



# The Golden Nugget

The Newsletter of the Florida Gold Coast  
Gem and Mineral Society

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*The Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society meets at 7:30 PM ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH at "Ye Olde Rock Shop" 1425 S. 30<sup>th</sup> Ave, Hollywood, FL 33020*

*Take I-95 to Pembroke Road, (Exit 19), go West 1/2 blk. Turn Right just before the RR tracks. Turn Right after the 1<sup>st</sup> building, then Left at the fence. Ye Olde Rock Shop will be on the left 50 feet up.*

**Visitors & Members are encouraged to attend!**

## The Opening Act

### Monthly Meeting

Our December meeting is **Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. This is our annual Christmas party and officer elections. Club members attending the party are asked to bring a side dish, specialty recipe or dessert. Please contact Sean and let him know what you are bringing. (Sean's email address is on the back page.) After further discussion, there will be no blind gift exchange but there will be a raffle. Besides the party being a relaxed enjoyable time, it is also when the club's officers are elected for the next year. We hope to see everyone at this year's Christmas party!!

**Tri-County Picnic** The new date for the Tri-County picnic is Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at TY Park in Hollywood, pavilion #9 from 10 to 4. Please make a note on your calendar. The clubs supply the main dishes; they'll be bingo, a raffle and lots of fun! For more information please visit our website under "Special Events".

## The Hope Diamond

The Hope Diamond is the most famous diamond in the world and some believe, the most mysterious. Whether there is a curse, is for you to decide. In the mid 1600's a French explorer & merchant, Jean Baptiste Tavernier made 6 journeys to India, the only known source of diamonds in the world at that time. Little is known on how Tavernier acquired what would be known as "the Tavernier Blue" a deep blue 115C triangular diamond. (He was rumored to have stolen it from the Hindu statue of Sita, wife of Rama. The priests upon finding it gone, cursed the stone bringing peril to the owner and his family.) King Louis XIV loved gemstones and in 1668 purchased a large parcel, including the "Blue" for a hefty price, making Tavernier rich. The King ordered the stone to be recut and 2 years later, the 69C heart shaped "French Blue" was mounted on a golden sceptre. In 1749 King Louis XV ordered an emblem of knighthood in the "Order of the Golden Fleece", featuring the Blue, a 107C Spinel carved as a dragon & many other diamonds. The "Blue" remained in the emblem for 50 years. In 1791 the French Crown Jewels were taken by Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette trying to escape the revolution. They were caught & the Crown Jewels were stored, unguarded in the Royal Storehouse. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, (Cont'd on Page 3)



Tavernier 1605-1689

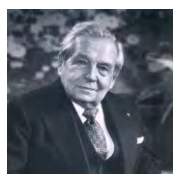


See Timeline



**“Diamonds Are Forever”**

Harry Winston, “the King of Diamonds” donated “The Hope Diamond” to the Smithsonian Institute because he believed America needed a national gem collection. The son of Ukrainian immigrants, he worked in his father’s small jewelry repair shop as a child. At 12, he bought a 2C Emerald from a thrift shop for 25¢ and sold it 2 days later for \$800! He dropped out of school at 15 to apprentice full time with his father. With \$2000 he opened The Premier Diamond Company at 19 years old. He turned to estate jewelry acquisitions and recut the diamonds & reset them into contemporary settings, then sold them. In 1925 & 26 he acquired 2 estates worth \$3M. He closed the Premier business and opened Harry Winston Inc. Purchasing estates & large rough diamonds, he increased his wealth & fame. He loaned priceless jewelry to the stars for Hollywood shows. He realized the public needed to be educated on the beauty & value of gemstones. He created “The Court of Jewels”, a traveling display of some of the world’s most precious gemstones & jewelry, donating the proceeds to help children. His donation of the Hope Diamond is the cornerstone of the Smithsonian collection and its most popularly viewed item.



Harry Winston  
1896 - 1978

**GET INVOLVED!**

The Florida Gold Coast Gem & Mineral Society offers a variety of ways that you can become involved within the club.

**What is it?** Got a rock you’ve always wondered about? At each monthly meeting we spend a few minutes identifying rocks, gems or minerals. Sometimes we know...sometimes we have to find out.

**The Cabbing Shop** Learn how to cabochon or facet a gem stone by our experts, for nominal fee. Once you learn, the shop is available for use, for a small charge. Please ask Steve or Don about classes.

**The Library** The Les & Marge DeGarmo Library has a variety of books & magazines on just about any subject dealing with rocks, gems, minerals or jewelry.

**Outside Our Area** Check out the Southeast Federation website. Rock & Gem Clubs from all over the U.S. have websites that you can contact. Lapidary & jewelry schools such as Wild Acres or William Holland list class schedules.

