

The Living Stones

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Livingston Gem and Mineral Society

January 2018

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you got all your projects done in time for gift-giving. My family got tumbled rocks on knotted leather cords or hung on lobster claw clasps for zipper pulls or bag hangers.

Thank you to Cinda Dawson for assisting Isla Mitchell with Membership and Communication duties. Keeping track of members and regular communication are important activities in a vibrant club. Also hats off to Marianna Ziegler for keeping up our Facebook page.

I've seen some of the butterflies members have made under Chuck Amberger's guidance. If interested, see Chuck to schedule your Monday morning class.

Monday, January 15 – Nancy Bartel is working with Dave Gebowski to create a badge-earning experience for his troop of Weebelos. They will be learning the Moh's hardness scale and how to polish a window in a Petoskey stone. Nancy would welcome some help preparing for the class, as well as volunteers to work with the kids in the Shop from 1 – 4 pm on that date.

We had a great time at the LGMS Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. The food was delicious and we had lots of fun with the Gift Exchange. In early December, Ann Marie

McFadden and Bryant Hiiter purchased a small lapidary and fossil collection for the club. Thanks to your support, we turned that \$75 investment into over \$800 at our Silent Auction.

Looking forward to another successful year at the Livingston Gem & Mineral Society!

Sherlynn Everly, President



Workshop Hours

Monday: 10 am to 1 pm

Tuesday: 9 am to 9 pm

Wednesday: 10 am to 9 pm

Friday: 10 am to 2 pm

General Membership Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2017

A short meeting was called to order by President Sherlynn Everly following the Christmas potluck. Over 75 people attended the Christmas party.

Bill Magee and Lavonne Foldenauer were sworn in as new First Year Directors.

Sherlynn sent a big thank you to Ann Marie and Bryant Hiiter for putting together our silent auction which went on during the Christmas party. The material put up for auction came from an estate sale. The club paid \$75 for the material and we will let you know in the next newsletter how much money the club made from the silent auction.

There was no new business brought up. Everyone wanted to continue with Christmas party. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Keefer, secretary LGMS



Congratulations to the winners of the Club Christmas Skills Contest

for best polished cabochon: (tied)
Bryant Hiiter
Ed Oller

for best ring: (tied)
Jenny Kniazeva
Sheila York

for best picture in a polished stone:
Isla Mitchell

The January Birthstone is Garnet

gemrockauctions.com/learn/birthstones by month

Those who are born in the month of January are lucky enough to have one of the brightest and most colorful birthstones attached to their birth month, depicting their vibrant personalities. The garnet is the stone that we use today to signify our belonging to the month of January. This stone has already gained quite some significance from ancient times and it is still one that makes a statement when it is worn. It is fitting that a child born at the beginning of the year is adorned with garnets to bedazzle him with hope for the rest of the month to follow.

The garnet is not one stone with a single color, but it is many stones with different colors. However, they are made up of the same minerals, thus they are grouped together as a whole. Garnet is the name of certain minerals that come in a rainbow of colors and can range from a deep red (called pyrope) to a beautiful green (called tsavorite). These stones have been found in countries situated in Africa, India, as well as Sri Lanka. These areas still remain important sources for these minerals today.

2017 Officers and Chairpersons

President: Sherlynn Everly, 810-965-5899

Vice President: AnnMarie McFadden, 248-884-8126

Secretary: Lori Keefer, 248-634-8657

Treasurer: Sheila York, 810-695-0509

Second year Directors:

Jim Hansen, 248-933-1482

Sharon Parker, 517-548-0675

First year Directors:

LaVonne Foldenauer, 517-546-5463

Bill Magee, 734-981-6117

Hospitality and Sunshine:

Venus Sage, 810-458-4290

Shop Chairpersons: Jim Hansen, 248-933-1482

Bill Magee, 734-981-6117

Sharon Parker, 517-548-0675

Newsletter and Membership:

Isla Mitchell, 248-685-7804

imvm.1@netzero.com

Membership: Cinda Dawson, 810-632-6922

Historian: Chuck Amberger, 248-787-6586

Library: Bryant Hiiter, 248-210-6138

Webmaster: Marc Lampcov

www.livingstongems.com or

www.livingstongemandmineralsociety.com

General Membership Meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday at 6 pm (Except in January and February when board meetings are held in the shop.)



Weather related shop closings

Remember that when Hartland Consolidated Schools are closed, the shop is also closed. Check with radio and TV announcements.

Our Mission

The Livingston Gem and Mineral Society is a nonprofit organization and member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Our purpose is to promote, through educational means, public interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, archaeology, paleontology, and the lapidary arts.



