



Warrior Scar Jewelry

Pre-World Burn Congress Workshop

October 4th • 9:00 am– 3:45 pm | October 5th • 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

~ A Post Traumatic Growth Experience ~

Christopher and Holly Gage share Christopher’s story of survival from his devastating burn accident by creating what they call Warrior Scar Jewelry. Christopher Gage, one of the Group Discussion Facilitators and Co-Founder of the Healing Phoenix Arts Program, is a burn survivor whose recovery experience from his accident was the event that has driven him to work with his wife Holly, a world renowned jewelry artist, in creating a Post-Traumatic Growth experience by creating Warrior Scar Jewelry.

Christopher and his son, Ryan, dreamed of owning a mobile food restaurant of their own for ten years. Over a year after opening, they experienced a propane leak that caused an explosion and fire with Ryan in the vehicle



August 12, 2018. Christopher and Ryan Gage, father and son, were taken by helicopter to Crozier Burn Center after flames engulfed their family mobile restaurant after a propane leak and explosion.



and Christopher at the door entrance. Both father and son were rushed to Crozier Burn Center in Philadelphia by helicopter and were placed in a coma. Christopher sustained over 40% body burns, and their son sustained 28%.

After an extended stay, grafts, surgery, rehab, physical therapy, and recovery, this event has wholly reshaped Christopher’s life for the better in a positive way, resulting from working through the process of Post Traumatic Growth (PTG). This is not to say he didn’t have trauma, or physical and emotional difficulties, but to say he found a path that renewed his spirit. In psychology, Post Traumatic Growth describes positive psychological change experienced due to struggling with highly challenging, highly stressful life circumstances.

Christopher and Holly actively sought out and researched the relatively new psychological field of PTG two years into his rehabilitation. It immediately resonated with him because it helped explain what he had experienced on his own during his stay in the hospital and rehabilitation at home. They then learned the skills were teachable, so they became Post Traumatic Growth Peer Support trained, and Holly SOAR trained.



The Jewelry making idea came when Christopher was well enough for Holly to replicate a portion of his scars to make him a Warrior Scar Pendant. Artfully capturing his scars in silver, the process was painless. It cast his scars in a new light, telling the story of his experience of beating incredible odds while honoring his journey in a crafted jewelry piece thoughtfully inscribed on the reverse with words from Holly's heart. How empowering.

The idea of the Warrior Scar Jewelry coincided with the need for Christopher and Holly to "Pay it Forward" for the immense amount of support, love, and kindness sent their direction by doctors, nurses, family, and friends. That led them to volunteer at Camp Susquehanna in the Poconos six months post-burn unit stay. Holly said, "We both sat on the couch the day before we left and cried. Were we ready to face our trauma and that of the children? It turns out, Yes, we were!"

This excellent camp is where burn survivors ages six to sixteen can come for support and understanding. Many of the leaders are burn survivors as well, and the atmosphere is nurturing to everyone. Part of the camp's philosophy and goals is to provide children with burns a safe place for healing. Also, it is a place where they can share their feelings about difficult experiences, even if for the first time.

Our goal at camp was to relay a positive message about scars with the participants and to help them fundamentally change how they see their injuries. Anyone surviving a traumatic injury and the grit it takes to recover is quite the warrior. They have extraordinary bravery, resilience, and their scars have a story to tell. The adult leaders enthusiastically joined in to make Jewelry of their scars as well.

The most amazing things happened during the session. Folks were paired up to talk about the subject of their scars. Those that didn't feel comfortable didn't, with no pressure to do so. There were genuine growth moments as they touched them and shared stories. These rare moments were priceless gems bringing incredible cathartic energy to the room. While looking at the various scars, emphasis was placed on the typography and height of the scar – the better the Jewelry would look when done. Of course, this points to the scars they personally think are the worse, yet they got excited about finding "better" candidates for their Jewelry. "This one is better, no, that one is better." Could you imagine using such positive language about their scars?!

Once the project was completed, what came next was another one of those experiences we will never forget. The children began showing everyone the Warrior Scar Jewelry they made, not just those in the workshop, but everyone. The young children would hold up the Jewelry right next to the scar and compare. Some would say, "Touch the jewelry, now touch the scar. Look, they are the same." One young man gave his girlfriend a heart-shaped bracelet, what an open and loving gesture. There was so much excitement in that "ah-ha" moment. There was such an overwhelming feeling of amazement as the workshop attendees leaped from fear to pride, maybe even experiencing a paradigm shift in how they see their scars. Perhaps they found more bravery in the moments they could now share with others.

This first experience sparked more workshops at the Gage's location in Lancaster, PA, on-location at other facilities, and even Online teaching opportunities. Christopher and Holly work on their own and with facilities to implement fundraising activities in the hope of reducing material fees for the workshops and Survivor Scholarships.



