



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.



## Program This Month – 4/10/2023 "TGMS - Not Your Typical Rock Show"

This month Mary Pat Weber will provide us with a visual treat of the highlights of this recent event and why this show rocks!

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society knows how to put on a great show. This society was the first to bring together the curator/professionals, the hobby enthusiast, and the general public for this annual four day event.

After 68 years, it is the largest, oldest and most prestigious gem and mineral show in the world. This year the theme was "Silica, Agates & Opal & Quartz, Oh My!"



Located at the Tucson Convention Center, attendees will find approximately 250 dealers selling a variety of minerals, fossils, jewelry, and lapidary. Throughout the show there are lectures and symposiums. Jaw-dropping world class exhibits from private collections, major universities and museums are on display. Other exhibit cases, (both competitive and non-competitive) round out this mix.



Mary Pat Weber studied geology at Macalester College in MN and worked as an exploration geologist in Denver for Dames & Moore, an environmental consulting firm, and later in the petroleum industry. After moving to California, she completed an MBA at Pepperdine University and became president of a property management company.

The Weber's take every opportunity to see as much geology as possible wherever they go. As part of what they refer to as their "Rocks & Crocs" tour of 2007-08 they spent a month exploring New Zealand before going on to seek out the geologic highlights of Australia. Upon their return they developed a series of programs based on these travel experiences.



Dick & Mary Pat are active, long-time members of the Conejo Gem and Mineral Club and have been the recipients of the CFMS & AMFS "Rockhound of the Year" award. For the past few years Mary Pat has been the "pandemic president" of the club.

She enjoys designing display cases and has won several blue ribbons and awards, including the Director's Choice Award at the Ventura County Fair. This year she designed her second exhibit case for an Australian opal company that was shown at the TGMS show.

## Upcoming Activities

April 10 – 7:00PM Executive Meeting  
7:30PM General Meeting

See local field trips posted on LA-Rocks at  
[facebook.com/groups/411978609512229](https://facebook.com/groups/411978609512229)

More field trips are posted on SoCal Rocks at  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2605376056257691>

## Club Meetings on Zoom

CCRMC meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Guests are always welcome to join us. Our usual schedule includes:

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

Club meetings are being held online. Please join us in our Zoom Room to enjoy our monthly program and speaker.

Join the meeting virtually at [CCRMC Online](#).  
Meeting ID: 310 836 4611  
Password: rocks

## Club Needs Your Help

We're looking for some club members to help out with a couple of the tasks needed to run the club.

First, we need someone to send out several email blasts each month to the club membership using an app similar to MailChimp. [Get in touch](#) for details.

Can you recommend a person or company that can install gutters and also someone who can install a new hot water heater? [contact Steve](#)

If you are interested in going on some field trips, please [contact Brad](#) to chat about locations and arrangements.

## A Message from *the Prez*

Dear all,

The sun came out for our recent sidewalk sale, another in-person occasion to mix and mingle with vendor-members, friends, and even friendly strangers.

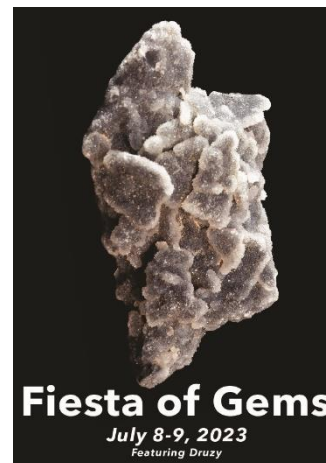


The Fiesta of Gems postcards are ready! Great thanks to Lorna Herf and Barbara Fier for putting together an outstanding card. No simple feat to get a good shot of a druzy.

Our various committees continue to prepare for our big summer show. You should expect a phone call in the near future to request for particulars about your commitment for 4 hours of required volunteer time. There are many tasks which go into making a smooth show. For example, this year we will need help transporting flats of plants from several locations to the show on the Friday July 7th. We always need able bodied folks to load the truck up at the shop that Friday morning and help get the many display boxes and materials unpacked at the Vets and to help with returns to the shop when the show close Sunday evening.

