

# ***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Official Bulletin**

**Of**

**Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina**

A schedule of our monthly meetings is on the back cover of *The Mountain Gem* as well as on the Society's webpage. Meetings are held at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, Highway 441 South, Franklin, N.C. Visitors are always welcome.

Forms for membership can be obtained by attending a meeting of the Society.

Dues are \$20 for first family member with \$10 for each additional member. Members under 18 years of age dues are \$5. Membership is from September to September. Non-member subscriptions to *The Mountain Gem* are \$25 per year.

Membership privileges include emailed copies of the newsletter and attending Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips. If requested, hard copy editions of *The Mountain Gem* will be mailed via USPS for an additional \$25 per year.

The objectives of this society shall be to effect a close association of those persons who are interested in the study of gems, rocks and minerals and the arts and sciences related to them. We are a working organization that operates and maintains the Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum.

The Society and Museum are self-supporting on a 100% volunteer basis.

School tours are always available by contacting our Educational Chairperson, Patty Nichols at 678-243-8036.

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, is a 501 (c)(3) organization and donations may be tax deductible.**

**Please remember us when planning your estate.**



## **Franklin Gem and Mineral Museum**

25 Phillips Street

Franklin, NC 28734

Phone: 828-369-7831

In the Old Jail House

FREE ADMISSION

May 1 – October 31

Monday Thru Saturday: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

November 1 – April 30

Saturdays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Open Year Round For Tours

And Special Requests

[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)

**Society email: [franklingemsociety@gmail.com](mailto:franklingemsociety@gmail.com)**

**Editor: [editor.themountaingem@gmail.com](mailto:editor.themountaingem@gmail.com)**

**Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin,  
North Carolina, is a founding member  
of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies.**

## 2017- 2018 Officers And Board of Directors

President	Al Pribble	369-2548
Past President	Tom Sterrett	349-3374
Vice President	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Secretary	Susan L Fritz	524-4936
Treasurer	Lake Holland	369-5421
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Museum Manager	Duane Haskell	349-5123
Director (2017)	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Director (2017)	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
Director (2018)	Mike Gillen	678-772-6375
Director (2018)	Tom Parker	342-3619

## Museum

Museum Ass't. Mgr.	OPEN	
Curator Emeritus	Fred Plesner	349-4224
Curator	Ralph Crawford	524-3279
Gift Shop Co-Chairs	Anamay Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
	Jane Morgan	342-8703
Museum Workshop	Cy Amrich	356-7816
Ass't. Workshop Mgr.	Virginia Bennis	631-830-5403

## Committee Chairmen

Budget & Finance	Lake Holland	369-5421
	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Calendar Chairman	Jay Mooney	678-488-0620
Door Prizes	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271
Education	Patty Nichols	678-243-8036
Field Trips	Marsha Harmon	369-7262
Field Trips Ass't.	Lake Holland	369-5421
Gemboree	Norm Holbert	634-0350
Gemboree Ass't.	Kathy Young	941-387-4397
Historian	Ron Rossomando	349-2807 or 727-367-9196
Librarian	Marie Tsacrios	369-5791
Membership	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publications	Ellen Crawford	524-3279
Publicity	George Fritz	524-4936
Programs	Sande Lolli	561-542-9650
Refreshments	Diane Mason	706-379-1718
Scholarships	Arlon Eldridge	369-5271



American Federation  
Bulletin Awards  
1994 (7<sup>th</sup>), 1995 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
1996 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1997 (5<sup>th</sup>),  
1998 (5<sup>th</sup>), 1999 (3<sup>rd</sup>),  
2000 (5<sup>th</sup>), 2004 (7<sup>th</sup>),  
2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 2006 (10<sup>th</sup>)  
2008 (5<sup>th</sup>) 2010(3<sup>rd</sup>)  
2014 (3<sup>rd</sup>)



Southeast Federation  
Bulletin Awards  
1976, 77, 78, 79, 92, 94, 95  
1996-99 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
2003 2<sup>nd</sup> New Editor  
2004 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 2005 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
2006 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup>),  
2010(1<sup>st</sup>) 2014 (1<sup>st</sup>)

