



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, August 13th, 7:00 p.m. at the shop is the next Board Meeting.



ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER

In This Issue:

- ❖ Club Notes
- ❖ General Information
- ❖ Meeting Minutes
 - Board-July 23rd 2012
 - General Membership
- ❖ Rock Rumbles
- ❖ Announcements
- ❖ Show Schedules
- ❖ Field Trips
- ❖ Gem of the month
- ❖ Kids Korner
- ❖ Bench Tips by Brad Smith
- ❖ Opals part III
- Shop Schedule
- ❖ Map To new General meeting place

MGSCV Petrograph -August 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	
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 -.July 23rd, 2012

Submitted by Sheryl Cooper

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Ron Miller.

Minutes: Betty Milam moved to approve the May and June minutes as printed in the Petrographs. Mike McBride seconded the motion and they were carried unanimously.

Treasurer: After reviewing the reports, Sheryl Cooper moved to approve the May and June treasurer's reports as presented. Diana Cohoon seconded the motion and they were carried unanimously.

Shop: Not much right now. **Jim Ewing** can no longer open the shop at night. We need a new beginning instructor and a supervisor for Thursday nights. We also still need a Wednesday night supervisor. If you are interested contact **Beth Farmer at shopmanager@mgscv.org.**

Editor: It is continuing on. Talked about adding an area of suggested websites to check out. If you have anything to be considered send it to **Diana Cohoon at editor@mgscv.org.**

Librarian: There are some great DVD's are coming in. We have one on Black Opals, Soldering, and wire wrap. All have been seen by the editor and find them all well done.

Membership: Our total membership is at 163.

Announcements: The Pleasant Hill rock sale went well. About 6 members were able to make it out. Future sales were discussed with the owner.

State Park Closures - The Mining and Mineral Museum in Mariposa, CA is on the list. If you haven't been there, or it has been awhile since your last visit go check it out.

Show: We will setup a meeting with **John Hershel**, the city building inspector, to find out what is needed to pass inspection for the 2013 show. Then the requirements will be presented to the Pavilion's Board.

The next Board meeting will be on August 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

General Meeting - Next meeting will be September 18th, 2012.



ROCK RUMBLES July 2012

By Shirley Buschke

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Horace Robertson got a rock for his birthday from his son. What is so special about a rock? Well, his is a smart rock with lots of information--if it is wet, it is raining; if it is white, it's snowing and if it is gone, it has been stolen.

Fair news--**Diana Cohoon** and **Norm Hodges** and **Mary Howell** won ribbons at the Alameda County Fair. This is a wonderful opportunity to advertise our club.

Once again one of our members has decided to leave his estate to our club so that members can enjoy his lovelies and the club can make money by selling it first to members and then to the public. **Leslie de Groff** of Newark has given us equipment, rocks, books and tools. These early collectors often have rocks that are no longer available. We thank his family.. **Mike McBride** has taken over collecting the estate for our club.

Ed and **Pat Rigor** have both scheduled eye surgery. **Norm Hodges** has sure made progress in his recovery from a stroke. We are also waiting for the return of **Terry Goesch**. Check out the book shelf. Some one brought in dozens of hard backs. Thank you donor. Although we only ask for 25 cents per book, we hope you will be more generous. Many of us take a book, pay \$1.00 and return for others to enjoy. We also received a donation of aprons from **Jodi Minshall** and they are on sale in our store. Thank you, **Jodi**. Our favorite gold plater is off to the gambling joints again. This time he is going for the music he says and taking his daughter. Maybe she will hit

the jack pots. **Bill Luna** claims he wins, but we wonder.

Our caster has been quite upset. Seems we got a bad lot of investment and many of our castings did not fare well. Don't blame the caster.

I found a program on beads and wire wrap on TV. It was on channel 17, **KCSM**. Friday at 11 AM, worth taping because they move fast.

