Now we’re getting to the heart of the matter! In 2016, we are fully in the fabrication stage of exhibits and the final design phase of MMGM’s galleries. To all who work here, support us, provide sustenance by way of membership, funding and fellowship, this year is about you.

To celebrate the unwavering support of MMGM’s community and membership as we enter the most exciting phase of MMGM’s development, we want to show our appreciation.

MISSION STATEMENT
At our January Board of Directors meeting, we galvanized our mission statement and present it here for the first time: To communicate the significance of minerals in our lives, our planet and beyond.

NARM MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS
We know that many of our members and supporters are avid museum-goers. To support your interest in what these great institutions have to offer, MMGM is implementing the shared access program created by North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM). MMGM members at the Supporting level ($125.00) and

(continued page 2)
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The world’s largest gem and mineral show has grown up around the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society’s annual show at the Tucson Convention Center on the second weekend in February (February 11-14, 2016). It is preceded by the American Gem Trade Association GemFair™ (February 2-7, 2016). Both are complemented by dozens of smaller shows that have sprung up in commercial buildings, hotels and even tents set up in parking lots. Tucson is a beehive of mineral (sensu lato) activity for three weeks!

Maine Mineral & Gem Museum will be exhibiting at the TGMS (“main”) show where potentially ten to twenty thousand people might view our display. This year’s show theme is Shades of Blue: Minerals of the World. The MMGM exhibit dubbed, “Crystal Blue Persuasion,” will include aquamarine crystals and gems from Maine.

We’ll also be networking and making friends for the museum as well as shopping for equipment, ideas, and specimens to bring back to Bethel to improve the museum’s operations and programs. It will be fun and delightfully exhausting.

Collections-Crystal Blue Persuasion
By Carl Francis, PhD

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MEMBERS IN MIND
At MMGM, we know that our mission and programs are imbedded in the bedrock that our members represent. We are always looking for enhancements for your membership and 2016 is sure to see even more benefits and programming.

We are open to your ideas about membership too. Give us a call to discuss. Better still, stop in the Museum Store & Preview Gallery and come by for Third Thursday Talks at 3:00 pm. It’s a great chance to visit one-on-one with MMGM staff.

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Events-In, Out and About in 2016
By Amy Halsted, MMGM Communications

The popular saying that diamonds are a girl’s best friend doesn’t, and shouldn’t, necessarily be true! Maine’s gemstones provide such a wide color array that having a diamond for an engagement just seems, well… boring. From the pale baby blue of aquamarine to the dark blue green of tourmaline to the royal purple of amethyst, MMGM’s Museum Store has engagement rings that appeal to everyone.

If you’re inspired by our collection, you can also work with us on creating your own custom ring; just make an appointment. We can also take a family heirloom and make it new again.

MMGM events in 2016 build day-by-day. From January-July, we are already in, out and about spreading the word about our unique museum: offering educational programming here, providing MMGM ambassadors to the most prestigious mineral and gem shows throughout the U.S. (with some presenting talks) and providing research and articles to our colleagues. August-December will feature even more points of visibility and camaraderie with our fellows in the mineral, gem and meteorite universe.

For Bethel, Oxford County and Maine residents and students, mark your calendars for our Third Thursday Tours & Talks: January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16 and July 21.

For those at shows, we’ll be at the AGTA and Tucson Gem & Mineral Show in February; the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium in April; the Cincinnati Mineral Society’s 51st Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show and the New England Mineral Conference in May; the Maine Pegmatite Workshop in June; the Oxford County Mineral Club Show and, of course, MollyOckett Days on the Bethel Common in July.

We also invite our members and community to work with us if you need a distinctive venue to hold events. MMGM’s Preview Gallery in Oddfellows Hall is a distinguished location and will provide your guests with long-lasting memories.

