



Newsletter of the Arizona Guides Association

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April Adams, Editor

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AGA January Meeting, Monday January 6, 2014

5:00pm to 6:00pm - Suggested happy hour at El Chorro Lodge, 5500 E. Lincoln. Complimentary hors d'oeuvre buffet (this is not an AGA function). El Chorro will not have separate seating for us and will not be aware of any group function. This is on your own.

6:15pm - Meeting check in at the Friar Owen Room at the Franciscan Renewal Center/Casa de Paz y Bien - 5802 E. Lincoln. Register for a door prize with a business card or index card cut to business card size. Guests are certainly welcome and encouraged but will not participate in the prize drawing. Please note that food will not be provided at this meeting.

6:30pm – 7:30pm - Meeting begins with a representative from the Casa providing a history of the site and overview of the Center's outreach. Representatives of Sami Jewelry of Fountain Hills will follow with a presentation focusing on Arizona amethyst.

The evening will conclude with our regular business meeting.

We appreciate representatives from the Casa and Sami's offering their time to us, and we hope you are able to join us in honoring their efforts. Program Committee: Jana Powell and Sharon Waldie

Peridot

Jewelry expert **Scott Bohall** on the Arizona gem. BESIDES BEING AN underappreciated gem, the August birthstone peridot is often mispronounced. The last syllable ends in a long sound, as in *depot*, but even many in the jewelry world pronounce it *dot*! What's more, it's rarely referred to as an Arizona gem. Most peridot seen in jewelry stores is a pale lime green that originates in China. Some of the finest peridot comes from a couple of locations in Arizona, often on Indian reservation land. We carry about 90 percent Arizona peridot and only use local material in the pieces we manufacture. Like most gems, the small and low-quality materials are quite common and cheap. The finer gems and larger gems are becoming rare, as the world is buying them faster than they can be mined or cut. Most peridot is used in jewelry, but it also helps geologists determine how old a meteorite or a rock in the earth is. The oldest rocks on the planet have either been identified by natural peridot crystals or natural zircon crystals. We know that peridot has existed for over four billion years, and yet in 2013 many consumers and jewelry sales people have little information about how it forms, where it comes from, or how to take care of it. Prices can range from below \$1 per carat for low-grade material or beads to several hundred dollars per carat for the finest.

