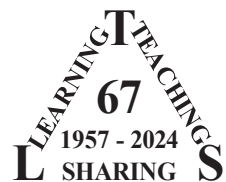




# THE TUSCARORA BULLETIN



Vol. 61, NO. 3

THE TUSCARORA BULLETIN

MARCH 2024

## Let's SKIP into March

I am referring to embracing TLS's Skill Improvement Program (SKIP)! SKIP encourages us to refine our skills to progressively higher levels of craftsmanship in a given area of the lapidary arts. Currently, TLS judges the following SKIP Divisions of expertise: Cabochon, Faceted Stone, Channel Jewelry, Intarsia, Intarsia Jewelry, Sphere, Constructed Jewelry, Jewelry Casting, and Carving. Each Division is further divided into three levels of achievement: Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master.

To enroll in the SKIP Division of your interest, you can anonymously submit your work to Dennis Coren, the TLS SKIP chairman, or any other Board member, using your membership number to evaluate your work for a given level of achievement. All submissions must be submitted according to the rules prescribed in the SKIP Handout, which was given to all new members as part of their acceptance to TLS.

I am sure many of you have already finished items worthy of a SKIP submission. By submitting your work, you will get objective commentary from a TLS expert regarding your workmanship, which is graded according to a rigorous set of criteria for a given level of achievement described in the SKIP Handout. Your point score and the comments and suggestions provided by the TLS judge are helpful for continued improvement. Upon completing a given level of achievement within a Division, a certificate and a metal feather will be awarded as a token of achievement. All entries will be returned to you at the subsequent General Meeting.

For the February Program, Kathy Lopez provided an in-depth introduction to our guest speaker, Justin Prim. Justin's presentation centered around how faceted stones are cut in various parts of the world by comparing handpiece machinery with our mast machines, common in the United States. In his presentation, he leaned towards cutting mined rough using traditional cuts emphasizing color and carat weight. Lastly, he noted that the fantasy cuts in facet rough popular here were, as of yet, not widespread in other parts of the world.

The March 13th General Meeting will feature the Silent Auction, held in person at the Springfield Township Building. We encourage all members to consider donating their extra rough or other lapidary supplies for the auction. In addition, TLS will have additional rough for the Silent Auction acquired from previous donations/acquisitions. The Silent Auction is always well-attended, so do not miss out on all the great deals.

**April Bulletin Deadline  
Friday, March 22**

Also, consider it an opportunity to find a new piece of rough that needs value added as your submission to SKIP.

The Spring registration for classes and workshops opens on February 26th. Make sure to register early because many of the classes and workshops fill up quickly.

In conclusion, be inspired to enroll in SKIP and climb the ladder of lapidary achievement.

—Ingrid Ratsep, TLS President



—From Tina Brunner

## Remembering Bill Frampton

Bill Frampton passed away on January 22, 2024. For many newer members, Bill Frampton was their first teacher, since he taught Beginner Cabochons so many times. He was my Beginner Cabochons teacher and I learned so much from him. He also taught me how to clean all the saws on clean-up days, oversaw many of my Open Cabbing sessions, and was one of my instructors for Advanced Cabochons. I thought it would be nice to honor Bill with a brief presentation at a future General Meeting, by showing photos of the cabochons his students made with his guidance and tutelage, photos of Bill working, and perhaps interspersing quotes about what TLS members have learned from Bill.

Bill was also the TLS registrar for six years, and was instrumental in seeing that class registrations went smoothly. Anyone who has registered for a TLS class in the past six years has Bill to thank for the ease of the process. TLS recognized Bill's contributions to TLS in 2019 with the Coren Award, and again in 2023 with the Colio Award.

If you are interested in contributing to this project, please send any photos that you would like to be included. If you have no photos, feel free to send me a brief paragraph about working with Bill. All contributions can be sent to [zebu25may@protonmail.com](mailto:zebu25may@protonmail.com).



## News and Notes

-A warm welcome to new members Adina Cook, Cynthia and David Fink, and Jennifer Mermans. We look forward to getting to know you!



## Dates to Remember . . .

- March 6: TLS Board Meeting, by ZOOM, 7:30 p.m.
- March 13: TLS General Meeting; Silent Auction, Springfield Township Building, 7:30 p.m.
- March 20: Gemarama Meeting, by ZOOM, 7:30 p.m.

**65+ YEARS OF TEACHING . . . LEARNING . . . SHARING**

**WE TEACH THE JOURNEY FROM ROCK TO GEM TO JEWELRY.**

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—From Janice Lawson, Recording Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes/Highlights

The February 7 Board Meeting by Zoom was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by President Ingrid Ratsep. The minutes of the January Board meeting were approved as distributed.

