



Georgia Gems

A Publication of the Georgia Jewelers Association

Georgia Jewelers Association, 5815 Fairwood Walk, Acworth GA, 30101

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Dear Georgia Jewelers,

'Tis the season for making lists, checking them twice, following up on special requests from customers, and making the impossible happen at the last minute. No wonder we are all exhausted. With the external pressures and the pressures we put on ourselves, we should be exploding---but we aren't. Why not? Could it be because our profession affords us the opportunity to make dreams come true? Folks come into our stores and tell us what they "wish for" and we connect their loved ones with the perfect gift. We are surrounded by people who want to put a sparkle in their "someone special's eyes." We are immersed in beautiful jewelry and it is our privilege to find homes for this jewelry. Most of us have Christmas music playing in our stores. If you don't, I suggest you invest in some sort of sound system--even if it is an iPod. The music helps set the mood for our clients, but more than that, it puts a little extra pep in all of our steps.



Jan Ferguson
GJA President

feel JOY, PEACE and LOVE more than ever during this holy time.

Happy Selling,
Jan Ferguson, GJA President
Ford, Gittings and Kane Jewelers, Rome

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As jewelers, we have been preparing for this season all year long. I wish you the very best Christmas ever and an even better 2014! As you plan your 2014, please mark your calendar for the Georgia-Alabama Convention – April 11-13, 2014 at the Callaway Gardens Lodge & Spa. It will give you a chance to hone your professional skills and get reacquainted with fellow jewelers. We will all be glad you came.

On a personal note, I want to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas season. This season is vital to our businesses. It is far more important to remember the real reason for this season. Spend time with the people who matter most in your life. I pray you will

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2014 Calendar of Events

Jan 25-27 RJO, Savannah

March 1-4 JA, NY Show

March 8-10 Atlanta Jewelry Show

March 9 8:30AM, GJA Board Meeting, Cobb Galleria

March 15-19 IJO, San Antonio

April 11-13 2014 AJA/GJA Convention, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA

April 23-26 AGS Conclave, San Diego, CA

May 30-June 2 JCK, Las Vegas

August 9-11 Atlanta Jewelry Show



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A letter to David Rocha, executive director of Jewelers for Children:



We received the \$10,000 check this week and are making arrangements to present it to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Georgia. Although the Foundation headquarters are in Georgia, the research done by this group helps Cystic Fibrosis patients all over the US.

We were all so excited to learn we were in the top ten charities. That last day, we were watching the computer almost constantly. Many of us stayed up past midnight to see the results first hand.

We so appreciate being given this opportunity to raise money to hopefully cure Cystic Fibrosis so Blake, my grandson, and MILLIONS of others can breathe easier and live longer. Thank you David and many thanks to Jewelers for Children.

Sincerely,
Jean Grant Graham
J.C. Grant Co.
Milledgeville, Georgia

Thanks to all the GJA members and the friends and family you reached out to to make this happen. We are so excited we helped win one of the ten \$10,000 grant checks mailed out across the country.



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Georgia Jewelers Association Announces Reward Partnership with Crime Stoppers

Atlanta, GA. The Georgia Jewelers Association (GJA) has entered into a partnership with Crime Stoppers of Greater Atlanta announced Jan Ferguson, GJA President. This partnership will, among other things, offer rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of persons committing crimes against the jewelry community.



"For a number of years we have seen an escalation of crimes against the jewelry community both from the opportunistic criminal and organized groups," said Ferguson. "Most recently and tragically one of our members, Mitch Mobley, in Villa Rica lost his life in one of these robberies. It is our hope that the creation of a reward program will encourage these criminals to think twice before committing a crime against a Georgia Jewelers Association member jeweler in the future."

The Georgia Jewelers program with Crime Stoppers Greater Atlanta engages the entire community – citizens, media and law enforcement – to work towards making communities safer by identifying the people committing crimes and getting them off the streets. When a jewelry crime is committed anywhere in the State of Georgia law enforcement officials will have the opportunity to request the posting of a reward to help solve the crime. In addition, the Georgia Jewelers Association will have the ability to increase the reward for member stores. The Association represents jewelry store owners from all areas of the state of Georgia as well as associate members from the jewelry manufacturing community.

"We are grateful to Stark Harbour of Jeweler Mutual Insurance who sparked this idea," said Ferguson. "Our Board of Directors took the idea and developed it into a great partnership with Crime Stoppers," she added. Since inception in 2007 Crime Stoppers Greater Atlanta received 10,986 tips that resulted in 650 arrests and 830 cases cleared. So far in 2013 seventy-five fugitives, thirty-two weapons and \$415,965 worth of illegal drugs have been seized as a result of Crime Stoppers Greater Atlanta.

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For the sixth year GJA & AJA are coming together for their annual convention; please save the date and join us for...

- * Education (Guest speakers Saturday & Sunday)
- * Owner's Round Table
- * Jewelry Design Contest
- * Scholarship Winners Announced
- * Annual JFC Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament
- * Hospitality Suite and Networking Opportunities



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GJA Scholarship



GJA offers a scholarship for the education and training of GJA members and their employees. Scholarships are offered each spring; the amount available is \$500.00 for each student and can be used for any GIA or AGS course.



If you have any questions call scholarship committee chair Bill Rosenfeld, Rosenfeld Jewelers (770 414-1390) or Judy Lince (770 424-7567). The deadline for your completed application is April 1, 2014.



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