

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

## DECEMBER 2014

Monday, December 8 6:00 PM HOLIDAY PARTY

and installation of new officers

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club

Member's Annual Holiday Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

CULVER CITY ROTARY PLAZA

5100 Overland Avenue

Culver City

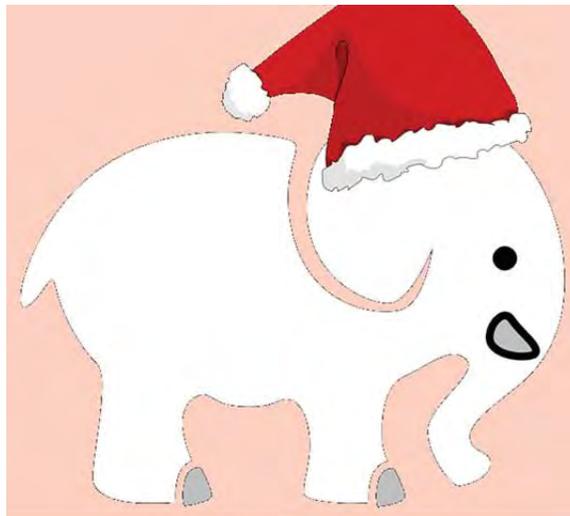
Festivities begin at 6 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

Bring a side dish or something special to share.

The evening will include installation of officers for 2015

followed by the infamous



WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

The evening will wrap up by 9

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to welcome all those who were elected as our club officers for the new year. The fact that there are few changes serves as a testament to the stability of our leadership and our steadfast direction as a club. A hearty tip-of-the-hat to all those who work each month to keep our club lively, interesting, educational, and entertaining. It has been a pleasure working with you.

And to all, I wish you happiness and merriment at both our club party and in the holidays that follow. Please keep safe and warm.

Brad Smith  
President

## HOLIDAY PARTY



Join us for our annual Pot Luck Holiday Dinner on December 8th at the Culver City Rotary Plaza. The club, as usual, will provide the protein (turkey, ham) and limited soft drinks. The members bring all the yummy side dishes and desserts.

For all who wish to participate please bring a wrapped gift for the White Elephant Grab Bag which is always a good time. We have had some absolutely hilarious ones, repeats from previous years, yummy ones. Basically, whatever strikes the giver's fancy.

Please park on the street, the parking lot by the

Rotary Club is for tenants only.

No liquor is allowed and we will have to exit the CCRP by 9:00 P.M. Per the Rotary Plaza request.



Ellen Moe "stealing" Lynne Lukert's White Elephant gift at last year's Holiday party

## MINERAL REPORT A Heavy Mineral!

Cinnabar is the main ore of mercury. Sources disagree on how it earned its name, but it is of Greek or Persian origin. In Latin, cinnabar was sometimes known as minium, "red cinnamon", but that name is now applied to lead tetroxide.

Cinnabar has a distinct red coloration, which may tend towards brownish-red and lead-gray. It has uneven to subconchoidal fracture, and has a scarlet streak. Cinnabar usually has a massive structure, but sometimes exhibits twinning. It comes in as a 2-2.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, with a specific gravity of 8.1. Its high specific gravity is due to its mercury content.

Cinnabar is associated with recent volcanic activity and alkaline hot springs. It occurs as a vein-filling mineral in these localities, associated with native mercury, pyrite, opal, quartz, chalcedony, dolomite, calcite, and barite.

Cinnabar has been mined since at least the Neolithic Age. In the Roman Empire, it was used as a pigment as a source of mercury. It has been the primary source of mercury throughout history. In the New World, it was used to provide decorative color in royal burial chambers during the peak of the Maya civilization. In Asia, the Chinese Song Dynasty originated a technique of carved lacquer ware which features cinnabar-pigment lacquer.

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In the modern jewelry industry, this has been replaced by a resin-based polymer.



It is found in all localities where mercury is found. It is being actively deposited from the hot waters of Sulphur Bank Mine in California, and in Steamboat Springs, Nevada. One of cinnabar's most notable localities is the municipality of Almadén in Spain. Its deposits account for the largest quantity of liquid mercury metal produced in the world, as it has produced mercury for approximately 2,000 years. Its fame led to the name of one of the oldest and most productive mercury mines in the United States, the New Almaden quicksilver mine.

