

THE OPAL EXPRESS

Published
monthly by
The
American
Opal
Society

October 2022

Volume 55 Issue 10

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President's Message

Happy Halloween Opalholics!

Can you believe it's already October? I don't know about you, but I've started stock piling candy for all the little goblins that visit our neighborhood, and we get a lot of them!

We have been getting a lot of questions regarding the Annual Opal Show, and we're working very hard to make that happen for November 2023. As progress is made, we will fill you in on the details. I can tell you that we will have a new venue for the show, but not all the details have been worked out. Stay tuned for details!

In the meantime, stay safe and don't eat too much candy!

Stan McCall
AOS President
Custom Creative Gem Cutting

Fun Facts About October

The name for the month of October originates from the Latin word "octō", which means "eight". In the Roman calendar, October was the eighth month of the year. When January and February were added to the calendar after the Julian calendar reform, October became the tenth month of the year as we know it now.

Every year, October ends on the same day as February. So yes, in 2022, February ended on a Monday and so will October.

The birthstones for October are the tourmaline and the opal. Tourmalines are believed to help you stay calm while under pressure, bring peace and tranquility, and defeat negative emotions like jealousy and anger. On the other hand, opal gemstones are believed to cure eye infections, strengthen memory, calm nerves, and enhance creativity.

Halloween is celebrated in a number of countries on October 31, the eve of All Hallows' Day. On this day, it is believed that spirits can wander the earth freely. People tend to take this opportunity to disguise themselves in various costumes.

The Eulo Queen

by Mary Aracic

as told to AOS editor, Kathleen James

As described by Joan Milton of Metal Stone & Glass, and kind permission from Len Cram, author of “A Journey with Colour, A History of Queensland Opal 1869-1979”.

Most opal fields develop their own characters, woven like a thread through the history. The folklore of the Yowah is the Eulo Queen, owner of a small hotel 30 miles from the fields where she was born Isabel Richardson in 1850 on the Isle of Mauritius. The illegitimate daughter of James Richardson, an Army Captain and Priscilla Wright. She was a cultured woman who had been educated in England, Paris and Switzerland and spoke both French and German fluently, besides Italian.

She spent most of her early life in a boarding school before being sent abroad to be educated. An embarrassment to both her father's and mother's relations, they married her off at the age of 17 to an elderly engineer named McIntosh. Given a handsome dowry, they were sent to Australia, arriving in 1868.

A beautiful young woman with soft grey eyes and flowing blonde hair, she was admired wherever she went.

Little is known of her life after arriving in Australia, only that her husband died and that in 1870, at the age of 21, she was working as a governess on Bungiwigga Station near Bourke, in New South Wales. It was there she met Richard William Robinson, the manager of Spring Grove Station near Surat. He was a well-educated man, 30 years of age. A friendship blossomed and on 2 March 1871, they were married at Roma. On her marriage



The only known photo of the Eulo Queen courtesy of the Date Farm.

certificate she gave her name as Isabel McIntosh, widow, aged 21 and place of birth Mauritius, Isle of France. She had only one child, who died soon after birth.

They moved to Cunnamulla in 1878 where Robinson accepted the position as Manager for Cobb and Company's store and coaches, known locally as Bradley's store. Bradley was Traveling Manager for Cobb and Company.

Living and defending herself in boarding schools, she developed an authoritative personality, something she used to her advantage for the rest of her life.

During the early 1870s Eulo was developing rapidly. It hadn't been surveyed long and on 29 October 1873 was declared a polling place by the Charleville Court House.

There was only one hotel, a rough mud shanty, owned and built by Tom McAuliffle. It was later destroyed by fire and when opal was discovered in the area, he was among those who were drawn to the elusive gem.

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It was into this environment that Isobel and her husband moved in 1880. He had been sent to manage the Cobb and Company store and exchange station, which was a major link on the route between Cunnamulla and Thargomindah.

Not satisfied with the living they were making, she enticed her husband to build a shanty hotel in opposition to Mr. McAuliffle in Eulo Street where they had taken up three town blocks. They called it The Eulo.

She dressed in the latest styles of the period and wore the most exquisite jewellery, and to all her friends she became known as Maggie.

