



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

OCTOBER 2019 • PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY® • PASADENA, CA

Hiyo, Silver – A Way?

It's not easy to get started smithing

by Karl Stull

“I converted an unused second bathroom into an occasional soldering station. I use a Smith Little Torch,” says Joan Harrison. This bathroom, though tiny, had the lighting and ventilation silversmiths need to work without undue hazard to themselves, pets, and future eligibility for fire insurance.

Samantha Rowe works at a small table in a corner of the living room, positioned head-to-head with husband Nathaniel’s table, so they can work together in the evening. Samantha opens an adjacent window, turns on a black box that filters ambient air, and dons a mask to protect against fumes and particles. In fact, Samantha has two masks, one of them a lab-quality model with changeable filters. It’s a little inconvenient to wear every time.

Martha Wilson teaches silversmithing but not in her own house. Instead she travels to students’ houses and gives lessons at an hourly rate (very reasonable). “The fact is silversmithing uses materials and processes – acids and heating with a torch – that are potentially dangerous. Insurance companies don’t like that.”



Left to right: Joan Harrison, Samantha Rowe, and Martha Wilson.

For her own projects, Martha goes to a shared workshop set up in a neighbor’s garage.

Considering the fuss involved, silversmiths must love what they do. Even finding a teacher is a challenge. Our three silversmiths gained their skills by different routes.

The Several Paths to Smithery

Joan got started in 2006, when the Gene Autry Museum brought an exhibition to LA called *Totems to Turquoise*, with jewelry by contemporary Native American artists. At a later show, Joan had

a chance to talk with Michael Kabotie, known for dramatic pieces using an overlay technique (cutouts of traditional Hopi figures seeming to “float” above an oxidized-black backdrop). Kabotie steered Joan toward Idyllwild Arts, a campus in the San Jacinto Mountains that offers week-long courses for adults during the summer. (See the Resources list on page 4.)

A residential program, as at Idyllwild Arts, has the advantage of total focus on the subject, free of everyday distractions like TV, chores, traffic, and parking. Joan came down from the mountain ready for “the journey,” as Kabotie calls it. Learning continues with every new material, tool, or technique you undertake.

CFMS offers “summer camp” programs too: Camp Zzyzx in the Mojave Desert (55 miles past Barstow) and Camp Paradise in Plumas National Forest (70 miles NE of Sacramento). Zzyzx, in March, and Paradise, around Labor Day, welcome beginners as well as advanced students. Because of class-size limits, the time to apply for Zzyzx is right after Camp Paradise ends. And vice versa.

For Young Adults and Seniors

Samantha Rowe doesn’t wear much jewelry but likes to make things. She and Nathaniel hope one day to open a shop that is so filled with interesting objects (“future heirlooms”), people will

linger and peer at every case and shelf to take it all in. It’s a business model that would have executives at McDonald’s scratching their heads. Nevertheless, Samantha had an idea for a product line – silver pendants with a colored stone or crystal to match the wearer’s personality – and her first step was to take a class in metal smithing at Barnsdall Art Park.

Barnsdall hosts studio art classes for adults in 10-week sessions throughout the year (summer, fall, winter, spring). Classes meet

Continued on page 4

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members,

It's going to be a busy month, and we are already off to a great start. The Show Committee held its launch meeting on September 21. As Show Chair, I am glad to be working with Co-Chair Michelle Vandenbroeck. She comes to every job with her sleeves rolled up.

We are fortunate in having many capable volunteers, and most of the Show Committee positions already filled. Jim Graffius, assisted by Ron Diaz and Robb Hull, will lead the set-up on Friday, putting all the tables in place. Rex Nishimura will be in charge of teardown on Sunday. Rex and Jim both will be happy to hear from additional volunteers with strong backs and knees that don't creak – at least not too loudly.

