



Club Notes



General Meeting: No Meeting for July and August. The next general meeting is on September 18th at 7:30 PM

Sept. Refreshments: Members with a last name starting with **W-Z** please bring snacks.

New Members: Unless otherwise stated, General Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at the church at 7:30pm. You are invited and encouraged to attend! There is a silent auction and door prizes at every meeting.

Next Board Meeting:

Monday, July 23rd, 7:00 p.m. at the shop is the next Board Meeting.



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MGSCV Petrograph -July 2012
Monthly Bulletin of the Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley, Inc.

This publication is the bulletin of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, Inc., a member of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the North Bay Field Trip Association.

Bulletin Submission Policy

Submission deadline is the second Friday following the *General Meeting* (normally the second Wednesday of the month.) Anonymous contributions will not be considered for publication in the *Petrograph*; however, if requested at the time of submission, the contributor's name can be withheld. Members are encouraged to submit articles that may be of interest to the general membership. The bulletin editor reserves the right to edit any submitted articles or omit any submission from publication. Source must be cited for material quoted from other authors. Permission to reprint *Petrograph* articles is hereby granted provided properly cited.

2012 MGSCV Officers

Elected

President - Ron Miller	President@mgscv.org	
Vice President - Jim Ewing	VP@mgscv.org	
Secretary - Sheryl Cooper	Secretary@mgscv.org	(510) 589-8858
Treasurer - Betty Milam	Treasurer@mgscv.org	
1 st Year Director - Mike McBride	Director1@mgscv.org	
2 nd Year Director - Norm Hodgson	Director2@mgscv.org	
3 rd Year Director - Mary Jane Holmes	Director3@mgscv.org	
Federation Director - Ron Hasemeyer	Federation@mgscv.org	
Shop Manager - Beth Farmer	ShopManager@mgscv.org	
2012 Show Chairman - Cathy Miller	ShowChair@mgscv.org">ShowChair@mgscv.org	
Membership - Tony Cooper	membership@mgscv.org	510-589-5292
Editor - Diana Cohoon	Editor@mgscv.org	
Past President - Bonnie Andrade	pastpresident@mgscv.org	

Appointed

Scholarship Chair - Mary Howell
Librarian - Mary Howell
Historian - Jamie McDonald
Purchasing Agent - Beth Farmer
Education Coordinator - Shirley Buschke
Field Trip Coordinator - Ron Hasemeyer
Parliamentarian - Doc Buschke
Reception/Hostess - Ann Vargas/Dan Gilson
Sunshine Reporter - All members
Door Prizes - Bonnie Andrade
Web Master - Tony Cooper

webmaster@MGSCV.org



Publication Staff



◇Contributors: Shirley Buschke, Jodi Minshall, Betty Milam, Sheryl Cooper, Mary Howell, Mike McBride

Meeting Minutes

BOARD MEETING -.June 10th, 2012 Submitted by Sheryl Cooper

In attendance were **Betty Milam, Mary Jane Holmes, Beth Farmer, Sheryl Cooper, Diana Cohoon, and Mike McBride.**

There was not a quorum, but the following items were discussed

starting around 7:20pm.

Show: For the 2013 show the Truck Mafia will have 4-5 trucks available on Saturday and Sunday only. We will have to do something for Friday. It was suggested to check into a hotdog cart or something along those lines. We could possibly file a variance with the city regarding the

Electrical issue with the Pavilion, but it would take several months to process. We went over the option of the society buying tiles and creating extensions to receptacles placed in the tiles. But if we pay for them we should store them. We need to talk to the Pavilion this summer so the Board can discuss it.

Shop: One of the saws was miss-handled and a part was broken. It is being fixed. Beth is updating the list of approved saw users. The casting has been having problems so the castable was tossed out and new castable was purchased.

Membership: Since last month we have 4 new members and 1 returning junior, bringing our total membership to 163. Some people joining

lately have had some prior experience that they are sharing with us.

Editor: Diana discussed having summer issues this year. Everyone thought it would be a good idea.

