

THE POINT

ISSUE 51
SPRING 10

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PIERCERS



APTPI
2ND INTERNATIONAL
MEETING

P.12

NEW APP
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FROM THE EDITOR



JAMES WEBER

APP President

Infinite Body Piercing, Inc.
Philadelphia, PA

As I write this, my co-editor Elayne Angel is returning from one of her numerous piercing tours of the States and getting back to work on her Conference class preparation, so I'll take this opportunity to introduce this issue of *The Point: The Journal of the Association of Professional Piercers*. In addition to her other work—such as maintaining the APP Web site—Elayne has also been overseeing the content for our educational brochures, including several new additions: *Jewelry for Initial Piercings* and *Jewelry for Healed Piercings*, which are included in the special, full-color, center leaf of this issue. APP members will have already received these two as part of a recent mailing, but other print subscribers are invited to simply loosen the staple in the center of this issue, pull the color leaf out, cut down the center, and fold. Additional copies of these brochures (and others) can be ordered through the APP office, and health care offices can contact us about complementary bundles.

This issue also contains the full class schedule for our 2010 Annual APP Conference and Exposition, which will be taking place May 2nd to 7th. Many readers of *The Point* will undoubtedly be attending, but for those who aren't, you can scan these pages to read a little about what you'll be missing. Conference is the biggest outreach project the APP organizes: five days of classes, workshops, and roundtable discussions, in addition to the Exposition—the largest gathering of high-quality wholesale body jewelry vendors in the world.

Besides the upcoming Conference, the big news in this issue is the results of our most recent election to fill two positions on the APP Board of Directors. Two new APP Members will be taking office at this year's Conference: Dana Dinius, from HTC in Phoenix, Arizona, and Brian Skellie, Professional Business Member-at-Large and former owner of Piercing Experience in Atlanta, Georgia. Dana is a first-time Board member, and Brian has a long history with the organization as both a former Board member and former editor of *The Point*. (You can read their introductions on page 18.)

Readers who have followed the evolution of *The Point* during my tenure as its editor know the passion I have for exploring the history of our industry, and the history of the APP. For several years, I've been working on compiling early issues of *The Point*. Issue #14 and issues from #16 to the current one have long been available for download on the APP Web site, but finding people with a set of those older issues had been difficult. As former editor of *The Point*, Brian Skellie has unearthed older digital files of issues for which print copies were not possible to track down. Between scans of print copies and digital versions in Brian's possession—most written in programs that no longer exist—we have been able to produce PDFs of the early, long-missing issues of *The Point*. By the time you read this, the complete run of *The Point* will be available for download on the APP site, beginning with issue #1.

These early issues cover the founding of the APP—in the first issue, from 1994—to issue #15, which was distributed in May of 1999. While reading through these old newsletters, one revisits not only almost five years in the history of the APP, but five years in the history of our industry. This was an incredibly exciting time for those of us working as piercers (the first issue came out shortly before I opened my own studio), as it was a time when body piercing had just arrived in the mainstream. (See this issue's President's Corner on page 4, and Class of '96 on page 28.) It was a time when the APP was finding its focus, and those guiding the organization were slowly molding its identity. This growth is all printed there, in the pages of *The Point*—the official newsletter of the APP.

Reading the articles—and the subtext between them—one gets a picture of a different time in our industry, a time when we were just starting to *(Continued on next page)*

THE POINT

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Material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Submissions must be in a digital format, and should be sent via email to medical@safepiercing.org.

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IN THE OFFICE



CAITLIN McDIARMID
APP Administrator

What does it take to save a life?

I was told last year that I saved a young man's life by giving him the Al D. Scholarship. He said that he had been at his rope's end just before Conference, and that the people of the APP and the attendees made him joyous, strengthened him, and gave him hope to continue on. That's powerful stuff. As I look over this year's incoming scholarship applications, I know that decisions I make will affect these individuals' lives. It is the most amazing part of my job, and also the most difficult.

What does it take to save a life?

I know many piercers whose lives were literally saved by a studio owner or a senior piercer who let them into their studios and, slowly, into the industry. There are mentors who have saved kids (and often adults) from the streets, bad choices, bad jobs, bad families; many gave them shelter, family, and futures.

I watched a program about our "Emotional Lives" and saw the story of one of those kids – poor – who became one of those teens – transient – who became one of those adults – prisoner. However, it just took one person to show an interest in him and his well-being, and he blossomed and became a thoracic surgeon. He found a career, has a house, married a nice lady, and had some kids. Sometimes someone just has to care, and to show it, and then people can save themselves.

What will it take to save a life? You don't know, do you? I do know it is within each of us to dramatically change other people's lives for the better. Make a donation. Shovel a walk. Build a house. Feed someone. Give your time. Listen to a kid. Touch an older person. Take a chance on someone. Mentor someone. Answer a question. Be real. Care. And show it.

For Zach, with love. **P**

(Continued from previous page) organize and fight for the recognition and respect of a larger culture—a culture that had just discovered a new part of itself (and wasn't quite sure how it felt about it). Organized originally to work with legislators, we were fighting for control of our autonomy. While these articles are amazing in that they show a snapshot of this time, one must consider the writing in context: many of the articles so passionately written then come off as rather dated now, many of the issues discussed in the pages have long since been resolved, and many of the positions so furiously defended seem obvious now. (Or, in several instances, incredibly biased.)

We've grown since then, yet many of the same topics we continue to deal with now are discussed in these early issues: legislation, new techniques, new tools, new ideas about aftercare, issues relating to membership, and what the APP is, does, or should do. It's all there. What we concern ourselves with today is not that far removed from what we were doing 15 years ago.

So before you start reading this issue, visit safepiercing.org/publications/the-point/back-issues, scroll down to the bottom, and download issues #1 to #15 of *The Point*. Spend some time discovering where we've been to get a clearer idea about where we're going. After you've done that, come back to issue #51 of *The Point: The Journal of the Association of Professional Piercers*. **P**



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



JAMES WEBER

APP President

Infinite Body Piercing, Inc.
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This past February, I was contacted by a casting director from MTV. She was working on a series called *True Life*, described in the email as a “long-running, award-winning documentary series that allows young people to share their stories, in their own words.” She invited me to distribute the following notice—on behalf of the APP—so that those interested in appearing on the series could contact her:

TRUE LIFE: I'M ADDICTED TO PAIN

Do you need to feel pain to feel alive? Does your self-inflicted pain validate your existence?

Many people get addicted to the adrenaline rush associated with painful experiences, so they willfully seek out ways to injure themselves. *True Life* aims to explore the emotional addiction to this physical pain, which can take many forms.

What is your “pain fix?” Are you a bodybuilder who absolutely needs to feel the burn daily? Are you a masochist? Are you an adrenaline junkie obsessed with extreme sports? Are your multiple tattoos and body piercings a result of your addiction to pain?

If you appear to be between the ages of 16 and 25, please email addictedpain@mtvn.com. You should include your name, location, phone number, and a photo of yourself. Please explain your situation in detail. *The more you share, the more we can start to understand your story.* For example: Describe what your addiction is. Explain what motivates you to do what do, and how long you've been doing it. Tell us what positivity or pleasure you derive from this pain. Describe any negative consequences in your life that you suffer because of this addiction. Share with us what those closest to you think of your behavior. Do you think you need help, or are you happy with your life as it is?

Claresa Mandola
Casting Director and Producer
MTV Networks
1515 Broadway, #1630-A
NY, NY 10036
212.846.8161
<http://mtvdocs.com>

This request obviously deserved a response:

Claresa,
Thank you for thinking of the Association of Professional Piercers for help in recruiting for your next project. Unfortunately, I cannot comply with your request—not without helping you to work against progress the piercing industry has made over the last twenty years. Please allow me to explain:

Body piercing went from an “underground” fashion—popularized by the gay leather community first, and later by the “punk” youth of the day—to a mainstream phenomenon in 1993. This pivotal moment in our history was triggered by MTV—more specifically, the steady rotation of Aerosmith's video “Cryin',” in which Alicia Silverstone (actually, Alicia's body double) had her navel pierced on camera.

As this happened, when piercing went from a practice engaged in by the cultural fringe—a practice that could be easily discounted because of the few that engaged in it—to a part of mainstream culture, popular news programs jumped on the opportunity to explore this “new” phenomenon. During this time, there seemed to be no end to the “experts” brought out to explain piercing away with tenuous links to borderline personality disorder, self-harm, or any other variations on bodily mutilation and the dangers these practices posed to the nation's youth.

Working as a piercer at the time, I was heavily invested in dispelling misinformation and providing education about body piercing and our industry. I've worked hard, both on my own and with the Association of Professional Piercers, to show the public what we do is simply more than a fashionable extension of psychological pathology—even in its more extreme manifestations.

Eventually, the press relented. It's hard to say whether it was because of the changing political climate—with both pro-sex feminists and gay rights advocates tirelessly fighting for the right of every person to make their own decisions about his or her own body—or because mainstream culture finally became used to the idea of pierced navels, tongues, nipples, and genitals. Maybe it was a bit of both that moved the debate about the merits of body piercing and body modification to a more educated place on both sides of the opinion. The debate now is more informed and less ignorant than in years past—at least I thought it was, before I read your email.

Even though I assume it wasn't your intention, it's hard to not feel insulted by your request. Your appeal seeks to take this debate—and our industry—back to 1993, to argue the worth of piercings in the context of mutilation, pain addiction, self-harm, and psychological pathology. I wish you the best, but I cannot—and will not—offer my help or the support of the APP on this series. Our entire industry has worked too hard at education to take such a huge step backward.

Should you have any other projects for which you need the assistance of the APP, we will enthusiastically offer you our services. On this one, however, I cannot in good conscience offer our help.

Respectfully,
James Weber
President
The Association of Professional Piercers

I have yet to receive a reply. **P**



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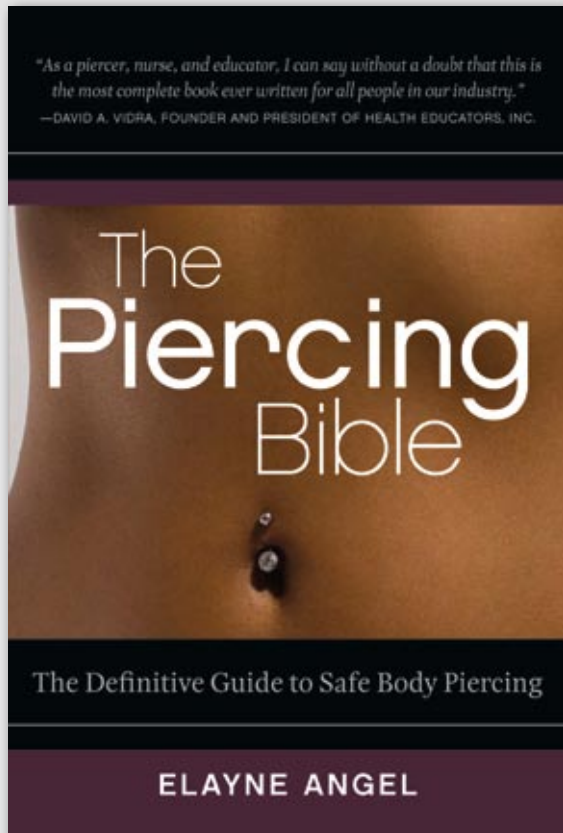
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR - ELAYNE ANGEL has been a professional piercer for more than 20 years and has performed over 40,000 piercings. She was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Professional Piercers in 2006 and is a contributing writer for *PAIN* Magazine. She lives in Mérida, Mexico. Visit www.piercingbible.com for more information.

