



UPCOMING SHOWS

Dec 3-4

**Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club
Briarcliff College, Patchogue, NY**

March 26-27

**Island Rock Hounds
Holiday Inn, Plainview**

For other Gem and Mineral shows:

<http://www.amfed.org/EFMLS/calendar.htm>

www.suffolkgem.com

**P. O. Box 302
Bohemia, L.I., NY
11716**



To promote cultural, educational, and scientific interest in mineralogy, and develop member's skills in lapidary arts and jewelry crafts

November 2011

THE CONGLOMERATE

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

Monthly Club meetings held at the Bay Shore-Brightwaters Library, Montauk Highway, Brightwaters starting at 8:00pm.

Refreshments served at 7:30 pm.

CLUB OFFICERS

The Conglomerate Editor - Cheryl Neary

Club Webmaster - Marty Besso

President –	Kerry Dicker	631-277-0994	Director -	Elaine Casani	631-567-3342
Vice President –	Charles Runko (cell)	631-486-8903	Director –	Martin Besso	631-666-8023
Treasurer -	Roberta Besso	631-666-8023	Director –	Dorothy Scott	631-281-8555
Secretary –	Eileen Godwin	631-623-6862	Director –	Cheryl Neary (cell)	516-449-5341
Liaison -	Charles Runko (cell)	631-486-8903	Historian -	Eileen Godwin	631-623-6862

Cell phones are to be turned off during all Club meetings.

More importantly, there should be no disturbances during any guest presentations.

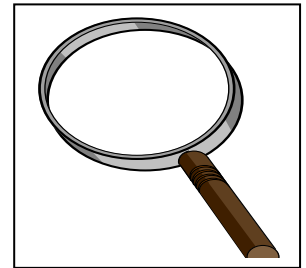


**Happy
Birthday
Wishes!
May Your Year
Be Filled
with Hugs &
Kisses!**

PAUL ALESSI
RUTH COFFEY
JUDY MILLER
DEBBIE PEARO
JOYCE RODLER
CLAUS RUST

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

2011-2012



November 21th
December 19th
January 15th Sunday
Holiday Party

@ Papa Joes, Commack Rd, Deer Park
@\$18.00 per person for members and \$36.00 per person for non members.

**Welcome to Our Newest Member(s):
Barbara & John Gustafson**

Holiday Party-January 15th

Please bring your check or cash to the November meeting if you are interested in attending this fun-filled evening! Roberta will be happy to collect your funds!

It is important that we have a head count this month. If you are unable to attend this meeting, and are interested in the party, then call Roberta.

Also, please bring items in for the Annual Chinese Auction.

It is appreciated that the items donated be related to the hobby!

See page 4 for more Info!



Upcoming Field Trip:

Does anyone have any ideas for a field trip? I'll be glad to research any ideas you may be entertaining. Since the cost of a bus trip is outside our budget this year, and the fact that the number of members in attendance for the trips is extremely low, our next few trips will be through auto caravans. In addition, all trips will require a minimal non-refundable deposit.



We have been invited to a dig in the Spring time in the Harrisburg, Pa vicinity. If interested in attending, please see me at the meeting. Based on the number of interested members, arrangements will be made!

This Month we will be having a slide show presentation on the Island of Iceland.

Iceland is the island which spans the Eurasia and North American plate. This is due to the fact that it is divided by the Mid Atlantic Ridge.

The Mid Atlantic Ridge is a submarine mountain range that winds along the middle of the ocean floor. This ridge is a spreading center or divergent margin, where two plates of oceanic lithosphere are moving in opposite directions.

Iceland has a spectacular rift valley which was formed by the subsidence of a block of the earth's crust between at least two parallel faults. The rift valley is steep-sided and formed when the earth's crust was being pulled apart.

At Thingvellir National Park located in the south part of Iceland, the North American plate is moving away from the European plate at an annual rate of 2 cm/0.8 in. Thingvellir marks the position of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, a constructive plate boundary where new material is formed by the cooling of lava. There are steep-sided rift valleys.



