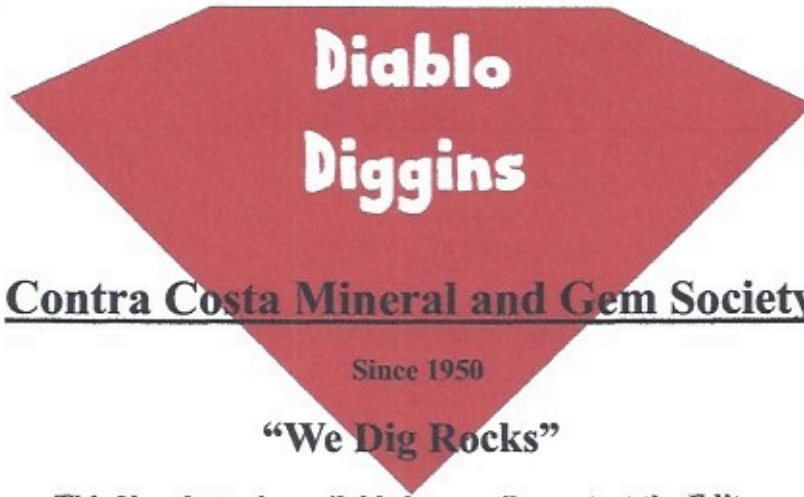




Vol. 63, No. 12



**Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society**

Since 1950

**"We Dig Rocks"**

This Newsletter is available by e mail - contact the Editor



Concord, CA

December 2015



## **December Meeting**

*Holiday Christmas Pot Luck*

*Concord Senior Center*

*Monday December 14, 7:00PM*



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**New Articles for January *Diablo Diggins***  
Due Date, December 21, 2015

## Christmas/Holiday Dinner

The next membership meeting will be our annual Christmas/Holiday Dinner and all members and a guest are invited.

As usual, this is a potluck dinner so we ask that each attendee bring a dish. Drinks, ham and turkey will be provided by the club.

The theme this year is "Christmas" so anything Christmassy works. ☺

We will have a gift exchange for anyone who would like to participate. The gift can be wrapped or not, and the item should be rock related. Joanne Caskey will be handling the gift exchange so please be sure to see her when signing up for the exchange. If the gift is wrapped and is gender sensitive, please be sure to mark it male or female.

As in the past, we will be collecting canned goods for the food bank.

Those who are setting up will not be admitted into the room until 6:00pm and because of that, the room will not be set up until 6:30 pm. Please don't plan to be earlier than that as there will be nowhere for you to sit. And not only that, there will be no place to set the food as we will be scrambling to set up tablecloths, room decorations and centerpieces. I hope you understand.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Debbie Blevins at 925-680-6562.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Thank you.

## ***Bring a Donation for the Contra Costa Food Bank***

### **HO! HO! HO!**

Just listen to that Jolly old fellow and his many reindeer clomping around on the roof ... it's that "giving and sharing" time of year.

If you have been good, you'll get a nice surprise in your stocking hanging at the chimney, BUT ... if you forgot to bring food items to donate to the FOOD BANK, a lump of coal!

Well ... not really – I just want to remind all of our CCMGS members to bring their FOOD BANK items along with their potluck dish to the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Canned or plastic containers of food items – No glass or perishables. Cash or check payable to the CONTRA COSTA FOOD BANK if you forget the food items. The FOOD BANK has greater buying power than you or yours.

I'm looking forward to tasting everyone's delicious entrée, salad or dessert ... Yummy, yum, yum!  
Happy Holidays and Good Health to all!

Mary & Mark Bufton, CCMGS FOOD BANK ELVES



## CCM&GS Board Meeting

November 11, 2015, 7:10 pm, Stanwell Drive, Concord, Ca

Brief discussion occurred regarding a rock sample that was used at the recent rock identification class given by Dave Kleesattel, the rock is a Liesegang with rings. Official meeting started at 7:10 pm. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. No Board Meeting in December. Next meeting is in January 2016.