Education: The enamel class had three people and went well. A lost wax class will be starting soon on a Sunday. Lee Chavez has offered to teach an advanced bracelet class. We should have a beginning soldering class before this on a Sunday. Check the faceting room door for dates and times.

Board meetings should continue through the summer. We decided to have them on July 23rd and August 13th. Also Thursday, Sept. 6th is the Show meeting, Monday, Sept. 10th is the Board meeting, and Tuesday, Sept. 18th is the General meeting.

We adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.

General Meeting - June 19, 2012

Ron Miller called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. There were 20 members present and 2 guests. **Veronica and Carlos Enriquez** joined us tonight. They both teach at **CSUEB**. They found out about us from the Science Fair in Castro Valley and just had to come see what we are all about.

Minutes: Shirley Buschke moved to accept the May minutes as printed in the Petrograph. **Mark Montgomery** seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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Program: A DVD coming to our library soon - **Keith Rigby's Guide to Black Opals.**

There are 12 chapters in all. We watched chapter 2 - Evaluating Rough Opal. It showed us examples of several pieces and discussed what you were seeing. Some of them were layers or seam opals, and others were nodules or nobby opals. We were also shown an opalized fossil of plant material and an opalized mussel shell.

Chapter 5 - Cutting a Gem "Princess Mary"

She cut a layered opal between two bands of color by hand to get two free form pieces out of it. You should leave some black potch behind the crystals to bring out the brilliance of the opal. She used a 400 grit grinder to shape the piece and ended with a cerium oxide polish.

You will have to see the DVD yourself to see the beautiful colors in the piece because I cannot do it justice here.

Shop: We got rid of the big saw by the roll up door. The owner came in got it for \$800.

Show: The Food Mafia will have 4 food and 1 dessert truck there on Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 - 3:00, but will not be there on Friday. There will be no cost to us and we will make nothing from them either. The electrical issues are still being worked on.

Editor: There will be a July and August newsletter this year. **Diana** is starting a kids corner. If we have any kids that would like to write something they can submit it to editor@mgscv.org.

Library: Mary Howell is looking into purchasing how to DVD's on jewelry, enameling, soldering, wire wrap, etc... Please let her know If you have any suggestions on which ones to buy. There is a catalog at the shop.

Membership: We have 163 current members. That is 5 more since last month.

Juniors: There is not a lot of activity, but we see as summer goes along.

Field Trips: Check out the NORCAL rocks website for shows, field trips and information. Don't forget to look in the binder at the shop and your Petrograph for up coming events also.

Education: A two part lost wax class is coming soon on two Sundays. The information will be posted on the faceting room door.

Announcements: Annemarie was in a car accident near her house. She is doing fine. It was mainly bruises and abrasions and damage to her car.

Beth says there is plenty of rock left for **10 cents per pound at the shop.**

Drawings: The name pulled for the \$100 member drawing was **Eric Howell**, but he was not present to collect.

Guest Tickets - Carlos and Veronica Enriquez both picked out a piece.

Attending Member Tickets - John Gullak, Mike McBride, Linda Davenport, Stephen Caudill-Merida, Shirley Buschke, Doc Buschke, Jim Ewing, Betty

**Milam, Horace Robertson, Sheryl Cooper,
Bev Ewing, and Lisa Lafferty**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm



ROCK RUMBLES July 2012

By Shirley Buschke

Jim Ewing missed a Saturday at the shop. His excuse? His granddaughter got married, and we were glad they left some of the decorations at the church meeting hall because we got to see the decorations and also enjoy some of the dessert. How thoughtful of them to freeze and save it for us rock hounds. Have you seen some of the wire bugs **Terry Jones** has been making and he is sharing his expertise in wire wrap with club members. He said some of the new colored wires are a little bit hard to get used to, just keep working with them.

Beth Farmer, shop boss, has been working on a beautiful gold ring set with a gold nugget for her son's graduation from Cal Poly, and everything that could has gone wrong. But she is persevering. **Ken Panico** helped make a mold of the defective one which she modified in wax and is trying again.