As it has a very high mercury content, cinnabar can be quite toxic if handled improperly. The dangers of refining mercury were well documented by the cultures that utilized it. The workers at Almadén during the time of the Roman Empire were all slaves or convicts, due to how drastically the work shortened their lifespan.

Minda Moe  
Mineral Chair

### TAKE BETTER PHOTOS

Most digital cameras these days have the ability to take a good picture of your small jewelry items, but set-up is important. There are four major items to control - background, lighting, camera motion and focus control.

Lightly colored papers from an art store make reasonable starter backgrounds. Try experimenting with other products later like glass or colored plastics. Avoid fabrics because the weave can often be distracting at high magnification.

Outside lighting is the easiest. In fact for close-ups, flash never works well. Turn off your camera's flash. Choose a bright but overcast day or a lightly shaded area when the sun is full. For inside use, two goose-neck desk lamps can be used with 75 watt bulbs. Whatever you use, be sure to set the camera to match the type of lighting you use or else the color will be off.

You'll be shooting up close, so turn on the Macro mode. Now at this range, if the camera moves even a little bit during the shot, the picture will be blurry, so it's essential to use a tripod. Used ones are available inexpensively from eBay, yard sales or some camera shops. And even with a tripod, I put the camera on the self-timer mode so that any vibration from when you click the button settles down before the camera takes a picture.

In order to get the largest part of your jewelry in focus, you have to close the lens down to the minimum aperture (highest F-Stop number). This is done by taking the camera off of "Auto" mode and selecting Aperture Priority, usually denoted by "Av" and then setting the aperture to the largest number, which is F-8 on my camera. You'll probably have to get out the book or go back to the store to ask about this, but it's really worth it.

That's it.

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## Bench Tip cont....

In recap, here are the camera settings I use:

1. Set the lens to Macro for a close-up shot.
2. Move the camera in close enough for the item to cover at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the frame.
3. Look for adverse reflections from the jewelry surface.
4. Try to minimize reflections with changes of light position, camera angle or white background paper.
5. Carefully check for any fingerprints or dust that might be on the piece.
6. Make any final tweaks with light and arrangement.
7. Turn the camera's flash off.
8. Select "Av" for aperture priority mode.
9. Set the lens opening to the highest number for max depth of field.
10. Set the lighting to match what you're using (daylight, overcast, lightbulb, fluorescent, etc).
11. Set the timer to delayed shooting, either 2 seconds or 10 seconds, to avoid camera movement. The delay also gives you time to hold up a piece of white paper to reduce any final reflections.
12. Take the shot.

Brad Smith

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

## SHOP NEWS

### Shop schedule

The shop will be open as scheduled this month except on some Wednesdays and Christmas day. Continue to check our website for closures and time changes at [HTTP://www.culvercityrocks.org](http://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 November 17 (when I was last at the shop before writing this report) all shop equipment is in good working order and ready for you to use except for the kiln and the 24-inch saw.

The kiln has been a reliable piece of equipment for many years. However, gradual deterioration of the firebrick insulation and corrosion from heated moisture have taken their toll. The deteriorated firebrick is being replaced with more durable material. Corrosion, most visible around the vent hole on the top of the kiln, is due in large part to improper use in burn-out. Residual water in the investment is the central culprit here. When heated the wax melts and burns, residual moisture in the investment (lots) and moisture from the atmosphere in the firebrick (little) evaporates as the kiln temperature rises. The metal jacket of the kiln is still cool so escaping moisture condenses as it passes out the top vent and on the metal walls around the firebrick within. Because this condensed hot water carries some impurities (mostly from the vaporizing wax) and hot water itself is highly corrosive, we get rust. Proper use of the kiln will greatly reduce this source of deterioration. Proper use: heat the kiln fully before loading the flask you wish to burn out. This will preheat the vent and corrosive moisture will not condense in or on the metal walls inside of the kiln.

The 24-inch saw is out of service again due to blade damage. We purchased two blades in January and both have been damaged multiple times to date. I am able to repair some problems with saw blades, but others are beyond what my present tools and techniques allow. The smaller diameter blades are more repairable than the larger blades. Simple small angle bends are usually repairable; multiple bends and zigzag with curvature are a real challenge. Dishing, which makes the flat blade take the dome-shape of a musician's cymbal is generally beyond repair, although I have had some success with some thick blades which are more rigid than the thin blades we favor (less stress on the saw's feed mechanism and lower cost) and now use exclusively. The current problem with both of the damaged 24-inch blades is both dishing and local stretching in areas of multiple bends or previously repaired bends. Why are previously repaired bends a problem area for current bend repairs? Bending hardens and strengthens steel causing local

stretching when the bend is corrected mechanically. The result is that the blade can no longer lay flat, instead taking on a wavy potato chip shape; useless for sawing slabs for lapidary. Long story short: prognosis, repair doubtful on both blades; saw availability, too soon to predict, but I have a temporary workaround in mind if blade repairs fail.

