



APRIL ICE CREAM SOCIAL (AND SHOW & TELL)

Monday, April 13, 7:30 PM
*in the Multipurpose Room,
at the Veterans Memorial
Complex, 4117 Overland
Avenue, Culver City*

Gather your recently found, cut-and-polished stones, or pieces of jewelry made at the shop or at home, or a special stone or jewelry purchase, and bring them to our Ice Cream Social to hang out with old and new friends.

We have quite a few new members, and we look forward to meeting you!

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,

Our March meeting was held next door to our shop, in the Wende Museum's Glorja Kaufman building, specifically in their lovely theatre space. It turns out to be a wonderful space for a presentation, with good acoustics and great sight lines.



Our speaker, David Balenson, did not disappoint. He gave great insight into the visually rich and diverse world of sand. Because the theatre doesn't allow food inside, we enjoyed refreshments in the museum's delightful outdoor garden. Our next meeting on April 13th will be back at the Vet's Multipurpose room, as it will be an Ice-cream Social, a tradition begun by our dear Adrienne Louie, who we all miss very much.

We are moving confidently forward with plans for our club's future space with the help of Justin Jampol and the Wende Museum. They have generously gifted us \$5,000 for a new storage container, which we are planning to install in the very near future. A larger storage unit will give our shop more breathing room for now, as we continue strategizing our future, larger, and updated home.

Meanwhile, I hope to catch up with many of you on April 13th for our Ice cream Social.

Remember to wear a piece of jewelry you've made recently or bring a special specimen or polished stone to show off.

— Alexa Hunter, President



CCRMC AT EL RINCON'S 3RD ANNUAL STEAM & MAKERFAIRE NIGHT

As the Education Chair for the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, I had the pleasure of representing our club at El Rincon Elementary School's 3rd Annual STEAM & Makerfaire Night — a celebration of science, technology, engineering, art, and math in action.



Our table was a mini rock-and-mineral wonderland, featuring specimens that sparked curiosity and conversation. The hands-on activity was a big hit: each student got to choose a polished rock — lovingly crafted and polished by CCRMC members — to take home as a keepsake and inspiration for their own geological adventures.

The real “wow” moment came when we used the small light on my phone to check for translucency. Kids were amazed to see certain stones glow as light passed through them, revealing hidden beauty within. Their excitement was infectious — questions flew, discoveries were made, and smiles were everywhere.

Events like this remind us why we share our passion for earth sciences. It’s about more than rocks — it’s about igniting curiosity, encouraging exploration, and connecting with our community. A heartfelt thank-you to El Rincon Elementary for inviting us, and to our talented CCRMC members, for creating the beautiful polished stones that made the night even more special.

— Merrilee Marks, Education Chair

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.



APRIL WORKSHOPS

LAPIDARY 101

Sunday, April 12, 9 AM to 12 PM
at the club’s 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

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

Workshop fee: \$25 payable in advance. Limited to four members.

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

ETCHED IN TIME: ACID ETCHING MEMORY INTO METAL

Saturday, April 25, 11 AM – 3 PM
In the Scout House
Instructor – Monica Moreno

Description: What’s a memory you’d like to keep forever? Join us for a hands-on workshop where we turn your personal stories into lasting metal keepsakes. We’ll be acid-etching on copper to create symbolic charms, pendants, keychains, or tokens. We will also explore using patina and learn to cut our metal using a jeweler’s saw, among other techniques, to create a meaningful piece.

To get started, you will email three photos of images or words that are meaningful to you. During the

workshop, you'll learn and experiment with different image-transfer methods to see how your memories take shape on metal. Whether it's a gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself, you'll leave with one or more unique pieces.

Cost: \$95 Non-Members / \$85 Members
Register: www.Desviado.com/event-list



BEZELS MADE FROM SCRATCH

Sunday, April 26, 9 AM - 12 PM at the club's Lapidary shop
Instructor – Jette Sorensen

Description: Wearing a pendant, made with a cabochon you have cut and polished yourself, set in a bezel you made yourself, is a great feeling. This workshop will teach you to fit your cabochon with the right height bezel wire. Then fit that bezel wire on an Argentium silver backplate. Solder the wire onto the backplate. Refit the stone into the soldered backplate and secure it with bezel setting tools. After that, cut or saw the excess backplate and file it to remove any burs for an expert look.

