



ACCREDITED  
GEMOLOGISTS  
ASSOCIATION  
Est. 1974

# TUCSON CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 4, 2026





**AGA TUCSON CONFERENCE****FEBRUARY 4, 2026****Marriott University Park Hotel. Tucson, AZ****MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Esteemed Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this year's AGA Tucson Gemological Conference. We are honored to have you with us—an assembly of some of the brightest minds, most skilled professionals, and most passionate advocates for excellence in gemology.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose continued support makes gatherings like this possible. Your partnership is invaluable to the ongoing success and growth of our Association. A heartfelt thank-you as well to our distinguished presenters, whose insights and expertise elevate this event and enrich our entire community.

As my six-year term as President concludes, I reflect with pride on the journey we've taken together. During this time, we have raised global awareness of the AGA brand, completely reimagined and relaunched our website, expanded access to high-quality educational opportunities, and significantly grown our membership base. These milestones are not mine alone—they are a testament to the dedication, collaboration, and shared vision of our incredible members, Board, and partners.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life to serve as President of this esteemed Association. As I pass the torch, I do so with complete confidence in the future of AGA. We are in the most capable hands with Dr. Çiğdem Lüle leading the way—her integrity, vision, and commitment to gemological education and excellence will undoubtedly guide AGA to even greater heights.

Thank you all for your continued support and passion. Here's to the bright future of AGA and to a successful and inspiring conference!

Teri Brossmer, AGA President

## AGA Leadership Board 2023-2026

AGA is led by the Board of Governors, a group of members who volunteer their time and talents to steer and grow the Association. Officers and Governors serve three-year terms.



### OFFICERS

Teri Brossmer	President
Çiğdem Lüle	Vice President
Adam Ostrow	Secretary
Heidi Harders	Treasurer
Stuart Robertson	Immediate Past President
Thom Underwood	Parliamentarian

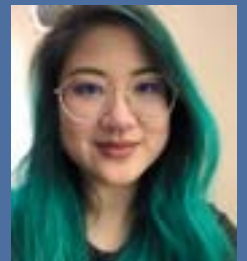
### ADMINISTRATION

Bonnie Wolff	Executive Administrator
Annie Phetsinor	Marketing Coordinator

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Melanie Krummel	Alberto Scarani
Donna Hawrelko	Martin Fuller
Antoinette Matlins	Gary Roskin

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*AGA members are encouraged to communicate their interest in serving the association.*

# AGENDA

- 08:00 AM Registration & Coffee
- 08:40 AM **AGA Welcome & Opening Remarks**
- 09:10 AM From Rough Edges to Radiant Brilliance: Defining the Future of Gemstones  
by Damien Cody
- 10:00 AM **Coffee Break & Networking**
- 10:30 AM The Death of 'Organic': Why Gemology Needs a Scientific Revolution  
by Sarah Caldwell Steele
- 11:15 AM Green Grossular Garnets from Kenya and Tanzania  
by Prof. Clemens Schwarzingler
- 12:00 PM **Lunch Break**
- 01:15 PM Play-along Polariscope  
by Kerry Gregory
- 02:15 PM Behind the Scenes of Publishing The Journal of Gemmology  
by Brendan Laurs
- 02:35 PM AGA Diamond Project Update
- 03:00 PM **Coffee Break & Networking**
- 03:30 PM Behind the Scenes of the Gemological Laboratory: Practical (and Impractical)  
Gemology in the Modern World  
by Dr. Aaron Palke
- 04:15 PM **AGA Closing Remarks**

**Live Q&A will follow each presentation. Participation is encouraged.**

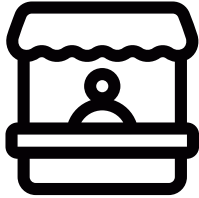
## AGA Gala Evening

06:00 PM Cocktails  
07:00 PM Dinner

Networking. Dinner. Silent Auction. Raffle. Dancing.  
2025 AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award Recognition  
Lifetime Achievement Award Recognition

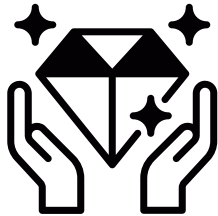


## OPPORTUNITIES



### AGA Conference Vendors

Conference attendees are warmly encouraged to explore, connect, and gain insights from the vendors showcased around the conference ballroom. Take advantage of conference breaks and lunchtime to visit their displays, engage in meaningful conversations, and discover valuable resources and opportunities they have to offer.



