



# Diablo Diggins

"We Dig Rocks"  
Since 1950

Monthly Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

February 2024  
VOL. 72 NO 2

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## Show Your Stuff !!!

An article from Donna Albrecht (Page 7)

Photo is a display case created by first year member Aaron Roderick

## Announcement:

Your yearly dues are now due. Please pay your dues by check at the next club meeting or send your check to CCMGS PO Box 842 Concord, CA 94522

**CCMGS MISSION STATEMENT:** Our purpose is to promote popular interest and education in the earth sciences, including geology, mineralogy, paleontology, the lapidary arts, and related subjects; to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of persons and groups with similar interests; and by and through such means to strive toward greater community and international good will and fellowship.

We also support promoting and ensuring the right of amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes related to the earth sciences. We fulfill our mission by holding monthly meetings and special programs. Members attend and participate in local and statewide events and hold a yearly public show.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** Feb 12, 6:30pm Clayton Library



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Our new board of directors met and are settling into their new roles. We have a strong leadership group, and I am looking forward to working with them to continue to grow our club.

Cheryl Morgan made an outstanding presentation at the general meeting on Urban Mining. To be honest, I had no idea where she was going to go with the title, but thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. I have personally picked up some great Mexican calcite [some call Onyx], 3/4" pyrite cubes in matrix, Mariposite, and a boat load of dark green and red jasper from local landscape rock suppliers. **Good hunting.**

Our new hospitality chairs are Louise Gilley and Mark Blackman. Thank you for volunteering. They can use monthly refreshment hosts to help. Maybe we could go to a signup sheet?

Our new educational Chairs are Cheryl Morgan and Donna Albrecht. Donna brings many years of executive experience with Institutional club knowledge. Cheryl and Donna are a perfect example of a couple of square pegs for square holes. I have been discussing with Cheryl that I would like a youth craft class as soon as the weather warms up a little.

Rudy Trautner has set our first outing for the year to The Black Diamond Mines. This is a local, historical location that has recently added new attractions. I have enjoyed many trips to the park and am looking forward to returning. He also has plans for several other trips

of varying lengths and complexities so that most members can participate in outings with our club.

Our shop committee has been looking at several sites but are holding the information close to their vests. Hopefully they will have some good news for us soon.

Kelly Plumb assembled and submitted our club entry into the CFMS 'All-America Club' contest.

We need a couple of members to help with our required 5-year review of the by-laws. Please talk to me if you can help with this important task.

We have some new faces to the general meetings, welcome. All members should let Cheryl know what you want to see at the meetings or classes.

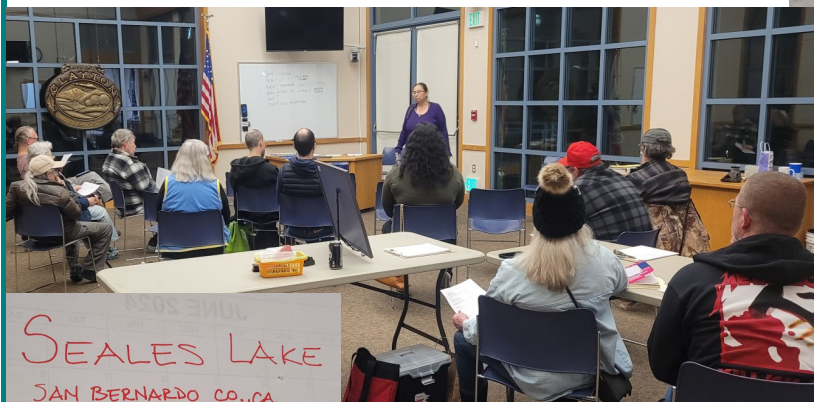
We are passionate about our hobby and club. I am the president for all our members of the club and consider the president's role as a guide to move us forward and arbitrator or 'middle child' if we disagree. Please feel free to express your thoughts to me at any time. My email is always open for comments.

Michael Hopkins  
President  
CCMGS 2024





## JANUARY MEETING



HALITE- SALT



HANKSITE

SEALES LAKE

JAN BERNARDO CO., CA.

