



Lisa Slovis



Katrina Bell



Eliana Graham

WJA San Diego Newsletter



Juliet Rodriguez



Andrea Morgan



Aleta Dirdo

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Summer 2018



Niki Bramante

Above and inside pages 2-3: **Our 4th Annual Makers Project.** This year, "Life's a Circus," taking place on Saturday, August 4th at the Mingei International Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego. All images photographed by Sara Rey, sararey.com



Hsinyu Candy Chu



Karen Tapendorf



Julie Harris



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Contributors

Janet F. Williams: "Unfinished Business"

Janet is also our newsletter editor.

Phoebe Shang: "The Brave New World of Modern Men's Jewelry"

Phoebe recently joined the San Diego chapter.

Hello WJA San Diego



San Diego Chapter President
Julia Popovich

As we head into August, the board is busy working on offering professional, value-added events with a focus on education, networking, and mentorship!

We kicked off May with a professional Headshot event. Many turned out for headshots and networking as local professional photographer, Lea Williams, helped members update their portfolios with a new professional picture. In this day and age, headshots are our “digital business cards,” and it is crucial to have a current one in any profession.

Our Speed Mentoring event in July was a huge hit! We had mentors spanning many aspects of the industry. Mentees were given ten minutes with each mentor to ask questions to further their growth and career. A huge thank you to our mentors who took time away from their busy schedules to share their expertise with our chapter. If you are a mentor interested in giving back and getting more involved in future events such as these, please reach out to me.

Later in July, we held our first Empower Hour event with the topic centered on “Glass Ceiling Shattered.” These are new, member-only quarterly events with a focus on discussing problems that impact us in the trade and uniting on solutions as well as connecting people with relevant contacts. The first event in the series was focused on challenges that women face in the jewelry industry and ways to overcome them. By sharing our own stories, we can learn from one another and walk away feeling more confident in ourselves and connected with each other.

On August 4th we held our 4th Annual Makers Jewelry Auction, which raised money for scholarships. Twenty-one Southern California-based bench jewelers and designers donated their time and designed a piece of jewelry around the theme, “Life’s a Circus.” The completed pieces were then auctioned off at the event. We held the event again this year at the Mingei International Museum in San Diego. If you are looking to support our local industry talent, or are a jewelry collector, or if you are interested in great networking, you will not want to miss this event next year!

On September 13th, our chapter will join other WJA chapters across the nation for our biggest event of the year where attendees at all events can apply for or renew their WJA membership for a discounted price! Stay tuned for more details. Please be sure to join this event, as being a WJA member has many benefits. Some of the many benefits of being a WJA member include: access to the WJA website and member directory, networking events at all major shows internationally, mentorship via local chapters as well as the international mentorship and leadership development program, and services and candidate search support.

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

I hope we can connect at an event soon!