American Federation (AFMS): [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)  
Southeast Federation (SFMS): [www.amfed.org/sfms](http://www.amfed.org/sfms)  
Franklin Gem Museum and Society:  
[www.fgmm.org](http://www.fgmm.org)  
[www.facebook.com/franklingems](https://www.facebook.com/franklingems)

**September Meeting**

Date: September 27, 2018  
Day: Thursday  
Time: 6:30 PM  
Place: 156 Belleview Park Rd, Franklin  
First Christian Church-Franklin  
Program: Banquet & Installation of Officers



**Robert Harris, Happy Belated Birthday  
August 24th**

**October Birthdays & Anniversaries**

- 3 – Joe Pinkous
- 14 – Carlene Henderson
- 14 – Abby Young
- 15 – Leonard Pipitone
- 16 – Doreen Freeman
- 18 – Paul & Nadine Thomas
- 24 – Wally Smith
- 25 – Mike Gillen
- 31 – Ina Raye Muncher
- 31 – Al Pribble
- 31 – Ron Rossomando



Membership renewals are due.  
\$20 individual and \$30 family.  
Please pay Ellen Crawford at a meeting or  
mail a check to museum "attn membership".

***Thursday, October 11, 2018 is  
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE***



**Al Pribble, President**



Well, this is my farewell to writing this blurb each month and I am sure some will be pleased to hear that. What with me harping on the need to keep volunteering in the Museum and all. Just joking (sorta).

Seriously though, I have enjoyed the time I have spent in the job and I hope that in some small way I have helped improve the Society. Our membership has increased almost 40% in the last four years and I am sure we will continue to grow.

I want to thank all the people who have worked to keep the Museum open six days a week. I would like to give credit to all the individuals that have worked so hard and helped me, but that would take far more space than I am allotted.

I will simply say thank you all for helping make this a great organization and

Rock On!



**The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc.**  
**Minutes – August 30 19, 2018 – General Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President, Al Pribble on Thursday, August 30, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Robert C. Carpenter community building.

Membership – Ellen Crawford told us we now have 138 paid members. She reported 64 members with 4 guests present this evening in addition to our speaker, Kim Cochran. Membership fees are now due.

Minutes – Al Pribble asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July minutes. Arlon Eldridge made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed and Paul Thomas seconded the motion. Voted and carried.

Treasurer – Lake Holland reported that we were in the plus column for July.

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell stated the air conditioners are now working well and he has arranged for regular maintenance. The motion sensor was found to be defective and codes were changed.

Curator – Ralph Crawford did not have anything to report.

Curator Emeritus – Fred Plesner did not have anything new to report.

Gift Shop – Jane Morgan requested extra volunteers during the upcoming Pumpkin Fest to be held on Saturday, October 20. Diane Mason spoke about upcoming Make It days to be at the museum on a Tuesday and a Saturday and asked that the newsletter be checked for details.

Publications – Ellen Crawford stated that the newsletter deadline will be Thursday, September 13.

Education – Patty Nichols thanked everyone for their kind wishes during her recent surgery. She needs volunteer hosts for a tour on September 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be 20 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and two adults coming from Murphy.

Workshop Manager – Cy Amrich reported that some people are misusing the workshop equipment and he plans to send out an email regarding same to certain people.

Field Trips – Marsha Harmon has a trip coming up on September 8<sup>th</sup> to Corundum Hill. Trips to Graves Mountain and Diamond Hill are planned. Please contact Marsha directly if interested.

Publicity – George Fritz did not have anything new to report.

Gem Show – Norman Holbert said July was a very good show with the best attendance ever. He reminded everyone about the October Leaf Lookers gem show and asked for members to please sign up for set-up, demonstrations, hosting and take-down.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Al Pribble announced the 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Dean and Fred Plesner.



