

# UPCOMING SHOWS

*February 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>*

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Hose and Sale**  
**The Capital District Mineral Club, Inc. and The New York State Museum**  
**Empire Plaza, Albany, NY**

*March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**New York City Gem and Mineral Show**  
**Holiday Inn Midtown Manhattan**  
**West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC, NY**



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**Bohemia, L.I., NY**  
**11716**

**F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 3**

**THE CONGLOMERATE**

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.*

## CLUB OFFICERS

President - Charles Runko 543-7873  
Vice President - Kerry Dicker 277-0994  
Treasurer - Roberta Besso 666-8023  
Corres. Sec'y. - Victoria Miller 928-5219

Recording Sec'y.-Thomas Wines 472-4395  
Director - Elaine Casani 567-3342  
Director - Sophia Martins  
Director - Doreen Wilson

The Conglomerate:

Editor - Judi Wines

Co-Editor - Marty Besso

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### Next Meeting January 21<sup>st</sup>

Guest speaker, Irving Horowitz from the New York, Nassau, and Queens Clubs, will talk on patterns of crystal growth and will include an array of his personal slides. Members are encouraged to bring in specimens to be identified.

As always, refreshments will be served.

### Club Elections for 2003

The following slate of names were nominated at the November meeting and the officers for 2003 will be elected at the January meeting.

President - Thomas Wines  
Vice President - Kerry Dicker  
Corresponding Secretary - Victoria Miller  
Recording Secretary - Judi Wines  
Director - Marty Besso  
Director - Elaine Casani  
Director - Charles Runko

### Don't Forget

Annual Club dues are now due. Please complete the enclosed application and return it with your check. Even better, give them to Roberta Besso at our January meeting.

### Members are Encouraged to Wear Club Shirts at Meetings

Club shirts with embroidered logo are available for sale to Club members. The cost is \$20 each with sizes available from medium to 2X. Please see Roberta Besso.

### New Members

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Rosanne Brandt - Sayville  
Andrea Dee Giordano - West Hempstead  
Mary Ellis - Oakdale  
Barbara Halikias - Copiague  
Donna Maldonado - Babylon  
Robert Sternberg - Lindenhurst  
Sonia Veras - Setauket

### The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Club Show

It was the most successful show ever. Attend the January meeting to learn how well the Club did at the new Stony Brook facility. The Club officers would like to thank all that volunteered their time and effort in making the show a success. The winner of the Grand Prize was Camille Caggiano of Central Islip, NY.

### Annual Holiday Dinner

The dinner was held at Papa Joe's in Deer Park on Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. The silent auction was very successful by raising \$185 for the Club.

### Mark Your Calendar for the Following Club Trips

The Club is sponsoring an all-day bus trip to the Capital District Mineral Club's 10<sup>th</sup> annual show in Albany on Saturday, *February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003*. The cost for the bus trip for members is only \$10 (\$15 for non-members). Be sure to reserve your seat early, as other Long Island clubs will be

offered to join us. Please contact Elaine Casani (631-567-3342) for reservations or more information.

We are also planning on all day bus trip to Franklin New Jersey in April.

## Gemstones: The Minerals, The Months, The Myth<sup>1</sup>

Since ancient times, the 12 gemstones that we attach to our modern calendar year have been worshiped as objects of great power.

The early Persians believed that the sapphire was a chip from the pedestal on which the Earth balanced, and that reflections from it produced the color of the sky. Cleopatra ground pearls into her wine and drank the mixture, believing she was drinking in their beauty.

Our association of specific stones with months of the year can be traced – in one commonly accepted explanation- to the gems affixed to the holy breastplate of Aaron, brother of Moses, who helped lead the Israelites from Egypt.

Whatever their significance, the custom of wearing birthstones as jewelry originated in Poland in the 1700s. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the United States, the National Association of Jewelers adopted our modern birthstone calendar.

**What is a gemstone?** Birthstones, and all gems, are quite literally pieces of the Earth that have been shaped over time. They are classified by the minerals they are made of.

Diamonds, for example, are composed of carbon. Gems in the corundum group, which includes rubies and sapphires, are crystals of aluminum oxide.

Gemstones get their color from the way they absorb waves of light.

If all wavelengths are absorbed by a gemstone, that stone appears colorless.

Impurities can cause variations in the way a stone absorbs light; that's way so many stones come in a wide range of hues.

The following birthstone calendar includes a bit of mineralogy as well as some of the myths and lore surrounding each stone.

**January: garnet.** This stone gets its name from the Latin word for pomegranate, since its crystals often resemble the fruit's deep-red color and seeds. But garnets come in many colors and can even be colorless. Garnets are thought to protect sleepers from nightmares and travelers from danger.

**February: amethyst.** This gem is made of quartz, the second most abundant mineral on Earth. Its color ranges from wine-purple to pale lilac; the deep shades are most valuable. According to mythology, Diana, goddess of the hunt, turned a maiden named Amethyst to quartz, saving her from Dionysus, the god of wine. His tears stained her purple. The stone is thought to represent sobriety.

**March: aquamarine (alternative: bloodstone).** Aquamarine gets its blue color from iron; its crystals can grow as large as 200 pounds. Bloodstone, sometimes called heliotrope or blood jasper, is opaque quartz with flecks of red from iron. Aquamarine is thought to protect ocean voyages, guard against sea monsters and soothe marital discord. Bloodstone signifies martyrdom.

**April: diamond.** This is the hardest natural substance on Earth, and diamond colors range from clear to sooty black. Ancient cultures believed the gems were crystal lighting, splinters of stars and tears of the gods.

*Continued next month.*

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<sup>1</sup> Reprinted from Home & Gardens, Newsday, January 2, 2003