Julia

Unfinished Business

By Janet F. Williams

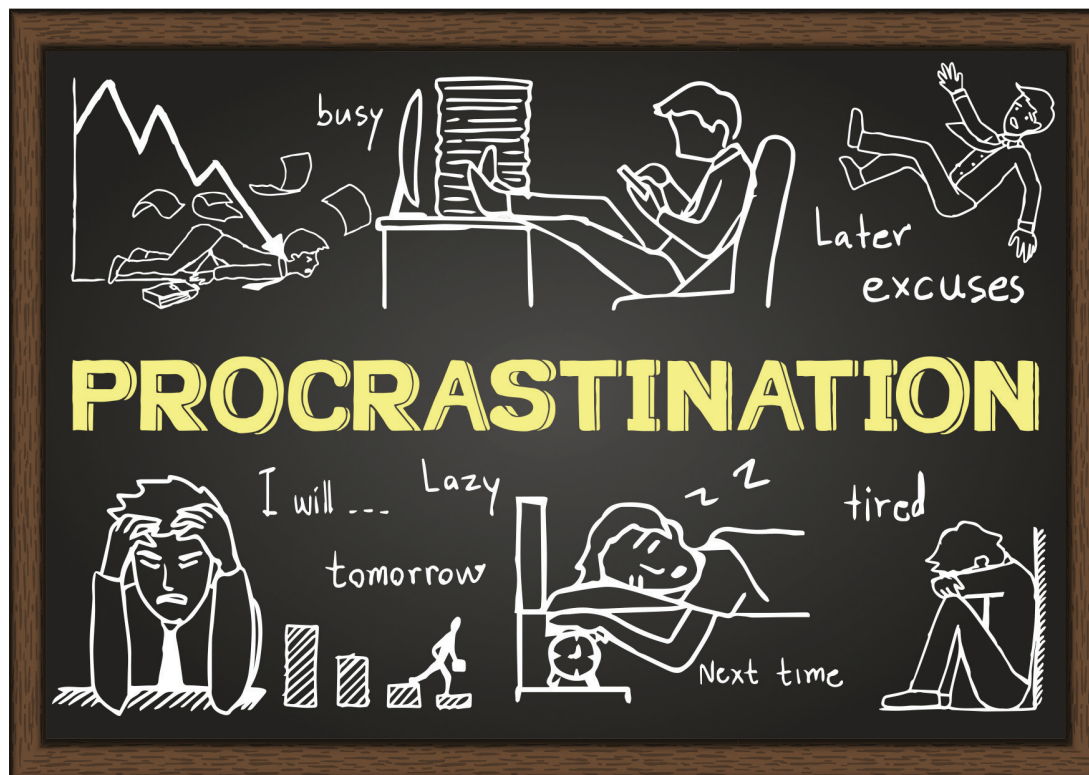


Image from Shutterstock.

In the course of your day as a jewelry professional, you have tasks you don't want to do, yet you do them. You may do most without another thought, and other times—not so much. Is procrastination your problem?

Procrastination is common. Your friends and coworkers can commiserate, which adds support you don't need. There is a full array of pleasurable distractions to keep you in procrastination mode. Time passes and adds anxiety via a shortened deadline.

If you want to find a better way to deal with your procrastination, there are many good approaches. Knowing what has worked for you in the past is a good place to start. Yet if you didn't still have a problem, you might not be reading this, unless of course, you want to help a "friend."

The cause of your delay may have to do with what we think of as negative feelings: you may be unhappy or angry, or hold a grudge—not that any of these are great reasons for not doing your work. And even after you finish your task, another chore will surely come along you won't want to do. Once again, you will find yourself procrastinating. This downward cycle of stalled productivity grinds at you: you curse, you make resolutions, and you say you will be different, but unless you take a positive step to be different, there will be no change.

Check your attitude. Despite any negative reasons or feelings that keep you from getting started, you also have positives. Start by identifying the positive aspects of completing the job, things like keeping your boss happy, working toward a promotion, or sourcing better clients. Having a clean workspace helps you keep track of small gems and findings. Finishing a repair means you can get paid or it could free up your time.

Your perceived negatives are valid. You might dislike cleaning or you might resent having to do a repair for a difficult unappreciative customer. When you have decided to do a job, the negatives are unimportant. Problems arise when you give them importance; they are blocks you have created in your mind. So, in your mind, imagine putting yourself fully into the space of positivity. If you want or need to do a task, do the task. Shut out distractions. Shut out negativity. Focus on the positives and the fact that you have made a final decision to do the job. Yes, you will do it.

Feeling overwhelmed may keep you from starting a task, that is, until you break it up into little bits. Write out every single step needed to complete it and about how long it will take. Chances are there will be more enjoyable segments.

Turn the task into an either/or situation. You will either do it, or you will not. It is the middle ground, where you wallow in the mire of begrudgingly having to do it that slows you down. This drain of mental energy saps your strength. Can you put that energy toward what needs to get done? Yes or no? Are you in or out? If your reasons are compelling, you are in. Act responsibly or prepare to accept the consequences of your inaction.

If your reasons are not compelling, what would happen if you left a task undone? Can you trade assignments with a coworker by agreeing to do something you find less onerous in exchange? Are you able to delegate some or all of the task parts you find disagreeable? Is it worth it to hire someone? Does fear of failure keep you from getting started? If so, what has to happen for you to move forward? And if you cannot do it, what follow-through plan do you have to communicate or remedy that situation?

Feeling overwhelmed may keep you from starting a task, that is, until you break it up into little bits. Write out every single step needed to complete it and about how long it will take. Chances are there will be more enjoyable segments. You may find the negatives take up only a small part of the whole. A reframed perspective can help you get going. As you finish each part, mark it off your list. You may be able to do the hardest parts first and finish with a more enjoyable part. Ask a friend or coworker to hold you accountable and let them support you in a positive way.

Janet F. Williams, GIA AJP is a writer, editor, and trainer. She authored the award-winning book, *You Don't Ask, You Don't Get*. In her spare time, Janet likes making beaded necklaces.

Please visit:
www.janetfwilliams.com and
www.gooddaymedia.com.

Some people like to play a little game where they set up a reward system. For each section, or at completion, they give themselves a treat, an incentive—something to look forward to that makes the task easier to start and finish. Would you work for a mid-day cookie break? An hour at the spa or surf? Let your reward fit the effort. It may be enough to know you'll be able to move on with something else. Perhaps next time, you will charge more for work you don't especially want to do.

