ROCK CHIPPINGS

The Bulletin of the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.

Volume 67 Number 11
November 2026

Club Calendar

MONDAY
November 2nd
Business Meeting
on Zoom
7 PM

SATURDAY
November 14th
Class
Dichroic Glass

SATURDAY
November 21st
Meeting

President's letter – November 2026

Dear Rock Chippers,

What an incredible and memorable day we shared at the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers 27th Annual Gem & Mineral Show on October 17th! Despite the high wind advisories that tested our setup, our dedicated club members stepped up with enthusiasm, teamwork, and big hearts to make this event a shining success. From weighted canopy frames to heartwarming smiles, every single volunteer ensured our community had a safe, educational, and joyful experience.

Our show was packed with energy from start to finish. The outdoor layout brought vibrant mineral displays, unique handcrafted goods, and live educational demonstrations right to the public.

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Membership Information

For any questions regarding membership in the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers please email Debbie Hirlinger at whrc@rockchippers.org

Future Rockhounds of America

For any questions regarding membership in the FRA please email Thalia Goldsworthy at whrc@rockchippers.org

Regular club meetings are held at 7:00PM on the 3rd Saturday of each month at:
At the Church in Room 10
Visit our website ***www.rockchippers.org***
WHRC Editor: P.O. Box 205 Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Outstanding Team Contributions

An event like this only happens when everyone comes together to lend a hand. I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of our members who wore multiple hats to make the show run seamlessly:

- Lapidary & Geode Demos: John and Virginia did an amazing job at the demonstration table, engaging visitors of all ages with cabochon making and revealing hidden crystal treasures during live geode cutting.
- Kids' Activities & Crafts: Thalia and Shanna brought endless joy to young rockhounds and families at the craft, rock painting, and Spin-a-Wheel tables.
- Country Store & Consignment: Barbara and Lillian worked as a phenomenal team managing the Country Store, while Celia skillfully assisted members at the consignment table.
- Silent Auction: Steve and Gene kept the excitement high at the Silent Auction table, guiding community members through wonderful mineral selections.
- Raffle prizes: Debbie was everywhere assistance was needed—coordinating registration, tickets, and safety logistics. A special thank-you to Maureen, Anita and Larry for stepping in wherever support was required throughout the day.

Event Highlights & Acknowledgments

Event Feature	Coordinator / Vendor Team	Highlights & Notes
Cabochon & Geode Demos	John & Virginia	Live lapidary shaping and real-time geode cracking.
Youth Crafts & Games	Thalia & Shanna	Rock painting, Ring Toss, and Spin-a-Wheel fun.
Country Store & Consignment	Barbara, Lillian & Shanna	Member treasures, polished stones, and lapidary goods.
Silent Auction & Raffle	Steve, Gene & Debbie	Dozens of generous prize donations from members & vendors.
On-Site Catering	Superbowl Sushi	Delicious meals that kept our vendors and guests energized all day.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to all our returning and new vendors who brought extraordinary collections of minerals, crystals, rough stones, and handcrafted jewelry. Your passion and partnership make our annual show the premier lapidary event in the San Fernando Valley.

A special thank you goes out to the NAVY ROTC students who volunteered their time and support to help make this event run smoothly. An extra special thank you to all of our incredible vendors for their participation, commitment, and stunning offerings!

Looking Ahead

As we wrap up a fantastic show season, please mark your calendars for our upcoming general meeting on Saturday, November 21st, at 7:00 PM. We will celebrate our show accomplishments, review post-event feedback, and discuss plans for our annual holiday gathering in December.

Additionally, as our former host facility shifts its space usage, the board continues actively searching for a wonderful new venue to host our regular monthly meetings and future annual shows.

Thank you once again to every member, vendor, and guest who made the 27th Annual Gem Show an unforgettable highlight of 2026.

Warmest regards,

Paty M.
President & Gem Show Chair
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.

JOIN THE
WOODLAND HILLS
ROCK CHIPPERS
Discover. Cut. Create.
Connect with fellow rockhounds and lapidary artists.
Learn, create, and share your passion for Earth's treasures.
Help strengthen a welcoming community for enthusiasts of all experience levels.
CONTACT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON DEBBIE / WEB:ROCKCHIPPERS.ORG

Slate for the 2027 Election of Officers

Election of the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers 2027 Officers will be held at the November 21, 2026 in person General Meeting at the church. If you want to run for any of the offices listed below please contact Debbie or send to our club's email, nominations will be also be taken from the floor at the meeting before the vote.

The newly elected President will fill the open committees/ positions, so if you want to participate in any of those please let us know as well.

Here is the slate for 2027 officers of the Woodland Hills Rock Chippers:

Paty Mejorado- **President**:

Deborah Hirlinger –**Corporate Administrator /VP**

Barbara Bradbury-**Treasurer**

Celia Barnett-**Secretary**

Directors-at-Large (3) Required by Membership Count

Gene Berwager

Steve Dover

Shanna O'Brien

By the Nominating Committee

Debbie Hirlinger

2027 Membership Dues are Now Due

Membership Dues are due by February 1st 2027 for all society members. Payment can be made at the general society meetings and through the mail, we accept cash or check-please make out to:
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Inc.
P. O. Box 205
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Current prices are:
Single Adult $27.50
2nd Adult $17.50
Children/Junior $5.00 each
New membership Badge $15.00 (one- time fee)
.

- The requirement for membership states attendance at two meetings. Those meetings refer to two general meetings. A membership application will be given to complete. Upon acceptance of a new member by the board of directors, the Chairperson will obtain a name badge and present it to the new member along with a copy of the society By-Laws, Standing Rules, and Job Description and a Membership Card. The new member is also introduced to the membership at the next meeting following the Board acceptance.
- Any former member who was removed from the corporation while in good standing because of delinquency of dues payment can be reinstated with board approval upon completion of a new membership application and submission of current dues.
- No dues are required from Life-Time Members.