HANKSITE (TL)

HALITE

BORAX (TINCALCONITE)?

BURKEITE (TL)



HANKSITE  
BORAX



BURKEITE

Presentation of 'Urban Rock Hounding' by Cheryl Morgan and show-and-tell Minerals of Seales Lake Ca.

## Secretary News, Notices and Announcements:

- Club business through email and not text. Keep paper trail.
- Email blasts to the membership are to be sent to the secretary to send out from the club's email address.
- Send as an attachment with any specific instructions in the message field.
- All email blasts to membership should be approved by the president before sending them to the secretary.
- Registrations and renewals have been paid for CFMS, AFMS and ALAA.
- Check your email inbox for emails from ccmgs.2023@gmail.com add to your contacts. Roll call emails are important! Please reply for confirmations.
- Bylaw review committee need members to participate.
- Calendar in all the important dates for events happening this year!
- Privacy concerns - roster is no longer available to membership. BOD access only.

For questions or concerns please contact  
Barbara Roderick, CCMGS, Secretary 2024.

## Federation Director Report

I am excited to be your new Federation Director. I will be replacing two respected and beloved Federation Directors. Dick Pankey has served the Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society admirably for many years. Dick's retirement from office was expected last year so I volunteered to step up and try to fill at least the toe of his shoes. I am honored that the club decided that I should be elected to the office. Late last year we received the unhappy news that our beloved Federation Director, Eddy Snyder had passed away suddenly. As I am a member of the Antioch Lapidary Club also, I volunteered to fill in for her at the business meeting in Visalia in November and was subsequently elected to the Office for Antioch also. Since we consider ourselves to be sister clubs, it should turn out to be a beneficial arrangement for both clubs as each should only have to assist with half of the Federation Director expenses. I took the first step of attending the federation meeting at the Lodi show with Dick and Betty so I could get a feel for what being a director means. President Mike Hopkins, Exhibit Chair Donna Albrecht also entered competition cases in the show and scored very well. Not being so brave I entered a non-competitive case and was drafted to be a clerk for the judges. I learned quite a lot about what a competition case requires to place well. The guidelines are on the CFMS website and are supposed to be much simpler and clearer this year so anyone interested in displaying at the upcoming AFMS show in Ventura should ask for a copy of the rules. Send me a text at 510 693-9075 and I will forward them to you or look them up on the website under the "California Federation of Mineralogical Societies."

One of my duties as your Federation Director is to be sure you are informed about the upcoming shows for the next few months. The big excitement in the next two months is the Antioch Lapidary Club show right around the corner on February 17th and 18th at the Contra Costa Fairgrounds, 1201 West 10th street in Antioch CA. The other big news is the combination Ventura and AFMS show being held in May. We should all be considering putting together competition cases for that show so we can make a good showing. Maybe we can work up a little friendly competition between our clubs. Here is what Jim Brace-Thompson had to say about it in the December CFMS newsletter. "My hometown of Ventura is officially named San Buenaventura, which some translate as "City of Good Fortune." We invite you to seek your good fortune by attending the 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show & Convention being hosted May 24-26 by the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society. To keep tabs on the show and various resources (exhibitor application forms, info on local hotels, things to do in and around Ventura, etc.), check in now and then to the official show website: [www.2024cfmsafms.com](http://www.2024cfmsafms.com). The website is a work-in-progress and will be continually refreshed with new info, forms, and updates." At the business meeting in November the Ventura club put on quite a show to promote the show with King Neptune riding in on a service cart surrounded by his mermaids throwing beach balls and passing out candy and ocean themed keychains. It looks like it is going to be a really exciting show!

Kelly Plumb, CCMGS Federation Director 2024



## Show Chair Report

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At the reading of this newsletter, our 1st meeting of the Mineral and Gem Show committee was January 30 at the Clayton Library. At that meeting, club members signed up for duties within sub-committees and discussed our next steps.

