

NAJA's 63rd Annual Winter ACE®It Education Conference

Tucson, AZ

February 1 & 2, 2025

Make your hotel and car rental reservations NOW to attend the National Association of Jewelry Appraisers returns to Tucson for its 63rd ACE®It Conference—on February 1 – 2, 2025.

- Optional Hands-On Opal Workshop on Friday
- The Annual Lois Berger Pearl Walk
- Color Vision Testing

For gem and jewelry appraisers there is no place like the NAJA in Tucson! It is the one venue that really offers the entire package. The week starts with practical, appraisal presentations and professional relationship building opportunities and then continues with more chances to examine gems and experience the market at the shows.

Opal Workshop

January 31 10 AM to 2 PM & 2 PM to 5 PM The Opal Workshop – A Playful Array of Color led by Travis Lejman, FGA. Each session is limited to 20 attendees.

Special Event

February 6, 11 AM to 12:30 PM, The Annual Lois Berger Pearl Walk - visiting pearl dealers led by Duncan Parker, FGA. Members only and it is free! Limited to 15 attendees.

What to Bring

Comfortable western casual. Bring your loupe, penlight & tweezers. Your 2025 NAJA membership card for registration at local shows (i.e., AGTA).

Program is subject to change!

Location

Tucson Convention Center
Exhibit Room - Greenlee Room
Conference Room - Maricopa Room
260 South Church Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85701-1614

