



A monthly publication of the Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society

VOLUME 48

January 2022

NUMBER 1



NEXT MEETING: **Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

TIME:

LOCATION:

7:00 p.m.
Helen Hall Library
100 W Walker St.
League City, Tx 77573

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

January Meeting	1	<p><u>January MONTHLY MEETING</u></p> <p>Due to a conflicting schedule at the Library, our January meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, Jan. 19th, 2022.</p> <p>We will be discussing our plan for our annual show. Please come and join us. We always need new ideas and suggestions so our show can run better.</p> <p>http://www.clgms.org/</p>
Board/General Meeting Minutes	2	
Upcoming events	2	
History of Birthstones	3-6	
An 8 th Continent	6-8	
Upcoming shows	8	

MINUTES OF THE December CLGMS GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual Christmas Dinner was a success. It was held at Kelley's Country Kitchen in League City. Friends and family attended and had a good time. Several door prizes were raffled out – congratulations to all the winners.



MINUTES OF THE January CLGMS BOARD MEETING.

Sandy: Will check to make sure that the center will be open, because of the new COVID standards. So far, we have 176 tables with \$1,782.50 already paid for the February show.

David: Will make 1,000 more postcards for us to hand out. He will also make business cards for us too.

During the meeting will have our list for volunteers to sign up to help during the show. Please sign up, we will need members to help set up and tear down.

Our next show will be February 26-27, 2022.

Upcoming events - We are looking forward to the following programs.

Please check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/clgms/>

Field Trips Announcement

Currently – no field trips are scheduled.

If you have a good location for our club field trip – please contact:

annabel.brownfield@gmail.com or call/text: 281-486-1866.

» History of Birthstones»

by Amanda Butcher

Birthstones have become an international jewelry trend, but have you ever wondered where this tradition began? Here is your rundown on the centuries-long, worldwide history of birthstones.

BY AMANDA BUTCHER - 5 MINUTE READ

What is a Birthstone?

Birthstones have become very popular for gift-givers and gem-lovers for their dazzling array of colors and the personal sentiment they can represent. In the modern tradition, there are one to three gemstones representing every birth month of the year, each with its own history and legends behind it. Birthstones can usually be found adorning rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings, allowing the wearer to celebrate their special day on any occasion.

Biblical Origins

The origins of this tradition can be traced all the way back to biblical times and the Book of Exodus. It describes the breastplate worn by Aaron, the first high priest of the Israelites, which was to be worn by all future high priests. The breastplate was adorned with 12 different stones, each representing one of the 12 tribes of Israel. These stones were said to have possessed great powers and had the ability to tell people their fate. According to first-century translations, the first row contained carnelian, chrysolite, and beryl. The second row contained jacinth, agate, and amethyst, and the third row contained topaz, onyx, and jasper. The naming of minerals at the time were dependent on color rather than chemical composition, so it is difficult to determine which gems were actually used. For example, chrysolite was used to describe gems with flecks of gold, which could have included topaz or peridot.



It wasn't until the first century, around 500 years after Aaron's breastplate was described in the Book of Exodus, where the historian Joseph believed there to be a connection

between the 12 stones in Aaron's breastplate, the 12 months of the year, and the 12 zodiac signs. Historian St. Jerome, referencing Joseph, began to encourage the use of these stones by Christians in the 5th century. This established a tradition that would last for centuries, in which people would collect all of the 12 stones to wear at one time in extravagant belts, bracelets, and other ornaments. By the 8th and 9th centuries, this trend evolved to where people would own a collection of all of the jewels but only wear a single stone during a given month, where it was believed to have heightened powers. This most likely came from eastern traditions believing that birthstones can provide the wearer with protection and powers, as trade between the east and west began to surge during this time period. The modern tradition of wearing one stone for their month of birth did not begin until the 16th century and originated in either Germany or Poland. This was the start of the birthstone trend we are familiar with today.

Hindu Roots

The tradition of stones representing your birth month with mystical powers can also be found in Hindu traditions, most likely influencing customs in the west as well. The Ratna Pariksha, a 5th-century Hindu text, chronicles the relationships between gemstones and deities, celestial bodies, and days of the week. Hindu practices associate nine gemstones with the different celestial forces, called navaratna in Sanskrit. Jewelry in this style always centers bright red ruby or spinel, surrounding it with the rest of the gems on either side. These pieces are believed to grant the wearer a cosmic harmony, as well as stand as a symbol of status and wealth. Certain individual stones are then recommended by Vedic astrologers based on astrological birth charts to harness the power of certain planets or ward off the harm of others.

