



The Official Publication of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

THE PICK & SHOVEL

In association with



The Midwest Federation of
Mineralogical and
Geological Societies



The American
Federation of
Mineralogical Societies

The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including but not necessarily limited to Geology, Paleontology and Mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, especially to youth and student groups.

Current club by-laws can be found at [www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/About/General Information](http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/About/General%20Information).

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/223555904325876>

GENERAL MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the Month, except for January (3rd Sunday), December (1st Sunday), and summer break (June, July, August). Bethany Park Shelter House, 65th & Vine

Meeting Times: Juniors meet at 6:15 p.m.
Adults meet at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2026

Program: Eric Fritsch - Minerals of China
Eric will share his experiences during visits to China.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are usually held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at Vera Lyman's Residence.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello LGMC.

The sixth annual Summer Gem Fest is in the books! A big thank you to the Beer family for all their work and use of the family farm. It truly is a fantastic location. Another big thank you to all the members who stepped up and volunteered during Gem Fest. It truly could not happen without you. The more volunteers we get, the more spread out the work is. I would like to get more volunteers at each event, but no one had to work more than two shifts. We are not there yet and I really do appreciate those people who



work more, and I hope to get to where that is not required. Everyone should be able to relax and see the event, whether it be the show or a swap.

Attendance was up quite a bit compared to last year. We did get rain Saturday afternoon that caused most outdoor vendors to close a bit early, but attendees were able to finish out the day inside the barn.

On Saturday, June 27, 18 members and family met up at the Martin Marietta mine in Weeping Water. As

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CLUB FUN

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 12 - Odell Diamonds Field Trip
July 18 & 19 - Camp Creek Threshers
September 17 - First meeting back after
summer break



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Leahh Anderson
Randy Kessler
Tammy Kubitz
Tammy Jeanneret
Charlie Lancaster
Nolan
Sharon Marburger
John Moss
Betty Selby-Syslo



VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Brett Jurgens will be seeking volunteers for the "Rock Building" at Camp Creek Thresher's 49th Annual Antique Machinery and Threshing Show in Waverly on Saturday, July 18 and Sunday, July 19.

Although this isn't an official LGMC activity, the club provides displays, a touch table, Gem Dig, and hobby demonstrations for the public.

Informal surveys at previous Camp Creek activities have determined that the Rock Building was the favorite place for kids and parents.

You may volunteer for the whole weekend, one day, or a two-hour shift on either day. Watch your email for a link to the sign-up.

YOUR INPUT TO PICK & SHOVEL CONTENT

The Pick & Shovel is YOUR newsletter. Please send your hobby-related photos with captions or explanations for publication in the Pick & Shovel. Field trips, lapidary projects, fossil projects, metal projects, wire wrapping, tumbling, or any other activity of interest to the club. Your project may inspire someone else. Send via email

(lgmc.editor@outlook.com)

or via Facebook Messenger to Sharon Marburger
(<https://www.facebook.com/mamamar7880>).



PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

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Editor and Circulation:

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Sharon Marburger; 402.429.3323

Deadline:

Last Sunday of the month.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Advertising by rock / hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board of Directors. Contact the Editor with your proposed ad. The rate is set at \$20.00 per full page; \$10.00 per 1/2 page; \$5.00 per 1/4 page (minimum) per issue, paid in advance to the Club Treasurer. Ads will be placed throughout the newsletter as space permits.

All articles, tidbits, and photos not individually identified as being contributed to this publication are provided by the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - CONTINUED

continued from page 1

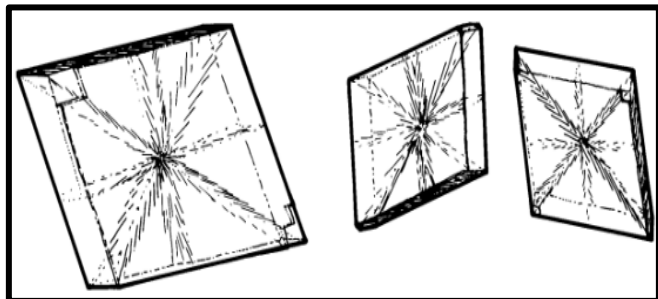
part of Limestone Day, Martin Marietta offered an open house and mine tour. Guests were shown a mine safety video, put in a bus, and taken on a 20 minute underground tour of the mine. It was fascinating. After the tour, we enjoyed a fantastic meal while the kids enjoyed a bounce house, face painting, and balloon artist. Please make plans to attend next year!

