



GEM PEGMATITES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

We are delighted to have Walt Lombardo return to present Gem Pegmatites of Southern California at our monthly meeting on Monday, June 9 at 7:30 PM in the Multipurpose Room at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City.

Southern California is known worldwide for the production of gemstones & mineral specimens from the granite pegmatites in San Diego, Riverside & San Bernardino Counties. Some of the more well-

known gem minerals are Tourmaline, Garnet, Aquamarine, Morganite, Kunzite, Quartz, Topaz & Lepidolite. Most notable are the Pala & Mesa Grande mining districts that supplied beautiful tourmalines to the last Dowager Empress of China in the early 1900s and continue to produce world-class gems and mineral specimens today. This talk will include a discussion of the regional geology that made these deposits possible, the history of mining in Southern California, some of the more important mines, and the gem minerals that they produced.

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.



Walt Lombardo is a geologist with over 35 years experience related to mining and mineral exploration. For 16 years, he managed the Las Vegas Office for the Nevada Division of Minerals. He has also worked for Desert Research Institute (part of the University of Nevada system) and served as a consultant for several mining and exploration companies. Before retiring from mining he most recently managed the North American exploration program for a Canadian junior mining company with projects in uranium, and gallium and germanium in coal fly ash. Walt has lectured nationwide on topics relating to geology, mineralogy, gemology, mineral resources and mining fraud.

soon.

Alexa

— Alexa Hunter, President

DISPLAY CASES AT FIESTA OF GEMS

The Culver City Rock and Mineral Club needs members to display their creations and or collections at our upcoming show June 28th and 29th at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Culver City. We provide the display case, liners, lights, locks, and security during the show. All you have to do is set up your display Friday evening or Saturday morning and pick it up Sunday after the show closes. If you need help setting up your display, assistance will be available at the show.

Please contact Steve Dover directly at skdover@yahoo.com, 760-764-2422, or sign up at the shop or at the June 9 club meeting to reserve a case.

Thanks!

Steve Dover, Display Chairman

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear All,

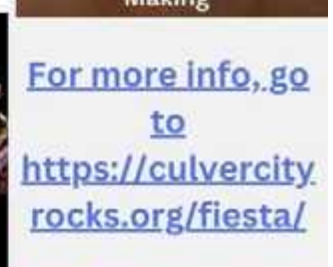
The Fiesta of Gems is fast approaching, so please make certain to sign up for a time slot to support our club and guarantee things run smoothly for our biggest event of the year!

We still need some strong folks to help out on Friday the 28th in the morning for the load in from the shop to the Vets, and also looking for some extra muscle for the breakdown of the show on Sunday at 5 PM.

We also need some great cookies for the vendors, delivered to the lunchroom at the auditorium by noon on the setup day, Friday. Also, Grace Sato needs small pots for some of the plants she has been growing for the show. They should be delivered to the shop as soon as possible.

I hope you've all seen some of our video ads running on social media, as they provide a wonderful, modern glimpse of our event.

Looking forward to seeing you all



VOLUNTEERING FOR FOG

The only way we can have a great Fiesta of Gems is if we all lend a hand. If you haven't yet replied to the emails sent with forms for when to volunteer, now is the time.

Expect a phone call to confirm your form entry or if we are unable to see that you have entered. For questions about volunteering, send an email to ccrmc-volunteers@culvercityrocks.org, and Joanie Rippner, the Volunteer Coordinator, will get back to you.



COOKIES FOR FOG

It is a tradition that on the day of setup, each vendor at our show is given a plate with member-provided home-baked or high-end store-bought cookies (no cheap cookies or Oreos). That is one of the many reasons our great vendors return year after year.

On Friday, June 27, please bring your contribution to the break room at the auditorium before 1 PM. Volunteers will then arrange the plates and bring them to the vendors.

PLANT POTS NEEDED

If you have some small plant pots, the 4" or less type, you want to relieve yourself of, please bring them to the shop during shop hours, as soon as you can. They are needed for plants for Fiesta of Gems!



THE FIESTA OF GEMS WORK PARTY

This year's FOG Work Party was less work and more party than in the past. The invitations to prior years' Fiesta of Gems Show Guests have become digital, starting this year, eliminating the need to place labels and stamps on thousands of postcards. This left plenty of time after stuffing Grab Bags for members to mingle and participate in the Trading Post Raffle.



Gary Mitchell was made a Lifetime Member at the meeting, recognizing his over 35 years of membership and his service in various positions, including President. Gary remains very active, running the Trading Post at person-to-person meetings and overseeing security at Fiesta of Gems.







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 Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 PM, 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.

Wednesdays: [Javier Repetto](#)

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, a particulate mask is also recommended for certain kinds of work.



JUNE WORKSHOPS

Lapidary 101

Sunday, June 15, from 9 am to 12 pm 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. Email Jette to reserve a spot: jetsorensen@gmail.com



Paperclip Earrings – Shaping and soldering

Sunday, June 22, from 9 am to 12 pm at the club's Lapidary Shop.