Treasures-Romance of the Colored Stone
By Maggie Kroenke

The popular saying that diamonds are a girl’s best friend doesn’t, and shouldn’t, necessarily be true! Maine’s gemstones provide such a wide color array that having a diamond for an engagement just seems, well… boring. From the pale baby blue of aquamarine to the dark blue green of tourmaline to the royal purple of amethyst, MMGM’s Museum Store has

Newry Tourmaline Ring. Features Newry tourmaline from the modern workings. 7 mm, 1.3 cts. Accented by Deer Hill amethyst.

The Smoky Quartz Ring, mined at Lord Hill, measures 6 mm, weighs .80 cts. The Tourmaline Ring from Mt. Apatite, mined 1908-1910, weighs 2.1 cts.

If you aren’t looking to pop ‘The Big Question’, we have an amazing variety of jewelry and products for sweethearts of all ages. Jessie Mixer’s line of hand cutout pieces are sure to please.
Our big news is that the SEM has just been upgraded with a new Energy Dispersive Analytical system from IXRF Systems. The Iridium Ultra software package includes advanced spectra, imaging, mapping, particle analysis and microscope stage/column control tools. As soon as we receive our detector back from repair, the system will be complete and we will again be producing analytical results with one of our most important research tools.

An interesting new find from the Emmons Quarry made by Pietro Vignola has been identified as milarite, a mineral that is easily mistaken for beryl or even apatite. Its formula is $K_2Ca_4Al_2Be_4Si_{24}O_{60} \cdot H_2O$.

Milarite was first described from Val Giuv, Switzerland, but was reported erroneously to be from Val Mila, thus, the name milarite! More research on this material is now underway.

Our three abstracts submitted for the upcoming NE GSA meeting in Albany, New York, were accepted.

For the Valentines you love who may hold a different kind of place in your heart, we also have all kinds of gifts, toys and books.

**Images:**

Jessie Mixer

*Lovebirds*—hand cut sterling silver accented with a Dunton tourmaline tumbled stone.

Jessie Mixer *Rose*—Deer Hill amethyst and hand cut sterling silver.

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**Science-Energy Dispersive Analytics, Milarite & Presentations**

*By Al Falster, M.S. and Skip Simmons, Jr. Ph.D.*

- **Anomalous Ta-enrichment in Pegmatites of the Upper Midwest** by Falster, Alexander U., Simmons, WM. B., and Buchholz, Thomas W.
- **A Case for the Production of Highly Evolved Granitic Melts by Anataxis: Pegmatite in the Oxford Pegmatite Field, Maine** by Simmons, WM. B. and Falster, Alexander U.
- **A New Spodumene-Bearing LCT Pegmatite Occurrence in Mid-Coastal Maine** by Felch, Myles, West Jr., David P. and Falster, Alexander U.
No matter what your income, if you itemize, you can almost always lower your income taxes through charitable giving. The amount of the income tax savings will depend on your tax bracket.

• EXAMPLE: if you are in a 33% income tax bracket, and you itemize your deductions, a $10,000 gift to us will save you $3,300 in taxes.

Here are two of the best ways to give to MMGM.

GIFTS OF CASH
If you itemize, you can lower your income taxes simply by writing us a check. Gifts of cash are fully deductible—up to a maximum of 50% of your adjusted gross income.

• EXAMPLE: if your adjusted gross income is $50,000, up to $25,000 of charitable gifts may be deducted. Any excess can generally be carried forward and deducted over as many as five subsequent years.

GIFTS OF STOCK
If you own stock, it is often more tax-wise to contribute stock than cash. This is because a gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax savings. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in the value of the stock. Second, you receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

• EXAMPLE: if you purchased some stock many years ago for $1,000, and it is now worth $10,000, an outright gift of the stock to MMGM would result in a charitable contribution deduction of $10,000. In addition, there is no capital gains tax on the $9,000 appreciation in value.

Gifts of appreciated stock are fully deductible—up to a maximum of 30% of your adjusted gross income.

• EXAMPLE: if your adjusted income is $100,000, up to $30,000 of long-term appreciated stock and other property gifts may generally be deducted.

Contact us for a membership form or join online at www.mainemineralmuseum.org.
For sponsorship and funding opportunities, call us, 207.824.3036.