



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY CIRCLE OF DISTINCTION DINNER
HONORS JEWELRY INDUSTRY LEADERS**

Las Vegas, NV (July 26, 2017) – A proud tradition in the American Gem Society (AGS) took place last night as the Society once again honored the outstanding accomplishments of the jewelry industry's best and brightest at the Society's 17th Circle of Distinction Dinner. The prestigious event was held at New York City's historic Plaza Hotel, and celebrated the work of three well-known and highly-respected industry professionals. Dr. James Shigley, a Distinguished Fellow with the Gemological Institute of America, received the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award, and both Myriam Gumuchian, Vice President and Director of Gumuchian, and Peter Engel, President of Fred Meyer Jewelers, received the AGS Triple Zero® Award.

In their acceptance speeches, the honorees told personal stories about their careers and inspiration, and expressed their appreciation.

"I would like to thank the AGS for selecting me for this lifetime achievement award," said Dr. Shigley. "I have had the privilege of working for GIA for the past 35 years as part of our research team, where we have tried to address the gemological challenges that face the jewelry industry. We have shared the results of our research through published articles and educational presentations, including regular talks to AGS members."

"It's a distinct pleasure to receive this award and know that I've done my part to uphold the ethical standards in our business," said Peter Engel. "It's something I take very seriously and impart to every employee at Fred Meyer Jewelers."

"I have always known about the American Gem Society ever since I came into the business, my father's company was a member and I was always very proud of it," said Myriam Gumuchian. "To me, it was similar to the Good Housekeeping seal of approval. So naturally, when my sister and I joined my mother's jewelry design company we applied for membership and have been a member ever since."

The AGS Triple Zero® Award was aptly named after the highest grade in the AGS Diamond Grading Standards and is presented to members of the jewelry industry for their countless accomplishments and contributions.

The American Gem Society would like to thank their sponsors for their generous support in making the event both memorable and a success: JCK Events, Wells Fargo and Jewelers Mutual Insurance Company.

To learn more about American Gem Society, please visit www.americangemsociety.org.

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About the American Gem Society

The American Gem Society, founded in 1934 by Robert M. Shipley, is a nonprofit trade association dedicated to promoting a high standard of ethics, continuous education, and consumer protection within the jewelry industry. The American Gem Society is a professional organization awarding credentials for its members, who are held to the highest ethical and professional standards in the industry and must pass annual recertification examinations to maintain their titles. Less than one in twenty jewelers in the country have chosen to meet the exacting standards necessary for membership.

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