

# WJA San Diego



Fall and Winter 2019.

Members and guests who enjoyed the WJA San Diego holiday party.

Photo by: Steven Ibbotson.



## In this Issue:

The proceeds from this year's silent auction help keep our holiday party free for all members.

Thank you for your donations.

✿ Bench Tips from Robert Ackermann: How to operate a commercial bayonet clasp.

✿ 5 questions for our long time member Elizabeth Brehmer-Watts. Tips from her successful career of 46 years and much more.

✿ We welcome our new member Kayla Viola to the chapter.

Keep an eye out for email about our January event.



## 2019 Board

**President:** Julia Popovich

**President-Elect:** Christine Lopez

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2020 board will be announce in the next issue of the newsletter

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## Contributors

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Robert Ackermann:  
How to Operate a Commercial Bayonet Clasp

Judy Colbert:  
Newsletter Editor



Email us with suggestions for what you would like to see in upcoming issues. Orasa Weldon: [owdesign1@mac.com](mailto:owdesign1@mac.com).

# Hello WJA San Diego!



San Diego Chapter President  
Julia Popovich

As we welcome 2020, I want to thank each and every one of our members for helping to make this another great year!

This will be my final President's letter for our chapter, but it's all about the future! I am excited and honored to announce the 2020 – 2021 San Diego Chapter President, **Christine Lopez**.

Christine is a professional designer, gemstone cutter, gemologist, geologist and co-founder of Christini Collection. She is passionate about education, equality, community, and learning as much as she can about every facet of our great industry. Whether it be in the field collecting rough, working in the lapidary studio, sketching new pieces, or metal working— Christine is always happy knowing she's working on creating fine items that bring joy to her customers' daily lives.

Please be sure to connect with Christine at the next event!

It was wonderful to see you all at our Annual Holiday Party on Sunday at Envision Gallery in Liberty Station in San Diego. A huge thank you to our Sponsors and Silent Auction Donors. I would like to name each one of you and thank you for your support.

The San Diego Chapter for the 2020 – 2021 term has been built and it is a strong team. If you are interested in getting more involved as a Committee member, please send an email with questions or your area of interest to: [christinecorundum@gmail.com](mailto:christinecorundum@gmail.com). We have several committee positions and will find the one which best suits your availability and skills. To stay up to date on events, please follow us on Instagram and Facebook. To view a list of San Diego Chapter events online and nationally, please visit [www.womensjewelryassociation.com](http://www.womensjewelryassociation.com).

Cheers to a healthy and happy 2020! It was a pleasure serving all of you!

*Julia*

## **Thank you to our Holiday Party Silent Auction Donors:**

GIA's Richard T. Liddicoat Gemological Library

Jeanne and Bill Larson

Alexandra Hart

Wade Clar

Nathan Renfro

Renée Newman

Vanessa Yang

Califino Tequila

Elizabeth Brehmer-Watts

Pheap Canossi

Tali Nay

## **Thank you to our Holiday Party Event Sponsors:**

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Elizabeth Brehmer-Watts

“Start early, build more bridges, and seek out support from organizations like WJA. Find mentors in areas that you have less experience, most importantly give back, it comes back to you ten fold in time. Be generous with your experience because you just might influence someone else without even knowing it.”

# 5 questions for our Member

## 1. How long have you been in our industry?

I have been in the jewelry industry for 46 years. When I was young I was fortunate to be part of the new “Ignite” program sponsored by Ford Motors in the 1970s which sponsored new arts program and learning in the secondary and high schools in Dearborn, Michigan. In 7th grade, my school brought in an art instructor that worked in metals and he taught us the basics of cutting and forming metal, I made my first ring and I was hooked. Once I touched metal I realized that this was the path that I wanted to pursue, making jewelry. At 14, I had a friend of a friend that let me sweep floors in his shop, and there I learned how to polish and finish jewelry. He was tough, and he used a 10X loupe to critique my work. I started at bench after that while attending college for jewelry design and manufacturing. From that point on, all of my years of experience were woven into different areas of the industry, from custom designer, technical educator, product development and management, to the first woman VP in the board room at Stuller Inc. I have been fortunate to have the ability to move from technical skill work to learning the business and back into education several times to be able to share what I have learned.

