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# SMOKE SIGNALS

“Great Spirit, grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins.”

Volume 1, Issue 10

Tule Gem and Mineral Society Newsletter...www.tulegem.org

December 2008

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## PUFFS FROM THE CHIEF

*A message from our President*

Marshall Havner

TGMS continues to get more requests to do Rock Talks in our community. We have many members who have a wide variety of talents. I am hoping to incorporate more of the club's member's talents in future Rock Talks. I want to form two or more groups who could represent TGMS. If you are interested in participating please contact me. Once we have enough volunteers then we can discuss a general format. I feel that in this way we can share a bounty of talents and information with our community. If you are uncomfortable doing public speaking then you won't be asked to. There are several ways in which the diversity of TGMS members talents may be shared. I am looking forward to making this means of making the club and its members talents open to more of our community.

Marshall Havner  
562-4133

Marshall Havner  
TGMS Chief

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 December Minutes
- 3 December Birthstone
- 3 Grab-bag day big success
- 4 Gemboree is coming up

## Turquoise Facts and Folklore

### December Birthstone

Although turquoise has captivated man's imagination for centuries, nobody knows when it came to our attention. Archeological references to the stone predate the Christian era by five millennia. The four bracelets of Queen Zar, found on her mummified arm, date back to the second ruler of Egypt's First Dynasty, approximately 5500 BC. Biblical scholars speculate that the robe worn by the high priest Aaron was adorned with turquoise. Persia was the home of the world's finest turquoise mined just outside of Nishapur. Persian turquoise was found in ancient graves in Turkistan. Turquoise was a highly revered item in Tibet and was used for centuries as currency.



The name turquoise is apparently related to the fact that it was brought to Europe from the Eastern Mediterranean by Levantine traders, more commonly known as Turks. It has been used as a valuable ornament for ages and was used by the Egyptians thousands of years ago. The color is, of course, turquoise, but its range of color varies from green and greenish blue to sky blue shades.

**Gem and Mineral Society Monthly Meeting  
December 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Margaret Buchmann at 7:30, followed by the flag salute led by Margaret. There were 45 members present.

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the November meeting be accepted as read.  
Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded that the treasurer's report prepared by Patrick Harrison be accepted.  
Motion carried.

Corresponding Secretary, Sherry Honnold reported on the upcoming show being held in Santa Barbara in early 2009. More information will be available at a later date.

CFMS Director, Janice Robertson reported that the CFMS show and convention will be in April 2009, at the Santa Clara Valley County fairgrounds. Other Club shows coming up are: Indio, Ca. Feb. 13-22, 2009, Northridge Ca, Feb. 27,28, 2009, and Imperial Valley, Ca., Feb.27 to March 8, 2009.

Sunshine Girl, Debbie Havner reported that she sent get well cards to Dick Scott, Olga Thomsen and Shakir Shareef.

Don Vieira gave an update on the club workshop machines needing new sanding wheels. A motion was made and seconded that Gary Robertson purchase new sanding wheels to replace the worn ones. Motion carried.

Marshall Havner announced that he will be giving a talk/demonstration on the process of making jewelry etc., at the Three Rivers Grammar School. He asked that other club members interested in helping please call him at 562-4133.

Grab bags will be put together on December 6th at the Robertson Welding shop at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made and seconded that Charles Reed be allowed up to \$1,000.00 to purchase polished stones for use at the TGMS show and in the grab bags.  
Motion carried.

Margaret Buchmann reported that the work shop to make more wheel of fortune prizes was a huge success.

Robert Goddard announced that the raffle tickets for

the upcoming show are ready for purchase. He also requested that more prizes, @ \$25.00 or more, be donated.

Don Vieira announced that the proposed changes of the Club Constitution will be voted on at the January, 2009 meeting.

Don Vieira, a candidate for the office of Club President, gave a "long" and "interesting" campaign speech before the election of officers of the 2009-2010 year. A paper ballot was distributed for votes on Club Directors. Nominated members were Judy Link, Ede Ordonez and Charles Reed. After a vote count the newly elected officers are:

President:----- Don Vieira  
1st Vice President----- Raul Gonzales  
2nd Vice President-----Betty Hayward  
Designated Past President-----Steve Hayward  
Show Chairperson-----Pepper Okada  
Recording Secretary-----Corene Keys  
Treasurer-----Patrick Harrison  
Auditor-----Robert Goddard  
Corresponding Secretary-----Sherry Honnold  
Historian/All American-----Donald Sheldrick  
Parliamentarian-----Don Vieira  
CFMS-AFMS Director-----Sherry Honnold  
CFMS-AFMS Alternate-----Janice Robertson  
Club Director-----Ede Ordonez  
Club Director-----Charles Reed

A motion was made and seconded that all officers elected for offices named above be accepted. Motion carried.

Marshall Havner has arranged for a tour of the McDermit Recreation Center in Lindsay on Saturday December 13, at 4:00P.M. as a possible site for future TGMS shows.

Vice President Margaret Buchmann won the door prize.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted by  
Corene Keys  
Recording Secretary

Due to a publishing error, there was no newsletter for November.

Sorry for the confusion. The Newsletter is available on the website at [www.tulegem.org](http://www.tulegem.org)

**Next TGMS Club Meeting...  
January 5, 2009**

**Last meeting before the Gemboree on  
January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 pm at the Farmersville Senior  
Center.**

**GRAB BAG DAY BIG SUCCESS**

Club members filled grab bags for the upcoming Gemboree on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>. Twenty four members showed up at Gary Robertson's shop to put together 712 grab bags. Joining together for a day of fun were: Gary Robertson, Laura Heberling, Roxie Olmstead, Steve Hayward, Raul Gonzales, Harold Schmidt, Corene Keyes, Ed Smith, Fereleen Schultz, Tony Hart, Kathy Hart, Don Vieira, Adriene Vieira, Rex Lewis and his lovely daughter Carrie Lewis, Debbie Havner, Mike Obert, Liela Parkinson, Charles Reed, Mary Reed, Don Lieb, Don Sheldrick, Patrick Harrison and Judy Link.

Special thanks to Don Vieira who contributed much material

For centuries, the most valuable turquoise came from Iran (Persia) but today, some specimens mined in the southwestern United States compete with it. The name Persian Turquoise: is now generally used to refer to any turquoise stone that does not have the black or brown veining commonly found in turquoise mined in the United States.

**Turquoise Folklore**

Sacred to Native American's, turquoise was carved in the shape of animals and birds. These carvings were used to attract beneficial spirits. As a good luck talisman, Turquoise is used in nearly every culture

Below is the McGween turquoise mine in Nevada.



**GEM-BOR-EE RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED**

Donate your handmade items or other Valuable Treasures for raffle at the Gem-bor-ee.

Items should be worth \$25 or more. Contact Margaret Buchman @ 739-0401



## 2009 Meeting Schedule

**January 5, 2009**

February 2, 2009

March 2, 2009, Installation Dinner

April 6, 2009

May 4, 2009

June 1, 2009 Annual Picnic

July 6, 2009

August 3, 2009

September 14, 2009

(one week later due to Labor Day Holiday)

October 5, 2009

November 2, 2009

December 7, 2009 Christmas Party

**See you at Gemboree  
January 17<sup>th</sup> & 18, 2009**

