

Linda Allard ■

Linda Allard turns to natural gemstones to carry peace and healing to others, and she uses PMC to help her do it.

"I believe in energy, and that there are energy properties in stones that connect with the energy centers in our bodies," she says. "If you've ever walked into a room and just felt the room weighed down, in my mind, that's the energy of the room. It can just be because there's someone there who is a negative person. The crystals are good energy, and keeping your body surrounded by good energy helps counter that."

And one way to surround yourself with gemstones is to wear jewelry, allowing Allard to combine two passions. "I have always loved jewelry, and I have always been drawn to stones," she says. "If I have a bad day, I can sit and look at a box of stones and feel better."

Silver PMC works well for her purposes because it is a pure metal and has a certain power of its own. "Pure silver is very good for renewing energy," she explains. "And silver conducts with the body better than gold does."

The goal, Linda says, is to create jewelry that helps bring calm to a troubled world. "Everything I make has a meaning behind what I'm making," she says. "I'm making a lot of peace signs, because right now the world is in such a hard place. What I went through as a child is nothing compared to what my son is going through. So I make peace signs and put a stone in the middle."

Another favorite is oms, a symbol of meditation and peace. "I always put a stone in a part of the om that will work for the person I'm making it for, so that it has

meaning as well as being a beautiful piece of jewelry," she says.

Lotus leaves also frequently appear in her work. "The lotus is a symbol of rebirth," she explains. "It dies every night and reblooms in the morning."

Trained as a traditional goldsmith, with degrees in art and design and gemology, Linda read about PMC in a jewelry magazine. "I told my husband I wanted to take a class in it, so for our anniversary we took a class together. He'll never do anything with it again, but we had so much fun," she says. "I didn't start out doing it to sell anything. I just started making things, and as I started wearing them, people would say, 'Will you make that for me?'"

Sharing her love of stones and the beauty of her work is a source of joy to her. "I just believe the earth has great energy," she says. "Laughing and sharing with other people, that's the way we're supposed to be. When someone has [the right stone] it gives them a sense of peace and it feels good when they wear it, and it makes them smile because of the way it looks."

"I don't believe gemstones are going to cure your cancer. My husband had cancer. Medicine and good doctors and God cure cancer," she says. "But I do believe calming our emotions and our selves gives us well being, and I believe that's very important."