Beth Farmer says we need a new beginner's instructor. After about 10 years or more of teaching, **Jim Ewing** finds he has to give up night driving. Hey, you young ones, time to take over. **Jim** hopes to offer a daytime class. He is not giving up.

Kelly McCoy popped in with her huge bucket of rocks she purchased at the recent rock show in the **Tom Francis** collection in Pleasant Hill. Members were impressed and decided a field trip should be planned for the future. Watch for the announcement.

Faceter, **Katie Furuyama** was laughing at the story of one of our older members telling about her English war bride secretary (WWII) sending tea bags home because of shortages after the war. Her family thought those crazy Americans were wasting their time having to open those little bags to get out the tea!

Another new faceter, **Gerald Miguel** found us on the internet, finished his first stone and was in the right place for the rare opening in **John Gullak's** class. Thank you, web master for getting the word out.

Wasn't that a GREAT story by our junior member **Elizabeth Bennett**!

Teresa Taniguchi's winning pendant will be on exhibit at the Cinema Place Gallery at 1061 B St. Hayward

Another member we haven't seen in a while is **Owen Brand**. He is very experienced in opals, especially Ethiopian opals. He has been home because he has discovered that he has a bulge in his lower spine, and is waiting to have some shots that would possibly relieve his constant pain. We wish him well, and hope to see him back at the shop soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We would like to organize a field trip of at least ten people for a mini-field trip to Tom's Rock Pile 115 Jackson way, Pleasant hill, Ca 94523 I just visited the site and there are agates, Chinese writing rock, and whole back wall of rocks from various places in the Nevada Deserts and more!

The second announcement is that **Lee Chavez**, a wonderful silver smith, is willing to give a class to intermediate soldering students. The class will be for making bracelets. I will put a signup sheet behind the faceting room door. He has limited time between shows, but August seems to work for him. This is a great opportunity for learning from a master.

Jim Ewing is hanging up his instructor's apron after many years of instructing new members in the fine art of cabochon making.

Now the club needs someone new to instruct those new members! Historically Monday evenings are "beginners night", but really any evening could serve as instructional night.

Beginning August, we need new Shop Supervisors for Monday and Thursday evening. The hours are set by the Shop Supervisor...Jim is considering opening on Friday during the daytime.

So, if you have been a member for awhile and are ready to give something back to the club, meet all the new members, and perhaps be sure you will be at the shop every week at the same time, please contact me via email or phone for any information that might help make up your decision!

Thanks, Beth Farmer (510.538.3092)
(bethfarmer@aol.com)

SHOW SCHEDULES

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

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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>

Feather River Lapidary & Mineral Society

Chico, Ca Sept 22nd-23

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds

2357 Fair St. Sat.-10-5; Sun. 10-4

John Scott 530-321-6331

jweazel@sbcglobal.net

www.orivllrocks.com

Carmel Valley Gem and Mineral society

Sept. 29 & 30th Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5

Monterey Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairgrounds
Rd. Janis Rovetti 831-372-1311

Janis12@sbcglobal.net

www.cvgms.org

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

Fossils for Fun Society

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August 4th & 5th

Pete's Summit near Austin Nv. for Fossils

Vicky Black

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

CFMS Field trips South

Sept.7-9th

Jade Cove, Ca for Nephrite jade

Robert Sankovich [805-494-7734](tel:805-494-7734)
rmsorca@adelphia.net or Adam Dean 909-
489-4899 thegatehunter@verizon.net

Details on CFMS website

www.cfmsinc.org/fieldtrp/y2012/tr0912_jade_cove.htm

Garage Grinders Club

Sept 14-17th

Black Rock Desert , Nv. For Agates,
Jasper, obsidian, and Petrified Wood.

Scott Paradis 707-330-1038 or
wizo@wildblue.net



GEM OF THE MONTH

This month's gem was born in London, but was raised locally in Albany. She said her dad was an engineer and worked many places. On a job, he made their way to Albany. Her creativity and imagination was hard at work even as a child. When she was

in the fourth grade, remember California history and Indians, her teacher introduced a lesson on weaving and the students took turns with a loom. Our gem was so impressed she went home and made her own loom. This gives you an idea of her ability.

