

Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems

Volume 45

December 2024

Number 12



Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society

P.O. Box 10136
Gulfport, Ms. 39505



www.facebook.com/gulfportgems
Website: www.gulfportgems.org

Congratulations to the new
2025 BOARD

President: Peter M.
Vice President: Lisa F.
Secretary: Sheryl R.
Treasurer: Nicole G.
Director: Sue W.



2025 Dues

Applications available at the December meeting for members. Application is also in the newsletter. (see page 11) and website. Deadline is 3rd Saturday in January.

Don't forget to order your name tag too!

Please continue to check our website and Facebook pages for updates.

Workshops are posted on both.

www.gulfportgems.org

www.facebook.com/gulfportgems

Merry Christmas

December 21, 2024

Christmas Party

Setup 11am

Lunch 12:00 pm

Dirty Santa Game

We need volunteers

All members will help setup and decorate for our party.

**“Please bring a dish
Those who volunteered
(see Minutes)”**



Food is Catered

**Bring a gift to play
“Dirty Santa”**

(\$25.00 Value)



November 16, 2024

Called to Order Time: 1:00 p.m. by President Allan E.

Members in attendance: (20) Peter M.; Sheryl R.; Terri R. (guest); Allan E.; Sue S.; Buddy S.; Reba S.; Nicole G.; Karen W.; Laura T.; Shirley R.; Rozz N.; Sue W.; Lynn T.; Charley C.; Leslie J.; Niccola H.; Beverly B.; Lisa F.; and Sharon G.

Program: No program.

Show & Tell: Allan showed the group some rocks he got from Graves Mountain in Lincolnton, GA.

Meeting: Beverly made a motion to accept the September 2024 minutes. Niccola seconded the motion. All were in agreement and motion carried.

Lisa made a motion to accept the October 2024 minutes. Leslie seconded the motion. All were in agreement and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nicole gave the treasurer's report. There was an expense for the light box and the bank balance was \$XXX. The equipment fund had a deposit of \$XXX and after interest, the equipment fund was \$XXX. The CD balance is \$XXX. Nicole mentioned that the storage fee went up about \$8.00 per month (for 11 months - 12th month is free).

Lisa made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Sharon seconded the motion. All were in agreement and motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Workshops: Shirley stated that instructors were needed for February and March. Laura mentioned that if anyone has a pattern for a project and wants to bring it in, maybe we could choose a project from ones that have been done before.

Newsletter: Lisa said if you have any articles to add to the Newsletter, send them to Lisa, Leslie, and Shirley.

Facebook: Laura said if you are doing a workshop, please send her a photo of the project, material list, and if kits will be available (also cc Leslie, Lisa, and

Shirley).

Webmaster: Leslie noted that the minutes are on the web page and are not password protected.

Equipment: No report.

Sunshine: Laura let everyone know that her brother, Eddie, had been in the hospital and had a pacemaker put in and is feeling better.

Show: Beverly reported that two vendors have advised that they will not be setting up for the 2025 show. She has been in contact with some other possible vendors. One vendor requested less tables but wants the same space and as we get closer to time, she will work on the floor plan.

Buddy and Reba brought a copy of vendor business cards from the Jewelry & Gem Show that was held in Jackson, MS and suggested someone might contact those vendors to see if they want to set up for our 2025 show.

Lisa discussed the possibility of renting a van to haul things to/from the show. She saw a company advertising a U-Haul type van for \$19.95 per day, but she would look into any other fees such as mileage.

Librarian: No report.

Elections: Nominees were announced for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and director as follows: President: Peter, Vice-Pres.: Lisa, Treasurer: Nicole, Secretary: Sheryl R., Director: Sue W.

Ballots were prepared, but there were no nominations from the floor. The Board was voted in by acclamation.

Christmas Party: Discussion was held regarding having the Christmas Party at a restaurant vs. at the Herbert Wilson Recreation Center. After a show of hands, the majority wanted the Christmas Party to be catered and held at the Rec. Center. Everyone will meet up at 11:00 a.m. to set up tables/chairs and any decorations anyone wants to bring. Nicole read the menu to members from Claiborne Hill Supermarket. It was decided to buy one roasted turkey and one ham with sides (each feeding 12 people) as follows:



Roasted Turkey and Ham
 Cranberry Sauce
 Cornbread Dressing
 Turkey Gravy
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Dinner Rolls
 Green Beans
 Apple Pie
 Sweet Potato Pie

To add to the deserts:

Banana pudding (sugar free)	Reba
Lemon cake	Sue
Upside down pineapple cake	Sheryl
Sweet potato pie (sugar free)	Charlene
Sweet & Unsweet Tea	Nicole
2 -2 liter Soft Drinks	Lisa

It was also agreed that we would do Dirty Santa with gift price being \$25.00 for whoever wanted to participate.

