

# MARCH 2014

Monday, March 10, 6:30 pm Executive Meeting  
7:30 pm General Meeting  
Program: Fish Fossils in Your Backyard

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The primary reason I joined a rock club was to go on field trips to locations in the desert, to mines, quarries, and along the shore. It's hard to express in a few words how exciting and invigorating a good day out on a field trip makes one feel. Plus you usually bring back a few specimens that provide lifelong memories of the trip. Rocky, our field trip coordinator, is working on a couple of trips for the Club for this spring. In the meantime I want to call your attention to a great opportunity coming up early this month.

The Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Show will be held this year on March 7, 8, and 9. The event is held just north of Victorville in the desert off Route 15, and there are several field trips for agate and marble that will leave from the show. Show dealers will be set up in tents and RV's with all sorts of goodies. There's plenty to see and do, for all the details, see the show web site at: [www.vvgmc.org](http://www.vvgmc.org).

**Brad Smith**  
President

**NOTE:** Next month's meeting will be held on the FIRST Monday of the month, April 7.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### March 10: Fish Fossils in Your Backyard



#### March 10 Fish Fossils in Your Backyard

Keith Krzywiec will show us new fossil finds from sites in the L.A. basin and many specimens from his own collection will be on display.

*Images from: ebay.com*

#### April 7 Jewelry Art and How-To

Roger Halas, a self-taught artist, will discuss jewelry design and show us his latest creations. His work has been featured on several Lapidary Journal Jewelry Artist covers, How-To-Projects and mineralogy articles.



*Images by Roger Halas published at: jewelrymakingdaily.com*

#### May 12 Sharktooth Hill and other SoCal Sites

Shep Koss, co-author of Rockhounding California, A Guide to the State's Best Rockhounding Sites, will tell us about the history of Sharktooth Hill, its surrounding area and other Southern California sites.



*Image from: <https://www.facebook.com/ErnstQuarries>*

Stay tuned for interesting and informative topics from our knowledgeable experts.

**Charlene Aspray**  
Program Chair

## SHOP NEWS

### Shop Schedule

While no shop closures are anticipated for March; continue to check our website for closures and time changes at [culvercityrocks.org](http://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 February 17 (as I write this report) all shop equipment is in good working order except for the 10-inch trim saw nearest the saw room door (#1 trim saw) which needs work on the blade and drive train. I expect to have this repaired by the time you read this report.

### Projects Update

- 1) Trim saws oil mist: Current thinking favors replacing the present exhaust fan with two adjoining 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 and odor testing continue to be satisfactory. Misting has been greater than previously. Further testing of blade cooling and life in an additional saw, the 24-inch slab saw, has begun. Preliminary testing was OK but several accidents that damaged the blade can't be reliably assigned either to oil deficiency or user error.

### 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](mailto: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 which returned

was removed by a City crew. They did a good job and matched the paint color. We chose the paint color for the shop with the hope that matching would happen and the results confirm our decision.

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.



*A synthetic ruby and natural emeralds from Steve Dover and photographed by Bruce Mensinger as a candidate for the Fiesta of Gems postcard.*

On behalf of the Shop Committee,  
**Bruce Mensinger**

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Abbas Zawawi	March 7
Chris Golden	March 9
Grace Sato	March 9
Avery Ocko Michalak	March 10
Michelle Grassmeier	March 10
Mike Halahan	March 12
Sonya Algosai	March 12
Darren Cokin	March 12
Dave Baker	March 17
Sofie Lyddon	March 23
Bruce Mensinger	March 23
Pam Leitner	March 28
Michael Bronner	March 28

## CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB MEDALISTS

In honor of the Winter Olympics, two of our Club members shared their medals at our February meeting.

Marilyn White wore her silver medal from the Tokyo Summer Olympics in 1964 from the Women's 4 x 100 meter relay. She also tied for the third place in the 100 meter race, but in those days before the sophisticated timing systems, the other runner was taller and leaned forward so Marilyn barely missed the Bronze Medal. More interesting aspects of this 4 x 100 meter relay race are provided at [www.sports-reference.com](http://www.sports-reference.com).

The US had the fastest runners, led by Wyomia Tyus and Edith McGuire, who had won the 100 and 200 respectively, with McGuire gaining silver in the 100. Marilyn White had finished fourth in the 100 for the US. Poland had a top team led by 100 bronze medalist Ewa Kłobukowska. The team trained together and featured crisp baton work. In the final, Poland's exchanges overcame the Americans speed and they won easily in what appeared to be a world record of 43.69. But in 1966, Kłobukowska failed a gender test before the European Championships, and was disqualified from women's competition. The Polish gold medal was allowed to stand, but the IAAF removed the world records from the books and the US time of 43.92 became the world record.

