

# **Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California**

Volume 98 Number 5 –May 2025

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*The 1,038<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California*

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***With Knowledge Comes Appreciation***

**A ZOOM Meeting**  
**May 9, 2025, at 7:30 P.M.**

**Program: “A Look at the Remarkable Collection of the mim Museum, Beirut, Lebanon”**  
**Presented by Philip M. Persson**

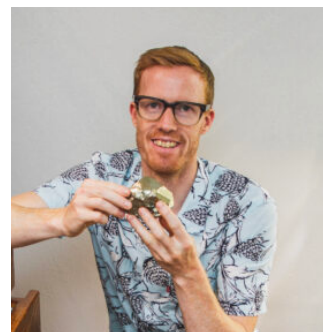
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**Remember:** If you change your email or street address, you must let the MSSC Editor and Membership Chair know, or we cannot guarantee receipt of future Bulletins

## **Program: “A Look at the Remarkable Collection of the mim Museum, Beirut, Lebanon” Presented by Philip M. Persson**

The mim (the name is inspired by the 24th letter of the Arabic alphabet, pronounced “mim”, which is also the first letter of the worlds “museum”, “mineral”, and “mines” in both Arabic and English) is a public mineral museum located in Beirut, Lebanon. It is the brainchild of Salim Eddé, a Lebanese entrepreneur, collector and scientist. The museum, located on the campus of Saint Joseph University in downtown Beirut, opened in October of 2013. It currently contains approximately 2500 specimens and is organized both systematically and aesthetically to stimulate excitement about minerals and the natural world in the public of Lebanon and beyond. The focus of the mim collection is both world-class examples of aesthetic minerals, as well as high-quality systematic specimens representing rare and unusual minerals, ideally in macroscopic, high-quality crystals. The museum attracts nearly 40,000 visitors a year and is currently the #1 ranked activity in Beirut on the TripAdvisor website. This presentation will introduce the audience to this remarkable museum, certainly one of the most important in the mineral world, and its world-class collection.



Phil Persson is a geologist, mineral dealer, and collector living on the west side of Denver, Colorado. His passion for geology and mineral collecting began as a child living near the "fluorescent mineral capital of the world", Franklin New Jersey, and eventually led to a BA in geology from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2012 and an MSc. in economic geology with a focus on geochemistry and petrology at the Colorado School of Mines in 2017. He has been a co-author and collaborator on numerous scientific papers, abstracts and magazine articles on mineralogy and geology, with a focus on rare earth element minerals and pegmatites of Colorado. He enjoys public speaking and has given dozens of talks for mineral clubs and events, as well as helped organize several scientific symposia in Colorado. He has been involved in the mineral dealing and collecting community for close to 20 years and is currently employed full-time as a mineral dealer in the Denver, Colorado area.

### **How to Join our ZOOM Meetings**

MSSC members are automatically included in the invite list each month.

For non MSSC Members who want to attend this meeting. You must respond to our Programs chair, Carolyn Seitz [speakers@mineralsocal.org](mailto:speakers@mineralsocal.org). no later than the Thursday prior to the next scheduled meeting. Please include “*current month* ZOOM Meeting” in the subject line of your response. This response date will allow time for us to send you the information needed to participate in the ZOOM meeting.

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### **From the Editor: Linda Elsnau.**

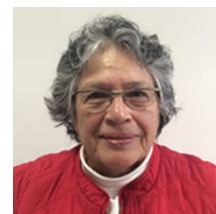
Well, April was an interesting month. I hope everyone that attended the Banquet enjoyed it as much as I did.

May looks to have an amazing program scheduled as well. (Good job Carolyn!) We also have a new YouTube channel that should be fun.

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### **From Our President : Angie Guzman**

JOHN SINKANKAS  
(May 15, 1915-May 17, 2002)  
A Brief Tribute



In a June 7, 2002 *Los Angeles Times* article, Bill Larson (Pala International), paid tribute to his longtime friend, John Sinkankas, saying, “...Since George F. Kunz of Tiffany fame at the turn of the last century, he’s probably the most renowned mineralogist, mineral author and gemologist there is. People of their magnitude come along once in a hundred years.” On May 17, 2002, less than a month

prior, John Sinkankas died at the age of 87 years. Sinkankas did lapidary and was internationally renowned as an author-illustrator whose books on gems and minerals are considered classics in the field. [1]

John Sinkankas was born May 15, 1915 in Patterson, New Jersey. His parents immigrated from Lithuania before the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Early on, from age seven, he visited the New Street Quarries in Patterson, collecting crystals and other mineral specimens. Later he would visit the magnetite mine, abandoned blast-furnaces, and quarries and mines.

In high school, he developed a love of flying and even made a glider with a seat in the front. His father did not allow more than one flight. After high school, he earned his BS degree from New Jersey State Teacher's College, later known as William Patterson College of New Jersey. [2]

He married Marjorie McMichael of Patterson and together they had four children.

