



# THE POLISHED SLAB

Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society



July 2020

A NEWSLETTER FOR ROCKHOUNDS SINCE 1940

Volume 80 Issue 7

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul 02nd - Board Mtg
- Jul 06th - General Mtg
- Jul 30th - Board Mtg
- Aug 3rd - General Mtg
- Sep 10th - Board Mtg
- Sep 14th - General Mtg

See page 8 for details on scheduled classes and instructor contact information  
 SNGMS Contact :  
[sngms2013@gmail.com](mailto:sngms2013@gmail.com)  
[www.snvngms.org](http://www.snvngms.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JULY 2020

### To all SNGMS Members:

Another month without a General Meeting. I, like all of you, am tired of the confinement, but I am focused on finally making cabochons from the 3 giant crates of slabs that I have accumulated or cut. Some of these slabs have been in the crate for years so it is like a fun grab-bag experience.

As you will see from the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting, we are going through our sweep account funds much faster than in previous years. This is due to the temporary closure of the shop, then add to it the fact that we haven't had a raffle, which happens at our General Meetings. Bottom line, we are in fund raising mode. We increased our machine usage to \$6.00 per hour. This commenced on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Next, we increased our basic class fee to \$7.00 per class (faceting class has its own schedule of charges). The class fee change starts on August 1<sup>st</sup>. We don't want to disturb our principal balance in our bond account as these earnings is what helps keep the shop afloat.

Another way we are raising funds is to auction off, to our members, surplus equipment. Last month we auctioned off the red mixer to Lamar Holt, who is going to use it as a really big rock tumbler. Way to go Lamar! On the block this month is the tile saw, along with a tumbler base. Come down to the shop and check this item out. Bill and I have a tile saw that we use to trim slabs and it doubles as a lawn waterer since I lost the guard that keeps the water from shooting out the back.

Also discussed at the Board Meeting was the Federation Show and Convention, which we are hosting in 2022. We have a plan in place to hold our annual show at the Spring Jam-boree, however, we are actively researching all other options. The problems we are running into is the fact that some of the prospective sites are inaccessible due to various Covid-19 closures. Thusly I am reaching out to all of our members to add to this think tank by sending in your ideas and suggestions on realistic sites, venues, etc. We need to look at all aspects:

- Host Hotel
- Show Venue
- RV park/camping close to venue
- Cost. The final budget must equal or better the one in place.

Please feel free to send your suggestions to [sngms2013@gmail.com](mailto:sngms2013@gmail.com). One thing that we can do while stuck at home is research and brainstorming, so have at it. Until next time,

**Peggy Sue Moore, President, SNGMS, July 2020**

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# Field Trips & Events

Holt Canyon, UT, Sunday, July 19th

Goldfield, NV: Goldfield Days, Aug 1-4

Kokoweef, CA, Aug 8th & 9th

Pahrump Winery: Sat, Aug 22nd

Delta, UT: Sep 25th-28th

2020 Outings Being Considered ( Dates to Be Finalized ):

Tule Springs, NV: Sat, Oct 10th  
Parking Lot Sale: Sat, Nov 7th

Wickenburg, AZ: Feb 2021  
Hinkley, CA: Sep 2021

Oatman, AZ: Feb 2022  
McDermitt, NV: July 2022



## Tonopah, NV Broken Arrow



## SNGMS Board Meeting minutes for July 02, 2020

On July 2, 2020, the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 6:00 PM by the President. All board members were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting read by Secretary were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Account Balances were reported. And profit and loss statement for the club was reviewed.

Shop report:

All equipment is up and running well.

Unfinished business: There will be no general meeting for July as the Eagles is still closed and under Phase II of the state reopening plan can not have over 50 people in attendance.

New Business:

Sheri Johnson reported on the Federation show held in Big Piney WY. Our website received 2<sup>nd</sup> place many thanks to Lorilee Stackhouse for doing an awesome job as webmaster. Recommendations for Adult and Junior rock hounds of the year are requested. Please submit any recommendations to a board member.

It was proposed by Chops that the charge for shop usage be raised from \$.50 per 10 minutes to \$.60 per 10 minutes. This increase is needed to help offset rising costs in both rent and insurance. The increase would be in affect beginning July 3, 2020. Motion to approve increase made by Bruce Martin seconded by Gary Webb. Motion carried.

Beginning August 1, 2020 the cost for classes (excluding faceting) will change form \$5.00 to \$7.00. Motion to approve by Del Walkenshaw seconded by Ananaka Rau. Motion carried.

The tile saw will be put up for silent auction with beginning bid being \$50.00.

