

CULVER CITY ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB
P.O. BOX 3324 Culver City, CA 90231



FEBRUARY 2014

Monday, February 10, 6:30 pm Executive Meeting
7:30 pm General Meeting
Program: "The Nature of Welo Opals"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the things I would like to re-institute this year is a series of skills-building workshops where some of our members can share their expertise with others. Now that the Boy Scout building is available next to our shop, it's an ideal location to support classes in lapidary and jewelry topics. Shown below are the first three club workshops scheduled in the near future. To sign up for a class, please contact the instructor directly.

I am looking for someone to act as Workshop Chairman to plan future sessions. Please get in touch if you have an interest. In addition, we are looking for instructors to put on 3-4 hour sessions for topics such as Soapstone Carving, Making a Cabochon, Bracelet Designs, Piercing, and others.

Riveting Techniques - February 1st

Who: Brad Smith <brad@greenheart.com>

What: Riveted Beads and Bracelets

When: Saturday, February 1, 2014

Time: Noon - 4:00pm

Price: CCRMC Members: \$30

Non-Members \$40

Class Description:

Riveting is a popular way to join pieces of metal without the need for torches or other expensive equipment - plus it's quick and easy. This class will teach you the basics,
continued on page 7

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The Nature of Welo Opals **Gabriel Mosesson**

Welo opals were discovered in 2007 in Welo, Ethiopia. Since then, Welo opals have been captivating the gem world and have risen to the top of the list for most precious gems due to their beauty, depth, fire, diversity and ease to work with.

Gabriel Mosesson of Ethiopia Imports will talk about the discovery of the Welo opal in 2007 and the unique mining practices. He will also explain and show examples of the opal's exceptional characteristics including diversity in color, type and fire through a very colorful and detailed presentation. Lapidary techniques will be discussed including hydrophane and polishing. Gabriel is well experienced working with the opals which he polishes, hand carves and sets into his own jewelry designs. Examples of rough material and finished opals will be available to view and purchase.

Ethiopia Imports has been working with Welo Opals since their discovery. They have a solid reputation for supplying gem cutters and jewelers with quality rough and cut opals worldwide. More information can be found on their website www.ethiopiaimports.com

Charlene Aspray
Program Chair

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING JAN 13, 2014

- **Those present:** Steve Dover, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria Guimaraes, Bruce Mensinger, Darrell Robb, Leda Rogers and Jette Sorensen.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm by Steve Dover.
- **Show Chair Report:** Steve Dover reported that Ken Rogers submitted his temporary resignation from the Club to President Brad Smith. Mr. Smith has taken over Mr. Roger's responsibilities as Show Chairman until Mr. Rogers return or a new chairman is identified, and has already met with dealers chairs.. The show has been scheduled on June 27-29. The board voted on the theme for the show: Rubies & Emeralds.
- **April Meeting Date:** A motion was made and approved to obtain the membership's vote on whether the April meeting should be rescheduled to April 7, given that several Club members will not be able to attend on April 14 due to it being an important holiday.
- **Treasurer Report:** Darrell Robb reported the Club was solvent and that the Club's investment portfolio received dividends. He committed to verifying whether the Club had received back from the Culver City Auditorium the deposit for damage paid for the show.
- **Multi-purpose Room:** Steve Dover reported that Brad Smith finalized agreement for renting the multi-purpose room for the Club's monthly meetings.
- **Membership Report:** Felice Ganz reminded that existing members need to renew their membership by the March meeting. Bruce Mensinger reminded that members using the shop must sign an indemnification form every year; he committed to making copies of the forms available at the shop.
- **Sunshine Report:** Leda Rogers reported there had been no events warranting a card.
- **Web Master Report:** Jette Sorensen reported that members were not receiving notifications from the Club's Facebook page because they failed to select the "Follow" button.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Ana Maria Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING JAN 13, 2014

- The meeting was called to order at 7:34pm, the Pledge of Allegiance was made and a quorum was established.
- Steve Dover communicated that the board voted on the Show's theme: Rubies & Emeralds.
- A motion was made and approved by majority vote of the members to move the April meeting from April 14 to April 7, one time only.
- Four guests were introduced and welcomed.
- Felice Ganz reminded members that membership renewals needed to be made no later than the March meeting; failing to do so would prevent members from using the shop until renewal. Membership forms are available at the shop; the membership fee can be paid there.
- Bruce Mensinger informed that members using the shop must renew a Liability Release form every year and will be asked to do so at their first shop visit of the year.
- A break was held at 7:45pm for refreshments and raffle, followed by the January Program.