Limited parking in back of the shop is open for use. 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

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE MEETING NOVEMBER 10TH

Those present: Charlene Aspray, Steve Dover, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria Guimaraes, Lynne Lukert, Bruce Mensinger, Darrell Robb, Leda Rogers, Mary Ellen Shaffer, Rick Shaffer, and Jette Sorensen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:46pm by Steve Dover.

The October executive meeting minutes published in the November Nugget were approved as read.

Treasurer Report: Darrell Robb reported the Club was solvent. He informed that the casualty insurance and the directors insurance have been paid until October 2015. Mr. Robb proposed applying part of the Club's cash funds into a conservative investment and obtained agreement to select an investment segregated from the other two funds that were dedicated to the shop. Mr. Robb also confirmed that the annual audit would be completed upon year-end.

Membership Report: Felice Ganz reported the Club had 156 members. A discussion followed on the best option for manufacturing the Club

badges. A motion was made and approved to continue ordering the badges from the current supplier at \$15 per unit. A motion was made and approved to raise the two-person-same address one-time initiation fee from \$25 to \$35 to account for the increased badge cost, beginning January 1, 2015. Ms. Ganz reminded that forms, documents and website information would need to be updated to reflect the new fee.

Publicity Report: On behalf of Janice Metz, Steve Dover informed that the Club had 69 followers on Twitter and growing. He indicated that Ms. Metz had completed publicity efforts for the November meeting and was working on increasing newspaper coverage of Club events. He relayed Ms. Metz's inquiry as to whether she should pursue inviting residents from the Palm Court Retirement Living complex to the Club meetings; no one opposed.

Social Report: Mary Ellen Shaffer reported that the Club holiday party preparations were on track.

Programs Report: Charlene Aspray reported that the January speaker was to be confirmed and in February the Club would have a silent auction. Donations: Steve Dover informed that the Culver City Senior Citizen Association requested a donation. A motion was made and approved for the Club to donate \$200 to the Association, as it has traditionally done on an annual basis.

2015 Officers Slate and Board of Directors: Steve Dover reminded that the 2015 Officers election would take place at the general meeting. Jette Sorensen informed she needed qualified volunteers to fill two Board of Directors positions; Bruce Mensinger and Ana Maria Guimaraes were appointed.

New Business:

Rick and Mary Ellen Shaffer demonstrated the new microphone and speaker system purchased for the Club's use in meetings and events. A discussion followed on the best place to store it.

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Exec Meeting cont...

Jette Sorensen informed that the monthly rent of the software used to publish the Club's web pages and The Nugget would increase from \$25 to \$50 beginning December and that she had been personally incurring the cost. A motion was made and approved for the Club to pay for 50% of the monthly fee (\$300/year). Meanwhile, Ms. Sorensen committed to looking into options for nonprofit organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

Submitted by Ana Maria Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary

### MINUTES OF THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING NOVEMBER 10TH

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm, the pledge of allegiance was held and a quorum was established.

Five guests were introduced.

The October general meeting minutes published in the November Nugget were approved as read.

Mary Ellen Shaffer announced that the Club's holiday party would take place on December 8 at the Culver City Rotary Plaza from 6pm to 9pm, with dinner served at 6:30pm. She informed that the Club would provide turkey, ham and soft drinks (alcohol not allowed) and members were welcome to bring side dishes and dessert. A white elephant gift exchange would also take place. Bruce Mensinger reminded that guests should use street parking, as parking in the facilities was private.

Jette Sorensen informed that the monthly rent of the software used to publish the Club's web pages and The Nugget would increase from \$25 to \$50 beginning December and that she had been personally incurring the cost. A motion was made and approved for the Club to pay for 50% of the increased monthly fee (\$300/year). Meanwhile, Ms. Sorensen committed to looking into alternate options.

