



If you have stone rough, cabs or slabs, lapidary or jewelry-making tools, lapidary or bead-related books or magazines you want to donate, bring it to the Shop February 8th or 9th between Noon and 4 PM, or bring it to the meeting, just make sure you arrive early so it can be included on one of the tables.

If you have never been to one of our prior Silent Auctions, you are in for a treat. When you arrive, you can check out all the items but not yet bid on anything. Start bidding time will be announced. The starting bid for many items is just a scant 25 cents, and the minimum bidding increments are also 25 cents, so there are significant bargains to be had. Keep an eye on the items you bid on to ensure you aren't outbid, and then bid again if you are and want. You must put down the pencil when the "bidding stop" is announced. Bring your winning auction slips, pay at the table in front, and go home with your new treasures.

Proceeds go directly into the club's operating account that forwards our mission of education in the Earth sciences to several schools in Culver City, keeping our lapidary shop in good working condition and supporting our monthly meetings including top-notch speakers and demonstrators in all facets of geochemistry and the lapidary arts.

We need a couple of members to arrive at 7 PM to help Steve Dover with the setup and a couple of members to stay behind at the end of the meeting to help him load his truck with what wasn't bid on during the auction.

WINTER SILENT AUCTION

February 10 at 7:30 PM in the Multipurpose at the Culver City Veterans Memorial complex, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City 90230

We received a big donation of beads, just about every size, shape and color you can imagine. All of them semi-precious stone, no plastic and from what I have seen, no glass beads. We will also have lapidary donations, including some Petrified Wood. What we have will be supplemented with members' donations.

The Culver City Rock & Mineral Club 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 and practice of lapidary and related arts.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members:



We have begun to plan for the 2025 Fiesta of Gems, to be held June 28th and 29th at the Veterans. This year we will be honoring Fluorite, not to be confused with Fluoride! Fluorite will not help your teeth, however it may help your wallet, as it is not an expensive mineral to invest in. Along with being fluorescent, it can look spectacular in regular light as well.

The club needs all hands on deck for the weekend of the show (mandatory for members to donate 4 hours of their time), however, we also need help now with the planning and organization of the show, as well as a few other short-term volunteer positions. So please email our Volunteer Coordinator, Joanie Rippner, CCRMC-Volunteers@culvercityrocks.org, to offer your time and talents! Or simply stop by the shop on the weekend and talk to Steve or Jette.

Please help keep our club vibrant and growing by putting in a little time.

Hope to see you on Monday, Feb. 10th for our first Silent Auction of the year, and we hope you will donate something - a stone, a slab, a used tool, a book. If you win something you like but are not sure what it is, look forward to our March 10th meeting, where Gary Mitchell will identify your mystery rocks – not just the ones you won at the Silent Auction, but also the ones you found when rockhounding.

Best,
Alexa Hunter
President

JANUARY PRESENTATION REPORT

Ryan Gardner, a great artist, and goldsmith, showed us, step by step, how he uses a Foredom rotary tool to create carvings on an absolutely flawless crystal or gemstone. He showed how to create indentations with a ball bur, how to polish



the created circles in different ways, or fill them with gold foil, which he (later) glued in with special glue. He also demonstrated how to make other kinds of carvings with different burs.

To see his great creations, visit his website, www.ryangardnerjewelry.com.

Ryan donated a gold pendant, shown above, for our silent auction, listed on his website at \$425.00.

Jette Sorensen
Program Chair

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP HOURS

**10866 Culver Boulevard
Culver City, CA 90230
(310) 836-4611**

The shop is located behind the Scout House

The shop is open Saturdays and Sundays from 12 noon to 4 pm. To see if there is room, go to the [Lapidary Shop tab](#) on the [Club's website](#) and send an email, do not just show up.

Saturdays: [Steve Dover](#)
Sundays: [Jette Sorensen](#)

If you have not made a reservation, you can call the shop during open hours to see if there is room, 310-836-4611. Do not wear open-toed shoes. Wear old clothes. Bring eye and ear protection.

JANUARY WORKSHOPS

LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, 1/19/2025, 9 am to 12 noon at the Club's Lapidary Shop.

Get to know the equipment at the club's lapidary workshop. Use a trim saw to cut the outline for a cabochon. Shape the stone on the grinding wheels and use the Expando wheels to polish it. Use the arbor with a leather wheel to get a high polish. Go home with a cabochon you can use for a pendant. The workshop is limited to 4 members. The workshop fee is \$20.00, payable in advance to jetsorensen@gmail.com via Zelle. If the fee has not been paid by 1/15/25, the spot may be given to someone from the waiting list, if any.

