



Birthdays

Renea Sutcliffe
December 15

Anniversaries

Robert Bullock
December 9

Sir Paul Howard
December 10

December 2024

December 2 at 7:00 pm -
Board Meeting in Wes
Lingerfelt's Garden

There is NO regular general meeting in December. See you at the Banquet in December 14th.

December 14 from 12 to pm -
Annual Banquet at the Golden Corral
2104 S Bradley Rd
Unit A-1
Santa Maria, CA 93455

The Prez Box - December 2024



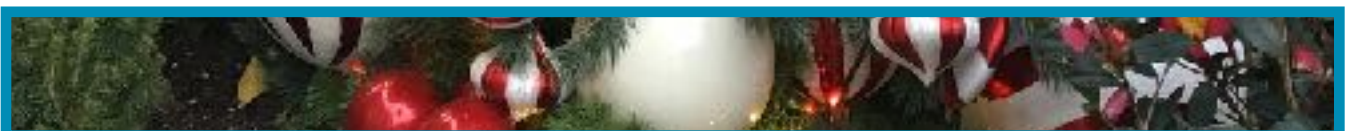
Greetings,

I can't believe another year is coming to an end, but it's not over yet. We still have our Awards Banquet on December 14th. Don't miss it! Everyone comes home with a present!

I am at the moment fixated on trying to build our club workshop. There are so many things to take care of to make it work, but we will succeed. For one thing we have the strength of persistence. I am very impressed with the knowledge, skill and above all persistence of our members. I was watching this on display just yesterday as I watched Wes trying to revive my old beat up 10 inch trim saw. Wes was like a never gives up doctor. I hope I have someone around me like that when my ticker needs a kick... Wes is impressive how he has mastered so many skills in the area of lapidary. So, with talent like that I am sure we will get a club workshop up and running soon. In addition Wes is not alone in this we have many persistent members that will continue until we have a great working shop where members will be able to come and cut that rock! And polish that rock! And wire wrap it!

Anyway, I hope to see you at the Awards Banquet.

See you soon,
Joe Goetz
OMS President



January 2025

January 6 at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

January 11 at 8:00 an - Highway Clean-up at the SE corner of Highway 101 and 166.

January 14 at 7:00pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center - Program is Amazing Agates - Display is Agates.

January - Field Trip TBD

Who is Bringing Snacks?

There is no general meeting in December. The club will provide donuts at the January general meeting. Thank you to Jan Ferguson who will organize the tasty treats.



ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS
Banquet

12-3 PM | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
 GOLDEN CORRAL | \$12
 2104 S BRADLEY RD

RSVP KATHY
 (805) 345-0880
 BY SATURDAY, 12/7

Reminders for the Annual Awards Banquet -

- Bring a rock related gift for the gift exchange. Please bring an item that is \$10 or more. Rocks are great, but many people mix up the gifts with rock tools, flashlights, books, and more. Be creative.
- Bring canned goods for the Salvation Army
- Bring money to donate to the Children's Abuse Fund
- Bring your Holiday Cheer!

Displays from the November General Meeting

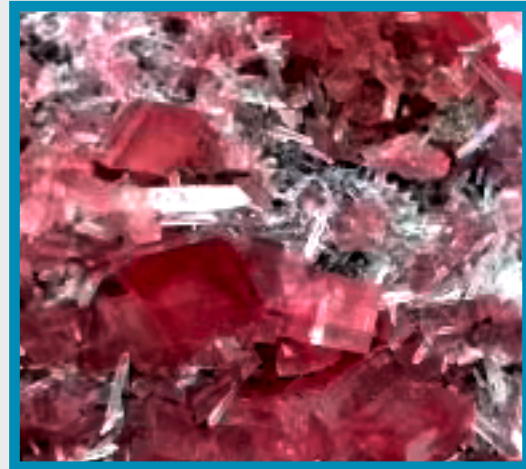


Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

There are no shows in December.

January 18-19, 2025 - Exeter, CA
Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Contact: bandgbing@aol.com
Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

More information can be found on the CFMS website at cfmsinc.org



Glowing Red Diamond Fuels Speculation about Curse!

By Tara Machin

The Smithsonian Institute has a very famous diamond on display in the Natural History Museum. The Hope Diamond has a very interesting history which includes tales of curses. At one point it was observed to glow red which added fuel to the cursed lore. Let's dig into some history and see if we can determine the birth of this mineral lore.