If you know you won't be available the weekend of the show to help, please do your best to contribute your time to the preparations for the show.

We always need cookies which we provide to vendors. We'll let you know about where to drop them off when we are closer to the show.



We will be having a great work party event in May at the Vets during which we will be getting the postcards labeled and stamped and filling rock grab bags. So, plan on coming, it'll be good to see members you haven't seen in a long time. More about it in the next Nugget. Also please stop by the shop and pick some cards to start distributing to friends and interested strangers.

Alexa Hunter

## Mary Ellen Shaffer

It was with sadness we said the final goodbye to Mary Ellen Shaffer at the Celebration of Life on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Mary Ellen served as treasurer for the Club for many years, could always be counted on cooking the turkeys for the holiday party and arrange for hamburger and hotdogs for the picnic. Accounting for members' purchases of raffle tickets for the Fiesta of Gems was expertly handled by her year after year. She made sure there was coffee, tea and snacks for many monthly meetings and lent a hand wherever and whenever there was a need. Mary Ellen was very much a part of the fabric that holds the Club together and she will be missed greatly.



Our heartfelt thank you to the [Playa Del Rey Florist](#) who created the Club's Celebration of Life bouquet on very short notice with Ana Maria and Darryll Robb. The florist liked her own design so much that she has added it to her permanent listings and named it MaryEllen

## Program Report From Last Meeting – 3/13/23

Denise Nelson, jewelry designer and appraiser in the Washington DC area, presented a highlight of less known European museum collections.

Vienna, Austria - The Kunsthistorische Museum houses objects that belonged to Empress Sissi of Austria, who was a devout Christian. Highlighted was a cross made of coral she gave to one of her daughters; coral was believed to protect children. At the Leopold Museum, the focus is not gemstones, but rather metal and design, while unique stones were used to complement the pieces.

Trier, Germany - Trier was a Roman city. Roman were gem lovers. The presentation highlighted a Roman panel of stone that had fallen off a ceiling face down and had been discovered when a church was being repaired. The panel displayed several images of Roman life where characters were wearing jewelry including gemstones. The city museum displays objects of art from all over the world.

Erbach im Odenwald, Germany - The Ivory Museum (Deutsches Elfenbeinmuseum) is of notice. Ivory carving tradition started in the region in the 19th century, evolving from a wood carving tradition, and was initiated by Count Franz I, who brought ivory from Africa for the wood carvers to carve. The museum has a carving school attached that started back in the 1800s. Nowadays the school uses mammoth ivory from Canada, which is abundant.

Burg Eltz, Germany - The city houses several private collections, which are very valuable and kept where owners lived, such as castles. Of notice were ivory and amethyst cups, materials that were believed to neutralize poison off a beverage.

Munich, Germany - The Treasury building displays intricate inlay work on the walls, with various stones and other materials. It also contains a phenomenal crown collection as well as many objects of art, including vessels made of amber, also believed to prevent poisoning, as well as objects made of agate locally sourced or from other countries, and books with covers ornamented with precious stones.

Freiberg, Germany - The city is a good place for mineral collection, and it contains one of the largest mineral museums of all Europe, with specimens from all of the world in beautiful display cases.

York, England - There is evidence that York has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. It was also a Roman city, an Anglo-Saxon trading post and a Viking dominium. As a result, museums and art collections include objects from multiple ages and cultures. Of note are Viking objects, including carvings in horn, ivory, gold and even clothing made of amber and fabric, which kept sea farers dry and warm and were comfortable to wear. Also highlighted is a castle that had been home to Richard III, near which in the 1980s someone with a metal detector found pieces of jewelry of unknown origin.

*Submitted by Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary*

## Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting – 3/13/23

Those present: Darren Colkin, Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Jon Gosling, Alexa Hunter, Joanie Rippner, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Jette Sorensen, Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM by President Alexa Hunter.

-Darrell Robb informed that the Club had received permit to run raffles for 2023. He indicated the Club was solvent and in good financial shape; however, we should consider hedging against inflation. Darrell also informed that the Club submitted to the City a request for a grant to help pay for the show costs. The grant is for events starting in July. There is no set amount, and the City gave no notice of when they will respond.