Joan Harrison, as always, has cabbers, carvers, wire-wrappers, and others lined up for the Demonstrations area. Nancy Robb will roll out the fun in the Kids area, and Jennifer Jang oversees Display Cases. I hope you are already thinking about a display case you will put in at the Show. It would be so good to see newer members trying their first display case in 2020. PLS has lots of friendly, experienced teachers, who can help if you are struggling with fears of not having enough material to show. Martha Wilson will put together our Club Showcase. This is a big case filled with an assortment of projects that PLS members are proud of and would like to share with Show visitors.

The 2020 Show is going to include a mix of new vendors and old favorites. I've talked with several interested sellers, and it looks like we may have tables with silver findings, high-quality tools, and beads – loads of beads. The Show theme, chosen by the Committee, will be "Inspiration unearthed."

Don't forget to mail in Rockhound of the Year nominations. The list of nominees will be finalized at the PLS Board meeting on October 3. You can email a PDF of your nomination form to Mona Ross at: mlr.gotrocks@gmail.com. At the program meeting on October 15, members will vote to select a PLS Rockhound of the Year and Junior Rockhound of the Year.

In case you were curious, the winner of free tickets to the LA County Fair last month – Ron Diaz!

I hope you are enjoying a very pleasant autumn.

– *Ellen Ferrell, President*

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Trustees

Marcia Goetz, Chris Kyte, Joe Goetz

Committee Chairs

Annual Show	Ellen Ferrell	Michelle Vandenbroeck (Co-Chair)
Bulletin	Karl Stull	Display Table Ferdie Sanchez
Education	Joan Harrison	Field Trips Karl Stull
Historian	Karl Stull	Hospitality Elizabeth Weston
Librarian	Jennifer Jang	Membership M Vandenbroeck
Publicity	Mona Ross	Social Media Elizabeth Weston
Sunshine	Ellen Ferrell	Technology Ben Shutman
Ways & Means	Philip Lahr	Webmaster Eugene Kim
Workshop	Carolyn Duncan	

Membership

Membership per calendar year is \$25; for additional adults at the same address, \$15. Junior members are \$10. There is an initiation fee of \$10 per person to cover costs of name badges, etc.

Renewals are due in October and delinquent after December 31. Mail checks to PO Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117-0025.

Meetings

Board Meetings – 1st Thursday of the month

7 p.m. at Matt Denny's Ale House
145 E Huntington Dr, Arcadia
dinner at 6 p.m. PLS members are welcome.

Workshop – 2nd Sunday of the month

Fees are \$3 for half-day, \$5 for a full day. Equipment instruction is required; also liability waivers, eye protection, and closed-toe shoes. For directions, please call (909) 455-4360 (cell) or (909) 593-2781, or email gem.quest38@gmail.com. Bring lunch!

Junior members 9 and older are welcome with adult supervision.

Program Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month

Doors open at 6 p.m. Meeting is 6:30–8:45 p.m.
Pasadena Central Library, 285 E Walnut St.

Contact Us

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Send articles by the 15th for publication in next month's issue. Very short items can get in as late as the 22nd but are not guaranteed to make the next issue.

Pasadena Lapidary Society®

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Program Meeting – October 15



Dick and Mary Pat Weber Bring the Boulder Opal

You may remember Dick and Mary Pat Weber from their program earlier this year on Rainforest Jasper. Both are retired geologists, and they return this month to present a spectacular stone, Boulder Opal.

During a year-long “walkabout,” the Webers visited most of the major opal mining districts of Australia. Their favorite was in the channel country of Queensland, where the Boulder Opal deposits are found. In this part of the Outback, miners live under primitive and hazardous conditions. There are more snakes, lizards, and kangaroos than people.

Boulder Opal occurs in massive ironstone concretions. Thanks to friends of the Webers at Broken River Mining, we will learn how the world's most beautiful opal is extracted, processed, and brought to market. The Webers are bringing specimens to dazzle and delight us all.

