



isn't impressive enough, Herman has been in the jewelry business for 47 years and has designed approximately 10% of the jewelry in the store. As Bob put it, "we have a lot of pieces of Herman." One of his most popular lines is Bove's exclusive Mushroom Jewelry which is showcased at the yearly Mushroom Festival. Herman has been acknowledged for his award winning pieces, many having been created for benefits and charities. He can take an idea, bring it to life and put it in your hand. This is done by first sketching the piece, then hand making a prototype out of wax. Next he'll cast a prototype in the metal, refinish and set the stones, and finally, put his signature on it. Everything is done on-site except for "casting," which is the pouring of liquid gold.

Another major talent on the Bove roster is Jeff Connolly, Certified Master Bench Jeweler. In 2004, Jeff won "Jeweler of the Year" from the Pennsylvania Jewelers Association, and he beat out a lot of competition. Just to ensure your appreciation for what that entails, capturing "Jeweler of the Year" is the industry's equivalent of winning "Best Actor" at the Oscars (I can just feel the eyebrows rising and the heads nodding). While I was there, Jeff was putting the final delicate touches on a perfectly detailed snowflake pendant, its' creative precision and beauty nearly rivaling the real thing.

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*Above: Gregg Ruth is one of many fine jewelry lines featured by Bove Jewelers.*

*Left: Russell Washington, Assistant Manager, expertly presiding over presentation and display in Bove's watch shop.*