



CGMG News

Publication of CERA Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club
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Brutal Beauty: The Return of Controversial Fashion

Program presented by: Logan Crawford
Tuesday, February 10, 7pm



Brutalism was a style of architecture adopted into popular jewelry designs between the 1960's-1970's. While the controversial style fell out of favor for many decades, it has made a not so quiet resurgence in popularity. Our program will explore the history behind this trend and why it is making such a resurgence in jewelry fashion.



The Purpose of the CERA Gem Mineral & Glass Activity

is to promote a spirit of fellowship among members and to promote popular interest and education in certain arts and the various earth sciences, in particular, those facets dealing with the arts of lapidaries, metals, glass, and jewelry and the sciences of minerals, paleontology, geology, and archeology.



From Your President

Welcome February!

A winter storm never fails to give us time to contemplate what we'll do when the weather warms and the ice disappears. Every year there are new things to welcome, changes from what we are used to doing and things to shake up our comfortable status quo. 2026 is different only in that the shaking is happening faster.

How we look at our comfortable gem and mineral world is changing. I've watched metal prices climb for many years, but never at a pace that is happening now. It is hard for those of us who remember silver at \$12 an ounce or even less to think about paying today's prices, and yet when we buy other things most have also increased a lot since the \$12 silver price days. The past prices don't mean much today. Silver is still a good buy and if you work in gold, there will always be a market for gold adornment. If you are a jewelry maker, keep making jewelry. Take more time to make a higher quality piece, use higher quality stones, spend a little more time on design. But keep doing what you love. Creativity is important for our mental health.

If you like field trips, they change too. Texas ranches are private property so you must have permission to hunt those ranches. So many of the ranches in West Texas are now off limits, with more closing to those leading the hunts all the time. But as collections are found many of

those materials end up in vendor's hands and shows around us. A field trip can be to a gem and mineral show and you can benefit from someone else's stash of great materials. You save money by carpooling for a one-day trip and no overnight stays. I know! They are no match for the fun time groups have by traveling and hunting together, but carpooling to a place like Tucson and spending four or five days together are a great substitute. And I know a few who are getting ready for that in February. If you've always wanted to go, try it. You may never see another city with shows everywhere. You can't describe it adequately. You must see it to understand what it means when people talk about the Tucson Show.

If you are into lapidary, now is the time to cut those stones you picked up on our previous field trips, finish those preforms, and choose the best layout on the stone to get top quality cabs. Many of us could just cut and polish stones for the rest of our life.

Ready for something new. Watch for our classes. Some new ones coming. Try faceting, glass, casting, mold making. We can all learn or teach something new.

Life changes, have fun, share your skills, adapt and look for ways to keep the fun in our gem and mineral-rich world.

CJ Wright
President
CERA GMG



Commissioner's Report

Hello, Gem, Mineral & Glass Members.

Thank you to all our returning and new officers! We still need some to take VP of Field Trips. This is a great opportunity for someone to help us grow and thrive. There is plenty of support available, and we really need the help.

CJ tried to kick off the year with an Executive Committee meeting, but the snow and ice storm got in the way. We will try again this month. Several officers and

members are going to Tucson/Quartzite, so we have to wait a couple of weeks to get everybody's availability.

Please check the registration page at www.cera-fw.org for upcoming classes. We are starting off the year with several learning opportunities. We are also looking for instructors to bring new skills to us.

There is nothing new to report from the Board of Directors. We should be able to start repairs and shop improvements now.

I look forward to seeing you all at the monthly meeting.

Best Regards, Robert Reed
Commissioner

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

BENCH SHEARS

When cutting sheet metal, it's quicker and easier to use a set of shop shears as compared with using a hand saw. The cut is not as precise, but many times you don't need that. Shears will easily cut up to 24 gauge sheet, and some will cut 22 or even 20 gauge.