Email Jette to reserve a spot: jetsorensen@gmail.com



COLD JOINING PRECIOUS METALS

Sunday, 2/23/25, 9 am to 12 noon at the Club's lapidary workshop

Learn to join two pieces of metal together without soldering. Instead, use wire or nails. I don't have an image yet, that will come in an email later in the month.

Email Jette to reserve a spot: jetsorensen@gmail.com

CCRMC CLASSIFIEDS

We are a nonprofit corporation without any paid employees. To run the Club, we rely on volunteers from our membership to take part in club activities. We're currently looking for people to lead the following:

- Education
 - visit schools, mainly in Culver City, to teach students about rocks and Earth science.
- Photography
 - take pictures at Club functions, including meetings, shows, holiday parties, and special Club events, and deliver them to the newsletter editor and publicity.
- Program Reports
 - take notes during presentations and write program reports for the Nugget.
- Social
 - arrange meeting refreshments, refreshments for parties, etc.

If you feel you want to fill any of the above committees, we encourage you to step up and make a difference. Contact [Alexa Hunter](#).

THE MINUTES

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Called to order by Alexa at 6:34 pm
In attendance – Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Jette Sorenson, Regina Lozano, Darren Colkin, Karen Wallen, Ana Maria and Darrell Robb.

Membership – Email from Regina:
Membership drive is open until last hour of March meeting Unpaid 2024 members will be on the shop list until that time. Please use the [eform](#) and Zelle for renewing (see your email).

Current membership count is 179

36 paid (11 New, 13 Renew) or Life (12)
7 with eform but not paid (all Renewals)
136 no eform no payment

Contact Regina at membership@culvercityrocks.org for use of [eform](#) or Zelle

Below will not be discussed, but for your information:

2024 stats
12/31/24 membership: 174
New members in 2024: 79
2023 members who did not renew in 2024: 50
(These members are not on the shop list). Their names will be added to the FOG 2025 email list)

Joannie indicated she had problems using Zelle to pay. Regina had some troubleshooting hints and said she offered to help.

Shop – Jette said that all equipment is in working order.

Treasurer – Darrell – We received some money from Mutual Fund dividends. CFMS is now charging \$10 per person, this covers the liability for field trips and the gem show as well as use of equipment in the shop. SR100 had to be updated at a cost of \$5.

Donations to Scout House and LA Goal as well as raffle report has been sent to state Attorney General. \$187 sales tax on earned income – sales of plants and grab bags at the gem show.

Last week of June will be Fiesta of Gems. Set up Friday June 27th, event is June 28th and 29th.

Alexa needs to set up Fiesta of Gems meeting. Decided to have it Monday January 20th at 6:30pm.

Jette has room at Lapidary 101 and silver bracelet classes.

Motion to adjourn made by Stephanie and seconded by Darrell at 6:56 pm.

GENERAL MEETING

Called to order 7 PM by Alexa

20 members in attendance

Treasurer – Darrel stated that dividend checks from funds received. The funds earn roughly 8% per year.

CFMS dues has been sent for 2025.

State tax has been sent to Attorney General.

Motion to adjourn

Fiesta of Gems meeting on Zoom – January 20th at 7pm.

Steve stated that Shop is in good shape and Steve is maintaining all of the equipment.

Membership – Regina stated 2025 dues are due by the end March meeting.

Program – Jette stated that February meeting is silent auction in person. We had lots of beads donated. Members can bring donations to the shop or the night of the meeting.

There is still room for Lapidary 101 on the 19th and Argentium silver bracelet class on the 26th of January. Bracelet class is \$60, making paperclip style. Email Jette to sign up. jetsorensen@gmail.com.

Members suggested other class topics for future dates.

Meeting adjourned by Alexa at 7:17 PM, seconded by Jette.



Indian talismanic gold Navaratna ring dating from the late 19th to early 20th century.

MINERAL REPORT: NAVARATNA

I've been researching the moon quite a bit the last few months for an art/book project. During this time, a writer friend who is currently working on a history of astrology for the London Review of Books and I began having monthly meetings, usually on or around the new moon, as schedules allow. We download each other on what we've learned the past 28ish days and nights, share interesting passages, or just kind of muse about celestial objects and their mirror-like meanings to all of us down here.

This month, when trying to choose what to write about, I started researching garnets. They are one of the few gemstones I routinely find when out hounding, never one I could use for anything, of course. Usually just little glints of reddish crystals pocking a pegmatite or glittering a hunk of gray gneiss. Found in both metamorphic and igneous rocks, garnets ($[Mg,Fe,Mn]_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$) are a silicate group mineral like amethysts (SiO_2) and emeralds ($Be_3Al_2(SiO_3)_6$), as opposed to the rarer

rubies and sapphires (AlO) or diamonds (C) which are non-siliceous. As the formula for garnets above indicates, it can sub in manganese, iron, or magnesium into its crystalline structure, also making it a likely expression whenever these elements bump into each other within the Earthen soup beneath our feet.