Being a beautiful woman with a flawless complexion, she made sure she appealed to all her customers, especially the graziers and well-to-do opal miners, for whom she gave elaborate parties. It wasn't long before her colourful reputation spread throughout the west. There has never been a figure in the history of Queensland who attracted such attention. Men traveled far and wide just to see the beautiful legend.

She was a great gambler and lost heavily in many of the gold ventures which were opening up throughout the north of the colony. A talented woman with many gifts, she could ride a horse and drive a four-in-hand as well as any man.

Extremely witty, she loved a joke and often had the bar roaring with laughter. Had she lived in the time of our modern Olympic games she may have represented her country for she could turn on an incredible burst of speed over 50 yards. She was never afraid to back herself against all who were willing to try. Such events attracted much attention and she was happy to take anyone's money on the race.

After a while there wasn't a stockman or drover in the country game enough to try.

To entice some, it is said she promised to sell them liquor from her bedroom bar if they beat her. Although a small woman, a little on the plump side, she would hold up her skirt and go like the wind.

She acquired her famous name while ordering a drunk from the bar one night who dared to question her authority, asking who she thought she was. With a defiant swelling of her chest, her strong character showed through when she yelled, "I'm the Eulo Queen, now get out of here." From then on the name stuck.

With the discovery of opal in 1884, her business flourished. Always the entrepreneur, she took more than keen interest in the opal miners.

Following a number of successful deals, she soon became a fair judge of the gem and within a short period, opal became a currency around her store and hotels for many years. She went out of her way to befriend those doing well, especially Mr. Rossiter, the Manager of The Southern Cross, with whom it is said she made a lot of money.

It wasn't long before she became a shrewd dealer and as her knowledge of the gem grew, so did the quantity of the opals she wore on special occasions, adorning herself with an enormous display of glorious jewellery. Among her distinguished collection was a magnificent necklace, two armlets and a girdle of large opals set alternately with nautilus shells, pendants, rings and other choice pieces.

Her incredible judgment allowed her to put together possibly the finest selection of opals in Australia, many of which came from Duck Creek and other well-known localities. The collection was said to have been worth £4,000 pounds, a fortune at that time.

Many of her dealings were anything but dignified, often taking place after certain

miners had frequented her bar for some time. In many instances she made sure the opal or cheque was spent before ordering the lingering drunk from the premises.

At the height of her glory she purchased the Royal Mail Hotel in Eulo on 1 September 1889, from Hy Muller, where business under her guidance flourished. It was here that the Queen provided her patrons with more than just liquid refreshments.

Among her many customers were spirited young squatter's sons and jackaroos. To satisfy their needs, she employed the most attractive Aboriginal girls in the district, giving them a comfortable quarters and legitimate work around the hotel. She took care of the more affluent business clientele herself.

She first ran afoul of the law late in 1889 when the local magistrate confiscated £100 pounds worth of liquor from her bedroom. She had been keeping a private bar for special customers.

The night before the case was heard, distraught and upset, she approached the magistrate and offered him a pair of expensive boots in return for dropping the case. He refused and she was found guilty. But the Queen successfully appealed to a higher court in Brisbane, which gave rise to the belief that she had hotel 'interests' in that city too.

As Eulo expanded, she added the main store and butcher shop to her other interests and with her two hotels, controlled a large portion of the town's economy.

Her monopoly on the goods and services caused a considerable amount of discontent among many of the residents, who at one stage complained to a Brisbane reporter who was visiting the area.

She had a reputation of being hard on many of her employees. Her domestics were usually obtained through agencies in Brisbane upon the

condition that their fare would be paid if they stayed for six months. She was known to pick a fight with many before the six months were up and send them back without any money.

She did however have a charitable side and when things were going well, was known to give generously to charities. She would even take food down to the river and give to many a hungry swagman camped there. It wasn't uncommon for her to advance sufficient money to anybody she thought worthy of helping to buy an outfit or go opal mining, often supplying the goods from her own store.

Although money was rolling in, the Queen lost heavily during the bank crash of 1893, but recovered to continue building up her little empire.

By 1899, she had purchased the Empire Hotel in Leo Street, but the Royal Mail remained her prized possession. It contained a number of sitting rooms – besides ten bedrooms. There was a richly draped State Room, which she had lavishly furnished with elaborate Victorian era furniture, where she conducted rigged gambling for her better customers.

