

ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

AUGUST 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



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A LOT OF EFFORT for little pieces of metal like this one! Samarium (Sm) is a moderately hard silvery metal of the lanthanide group of elements. Where have we heard of the lanthanides? If you attended high school after 1945 it was probably in that lavender colored band of elements with the funny names at the bottom of the Periodic Table. What are they commonly called today? **RARE EARTHS.**

Continued on page 4



President's Message



Dear Members,

I hope that you are staying cool! Thankfully the weather brought us a little rain as a result of Tropical Storm Dolores and the forecasters are predicting a strong El Niño this winter! We hope they are correct! Joe and I replaced our grass lawn with a nice xeriscape designed by Armando Pedroza of Forest And Sun Arborist (ad on page 5) which will need less watering.

There is much going on for us in terms of our Workshop. We are going to be moving to a new location close to the building we are now in. A group of our members came in on July 25th to pack and muck the saws. We are excited about the new air conditioned location and are thankful to Valerie Stathatos that we have a place to meet. Until the new building is ready and we get things set up we will not be having a Workshop - perhaps 2 or 3 months.

In August the Pasadena Library will be working on upgrades to the Donald R.

Wright Auditorium where we hold our regular monthly meetings - so our next Program Meeting will be September 15th.

A family illness will prevent our trip leader from the North Orange County club from leading the planned trip in August, but there is information on page 6 that you can use to have a good time on your own! I hope you will enjoy a "summer vacation" in August - and bring back specimens to display at September's meeting!

..... **Marcia**
Marcia Goetz, President

Meeting and General Club Information

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Newsletter Articles, ads or corrections should be sent to the editor: **Mark Nelson**, 1475 Paseo Maravilla, San Dimas, CA, 91773. (909) 996-1784 or by email to mnelsonair@aol.com

July Board Meeting
by Linda Nelson, Secretary

Officers/Directors present: Marcia & Joe Goetz, Carolyn Duncan, Martha Wilson, Jennifer Jang, Linda Nelson, Ed Imlay and Chris Kyte. Absent: Mark Nelson, Trudy Krose and Elizabeth Weston .

Society finances, goals, the Workshop and upcoming events were discussed. New members were reviewed and approved.

All members are welcome to attend the board meetings. Let Marcia Goetz know in case of changes.

July Program Meeting

Janie Duncan is always a popular program presenter! She showed our members how much they know and don't know about identifying rock and minerals. Everyone agreed that it was a great presentation.

Members brought their "mystery" rocks for identification and a good time was had by all!

It is only appropriate that our next program will be one that we were not able to get enough of when he was last here — Tom Traeger!

September Program Meeting

Tom Traeger, a Society member and instructor at La Canada High School will show us how to identify any rock simply by looking for a few key details. Tom's presentation is considered to be among the very best that the Society has offered its members. **Don't miss it!**

Come early at 6pm and enjoy coffee and refreshments by Trudy Krose's refreshments committee. Bring rocks and minerals for identification! The display table is for members to show items they have collected at recent field trips or in their travels.

Membership Information and Meeting Locations

Membership per calendar year is only \$20, \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and the third or more members at the same house are \$10. Initiation fee is \$2.00 per person and membership badges are \$7.50. Renewals are due by the October General Meeting and delinquent after December 31st. Mail checks for membership to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025.

Website: www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org
Email: pasadenalapidary@aol.com

Board Meetings: 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month at the Castellano Building at 401 W. Colorado Blvd Monrovia, CA. A map and directions are on the website. All members are welcome to attend!

Program Meetings: 6:45 - 8:45 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the Pasadena Central Library at 285 E. Walnut Street. Doors open at 6pm. **Guests are welcome!**

Field Trips are scheduled each month. Refer to the bulletin and website for date, location and info.

Workshop: The use of the club's equipment is available to members from 9am to 5pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month in our shop at 97 E. Montecito Ave., Sierra Madre. There are two sessions - from 9am to 1pm and 1pm to 5pm. Equipment proficiency is required and instruction is free. Fees are \$3 per session or \$5 for a full day. Bring lunch!

