



The CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, located in Culver City, California, brings together persons interested in the earth sciences to engage in research and study, to assist members in the collection and preservation of rocks and minerals and in the study of lapidary and related arts.



December Virtual Program: Learn Inlay Jewelry

Since, this year, our Holiday dinner and "white elephant" exchange had to be canceled, we are delighted to welcome artist Jeff Fulkerson. Join us on Monday, December 14 @ 7pm in our Zoom room for our membership meeting as he discusses different inlay techniques, their application, equipment needed, and stone selection.

Jeff Fulkerson, M.A., is an award-winning artist (<https://artistjefffulkerson.com/>). He has been creating stunning, imaginative jewelry for over 40 years. A contributing artist to *Lapidary Journal/Jewelry Artist Magazine*, his work has also been featured in *Art Jewelry Magazine*, *Rock & Gem Magazine*, *the Tucson Show Guide*, and *Step by Step Wire*.

Jeff has produced several instructional videos including "Beginning Inlay". His Silversmithing Video Library offers jewelry artists of all levels the opportunity to learn and improve their skills. Jeff is the inventor of the Steady Stamp™ and the Fast Flare Forming Disks (pat. pend.) for making spinner bangles.

He has taught at Bead Fest, Bead & Button Show, Art Retreat in the Desert, Art Unraveled, the San Diego Museum of Man, and several private studios and bead shops across the country. A self-taught silversmith with a background in construction and design, he counts himself fortunate to have studied with many great Native American artists in the last few years, most notably, Richard Tsosie, Navajo, Jesse Monogya, Hopi/Navajo and Michael Cheatham, Cherokee. "It's very satisfying to help others grow in their gifts and talents."



Submitted by
Ken Rogers
Programs Chair



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CFMS
AFMS



a message from the

PRESIDENT

With the third wave of the Corona Virus now hitting our area heavily, Stay-Safe orders have been reimposed and our attempts to offer even a small amount of shop time have been shelved. Who would have thought this time last year that our lives could be changed so severely? But like a business in the medical and shopping sectors, our Club has been lucky to find the needed resources to smoothly transition our activities online.

We've not missed a beat. We've presented the last seven meetings via Zoom. Members have stepped forward to show us how to use the program, we've learned how to host a meeting with it, and we've found fresh speakers with some spectacular presentations that members can enjoy from the safety of home.

And looking into the crystal ball for 2021 (a nice piece of quartz by the way) I'd say we're going to be Zooming it for a number of months to come, perhaps even summer. Culver City is not even talking about the possibility of opening up the Veterans complex for in-person meetings or events in the auditorium.

Safe holidays to all,

Brad

Brad Smith
President

Upcoming Activities

- December 14 – General Meeting & Inlay Jewelry
- December 28 – Executive Meeting
- January 01 – 2021 CCRMC Membership Fees Due
- January 11 – General Meeting & January Program
- January 25 – Executive Meeting
- February 08 – General Meeting & January Program
- February 22 – Executive Meeting

General Meetings on Zoom

As we continue to navigate through the "Safer at Home Orders" all meetings will be held via video conferencing.

General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at **7:00 PM on Zoom** until it is safe to resume in person meetings.

Join the Zoom meeting by clicking here:
<https://zoom.us/j/3108364611?pwd=WnRTclZTS3RJMEdWdIV2c01mQWxqdz09>

Meeting ID: 310 836 4611

Password: rocks

Guests are always welcomed to join us.

A Geologic Tour of Australia

Retired geologists Mary Pat and Dick Weber provided a geologic tour of Australia. They described multiple iconic features scattered around the country, which they explored at length in their one year tour of Australia in 2008-2009. Among them are:

-Ayers Rock (aka Uluru), is a large sandstone formation in a remote area of the Northern Territory. Its surface looks smooth from afar, but it reveals interesting patterns on approach. The feldspar rock on the surface has an iron patina that gives it its red tone.



-Olgas Range (aka Kata Tjuta), near the Uluru, is a group of large domed rocks consisting of granite, basalt and other types of rocks, cemented by a matrix of sandstone. The region receives a fair amount of rain, so there is vegetation. Because the rocks collect water, they are a focal point of aboriginal people.