### AGA Tucson Auction

Tucson Silent Auction features a curated selection of valuable items for the highest bidder. From dazzling gemstones and gemological books to state-of-the-art equipment, specialized services, and one-of-a-kind gemology experiences, there's something for everyone. Auction items will be prominently displayed during the conference and gala, with bidding open at both events. Don't miss your chance to take home something truly exceptional!



### AGA Tucson Raffle

Get your tickets now—just \$10 each or \$20 for three! Every ticket gives you two chances to win: the Golden Ticket drawing for a free registration to the 2027 AGA Tucson Conference & Gala, **OR** the Silver Ticket drawing, awarding one free year of membership with AGA. Don't miss this golden (and silver) opportunity—secure your tickets today!

### Auction Donors

The AGA sincerely thanks these individuals and organizations whose generous contributions made the 2026 AGA Tucson Silent Auction possible. Your support is deeply appreciated!

Guy Borenstein, Stuller Inc.

Charles I. Carmona, Guild Laboratories, Inc.

Thomas Chatham, Chatham Inc.

Syed Mohamed, Classic Gems

Heidi Harders, Chicago Gem & Jewelry Evaluation Services, Inc.

Raymond Mason, Arizona Gemological Laboratory, Inc.

John Koivula, GIA

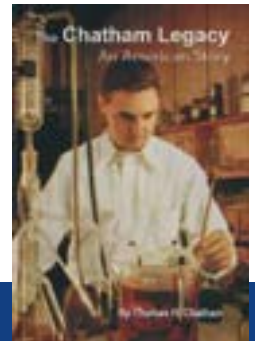
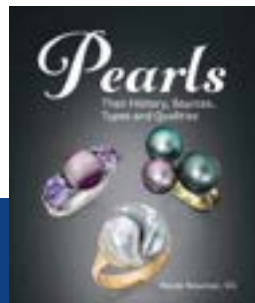
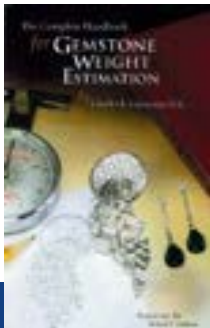
Reneé Newman

Gemworld International

# AGA SILENT AUCTION

## BIDDING CLOSES AT 8:00 PM

- PEARLS: THEIR HISTORY, SOURCES, TYPES AND QUALITIES BY RENEE NEWMAN
- THE COMPLETE HANDBOOK FOR GEMSTONE WEIGHT ESTIMATION BY CHARLES I. CARMONA
- THE CHATHAM LEGACY, AN AMERICAN STORY BY THOMAS CHATHAM
- ELONGATED PEAR-SHAPED NATURAL GOLDEN BERYL GEM, 28.8 X 9.8 MM, 7.75 CARATS
- HAND CARVED SMOKY QUARTZ BOWL, 4 INCH X 2.5 INCHES X 1.5 INCH, 136 GRAMS
- ONE PAIR OF ANTIQUE CARNELIAN BUTTONS 16.5MM ROUND
- STAR RUBY CABOCHON, 45 CARATS
- LEGO MINERAL COLLECTION BUILDING SET (880 PIECES)
- GEM-MASTER MINI SPECIFIC GRAVITY TEST KIT
- GEM MASTER 1.81 R.I. LIQUID
- ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GEMGUIDE (DIGITAL ONLY)



*Additional items may not be listed due to print deadlines*

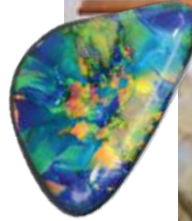


SESSION 1

From Rough Edges to Radiant Brilliance: Defining the Future of Gemstones

The colored gemstone industry is constantly evolving, facing challenges such as global disruption, changing consumer expectations, and growing demand for ethical practices. In this landscape, collaboration is key to maintaining high industry standards.