We have a field trip planned for Sunday, July 12 to hunt for Odell diamonds. It was recently brought to my attention that the state has closed off collecting around the lake. Jim Marburger is tracking down the landowner of the adjacent property to see if we can get permission to collect there. Years ago, the club was given permission, but we always want to verify and confirm with the landowner. I will say that some field trips require 5-gallon buckets to carry your finds. This trip will require something more like a pill bottle. The "diamonds" are small barite crystals found in the clay. They are incredibly interesting, but you won't be filling a bucket. More info to come via email.

July 18 and 19 is the Camp Creek Threshers Show east of Waverly. We are looking for club members to help man the different stations at the Rock building. Volunteers get free entry into the show, and I am hoping for enough volunteers so everyone can go out and enjoy the diverse offerings of the show. Please use the link in the upcoming email to sign up.

Please put Crawford in your thoughts as they experience another wildfire outside of town. I know I am looking forward to going there over Labor Day weekend for their annual swap. Hopefully all the fires in that area are extinguished by then.

Thank you again for all your hard work!



JUNIORS

By Brett Jurgens, Co-Leader

Hello Juniors.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacation. It was great to see some of you at Gem Fest. I hope in future years more of you are able to attend. It is a great event and opportunity to add to your collection.

For those who couldn't attend the mine tour at Limestone Day, try to make it next year. They even had a bounce house, balloon artist, and face painting!

Our next field trip is Sunday, July 12. Please read my president's message for info and watch your email for updates.

We need volunteers to help at Camp Creek Threshers on July 18 and 19. Volunteers get into the show for free and there are lots of activities for both young and old. Please use the online sign-up to claim your volunteer spot.

I look forward to seeing you all back at the regular meeting in September and see what you collected over the summer. Stay safe and keep your pockets full of



ODELL DIAMONDS

Compiled by Sharon Marburger

The club plans a field trip on July 12 to collect Odell Diamonds. The specimens are not carbon based so they aren't diamonds in the traditional sense. They are diamond-shaped barite crystals.

According to former member Roger Pabian's book, *Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska: A Handbook for Students and Collectors*, which is available on the club website:

Barite is one of the most sought after and prized minerals occurring in Nebraska. ... Small, diamond-shaped prismatic barite crystals, popularly referred to as "Odell diamonds" occur in shales in the Cretaceous Dakota Group west of the village of Odell, Gage County. These crystals are generally white or pink, and many show phantom growths. They are not usually fluorescent. (Drawings of Odell diamonds on the left.)

Pabian, Roger K. and Cook. Allan, "Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska: A Handbook for Students and Collectors" (1976). Conservation and Survey Division. 2.

<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/conservationsurvey/2>



The picture of Odell diamonds, above, is from mindat.org. This will give our hunters an idea of what they are looking for. Remember, these are usually very small, about ½ inch on their longest side.

GEM FEST REVIEW

By Jayne Beer (photos by Beer Family)

Gem Fest 2026 is in the books! I would call it a great success. The weather cooperated for the most part. Saturday was a very comfortable, cloud covered mid 80s day up until about 4:00 when it started raining lightly. The rain didn't really stop our tenacious shoppers until about 4:45 when it started raining harder. At that time, the shoppers and outdoor vendors moved into the barn where it was mostly dry. By the time the event closed at 6:00, the rain was getting lighter but Brett decided to move the Saturday night supper into the corner of the barn where the club Rock Pile is held, and this year the junior booth was also in that corner.

