



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.



## March Program: The Allure of Diamonds

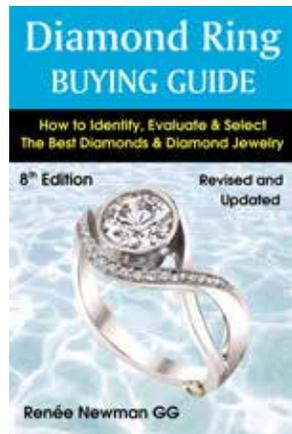
Our Club is happy to present an illustrated talk by Gemologist, Renée Newman.

Compared to many other gemstones, diamonds are relatively abundant, yet they have attained higher prices at auction than any other gem. Gemologist Renée Newman will explain why.

Her talk will include photos and information on

- The highest-priced diamonds sold at auction
- Three of the oldest and most famous diamonds
- Current geographic sources of diamonds
- Reasons why diamonds are so highly valued
- Lab-grown diamonds and some ways to detect them
- Diamond imitations and some ways to detect them
- Diamond treatments
- Why the 4 Cs is no longer an adequate pricing system for diamonds

Renée developed her interest in gems in the early 1980s while conducting tours to Asia, South America, and the South Pacific. Her passengers wanted to know how to judge the quality of the gems they saw. She searched bookstores and libraries, and



discovered that little had been written on the subject of gem quality and evaluation, so she decided it would be worthwhile creating books with photos that showed how to judge gem quality.

After she received her graduate gemologist diploma from the GIA (Gemological Institute of America), she was hired as a gemologist by a wholesale diamond seller, in downtown Los Angeles. This provided hands-on experience in grading diamonds and selecting colored gems and pearls for their jewelry. Armed with trade experience and gemological credentials, Renée decided to create books that showed readers how to visually evaluate the quality of gems. Her first book, the *Diamond Ring Buying Guide*, was published in 1989. Since that time, she has written twelve more books on gems

*continued on page 2*

## General Meetings

General meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room at the Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230. **Guests are always welcomed!**

Upcoming Programs

March 09 – The Allure of Diamonds

April 13 – To be announced

May 11 – To be announced

### In this issue

President's Message	p. 2
Fiesta of Gems	p. 2
Workshop Series	p. 3
February Program Report	p. 4
General Meeting Minutes	p. 5
Executive Meeting Minutes	p. 5
Lapidary Shop Report	p. 6
Upcoming Shows	p. 7



## Fiesta of Gems Needs You

The Fiesta of Gems show is just 3 months away on June 27 and 28; your support is needed and greatly appreciated.

Help us prepare for the plant, book, and magazine sale by donating the following items:

- plants
- cuttings
- small pots (little burst packs from the nursery)
- books
- magazines

Drop off your items at the CCRMC Lapidary Shop.

Come get your hands dirty, get to know your fellow members, and most importantly get the plants ready. Join us on **Saturday, May 2 at 9:30 am** at Grace Sato's house to help plant and pot all the clippings for the show. Please let Adrienne Louie know if you'll be able to participate.

## President's Message

One of my favorite shows is coming up this month, and well worth the drive. If you've never been out to the desert before, this trip is for you. The last segment is a section of dusty road, but you can make it easily in a city car. Grab a friend for a fun day in the sunshine and fresh air.

The Stoddard Wells Tailgate will be March 13, 14, and 15. The event is held just north of Victorville off Route 15, and there are several field trips for agate and marble that are planned to leave from the show. For directions see the club website at: [vvgmc.org](http://vvgmc.org) or contact Ruben Martinez at (760) 429-8263 or [rmstonewalk54@gmail.com](mailto:rmstonewalk54@gmail.com)



Show dealers are set up in tents and RV's with all sorts of goodies. There's plenty to see and do. Camp out if you like, and if you have something to sell, bring it along and set up your own table – it's free.