We have been welcoming some new members and appreciate the skills they

bring with them. A gentleman who was shop foreman in Vallejo is joining us, his name is **Mike Cox**, an opal expert **Owen Brand**, and the above named wire wrap artist and a microbiology teacher and wife from Cal State Hayward. They said they are interested beginners, and we like to have them, too. Their name was **Veronica & Carlos Enriquez**. They saw the program presented at Castro Valley High School by our members and decided to come to our meeting. Welcome!!!

AnnMarie Korchendorfer was in an automobile accident but she is doing fine. Her car isn't, it seems a neighbor was backing up onto the street and backed in to her.

Pat Rigor has undergone cataract surgery and she, too, is doing fine.

That auction case is accepting donations.

Did you know you could use a motorcycle canvas cover as a tent? That is exactly what happened to **Lyle Schoeff's** motorcycle cover. He no longer has a garage in SF so he keeps his motorcycle protected with a canvas cover. Police say the homeless steal and use these covers as tents. So he was putting gromets on his replacement instead of playing with rocks the other day.

SHOW SCHEDULES

CFMS GOLD & GEM SHOW

Riverside, Ca

July 13th -15th

Fri & Sat. 10-5PM, Sun. 10-4PM

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Riverside Municipal Auditorium
3485 Mission Inn Ave
Steve Schubert 951-943-0535
meschubert@hotmail.com

Orcutt Mineral Society

Nipomo, Ca
August 3rd, 4th & 5th
10-5pm daily

Nipomo High school
525 N. Thompson ave.
Wes Lingerfelt 805-929-3788
<http://www.omsinc.org>

San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society

Bldg. 1, Treasure Island
August 4th & 5th
Sat. 10-6; Sun. 19-5 pm
1 Avenue of the Palms, San Francisco
Ellen Nott
Ellen nott@yahoo.com

Mendocino Coast Gem and Mineral Society

Fort Bragg, Ca
August 31, - Sept. 3rd, Fri - Sun. 10-6pm,
Mon. 10-4p
Jerry Sommer 707-937-1833

Valley Springs Pow-Wow

Snyders' Ranch
1290 Paloma Rd., Valley Springs,
All day; camping \$10.00
Betty 209-772-9977

<http://www.valleyspringspowwow.com>

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society

Downey, Ca
September 8th & 9th
10-5pm daily

Jon Fults 714-856-7548
jhfults@verizon.net

Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society

Redwood City, Ca
Sept. 15th & 16th 10-5pm daily
Community Activities Bldg.
1400 Roosevelt Ave.

Mary Lou Froese 650-755-8753

<http://sgms.driftmine.com>

Santa Rosa Gem and Mineral Society

Santa Rosa, Ca
Sept. 29th & 30th Sat. 10-6pm, Sun. 10-5pm
Wells Fargo Center for the Art
50 Mark West Springs Rd.

Jolene Coon 707-849-9551

coons@sonic.net

Stockton Lapidary and Mineral club

Stockton, Ca
Sept. 29th & 30th, 10-5pm Sat. & Sun.
Scottish Rite Masonic Center
33Alpine Ave

<http://www.stocktonlapidary.com>

Field Trips

Rock Hound Field Trip Fanatics

Big Pile and Area 54, Panoche Hills, Fresno county

July 2nd @ Nees/Firebaugh, exit on I-5 in Western Fresno county

Meet @chevron travel plaza 7AM, to start at Big Pile

<http://rockhoundfieldtgrips.ning.com>

Fossils for Fun Society

August 4th & 5th

Pete's Summit near Austin Nv. for Fossils

Vicky Black

1-530-615-4377; 1-530-205-8382 (cell)



GEM OF THE MONTH

If you had been watching Jeopardy in 1995, you might have seen our gem of the month. He was the winner for three days in a row, winning \$12,000. Prizes were lower then, keep reading to find out who we are talking about. Our gem was born in Orange county and grew up in Santa Ana. He loved cross country while in high school and worked part time in a pharmacy. After graduation he joined the army and served in the artillery in Viet Nam. While there he had lots of experienced digging holes.

