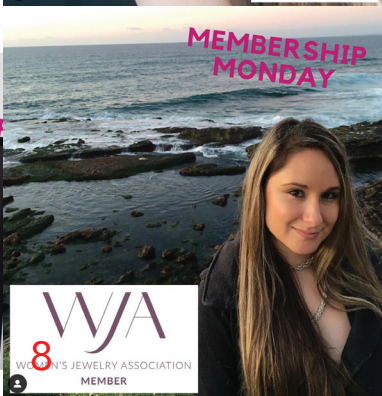




WJA San Diego

We thank our members for their continued support!

Summer 2020



1. Victoria Marmolejo
2. Wade Clar
3. Sara Rey
4. Jennifer DeMoro
5. Robert Weldon
6. Sarah Andrie
7. Kayla Viola
8. Christine Lopez
9. Rebecca Boyajian-Pecnik
10. Judy Colbert
11. Peter Harts
12. Barbara Wasserstrom

In This Issue:

Niki Grandics: The Importance of Transparency During a Pandemic

Bench Tips from Robert Ackermann: Sand Paper on Glass

We thank Kathleen Lynagh House for her continued support to our Chapter

We welcome our new member Megan Cochran

And much more.



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VP of Partnerships: Victoria Marmolejo

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Contributors

Robert Ackermann

Bench Tips from Robert Ackermann: Sand Paper on Glass

Niki Grandics

The Importance of Transparency During a Pandemic

Judy Colbert

Newsletter Editor

Orasa Weldon

Newsletter Designer

Hello WJA San Diego!



WJA San Diego Chapter President
Christine Lopez

Hello WJA San Diego!

I hope you and your loved ones are staying well during these strange times. We do not know what the future holds and although we could not foresee the challenges we are now facing we will get through this together.

Now more than ever, professional connections and friendships are vital for our personal success while working from home. WJA San Diego is here to keep you connected to not only people but also to your own professional goals. Together we can keep each other grounded, motivated, and focused.

In the spirit of keeping our eyes on the prize, we tried something new and hosted our first ever Instagram Giveaway in mid April when we gave away a member prize of \$250 to one lucky winner. Our chosen theme of #WJASDStaysHome inspired members to share updates of how they are working from home, living life under lockdown, and coping with our new normals for a period of 10 days. Every member had an opportunity to enter each day of the giveaway by making a new post on Instagram with our hashtag.

Thank you to everyone who attended our first ever digital Chat & Chill via Zoom on April 17th! We enjoyed catching up with each other, discussing the new challenges that came with working from home, and sharing ideas on how we plan to move forward. We also had fun drawing the winner of our #WJASDStaysHome Instagram Giveaway live during the event—congratulations **Sarah Andrie!** It was fantastic to finally have the opportunity to see some of your faces again and I look forward to seeing more of you at our future online events.

Coming up, we are proud to be offering several fun online events and to be promoting several great opportunities through WJA National. After some delay, we will be hosting our In The Know: Shaping Design event via Zoom. We will be breaking the event up into a miniseries with **Amanda Bilberry** discussing Trending Designs on May 28th and **Robert Ackerman** teaching us about CAD on June 16th. We will also be bringing back our oh so popular Chat & Chills but with a twist, each event will have a specific theme! First up on May 19th we hosted our Chat & Chill: Favorite Books and we have our next Chat & Chill: Gems & Mineral coming up on July 1st.

If you are looking for something to do between our chapter events, WJA National has a ton of great educational opportunities for you. My current favorite is the CPAA Pearls as One course because it covered every single question I have ever had about those beautiful orbs of happiness known as pearls. If you are looking for something a little more gemology focused try taking GIA's three Essentials Courses, Diamond Essentials, Colored Stones Essentials, and Jewelry Essentials, to earn your AJP credential from GIA. If you are looking for something a little more tailored to you, we also offer one of the best mentoring programs in the industry for those interested in becoming a mentee or giving back as a mentor. All of these wonderful opportunities are fully included in your membership, visit womensjewelryassociation.com/benefits for a full list of member benefits and details on how to take advantage of these offers.

