



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.

March Virtual Program: Carved Gems – Inspiration and Expertise

Join us on **Monday, March 14 @ 7:30 pm** in our Zoom Room with Helen Serras-Herman (Gem sculptor, sculptor MFA, gemologist FGA) as she shares her journey and passion for art, jewels, and gems.



Helen will share, in a very unique presentation, her journey from sculpture to gem sculpture, her influences and sources for inspiration. While showing examples of her 39-year artwork, she will share how her sculptural art and artistic jewelry have been influenced by her world travels to mines and archaeological sites, and how her southwest environment and the ancient Greek mythology have inspired much of her artwork. Her jewelry collections and individual gem artwork always “tells a story”, often reflected in the choice of rare and unusual gemstones.

Helen will discuss how labor intensive the art of carving gems is and why, the gem materials utilized, and will show step-by-step of the necessary tools for gem carving, in the hopes of inspiring a new generation of gem carvers.

Helen Serras-Herman is an acclaimed gem sculptor. Her award-winning, one-of-a-kind, distinctive artwork has been exhibited world-wide and published in over 300 trade magazines and books.

Born in New York City, Helen lived in Athens, Greece, and studied sculpture (MFA) in Berlin, Germany. She is also a graduate gemologist (FGA) and apprentice to the last master of the English school of Glyptic Arts. In 2003, she was inducted into the National Lapidary Hall of Fame. In 2005, after 18 years in Maryland, Helen and her husband moved to Rio Rico, in Southern Arizona.

Helen is a member of the American Gem Trade Association (AGTA), a Fellow member of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain (FGA), and a member and past President of the Gem Artists of North America (GANA). She is also a frequent article contributor to Rock & Gem magazine, EZ-Guide gem show guides, The GemGuide, and Gems & Jewellery magazine published by Gem-A in London.

Please visit her website at <https://www.gemartcenter.com> and her business Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Gem-Art-Center-Helen-Serras-Herman-160265560775175>



Submitted by
Ken Rogers
Programs Chair

*2021 AFMS & CFMS Large Bulletin 1st place



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Upcoming Activities

March 14 – Executive Meeting, General Meeting & March Program

April 11 – Executive Meeting, General Meeting & April Program

May 9 – Executive Meeting, General Meeting & May Program

July 16-17 – Fiesta of Gems

Club Meetings on Zoom

CCRMC meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month as follows:

- 7:00 PM – Executive Meeting
- 7:30 PM – General Meeting
- 8:00 PM – Monthly Program

Club meetings are back to virtual again. Please join us in our Zoom Room for our Club meetings.

Join us virutally in our [Zoom Room](#)
Meeting ID: 310 836 4611
Password: rocks

Guests are always welcome to join our meetings.

a message from the

PRESIDENT



Our Club is working on all the details to present our Fiesta of Gems Show in July, so please make a note and save the weekend of the 16th and 17th. There will be so much to do - about 30 vendors, demonstrations of lapidary & jewelry arts, workshops to improve your skills, displays of members collections, plant sales, and games for the kids.

Rock club shows have been a favorite of mine for many years. I've enjoyed working at the last 24 Fiesta of Gems events. The show is a good opportunity to get to know other members in the club and find out who's an expert you can contact when you run into a problem.