Sarah and Linda moved the Rock Pile items off the tables and those became the food tables. Us rock people really know how to use a space to do it all. Between Brett and his mom, Kay, and all the sides from club members, we had a great meal.

Then came a fun little surprise! Justin, my daughter Kelly's boyfriend, proposed to Kelly. Much of Justin's family had showed up to the farm because everyone knew the proposal was coming - except Kelly. She was very surprised. And in case you were wondering ... she said yes.

Sunday was a gorgeous day at the farm. It was cloudy and the temps stayed in the 70s! After the Saturday rain the ground was pretty soggy, but it didn't hurt a thing. We had just under 600 attendees including paying adults and kids who got in free. I am quite sure that this is a record high number.

GEM FEST REVIEW - CONTINUED

We had about seven fewer vendors than we had last year. Most of the vendors who couldn't make it this year were due to health concerns. We very much missed them and hope they can be back next year. We had several new vendors this year, all very good ones with great merchandise. All vendors and customers that I talked to were thrilled with the weekend. I try so very hard to make a great experience for everyone involved. It is so true that it just could not happen without the help of my family and the LGMC Board and all the volunteers. It definitely takes a team working together to make this all come together for a great weekend. Plus, many prayers for good weather.

Cheers!



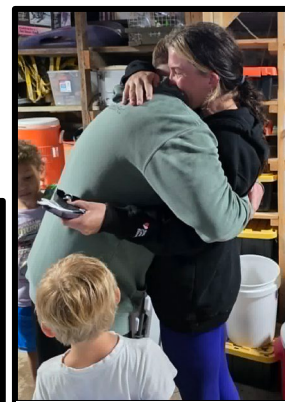
Justin & son, Jackson, ask Kelly to marry them



She says YES!



Jayne made the engagement ring.



On the video, Jackson threw his arms around Justin & Kelly. It was so cute.



**GROUP THAT ATTENDED THE LIMESTONE DAYS
FIELD TRIP**

Jayne Beer, Kay Jurgens, Alex's brother and mother, Brett Jurgens, Alex, Corey Beer, Andi, Matt Haacker, Josh Brown Kramer, Patrick O'Brien, and Gracie. If you look real hard between Corey & Matt, you can see the top of Eddie's cap.



Looking for fossils



Waiting for the tour bus

Photos by the Beer Family



**Preparing for
Gem Fest.**

The Barn

GEM FEST PHOTOS

By the Beer Family



Plenty of cutting rough



Food truck and one of the picnic areas



A second picnic area. John Moss, Ja-zeil, Corey Beer, and Charisse Stillahn sorting through purchases; which is more important than food or eating!



Phil Geib demonstrates flintknapping. Here he explains his display pieces.



DON'T
DO
IT,
BRIAN!!!



THE TRANSGRESSION OF MINERAL SPECIMEN INTO DATA FILES OF THAT SPECIMEN

By Eric Fritzs



Hobbies often come down to kitsch, art, antiquity, mementos, and natural history materials. Mementos aren't really hobbies and we'll discuss that below.

Kitsch is often man-made, think Beanie Babies, mass produced, and tacky. Much of what people collect is kitsch such as Coca-Cola memorabilia, toys, beer cans, model trains, art prints, Pez dispensers, and a host of other materials. It was all mass produced, mimics art, and in many cases is tacky (think Labubu dolls).

Art is different; and it is hard to define art. Art is often in the eye of the beholder. I think we can all agree that Van Gogh's Starry Nights painting is art. He created something wonderful with paint and canvas. I'm not convinced that many so-called modern art pieces are in the same category. The thousands of prints of Warhol's Campbell soup cans are interesting, but they are often mass produced and tacky (kitschy).

Antiquity is just old stuff. Your great grandmother probably had a sewing machine. These were often mass produced, however so many have been thrown away that old ones seem scarce or collectable. Same with archeological materials; old bone or shell buttons were sometimes mass produced. They appear to be rare because we don't see them in use much today and people like to collect such odd items. Arrowheads were made by the millions. If someone someday finds a pinball machine made by Neanderthals, now that would be interesting.