For those staying closer to home, The South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society is having their show on March 28-29 in Torrance at the Ken Miller Recreational Center on 3341 Torrance Blvd. It's a great 2-day show with a lot of nice rocks, slabs, and specimens for sale. Contact (310) 561-2600, [southbaylms@gmail.com](mailto:southbaylms@gmail.com) or visit the club web site <https://southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com> for all the details.

**Brad Smith, President**

If you have any questions, please contact Adrienne at 310-293-2932 or email [aal@ix.netcom.com](mailto:aal@ix.netcom.com).

Submitted by  
**Adrienne Louie**  
Show Chair

## March Program: The Allure of Diamonds *con't*

and jewelry, including the *Diamond Handbook* which is directed to trade professionals. Renée's books are used as gemology course textbooks, sales training tools, appraisal references, and consumer guides.

A new 8th edition of the Diamond Ring Buying Guide was released in February 2020. Renée and her book will be available before and after her presentation for autographs.

Submitted by  
**Ken Rogers**  
Programs Chair



# Upcoming Workshops

**Beginning Lapidary** – Sunday, March 8

**Argentium Sterling Silver Skinny Stack Rings #1** – Sunday, March 22

**Fold-Formed Jewelry** – Saturday, March 28

## Beginning Lapidary

### Workshop Description:

Make a cabochon from a slab (a slice of rock we supply) by sawing an outline on the trim saw, shape it on the grinding wheels, polish it on the polishing machines and material permitted, get a high polish on the leather lathe so you can walk home with a great rock, ready for setting. You will be shown how to create a rounded “cab” that will fit whatever setting you want, avoid getting “flat spots” aka facets, and bevel the underside to make it fit nicely in a bezel (if that’s the setting you want).



This workshop is limited to 3 students who must be members of CCRMC. Membership can be arranged on the day of the workshop.

**Instructor:** Jette Sorensen

**Date:** Sunday, March 8

**Time:** 9:00 am - 12 noon

**Location:** CCRMC Lapidary Shop behind the Culver City Scout House, 10866 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

### Workshop Fee:

CCRMC Members Only: \$40 paid in advance

### What to Bring:

Wear old clothes (you will get wet), closed-toe shoes, and bring eye protection. Also, bring ear protection and a facemask if you want.

We will supply all the materials used to make your cabochon.

If you want to work on your own material, you may stay after the workshop ends. Regular shop fees will apply after 12 pm.

Email Jette Sorensen at [jetsens@jetsens.com](mailto:jetsens@jetsens.com) to sign up and get payment instructions.



## Argentium Sterling Silver Skinny Stack Rings #1

### Workshop Description:

You just can't have enough Skinny Rings. Using Argentium Silver, a type of sterling silver that has a higher content of fine silver and tarnishes much slower than regular sterling, fuse skinny rings. You can either use as finger rings or incorporate into one of your jewelry projects. Learn to make your headpins by creating a ball on the end of a piece of Argentium. You can also make small silver balls to include in future silversmithing creations. This is the first of two skinny rings workshops and a great introduction to creating with wire and a butane torch. In the second workshop, you will take skinny rings to the next level by adding tiny bezels and other variations.



This workshop is limited to 5 students who must be members of CCRMC. Membership can be arranged on the day of the workshop.

**Instructor:** Jette Sorensen

**Date:** Sunday, March 22

**Time:** 9:00 am - 12 noon

**Location:** CCRMC Lapidary Shop behind the Culver City Scout House, 10866 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

### Workshop Fee:

CCRMC Members Only: \$50 paid in advance  
Material Kit: \$15

To make your reservation, please RSVP to Jette Sorensen at [jetsens@jetsens.com](mailto:jetsens@jetsens.com). Upon RSVP, a confirmation email will be sent with payment instructions and information regarding tools to bring to the workshop.

## Fold-Formed Jewelry

### Workshop Description:

Fold-forming is an innovative, quick, and easily learned way for shaping sheet metal with basic hand tools. The bold 3-D shapes created are unique and add a highly creative look to brooches, earrings and bracelets.



Fold-form shapes are derived from the natural plasticity, ductility and work hardening properties of the metal. Shaping is rapid and efficient, often taking only 10 minutes to complete. Tools are also simple – hammers, an anvil, doming balls, design stamps, and your fingers.

