Volume 67 Issue 11
November, 2026

The Nugget

The monthly newletter of the Culver City Rock & Mineral Club

FLUORITES OF THE WORLD

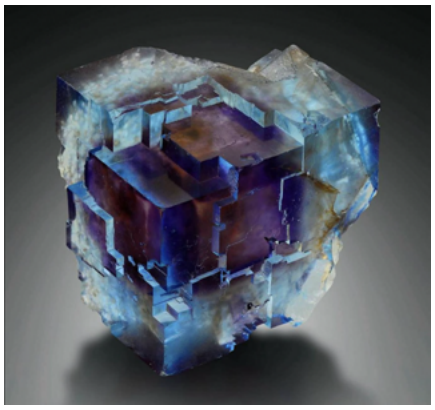


Monday, November 9 at 7:30 PM, in the Multipurpose Room at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City, CA 90230, presented by Kai Kalma.

This presentation will take a deep dive into one of the world's most iconic minerals: fluorite. I will discuss how fluorite forms, the geological conditions that create its distinctive crystals and colors, and the minerals commonly found alon`gside it. We will also look at major fluorite localities, including Spain, Namibia, China, and the United States, along with the history of fluorite mining and its many industrial uses. I will bring examples from different locations around the world to represent the notable and famous specimens and showcase the incredible variety of fluorite found in nature.

Hey! My name is Kai Kalma, I am a senior in high school and an avid rock, mineral, and fossil collector and lapidary artist. I've been collecting since childhood and have developed a particular interest in geology, mineralogy, and paleontology through years of collecting, fieldwork, and studying specimens from around the world.

I have specimens from my collection displayed at Valley Relics Museum and regularly buy, sell, and trade mineral and fossil collections to help fund my continued collecting and fieldwork. I also visit schools and community organizations to teach students about rocks, minerals, fossils, and the geological history of the Earth.



Flourite specimen from the Denton Mine, Illinois

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:

Our November meeting will be our last meeting of the year, and I'd love to see a strong turnout. We will, of course, have our annual holiday party on December 14 and will give details during our upcoming meeting on November 9th.

In addition to general club business and a wonderful presentation by Kai Kalma, we have an annual election for officers, and it would be fantastic to see a few of you newer members step up to the plate and take on a more consistent form of volunteerism. Consider taking on a role for the sake of a vibrant future of our club. There are many opportunities to become an officer, and I promise you, these roles are not very time-consuming.

Only a handful of people keep the club moving forward, and I am asking more of you: be brave and step into a more committed relationship with CCRMC. Many clubs haven't been sustainable because members don't want to do anything beyond using the shop, going on an occasional field trip, or hearing an occasional speaker.

If more of you put in a little more time and effort to ensure our future, the future could be very bright. As you know, we are working with the Wende Museum to create a future space for our shop which would be bigger and more modern. This venture will not happen for several years, but it could be a wonderful way to keep our mission and our membership growing.

Alexa

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR 2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD

We are running a little behind on getting nominations together for the 2027 Executive Board. Six positions need to be filled.

Please join us at the November 9 meeting; it is important that as many members as possible come. After the nominations and election, there will be the Trading Post drawing, snacks, and the presentation of Fluorites of the World.

We need new board members because some current members have exceeded their term limits, while others can no longer serve.

- President
  - » Must have been an Officer for 1 year and a member for 2 years.
  - » Preside over meetings, represent the club, sign checks, go to a few meetings with various outside organizations or local government, ask members to do stuff, etc.
- Vice President
  - » Must have been an Officer for 1 year and a member for 2 years.
  - » Be President when s/he is unavailable, do what the President wants when asked to do stuff, etc.
- Recording Secretary
  - » Keep minutes of membership and Exec Board meetings, etc.
- Corresponding Secretary
  - » Write letters on behalf of the Club, pick up snail mail from the post office, etc.
- Treasurer
  - » Write checks, handle money, invest, give financial reports, etc.
- Parliamentarian
  - » Advise the President on bylaw matters, assist the President and members with suggestions per Robert's Rules of Order, etc.

