

# the NUGGET

SEPTEMBER 2017

[www.culvercityrocks.org](http://www.culvercityrocks.org)

Visitors Welcome

## 'All Things Opal' PROGRAM September 11 7:30 pm

Join us for an evening of All Things Opal with Fran Todd. Not all opals are the precious ones with a lot of flash from Australia and Ethiopia. There are also the common opals that can be found many places, including the USA, most notably in Nevada and Idaho. Fran Todd's lecture covers the scope of opal from common, to precious, to fossils, and basic cutting. She brings with her many hands-on examples of her talking points. She is willing to share with you her mistakes so you can learn from her experiences. Fran has been a member of the American Opal Society for over 15 years and has appreciation for the knowledge gained from the other members.

Fran Todd's love affair with opals started in the late 1970's. She had started taking classes at South Bay Lapidary in

Torrance,

CA from Art Cohee. Art was a rock-hound, lapidary and all around knowledgeable about all things jewelry. Her first cabochon was a tiger's eye, then carnelian and then Coober Pedy opal. From that point until today she is addicted to all things opal.

Fran Todd has extensive experience in pearls and is learning gold recovery and jade cutting. She has financed her opal habit by working in healthcare for four decades and earning degrees. She lives with her husband Steve, a faceter. They have two daughters, a dog, four cats, and four horses.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow Club members and rock hounds.

There is always a tinge of sadness to see the summer almost over, but knowing the cooler weather is soon upon us, many autumn adventures await.

We, Ana and I, are planning to visit the annual show at Searles Lake this year. It has been high on the bucket list for years, and from what other Club members have reported, it is one of those places relatively close by that is like no other in the country, if not the world. Many rock hounds say it is one of those plac-



Muddy Trona crystals, and the same after a little rinse

es you have to see at least once in your life. We are studying up on the many evaporative minerals found throughout the region and are planning to attend many of the side field trips the show offers the weekend of October 14 and 15. We hope to see many Club members and friends in Trona this year. Details of the various local field trips as well as scheduled tour times of the Searles Valley Minerals' plants can be found at [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/FLYER.htm](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/FLYER.htm) (Follow the many other links for the full story of the Searles Valley and why this is one of only two places in the world where several of these evaporative minerals are found.)

We did a whirlwind road trip up to the centerline of the eclipse through central Oregon on August 21 and are still recovering. The eclipse event was almost ephemeral in its brevity, but even the many miles up and back haven't diminished the awe of complete

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Opal jewelry from Fran Todd's collection

President's Message continued  
totality.

What an experience! If you missed this one, we'll



have a chance in 2024 from south central Mexico through Texas, Arkansas and sweeping up through Maine. Check out Xavier Jubier's free eclipse path maps for incredible detail, [http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site\\_pages/solar\\_eclipses/TSE\\_2024\\_GoogleMapFull.html?Lat=23.48340&Lng=-92.76855&Zoom=5&LC=1](http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TSE_2024_GoogleMapFull.html?Lat=23.48340&Lng=-92.76855&Zoom=5&LC=1). If you poke around you'll also find the next total eclipse is in Chile and Argentina in 2019. See you there?

I hope everyone had a great summer-- see you all at the next club meeting September 11 in the Multipurpose Room at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Darrell Robb  
Club President

PS: In addition to protective eye wear proper viewing attire required: Ana Maria and our four-legged family member:



Other members also went to "Ground Zero" here are three we know of:



DJ Gervais, Janelle Williams



Barbara Fier

## WORKSHOPS

### BEGINNING LAPIDARY WORKSHOPS

Next ones scheduled are September 10 and September 24.

The workshops are from 9 am to Noon. Each workshop is limited to three students who must be Club members. The price is \$20 per student and includes all materials.

Participants will leave with an oval cabochon they have sawed, shaped, polished and high-polished themselves. They will be shown the proper use of the Shop equipment and earn the knowledge to make their own creations in the future.

Students should wear short-sleeved old t-shirts, old jeans and closed-toed shoes and long hair tied back.



Anneli, Lori and Andrea



Andrea

Regular shop fees apply beginning at Noon if students want to stay after the workshop.

Reserve a spot by sending an email to: [workshops@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:workshops@culvercityrocks.org). Instructions on payment will be emailed back. Reservations are guaranteed if payment is received by the Thursday before the workshop.