Danielle Sanchez will give the Rock of the Month talk on a rock or mineral of her choosing. Also during the October meeting, members can vote on the Rockhound of the Year nominees. Let your vote be counted. – *Mona Ross*

Rockhounds Collect, Also Give Back



“We see the effects of poverty around us every day,” said Danielle Sanchez to an attentive rockhound audience at the September program meeting. She presented statistics on poverty, showing how it relates to lack of educational opportunity, and invited fellow PLS members to take action. Donations through the nonprofit Moriah Learning Center will benefit children in a western region of the Philippines where schools need supplies. Contributions of pencils, writing paper, books in basic English – anything needed in a primary school classroom – will be accepted at the PLS Workshop on October 13 and at the program meeting on October 15. Donations of money help pay for shipping.

Danielle, a Junior member of PLS, got involved with the Moriah Learning Center as part of her working toward the Gold Award in Girl Scouts.

Why We Pay Dues in October

In the original 1948 PLS By-Laws, Article IV clearly states:

**The dues shall be \$3.00 per year,
...on October 1 of each year.**

Some time later, the Bylaws were amended. The specific dollar amount was removed, but the specific date is still there. Given a 90-day grace period, it appears the idea was for members to start the new year with their dues paid up.

The time has arrived – October. Please pay your 2020 dues this month. Prompt payment helps the club.

PLS Dues

\$25 for primary member

\$15 for each additional adult at the same address

\$10 for each Junior member (under 18 years)

The preferred way to pay is by cash or check at the monthly meeting or workshop. Or you can mail a check to Pasadena Lapidary Society, P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena, CA 91117.

PayPal Option

Log in to your PayPal account, choose Send, and enter:

paypal@pasadenalapidary.org

Make sure that “Pay for an item or service” is selected (not “Send money to a friend”).

And While You're at It

Make sure we have your up-to-date address, phone, and email.

Also, let us know if you prefer to receive the newsletter only by email. PLS will save \$20 in printing and mailing costs when you choose email-only.

Nominating Committee



Candidate Statements in November Newsletter

The Nominating Committee will present a list of well-qualified candidates for PLS offices at the program meeting on October 15. We will strive for more than one candidate for each office, but it has been difficult finding members who will agree to serve.

In addition to the nominations offered by the Committee, there will be an opportunity for PLS members to nominate candidates from the floor at the October 15 meeting. The names of all nominees will appear in the November newsletter, and there will be space reserved for candidates to publish a candidate's statement if they wish. The deadline for putting a candidate statement in the newsletter is October 25.

The election of PLS officers will be held at the November 19 meeting. – *Karl Stull*

Hiyo, Silver *Continued from page 1*

once a week for three hours and cost \$100–\$200. For some PLS members, the location might be a trek (4800 Hollywood Blvd, near Vermont Ave), but the program has a sterling reputation.

Urban Elective, offering lifestyle-oriented classes in Seattle and Los Angeles, recruited Samantha to teach a six-week course in metal jewelry making. The first class meets October 21: hurry if you'd like to sign up (see Resources, at right). Find handmade creations by Samantha and Nathaniel at smithandstone.co ("co" is correct). Samantha is the smith and Nathaniel is the lapidary.

Community College and Extension

Martha Wilson literally went to the front of her class. After 35 years as a high school art teacher, she retired and took a jewelry class at Monrovia Community Adult School, supported by Citrus College and Monrovia Unified School District. When the teacher called it quits, the school asked if anyone in the class could take over. Martha had a master's degree in art and was proficient in jewelry-making skills. She taught the Monrovia class for the next 12 years.

"There are good videos on the Internet," Martha says, "but you need a teacher at the beginning to cope with the details – like the color of the metal when it's ready for solder." Materials behave differently, according to purity and thickness. Tools may require different techniques. It's not like snapping Legos together.

Two years ago, there was flood damage to the metal smithing classroom, and the administration decided not to make repairs. With the loss of Martha's Monrovia class, and discontinuation of the class at Santa Monica's Adult Education Center, it seems the only extension courses still available with metal smithing in our area are at Baldwin Park Unified School District's Adult and Community Education. To PLS members, these are known simply as "Bon's class."

Bon Paphatsarang is a master jewelry designer and fabricator. His current and former PLS students include Gloria Biesterfeld, Carolyn Duncan, Ellen Ferrell, Robb Hull, Ed Imlay, Valerie Stathatos, Stephanie Trat, and ... Martha Wilson. Students like Bon's combination of a structured program with freedom to pursue individual ideas. The classes require a significant time commitment: 8:30 to 3:30 three days a week, or three evenings 6 to 9 or 9:30 (total 10 hours).

