



# CGMG News

Publication of **CERA Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**  
Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association  
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47 different venues to attend

## Tucson 2026

The program for our March 10 meeting will cover some of the opportunities Which were available at the Tucson Gem, and Mineral Show.

You are invited to attend and listen to members who attended this year's shows describe their experience.

There will be video, samples to see, and stories to hear!

 CERA  
Gem, Mineral,  
and  
Glass Club

Ranchview Room  
Social Time 6:45 Meeting 7:00

### *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

It is already March and what beautiful weather. Time for being outside, looking at our yard rocks to see what to cut and polish.

And time to start finding field trip opportunities. We still need a field trip chair. You don't need a lot of experience as we can help you find contacts and know where to look.

If you have suggestions for a trip but don't want to be the field trip chair that works too. Help the rest of the club by sharing your trip knowledge, leading a trip or just organizing a trip with guides. Have an interest? Just talk to one of the officers. We'll connect you to others who can help.

Meanwhile, be sure to check out the classes posted on the [cera-fw.org-mineral-glass/](http://cera-fw.org-mineral-glass/) website. There are a lot of fun classes coming and more are added all the time. Most fill quickly so check often. I've missed several by not checking often enough myself.

Hope to see you at the monthly meeting March 10th.

CJ Wright,

President CERA GMG

## Modern Appeal of Stained Glass

Historically, stained glass was predominantly associated with religious buildings and cathedrals, celebrated for its vibrant colors and intricate designs. Flickinger Glassworks outline how the role of stained glass has expanded in contemporary times, moving into more secular and diverse spaces, including homes and public buildings. Today, architects and designers are reinterpreting this classic medium to create bold, modern statements. Stained glass is being embraced not only for its beauty but also for its functional benefits. It can diffuse natural light, reduce glare, and create dynamic color effects throughout the day. Additionally, stained glass windows enhance privacy while maintaining openness, making them particularly valuable in urban settings.

Public buildings have become canvases for stained glass innovation. Museums, libraries, and concert halls utilize stained glass installations to enhance their cultural identity and engage visitors. The play of light and color fosters an inviting atmosphere, encouraging people to interact with the space in new ways.

[fascinatecity.com](http://fascinatecity.com)



## Commissioner's Report

Greetings Fellow Gem, Mineral & Glass Members,

We have a Show Chair! Thank you, Janice Bowen for taking on this important position! Thank you also to Carla Lacey for being Show Chair for 2025. Carla has provided detailed notes and other resources to Janice to start off planning for this year. I look forward to having an even bigger and better show this year. The upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Panther City Expo Show is planned for September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026 with vendor setup on the 4<sup>th</sup>. We have reserved the Trinity Ballroom and the lobby again this year for the venue.

Thank you to Susan Healy, David Dudich, Daniel Carpenter, and all the other club members that are stepping up to help organize and maintain the glass studio and rock shop. This group effort is working out well so far this year. I have requests in from glass and for

lapidary/saw room to buy replacement and new supplies and equipment that will benefit shop readiness and maintenance. I will be submitting a request to the CERA Board of Directors this month to start these purchases. One note for all, if you remove something from the shop to help with repairs, please leave a note with your name and phone number where the item is normally found. This will help everyone understand what is going on.

We are still looking for someone to fill the VP Field Trips position. Please reach out to CJ Wright or me if you would like some information about the position. This a great way to serve the activity and our members.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the March 10<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting.

Best Regards,

Robert Reed

CERA Gem, Mineral & Glass Commissioner

# Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

## BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had a problem pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

## CLASSES

Hello GM&G Members

Smithing and Glass class lineup for March

### *Smithing Classes*

Beginner Silversmithing classes are now listed through June.

The final 6-week session of Beginner Wax Carving and Casting, before Logan Crawford moves out of state, begins March 16. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn the fundamentals of wax carving and casting, so be sure to register if you've been wanting to take this class.

### *Glass Classes*

If you've been hoping to attend the Fused Vase Class or the Nightlight Class, you're in luck. The next session



## CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased online ([amazon.com/dp/B084GPS6KR](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B084GPS6KR)) or from local stores as a common pool chemical like pH Down used for adjusting the acidity of the water. Check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is usually more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

Happy hammering,

[BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com](mailto:BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com)

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

begins March 14. This one-day, four-hour Saturday class is creative, hands-on, and always a lot of fun. Be sure to watch for additional class listings throughout the month on our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as the CERA Registration page.