Our gem is a cosmetologist and thought she would like to be her own boss so she made the decision to plan a new shop instead of a trip to Italy. Hopefully a good living would evolve. She designed the shop, even the windows. Our gem recently gave up the shop. She was a victim of the recession along with graffiti and stress. Her favorite items for sale at the shop were natural cosmetics, jewelry and mosaics in addition to her professional work. One of her most interesting items, not for sale, was a mosaic toilet bowl just outside the door where clients could smoke. The landlord called it the "jeweled throne". Our gem still services some of her clients at their homes.

Our gem also did lots of volunteer work in a thrift store. She helped price jewelry and often found a use for discarded, broken or throw-away items. She gave many items a new life. Working in her shop, volunteering and making things, it is hard to figure how she had time to collect orchids, another of her passions.

At a loss for something to keep going after she closed her shop, she thought she might like designing jewelry. Our gem discovered most jewelry classes were beyond her financial capabilities. So our club was an answer to her prayers. Here she could learn many new techniques and

best of all, she did not need to buy equipment. She accepts the fact she cannot sell what she makes at the shop. But she is slowly acquiring equipment to work at home. She likes the camaraderie of the membership so she says she will stick around. She has been struck by the generosity of members willing to teach for free, and share their knowledge. Sharing seems to be the goal of rock hounds. As a new member of one month last year she donated a necklace for the auction. I think we have a hard worker here.

Her trip to Italy is still on hold. Guess who yet? Our newest faceting student of **John Gullak**, is **Anitra Raju**. And she is learning to carve, also. Maybe she will teach the rest of us soon.

Teresa Taniguchi's work will be on display at the " Cinema Place Gallery Opening Reception Thursday, August 2, Come join the opening reception crowd at Cinema Place Gallery on Thursday August 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The new show features work by Cal State University East Bay faculty, students, staff, and alumni. The reception will bring together the arts community, the University community, and the City of Hayward community.

Cinema Place is located at 1061 B Street, Hayward Open: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 12:00 to 8:00 pm; Sunday 12:00 to 4:00 pm. In the exhibit - bronze branch (cast at the university) with carved agate blossoms (stamens cast at the shop by Jim Ewing). I also have my award winning ceramic sculptures shown, Terra Cotta Warrior series!

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 gauge fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop. It's also colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop!

More BenchTips by Brad Smith can be found at

[facebook.com/BenchTips](https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips) or
groups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

KIDS KORNER

By Elizabeth Bennette 13 yrs. Old

Elizabeth is on vacation.

Part III: What is Opal?

by Jodi Minshall

This article is the final article in the "What is Opal" series of articles. In Part I we reviewed the basics of opal. In Part II we reviewed popular varieties of opal and their defining characteristics. In this final article we will discuss opal types mined at well known mining locals, and the patterns displayed in play of color precious opal.

NOTE: We give full credit for the technical resources and photographs used in this series of articles to:

Geology.com

Contributor: Hobart King

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

Last Accessed 6/24/12

Wikipedia.com

Contributor: Anonymous

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opal>

Last Accessed 6/24/12

Opal Place Names

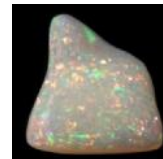
The names of the places precious opals are mined can become synonymous with the opals that come from their mines. Some names of opal indicate where the opal was mined such as the Australian Lightning Ridge, Coober Pedy, and Andamooka opals; South American Brazilian and Peruvian opals; Central American Mexican and

Honduran opals; North American Virgin Valley, and Opal Butte opals; and Africa's Ethiopian Welo opals to name a few. Following is a discussion of some well known mining locals and the varieties of opal they are most famous for producing.

Mexico's opal mines produce several varieties of precious opal, as well as varieties of common opal. Some of the best known types are Fire opal, Cherry opal, Boulder opal, and Water opal. They also produce boulder opal with precious opal in a Rhholite matrix that polishes nicely, and is very popular with opal carvers.