Organizations like the International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) and the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) provide a platform for the trade to work together, promote transparency, and build consumer confidence. Initiatives such as the joint effort between the opal industry and CIBJO to develop an international opal classification guide show how cooperation can create clarity and trust in the market. By working collectively, the industry can uphold standards, foster innovation, and ensure a strong, resilient future for colored gemstones.



Presenter



Damien Cody

Damien Cody is Managing Director of Cody Opal (Australia) and The National Opal Collection. He is the current President of the International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) having served many years in various positions including Vice President, Director and Ambassador to Australia.

Cody has also served on various industry Boards and committees including CIBJO, the Opal Association, the Jewellers Association of Australia (JAA) and The National Opal Miners Association. He was the founding Chairman of ICA's charity 'Gems Keep Giving' and is currently serving as Acting Chairman of the newly formed independent Board. He is co-author of a top-selling book 'The Opal Story' which has been written in five languages. Around 60,000 copies have been sold and distributed around the globe.

In 2018, his company produced a limited release of sixty opal master sets. Each set contains 216 opal samples from all of the world deposits to assist with identification, classification and grading of opal. Most major laboratories and gemological institutes have availed themselves of this resource. This initiative earned Cody Opal Australia a JNA Honoree award for Industry Innovation of the year.

In 2023 Damien's industry achievements were recognized by being selected as a recipient of an 'Extraordinary 40 Award', a Jewellery World Awards (JWA) accolade presented to 40 inspiring individuals whose talents, achievements and commitment to excellence have helped shape and continue to make a positive difference in the jewelry industry today.



SESSION 2

The Death of 'Organic':  
Why Gemology Needs a  
Scientific Revolution

Current gemological classifications of organic and biogenic materials rely on outdated distinctions that fail to reflect our modern understanding of mineral evolution and formation processes. This presentation challenges the traditional organic-inorganic binary by examining real-world complexities: how do we classify materials that blur the boundaries between biological and geological processes?

Drawing on principles of mineral evolution—the concept that Earth's mineral diversity has increased over geological time through biological and environmental interactions—this talk will demonstrate why gemology must evolve beyond Victorian-era thinking to embrace a more sophisticated understanding of how gems actually form.

Presenter



Sarah Caldwell  
Steele

Sarah Caldwell Steele fell in love with Whitby Jet at age seven and hasn't stopped cutting or challenging assumptions since. With four decades of lapidary experience and a Durham University geology degree, she's the world's leading jet authority.

A Fellow and Diamond Fellow of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, Sarah specializes in black gem identification and commercially cuts jets, amber, ivory, and other organics. Currently a Durham University PhD researcher, she's developing revolutionary methodology for identifying carbonaceous archaeological artifacts.

Sarah's mission is to establish new nomenclature for gem-quality hydrocarbons and challenge outdated jet classifications. Her research bridges geology, gemmology, and archaeology—proving jet isn't just a mourning stone, it's a portal to the past.

Whether teaching gemologists to "see in the dark" or rethinking ancient gem classification, Sarah aims to bring clarity to gemology's most misunderstood materials.

SESSION 3

Green grossular garnets  
from Kenya and Tanzania

Grossular garnets are calcium–aluminum members of the garnet group and occur in a wide range of colors, with green varieties—commonly known as tsavorites—being the most highly valued. These gems are primarily sourced from the Mount Kilimanjaro region spanning Kenya and Tanzania, where their green color is caused by trace elements such as vanadium and chromium. Contrary to common assumptions, color saturation does not reliably indicate geographic origin. Some of the finest tsavorites, including the famous “Lion of Merelani,” now in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, were mined in Tanzania, while very pale grossulars are also found in Kenya.