When he returned to the states he decided to go to college so off to Chico

State. He also went on to Hastings law school and has been a practicing attorney ever since. His field of interest is insurance. Along the way he acquired a wife and son, who is now attending University of Iowa and majoring in finance. No, he does not want to be a farmer. He chose Iowa because there is family there.

Our gem said he has always liked chemistry and physics and was curious about refraction, makeup of stones, etc. His curiosity led him to search for a place to get that knowledge and he found our club. His main interest has been faceting and you can find him under John or Jim's thumb almost every Wednesday and Saturday making his way across the bay to practice his art. All stones seem to be his favorite. Guess there is some Jeopardy in him because he says he loves the challenge of different cuts and materials. Every stone needs special skills, it must have something to do with the chemistry and physics of the mineral.

Another hobby of the **Gordons**, was raising guide dogs for the blind. And who is our Jeopardy winner? **David Gordon**. I forgot to ask him what he did with his winnings. And in those days contestants had to pay their own way and hotel bill, that probably used up lots of it. I wonder if they still have to pay their own expenses.

KIDS KORNER

By Elizabeth Bennette 13 yrs. old

While it may not be fair or easy to admit, most of us rely upon first impressions to make personal judgments. I have been

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taught from an early age the importance of making a good first impression since my outward appearance and actions often will influence how I will be viewed and treated by others. However, as a member of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, I have learned not to rely on outward appearances to determine the true value of someone or something. When working on different stones, I have found that first impressions can be unreliable. The true value of a stone, like a person, cannot be determined by a casual glance. It might be grimy and wet, with a dirt brown outer crust and odd black splotches all around it. But, what is inside could hold great promise. It could be a deep blue or pink stone, something that you've been looking for and that would be considered to be extremely beautiful, if you put in the time to work the stone properly, to bring about its full potential. I run across these opportunities all the time as a member of the MGSCV.

Going to Mineral and Gem Society for the first time, I wasn't sure of what to expect. The place was dusty, full of laughter and conversations, and the machinery was loud. Mark, my mentor and friend, was the first person my mom and I met from the shop. Always happy and just a bit eccentric, he showed us around, telling stories about the rocks, machines, and people there.

Everything was so big and noisy, making me feel very small and quiet. I was introduced to a dozen or so people, who soon became the members with whom, later on, I felt most knowledgeable. After the

tour, we started to "cab" some stones, a ritual that all new members have to complete. We took a slab of a stone, cut it to the desired shape, and ground the stone until it became polished. Later that day, a dozen or so halfway-cabbed stones that were covering the middle of Mark's desk were being gawked at by about half the members at the shop. This wasn't exactly a rare sight. I looked at a few, and put them back down.

As a novice, I didn't understand the work that was involved when crafting a cab, or any other piece of jewelry made by the members here, so my first thoughts were "Oh, they're pretty. I guess. They're not even finished yet." I didn't know of the effort that each person would put into each stone, carefully choosing each chunk of rock, the constant grinding of the stones, and the final polishing until you ended up with something unique and special. To see the full potential of a stone before it is even completely polished is a skill which is acquired after many years of practice. After many more trips to the shop and sessions learning from Mark and other members, I soon understood the need to be patient, to look beyond the surface for the true value and beauty of a stone. It felt wonderful to have completed each project, and to see the amazing work being done by so many other people.

Even after being a member for a number of years, I still find myself amazed when I ask other members, "So, whacha' got there?" and am shown something completely unexpected and breathtaking. Being able to

find beauty in something that others might not give a second glance and sharing that process with others who understand drive our members to do what they do and motivate me to continue to come to the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley.

Part II: What is Opal?

by Jodi Minshall

This article is Part II in the "What is Opal" series of articles. In Part I we reviewed the basics of opal: chemical makeup, common versus precious opal, and the definition of "play of color". In this article we will discuss a few of the many varieties of opal and the defining characteristics of some of the more popular varieties.

