



# CGMG News

Publication of **CERA Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club**  
Member of Corporate Employee Recreation Association  
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Commissioner  
Robert Reed  
robert.t.reed@lmco.com

President  
CJ Wright  
505 239-5711  
cjzwright@icloud.com

Vice-President, Programs  
Program Graphics  
Carmen Sorenson  
817-528-8297

Vice-President, Field Trips  
Open Position

Vice-President, Education  
Sharon Williams  
214-616-8410  
srwms4@yahoo.com

Vice-President, Glass  
Deborah Bartlett  
debbartlett02@gmail.com  
612-578-8893

Newsletter Editor  
Colleen Reigh  
colleenreigh@att.net

Secretary  
Debra Limbocker  
debralinbocker@gmail.com  
817-629-3045

You are invited to attend our  
upcoming meeting and  
participate in a live auction.

Tuesday, May 12  
7:00pm



**Ways to participate: You may bring items  
for auction and choose to donate all  
proceeds from the auction of your items  
to the club or split 50/50 with the activity.  
You may also just show up and bid!**

## AUCTION

Slabs      Fusible  
Cabs      glass  
Jewelry      Rough rock      Tools  
Stained      Books      Projects  
glass

### *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

April brought spring showers, and colder weather extending my spring cleaning time into much of April. We've also had some stimulating discussions on how to use the CERA shop space most efficiently and what it may look like as we grow.

First of all, don't forget the auction at our May meeting. I hope you have been cleaning and collecting items to make our auction great! The proceeds help us continue to offer high quality classes and improve our equipment.

At this time the Grow Committee, formed at the April meeting, has not met so some questions remain in my head. I periodically look at my home to see how I am using the "Prime Real Estate" in the house and in my two outdoor storage sheds. I won't say I ever completely use it as I should it. However, it does help me define how I'm not using it efficiently. At my house adding space is not on my "reasonable" list so I work within what I have and still never achieve an optimum level of organization or decluttering. And I always have some items in "Prime Real Estate" space that I rarely use.

In thinking about the shop, we have the same issues. We sometimes do things as we've done for years without thinking about new ways. New teachers and new members often bring new ideas that make so much sense we wonder "why didn't I think of that". But we weren't really thinking. We store items that are used only a few times a year, donations that we may never use or can't use because they haven't been "installed" and some older

equipment that we have replaced with newer items. Sometimes these things are simple, like table settings that are only used at our December party or signs and banners or rocks and slabs for our Labor Day show. Yes, we need them but they do take room in the shop.

Sometimes these things can easily be stored out of the way, but if you've been in the shop very much, I'll guess there are times you have had to move something to get to what you want or you've just wondered "why is this box here". You may have looked in the cabinets seeing unfamiliar things wondering if we use what is inside. Or you have rearranged it, gaining space but keeping what is inside even if we rarely use it. Why do we divide the space into four different sections? Is that the way we use the shop best, or do we just use the shop the way it is? I'm not saying it is wrong, but have we really looked at what is best since we first moved into the space?

I know that we have some members who are good at tossing things we don't use, at organization, and looking at things differently. Judy Dobbs has, more than once, said to a group I'm in, "I think we're looking at this the wrong way", and completely turned our thinking around. If you are good at this, make suggestions. Join us if you want to. We probably can't do everything we want, but if we don't know what we want or what might work better, we certainly won't improve the use of the space.

If you have ideas or requests let us know. The committee will consider all input and then will decide what is reasonable for us as we grow. I look forward to seeing what will be presented by our committee.

Your CERA GMG President,  
Carole Jean (CJ) Wright



## Commissioner's Report

Fellow Gem, Mineral & Glass Members.

Get ready for our first auction of the year to be held in the Trinity Ballroom in our next club meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. There will be a variety of material and very likely some equipment available for this auction. If you would like to help run the auction, volunteers are always appreciated.

We still have a vacancy for the club Vice-President of Field Trips. If you are willing to step up, the Officers and I would really appreciate you joining us. There is information available including history, points of contact and ideas that have not yet been completed. New field trips are always welcome. Please reach out to me or one of the officers if you would like more information.

We also still need help planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Panther City Expo – our club's gem, mineral and glass show to be held this Labor Day. Janice Craddock is our Show Chair so feel free to reach out to her, CJ or me if you are able to help or have ideas. We are focusing on getting vendors and also for marketing to let people know the show is coming up. There are some postcards on the table between the glass studio and the instruction area in the s

After communicating with the CERA Board of Directors, the patio space outside the saw room roll-up door is mostly reserved for Pottery. We will still maintain 3-foot clearance in front of the door to allow us to go in and out. We have also requested that the sidewalk remain clear to allow us a path to get to our door. Thank you to Sharon Williams for chairing the new Shop Space Evaluation Committee and the volunteers on that committee. We are looking for ideas on how to reorganize and change our footprint to allow for more equipment. We are looking at selling some low usage equipment, like the 24-inch Contempo Lapidary hydraulic feed saw and the Ultratec V2 faceting machine in the corner by the back door. We can also look at inefficient storage and potentially selling off low usage items to make room for things that are used more frequently. Please share your ideas with the officers.