Present: Dave Kleesattel, Mary Hicks, Terry Caskey, Dick Pankey, Paul Black, Mary Jernigan, Bonnie Eichler, Mary Hanjes. Absent: Harry Nichandros, Therese Clark, Donna Albrecht, Hazel Woolsey. President Dave Kleesattel called the meeting to order. Correspondence-PO Box last visited on 11/2/2015. Membership received two letters, Chuck Olson, Judy Brown. Newsletters from CFMS, AFMS, ALAA. Two letters held for Show Chair Harry Nichandros. Scanned and emailed to Harry was a letter from an interested Vendor and his requested letter from IRS verifying club's charity status. An IRS letter verifying charity status was received by the club and a copy of the given to Harry before the show. Correction to the last BOD minutes is to include Dennis Freiburger who was at the meeting. Mary Hanjes moved to approve the amended minutes, Bonnie Eichler seconded. All ayes. One bill was handed in for an annual required filing with the California Secretary of State. No Website report. It is not known if the reporting of raffles happened. (The state requires either individual or a single combined raffle report for activity during the permit period.) There were a number of raffles between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. Dave will follow-up with Harry about this. Mary Hanjes reports about \$800 was raised at the October General Meeting auction. Discussion followed about the use of money in the three areas of education which was determined at the last BOD meeting. Earth Science, CFMS, DVC. Dick said Zzyzx is applied for after November for dates 3/27 - 4/3/16 for \$390 per person in the Mojave. Camp Paradise is in northern California in August or September in 2016. CFMS receiving money for scholarship was discussed. The opportunity of the club participating in the awarding of the CFMS scholarship was questioned. Dick Pankey discussed how someone from the club (called an Honoree)

could work on the selection panel for awarding a \$2000 scholarship for undergraduate education in Earth Science. Bonnie brought up local classes such as a local Mt. Diablo Adult Education jewelry lost wax casting class. (Not to be confused with the club classes.) The weekly class also provides interaction with others interested in the Lapidary arts. The class runs around \$155. Mary Hanjes asked about partial funding-yes, it was a consensus that club support may be 50% for members in good standing and that they will be expected to give a talk or class for the club about what they learned. Proposal determining the Partial Funding by Terry Caskey and seconded by Dick Pankey. The President will make an announcement at the upcoming General Meeting to determine interest in 50% cost support for Camp Paradise. Discussion: Should we offer more choices? Are we eliminating the other choices? No it is just we are working with this motion now. Motion was all ayes. Next Bonnie made a motion to seek out level of interest for the Mount Diablo Education class. Paul Black seconded. Discussion: Bonnie describe the lost wax jewelry class. The fact that these classes are not to be confused with the classes given by the club was discussed. Motion vote all ayes.

Discussed: Membership involvement. It is proposed we have a monthly get together to discuss our interests starting next year. Items can be brought to discuss, etc. Saturday from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Mary Hicks volunteered to be the first location. Rock & Roll or Rock Talk meeting. Preparation of an article for the newsletter is due for this new activity. To start in the new year.

Amended By Laws were accepted at the last General Meeting, review new information. The 2016 club officers were elected. All due items move from December to January 2016 meeting. Items are such as a proposed procedure for donations, work on the policy/procedure manual, see last month's BOD minutes. CFMS Rock Hound of the Year (was formerly called Education Thru Sharing). Paul Black is doing the write up for the nomination. Bonnie Eichler proposed and Mary Jernigan seconded. All ayes. An Honorary Member(1) was discussed. Dick Pankey proposed and Terry Caskey seconded. No discussion, all ayes. Another Honorary Member (2) was proposed by Bonnie Eichler and seconded by Paul Black. No discussion, all ayes save one



abstention. Mary Hicks is to produce the certificates. Due December. Bonnie Eichler Education Report given and she turned in a written report (thank you so much). Upcoming classes are Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, Connie Klein teaching Tennis Bling Bracelet. New class suggestions are needed/teachers are needed. Suggestion: That the club sponsor a student each semester (not duplicating members) for the silver smith/lost wax casting class held at the Mt. Diablo Adult Education campus. Dick Pankey is leaving soon for the CFMS Federation Fall meeting in Visalia. He is taking the clipped stamps that our members have turned in to him and will take the Rock Hound of the year information if it is ready. He announced that at Thanksgiving time there is a get together trip (not a field trip) at Area 51 just about 1 mile off of Hwy 5, plenty of information on Goggle, about 2 hours south. This area has camping near a river wash and plenty of motels along the highway. The area has plenty of material dumped there from the excavation of the California Aqueduct. The Pankeys arrive on Wednesday, there is a potluck dinner on Thursday and they will head home probably on Saturday. A number of club members are planning to attend this activity. Review: after the meeting review of the Mt. Diablo Adult website shows the jewelry class is \$171 for about 14 once per week classes on Wednesday nights in Pleasant Hill. The Winter session starts on 1/4/16. The website did not say when the Spring session registration and classes start.