Safety: Liability waivers, eye

protection, closed-toe-flat-heel shoes and machinery safe-practices are mandatory for all participants. Workshops are for adult members and junior members 8 and older with adult supervision.



Find us on Facebook



The Annual Club Show is held the second weekend of March at the Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino.

Advertising - a business card size ad is available for \$99 per year or \$10 per edition. Submit text, logos, business card or other copy to the editor at the address or email listed on this page.

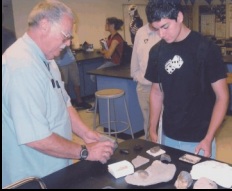


Ed's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH

By Ed Imlay

Chair, Education Committee



Ed Imlay at a local school

Schools are on vacation, so it is a great time to be first in line to have my popular rocks and minerals presentation scheduled for your favorite school, church, community and youth group.

To schedule my special educational presentation to your group or school contact me by phone at (626) 286-8215 or by email at edimlay at hot-mail.com.

Identification: Would you like to know the name of a rock you have acquired? If you can polish or knock a small window off of a corner without damaging the rest of the specimen, please do so to expose the inside. Set it on the table at the rear of the meeting room with a note asking "What is this?"

Display Table: For the Program meeting, please display any items of general interest, especially: workshop projects and items you collected at the field trip, or the month's birthstone. **For fun, wear something to the next meeting containing this month's birthstone - Peridot!**

.....
"Wear a Peridot or for thee,
No conjugal fidelity,
The August born without this stone,
'Tis said, must live unloved alone."
..... **Gregorian Calendar via catholiccompany.com**

How To Pronounce Peridot

By the Editor

A couple of years ago your Secretary/Treasurer and I were in search of Peridot stones and jewelry in the small Arizona town of Peridot (population 1,266) on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. I stopped to ask a roadside food vendor where I might find someone who made jewelry from Peridot (I pronounced it peri-dough). I was politely corrected that it was peridot and directed to the home of an Indian jeweler.

To help others who were as uninformed as I was, I referenced the on-line Merriam-Webster Dictionary. They list the origin of the word to be from the French *péridot*, from Old French *peritot* with the first recorded use of the word in 1706. Words rhyming with Peridot are: aeronaut, apricot, aquanaut, argonaut, astronaut, Camelot, coffeepot, kilowatt, Lancelot and others.

WORKSHOP

This Month's Workshop Program:



The Workshop is currently closed while the building that has been made available to us by Valerie Stathatos is renovated. We anticipate that this new location will have the best of what we have enjoyed at our previous location — with the added benefit of great ventilation and air conditioning! If you would like to

help us with the renovation and what we need to get back up and running, please contact me at: 909-593-2781 or at gem.quest@verizon.net.

Carolyn Duncan, Workshop Chair

**Welcome
New Members !!**



Welcome to our new members - **Matthew Bell of Los Angeles, Janie Duncan of Monrovia, Beverly Jones of Pasadena and Sonserae Leese of Glendale!** Share the lapidary and jewelry hobby! Invite your friends and neighbors to one of our monthly meetings to learn more about the Pasadena Lapidary Society!



ROCK OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION

Come and hear Linda Nelson with a special audio and visual presentation of the Periodic Table. To be scheduled to talk about an interesting rock or mineral please sign up at the monthly meeting or email Martha Wilson.



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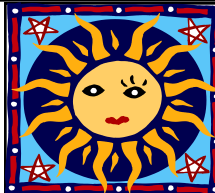
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Meeting Refreshments:

Program Meeting Refreshments — Thanks to Martha Wilson and Sue Carter SooHoo for July's refreshments! Diana Kreinbring, Chris and Marléné Kyte have volunteered for the **September** meeting! I am taking sign-ups for next year! **To volunteer to bring light refreshments** ∞ Contact me at (323) 664-9598 or by email at mikedkrose@roadrunner.com. Trudy Krose

WORKSHOP SPACE DONATED — A heartfelt **Thank You** to Valerie and Damon Stathatos for donating the space in their building in Sierra Madre for our monthly Workshop!