If you missed our meeting, I encourage you to volunteer to help at the next Mineral and Gem Show, held at Centre Concord, November 2nd and 3rd, 2024. Since we are an all volunteer club, our success depends on members like you to offer a small amount of your time and energy to accomplish the many tasks necessary to make this year's show a success.

The City of Concord has been raising the cost of the Centre Concord and this year was no exception. They did make several accommodations that will allow us to put on a larger show with more dealers. Keep in mind, the profit we make from the show helps us provide educational programs for club members and the public, while collaborating with other mineral and gem groups nationally.

If you see any tasks below that may interest you or a family member, email or text me.

### Sub-Committees

- Advertising and Signage
- Setup and Teardown
- Publicity/Sponsors, Vendor Liaison
- Entry/Exit Door Prize
- Auction, Raffle, Cases/Displays
- Membership drive, Demonstrations
- Youth Activities
- Willing to do Whatever

Rob Savre  
CCMGS Show Chair  
robertsavrejr@gmail.com  
925-323-4289 cell

### WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

#### VUG

A cavity in a rock, lined with crystals, usually of a different mineral constitution than the enclosing rock. Adj: vuggy. Etymol: Cornish vooga, cavern or cavity. Also spelled [vugh](#).

Synonym of: [bug hole](#), [vogle](#), [vooga hole](#)



## Membership Chair

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Welcome to all CCM&GS rockhounds!

Membership Dues Renewals are due by the end of January. Deadline date to renew your membership is Feb. 1st - Non paid members will be in arrears and will be dropped from the roster and no longer receive club communications (emails, newsletters).

**Memberships MUST be in good standing to attend the Black Diamond Mine trip on Feb 10.**

- Members who have not renewed by the end of February will need to reapply with the application for approval processes. Pay your dues now!
- Membership is growing monthly. 1 new rockhound: Welcome Samantha Setterbo!
- CCM&GS membership count at end of year stands @ 71 members. Thank you to those who have already renewed!
- CCM&GS member name badge(s) are ready for pick up: The following members can come to a meeting to pick up their name badge: Maureen O'Dwyer, Destiny Lily, Lisa Paul, Barbara Paul, Samantha Setterbo and Sherri Jeha.
- Renewals and new members >> Look for your New Membership card on the membership table at the next meeting.
- Membership chair position is vacant. Contact the secretary if you are interested.



## Show Your Stuff ! Get Fame and Glory !

How You Can Create a Display Case That Gets Attention and Flaunts Your Skills!

By Donna Albrecht

You've undoubtedly noticed the display cases at our show and others that hold an array of fascinating exhibits on an endless range of topics related to our hobby. They help us fulfill part of our educational commitment as an organization, they also allow us to show off how we learn about minerals and gems, take field trips, do crafts related to our hobby and so much more.

If you haven't created a case lately or think the one you have could benefit from updating you'll find winter is a great time to come up with new ideas and execute them. You can do one alone or as a group project. It's a great way to be hands-on with your hobby and have a new display for our show. More details later in this article.

A growing number of our members are also showing their cases at other shows and competing for prizes, both of which help promote CCM&GS.

Wider exposure for your case means you get to spend more time seeing other people's cases and talking with them about their clubs and activities. For example, here are two shows you should know about:



1. The Alameda County Fair has a competition (sign up at <https://alamed.fairwire.com/>) Your case will be on display from set-up June 7-10 to tear-down, July 9. You will receive a free ticket to attend the fair and may win a ribbon up to the big gold ribbon for Judge's Favorite. Entry Deadline is May 15.

Here is what you will need to answer when you register:

Collections: Gems & Minerals, Jewelry, and Woodworking

Division: Gems & Minerals (adults)

Class: There are eight choices here including Mixed Lapidary, Novelties, Geodes, Education, and Fair Theme (this year it is 'That Summer Feeling', perfect for shell or beach glass collections). Pick the Class that most closely fits your case,

Title: Of your case

Description: A sentence or two that tells what your case is about. For example, "Cabochons I made with Minerals I collected in Contra Costa County."