Note: Budget input should be proposed to the President asap. A raffle report was sent by Therese Clark for this (August 2015) show in September.

## November General Meeting

Concord Senior Center

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm. After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Dave Kleesattel did a safety moment. He talked about being careful of slippery roads in the rain and that if your car wipers are on the state requires the car head lights to be on. Visitors were introduced. Jeanie Wellman who is a friend of the Pankeys. Dennis Perkins and Sharon Luckmann who were our presenters for the evening. Door prizes were awarded- a piece of Mahogany Obsidian, Rhyolite, and Petrified Wood. It was announced that we raised around \$800 at last month's rock auction. The BOD wants to do something different this year. The idea is to select member(s) from the club, member(s) in good standing, to pay 50% of the cost to attend CFMS Camp Paradise/ Mt. Diablo Adult Education Jewelry class. There was interest in this idea based on showing of hands. The BOD is just working on this item. More to follow, check out future newsletters.

Dues R Due. Mary Jernigan had an application that was just handed in. Dick Pankey is planning with several other members to go to Area 54 which is a few hours south on Hwy 5. They will be there starting Wednesday 25 to the weekend. There will be a potluck on Thursday. Betty will provide turkey rolls. There are piles of dirt and rocks in the area that came from excavating the California aqueduct. See the Web for directions to the well-known field trip location for rock hounds. Dick is going to the CFMS Fall meeting in Visalia. Paul Black, Displays are slim picking this month. Show Chair Harry Nichandros is recovery from a planned medical procedure, we wish him well. Next month on December 14<sup>th</sup>, Connie Klein announced is the Holiday and Installation of Officers and Chairs. We will meet in this room and we will have 8 tables for the usual 80 attendees. The club will have a giving tree-if you bring a gift you will get to pick a gift. Mark your package for man, woman, or both. You will receive a ticket when you hand over your gift. Bring a donation for the Food Bank. The club will provide turkey and ham and beverage. There is no theme this year so bring a dish to share that you love. The room is open at 6:30 pm



and we eat at 7:00 pm. Fines were collected for those members who did not wear their badge. Barrie Bieler is selling a little used diamond band saw.

No BOD meeting in December. The January General Meeting, January 11<sup>th</sup> will be back at Centre Concord. Dennis Freiberger asked for ideas for next year programs. Let him know and he wants to continue having members give programs. Share Our Passion!

The program was given by two former members of the Marin club which has folded, Dennis Perkins and Sharon Luckmann. They have been collecting Blue Needle Quartz for many years. None of the club members were familiar with this special quartz.

Special lighting is needed for the needles to be seen. The needles are voids which are v-shaped, long and look like mineral inclusions, called the Tindell effect. The phenomenon cannot be seen in regular indoor light. Special fluorescent 5000 Kelvin lights are needed. We were treated with a fantastic display of the special quartz crystals that represented some of Sharon's collection. Specimens collected over 45 years have come from Brazil, Madagascar, China, USA. These are mysterious rare specimens. Meeting ended around 9:00 pm. Refreshments were enjoyed.

## Education Update:

Several people showed an interest in the Lost Wax class offered at Mt. Diablo Adult Education during our November meeting. There was a craft fair at the Pleasant Hill campus (1 Santa Barbara Rd, Pleasant Hill, CA - just past the Pleasant Hill Library) on Saturday, December 5th from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm & early registration for the next semester's jewelry class will be available. (There will be drawings for \$25 off class fees.) Stop by and check it out.

## ROCKHOUNDS ON A ROLL!



We are coming to the close of another great year! Time to look back on all of the shows we have seen, field trips we have attended, demonstrations and classes we have seen and participated in, and rock we have bought, collected, cut, carved and or just displayed. In spite

of the change of timing or own show went very well. We found a great new temporary location for meetings and have seen lots of interesting programs at our monthly meetings.

As we prepare for our annual Christmas Potluck dinner and prepare our exchange gifts we are also looking forward to a new year, 2016. I know Dave will keep us informed and in line at meetings. Dennis will continue to draw on the wealth of talent represented in our membership for more fascinating programs. I will strive to come up with field trips that you actually want to attend and keep you informed of field trips hosted by other lithophile groups in California.