Membership Chair
Debbie Hirlinger

We will be holding our social meetings in Room 10 at the church. Here are the dates you can put on your calendar for the rest of this year:

March 21
April 18th
May 16 th
June 20th
July 18th
August Picnic 15th
September 19th
October show 17th

November 21st

December Christmas Party TBA

Birthstone of the Month

Those with November birthdays have two beautiful birthstones to choose from: topaz and citrine. Topaz comes in a rainbow of colors; citrine is prized for its charming yellow and orange hues. Both November birthstones are known to have calming energies while bringing fortune and warmth to the wearer.

When talking about topaz as a birthstone, you will normally be referring to the yellow or orange topaz (also called “precious topaz”). It’s an exceptionally hard gemstone, ranking eight on the Mohs scale of hardness, falling just behind corundum and diamond.

As mentioned, it’s impurities that cause this normally colorless stone to come in a dizzying array of hues. Red and pink shades come from chromium while the classic blue color is an unnatural shade that comes from exposing mined topaz to high energy radiation. There are also highly prized sherry-colored stones in shades of orange and pink, which are referred to as “imperial topaz” after the 19th-century czars of Russia.

A member of the quartz family, citrine is found mostly in the mines of Brazil and Bolivia. This gemstone is also found in small pockets of Russia, Colombia, Madagascar and Congo.

October Class

There was no class in October
due to pre-show planning activities

November Class

Please Remember that classes are for members only

Our November 14th class will be making several pieces of Dichroic glass. The fee is $45 and starts at 10am. There is a limit of 6 participants so please reserve your spot. This class can be 2-4 hours long so it is suggested that a lunch or snack is brought. Thalia and Shanna will do at least one firing on class day and will do any more firings needed on Sunday. All Dichroic pieces will be delivered to participants at our November meeting. See you there!

Gem Jar Answer: 934

Thanks to all that participated in, "Guess how many items in the Gem Jar" at our Annual Gem Show on October 17TH. The lucky winner was Mark Hahn who guessed the exact number! He bought more guesses than anyone else, he really wanted that skull jar! Perfect for the season. At the last minute, Pat Keene added a picker nugget of gold to encourage more to play, but this did not change the count, just a little bonus for the winner.

It was fun for all to gaze at the selection of the great stones, cabs, pendants, slabs in there and imagine what you could do with all of those nice things…..

Many thanks to Shanna for putting it together this year and all of the members that contributed items, I know it is hard to part with our treasures.

Debbie Hirlinger

Showcase News

November Birthdays:

Celia and Debbie

Anniversaries:

Pete and Jeanne

WHRC at Pioneer Day

Even though the weatherman promised another scorching day, quite a few people braved the heat to attend the Chatsworth Historical Society's annual Pioneer Day October 4th. John and Shanna went early to set up and bring table, chairs and games and Debbie and Anita got everything set up. Fortunately we were again under the tall tree so we had shade. Paty and Debbie chatted up the people checking out the rocks and promoted our show, coming up in two weeks. Maureen came and hung out and contributed more rocks to the club. We were all surprised at the turnout, considering the heat. Many children naturally gravitated to the Spin-a-Wheel and wound up winning the particular rock that they wanted. Debbie has excellent rock-transferring sleight of hand! We got a chance to check out the blacksmith's booth, the fossils, the flower-making, butter churning and corn husk doll tables and the ones who did miss the event were the bees the local honey producers bring, they usually have a beehive but it was too hot for them. And the hot dog guy was there as usual as well as the yummy homemade brownies & cookies so we didn't have to go hungry. Paty and Anita were great with the kiddies helping them paint rocks, quite a few were interested in the grab bags and I only had to make one wire wrap ring to order and fortunately it fit the young lady. As usual, we had a lot of fun.

Pictures are of Anita, Thalia, Paty & Debbie under our tree,

Debbie & Thalis at our table,

Anita helping a rock painter, Maureen behind her.

Celia Barnett, Federation Director

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers, Incorporated

Our organization, a non-profit corporation, was formed for educational and instructive purposes: to foster collection and study of minerals, to disseminate knowledge about them, to sponsor field trips to find them, to encourage the use of them in lapidary and faceting studies, etc. And to have one whale of a good time doing those things with all of our friends.

Regular meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Social time from 6:30 p.m.

Field trips are at various times throughout the month. Guests are always welcome to attend.

Elected Officers/Directors

President	Paty Mejorado	Director At Large	Gene Berwager
Treasurer	Barbara Bradbury	Director At Large	Lillian Berwager
Secretary	Celia Barnett	Corp. Admin. V/P	Debbie Hirlinger
Director At Large	Shanna O'Brien		

Chairpersons and Appointed Positions

Auditor	Virginia Rotramel	Membership	Debbie Hirlinger
Bulletin Editor	Open	Outreach	Thalia Goldsworthy
Classes	Thalia Goldsworthy	Programs	Thalia Goldsworthy
Courtesy/Hospitality	Lillian Berwager	Publicity	Open
Custodian	Open	Shop	Open
Fed Director	Cecelia Barnett	Club Show Chair	Paty Mejorado
Alt. Fed Director	Virginia Rotramel	Asst.Show Chair	Open
Field Trips	Paty Mejorado	Ways and Means	Celia Barnett
FRA	Thalia Goldsworthy	Webmaster	Open
Historian	Gene Berwager	Parliamentarian	Maureen Levitt
Librarian	Shanna O'Brien		

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