Beth Jones reported for the Sunshine committee the following: Scott Edwards is back in the hospital. Harvey Bergeron is at home recovering from heart surgery. Ann Harris is on the road to recovering from her ankle injury.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bruce Martin seconded by Sheri Johnson the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm



## 2020 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Society (RMFMS) Annual Convention Report

Hello Fellow Rockhounds!

Let me apologize in advance for the length of this article – SNGMS will be hosting the RMFMS Annual Meeting in 2022 and we are already starting preparations for the event.

I would like to thank all of the SNGMS members who made the trek to Big Piney, Wyoming, June 18 through June 21. Other than the local Sublette County residents, I think 16 SNGMS members that went to the show were the largest single group of attendees. Jim Gray, the show chairperson for the Sublette County Rock Hounds (SCRH), greatly appreciated our support, the club put a lot of work into the show and it was nice that so many Las Vegas members made the trip.

### The Collecting Trips

Big Piney is nicknamed the “icebox of the US” because it has one of the coldest climates among inhabited locations in the Lower 48 (Wikipedia). The first night after we arrived, the temperature dropped down to freezing. During the days, the temperature was in the mid 60’s. Needless to say, it was perfect rock hounding weather and the show included some great collecting trips.

Day One (Thursday) - Big Piney is near the Green River formation that is famous for its fish fossils and there are several fee sites that will allow you to find your own.

Fifteen cars ventured out to Fossil Safari in Lincoln County to “go fishing”. The staff spent a few minutes explaining how to split the rock and then we spent the next 4 hours hammering away. It was a great trip and everyone found fish fossils.

This was the only collecting trip that I could attend during the show.

Day Two (Friday) – Fifty-seven people drove out to collect Blue Forest petrified wood. The petrified wood that others brought back was beautiful.

Day Three (Saturday) – Stromatolites

Day Four (Sunday) – Petrified Wood, Agates and Jasper



### The Wyoming State Mineral and Gem Society Show

The show was also a great success, they had 26 vendors (up from their normal 17) and over 1100 visitors. The venue was quite large and social distancing was easy to maintain. Most of the vendors were from Wyoming with a few from Utah, Colorado and Nebraska. The activities included a silent auction, 50¢ grab bags, wheel of fortune and an ultraviolet display. The Fish fossil dealer was demonstrating how to preserve our finds and there was a flint knapper showing how the local Indians would make arrowheads.

(Continued on page 5)

**Birthstones for the Month of July is Ruby:** Ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). Ruby is one of the traditional cardinal gems, together with amethyst, sapphire, emerald, and diamond.<sup>[3]</sup>The word *ruby* comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. The color of a ruby is due to the element chromium. A clear stone will command a premium, but a ruby without any needle-like rutile inclusions may indicate that the stone has been treated. Ruby Symbolizes love and passion. The Stone is associated with vitality and strong



### The RMFMS Annual Convention

For the RMFMS Annual Convention, the Sublette County Rock Hounds did an excellent job hosting the event.

Thursday night - They provided a potluck with burgers and brats and some delicious side dishes, served by masked club members.

Friday Afternoon – The RMFMS Executive Committee met to discuss any business to be put before the Saturday Delegates meeting. As we did not have a quorum, we did not vote on any initiatives.

Saturday

Morning - The local café catered the editors' breakfast to recognize excellence in communication among the 78 clubs that are a part of RMFMS.

### SHOUT OUT TO Lorrilee Stackhouse for winning second place for webmaster / website – Way to go Lorrilee!

Afternoon – The Delegates meeting was held. I have a copy of the reports from the 2019 Annual meeting, if anyone would like a copy. The minutes from the 2020 meeting have not been published yet. We voted in the 2021 RMFMS officers:

Bob Regner, Albuquerque, NM – President  
 Sheri Johnson, Las Vegas, NV – Vice President  
 Wayne Cox, Bentonville, AR – Secretary  
 Gene Maggard, Leon, KS – Treasurer  
 Cinda Kunkler, Topeka, KS - Historian



Evening – The Awards Banquet was Prime Rib / Chicken and there was too much good food. The new officers were sworn in for the 2021 fiscal year (starting November 1). The SCRH gave each person at the banquet our very own fish fossil take home.

Sunday – There were no events



I had a great time in Wyoming and Jim and his fellow club members were some of the nicest people I have met. If you are ever going that way, like to Yellowstone or other points north, Jim will be happy to tell you some great places to collect.