PLS Resources

We have a number of accomplished silversmiths in the ranks of the Pasadena Lapidary Society, and they help fellow members acquire the art when asked. Former PLS Presidents Sandie and Tony Fender organized a chain-making class at their house on a Saturday last spring. Participants sat around the dinner table with fire-proof placemats, soldering links together. Then the dessert cart rolled out to celebrate everyone's success.

Should PLS offer a silversmithing class, say twice a year, for six to eight weeks? If you want to learn this ancient and venerable craft, and can't find a program that's practical for you, talk to President Ellen Ferrell or anyone on the Board. We have a store of knowledge and experience in our club, and our purpose in coming together is to share what we learn. ♦

Assorted Resources

Barnsdall Art Center. Click at the bottom of the page to download the catalog: barnsdall.org/barnsdall-art-center

Bon's class. For the course catalog, google "baldwin park adult education jewelry class"; scroll way, way down to General Elective/Jewelry Casting.
bpusd.net/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=831576&type=d&pREC_ID=1209933

CFMS Camp Paradise and Camp Zzyzx:
cfmsinc.org/ESStudies/ESSoverview.htm

Creative Arts Group. Nonprofit in Sierra Madre has a 10-week class in enameling, \$228: creativeartsgroup.org/classes/

Eco Jewelry Handbook: A Practical Guide for a Healthy, Safe and Sustainable Studio by Christine Dhein.
greenjewelrynews.com/resources/books/

Idyllwild Arts Adult Arts Center:
idyllwildarts.org/summer/adultarts/

Metal Arts Society of Southern California. See newsletters for classes, competitions, avant garde works, bench tips...
massconline.com/

Pasadena City College. Two-year Jewelry/Metalworking program leads to an Occupational Skills Certificate. Go to the catalog and scroll to page 212:
pasadena.edu/academics/docs/catalog19-20.pdf

Tri-Community Adult Education. In Covina, Jewelry Making/Lapidary class includes lost-wax casting. Tuesdays, morning or afternoon, \$125: c-vusd.org/Page/1545

Urban Elective. For Samantha's course, scroll to "Pinterest in Real Life: Metal Jewelry Making 101":
losangeles.urbanelective.com/course-category/fall-quarter/

Prehistoric, historic, and post-apocalyptic scratchings fill Inscription Canyon, 20 miles north of Hinkley. Though only 15 feet deep, the "canyon" feels like a sacred space, cut into the desert by floods. These images were made by people on the move, stopping for a time at an eerie place whose meaning we only guess at today.





At Palos Verdes last July, Chris Kyte, Jen Fung, Debbie Sanchez, Ferdie Sanchez, Chris Figueroa, Paolo Sanchez, Phil Lahr, and Karl Stull. Photo by Ellen Limeres.



Mule Canyon is one of the routes on our Yermo field trip. This side road to an agate-rich ridge is now closed to vehicles.



Field Trips

Where Are We?



Driving in circles, somewhere in California, as Joe Goetz might say. Joe still has a key role in PLS field trips, along with Jay Valle. They have been the hammer and tongs of PLS-Whittier field trips for decades. As Joe turns more to CFMS activities, my goal is to help PLS transition to a program that stays strong in the future.

I'd like to see PLS and Whittier go on 9 or 10 trips per year. Four of these would be our traditional medium-range desert trips along I-40/Hwy 58: Lavic, Yermo, Kramer, and North Edwards. How about Horse Canyon? I have a PLS map from the 1960s. I'll contact the current property owners and see what they say.

The I-40/Hwy 58 sites can be for either day trips or camping. We could add a trip or two to farther places: in Afton Canyon, Owens Valley, Imperial County, or on the coast from Jalama Beach to Jade Cove. We have dedicated campers in our midst.

