



## ***BIRTHPLACE OF THE GOLD RUSH: PLACERITA CANYON***

*Monday, May 11, 7:30 PM in the Gloria Kaufman Community Center at 10858 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA. 90230. That is next to our Lapidary Shop.*

Tina White, Earth Sciences Instructor, is scheduled to give a presentation on the Placerita Canyon, famous as the site of California's first documented 1842 gold discovery, which contains placer gold, "Fancy Rocks" (green/white schist), and unique "white petroleum". The area features metamorphic rocks, including schist and gneiss, as well as quartz and muscovite. Mineralization in the area includes pyrite and chalcopyrite.

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**

Hello members,

We are moving swiftly towards our Fiesta of Gem show, and preparations are well underway to make this year a smashing success.



Make certain to fill out the volunteer form you will receive shortly and sign up for the kind of task you would like to do. We are always in need of those who don't mind a little heavy lifting: loading our display cases from storage, and moving and setting them up in the auditorium. Also, moving tables in the auditorium. So, if you are strong and not afraid to lift a few pieces of furniture, please sign up for that task.

We are still in need of donations of prizes for our hourly free drawing - small jewelry items, small jewelry or lapidary tools and books are always appreciated.

Our Ice Cream social in April was deliciously well attended. Nothing like a little sugar to spike club enthusiasm. Gary Mitchell continues to provide wonderful, diverse specimens for our meetings "Trading Post" raffles, and, given our numbers, the odds are very good that you can win.

The May meeting will be held at the Glorya Kaufman building, just down the parking lot from the shop. We will have a presentation by Tina White at our regularly scheduled 7:30 PM meeting.

**MUSCLE POWER!** Now that I have your attention, we will be needing some healthy folks to do some lifting of furniture and other stuff from our storage sheds into a different storage shed during mid-May or early June. This task will not take long if we have a good crew. Please sign up at our next meeting or in the shop to be included in this crew for this important task.

Special shout-out to Darrell Robb and Janelle Williams for completing the 2026 Culver City Grant Application. Their hard work over the past sever-

al years has earned grants that covered most of the main costs of putting on the Fiesta of Gems. Bravo to their fantastic efforts.

Hope to see you on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Alexa Hunter, President



## **DISPLAYS NEEDED FOR OUR 63RD ANNUAL CULVER CITY FIESTA OF GEMS SHOW**

The Culver City Rock and Mineral Club needs members to display their creations and/or collections at our upcoming show, June 27th and 28th, 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 on Friday evening or Saturday morning and pick it up on Sunday after the show closes. If you need help setting up your display, it will be available at the show.

Please contact me directly at [skdover@yahoo.com](mailto:skdover@yahoo.com), 760 764 2422, or sign up at the shop or a club meeting to reserve a case. The theme of the show this year is Malachite.

Steve Dover, Display Chairman



# LAPIDARY WORKSHOP HOURS

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

## The shop is open:

Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM – Gary Mitchell  
[csrcmc-wednesdayshop@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:crcmc-wednesdayshop@culvercityrocks.org)

Saturdays 12 to 4 PM – Steve Dover  
[csrcmc-saturdayshop@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:crcmc-saturdayshop@culvercityrocks.org)

Sundays from 12 to 4 PM – Jette Sorensen  
[csrcmc-sundaylapshop@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:crcmc-sundaylapshop@culvercityrocks.org)

The shop is located behind the Scout House  
 Go to the Lapidary Shop on our website to make a reservation, or use the links below to send an email to check for availability; do not just show up.

If you have not made a reservation, you can call the shop at 310-836-4611 during open hours to see if there is room.

Wear old clothes. Do not wear open-toed shoes or short shorts. Tie long hair back.

Bring eye and ear protection; masks are voluntary.

<b>2026 Fiesta of Gems Workshop Schedule</b>	
<b>Saturday, June 27</b>	
Room B	Room C
<b>10:00 am - 1 pm</b>	<b>10:00 am - 1 pm</b>
<b>Annaliese Miller</b> <i>Crystal Bowl Healing Crystal            Chakra Sound Bath</i> Member: To Be Announced Non-Member: To Be Announced Material: To Be Announced	<b>Monica Moreno</b> <i>Wax Carving Workshop</i> Member: \$135 Non-Member: \$145 Material: Included in fee
<b>1:30 pm - 5:30 pm</b>	<b>2 pm - 5 pm</b>
<b>Regina Lozano</b> <i>Basic Tree of Life Workshop</i> Member: \$65 Non-Member: \$70 Material: Included in fee	<b>JetteSorensen</b> <i>Silversmithing - Skinny Rings</i> Member: \$140.00 (including Argentium Silver) Non-Member: \$150.00 (including Argentium Silver) Material: Included in fee
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	
Room B	Room C
<b>10:00 am - 1 pm</b>	<b>10:00 am - 1 pm</b>
<i>Open</i>	<b>Monica Moreno</b> <i>Wax Carving Workshop</i> Member: \$135 Non-Member: \$145 Material: Included in fee
<b>2:00 pm - 5 pm</b>	<b>2:00 pm - 5 pm</b>
<b>Janice Metz</b> <i>Box Chain Chain Maille Bracelet</i> Member: \$50 Non-Member: \$60 Material: \$15	<i>Open</i>