Jette Sorensen presented the 2015 Officers Slate for

election. The following were nominated and unanimously elected:

- President – Darrell Robb
- Vice President – Jette Sorensen
- Treasurer – Franne Einberg
- Recording Secretary – Ana Maria S. Guimaraes
- Corresponding Secretary – Jan Ferguson
- Historian – Bruce Mensinger
- Parliamentarian – Ellen Moe

Ana Maria Guimaraes solicited a volunteer to take minutes on her behalf in case she could not attend a meeting in 2015.

Bruce Mensinger solicited a volunteer to help organize the Club's records and make an album of the Club's photos taken in the year. Interested parties were asked to contact them.

Charlene Aspray informed that the January speaker would be announced in The Nugget and in February the Club would hold a silent auction.

A break was taken at 7:56pm and a raffle was held before the meeting resumed for the November Program.

Submitted by Ana Maria Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary

### PROGRAM REPORT NOVEMBER 10TH

Charlene Aspray introduced the November guest speaker, Aaron Miller, an importer and supplier of Moroccan minerals and fossils to businesses around the world since 2004.

Mr. Miller recently returned from one of his many trips to Morocco and shared his extensive experience in travelling and obtaining mineral and fossil specimens in that country.

Mr. Miller explained the geography and geology surrounding three main mine localities in Morocco, which produce a variety of fossils and

Continued page 7

Program Report cont...

minerals. Three families work the quarries, extracting and selling materials to traders who then distribute them around the world.

Mr. Miller played several interesting videos that showed how fossils and minerals are manually extracted (machinery is rarely available) and prepared by these families. Although work conditions are improving, workers still operate under unsafe and unhealthy circumstances. They also have no knowledge and know-how about extracting fossil specimens properly.

Mr. Miller also made insightful observations about the fossil market, contrasting sophisticated European buyers to less demanding and knowledgeable US buyers. He emphasized it was critical to know the seller to avoid inadvertently purchasing fake or heavily restored specimens, which are abundant in the US market.

Mr. Miller brought astonishing fossil and mineral specimens from his collection to illustrate his presentation and generously answered several questions from the audience.

Submitted by Ana Maria Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary

### UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

#### Filigree Pendant

Who: Brad Smith <brad@greenheart.com>

What: Filigree Pendant

When: Saturday, December 13th, 2014

Where: Boy Scout House next to club shop

Time: Noon - 5:00pm

Price: CCRMC Members: \$65 - Non-Members \$75

Class Description:

Learn how to make Sterling silver filigree wire and fashion it into a neat pendant design.

Filigree is best known for its repeating patterns with the look of pretty lace. Working with it is an



a

easy way to start to learn jewelry-making. The class will introduce you to many of the basic jewelry skills including simple soldering. All tools and silver wire will be provided.

To reserve a spot at the workshop, contact Brad directly at [brad@greenheart.com](mailto:brad@greenheart.com)

### NEW MEMBERS

Liese Auffer  
Eric Senchuk  
Kodiak Starkey  
Robert Willett

## Welcome

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Joshua Corey - 12/1      Edmondo Corone - 12/11  
Julia McCarty - 12/1      Robert Willett 12/3  
Thalia Johnson - 12/4      Max Hippensteel 12/5  
Virginia Hollis - 12/6      Brian Lallement - 12/7  
Damon Pressman 12/7      Yvette Trinh 12/9  
Ellen Moe 12/10      Barbara Shaffer 12/10  
Lucia Pasquinelli 12/13      Rosemary Ihde 12/14  
Sandy Detweiler 12/17      Jo Baxter 12/28

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### UPCOMING SHOWS

December 6 - 7: BARSTOW, CA  
Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society  
Cora Harper Community Center  
841 Barstow Road (North of I-15)  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Vivian Watts  
Email: [vivlea22@yahoo.com](mailto:vivlea22@yahoo.com)

December 12 - 14: RIALTO, CA  
Orange Belt Mineralogical Society  
Across Street from Rialto City Hall  
105 South Palm Avenue  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3  
Contact: Ken Gard or Jessica, (909) 887-5507  
- Shop (909) 381-0089  
Website: [OBMSrocks.yolasite.com](http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com)

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 - Co-Chairs Barbara Fier,  
 Jan Ferguson, Jette Sorensen  
 Publicity: Janice Metz  
 Show - Brad Smith  
 Shop Committee (President, Vice President,  
 committee members)  
 Social - Mary Ellen Shaffer  
 Co-Chair Grace Sato  
 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)

