

Club Notes



<u>General Meeting</u>: The next general meeting is on November 20th at 7:30 PM

<u>Oct. Refreshments</u>: Members with a last name starting with **I-L** 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, Nov. 12th, 7:00 p.m. at the shop is the next Board Meeting.

Next Show Meeting: Nov. 1st 7:00 p.m. at the shop.



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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 <u>President@mgscv.org</u>

Vice President - Jim Ewing VP@mgscv.org

Secretary - Sheryl Cooper <u>Secretary@mgscv.org</u> (510) 589-8858

Treasurer - Betty Milam Treasurer@mgscv.org

1st Year Director - Mike McBride

2nd Year Director - Norm Hodgson

3rd Year Director - Mary Jane Holmes

Federation Director - Ron Hasemeyer

Treasurer@mgscv.org

Director1@mgscv.org

Director2@mgscv.org

Director3@mgscv.org

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

Past President - Bonnie Andrade

Editor@mgscv.org

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.ora



Publication Staff



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

BOARD MEETING -Oct.8th, 2012 Submitted by Sheryl Cooper

In attendance were **Beth Farmer**, **Mike McBride**, **Bonnie Andrade**, **Diana Cohoon**, **and Sheryl Cooper**.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, but we did not have a quorum. We discussed how the saws were being used and that the check in book is not being filled out. We need to go over the procedures with everyone on how to get your rocks cut in the saws.

Beth purchased some Genie wheels and supplies for the flat laps. There is a mineral and crystal collection in Hayward that we may acquire to sell. A past dealer's rock and some tools will be sold at an estate sale.

We have a lot of books on various topics for sale at 25 cents each upstairs. There is rock for a penny a pound down stairs.

We talked about borrowing a geode cutter for this show. If the station goes over well then looking into possibly buying our own.

The next Board meeting will be November 12th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

GENERAL MEETING Oct.16th, 2012 Submitted by Sheryl Cooper



Ron Miller called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. There were 20 members and 4 guests.

Guests: Brian Gray is a geologist and has been collecting rocks for awhile. Now he wants to do something with them.

Rosa Burke was a member in the past but didn't have time to make it to the shop. She is back with her granddaughter Jelesia and friend Michael Mason.

Minutes: Mark Montgomery moved to accept the August minutes as printed in the Petrograph. Mary Jane Holmes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Program: San Diego mine explorers went through the old gold mine in Julian, CA and took some amateur videos. As they moved through the mine by walking, crawling, climbing and squeezing into different areas we got a glimpse of what it was like back in the day. In Cherry Canyon they found the South Hubbard tunnel entrance. There were rope and plank ladders and several vertical shafts to climb. There are bats living in the mine now in the tall shafts above your head. You can see shale everywhere. There were narrow passages going in every direction and they were pressing through any area they thought they could fit. In the North Hubbard tunnel they found a couple feet of water to walk through. There was old ore cart tracks and they climbed the remains of an ore chute. They found a lot of collapsed sections and holes dug right in the floor to explore. They saw the quartz vein that had contained the

gold. If you would like to see the DVD it is available to check out from our library.

Show: A few positions still need an organizer - skirting, spinning wheel, geode splitter and/or treasure hunt. We need someone to go through the extra equipment in the storage container and someone to be in charge of assembling and taking apart the club cases. Programs and flyers are ready. Sally will be videoing the activity at the shop for a promo video to play during the show. We can borrow a geode cracker this year.

Editor: Everything is going fine. Send your articles, stories, bulletins, and more to editor@mgscv.org

Library: The 30 boxes of miscellaneous books donated have brought in \$300 so far. Mary is done pulling books for the library and some special ones. The rest are being sold for 25 cents each. They are located upstairs along the railing and in the book shelves outside the library.

Membership: We have 172 current members and still climbing.

Juniors: **Mark** is looking for someone else to teach.

Education: The lost wax class had 5 people and went well. The next silversmith class is full. Shirley says, "Thank you Diana for taking over."