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~ A Post Traumatic Growth Experience ~

- Express yourself through Warrior Scar Jewelry-making by replicating a healed scar from your traumatic experience.
- Leave with a beautiful precious Fine Silver jewelry keepsake.
- Develop new perspectives, possibilities, and ideas, realizing you are a strong survivor.
- Art and discussion are used as a healing modality in a fun, engaging program in a safe environment for sharing.
- 15 openings are available. No experience is necessary. All abilities are welcome.

Workshop Cost \$230 per person, Materials Fee: \$102

To register for the class and find more details:

<https://tinyurl.com/WBCWarriorScarJewelry>



Request a Workshop for Your Group

Let us come to your facility, or you can visit ours in Lancaster, Pa.

Contact Holly Gage at hgage1@ptd.net for details.



Donations

- Financial Donations will go toward materials for the workshop and for Survivor Scholarships, which will reduce or eliminate the cost of the workshop for attendees. Contribute full or partial funds at your discretion.
- Donate an item on the “Wish List.” Any item, big or small, is a great help.
- Spread the word. Share among your social network, friends, colleagues, and patients.

All donations, scholarships and contributions to the wish list can be made at:

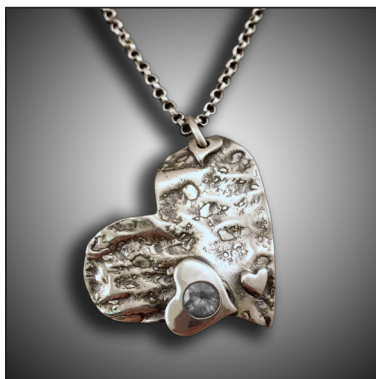
<https://tinyurl.com/ScarJewelryWishList>

Or checks can be sent to:

Christopher Gage

Healing Phoenix Arts Program

P. O. Box 614, Bowmansville, PA 17507





Wish List

Donations Being Accepted for these Items

Many tools and equipment have been donated by Jewelry manufacturers and Christopher and Holly Gage. However, the consumable items — materials which are gone after the attendee uses them, are in regular need.

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| Amazon Art Clay Fine Silver - 20 grams - 2 pkgs (15 total individuals), (8 pkgs needed) \$583.92/all https://tinyurl.com/23jebf3s | \$72.99 /ea |
| Rio Cold Mold Two-Part Silicone Compound, 1 lb. (1 needed) https://tinyurl.com/mvjfyfad | \$26.25 |
| Bicycle Standard Jumbo Playing Cards -4 pkg (1 needed) Stacked and used to roll out even sheets of clay tinyurl.com/34rn5vp4 | \$15.99 |
| Cool Tools 3M Polishing Paper 1-multi-pack (1 pkg needed) https://tinyurl.com/ynhkhrap | \$15.00 |
| Clay Revolution CZ Gemstones, 4 mm, \$.63 each (15 needed) https://tinyurl.com/547zfdj6 | \$20.00 |
| Amazon 50 - 5mm Open Jump Rings Sterling Silver 19 gauge (1 pkg needed) https://tinyurl.com/4krjjubm | \$18.95 |
| Cool Tools Sterling Silver Ball Chain 2mm -18 inch - 1 Pkg (15 needed, \$16.93 each) \$271.75-all https://tinyurl.com/2acw2hnj | \$15.45 |
| Etsy Leather Cord 2mm genuine Greek leather cord necklace sterling silver ends & lobster clasp. Variety of colors (15 needed) \$184.85/all https://tinyurl.com/h66fjap5 | \$10.99/ea |
| Amazon Glory Qin 2 Yards 10mmx2mm Genuine Cow Hide Flat Leather Strip, 10mm Wide Real Leather Craft for Jewelry Making LeatherRush (Brown) (1 needed) https://tinyurl.com/y7792ya4 | \$8.99 |
| Amazon Glory Qin 5 Yards 10mmx2mm Genuine Cow Hide Flat Leather Strip, 10mm Wide Real Leather Craft for Jewelry Making Leather Rush (Black) (1 needed) https://tinyurl.com/2p93z53k | \$11.99 |
| Etsy 2Pcs Stainless Steel Magnetic Clasp Flat Hole 10*3mm Leather Cord Connector Clasps Magnet Buckle DIY Bracelet Making Jewelry Findings (1 set per person) https://tinyurl.com/y2dzkdbt | \$16.99 |



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| Amazon Devcon 20445 Flow-Mix 5-Minute Epoxy - 14 ml (1 needed) https://tinyurl.com/2r4arpu9 | \$8.79 |
| Rio Grande Paper Cover Gift Boxes, 3-1/16x2-1/8x1", Cocoa (1 needed) https://tinyurl.com/2vddveen | \$51.04 |
| Amazon 20 Pack of 2" x 2" Ultra-Polish Pads (1 needed) https://tinyurl.com/45kx2v6y | \$13.30 |
| Kiseer 36 Pack Colourful Cute Contact Lens Case Bulk Box Holder Container Soak Storage Kit (1 needed) Used for molding compound https://tinyurl.com/2p9bzd4w | \$9.99 |