



CCRMC HOLIDAY PARTY

Monday, December 8. [Culver City Rotary Plaza, 5100 Overland Avenue, Culver City.](#) Please park in the street, not in the Rotary Plaza parking lot.

Starting at 5 PM: help with setup and decorating; 5:30 PM Mingle; 6:30 PM Dinner; followed by the installation of 2026 Club officers and the White Elephant Gift (a/k/a Secret Santa, Mad Santa, and others) Exchange.

The holiday party is a potluck. The Club will provide turkey, ham, water, and place settings. Members, please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert enough to share, and your own nonalcoholic beverage. To participate in the White Elephant gift exchange, please bring a funny or imaginative, gender-neutral, wrapped gift. The maximum value is \$20. It should be the type of gift you would enjoy receiving. If you bring a gift, it will be exchanged for a ticket. When your ticket number is drawn, you may pick a gift from the pile or “steal” a gift from someone who

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.



has already received one. If your gift is stolen, you may pick another from the pile, but not “steal” from someone who has already picked.

In our exchange, all packages will remain wrapped until the last gift has been selected.

We must be finished and out of the facility at 9 PM.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

Hope everyone enjoyed some festive Thanksgiving celebrating.



Speaking of celebrations, our annual holiday party is coming up soon, on Monday, December 8, from 6-9 pm at the Rotary Plaza in Culver City, 5100 Overland Ave. The club will supply the main protein for the night - ham and turkey, but we need folks to bring side dishes, beverages (no alcohol), or dessert.

Plus, we do a game of Bad Santa, wherein we exchange anonymously wrapped gifts (nothing more than \$20), so bring a gift if you want to play.

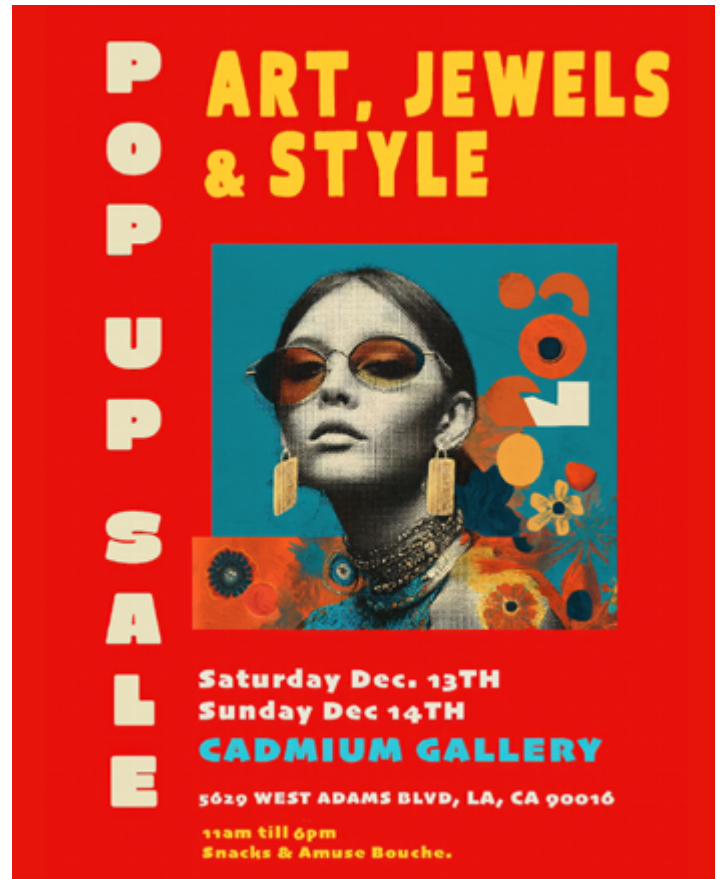
Don't forget to wear (or bring to show off) your favorite jewelry piece or specimen you have made during the last year.

December has several workshops that still have space for participants. On Dec. 13 is a class in wax carving, taught by Monica Moreno. On Dec. 14, Jette Sorensen will be teaching a lapidary class.

Don't forget to book time at the shop on Wednesday evening, 5:30-8 pm, and Saturdays and Sunday 12-4 pm.

Hope to see a lot of you at the holiday party and have a toast for all the club has accomplished in 2025 and will hope to achieve in the new year.