Announcements: Doc's store has a lot findings that were donated from the Charles Minshall estate.

The son of a past dealer, D&H, will be having estate sales. Look for information at the shop and in your email.

Drawings: The name pulled for the \$100 member drawing was Richard Bay but he was not present to collect.

Guest drawing - Rosa Burke, Michael

Accord Prior Cross and future invites

Mason, Brian Gray and future junior Jelesia.

Attending Member Tickets - Tom Debley, Shirley Buschke, George Kozakura, John Caudill, Doc Buschke, Diana Cohoon, Sheryl Cooper, Mary Jane Holmes, Steve Caudill-Merida, Cathy Miller, and Betty Milam.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

ROCK RUMBLES Nov. 2012 By Shirley Buschke

Apparently some of our members are not aware of the fact that we do not have a janitorial service. Each and every one of us is expected to clean up his/her work site. So get with it, gang. It only take a couple minutes to wipe down a surface, dry a lap, replace used equipment. And don't run out early hoping someone else will do your job.

Jodi Minshall did it again. A couple months ago she donated aprons we have on sale in the store. Now she has given us some collections of findings for members purchase, prices are excellent. Compare them with current catalog prices. Because of the high price of metals, we should be seeing lots of jewelry made from recyclable material, along with wood, plastic, paper (yes, paper) and copper. Remember the beads that were made from pages of Reader's Digest? Colored diamonds are supposed to be the new rage. Ask Terry Goesch to show you the obsidian knife he

purchased in Alaska, it's Gorgeous. Last year Terry donated a couple knives for our auction case. Car and Niki Churchill are enjoying a trip to Disneyland, San Diego and then on to shipboard with a trip to French Polynesia and then Hawaii. They missed one of their ports of call because of a medical emergency on board ship, but they said the trip has been great.

Dave Gordon just finished a ribbon faceted stone which he donated for a charity fund raiser. To his delight, the ribbon brought in \$600. John Gullak was very impressed with the ribbon. He said it was a very difficult cut. Gordon should soon be teaching faceting.

Another one of our globe trotters just got back from her vacation. **Betty Milam** who went through the Panama Canal, visited Baja California, Costa Rica, Aruba and Columbia. One of her souvenirs is an emerald purchased in Columbia.

How nice to see Mary Jane Holmes at the recent general meeting. Nothing holds her down, She listened to Betty tell about her trip and she said that was one she and her husband had planned. The soonest one they hope will be along the rivers of Europe.

Several meetings ago, President Ron told us about a gold finding expedition in Alaska headed by former member Adrienn Dyette. Adrienne was our dealer chairman before he moved to Nevada. I guess he is in Alaska now, at least part of the time. He was offering shares in the enterprise. We

should have invested. Adrienne's group found 400 ounces of gold.

Bill Luna has been a volunteer with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department for several years. On a recent week-end he was out with the group checking out landing moorings and inlets where boats could tie up. In case of an emergency such as an earthquake, they might have to reach some areas by water.

Lau Chain Fu, also known as Rex, joined our club about 10 weeks ago, and has taken an opal class, lost wax class and began learning faceting. His time was cut short, because he is returning to Burma after 17 years in this country. He was sent here to escape the communist Chinese who took over his country. He is going back to visit his parents, and maybe start a business there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our 2013 show is only 4 months away, and this Thursday, November 1, is our next planning meeting. There are some very important issues we have to discuss, and we need to make decisions about these. If you are at all able to come and meet with the committee, we will begin the meeting at 7pm at the shop.

There are several changes being made, necessarily, this year, and we want everyone to be informed. We had great crews last year, and the work went smoothly.

Volunteer needed:

Our club is in need of a volunteer willing and available to do classroom visits. A short 20 minute presentation will be given

to you as a guide, as well as some materials for 'hands-on' by the students. There are enough rocks available at the shop, so don't feel you have to buy any. Normally it is the teachers of grades 2 thru 4 who contact us to schedule a visit. Contact Shirley Buschke at essjayb@aol.com, or Betty Milam at solidcedar@comcast.net to discuss this program further. Educating the public is critical for the continuation of our non-profit status. Please consider this program if your days are flexible. Past volunteers share their experience and the pleasure they receive from these visits. Thanking you in advance."