The gambling tables had been designed and built by a German opal cutter whom she employed to cut opal which she bought from the miners. It is said he was more than just her opal cutter until he was replaced by a wealthy miner.

This as well as many other underhanded activities attracted the attention of the police and she appeared in court on numerous occasions.

At 53, she was still a very attractive woman when her second husband died on 18 October 1902. A year later, on 31 September, she married her 29 year old store man, Victor Grey. On her marriage certificate she reversed her age to read 35.

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According to local folklore, there was hardly a sober person in Eulo during the wedding. Among the celebrated guest list was Mick Slattery, the only bush ranger who ever made a fortune and was never caught.

With a new husband and wily as ever, she continued with her unscrupulous dealings. She had many friends who had protected her from the law until 1906 when her two liquor licenses were cancelled for three years. Undeterred, she dummied them in employee's names, one being Harry Morton, while she ran the store and continued on as if nothing had happened.

Victor Grey, a shady character, was born in Latrobe, Tasmania. Although he was said to have been handsome, it was apparently a marriage of convenience, for she was continuously reporting him to the police for thieving. On one occasion he was sentenced to three months imprisonment and on his release, she welcomed him home as if nothing had happened.

In April 1898, she made an application for the transfer of the license of her remaining hotel to Mr. William Flynn, a well-known stock broker and sportsman. Apparently she moved in the right circles. A check of the liquor license records will show how often hotels changed hands during the early years of Eulo.

Her decline began prior to the First World War. After losing the license to the Metropolitan Hotel, which she bought in 1912, she sold it 12 months later to a Mr. Beresford.

A search of the Eulo police records from 1912 shows a little of her character.

Constable O'Connor, the officer in charge at Eulo in 1912, had little time for her. He was continuously looking for any excuse to summons her, and when he did, he always appealed to the court for cancellation of her liquor license. He finally succeeded in December 1912.



The Eulo Queen in her finery.

This did not stop the experienced Queen from trading; she put the license in an employee's name.

She was well-known for selling liquor on a Sunday and after hours, something O'Connor kept a sharp eye out for, but he rarely caught her.

On 25 April 1912, he successfully prosecuted her for supplying liquor to "Tinibber", an Aboriginal and conducting business on a Sunday. She pleaded not guilty and was fined £ 20 pounds 8 shillings and 4/6 costs for supplying liquor to an Aboriginal and £1 pound and 4/6 court costs for doing business on a Sunday.

The local magistrate gave her three days to pay or 24 hours in jail. With such a large fine, it's possible she spent a little time in lockup.

Nitpicking O'Connor pinched her again on 24 May for failing to keep a light burning brightly in front of her premises. Pleading not guilty before R. W. Sterling, she was convicted and fined 10/- and 4/6 court costs.

O'Connor addressing the court said, "I desire to add to the above verdict that this being the third conviction under the Licensing Act, that

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the license held by the defendant, the Metropolitan Hotel Eulo, should be cancelled by forfeiture by the Minister.”

The court disagreed and the Queen survived to fight another day. It was six months before he was able to fault her again. This time for selling liquor to Jac Rankin, an Aboriginal. Pleading not guilty, she was fined £24-0-0 with 4/6 court costs, and ordered to refund 8/6 to Jac Rankin. In default, two months imprisonment.

The prosecutor addressing the court said, “We recommend that this being the fourth conviction under the Licensing Act, the defendant’s license for the Metropolitan Hotel Euro be cancelled at the next meeting of the Licensing Court.”

His statement infuriated the Queen, who jumped to her feet, boisterously protesting. When calm prevailed she apologized, but was fined for contempt and sentenced to the rising of the court. This time the court accepted the prosecutor’s plea.

The case was held at Eulo on 28 December 1912 before Judges Elber and Cooney and the charge was read by Constable Walsh, “That Isabel Grey, License of the Metropolitan Hotel Eulo, being thrice convicted within the past 12 months, is hereby called upon to show cause why her license should not be forfeited.” The defiant Queen pleaded not guilty, but was convicted and the cancellation of her license took effect on 4 January 1913, disqualifying her from holding a victualler’s license for three years.

She once again solved the problem by transferring the license into the name of one of her employees.