**Announcements:** Ingrid Ratsep reflected on the contributions of Bill Frampton, who passed away on January 22. There was discussion on how to honor Bill. Frank Warner stated that he has been in contact with Bill's wife Joan, to collect photos and items for the TLS memorial case in the Ed Center. Tina Brunner will spearhead the development of a presentation highlighting Bill to be shared at a future General Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sheryl Dahl, on behalf of Ken Dahl, reported on cash outflow for the month of January. Instructor's fees, insurance, reimbursement for canceled classes, and payment for work on our website contributed to the outflow total. Materials for the TLS tax returns are being prepared.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** Doug McNicol reported that four individuals have met the requirements for membership. A motion was made to approve Adina Cook, Cynthia Fink, David Fink and Jennifer Mermans for full membership. All were approved.

**Community Programs/DCAC:** Linda Green, interim chair, announced that she attended today's DCAC meeting by ZOOM which was devoted to discussion on the Delco Gives program which will be May 8 & 9. Linda added that 2026 will be the 250th anniversary of the nation. Celebrations will take place across the country and Pennsylvania is looking for artists to decorate fiberglass Liberty Bells to be displayed in all the counties. Ingrid Ratsep suggested using a photo of the TLS intarsia Liberty Bell and feature it somehow during the 2026 anniversary celebration. Any ideas should be emailed to Linda Green. Linda also confirmed that for the Delaware Mineralogic show, the first weekend in March, that John Chickadel, Don Schwarzkopf and Ellen Schwarzkopf will be doing demos at the show. At a meeting for the scouting outreach, a badge program was discussed.

**Programs:** Kathy Lopez reported that she is working on tech set-up with speaker Justin Prim for next week's General Meeting presentation. Linda Green suggested adding a folder to the Dropbox so that speakers could add their presentations. Lisa Laffend will work with Kathy to ensure things are in place

**Ed Center Director:** Vincent DiAngelus reported that the noise issue with the gas booster in the jewelry room was solved. Vincent then thanked Barry Messino for bringing in supplies for the Ed Center. Vincent asked for a volunteer to obtain supplies as needed. Items include toilet paper, paper towels and hand soap. Tina Brunner and Doug Schwarzkopf both volunteered as they have memberships to warehouse clubs. Vincent then presented the quote to recoat the Ed Center roof. A motion was made to move forward with the roof repairs and it was approved.

**Class Manager:** Steve Hansen reported that the spring schedule is circulating for instructor review. Steve then presented his proposal to sell the Facetron and Ultra Tec V2 faceting machines in order to purchase another Ultra Tec VL faceting machine along with some quality polishing laps and dops. This proposal was

approved.

**Registrar:** Barbara Bates reported that winter registration is slowing down. She proposed that an Assistant Registrar position would be beneficial. Backup for the planning and manual steps in the registration process are needed. A motion was made and approved for an Assistant Registrar position. Sheryl Dahl volunteered to meet with Barbara to discuss the position.

**Acquisitions:** Doug McNicol announced two acquisitions that will be listed in the silent auction. A kiln was donated by Sara Caldwell, and thanks go out to Christy Potter for picking it up and taking it to the Ed Center. The second is a nice jewelry set and miscellaneous books from Mary and Paul Overbeck.

**Equipment and Facilities:** Don Schwarzkopf reported that the motion sensor issue is fixed. He also reported that the rekeying of the locks will take place when the weather is warmer.

**Library and eBay:** Stacey Segal reported that she will put the faceting machines that are not purchased on eBay. Ingrid Ratsep offered to take photos and Steve Hansen offered to create a write-up of features and additional parts for the listing.

**Gemarama:** Barry Messino announced that the next Gemarama meeting is on March 20. Mimi Favre led discussion on her concerns regarding last month's approval for the surcharge of \$50 to dealers to help with increased costs.

**SKIP:** Dennis Coren encouraged instructors to make their students aware of the SKIP program.

**Webmaster:** Zasha Morales-José said that the website contact information was updated following the passing of Bill Frampton.

### **Old Business**

- Vincent DiAngelus reported that the previous landscaper will provide snow removal for the rest of the season.
- Ingrid Ratsep reported on behalf of Jody Shaw, that the Adobe Suite software for the Bulletin has been successfully transferred from her personal account to the TLS account.
- Barry Messino is working on getting the tool chest to the Ed Center.
- Ingrid Ratsep reported that Linda Ratsep will do the minutes next week in Janice Lawson's absence.
- Lisa Laffend reported that there are 15-20 members that have not yet paid their dues for 2024. Doug McNicol will be following up with several members. The deadline is February 15.

### **New Business**

- Frank Warner presented the issues regarding the functionality of the TLS email address verification and authorization. Frank stated that he met with Stacey Segal and will also meet with Vincent DiAngelus to come up with a solution.
- Ingrid Ratsep proposed awarding the different accomplished categories in SKIP with casted feather charms. Discussion followed with recommendations to cast the feathers during casting classes at the Ed Center and use different metals for the different levels. Ingrid will meet with Dennis Coren to go over details as well as develop a write up for the Bulletin.
- Ingrid Ratsep led discussion on the recommendation to purchase a fire blanket for the silver room at the Ed Center. Don Schwarzkopf volunteered to look into this. Vincent DiAngelus also volunteered to contact the fire extinguisher company for offerings.



