



Member
California
Federation of
Mineralogical
Societies



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American
Federation of
Mineralogical
Societies

The Lapidarian

Newsletter of

The *Rockatomics* Gem and Mineral Society

Please address Exchange Bulletins to:
Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society
Linda Ralph, Editor



Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society

P.O. Box 346 Canoga Park, CA 91305-0346

Or on the web at: www.rockatomics.org

Objective:

The objective of "**Rockatomics**" is to assemble a group of people who are interested in the geological, mineralogical, lapidary, gem craft and precious metal jewelry hobbies in an atmosphere of good fellowship, sportsmanship, and community service.

Affiliations:

The **Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society** is under the auspices of The Foundation of Pierce College, Woodland Hills, California. **Rockatomics** is a member organization of the California Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

General Meetings:

A monthly general meeting is held on the second Monday of each month at Pratt & Whitney Employees Rec. Park in West Hills. Meetings generally consist of a short business session, refreshments, and a program. Meetings are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



2009 Officers and Chairmen of the Rockatomics Gem and Mineral Society

President	Antonio Buendia	
Vice-President	Gordon Ralph	
Treasurer	Cathy Buendia	
Secretary	Amira Rucker	
Federation Co-Directors	Gary & Maureen Levitt	
Membership	Ken Pazera	
Bulletin Editor	Linda Ralph	
Web Master (Rockatomics.org)	Gary Levitt	
Historian		open
Librarian	Ken Pazera	
Publicity	Louise Gerik & Amira Rucker	
Program		open
Amenities		open
Lapidary Shop		open
Silver Shop		open
Tail Gate Show	Gary Levitt	
Classes		open
Refreshments/Holiday Parties		Club Members
Field Trips		open

The Lapidarian

January 2009

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society



Dues Schedule

- Annual dues for an individual - \$10
- Dues for additional individuals residing at the same address - \$7.50
- “Subscription” to a mailed copy - \$11
- Still no charge for membership or bulletin for life or honorary members

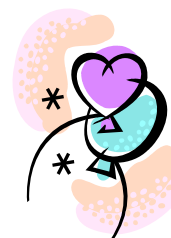


**** Reminder** The Dues are Due ****
Please remember to mail or bring in your check
so we can get out the current roster next month.
Thank you.



January Celebrations

Happy Birthday to Mary Clancy – January 21st!



January 25th our best wishes go out to Virginia & Al Kilkka on their anniversary!

Congratulations!





Federation Report

By Gary Levitt

Do you know the way to San Jose?

This year the annual Federation Show is exceptionally early. It is in April.

When: April 17 - 19, 2009

Time: Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Where: Santa Clara Fairgrounds

344 Tully Road

San Jose, California

Cost: Adult daily admission - \$6

Three day admission - \$12

Children under 12 - free with paid adult

Also, the Federation allows us to honor an individual or couple by the Member Recognition Award. The recipient(s) are recognized with a write-up in both the CFMS and AFMS bulletins. The recipient(s) also receive a pin and a certificate denoting the honor!

The past two years were 'no brainers' as far as the selection process went. Jim and Louise were the obvious choice for the first year. Selecting Allan and Virginia was likewise pretty clear for the second year.

Then I realized I am 'hogging' the selection process. SOOOOooo, I would like your input for this time around! Let me know your thoughts at this month's meeting.

Show Report

By Gary Levitt

I'm not having a panic attack, but..... help.

On the positive side, having appropriate dealers for the show does not appear to be a problem. In fact, due to the info on our club (and show) on the CFMS website and our own website, we are getting calls from additional dealers!

But, actually, I need your help.

It is getting to be time to get more of our members involved. If you have knowledge on doing publicity or are interested in learning, please let me know.

We will have a 'club booth' at the show also. Remember, our main goal is to increase membership. The club booth will have info on our club and hopefully, you, to tell these prospective new members about our club.

Birthstone for January



Garnet From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **garnet** group includes a group of minerals that have been used since the [Bronze Age](#) as [gemstones](#) and [abrasives](#). The name "garnet" comes from the [Latin](#) *granatus* ("[grain](#)"), possibly a reference to the *Punica granatum* ("[pomegranate](#)"), a plant with red seeds similar in shape, size, and color to some garnet crystals.

Six common species of garnet are recognized based on their chemical composition. They are [pyrope](#), [almandine](#), [spessartite](#), [grossular](#) (varieties of which are [hessonite](#) or cinnamon-stone and [tsavorite](#)), [uvarovite](#) and [andradite](#). The garnets make up two [solid solution](#) series: 1. pyrope-almandine-spessartite and 2. uvarovite-grossular-andradite.