The complete explanation of the duties for each of these positions is listed in the Bylaws, starting on page 9.

At the meeting, we will take both nominations and

vote. If you want to be nominated or want to nominate someone, speak up when I call the position. If you have any questions, please email me at jetsorensen@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW YOU ARE A MEMBER OF CFMS AND THE CO-OP?

You and all the members of the Culver City Rock and Mineral Club are also members of the CFMS. CFMS is the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies in California, Nevada, and Hawaii. Currently, there are 98 member clubs with 4 to 1050 members, for a grand total of 8,656 rockhounds.

By representing so many clubs and members, CFMS can negotiate public liability insurance for our meetings, shows, field trips, and lapidary shop. In addition, CFMS provides a wide range of resources for the clubs and their members, including scholarships, field trips, and classes in lapidary and jewelry arts at the annual Camp Paradise. There are too many additional programs provided to list here, so please go to the CFMS website, cfmsinc.org, to see all the details.

Each club elects a Federation Director to attend the 2 annual meetings to address the business issues for a non-profit organization and the many committees. More importantly, these meetings allow members from different clubs to connect and support each other. At the last meeting held in Reno, we were discussing our outreach programs for children. Glen Miller of the Shasta Gem & Mineral Society in Redding volunteered to donate several buckets of obsidian for the free rocks we give to children under 16 at the Fiesta of Gems.

Now that you know all about CFMS, what is The CO-OP you belong to? In 1972, 12 rock and mineral clubs in Northern California established the Cooperative Field Trip Chairmen Association, The CO-OP. Together, they organize and share more field trips to rock, mineral, or fossil collecting sites, educational geology trips to mines and museums, and trips to other areas of interest pertaining to the hobby of rockhounding. The 2025 field trip locations included Yuba Gold Fields for Yuba Blue Serpentine; Jamestown & Bagby CA for upalite, magnesite, and quartz crystals; a fee dig to Holbrook AZ for petrified "picture wood"; the Clear Creek Management area for jadeite, plasma agate, and more; Fallon NV for wonderstone and jasper; a fee dig to the Pleiades Fluorite Mine in NV; and central Oregon for obsidian, limb casts and thundereggs.

While most of these trips are quite a distance from Culver City, the CCRMC Executive Board voted to join The CO-OP to provide the opportunity for adventurous members to be able to join the trips to these unique locations. There will be more details in future Nuggets as I learn more about The CO-OP and their future field trips.

Ellen Moe
CCRMC Federation Director

LAPIDARY WORKSHOP HOURS

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

The shop is open:

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

Sundays from 12 to 4 PM – Jette Sorensen
ccrmc-sundaylapshop@culvercityrocks.org

Wednesday
First and second Wednesday of the month only
From 4 to 8 PM
ccrmc-First2Wednesdayshop@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 but recommended.

NOVEMBER WORKSHOPS



LAPIDARY 101
NOVEMBER 8, 9 AM – 12 PM
at the club's Lapidary Shop
Instructor – Jette Sorensen

Description: Get to know the equipment in the club's lapidary workshop. Use a trim saw to cut the outline for a cabochon. Shape the stone on the grinding wheels, then polish it with the Expando wheels. 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.

$25 CCRMC Members only. Limited to 4 members. Payable in advance via Zelle to jetsens@jetsens.com. Email Jette for availability at jetsorensen@gmail.com



PRECIOUS METAL CLAY (PMC)
NOVEMBER 15, 9 AM – 12 PM

In the Lapidary Shop, 10866 Culver Blvd
Instructor – Monica Moreno

Description: Discover the magic of transforming clay into pure silver. In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll learn the fundamentals of working with Precious Metal Clay (PMC), a unique material made of fine silver particles suspended in an organic binder.
Participants will be guided step-by-step through shaping, texturing, and refining their own pendant or keepsake. Once fired, your piece will transform into solid silver—ready to wear or gift.
No prior experience is needed. This workshop is designed to be accessible, hands-on, and creatively fulfilling.