Split the Pot: \$XXX was taken in. Rozz won Split the Pot and won \$XXX and \$XXX went to the equipment fund.

Door Prizes: There were many wonderful door prizes at the meeting, and door prizes were drawn. If you have any door prizes to donate, please give them to Cindy.

Adjournment: Nicole made a motion for adjournment. Beverly seconded and after no objections, motion carried, and the meeting ended at 2:00 p.m.



Thought of the Day . . .



Happy Birthday
 Dan Boudreaux
 Anna Johnson
 Peter Mastroianni
 Serena Voigt

**Cellini Spiral Christmas Ornament
November's Workshop By Leslie J.**



Off The Menu ...



Pecan Drops

Bell's Best Cookbook / Nicole Green

- 1 Egg
- 1 Cup of Brown Sugar
- 1 Tablespoon of Flour
- 1 teaspoon Vanilla
- 2 cups of Pecans
- Butter
- Wax paper
- Cookie Sheet

Whip 1 egg white until stiff. Add 1 cup of brown sugar and 1 tablespoon of flour combined to egg white. Mix in 1 teaspoon of vanilla and 2 cups of pecans.

Line cookie sheet with wax paper. Butter the wax paper or they will stick. Bake at 300 degrees for 15 minutes. Let cool before removing from cookie sheet.



In Memory of our good friend Roberta Meyers

Corn Souffle

Roberta Meyer's Recipe provided by Sue West

- Jiffy Corn Casserole
- 1 can cream style corn
- 1 can whole style corn, drain 1/2 c. Liquid off
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 3/4 stick melted butter
- 1 (8oz.) carton sour cream
- 1 sm. box jiffy cornbread mix
- 1 c. Grated cheddar cheese

Mix all ingredients together. Bake in slightly oiled 9 x 13 pan at 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until firm. Stir when outside of pan starts to thicken.

**November's Workshop By Sue W.
Bicycle Earrings**



**President Allan E. talks about
a specimen**



Laura T. and Buddy S. cab



**Sue S. shows off her spider bracelet
she made. So pretty!**



**Others members like Secretary Sheryl
R. and President Allan E. work on other
projects**



Turquoise

FACTS

- Mineral: Turquoise
- Chemistry: $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4 (\text{OH})_{8.5}\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Color: Blue to green
- Refractive Index: 1.610 to 1.650
- Birefringence: Not detectable
- Specific Gravity: 2.76 (+0.14, -0.36)
- Mohs Hardness: 5 to 6

Turquoise is only found in a few places on earth: dry and barren regions where acidic, copper-rich groundwater seeps downward and reacts with minerals that contain phosphorus and aluminum. The final results of this sedimentary process is a porous, semi-translucent to opaque compound of hydrated copper and aluminum phosphate.

Turquoise is believed to bring prosperity to the one who wears the stone symbolizing good fortune and success.

To chemists and geologists turquoise is as known as “copper aluminum phosphate.” Often found in weathered igneous rock that contains copper minerals, where it crystallizes in veins and nodules. Developing in rocks near water tables, located in semiarid and arid environments. The chemicals in turquoise come from adjacent rock, leached out by rain and groundwater.

Being relatively soft it can be easily scratched and broken. This porous opaque stone is easily discolored by oil and pigments, and changes color when it loses some of its water content. The presence of copper gives it a sky blue color and the presence of iron gives it a greener tone.

During the formation of the stone the ochre and brown-black veins develop caused by inclusions from nearby rock fragments or from oxide staining. The most valued variety of turquoise is an intense robin’s egg color or a sky blue. Hard, relatively non-porous compact stones have the best appearance because the stone can be finely polished. Pale and chalky varieties of Turquoise however are sometimes impregnated with oil, paraffin, liquid plastic and glycerin to give it a good polish.

This stone can be found in Armenia, Kazakhstan, China, Australia, Tibet, China, Mexico, Brazil, and Egypt. In Iran, where some of the best stones are found, turquoise is the national gem. The American southwest-Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and California-are primary producers of turquoise. Much of the

specimens have a light color, and are porous and chalky-only about 10% is of gem quality.