—From Janice Lawson and Linda Ratsep

The February 14 General Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Ingrid Ratsep. The meeting was held in person and by Zoom. Attendance included 23 members and 7 guests in-person plus 13 members and 3 guests by Zoom. Ingrid Ratsep welcomed all members and guests.

Ingrid Ratsep reflected on the contributions of Bill Frampton, who passed away on January 22. Bill served as Registrar, capping instructor, mentor and friend. Tina Brunner will do a presentation honoring Bill later in the year. Ingrid also wished member Frank Warner a speedy recovery from his recent surgery. Ingrid then announced that Sheryl Dahl has been approved to serve as Assistant Registrar.

Committee and other items discussed at the Board Meeting were briefly presented. In addition:

- Kathy Lopez announced in addition to the programs in place for 2024, preparations are in the works for the June dinner and that Tina Brunner will relay information regarding the dinner and registration in the Bulletin.
- Steve Hansen reported that the spring schedule is complete and circulating with instructors. Steve described some of the spring sessions including MLSN. Steve then announced the Facetron and Ultra Tec V2 faceting machines were sold in order to purchase another Ultra Tech VL faceting machine for the faceting program.
- Barbara Bates gave thanks to Sheryl Dahl for volunteering for the Assistant Registrar position and that she is grateful for her help. Barbara then reported that she is ready for class registration to open.

Following the meeting Kathy Lopez introduced and welcomed Justin Prim, who gave an insightful presentation, "How the Other Side Cuts", detailing technology and traditions of Old and Modern European gem cutters and compared these to the techniques of American gem cutters who typically employ meet-point faceting.



### TLS Spring Guest Instructor Workshops

TLS is pleased to present a Limoges enamel painting workshop from Guest Instructor Joan Strott-Alvini. Guest Instructor Marthe Robers/Shea will present a workshop on building a distinctive pendant setting for faceted stones. We will also present a Zoom workshop on Gemstone Carving by Storm Rise. This workshop can be taken in your own workshop or at the TLS Ed Center for students that do not have their own flex shaft and tools, or would prefer to attend with a larger group.



—Jody Shaw, Bulletin Editor

#### Future Bulletin Due Dates

April.....	Friday, March 22
May.....	Friday, April 19
June.....	Friday, May 17
July/August.....	Friday, June 21
September.....	Friday, August 2
October.....	Friday, September 20
November.....	Friday, October 18
December.....	Friday, November 22

### SILENT AUCTION

We will be holding one of our two annual Silent Auctions on March 13, 2024 at the Springfield Township Building immediately after the conclusion of our TLS Business Meeting. Always popular, make sure to show up early to check out all of the available items up for bid! There will be jasper slabs (some up to 6 inches), agate slabs, miscellaneous rough and slabs, small geodes and nodules, Indonesian opalized petrified wood and Saturn jasper. Books, magazines, beads, a kiln, and a 45 drawer storage cabinet are just some of the other items being prepared for the auction.

#### HOW DOES THE SILENT AUCTION WORK?

First, bring something you wish to donate to the Club: rough, slabs, cabs, cut stones, findings, finished jewelry, equipment, tools, supplies, books, or whatever (not junk). Fill out one of the auction forms on the last page of this Bulletin or go to <https://www.lapidary.org/IMAGES/TLSSilentAuctionForms.pdf> for each item. (If you don't know what to put down for the price, leave it blank; help will be available at the meeting.) If you have more than three items to donate, copy the auction forms; there also will be extra forms at the meeting. Please remember, while you can check things out ahead of time, the Silent Auction begins only after the General Meeting is adjourned.

How does it work? When you choose what you want, write your name and your bid on the item's slip. Your bid must be just one increment over the last bid. If someone 'ups' your bid, fill in your next offer. When the table is closed, the last name on the list (the highest bid) gets to purchase the item.



### TLS Spring Classes and Workshops

Check out our new workshop offerings for the Spring term. Learn Chase and Repousse' from Ken Dahl or metalsmith techniques for the Hydraulic Press from Stacey Segal. In addition to our usual array of lapidary, glass, and metals classes, we will have sessions on jewelry photography and gemstone identification. If you've always wanted to start learning metalsmithing, check out our basic jewelry techniques workshop from our own renowned instructor, Helen Driggs. With this foundation, you'd be ready to move to Barry Messino's Beginning Silver class on either Wednesday afternoons or the one now offered on Thursday evenings.



### Possible Future Program

It has been suggested that we schedule members who have experience with the Tucson Gem Show to give a presentation at a fall General Meeting in order to prepare members who will be attending next year and have no experience with the show, and to educate members about the show who cannot yet attend. If you have attended the Tucson Gem Show and would like to participate in this presentation, please contact either Kathy Lopez at [Kathy.lopez@me.com](mailto:Kathy.lopez@me.com) or Tina Brunner at [zebu25may@protonmail.com](mailto:zebu25may@protonmail.com). Kathy and Tina can help coordinate the presentation, but the presentation itself would be developed by those who participate.

