

Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club

December 2025



Letter from the President

Hello My Rockhound Friends

It's December! What a great year TGRC has had. I love how our members work very hard together to make every club event a success. We had two open houses this year. Each one generated positive feedback about TGRC. Over 50% of our members volunteered their help with our annual September show. Most organizations are fortunate to get 20% of their members to participate in any sponsored activities. We have talented moderators ready to share their knowledge to teach you their craft. We are fortunate to have specialty classes guiding us on "Make and Take" projects. We appreciate those members that have volunteered their time to teach these classes.

Next year will be even better. There are more specialty "Make and Take" classes planned. We are starting a new wire wrapping group. We even have some field trips being planned. Don't miss out on anything. Be sure to renew your membership for 2026. You can renew online or renew with any moderator.

Congratulations to the incoming officers that were elected to serve in 2026. They will be sworn in at the December meeting. A huge THANK YOU to every member that has supported me throughout my presidential term. I have enjoyed guiding the club and working with everyone. We truly are a great club with wonderful members. I know you will support Jerri, the incoming president. She has plans and ideas to grow the club. Let's get behind her to help her achieve these new goals.

See you at the December meeting. Come early for the Holiday Potluck!

Merry Christmas,

Diane F. Bieber
President

Birthstones

Modern: **Tanzanite**

Traditional: **Blue Topaz**

Alternate: **Turquoise**

Ancient Hebrew: **Ruby**

If you would like a detailed breakdown, you can check out the following site:

<https://www.gia.edu/birthstones>



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Meet The Moderators

“Steve Stalker”

This is called the “Toledo Gem and Rockhound Club.” So, where does stained glass fit in? Steve Stalker, who serves as TGRC Treasurer and is a multi-skills moderator, believes stained glass is a fun spin-off that appeals to the creativity common in so many TGRC members. The skills of artistic design, preparation and the satisfaction of creation are shared in many Club activities. Why not stained glass?

Steve relishes teaching and his background in special education helps him instruct clearly and succinctly. “My wife and I took a class in stained glass about 30 years ago,” Steve recalled. “But that class left a lot to be desired. They assumed you knew things they didn’t show or explain.” Steve’s special education training impressed upon him that you should never assume a student already knows anything.” That may make my classes start out a little boring, but it also keeps students from getting lost.”

The in-person nature of Steve’s classes mean questions can be answered immediately and techniques can be refined or corrected right away. Steve’s stained-glass classes start simple, with hands-on guidance on how to cut glass. “I have a supply of free window glass, which is great for practice to learn how to cut glass.” Once students are comfortable cutting practice glass, they can move to more expensive stained glass, all under Steve’s watchful, experienced eye. After the glass pieces are cut, the next phase begins. Then, channels and frames are fabricated, soldered and the stained-glass piece is assembled and finished. As with all TGRC workshops, safety is a key concern. Steve starts with something as simple as using a paint brush, not your hand, to sweep glass debris off the table. Steve’s emphasis on safety makes him proud that very few of his glass artists have ever shed blood!

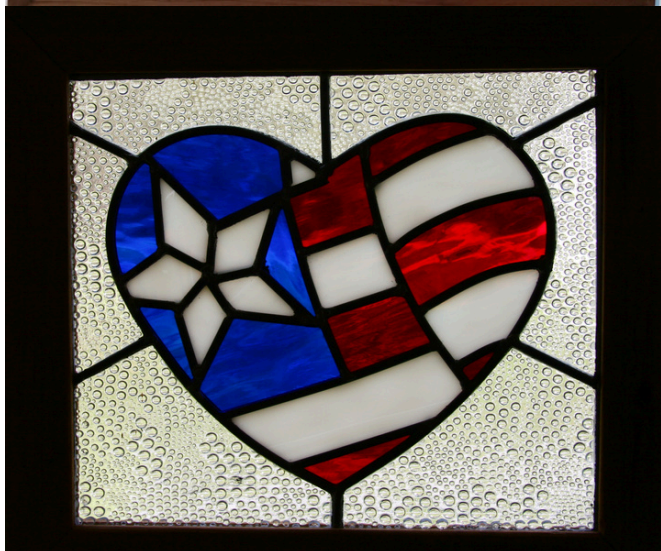
The inveterate teacher, Steve observes that skill and artistic abilities of students in each workshop. He observes that, “some just want to follow the instructions for a particular glass pattern, and others will want to experiment with different techniques.” Individual personalities mean different comfort levels, but the primary purpose is to just have fun. The payoff for Steve is seeing that “Ah-ha!” moment when someone in the workshop clearly grasps a new technique. He loves seeing an emerging look of understanding or success on people’s faces.

Steve tries to conduct about 4 stained-glass classes a year but would welcome scheduling more if the interest is there. “There’s a learning curve with any new skill,” says Steve. “My job is to shorten that learning curve.” He also envisions bigger things:

“My goal for glass crafters is to have a bi-monthly work sessions with members working on a panel (30-100 pieces),” an accomplishment that starts with well-taught, fundamental skills.