Learn to shape and solder silver wire to create a pair of paperclip earrings. This will be done with Argentium Silver round wire, which is a form of Sterling Silver with a higher fine silver content. Bring a butane torch (Creme Brulé torch), needle files, and bail-making pliers (preferably with 8mm and 5mm size tips). All of these supplies can be purchased on Amazon. Silver and silicone earring stoppers will be provided. The workshop fee is \$60, including materials, and is payable in advance via Zelle to rocks@nyki.me or via Venmo to @nykibee. The workshop is limited to 4 members. Email Nyki to reserve a spot: rocks@nyki.me

WORKSHOPS AT FIESTA OF GEMS

We have seven terrific workshops you'll dig! Sign up for one of our terrific workshops at the Fiesta of Gems Show, June 28-29, and create something unforgettable. Workshops are listed below.

For more information, go to culvercityrocks.org/fiesta



- Color Your Way: Paper Jewelry Creations

Create beautiful, expressive, and lightweight jewelry (and other items, too!) with a minimum of tools, space, and experience needed. Inexpensive and recyclable. Match to each outfit and mood! Papers are supplied. I will have some findings available.

****Special prize if you have an embossing machine to share!!**

- Instructor: Ruth Shapiro
- When: Saturday, June 28, 10 am-1 pm
- Where: Room B

Intro to Basic Metalsmithing: Piercing & Cutting (offered on Sat and Sun)

Learn how to craft your own metal adornments using tools and materials that are simple to work with at home. In this hands-on workshop, you'll explore techniques such as cutting metal with a jeweler's saw, piercing metal to create interior designs, sanding and cleaning your pieces, and applying a protective polish or sealer. You'll be working with copper, but the skills you gain can easily be applied to brass and sterling silver. By the end of the workshop, you'll have a solid understanding of the

essential tools and materials needed to set up your own workspace, empowering you to continue your metalworking journey independently.

- Instructor: Monica Moreno
- When: Saturday, June 28, 2 pm-6 pm
- Where: Room C

AND

- Instructor: Monica Moreno
- When: Sunday, June 29, 2 pm-5 pm
- Where: Room C



Fusing Skinny Stacking Rings

Make skinny rings using Argentium Silver. Argen-



tium has a higher fine silver content than regular sterling, making fusing easier than with regular sterling. Fusing is connecting metals without using solder. Argentium is extremely slow tarnishing when compared to regular sterling. You will learn to control the flame of a Butane torch, making a seamless joint. Time permitting, we will make and attach embellishments.

- Instructor: Jette Sorensen
- When: Saturday, June 28, 10 am-1 pm
- Where: Room C



Basic Rock Tree of Life Making

Create a beautiful Tree of Life that symbolizes life's quiet strength and is grounded in meaning. Bring a rock from your collection to serve as the foundation. Select a materials kit that includes wire and stone chips – each with their unique properties, such as smoky quartz for grounding and amethyst for clarity.

In this workshop, you'll design and complete your own Tree of Life sculpture using wire and gemstone chips. You'll choose between an uplifted tree or a weeping willow. You'll learn to twist and shape branches, trunks, and roots to make your tree uniquely yours.

- Instructor: Regina Lozano
- When: Saturday, June 28, 2 pm-6 pm
- Where: Room B

Intro to Wax Carving for Jewelry Making

In this introductory workshop, you will learn the basics of wax carving for jewelry using simple, be-

ginner-friendly tools. Focus on tools and techniques you can use at home to continue developing your skills and create beautiful work. You'll get hands-on experience cutting and shaping wax to create your own unique pendant design, which will be cast in bronze and mailed to you within a month after the workshop.



Some of the techniques you'll explore include: transferring and sketching designs onto wax, using tools to carve out form/detail, shaping/smoothing carving wax, and preparing for casting.

- Instructor: Monica Moreno
- When: Sunday, June 29, 10 am-1 pm
- Where: Room C



Beginning Wirewrap Beaded Bracelet

Looking for the perfect introduction to wire-wrap- ping? This beginner-friendly bracelet workshop is the ideal place to start! In this hands-on session, you'll learn how to expertly wrap stones and craft a sturdy, stylish bracelet complete with a handmade hook clasp. This project is fun, fast, and incredibly versatile—you might just find yourself making more than one! Feel free to bring your favorite 8mm beads to personalize your piece and make it uniquely yours. Whether you are brand new to jewelry-making or just looking for a creative refresh, this workshop promises a rewarding and sparkly experience.

- Instructor: Janice Metz
- When: Sunday, June 29, 2 pm-5 pm
- Where: Room B

BENCH TIPS



QUICK CLOSE-UPS

Often when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you can't magnify it enough or end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.

LITTLE BALLS

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces in my designs. They can be made as needed from scraps. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad, and melt them with a torch.



Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.



But there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. Or if you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round ones roll to the bottom. Bag the good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.

— Brad Smith, [Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making](#)

THE MINUTES

Board Meeting

In Attendance – Jette Sorensen, Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Karen Wallen, Steve Dover, Ellen Moe, Regina Lozano, Joannie Ripner, Janelle Williams, Rick Schaefer, Gary Mitchell and Darrell Robb.

Called to order at 6:48 PM by president Alexa Hunter.