Phone: (310) 836-4611  
 Snail Mail address: P.O. Box 3324  
 Culver City, CA 90231  
 Web page: [culvercityrocks.org](http://culvercityrocks.org)  
 FaceBook: [facebook.com/CCRMC](https://www.facebook.com/CCRMC)  
 Twitter: [twitter.com/culvercityrocks](https://twitter.com/culvercityrocks)  
 Yahoo Group: [groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ccrhc/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ccrhc/info)

## 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. Check the club's website for the current schedule.

## DUES & FEES

One time Initiation Fees:	Current	a/o 1/1/15
Individuals	\$20.00	\$20.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$25.00	\$35.00
Juniors	\$15.00	\$15.00
Yearly Membership Dues:		
Individuals	\$25.00	\$25.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$35.00	\$35.00
Juniors	\$10.00	\$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 to CCRMC Nugget Editor, P.O. Box 3324 Culver City, CA 90231



# the NUGGET

VOLUME 55

ISSUE 12

2014

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL



CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

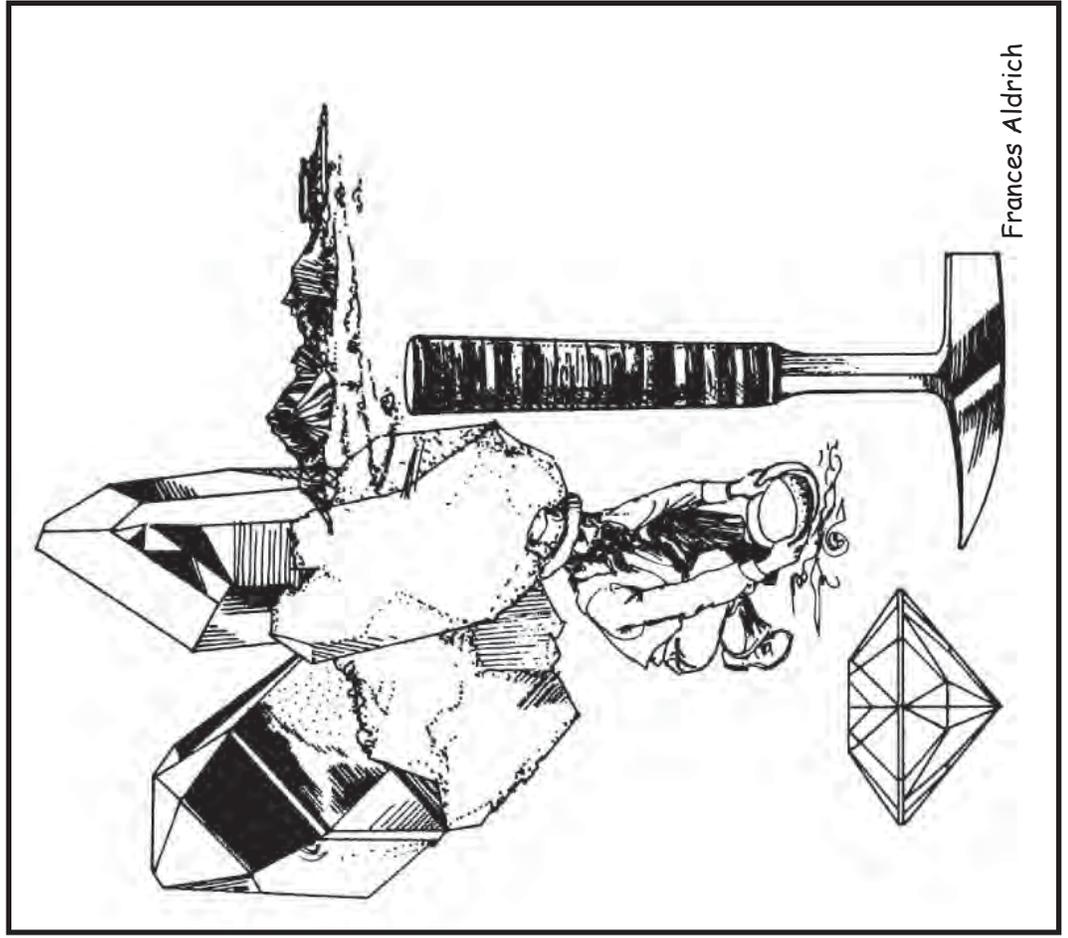
FIRST CLASS

Happy Holidays

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Address Change Requested

The Nugget  
P.O. Box 3324  
Culver City, CA 90231



Frances Aldrich