

The Golden Nuggets

FGCGMS Latest News and Announcements:



January 2026 Volume 46 Issue 1

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Our Next Monthly Meeting:

Wednesday January 21st 2025, at 7:30pm

At the “Ye Olde Rock Shoppe”

1425 South 30th Avenue, Suite C., Hollywood, Florida 33020.

Reminder: “Ye Olde Rock Shoppe” will donate 50% of your member purchase back to the club.

Monthly Program Presentation:

This month's presentation is titled “**Calcite Clams of Florida**” by **Scott Augutis**, author of *Calcite Clams of Florida*. Scott's work highlights rare, approximately **2-million-year-old Early Pleistocene *Mercenaria permagna*** clam fossils lined with striking, glowing yellow calcite crystals. An avid fossil hunter, Scott will also share stories from his rockhounding adventures and discuss what to expect ahead of the next **Rucks Pit** digs.

Last Month's Meeting Highlights:

No Program Presentation

Highlight of the successful and very fun Christmas Party are below.



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Last Month's Meeting Highlights (Continued):



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Editorial:

On January 2025, my editorial comment stated:

"One of my goals is to foster partnerships with other local clubs, where we can share ideas and enjoy our hobbies together. We must ensure our activities remain accessible and engaging for all members, with fresh and exciting programs that spark interest and participation."

It is therefore deeply satisfying to see that **we** have succeeded in doing just that.

What a wonderful way to close out the year!

Eridania and I had the pleasure of attending both the Miami Gem Show and the Palm Beach Club's Christmas Party. They also had the opportunity to join us at our own Christmas celebration. As you can see from the photos, smiles and good cheer were everywhere.

The clubs were also able to share in the generous rocks and gems donation from Jim Mahan and his family. The raffle and prizes were fantastic, with additional material set aside for future sales and our picnic raffle. Once again, heartfelt thanks to the Mahan family. I also confirmed with Jim's grandchild that they received the club's warm appreciation.

Thank you to Arlene Lazaro, Samantha Lazaro, Gale Langford, Lauren Kairella, and all the members who participated in the 2025 Christmas festivities—it truly was a fun and memorable time.

I wish a very Happy New Year to the members of all three clubs. I am genuinely excited about our growing collaboration efforts. As I write this newsletter, I'm already planning a trip to Quartzsite, Arizona (thanks to Sam of the WP Club), followed by a week at the Tucson Gem Show.

The excitement continues to build. Equipment and rental agreements are currently being drafted, and I am hopeful that by our February meeting we will have all the requirements in place to begin renting club equipment.

WHICH ARE YOU? – A POEM

Are you an active member? The kind that would be missed or are you just content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings, and mingle with the flock, or do you stay at home, and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along, or are you satisfied to be the kind that just belong?

Do you go on field trips and help the rocks to seek, or leave the work for just a few, and talk about the clique?

There's quite a program scheduled that were sure you've heard about. And will appreciate it if you'll come and help us out.

So come to the meetings often and help with hand and heart. Do not be just another member, but take an active part.

Now think this one over, Rock hound, you know the right from wrong, are you an active member, or do you only Just Belong?

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Mineral Notes & News 1940

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Upcoming Events and News FGCGMS:

The FGCGMS Member MONTHLY Meeting, January 21st 2026

This month's presentation is titled "**Calcite Clams of Florida**" by **Scott Agutis**, author of *Calcite Clams of Florida*. Scott's work highlights rare, approximately **2-million-year-old Early Pleistocene Mercenaria permagna** clam fossils lined with striking, glowing yellow calcite crystals. An avid fossil hunter, Scott will also share stories from his rockhounding adventures and discuss what to expect ahead of the next **Rucks Pit** digs.

Upcoming Events and News, GMSPB

JOIN US in JANUARY for our next

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Open to All



January 15th, 7:00pm

MEETING DETAILS

4800 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach FL 33405

(STEM Building across from the museum)

**Julio Lopez, President of the FGCGMS Broward Club will again present on
"Larimar A rare and unique Mineral from Dominican Republic"**

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Upcoming Events and News, Miami RockNerds (formally MMLG)




January 25 2026 Monthly Member Meeting

Field Trip to Coral Castle – January 18, 2026

Join us at Coral Castle



Field Trip Adventure Join us for exploration!