Before the war, he became an aviator, having graduated from the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fl., in 1937. Before and during WWII, John was employed flying patrol in seaplanes engaged in convoy work. During that time, he flew Colonel Bernt Balchen around Greenland visiting various colonies along the western coast, including Ivittuut where he collected several specimens from the famous cryolite (a halide mineral) deposit and finding rhodolite garnet elsewhere. In 1961 he retired as Captain from the Navy. [2]

After his retirement from the Navy, Sinkankas worked as a staff member of the Lapidary Journal and between 1961 and 1963, he wrote 14 gem and gem cutting articles. He continued writing hundreds of papers in the likes of *Gem & Gemology*, *Journal of Gemology*, *Lapidary Journal*, *Gems and Minerals*, *Rock and Gem*, *Rocks and Minerals*, *Mineral Digest*, *Mineralogist*, *American Mineralogist* and *Mineralogical Record*.

John and his wife, Marjorie, loved books and together, they founded and operated Peri Lithon Books, one of the country's finest dealers in antiquarian books on Earth Sciences. Not only did the Sinkankas' collect books, their personal collection of 13,000 books and manuscripts was acquired by GIA and today forms the nucleus of the Richard T Liddicoat Library but, he authored 15 of them including *Gem Cutting: A Lapidary's Manual* (1955); *Gemstones of North America*, 3 vols (1959-1997); *Gemstones and Minerals: How and Where to Find Them* (1961) and many others. John Sinkankas was also a watercolor illustrator and his illustrations are included in *Gemstones of North America* and *Emeralds and Other Beryls*.

John Sinkankas was a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America; an honorary Fellow of the Gemological Association All-Japan and held memberships in many mineral and gem and mineral societies, including **Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC) as an honorary member.** [3]

While a member of MSSC, John was a speaker at MSSC's mineral show held at the Pasadena Civic Center in November 1999; was featured or mentioned in several *Bulletins*, including the Feb. 17, 1999 article's recommendation by John Schwarze to buy anything written by Sinkankas as he "...is truly a renaissance man, has written myriad books on myriad subjects and is well worth reading and listening to." [4]

By the way, the presentation John Sinkankas gave at that November 1999 show was entitled, "Tectonic Reopening of Mineralizing Channels in Granitic Pegmatites" and can be found in the MSSC *Bulletin* archives, February 18, 2000. [5] And, in the June 14, 2002, MSSC Bulletin, "In Memoriam" by Ron Thacker pay his and MSSC's respects to John Sinkankas with a personal touch and in-depth obituary. [6]

The Gemological Institute of America, GIA, held the preeminent Sinkankas Symposium for years, hopefully resuming in 2025 or 2026. Some of John's outstanding lapidary pieces are in the Smithsonian, including the 7,000-carat faceted egg of rock crystal, a 4,500-carat faceted egg of pale smoky quartz and a step-cut golden beryl over 2,000-carat. Sinkankas was the first to identify hambergite among species found in pegmatites of the Little Three area in San Diego County. In 1984 Sinkankas was awarded an honorary Ph.D. in Mineralogy. It was the same year a rare and fragile phosphate mineral was named for him, sinkankasite.

About his book collecting and bookbinding, Sinkankas commented: "One of the most important contributions that Marge and I have made to the earth sciences in the United States is to provide a source of materials via our Peri Lithon Books company which we run as a pair without any outside help." The books are gemological-mineralogical although there are quite a few geological classics, as well. Included in the Sinkankas collection

are 29 different editions of Pliny's (died in eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D.) *Natural History*, ranging from a Latin incunabulum (printed before 1501) published in 1496 to a 12-volume set written in French.

MSSC proudly honors John Sinkankas on this the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth (May 15, 2025). He was a legend and expert in earth science fields of gemology, mineralogy and geology. He was a book collector extraordinaire, an author, an accomplished watercolor illustrator and, with his wife, Marjorie, an entrepreneur.

Sinkankas' legacy to the mineral world was truly amazing. Bill Larson was correct: once every hundred years, or so!

## References:

[1] Los Angeles Times June 7, 2002 by Dennis McLellan; [2] Wikipedia: John Sinkankas; [3] (<https://www.facebook.com/ICKmagazine>): John Sinkankas, Gemologist and Author, dies May 17, 2002  
[4] MSSC Bulletin Feb 17, 1999, "Some Mineral Books" by John Sinkankas [5] MSSC Bulletin Feb 18, 2000; "Tectonic Reopening of Mineralizing Channels in Granitic Pegmatites" by John Sinkankas; [6] MSSC Bulletin June 14, 2002, in Memoriam by Ron Thacker



## BOARD Meeting – Brief Summary

### April 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting:

- MSSC's Installation Banquet and Silent Auction to be held April 26, 2025, at Pinocchio's in Pasadena.
- Pacific Micromineral Conference: Board discussion
- Acknowledgement Recognition: Board decided against.
- Discussion regarding how to "air" Mineral Talks Live presentation w/o any liability to our members or others logged on to the meeting. Item Tabled until next meeting.
- Donation funding for January 2025 MSSC **FIRE VICTIMS**. Donations to MSSC for distribution to those on the list. The end date is 9/30/2025. Treasurer will oversee. **To Show your support, GO TO MSSC website <http://www.mineralsocal.org> and DONATE NOW!** Thank you, much appreciated!
- Upcoming officer/board elections-vacancies: President, Treasurer and 1 Director seat.