I'll also be showing work at this wonderful pop-up on Dec. 13-14:



— Alexa Hunter, President



DECEMBER WORKSHOPS



WAX CARVING

Saturday, December 6, 2025 11 AM – 3 PM

In the Scout House – Instructor, Monica Moreno

Description: Learn the basics of wax carving for jewelry using simple, beginner-friendly tools. In this introductory workshop, 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 after the workshop.

A few of the techniques you'll explore include:

- Transferring and sketching designs onto wax
- Using basic tools to carve out form and detail
- Shaping and smoothing carving wax
- Preparing your piece for casting

This workshop focuses on accessible tools and techniques you can use at home to continue developing your skills and create more beautiful work. You will carve a design for one pendant that will be cast for you and mailed to the address you provide. You can bring ideas for small simple designs, or use a design provided. If bringing your own, sketch ideas for flat designs that are within 1 inch by 1 inch in size.

Safety Notes: If you have them, please bring your prescription eyeglasses and/or safety glasses, an apron if you prefer your clothing not to get dirty. Please wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Long hair should be tied back away from your face. Refrain from wearing long dangling jewelry and loose long sleeves.

Workshop fee	Members	\$137
	Non-members	\$147

Workshop fee includes all tools, materials, and casting.

For registration and payment, go to www.Desviado.com/event-list

LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, December 14, 2026 9 AM – 12 PM



In the Lapidary Shop – Instructor Jette Sorensen

Description: 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.

Safety Notes: Wear old clothes, you will get wet. Wear closed-toe shoes. Long hair should be tied back away from your face. Refrain from wearing long dangling jewelry and loose long sleeves. Bring eye and ear protection.

Don't bring your own stone(s), save that until you know the equipment.

Workshop fee: \$20 payable in advance. Limited to four members.

Email [Jette Sorensen](mailto:jette@desviado.com) for registration and payment information.



SHOP REPORT

If you are the recipient of a brand-new crockpot and the old one still works, we would be very happy to take the used one off your hands. We need the crockpot for pickling. No, we are not making sauerkraut or gherkins; we use it to remove oxidation and flux from metal after it has been heated or soldered. The one we have is on the fritz.

Please email the shop instructor for an appointment to the shop by 8 PM the night before the shop you want to attend. You can always call the shop at 310-836-4611 after it opens to see if there's room for you.

If you have made an appointment for shop time and have not included an estimated arrival time, and you don't show up within 30 minutes of opening time, the instructor has the right to close the shop if no one else has arrived or is expected at an agreed-upon time. If you are delayed, you can always call the shop at 310-836-4611

NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

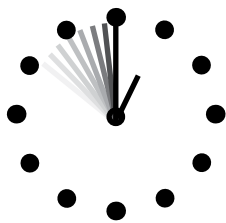
Luis De Los Santos, who discovered and named Condor Agate in 1993, was the guest lecturer at the latest meeting of the Culver City Rock and Mineral Club.

Born in Buenos Aires, Santos developed a fascination with rocks and minerals from childhood, collecting stones as early as age six. His discovery of Condor agate in 1993, in the mountains near San Rafael, Mendoza Province in Argentina, was a big one, reverberating around the world by collectors. Condor agate is highly valued for its brilliant banding and is mined in a remote area accessible only by horseback in Argentina.

Santos named the agate after the Andean condors flying overhead when he found the deposit. It is popular with collectors for its colorful and intricate banding, which can feature fiery reds, oranges, yellows, blues, purples, and greens. It's a popular stone among collectors and jewelry designers

Condor agate is found in the mountainous region near San Rafael in the Mendoza Province of Argentina. Condor agate is widely available for purchase on the internet. Santos' rock-hunting passion also led to the discovery of high-quality petrified pine cones, in addition to dinosaur eggs.

— Brian Deagon, Nugget Correspondent Meeting Monday, November 10, 2025



THE MINUTES

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

In Attendance – Jette Sorensen, Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Regina Lozano, Karen Wallen, Joanie Rippner, Ellen Moe, Rick Shaf-

fer, Darrell Robb, Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes and Gary Mitchell. Called to order at 6:32 PM by president Alexa Hunter. Darrell and Rick attended Wende Museum recent open house. We need to do election of 2026 officers tonight.

Fiesta of Gems:

1. We still need to get the picture for postcards. Gary asked to be reminded so he can find the gemstones and take the picture.