Lapidary Shop:

- Member Javier is now instructor on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30 pm. Everyone helps out so he's getting up to speed.
- All machines are working.
- There is a new jewelry tumbler available for members.

What is happening with 12 crystals that were donated to the club? They were in the shop safe and then removed when the front door was damaged. Gary feels they are worth about \$30 each. Jette has taken pictures of each one.

Board members agreed to donate 2 to the Fiesta of Gems raffle and then 2 more to the club picnic in August.

Membership – Regina stated that there are currently 127 paid members.

Fiesta of Gems – June 28th and 29th, set up on the 27th.

- Vendor co-chair stated that half of the vendors have paid. All of the members have submitted their paperwork.
- Per vendor co-chair Karen, there are 2 open spots that she will fill from the waiting list. She is looking for quality and uniqueness.
- It was suggested that the club have a gold panning demonstration on the stage. Janelle will reach out to Keane Engineering.
- Steve stated that there are still 5 display cases available for members.
- Food – Stephanie stated that she will order from Good Heart Catering for Saturday and Rutts for Sunday, the same as last year. She will have a

conversation with Darrell this weekend because he is the club treasurer. Will discuss him placing the order with Rutts so that it can be paid directly from the club instead Stephanie having to be reimbursed later. Also see if Darrell can order drinks and other supplies from Costco. Steve will bring large ice chest. Rick will bring bagels for Saturday morning and Janelle will bring donuts Sunday.

- Raffle tickets – Regina has extra box, all members were sent \$20 worth of \$1 tickets.
- Volunteer sign up form is going out tomorrow. Joannie and Regina are working together on the email system.
- Plants – 4 inch pots are needed. Can leave at the shop or bring to the show on Friday.
- Cookies – Our club gives each vendor a container of cookies. Need donations of homemade or nice grocery store kind. Bring to show on Friday.

Treasurer – Darrell stated that we are in good shape. CD that matured deposited half into mutual fund.

Ellen stated that she went to CFMS (California Federation of Mineral Societies) meeting. There is a field trip to geode beds in Utah scheduled for September 25th.

Darrell stated that we need a new storage shed. There was a lot of discussion about the issue. Alexa said we need to find out how much this will cost and how long it will take to remove the old shed and possibly the concrete pad below it. Janelle will research.

7:32 PM - Stephanie made a motion to close the business meeting and Jette seconded.

General Meeting

Called to order by president Alexa at 7:30 PM.

Lapidary shop: Javier is now the instructor on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30. Reservations need to be made online.

Fiesta of Gems June 28th and 29th, with set up on June 27th.

- Karen and Darrell are vendor co-chairs. Stat-

ed that there are 2 empty spots and they will choose someone from the waiting list.

- Working on insurance with CFMS.
- Joannie stated that volunteer sign up email is going out tomorrow. All members are responsible for 4 hours of time as a condition they agreed to when they signed up. Regina explained how to respond to the email.
- Alexa stated that we need to wash the vendor tablecloths. There are several plastic tubs, each with 10 tablecloths. Volunteers can pick up from the shop.
- Food – Stephanie delegated Saturday morning bagels to Rick and Sunday morning donuts to Janelle.
- We need hourly door prize donations. They can be brought to the shop.
- There are still a lot of tear off and postcard flyers for members to distribute.
- Plants – need 4 in pots. Grace and Joyce are in charge of that area. Can bring pots to the shop or the show.
- Cookies for vendors – please bake or buy nice ones from store.
- There are still more raffle tickets for sale. Please pay for the ones that were sent to you in the mail.
- Gary needs people to be security. This means wearing a vest and wandering around the show floor. Also need 2 people at 8 am Saturday and Sunday so vendors can come early.

Nugget – Jette needs articles. Also she wants someone to take over the editorial duties.

Treasurer – Darrell stated that half of the money from the matured CD went into the mutual fund.

Awarded Gary Mitchell a lifetime membership.

Darrell made a motion to close the meeting and Jette seconded it.

Meeting ended at 8:05 per motion by Alexa and second by Jette.

Some of the members filled gemstone bags for the show. Not a lot was needed. It was nice opportunity for members to socialize.

JUNE MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Khattab Selma	1-Jun
Williams Janelle	3-Jun
Guimaraes Ana Maria	4-Jun
Herf Lorna	6-Jun
Azemoon Sanam	6-Jun
Pinaud Celmance	6-Jun
Karasarides Annie	9-Jun
Rivas David	10-Jun
Warren Devrha	10-Jun
Intrieri Madelyn	15-Jun
Bazley Taylor	19-Jun
Acosta Susan C	24-Jun
Darrell Robb	24-Jun
Kuennen Joel	27-Jun
Sadeghi Michael	28-Jun

MAY NEW MEMBERS

Sanam Azemoon
Taylor Bazley
Liam Brabender
Jonathan Browning
Jane Harrington
Misty Kueneman
Stacy Nolan
Clemence Pinaud
Rolan Shaide

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

2025 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

2025 Committee Chairs

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

Board of Directors

2025
Ana Maria Stambi Guimaraes
Bradford Smith

2026 + 2027
TBD

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