



# The Rockette

November 2015

A Publication of the Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society (SGMS)

P. O. Box 1245, Redwood City, CA 94064

<http://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org>

## Carol's Corner

The year is almost over! Only one more meeting on November 16 then our Christmas party on December 11. If you want to sell ANYTHING at our party, you can! Your own, personal mini garage sale or boutique! Call me to arrange your 3' table space and come early to set up. Also please bring a great side dish or desert to share. If you plan to send cards to any members this year, Save your stamps by bringing your greeting cards to be distributed to members. See directory on the website for member names.

We sure would like to have people be committed to making our club even better as we merge the lapidary shop with that of Los Altos. If you have any ideas to improve SGMS, let us know! The more, the better! As they say, many hands make light work. Let's make the work be as heavy as pumice vs. meteorites and get involved!

See you on the 16<sup>th</sup>! Happy Thanksgiving!  
Carol



**Topaz:** Birthstone for  
November.

## SGMS Mission Statement

The Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society serves the community by providing education in the Earth Sciences and training in the lapidary arts and, in doing so, promotes ethical behavior, sound resource stewardship, and good fellowship. The Society fulfills its mission through year-round offerings of field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, and monthly informational meetings open to the public.

Member of:

California Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
American Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies  
North Bay Field Trip  
Association

Exchange bulletins are  
welcome. You are free to  
reprint if credit or citation is  
noted.

During the last Board Meeting the names below are nominated for officer positions. Want to add your name to any of these? Let Carol know! We will vote at Nov. 16 meeting. Please attend! Please note Field Trips and Monthly Programs. We need your suggestions. We are putting together a Committee to create the various programs. It won't take you much time!

## 2016 SGMS NOMINATIONS (\*held position in 2015)

### Officer Nominations:

President: \*Carol Corden

Vice President: \*Bob Simms

Treasurer: Stan Bogosian

Secretary: Val Concello

Federation Liaison: Paul Rose and Catherine Fraser

### Chairpersons:

Field Trips: ?? EVERYBODY!!

Monthly Programs: All New Member Committee to find programs!

Show Managers: Carol Corden & Bob Simms

Membership: Peter Adams & Marty Krikorion

Refreshments & Sunshine: \*Cathy Phalen

Library: \*Cathy Phalen

Ways & Means/Tickets: \*Cathy Phalen

Outside Displays/Community Outreach/Classroom Education: Carol Corden, Cathy Phalen, ??

Advertising/Rockette: \*Catherine Fraser

Website: \*Valerie Concello

Acquisitions/Auctions/Estate Rock Sales: \*Cathy Phalen, Marty Krikorion

Lapidary Workshop: \*Cathy Phalen

Historian/Awards: \*Preston Bingham

## **2015 Rock Candy Holiday Party Members, Family and Friends are Invited!**

Friday, Dec. 11, 2015

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (setup 5pm)

1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City

RSVP: [cordencarol@yahoo.com](mailto:cordencarol@yahoo.com)

Please attend the Officer Installation and enjoy a Dinner at 7 pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring your appetite, cheer and good will.

In honor of Past President Connie Reno, we will continue accepting cash donations for St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Make some holiday money or buy your last minute gifts! We will have tables out for you to sell a few items. Bag and label items with your name and price. Two Members per table (share the limited space) and handle your own deals.

## October Meeting Highlights

For more than seventy years, countless thousands of visitors have come to Trona during the second weekend in October for the annual **Gem-O-Rama**. And each year more collectors converge for the 36 hours of frantic, non-stop activity to collect some of the best and most desirable evaporite mineral specimens in the world.

Since the first show, the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society has worked closely with the owner/operator on Searles Lake to provide one of the most exciting mineral collecting field trips available in the world. Searles Valley Minerals processes brine solutions from Searles Lake to produce boric acid, sodium carbonate, sodium sulfate, several speciality forms of borax, and salt. Unlike other mining techniques such as open pit mining, the three facilities in Searles Valley use a unique, ecologically friendly process that starts with solution mining.