Well, when going down the garnet rabbit hole, I stumbled across navaratna jewelry which is sanskrit for "nine gems". Navaratna are a constellation of gems revered in many South Asian cultures. The nine gems are said to have talismanic properties and are related to vedic astrology:

- Ruby (Sun)
- Pearl (Moon)
- Red coral (Mars)
- Emerald (Mercury)
- Yellow sapphire (Jupiter)
- Diamond (Venus)
- Blue sapphire (Saturn)
- Hessonite Garnet (the ascending lunar node)
- Cat's eye (the descending lunar node)



navaratna may take up to a year:

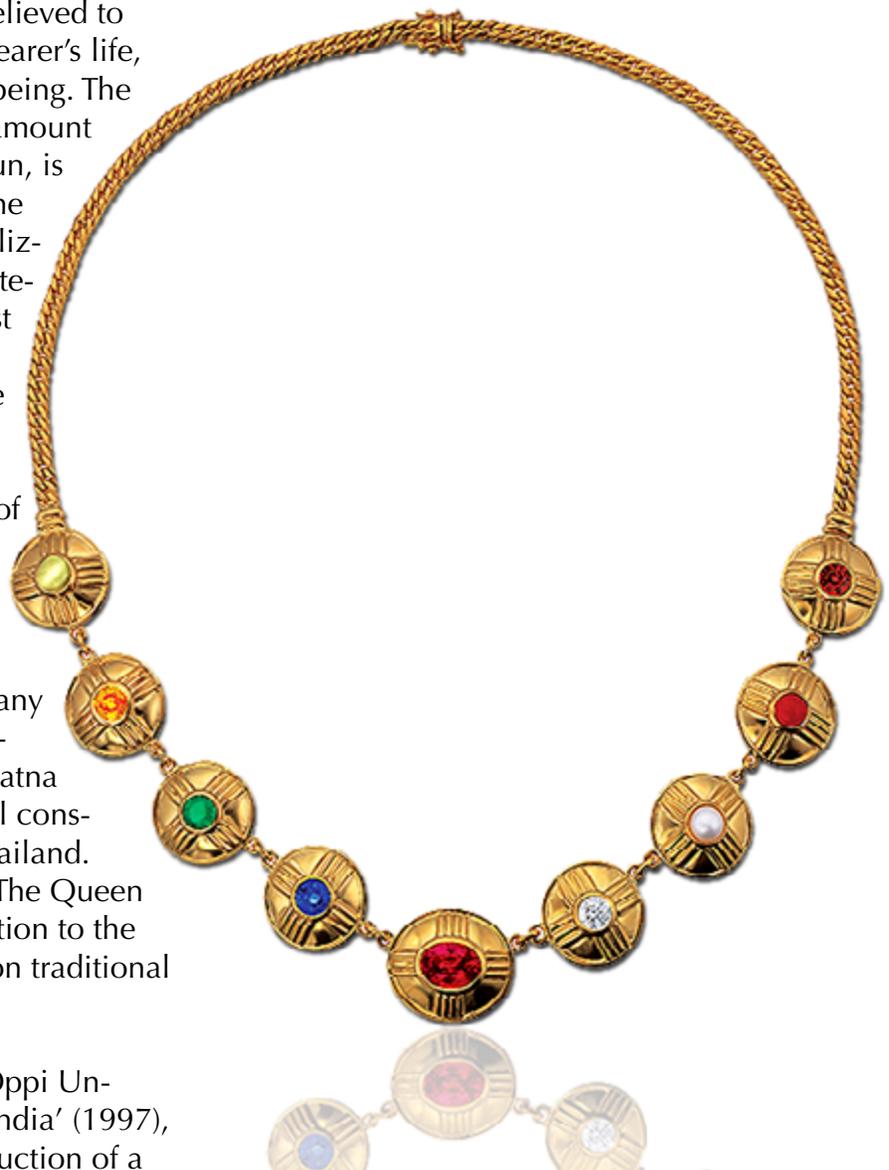
Before commissioning such a ring from a goldsmith, one first brings the selected stones to a priest, who blesses them. At an auspicious time, they are then given to a goldsmith who will set them in high-karat gold. According to orthodox practice, when the gold setting is ready, each of the stones corresponding to a planet is set in the correct order of priority and position, at a time auspicious for the planet.

