

The King's Journal

July - August 2014 Issue

A Publication of The King's Jewelers
thekingsjewelers.com

The
King's
Jewelers
100 Years!

Countdown to 100 continues... The King's Jewelers 1980 - 1989

The 1980's is often referred to as the "Me" decade, but the McConnell family looks fondly back at it as the "We" decade. So many of our friends and family joined the family business, and together "we" grew The King's Jewelers into something really special!

As our Walnut Creek store began to grow in popularity in the East Bay community, our staff began to grow as well. Long time clients of The King's Jewelers will remember staff members such as Ginny Horner, Nancy Wilson, Bernice Passur-Dahl, and Marianne Day who joined our store in the early 1980s. Our own Patty Hargreaves also



Patty in 1983

began working at the store during that time, and fondly remembers working with Bill Sr. "The very best part of my job in the early 80's was working with Bill Sr. At that point he was a part-timer, working until lunch time every day. He was such a charmer, always with a twinkle in his eye and a story to tell. He knew everyone who walked through his door, and he had a kind word for each and every one of them. He truly loved being in the store, telling stories and becoming part of everyone's lives. To his customers he wasn't just a jeweler - he was *their* jeweler. And he took that responsibility very personally. It was he who told me that this was the happiest job there was. After all, how many people visit a jewelry store when they're sad? I am blessed that I got to work with him." Bill Sr. passed away in late 1983, and while his absence was deeply felt, other members of the family soon joined the store to carry on the heritage of trust that he and his father-in-law Andy Raust began.



Bill Sr. and Cathy



Jon teaching Dave in the shop

Jon Nelson (Bill Sr.'s grandson) joined the family business in 1984 and brought his unique and fresh sense of fun to the store. Dave and his sister Cath also began working part time after school, learning the business from the ground up as Bill Jr. had. While Cath learned displays, bead-stringing and appraisals from Patty, Dave became his cousin Jon's assistant - working on repairs and other shop duties.

Dave has many fond memories of that time working with his cousin, including extravagant lunch hours they would share - "Our grandmother, Merle, lived just up the street, so during the summer we'd have a pizza sent to her house and then we'd take turns going to her house for our lunch break. Jon would eat half and then I'd come later to eat the other half - if he left me that much!" Dave also enjoyed working with his best friend Frank Alioto, who recalls his time at the store- "I was so blessed to be part of (Continued on page 2)



The King's Jewelers 1980 - 1989 (con't)



Frank with Merle and Dave
diamonds or gold. We were working for The King's Jewelers."

The King's Jewelers' family while attending college in the late 1980s. In addition to various shop duties, I was trained to make basic jewelry repairs. A favorite memory of "jewelry shop life" was to focus on search and rescue missions for little diamonds or springs that would fall off our shop table during a critical repair. I would hit the deck and be on my hands and knees until the item was found. Great rejoicing would then ensue and we would go back to shop life." Regarding working with Bill Jr. - "I especially appreciated the times Bill would take off his 'jewelry store hat' and spend time listening and speaking into the lives of clients in various seasons of life. He would boldly share his faith and hope that would outlast any precious jewelry design he could create. While I was an employee at McConnell & Son Jewelers, I always knew we were working for a legacy much bigger than any precious stones, diamonds or gold. We were working for The King's Jewelers."



Bill in Thailand

It was during the 1980s that Bill Jr. began to travel internationally to seek out the truly rare and unique items for his clients. Trips to Thailand, Hong Kong, and Basel, Switzerland, soon became annual excursions, and we began to hold "International Jewelry Show" nights at the store, which were a big hit with our clients!

The decade ended with a major "shake-up" as we moved across the street to 2185 North California Blvd., the same week of the Loma Prieta earthquake! Our grand opening was set for Friday, and the earthquake occurred on Tuesday. We still had a very good turn out, and the only damage was a small crack on the wall in the shop. Even an earthquake couldn't shake our faith in the future of The King's Jewelers!

Spread the Joy of The Colors of Summer!
Green Tourmaline, Yellow Topaz, Green Tsavorite Garnet,
and Red Ruby. Prices start at only \$200 per carat.
What Color will Your Summer Be?

Zultanite - a true Turkish Delight!

From the remote mountains of Turkey comes a gemstone like no other - Zultanite. Named in honor of the 36 sultans who ruled the Ottoman Empire in Anatolia in the late thirteenth century, Zultanite has started to make itself known in the fashion industry due to its unique ability to change color 100% under



4.17ct pear shape

different lighting conditions. Celebrities such as Olivia Munn, Kristin Connolly, and Brooke Burke have recently favored Zultanite earrings, bracelets and pendants. The distinctive colors occurring under different light sources for this beautiful stone range from kiwi greens with flashes of canary yellow under sunny skies, to rich champagnes in traditional indoor lighting and raspberry hues in candlelight. And incredibly - no treatment is applied to induce this naturally occurring color change!



Photo courtesy zultgems.com

Like many of the mines Dave visits in East Africa, the Anatolia Zultanite mine is worked by locals, who depend on this rare gemstone to support their families and community. The mine's owner - Istanbul jeweler Murat Akgun - is very involved in improving the lives of his workers, who are paid above the average salary for miners in the region and are fully insured. Zultanite miners are all housed and fed on-site and, whenever possible, the mine purchases supplies from the surrounding community and employs local people. In addition, Akgun donates food

twice a year to more than 100 homes in villages surrounding the mine and routinely provides local village schools with supplies.



Zultanite round available in 7.98ct, 6.90ct, and 4.70ct.

Come to The King's Jewelers to see this ultra-rare Turkish delight yourself! We have a limited selection of beautiful Zultanite that we are excited to share with our clients. Prices range from \$625 to \$1950. Experience for yourself the light-changing spectacle of this amazing gemstone.



2.50ct total weight round pair

Meet Kathy!

We are blessed to have another new staff member - Kathy Smith. With over 25 years in the jewelry industry, Kathy brings knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. She loves green gemstones such as tsavorite garnet, emeralds and tourmalines, and her favorite piece of jewelry at the store is the cocoa diamond set in a contemporary rose gold bezel with a brushed white gold band.

Kathy is very close to her parents, owns a big chestnut dutch warm-blood horse named Utah, and enjoys riding dressage. She looks forward to meeting you the next time you visit The King's Jewelers!

Kathy's favorite is our 14kt White & Rose Gold Ring with 1.45ct Cushion Cut Cocoa Diamond. \$7650



McCalendar

**Have a fun and safe
summer!**

**Be sure to bring in
your jewelry for a
free cleaning and
inspection.**



What's YOUR favorite King's Jewelers' memory?

**As we get closer to our 100th
year celebration, we invite all our
friends and clients to share with
us your favorite King's Jewelers'
memories.**

**If writing a letter or email seems
to daunting, feel free to send us a
message on our facebook page at**

www.facebook.com/thekingsjewelers

**A few short sentences would
delight us all, and we'd love to
include your favorite memory in
our 100 year celebration!**

The King's Journal

is a publication for the clients of

The King's Jewelers



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Store Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 6pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm Closed Sunday & Monday

Our Creed: As respected, innovative industry leaders, we take pride in our dedication to integrity, quality, value and personal service. Our profound commitment challenges us in our pursuit of excellence in each aspect of jewelry service. Using experience and technology we give our clients assurance of complete, accurate information. We fulfill dreams and aspirations with our unique variety of fine jewelry.

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Vice-president & Gemologist
Client Services & Gemologist
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