### Mining Supplies & Rock Shop

[miningsuppliesandrockshop.com](http://miningsuppliesandrockshop.com)

9565 "C" Ave. Ste. K, Hesperia, CA 92345

760-244-9642



Wed - Sat 10 am - 4 pm

Mining Equipment  
Lapidary Equipment  
Rough Rock & Slabs  
Fossils  
Jewelry Making Supplies

Classes & Field Trips  
Metal Detectors  
Beading Supplies  
Hand-Made Jewelry  
Gifts, Books & Magazines

## SHOP NEWS

Brad Smith has joined the Shop Committee as the Thursday “by appointment” instructor.

Most of you know Brad. He brings an immense amount of expertise in many areas. First, he has been a member of CCRMC for many years, has held many different positions, including President, and is currently the Membership Chair. Secondly, he has been teaching jewelry and lapidary for many years through the LAUSD and is currently teaching jewelry through the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Adult Education. Due to construction at the Adult Education Center, school is out for the time being for Brad, and that is to our advantage.

Brad will be available most Thursdays. Appointments should be requested in advance by sending an email to [shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org). Requests should be made no later than 6 pm on Wednesday.

If you haven't emailed, you can call the shop at (310) 836-4611 between 10:00 am and 10:30 am Thursday so see if Brad is there. Same goes for Wednesdays with Vern Lowe.

## AUGUST PROGRAM REPORT INEXPENSIVE SAND CASTING

Club member Brad Smith, a well-known jewelry maker, teacher and author, explained the Delft sand casting process. He indicated that, while the lost-wax casting technique is the mainstay of the jewelry industry, it is complex, expensive and time consuming. In contrast, the Delft sand casting technique allow a home-based jeweler to quickly create 3-D shapes with minimal equipment.

Brad began by introducing the materials needed to perform the technique: Delft sand, a hammer, two rings, a tray, a knife, and a toothpick or wire. He cautioned that the technique only worked with models that could be removed from the sand without disturbing it.

He proceeded to demonstrate the technique, producing a couple of pieces using molds made of Delft

sand. First, he filled one of the rings with the sand, compacting it well with the hammer to make the first



Preparing a Delft casting mold

half of the mold. He then pressed the model half way into the sand and spread talc on the surface of the mold. Next, he placed the second ring on top of the first one, filled it with sand and pounded it with the hammer to compact it, completing the second half of the mold. He then separated the two halves

of the mold and removed the model. With the knife, Brad made a funnel on one of the halves of the model, so that the sprue reached the mold. With the help of a toothpick or wire, he made vents to allow air to



escape while metal was poured in. Finally, Brad put the two halves of the mold together and poured melted metal into the cavity through the funnel. Once the metal had solidified, he opened the mold and removed the piece.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Harris  
Tommy Kelly  
Chuck Lawrence  
Mandy Sommers

Jeffrey Chiu's name was misspelled in the August issue

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Patrice Fisher Aug 7  
Mary Stambaugh Aug 9  
Victor Rachootin Aug 11  
Franne Einberg Aug 24

## **EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES August 14**

Those present: Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Franne Einberg, Jan Ferguson, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria S. Guimaraes, Johnny Hjorth, Alexa Hunter, Hellena Jones-Elbling, Bruce Mensinger, Janice Metz, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Grace Sato, Brad Smith, and Jette Sorensen.

The meeting called to order by President Darrell Robb at 6:42 pm.

The June and July Executive Meeting Minutes were approved as read in the August Nugget.

Darrell Robb announced that there was a party planned for John Riordan's 90th birthday. It was decided that the Club would give him a gift.

Show Report - Darrell Robb informed he had sent the City a written request to reserve the auditorium for the same weekend for the show next year. A discussion followed about suitability of the dates given proximity to the 4th of July holiday. Hellena Jones-Elbling scheduled a show debriefing meeting on August 26. Ken Rogers volunteered to notify winners of raffle prizes that had not yet been delivered.

Social Report - Steve Dover informed that the Club had received great donations of specimens for the silent auction taking place at the upcoming picnic. Jette Sorensen indicated a large quantity and variety of beads had also been donated and would be sold, separately from the auction, during the picnic.

Treasurer Report - Franne Einberg informed the Club had received a notice about available mining claims for sale. She provided updated financials for the Club and pointed out that the basic phone service had increased significantly. It was decided that alternatives for a better phone plan were to be identified and brought for discussion in the next meeting.

Field Trip Report - Brad Smith suggested that the Club organize a visit to the UCLA Meteorite Gallery.

Program Report - Ken Rogers informed that the September program would be about opals and the

November program would be about meteorites. He asked for suggestions for the October program.

Publications - Jan Ferguson informed she would submit invoices for the publication software licenses purchased. She also asked that materials for publication on the Nugget be submitted by the 20th of the month. This would allow the Nugget to be published at least one week prior to the meeting as required by the Bylaws.