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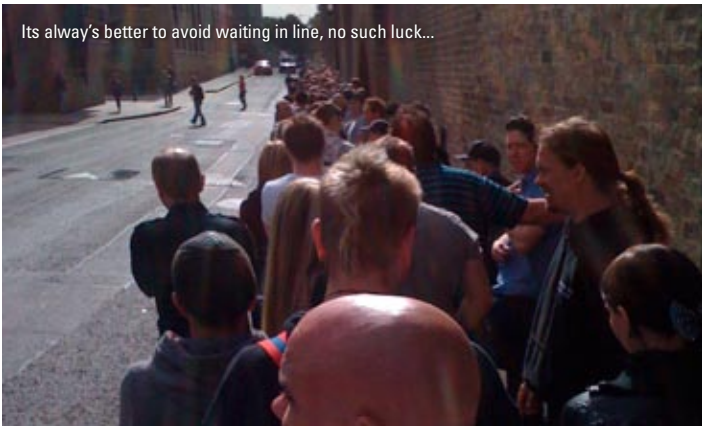
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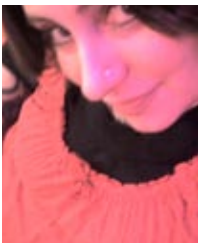
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TRAVELOGUE



BETHRA SZUMSKI
APP SECRETARY
Virtue and Vice
Atlanta, GA

First and foremost, I want to thank the organizers of these events for inviting me and the other APP members and instructors to participate in their events. It was an honor to be asked.

England - London Tattoo Convention September 26-27, 2009 in London

I always have the worst jet lag, especially when I travel to Europe. Luckily, I was fortunate enough to have some time to rest the first evening, as I stayed with a friend in London.

The next day I made my way to the London Tattoo Convention, where I was met with a line that wrapped around the entire building. I'm the first to admit to being a little jaded about tattoo conventions, but the organizers of this event really got it right. Inside, amazing artists from around the world were showcased under the roof of an equally stunning building—I believe it was a tobacco processing space long ago.

It had been my hope to network with the event organizers and the British Association; however, the convention was so crazy that I soon realized this would not be possible. Luckily, I ran into some folks I knew and enjoyed a very British dinner of pastry filled with meat and

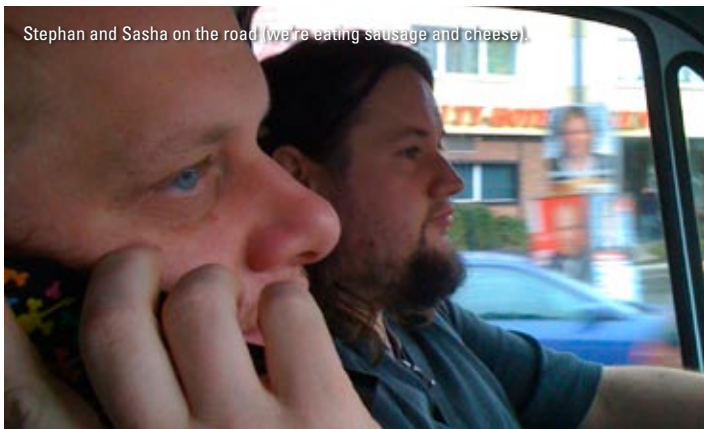
potatoes.

It was one of those days that was warm during the day and cold at night, and I had, of course, worn something great for the daytime—a decision I later came to regret when I became lost and had the cabbie drop me off too soon. By the time I left Brighton two days later, I was ill.

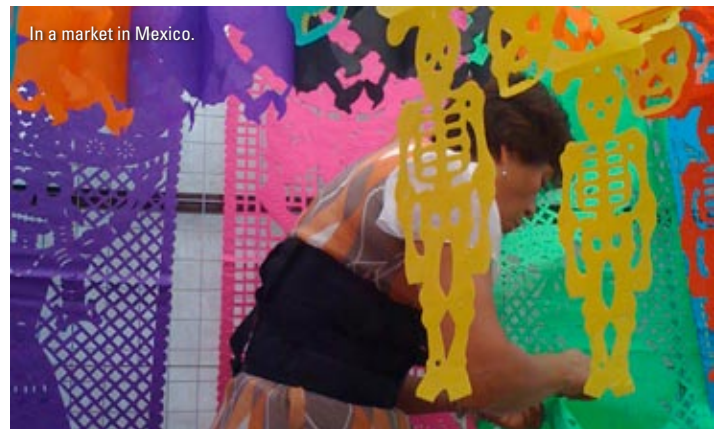
Germany - BMXnet Conference October 2-4, 2009 in Essen, Germany

Once I arrived in Germany, my hosts took amazing care of me. I received several yummy home-cooked meals, an aspirin complex, and much needed rest before moving on to the BMXnet conference. But before heading south for the event, Stephan, Sasha, and I spent some time at Wildcat Deutschland.

Arriving at BMXnet is much like arriving at the APP Conference in Vegas—a homecoming of sorts with the shining-yet-familiar faces of dear friends and colleagues there to meet you. While I have been to BMXnet before, this was my first time at the Imperfect House, the venue for the 2009 conference. The Imperfect House is a multi-level artists colony, complete with housing, classrooms, a performance



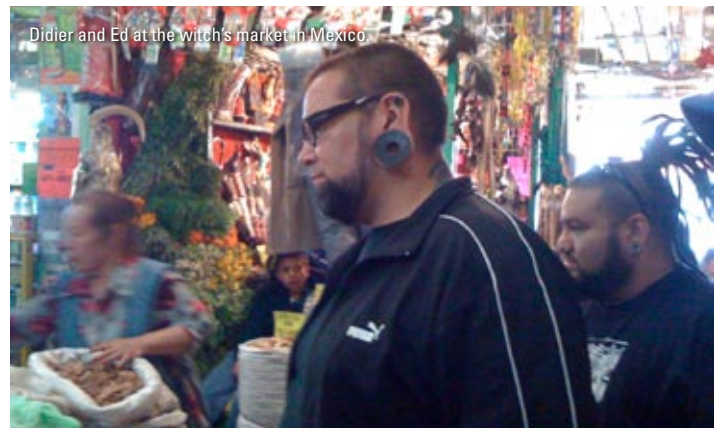
Stephan and Sasha on the road (we're eating sausage and cheese)



In a market in Mexico.



OMG! That's my old bike!!



Didier and Ed at the witch's market in Mexico

area, as well as a kitchen and other facilities. It's quite an amazing establishment.

Most of the speakers and performers were housed together in the same flat, which was located directly across the hall from the side entrance of the theater stage area. All of the piercing for the performances was done in the actual backstage area, but the apartment served as a space for makeup application as well as a waiting room of sorts between acts. It occurred to me what a large performance community has formed over the last 10 years. While it often overlaps into the piercing scene, it really has a wonderful life of its own.

BMXnet provides offerings for all disciplines. The classes were all well attended, and you could feel the enthusiasm in the air. The attendee packets, which have always been top notch, included paper pads with a printed logo and a nice little satchel. (I liked mine so much I have already worn it out!)

Teaching at a conference can be very stressful, but it is one of my favorite things to do. I woke up the first day of the event still deathly ill and with no voice. Stephan moved my classes back, and I spent the day gargling salt water in hopes of being able to produce more than a squeak. By the next day, I was ready to do my thing and got a lot of great feedback on my class. The laws for product usage are very different in Europe, so I was able to gather some practical information about products—such as silver nitrate—that I'll be able to use in future lectures.

I was nervous about my workshop. Speaking in front of a roomful of piercers is pretty nerve-racking, but I had the thought that piercing in front of them would be fun. Most piercers outside the U.S. have never used or even seen a piercing needle (referred to as "blades"), so my workshop was basically a demonstration to highlight how it differs from the plastic-sleeved cannulas they use. The room was packed.

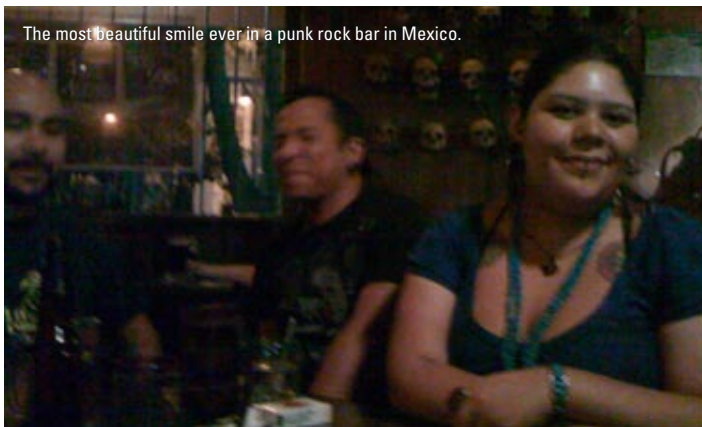
Once my brain kicked into work mode, my anxiety vanished; my thoughts focused on the piercing at hand. Paul King introduced the workshop, outlined some general tool info and historical reference, and then I got to work.

You know those days when every client is awesome, and you leave work feeling like you just had the best time ever? That is how I felt at the end of the session. Thanks to Michael and his lovely apprentice for assisting me. The space was tight, but I couldn't have managed without them! My fellow APP members in attendance also impressed me. Ron Garza, Brian Skellie, Paul King, and Jason King all made me really proud of my membership. The 2009 APP Conference instructors V. Vale, Steve and Cookie Haworth, and Marion Wallace also presented beautifully. Wildcat, TRUST, Calmed, Quetzalli Jewelry, Diablo Organics, GO2 Body Piercing, Schülke & Mayr, and Gorilla Glass all sponsored the event.

One of the nicest things about attending an event I'm not responsible for organizing is that I have time to spend with other attendees, especially with the other APP members and instructors. I also thoroughly enjoy observing how an organization's leadership develops. Elections were held at the members' meeting to determine who would fill Marcus and Stephan's roles as they stepped down. The new board is comprised of Stefanie Rihm (President), Arnulf Ragnar Schmitz, and Chris Rihm.

United States - Home, Intermission October 4-6, 2009 in Atlanta

I was home in Atlanta for just 48 hours before heading to Mexico—though it felt more like an extended layover than coming home. However, I was reminded of where I was while on the train ride back to the airport, when a passenger got on with my old bicycle that



The most beautiful smile ever in a punk rock bar in Mexico.



Danny and Jim working, bathed in light.



It makes me so happy to see David teach.



Paul got strung out on the Natia (desert) in this place.

had been given to him years before. I struck up a short conversation about the bike, but I didn't mention it was once mine. It was a good reminder of how weird, random, and funny life can be if I only stop and pay attention to it.

**Mexico - APP Seminars in Mexico
October 6-10, 2009 in Mexico City**

Despite Mexico City being a truly dangerous place, it didn't make me feel uneasy.

In the cab from the airport I was struck by the stark contrast of the places I have been. The clean German metropolis was replaced by the grittiness of Mexico City. My senses were overwhelmed by the smell and feel of the place—not at all unpleasant, but rather familiar and warm, like a big, dirty hug. Looking across the Mexican skyline was awe inspiring; it conjured images, not of crushing urban sprawl, but of ancient monoliths and rooftop gardens simply reborn into new forms. Somehow, the heart of Mexico has managed to remain here, and I was, as the Spanish must have been, mystified at the magnitude of it.

I arrived at the hotel, got situated in my room, and headed downstairs to see who was around. Soon enough I found Ed, and we set out to find food. My travel companion for these trips had, unfortunately, been ill. I was still a little stuffy when I arrived in Mexico and was hit with another wave of illness soon thereafter. Thankfully, medical care was easy to get, and I was okay within a few days.