Thank you everyone for your continued support of our chapter!

Christine Lopez G.G. A.J.P.

WJA San Diego President



Member Spotlight: Kathleen Lynagh House

Kathleen is a jewelry designer, consultant and a proud member of WJA. Her extensive training includes graphic design, jewelry design and production. This training has taken her all over the world, most notably to The Yale School of Design in Brissago, Switzerland; the Studio Art Center International in Florence, Italy; and the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, PA.

In the mid '90's, inspired by her client's enthusiasm for her work, Kathleen launched her own jewelry design business. After many years of selling her work at wholesale trade shows, she moved away from making and selling jewelry and moved towards design consulting. She has worked with both small and large firms and was invited to be the first featured jewelry designer for Esika, an international known brand owned by one of the largest cosmetics companies in South America.

Today, she is designing for an internationally known costume collector and producing jewelry for film, TV, and museum exhibits.

Kathleen serves on the Advisory Council for Ethical Metalsmiths as Chairperson for Web & Graphic Design

We thank you, Kathleen, for your continued support for our San Diego Chapter!



The Importance of Transparency During a Pandemic

By Niki Grandics

Top: Image courtesy of Anza Gems.

“Jewelry, who does it benefit? And what can it do?” These questions [Brian Cook](#) of Nature’s Geometry asked are so central to the sustainability of the jewelry industry. And with so much time to ourselves, it’s a question you may have been asking yourself as many of our “nonessential” businesses temporarily closed. If you’ve been going to trade shows and industry gatherings the past few years, you’ve no doubt noticed how responsible sourcing is becoming more and more of a hot topic, with each show boasting at least one panel discussion or fireside chat on the matter. For the last three years, we’ve even had an entire conference dedicated to the subject every October in Chicago.

When we first think of issues in the jewelry supply chain, often, blood diamonds and lab-grown diamonds come to mind first. In reality, these problems are far more complex than a marketing campaign or award-winning film can convey, ranging from toxic mercury use in mining, health hazards from mining and gem cutting, indigenous land rights, organized crime, and government corruption. While the issues surrounding the responsible jewelry movement may seem vast and overwhelming, by working together, so much progress is already being made. A growing number of industry members are joining the ranks and commanding the charge.

While we’re talking about how the industry has been evolving, there’s a newer development we can’t ignore as we look to the future. So it’s time to bring up the elephant in the room which has touched every facet of industry and our lives, the coronavirus pandemic. We’ve all been feeling the tumult, with store-

fronts temporarily shuttering and studios moving home where they can. Some of us have lost jobs or mourned loved ones. It’s hard not to think about how the pandemic is affecting those further up our supply chains as well. Artisanal mining communities already tend to be marginalized and underserved by governments, making them particularly vulnerable to the economic shock already underway as a result of COVID-19. For many miners, the reality is “What I make is what I eat,” according to [Cristina Villegas](#) from PACT. With the international gem trade coming to a sudden halt in March, and no buyers traveling in to purchase their wares for some time now, and for an indefinite amount of time going forward, miners suddenly are left food insecure and with no source of income.

From Rachel Dery, Gem Legacy’s director of communications and outreach (who is currently in Kenya), the urgent needs in these areas right now are genuinely essentials for survival; food,



Image: courtesy of Gem Legacy

water, and sanitation. Gem Legacy was quick to offer relief to East African mining communities with their COVID-19 Emergency Fund. Retailers and designers from throughout the industry heard the call. They were ready to contribute, donating, and offering percentages of sales to help take care of the people in our supply chain. If you've been following along with Gem Legacy on Instagram, you can see the direct impact they're having, delivering food, water, masks, and sanitation supplies to orphanages and mining communities in Kenya and Tanzania.