Happy Hunting!  
 Sheri Johnson



**SNGMS 2020 Meetings**

Jan 02 Board	Jul 02 Board
06 General	Jul 06 General
30 Board	30 Board
Feb 03 General	Aug 03 General
27 Board	Sep 10 Board
Mar 02 General	14 General
Apr 02 Board	Oct 01 Board
06 General	05 General
30 Board	29 Board
May 04 General	Nov 02 General
28 Board	Dec 03 Board
Jun 01 General	Dec 13th (Annual Awards Banquet)

Board Meetings (site to be announced)  
 General Meetings at  
 Eagles Lodge, 1601 E. Washington Ave.

**SNGMS General Meeting**

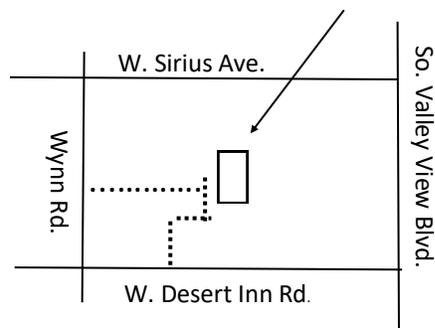
1st Monday of every month  
 (2nd Monday if holiday falls on the first Monday) No meeting in December.

**Non-members welcome!**

Eagles Lodge 1601 E Washington Ave.

Show & Sell 5-6 PM  
 General Meeting 6-8 PM

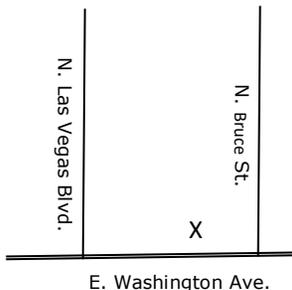
**3111 So. Valley View Blvd,  
 Building E Shop Suite 125**



**Finding the Shop Location**

Proceeding west on Desert Inn Road, take the first right past So. Valley View Blvd. into the industrial park area. Drive past the building on your right, then jog right, then left and you will be in front of Building E. Another option is to enter off of Wynn Rd. Go west on Desert Inn Rd. to Wynn Rd., turn right onto Wynn Rd. and go to the first entrance on the right (past the BIG white Commercial building sign) turn right and straight in front of you is Building E #125.

**SNGMS Contact:**  
[sngms2013@gmail.com](mailto:sngms2013@gmail.com)  
[www.sngms.org](http://www.sngms.org)



**Finding the General Meeting Location**

Eagles Lodge #1213  
 1601 E Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, NV  
 (702) 642-1213

**KIDS CLUB / EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

*The Kids Club meets on the second Sunday of most months at the SNGMS Shop from 3-5. As always, for more information, or to volunteer to lead an activity, or to help with an educational event contact Mary Beth Paladino at 702-255-1647*

We had a great turn out ( nineteen ) for the chemistry lesson by Mr. Bart Soloman. He discussed the different citric and vinegar acids on sedimentary rock. The kids, dressed in masks, gloves, etc. also got to do their own testing. Very educational.

This months program will be about fossils. The kids will get to make their own fossil imprints, fossil beds using clay, Plaster-Of-Paris, water, sand and an assortment of fossils. Should be a great time!



## Shop Talk : Brad's Bench Tips

### SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire was in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 ga fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop, and it's colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop !



### LITTLE BALLS

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.



If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.



Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

## Classes

**Wire wrapping**, led by Peggy Sue Moore meets on most Mondays (except for the General Meeting night). Hours for the class are 5 - 8 PM. The fee is \$7.00 for the shop and \$1.00 pattern fee.

**Beading:** Gary Webb and Sue Dobson will be hosting the beading class. Classes will be the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

**Silver Smithing:** Bob Belcher will be teaching the silversmithing classes. They are scheduled for the forth Monday of the month at 5 pm.

**Faceting classes.** Saturdays 9 am to 12 pm. Please contact Peggy Sue Moore [moorepeggysue@gmail.com](mailto:moorepeggysue@gmail.com)) in advance to see if a machine is available. Class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor, Tom Kidwell.