Not only were the APP Seminars in Mexico a huge educational offering for Spanish speaking attendees—as all courses taught in English were translated—it was a very productive time for the

Board as well as other APP members. Instructors Nick Wolack and David Vidra made great showings. Elayne Angel presented a class in Spanish for the first time. While she was hesitant to take it on, with Danny Yerna's assistance, the course turned out quite beautifully. Speaking of Danny, as always, Danny put his all behind this event, along with his loyal crew that helped out with registration and security. Additionally, while some professional interpreters were used, much of that responsibility fell on Danny and Anna Paula.

As for the courses, classes were divided up based on whether an individual was there for the first time or not. All of the attendees were highly attentive and very respectful of each other, the organizers, and the instructors. Many traveled by bus, and in a lot of cases, from more than 10 or 20 hours away to attend.

During the wrap-up meeting some questions were raised about the future of the Mexican seminars. With Danny's term on the Board ending, the possibilities for the future of the event were discussed at length. Those in attendance took immediate action by forming email lists and exchanging contact information. Danny informed me later that the group was in email contact within the day.

**Italy - APTPI Conference
January 15-17, 2010 in Milan, Italy**

Attending the 2009 APTPI conference offered me the opportunity to take my first trip to Italy. My first stop: Milan. Immediately, I was struck by how sprawling the city was. Other than the city's center, most of Milan is made up of huge, hulking apartment buildings. However, the area around the Duomo is lovely, a starkly different scene. The church is absolutely massive and amazing, and the surrounding buildings are all tourist destinations and high-end



The banquet dinner in Italy.



This was the most beautiful veggie and fruit display I ever saw. The store keeper was glowing to see us taking pictures.



The hall was a gallery for attendee art.


fashion stores. But since the actual conference event was quite far from Milan, we only ventured out for a few hours. Even so, it was well worth it.

The event itself was very well organized, with polished and professional literature. The venue layout placed registration upstairs at the main door. In the downstairs foyer, a video presentation of the 2008 event played and event merchandise was sold. A long hallway was utilized as a gallery for attendee art, and the open space in between the exposition area and classroom became an exhibit space for photographs taken the previous year. The expo consisted of two adjoining rooms, hosting both medical suppliers and jewelry companies, and an office space for the organizers to work and collect their thoughts and ideas.

APTPI classes were open to all disciplines. On the first day, classes were for everyone; after that, classes were separated into different sessions for tattooists and piercers.

This entire trip, as fast-paced, erratic, and exhausting as it was, reminded me that regardless of continent or culture, there are some universal truths that exist about these meetings. Often people hear in class what they have come to know in their own studios. However, hearing it from an instructor often gives it validity and lets the individual know they are on the right track. Discoveries like this, unearthed from attending these events, offer a precious sense of belonging and bring us together as a community. The fact that there were four, full educational conferences worldwide in one year's time makes my heart beat faster and swell with pride for our community, and I am so grateful for the dedication of the organizers of these events, as it truly is their dedication that has helped shape the piercing industry. **P**

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APTPI 2ND INTERNATIONAL MEETING



Milan, Italy - January 15 to 17, 2010
 Leonardo Da Vinci Convention Center

On January 15, 16, and 17, 2010, the Associazione Piercers e Tatuatori Professionisti Italiani (APTPI) 2nd International Meeting (6th national edition) was held at the Leonardo Da Vinci Convention Center in Milan.

This year about 30 percent of the attendees were foreign, coming from Switzerland, France, Spain, Germany, Holland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Russia, Norway, England, Mexico, and the United States. As with the previous conferences, there were many professionals from abroad and a vast expo area, as well as a photographic expo and an exhibition of paintings that entertained the attendees during breaks and spare time.

From the very first day, a lot of people enjoyed the expo area, where they had a chance to purchase tattoo supplies and jewelry made from the finest materials.

Classes were held for both piercers and tattoo artists on the first day; Dr. Prato Previde's lesson had a marketing theme, and Bethra Szumski considered several aspects of bedside manner.

On the second day, the Cross Contamination class, taught by Dr. Lanfredini, was held for both piercers and tattoo artists in the morning. During the afternoon, APTPI staff held different classes for the professionals: they commented on videos with regard to correct piercing and tattoo set up, an important occasion to compare different working methodologies based on the personal experiences of each attendee. People were very interested in these workshops, as a real set up procedure was performed using a special powder under fluorescent black light, to check the occurrence of cross-contamination. As we all supposed, there isn't only one way to carry out set up and clean up *(Continued after brochure pull-out)*



NOSTRIL SCREW

LABRET STUD



CIRCULAR BARBELL



THREADLESS CURVED BARBELL



FIXED BEAD RING



SURFACE ANCHORS

Choosing jewelry for a new piercing is obviously quite different from shopping for a ring to wear on your finger. Because body jewelry is worn inside a wound and is in contact with your internal tissues, only certain products are suitable. The look of the jewelry that is placed in your fresh piercing must be secondary to aspects that affect safety and compatibility with your body. The size, style, material, and quality of the initial piece of jewelry all affect your ability to heal. Remember that the piercing location is fixed, but the jewelry can be changed after you have successfully healed. Because the body jewelry industry is saturated with substandard products, piercers and clients alike may forget that cost alone should never be the key factor in your purchase. Consider the following when selecting body jewelry for a new piercing:

JEWELRY SIZE AND STYLE

- Must be of appropriate length or diameter for your unique anatomy and the placement of the piercing. Jewelry that is too tight does not allow for air and blood circulation or for the expulsion of normal secretions from the piercing. Ill-fitting jewelry increases the likelihood of swelling, embedding, and other complications if too small, or catching and excessive trauma, if too large.
- Must be of an appropriate gauge (thickness). The body may treat jewelry that is too thin in gauge like a splinter, resulting in migration or rejection.
- Must be of a style suited to your build and the location of the piercing. Rings are best for some areas, straight or curved bars for others, and specialty jewelry—such as a nostril screw or labret stud—for specific placements.



↑ How measurements are taken on a straight barbells, captive bead ring, and a curved bar.

JEWELRY MATERIAL

Of the numerous materials available, few have been proven appropriate for wear in fresh body piercings. Some metal alloys (mixtures) have been approved based on medical usage (often as medical implants) and have specific designations that represent a precise standard for the alloy and its quality as determined by the American (now International) Society for Testing and Materials Standard (ASTM) and/or the International Standards Organization (ISO). Other materials, such as gold and obsidian (natural glass) have a long history of use in piercings dating back hundreds—and sometimes thousands—of years.

The material worn in a healing piercing:

- Should be able to withstand the heat and pressure of autoclave sterilization.
- Should be inert and compatible with the body so it doesn't cause irritation, allergy, or infection.

Mill test certificates (or "mill certs") are documents that provide evidence of a specific grade of metal with an ASTM or ISO code designation. These are provided to jewelry makers by the manufacturers of the raw materials. Some jewelry companies also have biocompatibility testing done by independent labs. Your piercer may have copies of these certificates available for you to review. You don't need to understand what the numbers mean, but the document should warrant that the metal is one of the grades listed below. It is not possible to know whether the piece of jewelry you're buying is from the batch indicated on the paper, but the presence of documentation listing the appropriate materials means that your piercer is more likely to be purchasing from reputable sources and is conscientious about their jewelry quality.

- **SURGICAL STEEL** is made of a variety of alloys. Many of them are used for body jewelry, but only a few specific grades are proven biocompatible: steel that is ASTM F-138 compliant or ISO 5832-1 compliant; ISO 10993-6,10, or 11) compliant; or (IEC [European] Nickel Directive compliant.

- **TITANIUM** is a lightweight metal that is ideal for people with concerns about nickel sensitivity. This material can be anodized to create jewelry of different colors without affecting the safety. Look for implant certified titanium (Ti6Al4V/ELI) that is ASTM F-136 compliant or ISO 5832-3 compliant, or commercially pure titanium that is ASTM F-67 compliant.

- **NIOBIUM** has been widely used by piercers with good results for many years. It is very similar to titanium, but does not have an implant-grade designation. Like titanium, niobium can be anodized to produce different colors. (And, unlike titanium, it can be anodized black.) Anodized niobium and titanium may fade due to body chemistry or when worn in friction-prone areas, but this is not harmful.

- **GOLD** (yellow or white) is appropriate for initial piercings if it is 14k or higher, nickel-free, and alloyed for biocompatibility. Gold higher than 18k is too soft for body jewelry because it can easily be scratched or nicked. Gold plated, gold-filled, or gold overlay/vermeil jewelry is not acceptable for fresh piercings. All of these involve coating a base metal with a layer of gold. The gold surface (which is very thin—measured in millionths of an inch) can wear or chip off.

- **PLATINUM** is a heavy precious metal that is extremely inert and excellent for wear in body piercings. However, body jewelry in this material is rare and very expensive due to the high cost of the material and greater difficulty in manufacturing jewelry from it.

- **BIOCOMPATIBLE POLYMERS** (plastics) including Tygon® Medical Surgical Tubing S-50HL or S-54HL, PTFE (Teflon®), or Bioplast™ are considered suitable for new piercings. Tygon is a bio-compatible medical tubing that is highly flexible. It should be changed every few months as it stiffens and discolors from extended wear. PTFE, a white plastic, is widely accepted within the industry. Bioplast was created specifically for piercings and is similar to PTFE, but comes in an array of colors and shapes. These may be worn as a substitute for metal jewelry. With new polymer products coming into the marketplace, check that the product you are purchasing, if not listed above, is USP VI compliant. These can be sterilized in an autoclave.

- Glass—Fused quartz glass, lead-free borosilicate, and lead-free soda-lime glass are inert and considered safe for initial piercings. They can also be sterilized in an autoclave.

JEWELRY QUALITY (AND OTHER THINGS TO KNOW)

• The surfaces and ends of body jewelry must be free of nicks, scratches, burrs, and polishing compounds. Suitable pieces have no irregular surfaces that could endanger the delicate healing tissue of a fresh piercing. Metal body jewelry should be polished to a smooth, mirror finish. If you wear jewelry that has a porous or uneven surface, the new cells that form during healing grow into the irregularities. Then, when the jewelry shifts or moves, these areas tear. As this cycle is repeated, scar tissue forms and healing is delayed. A faulty finish can also introduce bacteria into the wound and cause infection.

• Quality rings are annealed, which is a heat treatment that makes the metal more pliable. When rings can be opened or closed without the use of pliers it reduces the risk of damaging the metal. For thicker rings (especially in smaller diameters) the use of tools may be necessary. Tools should have brass jaws or be covered with tape or gauze to protect the jewelry from damage.

THREADING

Threaded jewelry uses tiny screw threads for their closures. One side has male screw threads that fit into a female hole that is tapped (drilled out) with the matching thread pattern on the other. One or both ends unscrew.



← Internally threaded jewelry is part of the APP standard for initial piercing jewelry; the part of the jewelry that passes through your skin is smooth, and the threads are on the removable end(s), such as balls, gems, or spikes. Internally threaded jewelry avoids any possibility of scraping your tissue with sharp threads, which is especially important with fresh piercings.



← Alternatively, externally threaded jewelry has the screw pattern cut into the post, and this comparatively rough surface may be passed through the tissue to insert and remove the jewelry.



← Threadless (or “press-fit”) jewelry is an acceptable alternative that uses a pin coupling on the ornamental end, and there are no screw threads at all.

• Machining of the jewelry affects how it performs. Losing your jewelry can result in the closure of your piercing. Threaded ends should be checked for tightness daily with clean hands. If they come loose often, you may have a defective piece. See your piercer for options or a replacement part. If the ball on your captive ring comes off or is loose, you may need a new ball, or to have the tension on the ring adjusted. Jewelry should fit together well. Threaded attachments should fit completely onto posts without gaps. Threads on screw-on ends and dimples on captive pieces should be centered for a proper fit.