-Bungle Bungle Range, in Western Australia, are beehive-shaped formations that stand 800-1000 feet tall and extend to 170 miles. The rock comprises of limestones, dolomites and sandstones, in an orange and dark grey banding pattern. The darker layers are colonies of cyanobacteria attracted to moisture trapped in the rock.



-Great Ocean Road, extends 150 miles along

the coast of South Australia and traverses cliffs composed of limestone and sandstone. Due to ocean action, the coast is eroding fast, at a rate of more than an inch per year. The erosion has caused interesting stone pillar formations that continue to be reshaped by the constant ocean pounding, eventually falling over and quickly eroding away.



-Wave Rock, in Western Australia, is a granitic formation about 50 feet high and 350 feet long and resembles an ocean wave. It was not formed by physical erosion, but rather chemical weathering around the base by groundwater.



-Kangaroo Island, in South Australia, has house size pieces of granite, such as the Remarkable Rocks. The area was severely impacted by the recent fires.

-Devils Marbles is a conservation reserve in the Northern Territory, featuring large round granite boulders that split in two halves due to a thermal reaction, in which the outside temperature is much

A Geologic Tour of Australia *con't*

higher than the temperature inside the rock.



-Undara Volcano National Park is located in Queensland and contains the longest lava tube in Australia. The tubes can be seen from the surface because their surface is covered by darker vegetation due to more moisture trapped in the rock. The tubes are huge inside, with spectacular colorations and patterns in the ceiling.



-Organ Pipes National Park, in the Victoria region, contain a formation of vertical hexagonal basalt columns resembling organ pipes. Another interesting formation in the area is the Rosette rock, a radial array of basalt rocks.

-China Wall, in Western Australia, is a quartz formation with embedded gold.

-Fraser Island, near Brisbane, is the largest sand island in the world, featuring dunes and fresh water lakes.

-Horizontal Waterfalls, in Western Australia, are formed when the ocean tide causes water to pour

horizontally between two narrow rock formations, as a result of seawater building up faster on one side of the gaps than the other.

-Various fossil sites and rare fossil formations, featuring stromatolites, thrombolites, dinosaur fossils and fossilized footprints, fossils of turtles, birds, marsupial lions, and megafauna fossils.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46PM.

Submitted by
Ana M. Strambi Guimaraes
Recording Secretary



Hammersley Gorge



Stromatolites an Shark Bay

A 'sapphire rush' has sent at least 45,000 miners into Madagascar's rain forests

The rainforests of Didy in eastern Madagascar usually ring with the calls of the indri, the island's largest lemur. There is a different noise now: the chopping of trees, digging of gravel, and cheers of encouragement from the thousands of illegal miners who have flooded to these forests since sapphires were discovered in late September.

Bemainty, an area in the west of Didy, is experiencing a sapphire rush. Rosey Perkins, a gemologist, visited soon after the rush began in October. She estimated 45,000 people were already involved and that the mine was growing by 1,500 to 2,000 people a day. By now it may be significantly bigger. She told me:

These gem deposits are found in the gravels of ancient river beds. Some are unusually large and have an attractive blue colour; there have been some phenomenal finds which are drawing in traders from as far away as Sri Lanka.



A blue sapphire found at the 'rush' site in October 2016. Rosey Perkins

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. People are desperate for any new income sources and will understandably travel to wherever they see an opportunity. The discovery of precious stones has led to rapid development in a number of parts of the country.

Particular challenges are raised when the stones are discovered in areas of importance for conservation, as with the latest find which is in a protected area:

the Corridor Ankeniheny Zahamena (or CAZ). Herintsitohaina Razakamanarivo, a professor of forestry and soil sciences at the University of Antananarivo, said:

These forests really matter for their world famous biodiversity, for their contribution to avoiding climate change and of course they also contribute to local livelihoods and are culturally important.

The mining involves removing the trees so that the gem-rich gravels can be dug up and sieved to find the precious stones. There are also concerns that the miners will increase bushmeat harvesting, which is already a growing threat to lemurs and other wildlife in much of Madagascar.

However, the impact of a sudden influx of thousands of people is not simply a conservation issue. This is an example of how the agenda of conservationists and those of local people could be aligned.

