



## AGA Career Forum VII:

# WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH YOUR GEMOLOGY?

## • Careers in: JEWELRY ART AND GEMOLOGY

### Panelists shared information and links

#### Rita-Livia Erikson

[www.ritalivijewelry.com](http://www.ritalivijewelry.com)  
[facebook.com/ritalivijewelry](https://facebook.com/ritalivijewelry)  
[instagram.com/ritalivijewelry](https://instagram.com/ritalivijewelry)

#### Adam Parker

[www.sunsapphires.com](http://www.sunsapphires.com)  
[facebook.com/apgemsandjewelry](https://facebook.com/apgemsandjewelry)  
[instagram.com/sunsapphires](https://instagram.com/sunsapphires)

#### Derek Katzenbach

[www.katzenbachdesigns.com](http://www.katzenbachdesigns.com)  
[facebook.com/dkatzenbach](https://facebook.com/dkatzenbach)  
[instagram.com/derekkatzenbach](https://instagram.com/derekkatzenbach)

- All our panelists have studied gemology at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) at their various global campuses [www.gia.edu](http://www.gia.edu)
- (Pictured in the video): Rita referenced *the gem material – Obsidian - she used to carve the "hand" earrings*: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obsidian>
- (Pictured in the video): Adam references - Rhodoschrosite (the red mineral specimen Adam referenced and is holding in the photo) from Colorado, learn more here: <https://collectorsedge.com/sweet-home-mine-part-1/>
- Adam gained valuable experience while working at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, in Denver, Colorado - <https://www.dmns.org>
- Our panelists agreed, they enjoy working with Sapphires. Adam and Derek enjoy specifically Montana Sapphires (from USA). Learn more from GIA Gems and Gemology article - <https://www.gia.edu/gems-gemology/spring-2023-characterization-montana-sapphire>
- (Pictured in the video): Derek references his recognition by the American Gem Trade Association ([AGTA](http://AGTA)) [Spectrum Awards](https://www.gia.edu/gems-gemology/spring-2023-characterization-montana-sapphire); winning [in 2016 and 2017](https://www.gia.edu/gems-gemology/spring-2023-characterization-montana-sapphire) "Best use of color" for a bicolored tourmaline ring he designed and manufactured and first-place in the "Objects of Art" category for his "Colors of Maine" Kaleidoscope made with Maine tourmalines and 18kt gold. These pieces are now in the museum collection of GIA.
- An article by Forbes on starting a small business <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/business/how-to-start-a-small-business-at-home/>
- All our panelists follow their passion and are committed to continuously grow their creativity and knowledge.
- Learn more about lapidary (gem cutting) at - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lapidary>
- When the panelists were questioned how gemology has influenced their career and daily work; each defined the importance of the gemological knowledge they have learned and how it influences decisions they make daily – from purchases materials, knowing properties of gemstones when cutting and creating jewelry, and the importance of connections and friendships in the trade.

# CHAT LOG

Recorded: April 16, 2024



## AGA shared information and links

- **AGA has a NEW website**, visit: [www.AGAtoday.org](http://www.AGAtoday.org)
- **AGA hosted events** – including all upcoming and past events plus links to all past recorded webinars and Career Forums are available at: <https://accreditedgemologists.org/events/>
- **2024 AGA Sponsors** – generous funding helps AGA support and deliver the high quality educational webinars and other virtual and in person events, the AGA community has become accustomed to. Learn more about our sponsors and link to their websites from our website <https://accreditedgemologists.org/>
- **To mark AGA's 50th Anniversary**, we are pleased to announce the return of the **AGA Gemological Education Scholarship** and **AGA Gemological Research Grant** awards in 2024.
  - The awards are open to gemological enthusiasts and professionals worldwide; all are invited to apply.
  - Please read the application criteria and FAQs and submit your application online by the upcoming deadline for each award.
  - <https://accreditedgemologists.org/scholarship/>
  - <https://accreditedgemologists.org/research-grant/>
- Learn more about **AGA Membership** and how to apply at: <https://accreditedgemologists.org/join-aga/>