The name originates from the French phrase “pierre turquoise” meaning “Turkish stone” because turquoise was brought to Europe by Venetian merchants who first acquired it in Turkish bazaars.



Rare Turquoise specimen
from the Bisbee Mine
Which is located in
Bisbee, Arizona



In 1810, Napoleon gave his second wife, the Empress Maria Louise, this diadem. Originally, diamonds and emeralds were set in this stunning silver and gold crown. In the 1950s, the emeralds were removed and sold individually. They were later replaced with 79 Persian turquoises. “Marie Louise Diadem,” Smithsonian Institution, photo by Cliff is licensed under CC By 2.0



Zircon

FACTS



- Mineral: Zircon
- Chemistry: $ZrSiO_4$
- Color: Blue, red, yellow, orange, brown, green
- Refractive index:
 - High: 1.925 to 1.984 (+/- 0.040)
 - Medium: 1.875 to 1.905 (+/- 0.030)
 - Low: 1.810 to 1.815 (+/- 0.030)
- Birefringence: 0.000 to 0.059 (low to high)
- Specific gravity: 3.90 to 4.73
- Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7.5 (low to high)

Colorless zircon is known for its brilliance and flashes of multicolored light, called fire. These zircon properties are close enough to the properties of diamond to account for centuries of confusion between the two gems. Colorless zircon is called “Matara” zircon after a city in Sri Lanka near where it is mined.

Zircon occurs in an array of colors. Its varied palette of yellow, green, red, reddish brown, and blue hues makes it a favorite among collectors as well as informed consumers.

The crystals grow in many different types of rock and possess a range of optical and physical properties. Some lower value zircons—usually green ones—were determined by scientists that the crystal structures of these gems were almost completely broken down by radioactive elements—often present in zircon as impurities—that damaged the gems’ crystal structure over long periods of geological time.

Gemologists classify zircons into three types—high, intermediate, and low depending on the its properties, which are directly related to the amount of radiation-induced damage done to its crystal structure.

High or normal zircons have full crystal structures, with little or no damage from radioactive elements possessing the normal physical and optical properties associated with the mineral.

In intermediate or medium zircons, radioactive elements have caused some structural damage possessing physical and optical properties that are between high and low types.

All the zircons used in jewelry are of the high type.

Interestingly, radiation-induced crystal-structure

breakdown can be reversed somewhat by heating zircon to high temperatures this repairs the stone’s damaged crystal structure producing a high type gemstone.

Tanzanite

FACTS

- Mineral: Zoisite
- Chemistry: $Ca_2Al_3(SiO_4)_3(OH)$
- Color: Blue to violet to bluish purple
- Refractive Index: 1.691 to 1.700
- Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.013
- Specific Gravity: 3.35
- Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7

Exactly who made the discovery of tanzanite is the subject of some debate. According to some, the first tanzanite crystals were found by Masai tribesman, Ali Juuyawatu. Other reports state that the discoverer was Ndugu Jumanne Ngoma. Finally, a further account credits Manual de Souza with the discovery of tanzanite on July 7, 1967. It has become the second most popular blue gem after sapphire and is rarer than diamonds.

Tanzanite is the blue to violet to purple variety of the mineral zoisite. It is mined commercially only in one area of the world: the Merelani Hills of Tanzania, which is where it got its name by Tiffany & Co. Because crystals show different colors depending on viewing direction, cutters can choose bluish purple or the more favored pure blue or violetish blue hue depending on how much weight they want to retain from the rough.

The blue color of tanzanite is caused by small amounts of vanadium within the zoisite mineral structure. When vanadium-bearing zoisite is heated to a temperature of 600 degrees Celsius for about 30 minutes, the oxidation state of the vanadium is changed and that change causes or improves the blue color. Tanzanite is a pleochroic gem.

Pleochroism is a physical property in which the material appears to be different colors when viewed from different crystallographic directions. Some specimens of tanzanite can be a distinct blue when viewed from one direction, and vary from violet to red when viewed from other directions.



Sources: gia.edu, Wikipedia, geology.com, gemselect.com, minerals.com, [Gulfport Gems Vol. 45 Number 12](http://duran-</p></div><div data-bbox=)



Bench Tips from Brad

MANDRELS

Need that perfect Christmas gift? Give a Lapidary artist the best! Give them a Brad Smith Book.



Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire, and frequently we need a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops.