I spoke to Tokihenintsoa Andrianjohaninarivo from Conservation International Madagascar, the NGO responsible for managing the protected area. She explained how previous sapphire rushes caused local people who live in these forests to suffer:

Insecurity increases, the cost of living rises, and the education of a generation of kids may be damaged as schools close. Water becomes polluted as there are suddenly thousands of new people living in an area with no sanitation facilities.

As the latest mine continues to grow, conditions appear to be getting worse. I have spoken to a friend from the area who does not want to be named, but who tells me of deaths from disease and violent conflict. There are also reports of rapes, including a shocking case which allegedly resulted in a girl's death. (It should be noted that these claims are anecdotal and haven't been verified.)

Artisanal mining in Madagascar is a significant industry and the country may be one of the largest

producers of precious stones in the world. The vast majority of the trade is illegal, however, with no tax paid on the exports.

There have been repeated calls to bring this profitable business out of the shadows so it can contribute to national development. Many people from the region are seeing the benefits though – the mayor of Didy has been on local television to argue in favour of the mining. And rumours persist that powerful individuals profit from the illicit nature of the trade. Andrianjohaninarivo told me that the conservation managers of the site had a meeting with key officials from the government in November and that an action plan has been made. Professor Razakamanarivo emphasises the urgency of a response: “Much of the harm already caused by this sudden sapphire rush may well be irreversible. The miners need to leave the forest before more damage is done.”

The rush going on right now in Bemainty is only the last of a series which have occurred in protected areas in Madagascar in recent years. In 2012, thousands of miners invaded another part of the Didy forest but were eventually moved on by government agents. In 2015, a similar rush occurred in Zahamena National Park, slightly to the north.

Shiny stones have been buried under Madagascar’s incredible rainforests for millions of years. Miners and traders seeking to capitalise on the value of these gems are placing enormous pressure on the island’s landscape and wildlife, and it remains to be seen whether these areas can be protected in the longer term.

As a conservation scientist I am hugely concerned about the threat to the forest from this sapphire rush. But the most urgent need right now is to bring the area under control, before more people die.

Jones, J. (November 21, 2016). A ‘sapphire rush’ has sent at least 45,000 miners into Madagascar’s protected rainforests. [Article] <https://theconversation.com/a-sapphire-rush-has-sent-at-least-45-000-miners-into-madagascars-protected-rainforests-69164>