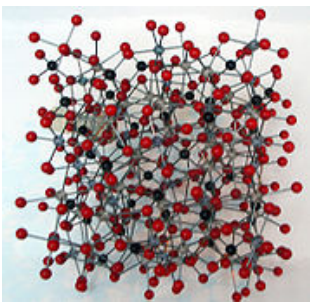
Physical properties

Properties

Garnets species are found in many colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, brown, black, pink and colorless. The rarest of these is the blue garnet, discovered in the late 1990s in Bekily, [Madagascar](#). It is also found in parts of the [United States](#), [Russia](#) and [Turkey](#). It changes color from blue-green in the daylight to purple in [incandescent](#) light, as a result of the relatively high amounts of [vanadium](#) (about 1 wt.% V_2O_3). Other varieties of color-changing garnets exist. In daylight, their color ranges from shades of green, beige, brown, gray, and blue, but in incandescent light, they appear a reddish or purplish/pink color. Because of their color changing quality, this kind of garnet is often mistaken for [Alexandrite](#).

Garnet species's light transmission properties can range from the gemstone-quality transparent specimens to the opaque varieties used for industrial purposes as abrasives. The mineral's [luster](#) is categorized as [vitreous](#) (glass-like) or resinous (amber-like).

Crystal structure



Molecular model of garnet.

Garnets are [nesosilicates](#) having the general formula $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$. The X site is usually occupied by divalent cations (Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Fe^{2+}) and the Y site by trivalent cations (Al^{3+} , Fe^{3+} , Cr^{3+}) in an [octahedral/tetrahedral](#) framework with $[SiO_4]^{4-}$ occupying the tetrahedra.^[2] Garnets are most often found in the [dodecahedral crystal habit](#), but are also commonly found in the trapezohedron habit. (Note: the word "trapezohedron" as used here and in most mineral texts refers to the shape called a [Deltoidal icositetrahedron](#) in solid geometry.) They crystallize in the [cubic](#) system, having three axes that are all of equal length and perpendicular to each other. Garnets do not show [cleavage](#), so when they fracture under stress, sharp irregular pieces are formed.

Hardness

Because the chemical composition of garnet varies, the atomic bonds in some species are stronger than in others. As a result, this mineral group shows a range of hardness on the [Mohs Scale](#) of about 6.5 to 7.5. The harder species, like almandine, are often used for abrasive purposes.

Major varieties	
Pyrope	$Mg_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$
Almandine	$Fe_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$
Spessartite	$Mn_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$
Andradite	$Ca_3Fe_2Si_3O_{12}$
Grossular	$Ca_3Al_2Si_3O_{12}$
Uvarovite	$Ca_3Cr_2Si_3O_{12}$



Spessartine

Spessartine (the reddish mineral)

[Spessartine](#) or incorrectly spessartite is manganese aluminium garnet, $Mn_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$. Its name is derived from [Spessart](#) in [Bavaria](#). It occurs most often in [granite pegmatite](#) and allied rock types and in certain low grade metamorphic [phyllites](#). Spessartine of a beautiful [orange](#)-yellow is found in [Madagascar](#) (see [Mandarin garnet](#)). Violet-red spessartines are found in [rhyolites](#) in [Colorado](#) and [Maine](#).



Andradite

Andradite (the black mineral)

[Andradite](#) is a calcium-iron garnet, $Ca_3Fe_2(SiO_4)_3$, is of variable composition and may be red, yellow, brown, green or black. The recognized varieties are topazolite (yellow or green), [demantoid](#) (green) and melantite (black). Andradite is found both in deep-seated [igneous rocks](#) like [syenite](#) as well as serpentines, schists, and crystalline limestone. Demantoid has been called the "[emerald](#) of the [Urals](#)" from its occurrence there, and is one of the most prized of garnet varieties. Topazolite is a golden yellow variety and melanite is a black variety.



Where are Virginia and Al?



Well the mystery has been solved. It seems that they have had a couple...yes, a couple of car accidents. They are both quite fine and okay but have decided to stay home and take it easy and let the world settle down a bit. Let's all think good thoughts for them and be extra careful out there on the roads.

Pictures from the Christmas Party at the Ranch House.



Good food, Good friends, Good time!

News of Our Members, Our Club, Etc.

If you have any articles or news to share with our members, it would be appreciated. Please call, send or even email information of birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, promotions, retirements, illnesses, deaths, accidents, member news, selling of hobby materials, moving, etc., etc. You are part of our **Rockatomics** family and we want to hear from you and share your news!

Rockatomics Gem & Mineral Society

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Deadline for all articles to be printed in the next bulletin is **January 20, 2009!**



Shows

January 17-18 2009, Exeter, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exeter Memorial Bldg.
420 N. Kaweah, Exeter
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4
Margaret Buchmann (599-739-0401)
Email: mab@mindinfo.com
Webpage: tulegem.org

January 21-25, 2009, Quartzsite, AZ

Quartzsite Roadrunners Gem & Mineral Society
235 E. Ironwood, Quartzsite, Arizona
Information: 928-927-6325
webpage: <http://www.qiaaz.org/PowWow.htm>



Next Club Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2009 6:00 p.m.
The Ranch House in Pratt & Whitney's Park
West Hills, California



Wishing you all a Safe, Happy and Prosperous
New Year!