Volunteers Needed: Our show committee is looking for people who will volunteer to fill several chairperson positions on each committee. These position help organize and oversee different areas during our annual show. The following chairperson positions are currently vacant: 1) SPINNING WHEEL - This is a lot of fun with kids and a revenue source for us. 3) GEODE CUTTER -This will be a new event for us during the show so this person will help organize our rookie year. 4) ELECTRICAL - This person will help organize the electrical set-up and take-down for the show. This is all plug-in work, no wiring, etc.5) SHOW CASES this person will help set up and take down the pony show cases for us, as well as organize the members who want to display. If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions please contact: Mike McBride, E-Mail - mikemacmcbride@comcast.net or you can leave a message on our shop phone, (510) 887-9007. Thank you. Mike

Gem & Mineral sale- 55 yr. collection, open the 1st & 2nd weekend of each month, 9-4pm. 140 B St. Tehama, Ca. 96090 Available for group field trips by appointment only. Contact; Madeline 530-384-2127 They have 300,000 lbs of rough material, the physical flyer is posted on the board at the shop.

The Beginning of our club By Shirley Buschke

Recently our librarian, Mary Howell received a collection of old lapidary magazines. She spotted this one from the February 1959 issue of "Gems and Minerals". The article was written by MGSCV member, Beatrice Engbeck. The story told of a society, ours, that was very new but wanted a shop. Voices bemoaned the troubles of owning property, equipment, clean up, every excuse in the book. Oh, how we wish they had bought property when Anyway, one members they might have. whose cabs ranked above the rest, Gus Mollin, presented a plan. He offered to take on the headaches of management and instructions. The members decided maybe the idea was not too bad. They formed a committee, developed a budget based on the plan that members would pay a shop fee. The plan was for 6 working spots, open 5 evenings a week and the charge would be 65 cents per evening. The potential income was figured at \$78. At the time there were 150 members. The executive board approved a capital outlay of \$150 for basic equipment with the expectation that the fee could run successful shop operations, and would cover running expenses.

By the second year the things were off and running. The assets included a stucco building, no insulation, 4 rooms utilized as a small reception area, an area for gas, water and sanitary facilities, a storage area and a large room for classes. Because the building was behind a house, no directional signs could be used.

In March the society put on its 11th show. They built 8 show cases for the show and we are probably still using them. There were pictures of some members accompanying the article. We know that much of the equipment was made by members because much was beyond the financial ability at the time. We also know much of the equipment we are still using was made by members.

It is the sheer determination of a handful of stalwarts they we continue to exist as a club some 60 years later. Volunteers are wonderful. And each of us expected to be one to keep us going.

SHOW SCHEDULES

Humboldt Gem and Mineral society

Eureka Ca,

Nov. 2nd.-4th Fri. 9-6, Sat. & Sun 10-5pm

Redwood Acres Fairgrounds

3750 Harris St.

Tony Tyson 707-502-9574

Blulis911@msn.com

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society

Concord. Ca

Nov. 3rd. & 4th 10-5pm daily

5294 Clayton Rd. (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.)

Harry Nichandros 925-289-0454

Show-cf@ccmgs.org.

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society

Lancaster, Ca Nov. 3rd & 4th Sat. 10-5, Sun 10-4

Antelope Valley fairgrounds, 2551 W. H st.

pgmc@antelecom.net

www.palmdalegemandmineral.com

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society,

Ridgecrest, Ca Nov. 3rd & 4th, 9-5 daily

Desert Empire Fairgrounds

520 S. Richmond Rd.

John De Rosa 760-375-7905

indianwellsgems@hotmail.com

www.indianwell.weebly.com

San Diego Mineral & Gem Society

San Diego, *Ca*, Nov. 3rd & 4th Sat. 9:30-5pm & Sun. 10-4

Al Bahr Shrine Center

5440 Kearny Mesa Rd.

Bob Hancock 619-889-6886

RHBOBHANCOCK@2cs.com

http://www.sdmg.org/

Sacramento Mineral Society

Sacramento, Ca., Nov. 10^{th} & 11th & Sat. 10-5pm & Sun. 10-4pm

Scottish Rite Temple 6151 H St.