*Open Shop Night* continues every Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00pm in the shop. This is a great opportunity to work on class projects, personal projects, practice new skills, and connect with fellow members. Please double-check that a class is not in session in the area you plan to use before arriving. We look forward to seeing you in the shop.

Sharon Williams Education

CERA GM&G

## CGM&Glass Minutes Feb. 10, 2026

CJ opened the meeting

We had one visitor: Brianne Williams, daughter of Sharon Williams. -Tanner brought some items for the silent auction.

Commissioner's Report

- no word on the budget for 2026
  - Purchased 15 gal of mineral oil for saws
  - Robert has a 300.00 limit without board approval
  - In 2025 we performed 10-20% better than in 2024
  - We will have an executive meeting soon to decide on some budget purchases. Please let Robert or CJ know of requests.
- Secretary's Report – Minutes were in the newsletter. Motions by Jan and Daniel. Approved.

Vice President of Classes – Felice reported for Sharon who was out.

- The wax carving class is full and is going well.
- Registration will open soon for the next wax carving class, which will be Logan's last class before he moves. Watch and sign up quickly, this class filled up very quickly last time.
- Next Silver Smithing beginner class starts Feb. 23
- Navajo Beads class will be taught by Barbara Betts. Registration will open soon. Class will be end of February or early March.
- Reactive glass class went great. We had lots of fun and the projects looked great.
- Glass Fusing 101 has started.

Please join us for Open Shop night every Thursday at 6:00  
Vice President of Field Trips – this position is still open,

so there is no report. Please let Sharon Williams know if you are interested in the position. CJ noted that we have worked with both Fort Worth and Arlington to set up trips in the past and will be able to do so in the future, so there is opportunity to meet some new people and get some help in this position.

Newsletter – Please send articles and pictures to Colleen. The deadline is the first Monday of the month. She will also post ads for hobby related items.

Vice President of glass – Thanks to Kelly Vaughn for all of her organizing work in the class space in the shop.

Show Chair – this position is still vacant. Carla has everything gathered up to pass along to whoever takes this position. She has detailed notes, dates and contact information. Please let Sharon know if you are willing to take this important position.

Shop Status – the door between the Silver smithing area and the shop room has been locked a couple of times recently. Please do NOT lock this door. However, there is now new key on the keyring to unlock this door.

There was no new business.

Please let Carmen know of any ideas you may have for meeting presentations. Even if you can't make the presentation yourself, your idea is valuable and may spark other ideas.

Thanks to Logan Crawford for his presentation on Brutalism in jewelry.

Deborah Limbocker



## Great Dyke of Zimbabwe

This intriguing astronaut photo reveals the hidden beauty of the expansive Great Dyke of Zimbabwe, a massive seam of ancient magmatic rock that's chock-full of valuable minerals

Where is it? Great Dyke of Zimbabwe, central Zimbabwe [-18.6018258, 30.34561]

What's in the photo? A massive, ancient rock formation that is rich in valuable metals

Who took the photo? An unnamed astronaut on board the International Space Station

When was it taken? Sept. 30, 2010

# Glass Activity

## Innovation in Stained & Fused Glass — And Growing Our Community

The GMG studio at CERA continues to blend tradition with innovation, bringing exciting new possibilities to both stained and fused glass artists.

### What's New in Stained Glass

Modern advances are expanding what we can create. Improved color consistency and specialty textures from manufacturers like Bullseye Glass Co. and Spectrum Glass Company (now part of Oceanside Glass & Tile) give artists greater reliability and creative range.

Energy-efficient LED lighting can now be integrated directly into stained glass pieces, opening the door to illuminated panels and dimensional work. In addition, newer lead-free and solder options provide safer alternatives while maintaining strength and beauty.

### What's New in Fused Glass

Digitally controlled kilns allow for precise, repeatable firing schedules, reducing guesswork and increasing successful outcomes. Reactive glasses and specialty powders — especially those developed by Bullseye Glass Company create stunning organic reactions and painterly effects when fired.

These tools help artists move beyond basic projects into layered, sculptural, and highly detailed designs.

### Inviting Someone to Create

One of the best ways to grow our club is simple: invite someone to take a class. Non-members are always welcome to enroll, making it easy for friends and family to experience stained or fused glass without committing to membership.

Many of our active members began as students. New participants bring fresh ideas, creative energy, and future leadership to our studio.

If you love what we do, share it. A simple invitation can help us continue building a vibrant and growing glass community at CERA. See you in the studio!

Deborah, VP Glass Activity



*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.*

## 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.