• Not all piercings have an entrance and an exit. Surface Anchors are very common now and the jewelry sits below the surface of the skin from a single point. The threaded top may be changed. Removing the base of the jewelry causes the loss of the piercing, so this is not normally done. See your piercer for assistance if the piece shifts or migrates.

• Gemstone settings must be of high quality; stones should be set securely into the metal, often in a prong or bezel setting. Some manufacturers use adhesives to attach the gem. If the stone falls out, which is common with lower-priced goods, the entire piece of jewelry will need to be replaced as the hole left by the missing gem can harbor bacteria and increase risk of infection.

For information about jewelry and materials suitable for healed piercings, and for jewelry removal instructions see our brochure: *Jewelry for Healed Piercings*.

Photos courtesy of Paul King, www.coldsteelpiercing.com. Threadless bar photo courtesy of Neometal, www.neometal.com. Surface anchor photo courtesy of Industrial Strength Body Jewelry, www.isbodyjewelry.com. Diagram and text from *The Piercing Bible* by Elayne Angel, www.piercingbible.com.

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Disclaimer: These guidelines are based on a combination of vast professional experience, common sense, research, and extensive clinical practice. This is not to be considered a substitute for medical advice from a doctor. If you suspect an infection, seek medical attention. Be aware that many doctors have not received specific training regarding piercing. Your local piercer may be able to refer you to a piercing-friendly medical professional. For more information, see a qualified piercer.

Use of this brochure does not imply membership in the APP. A current list of APP members can be found at safepiercing.org. False claims of membership should be reported to the APP.

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JEWELRY FOR INITIAL PIERCINGS



TOOLS

- Ring Expanding Pliers/Ring Opening Pliers– Can be used to spread a captive ring open enough to get the bead in or out. Place the head of the pliers inside of the ring and slowly squeeze on the handle to spread the jaws open, widening the ring just enough to pull the ball out
- Ring Closing Pliers– Can be used to close the gap on a captive ring that was opened too wide by Ring Expanding Pliers, or if you are inserting a bead that is smaller than the one that was previously in the ring

RETAINERS

Most piercers offer a selection of retainers:

- Some are specific to a particular type of piercing, while others can be used in a variety of placements
- Retainers can be worn to conceal piercings
- Retainers can be worn to keep piercings open when metal jewelry must be removed, such as for sports or medical care

MEDICAL OR DENTAL PROCEDURES

Many health-care workers insist that you remove body jewelry for all procedures or tests, especially when the area in question is adjacent to a piercing. If you think it may be difficult to put jewelry back in once it is removed, take precautions to preserve your piercing:

- Discuss your piercing with your doctor or dentist prior to scheduling an appointment in which the presence of your jewelry may be an issue
- Your piercer may be able to supply recommendations for practitioners who are knowledgeable about piercing, or help you to educate your own—and perhaps your jewelry can stay
- Inquire about whether you will be permitted to wear a non-metallic replacement when you must remove metal from your body
- Obtain a retainer before your appointment and arrange for an insertion if you will need help
- If you cannot get a retainer in advance, a sterile floss threader (available in a dental office) or sterile tubing from a catheter needle (available in a hospital) can function as a retainer

JEWELRY REINSERTION AFTER REMOVAL

If the hole is still open and hasn't shrunk too much, a piercer can use a tool called an insertion taper to insert jewelry in the channel without repiercing. Initially, you may need to wear a smaller jewelry gauge if the hole is too tight to immediately put back in your prior size.

JEWELRY EMERGENCIES

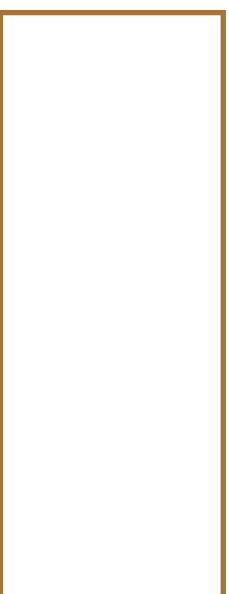
Mishaps occur on occasion, even with quality pieces. To minimize the likelihood of losing your jewelry, check threaded ends regularly for tightness, and see to it that captive beads are inserted properly. If you lose a ball, a temporary measure may prevent your jewelry from falling out until you can obtain a replacement:

- Eraser– Use a small piece of clean pencil eraser and cut it to the desired size and shape. Press it onto the end of a barbell post or between the ends of your empty captive ring to keep jewelry in place
- Band-Aid or surgical tape– Apply it to your jewelry and/or body in a way that keeps the piece from falling out

*For oral piercings such as tongue and lip, initial jewelry must be downsized once swelling is gone. See the APP brochure: *Oral Piercing Risks and Safety Measures* for more information.

Photos courtesy of Paul King, www.coldsteelpiercing.com; Neometal, www.neometal.com; and Industrial Strength Body Jewelry, www.isbodyjewelry.com. Text from *The Piercing Bible* by Elaine Angel, www.piercingbible.com

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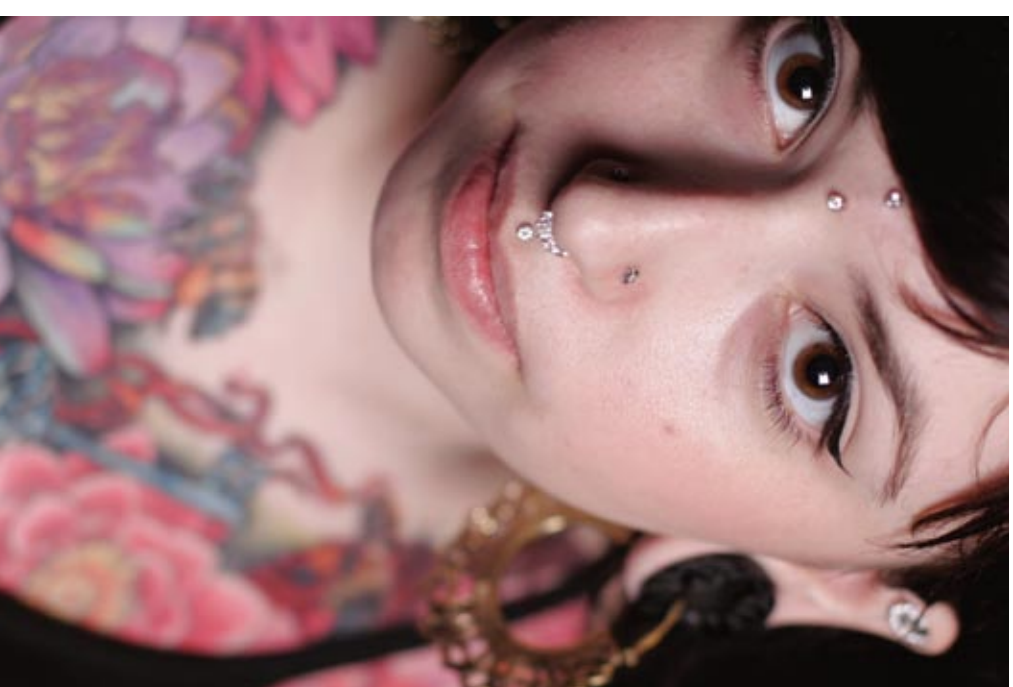


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**JEWELRY
FOR
HEALED
PIERCINGS**



If you like the body jewelry you're wearing, it fits properly*, and is of high quality, then it can be worn indefinitely. But the form and function of initial body jewelry are all about safety, so your choices are limited. After your piercing has healed, you have countless options and it should be safe to replace your jewelry when all of the following conditions are met:

- It is not tender
- The minimum initial healing time has passed
- Your piercing is no longer secreting and getting crusty

The size, material, quality, and style (along with the weight and finish) contribute to whether a piece of jewelry is suited for daily wear in the body. Some are acceptable for only a few hours of dress-up fun.

JEWELRY INSERTIONS

It is customary for a piercer to put new jewelry in for free or to charge a small fee when you make a purchase. They can help you to select the right size and type of jewelry for your anatomy, and they have a sanitary environment with access to appropriate tools if needed.

If putting in new jewelry at home:

- Make sure the piercing site, your hands, the jewelry, and your work area are clean
- Soak your piercing and/or lubricate the jewelry to facilitate removal and insertion, because piercings are often tight
- Never try to force or push your jewelry in; this can tear your tissue
- If jewelry doesn't go in easily, visit a piercer for assistance

Quickly replace any jewelry that causes irritation, itching, swelling, or redness, no matter how much you like the way it looks.

ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS

In addition to the materials commonly used for fresh body piercings, healed piercings may tolerate (or even thrive with) jewelry crafted of alternative materials including horn, bone, wood, amber, stone, and others created by Mother Nature. Sometimes referred to as "natural" or "organic" jewelry, these materials have been worn in piercings throughout the ages and all around the globe.

Additionally, there are man-made options such as certain types of plastic (including acrylic and silicone) and glass. Like all body jewelry, these products vary in quality and wearability.

Choose your jewelry to suit your lifestyle as well as your budget and aesthetic preferences:

- Many alternative materials are fragile compared to metal, so jewelry with pointy or narrow areas or in thin gauges may be easily broken

- They may not be safe to wear during sports or sleep, and should be removed for bathing and swimming

- Adornments that are extremely heavy will seldom be appropriate for everyday wear

- Etched, twisted, or matte finish items have the potential to cause irritation

- Cracks, pits, and uneven surfaces are not uncommon in natural materials, and they may encourage the growth of microbes, so keep an eye on the health of your piercing

JEWELRY REMOVAL

Even momentary removal of the jewelry from a healed piercing may result in rapid shrinkage of the piercing, and make reinsertion difficult or impossible. Most holes shrink fairly rapidly and can continue to do so over time. Over the ensuing weeks, the area will stabilize and the channel is apt to remain in whatever state it has achieved within a month or two—smaller, or fully closed.

Carefully consider whether you are truly done with a piercing before leaving the hole empty. Reinserting jewelry in a piercing that has shrunk can be more painful than the original stick—but if a hole is still present and can be stretched, then repiercing is not usually appropriate. If the initial placement was correct, relocating the piercing is undesirable.

If you end up with a piercing complication, it is **not** better to take out your jewelry now and try to get it reinserted or repierced later. Scar tissue, delayed healing, and other issues can occur from repiercing after unnecessarily abandoning a piercing.

THERE ARE SEVERAL PRIMARY STYLES OF BODY JEWELRY AND MANY VARIATIONS ON THOSE STYLES. FOR REMOVAL PURPOSES THEY ARE:

TYPE 1: Rings that are held together by tension and require bending and/or the removal of a dimpled ball or other captive piece



FIXED BEAD RING
(also continuous or seamless ring)

On a fixed bead ring, the bead is attached to one side of the ring. Grasp the ring on each side of the bead, pull gently and one end will pop out of the bead. Push one end away from you and pull the other end toward you to open the ring like a spiral. The beadless variation also opens by twisting.



CAPTIVE JEWELRY
(also segment ring, captive tube, and other captive ornaments)

The bead or captive piece of a captive ring is held in by the tension of the ring. Grasp the ring with one hand near the bead, and with the other hand grasp the bead itself. Gently pull the ring and bead in opposite directions and the bead should pop out of the ring. To remove it, twist the ring a little (as in opening a bead ring) and rotate the jewelry to slide it out of the piercing.

Note: Pliers may be needed to open and/or close captive jewelry depending on material, diameter, gauge, and jewelry quality. (See "Tools" on reverse side.)

TYPE 2: Pieces that have threaded ends that must be unscrewed



THREADED JEWELRY

(straight, curved, and circular barbell; J-curve, labret stud, screw-on-ball ring, flesh tunnel, and surface bar) Barbells and their variations have threaded ends that can be unscrewed. Like most threaded objects, they tighten to the right and loosen to the left.