**TIPS AND TRICKS** By Brad Smith are available at facebook.com/benchtips or groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips. For details go to <http://Createspace.com/3976439> or <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800>

**Mineral Study Group:** KC Foster has a monthly group meeting the first Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 10:00pm. Contact KC at 561-523-4600. You will learn about crystal systems, how to ID minerals, what reference materials are available and how to collect, mount and display micro-minerals.

**Regional Trade Shows**

**January 12-14—LARGO, FLORIDA:** Pinellas Geological Society 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show & Sale, Largo Cultural Center; 105 Central Park Drive, Largo, FL 33771; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5; Free Admission ! \$1.50 Hourly Drawing, Silent Auction

**January 20-21—DELAND, FLORIDA:** Tokoka Gem and Mineral Society 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show & Sale Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 New York Ave, Deland, FL 32724; (1/2 mile East of I-4, Exit 118) Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Children 12 and under free; Daily Drawings, Silent Auction, Free Parking

**January 20-21—PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA:** Panama City Gem and Mineral Society Annual Show, Central Panhandle Fairgrounds, 2230 E. 15th Street, Panama City, FL 32405 Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; Free Admission; Exhibits, Minerals, Fossils, Gems, Crystals, Lapidary arts, Jewelry, Beads, Silent Auction and more. Door prizes & Grand Prize Drawing

**Diamonds Are Forever**

**Editor’s Note:** This is the final installment of the year-long article “Diamonds Are Forever”. I hope that you have enjoyed this study as much as I have. The following sites were referenced and can provide additional information: info-diamond.com, hardasrocks.info, Wikipedia, minesqc.com, science.howstuffworks.com, geology.com, gia.edu/diamond.com, livescience.com, greatmining.com, beyond4cs.com, mining-technology.com, heartsonfire.com, www.internetstones.com, www.gia.edu, www.geology.ar.gov/pdf/creator\_diamond, www.diamondschool.com, www.mineralsciences.si.edu/collections/hope/timeline, www.worthy.com, www.aidcadvantage.com, www.diamondfields.com, www.debeersgroup.com, & Google Image.

## Local News

**November 15th Meeting Minutes:** The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM. The minutes of the October meeting were accepted & approved. There were 26 members and 1 guest in attendance. Thank you Dick Haliburton for bringing the refreshments! Shop Report: A blade on the small trim saw needs to be replaced and one of the 6 wheel cab machines needs repair. The shop needs people to use it! All classes are available for sign up. All field trip money must be paid by December 22<sup>nd</sup> and is refundable until December 29<sup>th</sup>. Your annual dues are due, please speak with Audrey. Our presentation was given by Buzz Robinson and was the game “Rock Star”. It was a fun evening with lots of great questions and rock hits from the 60’s, 70’s & 80’s. The winning team each received a beautiful mineral specimen. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

*Editor’s Note: There were several people mentioned who are having health issues. Please know that you are in our thoughts & prayers for a speedy recovery.*



## The Hope Diamond (from page 1)

thieves broke through a window and looted the Crown Jewels. The “French Blue” would not be seen again. In 1812, just 2 days after the statute of limitations on crimes during the revolution expired, a London jeweler, John Francillan showed a 45.5C blue diamond. It would 40 years before anyone thought it could be the same stone. It is unknown how Francillan got the stone or who recut it. In 1839 Henry Phillip Hope, a wealthy British banker bought the stone. It became known as “The Hope Diamond”. He died that year. After his death, his nephew Henry Thomas Hope inherited it. The “Hope” was shown at the Great Exhibition of London in 1851 & over 6 million people viewed the stone. The “Hope” was becoming more famous. It remained in the family until 1901; Lord Frances Hope went broke and had to sell the stone. The stone passed through a few people’s hands, some of which had misfortune and in 1908 the Washington Post wrote an article on the “Curse of the Hope Diamond”, much of which was easily explained but it added to the mystique. In 1910 Pierre Cartier purchased the diamond. He had a flair for expanding a story, hoping to increase its value. In 1912, Evelyn Walsh McLean, heir to a fortune bought the “Hope”. She wore it everywhere and even attached it to her Great Dane’s collar! Evelyn McLean died from pneumonia in 1947, (after her son & daughter died in separate incidents and her husband went insane). The stone had to be sold to pay debts. In 1949 Harry Winston bought Evelyn McLean’s entire collection of jewelry, including “the Hope Diamond”. He wanted the public to be able to see fabulous gemstones and started “The Court of Jewels”, a traveling exhibition of incredible gems & jewelry. In 1953 Harry Winston donated “The Hope Diamond” to the Smithsonian Institute, which is the most popular item in the museum. For the next 50 years, “The Hope” would travel the world on loan to major museums or rest at home in Washington. In 2009, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “The Hope” at the Smithsonian, the public voted for 1 of 3 Harry Winston designs that the “Hope” would be mounted into for the next year. “Embracing Hope” by Maurice Galli was chosen. Cradled in platinum and 340 baguette diamonds totaling 66 carats, the “Embracing Hope” was on display for a year. The Hope Diamond is now back in its original setting and on display at the Smithsonian and who knows, maybe it was cursed...