Modern Traditions

Even though birthstones had already become an international trend rooted in centuries-long practice, there was still no consensus on the list of birthstones. That wasn't until the year 1912, where the National Association of Jewelers met in order to officially standardize the list of American birthstones and each month that they represented. This list combined various customs that had evolved over time while ensuring the stones they chose would be practical for American jewelers to sell and promote in large quantities. It was then modified in 1952 by the Jewelry Industry Council of America, adding alexandrite to June, citrine to November, pink tourmaline to October, and zircon to December. Although the list has nearly remained the same since then, in 2002 the gem Tanzanite was added to December's stones, and just as recently as 2016 spinel was added to the month of August.



What is My Birthstone?

The modern birthstone list is the list established by the National Association of Jewelers, but the traditional birthstone list also includes birthstones that have been historically associated with each month. Most people choose between the two lists depending on their taste and the look they are going for with their piece. There are also lists of alternative birthstones based on astrological signs, guardian angels, seasons, and even birth hours, providing you with a large range of options to find the perfect gem to represent you.

Modern Birthstone List:

January — Garnet
February — Amethyst
March — Aquamarine
April — Diamond
May — Emerald
June — Alexandrite
July — Ruby
August — Peridot or Spinel
September — Sapphire
October — Tourmaline
November — Golden Topaz or Citrine
December — Blue Zircon, Blue Topaz, or Tanzanite

Traditional Birthstone List:

January — Garnet
February — Amethyst
March — Bloodstone
April — Diamond
May — Emerald
June — Pearl

July — Ruby
August — Sardonyx
September — Sapphire
October — Opal
November — Topaz
December — Turquoise or Lapis

Wearing Birthstones

The rich history and fun, glistening colors of birthstones have made them incredibly popular to wear in rings, bracelets, pendants, and earrings. They make for an excellent, personalized gift for a loved one to show how much you care. Birthstones can make for especially beautiful gifts for mothers or family members, where birthstones can be combined to create a colorful, custom piece to represent your family.

You can shop for birthstone jewelry in all shapes and sizes at James Allen and Blue Nile. Their extensive collections of jewelry for each month will make sure your piece is as special as you are.



Photos Credit on this article - James Allen.

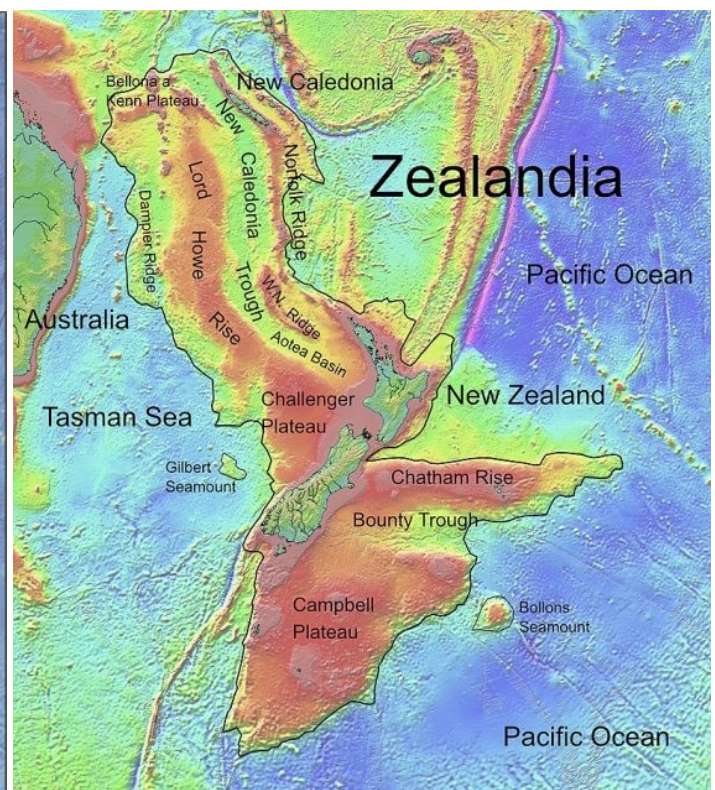
Taken from the January-February 2022 issue of the SCFMS Newsletter:

AN 8TH CONTINENT

Matthew Lybanon, Edit
MAGS Rockhound News

About 3,500 feet under the south Pacific sits a piece of land adjacent to New Zealand 2 million square miles in size—about half as big as Australia. But scientists can't agree on whether this submerged land mass—a collection of submerged chunks of crust called Zealandia (or the Maori name Te Riu-a-Maui) that broke off an ancient supercontinent called Gondwana about 85 million years ago, — is a continent or not. A team of geologists declared it one in 2017, but not all researchers are convinced. Nick