-Steve Dover mentioned that the shop needed repairs, such as new gutters and paint. Darrell committed to contacting the Club's handyman for an estimate. Alexa suggested placing a note in The Nugget asking members for referrals.

-Jette Sorensen indicated the Club had nearly sixty members. Several members had not renewed their membership yet. The Membership Committee planned on sending letters to members asking them to renew.

-Ken Rogers wanted to confirm if meetings would resume to being in person, as some of the speakers will present in person only, some virtually. A discussion followed about continuing with hybrid or virtual meetings until more people were willing to attend in person.

-Jette informed the Club received a donation from one of Brad Smith's students.

-Alexa Hunter informed that the postcards for the show were ready and thanked Lorna Herf and Barbara Fier for their work.

-The January and February executive meeting minutes were approved as read in The Nugget editions of February and March respectively.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31PM.

*Submitted by Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary*

## Minutes of General Meeting 3/13/23

Meeting called to order at 7:32PM by President Alexa Hunter.

-Alexa indicated the February silent auction had been a success.

-Steve Dover informed that the Club had twenty display cases for members to showcase their collections and craft at the show and asked interested members to sign up to reserve them.

-Alexa reminded members that the next yard sale would be on Saturday. Ken Rogers informed there was one table available.

-Alexa proposed to resume in-person meetings in April. Darrell suggested the May meeting to be in person and for it to be a working meeting to prepare grab bags and postcards for the show as it had been traditionally done before the pandemic. Alexa asked if there were rooms less expensive than the multipurpose room available and Darrell committed to checking.

-Alexa thanked Kent Goodman for representing the Club at the Science Night at Farragut Elementary School in March. She reminded members that the Education Committee needed help. *Continued page 5*



Continued from page 5

-Darrell Robb informed the Club was solvent and in good financial stands for the year. He also provided the silent auction results.

-Jette Sorensen indicated the Club had nearly 60 new and renewed members. She informed that the end of the March meeting was the deadline to renew and maintain membership status, which included benefits such as to use the shop and receive The Nugget.

-Alexa informed that the shop needed new gutters and paint and asked members to provide referrals.

-Darrell informed he and other Club members attended the Stoddard Wells show and it had been very interesting.

-Steve Dover informed that the electrical boxes for the display cases and for the vendors' use at the show had been replaced. He also indicated that temper-resistant locks had been installed on the sheds. A discussion followed about installing a security camera at the shop. Darrell Robb committed to researching options and bringing them up for discussion at the next meeting.

-The January and February General Meeting minutes could not be approved due to insufficient quorum.

-Steve Dover reminded that the shop would be closed during the yard sale on Saturday.

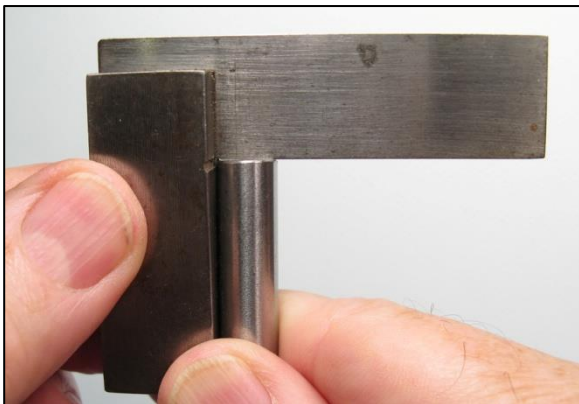
The March Program followed, after which the meeting adjourned at 7:59PM.

The Program followed, after which guests introduced themselves. The meeting adjourned at 8:50PM PT.

*Submitted by Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes  
Recording Secretary*

## Brad's Bench Tips

[Click Here to See More Tips](#)



Just a few inexpensive tools are needed to get holes in the right place, to cut square corners, or to cut material the same length. Here's what I use:

1. A good set of dividers let me quickly swing an arc or divide a line into equal segments.
2. Crisp layout lines are easy to see when scribed onto a surface that has been coated with a marker.
3. Checking a right angle or marking where to cut a strip is quick with a small square.
4. A thin, sharp center punch helps me mark the exact location for a hole that needs to be precise.
5. Measuring stones, burs, drills, or metal strips is quick and accurate with a vernier caliper.

