



Visitors Welcome!

A newsletter of the CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

The CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, located in Culver City, California, 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 of lapidary and related arts.



## How Our Art Has Changed Forever

Join us for a visual presentation by Daniel Ballard, chief operations officer of Precious Metals West.

This evening program will address how modern metallurgy, computer-aided design (CAD) and Federal Trade Commission rules impact jewelers working in a changing marketplace.

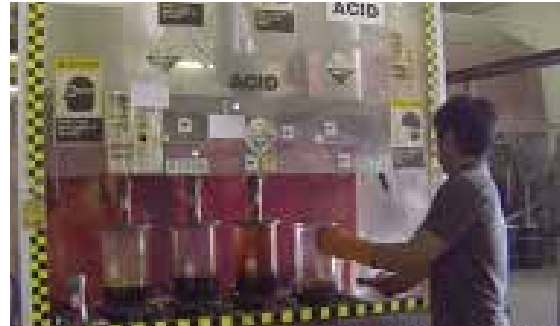
Precious Metals West is a refinery, developer and producer of jewelers metals, such as gold and platinum alloys and solders. Daniel is a 4th generation member of a Los Angeles area family jewelry business. For the past 34 years, Daniel has applied his expertise in precious metals by developing and producing new and special alloys for the ever changing jewelry business. He is credited with several breakthrough and patented precious metals products.

He is known as the “go-to-guy” that jewelry makers and designers seek out when confronted with technical problems. Online you’ll find him on YouTube, showing everyone how purple gold is made.

Daniel has written for numerous professional publications, produced digital video productions (including YouTube videos), made

numerous professional presentations (including the our own Culver City Rock & Mineral Club and has served as an expert witness in court cases.

Ken Rogers  
Program Chair



Developing new alloys at Precious Metals West

## HOW OUR ART HAS CHANGED FOREVER

Monday, January 14 @ 7:30 pm

### Veterans Memorial Multipurpose Room

4117 Overland Ave., Culver City

The Multipurpose Room is in the rear SW corner of the building, next to the park.

**FREE admission**  
**FREE parking**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The break in routine around the holidays invites contemplation of what we've accomplished and what we can do better in the new year.

Our Club is blessed with a robust membership, good communications, and many activities. But it's always useful to reassess how well we are doing and how we can improve.

Last year we had a chance to update our procedures in the Club's bylaws. This year I think it would be worthwhile to see if we are providing the best mix of services to our membership, and for that I will need your help.

Please give some thought to why you joined the Club, what you like the most about it and what you would like to see improved.

Feel free to catch me at a meeting, see me at the shop on Thursdays, text me at 424-645-2150, or email me at [brad@greenheart.com](mailto:brad@greenheart.com).

Happy New Year to all.

Brad Smith  
President



## 2019 OFFICERS & CHAIRS

### OFFICERS

President - Brad Smith  
Vice President - Steve Dover  
Treasurer - Darrell Robb  
Recording Secretary - VACANT  
Corresponding Secretary - Mia Quiles  
Historian - Robert Brownlee  
Parliamentarian - Johnny Hjorth

## 2019 OFFICERS & CHAIRS

Education - Alexa Hunter  
Federation Director - Rick Shaffer  
Field Trips - Devon Lloyd  
Librarian - Andrea Fabian  
Membership - Stephanie Dangott  
Membership Co-Chair - Jan Ferguson  
Minerals Co-Chair - Eyra Allen-Lucas  
Minerals Co-Chair - Devon Lloyd  
Photography - Pam Leitner  
Programs - Ken Rogers  
Publications Co-Chair - Barbara Fier  
Publications Co-Chair - Jan Ferguson  
Publications Co-Chair - Andrea Fabian

## SILENT AUCTION ALERT

The Club's always exciting annual Silent Auction will take place during the February 11 meeting.

Your donations of items related to rocks, lapidary, silversmithing, beading, and relevant books and tools will make bidding more exciting and the auction a success.

Members are asked to bring items to the Shop anytime before the February meeting (please label items "silent auction"), or just bring the items on the night of the meeting/auction.

Ken Rogers  
Programs Chair

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2019

Brad Smith Grace Sato

### 2020

Ana Maria S Guimaraes Bruce Mensinger

# HOLIDAY PARTY AND WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

**FUN, FRIENDS, FOOD  
& MORE FUN**





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <i>Dennis Roberts</i> | <i>Jan 2</i>  |
| <i>Andrea Beane</i>   | <i>Jan 7</i>  |
| <i>Margot Michon</i>  | <i>Jan 22</i> |
| <i>Flint Smith</i>    | <i>Jan 22</i> |
| <i>Yuki Aokusa</i>    | <i>Jan 30</i> |
| <i>Laurie Frasco</i>  | <i>Jan 31</i> |
| <i>Steve Willing</i>  | <i>Jan 31</i> |

January Birthstone - GARNET



Image Credit: Didier Descouens via Wikimedia Commons

## WEBMASTER'S REPORT

The Club's website, culvercityrocks.org, was hijacked for a few hours during the evening of December 11. We managed to get rid of the hijacker's disturbing video within a few hours.

The hacker had managed to delete quite a number of our pages, but thanks to our hosting company the missing pages were restored from a backup they had.

We do not keep any member files stored on the website, so none of your information has been compromised.

