

# Caribbean Islands Education Foundation, Inc.

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivanne Farr, GIA A.J.P., President

Julia Malaghan, GIA G.G., V- Pres.

Amit Khemani, GIA G.G., Treasurer

Vera Parker, GIA G.G., Secretary

## OUR MISSION

To establish a jewelry industry education and vocational training program to empower the people of the Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean, to enter the jewelry industry as viable participants by providing an internationally recognized certification program and global standards of excellence for jewelry production

## Gemological Institute of America

The Gemological Institute of America was established in 1931 as the educational resource for the gem and jewelry industry. Since its conception GIA has remained the "foremost authority in gemology". In 1934 GIA invented the modern jeweler's loupe, which enables jewelers and consumers to examine diamonds and gemstones under hand-held magnification. In 1937, GIA patented the Vertical Dark field Binocular Microscope that revolutionized the practice and study of gemology worldwide.

GIA's Alumni Association was established in 1982. The **Caribbean Islands Alumni Chapter** was officially recognized in August, 2004. "Establishing the Caribbean Islands Chapter of GIA is just a stepping stone for the true agenda, which is to see GIA Extension Courses offered locally and regionally in the Caribbean Islands.

~ Dedicated to the Expression of Fine Arts and True Crafts in the Caribbean Islands ~

# RARE EARTH STUDIO

The physical classroom facilities with tools & equipment to instruct methods of metals production, lapidary, lost wax casting, wroughting, forging and fabricating is comprehensive in its capacity.

Established in 2006, the **Rare Earth Studio** classroom facility is located in the heart of the jewelry industry in historic downtown Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas offering gemology, design, smithery of precious metals, lapidary, and other special focus gemology and jewelry related classes, workshops, and seminars.

In 2006, the Foundation received a major donation of jewelry production and design equipment arranged by a founding board member. In 2007, the Foundation purchased additional jewelry equipment, tools, and fixtures, along with a supply of rough, semi-rough and finished gemstone material from other sources. These acquisitions have positioned the Foundation, through **Rare Earth Studio**, to offer extensive gemology and precious metals classes to the public.

In late 2007, **Rare Earth Studio** became host to Gemological Institute of America's (GIAs) internationally recognized educational classes and courses. Many of GIA certification programs now offered through Rare Earth Studio are required curriculum for GIA's world-renowned diplomas.

Classes available through **Rare Earth Studio** serve as an important foundation on which Virgin Islanders can build exciting and rewarding careers. While many Virgin Islanders work in the jewelry industry in a nominal way, many more are now given the opportunity to participate as professionals with GIA certificates and diplomas. Now people are able to provide for their families with a career that guarantees their continued participation and their skills will be sought after because of their gemology and precious metals production education.

## TREASURES OF THE EARTH © 2004



**Presents introductory hands-on experiential opportunities for youth, and accelerated classes offering courses which include: gemology, design, smithery of precious metals, lapidary and other special focus gemology and jewelry related classes, workshops and seminars.**

**Treasures of the Earth I**, implemented in 2004, is a Jeweler/Gemologist program introducing people of all ages to gemology and precious metals. The program is a hands-on presentation of mineral specimens, Caribbean Islands regional raw materials, pure silver, pure copper and pure gold along with demonstrations of production procedures leading to the ultimate finished piece of jewelry or objet d'art.

While we strive to reach youths, young adults and challenged adults, **Treasures of the Earth I**, is especially exciting to school aged children. It exposes them to the natural treasures of the earth that abound in the Caribbean, inspiring them, through knowledge, of the immense

opportunities available to them through further jewelry industry specific education.

We have had the privilege of hosting public and private schools at our studio and the level of excitement shown on the faces of the children is our confirmation that we are presenting an alternative form of education in the Caribbean.

Each child receives a stone of beautiful quality and can create a design, and let's not forget the opportunity of taking it home to share with family and friends. Reaching the young generation and showing what stones are available around them is an eye-opener and has fostered interest in attending classes at the **Rare Earth Studio**.

Visit with us today and take a look around!

# PURE CARIBBEAN

The “*crowning jewel*” of our organization is **PURE CARIBBEAN®**. **PURE CARIBBEAN®**, our USPTO registered certification program embraces creativity exclusively designed and produced in the Caribbean islands. Works of art include jewelry and other native-made “true” arts and crafts. The ultimate goal is to have individual galleries on each island reflecting each island’s culture and creativity, i.e., **PURE CARIBBEAN®** Gallery – St. Thomas; **PURE CARIBBEAN®** Gallery – St. John; **PURE CARIBBEAN®** Gallery – St. Croix; **PURE CARIBBEAN®** Gallery – St. Maarten ~ ~

Our Rare Earth Studio on St. Thomas is the model for replicating educational programs throughout the Caribbean islands. Our passion to offer a career alternative for the local population to receive globally recognized diplomas, contributes to our educational mission, which then creates generational sustainability.



## GIA Classes 2010

Accredited Jewelry Professional  
Intensive  
Gem ID Lab

Pearl Grading Lab  
Diamond Grading Lab  
Colored-Stone Grading Lab

Register today and get your  
application submitted. Seating  
is limited.

Instructors from GIA.

Visit our website and download  
your application.

Dependent on funding income,  
full or partial scholarships are  
available for those who qualify.

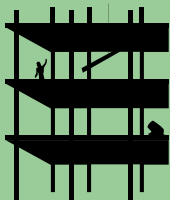
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

VISIT US AT

[www.rareearthstudio.org](http://www.rareearthstudio.org)

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Building a foundation on  
which **YOU** can  
participate in the jewelry  
industry in the Virgin  
Islands and throughout  
the Caribbean Islands



## HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Our organization is a non-profit corporation and we rely on the generous giving of individuals like you who want to support students in their quest to realize a career alternative to “*just selling jewelry*”, and learn to be able to create designs in fine gold utilizing pearls, colored-stones, and the most sought after, diamonds.

We accept checks, in-kind donations, and sponsorship of students, grants and governmental grant appropriations. A charitable receipt for your giving is provided to you for your tax reporting purposes. Your support of this organization is vital to its continued existence.

Tours of our facilities are available upon request and all your questions will be answered in detail. It is so important to get the word out about Rare Earth Studio and we ask that you tell a friend or someone in the industry.

Call today for a tour and speak with the Director,  
Ivanne Farr. **340.777.7774**

## ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION...

**The Foundation** was established in 2006 after receiving a substantial 2005 Virgin Islands Legislative Appropriation for scholarships and education program development relating to the immense jewelry industry.

The Foundation evolved from the commitment of the **Caribbean Islands Alumni Chapter of the Gemological Institute of America (CIACGIA)**, established in 2004, to bring education opportunities to the people of the Caribbean Islands utilizing the world-renowned **Gemological Institute of America (GIA)** education program. From October 2004 to 2006, the University of the Virgin Islands CELL Center offered the GIA gemology classes. Now classes are offered solely through **Rare Earth Studio**.

Continued support from our “**Precious Gems**”, including the Virgin Islands Legislature through budgetary appropriations, the Virgin Islands Housing, Parks & Recreation Commission and Department of Planning & Natural Resources, as well as private, corporate, and in-kind donations, along with thousands of hours of volunteer commitment, allow our very special programs to continue serving the people of the Virgin Islands.

**The Caribbean Islands Education Foundation, Inc., admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school-administered programs.**

~ **Dedicated to the Expression of Fine Arts and True Crafts in the**