More smart solutions for your jewelry making problems can be found at

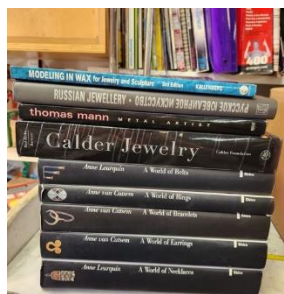
<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

## OUR LIBRARY JUST GOT BIGGER

In chatting with new members, I realize that some are not aware that we have a great library with at least 450 – 500 books. It is housed in the cabinets above the desk in the front of the shop. They include books on just about anything you would like to know about lapidary, rocks, stones, identifying, carving, locating, mining, etc. There are also books on just about anything you would like to know about jewelry and jewelry making.

Members can borrow just about any of the books, free of charge, and return them within a month.

We just received a fantastic donation of very valuable books from Barbara Stiller, one of Brad Smith's students from when he taught jewelry classes within the Los Angeles and Santa Monica/Malibu school systems. Some of those newly donated books cannot be taken home, they can only be used in the Shop.



One of those is out of print and highly sought-after.

We inventoried the books years ago. The person who made the database used a great library program. He left Los Angeles, and we cannot locate him or the program password. Some of the database can be downloaded and perhaps used as the basis for a new updated database.

We are looking for a member to become the Club Librarian who will keep an eye on books when they are lent out and returned – and let members know if they have overstated the 30 days loan period.

Jette Sorensen

The shop is open Saturdays 12N – 4PM to reserve a spot by email: [Saturday](#)

The shop is open Sundays 12N – 4PM to reserve a spot by email: [Sundays](#)



to our newest members:

Katie	Feld
Madelyn	Intrier
Fernando	Lumanod
Tomas	Madrigal
Teenie	Mitchell
Daniel	Socher
Stephanie	Sprester
Devrha	Warren

## Upcoming Rock Club Shows & Local Rock Sales



[Click to See All California Federation Shows](#)

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

### April 1-2, 2023 – Vista, CA

Vista Gem and Mineral Society

Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum, 2040 N. Santa Fe Ave., Vista, CA 92083

Hours: Saturday 10AM 5 PM, Sunday 10AM – 4PM

Cabs, Slabs and Rough, Jewelry

Website: <https://vistarocks.org>

### April 22-23, 2023 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club

Borchard Park, 190 N. Reino Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA

Hours: Saturday 10AM – 5PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Sorry April Birthday members, the database mixed up a bunch of the birthday dates, I hope to have it fixed by the May issue!

## 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 the Editor:

nugget@culvercityrocks.org

## The Nugget - Advertisements

The Nugget accepts paid advertisements. The cost for an eighth of a page is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Size is about 2" high x 3.5" wide.

Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor.

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

Email submissions to the Editor:

nugget@culvercityrocks.org

## Club General Meetings

Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex  
Multipurpose Room

4117 Overland Avenue

Culver City, CA 90230

## Mailing Address

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

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## 2023 Elected Officers

President – Alexa Hunter

Vice President – Steven Dover

Treasurer - Darrell Robb

Recording Secretary  
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

Parliamentarian - Jon Gowling

## 2023 Committee Chairs

Education - Vacant

Federation Director- Lorna Herf

Field Trips - Vacant

Historian - Virginia Hollis

Librarian - Vacant

Membership Co-Chairs  
Stephanie Dangott & Jette Sorensen

Photography- Pam Leitner

Programs- Ken Rogers

Publications Committee  
Jette Sorensen  
Brad Smith

Publicity - Vacant

Trading Post - Gary Mitchell

Webmaster - Bart Gampe

Zoom host - Darren Cokin

## Board of Directors

2023

Adrienne Louis  
Jette Sorensen

2024

Gary Mitchell  
Karen Wallen

2025

Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes  
Bradford Smith

The CCRMC is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization.