

WJA "Awards For Excellence" honors the best in the business

(NEW YORK) - On July 29, more than 550 members of the industry's elite gathered at Pier Sixty, the Chelsea Piers, for the Women's Jewelry Association 24th Annual "Awards for Excellence" Gala. It was here that the WJA recognized the accomplishments of a diverse group who, through their visionary creativity, help to make the jewelry and watch industry both special and unique.

In her opening speech, WJA National President Ann Arnold thanked the members "for your continued and constant support. I am grateful every day that we get to do what we love to do the most, to recognize the valued women in the industry."

The 2007 "Awards for Excellence" presentation began with a rousing standing ovation for WJA Hall of Fame Award recipient, Anna Martin, a long-time, distinguished industry leader, past WJA

president and Senior Vice President and Region Head Americas of ABN AMRO Bank. Terry Burman, Group CEO of Signet and Chairman of Sterling Jewelers, Inc., presented the award to Ms. Martin, and commended her longstanding leadership and commitment to the industry.

WJA 2007 Hall of Fame recipient Anna Martin of ABN AMRO Bank with Terry Burman of Signet and Sterling Jewelers, Inc., who presented the award on behalf of WJA. Photo courtesy of RSP Media.



Mr. Burman stated that Ms. Martin was unique in the financial world for her insightful knowledge of the business and her ability to relate to the principals in the jewelry industry.

In accepting the award, Ms.

Martin praised the work of the WJA, especially its support of the next generation through scholarships. She said that there were many aspects of the jewelry industry that were close to her heart, but made special mention of the

industry's strong commitment to charitable causes, such as Jewelers for Children. She recognized Victor van der Kwast, CEO of ABN AMRO's International Diamond & Jewelry Group, for his strong support and his vision to expand the bank's role in the industry.

The individual 2007 "Awards for Excellence" were awarded to:

- **Designer, Fine Jewelry & Watches:** *Paula Crevoshay*, President, Mellika Co., Inc.
- **Manufacturer/Dealer/Supplier, Fine Jewelry, Gemstones, Metals & Watches:** *Eve Goldberg*, Vice President, William Goldberg Diamond Corporation
- **Retail (More Than 15 Stores):** *Tryna Kochanek*, Senior Vice President, Sterling Jewelers, Inc.
- **Retail (Fewer Than 15**

Stores): *Susan Eisen*, Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry & Watches

• **Sales:** *Janet Goldman*, CEO, Fragments

• **Marketing & Communications:** *Diane Warga-Arias*, Educationalist & Business Consultant, DWA Communications, Inc.

• **Editorial/Reporting/Publishing:** *Kathleen Fitzpatrick*, Jewelry Editor, *Veranda*

• **Special Services:** *Susan Elliott*, Dean of Students, Gemological Institute of America

funds for WJA's Scholarship and Grant Programs. And Hearts On Fire hosted a "Champagne Sparklers" raffle where guests had the opportunity to buy a glass of champagne and win a HOF diamond. All proceeds went to the WJA Scholarship Fund.

WJA, founded in 1983, is the preeminent association of professional women in the jewelry, watch and related businesses. Through the national organization, headquartered in Mt. Royal,



WJA President Ann Arnold, of Lieberfarb, with the 2007 WJA Awards for Excellence recipients at the gala held on July 29 at Chelsea Piers (from left): Tryna Kochanek, Sterling Jewelers Inc.; Susan Eisen, Susan Eisen Fine Jewelry and Watches, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Veranda; Paula Crevoshay, Mellika Co.; Hall of Fame winner Anna Martin, ABN AMRO Bank; Ann Arnold; Diane Warga-Arias, DWA Communications; Janet Goldman, Fragments; Eve Goldberg, William Goldberg Diamond Corp.; and Susan Elliott, GIA. Photo courtesy of RSP Media.

Top sponsors of the evening gala included Platinum Guild International, Jewelers Mutual Insurance Company, GCAL & AGL Laboratories, Signet/Sterling, Hearts On Fire, JCK Events, JCK Publishing, Jewelry.com, and Rio Tinto Diamond.

A lively Silent Auction raised

NJ, and a network of eleven regional chapters, members benefit from educational and networking opportunities, mentoring, scholarships, design competitions and recognition programs. For more information visit its website at www.womensjewelry.org or call (856) 423-3156.

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