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Editorial: [boieditorial@aol.com](mailto:boieditorial@aol.com)  
Advertising: [boiads@aol.com](mailto:boiads@aol.com)

## EDITORIAL

Publisher: boiMAGazine, Inc.  
Editor: Nate Daniels  
Feature Editor: Mike at Night  
Graphic Design: Titanium Graphics  
Layout Specialist: Angel Christopher  
Multi-Media: Media Services Management  
AI Staff Assistant: boiBOT

## COVER

Cover Art Theme: Holiday Cheer!  
Graphic Designer: Mike Macharello  
(a.k.a.) Mike at Night and  
boiBOT, boiMAGazine's AI assistant

## EDITORIAL, ARTICLES & COLUMNISTS

Feature Articles: Nate Daniels - [Nate@boiMAG.com](mailto:Nate@boiMAG.com)  
Exclusive Interviews: Mike at Night - [Mike@boiMAG.com](mailto:Mike@boiMAG.com)  
Concert Reviews: Jorge Suarez - [InConcert@boiMAG.com](mailto:InConcert@boiMAG.com)  
Health & Wellness: Charla Waxman - [Charla@boiMAG.com](mailto:Charla@boiMAG.com)  
Community Support: Mike at Night - [Mike@boiMAG.com](mailto:Mike@boiMAG.com)  
Uncensored: Rachael Cain - [Uncensored@boiMAG.com](mailto:Uncensored@boiMAG.com)  
Travel Pride Journey: Joey Amato - [Travel@boiMAG.com](mailto:Travel@boiMAG.com)  
Ask Char: Charla Waxman - [AskChar@boiMAG.com](mailto:AskChar@boiMAG.com)  
Tech Trends: Jack Santos - [Jack@boiMAG.com](mailto:Jack@boiMAG.com)

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**Chicago & Suburbs:** DSE (Delivery Service Enterprises)  
**World Wide Distribution:** Heyzine Media Network

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# TRAVEL

## Pride And Passport Launches a first-of-Its-Kind LGBTQIA+ travel impact initiative called "YOU TRAVEL, We Donate."

by: *Mike At Night*

**Pride And Passport, is a leading LGBTQIA+ travel agency based in Phoenix, has officially launched YOU TRAVEL, We Donate. A first-of-Its-Kind LGBTQIA+ give-back initiative transforming everyday travel into meaningful support for LGBTQIA+ rights, youth, and community wellbeing.**

Through the program, a portion of every trip booked through Pride And Passport, including cruises, resorts, and global adventures, is automatically donated to LGBTQIA+ organizations, at no additional cost to the traveler. The initiative is designed to merge the joy of travel with purposeful philanthropy, creating an effortless way for travelers to make a difference.

"Travel should be joyful, inclusive, and empowering, and now it also fuels real change," said the Pride And Passport founder. "Every booking becomes an act of community support."

This give-back campaign reimagines what modern travel can accomplish. Instead of optional donation add-ons or seasonal fundraisers, Pride And Passport has embedded giving into its core business model. Every itinerary booked contributes to three leading LGBTQIA+ organizations, such as: The Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Who Advocates for equality and protections for LGBTQIA+ individuals across the United States...



**PRIDEANDPASSPORT**  
LGBTQIA+ TRAVEL AGENCY

The Trevor Project, provides crisis intervention and suicide-prevention services for LGBTQIA+ youth... And True Colors United, addressing and preventing LGBTQIA+ youth homelessness through innovative programs and policy solutions.

This built-in donation model ensures consistent, reliable funding to organizations serving LGBTQIA+ people at critical intersections of advocacy, mental health, and housing security.

Travelers simply book their vacation and Pride And Passport handles the rest. "It feels good to know that my vacation is part of something bigger," said Martha G., a Pride And Passport traveler. "I'm exploring the world, and helping make it safer for others to explore theirs." From Mediterranean cruises to weekend getaways, every journey booked contributes to life-saving services, youth empowerment, and national equality initiatives.

LGBTQIA+ communities continue to face heightened risks, from homelessness and discrimination to mental health disparities. Many organizations rely heavily on unpredictable or seasonal donations. By tying contributions directly to travel bookings, Pride And Passport provides a sustainable, scalable funding pathway.

"This is not a seasonal promotion, it's their philosophy," said the Pride And Passport founder. "We believe travel and social impact should go hand-in-hand."

## IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

**(bik-TAR-vee)**

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

#### BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months, and may give you HBV medicine.

### ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

#### Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

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### BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

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- Have any other health problems.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Talk to your healthcare provider about the risks of breastfeeding during treatment with BIKTARVY.

#### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

#### BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that may have been hidden in your body. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.**

### HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

### GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
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BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults.  
**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.**

**Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.**

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Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page  
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**Major 2026 Gay Ski Weeks** in North America include **Aspen Gay Ski Week** (Jan 11-18), **Whistler Pride** (Jan 25-Feb 1), **Winter Rendezvous** (Stowe) (Jan 21-25), **Elevation Utah** (Park City) (Feb 25-Mar 1), and **Telluride Gay Ski Week** (Feb 28-Mar 7), with events featuring skiing, parties, shows, and community gatherings, though some dates like those for **Jasper** or **Mont Tremblant** are still TBC.



## **NORTH AMERICA**

**Big Sky Winter Pride Week:**  
January 6–11, 2026, in Big Sky, Montana, USA.

**Aspen Gay Ski Week:**  
January 11–18, 2026, in Aspen, Colorado, USA.

**Winter Rendezvous:**  
January 21–25, 2026, in Stowe, Vermont, USA.

**Whistler Pride & Ski Festival:**  
January 25–February 1, in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada.

**Elevation Utah:**  
February 25–March 1, 2026, in Park City, Utah, USA.

**Telluride Gay Ski Week:**  
February 28–March 7, 2026, in Telluride, Colorado.

**Winter PrideFest:**  
March 5–8, 2026, in Bend, Oregon, USA.

**Elevation Mammoth:**  
March 18–22, 2026, at Mammoth Mountain, CA, USA..

## **EUROPE**

**Arosa Gay Ski Week:**  
January 17–24, 2026, in Arosa, Switzerland.

**SWING Gay Ski Week:**  
March 8–16, 2026, in Lenzerheide, Switzerland.

**Maricongelado:**  
March 12–15, 2026, in Andorra/Spain.

**European Gay Ski Week:**  
March 21–28, 2026, in Val Thorens, France.

**European Snow Pride:**  
March 21–28, 2026, in Tignes & Val d'Isère, France.

**Winter Pride Sölden:**  
March 21–28, 2026, in Sölden, Austria.

## **ASIA-PACIFIC**

**Gay Ski Week Hakuba:**  
March 6–15, 2026, in Hakuba, Japan.

**Winter Pride Queenstown:**  
August 15–24, 2026, in Queenstown, New Zealand.

*For more details on specific events and full schedules, visit the official **Aspen Gay Ski Week**, **Whistler Pride**, or **European Gay Ski Week** websites.*



# In CONCERT

**OUT 'N' ABOUT** by Jorge Suarez

## The Rush Tribute Project Live at the Genesee Theatre

On November 23, 2025, the Genesee Theatre in Waukegan, Illinois, became a sanctuary for Rush fans as The Rush Tribute Project delivered one of the most faithful and high-energy tributes the venue has witnessed in recent years. Known for their meticulous musicianship and attention to sonic detail, the trio transported the audience across Rush's expansive catalog—spanning the '70s, '80s, and early '90s—with a setlist that felt like a living, breathing celebration of the Canadian legends.

Opening with the dramatic swell of "Also sprach Zarathustra," the band wasted no time plunging into classics like "Limelight," "The Analog Kid," and "Anthem." Their performance demonstrated an impressive command of Rush's signature complexities—polyrhythmic structures, shifting time signatures, and soaring multi-layered arrangements. The crowd's reactions made it clear: they weren't just witnessing musicians playing Rush songs; they were experiencing a Rush concert recreated with precision and passion.