Cont. Page 8

## SHOW YOUR STUFF! GET FAME AND GLORY!

Cont. from Page 7

2. The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies show is in Ventura this year [The 2024 CFMS-AFMS Show](#). This is a rare opportunity to show your case at the National level, either as part of the competition or as a noncompeting case, just for the joy of sharing! There are some pretty specific directions for those who are competing. There are people you can call listed on the website who will answer your questions. There will be ribbons and trophies you can win. The potential issue with this is having to go to Ventura to set up on May 23, and pick up on May 26 at 4 pm. And, oh, darn, you get to see all the other exhibits, vendors, volunteer if you wish, and Ventura has a beach. I'm planning to go and stay a few nights to spend less time on the road. Mike Hopkins is also planning to go, so you can talk with either of us if you want more information. Deadline: May 1.



It can be a lot of fun to create a new case, even if you already have one. You can talk with Mike Hopkins or me about what you want to do. For practical ideas to get you started, read: <http://wheretofindrocks.com/best-practices-guide-to-gem-show-display-case-design/>. Some people spend these cold winter months perusing seed catalogs, we rockhounds have a world of wonderful rocks, minerals, and crystals to think about. Now is the time to begin work on a case that shares the aspects of our hobby you love best! So, start planning a new case, or how you can upgrade and refresh a case you already have. Can't wait to see it!

Donna Albrecht



Who knows, you may be the next club member to win these ribbons at the Alameda County Fair!



# Minutes (Unofficial) December

CCMGS General Meeting Minutes  
Endeavor Hall 7pm  
Holiday Party event

December 11, 2023

No official minutes for the record.

Decorating and kitchen preparations begin at 4pm.  
Thank you set up and decorating crews: Rob, Vikki, Dan, Aaron, Allan and his wife, Willy, Kelly and Kat.  
Thank you to Donna and hubby for picking up the deserts.

6 membership renewals  
20 members in attendance and three guests, Samantha, Jim and Santa  
Received an application to join from guest Samantha Setterbo.

President Mike has thank you gifts for the 2023 officers. Donna Albrecht presented President Mike with a thank you gift for his many years (8) as the Show Chair.  
Honorary memberships were awarded to: Terry Caskey, Naomi Morgan and Dick and Betty Pankey.  
Rockhound of the year was awarded to Barbara Roderick

City of Clayton mayor, Jim Diaz officiated the installation of the incoming 2024 officers\* and committee chairs:

President	Mike Hopkins *
VP1	Cheryl Morgan*
VP2	Rudy Trautner (absent)*
Secretary	Barbara Roderick*
Treasurer	Cheryl Morgan*
Federation	Kelly Plumb*
Publicity	Dan DiCarlo
Show Chair	Rob Savre

Dinner was served at 7pm. Santa visited during dinner. Gift exchange happened after dinner and awards. Thank you to all who helped with clean up. Done and out by 10pm.

## Outings and Announcements

February 10- Black Diamond Mine Tour      Full at this time  
No other outing are scheduled.

Hospitality Committee is looking for members to help at our meetings. A sign up sheet will be available at the next general meeting.

No reports from the Shop, property, audit, by-law, publicity, website/newsletter committees.  
The website/newsletter chair is now vacant.

## Local Shows and Events

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### **February 17-18, 2024 – Antioch, CA**

Antioch Lapidary Club  
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds  
1201 West 10th St., Antioch, CA 94509  
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM  
Website: [www.antiochlapidaryclub.com](http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com)

### **February 24-25, 2022 – Vallejo, CA**

Vallejo Gem and Mineral Society  
Solano County Fairgrounds, Vallejo, CA  
900 Fairgrounds Dr., Vallejo, CA  
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM both days  
Website: [vjgems.com](http://vjgems.com)

### **March 1-3, 2024 – Newark, CA**

The Mineral and Gem Society  
of Castro Valley  
Newark Pavilion  
6430 Thornton Ave., Newark CA  
Hours: Friday 11 AM – 5 PM,  
Saturday 10 AM – 6 PM,  
Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM  
Website: [mgscv.org](http://mgscv.org)

