



# THE YOUNG TITLEHOLDERS AT CONCLAVE

*Enhance your career by hanging with the cool kids.*

Denise Chislett, CGA

The Young Titleholder (YT) mission is to encourage the growth and development of young, driven professionals while building connections and a voice among the next generation of American Gem Society leaders. There is no better place to connect than at the American Gem Society Conclave. YT Vice-President, Marc Nanasi, shared a great story with me about his first attempts at networking. He writes:

*My first Conclave was San Francisco 2011, and like most first time attendees I was in awe of all that was happening and even more impressed with the many accomplished veteran AGS members. I spent the first days taking mental notes mapping out to whom I thought I should introduce myself. One gentleman with a full head of white hair particularly stuck out because everyone seemed to know him and he was constantly surrounded by, and joking with, other 'impressive looking' people. It wasn't until the President's Party that I saw my chance to make an introduction. Doug Hucker was the fellow's name. I thought I must have really made an impression on him because he spent the entire evening with his arm around me introducing me to other AGS greats and giving me a lesson on the history of the jewelry industry in New Jersey (my home state). I felt like a million bucks! I had only been in the jewelry industry five days and I already had the president of the AGTA literally taking me under his wing! That feeling was quickly undone, however, when I approached Doug at breakfast the next morning and he asked "have we met?"*

*Since then, Doug has proven to be an amazing mentor and friend. One who remembers me. I think.*

This story also proves how much "fun" Conclave is after hours! Those early morning breakfasts can be hard, but they are well worth it. In all seriousness, it can be intimidating if you are a first-time attendee to do what Marc did and introduce himself to a legend in our industry. Believe me, we have all been the new kid at some point and have felt anxious or awkward about networking. I remember my first Conclave being pulled on the dance floor by Brandee Dallow of Rio Tinto and dancing all night long. Brandee and I have been great friends ever since and in fact I have made some of my BEST friends at Conclave. If you need someone to guide you through your first Conclave experience, join the Young Titleholder events and introduce yourself. Furthermore, if you're an experienced industry veteran, take a new attendee under your wing and introduce them to everyone you know. The Young Titleholders are offering several fun programs in Los Angeles that could benefit your career:

## **ROOMMATE MATCHING**

Hotel rooms can be costly, so we've created a roommate matching program on Facebook. This is a self-help process where you request a roommate and then decide for yourself if you will be a good match or if the other person will keep you up partying all night. Join our Facebook Group and click EVENTS for more information. [www.facebook.com/groups/YoungTitleholders/events](http://www.facebook.com/groups/YoungTitleholders/events)

## **YOUNG TITLEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE**

If this is your first Conclave or you would like to be more involved with the YTs, join us for our Young Titleholder Roundtable. We are always looking for new ideas and ways to improve, so your input means a lot. Everyone is welcome to attend!

## MENTOR PANEL

The Young Titleholders are excited to host a mentor panel where you can ask some great industry legends any question you want. Take this opportunity and learn from the absolute best! Joining our panel are Debbie Hiss, Diamond Consultant and ASET guru, Louis Smith, Smithworks Fine Jewelry and past President of the AGS, and Ruth Batson, AGS CEO and past Shipley award winner. That's one powerful panel!

## TRIVIA NIGHT

This event, sponsored by Platinum Guild, is a favorite for ALL Conclave attendees! Last year, team Quizzin' our ASETs Off, took the gold and each received the coveted championship ring (generously provided by NEI Corporation every year). YT Steering Committee member, Josh Israileff, trains year round for this event for his cleverly named team, Team Josh. You never know what kind of trivia will be thrown at you with Past YT Presidents' Lisa Bridge and Anna Samsonova emceeing. Warning: rowdy heckling between teams encouraged. Pro-tip: start gathering your smartest industry friends now.



Trivia night

## PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS

I realized while collecting photos of Young Titleholders over the past few years that many of us don't have a professional headshot. They can be expensive and are often overlooked when entering the corporate world. This year, the Young Titleholders will be hosting a day of headshots in the networking area at Conclave. Maybe you have never had one or maybe your picture is so old it doesn't look like you anymore! Whatever the reason, come take advantage of this great opportunity. I know Josh Israileff will be first in line. Thanks to the Platinum Guild for sponsoring both Trivia Night and the headshots.

I want to end where I began...with Doug Hucker. I asked someone who knows Conclave very well for her favorite Conclave memories. Sure enough, Doug made it into one of her two favorite memories. More than that, her memories demonstrate the impact and impression Conclave holds on us:

*"It is hard for me to believe that I've attended 23 Conclaves! Each one came with its own personality and unique memories. I'd like to go way back for some of my funniest memories and I hope that some of you will remember "Jeopardy for Jewelers!" We had an old "Jeopardy" set and it made all the sounds and music of the real show. Our member contestants, however, made it so funny and entertaining. There was fierce competition and the questions were tough! It was always well attended and everyone learned from the topics. Of course there were other AGS Conclave fun game shows over the years. Does anyone remember host, Doug Hucker, in that baby blue suit??*

*My fondest and most special Conclave memory is receiving the Robert M. Shipley award in Washington, D.C. It was such an honor to be alongside the AGS leadership that I've grown so close to over the years and whom I admire so much. What is really special to me about the award is that it will keep me coming back to Conclave long after my retirement so that I may continue to make new Conclave memories!"*

~ Ruth Batson, CEO American Gem Society and AGS Laboratories



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