### May 2025

01 - May Day

05 - Cinco de Mayo

09 - MSSC Membership Meeting 7:30pm via ZOOM conferencing. Get on the invite list now!

09-11 CFMS Conference at Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Show

11 - Mother's Day

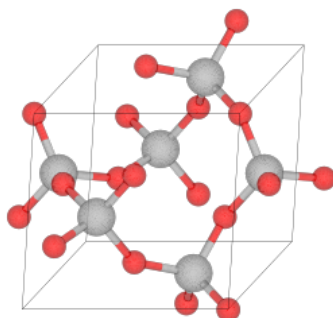
26 - Memorial Day



## A little bit about...QUARTZ

A crystalline mineral quartz is the second most abundant mineral in Earth's continental crust after feldspar. It is a continuous silicon-oxygen tetrahedra with each oxygen atom being shared between two tetrahedra leading to its overall chemical formula of SiO<sub>2</sub>. Structurally classified as a *framework silicate mineral* and compositionally as an *oxide mineral*.

### Framework Silicate



### Normal α-quartz

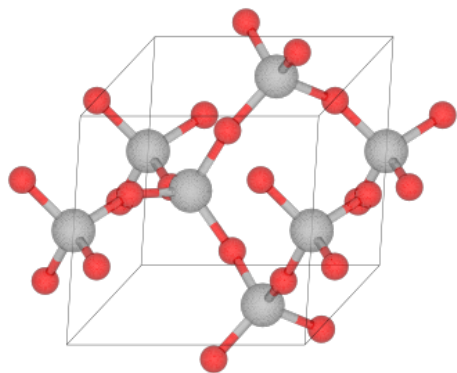
Wikipedia Public Domain Image

### Quartz Crystals



Photo by Angie Guzman





### High Temperature $\beta$ -Quartz

Wikipedia Public Domain Image



Photo by Angie Guzman

There are two forms of quartz, normal  $\alpha$ -quartz (trigonal crystal system) and high temperature  $\beta$ -quartz (hexagonal crystal state). The threshold temperature for the transformation is 1,036°F (573°C; 846K). At the threshold temperature, there is usually a significant change in volume that can easily induce micro-fracturing of rocks or ceramics.

Quartz is at 7 on the Mohs hardness scale. The ideal shape is six-sided prism terminating in six-sided pyramid-like rhombohedrons. According to Wikipedia: "... *quartz crystals are often twinned (with right-handed or left-handed quartz crystals) distorted or so intergrown with adjacent crystals of quartz or other minerals as to only show part of this shape or to lack obvious crystal faces altogether and appear massive*" (shapeless, no distinctive external crystal shape).

There are many varieties of quartz and, as such, primary is microstructure and secondary is color. There are differences between types of quartz: macrocrystalline quartz (visible to the naked eye), microcrystalline or cryptocrystalline varieties (visible only under high magnification). Cryptocrystalline varieties are either translucent or mostly opaque. Macrocrystalline are more transparent.

Take the case of chalcedony. It is cryptocrystalline silica having fine intergrowths of both quartz and morganite (a monoclinic polymorph). The agate variety of chalcedony is fibrous with horizontal or concentric bands. Onyx, a variety of agate, is opaque and has monochromatic bands that are typically black and white. Sard or carnelian is a translucent red-orange variety of chalcedony. Jasper is opaque chert or impure chalcedony.

As for color, quartz ranges from colorless (rock crystal, Herkimer diamond) to purple (amethyst), pink (rose quartz), yellow (citrine), brown (jasper), light/dark grey (smoky quartz) to green (prasiolite) and others. Impurities are the cause of the differences in color and inclusions may occur, such as rutile (see photo above).

Quartz is mined in open pits aided by bulldozers, backhoes and explosives that remove clay and dirt to expose quartz veins. Care is taken working the veins, usually with hand tools and caution is advised to avoid changes in temperatures in order to not damage crystals. Quartz crystallized from molten magma but may also have precipitated from hot hydrothermal veins as gangue, sometimes with ore minerals like gold, silver and copper. Large crystals are found in magmatic pegmatites. The largest quartz crystal was found near Itapora, Goiaz, Brazil. It weighed 88,000 lbs.!

Like many other minerals, quartz has been synthesized. There is a history to the synthetic quartz development and production from as early as mid-nineteenth century. Today virtually all the quartz crystal used in the modern electronics industry is synthetic. Production is by hydrothermal processes. However, synthetic quartz crystals are less prized for use as gemstones.