Many grossular garnets exhibit orange to pink fluorescence under ultraviolet light, attributed to trace elements such as manganese, vanadium, chromium, or neodymium. This study examines grossulars from known localities using fluorescence, UV-Vis, and trace-element data to evaluate origin determination and assess the capabilities and limitations of both advanced and portable analytical instruments.



[csggemstones.com](http://csggemstones.com)



Presenter



Dr. Clemens  
Schwarzingger

Dr. Clemens Schwarzingger is associate Professor for chemistry at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. In 2016 he founded the Center for Scientific Gemmology at the University Linz and is scientific advisor of the Viennese Diamond Bourse. He is owner of a small company which is dedicated to precision gemstone cutting and developing novel cutting designs. In 2017 he won the US Faceters Guild Single Stone competition in the Master category, in 2018 and 2019 he was certified as Grand Master. In 2021 he was winner of the Gem-A Photo Competition and in 2024 he received the Gemological Research Grant from the AGA.

His academic research interests (in terms of gemology) focus on the identification of gem treatments and mineral chemistry, particularly on the use of trace elements in combination with statistical tools for origin determination of garnets and the coloration of zoisites/tanzanites as well as the use of advanced spectroscopy techniques. He has authored more than 90 scientific papers, is co-host of the educational online program "GemQuest" and gave hundreds of oral and poster presentations. His passion for gems arose from being a lifelong collector of minerals with an emphasis on gem species.



SESSION 4

Play-Along Polariscope

This year AGA and Kerry Gregory are trying something challenging. We're all going to practice our polariscope skills together! Every attendee will have a homemade polariscope, light source, Taylor-Gregory conoscope and the same set of stones to work with. Starting from basic reactions, and moving through interference figures and other ways your polariscope can improve your gemology practice, we'll see it together, in real time, with real reactions. Think of it a bit like a sing-along movie, but with gemology.

Maybe you've never seen "tabby extinction" before. Perhaps you haven't ever hit the "bull's eye". Possibly biaxial figures have always eluded you. Not after this session. Kerry and her team are spending hours, days, weeks, curating the stones so they show the reactions you need to see, efficiently, and easily (well as easily as is possible), so you can learn immediately. This isn't just a bit of fun, although it will be fun, Kerry will also explain how you apply this, how you put it into your gemology practice, so in your work you can be more efficient, more accurate, and hopefully at least one person will stop using their polariscope as a doorstop!

GEMMOLOGY  
ROCKS



Presenter



Kerry Gregory

Kerry has a one track life\*. She's a gemologist. It's her job, her passion, and her hobby. She doesn't do much else! (\*full disclosure she does also enjoy good wine, great food, close friends and pub quizzes.)

She spends her time exploring gemology, playing with it, questioning it. She even spends most of her "holiday time" travelling with other like minded friends, often wearing a tiara, whilst seeking out gems and jewelry and licking rocks (she's been told to stop the rock licking but does it anyway). Always striving to find ways to improve her practice. Along with discovering new ways to help others learn more, in fun accessible and engaging ways.

Kerry is known for her fast paced and funny presentations, and practical hands-on workshops that get right to the point of what you need to learn. She has delivered presentations and workshops, to critical acclaim, to many organizations and associations including; The National Association of Jewellers (UK), The National Association of Jewelry Appraisers, The American Gem Trade Association and Gemworld International. She has had numerous articles on practical gemology published in both UK and US publications.

A past long term tutor and head of ATC for Gem-A, she served on the board of Gem-A, and ran one of the UK Branches. Currently on the Board of Trustees for the Silversmiths and Jewellers Charity (UK), and a key contributor to the National Association of Jewellers (UK) Professional Trade Standards Committee, particularly focusing on Gemstones, Diamonds and Hallmarking practices. Kerry is also a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths and the City of London, and the most recent appointee to the British Hallmarking Council committee.



