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Winners Of 17th Annual JA Affiliate Design Competition Announced

Jewelry from Arkansas, New Mexico, and South Dakota win awards

New York, NY – Jewelers of America (JA) has announced the winners of its 17th annual Affiliate Design Competition, held during the JA New York Show, January 21-23. The competition features unique jewelry, designed by JA members, that have won design contests sponsored by JA's regional affiliates throughout 2006. The contest entries were displayed and judged at the JA booth at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center.

Twenty-three designs competed for the top prizes in four categories: \$1,000 and under; \$1,001-\$3,000; \$3,001 and over; and a Buyer's Choice Award. Designers from Arkansas, New Mexico, and South Dakota took home the first place prizes in each category.

A panel of industry experts judged entries on craftsmanship, marketability, practicality/wearability and overall design. JA New York attendees determined the fourth honor, the Buyers' Choice Award, with a separate ballot. This year, show attendees agreed with the judging panel, choosing the first place winner in the "\$1,000 and Under" category – a geometric multi-stone pendant – to receive the Buyer's Choice Award as well.

"The contestants in this year's affiliate design competition exemplify the talent and fine jewelry craftsmanship that JA's membership produces," says JA Chairman John Cohen. "Together with our affiliates we congratulate all of the contestants on their award-winning designs."

The winners of the 17th annual JA Affiliate Design Competition are:



First Place, Category I (\$1,000 and Under) & Buyer's Choice Award

David Holloway, Swift's Jewelry, Fayetteville, AR
Representing Arkansas Jewelers Association
Pendant in 14-karat yellow and white gold, with amethyst trillion, tanzanite, and 16 diamonds.



First Place, Category II (\$1,001 – \$3,000)

Marcus Gillihan, Shelton Jewelers,
Albuquerque, NM
Representing New Mexico Jewelers Association
Ring in 14-karat white gold with tourmaline and diamonds.



First Place, Category III (\$3,001 and Over)

Gerard Faini, Faini Designs Jewelry Studio, Sioux Falls, SD
Representing Nebraska/South Dakota Jewelers Association
Ring in 18-karat white and yellow gold, with natural fancy yellow diamond oval center stone and diamond side stones.

[Photos by Alfredo Parraga]

JA awards the winners with an engraved trophy and a framed certificate. Categories are determined by the cost of materials used.

The JA Affiliate Design Competition is open only to JA members and their employees. Any JA member interested in participating in next year's competition must first enter the design competition held by their state or regional JA affiliate this year. For more information, visit www.jewelers.org or call 800-223-0673.

For high-resolution images of the above photographs, contact Lauren Thompson at lthompson@jewelers.org or 646-658-5817.

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Special Thanks

JA would like to recognize all participants in the 2007 JA Affiliate Design Competition:

- Virginia Anderson, T.K. Anderson Jewelry, Athens, GA
- Joe Bacher, J Bacher Fine Jewelry Designs, Harrisburg, IL
- Don Baide, The Gem Gallery, Bozeman, MT
- Scott Bohall, Treasures Custom Jewelers, Glendale, AZ
- Joseph Bonasso, JAB Jewelry, McMurray, PA
- SharonChoisser, Goodman's Jewelers, Madison, WI
- Sara Commers, Studio C Designs, St. Louis Park, MN
- Sharon Curtis-Gal, The Gem Vault, Flemington, NJ
- Joe D'Onofrio, Mount Dora Estate Jewelry Co., Mount Dora, FL
- Gerard Faini, Faini Designs Jewelry Studio, Sioux Falls, SD
- Peter Fusaro, Bella Jewelers, New Milford, CT
- Marcus Gillihan, Shelton Jewelers, Albuquerque, NM
- Rhonda Henson, Kelley Jewelers, Weatherford, OK
- David Holloway, Swift's Jewelry, Fayetteville, AR
- Solon Holt, Cox's Gifts & Jewelry, Lebanon, TN
- Brandy Hurt, AVA Goldworks, Hannibal, MO
- John McFadden, Lindenwold Fine Jewelers, North Canton, OH
- Ziad Noshie, Almaza Jewelers, Houston, TX
- Jimmy Patterson, Patterson Jewelry, Kosciusko, MS
- Michael Ponthieux, Ponthieux's Jewelry Design Studio, Greenville, SC
- John Purvis, Purvis Jewelers, Lakewood, CO
- Brent Selke, Reis Nichols Jewelers, Indianapolis, IN
- Kim Teft, Kizer-Cummings Jewelers, Lawrence, KS

JA would also like to thank those who donated their time and expertise to serve on JA's panel of judges: Beth Braverman, *National Jeweler*; Diane Flora, GG, CGA, American Gem Society; Amanda Gizzi and Helena Krodell of Jewelry Information Center; Paul Holewa, *Instore Magazine*; Becka Johnson Kibby, GG, Robbins Bros.; Tom Weishaar, Certified Master Bench Jeweler, Underwood Jewelers; Steve MacDiarmid, Stuller Inc.; Amber Michelle, *Rapaport Diamond Report*; Michelle Orman, Lüp; and Kate Peterson, Performance Concepts Inc.

*Jewelers of America is the national trade association for retail jewelers.
With over 10,000 member stores, JA also works locally through its 40 state and regional affiliates.
JA advocates high social, ethical, and environmental standards, promotes professional
business and leadership skills, and enhances its members' profitability by
offering education, certification, marketing and cost-saving programs.*

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