2. Karen discussed vendor issues.

Karen advised that younger club members had brought it to her attention that they want more time for socializing at meetings.

Trading Post – Gary suggested that, in order to have more time between the general meeting and program, only 3 items as prizes instead of more. That way, members have more time to socialize. No formal decision was made. Steve stated that the shop is in good shape.

7:27 PM Stephanie made a motion to end the meeting. It was seconded by Rick.

GENERAL MEETING

Called to order by President Alexa at 7:43 PM.

Stephanie announced Alley Sale, November 22nd, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Shop - Steve advised that the 24" saw has been fixed. Also, there is room for people to sign up for open hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

Nugget – Jette asked people to please read it each month. She also asked for people to submit articles.

Upcoming workshops:

November 22 – Scrimshaw

December 6 – Wax Carving

December 16 – Lapidary 101

Treasurer – Darrell stated we are in good shop. We got a dividend from stocks. Next meeting is the holiday party at Rotary Plaza. It's a potluck with gift exchange. Election of Board Members for 2026 was approved by a quorum in attendance. Member Darren asked for a quorum to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Minutes approved.

Meeting ended at 7:56 PM.

BENCH TIPS



OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



TEMPLATES

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact cop-

ies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc., but for non-standard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto a silver sheet. Another is the nickel template, which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

Get more of Brad's tips and tricks at amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV.

— Brad Smith

MINERAL REPORT: ARE THERE REALLY DIAMONDS IN CALIFORNIA?

It is true that diamonds have been found in California. Several sources estimate that 500 to 600 plus diamonds have been found in California. Primarily, these have been alluvial diamonds found in placer mining for gold in the Sierra foothills. Alluvial diamonds found in riverbed gravel, shoreline sands, or ocean sediments have been moved by water or glaciers from their original kimberlite pipes (see the mineral report from our September 2024 issue for a deeper exploration of kimberlite pipes) or lamproiite fields.

During the Gold Rush, hydraulic placer mining was used in Jackass Gulch in Amador County and Cherokee Flat in Butte County. This process is now illegal in California due to the severe damage it does to the environment. But since diamonds, like gold, are heavier than the other components of stream gravel they are still occasionally found while panning for gold.

The term "diamond" has been loosely used as a label

for several crystals. The Herkimer Diamonds found in Herkimer County, New York, are clear, doubly terminated quartz crystals. In the California Cady



Mountains, there are Ludlow Diamonds which are calcite crystals which fluoresce red or pink. Clear Lake diamonds or Lake County diamonds are a type of quartz. They are also called moon tears and are found near Clear Lake and the dormant volcano Mount Konocti in California. Desert Diamonds found in parts of the Mojave Desert are also quartz. The geological formation of California is incompatible with the formation of kimberlite pipes. Commercial kimberlite pipes are found in the oldest cores of continents. The west coast of the United States was formed as smaller landmasses called terranes crashed into and merged with the western edge of the North American plate.

The geological processes are also incompatible for diamonds to be formed in a geode. Diamonds are formed only deep in the Earth, under conditions of extreme heat and pressure. Geodes are formed near the surface in cavities within rocks when mineral-rich water seeps in and over time the minerals precipitate forming crystals or layers like quartz, amethyst and agate.

We would all love to find a diamond while panning for gold. However, in a [Mindat post](#), Jesse Fisher concludes that “Given the enormous amount of ground moved over the past 150+ years searching for gold” if you are trying to find an alluvial diamond in California “your odds of getting a return on your time and money are likely much better with a lottery ticket.” — Ellen Moe, Federation Director

NOVEMBER NEW MEMBERS

Justin Metz
Marissa Morrison
Sydney Morua
Katelyn Rim
Heather Rim

NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Michael Braff
Chana Bryson
Karina Corradini
Mallory Emerson
Bart Gampe
Shimmy Gontijo
Ben Guthrie
Virginia Hollis
Rosemarie Ihde
Eric Jakubowski
Linda Kunik
Brian Lallement
Jordan LePre Cassannello
Cyndy Mandell
Victoria Massa
Ellen Moe
Miles Mokran
Alain Pierre-Louis
Kyler Plouffe
Andrew Salvatore
Rolan Shaide
Rebecca Switzer
Ashlyn Tatro
Yvette Trinh

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

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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