SESSION 5

Behind the Scenes of Publishing  
The Journal of Gemmology

What does it take to publish a peer-reviewed scientific publication on gemmology? This brief presentation will describe how articles are submitted and undergo the rigorous review and editing process for The Journal of Gemmology.

As a journal of applied scientific gemmology, The Journal is one of only a few so-called primary sources of literature that are published in our field, in English.

Attendees will learn about the challenges of editing The Journal for a broad international audience—with content supplied by a wide range of authors—while always keeping the end user (our gemmologist readers) in mind.



**Gem-A**  
The Gemmological  
Association of  
Great Britain

Presenter



Brendan M. Laurs

Brendan M. Laurs (MS, FGA, GG) is editor-in-chief of The Journal of Gemmology, published by Gem-A in London. He is based in the San Diego, California area, and is a gemologist and geologist specializing in the formation of colored gemstone deposits. Brendan developed an early interest in geology while exploring the gem-bearing pegmatites of San Diego County.

He obtained a BS degree in geology at UC Santa Barbara and an MS degree in geology from Oregon State University. His MS thesis and post-graduate studies were focused on pegmatite-related gem deposits (emerald and tourmaline) in northern Pakistan.

Brendan briefly worked as an exploration geologist for colored gemstones (benitoite and red beryl) with Kennecott Exploration Co., and then was employed at GIA as an editor of Gems & Gemology from 1997 to 2012. Since 2013 he has edited The Journal of Gemmology, and for the past several years he has assisted with planning the annual Gem-A Conference in London. He has studied and reported on colored stone deposits worldwide, including various localities in Africa/Madagascar, Brazil, Asia, and the USA.

2025 RECIPIENT  
AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY



## SESSION 6

### Behind the Scenes of the Gemological Laboratory: Practical (and Impractical) Gemology in the Modern World

For practicing gemologists, a strong education from a reputable institution combined with years of hands-on work at the microscope or refractometer remains essential. With relatively simple tools, a skilled gemologist can learn a great deal about a gemstone and avoid costly mistakes. However, advances in treatment technologies and the creation of new synthetics have made it increasingly difficult for independent gemologists to work entirely on their own.

Processes such as beryllium diffusion, low-temperature heat treatment of ruby and sapphire, and geographic origin determination require advanced analytical instrumentation that is only available in modern gemological laboratories. This presentation outlines the current landscape of laboratory gemological testing and offers a behind-the-scenes look at procedures used at GIA. It also provides helpful context for understanding GIA Identification Reports and how laboratory conclusions are reached.



GIA®

## Presenter



Dr. Aaron Palke

Dr. Aaron Palke developed an interest in minerals and gemstones searching for agates and other minerals in eastern Montana. He was particularly struck by the geographic distribution of mineral and gem deposits and geological features, for instance, why were there mountains and an abundance of mineral deposits in Montana but not in his home state of Oklahoma?

These questions led Dr. Palke to pursue a formal education in geology, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree from The University of Tulsa and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Dr. Palke began his gemological career as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Gemological Institute of America where he is now the Senior Manager of Colored Stone Research.

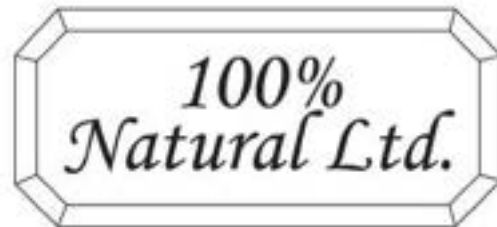
In this role, Dr. Palke leads GIA's research efforts into geographic origin determination for rubies, sapphires, emeralds and other colored stones as well as improving criteria for identification of treatments for colored stones. Dr. Palke is a regular contributor to *Gems & Gemology*, serves on the journal's editorial review board, and has acted as a Guest Editor for two special issues of the journal so far.

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Generous financial support from these organizations helps us deliver the superior level of education and participant experience attendees have come to expect from AGA Conferences.