<p>January 18 10am</p>  <p>Experience the wonders of Coral Castle</p>	<p>Connect with fellow guild members and enthusiasts</p>  <p>Admission \$25</p>	<p>Location 28655 S Dixie Hwy</p>  <p>Don't miss this unique experience!</p>
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JANUARY BIRTHSTONE (Source GIA)



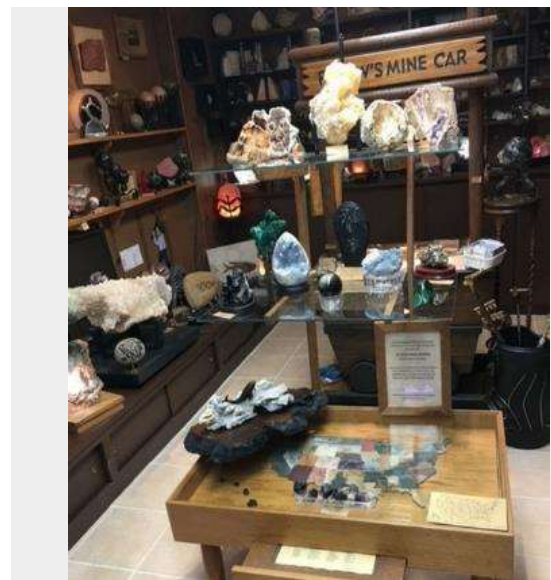
COURTESY: NOMADS LTD, HONG KONG (FAR RIGHT)

Those born in January are lucky to have the beautiful and diverse garnet as their birthstone. Garnets are commonly red but also come in an extraordinary range of beautiful colors, including orange, yellow, purple and vibrant green. There are even garnets that change color from blue to purple in different lighting. Some believe the true value of the garnet birthstone is its power to bring the wearer good health, wealth and happiness.

Garnet Birthstone Meaning and History:

The name "garnet" originates from the medieval Latin *granatus*, meaning "pomegranate," in reference to the similarity of the red color. Garnets have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives. Necklaces studded with red garnets adorned the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Signet rings in ancient Rome featured garnet intaglios that were used to stamp the wax that secured important documents. The clergy and nobility of the Middle Ages had a preference for red garnets. Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colorless through yellow to reddish orange and orangey red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite.

Ye Olde Rock Shoppe



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EGCGMS Latest News and Announcements:



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<https://yeolderockshoppe.com>

“Best rock shop in south Florida”

JANUARY BIRTHSTONE (Source GIA)

The Smithsonian's antique pyrope hair comb is one of the most famous pieces of garnet jewelry (pyrope is from the Greek *pyrōpos*, which means “fiery-eyed”). A large rose-cut garnet sits at the crest, much like a queen serenely surveying her court. The pyrope garnets that decorate this tiara-like jewel came from the historic mines in Bohemia (now part of the Czech Republic), and these rich red beauties were extremely popular during the Victorian era (1837–1901), when this piece was fashioned.



This antique pyrope garnet hair comb is part of the National Gem Collection at the Smithsonian Institution.

Curious about your garnet birthstone's reputed health benefits? According to Indian astrology, garnet helps eliminate negative feelings (depression, guilt) and instill greater self-confidence and mental clarity to promote creative thinking and peace of mind. In ancient and medieval times, gems like garnet were also thought to be remedies for inflammatory diseases and to soothe the angry heart.

Where is Garnet Found?

Garnets come from many different regions and countries. Bohemia was the primary source of the red pyrope garnets so popular during Victorian times. Today, the African continent supplies much of the world's garnet. Namibia is now producing demantoids, and most of the bright green tsavorites in the market come from Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar. Namibia and Tanzania are also key sources of the rich orange-to-yellow spessartine garnets. For many years, Southern California's Little Three mining area was known for producing this spellbinding gem, The birthstone for January is also found in Myanmar, Brazil, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka, among other countries.