Safety Notes: Wear natural fabrics, such as cotton. Wear closed-toe shoes. Long hair should be tied back away from your face. Refrain from wearing long dangling jewelry and loose long sleeves

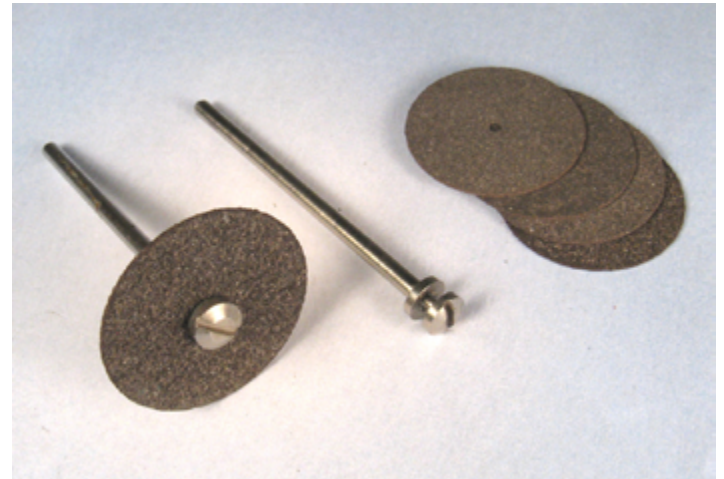
Workshop Fee: \$95 payable in advance. Limited to four members.

Email Jette Sorensen for registration and payment information.

Email Jette Sorensen to reserve a spot and get payment information: jetsorensen@gmail.com



BENCH TIPS



CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels (also called Separating Discs) are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one-inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disc, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are not as good at cutting soft metals like copper, silver and gold. They will work, but soft metals tend to clog up the cutting edges.

DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chain making, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not to



tumble for a long period because it tends to remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at <http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

— Brad Smith

UPCOMING SHOWS:

Canejo Gem and Mineral Club
April 18-19, 2026 – Thousand Oaks, CA

Borchard Community Center, 190 N. Reino Rd, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

Come join us for this fun and FREE family event every year in April. We look forward to seeing you soon!

- * Exhibits and Dealers
 - * Door Prizes and Drawings
 - * Opportunity Tables and Silent Auctions
 - * Lapidary, Rock Polishing, and Jewelry Making Demonstrations
 - * Youth Activities like Arts & Crafts, Learning Centers, and chances to win prizes
 - * Your favorite "raw to finished" Fossils, Gemstones, Jewelry, Metaphysical, Minerals, Lapidary Equipment/Supplies, Rocks, and much more!
- FREE Admission and FREE Parking!

Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

Website: www.cgamc.org

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society

April 25-26, 2026 – Anaheim, CA

Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801

Hours: Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4:30

Contact: anaheimsearchers@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

More shows at cfmsinc.org



49TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

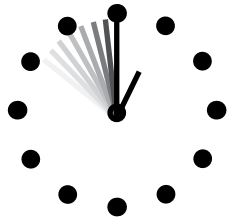
APRIL 18TH-19TH, 2026
SATURDAY: 10AM-5PM
SUNDAY: 10AM-4PM

PAGEANT OF 1000 GEMS
CONEJO GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Free Admission - Free Parking
Borchard Community Center
190 N. Reino Road
Thousand Oaks, CA

www.CGAMC.org

Vendors Exhibits
Live Lapidary-Demonstrations
Silent Auction
Hourly Raffle
Plant Sale
Youth Room



THE MINUTES

Monday March 9th, 2026

Board Meeting

In Attendance – Jette Sorensen, Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Regina Lozano, Karen Wallen, Joanie Rippner, Ellen Moe, Darrell Robb, Gary Mitchell, Margy Stein, and Alain Pierre-Louise.

Called to order at 6:47 PM by president Alexa Hunter. Steve stated that the shop is in good shape. Gary is going to take over the Wednesday slot. The exact time hasn't been decided. Steve made a motion to grant lifetime membership 2 longtime members. All board members approved. These members will be recognized at the Fiesta of Gems.