Our other proud medalist was Minda Moe who

### Executive Meeting – continued from Page 6

- Treasurer Report: Darrell Robb reported the Club was solvent.
- Membership Report: Felice Ganz reported that since the beginning of the year, 40 members had obtained or renewed membership. She indicated she needed help with sending emails and making phone calls to promote membership.
- Web Master Report: Jette Sorensen reported she had been sending meeting email reminders to the members of whom the Club had an email address. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

– Ana Maria Guimaraes

wore 10 medals she had been awarded for the 2013-2014 Southern California Academic Decathlon Regional Competition. The Decathlon consists of 7 academic tests,



a speech, an essay, an interview and a Super Quiz. The overall theme for this year's nationwide competition was World War I. Minda was one of nine students on the St. Monica Catholic High School Team 1 who came in third place overall behind the much larger schools of Mater Dei and Bishop Alemany. Minda won five Gold Medals in Art, Language and Literature, Music, Science and Essay; three silver medals in Economics, Social Sciences and Speech and two bronze medals for the Team Super Quiz and the Overall Division 1 Team Scores.

Congratulations to our local medalist heroes!

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome to our new members and welcome back to those who have renewed their yearly membership. Thank you for your support! You are the reason that this wonderful club continues to flourish. I hope to hear from those who have not renewed no later than our March 10 meeting.

**Felice Ganz**  
Membership Chair

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Julia Chase  
Hyo Davis  
Franne Einberg

Mike Huwe  
Damon Pressman  
Karyn Smith

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM REPORT



Image from:  
[ethiopiaimports.com](http://ethiopiaimports.com)

Charlene Aspray introduced Gabriel Mosesson, from Ethiopia Imports. Mr. Mosesson discussed Wello opals, which were discovered in 2007 in Wello, Ethiopia. Wello opals are unusual due to their vibrant body and fire colors, such as black, blue, brown, clear, semi-clear, white, yellow, orange, red, green, purple and gray.

Wello opals are difficult to extract, given that they are found on a narrow layer of a cliff in the Wello highlands, subject to substantial rain and mud slides in winter. Extraction is done by hand, with no use of machines. Another difficulty in obtaining Wello opals is the ever changing Ethiopian rules and regulations. Mr. Mosesson described the best techniques to cut Wello opals, avoiding breakage and bringing out their best fire. He also offered tips for appraising and grading Wello opals. Mr. Mosesson's presentation was illustrated by striking photographs. He also brought beautiful specimens to display and sell.

– **Ana Maria Guimaraes**  
Recording Secretary

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### March 1 - 2: ARCADIA, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds  
Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  
301 Baldwin Avenue  
9:00 - 4:30 daily  
Website: [www.Moroks.com](http://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  
Website: [www.vgms.org](http://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

### March 8 - 9: SPRECKELS, CA

Salinas Valley Rock & Gem Club  
Spreckel's Veterans Hall, 5th & Llano Streets  
10 - 5 daily  
Website: [www.salinasrockandgem.com](http://www.salinasrockandgem.com)

### March 8 - 9: TURLOCK, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto  
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds  
900 North Broadway  
10 - 5 daily  
Website: [www.turlockgemshow.com](http://www.turlockgemshow.com)

### March 15 - 16: LEMOORE, CA

Lemoore Gem & Mineral Society  
Trinity Hall, 470 Champion Street  
Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 4

### March 22 - 23: ANGELS CAMP, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds  
101 Frogtown Road  
Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

### March 22- 23: ROSEVILLE, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers  
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds  
800 All American City Blvd  
Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)

### March 29 - 30: TORRANCE, CA

South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society  
Ken Miller Recreation Center  
3341 Torrance Blvd (enter on Madrona Ave)  
Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Website: [www.palosverdes.com/sblap](http://www.palosverdes.com/sblap)

### April 11-13: SAN DIEGO, CA

San Diego County Rock and Gem  
Tailgate and Meetup  
Vista Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum  
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA.  
Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4;  
FREE admission. This tailgate is quickly becoming one of the largest outdoor rockhound events in So. California. More than 50 dealers in rough, slabs, cabochons, gems and finished jewelry. Raffles, speakers and more.  
Contact Aleta Dirdo e-mail: [ajdirdo@gmail.com](mailto:ajdirdo@gmail.com). Web site: [www.vistarocks.org](http://www.vistarocks.org)

## MINERAL REPORT

### MAGNETITE: An Attractive Mineral

Magnetite may not look like much, but it certainly has some pull! It is the most magnetic of all naturally occurring minerals on Earth and its properties led to the discovery of the property of magnetism. It is found in large quantities in black sand beaches, such as those in California and the North Island of New Zealand.