References: <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Quartz&oldid=1283094740>; Mineralogy, a First Course, J. Sinkankas





# Happy Mother's Day

E N D

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## **MSSC Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes, Friday, April 11, 2025**

### **Welcome**

President Angela Guzman called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm and welcomed members and guests to the 1,037<sup>th</sup> membership meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC); she said, "it's our 59<sup>th</sup> Zoom conferencing meeting." There were 24 people present; one was a guest; Gwen from the Searchers G&MC.

### **Business:**

- A. Membership meeting minutes of March 14, 2025, as published in the April 2025 bulletin: Angie asked, "may I have a motion for the stated minutes?" A motion was made by Tony K. and seconded by Ahni D. She asked for any additions, corrections or discussion. Hearing none, she called for a vote to approve; the motion passed on a voice vote.

### **Approved Mineral Species Update**

According to the International Mineralogical Association (IMA) there are 6,126 (6135 per Tony K./Mindat) approved mineral species as posted on the New IMA List of Minerals for March 2025. No published change from last month. Please note, Tony Kampf is very near the 400 mark for characterizations of new mineral species! Congratulations Tony!!!

### **Program**

President Guzman turned the meeting over to MSSC Speaker's Chair, Carolyn S., who introduced the speaker: Chris Stefano presenting "World Class Minerals of the Balmat Zinc Mines." Chris is an editor of the Mineralogical Record. His co-author on this project is Jamison Brizendine.

Chris began by describing the location of the Balmat Mines. They are in northwestern New York, along the St. Lawrence River, close to the Canadian border. The area is called the Adirondak lowlands. There are three or four major groups of mines. They are located in pre-cambrian (~1BYA) marble, derived from seafloor limestone.

### **Geology**

The Balmat area was a back arc basin (>1BYA). The structure was a continent, a flooded basin, and a volcanic island arc up against an ocean subduction zone (a current version of this can be seen in Japan). The basin was filled with sediments including limestone and interbedded gypsum. Balmat is a sedimentary exhalative (sedex) deposit. The Earth's mantle heats the ground water in the basin and dissolves metals, the water eventually erupts onto the sea floor. Some of the gypsum has been converted to hydrogen sulfide by sea floor bacteria. When the water encounters the hydrogen sulfide, metallic sulfide metals (primarily zinc sulfide, sphalerite), form.

Eventually the continent pushed toward the subduction zone closing the basin and forming the Adirondak Mountains (Grenville Orogeny). The limestone sediments were crushed and metamorphosed into marble and the gypsum into anhydrite. The zinc deposits were also chopped up, metamorphosed and partially melted causing them to run down fault lines and form pockets of zinc ore within the marble. Many ore bodies have been found in unexpected places.

### **History**

- The district is named for the first European landowner John Balmat (1785-1862)

- Balmat was a refugee from the Napoleonic Wars
- Zinc was first discovered in 1835 (they were looking for iron, zinc was ignored).
- First zinc mine in early 1900's; first shipment did not occur until 1915.
- St. Joseph Lead Company purchased several of the Balmat mines in the 1920s.
- By 1927, they had made several major zinc discoveries.
- Even during the Depression, they expanded operations and increased production.
- Operated until the 1960's.

### The Big Find

- Crystals are found in pockets on the edges of ore bodies (ore bodies are not conducive to crystal formation)
- Word of several new pocket discoveries came in 2021; additional pockets were discovered in 2022 and 2023.
- Collecting continues today.
- Robert "Rocko" Rosenblatt is responsible for bringing Balmat specimens to market.

### Now on to the Minerals.

Chris showed many fine Balmat specimens. First a 22cm barite on a translucent pink calcite! Most popular from this mine are the gemmy violet and pink calcite crystals. He showed a newer 28cm on a side intense pink calcite crystal. Lots of the minerals he showed are in the NY State Museum Collection, in Albany NY; they have lots of older Balmat specimens.

Balmat is the type locality for Donpeacorite (manganese rich pyroxene group) and Turneaureite which fluoresces bright orange. He showed "cubic" tetrahedral magnetite crystals and beautiful gemmy golden sphalerite crystals. There are sphalerites with spinel-law twinning. He also showed fluorescent and phosphorescent sphalerite. Lastly, he showed the Anhydrites from Balmat. The newer finds are world class in both size and quality; up to 21cm and beautiful pink and purple.

Want to learn and see more? [Mineralogical Record](#)

A short Q & A session followed the talk.

### President's Messages

- At the April 6, 2025, MSSC Board meeting, the board established a Fire Fund to benefit victims of the January 2025 firestorms that ravaged Southern California: (a) Five members/friends will equally benefit from 100% of all donations, (b) To Donate: Send check or Money Order payable to MSSC [In the *memo section*, please indicate "Fire Fund"]. Gift Card(s) are also accepted, (c) Last date to donate is September 30, 2025. Send your donations to MSSC's Treasurer, Carolyn S., at the address listed on MSSC's website. For full details go to: [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org) On behalf of these fire victims who lost their homes, thank you for your donations!
- The installation Banquet and Silent Auction will be held Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Pinocchio's in Pasadena. Rudy's notifications are sent via e-mail and are posted on MSSC's website and in the April Bulletin.
- MSSC held its second quarter board meeting this past Sunday, April 6th. Read all about it in the May Bulletin.
- Roster – there are some updates to the roster, a revised/corrected one was sent out Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> as per board request.