On the other hand, there is a lot of demand for short-range trips – on paved roads, please. Palos Verdes was a successful trip of this kind: the ocean is a tireless provider of tumbled rocks. But there aren't many destinations within an hour's drive where collecting is allowed. What if – like safari hunters of old – we switched from collecting to photographing beautiful species?

Such as the mighty, foot-long *Pecten* clams on Fossil Ridge (Santa Monica Mtns)? Suppose we visited the steeply tilted Vasquez Rocks – which *Star Trek* fans may recognize as the planet where Capt. Kirk battled the Gorn? (Aptly, Kirk hunted minerals to make gunpowder and shot the Gorn with a diamond bullet.) Would you sign up for a tour of road cuts along Route 2, finding rocks so primitive they are literally older than dirt?

Museums are great, but I don't see an advantage in going as a group. What do you say to a shopping expedition to a bead emporium; does that count as collecting in the field? Paid digs at a mine are another option. Send me an email to join the PLS field trips discussion group: karlestull@gmail.com. – Karl Stull

Yermo Field Trip

October 26-27

Day trip or overnight

Collect: Honey onyx, various agates, selenite crystals, maybe fossilized palm root

Leaders: Joe Goetz, Jay Valle

Time: We start at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Where to meet: Parking lot of the Baymont by Wyndham motel in Yermo. Take I-15 to exit 189/Fort Irwin Road. Go straight onto Yermo Road for 2 miles; the motel is on the left before the traffic light. Drive is 115 miles from Pasadena.

Vehicle: High clearance required for dirt roads with deep ruts. Four-wheel drive not required.

What to bring: Water, lunch, sunscreen, wide-brim hat, sturdy footwear, toilet paper, first-aid kit

Equipment: Eye protection; gloves; rock hammer; bucket, bag, or back pack. Optional: collapsible shovel or short spade; gad or chisel and sledge; newspaper to wrap good rocks

Notes: Saturday dinner at Peggy Sue's, where you can dine on delicacies such as deep-fried pickles and wash it all down with a pineapple shake.

More information: Come to the PLS program meeting, October 15, for Q & A and sign-up.

Sign-up: Be on the list so we can contact you in case of cancellation or last-minute changes. Contact Karl Stull at karlestull@gmail.com or (818) 205-7135 (text or leave a message).

Education Outreach



PLS Is Gathering STEAM

With schools now back in session, I've begun calling school offices to find out who will be their STEAM Night contacts. (STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.) I will follow up with the contact people to let them know about PLS volunteer presentations. Our focus is on rockhounding, fossils, volcanoes, meteorites, and – of course – the rock cycle and local geology. I'm also telling schools about our annual show in March.

Please let me know if you'd like to participate in classroom workshops or at STEAM events: (323) 640-4394 or liveoak180@yahoo.com. – Joan Harrison



A chain bracelet with your choice of beads – Ed Imlay will show you how at the October Workshop.

Workshop – October 13



Ball and Chain

You won't find a better teacher of jewelry basics than our own Ed Imlay. At the October Workshop, he'll demonstrate how to make a simple, elegantly finished bracelet – with a few beads, a length of chain, and some wire.

Materials

- Chain (simple style, such as cable, curb, or ONE-three-ONE)
- Drilled beads
- Wire for the beads (size to bead holes; color to match chain)
- Wire for the 2-piece closure (20 gauge; color to match chain)

Tools

- Straight chain-nose pliers
- Bent chain-nose pliers
- Round-nose pliers
- Wire cutter

A limited selection of chain, beads, and wire will be provided. Or bring your own if you have materials you want to work with. Class starts around 10 a.m. Ed will be teaching a session of Cabbing 101 before the bracelet class – so come early if you'd like a refresher on cutting and polishing fundamentals.