Alan and I are planning to hit Jade Cove and other nearby beaches sometime in January. We also plan to attend the inter-regional field trip to Oregon at the beginning of August. We are hoping you will be joining us. Neither is completely confirmed so I will keep you informed as I get the details. I also plan to revisit Capitola, this time with a better low tide.

### Shows:

**December 12 - 13: RIALTO, CA,** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society  
Across Street from Rialto City Hall, 105 South Palm Avenue  
Hours: Sat 9 - Dusk daily  
Contact: Jessica Pierson, (909) 381-0089, Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

### Field Trips:

None in December

Kelly Plumb



## Display Report

There are four competitive categories each month. Everyone is invited to vote on the entries in each category. The winner in each category receives a prize of five dollars, and the person who has won the most competitions for novice cab during the year will advance to "pro" status and be awarded a Diablo Dan silver pin.

**Novice Cabs** – No entry this month

**Pro Cabs** - Two entries

**A – Donna Albrecht – Agate Druzy (winner)**

**D – Barrie Bieler – Jasp Agate**

**Shape of the Month – Oval** Two entries

**A – Barrie Bieler – Black Agate Druzy (winner)**

**B – Donna Albrecht - Agate**

**Faceted Gems** – One entry

**II – Terry Caskey – Topaz (unchallenged)**

You have two months to get stones ready for January's competition. Shape of the month will be 'irregular'. Can be freeform, or any cut not featured in 2015: crosses, stars, crescents, fan cut, barrel cut...almost anything goes. Be creative. See you at the party.

### 2015 Shape of the Month Cabs

January – Irregular (Freeform or any cut not mentioned in the rest of the year)

February - Heart shape

March - Oval

April - Round

May - Pear (Teardrop)

June – Rectangles & Squares

July - Freeform

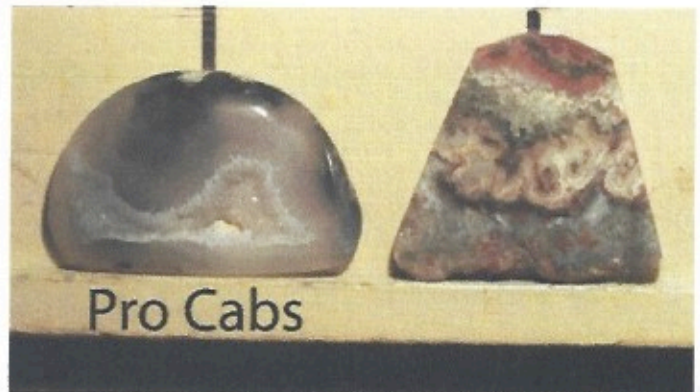
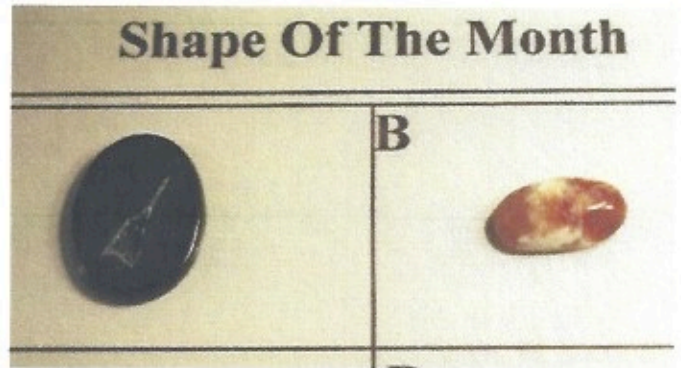
August - Triangle

September - Marquis (Cat's eye)

October – Auction Night (no displays)

November - Oval

December - No competition (Holiday party)



**December Birthdays**

If you are a current member and do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please drop me a note so I can update my record.