One of the night's highlights came during the sweeping "2112" suite. Each movement was delivered with reverence to the original album, capturing the raw power and atmospheric storytelling that cemented Rush's status as progressive-rock giants. For long-time fans, hearing "Overture," "The Temples of Syrinx," "Presentation," "Soliloquy," and "Grand Finale" performed back-to-back felt like stepping into a time machine.

After a brief intermission, the band continued their momentum with "The Camera Eye," a rare treat even in Rush's own later tours. Fan favorites like "The Spirit of Radio," "YYZ," and "La Villa Strangiato" showcased the band's technical ability, while deeper cuts such as "Entre Nous," "Chemistry," and "Leave That Thing Alone" demonstrated their commitment to performing material that true Rush devotees cherish.

The evening closed with the working-class anthem "Working Man," a fitting send-off that brought the audience to its feet. Applause echoed throughout the historic theater as fans celebrated not only the performance, but the enduring legacy of Rush—and the musicians who continue to honor it.

For BOI Magazine's "In Concert" readers, The Rush Tribute Project's Waukegan show stands out as a reminder that tribute bands, when done at the highest level, are more than performers—they are vessels of musical preservation. RTP succeeds not simply because they sound like Rush, but because they play with the same spirit: fearless, intricate, and timeless.

>>> **MORE OUT 'N' ABOUT >>>**

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...and a Happy New Year



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# OUT 'N' ABOUT

Continued...

by Jorge Suarez

An evening of classic rock nostalgia came alive when The Rush Tribute Project took the Genesee Theatre stage, delivering a faithful, high-energy celebration of Rush's legendary catalog. With musicianship that borders on forensic precision, the band recreated the sound, spirit, and technical mastery of one of rock's most iconic trios. Based entirely on the evening's captured footage, here is a song by song breakdown of their standout performance.



## ***Limelight***

The show opened with one of Rush's most beloved tracks from *Moving Pictures*. Bright, shimmering guitar tones and tight rhythmic precision captured the spirit of the 1981 classic. Vocals were handled with respect for Geddy Lee's phrasing, and the crowd responded instantly to the iconic riff.

## ***Tom Sawyer***

Arguably Rush's most famous song, the band delivered a muscular and confident performance. The synth intro was spot on, the drummer executed Neil Peart's complex patterns with authority, and the vocals balanced intensity with control. A major highlight of the night.

## ***Red Barchetta***

A storytelling moment that felt intimate and atmospheric. The clean guitar intro was beautifully played, leading into a warm, flowing groove. The band honored the dynamics of the original recording, balancing quiet passages with explosive bursts of energy.

## ***The Spirit of Radio***

Fast, jubilant, and technically demanding, this performance showcased the group's precision. The guitarist handled the rapid fire opening riff with impressive clarity, while the drummer navigated Peart's busy patterns smoothly. Easily one of the most crowd energizing songs of the night.

## ***YYZ***

Their instrumental showcase was a thrilling demonstration of pure musicianship. The band locked into the famous Morse code rhythm flawlessly. The drummer's execution of Peart's intricate fills and shifting time signatures was exceptional. Fans responded with awe throughout.

## ***Closer to the Heart***

A beautiful contrast to the heavier material, this performance felt warm and nostalgic. The acoustic intro was clean and expressive, leading into an uplifting, full band arrangement. A sentimental crowd favorite delivered with finesse.

## ***Freewill***

One of Rush's most demanding vocal pieces, and the singer truly delivered. The high flying vocal lines were executed with confidence, making this one of the standout vocal moments of the night. The rhythm section remained tight through the song's rapid, complex shifts.

The Rush Tribute Project impressed on every level—technical skill, vocal authenticity, and deep respect for Rush's musical legacy. Their performance at the Genesee Theatre was more than a tribute; it was a living, breathing celebration of one of rock's most innovative bands. For lifelong Rush fans and new listeners alike, the evening delivered everything you'd hope for.