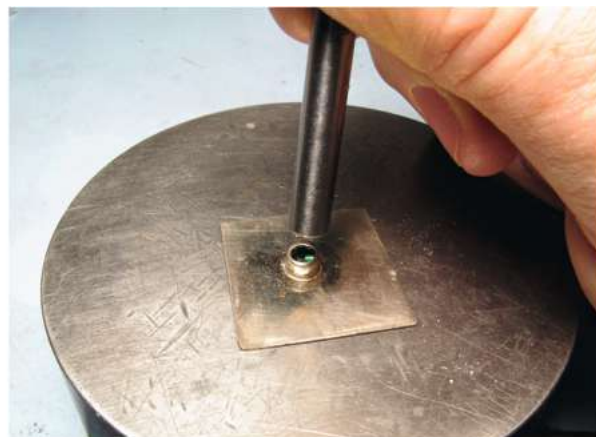
Current prices for shears run from \$13 - \$36 in jewelry catalogs, and the Joyce Chen scissors recommended on some jewelry blogs run more than \$20. But I found cheaper alternatives at the 99 Cent Store for use in my classes. They're great for cutting bezels, trimming around a bezel cup and cutting a piece off a larger sheet.

BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of pushing the metal down over a round stone and burnishing it. It works with regular bezels, with tube settings, and with prong settings. Stones can be set in as little as 30 seconds.

The working end is a concave cavity that fits over the bezel or prong setting and is pushed and twisted to capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are expensive and contain many sizes you will probably never use. If all you need is one or two sizes, here's how you can make them yourself.

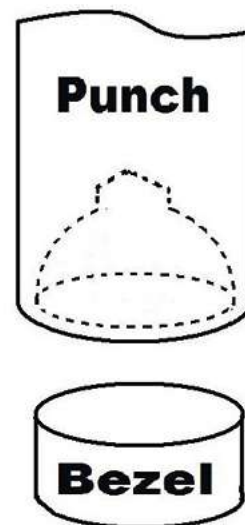
Find a round steel rod or bolt a little larger in diameter than your bezel cup or prong setting. Cut a 5 inch length. File both ends flat. Locate the center of one end, centerpunch a divot, and drill a small pilot hole about 5 mm deep. Remember to use a little oil as lubricant when cutting steel.



Select a ball bur a bit larger than the bezel. Enlarge the pilot hole to a full hemispherical cavity. Test for proper fit with your bezel. Bezel should first contact the cavity about a third of the way in. When the size is correct, polish the cavity using Zam on a length of chopstick in your flexshaft. If the tool is not polished, it will leave scratches on your bezel or prongs.

When using the tool, the first step is to capture the stone correctly. I usually work by hand and push the punch straight down over the bezel or prongs. This causes the metal to start bending over the stone. The next step is to inspect the stone with a lens to be sure it is staying level. Repeat until the stone is seated on its bearing and can't move anymore.

Finally, force the metal down onto the stone uniformly all the way around. While this can be done by hand, I often gently tap the punch with a hammer. Finish by twisting the bezel back and forth to burnish the top of the bezel.



Happy hammering,

BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at
<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

CGM&Glass Minutes January, 2026

CJ Wright, President, called the meeting to order with 30 in attendance which includes 1 new person, Susan Healy.

Robert Reed, Chairman, expressed special thanks to Charles and Jan, Carmen, Colleen and Jack for their help and contributions to the Christmas dinner and party. He said that we would start ordering saw oil in 5 gallon buckets due to the expense of ordering by the barrel. If members wish to purchase oil, please plan ahead and advise him. He will be preparing to have an emerald cut faceting class in February. Nothing new on budget. If you have any capital expenditures to propose for 2026, please let him know quickly.

The minutes for the December meeting were approved and seconded.

Sharon Williams, VP of Classes, stated that the first quarter classes were online and some openings are still available in a few classes. David Dudich will be having a class on the big saw and Susan Healy will have one on

the small saws.

Gina Koenig, VP of Field Trips, was absent but there were reports that a good time was had in Midlothian where sharks teeth and fossils were found.

Colleen Reigh, Newsletter Editor, asks for contributions to same.

Felice Moreno, VP of Glass Crafters, said Deborah Bartlett's intro to Fused glass Class is a great class to take and is quite popular as she is a great teacher. Deb's Interactive Glass Class Is really fun.

CJ Wright, President, discussed the nominations and volunteers for the open officer positions. Debra Limbocker has accepted the position of Secretary and Communications after the motion to nominate by acclimation was carried by majority. Deborah Bartlett will be the new VP of Glass Crafters. Carmen Sorenson will remain VP of Field Trips and Show Chair are still open.

Carla Lacey

No winter lasts forever, no spring skips its turn.

