



# Miami Mineralogical and Lapidary Guild



## Where South Florida Really Rocks!

The Geode – The MMLG Monthly Newsletter

Volume 62, Number 2

February 2017

Happy February! Our Club's Silent Auction of surplus goods at the Jan 22 Tri-county Picnic was a huge success! We had only one unsold item – the electronic unit in a portable case that none of us could identify. Our Club was able to generate some revenue (\$201) while making more room in our expensive rental storage unit, not to mention that successful bidders took home hobby-related items with an original cost of several thousand dollars.

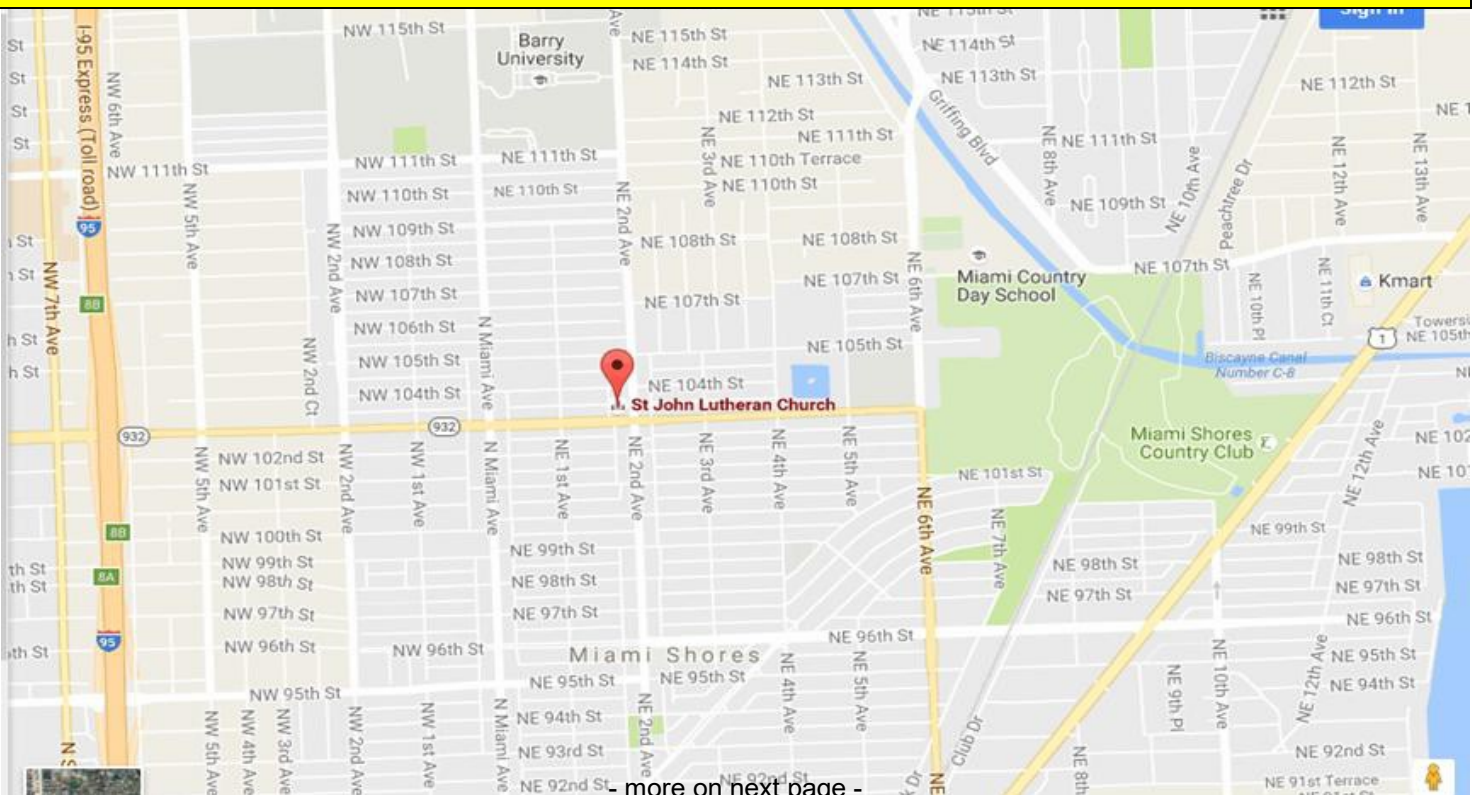
This past Fall, we tried combining our monthly meetings with our show-and-tell activities - *with mixed results*. As a result, we're going back to our old format of periodic regular meetings that will follow our traditional structure: meet-and-greet, announcements, Q & A, an educational presentation and discussion, and refreshments.