NOTE: In Part I: What is Opal, the cited reference source was omitted from the published article. We apologize for the omission and give full credit for the technical resource and photographs used in this series of articles to:

Geology.com

Contributor: Hobart King

Last Accessed 4/20/12

<http://geology.com/gemstones/opal/>

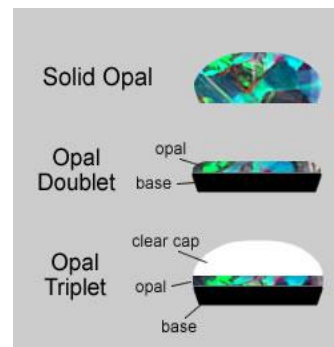
The Many Names of Opal

There are many types of opal and an unbelievable variety of names are used to describe them. If you have ever spent time looking at opal stones, both rough and finished, you may have been a little overwhelmed by this variety of names. However, with a little effort these names

can actually help you to evaluate the opals you may come across.

I find that some really useful aspects of opal names are that they can potentially tell you in just a few words where the stones were mined, how they were processed, as well as give you some idea of the potential value of the stone. Once you have learned some of the nuances of opal names you can determine a great deal about the stones you may see just by hearing their names.

Some descriptive names used for opal indicate the structure of the finished stone such as: solid, doublet, or triplet (see the diagram below). This type of name can give you a basic understanding of how the stone was processed to prepare it for setting in jewelry.



A solid opal is just that, solid opal through and through. The gemstone may have been cabbed or faceted to bring out the features, but it is all opal. An opal doublet is an opal that has been mounted onto a base material to add strength or provide background contrast for the play of color. It is then cabbed before setting the stone. The resulting gemstone has two (double) layers. An opal triplet is an opal that has been mounted onto a base material to add strength or provide background

contrast for the play of color and then capped with a clear material to protect the opal's surface. It is then cabbed and the resulting gemstone has three (triple) layers.

Other descriptive names such as: precious opal, common opal, fire opal, black opal, jelly opal, boulder opal, and matrix opal are names for the opal types based on their physical characteristics.

☐ "Precious opal" is any opal that has play of color.



☐ "Common Opal" also called "Potch opal" is opal that lacks play of color. It is not as popular as precious opal, but the material is lustrous and nicely workable so it is still sometimes used for jewelry making and carving.



☐ "Fire opal" is typically translucent opal that is orange to red in color, and sometimes yellow. It does not have play of color, but instead has a "glow" that makes the base color really stand out with intensity.



☐ "Black opal" refers to the dark coloring of the base opal which can range from light gray to dark midnight blue/black.

The range is from N7 (lightest) to N1 (darkest), but only N4 to N1 are considered truly black opals. When black opal has play of color the contrast is quite striking, which makes it highly prized.



☐ "Jelly opal" also known as "Crystal opal" is translucent to clear opal with play of color.



☐ "Boulder opal" displays seams of precious opal within a surrounding rock matrix.



☐ "Matrix opal" is opalized sandstone that is typically treated to make the matrix material darker to create contrast for the play of color interspersed between the grains of sand.



Some names of opal are indicators of where the opal was mined such as: Australian Lightning Ridge, Coober Pedy, Minitabie, and Andamooka opals; South American Brazilian, Peruvian, and Honduran

opals; and African Zambian and Ethiopian opals to name a few. It is well worth your time to familiarize yourself with the place names of opals as well, as many places precious opals are mined are known for the characteristics of the opals that come from their mines. I will discuss some of these characteristics as they relate to the places the opals come from in a future article.

Remembrance

by John Gordon

On January 19, 2012, United States Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron HMH-363, when deployed on their 2nd tour in Afghanistan, one of its helicopters was shot down, and six men were killed. This is the same helicopter squadron I served with in Vietnam. After being in contact with the CO, and a couple more 363 members throughout 2011 on Internet, we have become very close. Then I heard the news on 19th January, It was a sad day, tearfull day, and a big surprise. The squadron was due to return in May. I was already planning a trip to Orlando Florida to the USMC Combat Helicopter Association (POP-A-SMOKE) reunion in July. I thought that there should be Honor and Remembrance given these six brave men; Capt. Daniel B. Bartie 27, of Ferndale, Wash. Capt. Nathan P. McHone 29, of Crystal Lake, Ill. MSgt. Travis W. Riddick 40, of Centerville, Iowa. Cpl. Jesse W. Stites 23, of North Beach, Md. Cpl Kevin J. Reinhard 25, of Colonia,N.J. Cpl. Joseph D. Logan 22, of Willis,Texas, at this reunion on in July.