These miners are an essential part of our industry. They are our partners, not our beneficiaries, and play a vital role in sustaining our industry. 80-90% of colored gemstones, 10-15% of diamonds, and 20% of our gold supply comes from artisanal miners, 30-50% of whom are women. "True sustainability is making sure that our supply chain is empowered and thriving even when we aren't there. We have to make sure we all benefit from this. If you look at colored gemstones, if you sell them - we have a responsibility as an industry. Miners' stories are our stories, and we don't have a story unless they survive this," says Monica Stephenson, founder of Anza Gems and co-creator of Moyo Gems.

So who does jewelry benefit? For the first time, we have the industry at large, thinking about this. Suddenly we see this invisible side of the industry, and we can



Image: courtesy of Moyo Gems

let them know we see them and support them, even when times are undeniably tough. What does this mean for the future? The pandemic is already bringing values around sustainability into sharp focus, intensifying discussions around materialism, over-consumption, and irresponsible business practices. Amidst all the tragedy, this global pause has also given us an incredible opportunity. We have the opportunity to define what we want normal to look like when this is all over.

How can we support a more transparent and compassionate industry? We have the opportunity to cast a vote with our dollar for what we want our new-normal to be post-pandemic. Collaboration among different facets of the industry is critical now more than ever. We can choose to work together and support initiatives that will shape a more responsible and sustainable industry that benefits everyone along the supply chain. By purchasing Fairmined gold, you're casting your vote for responsibly mined gold that benefits the community who mined it and doesn't irreparably harm their health and the Earth. Buying gems from traceable sources, like the newly launched Moyo Gems, says transparency and accountability matter. If you're concerned about mercury pollution (which is projected to increase with the pandemic), support projects that help clean up mercury and find viable alternatives to its use by artisanal miners like Better Without Mercury and the Mercury-Free Mining



Image: courtesy of Ethical Metalsmiths



Image: courtesy of Ethical Metalsmiths

Project. Join the conversation with groups like Ethical Metalsmiths. There are resources available to help you get started. Christina Miller summed it up well in one of her bi-weekly Living Room Sessions, "You can do good, while doing well."

We can cast our vote for a world where jewelry benefits everyone involved. If there's something my time in this industry has taught me it's that together, I know we can make it happen. These actions may seem small, especially in the scale of the pandemic, but just like the virus, it starts small.

Read all about Niki Grandics by visiting her website at enjistudiojewelry.com



Megan Cochran

“Being a part of the WJA Mentorship Program has been the most valuable to Megan since joining and she credits her relationship with her Mentor as having a meaningful impact on her both personally and professionally.”

Name | Megan Cochran

Hometown | Oceanside, California

Skills | Designer and Consultant for fine jewelry brands, manufacturers and independent jewelers and designers

Favorite Piece of Jewelry | “My favorite piece of jewelry is an Audemars Piguet watch that my husband inherited from his late grandfather. It’s from the 1970’s and has an 18K gold mesh band. It makes me feel glamorous and sophisticated in a cool, slightly androgynous way.”

*M*Meet Megan Cochran! Megan is new to our San Diego Chapter but definitely not new to the jewelry industry. For the last fifteen years she has been involved, in some form or another, with all sides of the industry. Currently she is working on her new business Megan Cochran Jewelry Design.

Megan grew up in New Jersey but later moved to Brooklyn, New York where she attended Pratt Institute. There she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in design and illustration. From the beginning, her talent was evident as she was among a select group of seniors who were chosen to exhibit their design thesis at the Manhattan Center. After graduating from Pratt, Megan spent the next eight years working in midtown Manhattan as a designer and product developer for private label women’s accessory brands. Along with this she was a sales associate at a fine jewelry store in SoHo. It was here that she really fell in love with jewelry and realized that it could be “interesting and speak to individuals”.