Joel Kuennen
Mineral Chair

This combination of gemstones are believed to balance the cosmic energies of the wearer's life, promoting physical and mental well-being. The positioning of the gems is also of paramount importance. Ruby, representing the Sun, is placed in the center, surrounded by the other gems in a specific order, symbolizing the solar system. There are two categories of gems involved, 5 which must be placed in a specific order and four which may roam and accounts for the slight variations in navaratna designs. The ruby, however, is usually always in the center, as the sun is the center of the solar system.

Historically, Navaratna jewelry was also a sign of royalty and high social status, adorning kings and queens. Many paintings and sculptures from the Mughal Era depict royalty wearing Navaratna necklaces and it the navaratna are still considered to be a symbol of royalty in Thailand. In 1993, Richard S. Brown made the The Queen Sirikit Navaratna (at right) a new addition to the crown jewels of Thailand and based on traditional navaratna designs.

According to renowned metalsmith Oppi Untracht's book, 'Traditional Jewelry of India' (1997), the proper commissioning and construction of a



UPCOMING GEM SHOWS

(Click the poster for more information)

Antioch Lapidary Club Jewelry, Gem & Rock Show

Saturday, February 15, 2025 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sunday, February 16, 2025 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Jewelry, Gems, Findings, Supplies, Auction, Grab Bags,
Exhibits and Hands On projects for kids

Admission: \$7.00
Admission is cash only
All vendors take credit/debit cards

Children 12 & under / Scouts in uniform – Free
Active Military with ID – Free

Info: Kelly Plumb 510-693-9075
kellyplumb900@yahoo.com

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1201 WEST 10th STREET
ANTIOCH, CA

\$1.00 Off Admission With This Flyer

www.antiochlapidaryclub.com

**62nd Annual
Gem, Mineral,
Fossil & Jewelry Show**

MARCH 1 & 2, 2025
Saturday 10 - 5 • Sunday 10 - 4

Gems & Minerals • Fossils • Jewelry
Silent Auction • Exhibits • Dealers
Kids' Activities • Demonstrations
Raffle • Country Store • Plant Sale

FREE Admission

Ventura County Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Ventura, CA 93001

Visit us at vgms.org

VENTURA
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

**Vallejo
Gem & Mineral
Show**

February 22-23, 2025

59th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Saturday & Sunday, February 22-23, 2025 10am-5pm

Solano County Fairgrounds McCormack Hall

900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo CA

Adults \$6.00 – Children Under 12 Free

Free Return Admission on Sunday with Wrist Band

\$1.00 Off With This Card - Free Parking

Vendors - Wheel of Fortune - Grab Bags - Hourly Drawings - Demonstrators - Silent Auction

Tickets at Door Only – No Online Tickets

More Info: vjgems.com

FEBRUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Bird	3-Feb
Albert Chi	3-Feb
Harvey Schwartz	4-Feb
Jennifer Du	6-Feb
Lorraine Perez	13-Feb
Pete Baram	14-Feb
Beth Kaltman	15-Feb
Lynne Lukert	16-Feb
Ken Rogers	17-Feb
Stella Green	18-Feb
Paxton Nagatani	18-Feb
Michael Engel	21-Feb
Frank Hollis	26-Feb

JANUARY NEW MEMBERS

Matthew Brandt	Olivia Salaben
Bernabe Gomez	Brit Smith
Paul Huston	Alexa Terrazas
Eric Jakubowski	Luan Ton
Cody Laux	John Whittaker
Merrilee Marks	Yongjian Zhang
Tracy Reith	

2024 Elected Officers

President - Alexa Hunter
Vice President - Steven Dover
Treasurer - Darrell Robb
Recording Secretary - Stephanie Dangott
Corresponding Secretary: Karen Wallen
Parliamentarian - Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

2024 Committee Chairs

Education - VACANT
Federation Director - Ellen Moe
Field Trips - Harvey Schwartz & Ben Granger
Librarian - Joannie Rippner
Membership Co-Chairs - Regina Lozano
Minerals - Joel Kuennen
Photography - VACANT
Programs - Jette Sorensen
Publications Committee - Jette Sorensen,
Joel Kuennen
Publicity - Janice Metz
Social - VACANT
Sunshine - Karen Wallen
Trading Post - VACANT
Webmaster - Bart Gampe
Workshops - Jette Sorensen
Zoom Host - Darren Cokin

The Nugget – Submissions

The submission 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 the Nugget 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

Mailing Address

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
PO Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231
info@culvercityrocks.org
310-836-4611

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

More field trips are posted on SoCal Rocks www.facebook.com/groups/2605376056257691

Zoom Address

<https://zoom.us/j/3108364611?pwd=WnRTclZTS-3RJMEdWdlV2c01mQWxqdz09>

Meeting ID: 310 836 4611

Password: rocks

Board of Directors

2025
Ana Maria Stambi Guimaraes
Bradford Smith

2026 + 2027
TBD

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