Stanley Henneman 916-363—5011

Lakota27@sbcglobal.net

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society

Vallejo, Ca, Nov.10th 9-5pm

Vallejo Vets Bldg., 420 Admiral Callagan Ln.

Dan Wolke 707-745-1816

dncwolke@sbcglobal.net

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society

Yuba City, Ca Nov. 10th & 11th, Sat 10-5; Sun.10-4

Yuba Sutter fairgrounds, 422 Franklin Ave

Katie Slightam 530-673-9649

mktalternatives@comcast.net

www.sutterbuttes.net

Livermore Mineral & Gem Society

Livermore, Ca., Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4pm

At the Barn Pacific Ave at S. Livermore Ave., next to Livermore Civic Center

www.lithophiles.com

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society

Oxnard, Ca., Nov. 17th & 18th, Sat 9-5 & Sun. 10-4pm

Oxnard Performing Arts Center

800 Hobson Wy.

Brett Johnson 805-822-3836

showinfo@oxnardgem.com

www.oxnardgem.com

Field Trips

Rock Hound Field Trip Fanatics

Nov. 17th 9-3pm, Area 54, Panoche Hills, Western Fresno county,, Ca

Meet @the Chevron Travel Plaza@ 8:30 am Sat. more info @ http://rockhound-field-trips.com/events

Kris W. Rowe, organizer

He will be doing another one on Dec. 30th.

Meet @ the Chevron Plaza@8:30 am Sun., depart to area 54 @9:00 am

Details of these will be posted on the board at the shop as well.



GEM OF THE MONTH

He was born in Oakland, Ca, and was raised in Belmont on the Peninsula. When he went to high school, he worked at Belmont Lapidary Shop. His father used to take his family camping, and he would always bring home rocks from their trips. He went to the college of San Mateo, and was a Physics Major. Later he became a Property inspector for buyers (in Real Estate Transactions), and worked for a Buyer protection group called Inspect Tact. He retired and bought a home in Half Moon Bay, right on the water. His property is large, and he had an Indian Tepee and a Keva on his property at one time. He enjoys scuba diving even in the winter, and surfing. He also collects Native American artifacts

and jewelry. He made his kitchen cabinets out of a redwood water tank; he carves stone, and wood. He found us by Googling lapidary supplies! What a surprise that is. He decided to join our club to find out about rocks, and take some classes in different phases of jewelry making. His goal for the future is to become a jewelry designer, with an ocean and nature theme. Can you guess who our Gem of the month is? His name is **Brier Buchalter**

BRAD SMITH BENCH TIPS AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear when you solder the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder dissolves a little bit more into the base metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a couple paper thicknesses excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering. Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation would prevent you from gaining access for final sanding and polishing of an area.

DENTAL TOOLS

A ready source of free tools is your local dentist. Dental picks can be reworked into wax tools or straightened and sharpened to make a stylus for marking and layout. The steel in these tools is high quality, and the handles are designed for comfort. A special note however - don't try to bend one of the tips to a different shape - the steel will snap. To change the shape, heat the tip to red hot and bend it with pliers while it's hot. And don't forget to ask your dentist for some of the cutting burs they throw out. These are useful for a variety of things. It's best to call a week or two before your visit and ask the dentist to put some of these tools aside for you. It's good practice also to ask that they run them through the sterilizer for you.

More Bench Tips by Brad Smith can be found at: facebook.com/BenchTips orgroups.yahoo.com/group/BenchTips/

Announcing "Bench Tips for Better

Jewelry Making", a new book for beginning
and intermediate jewelers by Bradford

Smith. It contains 101 useful Bench Tips to
help improve skills and increase quality at
the bench.

