



2026 FIESTA OF GEMS

Featuring Malachite

June 27&28

FIESTA OF GEMS WORK PARTY

*Our next membership meeting is on **June 8 at 7:30 PM** in the **Scout House** at 10866 Culver Boulevard, in front of our lapidary shop..*

The meeting is our annual Fiesta of Gems Work Party. We will be stuffing grab bags for the kids. We also used to put address labels and stamps on postcards to mail to thousands of former guests, but thanks to email, we now do that electronically. We will have a magazine and book exchange. Bring lapidary and jewelry magazines and books you no longer want to keep, and grab what other members have brought to take home and enjoy. Peggy Oberg will bring delicious snacks to enjoy while browsing, and Gary Mitchell will host a great Trading Post raffle.

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,

We are a short 3.5 weeks away from our Fiesta of Gems. You have likely seen ads running on social media, and this year we're very excited that the mayor of Culver City, Freddy Puza, will be attending the opening day of the show. We expect media attention from this, so do come out and show support for the club Saturday morning.



Speaking of support, we will need some volunteers the weekend of June 6th to help prepare the ground for our new (thanks to the Wende Museum) storage container/shed. Before we install the new unit, we need to prep the ground and could use a few folks with some physical ability to come with shovels (we will have a few as well if you don't have one) and help level the ground. This is not an all-day job, but we expect to start early Saturday morning on June 6th, to avoid the heat.

Additionally, if you have not already, make sure to sign up for your 4 hours of required volunteerism for the FOG show. [Click here to sign-up](#). We cannot do the show without the help of members' involvement. Some of the jobs are more sedentary than others, such as sitting at the front table, greeting incoming guests, or selling raffle tickets. Some jobs require more standing, such as security. We always need some good, strong workers to move and set up our display cases and vendor tables.

On Friday, June 26th, we ask all members to contribute handmade or store-bought cookies; please drop off by 1 PM if possible on that day. These are a sweet treat for our vendors. Also - if anyone has experience ordering large banners (in our case, to be hung along Overland Ave.), please shoot us an email. We need some help getting these banners designed and ordered soon. Hope to see you all at the June 8th meeting, which will be at the Scout House, in front of our shop.

— Alexa Hunter, President

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 *through 6/10 only*, closed till new instructor is found
ccrme-wednesdayshop@culvercityrocks.org

Saturdays 12 to 4 PM – Steve Dover
ccrme-saturdayshop@culvercityrocks.org

Sundays from 12 to 4 PM – Jette Sorensen
ccrme-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 above 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.



JUNE WORKSHOPS

LAPIDARY 101

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 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.

Limited to four members.

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



Workshop fee: \$25 payable in advance. Payable in advance via Zelle to jetsorensen@gmail.com

2026 Fiesta of Gems Workshop Schedule	
Saturday, June 27	
Room B	Room C
10:00 am - 12 pm	10:00 am - 1 pm
Annaliese Miller <i>Crystal Bowl Healing</i> <i>Crystal Chakra Sound Bath</i> Member: \$40 Non-Member: \$45 Material: Included in fee	Monica Moreno <i>Wax Carving Workshop</i> Member: \$135 Non-Member: \$145 Material: Included in fee
1:30 pm - 5:30 pm	2 pm - 5 pm
Regina Lozano <i>Basic Tree of Life Workshop</i> Member: \$65 Non-Member: \$70 Material: Included in fee	JetteSorensen <i>Silversmithing - Skinny Rings</i> Member: \$140.00 Non-Member: \$150.00 Material: Included in fee
Sunday, June 28	
Room B	Room C
10:00 am - 1 pm	10:00 am - 1 pm
Vanessa Frye <i>Charm Bar Workshop</i> <i>Custom Bag Charm or Key Chain</i> Member: \$40 Non-Member: \$45 Material: Included in fee	Monica Moreno <i>Wax Carving Workshop</i> Member: \$135 Non-Member: \$145 Material: Included in fee
2:00 pm - 5 pm	2:00 pm - 5 pm
Janice Metz <i>Box Chain Chain Maille Bracelet</i> Member: \$50 Non-Member: \$60 Material: \$15	Nyki Bell <i>Precious Metal Polishing Workshop</i> Member: \$25 Non-Member: \$35 Material: Included in fee

BENCH TIPS



FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to leave a



little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.