Thanks, Mary Jernigan



**Happy Birthday!!**

Therese Clark	12/01
Terry Caskey	12/02
Mark Bufton	12/02
Sophie Vecchio	12/03
Hitesh Joshi	12/04
Sherry Pevahouse	12/05
Charles (Bruce) Newton Jr.	12/05
Margaret Henrich	12/08
Suzanne Garrett	12/16
Tom Hanjes	12/20
Harry Nichandros	12/24



**December Anniversaries**

Marty Wharton	12/31
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**CFMS Fall Director's Meeting****By Dick Pankey, Federation Director**

With only a couple of exceptions for the last 25 years Betty and I have taken our trailer to Visalia to attend the California Federation of Mineralogical Society's Fall Director's meeting. We "camp" in the back parking lot of the Holiday Inn. Surprise!! The motel is now owned by Wyndham but basically we had the same service that we have always had. It was a beautiful weekend in Visalia for the CFMS Fall Director's meeting. It is a great time when people from California, parts of Nevada and parts of Arizona get-together to share ideas and conduct the business of the Federation. It is a concentrated time of committee reports, election of officers, financial reports and more. It is at the Fall meeting that we approve the budget, and elect and install officers for the coming year. The weekend of the Directors meeting is also the time for many committee meetings and it is often the only time we see many of the other officers, chairmen and committee people from around the state. Fortunately most of us have email these days, which really helps in conducting the workings of the Federation.

But there is more than just the one meeting to fill our time over the weekend. Many people arrive on Friday and don't head home until late Sunday morning. Starting Friday afternoon the 5 Federation officers hold one of their several Executive Committee meetings which lasted almost 4 hours. There also were several committees meeting including the CFMS and AFMS Scholarship Com., and a final Nominating Com. meeting. That evening there was the Cracker Barrel; an informal get-together for socializing and sharing of ideas. The Directors' meeting was held Saturday morning and concluded at about 12:30. In the afternoon, after a quick lunch I attended the Long Range Planning Committee made up of all living past CFMS Presidents and the current Executive committee. Saturday evening was the banquet to install the 2016 officers. The meeting concluded Sunday morning with the new president's change over meeting with the other new officers and the committee chairs. A full weekend conducting the business of the Federation.

**Directors' Meeting highlights:**

Ø *The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge to the Flag, the Invocation and the In Memoriam to*

*recognize departed members. Each society is given an opportunity to give the names of departed members from their society.*

Ø *There was a very good turnout of directors. 55 directors representing approximately 110 societies; all 5 officers and 25 committee chairs. When a society does not have a director present their society does not have a voice in the business of the Federation. There were 2 first time directors.*

Ø *There was only 1 delinquent society - the Bay Area Searchers and the other good news no societies disbanded or resigned from the Federation.*

Ø *The 2015 Show was put on by the Federation because no society stepped up to host the show. The show was held at the Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi. Besides being a great show it was financially very successful earning \$17,802 for the Federation.*

Ø *The El Dorado Co. M&GS will host the 2016 CFMS Show in Placerville, CA on September 16, 17 & 18. This show will be held in conjunction with the World Gold Panning Championships. The shows and events promises to be a fantastic week of Gold, parades, car show, music and a great gem and mineral show. Show information will be on the web site soon with registration, competitive and non-competitive forms and information about the attractions around the area. Contact me for more information and copies of the forms. Betty and I are planning to attend and to exhibit. Attendance and exhibiting is open to all members. If you would like to attend or just want more information please contact me.*



Ø The 2017 show will be in Ventura, CA. This will be a combined CFMS & AFMS Show and Convention; a really big event. And it is less than 300 miles away This is one of my favorite show sites; big spacious show buildings with camping and all show activities right on the Fairgrounds. Betty and I will be there.

Ø The officers for 2016 were elected: President - **John Martin**, 1st VP - **Margaret Kolaczyk**, 2nd VP - **Kim Campbell-Erb**, Treasurer - **Tony Fender** and Secretary - **Louisa Carey**. Being an officer in the CFMS is typically a 5 year commitment of "going through the chair".

Ø The 2016 Budget was approved with revenues of approximately \$97,500 and expenses of approximately \$109,050. There is a projected gain of \$11,500; any actual loss can be made up from the CFMS Endowment Fund.

Ø There will not be an increase in dues or insurance for 2016. The dues are \$1.25 to the CFMS and \$.75 to the AFMS per member. The insurance is \$6.00. Total due to CFMS is \$8.00 per member which is the same for the last few years.

Ø Earth Science Studies: The one week Camp Zzyzx is scheduled for March 27 to April 3. The cost remains at \$390 for room, meals and most class supplies. If you use your own RV there is a \$50/person discount. See me for more information and application forms. The reservations for Zzyzx are now open. This session will fill up fast. Preference will be given to "first timers". There is a lot of interest in this great camp.