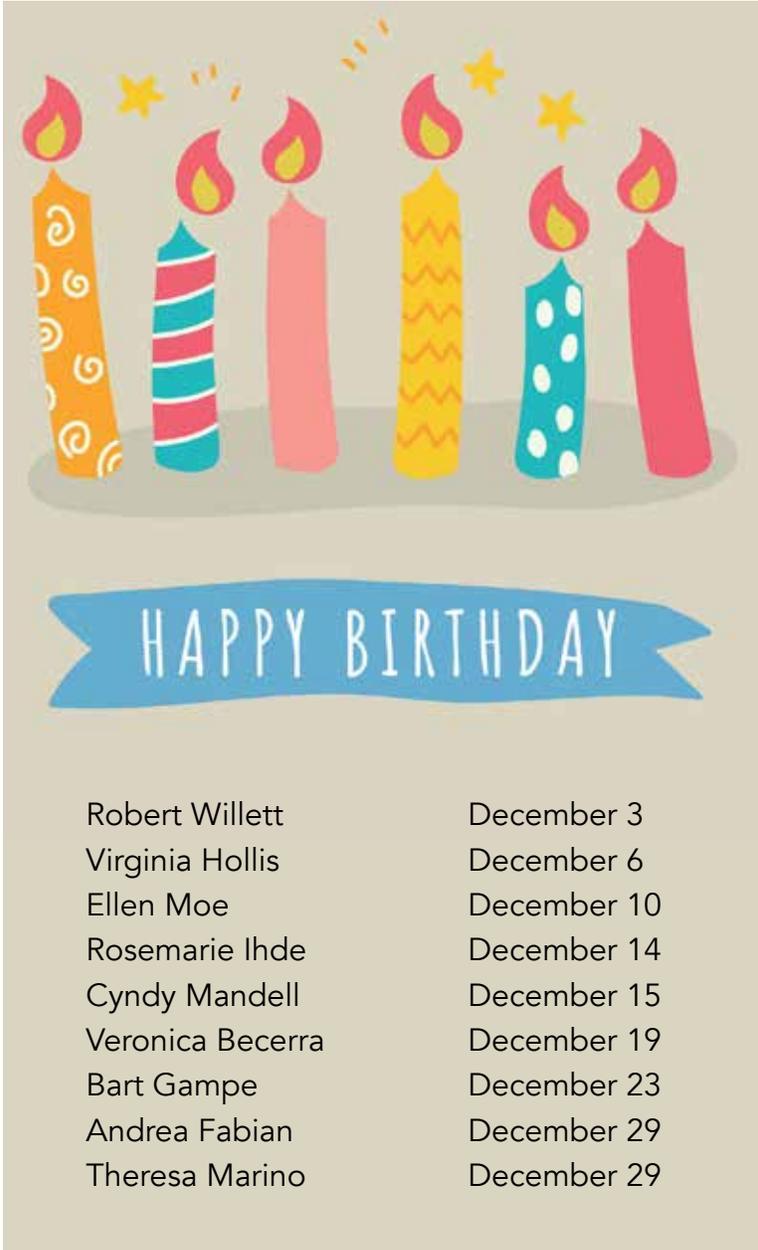
Submitted by
Devon Lloyd
Minerals Chair

The Lapidary Shop is Closed

We are disappointed to announce that the Shop will be closed again, pending further guidance from the City of Culver City.

Our Club continues to cooperate with the City of Culver City, who is continuing to cooperate with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to respond to the spread of Covid-19 in Los Angeles County.

As soon as we are able to, we will re-open the Shop and will modify rules, if necessary to ensure that we are keeping our members safe. Thank you for your patience as we all navigate the Safer at Home Order.



CCRMC Membership Dues

CCRMC is alive and well. We still get together every second Monday of the month, with perfect social distancing in a place where no mask is required, your own house. The last in-person meeting was in March, and not missing a beat, we were up and running on Zoom for the April meeting. We have had terrific presentations by familiar folks like the Weber's, Lombardo and Smith and by new presenters like Terry Wilson who treated us to Magical Obsidian, and Charlene Aspray who demonstrated intriguing ways to manipulate metals into higher dimensional shapes.

As a result of the pandemic, many people who used to teach jewelry making and lapidary classes have turned to show their skills and knowledge in front of a camera. We are in touch with several to see if we will be a mutual fit for a presentation. We are also exploring ways of having silent auctions and other fun stuff via Zoom.

The Lapidary Shop had been open on a limited basis for several weeks. However, at the end of November, we once again had to close the door due to a state and local government mandate resulting from the increase of Covid-19 infections in the Los Angeles area. When restrictions ease up we will open again with a new reservation system we have set up through the Club website. More on this in the January issue.

We are naturally looking forward to the day where we can have our annual show, in-person meetings, picnics, auctions, and parties, but CCRMC hasn't come to a stop due to Covid-19 and we are exploring more ways to remain a Club you want to belong to.

Membership fees for 2021 are due in January. A Membership Application for renewal will be attached to the January issue of the Nugget. Please fill that in and send it with your check to the P.O. Box listed on the form. If membership is not renewed by March 8, 2021, you will no longer be able to use the Shop or receive the Nugget.

Submitted by
Jette Sorensen
Member Chair

*Happy
Holidays!*

Announcing our 2021 Slate of Officers and Committee Chairs

2021 ELECTED OFFICERS

President – Brad Smith
Vice President – Steve Dover
Treasurer – Darrell Robb
Recording Secretary – Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes
Corresponding Secretary – Véronique Gautherot
Parliamentarian – Jon P. Gowling

2021 APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education – Alexa Hunter & Karen Wallen
Federation Director – Rick Shaffer
Field Trips – Devon Lloyd
Historian – Virginia Hollis
Librarian – Andrea Fabian
Membership – Jette Sorensen
Membership Co-Chair – Stephanie Dangott
Minerals – Devon Lloyd
Photography – Pam Leitner
Programs – Ken Rogers
Publications – Janet Gampe
Publicity – Janice Metz
Shop Committee – President, Vice President &
Shop Instructors
Show – Adrienne Louie
Social – VACANT
Sunshine – VACANT
Trading Post – Gary Mitchell
Webmaster – Jette Sorensen
Workshops – Janice Metz

2021 Board of Directors

Franne Einberg
Gary Mitchell

2022 Board of Directors

Virginia Hollis
Janet Louie

2023 Board of Directors

Adrienne Louie
Jette Sorensen

General Meeting Minutes November 9, 2020

The meeting was called to order by president Brad Smith and a quorum was established.

