

INTARSIA - A NEW APPROACH TO MARRIED STONE

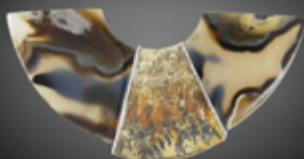
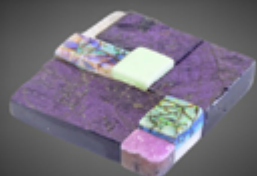
SEPTEMBER 8th, 7:30 PM Multipurpose Room in the back of the Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230

[Leslie Aine McKeown](#) will demonstrate how to make Intarsia, the technique of marrying several pieces of stone together to create a new cabochon. Leslie will be live from her studio in Prescott, AZ. It will be on the screen. We will have a microphone available for comments or questions, and she will respond in real time. She will be able to see us on her computer screen.

Leslie: "It is an old technique, tracing its origin to

the Renaissance in Italy. Today, this technique has been embraced by many lapidary artists. My approach differs from the traditional Intarsia techniques. In this lecture and demo, I will discuss the history of this beautiful technique and show how I create my version of married stone."

Lesley Aine McKeown is an art jewelry and lapidary artist. She teaches advanced metalsmith techniques, contemporary art jewelry design, and Intarsia. She has a 4-year degree in the Lapidary Arts and is a GIA Alumni and International Gem Society member.



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 All,

We had a wonderful picnic in Lindberg Park this year, thanks to delicious vittles and lively guests. We had outstanding burgers and hot dogs, courtesy of grill master Rick Shaffer and family, and there were excellent side dishes brought by attendees. Thank you all!

The auction had outstanding specimens, and those who came did not go home empty-handed. I am still kicking myself for not bidding higher on some of the gorgeous minerals that were on the docket. We still need to clarify a few points about silent auction etiquette, but that is for a later post.

In the meantime, we are moving toward a robust fall of speakers at our meetings, workshops, field trips, and, of course, the holiday party in December. We may even have nabbed a couple of outstanding members to take on the Vendor Chairperson job.

Happy fall, and see you all soon,

— Alexa Hunter, President



PROGRAM REPORT

We had scheduled diamond prospector Rob Norman to give a presentation, but learned on the morning of the meeting that Rob was in an accident. He is now okay and will give his presentation at a later time.

We didn't have time to schedule another presenter and resorted to showing a Zoom presentation from the pandemic period of Koroit Opals from Australia. When our club's projector failed, a Culver City Parks and Recreation employee lent us the city's projector.

Peggy Oberg had put together a great snacks table, but that was not enough to keep everyone captivated, and only a few members stayed to the end of the projection.

So, all in all, the August membership meeting was governed by Murphy's Law.

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.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

We are significantly expanding the [workshops](#). Workshops in the Lapidary Shop are exclusively for members. Workshops in the Scout House are for both members and non-members.



BASIC TREE OF LIFE SCULPTURE

September 13, 10 AM – 2:30 PM – Scout House – Regina Lozano

Create your own Tree of Life sculpture. You'll choose from a wide variety of wire and semi-precious stone chips, including aquamarine, smoky quartz, garnet - see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops

LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, September 14, 9 AM – 12 PM – Lapidary Shop – Jette Sorensen

Get to know the equipment in the Lapidary Workshop by making a polished cabochon. Limited to 4 members – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops



BEGINNING RIVETING

Saturday, September 20, 11 AM – 3 PM – Scout House – Monica Moreno

Perfect for beginners, this workshop will guide you through the process of joining metal components without the use of heat – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops

BEGINNING BEZEL SETTING (premade bezels)

Sunday, September 28, 9 AM – 12 PM at CCRMC Lapidary Shop – Jette Sorensen

Learn to solder a pre-made bezel cup to a ring and set a cabochon. Solder a pre-made bezel cup to a ring made in a prior workshop. Learn how to set a cabochon in the bezel cup. Limited to 4 members - see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops



BEGINNING WIRE WRAPPING

Saturday, October 11, 11 AM – 3 PM Scout House – Janice Metz

Learn the fundamentals of wire wrapping in this hands-on beginner workshop using copper wire

and a 27mm wide x 36 mm long (approximately 1" wide x 1.5" long) cabochon – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops



LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, October 12, 9 AM – 12 PM Lapidary Shop – Jette Sorensen

Get to know the equipment in the Lapidary Workshop by making a polished cabochon – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops

INTRO TO THE ART OF HAND STAMPING

Saturday, October 18 – 11 AM – 3 PM
Scout House – Monica Moreno

Discover how to create metal adornments using tools and materials that you can easily utilize at home.



