

When Pearls Speak...



When pearls speak, Laurie Wetterschneider listens. Co-founder of Laurie and Lisa Designs, she is fluent in the language of semi-precious stones—turquoise, lapis, aquamarine.

"When I first started making jewelry I would buy different stones and lay them out all over my work space," says Wetterschneider who is celebrating 8 years as a custom jewelry designer with sister Lisa Peterson. "It was as if the pieces were talking to me."

Too inspired to sleep, she'd either start arranging gemstones in the middle of the night, or wake in the morning, bursting with designs.

Pearl and amethyst earrings, coral and turquoise necklaces, now sold internationally and donated to cherished charities, may seem a long way from the Fruit Loop necklaces she and Peterson made as girls.

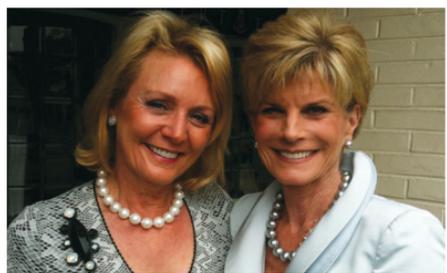
But the joy in their creations, their zeal to share their still flourishes. As does their easy camaraderie.

Peterson was a practicing attorney in Manhattan when she visited Wetterschneider, a fundraiser and former owner of two radio stations, in Tucson in 2003.

Just for fun, they took a beading class with their mother.

"My sister and I got hooked. We were making so many pieces, it was beyond a hobby."

It's beyond a business now, too. "It's a life," says Wetterschneider. "I am very



blessed that the stores I do business with are truly special people. They are my friends."

She is grateful for Elements store owner Karol Gugino, the first person to believe in and choose to carry their designs. And the Molks, owners of the Showcase Boutique at Canyon Ranch for launching them into national and international levels. Soon after deciding to spend part of her year in Carmel, she met the owner of Élan, an exclusive women's boutique at the Lodge at Pebble Beach, and another retail relationship was born.

Because L & L Designs specializes in

handmade, custom-designed pieces, most of their clients become friends as well.

"We've learned it's not what we like; it's what they like, what they feel good in," says Wetterschneider. Whether they enjoy jewelry that whispers, flirts, or shouts, they all want to feel special and beautiful.

L & L Designs honors everyday moments as well as rites of passage. Women bring in their daughters' wedding gowns,

**Cesare's Fine Gifts
at The Viscount Suite Hotel**
4855 East Broadway, Tucson, AZ

Élan at the Lodge at Pebble Beach
17 Mile Drive, Pebble Beach, CA

Elements Home Accessories & Gifts
6380 East Grant Road Suite 150, Tucson, AZ

**Museum Store at the
Tucson Museum of Art**
140 North Main Avenue, Tucson, AZ

seeking unique jewelry to highlight the moment and become family heirlooms.

"Every piece is made by Lisa or me," says Wetterschneider. "The quality control is there. The caring is there."

The love L & L Designs infuses into their rings, necklaces, and bracelets benefits more than the people wearing them. Wetterschneider, a Tucson resident since 1973, is a long-time philanthropist. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Tucson recently made her a Board Member Emeritus, the 15th person to receive that honor since 1957.

In 1999, as chairman of the Angel Charity for Children, Inc., she helped raise one million dollars.

This year, she is thrilled that L & L Designs has been able to donate pieces to over 100 charities in New York, Tucson, and the Pebble Beach/Monterey/Carmel, CA areas where she also lives.

"I've met great people," she says about such beloved charities as the Tucson Museum of Art, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona, and the SPCA in Monterey, CA. "It's made my life very special."

That's because generosity goes with anything. Pearls, coral, amazonite...



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