*Wire wrapping, metal smithing, flint knapping, and silver smithing have a very modest donation of \$7.00 per session, that goes to the club. Faceting class fee is \$10.00 plus a \$5.00 fuel fund for the instructor. Other class donations may vary, depending on what is included in the class. All donations go to SNGMS, all instructors volunteer their time and expertise to help extend the knowledge of our members.*



# Sunshine Report

*from Beth Jones*

*Please if you hear of any SNGMS member in need of a bit of sunshine due to accident, illness, death in the family or other need, call Beth Jones at 702-505-5819 or email her at [Punkyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:Punkyjones@hotmail.com) (please put SNGMS Sunshine in the Subject)*

**Harvey Bergeron had major open heart surgery May 29th, where all 4 valves were worked on. At least one was replaced. He is at home and slowly recovering. He welcomes calls.**

**Peggy Sue is heading into surgery this month for her neck.**

**Ann Harris is healing well after her surgery on ankle/leg. She is out of the cast and is now in a boot and in PT.**

**Scott Edwards is back in hospital again for a short time. He will be going back to the rehabilitation center St. Joseph (across street from UMC).**

**Sandy Murphy (from Discount Beads) passed away. She was not a member but was in contact/friends with a lot of us.**



# SHOP INFORMATION

## "New" SNGMS Workshop Schedule

### SHOP HOURS

Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

Monday Closed for general use: Various Classes

Tuesday 10 am to 7 pm

Wednesday 10 am to 7 pm

Thursday 12 pm to 9 pm

Friday 12 pm to 9 pm

Saturday 1 pm to 6 pm

### SHOP CLOSED :

2nd Sunday of every Month For Kids Club

Board Meeting: Various Thursday Nights 6 pm to

Approx 7 pm

Check Email and "Polished Slab" for possible date changes.



Photos courtesy of Caitly Stackhouse



### 2020 Monthly Cabochon Contest: (Birds)

- Aug Road Runner
- Sep Ring-Neck Pheasant
- Oct Raven
- Nov Peacock
- Dec (None)

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CABOCHON CONTEST YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST ONE HOUR OF SHOP TIME. THE WINNERS RECEIVE FREE SHOP TIME. A "Road Runner" cabochon will be the contest entry to be judged at August's general meeting. *Good Luck!***

**1st Place:**

**2nd Place :**

Please, **under no circumstances**, park in front of Unit 124 or Unit 126 (the units next to the Shop). The owners of the units come in at odd hours and need access to their parking spaces. There is ample parking across from the Shop that is not in front of any unit.



# Happy Birthdays!

## July

Cindy Allison, Ayla Amberson, Ipuna Black, Joseph Boisvenu, Jet Cantu, Molly Cole, Julie Cooley, Leander Demlow, Kay Dorance, Scott Edwards, Irian Figearo, Thomas Garcia, Jacqueline Gerideau, Samantha Giddens, Massimo Greco, Anet Grigorian, Rob Hernquist, Derik Johnson, Jim Jones, Thomas Lawlor, Katherine Matthews, George Messenger, Alex Mross, Alejandro Muniz, Nelson Muniz, Amanda Munson, Edward Munson, Skya Munson, Jane Nicholson, Deanna Radabaugh, Carmela Rodriguez, Jerilyn Shirtz, Caity Stackhouse, Joseph Webb III, Kim Wenzl, Orville Wiemers.

## August

***If you have a August birthday please bring something for the refreshment table at the August meeting.***

Linda Ball, David Barker, Richard Baugh, Kline Black, Richard Coffman, Ivan Erwin, Adam Q. Fink, Kathleen Greene, Jeff Greenwood, Jana Hassett, Steve Hopkins, Tracy Howard, Fred Hugues, Russell Hungate, Alyssa Jarred, Micah Karella, Krystal Kaztle, Michele Logan, Yanping Ma, Jacson Manina, Sarah Marks, Marla Martinez, Priscilla Messenger, Mary Savage, Patrick Shaffer, Joann Sprott, Paul Troves, Jennings Welsh, Joyce Wertz, William Wertz, Mark Zangger.

# Welcome New Members!

***A hearty welcome to members who joined or rejoined SNGMS .***

***We look forward to getting to know you better***

Ipuna Black, Jy Black. Kayzle Black, Kline Black, Xayal Black, Jet Cantu, Rene Cantu Jr., Cora Dechand, June Dechand, Linda Dechand, Reid Dechand, April Farmer, Bowe Farmer, Dennis Farmer, Gunnar Farmer, Isabella Farmer, Kira George, Anet Grigorian, Jeff Gross, Song Hageman, Josice Imschweiler, Kristy Imschweiler, Matthew Imschweiler, Selah Imschweiler, Shiloh Imschweiler, Gloria Martinez, Henrik Navasartian, Michelle Noro, Robert Noro, Chase Richins, Jennifer Richins, Rhett Richins, Carmela Rodriguez, Linda Shaffer, Patrick Shaffer, James Shirley-Tecumseh, Leslie Tecumseh, Karen Warsech.