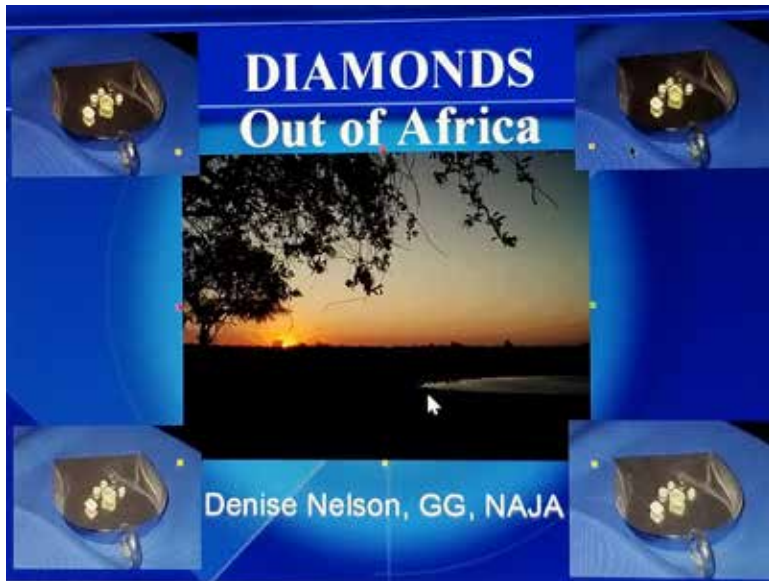
One of my favorite shows is coming up this month, and well worth the drive. If you've never been out to the desert before, this trip is for you. The last segment is a section of dusty road, but you can make it easily in any city car. Grab a friend for a fun day in the sunshine and fresh air.

The Stoddard Wells Tailgate will be March 11, 12, and 13. The event is held just north of Victorville off Route 15. There's plenty of great shopping and several field trips for agate and marble that are planned to leave from the show. For directions see the club website at: vvgmc.org or contact: smaquilter12@gmail.com

Show dealers are set up in tents and RV's with all sorts of goodies. There's plenty to see and do. Camp out if you like, and if you have something to sell, bring it along and set up your own table - it's free.

Brad
Brad Smith
President

January Program Report: New Advances in Synthetic Diamonds



Gemologist and gem appraiser Denise Nelson delivered a lecture titled *Diamonds Out of Africa*, an account of a trip she made to Africa in the early 2000's to visit several diamond mines.



The first mine visited was the Cullinan Premier mine, in Kimberly, in the Southern tip of Africa. The mine produces diamonds of various shades of color, light yellow and clear. It is one of the most famous mines in the world, having produced the 3,106 carat Cullinan diamond, which was discovered in 1905 and is part of the British royal crown jewels.

An open pit 450m deep, 500m wide and 1000m long, the mine can be seen from space. The edges of the pit started collapsing, and today the mine is not used as a pit anymore; instead access is gained underground. During her visit, Ms. Nelson went

down the shaft with a battery pack and a half-hour oxygen emergency supply. There are tunnels in



all directions, many of which have tracks for carts, as well as roadways for large equipment. The underground facility includes repair shops for trucks and equipment.

Next, Ms. Nelson visited mines in Namibia, formerly German West Africa, where she accessed an area restricted to the public - aka forbidden zone (Sperrgebiet) - as large as Belgium, along the Skeleton coast. The forbidden zone has mountains in the east and ocean in the west and it is a desert. Rivers drain in that southern Namibia spot. Geologists trying to find riverbeds do sample pits, carving down the sand until they hit dolomite, as diamonds are

Continued on next page

January Program Report: New Advances in Synthetic Diamonds con't

found in its deep trenches. The most productive mine is the Daberas mine, in the Orange River area (Oranjemund). Mines have sorting houses and utilize large equipment that can be repaired on site.

The area also has pocket beach mines operated by the De Beers mining company, in which a dam is made between the beach and the ocean and drained to obtain the diamond. The ground is unstable and can collapse.



There is also off shore dredging for diamonds, which is unique to Namibia. It takes place about forty miles into the ocean, using pumps and various other equipment. Transport to and from the ship is via helicopter.

Also unique is the Elizabeth Bay Mine, the only place



in the world with windblown deposits of diamonds (deposits are alluvial, but are windblown). Miners

move tons of dirt and separate the diamonds from it. Helicopters carry the diamonds away every week.

Ms. Nelson also briefly discussed the state of diamond exploration and consumption in the world. Although mines in Namibia were well explored, with mining companies bringing substantial economic benefits to the area, there are many areas that can be explored in Botswana. Diamond consumption remains high. China is a large market and Japan is coming into the picture. Cutting takes place in India, Israel and Antwerp.