Attendees will learn important jewelry making skills such as how to cut, forge, shape, anneal, and patinate common metals. All tools and materials are provided.

**Instructor:** Brad Smith

**Date:** Saturday, March 28

**Time:** 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Location:** Culver City Scout House, 10866 Culver Blvd, Culver City, CA 90230

### Workshop Fee:

CCRMC Members: \$40

Non-Members: \$50

### What to Bring:

Safety glasses

We will break for a short lunch, so please feel free to bring your own lunch and water.

To make your reservation, or to ask questions, please contact Brad Smith at [BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com](mailto:BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com)



## Membership Renewals

Be sure to keep your membership up to date!

Club benefits such as the use of the lapidary shop, discounted workshop fees, and access to the extensive library will not be available until your membership is renewed.

Complete the application and submit it with your payment to the Club's monthly meeting or mail it to the address listed on the application.

**All renewals must be received by the March 9 Meeting.**

## February Program Report

Club members presented their collections and crafts at the show-and-tell event.

Brad Smith showcased the knife handles he had crafted out of gold, silver, wood, and bronze and using various techniques such as sterling silver casting and molding.

Eric Scott showed a ring fashioned out of high-quality turquoise stone and told the story of how he had acquired the stone.

Ricardo showed his collection of fluorescent rocks and tourmalines that he had personally found.

Submitted by  
**Ana Strambi Guimaraes**  
Recording Secretary

## Lead a Workshop!

Do you have a special skill that you would like share with others? Do you enjoying teaching people how to do something new? You are who we are looking for.

Please reach out to Workshops Chair, Janice Metz at [jenft4@gmail.com](mailto:jenft4@gmail.com) for more information.

# General Meeting Minutes

## February 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm by President Brad Smith.

The Pledge of Allegiance was made. Quorum was established.

The January General Meeting minutes were approved as read in the February Nugget.

Brad Smith made the following announcements:

- Anderson Plywood would be holding their old tools sale on Saturday, February 15.
- The Ventura Club show would be held March 7-8.
- Members must renew their annual membership by the March meeting.

Adrienne Louie requested donations of plants, cuttings, small pots, as well as books and magazines, to sell at the show. Donations were to be dropped off at the shop. Adrienne also informed flyers advertising the show were available for members to distribute to friends and at places they frequent.

A motion was made and approved for the Club to spend no more than \$500 plus tax and shipment costs on educational materials to be given away at the kids games during the show, with leftovers to be allocated to education programs.

Véronique Gautherot volunteered to take on the Social Committee chair responsibility for finding volunteers to bring refreshments to each monthly meeting.

Janice Metz and Jette Sorensen announced that multiple workshops had been scheduled in February and March, some of which were sold-out. They provided a description of the workshops and indicated details were available on the Facebook Club page.

Ken Rogers informed that the next month's program would be a lecture on diamonds by Renee Newman.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Submitted by  
**Ana Strambi Guimaraes**  
Recording Secretary

# Executive Meeting Minutes

## February 10, 2020

Those present: Stephanie Dangott, Steve Dove, Veronique Gautherot, Alexa Hunter, Adrienne Louie, Janice Metz, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Jette Sorensen, Ana Strambi Guimaraes, Karen Wallen.

Meeting called to order by President Brad Smith at 6:50 pm.

The January Executive Meeting minutes were approved as read in the February Nugget.

Brad Smith asked each committee chair to prepare and present an annual budget for their committees at the next meeting.

Janice Metz presented the schedule of upcoming workshops.

Janice Metz indicated that the author of the coloring books distributed at last year's show said he could make amazonite coloring pictures for the Club to print for free and distribute at this year's show. A motion was made and approved to purchase 500 coloring books to give away at the show, with leftovers to go to the Education Committee, for approximately \$500 plus tax and shipping costs. Brad Smith asked Janice to order some in advance for the Education Committee to use on education programs.