What you'll learn:
- Basic properties of PMC
- Simple forming and texturing techniques
- Drying, refining, and finishing processes
- An overview of firing methods

What's included:
- All materials and tools
- Instruction and guidance
- One finished silver piece to take home
- Come explore a process that blends craft, transformation, and personal expression in a supportive and relaxed environment.

Open only to CCRMC members. Fee is $158.
Registration is done through my website at www.Desviado.com/event-list

BEGINNING SILVERSMITHING
Sunday, November 29
at the club's Lapidary Shop
Instructor – Jette Sorensen



Description: Learn to fuse thin rings made of Argentium silver, a type of sterling with a higher fine-silver content than standard sterling. Argentium is easier to fuse and resists tarnishing. You'll practice controlling a butane torch flame to create a seamless joint and walk home with at least one skinny ring.
Safety notes: Wear natural fabrics such as cotton or wool. Wear closed-toe shoes. Refrain from wearing long dangling jewelry and loose long sleeves. Tie back long hair.

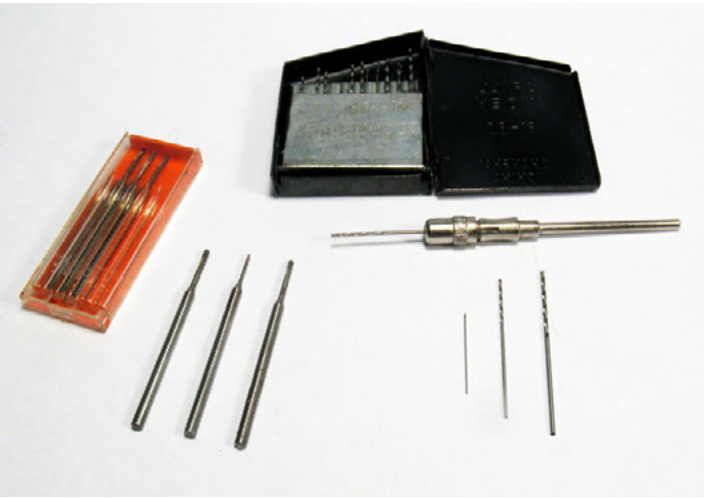
Bring: Eye protection, either prescription glasses or readers.

CCRMC members only. Includes silver and tool use.

Fee: $80, payable in advance via Zelle to:_____ jetsens@ jetsens.com. Limited to four members.

Email Jetsorensen@gmail.com for registration and payment information

BENCH TIPS



PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.

The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.

MIXING EPOXY

When mixing epoxy, it's important to have the same amount of each component. If the ratio is not 50/50, the mixture will not develop the best strength or may not harden at all.

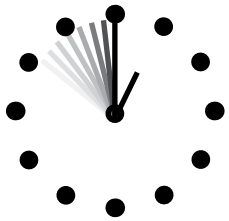
If the amounts are small, I can generally eye-ball the two components correctly. But I have trouble getting the proper mixture for larger quantities. Trying to pour it into a small measuring cup is a mess.

The easiest way I've found to get equal parts is to use a gram scale.

- » Put a bottle lid or piece of scrap paper on the scale.
- » Zero out the scale.
- » Squeeze out the epoxy Part A.
- » Note the gram weight.
- » Zero out the scale again.
- » Squeeze out the same amount of Part B.
- » Mix thoroughly for use.

It's a trick I learned while mixing resins for mold making where the ratio is usually 1 to 10

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ
— Brad Smith



THE MINUTES

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club Meeting
Monday, October 12th

Board Meeting
In Attendance – Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dover, Darrell Robb, Brit Smith, Alexa Hunter, Ellen Moe, Gary Mitchell and Karen Wallen.