Mementos are keepsake reminders of a person, place, or activity. These are not really collected although many people describe them as a collection. My wife and I generally do not bring mementos back from trips, however our refrigerator needs magnets, so that is one item we will sometimes buy during our travels. You wouldn't say our refrigerator is a collection, but rather a memory device of past travels. We don't sit around and think, we'd like to travel to Uruguay for a magnet.

For natural history, we can substitute a wide variety of items into this discussion. The word "mineral" which I use below could also be rock, beetle, taxidermy, pressed plant leaf, or the variety of items one would find in a natural history museum.

Minerals and other natural history materials can also be kitschy. There are minerals which are almost mass produced. Amethyst for Rio Grande du Sul, Brazil is so ubiquitous it becomes tacky and the methods of mining it is akin to mass production. Rock towers, quartz crystals, chunks of tourmaline, polished hematite and other stones are found in practically every rock shop from Maine to California are kitschy. There are literally mountains of this stuff, its mass produced and when you see so much of it, it becomes tacky. Yes, some of this is a gateway to further collecting, but it is more akin to collecting plastic toys than serious mineral collecting.

Minerals can be mementos. They remind us of a place, time, or person. This can be true for kitschy minerals or fine minerals. The definition of what makes a "fine mineral" varies by collector and personal choice. Museums are often filled with mediocre specimens because truly great ones are rare. Some mineral species also don't lend themselves to greatness.

Art and minerals also sometimes overlap. A truly beautiful mineral specimen is something that overwhelms the senses. The late Paul Desautels used to argue that fine minerals were works of art and should demand the same level of importance in society. Specimens of the highest beauty are rare and there is severe competition for a limited number of samples. Such specimens have extensive digital and data associated with them.

Most other natural history collecting is about documentation. It is about assembling collections based on information and data. Bill Hammel recently (May 9, 2026) wrote an interesting article about how the future of mineral collecting is changing and evolving (<https://www.mindat.org/article.php/5700/From+Specimens+to+Data%3A+How+Mineral+Collecting+Is+Evolving>). It's no longer simply about gathering and saving, it's about collecting and documentation.

The first modern(ish) collectors were European Nobles. These Kings, Dukes, and Noblemen (sorry it was mostly males engaged in this activity), would acquire oddities to show off their wealth. They kept their natural history wonders in fancy wooden cabinets, called krammers, and would eventually

Continued on page 8

TRANSGRESSION - CONTINUED

Continued from page 7

evolve into rooms (wunderkammers). These formed the foundations for exhibits and museums.

Mineral collecting in the 18th and 19th century flourished and more and more people were getting into it. Most of the 1700s and 1800s collectors were well off and had time and money for such odd behavior of collecting and keeping rocks. By the 20th century, the hobby had opened to the masses and collecting rocks was a very popular hobby. Many would say that the heyday of field collecting was in the mid to late 20th century when amateur collectors with new found wealth, freedom, and mobility following the last world war fanned across the country seeking wealth from the earth.

Another change in the hobby occurred when worldwide trade started opening up in the late 20th and early 21st century. Before, you had to know someone who went overseas to get specimens and bring them back. There were few international dealers in the mid 1900s, but specimens did find their way across the seas.

Nowadays, you can get a specimen from Madagascar easier than one from Maryland. Herein lies the problem: what is it that is being collected?

With the advancement of technology, the technology of specimens will advance too. Expensive devices which can analyze specimens are dropping in price, and are expected to keep dropping, such that within a decade or two, many people might be able to afford them for themselves. These were formerly only found in advanced universities and research centers, now a tool of the masses. I remember one of the things that most interested me in the movie *Bladerunner* (1982) was that scanning electron microscopes (SEM) would be plentiful and street vendors would have them. For a couple hundred dollars one can get a digital microscope that sees pretty small items, but I'm still waiting for a pocket SEM.

