

# Harvey Oaks



Manufacturing Jeweler

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October - November - December 2008

From the desk of Gerry Gonya...Harvey Oaks Manufacturing Jeweler

I for one will be glad to see November 5th, 2008! Not that I'm glad to see time passing away so fast, but for the sheer joy that all the political ads and bickering will be over. Both party's candidates seem to constantly put down the other side in finding ways to discredit them. It sure would be great to have a presidential campaign without the constant mudslinging that seems to have taken over our political systems. But maybe then that would not be "politically correct"!

Just in case you haven't been in a jewelry store lately, one of the current trends are "chocolate" pearls. Anything from earrings to rings, bracelets, and strands are available in chocolate colored pearls. Now I'm sure that sometimes certain mollusk do produce naturally colored pearls that have that chocolate appearance. But with the consistency of color and the sheer numbers that are available one can be quite certain that the chocolate pearls that you are seeing are dyed/bleached to get that color. They still are cultured pearls (most are freshwater that I have seen) with a natural secretion of nacre that has been dyed/bleached. We have done well with these pearls due largely in part to being priced very affordable. It offers the pearl wearer a very different look to their pearl wardrobe.

Something else note worthy about pearls are the engraved black cultured pearls known as "Flower Pearls". This technique has been around for about the last 10 years and I still haven't seen but a few strands simply due to the cost. In the last 5 to 6 years we have even seen cultured pearls with gemstone inlays. I have yet to see these gemstone inlay pearls in person, but the photos sure were intriguing.

Another newsworthy note concerned a new find of ruby and sapphire in central Tanzania near the village known as Winza. In April and May of 2008, a group of gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America (GIA) were granted a visit on site to inspect these new findings and to do some preliminary testing of the rough and several polished stones. It appears that this material is being found just beneath the surface and the tailings are being transported to a near by stream for washing and separation. Most of the production is being sent to Thai, Sri Lankan, and a few African buying offices in a town known as Mpwapwa. For now details are still sketchy, but the gemologist that were on site should have a final report sometime in early 2009.

As we head into the last quarter of 2008,

let's take a brief look at the birthstones for October, November, and December.



## October-Opal

Opal has a long standing tradition as the birthstone for October, but we shouldn't forget that pink tourmaline is also used for October. Most of us know that opal is a rather fragile gemstone and is usually cut in a cabochon form – not faceted like pink tourmaline is. Many times when we are putting together a mother's ring that requires all faceted gemstones, pink tourmaline will be used for October. Just as a side note, I was reading in one of our gemological publications various test that can be used to determine if the stone is natural or synthetic. Synthetic opal often exhibits a lizard skin like growth pattern when viewed under magnification. The opal in question did show signs of slight lizard skin appearance. When subjected to UV radiation the opal exhibited bright green fluorescence, an indication of natural origin. The series of photos that were shown made the opal look like apple green jade.



## November-Topaz

It seems that fine sherry color topaz is getting harder and harder to find especially in the price range that I'm willing to pay. When I do find topaz it is either too pricey, or so washed out in color, that it is almost unattractive. Blue topaz on the other hand (either irradiated or heat treated) is still plentiful and very reasonably priced. Many times the finished jewelry that we see in various pieces will substitute citrine quartz that has a similar color scheme for November's birthstone and at a much more reasonable price.



## December-Zircon

December brings on thoughts of snow and ice and colder temperatures that seems to fit the icy blue /green rich color of blue zircon. This gemstone like the opal is not suited for everyday hard wear and abuse. Blue zircon has a tendency to scratch and abrade under these conditions. Just in the last 4-5 years another gemstone has been added to December list, which is tanzanite. With its purplish/blue color, tanzanite makes a good alterna-

tive for a December birthstone. This gemstone also has to be worn with care due to its fragile nature.

It's hard to believe that it's time to start looking ahead toward the Holiday Season. We at Harvey Oaks Jeweler are planning several major events in the months of November and December. Our first major event will be the return of **"Lady's Night Out"** on **Thursday, November 20, 2008 from 5 – 8 PM**. Last year we held our first event like this and it was very successful. The way it works is the ladies get a night all their own where they can indulge themselves in all styles and colors of jewelry and gemstones. We will help the ladies with things like finger size, length of chains and bracelets, what color of gold looks best on them. They will be able to make the purchase that night, or we can help them fill out a "Wish List" card to keep on file for their significant other. Did I forget to tell you that we will wine and dine the ladies with tasty hors d'oeuvres and adult beverages and pamper them the best we can. Plus the pricing for that night will make that temptation a lot more tempting.

This will be followed by **"Men's Night"** or what can best be described as men's Panic Party on **Thursday December 4, 2008 from 5 – 8 PM**. The guys will be able to shop not only for themselves, but also the wish list cards that were filled out on lady's night will be available to ease that question of "what does she like"? And we won't forget to feed the guys either (no need for the ladies to cook that night). The guys will also be able to take advantage of the special pricing for that night. Let Harvey Oaks Jeweler take the worry and fret out of your Holiday shopping by coming to the men's and lady's night out. Now one very important fact that I left out – these 2 events are by invitation only! We use our newsletter mailing list to send out the invitations. So if you know of anyone who might be interested in coming one of those evenings and are currently not receiving our newsletter, please have them call or stop by the store to add their name and address.

One other event that Harvey Oaks Jeweler will be participating in will be the special "Luminaries Hol-

iday Shopping" days in downtown Fremont November 13, 14, and 15. Watch for the ads that will be in the paper along with the posters that will be in store front windows early in November.

Well that about wraps up this edition! The clock is approaching midnight and the alarm at 6AM is not a welcomed sound. Who knows what the next 3 month's might bring? Will the economy locally and nationally finally show signs of a turnaround? How much extra tax will I have to pay in the so called "bail-out" of the financial institution crisis? What happens to the CEO's of these companies who still get their bonuses and perks for their greedy decision making? I guess all will work out in the end. But most importantly don't let it dampen your Holiday spirit nor the reasons we celebrate holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas! Happy Holidays.

*Gerry*

For more information watch and listen for the up-coming announcements or call us at 419-332-0481 or check out our web site at:  
[www.harveyoaksjeweler.com](http://www.harveyoaksjeweler.com).