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# AGA Membership

AGA members improve gemological skills and earn recognition through active participation in educational programs and industry forums while gaining the personal satisfaction of contributing to the profession.

AGA membership includes some of the world's leading gemologists. Membership options are available for all experience levels from students to professional gemologists.



**AGA GLOBAL NETWORK**

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Member Designations

Member Community

Certified Gem Lab

Member-Only Education Events

Member Profile on website

Member Savings

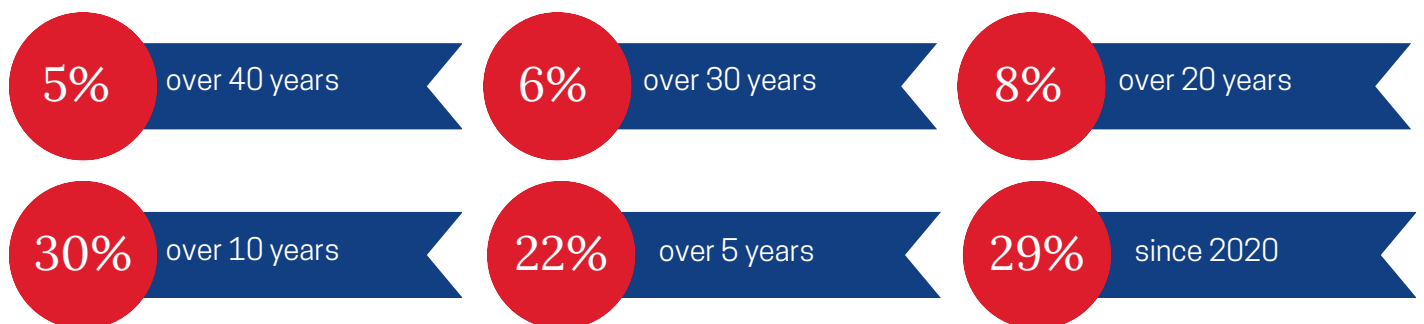
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## MEMBERSHIP LOYALTY

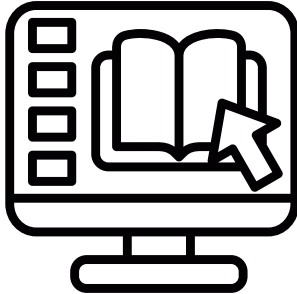
The value of AGA membership and affiliation is recognized by our members worldwide, as seen by the membership's years of loyalty.



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

Join AGA for virtual events\* or benefit from their recordings

## AGA VIRTUAL LIBRARY



AGA hosted webinars, career forums, and celebrity gemologist interviews are recorded and can be viewed via the AGA Virtual Library. Access is open to all.

WATCH ON DEMAND AND FIND US ON YOUTUBE:

[BIT.LY/AGAHOSTEDWEBINARS](https://bit.ly/AGAHOSTEDWEBINARS)

[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@AGAGEMOLOGY](https://www.youtube.com/@AGAGEMOLOGY)

### AGA HOSTED WEBINARS

Delivered live exclusively to AGA members\*, recorded webinars feature gem and jewelry researchers, experts, and historians.



### AGA CAREER FORUMS

Live and interactive, forums host industry experts in the world of gemology. Panelists share their career insights and professional journeys with the attendees.



### AGA CELEBRITY GEMOLOGIST INTERVIEWS

This professional development series features live interviews with industry leaders and legends.



\*Select events offer live participation for AGA members only

# AGA Scholarship & Research Grant

AGA is dedicated to promoting and supporting gemological education and research

## 2025 AGA GEMOLOGICAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

### MORGAN KEEFE

Morgan Keefe has been selected as the recipient of the 2025 AGA Gemological Education Scholarship. The scholarship will support her completion of the GIA Graduate Gemologist program, further strengthening her ability to combine gemological knowledge with her background in marketing. Currently Treasurer of GIA's Alumni Collective Georgia Chapter, she brings a strong foundation in marketing and graphic design and is committed to helping jewelry brands grow through strategic branding and consumer education.