Sunshine: Dan Stathatos, the father of Damon Stathatos, passed away July 5th at the age of 91 ∞ Briana Casay is recovering well from surgery ∞ and we were all glad to see Ralph Fregoso using his cane more for show than support at the workshop packing day ∞ Joe Goetz continues his recovery from foot surgery and remains on light duty for field trips ∞ Carolyn Duncan survived her encounter with a 100# halibut on her wild Alaska fishing trip (we hope to bring you the photos).

The Pasadena Lapidary Society has a Sunshine Committee to send cards and words of comfort and support and congratulations to those members who are in need or are deserving of it. Notify Trudy Krose at 323-664-9598 or by email at - mikedkrose@roadrunner.com.



RARE EARTHS

by Mark Nelson, Pasadena Lapidary Society

When I first toured Molycorp's Mountain Pass Mine (cover photo) I had no idea of what a rare earth was. The mine staff explained that the materials they mined are used for making portable phones so small, and for the color in televisions, and for really good magnets. This was an understatement considering today's uses!

A rare earth element, or rare earth metal, is one of a set of seventeen chemical elements in the periodic table - specifically scandium (Sc), yttrium (Y) and the fifteen lanthanides. Scandium and yttrium are considered rare earth elements because they tend to occur in the same ore deposits as the lanthanides and exhibit similar chemical properties. Rare earth elements of the lanthanide group are lanthanum (La), cerium (Ce), praseodymium (Pr), neodymium (Nd), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), terbium (Tb), dysprosium (Dy), holmium (Ho), erbium (Er), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb) and lutetium (Lu). A mnemonic for the names of the sixth-row elements in order is "Lately college parties never produce sexy European girls that drink heavily even though you look".



Linda Nelson examines crystal-covered rock in Molycorp's overburden pile 2007

Saying these names brings to mind the television series "The Big Bang Theory". In The Big Bang Theory episode "The Pants Alternative", a drunk Sheldon Cooper starts to sing *The Elements* song during his acceptance of an award from his university. "The Elements" is a 1959 song by musical humorist and lecturer Tom Lehrer, which recites the names of all the chemical elements known at the time of writing, up to number 102, nobelium.

Why are they called Rare Earth Elements? They are not especially rare, but they tend to occur together in nature and are difficult to separate from one another - their property of "hiding" behind each other and other minerals.

In our modern society, we have become dependant upon these elements without realizing it. Rare earth metals are used in devices ranging from wind turbines and electric vehicles to missile guidance systems and compact fluorescent light bulbs.



Take, for example, the rare earths used in certain components of the Toyota Prius hybrid automobile: Glass and mirrors: Cerium; Component sensors: Yttrium; Generator: Neodymium, Praseodymium, Dysprosium, Terbium; Headlight glass: Neodymium; Electric motors: Neodymium; Catalytic converter: Cerium, Lanthanum; Hybrid NiMH battery: Cerium, Lanthanum; LCD screen: Europium, Yttrium and Cerium.

Just a few of the other areas we depend upon rare earth minerals are: Yttrium - aluminum garnet laser, the red in televisions, high-

temperature superconductors, microwave filters, energy-efficient light bulbs and automobile spark plugs; Lanthanum - alkali-resistant glass, flint, hydrogen storage, battery-electrodes, camera lenses and as an efficient fluid catalytic cracking catalyst for oil refineries; Thulium - portable X-ray machines, metal-halide lamps and lasers; Lutetium - Positron emission tomography (PET) scan detectors; Ytterbium - infrared lasers, chemical reducing agents, decoy flares, stainless steel, stress gauges and nuclear medicine.

These minerals are mostly found in Communist China, the United States, Brazil, India, Sri Lanka and Australia. Molycorp is the only U.S. company that produces rare earth metals. At one point, the majority of the world's rare earths were mined at the Mountain Pass facility. Then, in 1998, Molycorp halted chemical processing at the mine due to a San Bernardino County environmental order following a leak in a wastewater drain pipe. While the company filed endless reams of compliance paperwork China was dramatically increasing its rare earth production. The United States "lost expertise" when the mine closed and magnet manufacturing relocated to Asia to be near operating mines and less expensive labor, says George Hadjipanayis, chair of physics and astronomy at the University of Delaware.