Membership Report - Hellena Jones-Elbling suggested establishing a Paypal or Square account to collect membership dues. It was determined that further research on the topic would be conducted and brought for discussion at the next meeting.

Correspondence Report - it was decided that Corresponding Secretary Jan Ferguson would be in charge of reviewing phone messages and returning calls made to the Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary

## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES August 14**

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 pm by President Darrell Robb.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made and a quorum was established.

Six visitors were introduced.

The June and July General Meeting Minutes were approved as read in the August Nugget.

Darrell Robb announced that there was a party planned for John Riordan's 90th birthday and that a gift would be given to him on behalf of the Club.

Mr. Robb informed that all pending Club income and expenses must be submitted by September 1 in order for the Club to meet State requirements.

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General Meeting Minutes continued

Mr. Robb reminded members of the upcoming picnic and informed that, in addition to the silent auction, there would be a variety of beads for sale during the picnic. Steve Dover explained that the Club would provide hotdogs and hamburgers while members could bring side dishes and non-alcoholic beverages.

Mr. Robb assessed the membership's interest in a field trip to the UCLA Meteorite Gallery and to the Himalaya tourmaline mine in San Diego.

Hellena Jones-Elbling thanked volunteers and committee members for their contributions to a very successful show. She also indicated that the Club would increase word about the show via social media, given the great success Facebook had had in disseminating show information and attracting visitors this year.

Darrell Robb informed that there would be a trading post that evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary

## SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER SHOWS

September 23 - 24: LODI, CA  
Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club  
Lodi Grape Festival Grounds  
413 East Lockford Street  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Jerold Kyle, (209) 368-9411  
Email: jeroldkyle@yahoo.com  
Website: www.stocktonlapidary.com

September 23 - 24: MONTEREY, CA  
Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds  
2004 Fairgrounds Road  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Janis Rovetti, (831) 372-1311  
Email: janis12@sbcglobal.net  
Website: www.cvgms.org

September 23 - 24: REDWOOD CITY, CA  
Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society  
Community Activities Building  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: William Spence, (408) 398-7502  
Email: bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net  
Website: www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org

## OCTOBER

October 7 - 8: BORON, CA  
Mojave Mineralogical Society  
Boron Community Center  
26998 John Street  
Hours: 9 - 4 daily  
Contact: Bruce Davies, (760) 338-8829  
Email: daviesb@yahoo.com  
Web Site: Facebook page

October 7 - 8: GRASS VALLEY, CA  
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
Nevada County Fairgrounds  
11228 McCourtney Road  
Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Anita Wald-Tuttle, (530) 277-6195  
Email: anitaw1t3@gmail.com  
Website: www.ncgms.org

October 7 - 8: VISTA, CA  
Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue  
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
Contact: Kelly Hickman, (760) 639-0447  
Email: kellyhickman@hotmail.com  
Website: www.vistarocks.org

October 8: FALLBROOK, CA  
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Building  
123 West Alvarado Street  
Hours: 9 - 4  
Contact: Janice Bricker, (760) 728-1130  
Email: fgms@sbcglobal.net  
Website: www.fgms.org

Go to [CulverCityRocks.org](http://CulverCityRocks.org)  
for the latest Workshops, Field Trips,  
Shop Closures and other information

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.....[culvercityrocks.org](http://culvercityrocks.org)

### Elected Officers for 2017

President - Darrell Robb  
Vice President - Steve Dover  
Treasurer - Franne Einberg  
Recording Secretary - Ana Maria Guimaraes  
Corresponding Secretary - Jan Ferguson  
Historian - Bruce Mensinger  
Parliamentarian - Johnny Hjorth

### Committee Chairs:

Education - Alexa Hunter  
Federation Director - Rick Shaffer  
Field Trips - Hans Baumann  
Librarian - Bruce Mensinger  
Membership - Brad Smith  
Co-Chair - Stephanie Dangott  
Minerals - Eyra Allen-Lucas  
Photography - Bruce Mensinger  
Programs - Ken Rogers  
Publications - Co-Chairs - Barbara Fier,  
Jan Ferguson, Jette Sorensen  
Publicity - Janice Metz  
Show - Hellena Jones-Elbling  
Shop Committee - President,  
Vice President, Shop Instructors  
Social - Grace Sato  
Co-Chair - Joyce Watanabe  
Sunshine - Felice Ganz  
Trading Post - Gary Mitchell  
Web Master - Jette Sorensen  
Workshops - Jette Sorensen

### Board of Directors:

(2017) Bruce Mensinger - Ana Maria Guimaraes  
(2018) Rick Shaffer - Jette Sorensen  
(2019) Brad Smith - Grace Sato

**Contact Us:** (310) 836-4611  
P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231

[culvercityrocks.org](http://culvercityrocks.org)  
[facebook.com/CCRMCM](https://facebook.com/CCRMCM)  
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[twitter.com/culvercityrocks](https://twitter.com/culvercityrocks)  
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CCRMCM/info>

### MEETING SCHEDULE

General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month\* at 7:30 pm, usually in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg., 4117 Overland Ave.\* Enter from the rear door.