Mortimer, a geologist from New Zealand's GNS Science who led the 2017 group, explains that a continent should have clearly defined boundaries, occupy an area greater than 1 million square kilometers, be elevated above the surrounding ocean crust, and have a continental crust thicker than that of oceanic crust. Zealandia meets all those stipulations. The problem, however, was that until recently, the oldest crust and rock ever sampled from Zealandia was just 500 million years old, whereas all the other continents contain crust that is 1 billion years old or more. But a recent study found that part of the submerged continent is twice as old as geologists previously thought, which could boost Mortimer's argument. Tiny minerals taken from granite rocks have led to a potential breakthrough in ancient continental reconstructions. The geologists behind the recent research (published in *Geology*) looked at 169 chunks of Zealandia granite, which were found under New Zealand's South and Stewart Islands. Granite forms when magma crystallizes deep within the Earth's crust. The granites were brought to the surface by uplift of the Zealandia continent in response to earthquake activity along a plate boundary over millions of years. By extracting microscopic crystals from the granite, the team was able to determine both the age of the crystals themselves and of the crust in which they formed. The results showed that crust was once part of another supercontinent known as Rodinia, which formed between 1.3 billion and 900 million years ago—far earlier than 500 million years ago. Dr Rose Turnbull (also of GNS Science and one of the authors of the *Geology* article) says that a key finding in this study was the unique isotopic signature measured in microscopic grains of zircon (ZrSiO_3), a mineral that is found in all granites. The isotopic composition of zircon is used in geology to understand deep time and can be used to reveal what the Earth's crust looked like both at and deep below the surface. "To use a human analogy, all of today's eight continents have older ancestors such as Gondwana, Laurasia, and Pangea, "The new study has enabled scientists to place Zealandia in the "family tree" of continents descended from Rodinia." With this new information, Zealandia may yet turn out to be a "missing link" between South China, Australia, and North America—and this opens up the position of South China and Zealandia within Rodinia to new international scrutiny, Dr Turnbull says.





References: Ringwood, MLF., et al., 2021, Phanero-zoie record of mantle-dominated are magmatic surges in the Zealandia Cordillera: *Geology*, v. 49, p. 1230-1234, <https://doi.org/10.1130/G48916.1>
 Mortimer, N., et al. 2017, Zealandia: Earth's Hidden Continent: *GSA TO-DAY*, v. 27(3), p. 27-35, <https://doi.org/10.1130/GSATG321A.1>

SCFMS and MEMBER CLUB GEM SHOWS

Jan: Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Fredericksburg, TX 01/15-16/22, Lady Bird Johnson Park East Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Tyler, TX 01/21-23/22, Tyler Rose Garden Center	Feb: Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society, Georgetown, TX. 2nd weekend in Feb., San Gabriel Park Community Center Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society, Houston, TX 02/26-27/22, Pasadena Convention Center Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society, Plainview, TX	Mar: Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Corpus Christi, TX 03/05-06/22, R.M. Borchard Fairgrounds, Robstown, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club, Big Spring, TX Usually 1st weekend in Mar., Howard Co. Fair Barn Southwest Gem & Mineral Society, San Antonio, TX 03/12-13/22, venue to be announced.
---	--	--

STONEY STATEMENTS

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc

PO BOX 891533

Houston, Texas 77289

Meeting 3rd Tuesday of the Month
7:00 P.M.
 League City Library
 100 W Walker St, League City, TX 77573



Next Annual Show
 February 26-27, 2022
 Pasadena Convention Center

CLGMS is on the Web:

<http://www.clgms.org>

FACEBOOK: CLEAR LAKE GEM AND
 MINERAL SOCIETY.

Member of



American
 Federation of
 Mineral Societies

South Central
 Federation of Mineral
 Societies

Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society, Inc

MEMBER: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

PURPOSE: To promote education and popular interest in the various earth sciences; in particular in those hobbies dealing with the art of lapidaries and the earth sciences of minerals, fossils and their associated fields.

2022 OFFICERS:	President	John Caldyne	832-282-4270
	Vice President	Cynthia McGowan	281-546-2662
	Secretary	Christina Rankin	281-723-5408
	Treasurer	Morgan Davies	281-224-2444
	Program Director	VACANT	
	Board of Directors:	Sandra Christiansen	Jerry Newberry
		Jim Edwards	Jim Hawkins
		Donna Nelson	
	Newsletter Editor	Sara Tanner	
		David Tjiok	

Annual Show 2022	Sandra Christiansen	Membership.....	David Tjiok
Constitution & Bylaws.....	Sara Tanner	WWW System Admin..	Mike Flannigan
Community Benefits.....	Charlie Timme	Refreshments.....	John Caldyne
Historian.....	David Tjiok	Education/Field Trips.....	Annabel Brownfield
Publicity.....	Annabel Brownfield		
Facebook.....	Cynthia McGowan		

Membership Dues Jan. to Dec. 2022: Adult \$15:00, \$5.00 per additional adult at same address, Junior \$5.00, \$5.00 per member with adult at same address, Family Dues \$20.00 (4+) at same address. Send Dues to CLGMS, PO BOX 891533, Houston, TX, 77289