Steve Dover reminded that the club did not have a Social Committee chair, and volunteers had been bringing refreshments at every monthly meeting. Volunteers had been secured for March and April. While the arrangement seemed to be working well, a Social Committee Chair would help organize events and secure volunteers moving forward. It was decided a volunteer would be requested at the general meeting.

Ken Rogers informed that the next month's program would be a lecture on diamonds by Renee Newman.

Brad Smith asked Stephanie Dangott to provide the number of Club member at the next meeting. He explained the goal was for the Club to achieve 200 members this year.

Steve Dover informed the summer picnic would be scheduled for August 15th.

Darrell Robb provided information about the Club's financials. He confirmed insurance dues had been paid.

A discussion followed about acquiring a new shed for the Club.

Karen Wallen informed she knew a person who could tour schools with her to deliver an education program on rocks and minerals.

The officers determined which announcements were to be made at the general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Submitted by  
**Ana Maria Strmbi Guimaraes**  
Recording Secretary

# Lapidary Shop



Our fully equipped lapidary shop hours and instructors are:

Tuesday 7 pm - 9 pm Rick Shaffer

Wednesday 10 am - 2 pm Vern Lowe or Jette Sorensen. By appointment only, email: [shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:shop-avail-appoint@culvercityrocks.org)

Thursday 10 am - 2 pm Brad Smith

Saturday 12 pm - 4 pm Lynne Lukert or Steve Dover

Sunday 12 pm - 4 pm Jette Sorensen

Call 310-836-4611 if you are arriving 30 minutes after the posted start time, at the discretion of our instructors, they may close the Shop if no one arrives within the first 30 minutes.

Members must be current with membership dues, sign an annual insurance waiver and receive instruction before starting in the Shop.

Practice rough and slabs are included in the basic shop fee.

The Shop is for use by adults 18+ only; junior members 13+ must sign a special release and a parent/guardian must be present to use any equipment.

10866 Culver Boulevard  
Culver City, CA 90230  
The Shop is located behind the Scout House.

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.culvercityrocks.org/lapshop.htm>

## Lapidary Shop Report

There are many times the tools borrowed from the Club are not returned to the cabinet but left "wherever" member(s) have been working.

There are many times trim saws are left uncleaned.

There are many times the trays under the grinding wheels are left dirty.

There are many times the soldering station is left messy. There are many times water is left on the floor and not swept away – you get the picture.

Shop Rules state:

"CLEAN-UP: The last 15 minutes of each shop session is designated clean-up time for ALL PARTICIPANTS. The clean-up period may be extended to 30 minutes at the discretion of the instructor as the situation warrants. Any member who habitually "side-steps" clean-up chores shall be denied shop privileges. Members will clean-up all the equipment and areas they used. Nothing shall be dumped or emptied onto the ground, wastewater and chips included."

It is not an excuse that "you" are running late for whatever you are doing after attending the shop. It is not an excuse that "time flew" and you kept working on your stuff right up to closing time.

We, the instructors, prefer not to have to remind people of their clean-up duties, but, as specified in the rules, side-stepping clean-up chores will result in denied shop privileges.

On behalf of the Shop Committee  
**Jette Sorensen**

## Upcoming CFMS Shows

March 6-8:: Newark, CA  
Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley  
Newark Pavilion  
6430 Thornton Avenue  
Hours: Fri 10-4, Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5  
Contact: Cathy, (510) 305-4196  
Email: [cdmiller59@gmail.com](mailto:cdmiller59@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.mgscv.org](http://www.mgscv.org)

March 7-8:: Ventura, CA  
Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Ventura County Fairgrounds  
10 West Harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4  
Contact: Richard Slyker, (805) 312-8467  
Email: [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org)  
Website: [vgms.org](http://vgms.org)

March 13-15:: Victorville, CA  
Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
44th Annual Rockhound Tailgate  
Stoddard Wells Road/Dale Evans Pkwy  
Hours: 9-5 daily  
Contact: Ruben Martinez, (760) 429-8263  
Email: [rmstonewalk54@gmail.com](mailto:rmstonewalk54@gmail.com)  
Website: [vvgmc.org](http://vvgmc.org)