## 2. If you could offer one piece of advice to WJA members, what would it be?

My advice to WJA members is, no matter the time and experience that you have in the jewelry industry, is always be open to learning new things whether they be bench skills, business or marketing techniques. I am a life long learner. The industry business model for making and selling jewelry is constantly evolving, and moving at a more rapid rate than in years past; “keep up” and be open to new materials, techniques and platforms to sell your jewelry. What has worked in the past for marketing and selling your work has been turned on its head and those that are willing to be unique, passionate about what they make, and willing to let this shine do well no matter the market conditions. Follow your own path with passion and make it your own!

## 3. Who has most influenced you in the jewelry business and why?

Gosh, I have been very fortunate. I have had so many people help me along the way in my jewelry journey over the years! I had a grandfather and father that told me that I could

be anything that I wanted to be if I studied hard and worked to be successful.

When I started at the bench, there were not many women in the business in the Detroit area, I met Anita Del Favero who was one of the top jewelers and the only woman working during the early '70s, she took me under her wing and taught me how to do quality bench work.

One of my first great influencers was Eddie Bell at Rio Grande. He showed me how important it was to take the time to be creative and innovative, that failures lead to success if you learn from them, and to reapply what you've learned to move forward. Neutec was in its infancy and it was a great time for innovation and to be at Rio.

I also had a boss at Stuller named Harold Dupuy, who helped me understand how to be a business leader, and that success was not measured by your gender but by your results. I learned a great deal about how to build teams, measure and celebrate successes from Harold.

## 4. What do you know now you wish your younger self had known?

I have learned over the years that you need others in your pursuit of your business and passions. Start early, build more bridges, and seek out support from organizations like WJA. Find mentors in areas that you have less experience. Most importantly give back, it comes back to you ten fold in time. Be generous with your experience because you just might influence someone else without even knowing it.

## 5. Tell us one more reason of the value behind joining WJA.

As an organization, WJA continues to evolve and offer more and more to their membership. They understand that “everyone” (men and women) contributing is important. Over the year, I have been so impressed by the outreach of industry experts willing to be part of WJA and to openly share with the members. Attending WJA events is like getting a boost and I always leave feeling that there is a great support network willing to help me. WJA brings value in so many ways; all of the leadership is willing to continue to invest in making the local and national organization groups stronger and relevant to the jewelry industry.



# How to Operate a Commercial Bayonet Clasp

Above image: Qual der Wahl. Inside this necklace's ornamental front clasp is a bayonet clasp that allows the user to exchange both the center ring and the pendant.

## Bench Tips from Robert Ackermann

Bayonet mounts, named after the city of Bayonne in the south of France, are better known as quick fasteners for a blade that attaches to the end of the barrel of a rifle. The highly versatile concept has been adapted for use with camera lenses, espresso machines, light bulb sockets and, of course, jewelry clasps.

Goldsmiths used to fabricate all sorts of bayonet clasps, usually to be set with stones.

The first CNC-machined bayonet clasps delighted young goldsmiths like myself when a small, family-owned company in the Zurich (Switzerland) suburb of Horgen started producing them as findings in the early '80s.

Machined to within a couple of hundredths of a millimeter tolerance they were rugged and reliable, easily out-performing spring rings in terms of longevity, comparably-sized lobster claws in terms of weight, and both of them with their adaptable, understated design.

However, this new hi-tech solution of an affordable clasp struggled with customer acceptance, mostly because few took the time to look closely and understand how it worked.

Bayonet clasp as findings have a dimple protruding inside the female part that's designed to run inside a groove machined in the male part. The groove is machined to the shape of a hook.



### To secure the dimple inside the hook requires three steps:

1. Line up the dimple with the groove (if it's too small to see, hold both parts together and rotate them until you can feel the groove) and run the dimple down the length of the groove.
2. Rotate the male against female to run the dimple along the short circumferential leg.
3. Pull the dimple into the dead-end of the groove to arrest it.

Hidden inside the female is a steel spring designed to push the dimple into the dead-end of the groove as a safety to keep the clasp from opening by accident.