After getting the OK and go ahead by the president of POP-A- SMOKE, this

Memorial Bell will be rang after each name is read, with a minute of silence. There will be 5000 Marines in attendance. In February I found a Bell which was donated by Brosamer Bells Inc. of Brooklyn, Michigan. The owner of the company is a Vietnam Veteran, he wanted to be a part of this tribute he gave us the bell. The bell needed a lot of work to be to be used in this audience.

I found a new Eagle for the top. I had to make some new parts and I had to re-work the bracket. I had to get a piece of wood to mount it on, (**Purple Heart**). It has taken most of my time for the last 4 months in putting this together, and I believe I am finally there, after many hours of hard work and many attempts of getting the parts cast at the shop, and at home. Thanks to all at the shop who helped. The finishing of the wood, the polishing of the bell, the drilling of the holes, the work is still not done. My daughter Kristina and I will be leaving for Orlando Fl. on the 11 July 2012. We will be taking the bell with us. The hardest job is still to come, with the ringing of the bell without breaking down in tears. We Will Not forget these six Brave Marines. Semper Fidelis



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Shop Schedule (All shop sessions members only)

- Monday** 10AM to 1PM, Lapidary
6PM to 9PM, Beginners only
in lapidary, Faceting (no beginners)
- Tuesday** 9:30AM to 12:30PM, need daytime supervisor
6PM to 9:00 PM, Lapidary,
- Wednesday** 9AM to 12:00PM, Lapidary
Library open 10AM to noon.
6PM to 9PM, Lapidary
- Thursday** 10:00AM to 1:00PM, Lapidary
5PM to 9PM, Lapidary, faceting (no beginners)
- Friday** Need Daytime and Night Supervisors!
Temporarily closed
- Saturday** 9AM to 3PM, Faceting Class 9-12, Juniors,
Adults w/supervisor's approval
Library open 10AM to noon.
- Sunday** 9:30AM to 12:30PM, Lapidary