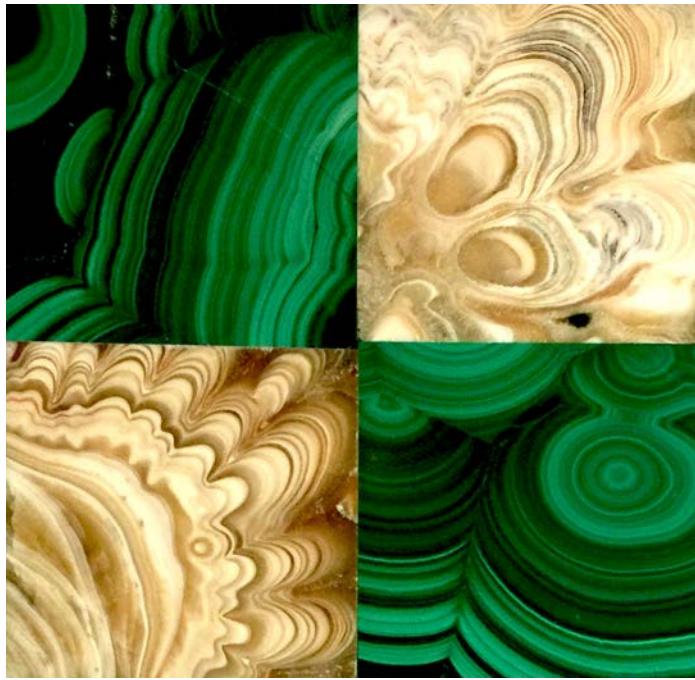
Workshop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Half day is \$3, all day \$5. We sometimes close early due to heat, storms, etc. If you plan to come late in the day, please call ahead.

For directions, call (909) 455-4360 (cell) or (909) 593-2781, or email gem.quest38@gmail.com. Park on the street or in the lot on the east side of the building. Entrance is on the west side of the building. Do not enter by the ramp in the parking lot.

– Carolyn Duncan

You Look Good in Blue

To order PLS t-shirts (\$10), ball caps (\$11), and vests (\$15), contact Ellen Ferrell: (727) 512-0381 or Ellenbf2007@aol.com.



Uncanny shapes and 3-D effects emerge from this close-up look at Clarence Chittenden's chessboard, made of thin squares of Kokoweef Cave Onyx and malachite. Clarence was President of PLS in 1965 and put this chessboard on display at our annual show in 1967. His day job involved providing slices of bedrock for site analysis for major construction projects (see business card below).

Rock and Gem Shows

October 4–6 VISTA Vista Gem & Mineral Society, Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N Santa Fe Ave. Hours: 10–4 daily. vistarocks.org

October 5–6 GRASS VALLEY Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society, Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd. Hours: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. ncgms.org

October 19 WEST HILLS Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way. Hours: 10–5. rockchippers.org

October 19–20 PLACERVILLE El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society, El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr. Hours: 10–5 daily. eldoradorocks.org

October 26–27 SACRAMENTO Sacramento Mineral Society, Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St. Hrs: Sat 10–5, Sun 10–4. sacramentomineralsociety.org

You have to deal with your perfectionism, and with your skills. There's usually a big gap between what you think and what your hands can do.

— MICHAEL KABOTIE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 2019		1	2	3 Board mtg PLS members always welcome	4  Gem show	5  Gem shows
6  Gem shows	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Workshop	14	15 Program mtg Boulder Opal	16	17	18	19  Gem shows
20  Gem show	21	JAYANG C Service Lab. P.O. BOX 523 • ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA CLARENCE H. CHITTENDEN PETROGRAPHIC THIN SECTIONS IMPREGNATING POLISHING			25	26 Field trip Yermo/Calico Mountains
27 Field trip Yermo/Calico Mountains	28					



Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
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Visual aid by David Lacy, Apostle of Opal

REMINDER: Time to pay PLS dues!



Look for these colors on the Yermo field trip

- Black
- Dark gray-green
- Light gray-green
- Dark yellow
- Light yellow

PLS may soon offer a Desert Studies program for Junior members, with hands-on projects such as mosaics of fauna and flora. On the Yermo field trip, we'll have a collecting bucket for any rocks in desert colors that you care to donate. The rocks will be slabbed, cut into tiles, and put in a "paintbox" for mosaic projects.

*Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), showing off five fingers (no thumb).
Photo: Brad Sutton/Nat'l Park Service*