But to get the right "look" in chain maile designs, you must have exactly the right size mandrel, and often those are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is a set of transfer punches used in woodworking. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, and is only about \$12. In the US it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577, and in Europe, it's available from MZS in the Netherlands as item number 250575.

Making jewelry involves a multitude of skills, intricate hand work, and a lot of problem solving. In this series Books in this series help to:

- >Broaden your metalworking skills
- >Improve productivity at the bench
- >Save money on tools and supplies

You'll find hundreds of low cost and really practical tips and techniques that the author uses in his work and teaches in his classes and workshops.

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



[www. bradsmithjewelry.com](http://www.bradsmithjewelry.com)
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<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>

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SFMS 2024 Annual Convention

March 1-3, 2024

Live Oak, FL

AFMS 2024 Annual Convention

TBA

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

706-379-2126

Register Now at:

www.lapidaryschoolregistration.org

Federation Week Jun 8 - 14, 2025

Classes are subject to change

WILDACRES RETREAT

828-756-4573

Website @ www.wildscres.org

registrarwildacres@gmail.com Claudia Erwin

When scheduling keep in mind, workshops are subjected to change without notice.

Please check the website for changes.

Federation Weeks August 12th -18th

2nd Week September 9th - 15th

A.L.A.A.

Have you joined the **American Lands Access Association** (ALAA)? Help is needed. Please volunteer!

The organization was founded to promote and ensure the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Individual dues are \$25 per year; clubs \$50 per year.

A quarterly newsletter is sent to all members.

For more information,

Visit <http://amlands.org>



Doug True, President

Nearby Gem Societies



Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

www.mgcgms.com

Meeting: 2nd Saturday of the month



Mobile Rock and Gem Society

www.mobilerockandgem.com

Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of the month



Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana

Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month

Contact: Levette @ 504-214-3205

FIELD TRIPS

Dixie Mineral Council



For a monthly list of field trips, visit their website.

Members Only

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>

Other Interests:

International Society of Glass Blowers

Visit site if you like Lampworking

Website: www.isgb.org



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Information



Officers 2024

President - *Allan Elliott* Allan.K.Elliott@gmail.com
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Workshop Chairman

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Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Ms. State Director, Parliamentarian & Boundaries

Leslie Lane 601-344-8171

Past President SFMS

John Wright osjw21@gmail.com

Meetings / Workshops

Herbert Wilson Recreational Center
 3625 Hancock Avenue
 Gulfport, Ms. 39501

3rd Saturday of each month

9 am - 12 pm	Workshop
12 pm - 1 pm	Lunch
1 pm - 2 pm	Meeting

Directions: Coming from Pass Road or Hwy. 90 turn on Courthouse Road.

Turn next to Hancock Bank on 33rd Street until you reach Hancock Street. Look to your left and you will see the Herbert Wilson Recreational Center. We are on the left side of building thru the gates.

Come for fun . . . Stay to play!

Visit our Website and Facebook page:

www.gulfportgems.org or
<https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems>

2024 MEETING DATES

Jan 20th	May SHOW 18th & 19th	
Feb 17th	June 15th	Sept 21st
Mar 16th	July 20th	Oct 19th
Apr 20th	Aug 17th	Nov 16th

Dec 21st Christmas Party

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Fitch

Submit newsletter articles to:

lapidaryarts@hotmail.com



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Articles and minutes are due by the last day of each month