Ana Maria Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

PROGRAM REPORT

Charlene Aspray introduced Steve Harbinger, from Dragon Minerals, who returned as a guest speaker, this time to discuss gypsum. Mr. Harbinger has been collecting gypsum for decades and brought fine specimens from his collection to show. He explained that although gypsum is not very popular among collectors, it is actually available in interesting shapes and forms, and it is affordable. Mr. Harbinger delivered an engaging and comprehensive presentation, discussing the properties of gypsum and its types, the best world locations where it can be found, how to identify faked and altered specimens, and pricing.

Charlene Aspray
Program Chair

SHOP NEWS

Shop schedule

Due to vacations, attendance of Quartsite and Tuscon, and personal events the shuffling of instructors will continue through February. While no shop closures are anticipated, the reduction in the number of available instructors makes it more likely that the shop may occasionally be closed. Check our website for closures and time changes (www.culvercityrocks.org) or call the shop (310-836-4611) after the scheduled opening time to confirm that an instructor has arrived.

Equipment Availability

As of January 17 (as I write this report) all shop equipment is in good working order.

Projects update

1) Trim saws oil mist: Current thinking favors replacing the present exhaust fan with two kitchen range exhaust hoods to be located over the trim saws.

2) New oil test in one slab saw and one trim saw. The new-candidate-oil allergy tests and odor testing continue to be satisfactory. Misting has been greater than previously. Further testing of blade life in additional saws will begin soon (see 4 below).

3) Entry step was further improved with the addition of a bright yellow stripe.

4) The oil leak in 24-inch saw hydraulic pump will be repaired as part of the new oil test.

5) The #3 grind wheel station drive belt was replaced. This required complete dismantling of the arbor with the aid of some tools that we don't have at the shop such as my 12 ton press. Refurbishment involved some lathe work, a new pulley and some blacksmith and sheet metal work. The motor mount is temporary, but stable, as I write this.

Call for volunteers.

Jette Sorensen is leading a shop beautification and clean-up initiative. Its main goals are repair and replacement of water damaged ceiling panels, painting, and

evaluation of what equipment to keep. We have several volunteers but more are needed. Contact Jette for more details. jetsorensen@gmail.com

Construction

The main remaining construction is installation of rain gutters, installing irrigation and sod in front of the Scout House (please, stay on the walkways), additional asphalt sealer



and, optionally, a lockable gate to block entry to the aisle between the City Gardens and our storage sheds. Graffiti on exterior walls has returned now that the construction fence is gone.

Limited parking in back of the shop is open for use again. Park on the asphalt, off the alley concrete to avoid a parking citation. Please respect the space reserved for the shop instructor next to the paddle-tennis court.

On behalf of the Shop Committee,
Bruce Mensinger

FEDERATION REPORT

2014 CFMS SHOW OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CLUB

This year, the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) show and convention will be held May 30th thru June 1st at the Pomona Fairground Fairplex. The Pasadena Lapidary Society will be the host club, but all CFMS clubs are encouraged to participate.

Since our Fiesta of Gems is 4 weeks later, June 28 & 29, we could get great advertising if we participate with:

1. A Display Case. Applications for Non-competitive display cases are due by April 25th. We could either do a display case based around the theme of our show "Rubies and Emeralds" (which could include some of the raffle prizes) or a collection which displays the whole range of interests of our members. We would need 1 key volunteer to help design the case and to collect items loaned by members. It would help if someone who doesn't work during the week could volunteer to set up the case on Thursday. I would volunteer to take the case down on Sunday.