It was during this time that a neighbour, Sophia Anderson, had a white Leghorn rooster which frequented the yard of the

Queen’s hotel, making a general nuisance of itself, until one day it disappeared. A witness told Anderson that the Queen had killed it.

Anderson demanded £2-0-0 compensation for the rooster, which the Queen refused to pay, so Anderson went to the police, who were more than interested in taking up the case.

On 19 April 1913, she was fined £1-0-0 for the offense, 3/6 court costs, 5/- witness expenses and 5/- for the rooster. In default, three months in jail.

After the sale of the Metropolitan Hotel, just before the outbreak of war in 1914, she made a trip to England in an endeavor to claim her heritage, but was not accepted by the families and returned home bitterly disappointed.

With no hotel through which to sell liquor, having lost both the Royal and the Empire through fire some years earlier, she then turned to sly grog distribution, which must have been successful, as there are no police records of the Queen again until 14 January 1916 when she was prosecuted by Constable Michael Daly.

Daly had been the officer in charge at Opalton 16 years earlier when a fortune in opal had been stolen from the police safe. The Queen did not know that Daly was the new replacement officer for Eulo and sold him whiskey.

He became her prosecutor. The charge read, “Being an unlicensed person did unlawfully sell liquor whiskey to one Michael Daly, contrary to Section 56 of the Liquor Act of 1912.” The case was adjourned for 5 days to be heard at Cunnamulla, on 19 January.

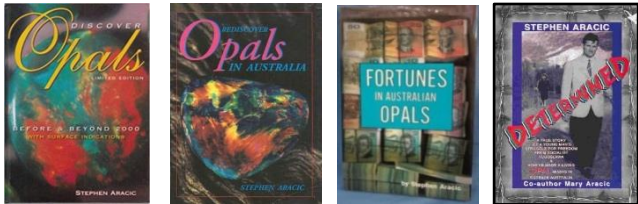
Although all court records are available for the period, there are none for her case. Was there still a spark left in the wily Queen which enabled her to bribe her way out?

Her husband enlisted in the 1914-18 war and returned injured. On his death, the Queen received a military pension

In her time of trouble she became extremely depressed and turned to the bottle for solace. After a number of attempts at suicide, she left Eulo in 1922 not as a proud Queen, but as a broken-spirited and almost destitute woman.

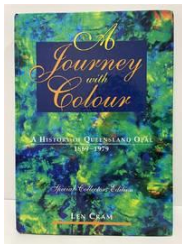
She moved to Toowomba where she spent her final years in a mental institution, dying there on 7 August 1929 at the age of 79, with a total estate of £30 pounds. Today the little town of Eulo remembers its most dynamic citizen in the name of it's only remaining hotel, The Eulo Queen.

As AOS Editor, I would like to thank Mary and Stephen Aracic once again for allowing us to share their wonderful stories from Lightning Ridge. I look forward to sharing more opal stories from Stephen and Mary in future newsletters!



You'll find more opal stories from Stephen and Mary in these books.

And for more stories check out Len Cram's book:



"A Journey with Colour, A History of Queensland Opal 1869-1979"

Famous Honduras Opal

by A. Edwin Skinner



The Edulfo Opal

This 6 ct. Black Seam Opal above has become one of our most famous Honduran Opals.

It appears on the first pages of a Google Search, for Images, under Opal or Opals. It is not identified as a Honduran opal as other entities have used this scanned image I made quite a few years ago to show off their products. (Thank you.) I put this image on the alopals.com website under Black Opals, to show off our Honduran opals.

That is fine by me. But I would like everyone to know that it was a re-cut Black Seam Opal that my good friend Brian and partner of many years polished, from the Tablon mine in Erandique.

This stone we called the "Edulfo Opal" for the miner who first brought it to me, some ten years ago. It originally weighed 10 ct., but had two faults. We re-cut and polished it to make a perfect gem of 6 ct., which you see in this image.

From: <http://www.alopals.com>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Reader: If your organization has an opal or rockhound-related event, please email particulars to info@opalsociety.org. Upcoming Event listings will be included at the discretion of The Opal Express editor as space and scheduling permit.

