

Georgia Gems

A Publication of the Georgia Jewelers Association

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

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GJA Salesman of the Year Awarded

The last time GJA awarded the *Salesman of the Year* award was more than a decade ago. During the February 2016 GJA board meeting a committee was appointed to discuss bringing the award back and presenting it for 2016. The unanimous decision was arrived upon and at the annual convention on April 2, long time GJA member and industry friend Mike Fallaize, Fallaize Insurance Agency, was presented with the *Salesman of the Year* award during the Saturday evening festivities in Opelika, AL.

Mike's wife Beth was on hand to see the presentation and the love that was showered on Mike. Mike, an agent for Berkley Asset Protection and many other insurance companies, has been a tireless supporter and sponsor of GJA and always willing to help out. Beth herself is a constant at GJA conventions where she is well known for her beautifully crafted and now much sought after ceramics that Mike donates as door prizes and auction items for the **Jewelers for Children** live auction.



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Please see the next issue of

Georgia Gems



for results of the 2016 Jewelry Design
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Georgia Gems is owned and operated solely by the Georgia Jewelers Association, an association not for profit, headquartered in Georgia.

The newsletter is published four times per year. Each edition is mailed to over 200 GJA members plus other individuals and companies who support the association.

Published Quarterly


1st Quarter
2nd Quarter
3rd Quarter
4th Quarter

Deadline for Receipt of Advertising Copy

February 15
May 15
August 15
November 15



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2016 Upcoming Events

June 3-6 – JCK Las Vegas

July 23-25 – RJO, Indianapolis, IN

July 24-26 – JA NY Show

July 30 - Aug 3 – IJO Show National Harbor,
MD-Gaylord

August 6-8 – Atlanta Jewelry Show, Cobb Galleria

August 7 – GJA Board Meeting, Cobb Galleria 8 a.m.

Dear Georgia Jewelers,

I'm very proud to be your new GJA President. I look forward to working hard for the association and you, my fellow independent jewelers. I hope to meet as many members over the next two years as possible. Our industry has been good to me and my family over the last 72 years. However we all know that all aspects of the industry are forever changing and we must utilize everything we have available.

We just hosted our annual GJA Convention in conjunction with the Alabama Jewelers Association at the Grand National Resort in Opelika, AL. Attendees enjoyed the educational seminars, the fellowship and the annual golf tournament. The jewelers' round table discussions are always beneficial and helpful in sharing information and ideas with fellow jewelers.

Thanks to all the sponsors who made our convention possible. Special thanks to Southeastern Findings and Namano for sponsoring the poker tournament fundraiser for the Jewelers for Children charity. Also thanks to Mike Fallaize for sponsoring the hors d'oeuvres for the social hour on Saturday evening as he and his family celebrate 40 years in the insurance business. Thanks to our jewelers and vendors for participating in the live auction with proceeds going to JFC. Last but not least, thanks to our executive director Judy Lince, for her hard work and dedication to our association and the convention.

I speak for the entire association in thanking Johnny Johnson for his expertise again this year for overseeing the Georgia Jewelers Design Contest and awards. I think we had a record number of entries this year. Great job, Johnny!

This year GJA awarded three John W. Reed Memorial Scholarships at the convention. Thanks to Patti Reed for your assistance and support.

If you missed the Convention this year, I hope you will join us in 2017! Tentative dates are March 31st – April 2nd, 2017. We all can use a retailer "spring break".

I would like to welcome our new Vice-President, Jana Barry (Edward John's, Marietta) and our new Secretary/Treasurer, Christine Thornton Chaney (Thornton's Jewelry, Athens). And our newest GJA board member, Tony Cruz (JWR Jewelers, Athens). Thanks Board for your commitment to GJA.

GJA retail members have a special opportunity this September. The Antwerp World Diamond Centre; Antwerp, Belgium wants to send six Georgia jewelers to the diamond center of the world for a unique buying and educational experience. It's called the "Antwerp Diamond Experience". The trip includes a VIP three day networking program filled with seminars, intensive meet and greet sessions with selected Antwerp diamond companies, training sessions, informal networking cocktails and dinners. Airfare, transfers and lodging are to be paid by the AWDC. Dates are September 26th - 28th, 2016. AWDC encourages jewelers that haven't been to Antwerp very often and do not yet buy diamonds in Antwerp regularly to apply. Jewelers that are interested need to register online at: www.awdc.be/ADE-US. If you are interested, I would suggest signing- up as soon as possible. AWDC will select six jewelers from those registered. If you have questions, please call me at my store: 706-543-9751 (10am- 5:30pm).

Fellow jewelers of GJA, as members of our state association, we have more benefits than ever. Quarterly newsletters, immediate email security alerts, Crime Stoppers reward funds, educational scholarships, Federal Express discounts, jewelry design contests, annual convention, member directory and the Antwerp Diamond Experience. Please spread the word to prospective new members, both retailers and associates. If we all sign up one new member before fall, our association grows to new levels, the new member benefits and it makes our industry stronger. Remember all new retail members receive a free two night stay hosted by the Atlanta Jewelry Show during the show.

In closing, I invite any GJA member to attend one of our Board meetings held the Sunday of the Atlanta Show at 8am in one of the smaller concourse meeting rooms behind the registration desks.

I want to personally thank our Immediate Past President, Bill Rosenfeld, for his commitment and service to GJA the past two years. Enjoy your new title Bill!

Bill Spencer
GJA President
Spencer's Jewelers, Athens





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GJA Awards Scholarships

The John W. Reed Memorial Scholarship was awarded to three jewelry professionals at the Alabama/Georgia Convention April 3, 2016.

Patti Reed, wife of John Reed assisted Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Jan Ferguson in the presentation. The winners are Ms. Heidi Coplen of Tena's in Athens, Georgia, Mr. Tony Cruz of JWR Jewelers in Athens, Georgia and Ms. Krista Womack of Ford, Gittings and Kane Jewelers of Rome, Georgia. All three winners will be awarded up to \$500.00 to be used to further their education in the jewelry industry. Any store that is a member of the Georgia Jewelers Association may nominate staff for this annual scholarship.

For information to nominate, please contact Executive Director, Judy Lince at judylince@comcast.net, or Jan Ferguson at fgkjewelers@earthlink.net.



Krista Womack,
Ford, Gittings and Kane



Heidi Coplen,
Tena's in Athens



Tony Cruz with Patti Reed,
JWR Jewelers

2016 Convention



2016 Convention



Congratulations

Happy 130th Anniversary to J.C. Grant Co. in Milledgeville! GJA Past President Jean Grant Graham is 4th generation and will celebrate this special anniversary with her family, staff and clients.

2016 Membership Renewal Drawing Winner

John Paul Jeweler, Columbus, GA, owners John and Norene Marvets, won the dues drawing this spring. All paid members names were entered into a drawing for a two night hotel stay offered by the Atlanta Jewelry Show. They will use their prize during the August show.



The parts behind the Pretty...

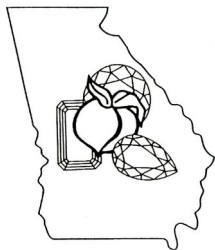
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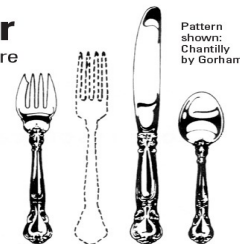
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