### To open the clasp, these same 3 steps are reverted:

1. Push male and female together.

2. Rotate the opposite way as for closing.
3. Pull male and female apart.

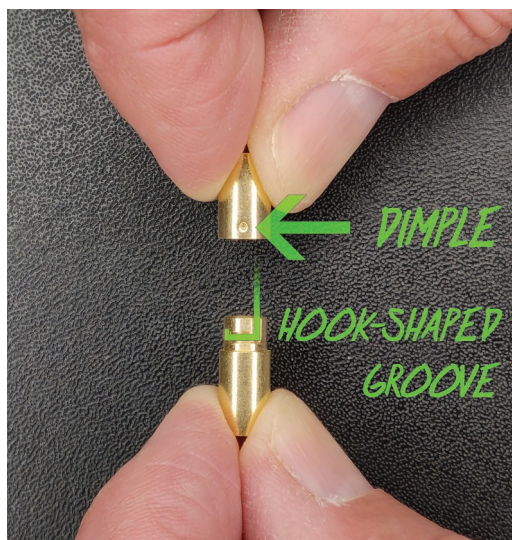
Bayonet clasps can be soldered directly to a chain. When doing so, it's important to remove the steel spring.

Clasps with hollow ends lend themselves to riveting a post that passes through the end link of the chain, leather cord, neoprene or whatever cord you're using. Bayonet clasps come in a variety of alloys and diameters and lets you coordinate the opening at the end with the width of the chain.

With any kind of cord, you want a tight fit that will allow for reinforcement with a minimal amount of glue nobody will notice. The glue should remain flexible when cured, since glue that hardens renders even the most flexible material brittle, making it prone to cracking and failing in no time.

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**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 1.** Bayonet clasp findings have a dimple in the female part running in a hook-shaped groove in the male part.



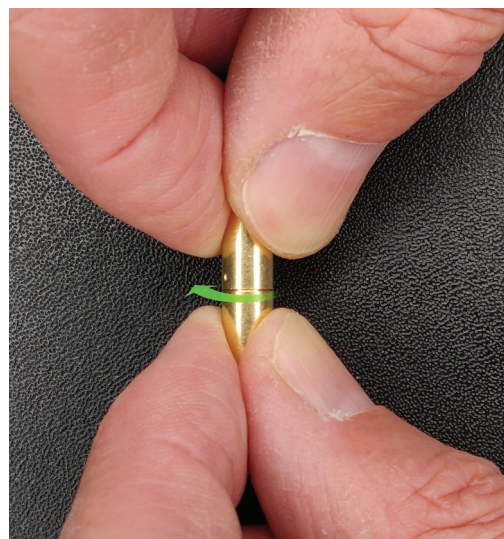
**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 2.** When closing, line up the dimple with the groove by eye or by feel.



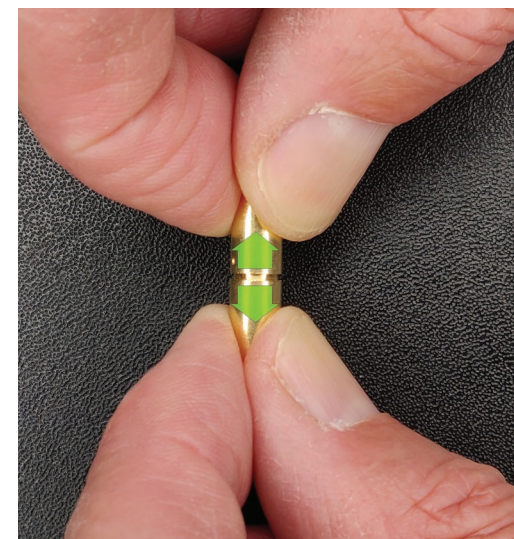
**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 3.** Pushing the dimple down the length of the groove by feel.



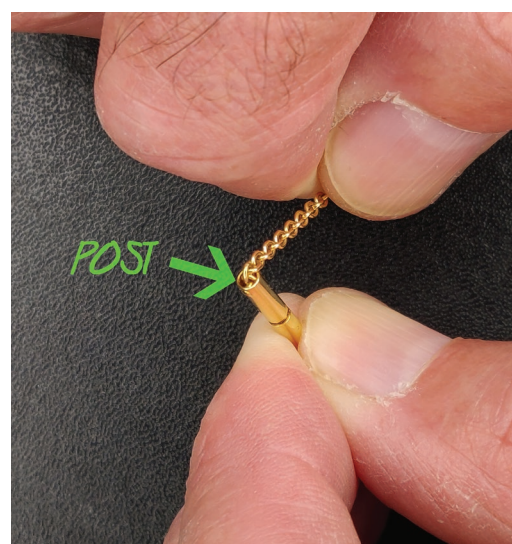
**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 4.** Pushing both parts of clasp to close entirely.