Magnetite is brownish-black or sometimes just black with a black streak. It is around a six on the Mohs hardness scale, and has a specific gravity of 5.17. It is opaque, with a metallic luster.

Aside from California and New Zealand, large deposits of magnetite are also found in Chile, Uruguay, Sweden, Western Australia, New South Wales, and the Adirondacks of New York State. Within the United States, deposits can also be found in Oregon, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado.

Lodestones are naturally magnetized pieces of magnetite. They were used as early magnetic compasses. In more modern times, magnetite is used in the magnetic storage of hard disks, floppy disks, and cassette tapes. Magnetite powder is used to clean arsenic from drinking water, to make it safe for consumption.

Magnetite is especially important in the field of paleomagnetism, which is the study of the record of Earth's magnetic field in rock, clay, or brick beds. This science is important for understanding plate tectonics, and actually contributed to the revival of the continental drift hypothesis, which led to the popularization of plate tectonics. The magnetite patterns in rocks help preserve a record of the Earth's magnetic field at the time the rocks formed. Bands of magnetite in sedimentary rocks have been used to infer changes in the oxygen content of Earth's atmosphere.

It has also been instrumental for the understanding the conditions under which rocks form, as the reaction of magnetite with

oxygen produces hematite, which forms a buffer. The magnetite and hematite in igneous rocks can be studied to determine the oxygen content of the lava in which they were formed.



**Minda Moe**  
Mineral Chair

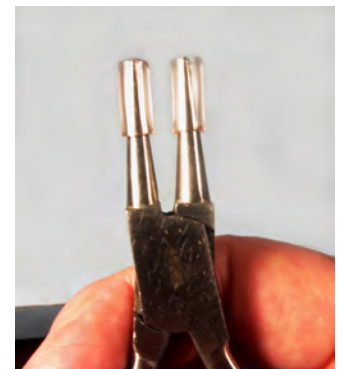
## BENCH TIPS

### NO - MAR PLIERS

Pliers can often leave nicks and scratches on your work. If this is giving you a problem, first take a close look at the plier jaws. New tools can be a little rough. I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks and give working areas a quick polish.

If that doesn't solve the problem, you probably need to cover the jaws. Plastic electrical tape provides a quick fix but can leave messy adhesive on the jaws. Dips don't seem to last very long.

A quick and easy way I've found is to slip a length of 1/8" dia vinyl tubing over each jaw. It's quick and leaves no sticky residue. Only problem is that it increases the size of the plier jaws a bit. The tubing can be found in a store that sells aquarium supplies.



*Get all 101 of Brad Smith's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon*

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

- Those present: Steve Dover, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria Guimaraes, Lynne Lukert, Bruce Mensinger, Janice Metz, Ellen Moe, Minda Moe, Darrell Robb, Leda Rogers, Brad Smith and Jette Sorensen.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by President Brad Smith.
- The January Executive Meeting minutes were approved with the following correction to the Show Chair Report: 'Ken Rogers submitted his temporary resignation from the Show Chair, Publicity Co-Chair and Shop Committee.'
- Jette Sorensen indicated she had taken over responsibility for changes to the Club database from Lynne Lukert. The database records are used to mail and email The Nugget, show advertising, support library and shop activities, and annual generation of numbers for the Federation.
- Brad Smith and Club officers discussed Club goals for 2014:
  - Retain and expand Club membership.
  - Begin show advertising early through Janice Metz (new Publicity co-chair).
  - Promote club workshops – one had already taken place and three more were scheduled in February and March. Brad Smith was to contact Sylvia Brinkley, who had expressed interested in conducting a workshop.
  - Develop written descriptions of the Club chair duties.
  - Develop a digital archive of the Club's forms and documents, to be available to the Club members and chairs.
  - Update the Club Bylaws.
  - Establish a Shop Committee chairman to call meetings and perform financial and administrative duties.
- Show Chair Report: Brad Smith reported he had submitted the paperwork to secure the auditorium. All vendors from last year's show have been contacted to determine whether they would like to participate this year. They were also asked whether they would like to place ads on the back of the raffle tickets for \$250 but there has been no interest so far. Mr. Smith asked to be contacted if anyone hears from companies interested in advertising. Ellen Moe made a motion changing the price of the raffle tickets; the motion was approved.