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## Ask Char Q & A

**Q** I've been feeling distant from my partner lately. We've been together for a long time and it's hard to talk without causing an argument. How can I rekindle the spark in our relationship without compromising my individuality?

**A** Well, thanks for writing. This relationship is obviously important to you or you would have just let things fester. Good for you; what a great first step! Here are some ideas for rekindling this relationship:

Focus on the basics: communication that is fair and respectful and not button pushing, quality time together doing the things you both love, and getting back to showing how much you appreciate the little things that he/she does. Praise him/her for their positive contributions to your day and your relationship. Actively try to incorporate each of these things into everyday living.

Now let's break those things apart. Active listening is always a good frame for communication. I would bet that there has been a breakdown here and full attention may have not been what you do when your partner is talking. Get back to the basics here: stop what you are doing, look at him/her, ask questions about what they are telling you and parrot back phrases so you know you heard them correctly and he/she knows you are listening. If emotions are involved in his/her story, be empathetic. Sit closer to him/her, hold his/her hand, or affirm his/her emotions. If you can relate, share this about yourself and your experiences. This will draw you even closer. When you are talking, put your cell phone away. Be in the "now" with him/her.



You may have gotten away from talking about everyday things that have happened to you. Get back to telling them the story of your day. Talk about the news or interesting current events. Just talk!

When arguments arise, have you forgotten how to get through it and make up? Talk it out. Be truthful and patient and kind. 'Nuff said!

What is quality time? Redefine this for yourself. You have probably just gotten in a bad retreat-to-the-TV habit. Play a board game, do a jigsaw puzzle, go to the movies or go for a walk and have a nice meal together. Do anything together; just share time.

Don't let little opportunities for showing love fall away. When was the last time you wrote a love note, gave him/her a kiss on the neck as you pass them seated at his/her desk, or found a card and mailed it to him/her with a special sentiment inside? You did something earlier in this relationship that wowed them and made them fall in love with you. Do it again. Bring back some intimacy in thought, talk, and action.

If there are some don'ts in this to do list, don't place blame. Nobody has to be at fault here. Just look for ways to bring back that old spark and feel better. You two are worth the effort.

If things are still seeming unresolved and togetherness is still not what you had hoped for, consider professional support. It sounds like this relationship is important enough for that. They're even places that will do a remote connection so you can just be together at home and begin to work things out.

Good luck to you, You will get back to where you want to be. I know you can!

- Dr. Charla Waxman

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# COMMENTARY UNCENSORED

by: Screamin' Rachael

Recording Artist, Entrepreneur, Publisher, Music Mogul, House Music Icon, sometimes Controversial, with a dash of Opinionism for good measure.

The opinions offered in this column are "uncensored" and are intended for "open dialog" and "entertainment purposes" only. Use of this column not intended to replace or be a substitute for any professional, financial, legal, advice or any other professional service. The opinions or views expressed in this column are those of the columnist, and not necessarily those of anyone else.



**'Tis the season! This time of year I might complain about the cold, but somehow I always have pleasant expectations about what the season will bring. It's fun to see friends, go to holiday party's, look at store window displays, and see festive Christmas lights.**

**It all happens so fast! One day you're stuffing yourself at a Thanksgiving table, suddenly theres a flurry of shopping and wrapping gifts while waiting for Santa. Then the next thing you know It's 2026! Do you have any special holiday traditions? Drop me a line, to let me know what's good.**

Unfortunately I had a flood at my condo so I won't be spending Christmas itself in town, as it will be under construction until sometime in January. Nonetheless, I still can enjoy some of my favorite holiday traditions pre-Christmas Day!



One of my favorite places to visit is The **Griffin Museum of Science and Industry**, to see their exhibit **"Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light."**

It features more than 50 trees and displays, each lovingly decorated by community volunteers who share family and cultural traditions drawing on their global heritage. Placed throughout the trees are displays representing international seasonal celebrations of light, like Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali and more.