### AGA GEMOLOGICAL RESEARCH GRANT

Are you developing a scientific gemological research project? AGA may be able to help! In keeping with our mission to encourage and support gemological education and research, the AGA Gemological Research Grant provides funding of up to \$10,000 for approved gemological research as authorized by the AGA Board of Governors.

[agatoday.org/research-grant](http://agatoday.org/research-grant)

### 2027 RESEARCH GRANT

June 15, 2027 - Application deadline  
August 1 - Recipient notified

### AGA GEMOLOGICAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

AGA awards educational scholarships in the field of gemology to need and merit-based recipients around the globe. If you are pursuing a career in gemology and need assistance with your education then we encourage you to apply.

[agatoday.org/scholarship](http://agatoday.org/scholarship)

### 2026 AGA SCHOLARSHIP

April 15 - Application deadline  
June 1 - Recipient notified

Questions about the scholarship or grant? Please visit us here in Tucson, at the AGA booth (#27) located at the AGTA Gem Fair Galleria level or email AGA at [info@agatoday.org](mailto:info@agatoday.org)

# AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY



RESEARCH ♦ KNOWLEDGE ♦ EDUCATION ♦ INTEGRITY

## Award Recipients 2000 - 2025



Brendan M. Laurs  
Dr. Michael S. Krzemnicki  
Dr. Jeffrey Post  
Gary Roskin  
Robert Weldon  
Donna Hawrelko



Karl Schmetzer  
Mikko Åström  
Alberto Scarani  
Dr. William Hanneman  
Al Gilbertson  
Dr. Çiğdem Lüle



Dr. Thomas Hainschwang  
Dr. John Emmett  
Dr. Emmanuel Fritsch  
Thom Underwood  
Stuart Robertson  
Richard W. Hughes



Christopher P. Smith  
Dr. James Shigley  
Shane McClure  
Richard Drucker  
Alan Jobbins  
Antoinette Matlins



Dr. Henry A. Hänni  
G. Robert Crowningshield  
John I. Koivula  
C.R. Beesley  
Alan Hodgkinson



Learn more about past  
award recipients by  
scanning the QR code

Bonanno award recipients are recognized during  
the AGA Gala Awards Ceremony and Dinner  
following the AGA Conference in Tucson, AZ.



## AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GEMOLOGY

RESEARCH ♦ KNOWLEDGE ♦ EDUCATION ♦ INTEGRITY

### AGA Honors Brendan M. Laurs with 2025 AGA Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology

The Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) is proud to announce that Brendan M. Laurs, Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Gemmology, has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the Antonio C. Bonanno Award for Excellence in Gemology. Voted by AGA members, this prestigious award honors Laurs' outstanding contributions and lifelong dedication to advancing gemology.

A highly respected gemologist and geologist, Laurs (MS, FGA, GG) is based in the San Diego area and is internationally recognized for his expertise in the formation of colored gemstone deposits. His passion for geology began early, sparked by his exploration of gem-bearing pegmatites in San Diego County. He earned a B.S. in Geology from UC Santa Barbara and an M.S. in Geology from Oregon State University, where his graduate work focused on pegmatite-related gem deposits—including emeralds and tourmalines—in northern Pakistan.

Throughout his career, Laurs has conducted extensive research on colored stone deposits across the globe, including key localities in Africa, Madagascar, Brazil, Asia, and the United States. He also briefly served as an exploration geologist for Kennecott Exploration Co., working with rare gemstones such as benitoite and red beryl.

From 1997 to 2012, Laurs served as Editor of Gems & Gemology at the Gemological Institute of America (GIA). Since 2013, he has led The Journal of Gemmology as Editor-in-Chief and played a pivotal role in organizing the annual Gem-A Conference in London.

Laurs will be a featured presenter at the AGA Gemological Conference in Tucson, Arizona, on February 4, 2026. Later that evening, he will be formally honored at the AGA Gala Dinner-Dance, where he will receive a personalized award plaque and an honorarium funded by the AGA membership.