## Spring Classes Begin April 4, 2024

TLS Education Center  
24 Upland Road  
Brookhaven, PA 19015

TLS offers classes to adults interested in pursuing lapidary and jewelry arts. No previous experience is needed unless a prerequisite is noted. In some courses and workshops there is an additional charge for supplies and equipment. Pricing for classes is listed for members (M) and non-members (NM). Membership requires completion of Beginning Cabochon or Faceting class, participation in two TLS monthly meetings and willingness to participate as a volunteer in TLS activities. Course details, including the required supply and tool lists for many classes, and our online registration system, may be found at <https://www.lapidary.org/classes-spring-2024>. Fees for supplies are payable to the instructors and may depend on the choice of materials.

**NEW Class Refund Policy:** Some classes and many open shop sessions fill up rapidly and have extensive wait lists. If you must drop out of a class or open shop session, please do so as early as possible so others may be given the opportunity to enroll. Your courtesy in doing so will be appreciated. Also, if you believe you are ill, or becoming ill, we respectfully ask that you decline to attend. If you wish to withdraw from a class, workshop, or open shop session, you must notify the Registrar and instructor by email. When refunds are requested, we retain 10% of tuition as a processing fee. Tuition will be refunded 100% (minus the processing fee) if you withdraw before 7 days prior to the start date of the course, workshop, or open shop session. If you withdraw 7 to 3 days prior to the start date, tuition will be refunded 80% (minus the processing fee). There will be no refunds for withdrawals within 2 days of the start of the class, workshop, or open shop session. In the event of emergencies or other extenuating circumstances, TLS will consider making exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis. If such an event or circumstance occurs, please email the registrar with your inquiry and it will be reviewed as soon as possible.

Students are enrolled in the order that online payments or checks and registration forms are received. Please note: Checks for full tuition must accompany the registration form in order to reserve a spot in the class. Send registration form and check to Barbara Bates, Registrar, PO Box 247, Chester Heights, PA 19017-0247. For additional questions or more information contact Barbara Bates at [registrar@lapidary.org](mailto:registrar@lapidary.org)

### WEEKDAY CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

#### MONDAY

(S24AC4-8) **Advanced Cabochons:** (10 weeks beginning April 8) 7:30-9:30PM. Members only. Limit 7. Instructor: Stacey Segal. Tuition: M\$70.

#### TUESDAY

(S24FT4-9) **Faceting:** (10 weeks beginning April 9) 7:00-9:30PM. Limit 6. Cut clear gemstones with many flat planes (facets). Instructors: Steve Hansen and Karl Kobie. Tuition: NM\$130/M\$70.

#### WEDNESDAY

(S24IS4-10) **Intermediate Silver:** (8 weeks beginning April 10) 9:30AM-12:30PM. Limit 8. Learn fundamental silversmithing techniques and complete one or more projects, which could be a pendant, ring, or bracelet. Instructor: Barry Messino. Tuition: NM\$144/M\$72. Materials fee (payable to instructor) approximately \$40, depending on projects chosen.

(S24BS4-10) **Beginning Silver:** (8 weeks beginning April 10) 1-4PM. Limit 8. Learn basic silversmithing techniques and complete one or more projects, which could be a pendant, ring, or bracelet. Instructor: Barry Messino. Tuition: NM\$144/M\$72. Materials fee (payable to instructor) approximately \$40, depending on projects chosen.

#### THURSDAY

(S24BC4-4) **Beginning/Intermediate Cabochons:** (6 weeks beginning April 4) 9AM-Noon. Limit 7. Learn how to cut and polish rounded gemstone shapes. Open to new students and those honing their skills in cutting and polishing cabochons. Non-members have priority. Members must send registration requests and checks to the Registrar and, if possible, will be enrolled one week before the class is to begin in the order registrations are received. Instructors: John Chickadel and Alejandro Lopez. Tuition: NM\$130/M\$70.

(S24AC4-4) **Advanced Cabochons:** (6 weeks beginning April 4) 1-4PM. Limit 7. Members only. Instructors: John Chickadel. Tuition: \$70.

(S24BC4-4E) **Beginning/Intermediate Cabochons:** (10 weeks beginning April 4) 7:30-9:30PM. Limit 7. Learn to cut and polish rounded gemstones called 'cabochons'. Open to new students and those honing their skills in cutting and polishing stones. Non-members have priority. Members must send registration requests and checks to the Registrar and, if possible, will be enrolled one week before the class is to begin in the order registrations are received. Instructors: Christina Groff and Vincent DiAngelus. Tuition: NM\$130/M\$70.

(S24BS4-4) **Beginning Silver:** (8 weeks beginning April 4) 7:00-9:30PM. Limit 8. Learn basic silversmithing techniques and complete one or more projects, which could be a pendant, ring, or bracelet. Instructor: Barry Messino. Tuition: NM\$144/M\$72. Materials fee (payable to instructor) approximately \$40, depending on projects chosen.