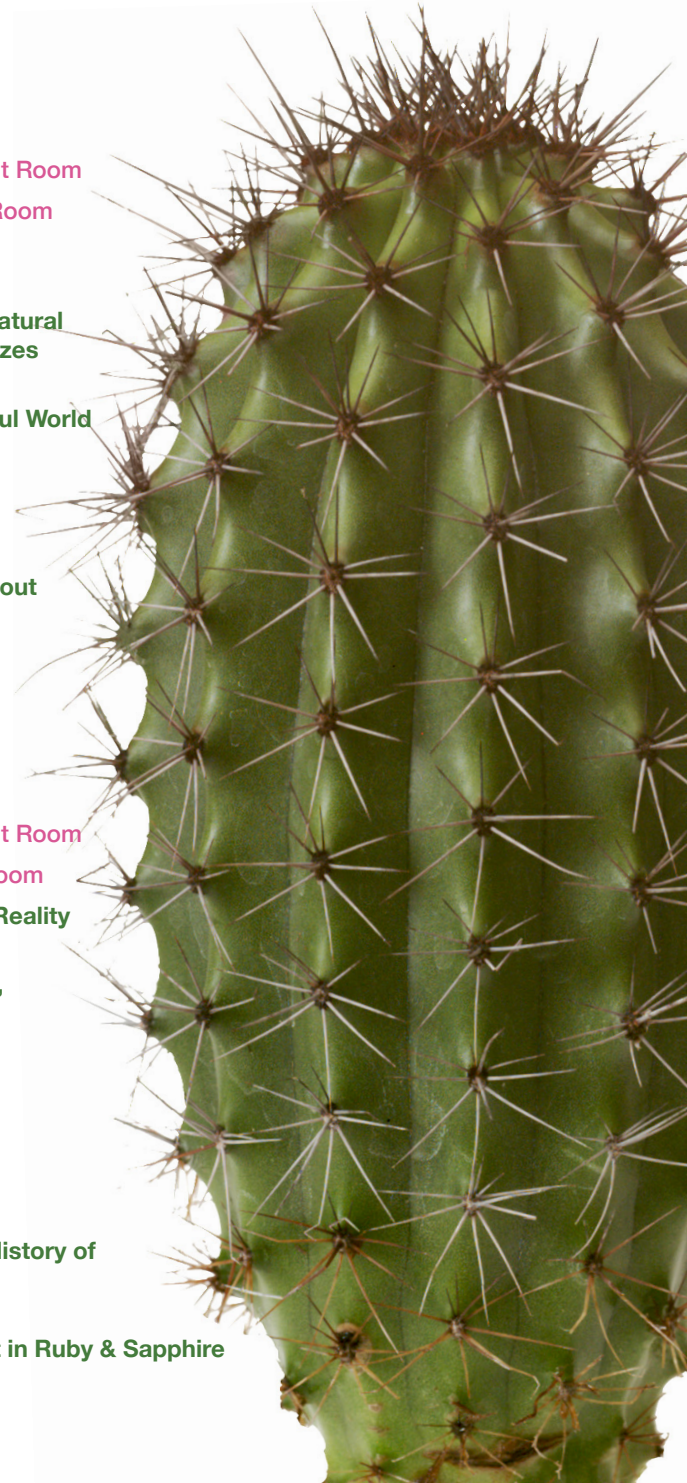
Schedule

February 1 - Saturday

- 7:30 AM **Registration, Coffee Service** Greenlee Exhibit Room
- 8:00 AM **Welcome and Conference Notes** Maricopa Room
- 8:30 AM **Edwardian or Belle Époque Jewels**
Duncan Parker, FGA
- 9:30 AM **The Challenges in Gemological Testing of Natural and Synthetic Diamonds in all Colors and Sizes**
Thomas Hainschwang, PhD, DUG
- 11:00 AM **Gems with a Star: A Fascinating and Colorful World**
Martin Steinbach, FGG
- 1:30 PM **Photomicrography: A Micro World within Gemstones**
Samantha Maclachlan, FGA
- 3 PM **There's Always Something New to Learn About Turquoise!**
Helen & Richard Shull. GIA GG
- 4:00 PM **Period Jewels vs Style Jewels**
Celine Rose David, PhD, GIA GG

February 2 - Sunday

- 7:30 AM **Registration, Coffee Service** Greenlee Exhibit Room
- 8:00 AM **Conference Notes and Updates** Maricopa Room
- 8:30 AM **Jewelry Industry Insights – Perception and Reality**
Harold Dupuy, FGA
- 9:30 AM **In Search of Mayan Jade ~ Green, Lavender, Blue & Black, Exploring Historic and Contemporary Artworks**
Helen Serras - Herman, GIA GG
- 11:00 AM **Gimme Your Issues: Watches Edition**
Reginald Brack & Marisa Palmer, GIA GG
- 1:30 PM **Helpful Books for Your Professional Library**
Jo Ellen Cole, GIA GG
- 3:00 PM **Broken Bangle – The Blunder-Besmirched History of Jade Nomenclature**
Richard Hughes, FGA
- 4:00 PM **Trick or Treatment -Detecting Enhancement in Ruby & Sapphire**
Billie Hughes, FGA



Opal Workshop: A Playful Array of Colors

Travis Lejman, FGA

This workshop is based on Dr. Paul B. Downing's system of grading and identifying opals. We will begin in a lecture portion to get a base line down on opals. Review of types, formation, localities, treatments, and properties and on what to look for in grading and valuation. The quality of diverse types of opal and pricing would be covered. We will review items discussed in Dr. Downing's Opal Identification and Value. The hands-on section will look at 124 opal samples from around the world and of varying qualities.

Edwardian or Belle Époque Jewels

Duncan Parker, FGA

Edwardian / Belle Époque jewels (1901-1914) The period at the beginning of the 20th Century brought a huge change in styles, design, and materials. Light and open forms became the standard in Western jewellery. Women were beginning to cut free from the strictures of male society, demanding the vote, and choosing personal styles that appealed to themselves. This presentation will look at the origins of the new style and explore where it was going as it eventually led to the Art Deco period. How are these jewels appraised, and what elements may affect value the most.

The Challenges in Gemological Testing of Natural and Synthetic Diamonds in all Colors and Sizes

Thomas Hainswang, PhD, DUG

After mainly dealing with natural diamonds, colored HPHT synthetic diamonds and diamonds treated by irradiation and combinations of irradiation and annealing plus more rarely color coated diamonds from the early 1900s until the late 1990s, the past 25 years made have things far more complicated in the diamond market: The successful HPHT treatment of diamonds, the combination of HPHT, irradiation and annealing treatments, the annealing to create black diamonds and last but not least the highly improved and significantly cheaper production of colored but particularly colorless synthetic diamonds – by both the HPHT and the CVD process – have added many layers of complexity to the business of diamond testing.

Gems with a Star: A Fascinating and Colorful World

Martin Steinbach, FGG

An invitation to a journey into the mesmerizing world of asteriated gems. Besides technical aspects, their history, treatments, etc., are presented as well as famous stars. However, the “corazon” of the presentation are the 50+ independent star gems. To conclude, the magnificence of fine jewelry set with star rubies and star sapphires is displayed.

Photomicrography: A Micro World within Gemstones

Sammantha Maclachlan, FGA

A presentation which will take you further into the microscopic world within gemstones. Sammantha will discuss the setup for photomicrography, what we can learn during this discovery of our gemstones and how this can be used in our appraisals.