Photographing specimens has gotten cheaper and easier to do. I remember trying to photograph my mineral specimens in the 1980s with Kodachrome film and the results were often disappointing. Lighting was tricky, shadows covered parts of the specimens, and getting the true color and depth of field took skill. A photograph cost real money back then for film and development. It took hours to several days to get your photographs back.

Now everyone has a cell phone and it is simple, quick, and easy to get great photographs almost instantly. So photographic documentation of mineral specimens is becoming more and more important. Even though it is so easy to photograph kitsch, we often don't document as much collectible specimens or art.

The digital information may even exceed the lifetime of the specimens. As sites are closed or exhausted, the specimens from these sites slowly perish, but digital data may be preserved forever. We may find someday in the future the digital "mineral" more relevant than the actual specimen. Joylon Ralph (2025) once wrote that the future of mineral collecting may be like collecting pictures or NTFs of minerals. As Emerson, Lake, and Palmer once said, "There behind the glass stands a real blade of grass. Be careful as you pass: move along, move along."

GEM FEST PHOTOS

By John Moss



Rock Pile Volunteers Linda Hansen, Clyde Ogg, and Barb Ogg

For those who don't know, Jim Marburger took a tumble the night before Gem Fest setup, which netted him a 6-night stay in the hospital. He had three surgeries to fix a major blood clot on the surface of his skin, around the knee. He is doing well, and we want to send heartfelt thanks to all the Gem Fest volunteers.

Sharon spent minimal time at the Rock Pile, dividing time between GF and the hospital. She appreciates every single volunteer who alleviated some of the load. Thank you!

GEM FEST PHOTOS

By John Moss



Kay Jurgens volunteering at the Juniors Booth



Brett Jurgens shows Kevin Schwartman how to operate the Square device

Many of our volunteers worked more than one shift and more than one area. Thanks!



Linda Hansen and Sarah Nichols at the Rock Pile. I understand they also worked the admissions gate.



Gatekeepers Jan and Lee Amberg



Gatekeepers Patrick O'Brien and daughters Gracie and Chloe



Gatekeeper John Moss



Gatekeepers Robin Leuty and Tiffany Edwards

Allan & Tammy Jeanneret

Rough Rock, Slabs, Specimens,
Gemstones, Jewelry, Rock Paintings

By Appointment Only

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Tjeanneret6515@gmail.com

Watch for **AerieRock** online rock auctions at
jbauctions.hibid.com

AerieRock.com

AerieArtwork on etsy

AerieRock on Facebook

We buy collections and estates



GEM FEST PHOTOS

By John Moss



Brett grills hot
dogs for the
vendor/club
member supper
Saturday night.
(left)



Blake Marlar,
Gatekeeper
(right)

There wasn't room in
this issue to show
everyone who helped
or sold items. Watch
for the Gem Fest
update online for the
plethora of pictures
given to me. (Please
give me a couple of
weeks to update the
website.)

The Editor

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Brett Jurgens, 402.850.3256, quartz89@aol.com

1st Vice-President: Jayne Beer, 402.890.3307, JBeer60070@aol.com

2nd Vice-President: Clyde Ogg, 402.326.8682, clydeogg55@gmail.com

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Board Member: Sarahlynn Nichols, 402.419.3913, sarahlynn.nichols@gmail.com

Board Member: Mike Stiles, 402.890.1760, mcstiles72@outlook.com

Board Member: Charles Wooldridge, 402.975.0416, charles.wooldridgeii@gmail.com

2027 MID-WINTER SWAP COMMITTEE

Chairman:.....Jayne Beer
Advanced Reservations:..... Sharon Marburger
Club Booth/Rock Pile
Club & Vendor Supper: Brett Jurgens
Finance & Admissions:
Floor Chairman:Jayne Beer
Insurance: Vera Lyman, Jim Marburger
Publicity & Promotion: Jayne Beer, Jim Marburger
Web Master: Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities:..... Brett Jurgens