#### FRIDAY

(S24BS4-5) **Metals Shop – Know Your Hand Tools:** (One-day workshop, Friday, April 5) 10am-5pm. Limit 8. New/Beginner. In this one-day workshop, you will learn the basic processes and tools used in metalsmithing. We will learn about and practice using the basic 12 jewelry-making hand-tools essential for most fabrication processes. Please do not bring any tools to class. The fee includes a rental toolbox and practice materials. We will also review the safe use of classroom tools like the disc cutter and other equipment. Instructor: Helen Driggs. Tuition: NM\$60/M\$35. Materials and supplies fee (payable to the instructor), \$45.

### WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

(S24FT4-6) **Beginner Faceting Weekend Workshop:** (Two-day workshop, Saturday & Sunday, April 6 & 7) 9AM-5PM. Limit 6. For new students. Facet a transparent glass gemstone

in the TLS #1 pattern. Instructors: Steve Hansen and Ingrid Ratsep. Tuition: NM\$130/M\$70.

(S24MM4-13) **Marble Making:** (Two-day workshop, Saturday & Sunday, April 13 & 14) 9AM-5PM. Limit 6. For beginners and those with some marble-making experience. Learn to make perfect spheres at the torch out of clear and colored borosilicate glass. Instructors: Tami O'Connell and Lisa Laffend. Tuition: NM\$170/M\$110 (includes \$50 fee for supplies and materials). A leather apron is required.

(S24AS4-27) **Textured Pendant with Reverse-set Faceted Stone:** (Two-day workshop, Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28) 10AM-5PM. Minimum 7, Maximum 10. Competent knowledge of soldering required. Learn how to make a pendant with a "cleaner" look. Students will use rolled texture and gallery wire as design elements. We will create a reverse-setting for the gemstone that does not include visible prongs. The stone is set from behind, allowing more focus to be directed to the piece's surface detail. Guest Instructor: Marthe Roberts-Shea. Tuition: NM\$245/M\$185.

(S24VA4-28) **Intro to Gemstone Carving – Zoom (In studio):** (Three-hour workshop, Sunday, April 28) 6-9PM. Minimum 4, Maximum 10. In this class, you will learn how to pick a great stone, the tools and materials you will need, and how to maximize the beauty of the stone using simple tools available in most workshops right now. Come to the TLS Ed Center for a fun class of exploration, design, discovery, and a heaping of water-logged shenanigans, and go away with a stunning stone that is truly, perfectly yours! Guest Instructor: Storm Rise. Tuition: NM\$145/M\$125 (Note: Tuition includes carving materials and carving bits kit).

(S24VA4-28R) **Intro to Gemstone Carving – Zoom (Remote):** (Three-hour workshop, Sunday, April 28) 6-9PM. Maximum 12. In this class, you will learn how to pick a great stone, the tools and materials you will need, and how to maximize the beauty of the stone using simple tools available in most workshops right now. Join by Zoom from your own studio for a fun class. Guest Instructor: Storm Rise. Tuition: NM\$125/M\$115 (Note: Tuition includes carving materials and carving bits kit).

(S24EL5-4) **Enamel Painting Workshop:** (Two-day workshop, Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5) 10AM-5PM. Minimum 6, maximum 8. Interested in learning an enameling technique that dates all the way back to the 16th century? In this class, you will learn about the antiquated painting technique, sometimes referred to as Limoges or painting with oxides, which was first seen in France in the middle of the 16th century. Essentially, they all describe the method of using finely ground metal and ceramic oxide powders and mixing them with an oil based medium to create a paint that can be used on an enameled surface. You will be working with Thompson ceramic oxides and Sunshine painting oxides. You will learn how to prep your copper sheet with a hard-fired white or cream enamel base, so that you have a clean canvas to paint on. From there, we will go over painting and firing of your designs. Often, we will fire these multiple times to achieve a beautiful painted enamel piece. No previous experience is necessary. Guest Instructor: Joan Strott-Alvini (<http://www.glassongold.com>). Tuition: NM\$240/M\$180. Materials fee (payable to the instructor) is \$45.

(S24OP4-21/S24OP6-2/S24OP6-30) **Sunday Opal Cutting Workshops:** (Three One-day workshops, Sunday, April 21, Sunday June 2, Sunday, June 30) 10AM-5PM. Limit 6. Prerequisite: One TLS Gateway (Beginning) Cabochon course. Opal cutting for current or prospective opal addicts. Facilitators: Steve Hansen and Anna Thompson. Tuition: NM\$60/M\$35 per day. Materials fee, payable to the instructor, tbd depending on materials used.

(S24JP5-19) **Jewelry Photography:** (Sunday, May 19) 1-5pm. Limit 10. Learn how to improve your jewelry photography and editing skills. This workshop will take a hands-on, common-sense approach to lighting and photographing jewelry in various settings, focusing on simplicity and problem solving. Various editing apps and editing options will be discussed. Bring your phone, point-and-shoot, or SLR along with your best jewelry for a fun afternoon of shooting. There is always a way to get a great photo of your jewelry and you do not have to be a professional to figure it out. Instructors: Mara Wolff and Vincent DiAngelus. Tuition: NM\$40/M\$20.