Alexa announced that our storage will be moving to shipping containers. These containers have been donated by another foundation. We will try to move the items after the Fiesta of Gems (FOG). Alexa want committees formed for Education and Field Trips. She asked that the request be put in the Nugget.

Jette apologized for the Nugget being sent out a few days late. She would like someone else to take over those duties. Regina stated that there are 114 members. There are 140 members who did not yet renew from last year. She also stated that she has the envelopes with raffle tickets for members who still need to pick them up. If they are not picked up tonight, we will mail them.

Joannie has completed the inventory list of library books in the shop. Alain and Margy are the new vendor chairs for FOG. They already 16 confirmed returning vendors. 17 vendors have yet to confirm. They have also been given the names of 5 more vendors who might be invited. There are more in-

terested vendors then spaces.

Stephanie announced that there will be an Alley Sale on April 18th from 10 am to 3pm.

Darrell stated that we have received a generous dividend and suggested that the funds be used for community outreach. He suggested that local school education nights and STEM events. Also stated that the permit for FOG is being worked on. Additionally stated we are looking for a new FOG table vendor.

7:18 pm the meeting ended.

General Meeting

Called to order by President Alexa at 7:50 PM.

Steve and Jette are the shop instructors on Saturday and Sunday. Please call or email to reserve a spot. Also, we will be moving our storage to some donated storage containers.

Per Regina, we currently have 256 members, 114 that have already paid for 2026. Membership is due by the end of the meeting to stay current and continue to have shop privileges. Each member has been asked to buy 20 raffle tickets for FOG. Regina already has an envelope for each member at the meeting, except for members who picked them up at the last meeting.

Stephanie announced an Alley Sale on November 22nd from 10 am to 3 pm.

Treasurer – Darrell stated we are in good shape. Wende Museum will be donating space for the club to move the shop into; this is still in the planning stages. This move will help with community outreach.

Fiesta of Gems is at the end of June. We received a grant from the city to pay for the rental of Veterans Auditorium. Fiesta of Gems will be June 27th and 28th. Steve announced that we have 20 display cases for members, and he brought the sign-up sheet.

Alexa stated that we need club members to volunteer for the education committee. These members will go to events at local elementary and middle

JPK
Studios

SEARCHERS

65TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

Saturday, **April 25th, 2026** / 10am - 5pm
Sunday, **April 26th, 2026** / 10am - 4:30pm

Sue
G.'s
Jewelry

Photo courtesy of
Veronica Purpura
of Zincite crystal
from Poland



BROOKHURST COMMUNITY CENTER
2271 W. CRESCENT AVE, ANAHEIM, CA
www.searchersrocks.org



schools. Also wants members to form a field trip committee. Stephanie announced that we will have an Alley Sale on April 18th. Joannie announced that there is a library at the shop with books available for check out. Jette states that workshops will be announced in the Nugget. She also wants someone to take over this task.

Member Darren asked for a quorum to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Minutes approved.

Irina Goosby
Rebekkah Hart
Elisha Jhoti
Elizabeth Laffan
Nick Rowan
Trey Shilts

JANUARY NEW MEMBERS

Markian Bojko
Pia Cortes
Eben Goff
Felix Goff-Gobé

APRIL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard Shaffer	Annette Nesensohn
Jette Sorensen	Bruce Stern
Katelyn Rim	Darren Cokin
Nathalie Renard	David Scheuer
Sarah Randle	Stephanie Dangott
Emily Hanson	Janice Metz
Jodi Bye	Brian Deagon

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.

2026 Elected Officers

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

2026 Committee Chairs

Education - Merrilee Marks
Federation Director - Ellen Moe
Field Trips - AVAILABLE
Librarian - Joannie Rippner
Membership - Regina Lozano
Minerals - Joel Kuennen
Photography - Brit Smith
Programs - Jette Sorensen
Publications - Jette Sorensen,
Joel Kuennen
Publicity - Janice Metz
Social - Co-Chairs Peggy Oberg, Steve Dover
Sunshine – Stephanie Dangott
Trading Post - Gary Mitchell
Zoom Host - Darren Cokin

Board of Directors

2026 + 2027

TBD