### New Business

Vice President, Renee K. will address QR Codes and how we can use them for outreach and member building. QR Codes –Renee was not available to present.

### Announcements and Reports

- Field Trips (Marek C.) – work in progress; updates on MSSC's website. Nothing in April.

- Upcoming Events (Rudy L.): (1) Installation Banquet and Silent Auction –5:30-10:30 pm at Pinocchio’s with Paul Adams speaking. We need donations (Silent Auction); we need a projection screen. The annual picnic will be at Caltech Park on August 23, 2025; we also need donations for this event.

#### **Last Words:**

- Reminder: Elections for Officers and Directors are fast approaching. Critical seats are open: President (2026 term), Treasurer (2026 term) and a director (2026-2027 term). Now is your opportunity to volunteer and give back to the society. It’s time for you to participate in MSSC’s administration!
- The next membership meeting will be held Friday, May 9, 2025, via Zoom. If you would like to invite someone to the meeting and presentation, please let one of the officers know as soon as possible to ensure your invitee is added to the Zoom invitation email list.
- May 8-10 CFMS convention at the Antelope Valley Show. [West Coast Gem & Mineral Show](#), May 2-4.
- Carolyn S.- next month’s program will be a virtual trip to the mim Museum in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Thank you all for attending tonight’s meeting. Your membership and attendance are much appreciated. See you next time!

**Adjournment:** President Guzman adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Ogg, MSSC Secretary

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#### **List of Upcoming MSSC Events : Mark your Calender!**

Event	Date	Comments / Scheduled Program (if known)
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	ZOOM June 13, 2025	Michael Cox, title TBA
	ZOOM July 11, 2025	TBA
	ZOOM August 8, 2025	TBA
<b>Board Meeting</b>	ZOOM July 20, 2025	ZOOM at 1:00 PM
<b>Field Trip</b>	<i>In The Works</i>	Around The End Of May..Watch The Website For More Info.

*Note: Dates and programs shown above are subject to change. Check your bulletins to confirm final information each month.*

**The Ride Share Listing** is being temporarily discontinued until such time as MSSC starts holding in-person meetings again.

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#### **MSSC Board Meeting Minutes via ZOOM, April 6, 2025**

**From the Chair** – President Guzman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members present: Angie G., Renee K., Leslie O., Carolyn S., George R., Pat C., Ahni D., Rudy L., Pat S., David L., Al W., Marek C., Ann M., and Bob H. Absent/excused: Linda E., Laura D.

Angie welcomed all to the board meeting and asked if there were any guests; no guests were present.

**Business** – Approval of the minutes of the January 12, 2025, board meeting which were published in the February 2025 Bulletin. Note: These minutes were approved by the general membership during the February 14, 2025, membership meeting, however, they need to be approved by the board. A motion to approve was made by Rudy L. and seconded by George R. There were no corrections, additions, or discussion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

#### **Officers**

President (Angie G):

- Donations for Fire Victims - MSSC members and friends: Alexandria (Alex) Dorozhkinsa (JPL), Alyssa Morgan (NHMLAC), Ann Meister, Keith Harshbarger and Laura Davis. Discussion and possible action item. [NOTE: Searchers Gem & Mineral Club members would like to donate gift cards, etc. to fire victims. Their President will be advised of how to do that based on the outcome of this agenda item.] Carolyn S. suggested that we collect donations directly since we are nonprofit. Angie made a motion to set up a Fire Victims Fund which will commence immediately and end in six months on September 30, 2025. Ahni seconded the motion which passed unanimously on a voice vote. The notice

will be posted on the website and sent out to members and other clubs. Donors will receive a letter of receipt for their tax-deductible donation. The club will not be donating directly as it is not part of our mission.

- Acknowledge: Recognition of “above and beyond” service to MSSC with gift card award and memento. Discussion and possible action item. [Angie acknowledges Rudy for tireless volunteerism; Linda acknowledges Leslie for service to MSSC as our longstanding webmaster, MSSC secretary and other tasks she performs (she just volunteered to proof-read the bulletin).
  - Both Rudy and Leslie said they appreciate the acknowledgement. Pat S. suggested doing some recognition at the January meeting which the president will implement.
- Elections are fast approaching: critical seats open are President, Treasurer and one Director.
- Installation Banquet: April 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 5 pm-10 pm (Rudy will address later in meeting).

#### Vice President (Renee K)

- QR Code: discussion and possible action item. Renee suggested the use of QR codes to spark interest in the club. We could have them at events, field trips, and meetings. They can link to the website, a membership discount, our YouTube channel (she set up for the club). She will email her presentation to all since it would not share on Zoom.

#### Treasurer (Carolyn S)

- Financial Report-Carolyn sent it to all board members.