Evelyn McLean



Henry Phillip Hope



Embracing Hope



The Hope Diamond


### THE FATEFUL RECORD OF THE HOPE DIAMOND (Diamond of Disaster)

Owner Fate  
 Jean Baptiste Tavernier—Turn in pieces by wild dogs.  
 Mahom de Montepan—Disputed by the King and ruined.  
 Nicholas Fongueis—Executed by royal command.  
 Coenrae Maria Ansonnet—Behaved.  
 Princess de Lamballe—Torn to bits by a French mob.  
 Louis XVI—Behaved under the guillotine.  
 William Fish—Ruined financially.  
 Hendrick Path, his son—Suicide in London, 1830.  
 Francis Headlam—Died in misery and want.  
 Lord Hope (First)—Misfortune, ending with death of favorite son.  
 Lord Francis Hope—Financial troubles, scandal, unhappy marriage.  
 May Yoke (his wife)—Ruined and unhappy.  
 Simon Frankel—Financial reverse (1901).  
 Jacques Laffo—Invited and snubbed.  
 Prince Ivan Kamoyaki—Slain by Revolutionists.  
 Louise Ludois—Killed by her lover.  
 Simon Montbardes—Thrown over a precipice and killed.  
 Abu Salim—Tortured and imprisoned.  
 Kichik Bey—Hanged in the street by a Turkish mob.  
 Keeper of its vault—Strangled.  
 Zoloban—Killed by her master, Abdul Hamid.  
 Abdul Hamid—Detroned.  
 Silver Acha, tried to steal it—Hanged.  
 Sion Hahle—Drowned off Singapore, 1909.  
 Mrs. Edward B. McLean, who bought it in 1911—Only one killed by automobile.

Information for this article gathered from [www.mineralsciences.si.edu/collections/hope/timeline](http://www.mineralsciences.si.edu/collections/hope/timeline)

[www.worthy.com](http://www.worthy.com), Google Image & Wikipedia

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The Crystal Cave  
 Rock and Gem Shop.com

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 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sat., Closed Sun. & Mon. Davie, Florida 33314

**Design By Nature**

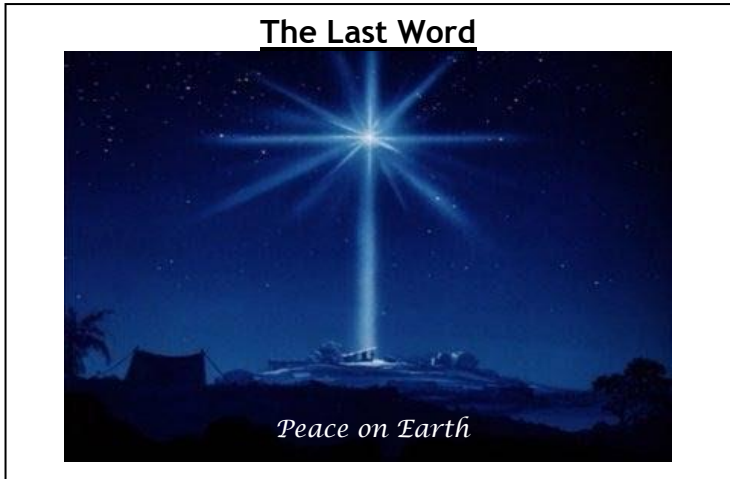
**Ye Olde Rock Shoppe**  
 1425 S. 30th Avenue Hollywood, FL 33020  
 yeolderockshoppe@comcast.net

**The showroom is open Tuesday -  
 Saturday 9:00- 2:00 and other times by  
 calling 954-295-0606.**



**BOCA** | The Art School  
 Museum of Art

The Art School offers classes in precious metal clay, metals fabrication, cabochon cutting, enameling and other art jewelry related subjects, as well as drawing, painting, clay and pottery, photography and more. Check it out at [www.bocamuseum.org/theartschool](http://www.bocamuseum.org/theartschool) or [facebook.com/bocaschool](https://www.facebook.com/bocaschool) or call at 561-392-2503.




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**THINGS TO REMEMBER**  
 The January 2018 meeting is Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

**Shop Hours:** Thursdays 6:30 - 9:30 PM, Sundays 9:00AM-12:00PM - Contact Steve to RSVP 954-989-1664. The shop is located at 33 East Acre Drive, Plantation, 33317, Ste. 33.

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