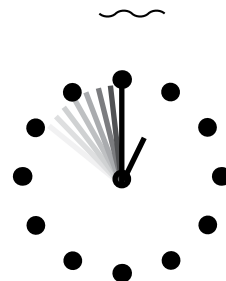
EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a separating disc. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.

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

— Brad Smith



THE MINUTES

Executive Meeting May 11th present:

Steve Dover
Jette Sorenson
Brit Smith
Alexa Hunter
Ellen Moe
Darrell Robb
Gary Mitchell

Discussed how to make/design a large banner that would be hung advertising our show. Because the dimensions are quite large (Ellen said she would get

those measurements from the mayor's office), we did not have anyone who was experienced enough to volunteer to design such a banner. We agreed that it would be a lovely thing to have but need to find someone who has experience making work that size.

Ellen M was in touch with the mayor's office and has secured his attendance to FOG for the opening morning of June 27th.

Regina and Joanie are shortly sending out the sign-up for volunteering at FOG using the online program SignUpGenius. Hopefully this program will make the organization of our volunteers somewhat easier to organize.

We currently have 164 members in good standing according to Regina.

Jette filled us in about upcoming workshops in May, including Beginning Metalsmithing, Beginning Silversmithing, and Polishing.

Steve told us about the large oil drum which is next to the sheds and must be removed and disposed of once we know what is in it. We don't know if there is anything in it worth preserving or if its contents will need to be disposed of completely.

According to Darrell, we sent \$300 to the Scouts for their 47th Annual Spaghetti Dinner to be held May 17th at Culver City High School, hosted by Troop 113.

Darrell also reported that we are still waiting for the contract for the show from the Vets because they had not included the rooms (A,B,C) which we use for workshops. We have the basic Pro Forma contract but cannot get insurance unless we get that one detail included.

We voted unanimously to order an official Proclamation from the City of Culver City for our club.

Ellen informed us that the mayor of Culver City would attend the opening morning of FOG and that we needed to get a photo for news organizations. We will arrange a VIP tour for him of the show around 9:30

UPCOMING SHOWS

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society Rock & Gem Parking Lot Sale

June 20, 2026 - Bellflower, CA
14515 Blaine Ave, Bellflower, California 90706
Hours: 9 am - 4 pm
Contact: guynellallen@sbcglobal.net, (310) 413-4671



“Rock and Gem Parking Lot Sale – Discover Unique Treasures!”

Find Treasures and Unique Specimens, Rocks, Minerals, Jewelry, Equipment, and other collector items!

Join us for our annual Rock and Gem Parking Lot Sale, where collectors and enthusiasts come together to buy, sell, and trade your favorites. Whether you're a seasoned collector or just starting out, you'll find a wide variety of specimens, jewelry, and rough material at great prices.

The event will take place in the parking lot, making it easy to browse the vendors and discover one-of-a-kind treasures. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow hobbyists and add to your collection!

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church
14515 Blaine Avenue
Bellflower, CA 90706



Free Admission – Free Parking

Bring a friend and explore something new --- See You There!

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club's Fiesta of Gems Show

June 27-28, 2026 - Culver City
Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230
Hours: Sat, 10am to 6pm; Sun, 10am to 5pm

This year's featured gemstone is Malachite, which is celebrated for its rich green colors and natural beauty. Admission and parking are free, making it a perfect outing for families, hobbyists, and gem enthusiasts.

Contact: culvercityrocks35@gmail.com
Website: culvercityrocks.org



**2026
FIESTA
OF GEMS**

Featuring Malachite

June 27&28

MAY NEW MEMBERS

Gina Bender
James Gunderson
Jacquelyn Hale
Bettina Karallus
Paul Leger
Scotty Passaglia
Miriam Schulman

JUNE MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Susan C Acosta
Taylor Bazley
Leanne Bell
Grace Bruno
Ana Maria Guimaraes
Joel Kuennen
Paula Milenkova
Darrell Robb
Shari Roulin
Michael Sadeghi
Alex Sepe
Soyoung Shin
Janelle Williams

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