TYPE 3: Pieces that press together and pull apart

PRESS-FIT JEWELRY

(commonly threadless barbells and curved bars) The pieces simply pull apart. If you are trying to remove jewelry that will not unscrew counterclockwise as expected, you may be dealing with a press-fit piece.



TYPE 4: Pieces that are free-standing, held in by gravity, other jewelry, or with an O-ring; they simply slide out or come off

FREE STANDING

(single [or non-] flare plug/eyelet, nipple shield, shaped ear ornament, eyebrow retainer)

These pieces are easily removed by simply sliding them out. Remove O-ring or additional jewelry as needed. If the piece doesn't move easily, a little bit of lubricant may be helpful.



TYPE 5: Pieces that stay in because of their shape and (may) require some pressure to remove

HELD IN BY SHAPE

(nostril screw, septum retainer, double-flare plug/eyelet, notched septum piece, shaped ear ornament)

These pieces are held in by virtue of their shape. Over time they may become loose. Some may require the assistance of a piercer for removal.



HELD IN BY SHAPE

(surface anchors) Surface anchors have become very popular. The tiny L-shaped jewelry base that is inserted into the tissue remains in place, though generally the ornament is threaded and can be changed.



This year about 30 percent of the attendees were foreign, coming from Switzerland, France, Spain, Germany, Holland, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Russia, Norway, England, Mexico, and the United States.

procedures, but the common and most important purpose is to reduce to a minimum the risk of cross-contamination to protect health of both the operators and clients.

On the third day, Steve Moore, well-known Canadian tattoo artist, held a very exhaustive class about how to plan and draw the subject of a tattoo relating to the best positioning on the body. In the afternoon, Gustavo Barahona, aka Bara, discoursed on traditional tattoo, its history, its most common subjects, and their meanings. Both lessons aroused appreciation and interest as a consequence of the growing request for traditional subjects and tattoos of such a size to impose a conscious approach to anatomy.

Elayne Angel, a professional renowned worldwide for inventing placements of body piercing such as the fourchette, gave piercers the opportunity to thoroughly understand facial anatomy in relation to their work. Pat Tidwell offered a very interesting class about freehand technique on a sterile field. This technique avoids the use of pliers, preferring needles suitably bent for the different kinds of piercing.

Steve Haworth, pioneer of the modern techniques of body modification, for the first time in Italy, offered the piercers a further occasion to analyze thoroughly different techniques of body piercing with his classes on genital beading and surface piercings.

On Saturday night, the traditional banquet dinner was held

followed by two performances by Mutant Rituals and Pain Solution. The first show joined together two famous Italian crews, Ordaliarituals and Mutant Suspension Squad, in a single sideshow; in the second show, the Norwegian performers of Pain Solution presented a sideshow that entertained and amused the large audience.

The photographic expo and the exhibition of paintings, which created the amazing setting of the meeting, were also noteworthy: the former, Suspension of Disbelief, showed a selection of pictures from all the APTPI Suscon Meetings; the latter showed artworks of some of the greatest Italian tattoo artists. Both the expositions were useful to allow the people to become acquainted with well-known and new artists in the fields of painting, photography, and tattooing.

Staff and attendees' conclusions were positive this year too. The APTPI meeting proved to be an event that is getting better every year, especially if we consider it on an international scale, both for the growing number of foreign attendees and for the top ranking and renowned lecturers that hold the classes.

Special thanks to the volunteers who greatly helped us to achieve such good organization, to the artists who shared their paintings and photographs, to the attendees who we invite to the next APTPI events, and to the sponsors who always help us to offer a better and better International Meeting. **P**

TECHNICARE SUBSTITUTES

Due to the current unavailability of Technicare, piercers have been inquiring about what other products meet APP safety guidelines for skin preparation prior to piercing.

Betadine or other povidone iodine skin prep products can be used as described on page 29 of the APP Procedure Manual, 2005 edition:

“Note: Betadine has a 3.5 minute scrub time and scrubbing must be repeated three times with separate sterile gauze pads or swabs.”

It must also be allowed to dry thoroughly before piercing takes place and should be cleansed off of the skin before the client leaves the studio.

Research also shows a 2 percent Chlorhexidine Gluconate solution to be an effective skin preparation product:

“Based on research studies, the CDC now strongly recommends using 2 percent chlorhexidine solution for skin antisepsis. Two-percent chlorhexidine solution has proven six times more effective than alcohol and povidone-iodine in cleaning the skin and in inhibiting microbial growth for days afterward. In two studies measuring persistent efficacy, chlorhexidine demonstrated significant residual antimicrobial effect over 5 days and was more effective than isopropyl alcohol, alcohol, or povidone-iodine alone.

However, although a 2 percent chlorhexidine-based preparation is preferred, the CDC still considers tincture of iodine or 70 percent alcohol as acceptable prepping alternatives.”

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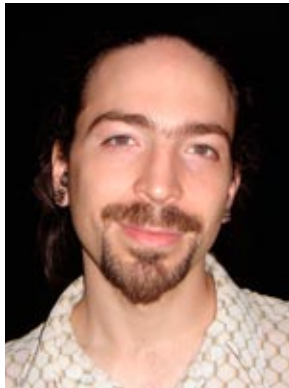
NEW BOARD MEMBERS

[At this year's annual APP Conference, two new APP members will be assuming positions on the Board of Directors. They will be replacing our two outgoing Board members: Eric "Sque3z" Anderson, our current Outreach Coordinator, and Danny Yerna, our International Outreach Coordinator.]

Because of the late date of the last election, our annual conference in Las Vegas will be the first Board meeting with the new Board Members-elect. At that time, Brian and Dana will assume positions tailored to their strengths and experience.]

BRIAN SKELLIE

*APP Professional Business Member at Large
Atlanta, GA*



Colleagues,

I accept this challenge and responsibility in respect to the community and all the good work there is to be done by this intelligent and creative group of professionals. I am enthusiastic about the opportunities for communication and new channels of accessibility and continuing education.

I have worked to develop safe body modification full time since 1992 and have shared the results with the APP as a frequent contributor and instructor since the first Conference—as a former Board member, and editor of *The Point*, and as an active business member for more than ten years. My goal is the ethical advancement of quality for all aspects of body modification from conscience to science.

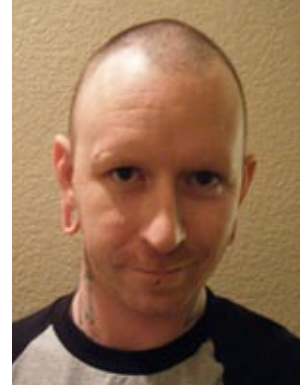
As a resource for quality and safety standards for jewelry, infection control, and body modification techniques, I have been instrumental in legislation and regulation in support of professional body artists from a local to international level. My present focus is research, education, and consultation. I am eager to help find credible answers to our questions to further enhance our profession.

I study science, technology, and art with an open mind toward refinement of our field in accord with a philosophy of the safe, simple, and gentle. To this end, I have introduced and applied effective approaches to body modification, such as safe techniques for aseptic freehand piercing and the use of Statim and Hydrim automated instrument washers for the body modification field. I am motivated to continue to pioneer and promote the use of current research-based standards for jewelry, procedure, sterilization, and instrument management for the benefit of clients and other artists worldwide.

Together with this organization I will continue to encourage the use of proper sterilization, atraumatic, aseptic techniques, and safe jewelry until nothing less is accepted by the general public. I feel learning never ends, and I will adopt any new idea, practice, or widget that enriches the quality of the piercing experience.

DANA DINIUS

*HTC Body Piercing
Phoenix, AZ*



I've been a professional piercer since 1994. My career has taken me up and down the West coast, and currently I am piercing at HTC in Phoenix, Arizona. When I began in this industry, the APP was in its formative years, and the organization we now all know and love was still in its infancy.

As a member, I have been fortunate enough to witness the development of this organization. Now that I have become a Board member—which, I might add, I have you voting members to thank for—I will do my best to achieve the tasks and goals presented to me in a timely fashion in order to continue to preserve and further this development.

I feel there is still much work to be done: to unite the membership, to recruit new members, to keep sharing with legislators and medical professionals, and hopefully make it a safer world to be adorned. And while I don't feel I am any more qualified to be elected than some of the other candidates, I will say this about myself: I have a habit of being a reliable workaholic—a habit that I intend to put to good use during my duration on the Board.

I look forward to working with the current Board members. Thanks again. **P**

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NEW INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE APP OFFICE

Each brochure has been recently updated with a new look and the most current information. Brochures are available in packs of **100 for \$20**. PDF downloads are *free* at safepiercing.org.

TITLES INCLUDE: Jewelry for Initial Piercings (**New!**) • Jewelry for Healed Piercings (**New!**) • What Is The APP? • Picking a Piercer • Body Piercing Aftercare • Aftercare for Oral Piercings • Oral Piercing Risks • Troubleshooting for You and Your Healthcare Professional (Now with more detailed medical information for doctors). Many titles are also available *in Spanish*.



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THE BAY AREA PIERCING GROUP



BECKY DILL
Cold Steel America
San Francisco, CA

Aside from the wonderful week each year at APP Conference, there just aren't a lot of resources out there to help dedicated piercers improve their skills. Over the last few years of my career, I have come to truly understand the value of networking and communicating with others in our industry.

In November 2009, I decided to round up piercers, counter staff, and working enthusiasts in the Bay Area. We all came together for, what is now, a weekly discussion group that continues to grow with each meeting. At our recently held 15th meeting, we had 34 attendees representing 20 studios throughout northern California.

In this group, we share ideas in a casual, constructive, and unbiased environment. However, the group's focus is on individual piercers, not the studios in which they work. In order to encourage positive exchanges and the progression of our craft and work environment, there are no appointed leaders, and the meetings are not considered classes. There are many different opinions and experience levels represented in the group. As a result, the open forum format creates a sort of common ground that enables us to troubleshoot individual issues, trade suggestions, and share experiences. As our trust develops, these interactions are sure to become more confident and comfortable.

To keep the group fresh and engaging, meetings are hands-on with plenty of opportunities for a great story. Together, we don and remove PPE, perform procedural setup and breakdown, and use our own anatomy for examples of placement. We have even held a few Gauntlet "Piercing with a Pro" movie nights. Discussion topics include everything from aseptic technique to equipment maintenance to navel, nostril, and oral piercings, and in order to maximize individual involvement and overall group attendance, we democratically choose the next topic and location at the end of each meeting, as rotating the venue keeps the commute fair.

The group has been inspiring for all who attend. I believe that everyone involved walks away from each meeting having learned something new. We have created our own support group and developed newfound friendships within our community. Meeting night has become my favorite night of the week, and I am excited to watch the group develop. We all have something to learn from each other; sharing like this can greatly benefit our community. We hope similar groups spawn across the country. If you start a group or have questions about starting one, please let us know!

BayAreaPiercing@gmail.com

<http://www.myspace.com/piercersanonymous> **P**



...the open forum format creates a sort of common ground that enables us to troubleshoot individual issues, trade suggestions, and share experiences. As our trust develops, these interactions are sure to become more confident and comfortable.

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APHA



JULIA GROW
Fyre Body Arts
Perkasie, PA

With my Mazda loaded to the brim with the APP booth and materials, I head down the dreaded Schuylkill Expressway. I know parking may be terrible and football fields away from where the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference is being held, but I am hoping James Weber lined up a muscle man to carry the booth.

Setting up the table goes one way, an overflow of information in an organized manner; setting up the booth goes another, we Velcro away and try to keep it from falling. Free pens are always popular, and as soon as Kellan Smith notices this, he is making stacks of our most pertinent informational brochures all held together by a pen. This is a great technique because it requires people to take information that could prove useful to them.