The Hope Diamond was mined in India and sold to Jean Baptiste Tavernier in 1653. It was a 112 3/16-carat blue diamond of perfect clarity.

The beautiful diamond was cut down to 67 1/8 carats after Tavernier sold it to King Louis XIV of France in 1673. At the time it was called the "French Blue" or the "Blue Diamond of the Crown." It was worn as a necklace by the King during royal ceremonies. The diamond remained in the royal family until 1791. At that point the government took control of the diamond, but during the French Revolution there was a week long looting of the Royal Jewels and it is believed that Cadet Guillot Lordonner was the burglar who stole the jewel.

In 1812 a blue diamond appeared in London. It had been recut again, but there was strong evidence that the diamond was the French Blue that had been stolen. The diamond was now

roughly 40% of its original size. The diamond was sold to King George IV, but was likely sold to Henry Philip Hope when the King died in 1830 in order to pay off debts.

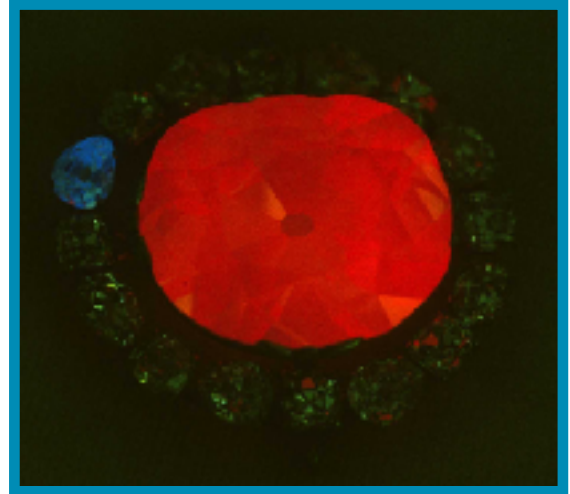


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Henry Philip Hope died in 1839 and the diamond worked its way through the Hope family until 1910 when it was sold to Pierre Cartier. Cartier redesigned the setting and sold it to Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean who held onto the enormous rock until 1947 when it was sold to Harry Winston Inc. of New York City after her death. Harry Winston Inc. ultimately donated the now named "Hope Diamond" to the Smithsonian in 1958.

With all of this death surrounding the diamond, including two beheadings during the French Revolution, it is no wonder that the Hope Diamond has a reputation for being cursed. However, it is a strange characteristic of the diamond that may have sealed its fate. There is a phenomenon called tenebrescence that is present in some minerals. When some minerals are exposed to sunlight or UV light, they change color and can glow once the light is removed. A common example of this is hakmanite (sodalite) which turns from a white color to a deep purple color when exposed to UV light. Some of these hakmanite samples can keep their color for days, weeks or months. In the case of the Hope Diamond, its tenebrescence turns the blue diamond red. This eerie red color glows for several minutes thus fueling the rumors of curses.



Red Glowing Hope Diamond After Exposure to UV light
Photo from www.si.edu

AFMS/CFMS NEWS— DECEMBER 2024

Wayne Mills, SLR CFMS Rep.

The following summaries are intended to give the reader a hint of what is contained in the current newsletters. If any of these topics are of interest, PLEASE take the trouble to look up the newsletter on the AFMS or CFMS website.

AFMS (amfed.org)

President (J.C. Moore) President Moore attended the Rocky Mountain Federation show in Oklahoma City and found it "well attended". J.C. urges rockhounds to volunteer for jobs at the local, Federation and AFMS level to share the load, and

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spread the joy of their hobby. He wishes all a happy holiday season.

AFMS Endowment Fund (Cheryl Neary, Chair) The Fund is seeking material or monetary donations of \$75.00 or more value (and less than 5 pounds weight) to further the works of AFMS.

List of AFMS Officers (Page 1)

Public Relations (Jim Brace-Thompson) What is your Wheelhouse? Determining your club's focus and strength, and how this can be used to benefit your community (rock talks in local schools is one way). And to gain more interest in your club beyond your gem show. (Page 2-3)

Safety (Ellery Borow, CFMS Safety Chair) Creating a case for safety- Items to keep together in your car to help assure that you are prepared for emergencies while traveling or on field trips.

AFMS Rockhound of the Year (Judi Allison, ROY Chair) - A list of regional chairs and suggestions for nominating a member for this honor.