2027 SHOW COMMITTEE

Theme:.....
Chairman:Sharon Marburger
Dealers & Demonstrators:Sharon Marburger
Displays:.....Brett Jurgens
Event Center Liaison Vera Lyman
Finance/Ticket Sales:..... Vera Lyman, Sarah Nichols
Floor Chairman:
Fluorescent Booth:..... Clyde Ogg
Forms.....Sharon Marburger
LGMC Club Booth:.....Barb & Clyde Ogg
Outside Rock Pile Charles Wooldridge
Plants:Ed Ridge
Publicity & Promotion:..... Jim Marburger
RaffleGene Mulinix
Ribbons & Recognitions:Sharon Marburger
Rock Pile/Silent AuctionSharon Marburger
Security:..... Vera Lyman
Show Flyer & Printed ProgramSharon Marburger
WebsiteSharon Marburger
Youth Activities:Brett Jurgens

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership dues for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

- ◆ Adults (age 16 and over) - \$20 per year or \$30 per couple (within the same household)
- ◆ Juniors - \$3 per year (with a responsible adult)

All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Printable applications are available on the club website and should be mailed with appropriate dues to the address listed. Application may also be completed electronically through the website paying via PayPal. <https://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/>

STANDING COMMITTEES

Audio/Visual:
Clyde Ogg
Audit:
Jayne Beer, James Marburger, Clyde Ogg
Christmas Party:
Edward Ridge
Club Rock Pile:
Sharon Marburger
Door Prizes:
Corey Beer, Brett Jurgens, Charles Wooldridge
Facebook:
James Marburger, Jayne Beer, Brett Jurgens
Field Trips:
James Marburger
Historian:
Sharon Marburger
Membership Record:
Edward Ridge
Mid-Winter Swap
Jayne Beer
MWF Liaison:
Vera Lyman
Programs:
Clyde Ogg
Property:
James Marburger
Recognition/Awards:
Vera Lyman, Sharon Marburger
Refreshments:
Donitte Stiles
Show - 2027:
Sharon Marburger
Summer Gem Fest:
Jayne Beer
Website:
Sharon Marburger
Youth Activities:
Barb Ogg & Brett Jurgens

2026 LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

1 year: Sharon Marburger & Clyde Ogg
2 years: Vera Lyman & Jim Marburger
3 years: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens

2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jayne Beer, Chairman

1 year: Jayne Beer & Brett Jurgens
2 years: Charles Wooldridge & Donitte Stiles
3 years: Vera Lyman & Ed Ridge

Email Exchange Newsletters to:
lgmc.editor@outlook.com



A color version of the Pick & Shovel is available at:
<http://www.lincolngemmineralclub.org/index.php/newsletters/current>

THE PICK & SHOVEL

Hidden Gems by The Jewelry Connection Ltd.

Indian Village Shopping Ctr.
3227 S. 13th St., Lincoln (next to LaundrOmat)

Corey Beer - Lapidary
402.890.9155

2026 Schedule

Jayne Beer - Jeweler
402.890.3307

Lapidary Classes

(Stone Cutting)

\$100 for 5 3-hour classes

Sundays 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Choice of session:

Session 1: Feb 8 - Mar 15

Session 2: Mar 22 - May 3

Session 3: May 17 - Jul 5

Session 4: Jul 12 - Aug 16

Session 5: Aug 23 - Oct 11

Session 6: Oct 18 - Nov 22

Open Shop Nov 29 & Dec 6 (\$20 per use)

Silversmithing Classes

Tuition: \$160 plus \$30 supply deposit
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Choice of Tuesday or Wednesday session
(8 classes):

Session 1: Tues, Jan 13 - Wed, Mar 18

Session 2: Tues, Mar 24 - Wed, May 20

Session 3: Tues, Jun 2 - Wed, Jul 29

Session 4: Tues, Aug 4 - Wed, Oct 7

Session 5: Tues, Oct 13 - Wed, Dec 2

Contact: Jayne Beer 402-890-3307 or look up
"Hidden Gems by The Jewelry Connection
LTD" in Facebook and send message.