#### Secretary (Leslie O)- No report

#### Directors

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Pat C     | (2024-2025) – Will run again for director, no report.  |
| Ahni D    | (2024-2025) – Will not run again, no report.   |
| Rudy L    | (2025-2026): no report.  |
| David L   | (2025-2026): Remarked that California Geology, an annual magazine is available again.<br><a href="https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/publications/cg-magazine/2024">https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/publications/cg-magazine/2024</a> |
| Patrick S | (2025-2026): no report.  |

#### Committee Reports/Comments/Issues

- a. Bulletin Editor (Linda E): Five snail mail Bulletins.
- b. Field Trips (Marek C): No trips in April as he is waiting on a new Jeep.
- c. Membership (Linda E): Roster was mailed 3/31/25. Three corrections were received. An updated roster will be sent to all members. There were 90 new or renewed members through March 2025: 76 individual, 14 family, 7 Lifetime and 3 Honorary. There were 27 non-renewed members.
- d. PMC (Al W, Bob H): Report on Jan 2025 conference & field trip; Should we continue at Fallbrook? Al reported that the conference was a success, the Saturday afternoon schedule was reworked to have the auction follow the talk. It was suggested to put a membership application and QR code into future PMC registration forms. People are unhappy with the local accommodations; some have been turned into homeless housing and don't seem safe. Al suggested looking for a new venue. David L. suggested the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center; we need to see if they have tables. Rudy suggested the San Marino Masonic Lodge. If members know of any possible venues, please send them to Al W. and he will check them out.
- e. Education/Events (Rudy L): Boxes were purchased to hold micro minerals for sale; our former See's candy boxes are missing all the lids. He said another collection was being donated.
- f. The installation Banquet is scheduled for April 26, 2025. People who paid for the earlier date and cannot attend can request a refund. Rudy will send out the banquet flyer again; we still need silent auction donations.
- g. Other events updates (Picnic, OC Parks kids' event, etc.); The picnic site is reserved. MSSC will be at the OC parks event next October; Rudy has lots of things for children.
- h. Speakers (Carolyn S): Carolyn proposed increasing the speaker honorarium to \$100 (up from the current \$75). She made a motion which was seconded by Pat S; the motion passed. She is working on a speaker for June.



- i. Swoboda MTL YouTube presentation to MSSC and how to protect members' privacy. Brian Swoboda wants us to record his talk and have it available for viewing from our website. Board members are concerned about member privacy and copyright violations. The subject was tabled for now.
- j. Webmaster (Leslie O): Activity Report; Not much to report, activity is steady. Field trip pages are viewed the most. Renee offered to work on the Instagram account to try and boost followers.
- k. Past President (George R): Remarked that students are collecting on weekends, they have no need for a society; they connect online. We have a big challenge. Carolyn asked some young collectors about their collecting; all were members of the Young Mineral Collectors (YMC)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngmineralcollectors/>, <https://youngmineralcollectors.org> They age out of the group at 40, we need to recruit those that have aged out.
- l. Historian (Ann M): Ann said that much of the historical materials of the MSSC were lost in the Eaton fire.

Next board meeting: July 20 at 1:00 pm

Adjournment at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Leslie O. MSSC Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

Mineralogical Society of Southern California (MSSC)

Board of Directors Approved Apr 6, 2025

## FIRE VICTIMS FUND

For the benefit of MSSC members and associates who lost their homes during the January 2025 firestorms that ravaged Southern California.

- 100% of your tax-deductible donations will be shared equally with the fire victims:

**Laura Davis**

**Alexandria Dorozhkinsa**

**Keith Harshbarger**

**Ann Meister**

**Alyssa Morgan**

- Send checks, Money Orders or Gift Cards to:

**MSSC**

**13781 Alderwood Ln, #22-J**

**Seal Beach, CA 90740**

Make checks or Money Orders **payable to: MSSC.**

***In the Memo section please write "Fire Victims Fund."***

- The deadline to donate is September 30, 2025.

**DONATE NOW** while it's on your mind!

\*\*\*\*\*

## MSSC 2025 ANNUAL BANQUET at Pinocchio's Pizza in Pasadena by Rudy Lopez

On Saturday April 26, 2025, MSSC held their Installation Banquet and silent auction. There were 31 members that attended this great event. We had a great time reminiscing with club members and meeting new members.





There were three large table with silent auction items.



There was also a great buffet dinner.



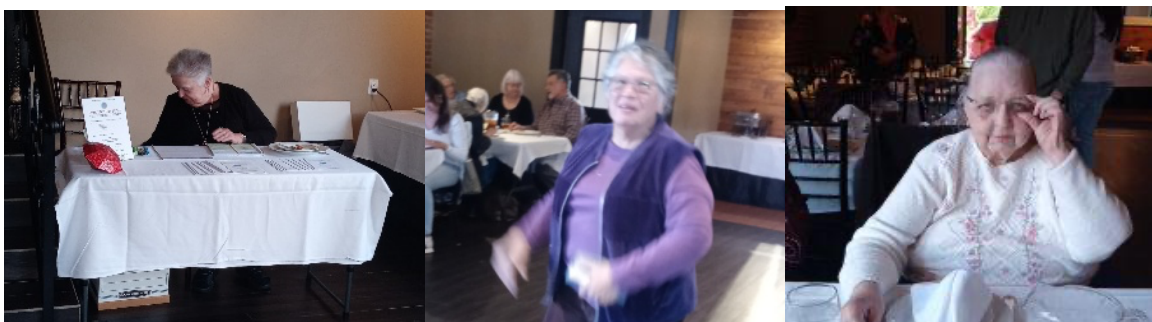
Paul Adams gave a great presentation and answered lots of questions.