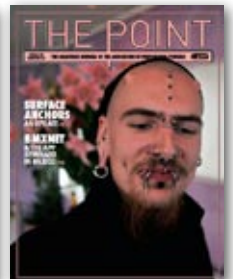
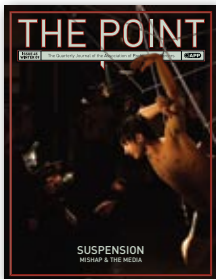
We find that the same concerns we have are the same concerns the health officials have. There are a lot of inquiries, as usual, along the lines of why we are at the conference. Once we explain we are here to educate and distribute information about our nonprofit organization, people are convinced that it is necessary for us to be here, because body piercing is, in fact, a public health issue. Some



Cassidi Ballou, from Infinite Body Piercing, at APHA.

individuals are more interested than others and agree that, though it will be tough to dispel all rumors and misinformation, a class or discussion providing information about body piercing and what concerns affect the public should be pursued.

I enjoy doing these conferences because I feel that beyond my best work body piercing, I am really doing something for my career and the industry. If it takes getting up at 6 a.m. to drive the busiest two-lane highway in Pennsylvania I will do it; at the end of the day, the reward is so much greater. Following in the tracks of the people that put forth the initial effort feels like the path to success, as it is always amazing to hear praises at these conferences from people reminiscing about good experiences with James Weber, Elayne Angel, and Raelyn Gallina. **P**



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15th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION MAY 2-7 2010



CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MAY 2ND

6:00-9:00

On-site Registration and Check-in for Pre-registrants and Vendors

Start conference off on the right foot! Register and/or pick up your badge and information tonight if you pre-registered and sleep an extra hour tomorrow morning!

8:00-Midnight

Staff Welcome "Meet and Greet"

We invite the Board of Directors, Vendors, Members and Staff for a get-to-know-you social event. This event is not open to all attendees to allow the people who will be working at Conference the time to get to know each other. Details will be posted by the Registration Desk.

MONDAY, MAY 3RD

8:00-9:00

Yoga

Free to all. All levels welcome! Shane 7 Wolfe and other instructors will lead the class.

8:00-6:30

On-site Registration and Check-in for Pre-registrants and Vendors

Still need to register? Our staff is here to assist you!

Already registered? Pick up your conference information and your badge which is required to enter ANY classrooms or the Exposition. Remember to hang on to your badge at all times!

9:00-9:30

Orientation

FACILITATOR: *Derek Lowe*
Orientation is for all new attendees, designed to help you to utilize the schedule, network with other attendees and to help you decide which courses are most suited to your needs. Entertaining enough to draw repeat attendees – this is where to start your week. Derek Lowe is a Trustee and past board member, and is happy to answer any of your questions throughout the week.

9:30-10:30

Mentor Program Kick-Off

FACILITATOR/COORDINATOR:
Ryan Ouellette

Are you new to conference? Do you have questions about how to get the most out of your week? The APP Mentor Program is here to help guide newer attendees through conference with direct support from experienced conference-goers and fellow piercers. If you want help choosing classes, have questions about the conference or expo, or would just like to get to know some other conference attendees – please attend this gathering! Tambien tenemos ayudantes que hablan español.

MISSED THE MEETING but still want a Mentor?

Have questions about how to get the most out of your week at conference? Ask the registration booth to put you in touch with a mentor coordinator today.

Tambien tenemos ayudantes que hablan español.

10:45-11:45

Vendors Meeting

FACILITATORS: *APP Board Members/Luis Garcia*

Open to Vendors only. The APP requests that all Vendors attend this informative meeting and open discussion with representatives of the APP Board of Directors and Vendor Floor Liaison, Luis Garcia.

10:45-12:15

Marketing Yourself and Your Studio

INSTRUCTOR: *Jesse Villemare*

This class will cover many basics of Marketing and Advertising directly targeted towards the tattoo and piercing industry. How do you keep clients coming back? How do you compete with other local studios? How does your studio stand out from the rest of your competition? These questions will be addressed while also discussing numerous ways to help bring extra money and new business into your studio.

10:45-12:45

Anatomy of the Body

INSTRUCTORS: *Elayne Angel & Dr. Jack*

The class will include a variety of topics including: basic relevant anatomy below the

neck; wound anatomy and healing; mechanism and role of inflammation, infection and scar formation; anatomy and possible complications of riskier piercings.

1:00-5:00

Expo Floor: Vendor Move in – Shepard Onsite

An opportunity to move in early – and get a head start on set up!

1:45-2:45

Roundtable Discussion: Guest Spotting: Dos, Don'ts, and Misconceptions

FACILITATORS: *Ed Chavarria & Sarvas Berry*

This round table will be set up to discuss different aspects of guest spotting including but not limited to communication with shop owners, do's and don'ts, proper etiquette when at a host shop, and all other aspects of being away from your own studio.

1:45-3:45

Troubleshooting and Scars

INSTRUCTORS: *Didier Suarez and Bethra Szumski*

These two classes have been combined to offer a comprehensive look at how to assess issues with healing piercings and minimize tissue trauma. A strong emphasis is placed on how to talk with clients about their concerns and symptoms without crossing over into the realm of medical diagnosis.

1:45-5:45

CPR

INSTRUCTORS: *Red Cross*

Recognizing and caring for breathing and cardiac emergencies in adults, handling emergency situations until advanced medical help can take over. Adult CPR and basic precautions for preventing disease transmission. Required annually to maintain APP membership.

3:00-4:00

Roundtable Discussion: Tips and Tricks

FACILITATORS: *Julia Grow and Courtney Sisler*

This discussion will cover some non-traditional approaches to common difficulties with topic body piercings. Piercers can share their ideas on approaching basic/intermediate piercings and how their method has given them good results.

4:15-5:45

Developing Curriculum for an Apprentice

INSTRUCTOR: *Crystal Sims*

While learning a trade through an apprenticeship is very different from learning in a school, it is vital for someone taking on an apprentice to have a curriculum with established topics, learning objectives and goals. This class outlines all the basic areas that need to be covered in any professional body piercing apprenticeship. There will also be discussion of the order in which topics should be presented, the amount of time that should be spent on theory before moving into practical, the use of various tools for delivering information (demonstrations, books, or other media), and methods of evaluating an apprentice's performance.

4:15-5:45

Biocompatibility Testing

INSTRUCTOR: *Bethra Szumski*

An overview of how products world-wide are tested for biocompatibility.

5:00-8:00

Expo Floor: Vendor Set up

No move in of materials

Vendors MUST have already moved in all materials etc. in order to be able to set up on Monday night

6:00-7:30

Materials: Steel & Titanium 2010

INSTRUCTOR: *Jason King*

Part of being a professional piercer is understanding the materials we use for initial piercings. After attending the class you will have a working understanding of why we use the grades of Titanium and Stainless Steel that we do, with an emphasis on understanding the importance of ASTM designations F-136 and F-138. Although the class has been offered several times, the extensive research allows the class to be updated so it is always current and factual. The class is highly technical, detailed and informative.

6:00-7:30

Stretching

INSTRUCTORS: *Didier Suarez & Johnny Velez*

Stretching, gauging, enlarging or expanding the earlobes and other piercings has become just as popular as piercing itself. Today, there are many choices of jewelry to adorn our earlobes with, small to large. Clients don't always know what is safe to wear, stretch with or what techniques are best for the process of stretching. With so many misconceptions in the art of stretching it is easy to run into problems. People of all ages, cultures and in all climates are enlarging their earlobes and some are enlarging other piercings. As piercers, we are often responsible for preparing our clients, young and old for a journey more intimate and of a longer duration than just a simple piercing, while avoiding problems in the process. We all should have knowledge of jewelry, aftercare, methods, troubleshooting problems and the time it takes to stretch the skin surrounding the piercing.

6:00-7:30

Spanish 101 for Body Piercers

INSTRUCTORS: *Ed Chavarria & Marilyn Mena*

The purpose of this class is to help the piercer or shop employee to feel more comfortable when challenged with a Spanish only speaking client.

This is not a how-to-speak-Spanish class, but a class with translations for common phrases used within a piercing establishment as well as proper enunciation and etiquette when helping a non-English-speaking client.

8:00-Midnight

OPENING PARTY

Main Courtyard Poolside - Smaller Pool

SPONSORED BY: *Tawapa/Wild Card, & Coco Loco Jewelry*

Our event will take place at poolside of the small pool as the main pool will be closed at this time. The smaller pool will welcome our group and remain open for our entire Conference. There will be a cash bar and food will be served. See old friends – make new ones – watch the stars and the “rock-stars” – swim and soak at your leisure...

TUESDAY, MAY 4TH

8:00-9:00

Yoga

Free to all. All levels welcome! Shane 7 Wolfe and other instructors will lead the class.

8:00-9:00

Conditioning Class

Free to all. Paul Deskinen (HTC Manager and Thai Boxer) and Georg Birns (HPP Piercer and Jui Jitsu practitioner) will lead a group conditioning class for those who may want to work out the Vegas toxins. Be prepared to sweat. Bring water, towel and appropriate attire.

9:00-7:30

Onsite Registration and Check-in for pre-registrants and vendors

Pick up your conference information and your badge which is required to enter ANY classrooms or the Exposition. Do not lose your badge!

8:00-11:00

Expo Floor Move In & Set-Up – Vendors Only

10:00-11:30

Medical Risk Assessment – Basic

INSTRUCTORS: *David Vidra & Derek Lowe*

A basic overview of how some diseases can affect the piercings that we perform. From immune compromising diseases to skin disorders, how to assess your client's potential risks and address them. This is an ideal class for new or apprenticing piercers and for those who have never taken a class on assessing the medical risks to which our piercing clients may be exposed.

10:00-12:30

Male Genital Piercing Techniques

INSTRUCTORS: *Elayne Angel & James Weber*

Male genital piercings will include a PowerPoint Presentation with lecture, video, and a question and answer period. Topics to be covered include: client communications, evaluating individual anatomy, optimal jewelry sizes and styles, piercing placements, aftercare, healing tips, and follow-up (including bleeding, urinating, sexual activity, shaving/trimming, and more). Piercings covered include Ampallang, Apadravya, Reverse Prince Albert, Prince Albert, Dydoe, Frenum, Lotum, Scrotum, Guiche, and Foreskin.

11:45-1:15

Medical Risk Assessment - Advanced

INSTRUCTORS: *David Vidra & Derek Lowe*

A more in-depth look at some of the common medical risks, infectious diseases and other skin disorders that can affect the healing of a body piercing and whether or not a piercing should be performed. This class will address the medical limitations of professional piercers and how to document them. It will include how to work with medical professionals in order to provide body piercings to clients that may be at high risk.

12:00-1:00

EXPOSITION OPENS TO APP MEMBERS ONLY

1:00-8:00

EXPOSITION OPENS TO ALL ATTENDEES

1:30-2:30

Friends of Bill W. Meeting

2:45-4:45

Workshop #1

INSTRUCTORS: *Varied*

This new approach to core material will give attendees a hands-on approach to studio set up, cross contamination prevention, autoclave/statim usage all within a “studio environment.” Class sizes will be limited so that facilitators will be able to give participants individual attention. Join us for this first time offering!

Attendees must sign up for a single workshop session in order to attend. This includes all Full Conference Pass attendees.

3:00-5:00

Surface Anchors

INSTRUCTORS: *Didier Suarez & Luis Garcia*

This class will address a variety of different insertion and removal techniques. Comparisons of different jewelry styles, tools and placements will be made. The Instructors for this class are highly experienced piercers able to provide attendees with the most comprehensive overview possible.