Steve also hosts glass cabochon and fused glass workshops in addition to gem crafting sessions. Interested TGRC Members can check the monthly calendar in the Rocky Reader for class schedules or reach Steve at ssalker@bex.net to request organizing any additional class.

-Story by Jim Nowak



The November meeting proved to be a pivotal and successful gathering, highlighted by the completion of our annual officer elections. We extend huge congratulations to the incoming 2026 officers who will guide our club through the years ahead: Jerri Heer (President), Jim Nowak (Vice President), Deb Oswald (Secretary), Steve Stalker (Treasurer), Bill Oswald (Sergeant-at-Arms), and Dana Jacob (Board Member). We are eager to support this dedicated team as they take the helm.

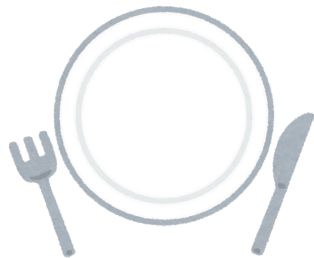
The atmosphere was equally vibrant during our annual auction. Thank you to everyone who participated; the spirited, back-and-forth bidding made the evening fun and ensured we met our fundraising goals! A special note of gratitude goes to Ruby Reynolds for her generous donations; these wonderful items will undoubtedly be cherished additions to the collections of all who took something home.

Looking ahead, be sure to utilize the resources available on our website. Please check the calendar for up-to-date dates and times for upcoming Classes and open sessions. And finally, mark your calendars for our annual holiday celebration: The Club Christmas Potluck will be held on December 17th at 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to share and plenty of Holiday Cheer as we celebrate the year together.

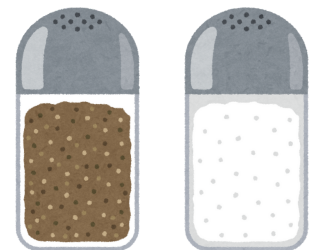
Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season! We look forward to seeing you next year.
-Tricia (TJ) Jackson Vice President

Dec 17th Rockhound Holiday Party

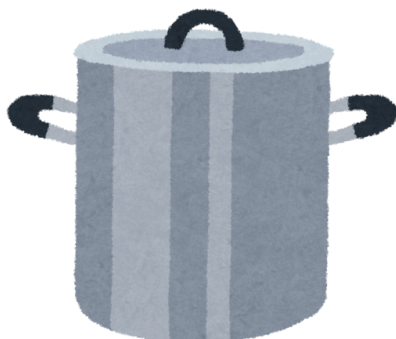
Come join your Rockhound friends at the annual Holiday Party, Wed. Dec 17 at 6 pm. There will be a potluck dinner so please bring a dish to share and serving utensils. To keep the food varied, please consider using your last name to bring:



A to F- a main dish or casserole
G to L- a side dish or tray
M to P- Drinks
Q to Z- a dessert, sweets



We always have fun and time to visit at the party. You might consider bringing a cool rock from your collection for others to admire/ learn about.



See you Dec 17!



Board Members

TOLEDO GEM AND ROCKHOUND CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

President

Diane Bieber
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Vice President

Tricia Jackson
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Treasurer

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Board Member

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Stacy Flynn
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Sunshine Chair

Linda Mcconahey
567-277-8238

- Faceting

Rocky Reader

Gem Crafters






Extream Beaders
- Metal Crafters

Collection/I.D

Juniors

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Gem Crafters 4:30-8:30 Stacy	2 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	3	4 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	5	6 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
7	8 Gem Crafters 4:30-8:30 Stacy Collection/I.d 6-8 Max	9 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	10	11 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	12	13 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Juniors 3-4 Stacy Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
14	15 Gem Crafters 4:30-8:30 Stacy	16 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	17 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	18 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	19	20 Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
21	22 Gem Crafters 12-8 Stacy	23 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	24 Christmas Eve No Classes	25 Christmas Day No Classes	26	27 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
28	29 Gem Crafters 12-8 Stacy	30 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	31			

 Faceting
 Rocky Reader
 Gem Crafters
 Extream Beaders
 Metal Crafters
 Collection/I.D
 Juniors

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year No Classes	2	3 PM Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
4	5 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	6 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	7	8 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	9	10 Metal Crafters 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
11	12 Collection/I.d 6-8 Max Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	13 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	14	15 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	16	17 Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike Juniors 3-4 Stacy Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
18	19 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	20 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	21 7:00 PM Monthly Club Meeting	22 Gem Crafters 11-3 Mike	23	24 Make Your First Pendant Class 12-3 Michelle Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm
25	26 Gem Crafters 4:30-8 Stacy	27 Extream Beaders 10-2 Metal Crafters 3-7 Mike	28	29 Gem Crafters 11-3 Michelle	30	31 Metal Crafters 12-3 Mike Gem Crafters 10-3 Sherm