Talking with old and new members.



I would like to give special thanks to three great ladies that give their time to play a very important in the success of MSSC.



Carolyn Seitz: Treasure      Angie Guzman: President      Linda Elsnau: Bulletin Editor

We had a great time at our Banquet, met with old and new members. Even found some new treasure to take home from the silent auction. We watched a great presentation by Paul Adams. Hopefully, we can do it again next year. Thanks to everyone for attending this event and making it a great success for MSSC.

\*\*\*\*\*

## OTHER (FREE) THINGS TO DO...by Ann Meister

The **Watson Lecture** is on Wednesday, **May 28** at 7:30 PM at Caltech's Beckman Auditorium. The speaker is **Tracy Drain**, lead flight system systems engineer for NASA's Europa Clipper mission. The title is "**Europa Clipper: The Adventure Begins!**" Europa is one of our solar system's most fascinating moons. Roughly 90% the size of Earth's moon, scientists believe this moon of Jupiter has an enormous saltwater ocean beneath its icy shell. Europa is a challenging place to study given its location far from the Sun, far from Earth, and bathed in the radiation field surrounding Jupiter. In this talk, Tracy Drain, lead flight system systems engineer for NASA's Europa Clipper mission, will share some of the engineering challenges involved in developing and launching this exciting spacecraft. She will touch on some of the adventures the Europa Clipper has already had since its October 2024 launch and describe what lies ahead on its 5.5-year journey to the Jovian system. The Europa Clipper mission is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which is managed by Caltech. Enjoy pre-lecture activities starting at 6 PM. Find past lectures on [Caltech Watson Lecture Series - YouTube](#)

The **Von Kármán Lecture** is on Thursday, **May ??** at 5:00 PM. Available live on YouTube at [NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory - YouTube](#). Date, speaker, and topic were not available at the time of publication. Check website for information and past lectures [Lecture Series \(nasa.gov\)](#). The 2024 lecture series is available on YouTube.

The **UCLA Meteorite Gallery** is open to the public weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm and on Sundays from 1 to 4 pm when it is staffed with volunteer docents. Admission is always free. The monthly lectures seem to have been discontinued but the gallery is well worth exploring. Visit the website and check on events, videos, and other neat things including resources for teachers, Go to <https://meteorites.ucla.edu>

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# With Knowledge Comes Appreciation

## Calendar of Events:

Only S. CA shows are listed here. Other CFMS Club shows can be found at: <http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

### **May 2-3, 2025 – Yucaipa, CA**

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society  
Yucaipa Blvd and Adams Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399  
Hours: Fri, 5 PM–10 PM, Sun 12- 9 PM  
Website: <http://YVGMS.org>

### **May 10-11, 2025 – Lancaster, CA**

Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds, 2551 W, Ave H, Lancaster, CA  
Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM  
Admission and Parking are Free.  
The CFMS Convention will be held in conjunction with our show.  
Website: <http://avgem.weebly.com>

### **May 16-18, 2025 – Vista, CA**

Vista Gem and Mineral Society  
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083  
(in the Lower North Field)  
Hours: Friday and Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-4  
Website: <https://vistarocks.org/events/>

### **June 7-8, 2025 – Escondido, CA**

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club  
The California Center for the Arts, The Museum, 340 N, Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92035  
Hours: Sat, 10 AM – 5 PM, Sun 10 AM – 4 PM  
Admission \$5.00, children under 12 free.  
Enjoy a large free parking lot  
Website: <http://palomargem.org>

### **June 14, 2025 – Bellflower, CA**

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society  
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, 14515 Blaine Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706  
Hours: 9 AM – 4 PM  
Rock and Lapidary Extravaganza – Parking Lot Sale  
Website: <https://delversgemclub.wordpress.com/>

### **June 28-29, 2025 – Culver City, CA**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230  
Hours: Saturday 10 AM-6 PM, Sunday 10 AM-5 PM  
Website: <https://culvercityrocks.org/fiesta/>

MSSC Advertisement Policy:			
Mineral-related ads are allowable in the MSSC bulletin. Below is the price per month			
	Business Card	\$5.00	
	One-third page	\$10.00	
	One-half page	\$20.00	
	Full Page	\$35.00	
In addition, any advertiser who purchases 12 months of space in advance will receive a discount of 12 months for the price of 10 months. The copy for the ads should be mailed to the editor at <a href="mailto:bulletin@mineralsocal.org">bulletin@mineralsocal.org</a> and the payment should be sent to the <b>MSSC Treasurer 13781 Alderwood Lane, #22-J, Seal Beach, CA 90740</b>			



## MSSC Now Has a YouTube Channel

MSSC has added a [YouTube channel](#) to our outreach efforts. To expose more individuals to our Society, our VP, Renee Krause has set up our fledgling YouTube channel and set up a QR Code to access our videos with your smartphone. Scan the code and click on the yellow bar that appears below it and you're there.