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

All officers nominated for the 2021 term, as published in the November Nugget, were elected.

Jette Sorensen informed that people that are not receiving The Nugget are members who have not renewed their membership. She explained the membership renewal process.

The business portion of the meeting concluded at 7:26PM and Brad Smith introduced the program speakers, geologists Mary Pat and Dick Weber.

Submitted by
Ana M. Strambi Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

Executive Meeting Minutes November 23, 2020

Those present: Darren Cokin, Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Kent Goodman, Alexa Hunter, Pam Leitner, Janice Metz, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Brad Smith, Jette Sorensen, Ana Strambi Guimaraes, Karen Wallen

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by President Brad Smith.

- Officers discussed multiple improvements to the Shop. Among the items discussed were (1) the replacement of the grinding units and whether replaced units could be sold; (2) whether to remove the flat lap or retain it and employ it as a work bench when not in use; (3) how to maximize space and number of people per station. A motion was approved to authorize two thousand dollars to begin the Shop setup and equipment purchase, and it will be presented at the December General Meeting for approval. The Shop committee will examine the table top conditions to determine what needs to be replaced in addition to acquiring new equipment.

- Darren Cokin demonstrated a mock-up of a web-based sign-up system to use the shop. The following suggestions were made: (1) removing the instructors' email information; rather sending the information when replying to a member's appointment request; (2) paying at reservation time; (3) confirming attendance via a phone call to avoid no-shows; (4) having a calendar showing appointment availability; (5) Promoting more the Shop to the member community to attract new users.

- Ken Rogers informed he was trying to schedule Mike Woodward for the January program. A discussion followed about ideas for the December program, as the Club would not host a virtual holiday party.

- Janice Metz suggested doing a virtual show next year. Officers exchanged experiences they have had attending recent shows and fairs. Steve Dover suggested waiting for the Quartzite and Tucson shows to see how health restrictions are handled. Jette Sorensen reported that Adrienne Louie had researched the Culver City restrictions and found them to be very hard to meet in an outdoor show.

-Officers discussed how to improve Club activities during the pandemic and how to promote them more. Ken Rogers mentioned some clubs were hosting field trips. Jette Sorensen and Darren Cokin committed to researching how to bring a You Tube pre-recorded program for December. Steve Dover said some clubs did a raffle every meeting to boost attendance. Pam Leitner asked if it would be possible for the Club to offer virtual classes. Janice Metz said she would be doing a class in January and that, based on a survey she had done, other demonstrators were interested but were not equipped to host classes via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Submitted by
Ana M. Strambi Guimaraes
Recording Secretary



CFMS News Status of Zzyzx for 2021

Normally the application for Zzyzx are accepted starting November 1 of the previous year. This year is far from normal.

Zzyzx 2020 was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic shortly before we were due to hold classes. The students who had previously registered were given the option of getting their money back, or being guaranteed a position for the next ESS classes. Almost all of them chose to be guaranteed a position in the future, so if there are classes in 2021, there will be no open positions available. There is no Zzyzx application form on the website, nor in the newsletter at this time.

We don't know what the future holds or what the new normal is going to look like. The consortium that manages the facility has not confirmed our reservation at this time, so we are all up in the air. As soon as we have more information we will share it with you.

As published in the November 2020 CFMS Newsletter

Shop Suggestions

Compiled by Bernice D. Schilling - 1975 San Fernando Valley Mineral and Gem Society

Instead of dumping used acid (oxalic, muriatic, etc.) down the drain where it can cause pollution and can damage the plumbing, try the following: Put it in a plastic bucket or earthenware crock (do not use metal) and put in a piece or two of limestone. The limestone will neutralize the acid so that it can safely be dumped almost anywhere.