2. Have a Demonstration table. There will be 10 demonstration stations with a total of 60 shifts: Friday 10 am to 1:30pm, Friday 1:30 pm to 5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 1:30 pm, Saturday 1:30 pm to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am to 1:30 pm and Sunday 1:30 to 4 pm. Our club has had a fantastic table at the bead show with club members demonstrating how beads are drilled, seed bead bracelets and samples showing the steps required to make a cabochon. We would have to send in an application for which days and which shifts we wanted - they will be filled on a first-come basis.

SO - PLEASE, come to the next meeting with your ideas and be ready to volunteer. If you can't attend the February meeting, please email your comments to me at hmcx2@aol.com. This is a great opportunity for free advertising for our

show. We work so hard each year at the show, it makes loads of sense to try to reach this target audience at the CFMS show to increase our attendance.

Ellen Moe
Federations Chair

WEBSITE REPORT

One of our members mentioned that she "Liked" our page on FaceBook a while back, but never receive any posting. The reason turned out to be that she had not clicked "Get Notifications" under the "Liked" button and changed the "Follow" button to "Following."

Posts about whether the shop is open or not is added weekly, and if there is a sudden change, that is posted as well. Reminders of our meetings and who is presenting is there. Club members and guests post comments and pictures. So, if you have "liked" CCRMC on FaceBook, make sure you are set up to get postings. To "Like" our page, go to www.facebook.com/ccrmc.

The Nugget is being distributed via the Internet. When you fill in your renewal form, make sure you include your email address. If you want the printed copy, make sure you check "I do not want The Nugget Newsletter via Email."

Some of the email providers are sorting your incoming mails according to their interpretation of "Primary," "Social" and "Promotions," or similar labels. In Gmail, for example, The Nugget emails end up in the "Promotions" tab. If you accidentally click the "Unsubscribe" option at the bottom of The Nugget email, you will no longer get the newsletter. If that happens, you have to "Subscribe" to continue getting it. If I see you have "Unsubscribed," I will you send an email from CCRMCMail@gmail.com, asking if that is your choice.

Jette Sorensen
Webmaster

BENCH TIPS

MODIFYING PLIERS

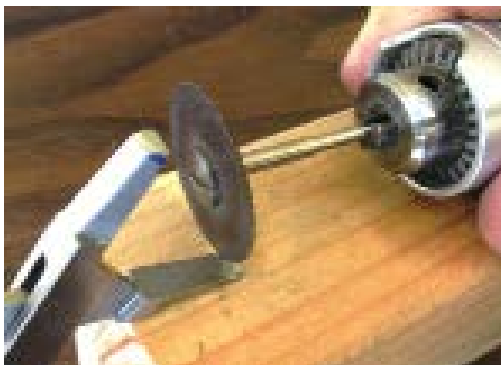
Sometimes a few changes to your tools can significantly improve productivity and quality at the same time. Stock tools can be customized and improved using standard jewelry skills.

Here's an example:

Making jump rings and weaving them into chainmaile designs involves a lot of opening and closing of the rings. I typically use two square jaw pliers to do this, one for each hand. But sometimes the rings would slip out of the pliers, getting scratched, and requiring extra cleanup time.



I solved the problem by forming a groove at the end of the jaw that would grasp the ring gently without scratching it. Use a triangular file or cutoff disk to cut the grooves about 1.5 mm back from the tip. Then to make the grooves round so they grasp the wire without distorting it, close the jaws and run a drill through the opening formed by the two rough grooves. Start with a small drill and follow up with a drill just



slightly smaller than the wire size you want to grip. In my case that was 14 gauge wire, so I chose a #53 drill. Finally, polish the grooves with a rubberized disk.



More pictures and details, if needed, are available in the bench tips book.