The floor of the Molycorp open pit mine. Mt. SAC College field trip 2007

Has China taken advantage of the situation? It is certainly looking like it. China accounts for about 97 percent of the world's total production of rare earth elements, about half of which are exported to Japan. China dominates rare earth mineral production to such a degree that its export practices were recently challenged by the U.S., the European Union and Japan. One incident involving a dispute between China and Japan over fishing rights near an uninhabited island resulted in China's halting shipments of rare earth minerals to Japan. The Chinese move was followed by a round of deals among other nations and much media speculation about a possible Chinese stranglehold on other nations' economies and even national security.

Molycorp was granted a permit to resume operations and, while it rebuilds its mining infrastructure, China continues to stockpile these vital minerals and is expected to continue to be the world's largest holder of rare earths well into the future!



Excavator at Molycorp. Site photos in this article are by Mark Nelson - 2007

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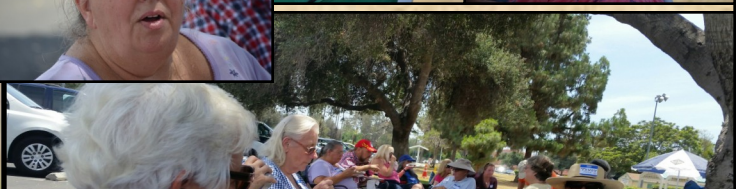


3rd Annual PLS Picnic - June 28th

Photos by Ellen Ferrell and Mark Nelson

3rd Annual PLS Picnic - June 28th

Photos by Ellen Ferrell and Mark Nelson



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FIELD TRIPS

By Joe Goetz



Joe Goetz
Field Trip Chairman

Field Trips !

By Joe Goetz



DIY Serpentine Collecting Field Trip.

The August field trip is a DIY or do-it-yourself adventure. I suggest a nice drive up to the show of the Orcutt Mineral Society in Nipomo - a beautiful 2½ hour drive up the coast. On your way back, stop to collect our state rock - Serpentine. Serpentine is a shiny green stone, sometimes with yellow or black included. Frank Winn of the North Orange County club says "There is not much to finding the Serpentine". Here are Frank's directions: From Nipomo, take US -101 south for 32.5 miles. Take the CA-154 exit, (exit 146), toward Los Olivos/Cachuma Lake. Drive 3.3 miles on CA-154 into downtown Los Olivos. Turn left onto Figueroa Mountain Road, which parallels Alamo Pintado Creek, and drive about 7 miles to a cattle gate. Continue past the gate and up the mountain to a switchback where the mountain cut side of the road is Serpentine. Wear sturdy shoes, gloves, a hat and drink a lot of water. Happy Collecting!

..Somewhere in California. . . Joe Goetz



Society Shirts, Hats and Vests are now available for purchase. Most sizes and juniors. Shirts \$15, Hats \$11, Vests \$10. Email your order to Linda Nelson at pasadenalapidary@aol.com. Pay when we get it to you.



Congratulations to Jennifer Jang for responding that there are two full moons in July. The second moon in a month is a rarity called a Blue Moon - as in the saying "once in a blue moon".

Congratulations, also, to Jared Nishimura for knowing meaning of T. S. Ary's quote regarding the importance of minerals in our lives!



Editor's Quiz

Juniors: Why does this month have 31 days?

Adults: Hybrid and electric cars require very powerful electric motors. What special metal is needed to build these motors?

The answers to this month's quiz can be found in this bulletin. The first Adult and Junior Members to correctly answer these questions will win a special prize at the next Program Meeting. Email your answer to pasadenalapidary@aol.com or call the Editor.

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FEDERATION NEWS

By Joe Goetz

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



The CFMS is looking for someone to serve as its Bulletin Editors Advisory Committee Chair. This person should be organized and familiar with newsletters and desktop publishing. Once a year this person receives articles and bulletins for judging by a panel of experienced judges. Eleven times a year the BEAC is asked to submit his or her thoughts in an article for the CFMS Newsletter.

If you would like information about serving our Federation in this way, contact the current BEAC, Terry Vasseur by email: wookman@dslextrême.com.