There's Always Something New to Learn about Turquoise! Helen & Richard Schull, GIA GG

Turquoise value considerations - perspectives on turquoise valuation from 30-year veteran turquoise miners and gem cutters/dealers, Richard and Helen Shull. Observations from the mines to treatments and cutting techniques and current market trends. New scientific information and emerging technology that may impact how we evaluate this complex and fascinating gem. Origin studies and testing for treatments: tools that may help provide insight into pieces being evaluated. And new historical publications that are adding to people's understanding of the gem, its collectability and value.

Period Jewels vs Style Jewels: How to recognize a period jewel and a style jewel ? A travel through jewelry history Celine Rose David, PhD, GIA GG

It is sometimes very difficult to recognize a jewel from a certain period and a look-like jewel that has been made more recently. There are steps to follow, one by one, to be sure of the attribution. Look at the gems, how are they cut, how are they treated, how do they match ? The metal frame of the jewel can tell so much! There are also details that you can find in a 19th century jewel and not in the early 20th. Let's be curious together and share.

Jewelry Industry Insights – Perception and Reality

Harold Dupuy, FGA

This session offers a comprehensive exploration of today's jewelry industry, which is navigating through challenging economic and geopolitical conditions. It provides a macro view of the jewelry industry, covering market size, competitive influences, custom jewelry, margins, pricing trends, the diamond market (both natural and lab-grown), and a brief overview of the U.S. manufacturing market.

By attending, you will gain knowledge about the recent changes, new trends, and, most importantly, what the near-term future of the jewelry industry looks like. This session is a must-attend for those who want to understand the current state and what lies ahead for the jewelry industry.

In Search of Maylan Jade ~ Green, Lavender, Blue & Black, Exploring Historic and Contemporary Artworks

Helen Serras-Herman, GIA GG

In this presentation, we'll first travel back in history to the Maya world and marvel at their jade masterpieces. Then we'll explore all the current Guatemalan jade varieties – including the green and lavender jadeite, the “Olmec” blue, and the black “galactic gold” omphacite jade – how they are identified and distinguished, and their value, a critical topic for appraisers today as more pieces are reaching consumers and the market.

Gimme Your Issues: Watches Edition

Reginald Brack & Marisa Palmer, GIA GG

Ask us anything about watches. Really! Anything!

Helpful Books for Your Professional Library

Jo Ellen Cole, GIA GG

Use of printed books to enhance your knowledge and accuracy when researching for your appraisal business.

Broken Bangle – The Blunder-Besmirched History of Jade Nomenclature Richard Hughes, FGA

This lecture will trace the fascinating and at times bizarre nomenclature history of jade and jade-like gem materials from early times to the present. Because of historical mistakes, the Chinese gemological community is today replacing jadeite with fei cui (pronounced “fay choy”, the traditional Chinese term for pyroxene jade). Richard Hughes will also introduce the audience to the magnificence of China's modern jade and stone carving culture, of which most of the outside world is completely unaware.

Trick or Treatment – Detecting Enhancement in Ruby & Sapphire Billie Hughes, FGA

The treatment of ruby and sapphire is one of the biggest factors that influences its value in the market, yet some treatments are routinely overlooked. This presentation will discuss the methods Lotus Gemology uses to identify different types of heat treatment as well as the fissure filling that is so common today. We will also cover some challenging cases where evidence can be misleading.



Registration

Name & Designation: _____

Company Name: _____

Address: City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

	Before January 15, 2025	After January 15, 2025	
Member	\$425	\$525	_____
Non-Member	\$650	\$750	_____
Color Vision Test	\$ 50	February 2nd, Sunday only	_____
Opal Workshop	\$ 50	Friday, January 31st only 10 AM to 1 PM 2 PM to 5 PM	_____ _____
		Total	_____

Payment Options:

1. Make your check payable to NAJA Check # _____ \$ _____

2. PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/us/for-you/transfer-money/send-money> (office@najaappraisers.com)

3. Visa, MasterCard, Amex in the amount of _____

Credit Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____ CCV Code: _____

Zip code of credit card holder: _____

Signature: _____

The Annual Lois Berger Pearl Walk, Thursday, February 9th, 11: 00 AM for NAJA conference attendees ONLY!
No charge - please indicate if you wish to attend. Limited to 15 attendees on a first come-first serve basis.

I will attend

For more information or to register contact:

National Association of Jewelry Appraisers
Gail Brett Levine, GIA GG
Executive Director
P. O. Box 18, Rego Park, NY 11374
718.896.1536
office@NAJAApraisers.com

Cancellation Policy:

Your registration fee will be refunded 100% if your written or emailed cancellation is received by January 15, 2025. Cancellations after January 15, 2025, there will be a service charge of \$150.