### **March 9-10, 2024 – Turlock, CA**

Mother Lode Mineral Society of CA  
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds  
900 North Broadway, Turlock, CA  
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5  
PM  
Website: [turlockgemshow.com](http://turlockgemshow.com)

### **March 16-17, 2024 — San Jose, CA**

SCVGMS Annual Show  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
344 Tully Rd., Santa Clara, CA  
Hours: Sat and Sun 10-5  
Website: [scvgms.org](http://scvgms.org) or [facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety](https://facebook.com/santaclaravalleygemandmineralsociety)

### **March 23-24, 2024 — Angels Camp, CA**

Calaveras Gem and Mineral Society  
2465 Gun Club Rd.  
Angels Camp, CA  
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4  
Website: [calaverasgemandmineral.net](http://calaverasgemandmineral.net)

### **April 13-14, 2024 — Mariposa, CA**

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club  
Mariposa County Fairgrounds,  
5007 Fairgrounds Rd.  
Mariposa, CA  
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4  
Website: [mariposagemclub.org](http://mariposagemclub.org)

### **April 13-14, 2024 — Placerville, CA**

El Dorado Co. Mineral and Gem Society  
El Dorado County Fairgrounds  
100 Placerville Dr.  
Placerville, CA  
Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4 PM  
Website: [edcmgs.org](http://edcmgs.org)

### **May 4, 2024 — Antioch, CA**

Antioch Lapidary Club  
Artisan Jewelry and Rock Sale  
425 Fulton Shipyard Rd., Antioch, CA  
Hours: Sat 10-4 (Outdoor event)  
Contact: (925) 457-1859, (510) 693-9075,  
roccosgee1@yahoo.com,  
kellyplumb900@yahoo.com  
Website: [antiochlapidaryclub.com](http://antiochlapidaryclub.com)

## Antioch Lapidary Club Jewelry, Gem & Rock Show

Saturday, February 17, 2024 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
 Sunday, February 18, 2024 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies,  
 Auction, Grab Bags, Exhibits and  
 Hands on projects for kids

Admission: \$6.00  
 Children 12 & under / Scouts in uniform – Free  
 Active Military with ID – Free

Info: Kelly Plumb 510-693-9075  
[kellyplumb900@yahoo.com](mailto:kellyplumb900@yahoo.com)

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
 1201 WEST 10th STREET  
 ANTIOCH, CA

\$1.00 Off Admission With This Flyer

[www.antiochlapidaryclub.com](http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com)



### VALLEJO GEM & MINERAL SHOW

February 24-25, 2024

### 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

February 24-25, 2024, Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm

### Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall

900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo CA

**Adults \$6.00 Children Under 12 Free**

Return Admission On Sunday Free With Receipt or Hand Stamp

**\$1.00 Off With This Card – Free Parking**

Vendors, Wheel of Fortune, Geode Cutting, Grab Bags, Hourly Drawings, Demonstrators, Silent Auction

Tickets at Door Only – No Online Tickets

Info: [vjgems.com](http://vjgems.com)

The Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley presents

## Annual Mineral, Gem & Jewelry Show & Sale March 1-3, 2024

Friday 11-5 • Saturday 10-6 • Sunday 10-5  
 Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Ave., Newark CA 94560

- 40+ Dealers selling:
- Rocks • Cabochons • Gemstones •
  - Minerals • Fossils • Fluorescent Minerals •
  - Faceted Stones • Jewelry • Crystals •
  - Beads & Supplies • Findings & Settings •
  - Tools • & more •

See many things you can do with rocks & minerals

- Exhibits • Demonstrations • Geode Splitting •
- Kids' Spinning Wheel • Gem Identification •
- Raffle • Live Auction • Door Prizes •

1-day Pass \$6.00 • Under 13 FREE w/adult  
 or 2-day Pass \$10.00 & \$1.00 off Admission with this Flier  
 Law Enforcement & Military free.