Jette Sorensen  
Webmaster

## JEWELRY CLASSES Beginner to Advanced

**Venice Metal Arts**  
18 N. Venice Blvd.  
Venice CA

**Day and Evening Sessions**

**email: VeniceJewelry@yahoo.com**  
**phone: (424) 645-2150**

## SHOP INFORMATION

*REMINDER: Members are required to sign a new indemnity form the first time they use the shop in 2019.*

The shop is open to members in good standing over the age of 18 who sign an indemnification form. Junior members (13 - 18) must be accompanied by an adult. Instruction is available at all sessions. Practice slabs are available.

Location: 10866 Culver Blvd., Culver City (Behind the Boy Scout Club House, next to the paddle tennis courts.)

**Shop Phone: (310) 836-4611**

**Hours:**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 7 pm – 9:30 pm - Rick Shaffer   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 10 am – 2 pm - By appointment,<br>email: <a href="mailto:shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org">shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org</a> |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | 10 am – 2 pm - Brad Smith   |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Noon – 4 pm - Lynne Lukert  |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Noon – 4 pm - Jette Sorensen  |

If no one shows, the shop may close early. If you plan to arrive more than a half hour after the opening time, phone the instructor at (310) 836-4611.

## Contact Us:

**Culver City Rock & Mineral Club**  
**(310) 836-4611**  
**P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231**

[culvercityrocks.org](http://culvercityrocks.org)

[facebook.com/CCRMC](https://www.facebook.com/CCRMC)

[instagram.com/culvercityrocks/](https://www.instagram.com/culvercityrocks/)

[twitter.com/culvercityrocks](https://twitter.com/culvercityrocks)

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CCRMC/info>

**JANUARY**

January 19 - 20: EXETER, CA  
 Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia  
 Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building  
 324 N. Kaweah Avenue  
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
 Contact: Laura Manser (559) 308-0632  
 Email: [ldriggs5@gmail.com](mailto:ldriggs5@gmail.com)  
 Website: [www.tulegem.com](http://www.tulegem.com)

**FEBRUARY**

February 15 - 24: INDIO, CA  
 San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society  
 Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
 82-503 Highway 111  
 Hours: 10 - 10 daily  
 Contact: Bert Grisham, (951) 849-1674  
 Email: [bert67@verizon.net](mailto:bert67@verizon.net)

February 16 - 17: ANTIOCH, CA  
 Antioch Lapidary Club  
 Contra Costa County Fairgrounds  
 1201 West 10th Street  
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
 Contact: Brenda Miguel, (925) 301-6957  
 Email: [brenda.miguel@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda.miguel@yahoo.com)  
 Website: [www.antiochlapidaryclub.com](http://www.antiochlapidaryclub.com)

February 23 - 24: VALLEJO, CA  
 Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society  
 McCormack Hall, Solano County Fairgrounds  
 900 Fairgrounds Drive  
 Hours: 10 - 5 daily  
 Contact: Dan Wolke, 707 334-2950  
 Email: [dncwolke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dncwolke@sbcglobal.net)  
 Website: [www.vjgems.org](http://www.vjgems.org)

**MARCH**

March 1 - 3: NEWARK, CA  
 Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley  
 Newark Pavilion  
 6430 Thornton Avenue  
 Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5  
 Contact: Beth Farmer, (510)-731-8664  
 Email: [bethfarmer@aol.com](mailto:bethfarmer@aol.com)  
 Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

March 2 - 3: VENTURA, CA  
 Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
 Ventura County Fairgrounds  
 10 West Harbor Blvd.  
 Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4  
 Contact: Diane Cook, (805) 312-8467  
 Email: [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)  
 Website: [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org)

**THE NUGGET**

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. Articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Permission to copy is freely given as long as proper credit is noted.

The Nugget accepts paid advertisements. The cost for an eighth of a page (approx. 2" high x 3.5" wide) is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor. Ads, copy, or business cards must be received by the 10th of the month.

Send materials to:

Culver City Rock and Mineral Club  
 Attention: Editor  
 P.O. Box 3324  
 Culver City, CA 90231

**Officers**

President - Brad Smith  
 Vice President - Steve Dover  
 Treasurer - Darrell Robb  
 Recording Secretary - Vacant  
 Corresponding Secretary - Mia Quiles  
 Historian - Robert Brownlee  
 Parliamentarian - Johnny Hjorth

**Committee Chairs**

Education - Alexa Hunter  
 Federation Director - Rick Shaffer  
 Field Trips - Devon Lloyd  
 Librarian - Andrea Fabian  
 Membership - Stephanie Dangott  
 Co-Chair - Jan Ferguson  
 Minerals Co-Chairs:  
 Eyra Allen-Lucas and Devon LLOYD  
 Photography - Pam Leitner  
 Programs - Ken Rogers  
 Publications Co-Chairs:  
 Barbara Fier, Jan Ferguson, Andrea Fabian  
 Publicity - Janice Metz  
 Show - Franne Einberg  
 Shop Committee - President,  
 Vice President, Shop Instructors  
 Social Co-Chairs:  
 Laura Seffer and Joyce Watanabe  
 Sunshine - Felice Ganz  
 Trading Post - Gary Mitchell  
 Web Master - Jette Sorensen  
 Workshops - Brad Smith

**Board of Directors:**

2019

Brad Smith - Grace Sato

2020

Ana M. Strambi Guimaraes - Bruce Mensinger