“Livingston Gem and Mineral Society”

The History of Birthstones

<https://www.gemselect.com/other-info/birthstone-history.php>

The idea of birthstones - a gemstone assigned to each month of the year - is thought to be an ancient one, and scholars trace it back to the Breastplate of Aaron that was described in the book of Exodus in the Bible. The Breastplate was a religious garment set with twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel. The gems were set in four rows of three: Sardius, [topaz](#) and carbuncle; [emerald](#), [sapphire](#) and [diamond](#); [ligure](#), [agate](#) and [amethyst](#); and [beryl](#), onyx and [jasper](#).



So how did we get from gemstones representing the twelve tribes of Israel to birthstones? The writings of Flavius Josephus (1st century AD) and St. Jerome (5th century AD) made the connection between the 12 stones in the Breastplate and the 12 signs of the zodiac. The idea was proposed that each of the gemstones had special powers associated with the corresponding astrological sign, and that wearing these stones at the right time would have therapeutic or talismanic benefits.

This was still not quite the same idea as our modern concept of the birthstone. Based on this astrological model, one ought to own a collection of the 12 different gemstones assigned to the signs of the zodiac and wear the appropriate gem during the ascendancy of the corresponding sign. This is more like the Vedic astrological tradition of India, which assigns 9 different gemstones to 9 planets and prescribes the wearing of particular gems according to a person's state of health and the challenges that they face in life.

The idea of each person always wearing a gemstone corresponding to the month of their birth is a distinctly modern idea that scholars trace to 18th century Poland, with the arrival of Jewish gem traders to the region. Yet the modern list of birthstones was not defined until 1912, by the National Association of Jewelers (Jewelers of America) in the USA.

The modern birthstone list has been unchanged since 1912. Only recently have we seen two attempts to change it, both curiously associated with the gemstone [tanzanite](#). In 2002 the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA) announced that it had added [tanzanite](#) as a birthstone for December, though December already had two birthstones ([turquoise](#) and [zircon](#)). The Jewelers of America went along with the idea and provided this sound bite for the AGTA press releases: "JA sees the addition of tanzanite for December as a way to build business. Any step that helps retailers sell more jewelry is a good one." The world had clearly come a long way from the purported magical powers of astrological gemstones.

In February 2006, TanzaniteOne Ltd., the aspiring tanzanite cartel, announced a marketing strategy to make tanzanite a birthstone. TanzaniteOne wasn't content for tanzanite to be merely another birthstone. They wanted to go further - they wanted tanzanite to be given on the birth of every child, regardless of the month. With the slogan "Be Born to Tanzanite," it cited rather contrived connections to Masai tribal birth practices. At this point we can safely say that the commercialization of birthstones is complete.

The Best Memory System

Author Unknown

Forget the kindness that you do, as soon as you have done it;
Forget the praise that falls on you, the moment you have won it.
Forget the slander that you hear, before you can repeat it;
Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer, wherever you may meet it.

Remember every kindness done, to you, whate'er its measure;
Remember praise by others won, and pass it on with pleasure.
Remember every promise made, and keep it to the letter;
Remember those who lend you aid, and be a grateful debtor.

Remember all the happiness that comes your way in living;
Forget each worry and distress, be hopeful and forgiving.
Remember good, remember truth, remember heaven's above you.
And you will find through age and youth, true joy and hearts to love you!



2018 Dues overdue!

Tear off and mail to Sheila York, Treasurer, LGMS, 9525 E. Highland Rd, Howell, MI 48843
2018 Livingston Gem and Mineral Society Dues

Name _____

Please note any changes in address, email address or phone number _____

Adult membership(s) _____ x \$50.00 = _____

Youth membership(s) (ages 13-17) _____ x \$25.00 = _____

Total Payment _____

Newsletter preference: _____ snail mail, _____ email, _____ shop folder

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society
9525 E. Highland Road
Howell, MI 48843-9098



No General Membership Meeting
Board meets at 12:30 pm in the shop on
Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Livingston Gem and Mineral Society is a nonprofit organization and member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Our purpose is to promote, through educational means, public interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, archaeology, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. This society was established in 1970. The annual membership fee is \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for youth ages 13-17. There is an additional fee of \$1.00 per day for workshop use. Annual dues and annual shop fees are due on January 1 of each year. The Livingston Gem and Mineral Society publishes The Living Stones. Non copyrighted articles may be reprinted provided that they are properly attributed. Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month. Articles or correspondence can be sent to LGMS Hartland Consolidated Schools, 9525 E. Highland Rd. Howell, Michigan 48843-9098.