Rocks at Thingvellir, in Iceland, are disrupted by earth movements as two plates of the Earth's crust move apart, as well as broken down by repeated freeze-thaw action. (Image © Garret Nagle)



**Outside
the
Box!**
**A synopsis of last
month's meeting**

Last month many of our members were taught how to make "bird nests" out of copper wire and a few beads.

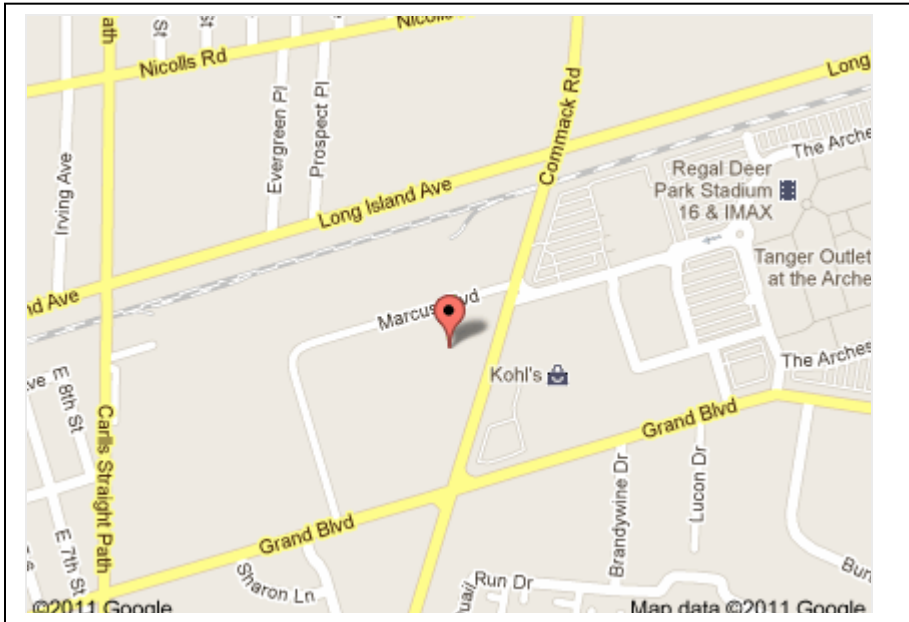
The design was taught to us by Zoraida.

I have worn my bird nest numerous times now. Each time I was rewarded with positive comments on the design- and the fact that I made it!



The steep inclines on these massive slabs of rock at Thingvellir, Iceland, testify to the tectonic forces at work here. This is the site of part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, where the North American plate is pulling away from the European plate. This is a constructive plate boundary, where new material is formed by the cooling of lava, but it also leads to the subsidence of some of the Earth's crust. (Image © Garret Nagle)

Directions to Papa Joe's:



Let the Adventures Begin!

As promised, we continue our adventure searching for the Northwest Passage. The passage is a sea route through the Arctic Ocean along the northern coast of North America. It was sought for centuries by explorers as a possible trade route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Prior to the Little Ice Age, Norse explorers- Vikings, sailed as far north and west as Ellesmere-, Skraeling- and Ruin Islands for the purpose of hunting expeditions and trading with Inuit groups who already inhabited the area. It is believed that during the period of the Little Ice Age, expeditions to the area within the Northwest Passage ceased as encroaching glaciers blanketed the earth. The Little Ice Age was experienced by Western Europe during a general cooling of the climate between the years of 1150 – 1460, and a very cold climate between 1560 – 1850. This colder weather impacted the agriculture, health, economics, emigration, social strife and art and literature.

The term Viking is an Old Norse feminine noun referring to an expedition overseas. In later writings “to go Viking” implies participation in raiding activities or piracy.

In 1497, John Cabot was sent by Henry VII to search for a direct route to the Orient from east to west. This was the first recorded attempt to discover the Northwest Passage. In 1576, Martin Frobisher took three trips west to the Canadian Arctic. He charted a bay, which later would carry his name. Sir Humphrey Gilbert in 1583 claimed the territory of Newfoundland for England.

The first to navigate the Passage was the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen in 1903-1906.