TAAFFEITE  • One of the few minerals discovered after being faceted. • Millions of times rarer than diamond. 📍 Found in: Sri Lanka RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★☆	8 SERENDIBITE  • Extremely rare blue-black mineral first discovered in Sri Lanka. • Only a limited number of crystal specimens are known. 📍 Found in: Sri Lanka RARITY LEVEL ★★★★★☆



LOVE

@myessentialplanet



Rose Quartz



Rhodochrosite



Pink Tourmaline



Yellow Jasper



Garnet



Bornite



Moonstone



PROTECTION



Obsidian



Lapis Lazuli



Black Tourmaline



Smoky quartz



Amethyst



Carnelian



Hematite



ANXIETY



Amethyst



Labradorite



Rhodonite



Kyanite



Howlite



Selenite



Moonstone



WEALTH



Pyrite



Green Jade



Amazonite



Peridot



Malachite



Bornite



Moonstone

The Whispering Whimsy

Pictures taken by SJVLS Members



Submit yours to: tophercoleman@hotmail.com

Upcoming Gem and Mineral Shows

Delvers Rock and Gem Parking Lot Sale - 6/20/26 at 9 am , Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, 14515 Blaine Ave, Bellflower, CA 90706

Gem, Amethyst, Rock, Fossil Sale by Rock Trading Dot Org - 6/20/26 - 6/21/26 at 9 am:
Hourglad Hotel, 2400 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, CA 93308

Fiesta of Gems - 6/27/26 - 6/28/26 at 10 am : Veteran Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230

Sell, Mingle & Swap - 6/27 from 11 am - 4 pm, 915 T Street, Sacramento, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society's Rainbow of Gems - 7/31/26-8/2/26 at 10 am: Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444



SJVLS MEMBER SUBMITTED EVENTS

Hart Flat Farmer's Market

in Hart Flat off of Hart Flat Road
starting June 4th and will run every other
Thursday from 4 pm - 7 pm

No charge for vendors, so anyone can set up a table

Please note: there is no electricity or bathrooms

If interested please contact Fawn Dessy at (661)204-3011 for details and sign up information

Hart Park "Adopt-A-Park" Cleanup

June 20th, 26 at 8 am

Hart Memorial Park - Peacock House
8000 River Rd, Bakersfield, CA
93308

Grabbers, gloves & Trashbags provided. Come help make Hart Park even more beautiful.

Buena Vista
MUSEUM
of Natural History & Science



June

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS (TBA)

- 6/27 - **SCIENCE SATURDAY**
11 am-2 pm, Last Saturday of each month

BECOME A MEMBER



- **Free** admission to BVM as long as you are a member!
- **Free admission to Bakersfield Museum of Art, Kern County Museum and CALM!**
- **Free** entry to our regular-admission priced educational programs like our "Just for Kids" events and monthly science talks.
- **Travel memberships also include free** admission to hundreds of ASTC participating museums outside your local area! (www.astc.org)
- **Discounts** on other museum events and a 10% discount in our museum store.

Special Admission Days!

Family Day - First Saturday of each month
2 adults and up to 6 children are only \$20!
Senior Day - Second Saturday of each month
Admission for Seniors (60+) is only \$2!
\$2 Day - Every third Thursday. All day, all ages
admission is only \$2!

July

SUMMER SCIENCE CAMPS (TBA)

- 7/1-7/4 - **FIREWORKS BOOTH**
Come and support the museum at our booth
- 7/4 - **MUSEUM CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY**
- 7/25 - **SCIENCE SATURDAY**
11AM - 2 PM. Last Saturday of each month

August - September

- 8/23- 9/4 - **KERN COUNTY FAIR**
5:30pm-6:30pm



this membership would get you free
entry to our August
field trip to the LA Natural History
Museum and to many other
locations

Father's Day Weekend Mountain Ecology Walk

June 29th, 26 from 8:30 am to 12 pm

Eagles Pass Meadows Hike (Pine Mountain Club)

2563001 Pine Mountain Club, Ca 93222

Limited to 8-10 guests, \$75 per person or \$140 for two guests.

Submit your event to Michelle Coleman at chellecoleman.mc@gmail.com

2026 San Joaquin Valley Lapiary Society Board Of Directors

CRISTIAN BALTAZAR
President

T: president.sjvls@gmail.com
E: (661) 472-4563

ASHLEY PENNER
Vice President

T: (316) 249-7204
E: vpsjvls@outlook.com

JAN LOCKHART
Secretary

T: (661) 333-3975
E: lockhart.janice26@gmail.com

LISA WITTHANS
Treasurer

T: (661) 342-4425
E: sbrlisa@yahoo.com

PAULA SCHEIDEMAN
CFMS Representative

T: (661) 437-5996
E: paulawillisscheideman@yahoo.com

BERNIE BENTSEN
Field Scout

T: (661) 496-7393
E: bentsenbab@gmail.com

MICHELLE COLEMAN
Newsletter Editor

T: (661) 364-1720
E: chellecoleman.mc@gmail.com

TOPHER COLEMAN
Director

T: (661) 364-9690
E: tophercoleman@hotmail.com

GERALD CAPPS
Director

T: (661) 472-3788
E: geraldscapps@gmail.com

SALEM JOHNSTON
Director

T: (661) 699-5098
E: cameron.johnston531@gmail.com