(S24BG6-1) **Gem ID:** (Saturday June 1) 10AM-3PM. Limit 8. Beginner/Intermediate Level. In this workshop, students will be given a brief introduction to geologic processes that form our favorite faceted gemstones, followed by a discussion of mineral physical and optical properties that help us identify gemstones, and finally we will have a hands-on session using the most common diagnostic instruments to try to solve the mystery of the unknown gem. Students are encouraged to bring a faceted stone of their choice to identify. Instructor: John Chickadel. Tuition: NM\$60/M\$35.

(S24AS6-8) **Introduction to Chasing and Repousse Weekend Workshop:** (Two-day workshop, Saturday & Sunday, June 8 & 9) 10AM-4PM. Limit 4. This workshop will introduce concepts, tools, and methods of chasing and repousse (C&R). Consider a flat piece of metal: chasing yields a design on its side to be viewed, while repousse pushes out the material from the back to create visual depth in the finished piece. All working of the piece is done using steel punches and a hammer to move the metal to create the finished piece. Students will complete two pieces in the class using 2"x2" metal pieces – one with copper and one with sterling silver. A pitch bowl and set of basic C&R tools will be provided. Instructor: Ken Dahl. Tuition: NM\$120/M\$60. Materials fee (payable to the instructor) approximately \$20.

(S24AS6-15) **Introduction to the Hydraulic Press:** (Saturday, June 15) 12-3pm. Limit 4. In this workshop, students will learn the basic operations of the electric hydraulic press. Techniques taught in this class will include how to use a pancake die, a silhouette die, and an impression die. Students who complete the class will end the day with components that can be used as elements in their jewelry designs. A materials kit will be provided. Instructor: Stacey Segal. Tuition: NM\$40/M\$20. Material fee (payable to the instructor) of \$15.

(S24FT6-22) **Faceting Weekend Workshop:** (Two-day workshop, Saturday & Sunday, June 22 & 23) 9AM-5PM. Limit 6. Facet a transparent glass gemstone in the TLS #1 pattern. Instructors: Steve Hansen and Karl Kobie. Tuition: NM\$130/M\$70.

### OPEN SHOP SESSIONS

(S24OC) **Open Cabbing:** (Saturdays: 4/20, 5/11, 6/29, Mondays: 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, Thursdays: 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20) 10AM-4PM. Limit 7. Prerequisite: One TLS beginning cabbing class. Supervisors: Stacey Segal (Saturdays), Ken Dahl or Christy Potter (Mondays), or John Chickadel (Thursdays). Fee: NM\$33/M\$27 per day.

(S24OS) **Open Slab Saw:** (Saturdays: 4/20, 5/11, 6/29, Mondays: 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, Thursdays: 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6, 6/13, 6/20). Members Only. Prerequisite: Must be certified for slab saw use. May be taken concurrently with open cabbing. Supervisors: Stacey Segal (Saturdays), Ken Dahl or Christy Potter (Mondays), or John Chickadel (Thursdays). Fee: \$10 per hour. Indicate date and preference for AM or PM. The Registrar will schedule actual times.

(S24OM) **Open Metals/Enameling/Metal Clay:** (Mondays: 5/13, 6/10) 10AM-4PM. Limit 10. Prerequisite: One TLS class in Enameling, Metal clay, or Metalsmithing or equivalent (approved by Supervisor). Supervisor: Sheryl Dahl. Fee: NM\$33/M\$27 per day.

(S24OM) **Open Metalsmithing/Soldering:** (Saturdays: 4/6, 5/18, 6/1) 10AM-4PM. Limit 10. Prerequisite: One TLS silver class or equivalent (approved by Supervisor). Supervisor: Stacey Segal. Fee: NM\$33/M\$27 per day.

(S24OT) **Open Torch (Bead/Marble/Flower):** (Saturday and/or Sunday, April 20 & 21, and June 29 & 30) 9AM-5PM. Limit 10. Prerequisite: One TLS glass bead-making class. Coordinator: Frank Warner. Fee: NM\$44/M\$36 per day.



—From Linda Green, Community Programs Chair

### TLS Community Programs

Winter 2024 is off to a busy start at TLS! In addition to classes at the Education Center, community outreach is an important part of our mission as a PA Purely Public Charity. To this end, we have a yearly Open House and have demo and information tables at local rock and mineral shows, as well as at Brookhaven Borough Family Day. Recently, a Scouting Outreach Committee was formed to develop programs for Scouts. We hope to expand our offerings for both Boy and Girl Scouts.

The Delaware County Arts Consortium (DCAC), of which TLS is a member, is an opportunity for TLS to share what we are doing with other arts organizations in Delaware County as well as the general public. This spring we will be participating in Delco Gives Day hosted by the Foundation of Delaware County. Delco Gives Day is a 24-hour county-wide day of giving and celebration, where people can contribute to their favorite nonprofit organizations through in person events or the [DelcoGives.org](http://DelcoGives.org) website. The inaugural Delco Gives Day will be held May 8-9, 2024 from 7:00pm - 7:00pm. The TLS Board has approved our participation in this event. This is a wonderful way for TLS to raise money for our programs, but also spread the word about our organization. Stay tuned for more details about how TLS plans to participate in Delco Gives Day.

