THE CONGLOMERATE

www.suffolkgem.com

December 2022

c/o R. Besso
109 Jordan St.
BayShore, NY 11706

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

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

Monthly Club meetings held at the East Islip Library, 381 E. Main Street, East Islip starting at 7:00pm.
Third Monday of each month. Next Meeting: December 19th, 2022 -Holiday Party
East Islip Library (381 E Main St, East Islip, NY 11730) on the second floor

Refreshments served at 7:00 pm.

If you have any articles for me, please send them to me at mibeci@optonline.net. Michele

Officers

President - Cheryl Neary	516-449-5341	Director - Elaine Casani	631-567-3342
Vice President Kerry Dicker	631-277-0994	Director- Lucy Jackson	631-289-2328
Treasurer – Reberta Besso	631-666-8023	Director – Debbie Winston	516-238-8370
Asst. Treasurer – Joe LaBarca	631-242-5290	Director – Caryn Bosak	631-543-9369
Secretary – Rebecca LaBarca	516-768-4438	Director – Pat Seostorm	631-654-0746
Liaison - Cheryl Neary	516-449-5341	Director - Michael Jung	631-885-0108
Editor - Michele Nazaro	631-513-6358		

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Happy Hanukkah

Plate Tectonics & Our National Parks

Dante's View in Death Valley National Park, California and Nevada. Death Valley is forming as the North American tectonic plate is ripping apart in the Basin and Range Province. NPS photo by Dale Pate.

Introduction

The inspiring landscapes of the United States captivate with their beauty and power—and sometimes danger! But the same geological forces that threaten our lives with earthquakes and volcanic eruptions also nourish our spirits by forming our country's spectacular mountains, valleys, and coastlines. National parks, monuments and seashores highlight this scenery and reveal Earth's processes in action.

An area is established as a national park, monument, seashore, or other unit of the National Park Service because it displays something special about the cultural or natural history of the United States. The role of the National Park Service is to protect those features and make them accessible to the public. Geological features are an important part of this heritage, not only because they help us understand Earth's history, but also because they are the landscapes upon which our country's cultural and natural history take place.

Plate Tectonics—The Unifying Theory of Geology

We live on a layer of Earth known as the lithosphere which is a collection of rigid slabs that are shifting and sliding into each other. These slabs are called tectonic plates and fit together like pieces to a puzzle. The shifts and movements of these plates shape our landscape including the spectacular mountain ranges, valleys, and coastlines of our national parks. The theory of plate tectonics was revolutionary in helping us understand how these landscapes formed in the past and how they continue to change during our lifetimes.

Read more at [Plate Tectonics & Our National Parks - Geology (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)]

Things to do on the Island December 2022

Illuminate the Farm

Little Neck
Friday, November 11-Sunday, January 8, 2023

The NYC Winter Lantern Festival transforms the Queens County Farm Museum's grounds into an immersive river of light. Holiday lights and homemade lanterns take the shape of flowers, tractors, farm animals, and more forming a dazzling seasonal display.

Christmas Animated Story at Hicks Nurseries

Westbury–FREE
Monday, November 14-Saturday, December 31, 2022

Visiting the Christmas Children's Story at Hicks Nurseries has been a family tradition on Long Island for generations.

Shimmering Solstice at Old Westbury Gardens

Westbury
Friday, November 25-Sunday, January 1, 2023

Become captivated and charmed by the magical light displays set along Old Westbury Garden's paths and grounds.

Jones Beach Magic of Lights Drive-Thru Show

Wantagh
Friday, November 18-Saturday, December 30, 2022

The Magic of Lights drive-thru spectacular returns to Jones Beach and Nassau County's South Shore this holiday season. The display is stacked with new themed LED lighting displays and digital animations, plus plenty of returning favorites.

Riverhead Holiday Light Show

Calverton
Friday, November 18-Saturday, December 31, 2022

Visitors enjoy an incredible drive-thru experience featuring more than 1½ miles of holiday light displays at the Riverhead Holiday Light Show.

The Polar Express in Port Jefferson Station

Port Jefferson Station
Select dates from Friday, November 18-Saturday, December 17, 2022

Take a ride on the Polar Express and enjoy popcorn, cookies, and hot cocoa as this timeless tale unfolds on a movie screen. READ MORE

Winter Wonderland at Waterdrinker Family Farm

Manorville
Saturday, November 19-Saturday, December 31, 2022

Head to Waterdrinker Family Farm for a fun winter day. Skate on the synthetic ice or cozy up around the fire and enjoy s'mores, hot chocolate, and more. Food trucks make occasional appearances, too. READ MORE

The Happy Elf at The Argyle Theater

Babylon
Select dates from Saturday, November 19-Sunday, January 1, 2023

The Happy Elf follows Eubie, the happiest elf at the North Pole. More than anything else, Eubie longs to be a part of Santa's sleigh team. Watch this holiday tale unfold on The Argyle Theatre stage.

Bright Lights at the Vanderbilt Mansion

Centerpoint
Saturday, November 26-Thursday, December 22, 2022

Thousands of warm-white lights will create holiday magic inside and outside the Mansion and illuminate trees, wreaths, garlands, guest rooms, walkways, and the Vanderbilt Library.

Letter from our President Cheryl Neary

President Message:

Can you believe how quickly this year passed?

To begin with – I hope to see you all either working the show or visiting the show as a paying customer! Much rather you volunteer!!! This is a new venue and we can use all the help as possible. Please consider donating time on Friday! We need to get the vendors in and up and ready before 5:00pm. Vendors will be allowed in at 12pm but will need to share a ramp and enter through the front doors – so we must have the clubs stuff up and running!