This holiday season, you can stroll through the indoor forest and light displays; take a family photo in front of the four-story Grand Tree in the Rotunda; enjoy specialty holiday treats at the Stan's Donuts pop-up.

This beloved annual exhibit started in 1942 as one tree to represent unity during World War II

and has since turned into an engaging winter wonderland. It's a one-of-a-kind experience that brings a whole world of holiday joy under one roof.

**Christmas Around the World and Holidays of Light** is now open through Jan. 5, 2026.



I've got fond memories of going to lunch with my mother at the **Walnut Room**, in the department store that used to be **Marshall Field's**.

**>>> MORE Uncensored >>>**

# UNCENSORED

>>> *Continued* >>>

Today that Store is **Macy's**, it was acquired in 2006. I remember thinking that "The Great Tree", which is the centerpiece of the room, was the largest of its kind in the world. My memory back then was that the tree went all the way from the first floor to the very top of the building. Of course it does not! It is 45 foot though. When you're a kid everything seems so much bigger and grander. You believe in dreams, and even when you are sad, there is the hope that Santa, Prince Charming, or maybe Tinker Bell, will still come through for you. Ok being an adult can be a bummer sometimes, but there are those days when I visit the Walnut room and let my mind wander back with sense memory, so then for an hour or two I BELIEVE.

Family's have been gathering there for generations and for some of us this is a holiday victory. The cherished tradition that has been passed down, since its opening in 1907, now will be correctly remembered. Thanks Santa! I always knew you had my back...



Most of us could not stand the fact that the store became Macy's but the nostalgia for a lot of us never faded. This November, there was a commemorative re-branding and that beloved place now has a plaque, calling it "The Marshall Field's Walnut Room".



Oh yeah! Let me tell you; This Christmas is gonna be FUNKY! In fact it's gonna be "FUNKIFIED", be sure to check out **George Clinton**, The Godfather of FUNK, on this cut, featuring vocals by yours truly, **Screamin' Rachael**, available on all digital platforms! Even better you can get it on Green Glow in the Dark VINYL. Thanks to **Lee Macneal**, one of the hottest DJ/Producers, . . .

>>> **MORE Uncensored** >>>

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# CALL ME

## SCREAMIN' RACHAEL

NEW RELEASE



FEATURING DALLAS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:

MIKE MACHARELLO

REMIXED BY: JOE SMOOTH

AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT:

bandcamp

[PlayHouseRecords.Bandcamp.com](https://PlayHouseRecords.Bandcamp.com)

of the **New Generation** on TRAX RECORDS. It was Lee who coordinated the release and decided to press vinyl. We pre-released to DJ's only, with some of the Biggest names around the world including French Superstar **DJ Laurent Garnier**, giving it FULL SUPPORT!

By the time you read my column it might be 2026! It's been a great year for me, and I want to wish you all the happiest New Year ever! Yes I certainly have my share of haters, but to quote the legendary rapper **Big Daddy Kane**,

"Number one are direct haters, the people that dump on you cause they personally don't like you; you can use those type of haters to measure your success, because here's someone taking time out of their life to talk about you, instead of doing something productive... Thats how successful you are". Be sure to check out my buddy's instagram to hear his true gems of wisdom.

Lastly don't miss "CALL ME" a record that I did with our very own **Mike Macherello AKA Mike at Night**, on Play House Records.. Find it exclusively on Bandcamp released on January 1st 2026. Take a listen to start off your New Year with a BANG!

-Rachael Cain



*Touché*  
**boiPIX** ChicagoArtsCenter.org Fundraising Event





# HELP SAVE THE IPAD / DEVICE ADDICTED KIDS!

Earlier this year, the [boiMAGazine](#) staff volunteered in helping upstart [ChicagoArtsCenter.org](#), a non-profit, 501c3 organization, **that's on an immediate mission to help combat post pandemic, smart-device addictions.**

**These dependencies on smart-devices have impacted those growing up pre-COVID-19 era, mostly due to long-term mandatory lockdowns, forcing them to become co-dependent on computers, and devices, such as tablets, pads, smart-phones, gaming, etc.**



Especially GEN-Alpha, effected the most who's now suffering from chronic, **excessive screen time habits, causing all sorts of physical, mental, and social disorders, including isolation!**

I'm sure you've noticed small children and teens on devices in restaurants, at the family table, or children that isolate themselves in their bedroom.