Right now, there is only one video so anyone interested in creating or has a suggestion for one, can contact Renee at [vicepresident@mineralsocal.org](mailto:vicepresident@mineralsocal.org) to get help on getting started. You don't have to be "on" camera, you can show and narrate pictures or a video of a field trip, your favorite minerals, why you enjoy studying minerals or any other mineral related topic you think would be of interest.

Here's the QR code for the YouTube channel! If you have any video ideas, feel free to share. We can feature minerals and discuss them without you being on camera — but if you'd like to appear, that's even better! Let's have some fun! - Renee



## MSSC Annual Picnic, Save the Date by Rudy Lopez



## Please join us for our annual potluck picnic and silent auction.

**Date:** Saturday-August 23, 2025

**Time:** 12:00 noon-4:00 pm

**Location:** Tournament Park on the campus of CALTECH.  
1200 E. California Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91125

**Coming July:** The RSVP sign up form and Potluck Food Sign up list will be released soon. Also, a Map, directions to Tournament Park, and parking directions will be included.

We need Silent Auction and Raffle items.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the MSSC Picnic Committee:

- Rudy Lopez: [rclopez002@verizon.net](mailto:rclopez002@verizon.net)

## 2025 MSSC Officers:

<b>OFFICERS</b>		
President	Angie Guzman	<a href="mailto:president@mineralsocal.org">president@mineralsocal.org</a>
Vice President	Renee Kraus	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@mineralsocal.org">vicepresident@mineralsocal.org</a>
Secretary	Leslie Ogg	<a href="mailto:secretary@mineralsocal.org">secretary@mineralsocal.org</a>
Treasurer	Carolyn Seitz	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org">treasurer@mineralsocal.org</a>
CFMS Director	Angie Guzman	
Past President	George Rossman	
<b>DIRECTORS</b>		
2025--2026	Rudy Lopez	
2025--2026	David Lesperance	
2025--2026	Pat Stevens	
2024-2025	Pat Caplette	
2024-2025	Ahni Dodge	
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>		
Bulletin Editor	Linda Elsnau	<a href="mailto:bulletin@mineralsocal.org">bulletin@mineralsocal.org</a>
Field Trip	Marek Chorazewicz	
Historian	Ann Meister	
Hospitality	Laura Davis	
Membership	Linda Elsnau	<a href="mailto:membership@mineralsocal.org">membership@mineralsocal.org</a>
Micro Mount Conf. Chair	Al Wilkins	
Program and Education	Rudy Lopez	<a href="mailto:programs@mineralsocal.org">programs@mineralsocal.org</a>
Speaker Bureau	Carolyn Seitz	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org">treasurer@mineralsocal.org</a>
Webmaster	Leslie Ogg	<a href="mailto:webmaster@mineralsocal.org">webmaster@mineralsocal.org</a>

### About the Mineralogical Society of Southern California

Organized in 1931, the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc. is the oldest mineralogical society in the western United States. The MSSC is a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and is dedicated to the dissemination of general knowledge of the mineralogical and related earth sciences through the study of mineral specimens. We are a scientific non-profit organization that actively supports those endeavors through public outreach, field study and related programs. The Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California is the official publication of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, Inc.

The MSSC meetings are usually held the second Friday of each month, January, February, and August excepted, at 7:30 p.m. in Building E, Room 220, Pasadena City College, 1570 E Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California. However, due to current health considerations, MSSC meetings are conducted via ZOOM conferencing until further notice. The annual Installation Banquet occurs in January, and the annual Picnic and Swap Meeting are in August. Check the Society website for details.

The Society also sponsors the annual Pacific Micro mount Symposium held at the Fallbrook Mineral Museum during the last weekend of January.

Annual Membership dues for the MSSC are \$30.00 for an individual membership, \$40.00 for a family membership. Bulletins are sent by email, there is an additional annual fee if you prefer paper bulletins mailed to your address. The Society's contact information:

**Mineralogical Society of Southern California**

**13781 Alderwood Lane, 22-J, Seal Beach, CA 90740**

**E-mail:** [treasurer@mineralsocal.org](mailto:treasurer@mineralsocal.org)

**Website:** [www.mineralsocal.org](http://www.mineralsocal.org) **The Mineralogical Society of California, Inc.**

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MSSC Bulletin Editor  
3630 Encinal Ave.  
Glendale, CA 91214-2415

**To:**



**With Knowledge Comes Appreciation**

**Your MSSC  
Bulletin Is  
Here!**