October 1-2, 2022 – Anderson, CA

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society
Shasta District Fair and Event Center, 1890 Briggs St., Anderson, CA
(just south of Redding) 96007
Hours: Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM
Shasta Gem & Mineral Society is having its 66th Annual Gem & Mineral Show. Vendors come from the West Coast and will be selling gems, minerals, jewelry, crystals, rocks and fossils. Door prizes, rock auctions and great educational and spectacular displays.
Contact: miller3987@gmail.com
Website: <http://shastagemandmineral.org>

October 8-9, 2022 – Grass Valley, CA

Nevada County Gem and Mineral Society
Earth's Treasurers Show 2022
Nevada County Fairgrounds, 11228 McCourtney Rd., Grass Valley, CA 95945
Hours: Saturday, 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM
26+ Exhibit cases, 28+ Vendors Showcasing Fossils, Minerals, Gems, Jewelry and so much more. Expanded Kids Corner, Gold Panning, Silent Auction, Raffles galore, Talks, Demonstrations, and of course Food Dealers.
General admission \$3 person. Children, age twelve and under free with a paid adult, Military with I.D. free. Free Parking!!!
Contact: 4vanclan5@att.net
Website: <https://www.ncgms.org/show-info/>

October 8-9, 2022 – Redwood City, CA

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society AND Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society
Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City 940612
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Recreation with Rocks: Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society and Peninsula Gem and Geology Society are teaming to create a wonderful show!
VENDORS – a wide variety of beautiful things can be yours!
DISPLAY CASES throughout the building of hand-cut stones, rocks, mineral specimens, fossils and jewelry.
KID'S LAPIDARY (rock polishing) – Children can polish their own stone – with a little guidance — Later you can turn this keepsake into a necklace or a magnet.
FOOD from our own Hard Rock Cafe. Hot dogs, sandwiches, snacks, yummy desserts and a variety of beverages.
EARTH SCIENCES/ROCK SALE -learn about various rocks, minerals, fossils, purchase a rock or slab you absolutely need!
Contacts: 650 575-3144 cci@pacbell.net, 650 743-7447 catphalen@comcast.net
Websites: <http://pggs.org> or <https://www.sequoiagemandmineralsociety.org/sqms-gem-mineral-show.html>

October 8-9, 2022 – Los Altos, CA

Peninsula Gem and Geology Society
Los Altos, CA 94022
Hours: Saturday and Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Recreation with Rocks
Contact: 650 575-3144
Website: <http://pggs.org>

October 9, 2022 – Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem and Mineral Society
Fall Festival of Gems & Minerals
123 W. Alvarado Street, Fallbrook CA 92028
Hours: 9 AM-4 PM
Vendors: apply by August 1, 2022. Free booths for nonprofit organizations promoting minerals, fossils or gems.
Contact: (760) 728-1130, info@fgms.org
Website: <http://www.fgms.org>

October 15, 2022 – West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First Methodist Church, 22770 Sherman Way, West Hills, CA 91204
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM
A variety of vendors selling slabs, findings, displays, minerals, beads, craft table, carvings, diamond tools for foredoms and dremels, raffle, gold panning and more.
Website: <http://www.rockchippers.org>

October 15-16, 2022 – Santa Rosa, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
45th Annual Mineral and Gem Show
Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial, 1351 Maple Ave., Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: Saturday 10 AM -6 PM, Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
Minerals, gems, rough rock, slabs, jewelry, beads from 30 vendors. Kids activities, gold panning, raffle, door prizes and Silent Auction. Displays, demonstrations, scavenger hunt and fluorescent minerals. Kids under 12 are free with paid parent and there's Free Parking.
Contact: (707) 849-9551, jolene4srmgs@gmail.com
Website: <http://SRMGS.org>

October 15-16, 2022- Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds, 100 Placerville Dr., Placerville, CA 95667
El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society Rock & Gem Show...Treasures in the rough. Featuring a variety of dealers with an amazing selection of Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Meteorite, Crystals, Beads, Jewelry and more. Activities include Rock and Gem identification, Demonstrations, Educational Displays, Silent Auction, Fluorescent Tent, Geode Cutting, Free Kids Activities. Something for everyone and every age.
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM daily
Contact: office@edcmgs.org
Website: <http://www.eldoradocountymineralandgemsociety.org>

October 29-30, 2022, Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Mineral Society
6151 H Street, Sacramento, CA
Hours Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM. Sunday 10 AM – 5 PM
86th Annual Sacramento Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show.
Minerals, Fossils, Beads, Gemstones, Meteorites, Jade, Equipment, Gold, Opals, Crystals, Food, Slabs, Rough Rock and Cabochons, and much more!
Contact: (916) 662-5819, gemshow@sacramentomineralsociety.org
Website: <https://www.sacgemshow.com>



Be sure to visit your local gem and mineral shows. It's a great way to learn about these natural wonders and meet other people who have a passion for this fascinating hobby.