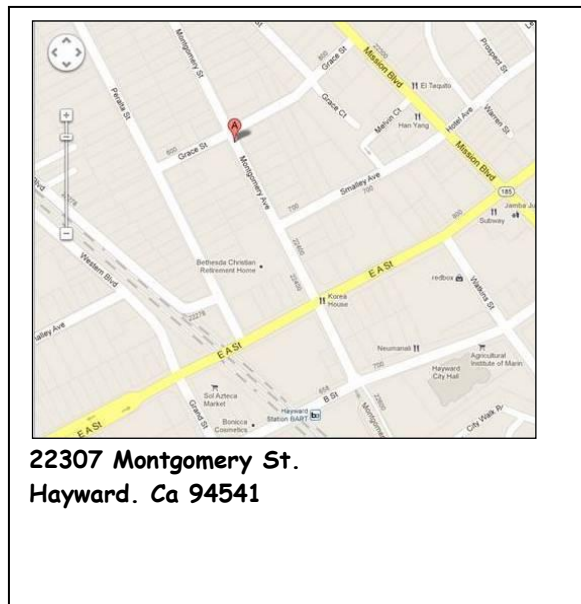
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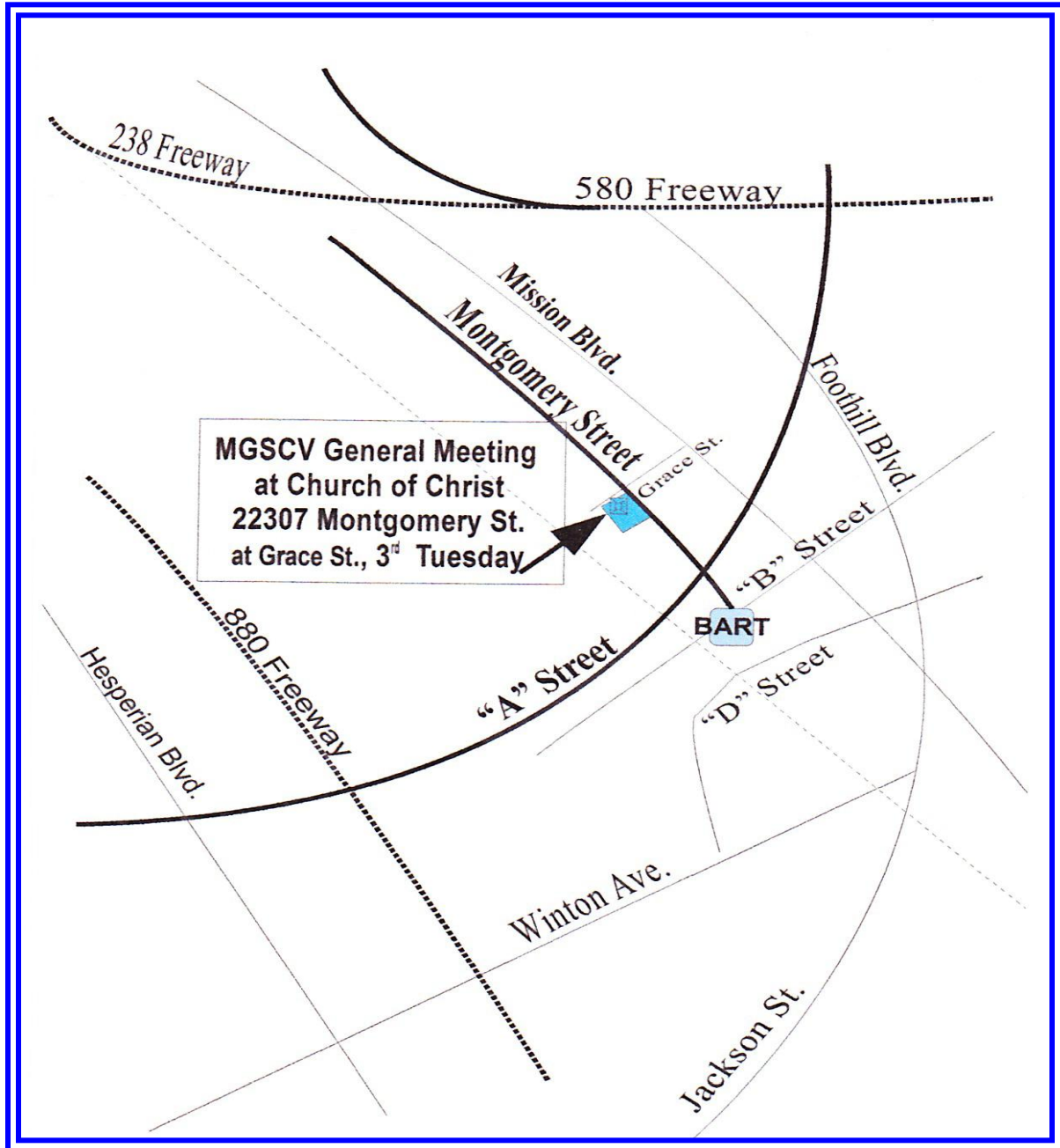
SHOP NOTICES:

There are only a few people who are authorized to invest in the casting room. If You are interested in learning how to invest, Contact **Jim Ewing**, or **Diana Cohoon**

Website: www.mgscv.org
Email us at info@mgscv.org



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From I 580: Take the A Street exit and go west, turn right on Montgomery Street and go to 22307 Montgomery Street.

From I 880: Take the A Street exit and go East. Turn left on Montgomery Street and go to 22307 Montgomery.

From Jackson Street: Go north on Mission Boulevard, turn left onto A Street, then right on Montgomery Street and go to 22307 Montgomery Street.