Submitted by
Ana M. Strambi Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

Call for Member Sellers

CCRMC is currently planning our next Yard Sale for Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 10AM - 3PM. Set-up time 8:30AM - 10AM). It will again be located in the parking area behind the Club's Lapidary Shop.

All sellers must be CCRMC members, and items for sale should be related to Club activities.

Gems – Minerals – Rough – Crystals – Jewelry Supplies
Beads – Findings – Tools – Lapidary & Jewelry
Equipment – Books & More

Free selling spaces are available to CCRMC members who have paid their 2022 dues. Space reservation is on a first come first serve basis.

The layout will be similar to previous sales and it will be promoted and open to the public.

The Club hopes to have some 6' tables available. We will know by April 30. It is advised that sellers bring their own tables, chairs & display supplies. Selling space can be from 4' to 10'.

To learn more, reserve a space, receive a layout map, etc. contact Ken Rogers: kenrogers4u@gmail.com or 323-965-2752 between 10am - 10pm PDT.

Submitted by
Ken Rogers
Yard Sale Coordinator

Executive Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2022

Those present: Darren Cokin, Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Veronique Gautherot, Jon Gowling, Lorna Herf, Alexa Hunter, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Brad Smith, Jette Sorensen, Ana M. Strambi Guimaraes, Christine Thompson, Karen Wallen.

The meeting was called to order by President Brad Smith at 7:10PM.

The following was discussed:

- Ken Rogers informed the March program would be a lecture about carved gems by Helen Serras-Herman, an internationally renowned gem and jewelry sculptor. In April, yet to be confirmed, would be a lecture about making jewelry out of dinosaur bones.
- Darrell Robb informed the Club was solvent and able to fund the upcoming show. He indicated all business permits and dates should be firmed up shortly.
- Brad Smith informed a show committee had been established; those interested in participating should contact Jette Sorensen or him.
- Jette Sorensen indicated 31 members had renewed their membership so far.
- Steve Dover informed the shop was open and all equipment was working well. Darren Colkin indicated he would temporarily substitute Jette at the shop.
- Alexa Hunter informed Farragut Elementary School would be having their Science week the last week of February. She could not be available and asked that someone set up a table with specimens in the classroom during lunch time. Veronique Gautherot agreed to help and would meet with Alexa and Karen Wallen to obtain all the information, as well as pick up specimens, books and giveaways at the shop.
- Brad Smith mentioned that the Club needed a volunteer to take over responsibility for email blasts from Jette.
- The January executive meeting minutes were approved as published in the February edition of the Nugget.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35PM

General Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:36PM by President Brad Smith.

Brad Smith announced that the Fiesta of Gems had been planned to take place on July 16th and 17th, with set-up

on July 15th. He indicated help would be needed from 25 to 30 people to run the show and asked members to check the Club's Facebook page for details on how they could help. He also informed that a committee had been established to plan the show and those interested in participating should contact Jette Sorensen or him.

Ken Rogers informed that the March program would be a lecture on carved gems by internationally recognized gem and jewelry sculptor Helen Serras-Herman.

Steve Dover indicated that all equipment in the shop was working; the shop was open three days a week and an appointment was needed to use it.

Brad Smith informed that multiple shows were taking place in the following couple of months, several of which outdoors. He recommended members to check the CFMS website for a list.

Ken Rogers announced he was planning another shop yard sale in the spring and would share details at the March meeting.

Brad Smith mentioned that the Club needed a volunteer to take over responsibility for e-mail blasts from Jette. The job entailed sending about three email messages per month using a specific software.

- The January general meeting minutes were approved as published in the February edition of the Nugget.

- The meeting adjourned at 7:49PM and was followed by the February Program.

Submitted by
Ana M. Strambi Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

2022 Renewal

If you have not renewed your membership for 2022, now is the time. If payment is not received by the end of the March 14th meeting, you will not be able to use the Shop or the library and you will not receive the Nugget.

Fill in the attached Membership form and send it with your check to P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231. You can also bring it to the Shop during open hours.

We are in the process of setting up online payment via PayPal, however, we need to incorporate member information with the payment, and are searching for the best and most economical setup.