During the workshop, these are some of the things you will learn to do:

Cut metal with a jeweler's saw - Sand and clean metal - Stamp designs, words, and/or add texture - Add Patina - Attach jump rings - Add a polish sealer – see the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops.



BEZEL SET A STONE

Sunday, October 26, 9 AM – 12 PM Lapidary Shop – Jette Sorensen

Learn to make a bezel that fits your stone using bezel wire. Solder it to an Argentium silver backplate. Set your stone in the bezel. There's a lot to learn to make the fit. – See the full explanation at culvercityrocks.org/workshops

THE NUGGET EDITOR WANTED

We are looking for someone to take over as Editor of the Nugget. It involves gathering articles from different members. On occasion, there will be a little writing. Make sure there are images ready to go with some of the articles. Once everything is received and checked, ship it off to Joel Kuennen, who will put it all together and do the layout. When the issue is complete, send it to the membership via PHP, the email forwarding company we use. If you are interested, let Alexa and/or Jette know. Jette will help you get started.

BENCH TIPS

TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown “silvery” pieces of metal in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry that isn’t hallmarked. Is it silver? - or is it something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it’s best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver (copper-nickel-zinc alloy) or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It’s not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you’re on the right track. And it’s inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution, you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - apply a small drop and watch for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver-plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here’s the reaction I got when testing various materials:

- . Fine silver Red/Orange
- . Sterling silver Brick Red
- . 80% silver 20% Copper . . Dark red changing to gray
- . Brass Yellow changing to blue
- . Nickel Gray-green
- . Copper Yellow changing to blue



- . Steel Black
- . Stainless Steel No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

Wear safety glasses.
Do not get any testing solution on your skin.
Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.

Wash and clean up well when you’re done.



REMOVING SOLDER FROM A BEZEL

Sometimes, when you solder a bezel to a base plate, you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of a tool bit for this is an “Inverse Cone” bur used in a motor tool or flex shaft.

The nice thing about this bur is that it cuts on the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there’s less chance of it cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more common cylinder bur shape. I find the 2 mm size useful for almost any bezel.

There are hundreds of different tool tips for your Dremel or Foreman. Get Brad’s guide on choosing the best one for the job at [amazon.com/dp/B074LG-35ZV](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B074LG-35ZV)

— Brad Smith



Link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/UhB3mCQ58B-hEzEJS6>

Lead: Ben Granger



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip September 6 - Flat Rock Beach

Join Us for a Rockin' Adventure at Flat Rock Beach! Grab your buckets and your sense of wonder—our next club field trip takes us to Flat Rock Beach in Palos Verdes!

This scenic coastal spot is perfect for hunting colorful sea glass, unique rocks, and coastal treasures shaped by the tides. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just love the ocean breeze, this trip promises a fun and relaxing day of exploration. Don't forget your sunscreen, sturdy shoes, and a keen eye for nature's hidden gems!

For directions, see the Google Maps link below. Upon arrival, there is free parking on the side of Paseo Del Mar during the day. The Bluff Cove Trail will take you down to the beach. Rockhounding results are highly dependent on the tide, and on the day of the trip, low tide is estimated to be around 3 PM, which is why we list the start time at 1 PM. Feel free to come whenever you please, but do check the tide tables beforehand.

Location: Flat Rock Beach

Date: Saturday, September 6th, 2025

Time: 1 PM

Field Trip September 25 through September 28 - Topaz Mt/Dugway Geodes

This field trip is sponsored by the Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society and the Field Trip Chairman's Association (CO-OP), with the inclusion of additional member societies in good standing with the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS).

All participants must agree to abide by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS) Code of Ethics <https://www.amfed.org>

Have fun and stay safe!

Jim Barton

CFMS Field Trips North Chair

More information and sign up at link below:

[Topaz Mt and Dugway Geode Utah Field Trip RRR Coop CFMS Sept 2025](#)

THE MINUTES

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club Meeting Monday August 11th 2025

BOARD MEETING

In Attendance – Jette Sorensen, Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Regina Lozano, Karen Wallen, Gary Mitchell and Darrell Robb.

Called to order at 6:40 PM by president Alexa Hunter.