Since the Community Programs is expanding our offerings, I am looking for more volunteers to help with these programs. If you are interested in helping, please contact Linda Green at [ldgreensniffles@me.com](mailto:ldgreensniffles@me.com).

### TLS Class/Instructor Development

TLS has a continuing and on-going need to develop both new classes/workshops as well as to retain our internal teaching capabilities for our existing techniques and topics. Looking at our TLS Class showcase, core competency techniques we need to retain, refresh, and pass on include areas such as metal clay, inlay, intarsia, channel jewelry, wire wrap, and Viking knit. Many of these classes/workshops have not been presented in the last several years while others have required a need for guest instructors.

Time is available in the TLS shops to practice a craft or to develop a project for future class/workshop offerings. If you have an interest in training and teaching in one of these core competencies or in development of a new technique or skill, please contact the TLS Class Manager (Steve Hansen) for further discussion.



### TLS Class/Meeting Cancellation System

If an evening meeting or class at the TLS Education Center or a General Meeting is canceled due to inclement weather or other needs, an appropriate message will be put on the Center's voicemail system by 4 p.m. that day. So, if you have concerns regarding any evening event, call the Center at 610-490-5252 after 4 p.m. and listen to the message. In addition, both daytime and evening instructors have the authority to cancel a class due to inclement weather at their discretion. Should this scenario occur, all affected students will be called by the respective instructor and, if possible, a message will be placed on the Center's voicemail system.

If a General Meeting is canceled or an emergency or other circumstance requiring special attention occurs, an email will go out with more information.



—From Tina Brunner, Assistant Programs Chair

### Future Programs

We welcome your suggestions for speakers or presentations. Please contact either Kathy Lopez at [Kathy.lopez@me.com](mailto:Kathy.lopez@me.com) or Tina Brunner at [zebu25may@protonmail.com](mailto:zebu25may@protonmail.com) with your ideas.

- March 13, 2024 at 7:30 PM: TLS General Meeting; Silent Auction, Springfield Township Building
  - April 10, 2024 at 7:30 PM – Storm Rise, a New Zealand metal and lapidary artist, jewelry instructor, and owner of Gilded Poppy Makery in Melbourne, Australia (<https://www.gildedpoppy.com/>), will give a presentation on gemstone carving. This program is Zoom-only.
  - May 8, 2024 at 7:30 PM – Matt Moskal, a gifted local wire-wrapping genius, and owner of Matt's Crazy Art YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@MattsCrazyArt/videos>) will give a presentation on wire wrapping, Springfield Township Building and Zoom.
  - June 12, 2024 - Annual Awards Dinner, Location TBD
- Many thanks to Steve Hansen and Vince DiAngelus for their program suggestions.

—From Linda Green, Social Media Chair

### Publicity and Social Media—Linda Green

Our social media presence on Facebook and Instagram is a great way for TLS to share and connect with current members, potential new members, students, and the community in general. Help us “spread the word” and build our fan base. Here are some ways you can assist:

Follow us on Facebook (Tuscarora Lapidary Society) and Instagram (@tuscaroralapidary).

“Like” our posts on Facebook and Instagram.

“Comment” on our posts.

“Share” them with your friends and followers.

If you post photos from TLS classes or Gemarama on your Facebook or Instagram page, please “Tag” us so we can comment back or repost them.

Please send photos from classes and other TLS events to post on the TLS page. I never have enough photos. You can email them to [ldgreensniffles@me.com](mailto:ldgreensniffles@me.com)

Feel free to repost our posts on your Instagram feed or stories but indicate that the post came from @tuscaroralapidary.



—Dennis Coren, Skill Improvement Program Chair

### Take the TLS Challenge

Your friends from Tuscarora Lapidary Society challenge you to show off your work!



How?



By submitting your Cabochon, Faceted Stone, Channel Jewelry, Intarsia, Intarsia-Jewelry, Sphere, Constructed Jewelry, Jewelry Casting, and Carving to the SKIP Program.

#### What is the SKIP Program?

Tuscarora’s Skill Improvement Program (SKIP) is dedicated to increasing higher levels of enjoyment and craftsmanship for it’s members. Each member is given the opportunity to have their work evaluated and graded as an Apprentice, Journeyperson and then Master. The skills become progressively more rigorous as you complete each project.

You are already working on special projects at home or at the Ed Center, why not share them with your friends?

**Take the TLS Challenge, you will be glad you did.**

For more information go to: [SKIP Booklet](#) or contact Dennis Coren: [Houdini@comcast.net](mailto:Houdini@comcast.net) or 215-817-4444.