[www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org) • [info@mgscv.org](mailto:info@mgscv.org)



## Antioch Lapidary Club's Annual Artisan Jewelry & Rock Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2024 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**NICE MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS!**

**FREE ADMISSION/Fun for the whole family**

Everyone is invited to the Antioch Lapidary Club's annual Artisan Jewelry & Rock Sale/Swap. There will be booths with jewelry, slabs, rough and other rock-related items to purchase.

Join us for a fun-filled "rockhounding" day – visit our Rock and Mineral Museum; games for children; field trip to our rock pile behind clubhouse – rock by the pound – cheap.

BBQ lunch served at 12:00 – only \$5.00 with all the fixings!

**Where:** Antioch Lapidary Club's clubhouse  
 425 Fulton Shipyard Road, Antioch, CA

If you would like to sell/trade/swap items, bring a table or two and your jewelry, rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, extra equipment, etc. **Please call Gary Casillas at 925-458-4076 to reserve a spot.**

(Directions on back)





We're on the web!  
[www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org](http://www.contracostamineralandgemsociety.org)

We're on Facebook!  
[www.facebook.com/groups/CCMGS/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CCMGS/)

[ccmgs.2023@gmail.com](mailto:ccmgs.2023@gmail.com)

### Diablo Diggins

Newsletter of the  
Contra Costa Mineral  
and Gem Society

Editor:  
Michael Hopkins

Send reports/articles/  
pictures by the 25th of  
the month to:

[mike@diablorocks.com](mailto:mike@diablorocks.com)

## 2024 Officers:

President  
Michael Hopkins  
[mike@diablorocks.com](mailto:mike@diablorocks.com)

Vice President (Programs)  
Cheryl Morgan  
[ccmgs.2023@gmail.com](mailto:ccmgs.2023@gmail.com)

Vice President (Trip Coordinator)  
Rudy Trautner

Secretary  
Barbara Roderick  
[ccmgs.2023@gmail.com](mailto:ccmgs.2023@gmail.com)

Treasurer  
Cheryl Morgan

Federation Director  
Kelly Plumb  
[ccmgs.2023@gmail.com](mailto:ccmgs.2023@gmail.com)

Show Chair  
Rob Savre

Show Co-chair  
Michael Hopkins

Education Cochairs  
Cheryl Morgan  
Donna Albrecht  
[ccmgs.2023@gmail.com](mailto:ccmgs.2023@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### Board of Directors

Saturday February 3, March 2, 2024, 10am  
Clayton Community Library  
6125 Clayton Rd, Clayton, CA

#### General Meeting

Monday, February 12, doors open 6:30pm, program 7:00pm  
Clayton Community Library  
6125 Clayton Rd, Clayton, CA

Monday, March 11  
Endeavor Hall  
6008 Center Street, Clayton, CA

Our general meeting location varies please check calendar.

The Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society was formed in 1950 to encourage the study of mineralogy, lapidary arts, and field collections.

**Visitors are welcome! Bring a friend!**

# Calendar of the Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

FEBRUARY 2024 <span style="float: right;">1-31-2024</span>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 BOD- Library
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Outing- Black Diamond Mines
11	12 CLUB- Hoyer Raffle, short program	13	14	15	16	17 Antioch Show
18 Antioch Show	19	20	21 <i>Diablo Dan</i>	22 <del>Show Meeting</del> Library	23	24 Vallejo Show
25 Newsletter reports due Vallejo Show	26	27	28 Audit report due to BOD	29	Drop members in arrears Audit DUE	

Holidays and Observances: 14: Valentine's Day, 19: Presidents' Day

Wiki Calendar

MARCH 2024 <span style="float: right;">1-31-2024</span>						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Newark Show	2 BOD- Library Newark Show
3 Newark Show	4	5	6	7	8	9 Turlock Show
10 Turlock Show	11 CLUB- Endeaver	12	13	14	15	16 Santa Clara
17 Santa Clara	18	19	20	21	22	23 Calaveras Show
24 Calaveras Show	25 Newsletter reports due	26	27	28	29	30
31				Prep Ca State	RRF-1 form on line	

Holidays and Observances: 17: St. Patrick's Day, 31: Easter Sunday

Wiki Calendar