Don't forget to be creative with Rockology food this month! Also remember to make it a finger food so not too messy. It could be as simple as making cupcakes and decorating them in gem colors – ruby red, emerald green or sapphire blue. Or it could be a finger sandwich depicting layering of the earth. Most importantly, whatever your creation is- you need to have an index card stating the geological tie to the food! Using the cupcakes as an example, if you made the cupcakes emeralds – you would have an index card (or piece of paper the size of an index card) point out several facts about emeralds – simple!

I am hoping that in this coming year we may have a field trip or two on the agenda. The Board discussed a trip to Avery Point in Connecticut – it is part of UConn. The Island RockHounds have been to the site numerous times. IRH member, Janet Zenk's son-in law is a professor at UConn and has provided us with a glimpse of his research on marine biology. Since this will be his last year prior to retiring, he offered us the opportunity to visit one more time! I am working on details now but thinking perhaps March 11th. We will also visit either Yale's Peabody Museum or perhaps Mystic Seaport – either way – I am working on it!

The Parlor House Grill will be the venue for our January 8th luncheon and live auction, which is from 1pm - 4 pm. Please note the menu selection:

Appetizers: Stuffed mushrooms and fresh mozzarella & Tomato
House salad
Choice of : Broiled Salmon. Chicken Parmesan or Pork Chop
Includes Coffee, tea and soda

Dessert will be cupcakes – maybe emerald or ruby or sapphire…..

For members in good standing the cost of the luncheon is $35.00 payable at the December meeting. If you plan on bringing a guest, the cost is $50.00. If you cannot attend the December meeting, please call Roberta Besso to make payment arrangements – the money must be paid prior to the event.

December Birthday's

Eginton	Ray	
McManus	Jack	

Upcoming Events

12/3-12/4 Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry and Bead Show-

Jointly hosted by SGMC & IRH

Old Village Restoration -Administration Building

12/2 Set up for show – need volunteers

December 19th will be our holiday party, hand held foods and rockology theme.
A-L Appetizer
M-Z Dessert

January 8th Luncheon & Live Auction -Parlor House Grill 1:00

Feb. 9-12, 2023 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Feb. 9-12, 2023.

These Tiny Jewels Come From One of Alaska's Most Unusual Beaches

JUST SHY OF THE ARCTIC Circle, where Alaska's Seward Peninsula stretches westward toward Russia, there is a most improbable sliver of land. Point Spencer sits at the northern tip of a miles-long, narrow spit of sand, gravel, and permafrost that's less than 100 feet wide in places. To the east is Port Clarence Bay, where depths can exceed 40 feet—an anomaly amid the region's shallow coastal waters. To the west is the wild and unforgiving Bering Sea, home to winter storms that regularly churn out waves 45 feet or taller.
In between, the site that is now Point Spencer has, at various times, been hundreds of miles inland or completely inundated by the sea. It has witnessed waves of human dispersal over millennia, and served as both an intercontinental marketplace and a Cold War military outpost. Now, as another chapter for Point Spencer begins, it can be seen in a dazzling way: Magnified 10 times, sand originally collected from one of its beaches appears as glittering, semiprecious stones.

Article by GEMMA TARLACH

THANK YOU, LOIS BERRY FOR SHARING THIS WITH US!!

Read more at These Tiny Jewels Come From One of Alaska's Most Unusual Beaches - Atlas Obscura

Zircon

Many people have heard of zircon but never seen it. This is mostly because of colorless zircon's wide use as a diamond simulant in the early 1900s. It was long ago replaced in that role by more convincing look-alikes, but its name still means "imitation" to many people. That's unfortunate because zircon is a beautiful colored stone with its own fair share of folklore and charm.

In the Middle Ages, this gem was thought to induce sound sleep, drive away evil spirits, and promote riches, honor, and wisdom.

Many scholars think the stone's name comes from the Arabic word zarkun, meaning "cinnabar" or "vermilion." Others believe the source is the Persian word zargun, or "gold colored." Considering zircon's color range, either derivation seems possible.

Read more at gia.com

Turquoise

Turquoise is one of the world's most ancient gems. Archaeological excavations revealed that the rulers of ancient Egypt adorned themselves with turquoise jewelry, and Chinese artisans were carving it more than 3,000 years ago. Turquoise is the national gem of Tibet, and has long been considered a stone that guarantees health, good fortune, and protection from evil.

The gem's name comes from the French expression pierre tourques, or "Turkish stone." The name, which originated in the thirteenth century, reflects the fact that the material probably first arrived in Europe from Turkish sources.

Turquoise was a ceremonial gem and a medium of exchange for Native American tribes in the southwestern US. They also used it in their jewelry and amulets. The Apaches believed that turquoise attached to a bow or firearm increased a hunter's or warrior's accuracy.

Read more Turquoise History and Lore (gia.edu)

December Birthstones

Blue Zircon • Tanzanite • Turquoise

Since the Middle Ages, **Blue Zircon** has been believed to aid in spiritual growth and to promote wisdom. Those who wear blue zircon, it is said, will find beauty and peace.

As a relatively new gemstone, **Tanzanite** does not have any mythical or mysterious powers associated with it. But what it lacks in history, it compensates with beauty in its deep blue and purple tones.

Turquoise attracts money, success and love. Its powers include protection, healing, courage, friendship, and luck. It relaxes the mind, and eases mental tension.