

## **Oak Ridge Chapter of ASM International**

**Thursday, January 19, 2012 – Dinner Meeting Announcement**

**“The Story of Tanzanite – A Rare Gemstone from Eastern Africa”**

**Gerald D. Sisk, Jr.  
Vice President and Co-Founder, Jewelry Television  
Knoxville, Tennessee**

### **Abstract**

The earth holds many fascinating treasures like precious metals, gems, and minerals of remarkable crystalline beauty. Rare and unique among these is blue Tanzanite, a relatively recent discovery that comes from the East African country of Tanzania from which it derives its name. Tanzanite is prized for its trichroic properties, flashing three vivid colors depending on the lighting and orientation of the stone. Based upon first-hand experience, the speaker will describe the challenges of mining, grading, and treating gem-quality Tanzanite, which has become a featured product on Jewelry Television.

### **Speaker's Biography**

Mr. Gerald D. Sisk, Jr. is the co-founder of Jewelry Television™, a television shopping network dedicated to gemstones and jewelry. Jewelry Television currently provides live programming to 80 million homes in North America. Mr. Sisk is a member of the ICA (International Colored Gemstone Association), a committee member of the GILC (Gemstone Industry & Laboratory Conference), and holds a graduate gemologist degree from the Gemological Institute of America. He was keynote speaker for the IDCA (Indian Diamond & Colorestone Association), from which he received an international award. Mr. Sisk has been associated with the jewelry and gemstones industries for more than three decades and has visited over 40 countries worldwide. He holds extensive experience in all aspects of the gemstone pipeline and jewelry manufacturing. He has served on various boards and has been a guest speaker at many organizations. Additionally, Mr. Sisk attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, his undergraduate and graduate studies in the Department of Romance Languages. He currently resides in Knoxville.

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### **Meeting time and location:**

**Rothchild Catering and Conference Center**, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923-5015  
Reception (Open bar): 5:30 pm. Dinner: 6:30 pm. Speaker: 7:30 pm.