In 2016 Megan made the move to Long Beach, California to attend GIA where she later earned her CAD/CAM certificate and Graduate Jeweler Diploma. With her diplomas and year of experience under her belt, Megan opened the doors to her own business last year. As a designer, her goal is to create her own collection of thoughtful and bespoke fine jewelry and collaborate with other entrepreneurs and small businesses. She believes in collaboration and wants to create a more accountable and inclusive industry.

Megan was first introduced to WJA as a GIA student and officially joined on last year. Her main reason in joining was to stay connected to her peers and to associate with a national network of engaging and diverse professionals. Being a part of the WJA Mentorship Program has been the most valuable to Megan since joining and she credits her relationship with her Mentor as having a meaningful impact on her both personally and professionally.

Support and networking is one area that Megan feels everyone needs. She says, “We all need guidance, honest feedback and recognition. We need to support one another and stay connected to our professional network.”

By Jennifer DeMoro

President Elect

VP of Membership

We are so happy to have Megan Cochran and we wish her the best as she begins her new jewelry business.

Sand Paper on Glass

Bench Tips from Robert Ackermann

Crisp, mirror-flat and surfaces curved in one direction, a.k.a. flat curves are the most time-intensive to finish. Especially with flat surfaces there's no in between: they're either flat or they aren't and when they aren't, it's painful to behold. Here's a method to both speed matters up and set you up where you almost can't fail.

At the core of it is a sheet of glass and spray mount. Your local glass maker can cut you as many sheets of plain, ordinary flat glass as you use different sandpaper grit. Spray mount — preferably of the repositionable kind — is available at local hardware stores, office supply, arts & crafts stores and online. Use it to glue a different grit of sandpaper to each sheet of glass.

The glass should be the size of the sand paper — 9 X 11 inches is the industry norm — and a minimum of ¼ inch thick. It's a good idea to ask for beveled edges that won't chip so easily.

Glass makes for a perfectly planar, hard support underneath the sandpaper which guarantees uniform abrasive action.

You want to pay attention to 3 things when you're spray mounting the sandpaper:

1. Apply the spray mount in a well-ventilated area only. You need to avoid inhalation of its potentially toxic ingredients.
2. The glass and the sandpaper need to be absolutely free of dust, grit, price stickers, and anything that could create even the smallest bump; the smallest rise is sure to leave marks in your metal that can potentially ruin the job.
3. Apply a thin, uniform layer of spray mount to avoid gobs of the stuff creating damaging bumps and rises.

Next, carefully apply the paper to the glass. This is where the repositionable variety of spray mount comes in, as there's always a chance you'll need to make corrections. A zero tolerance policy toward wrinkles and folds is an absolute must, since they too constitute bumps and rises of the potentially damaging kind.

Once you're sure the sandpaper is in position, you want to pat it down to where it bonds with the glass. In the end you want that perfectly flat plane that shows no rises or air bubbles whatsoever.