These are only a few suggestions. If you're not sure which approach is best for you, start with an attitude of gratitude. That will often point you in a productive direction.

Member Benefits

TOOLS YOU CAN USE TO ADVANCE PROFESSIONALLY

The WJA offers members many ways to learn, connect, and grow professionally both online and in person.

All members receive:

Access to the WJA website and member directory, which offers an incredible network of professionals in the jewelry and watch industries

Networking events at all major shows internationally

Mentorship via local chapters as well as the international mentorship and leadership development program

Members-only prices for WJA events

Leadership and skill development through local and national board service and committee work

Career services and candidate search support through YourMembership

Exclusive member discount on GIA distance education courses and lab classes

Membership Matters e-newsletters

Access to member grants and scholarships

Access to recognition platforms like the DIVA design contest, Shining Star awards, and more

Member-only discounts to Ganoksin - Jewelry Making Forum and Information Resource

Educational webinars and workshops at industry trade shows

Free Pearl As One Course through The Cultured Pearl Association of America

Become a member!

We are a diverse group of jewelers, artisans, retailers, and educators. Our chapter members are from all over San Diego County. The members of our chapter are engaging, supportive, and committed to helping each other grow in our careers and family businesses. The San Diego chapter hosts both social and educational events throughout the year, encouraging networking, business development, and camaraderie.



Judy Colbert: Past WJA San Diego Chapter President

Member profile: Judy Colbert

Judy Colbert is Manager of Visual Resources at GIA and a past president of the WJA San Diego chapter. She lives in Carlsbad with her husband, Ed, and little mutt, Sachi.

24 years with WJA

“In simple terms, get involved! Go to member events and talk to people. Join the board or a committee. The more you learn and network, the more it will help you in achieving your career goals.”

WJA: How long have you been a WJA member?

Since 1994, after I graduated with my GG diploma from GIA. That would be 24 years now. I served on the San Diego Chapter board for at least 15 of those years, two as chapter president.

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

I'm sure it's been mentioned many times before, but what you get from the organization is what you put into it. In simple terms, get involved! Go to member events and talk to people. Join the board or a committee. The more you learn and network, the more it will help you in achieving your career goals.

WJA: Who has most influenced you in the jewelry business and why?

Because I work in the GIA Library, I have to say that Dona Dirlam has had the most impact on my professional life. Through the many years that I've worked with her, she has been supportive by providing me with learning opportunities to expand my gem and jewelry knowledge and encouraged me to pursue creative outlets such as writing and giving presentations. All Dona's accomplishments have been an inspiration to me and I continue to grow and learn in the outstanding library she created.


WJA: What do you know now you wish your younger self had known?

Not to be so insecure and shy. Having struggled with low self-esteem and extreme shyness when I was younger, I've worked hard to overcome these issues that kept me from achieving my potential. Being a natural introvert, I have to keep telling myself that it's important to get out and be with people, especially those who have a positive impact on my life. There's no changing the past, so move forward with an optimistic outlook.

WJA: Tell us one or more reasons of the value behind joining WJA.

The member grants and scholarships. I've been fortunate enough to be awarded several member grants through the local chapter and the national organization. Each grant has helped pay to expand my jewelry history library or take courses that have increased my knowledge in that subject area. It's a great benefit and anyone who is eligible should apply.

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Janet F. Williams, GIA AJP

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Welcome Aria Agarwal



Our new member: Aria Agarwal

Hometown: Austin, Texas

Skills: Jewelry Design, Marketing, Gemology, Metalsmithing,

Favorite Gemstone: “Rainbow lattice sunstone is hands-down my favorite mineral. It fascinates me! The copper inclusions in the stone cross perfectly into a lattice structure and when the stone hits the light, the inclusions give off an iridescent rainbow effect. It’s the coolest thing ever. As for gemstones more commonly used in jewelry, I am obsessed with tourmaline. It’s such a gorgeous and versatile stone. It comes in any color you can think of and bi-color tourmalines are definitely my preferred choice.”

Very few people are lucky enough to find their life’s passion as a child but Aria Agarwal has known she was born to be a gemologist since she was three years old. Aria was introduced to gemstones and design very early on, she was born in Tucson, Arizona and acquired her love of gemstones from attending the annual World Famous Tucson Gem and Mineral Shows. As a young girl, her father taught her how to paint and she learned how to create jewelry from beads with her mother.