\*Consult the Nugget or the website for occasional location changes

Guests are always welcome.

Executive Committee Meetings are held the second Monday of every month\* at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg. Auditorium. All Club members are welcome.

\*Meeting days occasionally change due to federal holidays or to accommodate the Fiesta Of Gems Show.

### DUES & FEES

#### One time Initiation Fees:

Individuals	\$20.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$35.00
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.)

Replacement badge \$15.00

### SHOP INFORMATION

The shop is open to 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 FOCCSH building (Boy Scout clubhouse) and next to the paddle tennis courts)

Shop Phone: (310) 836-4611

Hours:

Tuesday 7 pm – 9:30 pm - Rick Shaffer

Wednesday 10 am – 2 pm - By appointment,  
email: [shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org)

Thursday 10 am – 2 pm - Brad Smith

Saturday Noon – 4 pm - Lynne Lukert

Sunday Noon – 4 pm - Jette Sorensen

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 at (310) 836-4611

### The Nugget

The deadline for submissions is 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. 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 Culver City Rock and Mineral Club, P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231, Attention: Editor.



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CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

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CR&MC

CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

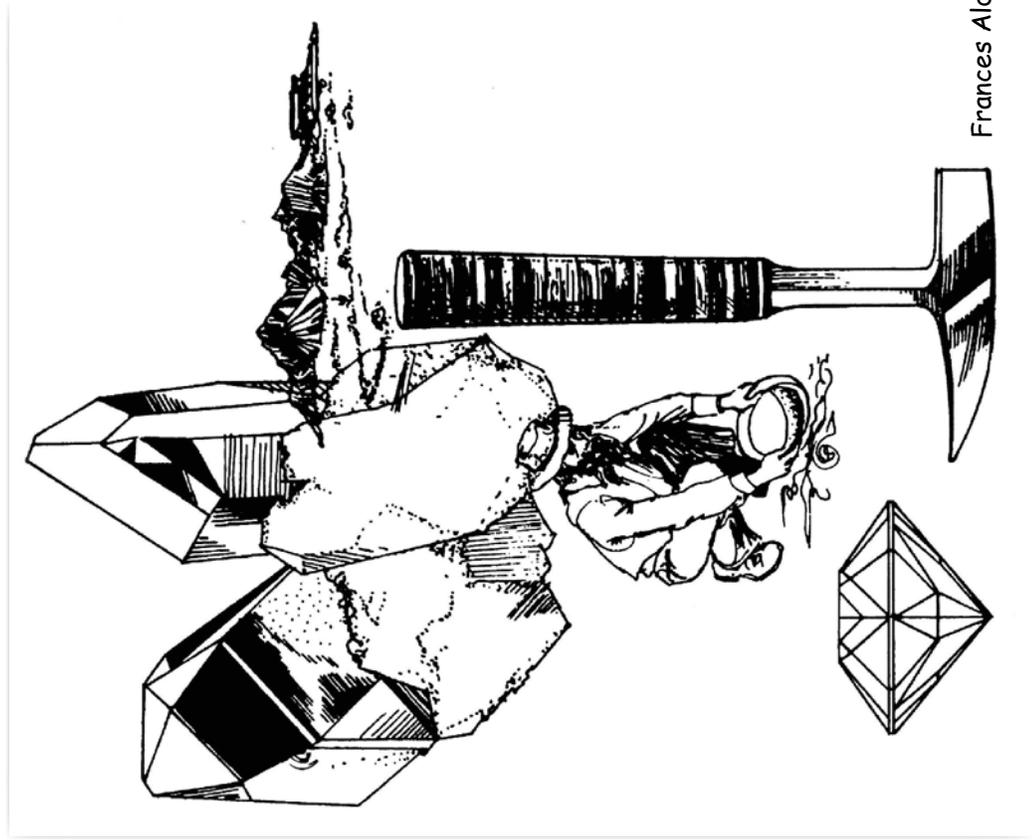
**FIRST CLASS**



Address Change Requested

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

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, INC



Frances Aldrich