The members of SGMS who attended this meeting were lucky to have Gary Parsons bring in a generous number of samples to share with club members and told of his trip to collect Halite and Hanksite during the Gem-O-Rama.



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**Membership Fees are being raised for the first time in MANY years. They will be: \$25 individual, \$40/couple in same household, kids free. Please bring your check or cash to the November meeting or mail ASAP.**

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## Member Spotlight: Catherine Fraser and Michael FraserHall



This little family of one mom, one kid and 3 dogs loves the outdoors. You'll find them hiking, camping, at the beach or playing in the water at their home on Clearlake, yet more often you'll find them looking for "cool rocks" all over the place. Even the Golden Retriever, Gorgeous, is a rock hound. She submerges her head and dig rocks out of the water before carrying them to her own pile.

Catherine, originally from Altus, Oklahoma, has lived in many places including Colombia, South America; Ohio; Texas; So. California and other locales based upon her Dad's career.

In her first geology class, the instructor held up a beautiful piece of amber and asked the class to identify it. Catherine enthusiastically raised her hand, as her father had a nice specimen at home and had told her, in all seriousness, that it was fossilized dinosaur pee. Of course she believed him...but not after that class was over!

A lofty goal of becoming a Petroleum Geologist and working at her Grandfather's firm didn't pan out so she got a degree in Journalism at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Catherine started Fraser Advertising in 1997 from a corner of her room the day after being fired from another firm. "I figured I could do as good of a job as anyone in this field, but I had to lie about my age to be older than I actually was, as larger companies wouldn't take a 27 year old seriously." It worked out well, growing to 3 offices and a HQ in downtown Redwood City. After 16 years this successful, award winning marketing/advertising agency firm was sold to Omnicom.

Catherine then started teaching business and entrepreneur classes at the local community Colleges. She is also an entrepreneur counselor for the SBDC. And if that isn't enough she is an AirBnB host, renting out rooms to guests from around the world. "I love meeting these wonderful people," said Catherine "some of them turn out to be rock hounds and will send me a great specimen from their home."

Her favorite gem is a Sapphire, which is also her birthstone, but since they aren't really affordable, she loves Fluorite too. "Lots of different colors, fluorescent qualities, it

crystallizes in cubes, and is purported to create mental order and clarity, and it's also called the "genius stone". Who couldn't use some of that in their life?"

Catherine is quite active on the Board of Directors for the YMCA and in the Redwood City business community, as well as teaching art to Michael's class.

Michael turns 12 (Nov. 18) and is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. He really loves the club and the nice people and the food that he doesn't usually get to eat at home. He enjoys the field trips and learning new things about rocks, yet his true passion is fishing. Any chance he gets to cast a line in the water, that kid will take it! His favorite stones are fossilized fish and Megalodon teeth. Who could have guessed that?

Members of SGMS for 4 years, Catherine is the current Rockette editor, has been active in the Maker Faire, the Annual Show and helping the club where she can. Michael has also volunteered to help the club at the show and at Maker Faire.

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## SONGS WITH ROCKS!!!

Of Monsters and Men is a six piece indie folk/indie pop band from Garðabær, Iceland and the 2010 winners of Músíktílaunir, an annual battle of the bands competition in Iceland. The band members are co-singer/guitarist Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir, co-singer/guitarist Ragnar "Raggi" Þórhallsson, guitarist Brynjar Leifsson, drummer Arnar Rósenkranz Hilmarsson, piano/accordion player Árni Guðjónsson, and bassist Kristján Páll Kristj

It's true—Heavy stones fear no weather. If you have suggestions of songs with lyrics that include rocks (but not rock and roll), please submit to the editor!

### "Empire"

Feel the ocean as it breathes  
Shivering teeth  
See the mountains where they meet  
Smothering me  
As the wind fends off the waves  
I count down the days  
Heavy stones  
Fear no weather

I find comfort in the sound  
And the shape of the heart  
How it echoes through the chest  
From under the ground  
As the hills turn into holes  
I fill them with gold  
Heavy stones  
Fear no weather

And from the rain  
Comes a river running wild that will create  
An empire for you. Illuminate!

## CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE!

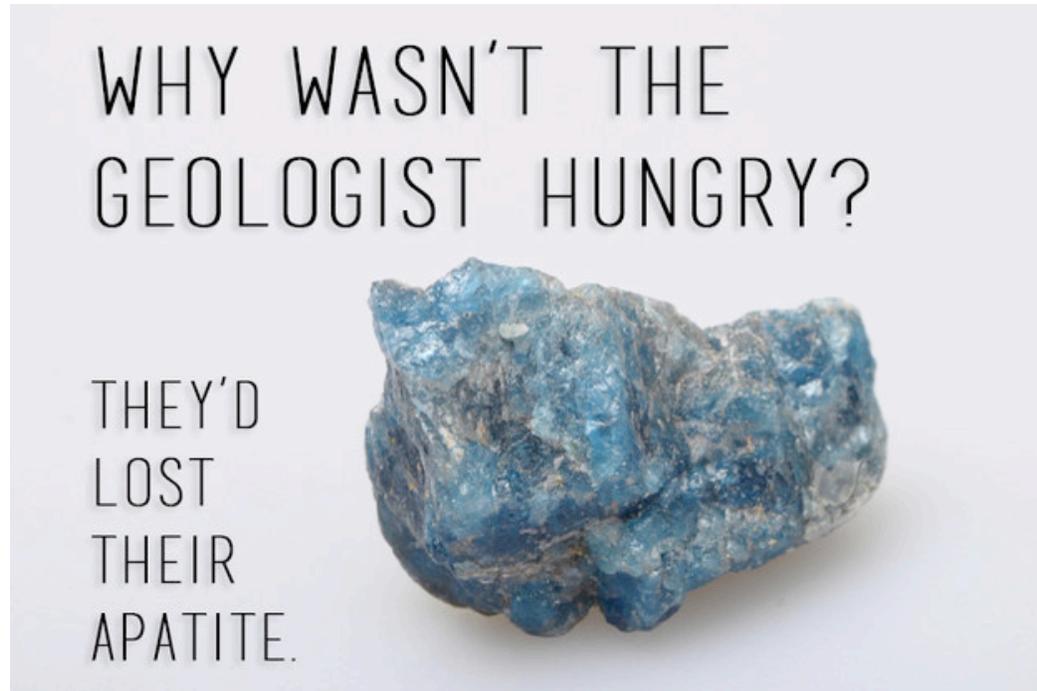
[www.SequoiaGemandMineralSociety.org](http://www.SequoiaGemandMineralSociety.org)

There you'll find the latest information, copies of past Rockette's and pictures of our activities.

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### Time changed:

Did you remember to turn your clocks back last week? If not, and you find yourself early to all appointments, think again!



### OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Carol Corden	650-248-7155	<a href="mailto:cordencarol@yahoo.com">cordencarol@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President & Alternate Federation Director	Bob Simms	650-222-0968	<a href="mailto:loomisites@netscape.net">loomisites@netscape.net</a>
Treasurer & Web Mistress:	Valerie Concello	650-369-9539	<a href="mailto:vconcello@gmail.com">vconcello@gmail.com</a>
Federation Director	Paul Rose	650-302-6684	<a href="mailto:1sarose@comcast.net">1sarose@comcast.net</a>

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field Trips	Paul Rose	650-302-6684	<a href="mailto:1sarose@comcast.net">1sarose@comcast.net</a>
Monthly Programs -everyone!!! Send suggestions to	<a href="mailto:catherinef@fraseradv.com">catherinef@fraseradv.com</a>		
Outside Exhibits	Carol Corden, Cathy Phalen, Paul Rose	650-248-7155	<a href="mailto:cordencarol@yahoo.com">cordencarol@yahoo.com</a>
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