Called to order 6:30 PM by club president Alexa.

Brit wanted to know why meeting notes are in The Nugget. Said that younger members just want to see the main topics. We advised that as a non-profit, we are required to provide meeting minutes to all of the club members. Alexa suggested different ways to organize The Nugget. She also suggested that younger members volunteer some time to the club.

Need nominating committee for 2027 elected posi-

tions. It was suggested that descriptions of the positions be made available to members.

Shop – Fans have not been replaced yet. We need to find someone to do some electrical work first.
Jette and Ellen want to make signs about N95 masks, eyewear, and headphones recommended when working in the shop. We can sell N95 masks for about $1 each, and some people offered to donate masks.

Ellen presented a flyer about the Cooperative Field Trip Chairmen Association. Our club can join for $50 per year. Clubs that are members are invited to group rockhounding trips. The list provided from 2025 shows trips that were not in California. However, if we join, we can organize trips more local to our club.
Ellen made a motion for the club to pay for 2 year of membership. Alexa seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Alley Sale
Flyers were at the meeting about a date of November 14th being organized by Ken Rogers. Information was provided about calling him if a club member wanted to participate.

The Bead Society is having a show on Saturday the 17th and has requested a couple of our club members to volunteer at an information table. The show hours are 10am to 4pm.

Treasury – Per Darrell, the club is in great shape for the rest of the year. He was also able to tally all the Zelle payments made at the Fiesta of Gems raffle. The total collected has been adjusted to $3365. We deduct $100 which is the grand prize. This year, the proceeds will be split between the Scout House and LA Goal. We will ask the membership if anyone has another local charity they would like us to make contributions to.

Meeting ended 7:25 pm.

General Meeting

Called to order by President Alexa at 7:35 PM.
Some members recently went rockhounding in Barstow area and Mohave desert. They brought some of their findings to the meeting for other members to see.

Alexa advised of open positions in the club, including Education chair.

We are already starting to plan the 2027 Fiesta of Gems, which will be held at the last weekend in June. Our featured gemstone will be citrine.
The show has 20 showcases for members to display their gem and mineral collections.
Also, we need a vendor co-chair.

Treasurer Darell told the club we made $3365 at the Fiesta of Gems raffle once the Zelle payments were included. We are currently dividing the proceeds between the Scout House and LA Goal. Please let us know if there is another local charity you would like us to support next year.

We need volunteers for a nominating committee for 2027 service positions. There are lots of committees to chair or co-chair.

Vote to approve minutes from the last few meetings. Jette made a motion, and Alexa seconded. Everyone approved.

Shop – we will be getting some of the electrical system fixed.

Harvey made a field trip report. 6 members went on a trip to Rosamond. Club member Paula took some pictures that she will send to the Nugget.

Ellen mentioned that there is a local space open to the public called Crash Space. They have crafting tools and offer classes.

Per Jette, the October workshops are sold out.

Meeting ended at 8:05 PM

Presentation: All About Rubies, presented by Darrell Claussen.

Submitted by Stephanie Dangott, Recording Secretary

UPCOMING SHOWS

Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society
Nov 7-8, 2026 - Ridgecrest CA
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest CA 93555
Hours: 9am-5pm
IWGMS 70th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Free Admission and Free parking
Field Trip to club's Jasper claim on Sunday at 0900 - 5$ per adult
Sunday raffle
Contact: showchairman@iwgms.org
Website: https://iwgms.org

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society
Nov 7-8, 2026 - San Diego, CA
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600 Laning Rd., San Diego, CA 92106
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4
Gem Diego Show: Free Admission & Parking. Eateries next door. Free Gem ID, 28 dealers, 20+ exhibits, demonstrations, Kid's zone, gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, rough, cut stones, books, jewelry, slabs, door prizes & grand prize raffle (do not have to be there to win), and plenty more! Trained Service Animals Only!
Contact: benton.luannz@gmail.com
Website: SDMG.org