**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 5.** Rotate the male against female to run the dimple along the short circumferential leg until it stops.



**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 6.** Pull the dimple into the dead-end of the groove to arrest it. A safety spring inside the female is designed to keep the clasp from opening by accident.



**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 7.** Clasps with hollow ends lend themselves to riveting a post that passes through the end link of the chain. This method also can be applied with leather cords, neoprene or whatever cord you're using.



**How to Operate a Bayonet Clasp step: 8.** A tightly shaped rivet head is an age-old ornament that never fails. Some may opt for a neat laser weld.

Robert Ackermann is an award-winning Goldsmith, Gemologist, Jewelry Designer, Jewelry Educator and the Owner of [www.learnjewelrydesign.org](http://www.learnjewelrydesign.org), an educational site for jewelry creators. See the video on YouTube. email: [robert@learnjewelrydesign.org](mailto:robert@learnjewelrydesign.org)

Want more tips and how to? Send us a topic and we will find an expert to show you how. Write to us with your suggestions! Send email to Orasa Weldon: [owdesign1@mac.com](mailto:owdesign1@mac.com).



# *Les Ateliers*

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Kayla Viola

“Start with something that sparks the most curiosity and that makes you want to work hard each day, and expand upon that.”

Sapphire has been her favorite gemstone since she was a kid because it reminds her of her favorite dragon, Saphira, from the fantasy genre books *Inheritance Cycle*.

We are so happy to have Kayla as a member of our chapter and as our new 2020-2021 WJA San Diego Treasurer!

By Christine Lopez, WJA San Diego, President Elect & VP of Membership

## Kayla Viola G.G., J.D.T.

Owner + Designer at Baephire

Skills: CAD, Community Building, and Constructive Curiosity

**Say hello to Kayla Viola!!** Kayla is the designer behind Baephire, an up and coming company that creates jewelry inspired by anime, video games, manga, and fantasy. Originally from Sacramento, Kayla moved to San Diego in 2015 and developed a passion for jewelry after seeing a posting for a local job in the industry. She said that it just instantly clicked and added “I felt intrigued and lit-up, and something told me to earn my gemology diploma and jewelry design & technology diploma at GIA!” Kayla quickly achieved her goals and graduated from GIA before jumping feet first into the wild world of jewelry design.

Kayla knew from the start that she wanted to own her own jewelry business designing collections and selling directly online to preserve a direct connection to her customers. Kayla is community orientated and found a niche creating for a large community of manga, video games, anime, and fantasy fans. She says that “Reflecting back, these stories and characters were the first to teach me what I know about life and interpersonal communication. These forms of media and the culture around them have been with me every step of the way, always having an influence on how I see the world, and how I express myself in it.” In the next 5 years she plans to grow her brand online, expand into physical pop-up locations at conventions or other related events and to launch a second brand inspired by her Indigenous Culture of the Pacific Northwest. Kayla said that for her, “jewelry design and working on growing my business is what makes me want to work hard each day. I hope to have the opportunity to continue to explore this industry and its many facets throughout my career, because it has me in absolute wonder.”

Kayla found WJA San Diego in 2018 after hearing about it from other students on campus and knew it was something she had to be a part of. She took advantage of our free student membership opportunity after attending several of our events like Jewelry Night Out, Speed Mentoring, and our annual holiday party before renewing as a Professional Member. When asked about why she joined WJA, Kayla says “I saw what a great opportunity it is for learning more about our industry, networking, and having access to mentors.” She adds that her best experience to date was at our WJA Annual Holiday Party because “it was so great to see so many friends and industry professionals all in one place in a fun, relaxed environment. The WJA San Diego chapter is full of inspiring individuals that I have had the pleasure to meet and learn from in the short time I have been a member.”

When asked if she had anything to share with the chapter, Kayla says that “The most successful and joyful people I know started with nothing and spent each day doing what they love, honing their craft, and doing what fulfills them. This way, you are fulfilled from day one, whether or not you have accomplishments, money, or recognition. I would say, start with something that sparks the most curiosity and that makes you want to work hard each day, and expand upon that.”





A fun event, our WJA Holiday Party, hosted at the beautiful MK Envision Galleries at Liberty Station, San Diego.

Dessert Sponsors by Pheap Canossi and Robert Weldon.





From the 2019  
Photo Booth





The fun continues at our Holiday Party. Photos by Steven Ibbotson.





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Bryant

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