MANAGING PRODUCTION

Many readers of these BenchTips sell their jewelry at shows, in galleries or online. They are sole proprietors and constantly under pressure to design new pieces and make enough product to keep up with demand. So their options are few when a large order comes in. They can burn the midnight oil themselves, or they can be smart and get some temporary help. But you need good help, and you often need it fast.

Jewelry assemblers are skilled, trustworthy and reliable craftsmen who make it their business to help others handle overloads and meet deadlines. Flexible arrangements are possible, working by the job, by the hour or by the piece. Each has a different mix of skills, from fabrication to enameling, casting, stonsetting, lapidary and others.

Assemblers are known to the trade, so you may have to ask around to find some references. But some assemblers advertise on the Net. For instance, a good friend of mine, Janice Metz <JenFT4@aol.com>, has been working with designers and fabricators in the West Los Angeles area since 1997. She specializes in silversmithing, wire-wrapping, beading and stringing.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith are at: [facebook.com/Bench Tips/](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/) or see: "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon

MINERAL REPORT

Not a New Element... or is it?

Vanadinite is a mineral of the apatite group, uncommonly found in lead ore deposits. It is commonly associated with mimetite, pyromorphite, wulfenite, anglesite, calcite, and barite. Its crystals usually occur in short hexagonal prisms, but may also be hexagonal pyramids, rounded masses, or crusts.

Vanadinite is around a 3-4 on the Mohs scale of hardness, with a specific gravity of 6.95. Its color ranges through bright red, orange-red, red-brown, brown, yellow, gray, and colorless. Its streak is brownish yellow, and it is quite brittle.



It can be found across the world, in countries such as Austria, Spain, Scotland, South Africa, Argentina, and Mexico. Within the United States, it can be found in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and South Dakota.

Vanadinite is one of the major industrial ore sources for elemental vanadium, along with carnotite and roscoelite. It is smelted down to vanadium pentoxide, and then reduced with calcium to result in pure vanadium. Occasionally, it is also used as a source of lead, because vanadium is 73.15% lead by weight.

It was first discovered in Mexico in 1801, by a mineralogist named Andrés Manuel del

Rio. He thought he had discovered an entirely new element, and named the ore "brown lead." However, he was led to believe that his "new element" was merely impure chromium. In 1830, however, Nils Gabriel Sefstrom discovered a new element and named it vanadium, later confirming that it was identical to del Rio's discovery.

Minda Moe
Mineral Chair

UPCOMING SHOWS

February 15 - 24: Indio, CA

San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society, Banning
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
46350 Arabia Street, 10a - 10p daily
Email: bert67@verizon.net

February 21 - 23: Newark, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
Newark Pavilion, 6430 Thornton Avenue
Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Website: www.mgscv.org

March 1 - 2: Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Gardens
301 Baldwin Avenue
9:00 - 4:30 daily
Email: joannaritchey@gmail.com
Website: www.Moroks.com

March 1 - 2: Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Email: abaris2007@gmail.com
Website: www.vgms.org

March 8 - 9: San Marino, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Drive
Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
Email: joenmar1@verizon.net et

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Paul Gomez	Feb 2
Rita Simonson	Feb 7
Deborah Kelfer	Feb 10
Diane Tabener	Feb 12
Colin Gibson	Feb 13
Dave Lyons	Feb 15
Lynne Lukert	Feb 16
Ken Rogers	Feb 17
Sergio Montantil	Feb 17
Martin McDonald	Feb 24
Molly Zimmerman	Feb 25
Norma Johnson	Feb 25
Frank Hollis	Feb 26
Dave Eggers	Feb 26

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are off to a great start for 2014. This is the time of the year to renew your membership. Invite some friends to our monthly meetings so that they can hear our terrific speakers. We can meet them and they can get a feel for our club.

Welcome to our new members:

Thalia Johnson
Darren Cokin
Joshua Corey
Julia McCarty
Noelle Weil

Felice Ganz
Membership Chair

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

show ways to get a smooth head design, and make use of solid and tubular fasteners.