El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Nov. 21-22, 2026 - Lakeside, CA
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds, 12584 Mapleview Street, Lakeside, CA 92040

Hours: Sat: 9a-5p; Sun: 9a-4p
Join us for the 2026 Rock & Gem Round-up at the Lakeside Rodeo Grounds! There will be vendors of gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads, handmade crafts and more. Kids activities and onsite food booth too! Free parking, admission, mineral identifications and lapidary demonstrations.
Contact: ECVGMS@gmail.com
Website: https://www.ecvgms.org/annual-show.html

OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

Juan Carlos Anaya
Mimi Anaya
Phillip Anderson
Nikka Harounian
Hongji Jiang
Lily Jiang
Matthew Landes
Kerrie Lloy
Metedith Scheff-King
Rachel Smith
Angela Yancer

NOVEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Drew Brauer
Anna Chafe
Courtney Chan
Jasmine Chan
Stephanie Chan
Michelle Devoe
Eben Goff
Felix Goff-Gobe
Bernabe Gomez
Irma Goosby
Ben Granger
Courtney Gunderson
Rebekkah Hart
Beth Hoeckel
Kendall James
Hana Lutz
Justin Metz
Gary Mitchell
Pennifer Porzio
Rocky Rhodes
Heather Rim
Kim Watters
Yujin Yang

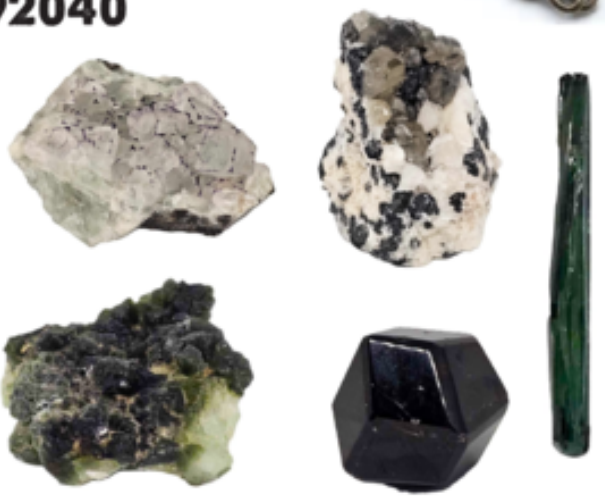
El Cajon Valley Gem and Mineral Society's Annual Rock & Gem Round-Up

November 21 & 22, 2026

Lakeside, CA 92040

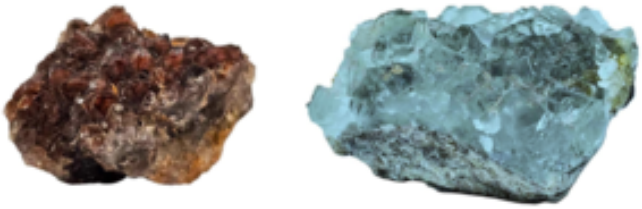






Come out for a rockin' good time with fun for the whole family! There will be vendors, club sign ups, a raffle, mineral and gem identification, demonstrations, food and more!

You could win this year's raffle Grand Prize: An Amythest Catherdral



Indian Wells Gem and Mineral Society

70th Annual

Gem and Mineral Show

Minerals • Crystals • Jewelry • Gifts and Displays

Date: November 7–8, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location:
Desert Empire Fairgrounds,
520 S Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA

Admission: FREE

Parking: FREE

Vendor Info Contact:
Miguel Gonzales
Showchairman@iwgms.org

Pick and have your own geode cut!

Sunday Raffle | Field Trip to club claim for JASPER on Sunday | Vendor Booths

Rough and Polished Rocks from around the World

visit IWGMS.ORG for more information

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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

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

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 - Michael Sadeghi, Harvey Schwartz
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

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