

January 31, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JA ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 16TH ANNUAL AFFILIATE DESIGN COMPETITION

Jewelers From PA, WI, SC, AR Win Awards

New York, NY — Jewelers of America (JA) congratulates the winners of its 16th Annual JA Affiliate Design Competition, held during the recent JA New York Show, January 22-24, 2006. The contest entries were displayed and judged at JA's booth on the show floor at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City.

Designers from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, South Carolina and Arkansas each won an award. The contest featured 29 entries that won design competitions hosted by JA's state and regional affiliate organizations during 2005. JA members or employees of JA member stores created all of the jewelry in the competition.

The entries were divided into three competition categories, according to the cost of materials used. A panel of industry experts selected by JA served as judges for these three categories. Each contest entry was evaluated on craftsmanship, marketability, practicality/wearability and overall design. A separate balloting of attendees at the JA New York Show was conducted to determine the recipient of the Buyers' Choice Award. The winners of the 16th annual JA Affiliate Design Competition receive an engraved trophy and a framed certificate.

- First place winner in Category I (\$1,000 and Under) is Joseph Bonasso III, from JAB Jewelry Inc., McMurray, PA, representing the Pennsylvania Jewelers Association. The winning ring was in 18-karat two-tone gold with rubellite, yellow sapphire, and pavé-set diamond meulé.

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- First place winner for Category II (\$1,001 to \$3,000) is Thomas Dailing, from Lee Ayers Jewelers, Stevens Point, WI, representing the Wisconsin Jewelers Association with a pendant in 18-karat yellow & white gold with tourmaline and round baguette diamonds.
- First place winner for Category III (\$3,001 and Over) is Steece Hermanson & David Chandler, Galloway & Moseley Jewelers, Sumter, SC, representing the South Carolina Jewelers Association with a platinum and 22-karat gold ring with fancy yellow diamonds and a white diamond center.
- First Place winner for the Buyers' Choice Award is Faye Rodgers, Faye's Diamond Mine, Clinton, AR, representing the Arkansas Jewelers Association for a necklace in 14-karat white gold with diamonds in micropavé geometric design.

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.

JA members seeking to enter their affiliate's state or regional contest should contact their JA affiliate for competition dates and details. Contact information for JA's state and regional affiliates is available on JA's website, www.jewelers.org.

Jewelers interested in joining Jewelers of America should contact JA's membership department at 800-223-0673.

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Jewelers of America, Inc. is the national trade association for retail jewelers. With more than 11,000 members nationally, JA also works locally through its 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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JA would like to thank those who donated their time and expertise to serve as judges:

Arthur Skuratowicz, Jewelry Appraisals and Consultants
Paul Cohen, Jewelers Education Foundation
Beth Braverman, National Jeweler Magazine
Carrie Soucy, JCK Magazine
Victoria Gomelsky, Couture International Jeweler
Colleen Mathis, Jewelry Information Center
Keyra Williams, Jewelers for Children
Richard Youmans, Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America
Peggy Jo Donahue, Professional Jeweler Magazine
Mark Mann, Bench Jeweler

JA also would like to recognize all of the participants in this year competition:

Jonathan Smiddy, Regan Jewelers, Garden City, KS
Trevia L. Roberts, Diamonds & Designs by None Other Goldsmiths, Gahanna, OH
Jack E. Davis, Davis Jewelers, Monticello, MS
Nancy Schuring, Devon Fine Jewelry, Wyckoff, NJ
Kevin Wood, Ringer Inc., Salt Lake City, UT
Kevin J. Cramer, Legacy Design, Minnetonka, MN
Joseph Bonasso III, JAB Jewelry, McMurray, PA
David A. Welch, Bill Brundage Jewelers, Louisville, KY
Elichai Fowler, The Gem Gallery, Bozeman, MT
Andre Van Bergeijk, Reis-Nichols Jewelers, Indianapolis, IN
Bill Selig, Stefano Simone and Slava Tulupov, Bill Selig Jewelers, Simsbury, CT
John Pinkerton, B.C. Clark Jewelers, Oklahoma City, OK
Thomas Dailing, Lee Ayers Jewelers, Stevens Point, WI
Solon Holt, Cox's Gifts & Jewelry, Lebanon, TN
Gary Kamin, R.C. Wahl Jewelers, Des Plaines, IL
Renato Ronquillo, Ronquillo's Jewelers, Baytown, TX
Gary K. Mukai, Precision Goldsmiths, Wailuku, HI
Thomas T. Wright, Wright's Jewelers Inc., Lincoln, NE
Thomas J. Buonomo, Jonathan's Jewelers, Bedford, NH
Charlie Kingrea, C.K. Jewelers, Palmyra, VA
Faye Rodgers, Faye's Diamond Mine, Clinton, AR
Randall Hurt, AVA Goldworks, Hannibal, MO
Paul E. Derrickson, Federico's Design Jewelers, Traverse City, MI
Lorin Jones, Treasures Custom Jewelers, Glendale, AZ
Ray DuBose, R.S. Mann, Jr., Jeweler, Inc., Newnan, GA
Karen Hauser, Gold in Art Inc., Mount Dora, FL
Charles E. Kuba, Iowa Diamond, Des Plaines, IA
Marcus R. Gillihan, Shelton Jewelers, Albuquerque, NM
Steece Hermanson & David Chandler, Galloway & Moseley Jewelers, Sumter, SC



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2006 JA Affiliate Design Competition First Place, Category I (\$1,000 and Under)



Ring in 18-karat two-tone gold with rubelite, yellow sapphire and pave-set diamond meelé;

Joseph Bonasso III, JAB Jewelry Inc, McMurray, PA

Photo by Ken Ferdman.

*(To receive a hi-res image of the above photograph, please contact
Natalia Priale at Jewelers of America at 800-223-0673 or npriale@jewelers.org.)*



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2006 JA Affiliate Design Competition First Place, Category II (\$1,001 to \$3,000)



Pendant in 18-karat yellow & white gold with tourmaline and round baguette diamonds;

Thomas C. Dailing, Lee Ayers Jewelers, Stevens Point, WI

Photo by Ken Ferdman.

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**2006 JA Affiliate Design Competition
First Place, Category III (\$3,001 and Over)**



Platinum & 22k gold ring with yellow diamonds and a white diamond center;
Steece Hermanson, Galloway & Moseley Jewelers, Sumter, SC

Photo by Ken Ferdman.

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**2006 JA Affiliate Design Competition
First Place, Buyers' Choice Award**



Necklace in 14-karat white gold with diamonds in micropavé geometric design;
Faye Rodgers, Faye's Diamond Mine, Clinton, AR

Photo by Ken Ferdman.

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