As an extra added attraction, we often feature a member raffle or member silent auction. We'll present a member silent auction at this upcoming meeting. Each member may bring up to 10 hobby-related items to the meeting, and the Club will provide auction bid forms for them. Also, please note that the Club will be offering additional surplus items for auction from our storage unit. The silent auction will take place immediately after our educational presentation: THE TANZANITE STORY.

Our next meeting will take place on Saturday Feb 25 from 2 to 4 PM at St John Lutheran Church, 10390 NE 2 Avenue, in Miami Shores. The parking lot entrance on NE 103 Street is only 2 minutes from the I-95 on- and off-ramps. The site is 8 blocks south of Barry University - 4 blocks west of Miami Shores Country Club - and 2 blocks north of Miami Shores Village Hall.

If you have any Tanzanite jewelry or specimens, please bring them to show to our other members and guests at the meeting. (Also bring cash if you wish to bid on any of the bargains at the auction!)

We hope to see you there!



- more on next page -

## Club News –

- Tax Time Note - not all of our members know that our Club (MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD) is a bona fide nonprofit tax exempt [501 (c) (3)] organization – which means that all donations of cash, goods, or services to our group are tax-deductible (subject to IRS limitations). Hey, consult your tax accountant and help out your hobby!

- A reminder: we are now part of AmazonSmile, a way to financially support the Guild through purchases at Amazon.com. *The AmazonSmile Foundation* will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to MMLG. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked “Eligible for AmazonSmile donation” on their product detail pages. Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

The link below will take people directly to the special *smile.amazon.com* web page that supports the MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD INC. You may also want to bookmark the page in your computer to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0998992>

- The new membership year started January 1, 2017. Single membership is \$15.00 per year - Family membership is \$20.00 per year. Dues are payable either by cash or check (made out to MMLG). You may pay the dues in person at our meetings & events or by mail to MMLG, P.O. Box 460206, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33346-0206.

What are the advantages of membership? Dues-paid members are entitled to a number of benefits:

- participation at all club activities
- discounts on publications and outside educational activities
- access to club library, displays, and collections
- accidental injury insurance on field trips and at club activities
- discount access to club sponsored classes and workshops
- special interest groups within the club
- access to club swaps, raffles, auctions, and vendor activities
- voting rights at club elections, meetings, and referendums
- co-ordination with other clubs, groups, or associations

- Don't forget that our club website is your website. If you have news to announce, photos to share, stuff to sell or trade, contact us at [webguy@mmlg-inc.org](mailto:webguy@mmlg-inc.org) so that we can put it on the appropriate page at our website. Also, to make it easier for our members to share our website with friends, we have secured a much-easier-to-remember alternate domain name: [www.miamigemandmineral.com](http://www.miamigemandmineral.com).

- Our newsletter accepts business and commercial advertising. The Guild charges \$35.00 per year to advertise a “business card” listing in **The Geode**. This amounts to just a few dollars per month – call us or email us to set it up. Additionally, if any hobby-related advertisers present a program (on any Guild related subject) at one of our meetings, the yearly fee of \$35.00 will be refunded!!!!

- Any member wishing to serve on a committee and/or present a program should contact John Speier, at 954.648.1874.

Our webmaster received the following email from a gem-and-mineral enthusiast in California:

*Lapidary Lovers – a blog just for us!*

*Lapidary lovers now have a blog just for us! [www.LapidaryWhisperer.com](http://www.LapidaryWhisperer.com) has just come online and I hope you will check it out. It's an online community for lapidary lovers where I'll post a new blog entry every other Wednesday.*

*Yes, rocks and slabs whisper and tell me what they want to be, then I commit lapidary on them to bring out their stories.*

*I'd love to hear what you think about the blog. Please write me directly at [Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com](mailto:Donna@LapidaryWhisperer.com) or directly on the blog.*

*Let's enjoy this wonderful art and craft together!*

*Your Lapidary Whisperer, Donna Albrecht*

The MIAMI MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY GUILD (MMLG) is holding its Spring 2017 Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show on April 8 & 9 from 10 AM to 5 PM at EVELYN GREER PARK, 8200 SW 124 Street in the Village of Pinecrest – just one block off US 1 with plenty of free parking. Admission is \$6 – children under 12 admitted free (with paid adult admission).

There will be exhibits, displays, demonstrations, raffles, and vendors showcasing mineral & fossil specimens, gemstones, fine jewelry, and artisan-crafted collectibles. Children’s activities include jewelry-making sessions, surprise grab-bags, gem prospecting, and geode splitting – and more! In the coming weeks, we’ll email you with details of our up-coming efforts to fine-tune and tweak this event to make it even more enjoyable and satisfying to our members, vendors, and other attendees.



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Hours: 12 Noon to 6 p.m. Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri.  
10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat., Closed Sun. & Mon.

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