### SNGMS 2020 Board of Directors

President: Peggy Sue Moore [moorepeggysue@gmail.com](mailto:moorepeggysue@gmail.com) 702 348-9600  
 Vice-President: Sheri Johnson [sherisrocks89121@gmail.com](mailto:sherisrocks89121@gmail.com) 702 525-0256  
 Secretary: Debbie Bucknam [grandmadeb10@gmail.com](mailto:grandmadeb10@gmail.com) 805 415-1870  
 Treasurer: Gary Webb [SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:SNGMSTreasurer@gmail.com) 702 876-2592  
 Parliamentarian: Ananaka Rau [arau3@yahoo.com](mailto:arau3@yahoo.com) 775 400-6511  
 One Year Board Remaining: Del Walkenshaw [desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com) 702 451-8040  
 Two Year Board Remaining: Bruce Martin [brucemartinlv@yahoo.com](mailto:brucemartinlv@yahoo.com) 725 400-1472  
 Three Year Board: Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl 702 378-2205 [Kheffner@levi.com](mailto:Kheffner@levi.com)  
 Past President: Bob Belcher [f35fighterman@yahoo.com](mailto:f35fighterman@yahoo.com) 702 210-9612

**Contact any Board member to volunteer for a position, or a Committee Chairman to offer to help on their committee.**

### Committee Chairperson

Bulletin.....Del Walkenshaw & Deb Koladziej  
[desertartsupply@aol.com](mailto:desertartsupply@aol.com)  
 Communications.....Del Walkenshaw [sngmsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sngmsnews@gmail.com)  
 Federation.....Peggy Sue Moore  
 Alt. Federation.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256  
 Field Trip.....SNGMS Board  
 Shop Foreman ..... Kerry "Choppers" Wenzl  
 Historian.....Jack Toogood  
 Hospitality.....Open  
 Inventory.....Frank Timbers [ftimbers@centurylink.net](mailto:ftimbers@centurylink.net)  
 Librarian..... Mario Luchetta  
 Membership..... John Stackhouse 702-239-0437  
 New Member Liaison... Joann Sprott  
 Program..... Cindy Allison  
 Publicity.....Scott Edwards [memuldt@yahoo.com](mailto:memuldt@yahoo.com)  
 Raffle.....Steve Chavez  
 50-50 Raffle.....Orville and Lisa Wiemers  
 Refreshments..... Fran & Allen Stratton  
 Rock Stars.....Mary Beth Paladino.....702-255-1647  
 Show Chairperson.....Sheri Johnson 702 525-0256  
 Sunshine.....Beth Jones [punkyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:punkyjones@hotmail.com)  
 702-505-5819  
 Webmaster.....Lorrilee Stackhouse [lorrilee@cox.net](mailto:lorrilee@cox.net)

#### **SNGMS Contact:**

[sngms2013@gmail.com](mailto:sngms2013@gmail.com)  
[www.sngms.org](http://www.sngms.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*There are rock clubs throughout the United States and the computer is your friend in finding information about clubs and shows. Just search for the area you are interested in and rock club and you should find plenty to keep you busy, wherever you are going.*

### BILLINGS GEM & FOSSIL SHOW

*(Rescheduled from original May date)*  
**July 11-12, 2020**  
 Saturday July 11 - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Sunday July 12 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Some links that you may find helpful:*



**American Federation Of Mineralogical Societies-**

<http://www.amfed.org>

**Rocky Mountain Federation -**

<http://www.rmfmts.org>

**and the Rock & Gem website -**

[http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?](http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL)

[ShowState=ALL](http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL)

**Southern Nevada Gem & Mineral Society**  
**3111 S. Valley View Blvd, E-125**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89102**

**Return Service Requested**



The Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society is a non-profit corporation, organized to educate ourselves and the community in the science and arts related to rocks, minerals, gems, fossils, and nature in general. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the physical world, we can use it and protect it for future generations.

**Club Mascot:** Rock Wren

**Club Gemstone:** Turquoise

**Club Logo:** Rocks-R-Us

**Membership** is open to anyone with an interest in: Rocks, Gems, Geology, Fossils, Lapidary Arts or Silversmithing

**Annual Dues:** Individual - \$25; Family - \$35

**Meetings** are held the first Monday of the month at the Eagles Lodge #1213, 1601 E Washington

**No meeting is held in December.** Instead we have our annual awards dinner.

**POLISHED SLAB  
 ADVERTISING RATES**

<i>Ad Size</i>	<i>Six Months</i>	<i>Yearly</i>
<i>Business Card</i>	<b>\$18</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<i>Quarter Page</i>	<b>\$48</b>	<b>\$90</b>
<i>Half Page</i>	<b>\$90</b>	<b>\$170</b>
<i>Full Page</i>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$275</b>