Membership – Regina stated we have 186 members. Scheduled presenter cancelled at the last minute, so we are doing a previously recorded on Zoom presentation about opals from Australia.

Jette stated that the lapidary shop needs 3 new doors. She is upset that this has gone on for several months and there has been no movement. She got 1 estimate of \$1800 for 1 door.

Darrell wants steel doors. Confirmed that the club still has 8 years left on current lease, so it is worth the club replacing with quality product.

Gary has a reference and called them during the meeting. They will stop by the shop Wednesday night during shop hours to create an estimate.

Steve is supposed to be taking charge, he was not present at the meeting, participated on speaker phone.

Alexa state that a club member may be interested in taking over as vendor chair for next year's Fiesta of Gems.

Darrell made a motion that all monthly club meeting be in person from now on. Upset that the next 2 meetings are on Zoom without the Executive Committee being notified first. Jette says she did tell some of the members of the committee.

Jette asked for assistance with this commitment.

Stephanie said she can finish up her presentation about garnets and beads from her trip to Czech Re-

public and take one date.

Steve suggested that members get newsletters from other clubs and find out who they are getting as presenters.

Regina suggested doing hybrid, however we advised that when tried previously, it was not successful.

No vote taken.

Jette is resigning from her Nugget duties at the end of the year. A club member came to the meeting who might be interested in taking over.

Steve reminded us that the club picnic is this Saturday the 16th at Lindberg park and there will be a terrific silent auction. He needs some members to take supplies from the shop at 8am that morning, then some more help at the park at 9am. The event runs from 10am to 2pm. Alexa will purchase some needed supplies and condiments. It is a potluck and club member Rick Shaffer is bringing meat to barbeque.

Holiday party is December 8th. Karen checked out Santa Monica park locations, but none have kitchen facilities. We need to find out if Wende Museum as something we can use, otherwise will use Rotary Plaza again.

Karen wanted to discuss the mineral chosen for 2026 Fiesta of Gems. She doesn't want just malachite, wants malachite and azurite. She found a picture on the internet that she wants to use postcards and see if she can get permission to use it.

She is also upset that gems chosen for the next 3 years, so board agreed to only handle the 2026 decision at this time.

Darell is still working on how much the club made at 2025 Fiesta of Gems. Expects to have it ready at the picnic. He said we are also waiting for the dividends deposit from the Vanguard mutual fund.

Stephanie made a motion to end the meeting at 7:39 pm and it was seconded by Darrell

JULY NEW MEMBERS

GENERAL MEETING

Alexa called to order at 7:34 PM

Jette announced all of the workshops.

Club picnic is this Saturday at Lindberg park. We need volunteers to meet at the shop at 8am to help transport supplies from storage sheds. We then need help with set up at 9am at the park.

It is a potluck, so bring a dish to share, and there is also a silent auction. People can pay for silent auction winning bids using Zelle.

Regina stated that the club currently has 186 members.

Alexa announced that we need new vendor chairs for the 2026 Fiesta of Gems. She also announced that Jette needs help with program chair task.

Darrell stated that the club is in great financial shape. Fiesta of Gems breakdown will be available at the picnic on Saturday.

Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to charity. In the past, we have donated to the Scout House and LA Goal. Member Karen told attendees about LA Goal.

We will vote at another meeting.

Holiday party will be on December 8th.

Meeting ended at 7:46 pm.

Submitted by Stephanie Dangott, Recording Secretary

Karina Corradini

Allison Liegner

Marc Martinez

Jordyn Morris

Brianna Peebles

JULY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Pam Bush	7-Sep
Jamie Remmers	9-Sep
Cameo Litz	12-Sep
Ciara Keane	14-Sep
Marc Martinez	16-Sep
Carolynn Krueger	20-Sep
Matthew Brandt	22-Sep
Annetta Luevano	22-Sep
Frane Einberg	25-Sep
Nina Mross	25-Sep
Ashley Manahan	25-Sep
Romaine Fekade Selassie	27-Sep
Lauren Stambaugh	28-Sep
Sara Luchian	28-Sep
Krystal Chang	29-Sep

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

Copyright Notice

©The Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, 2025

Unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without express and written permission from the editor of the Nugget is strictly prohibited. Excerpts may be used, provided that full and clear credit is given to the author and the CCRMC with appropriate and specific direction to the original content.

The CCRMC is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) organization.

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 - Merrilee 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