5:30-6:30

Roundtable Discussion: Sideshow

FACILITATOR: *Håve Fjell*

Over the past few years we sought to establish a better dialog between sideshow troupes and performers across borders in order to strengthen our position in the entertainment industry. Instead of competing and keeping to ourselves, we believe in collaboration as colleagues. One of the goals is to give the Sideshow a place on the main stage and make it available for a broader audience, thus giving us a stronger position in the scenic arts and culture scene.

In this roundtable we want to discuss the benefits of collaboration between groups, how to deal with laws and regulations and still keep it real, risks and safety issues, and most importantly the difference between professional Sideshows and jackass show-offs.

(This is a roundtable and not a class, the goal is to have a constructive discussion about Sideshow. There are several other topics that could be discussed, but given the short time we will try to keep the focus to the few mentioned above.) There will not be any handouts.

5:30-7:30

Workshop #2

INSTRUCTORS: *Varied*

This new approach to core material will give attendees a hands-on approach to studio set up, cross contamination prevention, autoclave/statim usage all within a “studio environment.” Class sizes will be limited so that facilitators will be able to give participants individual attention. Join us for this first time offering!

Attendees must sign up for a single workshop session in order to attend. This includes all Full Conference Pass attendees.

7:15-10:15

Suspension Rigging Basics

(No certificates will be issued for this class)

INSTRUCTORS: *Allen Falkner, Jason Shaw, Stewart Stephens & Emrys Yetz*

Aimed at: Beginning to Experienced Riggers; Climbers; Rappellers; and Suspension Artists. Proper care, use and safety of ropes, climbing/rappelling hardware and general safety overview of rigging as it pertains to the art of suspension.

8:00

EXPOSITION CLOSES

8:00-9:00

Roundtable Discussion: How to Implement Change in Your Studio

FACILITATOR: *Penelope Silverstein*

This roundtable is a platform for discussing how to initiate change in your studio after Conference. We will discuss moving towards meeting the requirements set forth by the APP to

obtain membership as well as how to make our studios more efficient and "user" friendly. Ideas about how you are able to increase business, communicate with your clients, and disseminate information in a way that will benefit the goals of your studio will be shared. After Conference it is easy to be overwhelmed with information; this roundtable will help you to optimize the ideas and concepts that you have learned as well as exchange ideas with your colleagues.

8:00-9:00

Roundtable Discussion: Respect for the Artist: Piercers and Tattoo Artists

FACILITATORS: *Mike Martin, Darren Walters & Will Spencer*

Our roundtable will be focused on communication and respect from piercer to tattooist and tattooist to piercer. We will aim to discuss the old mentality and how it has emerged into a good working relationship in the shop and how to maintain it. We hope to encourage points of view from all and see what we can learn from each other.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5TH

8:00-9:00

Yoga

Free to all. All levels welcome! Shane 7 Wolfe and other instructors will lead the class.

9:00-7:00

Onsite Registration and Check-in for Pre-registrants

Pick up your conference information and your badge which is required to enter ANY classrooms or the Exposition. Do not lose your badge!

10:00-11:00

The Golden Age! Precious Metals and Gemstones Revealed

INSTRUCTORS: *Adam Block and Nick Martin*

Sell with confidence. This is a no-nonsense look at Precious Metals, Gemstones and their use pertaining to the Body Arts industry. This class will include an in-depth look into diamond grades, metal karating and display possibilities.

10:00-12:00

Grounding and Bedside Manner

INSTRUCTORS: *Nicholas Wolak, Joshua Bryant & John Johnson*

Earning your clients' trust and walking them through a comfortable experience are as important as the technical aspects of piercing. Josh, Nick, and John will discuss the importance of good bedside manner and share ideas to help piercers prepare their clients and themselves for the piercing process.

10:00-12:30

Head and Neck Anatomy

INSTRUCTORS: *Betsy Reynolds & Elayne Angel*

The head and neck regions of the body contain numerous neural, muscular, ductal, and vascular structures that impact piercing strategies. This course will provide an overview of anatomical structures to piercers in an attempt to familiarize

participants with head and neck structure and function considerations that will influence piercing techniques. Presented in a relaxed multimedia format, the course will provide information on tissue differences in healing dynamics, inflammation and its consequences, strategies to minimize damage to oral structures secondary to piercings, and aftercare recommendations.

10:00-12:00

Workshop #3

INSTRUCTORS: *Varied*

This new approach to core material will give attendees a hands-on approach to studio set up, cross contamination prevention, autoclave/statim usage all within a "studio environment." Class sizes will be limited so that facilitators will be able to give participants individual attention. Join us for this first time offering!

Attendees must sign up for a single workshop session in order to attend. This includes all Full Conference Pass attendees.

11:45-12:45

Health Inspectors Meeting

Open to Health Inspectors only. A chance for Health Inspector attendees to meet each other and discuss pertinent issues related to the Conference.

12:00-8:00

EXPOSITION OPEN

1:00-3:30

Annual Members Meeting (Members Only)

This meeting is to present information to the Membership body of the Association and review its current business. Voting members will be asked to sign in order to establish whether a quorum is present. Non-voting APP Members are welcome to attend and observe this process, as well as one representative from each APP Corporate Sponsor.

2:15-3:15

Roundtable Discussion: Latex Allergies and Avoidance in the Studio

FACILITATOR: *Meg Barber*

This roundtable is to discuss the prevalence of latex allergies and sensitivities in the piercing community, and how to avoid reactions with clients, and developing one yourself. This will cover topics such as "what are latex allergies vs. sensitivities," "how to screen clients for potential latex issues," and "how latex allergies worsen with exposure."

3:45-6:15

Aftercare and Wound Healing Dynamics

INSTRUCTORS: *Betsy Reynolds & Steve Joyner*

This class will teach the practitioner how to tailor aftercare for individual clients, by understanding the impact of specific regions and different environments. The anatomy of a wound will be discussed, how it heals, and what products are appropriate/inappropriate for healing. Full body and oral surgical preparations and exactly how the skin regenerates itself will be included along with how jewelry affects wound care.

4:00-6:00

Workshop #4

INSTRUCTORS: *Varied*

This new approach to core material will give attendees a hands-on approach to studio set up, cross contamination prevention, autoclave/statim usage all within a "studio environment." Class sizes will be limited so that facilitators will be able to give participants individual attention. Join us for this first time offering!

Attendees must sign up for a single workshop session in order to attend. This includes all Full Conference Pass attendees.

4:15-6:15

Body Modification in pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican Cultures

INSTRUCTOR: *Paul King*

This overview will highlight the region of Mesoamerica in what is today Southern Mexico and Guatemala. This lecture examines the techniques and motivations for the religious and social customs of altering the body through piercing, tattooing, bloodletting, amputation, human sacrifice, cranial shaping, dental inlays, etc. We will compare in-depth the practices from the ancient civilizations of Olmec, Oaxaca, Teotihuacan, Toltec, Huastec, and Mixtec, with a particular focus on the Mayan.

6:30-8:30

Workshop #5

INSTRUCTORS: *Varied*

This new approach to core material will give attendees a hands-on approach to studio set up, cross contamination prevention, autoclave/statim usage all within a "studio environment." Class sizes will be limited so that facilitators will be able to give participants individual attention. Join us for this first time offering!

Attendees must sign up for a single workshop session in order to attend. This includes all Full Conference Pass attendees.

6:30-9:00

MEMBERS ONLY: Large Gauge and Surface Genital Piercing

INSTRUCTORS: *Georg Birns, Steve Haworth*

& James Weber

Exploring more options below the belt – this class will focus on advanced techniques and non-traditional scenarios for seasoned piercers wanting to offer clients more than just the basics.

6:30-9:00

The Ear Experience - from Simple to Extreme

PANEL: *Luis Garcia, Chrissy Shull, Roger Rabbitt Rodriguez, Pat Tidwell & Noah Babcock*

This class will cover everything you would need to know about ear cartilage piercing, from the simplest helix piercing to the more intricate ear projects. Placement, anatomy, jewelry sizing, and custom bending will all be covered.

8:00

EXPOSITION CLOSES

9:15-10:15

Travelogue: The Kuna, Embera and Wounan

PRESENTER: *Nick Wolak*

Nick Wolak shares pictures and tells stories about his trip to the Darién Gap in 2002.

Be ready for septum piercings, shamans, military police, dug out canoes, and loin cloths.....

THURSDAY, MAY 6TH

8:00-9:00

Yoga

Free to all. All levels welcome! Shane 7 Wolfe and other instructors will lead the class.

8:00-9:00

Conditioning Class

Free to all. Paul Deskines (HTC Manager and Thai Boxer) and Georg Birns (HPP Piercer and Jui Jitsu practitioner) will lead a group conditioning class for those who may want to work out the Vegas toxins. Be prepared to sweat. Bring water, towel and appropriate attire.

9:00-5:30

Onsite Registration

For any additional registration needs; late check-in, badge pick up etc.

10:00-11:30

Power Selling With Style

INSTRUCTOR: *Maria Tash*

This seminar will help you develop techniques you and your staff can use to maximize sales. Learn jewelry trends and celebrity style to sell multiple pieces of jewelry for any piercing. How to recognize a customer's taste, turn an undecided customer into a buyer, and how to turn a \$20 sale into a \$200 sale. Ask effective questions to upsell and maximize your profits. Learn specific techniques how to get clients back into your studio without a sales pitch. Go through specific examples of sales and jewelry markups. Learn tasteful display techniques for piercings and jewelry, and how to cross merchandise to create more wealth.

10:00-12:00

Workshop #6

INSTRUCTORS: *Varied*

This new approach to core material will give attendees a hands-on approach to studio set up, cross contamination prevention, autoclave/statim usage all within a "studio environment." Class sizes will be limited so that facilitators will be able to give participants individual attention. Join us for this first time offering!

Attendees must sign up for a single workshop session in order to attend. This includes all Full Conference Pass attendees.

10:00-12:30

MEMBERS ONLY Piercing Asepsis: Working Out of Your Hands

INSTRUCTORS: *Ed Chavarria, Pat Tidwell, Johnny Velez & Chris Glunt*

The focus of this class is to show an effective use of aseptic technique while performing body piercings. Very commonly as body piercers we use stands and trays to place our tools on

for our procedures; if the piercer is not paying acute attention this can easily lead to cross contamination during piercing procedures.

The focal point of this presentation is to show various ways to do entire procedures completely out of your hands. Although this way of working can sometimes be easier to perform while using free-hand technique, the class panel will show effective ways to work out of your hands using various techniques including forceps, receiving tubes, and free-hand techniques.

10:00-2:00

Blood Borne Pathogens (BBP)

INSTRUCTORS: *Kris Lachance & David Vidra*

This course has been updated specifically for the piercing practitioner through a collaborative effort of APP's Board of Directors, Health Educators Inc. & Professional Piercing Information Systems. The course meets federal training requirements of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard and features a comprehensive update on the very latest changes in OSHA rules and regulations as they apply to the piercing industry.

11:45-12:45

Anodizing Body Jewelry

INSTRUCTOR: *Jonathan Loveless*

In this course you will get a general understanding of how the body jewelry anodizing process works. You will learn how to anodize titanium body jewelry through demonstration, and be informed of what supplies and equipment that you will need to start doing it yourself.

12:00-6:00

EXPOSITION OPEN

1:15-2:15

Roundtable Discussion: Ethics

FACILITATORS: *John Johnson & Chris Glunt*

The ethics round table is open to all attendees who wish to listen to and contribute to discussions relevant to the piercing industry. Topics will include under-age piercings, informed consent, using quality supplies, and anything where grey areas of ethics may exist. It is an open forum and everyone should feel free to participate.