Membership Form

Contact Our Treasurer: Nicole Green (228) 344-8066 Email: nfouason@gmail.com



 HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 		
APPLICANT INFORMATION		SINGLE \$20.00
18 YEARS OF AGE		
Name:		Email:
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Anniversary: (Mo/Day)	Cell Phone:
Current address:		Home Phone:
City:	State / Zip Code:	Work Phone:
CO-APPLICANT / SPOUSE INFORMATION		FAMILY \$30.00
TWO ADULTS & ALL MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE/AT SAME ADDRESS		
Co-Applicant / Spouse:		Email:
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Cell Phone:	Work Phone:
JUNIOR INFORMATION		JUNIOR \$10.00
UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ☆ SPONSORED BY AN ADULT		
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name:	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
☆ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION ☆		
Name:		
Relationship:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
INTEREST INFORMATION		
Hobby Interest:		Jewelry Interest:
(Each applicant initial interests)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fossils <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals <input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary (<input type="checkbox"/> Cabbing, <input type="checkbox"/> Faceting, Etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips (Creeks, Gravel pits, Mines, Etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interests _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Beading <input type="checkbox"/> Kumihimo <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Knotting <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping <input type="checkbox"/> Chainmaille <input type="checkbox"/> Silversmithing
APPLICATION FEES		
Applications can be mail to: Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society P. O. Box: 10136, Gulfport, Ms. 39505		
Single \$20.00	Family \$30.00	Junior(s) \$10.00 Each
DUES:		\$
Dues: <i>Circle One</i>	NEW RENEWAL	No Proration Deadline: 3rd Saturday of January
TOTAL:		\$
SIGNATURES		
How did you hear about our society? _____		
I authorize HCGMS to use my picture or likeness for society promotions?		YES or NO
I authorize HCGMS to include my information in society listings for members only?		YES or NO
Signature of applicant:		Date:
Signature of co-applicant/spouse (only if for a family membership):		Date:
*Newsletter will be sent via email @ no charge		Modified 11/20/17 LF

Our goal is to promote, educate and stimulate interest in the earth sciences and lapidary arts context.

Shows and Events

12/14-15/2024—FRANKLIN, TN: Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society - 43rd Annual Earth Treasures - Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show & Sale: 4215 Long Lane Franklin, TN 37064; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission: \$6 adults, 2 day pass \$10, Children 12 & Under with Adults- Free, Scouts in Uniform -Free. Website: www.MTGMS.org/show.htm; <https://www.facebook.com/mtgms/>

2/22-23/2025—JACKSON, MS: Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society – 66th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show: Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds, 1200 Mississippi St. Jackson, MS 39202; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Admission: \$8 adults, Students \$3, Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2, Children 5 & Under- Free,. Website: www.MTGMS.org/show.htm; www.missgems.org; Information email: mgmsshow@missgems.org; Link(s): <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1ZhivFnPMSAR36uY/>

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS VISIT - amfed.org

[AKS GEM SHOW](#) Presents [New Orleans Bead & Jewelry Show](#)

Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner, La. 70065

Admission Fee \$5.00 Hours: Fri & Sat 10am-6pm / Sun 10am-4pm Phone: 504-265-8830
Email info@aksshow.com with inquiries

Visit website www.aksshow.com and GET A COUPON FOR \$1.00 OFF Admission

2025 Jan. 10, 11, & 12 March 14, 15, & 16 June 27, 28, & 29

Sept 5 & 6 November 14, 15, & 16

Save \$1.00 off
admission to any AKS
Gem Show

This coupon is good for entrance to any AKS Gem Show! ***Be sure to check your inbox for additional savings from our exhibitors.***

[Check our list of shows now...](#)

Offer Expires: no expiration.



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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

HCGMS 2024 Workshops

<p>January 20</p> <p>Victorian Bracelet By Sue West</p> <p>Program - Cindy B. Equipment / Waiver</p>  <p>Happy New Years</p>	<p>February 17</p> <p>Viking Knit By Julie B.</p> <p>Program - Lisa F. Scholarships</p> <p>Happy Valentines February 14th </p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>Shamrock Bracelet By Lisa Fitch</p> <p>Program - Nicole G. Clasps</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day 17th </p> <p>Happy Easter March 31 </p>	<p>April 20</p> <p>Lotus Pendant Karen Williams/ Rozz</p> <p>Program - Use Extra time to Prepare Post Cards for Show.</p>
<p>May 18</p> <p>SHOW 18th & 19th</p>	<p>June 15</p> <p>Kumihimo By Nicole Green</p> <p>Wired Cabochon By Sue West</p> <p>Program -</p>	<p>July 20</p> <p>Shaggy Earrings By Lynn & Laura T.</p> <p>Wired Necklace By Sue West</p> <p>Program - Repair Stones By Allan E.</p> <p>Happy 4th </p>	<p>August 17</p> <p>Netted Christmas Ornament By Lisa F.</p> <p>Program -</p>
<p>September 21</p> <p>Unfinished Projects Or Make it Take it Or Gem Trees for show</p> <p>Program -</p>	<p>October 19</p> <p>Snap Set Earrings By Beverly B. Or Gem Trees for Show</p> <p>Program - </p> <p>Happy Halloween</p>	<p>November 16</p> <p>Cellini Spiral Christmas Ornament By Leslie J.</p> <p>Bicycle Earrings By Sue W.</p> <p>Program - </p>	<p>December 21</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS PARTY</p>