RECREATIONS, FROM GAUDY TO **GORGEOUS**

By Stephan Gunning



We can care very much about our family and extended family and those people care about you and because of that love you inherit jewelry from your grandparents, your parents, aunts, uncles or very dear friends.

You are very grateful for the gift and the memory that this piece will carry with it. However, peoples taste in jewelry can be very different than yours and the styles that were once popular no longer fit in your lifestyle.

You want to honor and remember these people and the pieces of jewelry they gave, but you'll never wear them the way they are and you're wondering what can I do?

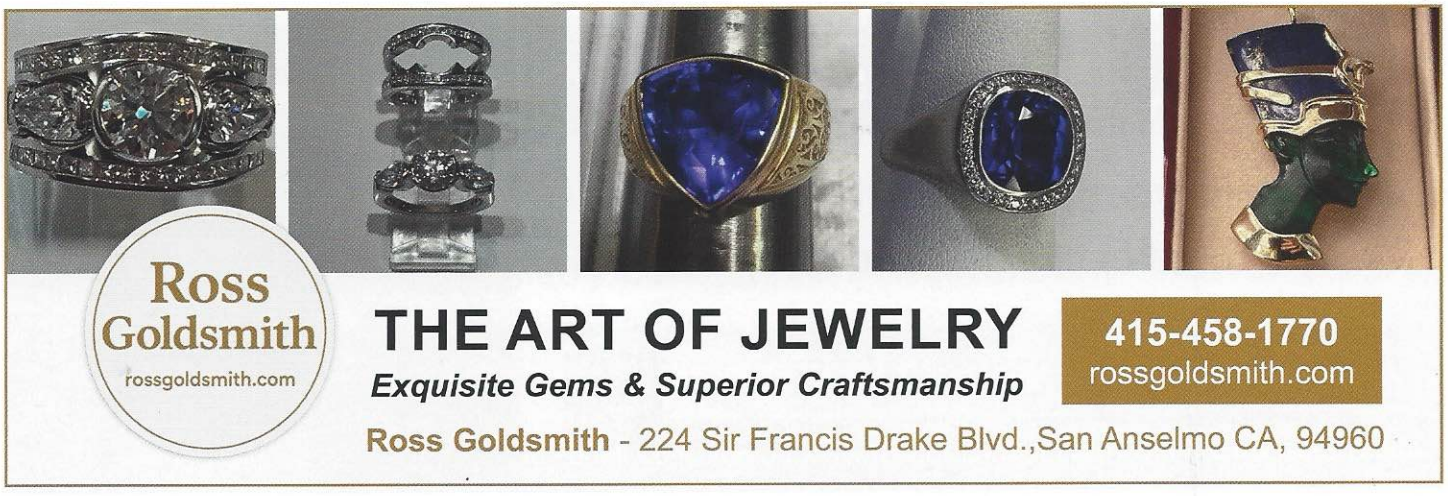
Some people will tell you to just pull the stones and scrap the gold and make new pieces of jewelry using the gemstones that you inherited. This can be a good option and I have helped my clients by doing this option for them, but in this article, I'm going to talk about another option.

In this approach one maintains as much of the original piece, but in re-creating parts of the original piece into new pieces of jewelry that you will truly enjoy wearing. I did this recently for a client and she has allowed me to use her pieces as an example in this article.

1. You start by reviewing the piece of jewelry and look at areas that you can with care disassemble using a jeweler saw or other separating tools, you will lose small amounts of metal at any of the connecting points.
2. This piece was disassembled separating the central ruby diamond bowtie as a unit, pulling off, the diamonds, still set in the prong settings. The emerald still set in the prong setting, and the golden topaz still sat in the prong settings, I also removed the arching diamond pieces set white gold, and the yellow gold branch like segments.



3. We chose to make three pieces of jewelry and keep some components to make jewelry at a later date 3) We took the white gold diamond arches and reassembled them into earrings
4. We took two of the gold branches and two of the diamonds repaired and reassembled those into earrings
5. And we took the Ruby and diamond bowtie repaired and reworked that into a ring











6. In doing this work parts of the components needed to be repaired or rebuild, but the original feel of the work was maintained
7. The two remaining gold branches, the one diamond, the golden topaz, and the emerald will be made into pieces of jewelry at a later time.

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