**Currently, we're raising funds for programs designed to combat smart-device addictions, most effected among youth, Crutial programs to promote healthy activities, and be an alternative that instead, will have a positive effect physically, mentally and socially.**

**With your help, we can have an immediate effect** by donating any amount to this crutial mission! **To donate by card today, go to: [ChicagoArtsCenter.org](#), or use the QR link below:**

## SCREEN ADDICTION



## SIDE EFFECTS

**MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES  
PHYSICAL PROBLEMS  
SOCIAL DISORDERS  
ADHD - ATTENTION DISORDER  
ADDICTIVE BEHAVIORS**

Thank You, -**MIKE**, [Chicago Arts Center.org](#) | 773-909-7245 (cell/text)

For more information and official 501c3 documentation, Contact: [Mike@ChicagoArtsCenter.org](mailto:Mike@ChicagoArtsCenter.org)

# SCAM ALERT: DON'T FALL FOR UTILITY PAYMENT BARCODES

OR ANY CALLS FOR PAYMENT OR GIFT CARDS FOR ANY REASON!  
DO NOT GIVE CONTROL OF YOUR COMPUTER TO ANYONE YOU DON'T KNOW!



## UNEXPECTED CALLS WITH URGENCY

Real utility companies won't pressure you to pay immediately.



## VERIFY FIRST

Call your utility company using the number on your bill, not the number the scammer provides.



## DEMANDING SPECIFIC PAYMENT METHODS

Real companies don't ask for payment via gift cards, barcodes or apps like CashApp.

## The Latest SCAMS and FRAUD alerts!

**WE MUST DEMAND GOOGLE TO STOP SCAM AND FRAUDULENT LINKS FROM APPEARING IN OUR SEARCH RESULTS!**

### First: Google's Profit Over Security Is Unacceptable!

With fake customer service numbers flooding search results, Google needs to be held responsible for protecting you from these scams, but aren't required to do so.

A simple REPORT FRAUD button next to all searches that users can "one-click" that alerts Google that they have a potential scam resulting in a Google Search! They already have AI that could be used to use this collected data to stop the result from appearing in your search results, until it could be further verified. To further secure the results even from abuse of the user FRAUD button, AI already has the ability to conduct a deeper "investigation" process to determine what level of a risk to the user, or advertiser, and immediately escalate the fraud alert to "urgent level" by sending a top priority "SECURITY ALERT" ticket to headquarters for a rapid-response investigation, and to take further action if needed. Google obviously puts profit over our security, and won't protect us with implementing simple security measures, unless we, as users demand it, or forced to do it by our government officials.

**Scams:** In 2025, tech scams are increasingly sophisticated, heavily leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create hyper-realistic deepfake audio/video and personalized phishing attacks. Key trends also include the rise of QR code scams, synthetic identity fraud, and advanced social engineering tactics.

**AI-Powered Impersonation:** Scammers use AI to clone voices and create deepfake videos of family members, colleagues, or government officials to request urgent money transfers or sensitive information. Fraudsters use AI to create more convincing phishing emails, deepfake videos, and fake voices to impersonate people or legitimate companies.



**Employment scams:** Fake job offers are sent via email or posted on job sites to trick victims into giving up personal information or paying fees for non-existent positions.

**Highly Personalized Phishing (Spear Phishing):** Generative AI creates convincing emails, texts (smishing), and messages that mimic legitimate communications, often using personal details gleaned from social media to build trust and bypass security filters.

**QR Code Scams:** Malicious QR codes embedded in public places, emails, or texts redirect users to fraudulent websites that steal credentials or trigger malware downloads.