All American Club (Mary Boersdorfer, Chair) - Deadline for applications is February 1, 2025.

AFMS Scholarship Report (Sandie Fender, Scholarship Foundation President) - The Foundation now has a treasurer. Deadline to apply for your club's honoree is January 15, 2025. (Page 4)

Quick Trips for Editors (Linda Jaeger, RMFMS Editor) - Linda suggests that editors avoid "obfuscating" in articles, thus making them easier for members to read and understand.

Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame - This year's winners are all from CFMS. The 7 inductees include: Cecilia Churchill from the Ventura Club, and "Jo" Borucki from the Santa Clara Valley club.

Bulletin Editors Contest - Entries are due to your Federation BEAC Chair by January 10, 2025.

Historian (Jenifer Haley) -RECORD BREAKER—A review of the April 1940 (5th Annual) Convention of CFMS held at the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum.

Golden Bear—Review of the history of the CFMS's Golden Bear Nugget and symbol. (Page 6)

News from the 2025 AFMS Convention State - (Cheryl Neary, AFMS Past President) History and features of the area around Hickory, North Carolina where the 2025 AFMS Show will be held.

Echoes of the Past - Shorebird Tracks Along the Shoreline of Ancient Lake Unita in Utah (Sawyer Blizzard, Age 17, Colorado Springs Mineral Society) Examining icnofossils (trace fossils) of birds and worms in the 45 million-year-old Green River Shale of Colorado. (Page 8-9)

AFMS Junior's Newsletter —Submission form for articles, art, poetry or pictures for Juniors Age 17 and younger. (Page 9)

[CFMS \(cfmsinc.org\)](http://cfmsinc.org)

President (Marcia Goetz) -The recent Visalia Director's Meeting was successful. Many items on the Director's Agenda were discussed. Among those were recognizing Burl and Pat La Rue for 30 years of attending and assisting with the Director's Meetings. CFMS Dues will increase to \$8 for member's insurances, and \$2 per member for dues. Susan Chaise Walbloom will again be CFMS President (She held that position in 2012.) (Page 1)

Juniors Activities (Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Chair) Consider kids in your club for the JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. There are 2 groups for this award-Pebble Pups (Age 11 and under) and

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Juniors (ages 12-18). See application on page 11. Submit completed form to jbraceth@roadrunner.com by March 1, 2025.

Museum Committee (Frank Von Hecker, Chair) This committee oversees the CFMS mineral, fossil and gem collection that is on loan at various museums in California. Beginning in January 2025, the committee plans to become a regular contributor to CFMS News. (Page 3)

Junior Achievement Award (Jim Brace-Thompson, Juniors Chair) - searching for judges for the 2025 awards. Interested parties contact Jim at 805-659-3577, or the email on page 3.

Memories of Tom Borchard (Colleen McGann, Fed Rep. for Peninsula Gem and Geology Club) Fond recollections of the long time CFMS member and 2015 CFMS President, Tom Borchard who recently passed away. (Page 4)

Bulletin Aids -This article introduces seven new inductees into the AFMS Bulletin Editors Hall of Fame. All seven inductees are from CFMS. Bulletin entries for the 2024 Contest are due to your BEAC by January 15, 2025.

Endowment Fund—Make your monetary or material donation (\$75 minimum value) or purchase tickets for the upcoming contest. (Page 5)

The Record Breaker (Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian) See AFMS page 6

Earth Science Studies (Jill Adkins, Co-Chair) In 2024, Camp Paradise had 104 students and 14 instructors. It was \$1100 short of breaking even. CFMS is hoping for a higher enrollment in 2025.

CFMS Endowment Fund (Sharon Rogow, Chair) CFMS is looking for is looking for donations to help furtherer causes. (Page 7)

Public Relations- (Jim Brace-Thompson, Public Relations Chair) Public relations versus publicity—Creating synergy between your club and the local community, at and beyond your local show.

Local and Regional Show Dates - Remember to **update CFMS with your local show dates**.

Other sources to advertise your show, including Rock & Gem. (Page 9)

Hands - Where are They? - (Ellery Borow, CFMS Safety Chair) Keep your hands safe at all times

Junior Achievement Award Application Form on Page 11

OMS Membership	
Membership is \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00.	
OMS Online Contacts	
Website	omsinc.org
Email	info@omsinc.org

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Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The ORE-CUTTS (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.