**Meeting Minutes** cont'd from Page 4

Ellen Williams announced a gem tree class beginning September 16 and the following week. She would like no more than three students per class for a 3-hour class. Whatever is made gets donated to the museum for sale.

Jay Mooney brought a cake for Bob Harris' birthday but, unfortunately, Bob could not be with us this evening; however, the cake was enjoyed nonetheless.

Installation Banquet – Al Pribble stated our next General meeting will be installation of officers and banquet. The Board of Directors opted to hold the September meeting at First Christian Church - 156 Bellview Park Road where there are adequate kitchen facilities. It was noted that a food coordinator is needed and Jane Morgan volunteered. Please contact Jane to let her know what food you will be bringing.

Refreshments – Diane Mason reminded us that there are only 9 meetings during the year that require someone to bring refreshments. She asked that people please sign up for next year.

Election of Officers – George Fritz and Doug Morgan handed out ballots to each member. Ballots were then collected and taken to another room to be counted. Results revealed that for the position of Board member, Ellen Crawford and Tom Sterrett received the same number of votes, thus run-off ballots were then distributed, collected and counted.

The results were as follows:

President – Jane Morgan

Vice President – Arlon Eldridge

Treasurer – Kathi Walbridge

Assistant Treasurer – Marie Tsacrios

Secretary – Susan Fritz

Museum Manager – Duane Haskell

Board Members – Diane Mason and Tom Sterrett

There being no further business, Tom Parker made a motion for adjournment seconded by Fred Plesner. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by President, Al Pribble. Guest speaker was Kim Cochran.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan L. Fritz, Secretary*



*Jade Kale, new member*      *Photos by George Fritz*



## Field Trip News

Marsha Harmon - Field Trip Coordinator  
Lake Holland - Assistant



September 8 trip on the Cullasaja River was a blast for at least two, a learning experience for most and a bit frustrating for several members, who were skunked for finds. As many as 30 sapphires and 20 small rubies were found in total in a few hours by those mostly with good eyes and/or diligence. The size varied from small to a couple approximately an inch in either length or width. All were found in the runoff from Corundum Hill and some were well defined crystals. Because Corundum Hill is all private property, this is as close to searching the Hill as most folks will get. The 13 members who participated enjoyed the river each in their own way: bucket sitting, swimming, rock hounding and exploring.

If you would like to attempt this trip please be aware of private property laws and only enter the river through public property.



*Photos by Stacy Walbridge and Sean Price*

## Up Coming Field Trips

**Friday Oct 5 - 7 Graves Mountain Mine** Lincolnton, GA. This trip will be self-directed which means if you are interested call Marsha and she will help with answers but will not be going.

**Saturday Oct 27 Diamond Hill Mine** Abbeville, SC. The trip will leave from the museum parking lot 8 am and car pool if desired.

## No DMC Trip for OCTOBER

Please call your friendly Field Trip folks: Marsha Harmon 828 369-7262 or Lake Holland 828 369-5421 for additional information.

Want to go to Chunky Gal, Iotla Bowers Mine, or have your own location in mind, let us know. Members are also reminded that Field Trips are only for paid members and helping at the Museum is expected.

## Gift Shop News

Anamay Rossomando, Diane Mason & Jane Morgan - Co-Chairs



A big thank you to Ron and Anamay Rossomando and others for working the Appalachian Heritage Festival and braving the weather to work the Folk Festival. Both were a great success. Also, thank you to Diane Mason and Colette Doyle for the day of cleaning silver jewelry.

We will need help for PumpkinFest on Saturday, October 20.

We appreciate all the volunteers at the museum, however, there has recently been a problem with the items for sale in the gift shop. Please do not relocate or alter prices on items that are for sale. If there is a question about location or price, one of the gift shop managers should be contacted. Only managers are responsible for location or price changes. If an item is found without a price, please place it in a safe location (as directed by the manager that you have contacted) and this will be taken care of. Manager phone numbers are available and located in the museum. Remember that once an item is donated it then becomes the property of the club and/or gift shop. Pricing is at the digression of the managers.

We thank you for all your assistance, time, support, and suggestions.

