

A Quick Lesson on Pearls

By Chele Marmet

Vice-President, LLL of So. California/Nevada Board of Directors

There are two ways to make real pearls.

1. By nature putting a seed in an oyster or
2. Man puts the seed in the oyster and they are then called “cultured pearls.”

Once the seed is in the oyster, regardless of how it got there, the oyster then lays down coats of pearl. The more coats, the more luster and the larger the pearl will grow. There are different types of oysters. The price of pearls varies, in general, depending on the size of the pearl (the bigger, the more costly), shape (the more perfectly round, the more costly), the luster (the more, the better) and the type of oyster. For example, black-lipped oysters in and around Tahiti produce those gorgeous pearls ranging in color from light gray to charcoal gray seen in catalogues. They are very costly. You can see imitations (and sometimes real ones) at shopping malls and department stores. Fresh water pearls come from oysters grown in fresh water. Though these fresh water pearls are cultured, we usually think of cultured pearls as coming from salt water. When pearls are sold retail as 7 mm pearls, they are actually 6-1/2 to 7 mm. While the pearls in some strands may actually measure mostly 7 mm (there is always some slight variation), other strands may measure closer to 6-3/4 mm. The pearls we have are not perfectly round, but are good semi-baroques. They look round until you think about their shape. They are much closer to round than baroque (very unusual shapes). And the price is amazing! The reason we were able to obtain the pearls at such a great price is that my jeweler used to be a member of my LLL Group and sold them to us at cost (no profit). He said that his family grew up in LLL.

If you ever wanted pearls, this is the time to buy them. They also make great gifts for daughters, daughters-in-laws, grandmothers, other relatives and friends. I even purchased strands for my granddaughters who range in age from four months to four years because the price is sooooo great. I plan to gift them when they reach their 13th birthday.

These pearls are a bit more expensive than those sold at the LLLI Conference because they are knotted between each pearl. When we ordered the pearls for July, time was too short for the pearls to be strung with knots.

So if you want a longer strand of pearls, the extender can be removed (easily by a jeweler) and the strands clasped together, or restrung. According to my style-savvy daughter, showing jewelry hardware is currently in style. My daughter wanted four strands of the pearls, all clasped together, so she could wrap the long necklace once around her neck and then let the rest hang long, much as in the 20's flapper era. She said that is also “in.” Retail price for a strand of pearls that long would be impossibly expensive, but at the Area's phenomenal price, so much more is possible. Each strand is only \$30 for Leaders and \$35 for non-Leaders. This includes tax, shipping and handling. There are 200 strands in this recent order. Reorders may be possible. Once this batch is sold out, we may not be able to reorder these pearl necklaces at the same price.

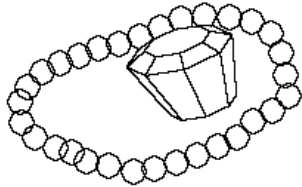
To order pearls, please use the Order Form on the next page. Thank you.



January 7, 2008

Message to: Leaders in So. California/Nevada
From: Chele Marmet, Vice-President, LLL of So. California/Nevada Board
Re: Area Sales of Knotted Pearls

Dear Leaders,



In honor of LLLI's 50th anniversary and LLLI's new book, *The Revolutionaries Wore Pearls* by Kaye Lowman, LLL of So. California/Nevada sold strands of pearls at the Chicago LLLI Conference in July. The pearls were such a hit! So that Leaders who were not in Chicago could purchase these beautiful pearls, too, the remaining strands were all sold at the October Area Council Meeting.

This fall the Area placed an additional order for pearls so Leaders could partake of this wonderful opportunity.

The Area is now selling 7 mm real, high-luster fresh water knotted pearls, with a silver-plated claw clasp and a 4" silver-plated chain extender. Each strand is choker length, 14" (without the extender). They are truly gorgeous! The knots are an advantage. If the strand breaks, the wearer doesn't have to worry about losing all the pearls.

Think ahead birthdays, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, anniversary gifts as well as lifetime gifts for daughters, daughters-in-laws, grandmothers, other relatives and friends. Share this opportunity with interested mothers and friends, too!

Please send me ___ strand(s) of pearls at \$30* each.

Please send me ___ strand(s) of pearls at \$35* each.

***Price includes sales tax, shipping and handling.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____

Phone: Home: (_____) _____; Cell: (_____) _____

Make check payable to "LLL of So. California/Nevada."
Send this Order Form with your contact information to:
Gayle McLean
10285 Cardinal Ave.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Questions?
Contact Gayle at: (714) 968-1667 or gmcleandchc@hotmail.com

**This form and more information about pearls and how they are made is online at
www.lalecheleaguescnv.org**