### 2024 Event Calendar

**March 2-3:** Delaware Mineralogical Society’s Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Double Tree by Hilton, Wilmington, DE

**March 16-17:** GLMSMC Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, Gaithersburg, MD

**March 23-24:** Philadelphia Mineralogical Society's Spring Show, Lulu Temple, Plymouth, PA

**March 23-24:** Che Hanna Rock and Mineral Club Annual Gem and Mineral Show, Wysox, PA

**May 15-19:** NJ Mineral, Fossil, Gem & Jewelry Show, NJ Expo Center, Edison, NJ

**April 13:** Annual North Jersey Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show, Midland Park High School, Midland Park, NJ

**June 8-9:** Gem Miner's Spring Show, Howard County Fairgrounds,, West Friendship, MD

**July 20-21:** Herkimer Diamond Gem Show, Herkimer County Fairgrounds, Frankfort, NY

**August 24-25:** St. Lawrence Rock & Mineral Club’s 57th Annual Show, Canton, NY

**November 2-3:** Gemarama, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA.

**November 15-16:** Gem Miner's Jubilee Gem and Jewelry Show, Lebanon Valley Fairgrounds and Expo, Lebanon, PA

**November 15-17:** Gem Miner's Holiday Gem Jewelry & Gift Show, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Lebanon, PA

### Lapidary Links

With this new year, Lapidary Links will focus on databases relating to lapidary, metal, and glass. Please forward any that you visit for inclusion in this feature to [jodyshawtls@gmail.com](mailto:jodyshawtls@gmail.com).

The Mineralogy Database contains 4,714 individual mineral species descriptions with links and a comprehensive image library. While not recently updated, there is a wealth of information here. Visit <https://webmineral.com/>



### In The News

If you see something newsworthy to share with our members, please send link to [JodyshawTLS@gmail.com](mailto:JodyshawTLS@gmail.com). *Thank you to Stacey Segal for a submission this month.*

Scientists Solve Mystery of Yellow Egyptian Desert Glass  
Read more here: <https://www.geologyin.com/2019/05/scientists-solve-mystery-of-yellow.html>

<https://www.geologyin.com/2019/05/scientists-solve-mystery-of-yellow.html>

The Empress of Uruguay: The Largest Amethyst Geode  
Read more here: <https://www.geologyin.com/2024/02/the-empress-of-uruguay-largest-amethyst.html>

<https://www.geologyin.com/2024/02/the-empress-of-uruguay-largest-amethyst.html>

Visitor From France Finds 7.46-Carat Diamond at Crater of Diamonds State Park

<https://www.southernliving.com/crater-of-diamonds-state-park-arkansas-carine-diamond-8549281>

The Tuscarora Lapidary Society (TLS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and a Pennsylvania Purely Public Charity organized to encourage and teach the science and art of lapidary (the cutting and polishing of stones) as well as the arts and sciences associated with lapidary interests. This mission is accomplished through general meetings, an annual show, educational courses and workshops, and free displays and presentations; all open to members of the general public. TLS meets the second Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 p.m. in the Springfield Township Municipal Building, 50 Powell Road, Springfield, PA 19064; the June meeting is a dinner held at a local restaurant. Visitors are always welcome; anyone interested in joining the society may talk to any officer about the dues and membership requirements. Some meetings are by Zoom only. Check [lapidary.org](http://lapidary.org) for the current schedule.

**2024 TLS OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President . . . . . Ingrid Ratsep  
Phone: 484-988-0308; email: [Ingrid.ratsep@gmail.com](mailto:Ingrid.ratsep@gmail.com)  
Vice President . . . . . Doug McNicol  
Recording Secretary . . . . . Janice Lawson  
Corresponding Secretary . . . . . Anna Thompson  
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Records Manager & Archivist. . . . . Lisa Laffend  
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Skill Improvement Program (SKIP) . . . . . Dennis Coren  
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Assistant . . . . . Katy Winters  
By-Laws . . . . . Gary Cummings  
Class Manager . . . . . Steve Hansen  
Community Programs & DCAC Rep . . . . . Volunteer Needed  
Assistant . . . . . Christina Kulp  
Education. . . . . Lisa Laffend  
Email communications . . . . . Lola Fields  
Event Calendar. . . . . Lisa Laffend  
Facilities & Equipment . . . . . Don Schwarzkopf

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TLS IS A MEMBER OF THE EASTERN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETIES (EFMLS), AND AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES (AFMS).



Follow TLS on Facebook



YouTube Videos



Follow TLS on Instagram



AFMS



**Did You Know?**

1. Did you know Liechtenstein has just one jail?
2. Did you know your liver's size fluctuates significantly throughout the day?
3. Did you know there are actually two Air Force Ones?
4. Did you know actor Daniel Radcliffe went through nearly 70 wands and 160 pairs of glasses during the making of the Harry Potter films?
5. Did you know the filling in Kit Kats is made from damaged Kit Kats?
6. Did you know it only takes six minutes for alcohol to affect your brain?
7. Did you know a mailman built a castle in France?
8. Did you know professional cheesemakers are studying if music can change the taste of cheese?
9. Did you know Loch Ness contains more freshwater than all of England's lakes combined?
10. Did you know wombat feces is cube-shaped?
11. Did you know the youngest Olympian was 10 years old?
12. Did you know there are 118 ridges on the side of a dime?
13. Did you know only 18 out of 1 million Lego pieces are defective?
14. Did you know there's a planet that's shaped like a potato?
15. Did you know there is a museum dedicated to failure?