**Synthetic Identity Fraud:** Scammers use AI to create realistic fake identities and manipulate digital documents, to open new accounts, apply for loans, and commit various types of financial crime. Making it easier to commit a wider range of fraud.

>>> **MORE TECH TRENDS >>>**

# WARNING!

## SCAM ALERT

**Verify communications independently:** Do not click links or call numbers from unsolicited emails or texts. Instead, contact the company or person directly using a phone number or website you know is legitimate.

**“Accidental” Text Messages:** Scammers initiate conversations via a seemingly mistaken text message (e.g., “Sorry, I’m running late”) as a social engineering tactic to build rapport and eventually launch a scam.

**Impostor Scams:** Scammers pose as trusted entities like banks or government agencies through text or email alerts to trick you into clicking malicious links or providing information.

**Cryptocurrency and Investment Scams:** Scammers promote fake investment opportunities and “guaranteed returns” using celebrity deepfakes or social media to lure victims into fraudulent platforms, often via “pig butchering” schemes. Scams involving digital assets continue to rise, often leveraging the high value of cryptocurrencies.

**Tech Support and Refund Scams:** Fraudulent pop-ups or unsolicited calls/messages claim a computer virus or an incorrect charge has occurred, prompting victims to grant remote access or provide financial information for a “refund”. These continue to be prevalent, with AI making them more sophisticated. Scammers may impersonate tech support and use fake warnings or pop-ups to gain remote access to your computer.

## How to Be Aware and Protect Yourself

**Verify the Source Directly:** If you receive an unexpected or urgent request for money or information, verify the person or organization through a separate, trusted channel (e.g., use the official phone number from the back of your bank card or a company’s verified website). Do not use contact information provided in the suspicious message itself. Type website addresses directly into your browser or download apps only from official sources. Independently verify any request for money or personal information by contacting the person or company through a known, trusted channel.

**Hang up on urgent calls:** If someone claiming to be from your bank or a government agency calls about an urgent matter, hang up and call them back on a number you know is legitimate. **Be Skeptical of Urgency and Emotional Appeals:** Scammers use pressure tactics and create a sense of crisis to make you act quickly without thinking. Legitimate organizations will not demand immediate payment via unusual methods like gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency. Be wary of any request that seems suspicious or tries to bypass normal procedures. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. Always be cautious of unsolicited messages and offers.

**Use secure payment methods:** Stick to credit cards for online purchases, which offer more protection than debit cards or other payment methods. Never pay with gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

**Avoid Unknown Links and Attachments:** Never click on links or download attachments from unsolicited emails, texts, or social media messages. Hover your mouse over a link on a computer to preview the destination URL before clicking.

**Limit Your Digital Footprint:** Be mindful of what you post online, especially voice recordings or personal details, as scammers can use this information to create convincing, personalized scams.

**Report Scams:** If you spot a scam, report it to the proper authorities, such as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) or the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

# WINTER



# SCHEDULE

## MONDAY

ZUMBA ..... 9AM-10AM  
ZUMBA ..... 5PM-6PM  
SALSA ..... 6PM-7PM

## TUESDAY

SR. GOLDEN MOVES ..... 9AM-10AM  
WEIGHT TRAINING ..... 5PM-6PM

## WEDNESDAY

WEIGHT TRAINING ..... 9AM-10AM  
QI GONG ..... 5PM-6PM  
XCO LATIN DANCE ..... 6PM-7PM

## THURSDAY

SR. GOLDEN MOVES ..... 9AM-10AM  
YOGA ..... 6PM-7PM  
HIIT ..... 7PM-8PM

## FRIDAY

ZUMBA ..... 9AM-10AM  
WEIGHT AEROBICS ..... 5PM-6PM  
SALSA ..... 6PM-7PM

## SATURDAY

ZUMBA ..... 9AM-10AM  
LINE DANCING ..... 10AM-11AM

## MEMBERSHIPS

\$5 PER CLASS

\$20 MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE FREE THE MONTH OF MARCH

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