This club is run solely by volunteers. Without you we would not be able to keep going and would not be as strong as we are.

## Make It Day

Diane Mason - Wire Wrap Instructor

We now have 40-50 cabochons available and find ourselves with the need for another "make it" day at the museum. The club provides the wire so that all we have to do is get together and wrap the cabs. These items will then be for sale in the gift shop.

Dates for the "make it" days are Wednesday, September 26 and Saturday, September 29. I will have the doors unlocked for us at 9 A.M. so come on down and bring your tools and let's work together.

You may bring your lunch or take a break and run out to eat.

Thank you so very much for your participation and help. Diane Mason, Anamay and Jane

## Macon County Gemboree

Just a note to alert you to the upcoming Leaf Lookers Gemboree (October 19-21). We'll again be looking for volunteers for manning the club table and demo area.

Thanks for all that everyone did from set up to tear down, Norm Holbert.



## Refreshments

Please sign up for the 2019 year for refreshments. There will be a signup sheet at the next meeting. Remember that when you agree to do refreshments you are responsible for setting them up, serving, and clean up after the meeting. This also includes ice and drinks, as well as snacks. Two people have already signed up and with our banquets that leaves only seven (7) open spots. We have enough members so that we should have to do refreshments only about once every two years.

Keep your receipts and turn them into the treasurer for reimbursement. Thank you, Diane Mason

## "Boney" and the Marshall

Fred Plesner – Curator Emeritus



Human nature was as prone to weakness in the past as it is today. Writing styles have also changed as proven by the editor of "The Franklin Press" when he tried to make light of a serious matter. The following item appeared in the "Franklin Press" in the 1890's in which the editor used a very humorous style to make fun of someone who was evidently well known in the community.

"Boney" Ridley was in town Saturday and became hilarious as usual when he comes to town. But "Boney" was more hilarious than usual, and the Marshall packed him in the cooler where he had time to reduce the degree of his hilarity and meditated on the frailties of human nature in general and town marshals in particular."

## Safety Matters: The Price of Safety

The price of safety is rarely discussed. Having read many manuals of OSHA safety, MSHA safety, corporate safety, Federation safety, workshop safety and club safety, rarely is there ever a mention of why. Why be safe? And, at what cost? One might think the answers are obvious but if so, why are not more people striving toward being safe?

Curious as to the why and what of safety, I have asked many folks those questions about safety. Their answers include: - It costs too much. - It takes too much time. - It is too distracting. - My own safety ideas are better. - No one was watching so I didn't need to. and my own personal favorite - I'm a lucky kind of guy.

Well, let us evaluate those answers. Yes, I will freely admit that if one suffers a minor laceration and applies a 15-cent adhesive bandage (injury) compared with the cost of an eight-dollar pair of gloves (prevention) it appears that the prevention could be more expensive than the cost of the injury. But what about a 900-dollar emergency room visit to remove a foreign body from the eye (injury) compared with the cost a pair of three dollar goggles (prevention). In that case prevention is far cheaper.

Taking too much time? Too much time (three seconds) to lower and secure the hood of slab saw. Too much time to buckle one's automobile seat belt (two seconds)? Too much time to put on and adjust eye safety goggles (four seconds)? Too much time to walk over and turn on the ventilation fan for the soldering torch fume exhaust hood (nine seconds)? Really? Too much time?

Distraction does indeed occur with some safety gear. Gloves might not fit well. Goggles may indeed restrict some vision. Hearing protection sometimes muffles quiet voices. I would however submit that undamaged hands, injury free eyes and slightly muffled voices may be preferred, in most cases, over a slight amount of inconvenience.



While one's own safety ideas may, at times, be advantageous in certain unique circumstances, tool, equipment, and hobby supply instructions have been well thought out by experts in the field. Please give considerable weight to the collected wisdom of manufacturers, suppliers and various safety organization's offerings.



**Safety Matters** cont'd from Page 8

“No one was watching so I didn’t need to.” Do I really need to talk about this one? To the individual who offered this response - please remember it is not just about you.

