



Amy Mickelson, G.G.

HERITAGE APPRAISER FOR THE MIDWEST REGION

I have always loved jewelry and adornments. Even as a little girl, I had fun taking some of my mother's old costume jewelry apart and putting it back together in different ways. After my father did some electrical re-wiring of our home, he gave me the leftover copper wire, which I began twisting and manipulating into earrings and jewelry. I then moved on to beadwork, and took some jewelry making classes in high school. In college I pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I pursued some Graduate studies in Sociology as well at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. I found it interesting, but it was not my passion, and I began working in the restaurant industry. It was a lot of fun working with people in the service industry. I held many different positions at the restaurant, my favorite being a Banquet and Catering Manager, but again, that was not my passion.

While I was working at a restaurant, my father took a trip out to California and met two of our distant cousins. One of them was a GIA Graduate Gemologist, and owned an estate jewelry store. My father returned from California, and called me excited saying "I have got the perfect job for you!" He proceeded to tell me about the Gemological Institute of America, my cousin, and encouraged me to pursue becoming a Graduate Gemologist and work doing something that I loved. He helped me to get started, and in 2010 I received my Graduate Gemologist diploma. In 2008 I quit my restaurant management job, moved back home and began working at an independent fine jewelry store as the Inventory Control Director for four years. I also had the opportunity while there to become a Registered Jeweler with the American Gem Society, and later received my Certified Gemologist credentials. When their appraiser left, they asked me to take over the responsibilities of appraising our customers jewelry, which I did for three years. I found that I really enjoyed jewelry appraising.

I decided that I would like to focus on jewelry appraising, and I am so excited to be able to do that here with **Heritage Appraisers**. I have been with the company since 2012.

I am a member of the GIA Alumni Association and The National Association of Jewelry Appraisers (NAJA).