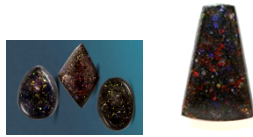
In Brazil the mines produce beautiful precious opal very similar in variety and quality to the finest Australian opals. Brazilian opals contain about half the water content of Australian opals which helps them to be more stable over time and less subject to cracking.



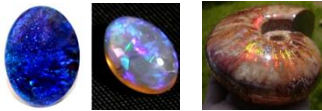
In Peru the most notable form of opal is a lustrous blue opal that will sometimes display a green sheen when cut and polished. Peruvian blue opal is very popular with opal facetors and carvers. They also produce a very fine pink opal which also carves well.



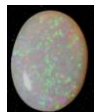
In Honduras the Honduran opal mines are some of the oldest active opal mines in the world, and are believed to have also been worked by the ancient Mayans. They produce a beautiful naturally black matrix opal that is richly speckled with opal play of color.



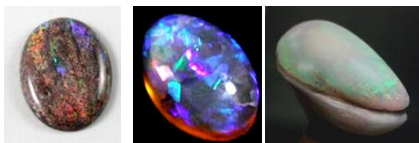
The world renowned Australian opal mines produce greater than 90% of the world's supply of precious opal. Lightning Ridge mines are famous for producing gorgeous black opals, crystal opal, and opalized ammonites.



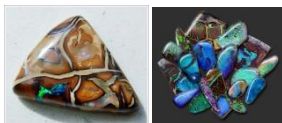
Coober Pedy mines produce the well known white, aka light, precious opals.



Mintabie and Andamooka mines are known to produce very fine matrix opal, crystal opal, and opalized sea fossils.

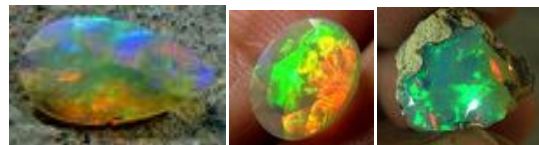


Boulder opal is mined from open strip mines throughout Queensland.



Recently discovered (2008) opal deposits in the Welo district of Ethiopia

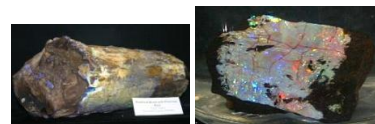
have been producing a very fine hydrophane (water loving) opal which is volcanic in origin rather than forming in sandstone deposits such as the Australian and Brazilian opals. The Ethiopian Welo opal has outstanding play of color. This opal has the curious tendency to become water clear when fully saturated with water. This sometimes will enhance the play of color, but more often the play of color will fade or disappear entirely when the opal is fully wetted. Fortunately testing by GIA and others has proven that the Welo opal retains its stability, and the play of color returns, when the stone has dried again.



North American opal mines in Opal Butte Oregon produce a high grade fire opal with nice intensity, and occasional pieces of precious opal that are found have very nice play of color.



The opal mines in Virgin Valley Nevada produce some very nice opalized fossils with good play of color, as well as nice black opal that has good play of color.

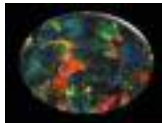

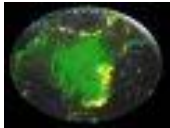
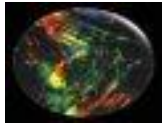

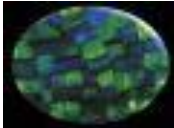


Opal Patterns

Patterns in the play of color opal have a definite impact on the valuation of high end

opal stones. The more rare the pattern in the play of color; the more value is attributed to the stones.

The most common pattern is often called the floral pattern, where the colors are spread throughout the stone at random.