Everyone please remember to bring money for the auction at the next club meeting. I look forward to seeing you all at the next club meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Best Regards,

Robert Reed  
Gem, Mineral & Glass Commissioner

## CGM&Glass Minutes Feb. 10, 2026

- Welcomed Visitors Sterling, an experienced silversmith exploring all areas of the club.
- Another new member introduced themselves and shared involvement with the Fort Worth club.

### *Commissioner's Report* – Robert

- Returned from a successful fishing trip; brief report included in the newsletter.
- Budget assumed approved; several class related reimbursements in progress.
- Emphasized the need for:
  - o New classes (major revenue source)
  - o New members (membership revenue)
- Field Trip VP position remains open.

### *Field Trip Ideas* - CJ

- Dallas Museum of Art – Samurai Collection & Contemporary Jewelry exhibit; highly recommended.
- Impressive Earth Gallery – Large crystals and museum quality displays in the Dallas Design District.
- Members encouraged to take self guided trips and submit additional field trip ideas.

### *Minutes* - Debra

- Previous meeting minutes approved as published in the newsletter.

### *Classes & Education* - Sharon

- Core classes continue: Silversmithing I & II, Beginner Silversmithing, Lapidary.
- New & upcoming:
  - o Fused Glass Cheese Board (full)
  - o Copper Navajo Pearl Beads (full)
  - o Monthly glass classes through August
  - o Glass-String Illusions and Bubble Control (full)
  - o Moldmaking class begins April 21 (full)
- Check the website calendar for class schedules and shop

availability.

### *Newsletter* – Colleen

- Seeking hobby related articles and photos of member creations.
- Members not receiving the newsletter should update their email on the sign-in sheet.
- Fort Worth club's new meeting location will be added.

### *Glass Program Updates* - Deb

- Upcoming monthly projects:
  - o June: Glasket (glass basket)
  - o July: Screen melt
  - o August: Mica powders
- Exploring repair of the broken kiln for possible vitrograph use.
- Fall project: fused frit “sand art” for jewelry.

### *Show Update* – Janice

- Flyers available; vendor outreach ongoing.
- Volunteers needed for inventory, silent auction prep, and general show support.
- Major private collection sale April 24–26; details will be emailed.

### *Shop Status* – Susan and David

- All equipment operational.
- Reminder: Empty water from the small water saw after use to prevent rust.
- Three shop chairs now supporting operations: Susan, David, and Daniel.

### *New Business* – Shop Space Planning

- A new Grow Committee is forming to evaluate shop space, storage, equipment needs, and future expansion.
- Volunteers include Sharon (Chair), Susan, Carmen, Deb, Paige, Janice; Robert and CJ will serve ex officio.

Debra Limbocker, Secretary

## *Glass Activity*

### **Exciting New Classes Coming to the Club Studio!**

There's a lot of creative energy in the air at the Gem, Mineral and Glass Club as we roll into spring and summer with a lineup of inspiring new classes for members and guests.

In May, Megan will introduce a brand-new class on Fused Refractive Glass, perfect for anyone eager to explore how light, color, and texture interact in glass art. Also in May, Debra will teach Glass for Jewelry, a fun and practical workshop that comes just in time for Mother's Day—participants can create beautiful handmade gifts that are both meaningful and unique.

Before May arrives, don't miss the upcoming Glass Cheese Board Workshop on April 18, taught by yours truly. This class will guide students through creating a functional and eye-catching

serving piece that's sure to impress at any gathering.

Looking ahead to early summer, we're planning even more opportunities to learn and experiment. June and July will feature classes on creating a lace glass bowl and working with metallic mica powder, both designed to help members expand their techniques and artistic confidence.

We are also exploring future dates for a Studio Day, where members can come together to create items for the studio to sell as a fundraiser. It will be a wonderful chance to collaborate, share ideas, and support the club while doing what we love.

Stay tuned for registration details and get ready for a season full of creativity!

Deborah Bartlett, VP Glass

# Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

## DRILL PRESS VISES

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the risks of working with high power motors, using larger drill bits, and dealing with heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com mscdirect.com/enco small parts.com grizzly.com

## DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll it out as sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture on the top.

Happy hammering,  
[BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com](mailto:BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com)

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

## Area Clubs

**Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club**, UNT Health Center, Carl E. Everett Edu. & Admin. Bldg, Rm 225, Free parking Lot #6 off Clifton St. Fort Worth, TX; forth Tuesday 7:30.

**Arlington Gem & Mineral Club**, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX; first Tuesday 7:30.

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

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

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

**Dallas Paleontological Society**, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane; second Wednesday at 7:30.

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



*Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause.*

*Abraham Lincoln*

## 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>