

WOMEN'S JEWELRY ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SIX RECIPIENTS OF ITS 1992 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Women's Jewelry Association presented its 9th Annual Awards of Excellence to six recipients chosen for outstanding achievement in their respective areas of the fine jewelry and watch industry. The winners were honored at the annual WJA Awards Dinner, held on February 2 at the Harmonie Club in New York City.

CHRIS CORREIA, president of The Chris Correia Collection in New York City, was presented with the Excellence in Design Award. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design, which was followed by an extensive three-year study and work program in London and Germany.

Correia, as both designer and president, has been involved in all facets of her firm for the past eight years. She takes an equally active role in industry-related programs, serving on the Trade Show Committee of the Jewelers of America since 1986 and on the WJA Membership Committee.

PATRICE GILLESPIE, a fourteen-year veteran of the jewelry industry, was honored with the Award of Excellence in Editorial, Reporting and Publishing. For the past three years she has been the New York representative for *JQ Magazine*. Patrice was responsible for DeBeers' trade publicity and managed national diamond jewelry collections for the Diamond Information Center from 1984 to 1988. Prior to that she was special projects manager and public relations director for Reed & Barton Silversmiths from 1977 to 1984. She is the chairperson

of the WJA Membership Committee.

DONNA CHAMBERS, owner of Donna Chambers Design, Inc. of White Plains, New York, was honored with the Excellence in Manufacturing Award for her fifteen-year tenure in the industry. She began working in jewelry repair before moving into jewelry design. A recipient of the International Pearl Design Contest Award, she has the distinction of being one of the only two African-American women exhibitors at the Jewelers of America Show. At the helm now of her own manufacturing firm, Chambers' most recent venture was the opening of a gift gallery, "That Old Black Magic,"

American Gem Trade Association with responsibilities for jewelry and gemstone promotions. Willett has published books and videos on gemstones, and is involved with the AGTA Tucson Gem Fair, including the Spectrum Awards and Cutting Edge design competitions. A WJA member for the last four years, she has served as First Vice President for the Southwest Chapter of WJA.

JANICE M. ROVITO, Vice President/General Merchandising Manager of Finlay Fine Jewelers in New York City, brings sixteen years in the industry to her credit to earn the Award for Excellence in Retailing. She began her

career at Finlay in 1976 as a sales associate, was promoted to Fine Jewelry Buyer and in 1988 became Vice President of Merchandising. In her present capacity, Rovito is responsible for 45 department stores with 700 units. She is the active WJA recording secretary.

TONI LYN JUDD, owner of Toni Lyn & Company, Newton, Massachusetts, was honored for Excellence in Sales. Over the years, Judd has worked as a pioneer sales force for many new companies covering New England. A



Recipients of 1992 Women's Jewelry Association 9th Annual Awards of Excellence are: Seated: (left to right) Janice M. Rovito, V.P./General Merchandise Manager, Finlay Fine Jewelers, New York City, Excellence in Retailing Award; Toni Lyn Judd, owner, Toni Lyn & Company, Newton, MA, Excellence in Sales; Donna Chambers, owner, Donna Chambers Designs, Inc., White Plains, New York, Excellence in Manufacturing; Patrice Gillespie, *JQ Magazine*, Excellence in Publishing. Standing: (left to right) Peggy R. Willett, Executive Director, American Gem Trade Association, Dallas, Texas, Excellence in Promotion and Marketing; Tina Segal, President of WJA and owner/designer of H. Steppenjay, Inc.; Chris Correia, president, The Chris Correia Collection, New York City, Excellence in Design.

where she displays the work of over 50 American artists and designers.

PEGGY R. WILLETT, Executive Director of the American Gem Trade Association in Dallas, Texas, was presented with the Award for Excellence in Promotion, Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations. For the past five years, she has been associated with the

creator and founder/president of the NEWJA and a founding member of the National WJA in 1983, Toni has been in sales and marketing as an independent sales representative for such companies as Amio, Inc., John A. Forrest, Ltd., Goltech by David Zale, Tom Kurskal Designs and Joan Michlin Designs. JQ