.... East Bay Nodule

A small hand sander can be made from a safety razor. Remove the old blade and wrap sanding paper around the curved blade holder. Tuck ends under the teeth and tighten the handle. Ideal of sanding small surfaces, especially if they are curved.

.... The Pegmatite

Aluminum pencils will give you a good idea of the hardness of stones. The harder the stone, the fainter the mark it will make. It won't mark a stone harder than 7.

.... The Agatizer

Insurance Discount

The company from which we obtain the general liability insurance gave us a modest reduction in the premium for the coming year. We are passing this along to the clubs as a \$1 reduction in the per person cost. Instead of \$8 due at renewal, the one time per member cost for dues/insurance will be \$7!

*As published in the December 2020 CFMS Newsletter
The Nugget | December 2020*

Upcoming CFMS Shows

Many clubs have canceled or changed their show dates due to Covid-19. At the time of publication, all shows for the month of November have been canceled.

Please check the CFMS website for the most up to date information on upcoming shows.
<https://www.cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>



AFMS News 73rd Annual Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Waving or Reducing Membership Dues - It was proposed in the addendum for AFMS to consider waving the AFMS Dues. Some federations were considering waving fees because members could not attend shows, conventions were not held, etc. The Eastern Federation were waving the Eastern Federation portion of their fees, noting many clubs had already waved local dues for 2021. It was noted that AFMS membership fee is 75cents per member. This would amount to \$40,000 if waived, which would be a huge reduction to the income if we waived the total amount, this is the AFMS's sole source of income. They hopefully anticipate a return to normal expenses in 2021.

Discussion continued with points being brought up to poll the other federations to see what they planned as far as dues, would lowering then again immediately the next year raising the AFMS portion of dues be confusing to the clubs, we could possibly use some of the endowment fund interest, but there were other things that might need to come out of that.

It was suggested that the matter should die for lack of a motion after a long discussion. California Federation Vice President, moved to determine who is interested in reducing or eliminating the fee for this next year. Southeast Federation President, seconded her motion. In discussion the proposal of a special meeting to discuss this was suggested.

After a rather lengthy discussion with no apparent consensus, the motion was retracted. The understanding would be that the incoming president could decide if this needed further consideration.

Summarized as published in the December 2020 AFMS Newsletter

the Nugget - Submissions

Submissions deadline is on the 15th of every month. Articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Photographs without credits are shot by a CCRMC member.

Email submissions to Janet Gampe, Editor: nugget@culvercityrocks.org

the Nugget - Advertisements

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. Ads, copy, or business cards must be received by the 10th of the month.

Send materials to:
Culver City Rock and Mineral Club
Attn: Editor
P.O. Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231

Club General Meetings

Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex
Multipurpose Room
4117 Overland Avenue
Culver City, CA 90230

Lapidary Shop

10866 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90230
The shop is located behind the Scout House.

Mailing Address

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
PO Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231
310-836-4611



Frances Aldrich

2020 Elected Officers

President
Brad Smith

Vice President
Steve Dover

Treasurer
Darrell Robb

Recording Secretary
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

Corresponding Secretary
Véronique Gautherot

Parliamentarian
Jon P. Gowling

Committee Chairs

- Education Chair – Karen Wallen
- Federation Director – Rick Shaffer
- Field Trips – Devon Lloyd
- Historian – Virginia Hollis
- Librarian – Andrea Fabian
- Membership – Stephanie Dangott
- Membership Co-Chair – Laura Seffer
- Minerals – Devon Lloyd
- Photography – Pam Leitner
- Programs – Ken Rogers
- Publications – Janet Gampe
- Publicity – Janice Metz
- Show – Adrienne Louie
- Shop Committee – President, Vice President & Shop Instructors
- Social – VACANT
- Sunshine – Felice Ganz
- Trading Post – Gary Mitchell
- Webmaster – Jette Sorensen
- Workshops – Janice Metz

Board of Directors

2020
Anna Maria Strambi Guimaraes
Bruce Mensinger

2021
Franne Einberg
Gary Mitchell

2022
Virginia Hollis
Janet Louie

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Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.

the Nugget
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MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF THE
CULVER CITY ROCK &
MINERAL CLUB

the NUGGET



Frances Aldrich