



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOCAL PROFESSIONAL CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO CONSUMER PROTECTION
WITH JEWELRY INDUSTRY RECERTIFICATION**

Saint Cloud, MN 11/06/2017 — Registered Jewelers Andy Alvord, Patricia Biendara, and Erin Bitzan, and Certified Gemologist Dick Bitzan of D.J. Bitzan Jewelers have successfully completed the annual American Gem Society (AGS) recertification exam. This mandatory exam was developed to maintain professional credentials, which demonstrates their ongoing commitment to the Society's mission of consumer protection through continued education and upholding the highest ethical standards.

Alvord, Biendara, Bitzan and Bitzan earned their distinguished titles following the completion of a course of study and examination. Every year they are required to pass an exam encompassing the latest industry developments, including topics on gemology, business, technology, legal regulations, and more.

"Nothing tells your customers that you are committed to their jewelry buying experience more than an AGS title," said Scott Berg, CG, President of the American Gem Society Board of Directors. "It shows your dedication to professionalism and ongoing gemological education."

Only one in twenty retail jewelers have chosen to meet the exacting standards required for membership. When purchasing fine jewelry, shop with confidence by visiting a credentialed American Gem Society jeweler. You can find an American Gem Society jeweler at ags.org/findajeweler. For more information regarding the American Gem Society, please call 866.805.6500 or visit the AGS website at 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. To earn credentials

from the American Gem Society, members must pass annual recertification examinations to maintain their titles.

Website: americangemsociety.org
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AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY CONTACT:

Donna Jolly
Director of Marketing
American Gem Society and AGS Laboratories
702.255.6500 ext 1018
djolly@ags.org

D.J. BITZAN JEWELERS CONTACT:

Erin Bitzan
Vice President
320-251-4812
erin@djbitzan.com