## **PLANTS AND MAGAZINES FOR THE SHOW**

If you have succulents or other plants to donate, we welcome them at our annual Fiesta of Gems show. Bring them during setup on Friday, 6-26, 9-11 AM, or Saturday, 6-27, 9 AM. Please contact Joyce Watanabe at [joycecarolwatanabe@gmail.com](mailto:joycecarolwatanabe@gmail.com). Earnings are donated back to the Culver City Community.

And, we want to give away old jewelry and lapidary magazines for free at the show. If you have some you want to part with, please bring them to the shop during open hours or to a monthly meeting.



## **LAPIDARY SHOP AND WORKSHOP ITEMS ON DISPLAY AT FIESTA OF GEMS**

If you don't have enough items to fill a display case, we invite our members to show some of their work, created either in the shop or in workshops, in a display case just for that.

If you have something you cut and polished at the club's Lapidary Shop or something you created in one of our workshops, and would like to show it in a display case at our Fiesta of Gems show, June 27 and 28, along with other members' items, please send an email to [Jette Sorensen](mailto:jette.sorensen@jcs.org).

The item(s) should be delivered, accompanied by a note with your name and where it was created, either at the shop during open hours, or at a meeting, or at the show, Friday, 6/26, in the afternoon, or Saturday morning, 6/27, by 9:00 AM.

When the show is finished, you can pick up your item(s) on Sunday, 6/28, in the afternoon at 5:00 PM, or after the show at the shop during open hours.

The display case with the items will remain closed from Saturday, 6/27, from 10:00 AM through Sunday, 6/28, at 5:00 PM.

## **MAY WORKSHOPS**



### **LAPIDARY 101**

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 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 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.

**Workshop fee:** \$25 payable in advance. Payable in advance via Zelle to [jetsorensen@gmail.com](mailto:jetsorensen@gmail.com)

Limited to four members.

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



## POLISHING

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 11 AM to 3 PM  
 In the Scout House  
 Instructor – Monica Moreno

**Description:** Learn to polish precious metals, sterling silver, and gold, using a bench-top lathe machine and flex shaft machine. Learn about the different polishing compounds and wheels to use depending on the piece and how much polishing it needs. Bring your jewelry to be polished!

**Workshop fee:** \$25 CCRMC members, \$35 non-members, payable in advance via Zelle to [rocks@nyki.me](mailto:rocks@nyki.me), Venmo to @nykibee.

Please RSVP your attendance along with your full name to [rocks@nyki.me](mailto:rocks@nyki.me).

## INTRODUCTION TO BASIC METALSMITHING: PIERCING AND CUTTING

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 11 AM to 3 PM  
 at the Scout House  
 Instructor, Monica Moreno

**Description:** 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 be doing:

- Cut metal with a jeweler’s saw
- Pierce metals to saw out an interior design
- Sand and clean metal



- Create your own jump rings
- Add a polish sealer

You’ll be working with copper. The techniques you will learn can also easily be applied to working with brass and sterling silver. By the end of the session, you’ll have a good understanding of the tools and supplies needed for your own workspace, should you decide to continue exploring metalwork on your own.

These are some of the items you can create with the skills you’ll learn: earrings, pendants, key chains, mobile phone charms, decorative hooks, ornaments, and more.

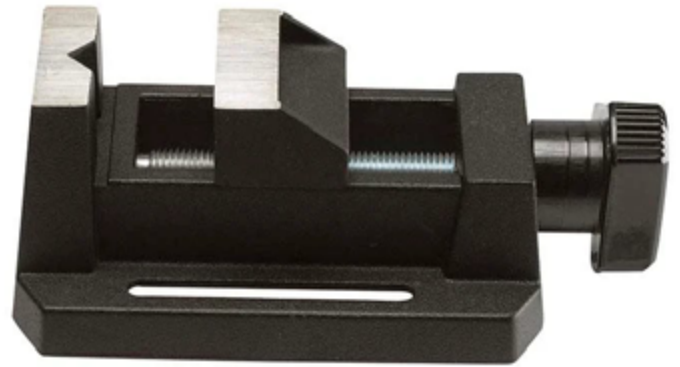
Things you could bring with you to the workshop: If you have them, please bring a lead pencil and a permanent marker, your prescription eyeglasses and/or safety glasses, and an apron if you prefer your clothing not get dirty.