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Small-scale artisanal miners, such as this tsavorite miner near Voi, in Kenya, are estimated to supply some 80% of the world's gems. Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

Garnet Birthstone Care & Cleaning

The different types of garnet range between 6.5 and 7.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness. This means that this birthstone is more susceptible to damage than rubies, sapphires and diamonds. So, while not all garnets are good candidates for daily wear, they are ideal for earrings, brooches and pendants. Give thought to how you store your garnet jewelry. If you let it rub against harder gems – again, think diamonds, rubies and sapphires – it can be scratched. And in turn garnet can scratch softer gems, such as opals or pearls.



Poochie Pawlor – By Susan Anderson
1621 N. Hiatus Road, Pembroke Pines FL 33026



GIA.edu

This stunning 5.55 carat tsavorite garnet is set in platinum with two fancy yellow diamonds weighing a total of 0.71 carats and 136 round diamonds weighing 1.02 carats total weight.

Most garnets are not treated. Rarely, however, some garnets might be fracture filled, whereby treaters try to improve the apparent clarity of the gem by filling surface-reaching breaks with a glass-like substance. Such treated stones require special care. Regardless, use of a soft brush with warm soapy water is always safe for cleaning garnets. Ultrasonic cleaners are usually safe, except for stones that have fractures or have been fracture filled. Steam cleaning is not recommended.

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONE – continued Crystal Energy

Garnet is a crystal that is said to have many healing properties, including:

Chakra cleansing: Garnet is said to cleanse and re-energize the chakras.

Stress reduction: Garnet is said to help reduce stress, worry, and anxiety.

Emotional balance: Garnet is said to balance the sex drive and alleviate emotional disharmony.

Vitality: Garnet is said to increase vitality and creativity.

Past life recall: Garnet is said to stimulate past-life recall.

Self-confidence: Garnet is said to open the heart and bestow self-confidence.

Immune system: Garnet is said to boost the immune system and energy levels.

Protection: Garnet is said to protect travelers against perils during the journey.

Love and devotion: Garnet is said to inspire love and devotion. Source - AI Overview



3160 Stirling Road / Hollywood, FL 33021

<https://www.instagram.com/crystalvisionltc/>

<https://crystalvisionltc.com/>

Contact Stephanie Picano-Guzman or Donna Varin at 954-981-4992

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On the Puny Side:

You can't "**facet the truth**".

Modesty aside, my gem puns are a "**cut**" above the rest. You might say they are "**flawless**" and "**brilliant**". So let them "**sparkle**".



Why did the raw rock go to the lapidary beauty parlor? **It wanted a polished look.**

Did I make them "**crystal clear**". Hoping you that you find these "**gem-tastic**" and found them "**facet-nating**".

Now that is a "**lode**" off my mind. **Rock** on.

The Crystal Cave
Rock and Gem Shop



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List of Officers:

Function	2nd Function	Name	Phone Number	E-mail Address
President	Database Manager	Julio Lopez	786-603-8081	floridagemmineral@gmail.com
Vice President	Shop Foreman	Don Titman	305-502-4345	nolewake@yahoo.com
Secretary	Program Committee	Susan Anderson	954-559-9198	poochiepawlor@aol.com
Treasurer		Eridania Lopez	786-253-1903	EridaniaFz2059@gmail.com
Shop Foreman	Program Committee	Lucas Bush	954-588-6323	snugglefish22@gmail.com
Sunshine Chair		Mirtha Rimarachin	954-948-7657	mrimarac88@gmail.com
Member Committee		Vacant		
Refreshments Committee		Ariel Helman	305-335-4405	arielh305@gmail.com
Game Master / Quiz Committee		Dick Haliburton	954-249-0365	dickhaliburton@gmail.com
Newsletter Committee		Vacant		
Newsletter Committee		Jeffrey Gross	954-987-0645	jgrossarchitect@gmail.com

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Club Advertisers: Please each of them

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The Crystal Cave

Rock and Gem Shop



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CRYSTAL VISION

shop+create+love



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