The 96 page book is filled with close-up photos to explain the techniques and makes a great gift for the holidays - Just \$16.95 for more details, see:

http://CreateSpace.com/3976439 or http://Amazon.com/dp/0988285800/

KIDS KORNER

Wire Wrap

By Elizabeth Bennette, age 13

For those members who are trying to find ways to wear your cabs, or just put them on display, I recommend wire wrapping. It's not too difficult to learn, but it takes patience and determination. In the end, your cab looks great, and you could even wear it out. I found myself in the position of having cabs, but having no way to wear them. So I asked around, and most of the members recommended wire wrapping for someone who was just starting out. I pitched the idea to my mom, and she was interested, so we signed up for the class that was run by Bill Jean at that time. On the first day, we were introduced to the materials we would need: gold, silver, and copper wire, and some tools. For someone whose wire wrapping experience was limited to making paper clip chains, this was all quite overwhelming. I got to see what some of the other members had wrapped, and I was so excited. Though I never thought I would be able to make something so detailed as that. I went to the next class anyway. Bill taught us how to make some simple bracelets with the copper. This part was fun just because it was relatively simple. All we had to do was take the copper wire, usually about three or four strands, and bind them together with small sections of the same type of wire about every couple of centimeters. Afterwards, you would twist the wire any way you wanted to create your unique design, and eventually add on beads to make the bracelet look nicer. One of the fun things about being a part of a class at Mineral and Gem Society is that you can compare and appreciate your classmates' work. The first project was

quite straightforward and a good introduction to any beginning student. Though it wasn't my favorite project, it really helped me understand the wire wrapping process, so I could do more complicated ones. Our next project was to wrap a pendant with copper, using a standard design. The idea was quite similar to that of the bracelet. We would still need to bind the strands together, but the strands would need to encircle the stone, and would be bound at the top. Two of the extra strands on the top would be used to create a bail, the loop at the top of the pendant that the chain of the necklace would string through. The other strands would be used to create a design on the top. Since we were doing a standard design, I had to use copper, and would do some small swirls near the bail of the pendant. This time, I was really pleased with my wrap because I could incorporate my stone with the design. Eager to start another pendant wrap, I pulled out my favorite cab, a tiger's eye. It was circular, so I figured that it would be easier for wrapping, and it went well with the silver wire. I jumped right in and started to twist and bind my silver strands. When I got to the point of binding together my strands at the top of the pendant, they kept wiggling around the brackets. When I asked Bill why my strands wouldn't stay in place, he told me that my brackets weren't tight enough, so all of my strands were no longer straight, so I had to re-do my entire project. It was because I rushed through the binding stage that I had to completely disassemble my project. I felt like I had wasted my time. But, the

most important thing to remember when wire wrapping is to be patient. Because it looked so easy, and I was eager to finish my piece, I was messy and my mistake just slowed me down. So on my next piece, I was determined to be neater and take my time.

VIRGIN VALLEY OPALS

An estimated 4,500 years ago, a Chinese expedition was dispatched to Virgin Valley to mine black fire opals. This was the first recorded instance of opal mining in America.

It took fourteen million years for Mother Nature to make a Virgin Valley opal. It was well worth the wait. In 1987, Harry and Joy Wilson took some specimens from their mine to Nevada's state capital in Carson City. There, they met with Paul Iverson, Deputy Director of the Nevada Division of Minerals.

They also set up an exhibit in the capitol building and the opals were a hit! The legislature passed NRS 235.100, making Virgin Valley black fire opal the "state precious gemstone."