Submitted by
Jette Sorensen
Membership Chair

Lapidary Shop



Our fully equipped Lapidary Shop is open on a limited basis with modified rules and capacities.

Everyone is required to show proof of vaccination (see page 2 for details), wear masks, observe social distancing, and sign a liability waiver for the Club.

Absolutely NO walk-ins are allowed!

Please contact the instructor to determine availability and reserve your spot:

Wednesday 10 am – 2 pm
Vern: shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org

Saturday 12 pm – 4 pm
Lynne Lukert: gemlynne@ca.rr.com

Sunday 12 pm – 4 pm
Jette: ccrhc-sundaylapshop@culvercityrocks.org

If you are unable to attend at the last minute or are going to be 30 minutes or more late, call the Shop.

Members must be current with membership dues.

The Shop is for use by adults 18+ only; junior members 13+ must sign a special release and a parent/guardian must be present to use any equipment.

10866 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90230
The Shop is located behind the Scout House
Shop phone number: 310-836-4611

CCRMC Membership

Membership to the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club is open to anyone, regardless of age or place of residence.

Junior members (under 18) must be sponsored by a parent, guardian, or a member in good standing and must be accompanied to meetings and on field trips by an adult member.

Benefits of membership include:

- 12 issues of the *Nugget* newsletter
- Attend Club meetings with expert speakers
- Participate in our Annual Fiesta of Gems show
- Entrance to our fully equipped Lapidary Shop
- Access to our library
- Go on rock collecting field trips
- Attend workshops at a reduced price
- Fun-filled silent auctions, parking lot sales, a holiday party in December and a member picnic in August

To become a member, complete an application and mail it back to us along with your one time initiation fee and the appropriate membership fee.

Membership is on a yearly basis from January 1 - December 31, and renewals are due on January 1 of every year. For new members joining after July 1, the fees are discounted for the first year.

Membership fees are:

	One Time Initiation Fee	Annual Membership Fee	New Members Joining After July 1
Individuals	\$20	\$25	\$15
Two persons same address	\$35	\$35	\$25
Junior (under 18)	\$15	\$10	\$5

The application can be found here:

<http://www.culvercityrocks.org/membership.htm>



CFMS Upcoming Shows

Many clubs have canceled or changed their show dates due to Covid-19. At the time of publication, these are the shows that have not been canceled.

Please check the CFMS website for the most up to date information on upcoming shows.

<https://www.cfmsinc.org/shows-2/>

March 5-6, 2022 – Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem and Mineral Society
Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Gems and Minerals, fossils, jewelry, healing stones, silent auction, exhibits, dealers, kids activities, lapidary arts demonstrations, raffle, flea market, plant sale. A successful and valued South Coast show since 1963. We are happy to be back again after COVID!
Website: <http://www.vgms.org>

March 12-13, 2022 – Arcadia, CA

Pasadena Lapidary Society
"Inspiration Unearthed", 62nd Annual Tournament of Gems
Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W. Duarte Rd., Arcadia
Hours: Saturday 10 AM- 6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Contact: Ellen Ferrell 1-727-512-0381
Email: ellenbf2007@aol.com
Website: <https://www.pasadenalapidary.org>

April 1-3, 2022, Vista CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society
Vista Gem and Mineral Show
Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083
Hours: April 1 & 2, 10 AM – 5 PM, April 3, 10 AM – 4 PM
Held outdoors at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, you'll find everything from crystals and gems to rough, slabs, and cabs – and even lapidary tools. Not only can you find all the supplies you are looking for, but we are also known for our raffle held on Sunday afternoon.
Contact: info@vistarocks.org
Website: <https://vistarocks.org>

April 9-10, 2022 – Mariposa, CA

Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club
Mountains of Minerals
Mariposa County Fairgrounds, 5005 Fairgrounds Road, Mariposa, CA 95338
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: mgmc@sti.net
Website: <http://mariposagemclub.org>

April 30 – May 1, 2022 – Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801
Hours: Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10AM – 4:30 PM
61st Annual Searchers Mineral, Gem and Jewelry Show
Contact: (909) 815-3045, searchersgemandmineral@gmail.com
Website: <https://searchersrocks.org>

We hope your birthday rocks...
**Happy
Birthday!**

Cathy Shearon
Grace Soto
Christine Thompson
Pam Leitner



to our newest members:

Regina Chiu
Donna Shostak
Devrha Warren

We're thrilled to have you join our Club and are looking forward to meeting you in person soon.