Ø There were only 2 entries in the CFMS All American Club and 9 entries in the

AFMS contest. This is a great competition where the society prepares a scrapbook of the years activities and accomplishments. CCM&GS has not entered since 2003. We have a strong, active and involved society and could score well. We just need someone willing to assemble our book.

Ø Membership in the CFMS is declining, both societies and individuals. Society membership is declining and it is becoming increasingly difficult getting members to become officers and committee chairmen. The Membership Committee is developing ideas to address these issues. One suggestion is to have each officer and committee chair to present to the membership what their position entails at a meeting and in the newsletter.

Ø I turned in a **BIG** bundle of stamps to **Debbie Bunn** who collects them for the Easter Seals Society in the name of CFMS. Thanks to all of you that saved and gave me stamps over the past year. Saving stamps has been an ongoing project of the Federation, which is a moneymaker for the Easter Seal Society. It is easy to help; just cut any and all stamps from your mail, put them in an envelope or zip lock bag and give them to me.

Ø Again this year only three honorees were nominated this year to present a \$2000 CFMS Scholarship to an undergraduate student so the CFMS will award only one scholarship this year. The CFMS Scholarship fund has over \$98,264 available for scholarships but can not be awarded unless a local society (our society?) nominates an honoree to help select and present a scholarship to an



*undergraduate student. CCM&GS can nominate an honoree. There are sufficient funds for scholarships but they can only be given out by an honoree nominated by a CFMS society. The CCM&GS may nominate an honoree to recognize the service of one of our members to education.*

*Ø AFMS Scholarship honoree was not announced.*

*Ø A number of pages of the CFMS website are for "Members Only" and require a password to gain access. The Member's Only pages include the By-laws, Operating Regulations, Officers Manual, and more to come. Check out the CFMS Website at [www.cfmsinc.org](http://www.cfmsinc.org) for a lot of interesting information including the CFMS Newsletter, announcements about field trips, ESS camps and a lot more. If you are interested in viewing the Members Only pages contact me for the password.*

*Ø The following forms were passed out for CCM&GS to complete and return: Ad Hoc Electronic Communications, Officer Change Form, Dues and Insurance Form, Order sheet for Bars and Triangles (service awards) Video Programs Order Form, and Show Dates Form. I will pass these out at the Board meeting in December.*

*If you want to know more about the CFMS and this recent directors meeting I have the complete meeting packet that has the agenda, minutes of the November 2015 meeting, committee reports, Treasurer's report and other Federation business. I will have it available at the next few Board meetings and general membership meetings or give me a call.*

Through **December**, we will be meeting at the Concord Senior Center.

**2727 Parkside Circle**

**Concord, CA 94519**

This is Off Bonifacio which is off Port Chicago Hwy





**CONTRA COSTA MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY [www.ccmgs.org](http://www.ccmgs.org)**

P0 Box 842, Concord, CA 94522

General Meeting: Second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. *(Third Monday of the month in June)*

Centre Concord, 5298 Clayton Rd, Concord, (Clayton Fair Shopping Center, about 0.2 miles northwest on Clayton from Ygnacio Valley Road) Cross street Balhan Drive, next to Clayton Valley Bowl, free parking

**September through December meetings are being held at Concord Senior Citizens Center**

Membership Fees: Initiation \$5; Regular Member \$10, Junior \$1

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!

**Board and Committee Members 2015**

Please do not publish this list, Editor

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Past President

**Donna Albrecht**

Ecology

**Open**



December 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Holiday Potluck					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Articles Due				Christmas	
27	28	29	30	31		



**BACK TO OUR OLD LOCATION FOR MEETINGS  
IN JANUARY AT CENTRE CONCORD**

**First Class**  
Member of American and California Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies

Contra Costa Mineral and Gem Society  
P.O. Box 842, Concord, Ca 94522-0842

**Diablo Diggins**  
Newsletter of the Contra Costa Mineral  
and Gem Society  
[www.ccmg.org](http://www.ccmg.org)  
Editor- Terry Caskey  
Send reports to [tcaskey@comcast.net](mailto:tcaskey@comcast.net)

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

Members meet the second Monday of each  
month in our **temporary location** at  
the Concord Senior Citizens Center ( see  
Page 4 of the newsletter)

Visitors are welcome, bring a friend.