1:15-2:15

Roundtable Discussion: Legislation & Inspection

FACILITATOR: *Steve Joyner*

This roundtable is an open forum to discuss any and all topics related to piercing legislation that is going on around the country. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the steps necessary to change/write legislation and what legislation now exists throughout the U.S. We encourage all Health Inspectors to attend this roundtable. Any and all persons that that are interested are welcome to attend.

2:15-3:15

International Meeting

For all International Attendees or those interested in international piercing issues.

2:30-4:30

Workshop #7

INSTRUCTORS: *Varied*

This new approach to core material will give attendees a hands-on approach to studio set up, cross contamination prevention, autoclave/statim usage all within a "studio environment." Class sizes will be limited so that facilitators will be able to give participants individual attention. Join us for this first time offering!

Attendees must sign up for a single workshop session in order to attend. This includes all Full Conference Pass attendees.

3:15-4:45

Beginning of Contemporary Body Piercing: Fakir's Journey

INSTRUCTOR: *Fakir Musafar*

Fakir did his first permanent body piercing in 1944, first Sun Dance in 1947, and first suspension in 1963. In the 1970s, along with Doug Malloy, Jim Ward, Sailor Sid, and a handful of other pioneers, he helped to innovate the types of piercings, piercing techniques and tools in common use today. In this program Fakir tells the largely untold story of our origins, history and impact on modern culture with facts and photos.

3:15-4:45

Initial Jewelry Size & Style

INSTRUCTORS: *Chris Glunt & John Johnson*

What jewelry goes where and why? This class will focus on the different styles of jewelry available to piercers as well as appropriate sizing for initial piercings. This class is intended for the beginning to intermediate piercer and will cover the basic APP standard for initial body piercing jewelry.

5:30-7:00

The Gauntlet—History of an Industry Icon

INSTRUCTORS: *Jim Ward, Elayne Angel & Paul King*

Do you know the history of that captive ring you may take for granted? Or why the Brown and Sharp gauge is the US Piercing industry standard and not the stainless steel gauge? Established in 1975 by Jim Ward, Gauntlet was the first studio dedicated solely to body piercing. Gauntlet/Jim devised many of the piercing techniques still in use today and created many of the jewelry designs that have become industry standards. By making these readily available to the general public, the way was paved for the birth of the modern body piercing movement. Join Jim, along with Elayne Angel and Paul King who will provide a glimpse into the exciting history of our industry and this venerable institution.

In a 2004 documentary entitled The Social History of Piercing, MTV called Jim Ward "the granddaddy of the modern piercing movement." He is currently hard at work on his book Running the Gauntlet—a History of the Modern Body Piercing Movement expected to be available later this year.

5:30-7:00

Studio Aesthetics

INSTRUCTORS: *Nick Wolak and William Spencer*

What makes a studio look, feel, and run great? Through years and years of trial and error, this year's presenters have compiled a thorough

list of ideas and suggestions; Dos and Don'ts that will work for any studio at any stage of its development. The class is clearly outlined and highlighted by clips from some of the best studios around the world.

6:00

EXPOSITION CLOSES

8:00-Midnight

BANQUET DINNER

Location to be announced

Formal Masquerade

SPONSORED BY: *Industrial Strength Body Jewelry & LeRoi, Inc.*

The Dinner and fun will start at 8pm (get there early to get your seat). Feathers and Masks are encouraged — who you come as is up to you!

Awards/Announcements and Final Raffle 10pm.

Awards for the best booth(s) Single and Multiple will be awarded Wednesday afternoon and announced tonight. The President's Award will be given at this time, along with announcements. The top ten Raffle prizes will be drawn and given out. Those attendees who do not have tickets for the Banquet are welcome to join us for these events.

FRIDAY, MAY 7TH

.....
*IT'S FRIDAY,
BUT WE'RE NOT DONE YET!*

9:00-2:00

Registration Desk

Final Expo ticket and class sales.

10:00-12:00

Workshop #8 – In Spanish

Este "workshop" está compuesto de varias clases básicas y le da la oportunidad al participante de ver y entender cómo se debe de acomodar una tienda de perforaciones corporales. La clase mostrara como acomodar el espacio de trabajo, como prevenir la contaminación cruzada, el uso correcto del autoclave y el statim y demás detalles que debe contar un estudio profesional. El cupo será limitado para así poder dar una atención personalizada a todos los participantes. Los interesados deben inscribirse para poder participar en este "Workshop" aunque tiene el "Full Pass".

10:00-2:00

EXPOSITION OPEN

10:00-12:30

Studio Documentation and Manual

INSTRUCTORS: *Richard Frueh & David Vidra*

If you own or manage a studio, then this is the class for you. It is Cover Your A** 101. Do you have a release form? Do you know what needs to be in it and what needs to be left out of it? How do you store your forms? Do you have employees? Do you have a manual that defines what you expect of them? This class is going to teach you the basics and then some on what you need to document in your studio. Topics to be covered include release forms, employee

manuals, cleaning schedules, and other paperwork essentials. Documentation is the hand washing of running your business. Attendees are encouraged to bring in copies of their release forms, cleaning schedules, employee manuals, and any other documentation used in their studio.

12:15-1:45

La Estetica De Su Estudio

PRESENTADOR: *Nick Wolak*

COLABORADOR: *Will Spencer*

Que hace es lo que hace que un estudio se ve, se siente, y corre de maravilla?

Despues de anos y anos de fracasos y exitos, el presentador ha juntado una lista grande de ideas y sugerencias. Haceres y No Haceres que funcionaran en cualquier estudio en cualquier etapa de su desarrollo. Esta clase es claramente delineada y detacada por imagenes de algunos de los mejores estudios del mundo.

2:00-5:00

First Aid

INSTRUCTORS: *Red Cross*

Basic care for injuries or sudden illnesses until advanced medical care can take over. Handling emergency situations; basic disease transmission precautions; recognizing and caring for bleeding, wounds, sudden illness; and immobilizing muscle, bone and joint injuries. Does not include information on breathing or cardiac emergencies. Meets OSHA Guidelines for First Aid. Required renewal every 3 years to maintain APP membership.

2:00

EXPOSITION CLOSES

2:15-3:45

Joyeria Inicial para Perforaciones Corporales

INSTRUCTORS: *Roger Rabb!t Rodriguez & Oscar Sandoval*

Esta clase se centrara en los diferentes estilos de la joyería a disposición de los perforadores, y el tamaño apropiado para las perforaciones iniciales. Esta clase está destinado a el perforador al comienzo de perforación y intermedios y cubrirá la norma básica de el APP para las perforaciones corporales.

4:00-5:00

Cuidados basicos

INSTRUCTORS: *Roger Rabb!t Rodriguez & Oscar Sandoval*

La clase se enfocara en los cuidados básicos de una perforación corporal. Se enfocara en las diferentes maneras que se puede dar cuidado a una perforacion, igual se hablara de productos, lo que es funcional y lo que no para lograr una buena y sana cicatrizacion.

CLASS OF '96



ED CHAVARRIA
Membership Liaison
Blue Star Tattoos
Concord, CA

When I think back to 1996, I can think of many personal and social events that helped shape my life and maybe even led me to where I am today.

On a personal level, 1996 marked the year that I chose to take the first step toward becoming the person I am now but wanted to be then. I came from a very traditional and conservative Latino family, so even the idea of getting my ear pierced was something that was a big social and moral no-no—and having anything else done was completely out of the question. But getting pierced and tattooed was something that I yearned for on the inside, and it was something I knew I had to do.

In the spring of '96, I chose to follow my heart and looked into getting my first body piercing. At the time, there wasn't the array of shops that you find now, but in San Diego there was a local shop whose ad in a weekly news periodical caught my eye. I don't remember the advertisement very well, but it had something to do with cleanliness and sterility—and it also had a five-dollar-off coupon. I did some calling and asking around as well, and everything led me to this shop.

I walked in, and the energy was very mellow. At the time, I didn't even know much (if anything) about energy, but I knew I liked what I felt. I remember it as though it was yesterday. I walked in toward the end of the night, and I was very nervous but was greeted graciously and attended to as if everything revolved around me. I filled out paperwork, things were set up, and I was taken to the back piercing room. The piercer made me feel at ease and understood what I was going through. I was about to do something that meant a lot to me—but at the same time, I was going to disappoint the people that had the most influence on me at the time: my family.

We talked calmly as I was being prepped with iodine swabs, and I felt at ease after being informed that the jewelry I had selected was going to conceal my piercing just fine. As a matter of fact, the piercer was very excited to do the piercing because the type of jewelry was fairly new. The jewelry was a 14-gauge Good Art SRN. The piercing was my septum. The piercer was Didier Suarez, and the shop was Mastodon Piercing Studio. (Funny how things turn out I now serve on the APP Board with the first person to pierce me.)

When we were done, I inquired about finding studios elsewhere if I were to move from the area. As an omen of things to come, I was given contact information for the APP.

On a social level, 1995 to 1996 marked the start of body piercing and tattooing making its way to the public eye. The hip rock stars at the time were all tattooed, publications about piercing and tattooing started to circulate, and MTV had just launched a little

series called "The Real World" that featured a tattooed roommate. There was even a navel piercing performed in the Aerosmith video for the song, "Cryin'."

Talk shows with heavily pierced and tattooed couples hit popular television all over, and all of a sudden "freaks" were in high demand. There was even a couple that got married on "The Jerry Springer Show" and chose to have septum piercings performed on air—with gold captives as their wedding rings. Even Oprah had her ears pierced on her show, though it was done in a very inappropriate manner, with a piercing gun.

Also in 1996, the APP was having its first open-to-the-public Conference. Most of the attendees stayed at the Luxor, but the Conference was held at the Tropicana Hotel in the Tradewinds meeting rooms. At that time, there were about 100 attendees, and no classes were offered; it was simply an open meeting. We've experienced a lot of growth since that first time.

But the organization dates back to even before this. Original memberships in the APP started in late 1995 and early 1996. I would like to give credit to a few people who have been part of the APP since it began accepting members. If you know, meet, or see these people walking down the hall, teaching a class, or even sitting around at the bar having a conversation, take the time to stop and shake their hand and say thanks. It is these 15-year members who have really made a difference.

The following individuals have maintained Professional Business Member status since 1996:

Derek Lowe	Bink Williams
Patrick McCarthy	Jack Rubini
Darrin Walters	Byriah Dailey

A Professional Business Member at Large is a position that can be attained after a regular Business Member status has been established. Though this typically means that the person does not pierce full time (and possibly not even part time), they still have a crucial involvement in the body piercing industry. The following people have been members of the APP since 1996 but are now Professional Business Members at Large:

Elayne Angel	Sky Renfro
Byriah Dailey	Brian Skellie
Gus Diamond	David Vidra
Allen Falkner	Adam Block

Thank you for staying loyal, always believing, and spreading the good word; it is you who have truly influenced this organization. **P**



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THE POINT



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UPCOMING APP EVENTS

▶ **APP ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
AND EXPOSITION**

May 2-7

Tropicana Hotel
and Casino
Las Vegas, NV

▶ **ACHA**

(American
College Health
Association
Conference)

June 1-5

Philadelphia, PA

▶ **NEHA**

(National
Environmental
Health
Association
Conference)

June 6-9

Albuquerque, NM

▶ **ADHA**

(American Dental
Hygienists'
Association
Conference)

June 23-29

Las Vegas, NV

▶ **APP MEXICO
SEMINARS**

October 11-14

Mexico City, Mexico

▶ **APHA**

(American
Public Health
Association
Conference)

November 6-10

Denver, CO



Body Modification artist Steve Haworth talks to V. Vale, editor and founder of RE/Search Publications, at the 2009 BMXnet conference in Essen, Germany.