March 14-15:: Turlock, CA  
Mother Lode Mineral Society, Modesto  
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds  
900 North Broadway  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Contacts: Bud & Terry McMillin, (209) 524-3494  
Email: [bud.mcmillin.B7YJ@statefarm.com](mailto:bud.mcmillin.B7YJ@statefarm.com)  
Website: [motherlodemineralsociety.com](http://motherlodemineralsociety.com)

March 21-22:: San Jose, CA  
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds  
344 Tully Road  
Hours: 10-5 daily  
Contact: (408) 265-1422  
Email: [info@scvgms.org](mailto:info@scvgms.org)  
Website: [www.scvgms.org](http://www.scvgms.org)

March 29-30:: Angels Camp, CA  
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society  
Calaveras County Fairgrounds  
101 Frogtown Road  
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4  
Contact: Robin Williams, (209)-728-8277  
Email: [robinski@yahoo.com](mailto:robinski@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.calaverasgemandmineral.org](http://www.calaverasgemandmineral.org)

March 28-29:: Roseville, CA  
Roseville Rock Rollers Gem & Mineral Society  
@the Grounds  
800 All American City Blvd  
Hours: Sat 10-5; Sun 10-4  
Contact: James Hutchings, (916) 995-7380  
Email: [jhutchings22@hotmail.com](mailto:jhutchings22@hotmail.com)  
Website: [www.rockrollers.com](http://www.rockrollers.com)



Andy Shearon	March 1
Amanda Doyle	March 1
Mike Blais	March 2
Nyki Bell	March 5
Raquel Valles	March 9
Grace Sato	March 9
Yolanda Lumel	March 9
Chris Golden	March 9
Christine Thompson	March 16
Mariko Sawa	March 16
Tim Teahan	March 17
Karen Wallen	March 21
Bruce Mensinger	March 23
Ken Goodman	March 24
Luis Busso	March 25
Pam Leitner	March 28
Melissa Beckman	March 31

## Welcome to Our New Members

Becca DiBernardo  
Tina Heimann  
Ed Henderson  
Callie Herf  
Lorna Herf  
Junko Igarashi  
Tina Marino  
Carol McNeely  
Don Nishimoto  
Blue Palmoutsos  
Danny Phillips  
Valorie Renee  
Mariko Sawa  
Karie Schroder  
Christine Thompson