You no doubt have brothers or sisters, husband or wife or significant other, parents, neighbors, friends, or a four footed friend who cares about you. If you don’t want to be safe for yourself, please consider being a bit altruistic and be safe for the special people in your life.

I’m a lucky kind of guy. Hmmm, are there any mathematics majors out there? Answer me this if you will - after performing a heads or tails coin toss game 10 times in a row and obtaining heads each time - what are the odds that, on the 11th time, it will be heads? The odds are again, still 50 / 50. Each toss of a coin, each strike of a chisel by a hammer, each lighting of a torch is a new game. In each instance of a possible unsafe act please consider doing the right thing and be safe.

Safety is more than any rule book, sometimes it even defies “common sense” (shouldn’t that 11th toss of the coin also come up heads?). Safety is an attitude, an attention to detail, and a certain modicum of creativity.

Your safety matters, no whys or whats about it.

*From AFMS Newsletter June/July 2018 by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair*



**TO ALL OUR MEMBERS:**

**September 27, Franklin, NC**

Officer Installation and Banquet. Ham, barbecue, rolls, cake and drinks will be provided by the club. Please remember to bring a side dish. Dinner will be held at First Christian Church located at 156 Belleview Park Road. Deliver and set up food at 6:00 and we will eat as close to 6:30 as possible. Contact our banquet coordinator, Jane Morgan 828-342-8703 directly or sign up at the Museum. Help is needed to set up, serve, break down and clean up and overall assistance.

**October 19, 20 & 21, Franklin, NC**

Annual Leaf Lookers Gemboree. Set-up begins Thursday, October 18th. Volunteers needed as hosts, demonstrators, security, set up and break down, and over all assistance to make this Gemboree successful.

Please contact Norm Holbert or sign up at Museum.

Show is Friday and Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM.



## Minerals of the Museum: Sapphire

Stacy Walbridge



An eye-catching mineral in the North Carolina room at the museum is Sapphire, but Sapphire is not really a mineral. Sapphire is the name given to a variety of different colors of Corundum (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) except for red, which is reserved for Ruby. Sapphires may come in many different colors depending on trace chemicals that are present during crystallization. If iron is present, a very pale yellow to green color may be seen, if both titanium and iron are present the result may be a deep-blue color. Having a Mohs hardness of 9, gem quality sapphires make excellent faceted gemstones and are highly valued.

If Sapphire has inclusions of Rutile it may show a six-rayed star pattern known as asterism and may be called a star Sapphire. Occasionally, twelve-rayed stars are seen when Hematite is present during crystallization. Typically, the Rutile will reflect a white star while the Hematite will result in a golden yellow star.

It is not uncommon to find Sapphires in the Franklin area with Chunky Gal and Corundum Hill minutes away. Field trips to Buck Creek and the Cullasaja River have resulted in members finding many different varieties of Sapphires. Perhaps on a future field trip or outing you may find the mineral that is not a mineral.

### Word Search for Sapphire

To prepare you for finding Sapphire in the field you can look for Kyanite and other words in the following word search puzzle. The words are hidden and may be spelled in any direction

```

J E X X P U I G E C F R U T I L E Z G T
U Y D C S L H R M C F S J B Y A A E X W
K F P S E A C I Y C M C P B U U M X H Q
E Q Q Z K E E R C K C U B F A F X V I E
U Q I C W N O I T A Z I L L A T S Y R C
D K J E X R U B Y M G H M S N E N I Y V
B S T O I C K W Q H Z U C H R D E C L S
B H M H X G O V O I W G H E O I W L T P
R Z S X X D F R K N P K N M I H J A R B
J U I U G Y R H U G N H K A G E R P T B
A M R C S J B S Y N B T B T Z I V O N O
A A E U Y A Z H P P D Q Q I U Y W E H L
O F T P B T P G X V S U W T F O Z F A B
L T S T B E R P W R W H M E G Z X R T X
O Z A F B L U E H W W L H V J C E T N P
Q Q W G F Y P M Z I T C R V G N K P B B
O D K V Q F T A N W R W I O I J K E J X
P A J A S A L L U C B E N M N A B P H W
W T Q J I T X W E D D J Y F X N L K X Y
V K N V F N O T Q T E P T O K C H C B E