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



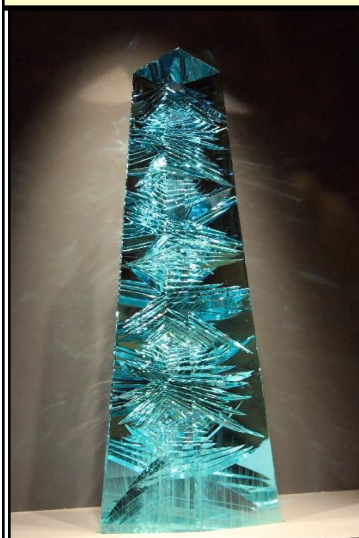
Fossil Collecting in National Forests

By John Martin, AFMS Conservation & Legislation

The final ruling by the US Department of Agriculture for the National Forest Service has been released and is now listed in the Federal Register. Included in the Final Rule are definitions important to Rockhounds and Casual Collectors of fossils on USFS Managed Lands.

Some of these new definitions from the federal register and the Final Rule are as follows: "The term casual collecting restates the definition contained in 16 U.S.C. 470. To be considered casual collecting, the activity means all of the following: Collecting of a reasonable amount of common invertebrate or plant paleontological resources for non-commercial personal use, either by surface collection or the use of non-powered hand tools, resulting in only negligible disturbance to the Earth's surface and other resources."

Read the full text of John Martin's report on the AFMS web site: http://www.amfed.org/news/n2015_06.pdf



Dom Pedro Aquamarine

By Emma Fajcz

A notable aquamarine crystal is the crystal from which the Dom Pedro Aquamarine was faceted. The original crystal was about a meter long, but the three Brazilian miners carrying the crystal inadvertently let go of the crystal, shattering it into three pieces. The famous lapidary Bernd Munsteiner cut and faceted the largest piece of this crystal into the stunning Dom Pedro Aquamarine, now on display at the Smithsonian's

Museum of Natural History. The finished sculpture, titled Waves of the Sea, is the world's biggest sample of cut aquamarine at 13-13/16 inches tall. **Source:** *Mini Miners Monthly July 2015*



TIPS, HINTS AND SAFETY



BEING SUED BY THE IRS SCAM !

By Linda Nelson, CPA
Pasadena Lapidary Society

Several of my clients and even my mother-in-law have received calls from someone claiming to be from the IRS. In the most recent version of this scam, the "IRS agent" informs you that you are being sued for unpaid taxes. She/he may give you a badge number and name.

The reason stated for their call is that they're collecting taxes owed since 2012 and the "agent" tries to pressure you into paying by using a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you don't pay up immediately, the "IRS agent" will sign a warrant for your arrest. They may also say the police or sheriff are on their way to your home.

THIS IS A SCAM! The caller is trying to steal your hard-earned money! No matter how convincing the caller might be, don't fall for it - don't be intimidated by these crooks!

The IRS will NEVER call you about payment or overdue taxes. The IRS doesn't call, text or email unless you have already set up a conversation with an agent. The IRS would NEVER ask you to act immediately. Scammers typically try to push you into action before you have had time to think. The IRS says it will NEVER demand immediate payment, require a specific form of payment, or ask for credit card or debt card numbers over the phone.

Treat all calls or emails demanding immediate payment as if they were robbers in your home! No matter who calls you about any matter of urgency, don't wire money or use a prepaid debit card. Scammers often pressure people into wiring money or using a prepaid debit card. It's like sending cash: once it's gone, you can't trace it.

Report the incident to the Department of the Treasury at 800-366-4484 or to The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at www.tigta.gov.

If you owe taxes, or you think you might, you have two easy ways to resolve it. You can call the IRS directly at 800.829.1040. IRS employees at that line can check to see if there is an issue and, if there is, help you set up a payment schedule. You can also contact a CPA or other tax professional who can confirm any owed taxes and review any reasons why the IRS might think that you owe them.

For more information check out the IRS.gov web site to learn more about scams and report suspicious activity. Sources for this article include the IRS web site and the Better Business Bureaus of Fort Wayne, IN, Eastern MA, ME, RI & VT.

LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS

August 7 - 9: NIPOMO. Orcutt Mineral Society, Nipomo High School 525 North Thompson Avenue. Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4. www.omsinc.org

Look for the gem shows symbol in the calendar on page 8.

8 - 9: ARCADIA. Cactus & Succulent Society of America Inter-City Show & Sale LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue. Ayres Hall, and Lawn area. Hours 9am to 5pm. http://cssainc.org/index.php/event/inner-city-show-sale

Please plan to attend one of the lapidary club shows listed on this page, and wear your club badge, shirt or vest when you do! - Editor

14 - 16: TEHACHAPI. Tehachapi Valley Gem & Mineral Society, St. Malachy's Church, 407 West E. Street. Hours: 9 - 5 daily. www.tvgms.org

28 - 30: COSTA MESA. Gem Faire Inc, Wholesale and retail show. OC Fair & Event Center; 88 Fair Dr; Fri. Noon-6 pm, Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-5 pm; Students, Adults + Seniors \$7, Children ages 0 - 11 Free!; Jewelry, gemstones, beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals & much more at manufacturer's prices. Exhibitors from around the world. www.gemfaire.com

Travelling this summer? Check rockngem.com for rock and gem shows where you are traveling!



Member - To - Member

For your AVON needs - Contact Elizabeth Weston, our Social Media Chair. 213-308-5558 or mstom8o at gmail.com

Faceting machine wanted, any condition. John Niero 909-815-3032 or flotsam at justnotnormal.us.

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Members are welcome to place a FREE message here for items or services wanted, for sale or for trade. Email submissions to: pasadenalapidary@aol.com or by fax to (909) 394-1276.



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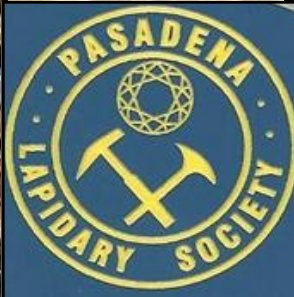
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**AUGUST
2015**

The Pasadena Lapidary Society, Inc.
Bulletin Editor:
 1475 Paseo Maravilla
 San Dimas, CA 91773-3908

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**



OUR MISSION

The Pasadena Lapidary Society serves to educate its members and the community in mineralogy, earth sciences and training in the lapidary and jewelry arts – while promoting sound mineral resource stewardship based on environmental awareness and ethical behavior. The Society fulfills its mission year-round which may include field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, an annual show, and monthly informational meetings open to the public.



Peridot is the birthstone for August!

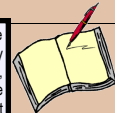


The Pasadena Lapidary Society is affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our editor is a member of the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

August 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

After Julius's grandnephew Augustus defeated Marc Antony and Cleopatra, and became emperor of Rome, the Roman Senate decided that he too should have a month named after him. The month *Sextilis* (sex = six) was chosen for Augustus, and the senate justified its actions in the following resolution: "Whereas the Emperor Augustus Caesar, in the month of Sextilis thrice entered the city in triumph, and in the same month Egypt was brought under the authority of the Roman people, and in the same month an end was put to the civil wars; and whereas for these reasons the said month is, and has been, most fortunate to this empire, it is hereby decreed by the senate that the said month shall be called Augustus. Not only did the Senate name a month after Augustus, but it decided that since Julius's month, July, had 31 days, Augustus's month should equal it. Under the Julian calendar, the months alternated evenly between 30 and 31 days (with the exception of February), which made August 30 days long. So, instead of August having a mere 30 days, it was lengthened to 31, preventing anyone from claiming that Emperor Augustus was saddled with an inferior month.



1944 - Anne Frank's last diary entry

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1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain



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Board Meeting

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Field Trip to Los Olivos



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Perseids Meteor Shower

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14

Obon



WW-2 ends with surrender of Japan 1945



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Dormition of the Theotokis

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Gold discovered in Alaska 1896



24

1814 British burn Washington D.C.

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Hey, I'm Gus and this is MY month!

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Krakatoa Volcano Erupts 1883



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29



First Super-moon of 2015

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31