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## AGA HONORS ANTOINETTE BONANNO-MATLINS



Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Antoinette Bonanno-Matlins, PG, is an author, educator, and consumer advocate whose work has profoundly shaped public understanding of gems and jewelry. Best known for her influential books and media appearances, Matlins entered gemology to combat widespread misinformation and has since become a trusted voice for transparency, disclosure, and ethics in the trade. A former Gemology Editor for National Jeweler and a leader in AGA’s efforts against gemstone investment fraud, she has educated millions through television, lectures, and publications. Her innovative, accessible teaching approach has empowered thousands worldwide—from trade professionals to miners in remote regions—to better understand gems, reduce risk, and pursue gemological excellence.

## ABOUT THE AWARD

AGA Lifetime Achievement Awards are bestowed on individuals whose dedication to the gemological field is unparalleled. These individuals, who often work behind the scenes, have left their indelible mark on the gemological community nonetheless.

## PAST RECIPIENTS



Robert Crowningshield  
1991



Cap Beesley  
1991

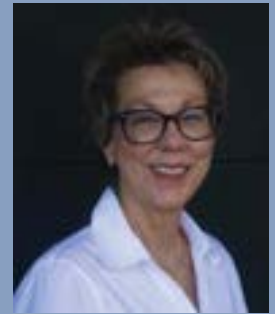


Alice Keller  
2013



Dona Dirlam  
2015

## 2026 - 2029 BOARD OF GOVERNORS



*Top Row: Officers President Dr. Çiğdem Lüle, Vice President Donna Hawrelko, Secretary Gary Roskin, Treasurer Adam Ostrow, Immediate Past President Teri Brossmer*

*Bottom Row: Governors Stuart Robertson, Heidi Harders, Alberto Scarani, Martin Fuller, Susan Eisen, Claire Scragg*

The Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) is pleased to announce the new executive leadership team which includes Dr. Çiğdem Lüle as President, Donna Hawrelko as Vice President, Gary Roskin as Secretary, and Adam Ostrow as Treasurer.

Eight current board members have been re-elected to continue their service for the 2026–2029 term on AGA’s all-volunteer Board. Returning members include Stuart Robertson, Heidi Harders, Martin Fuller, Alberto Scarani, and Immediate Past President Teri Brossmer.

In addition, two highly respected gemologists, Claire Scragg and Susan Eisen, were newly elected to the Board of Governors, bringing deep expertise and a shared commitment to advancing gemology that will further strengthen AGA’s leadership.

## JOIN US ON SOCIAL

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# LOOKING AHEAD...

ACCREDITED GEMOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION

## 2026 AGA EVENTS

MARCH	AGA ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING
APRIL	AGA VIRTUAL CAREER FORUM
MAY	AGA HOSTED WEBINAR
JUNE	AGA VIRTUAL DIAMOND CONFERENCE
AUGUST	AGA CELEBRITY GEMOLOGIST INTERVIEW
NOVEMBER	AGA HOSTED WEBINAR



### FEBRUARY 2027

AGA TUCSON GEMOLOGICAL CONFERENCE & GALA \*  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2027  
TUCSON, AZ

*\*2026 AGA ANTONIO C. BONANNO AWARD RECOGNITION*

# AT THE INTERSECTION OF GEMOLOGY AND EDUCATION



ACCREDITED  
GEMOLOGISTS  
ASSOCIATION  
Est. 1974

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AGA is an independent, international, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting excellence in gemology and upholding the highest ethical and professional standards in:

- Gemological education
- Scientific gemological research
- Identification & quality determination of gem materials and jewelry

Established in 1974, the Accredited Gemologists Association (AGA) was envisioned as a network for sharing gemological information and skills. Today's Accredited Gemologists Association proudly counts some of the world's leading gemologists among our members.

Governed by standards, the association and our members abide by AGA Code of Ethics, Bylaws, and Constitution



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