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**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

- The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm, the Pledge of Allegiance was made and a quorum was established.
- Two guests were introduced and welcomed.
- The January General Meeting minutes were approved as read.
- President Brad Smith announced that Janice Metz has accepted the position of Publicity co-chair.
- Ken Rogers announced that Janie Duncan, president of the Monrovia Rockhounds Club, was doing a presentation on beads on February 12 at the Bead Society of LA.
- Mr. Smith reported four workshops had been scheduled at the Boy Scout house and asked members to contact him if they were interested in teaching a workshop. Janice Metz announced she would be conducting a bead crochet workshop at the Boy Scout house on February 15. Ruth Shapiro announced she would be conducting a workshop on etching metal on March 15.
- Felice Ganz reported that since the beginning of the year, 40 members had obtained or renewed membership. She 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. Ms. Ganz also informed the Club planned on publishing a roster and passed a printed copy of the members directory for members to review and correct their information. Ms. Ganz indicated she needed help sending emails and making phone calls to promote membership. She also had concerns about the new badge supplier, who was not delivering new badges consistently.
- Woody Shaffer expressed concern regarding the change of the April meeting date from April 14 to April 7 as he believed it to be against the Bylaws. President Brad Smith indicated the membership vote to change the date was valid.
- A break was held for refreshments and raffle, followed by the February Program.

**– Ana Maria Guimaraes**

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: Janice Metz  
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

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CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL

CLUB, INC.

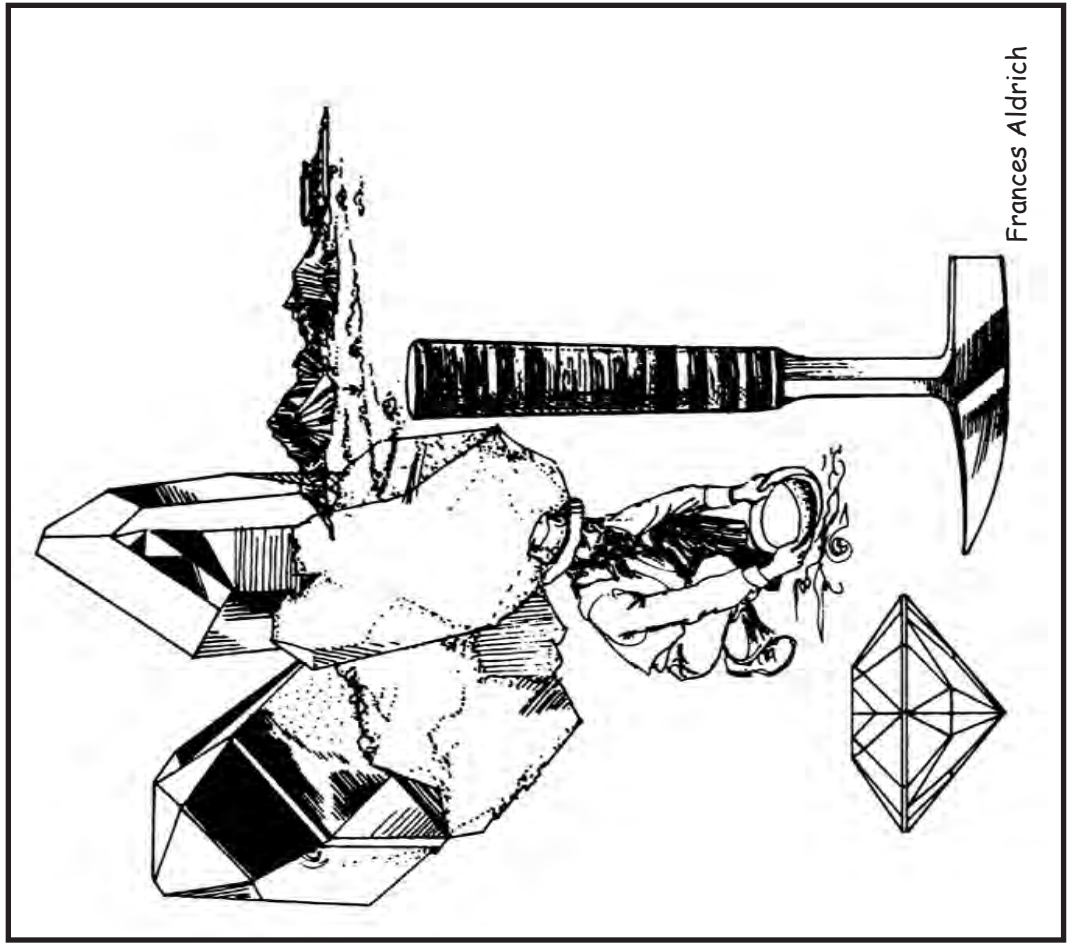
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

FIRST CLASS

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Address Change Requested

*the Nugget*  
Lynne Lukert, editor  
601 N. Bronson Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90004



Frances Aldrich