	<p>The most common pattern is often called the floral pattern, where the colors are spread throughout the stone at random.</p>
	<p>Pinfire opal has tiny pinpoints of play of color fire throughout the stone, and is also a fairly common pattern.</p>
	<p>The rolling flash pattern has a large patch of color that appears to move across the surface of the stone as the viewing angle changes.</p>
	<p>The straw pattern is where the multi-hued play of color appears in thin lines that lay at random across the stone's surface.</p>
	<p>The Chinese writing pattern has long and short intersecting single color lines on top of a dark background, and it is considered very rare.</p>
	<p>The Harlequin pattern has patches of color in the shape of rectangles or diamonds with sides that touch, and is considered by most to be the rarest pattern of all.</p>

series we have tried to touch on the basics of evaluating several varieties of opals. We've reviewed the meaning of the names of many popular varieties of opal and their defining characteristics. We've discussed opal types and well known mining locals. Lastly we have examined the patterns that can be seen in play of color precious opal. I hope this has helped you develop the basic tools to better evaluate the opals you come across. There is a wide variety of additional information available on the web for anyone who would like to add to this basic toolkit; just type "What is opal" into any search engine hit the enter button and get ready for a wild, and wonderful, ride!

Opal Fun Facts

In late 2008, NASA announced that it had discovered opal deposits on Mars.

In the middle ages it was believed that opal could give one the power of invisibility if it was held in the hand while wrapped in a fresh bay leaf. The four faces of the clock above the information stand in Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan, New York are made of precious opal.



Final Opal Thoughts

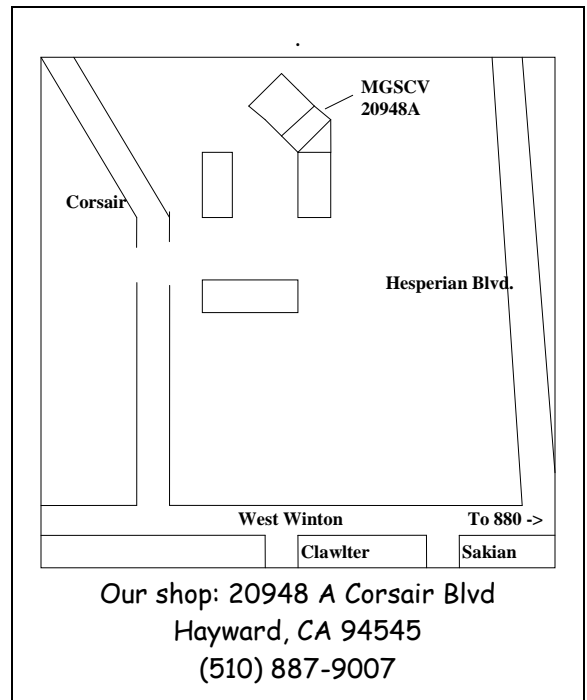
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Shop Schedule (All shop sessions members only)