American Opal Society Membership Application

FILL IN APPLICABLE INFORMATION		DUES / FEES	AMOUNT PAID
DUES:	RENEWING MEMBERS	\$35.00	
SELECT ONE	NEW MEMBERS	\$45.00	
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (All addresses <u>outside</u> of USA)		\$15.00	
PRINTED NEWSLETTER FEE (Paper copy postal mailed instead of PDF file by e-mail)		\$10.00	
ADDITIONAL BADGES (Your first badge is <u>free</u> when joining)		\$15.00	
TOTAL PAID DUES plus International, Print or Badge Fees if Applicable:			

Please make check or money order payable to "American Opal Society". Mail payment and application to:

American Opal Society: PO Box 4875, Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

An optional quicker method of payment is via the internet. To pay via PayPal, please visit the membership page on our website at http://opalsociety.org/aos_application_by_web.htm to complete the form and make your PayPal payment. You may pay with a credit card or via PayPal account. The transaction is completely secure and the AOS never sees your credit card number. The AOS PayPal account is membership@opalsociety.org.

NAME	
BUSINESS NAME	
ADDRESS	APT # or PO BOX
CITY	STATE
ZIP OR POSTAL CODE	COUNTRY (IF OUTSIDE USA)
PHONE - Home ()	PHONE - Business ()
E-MAIL	
WEBSITE	
OCCUPATION	HOBBIES and INTERESTS

NAME BADGE ORDER FORM:

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE using up to two (2) lines of text for your name, nickname, or name of your opal related business.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: The AOS publishes a membership roster once per year in its newsletter, The Opal Express. Your name will be included. Please check what additional personal information you listed for other members. If it is different from the information above, please note that on the application.

☐ Address ☐ Phone-landline ☐ Phone-cell ☐ E-mail ☐ Website

Please sign here: _____

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-Editor
Please address all inquiries and exchange newsletters to:
Editor - Kathleen James
The Opal Express
PO Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875
E-mail: aos.editor.02@gmail.com

Are Your Dues Due Now?

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL OR NEWSLETTER E-MAIL.

There will be a date that shows the current month/year of your membership. If the date is older than the current date, your dues are overdue.

A Renewal Grace Period of two months will be provided. Please note, that as the system is set up, if your renewal is not received you will be AUTOMATICALLY dropped from membership thereafter. It is your responsibility to assure your dues are current.

Thank you.

The Editor

(revised 11/27/19)

The Opal Express

American Opal Society
P.O. Box 4875
Garden Grove, CA 92842-4875

Volume 55, Issue 10

— GENERAL MEETINGS —

3rd Thursday of the Month
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Anaheim Community Center
250 E. Center Street
Anaheim, CA 92805



Meeting
October 20th at 7 p.m.
Anaheim Community Center

TO:



General Meeting Location at:

[Anaheim Downtown Community Center](#)

250 E. Center Street
Anaheim, CA 92805

**Next meeting will be Thursday, October 20th, at
7:00 p.m. at the Anaheim Downtown Community Center**

American Opal Society

Website: <http://OpalSociety.org>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/opalsociety>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanOpalSociety>
Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/opalsociety>
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCegTIH1IEyO7y8wdqVRfyUA?view_as=subscriber

Stan McCall
Russ Madsen
Kathleen James
Bart Gampe
Veronica Purpura
Jamie Cassidy-Curtis

President
Treasurer
Editor
Webmaster
Show Chairman
Secretary

(714) 220-9282
(562) 884-2254
(714) 828-1251
(310) 736-5528
(714) 501-9959

email: aos.president.01@gmail.com
email: aos.treasurer.01@gmail.com
email: aos.editor02@gmail.com
email: aos.webmaster.01@gmail.com
email: aos.showchair@gmail.com
email: jamiec275@gmail.com