Skills to be covered include drilling, deburring, setting a rivet, and polishing the finished piece. Projects will include a forged bracelet and several mixed-metal bead designs. All hammers, metals, rivets, and tools will be provided.

Beaded Bracelet - February 15

Who: Janice Metz - <JenFT4@aol.com>
What: Bead Crochet Bangle Bracelet
When: Saturday, February 15th
Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm
Price: CCRMC Members: \$65 - Non-Members
\$75

Class Description:

You will learn the basic technique for circular bead crochet from start to finish. In addition, you will learn thread options, correct crochet hook size to use, bead variations and finishing techniques.

Bring a lunch.

Must have a working knowledge of basic crochet.

Chainmaile - March 3

Class Description:

Who: Eileen Karrigan - <ekarrigan@gmail.com>
What: Chainmaile Class
When: Monday, March 3, 2014
Time: 7:00pm - 9:30pm
Price: CCRMC Members: \$30 - Non-Members
\$40

In this class you will learn the ancient art of chainmail. Along with basic chainmail techniques, you will learn the Byzantine weave which dates back to the Byzantine era. Using this weave you will make a bracelet out of aluminum or nickel silver rings. Please be sure to bring reading glasses or magnifying visors if you have them.

Brad Smith
President

The purpose of the CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB is to bring together persons interested in the earth sciences, to engage in research and study in this realm, and to assist members in the collection and preservation of rocks and minerals and in the study of lapidary and related arts.....<http://www.culvercityrocks.org>

Officers for 2014

President - Brad Smith
Vice President - Steve Dover
Treasurer - Darrell Robb
Recording Secretary - Ana Maria Guimaraes
Corresponding Secretary - Leda Rogers
Education - Joe Porrazzo
Federation Director - Ellen Moe
Field trips - Co-Chairs Rocky and Cole Rhodes
Historian - Bruce Mensinger
Librarian - Bruce Mensinger
Membership - Felice Ganz
Minerals - Minda Moe
Parliamentarian - Jette Sorensen
Photography - Bruce Mensinger
Programs - Charlene Aspray
Publications - Lynne Lukert
Co-Chairs Barbara Fier and Jan Ferguson
Publicity - OPEN
Show - OPEN
Shop Committee (President, Vice President,
committee members)
Social - Mary Ellen Shaffer
Sunshine - Leda Rogers
Trading Post - Steve Dover, Co-Chair Minda Moe
Web Master - Jette Sorensen

Board of Directors:

Ellen Moe (2014)
Bruce Mensinger (2014)
Rick Shaffer (2015)
Jette Sorensen (2015)

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month* at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg., 4117 Overland Ave. Enter from the rear door. Guests are always welcome.

Executive Committee Meetings are held the second Monday of every month* in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg. Auditorium. All club members are welcome.

*Meeting days occasionally change due to Monday holidays or in July, because of the Fiesta Of Gems show.

DUES & FEES

One time Initiation Fees:

Individuals	\$20.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$25.00
Juniors	\$15.00

Yearly Membership Dues:

Individuals	\$25.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$35.00
Juniors	\$10.00

(After July 1, dues are \$15.00, \$25.00 and \$5.00 respectively.)

SHOP INFORMATION

The shop is open to all members in good standing over the age of 18 who sign an indemnification form. Junior members (13 - 18) must be accompanied by an adult. Instruction is available at all sessions. Practice slabs are available.

Location: 10866 Culver Blvd. in Culver City (behind the Boy Scout clubhouse and next to the paddle tennis courts)

Shop Phone: (310) 836-4611

Hours:

Tuesday	7 – 9:30 pm	- Bruce Mensinger
Wednesday	10 am – 2 pm	Vern Lowe (open by appointment)
Thursday	10 am – 2 pm	- Woody Shaffer
Saturday	Noon – 4 pm	- Lynne Lukert
Sunday	Noon – 4 pm	- Rick Shaffer

If no one shows, the shop may close early. If you plan to arrive more than a half hour after the opening time, phone the instructor

The Nugget

The deadline for all submissions is generally the 15th of every month. All articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Permission to copy is freely given as long as proper credit is noted.

