



Biz Buzz



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Business Joy & Pain

Acupuncture anyone? The Acupuncture Center of Ann Arbor (222-8210), at 200 Huron View Blvd., celebrates its first anniversary this month. The center is run by Gary Merel, who practiced in Pennsylvania for six years prior to following both his love, Mariah, and his spiritual teacher, Brenda Morgan, to Michigan.

Merel says he can help those with migraines, back pain, depression, anxiety and muscular skeletal pain, as well as those with auto immune discomforts like Crohn's Disease, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue, irritable bowel syndrome and diverticulitis. "This is about regulating discomfort, mediating the pain and moving toward resolving the underground condition," says Merel. He also specializes in women's reproductive health and issues of infertility, using acupuncture sessions to help women regulate their menstrual cycles.

"Acupuncture chose me as much as I chose it," Merel says. "Prior to being an acupuncturist, I sold large computer software systems, which I was good at but not very happy with. I used to love to hate my job. The compelling need was to do something that resonated with me." At age 44, Merel took a leap of faith, quit his job and earned a Masters in Oriental Medicine.

Merel says sometimes those who come to an acupuncturist have already tried doctors or chiropractors and some are admittedly nervous about the acupuncture process. "There is this counter-intuitive thing about needles. But these needles are thin and painless." For more information, check out www.acupuncturecenteraa.com.