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: nugget@culvercityrocks.org

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

Stay In Touch



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2022 Elected Officers

President
Brad Smith

Vice President
Vacant

Treasurer
Darrell Robb

Recording Secretary
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

Corresponding Secretary
Véronique Gautherot

Parliamentarian
Jon P. Gowling

2022 Committee Chairs

- Education – Alexa Hunter & Karen Wallen
- Federation Director – Lorna Herf
- Field Trips – Devon Lloyd
- Historian – Virginia Hollis
- Librarian – VACANT
- Membership Co-Chairs – Stephanie Dangott & Jette Sorensen
- Minerals – Devon Lloyd
- Photography – Pam Leitner
- Programs – Ken Rogers
- Publications – Janet Gampe
- Publicity – Janice Metz & Christine Thompson
- Shop Committee – President, Vice President & Shop Instructors
- Show – Adrienne Louie
- Social – VACANT
- Sunshine – VACANT
- Trading Post – Gary Mitchell
- Webmaster – Bart Gampe
- Workshops – Janice Metz
- Zoom Host – Darren Cokin

Board of Directors

2022
Virginia Hollis
Janet Louie

2023
Adrienne Louie
Jette Sorensen

2024
Gary Mitchell
Karen Wallen

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club

For Club use: Cash Amount _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION New Renew

Check No. _____

Please print (legibly) :

Date Rec'd _____

First Name	MI	Last Name	Email	B'date mo/dy
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First Name, 2nd person, same address	MI	Last name	Email	B'date mo/dy Junior Y/N if Yes, Age ____
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DUES and FEES

Address	City	State	Zip	Individual	2 People, 1 address	Junior	
Telephone	Phone 2nd person			Onetime Initiation	\$20	\$35	\$15
Badges will all show first <u>and</u> last names.				Yearly Membership	\$25	\$35	\$10
If a nickname is preferred instead of first name, list it here:				After July 1 ST	\$15	\$25	\$5
Nickname: _____				1 st year before 7/1	\$45	\$70	\$25
<u>Nugget newsletter is sent via email</u>				1 st year after 6/30	\$35	\$60	\$20

The Club periodically publishes a roster with information available from your membership application. Please indicate any information you do not want included: Address , Phone , Email , Birthdate .

Per the Club's bylaws, all members are required to donate 4 hours of work during the three days of the annual Fiesta of Gems show. Further, I will help out in the following activities and/or committees (please check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Gem Show | <input type="checkbox"/> Field trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Meet/Greet at meetings |

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail this completed application along with your check, payable to CCRMC to:

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, P.O. BOX 3324, CULVER CITY, CA 90231 or bring the application and your payment to the Club's monthly meeting.

Meetings normally take place on the second Monday of every month; however, Monday Holidays, the Club's Gem show in June or July and the Holiday Party in December may affect the meeting date. More info on the Club's web site: culvercityrocks.org, [facebook.com/ccrhc](https://www.facebook.com/ccrhc), twitter.com/culvercityrocks, [instagram.com/culvercityrocks](https://www.instagram.com/culvercityrocks)

Meetings are held in the Multi-Purpose Room at the Veterans Memorial Complex at 4117 Overland Avenue. Entrance is in the rear of the building, off the park.

For more information about our Club, please visit our web site at : culvercityrocks.org
For questions regarding this form or membership, send an email to: membership@culvercityrocks.org

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.

the Nugget
PO Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231

Address Change Requested

First Class Mail



MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF THE
CULVER CITY ROCK &
MINERAL CLUB

the NUGGET



Frances Aldrich