The *Nugget* accepts paid advertisements by club members and non-members. The cost for an eighth of a page (approx. 2" high x 3.5" wide) is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor. Ad layouts, copy, or business cards must be received by the 10th of the month. Send materials directly to Lynne Lukert, Editor, 601 N. Bronson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004



the NUGGET

VOLUME 54
ISSUE 2
FEB 2014



CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL
CLUB, INC.

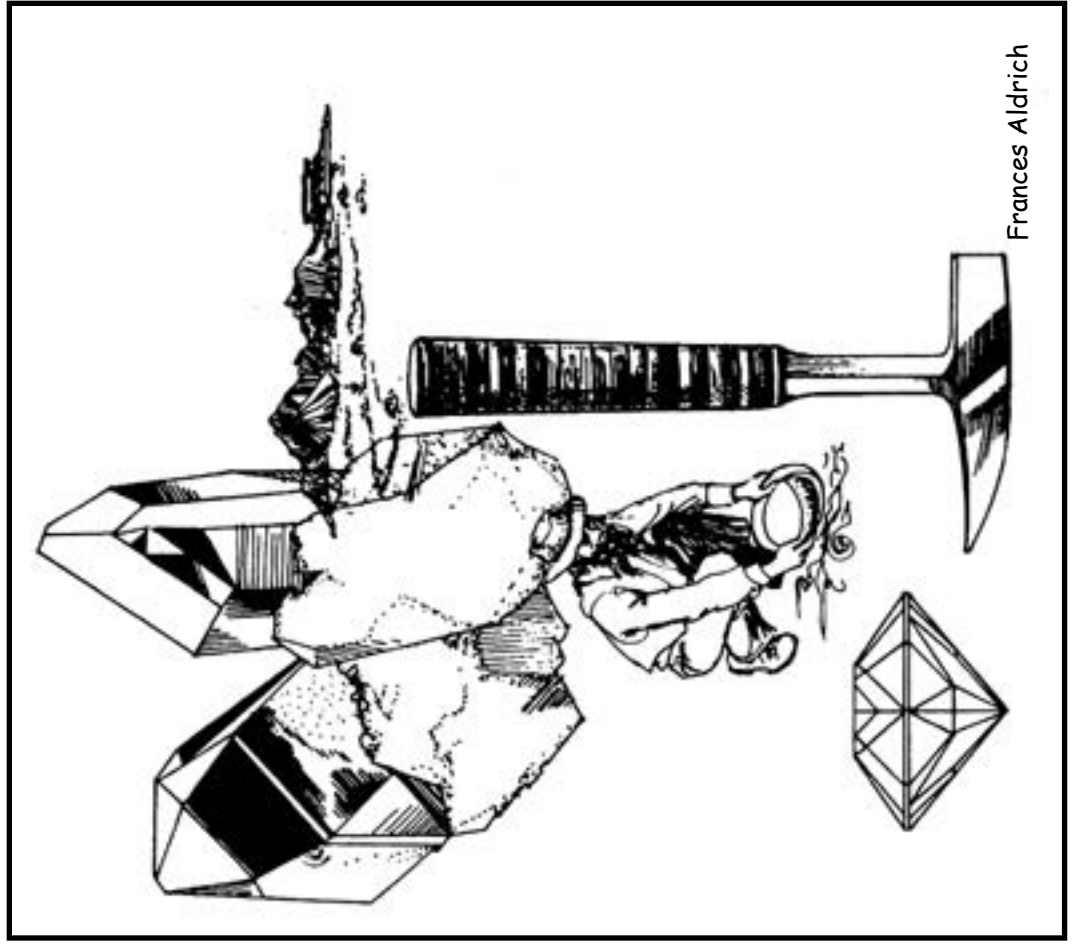
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

FIRST CLASS



CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

the Nugget
Lynne Lukert, editor
601 N. Bronson Ave
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Frances Aldrich