Aria always knew she needed to combine her passion for art and her love for minerals into a profession so it was only natural for Aria to become a Gemologist and Jewelry Designer. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Marketing with a minor in Jewelry Design and Metalsmithing before deciding to move to San Diego to attend the Gemological Institute of America. She was granted two scholarships for GIA classes and was selected by her peers to win the Student Choice Award in her class’s jewelry CAD/CAM design show. She has earned her Graduate Gemologist and Comprehensive CAD CAM credentials and is now currently completing her third and final course— Jewelry Design.

Aria was granted two scholarships for GIA classes and was selected by her peers to win the Student Choice Award

Although Aria is new to the jewelry industry, she is driven by her passion and has had no problem carving out her own path. As a new member, Aria said she joined WJA to “network with industry veterans, meet new friends, learn more about the industry, and have more opportunities to talk jewelry!” She also added that it is “a great experience to just talk with more people in the industry and get advice”. When asked what advice she would have for other members or those considering joining, she said “Take advantage of the events and opportunities provided and meet as many people as you can!”

We are so happy to have Aria Agarwal and we wish her the best of luck on her jewelry journey!

By Christine Lopez

The Brave New World of Modern Men's Jewelry

By Phoebe Shang



Phoebe Shang

Each gem has a story to tell.

Phoebe Shang is a jewelry composer with experience crafting gemology textbooks, articles, web content and jewelry descriptions for gem and jewelry companies.

Her clients include Kukka, International Gem Society, Custom-Made, Seekers Luxury Bracelets and Shanghai Jianqiao University. She holds a master's in creative writing from Columbia University and a graduate gemologist degree from GIA.

Jewelry brings together the best of nature with the best of human ingenuity and creation. The result is a work of art. It is Phoebe Shang's priority and privilege to share her appreciation for these works of art with the world.

Compared to previous eras, our time suffers from a dearth of men's jewelry. A smartwatch and a wedding ring seem as far as men can go without verging on excess. It's easy to forget that a mere two centuries ago, men were still wearing wigs and chains of office! And four centuries ago, pearl earrings were all the rage.

Fortunately, men's jewelry seems to be once again on the rise, with opaque gems and symbolic or personalized jewelry as notable trends. Here are some highlights of modern men's jewelry, ranging from the rugged and adventurous to the subdued and classic.

Tag Necklaces

One recent development in men's jewelry is the military dog tag.

Beaded Bracelets

Beaded bracelets, inspired by Buddhist rosaries, have become all the rage. Traditionally tools for focus and prayer, they've evolved into symbols of encouragement. The present men's bracelet trend was fueled by the Livestrong bracelet, the purchase of which helped fund charities. It was not a far leap from that to the Lokai bracelet, a bracelet with beads containing mud from the Dead Sea and water from Mount Everest.

The more sophisticated, deluxe version of these bracelets are gem bracelets made of stones such as labradorite, lapis, onyx, and obsidian. Many men's jewelry brands, such as Seekers Luxury, combine gem beads with metal beads featuring motifs such as eternity knots and skulls. These bracelets tend to be simple but symbolic, placing great emphasis on craftsmanship and material. Seekers Luxury also includes descriptions of each stone's metaphysical powers so that spiritually-inclined clients have even more reason to get on the beaded bracelet bandwagon.

Grillz

Not always the first thing that comes to mind in terms of jewelry, grillz are perhaps for the more adventurous or young-at-heart. First re-popularized by Nelly's song, "Grillz," grillz are essentially metal or gem-covered mouthguards. People have been decorating their teeth with metals for centuries, although perhaps not to the same level that celebrities Ryan Lochte or Lil Wayne have taken grillz now. Ryan Lochte, the Olympic swimmer, flashed a diamond stars-and-stripes grill after he received his 2012 Olympic gold medal. Although grillz are not exclusive to men—Katy Perry has a grill emblazoned with the word "ROAR" in yellow, pink and blue diamonds—designer Philip Crangi praised the grill as "a tiara for men."

Signet Rings

The male version of the right-hand ring, signet rings were traditionally impressed with the family's coat of arms and were used to seal important documents. Even after their practical use expired, signet rings continued on as status symbols. They were popular up to just two or three generations ago—mostly worn by men on the pinkies of the nondominant hand—and are now making a comeback in a simpler form.