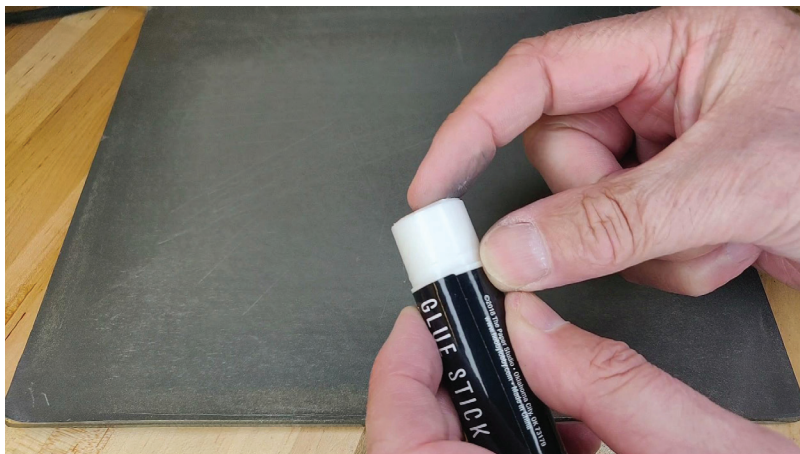
Applying Spray Mount



Applying the Sandpaper



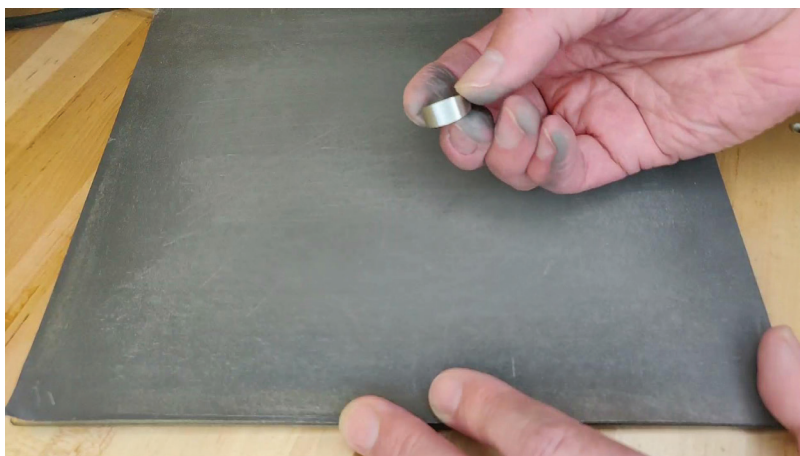
Tamping Down



Glue Stick



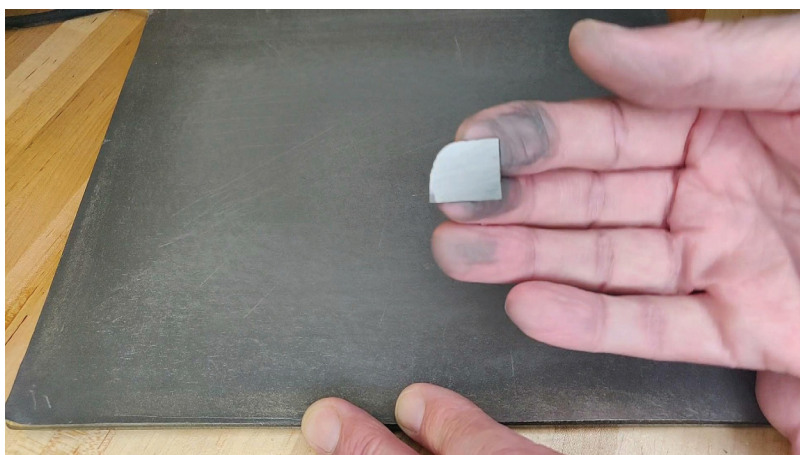
Popular spray mounts



Sanded-Curved

Sanding very small and thin parts wears down the skin on your fingertips and makes for fun days nursing the raw, exposed nervous tissue. Render your finger tips sticky with a bit of glue from a glue stick from time to time works wonders: it significantly reduces the amount of uncontrolled sanding of your fingertips and washes off quite easily with soap when you're done.

When the sandpaper is worn it's time to remove it and put it in your low-grade waste for refining. Without fail some of the paper base will need to be removed with a razor before the glass surface can be reconditioned to near-clinical sterility in preparation for the next, fresh sheet of sandpaper.



Sanded Flat

Robert Ackermann is an award-winning goldsmith, gemologist, jewelry designer, jewelry educator and the owner of www.learnjewelrydesign.org, an educational site for jewelry creators. See the video on YouTube.

Want more tips? Write to Robert Ackermann
robert@learnjewelrydesign.org

Member Benefits

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

WJA Connect, an online community platform for members to collaborate, share true knowledge, and build relationships

Virtual Career Center community to post open positions and seek out new career opportunities

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

Exclusive member discount on GIA distance education courses and lab classes

Access to member grants and scholarships

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

Educational webinars and workshops at industry trade shows

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

Online self-paced Negotiable training course