- 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

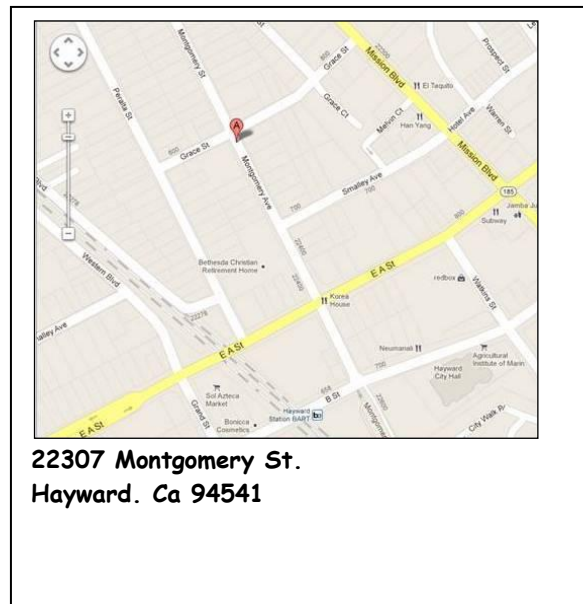
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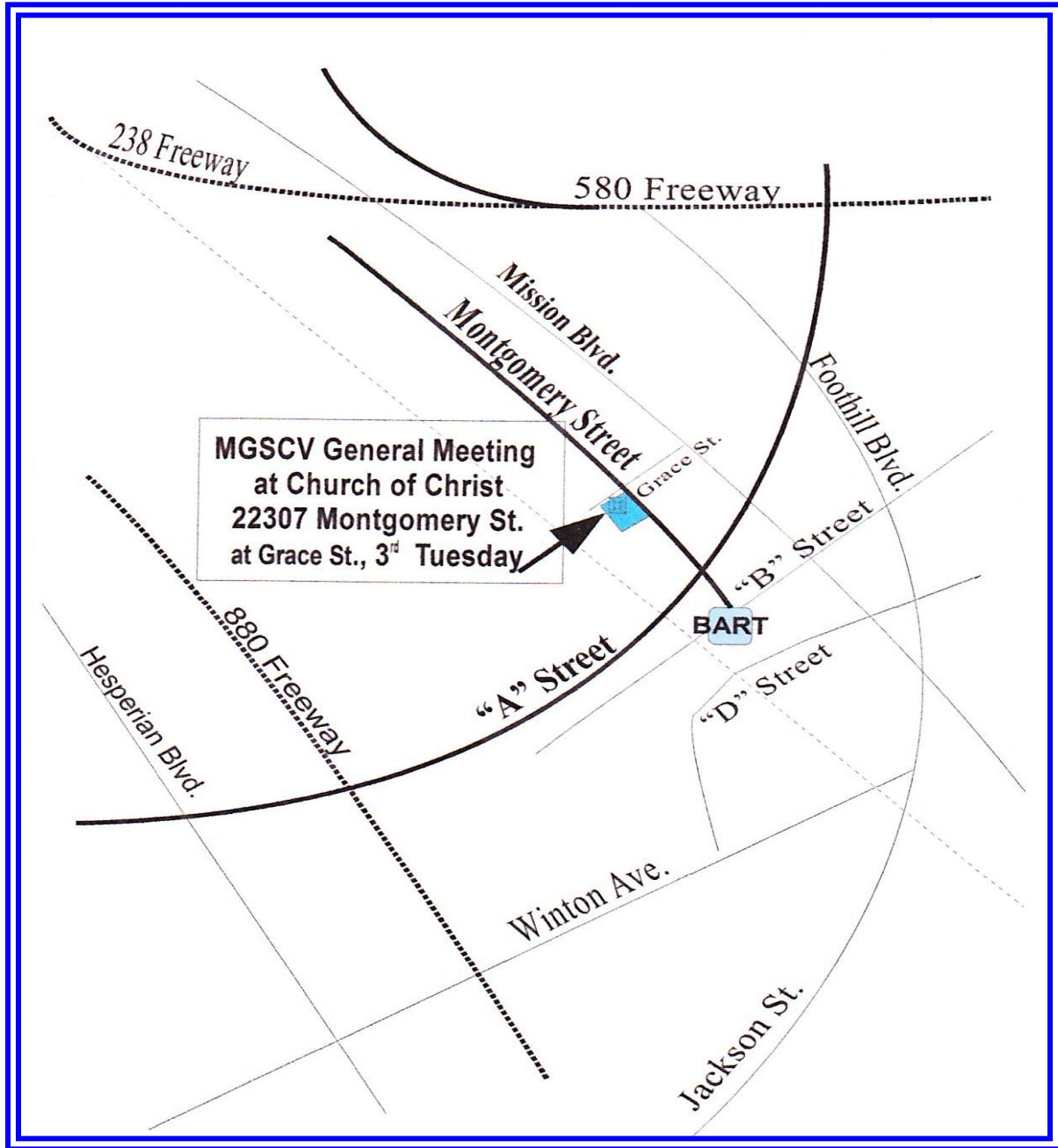
SHOP NOTICES:

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.