**Safety Notes:** 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:** \$60 CCRMC members, \$70 non-members  
 Register by visiting [www.Desviado.com/event-lis](http://www.Desviado.com/event-lis)



## ***BENCH TIPS***



### **INTRODUCTION TO SILVERSMITHING: MAKE SKINNY RINGS**

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 9 AM to 12 PM  
at the club's Lapidary Shop  
Instructor Jette Sorensen

**Description:** Learn to fuse skinny rings using Argentium Silver, a type of Sterling. Argentium has a higher fine-silver content than regular sterling, making fusing easier. Argentium also resists tarnishing when compared to regular sterling. You will learn to control the flame of a Butane torch to make a seamless joint.

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

**Bring:** Eye protection, either prescription glasses or readers.

If you don't have these hand tools, some are available to share, but do bring the torch!

**Workshop fee:** \$90 CCRMC members. Including silver and the use of tools. Payable in advance. Limited to four members.

Email [jetsorensen@gmail.com](mailto:jetsorensen@gmail.com) for registration and payment information.



### **DRILL PRESS VISES**

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the risks of working with high-power motors, using larger drill bits, and dealing with the heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search for "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com, smallparts.com, and grizzly.com

### **DENTAL GOLD**

You might think that a couple of pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll it out as a sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth, but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet.

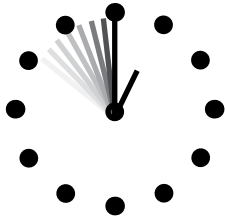
So, what to do with a couple of gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to

do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and, while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then reflow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture on the top.

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

— Brad Smith



## ***THE MINUTES***

Meeting Monday April 13th , 2026

### **Board Meeting**

In Attendance – Stephanie Dangott, Alexa Hunter, Steve Dover, Karen Wallen, Joanie Rippner, Ellen Moe, Darrell Robb, Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes, and Alain Pierre-Louise.

Called to order at 6:37 PM by President Alexa Hunter.

Ellen made a motion to accept the minutes from the March business meeting. Seconded by Darrell and approved by the board.

Stephanie announced that the club is having an alley sale on Saturday, the 18th, from 10 AM to 3 PM. Shop – Ellen said one of the trim saws is having a problem. Steve said he will fix it on Saturday.

Steve also said the shop will be open for two or 3 members during the alley sale.

Regina (the Membership chair) needs to audit the shop. It hasn't been done in a few months.

### **Fiesta of Gems**

Steve announced that we need some more door prizes. He is requesting some finished jewelry donations.

Steve also reported that there are 8 display cases left for members to sign up for.

Ellen is requesting donations for the kids' games. Alain stated that there are a lot of returning vendors. There are 2 demonstrator spots on the stage that they still need to fill.

Darrell reported that the club made \$1,067.83 at the February Silent Auction.

Darrell also reported that the club is receiving a donated shipping container to replace our storage sheds. We have also been gifted a large amount of bricks to be used as a barrier below and for a path. It will cost \$500 to have the bricks delivered.

Alexa made a motion that the club approve the \$500 cost, and Karen seconded the motion. The board approved.

Investment funds are doing well, and the club is solvent.

Darrell has submitted the paperwork to have the non-profit Fiesta of Gems raffle.

Darrell is also working with Janelle to submit a grant proposal that will cover most of the cost to rent the Veterans' Auditorium for the 2027 Fiesta of Gems.

There was discussion about creating a vinyl banner that can be flown at Culver City City Hall.

Stephanie made a motion to end the meeting, and Darrell made a second. The meeting ended at 7:20 PM.

### **General Meeting**

Called to order by President Alexa at 7:35 PM.

The shop will be open on Wednesdays from 7 to 9

PM with Gary Mitchell as the shop instructor.

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

Fiesta of Gems June 28th and 29th  
Steve reported that we need 60 lbs of tumbled stones for the grab bags.

Joannie is the volunteer coordinator. She reported that there will be an online sign-up soon.

Steve reported that we still have 8 display cases available to members.

Steve also reported that we need some more door prizes.  
Workshops – In May, we will have Beginning Lapidary, Beginning Silversmithing, and Precious Metal Clay classes. Sign up on the club website.

Treasurer – Darrell stated we are in good shape.

Alexa stated we need club members to volunteer for the education committee. These members will go to events at local elementary and middle schools. Also wants members to form a field trip committee.

Meeting ended at 8:00 PM.

We had a club member show-and-tell, as well as an ice cream social afterward.

## ***APRIL NEW MEMBERS***

Hakob Baburyan  
Dana Flores  
Mark Hunter  
Daniel Jung  
Amanda Lockrow  
Soyoung Shin  
Lillian Thibodeau  
Yujin Yang  
Maya Zohbi

## ***MAY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS***

Marylou Hanna  
Regina Lozano  
Yolanda Lumel  
Malachi May  
Erika Morris  
Margaret Oberg  
Samuel Ordonez  
Trey Shilts  
Margy Stein



## ***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](mailto: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](mailto:nugget@culvercityrocks.org)

### **Mailing Address**

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

PO Box 3324

Culver City, CA 90231

[info@culvercityrocks.org](mailto: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](https://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.

## **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