# the Nugget - Submissions

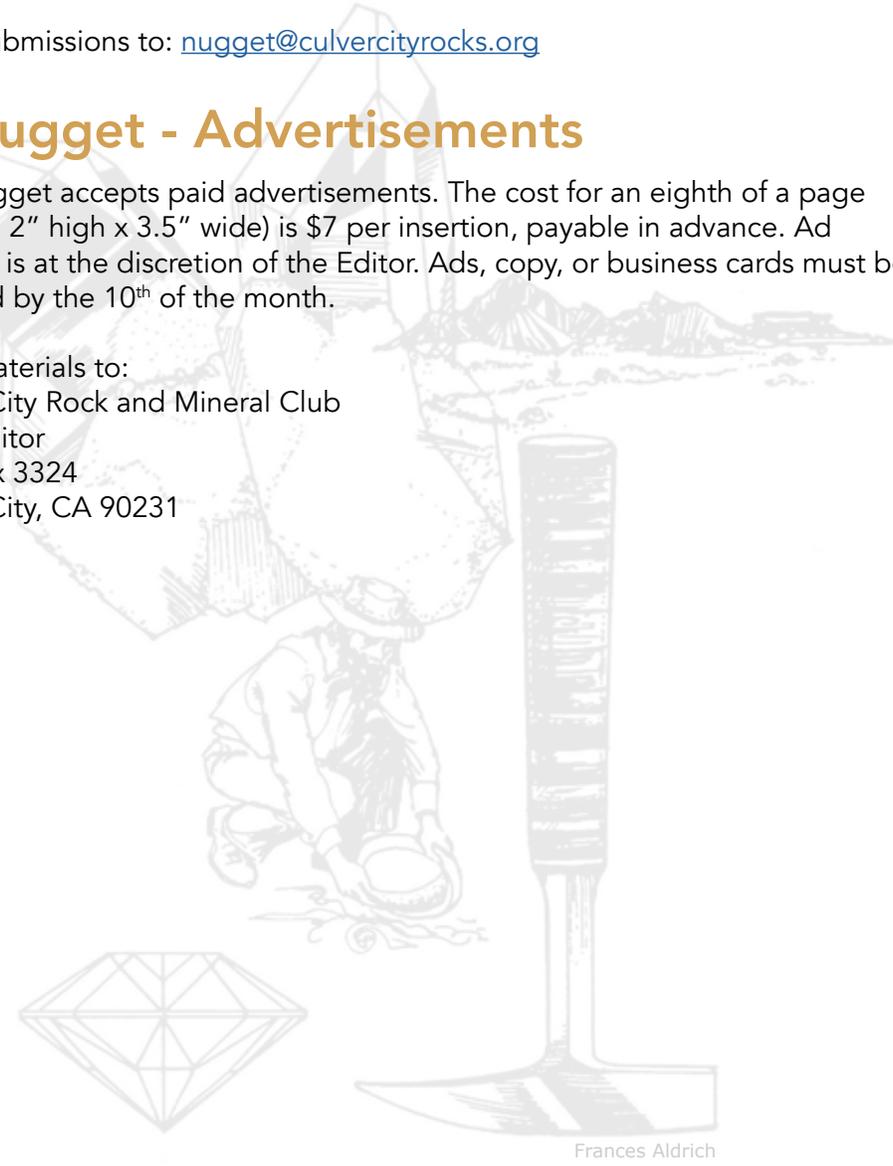
Submissions deadline is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Permission to copy is freely given as long as proper credit is noted. Photographs without credits are shot by a CCRMC member. Permission to use photography is freely given as long as proper credit is noted.

Email submissions to: [nugget@culvercityrocks.org](mailto:nugget@culvercityrocks.org)

# the Nugget - Advertisements

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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Send materials to:  
Culver City Rock and Mineral Club  
Attn: Editor  
P.O. Box 3324  
Culver City, CA 90231



Frances Aldrich

## 2020 Elected Officers

**President**  
Brad Smith

**Vice President**  
Steve Dover

**Treasurer**  
Darrell Robb

**Recording Secretary**  
Ana Maria Strambi Guimaraes

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Véronique Gautherot

**Parliamentarian**  
Jon P. Gowling

### Committee Chairs

- Education – Karen Wallen
- Federation Director – Rick Shaffer
- Field Trips Chair – Devon Lloyd
- Historian – Virginia Hollis
- Librarian – Andrea Fabian
- Membership – Stephanie Dangott
- Membership Co-Chair – Jan Ferguson
- Minerals Chair – Devon Lloyd
- Photography – Pam Leitner
- Programs – Ken Rogers
- Publications Chair – Janet Gampe
- Publicity – Janice Metz
- Show – Adrienne Louie
- Shop Committee – President, Vice President & Shop Instructors
- Social Co-Chairs – VACANT
- Sunshine – Felice Ganz
- Trading Post – Gary Mitchell
- Web Master – Jette Sorensen
- Workshops – Janice Metz

### Board of Directors

**2020**  
Anna Maria Strambi Guimaraes  
Bruce Mensinger

**2021**  
Franne Einberg  
Gary Mitchell

## Stay In Touch



Mailing Address:  
Culver City Rock & Mineral Club  
PO Box 3324  
Culver City, CA 90231  
310-836-4611

The CCRMC is a non-profit 501(c)(4) organization.

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club, Inc.

the Nugget  
PO Box 3324  
Culver City, CA 90231

**Address Change Requested**

First Class Mail



MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CULVER CITY ROCK &  
MINERAL CLUB

# the NUGGET



Frances Aldrich