



May: Good Old-Fashioned Mothering!

By Marcia Harmon, Cottage Jewel

Spring has sprung, Earth Day has revived our vigor in re-cycling old things, and now May brings us a celebration of Mother. Once upon a time, Mother was honored daily by the use of a painted porcelain "Mother" coffee cup or the wearing of an ornate "Mother" pin. I've had these fanciful brooches in gold hollowware from the 1860's, carved mother of pearl, and sparkly rhinestone from the 1930's. The standard today seems to be a tea cup or cutting of flowers, but I propose finding a "treasure" more long lasting, useful, and personal to commemorate a special occasion or shared memory. The words of my then 4th grade son continue to remind me that "Time and Attention" are the greatest gifts:

10 Reasons Why I Love My Mother

1. SHE ALWAYS UNDERSTANDS ME WHEN I AM SAD OR DISAPPOINTED.
2. She gives me a helping hand whenever I'm in need.
3. She is supportive of all of my decisions.
4. She is fun and willing to do new things, showing me a good time.
5. She loves to watch my sport games and cheer me on whenever she can
6. SHE CARES ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT I DO.
7. SHE IS PROTECTIVE OF ME AND STRIVES TO KEEP ME IN SAFETY.
8. She works hard every day to give possibilities that many kids don't have.
9. She gives and gives until she is no longer able to give.
10. She is the most caring, gentle person I have ever met.

So this year pen a nice note to mom, frame a special picture, or customize the contents of a locket or mementos book to show your love. If you visit Cottage Jewel late on a Wednesday afternoon, you may stumble into a creative workshop with Connie Stuart making a jewel-flowered basket, Sharon Martin assembling



a scrap art pocket book, or Iva Wilcox teaching us how to construct a Victorian Theater vignette. Inspirations abound!

The magic of May is further empowered by the rich green birthstone options including emerald which improves memory, intelligence, and clairvoyance. Ancient lore suggests emeralds also enhance love and contentment. Chrysoprase is an opalescent apple green variety of chalcedony that has long been associated with Gemini's born in May. This stone offers spiritual protection, prevents depression, and increases grace and equilibrium. Each stone has

been utilized by early civilizations in jewelry and ornamental objects because of the healing properties and the color appeal. So treat yourself or someone you love to something green!

Cottage Jewel in downtown Danville offers a trip back in time, a collector's paradise, an artist's inspiration, and a gift gathering delight Monday to Sunday. (925) 837-2664 *Advertorial*

A Meaningful Month

May

**Birthstone: Emerald
or Chrysoprase**

Flower: Lily

White Lily for Youthful

Innocence & Moral Purity

Yellow Lily for Playful Gaiety

Water Lily for Beauty & Purity