```

#### Word List

- ASTERISM
- BLUE
- BUCKCREEK
- CORUNDUM
- CRYSTALLIZATION
- CULLASAJA
- HEMATITE
- MINERAL
- RUBY
- RUTILE
- SAPPHIRE
- STAR



## From the Southeast Federation of Mineral Societies

### Gem and Mineral Shows

#### October 12, 13 & 14, Huntsville, AL

Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show; Jaycees Community Center; 2180 Airport Rd., Huntsville, AL; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM and Sunday Noon to 5 PM; Sponsored by the Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society; FREE parking; food service

#### October 19, 20 & 21, Franklin, NC

Leaf Lookers Gemboree; Robert C Carpenter Community Building; Friday & Saturday 10 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM; Sponsored by Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC; Adult \$2; contact Norm Holbert [normholbert@comcast.net](mailto:normholbert@comcast.net)

### Field Trips

#### October 5, 6 & 7, Lincolnton, GA

Graves Mountain, Lincolnton, GA; 3 day Rock Swap and Dig; 8 AM to 6 PM; donations suggested

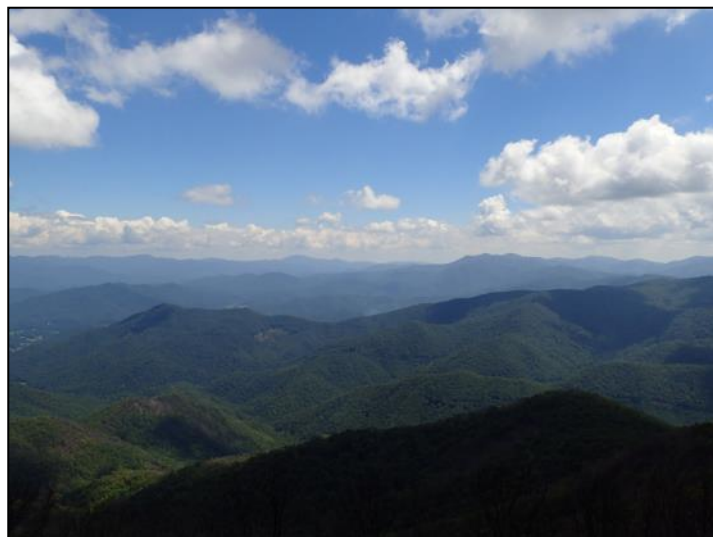
### Other Events

#### May 26 thru October 13 Saturdays, Downtown Franklin, NC

Pickin' on the Square; local musicians start around 7 PM; free family fun; bring a lawn chair; Gazebo

#### October 20, Downtown Franklin, NC

22nd Annual PumpkinFest; sponsored by Town of Franklin; pumpkin roll; food vendors; autumn festival; music; contests; kids area; 9AM to 4PM; FREE



Month	Board Meeting	General Meeting
January 2018	23	25
February	20	22 Anniversary
March	27	29
April	24	26
May	29	31
June	26	28
July	17	19 Ice Cream Social
August	28	30 Elections
September	25	27 Banquet
October	23	25
November	27	29
December	11 4:00	15 End of Year Party <b>Saturday</b> 11:00 am to 4:00

**Monthly General Meetings:** 6:30 PM the last Thursday of the month at the Robert C. Carpenter Community Building; 1288 Georgia Road Hwy 441 South

**Meeting changes will be posted in the monthly newsletter.**

**Board Meetings:** 6:30 PM

At the Franklin Gem & Mineral Museum

All Board Meetings are open to the members

*If you wish to submit something before the Board, contact the President prior to meeting.*

**Installation Banquet  
Remember to Bring Your Side Dish**



***THE MOUNTAIN GEM***

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**First Class Mail**

