

take note

SIGNET JEWELERS executives Stuart Lee, executive vice president and chief merchandising officer and Clark McEwen, senior vice president of Signet Direct Diamond Sourcing have retired. Lee began his career at Signet as director of gold in the merchandising department in 1996. McEwen focused on strategic development and operational execution and joined with Signet in 2011.

HEARTS ON FIRE, the diamond brand acquired by Chow Tai Fook, announced Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps as the keynote speaker for its 2017 Hearts On Fire University (HOFU) program. HOFU, an annual three-day educational training program for jewelry retailers, will take place at The Wynn Las Vegas from October 8 to 11.

ANTIQUORUM MANAGEMENT LTD, auctioneer of modern and vintage timepieces, launched a website www.antiquorum.swiss to replace its old site. The launch followed the appointment of Romain Réa as CEO of Antiquorum in April.

THE RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL (RJC) held its annual general meeting in Pforzheim, Germany and announced its board of directors. Didier Theraulaz was newly elected as vice president and Feriel Zerouki was reelected as honorary treasurer.

- Wilfried Hoerner, *Argor-Heraeus SA*, chairman
- Didier Theraulaz, *Piaget*, vice chairman
- Mark Jenkins, *Signet Jewelers Limited*, honorary secretary
- Feriel Zerouki, *De Beers Group*, honorary treasurer

ALMOD DIAMONDS LTD, a vertically integrated diamond company based in New York, celebrated 10 years of operations at its factory in Namibia at an event. The company

was honored by top industry leaders, including Paul Rowley, De Beers executive vice president and Namibian President Hage Geingob.

- The factory's employees have grown to 200 since its establishment in Windhoek, Namibia.
- Albert Gad, CEO of ALMOD, and President Geingob discussed further increasing employment at the factory with the opening of a retail store in Namibia.
- There were further discussions about sending Namibia-trained employees to ALMOD locations around the world, including an upcoming factory in Yellowknife, Canada.

HOOVER & STRONG, manufacturer of environmentally and socially responsible jewelry, added lab-grown diamonds to its product selection. Its lab-grown diamonds, branded Harmony Lab Grown Diamonds, have unique laser inscriptions on the girdle and are accompanied by a certificate.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWELRY APPRAISERS (NAJA) will hold its 48th Annual Mid Year ACE® It Education Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana August 12 to 15, 2017. The daily programs include:

- InstaFamous: Insights from a jewelry blogger on using social media to promote yourself and your brand
- From Bombshells to Bling: Jewels of the 1940s and 1950s
- Looking Backwards Again: Archaeological revival, Etruscan revival and renaissance revival jewels of the 19th century
- Kismet: The marriage and HIStory of the Tiffany Diamond and Jean Schlumberger
- Archaeogemology and the Appraisal Field
- Appraising the Big 3: Considerations when valuing ruby, sapphire and emerald



WILFRIED HOERNER



MICHAEL PHELPS



ANTIQUORUM COLLECTOR'S EVENT

- Spectacular Spectrums: The essentials for successful spectroscopy
- Corals and Cameos: Gifts from the sea
- What's Gem Carving Got to Do With It? (Appraising Jewelry, That Is)
- Insurance Appraising 101 with a Twist: How to author an insurance appraisal
- Report that will Weather the Insurance Casualty Storm
- Treated Diamonds: HPHT
- Clarity Enhanced Diamonds: The whole story
- The Appraisal That Made Me Serious Money
- Helping the Professional Appraiser to Provide a Fair and Proper Financial Outcome for Divorcing Parties
- Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda

THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (JDC), a Jewish humanitarian assistance organization, awarded "Forgotten Jewels, A Haven in Havana" its inaugural JDC Archives Documentary Film Grant. The grant funds \$10,000 toward post-production and distribution costs of a documentary which utilizes JDC's archival collections for a film which focuses on 20th century Jewish history.

- The film, directed by Judy Kreith and Robin Truesdale, recounts the story of Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe for Cuba and creating a

diamond polishing industry in Havana.

- The two finalist films were "GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II" by Lisa Ades and "Who Will Write Our History" by Roberta Grossman.
- The grant attracted 30 entries from around the world.
- Kreith has a background in dance and choreography and has a personal connection to Cuba as her mother was a Jewish refugee who appears in the film.
- Truesdale is an independent documentary filmmaker, director, editor and producer.

WILLIAM MURPHY JONES JR. passed away on April 25, 2017 at the age of 81. He was the secretary and treasurer of jewelry store Sissy's Log Cabin. Jones was past president of the Arkansas Antiques Association and a member of several jewelry associations. He is survived by his wife, two children, three siblings and nine grandchildren.

JENNIFER WARD OPPENHEIMER, wife of De Beers executive Jonathan Oppenheimer and chair of the De Beers Fund, died at age 50. A brain tumor was the cause of death, according to South African newspaper *Business Day*. She is survived by her husband and three children.