The most spectacular black opals in the world come from the Royal Peacock mines in Virgin Valley, Nevada. Virgin Valley opals are found in layers of clay that were formed when volcanic ash filled an ancient lake millions of years ago. The surrounding forests of ancient tree species called Cryptomeria, a relative of the Sequoia, were also choked with the ash. The lake had twigs and limbs and rotting wood collected in its coves. The buried wood decayed and left lifelike cavities as mementos of their presence. Heat and pressure formed a silica

gel that percolated through the ash and filled the cavities. It gradually hardened into opal. In a small percentage of the opals the cells aligned to create opals with a fiery soul, precious black opals, the most beautiful gemstones in the known universe.

Of course, not all Virgin Valley opals are "black." It also produces moss opal, lemon opal, crystal opal, white opal, and a fluorescent opal, which fluoresces green when illuminated with black light. A few opalized limbs have also been identified as coming from Fir, Pine, Oak, Chestnut, Maple, and Elm, as well as Ginkgo and Cryptomeria. Opalized bones and teeth of vertebrate animals have also been found, including teeth from the now-extinct three-toed horse (Miohippus).

This article is from the Petrograph of the Peninsula gem and Mineral Society. (PGGS)

Website of the Month

www.mineralogy4kids.org

This site is great fun. Explore your house room by room to discover the minerals needed in each room. You can also learn about mineral groups, mineral properties and even have some fun with a few mineral games.

There is also some fun information about the rock cycle. Did you know that those very hard rocks outside can be changed by the earth into different kinds of rocks? Do you even know what the different kinds of rocks are? You can also find a coloring book called "Sammy Soil."

Shop Schedule (All shop sessions members only)

Monday 10AM to 1PM, Lapidary

6PM to 9PM, Beginners only in lapidary

9:30AM to 12:30PM, need daytime supervisor Tuesday

6PM to 9:00 PM, Lapidary,

Wednesday 9AM to 12:00PM, Lapidary

Library open 10AM to noon.

5:30 - 8:00 PM Lapidary

Thursday 10:00AM to 1:00 PM, Lapidary

7PM to 9 PM, Lapidary

Friday 9-1 PM Lapidary, Faceting (experienced only)

Saturday 9AM to 3PM, Faceting Class 9-12, Juniors,

> w/supervisor's approval, lapidary Library open 10AM to noon.

Sunday 9:30AM to 12:30PM, Lapidary

MAPS



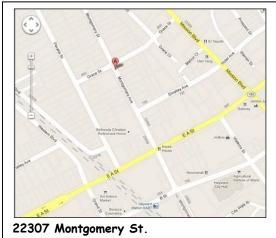
(510) 887-9007

SHOP NOTICES:

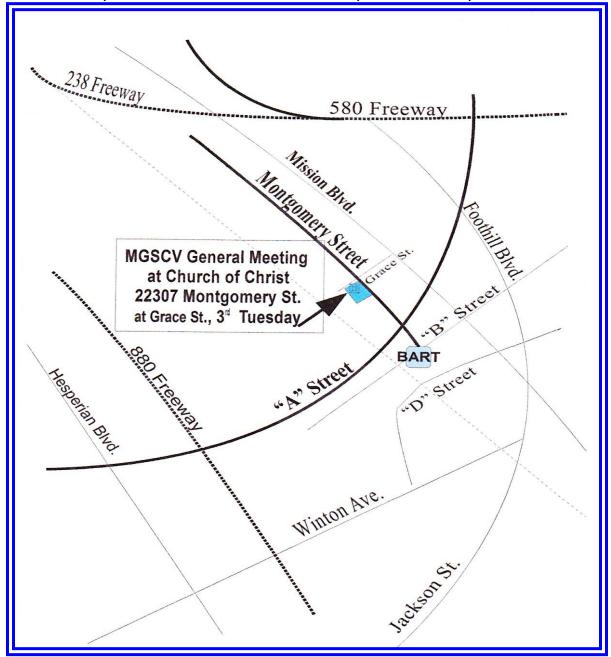
There are only a few people who are authorized to invest in the casting room. If You are interested in learning how to invest, Contact Jim Ewing, or Diana Cohoon

Website: www.mgscv.org

Email us at info@mgscv.org



Hayward. Ca 94541



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.