Hal Borland

Glass Activity

Fused Glass: Where Art Meets Everyday Function

When many people think of fused glass, they often picture decorative art pieces — colorful panels, sun catchers, or sculptural designs meant to be admired. While those are wonderful expressions of creativity, fused glass also has an exciting and practical side: it can be both beautiful and functional.

Fused glass is commonly used to create plates, bowls, trays, coasters, candle holders, jewelry, and serving pieces that are not only durable but completely food-safe when properly fired. These functional items allow artists to bring color, texture, and personal style into everyday life — turning ordinary moments like serving snacks or setting a table into something special.

One of the best parts of fused glass is the wide range of design options available. Artists can work with transparent, opaque, and patterned glass, layer colors for depth, incorporate frits and powders for texture, and use molds to create everything from gently curved plates to deep bowls and sculptural forms. Whether you prefer

bold modern designs, soft organic shapes, or classic stained-glass-inspired patterns, fused glass offers endless creative possibilities.

Fused glass is also a wonderful bridge between art glass and stained glass. Skills such as color planning, cutting, and composition carry across both mediums, making it a great opportunity for anyone interested in expanding their glasswork experience.

We would love to continue growing learning opportunities within the GMG Club's Glass Department. If there is a specific fused glass or stained glass project you'd like to explore — whether it's functional pieces like bowls and plates, decorative panels, or technique-focused skills — please let Deb Bartlett or Sharon Williams know. With enough interest, we can work to set up a class around the projects you're most excited to learn.

Let's keep creating, learning, and finding new ways to bring glass into both our art and our everyday lives.

Deborah

CLASSES

Hello GM&G Members,

As we welcome February, our class schedule is in full swing, with exciting learning opportunities and creative projects ahead.

Smithing Classes

Beginner Wax Carving and Casting current session is full and will continue throughout February. Great news—registration for the next session opens soon, with classes starting in March and running for six weeks. In this beginner-friendly course, you'll learn the fundamentals of wax carving, explore casting techniques, and finish by creating your own custom signet ring.

Silversmithing 101 will be offered twice in February. The first class is now full, but there are still spots available in the second session beginning Feb. 23rd. In this introductory class, you'll learn essential silversmithing skills and techniques through hands-on projects. By the end of the session, you'll have crafted your own unique silver piece to take home.

Silversmithing Saturday Specialty Class – Navajo Beads is in the works! This one-day class will be held either at the end of February or the beginning of March; the exact date will be announced soon, so keep an eye out for registration updates. The focus is on making enough Navajo beads for a necklace. Copper for beads will be provided; if you prefer sterling silver beads, you'll need to purchase your own materials.

Glass Classes

The Reactive Glass class was a great success! Students explored how different types of glass, Copper Bearing, Lead Bearing and Sulfur Bearing interact, resulting in beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces and a deeper understanding of glass chemistry and technique.

Fusing 101 starts February 3rd. In this hands-on course, students learn various glass fusing techniques to create unique works of art. The class also covers how to program and schedule the kiln for your projects, so you'll finish with both finished glass pieces and practical kiln management skills.

How to Register: To sign up for any class, please visit the CERA website. If you need assistance or have questions, contact me at srwms4@yahoo.com or text 214-616-8410.

Open Shop Night

Join us every Thursday night from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for Open Shop Night. This is a great opportunity to work on personal projects, practice new skills, and connect with fellow members.

Please double-check that a class isn't in session in the area you plan to use before arriving.

Sharon Williams. Education CERA GM&G



Web and Email Addresses

GMG main page

<http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/>

Registration page

<http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/home/registration/>

Newsletter

<http://cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/home/newsletter>

Link to Facebook

<HTTPS://www.facebook.com/CERAFortworth>

Area Clubs

Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Ave, Fort Worth, TX; forth Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX; forth Tuesday of month at 7:00.

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX; first Tuesday of the month at 7:30.

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, American Legion Hall, Suite 105, 10205 Plano Road, Dallas, TX; third Tuesday of month at 7:00.

Dallas Paleontological Society, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley

View Lane; second Wednesday at 7:30.

Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lather Dr., Dallas, TX; first Saturday of month at 10:00.

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Activities Bldg, 713 Austin, Garland, TX; first Tuesday of month at 7:30.