Left: basalt and sterling silver men's beaded bracelet from Seekers Luxury. <https://seekers.shop>. Attribute Seekers Luxury. Image used with permission



Grill: 14k gold-plated grill set with CZ.
Image used with permission @Primobling.com

Links to see more

Will Smith wearing a tag necklace and stud earrings.
<http://the1stog.blogspot.com/2012/02/culture-blogs-shades-of-brown-part-1-of-1.html> Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike: At tribute Jayrod P. Garrett

Stainless steel tag necklace with stitch border design.
<https://www.deviantart.com/tungstenrepublic/art/Dog-Tag-Pendant-Necklace-with-Black-Stitch-Edge-383009879>
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Ryan Lochte wearing an American-flag-themed grill set with red, white, and blue diamonds.
<http://www.beautyandthebeatblog.com/haute-or-not-ryan-lochte-diamond-american-flag-grill-at-the-2012-olympics/>
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Modern men's signet ring with brushed top.
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Korean pop star Taeyang wearing stud earrings.
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Zayn Malik wearing two hoop earrings in one ear.
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Modern signet rings are often blank, merely a circle of gold ornamented with a flat oval or square at the top of the shank. These clean, sleek signet rings speak volumes with their understated elegance. Fancier signet rings are embedded with oval or square gems, such as sardonyx or carnelian. Stores like Rebus cater to men of both modern and classic taste. They carry signet rings with asymmetrical designs and also offer a function where customers can look up their crest or monogram by family name. Their family crests include etchings of anything from dragons to deer heads to strange fish. Men's signet rings seem to be part of the vintage trend that is also influencing women's jewelry, but with even more modern twists.

Earrings

Men's earrings have functioned as symbols of courage and of defiance of convention for centuries. Sixteenth-century English sailors wore gold or silver earrings to cover their burial costs if they died at sea. Earrings were also their way of bragging if they had sailed around the world or survived shipwreck. This trend caught on with courtiers and soon, Sir Walter Raleigh and maybe even Shakespeare and Sir Francis Drake began wearing pearl drops and gold hoop earrings.

Hippies adopted earrings as both fashion and political statements in the 1960s. Punk rock bands and athletes soon followed suit. David Beckham owns a pair of platinum and diamond hoop earrings that cost £20,000, Will Smith wears diamond studs, Johnny Depp once sported a row of diamond safety pins in his ear, and Elton John has made numerous public appearances wearing dangling earrings.

For men just starting out, studs are a safe choice. Like cufflinks for the ears, they are often set with neutral-colored materials such as wood, diamonds and black diamonds. While studs might be appropriate for formal wear, hoop earrings are strictly casual. Hoops are typically paired with shirts, button-ups, denim and leather. Stylists recommend that hoop earrings be small and without any sparkle (David Beckham and pirates disagree) and that no more than two hoops be worn at once.

The truly adventurous can join the ranks of fashion pioneers in the dangling earring territory where "there be dragons" if the style isn't pulled off right. The dangles of most men's earrings are fairly short and feature sword, cross, or arrow motifs. The metal might also be black or matte to keep the earring low-key. Few men have attempted chandelier or feather earrings, but who knows what the jewelry world will surprise us with next!

Welcome Sarah Andrie



Our new member: Sarah Andrie

Hometown: Muskegon, Michigan

Skills: Goldsmith, Gemology, Jeweler

Favorite Gemstone: Ruby, Alexandrite, and anything yellow gold!

Sarah Andrie is a first generation jeweler blazing her own path in the jewelry industry. As a young woman coming into the industry without any prior connections, she has proven herself to be a self-starter running on rocket fuel.

Sarah first earned a degree in Communications from University of Hawaii before attending the Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in 2010 where she earned her Jewelry Technician diploma. After graduating from the Revere Academy, Sarah moved back to Hawaii to apprentice under Master Jeweler Michael Ly in Honolulu, HI and has spent the last four plus years as a goldsmith at Reusch Jewelers in Petoskey, Michigan, which is said to be the oldest family owned and operated jewelry store in the United States. Sarah recently moved to San Diego late last year and is currently enrolled in GIA's Graduate Gemologist program at their Carlsbad headquarters. Sarah is also certified in Advanced Laser Welding and Maintenance from LaserStar Technologies.

Above and beyond the classroom, Sarah has taught herself the intricate art of electroforming and has already earned a scholarship based on her designs using this new process. She was selected to receive a WJA Student Scholarship earlier this year and will be using the award to enroll in GIA's CAD/CAM course after she completes her current program.

When asked why she joined WJA San Diego, Sarah said, "Networking, both socially and professionally" and added "I've made some really amazing friends through WJA!" Sarah recently participated in our 4th Annual Makers Project Auction by donating a beautiful handcrafted necklace to raise money for WJA's Scholarship Foundation. We are grateful to have Sarah as a member of our chapter. Welcome to WJA San Diego, Sarah!

By Christine Lopez



Sarah created this necklace for our 4th Annual Makers Project. To help raise money for WJA's Scholarship Foundation.

Julez Bryant



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